

Lincolnshire Bird Report 1981



**Including the
Gibraltar Point
Observatory Report**

Published by the Lincolnshire Bird Club

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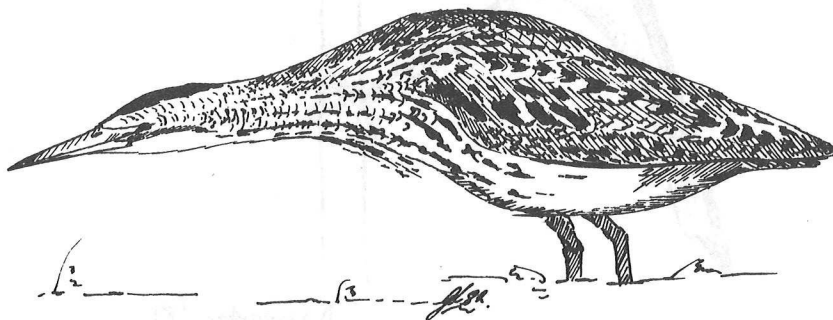
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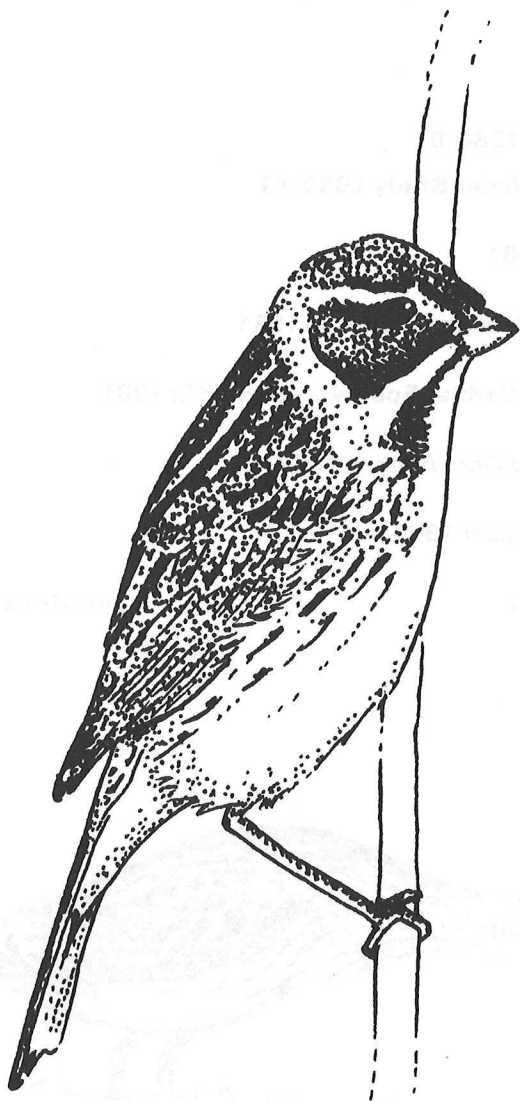


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D. Suddaby '81.

Editorial

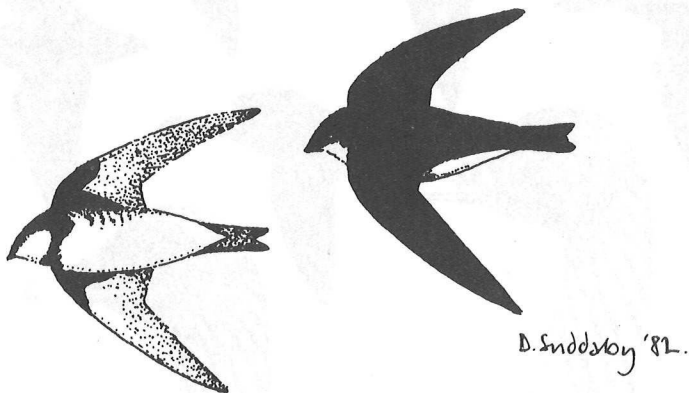
1981 was again a satisfactory year. The first Annual General Meeting was held at Horncastle in March; at this the Constitution was formally adopted, and the officers and committee were formally elected to serve constitutional terms. Also during the year membership continued to grow, passing the 200 mark before the year's end, so the Club can consider itself to be set on a steady course. However, by the year's end it was becoming obvious that the Club is no more sheltered from economic realities than any other organisation, so there is no room for complacency. To maintain the standard we have set ourselves, not least in this Report, continued growth in the membership is essential.

The main organised fieldwork of the year was again Atlassing. After 1980's pilot study, the first full year of the Breeding Atlas went very well, with high levels of cover achieved, especially in the eastern half of the county. In fact recording in parts of the Grimsby area reached 80% of records expected for the whole survey – in one year! Cover in the centre and west of the county, though satisfactory overall was patchier, and offers of help from observers in these areas would be welcome.

With scarcely a break to follow the autumn migration members were out again, this time taking part in the BTO Winter Atlas. The minimum cover asked for was one atlas visit to each 10km square during each month of the survey, a target that was badly disrupted in many outlying areas by the December freeze. But with minor roads impassable, frustrated observers often put in more time close to home, and although a few squares weren't covered at all during the worst weather, in a number of others, cards were completed weekly or even more often. These areas should provide a 'blow-by-blow' account of the effects of cold weather and the squares not covered in 1981 will be given priority in the remaining two winters of the survey – providing of course, that they are closer to 'normal'.

Towards the end of the year the Club was proud to announce that Mr Eric Simms, who has returned to live in Lincolnshire, had consented to serve as the Club's first President. (Like many others, Mr and Mrs Simms previously stayed here at Their Majesties request during part of the Second World War, when they were able to gain an intimate knowledge of the avifauna close to some of our airfields).

We look forward to a long and happy association with our President.



Waterbird Counts 1980-81

Waterbird counts are carried out monthly throughout the winter, organised nationally by the Wildfowl Trust. Within each county, organisation is delegated to a local organiser, and the winter of 1980-81 was the first for which the LBC had volunteered to co-ordinate counts. In the previous winter only three waters were regularly counted, so the increase in cover was welcomed by the Trust. However, a number of major waters in Lincolnshire are still not regularly covered, and it is hoped that volunteers will be forthcoming to count these in future years.

Observers are asked to count the waterfowl using their chosen water on the middle Sunday of each month between September and March, or as close to it as possible. Factors which might affect the count – such as the state of the weather, the amount of disturbance – are also noted.

In addition, the January and March 1981 counts were part of the International Waterfowl Census, and organisers were asked to secure coverage of as many extra waters as possible in these months.

Table 1 shows the monthly total of each species counted, and Table 2 lists the waters actually counted in each month. In general the additional waters, counted only in January and March, are small and held few birds. However, a few of them do hold quite significant numbers of birds, and this is reflected in the totals of some species in these months.

The Coot total needs a special note. On the monthly count form there is no column for Coot, and it is left to observers whether they count this species or not; some do and some don't, so the total doesn't reflect the true number in 'ordinary' months. The International count forms *do* ask for a count of Coot, which are therefore counted, in these two months only, on all waters.

(Scientific names of species are given in the Systematic List.)

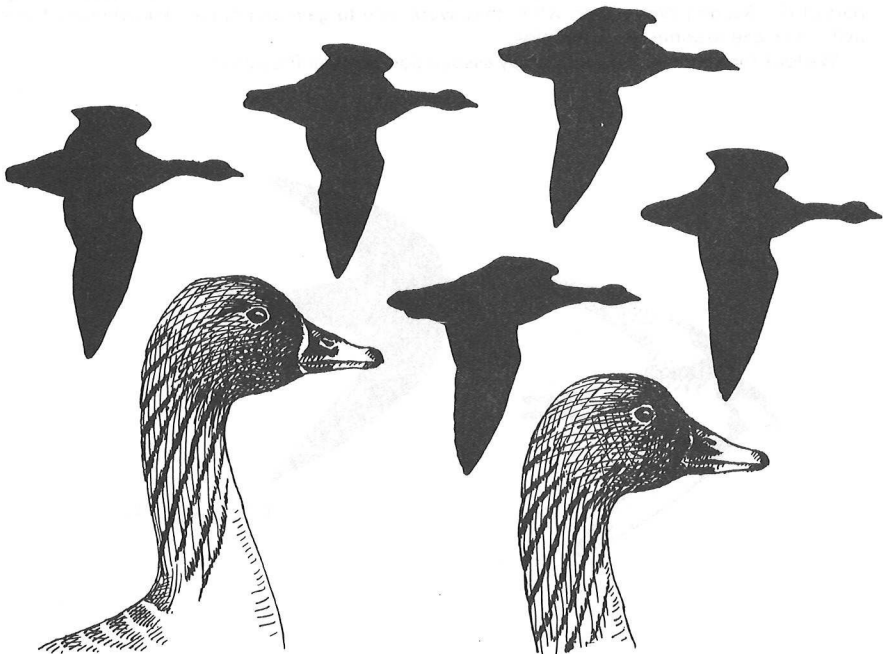


Table 1 Monthly Waterbird Totals, 1980-81

<i>Species</i>	<i>Sep.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>
Great Northern Diver			1				
Little Grebe	73	62	14	2	10	6	5
Great Crested Grebe	31	34	12	9	10	19	30
Red-necked Grebe				1			
Slavonian Grebe						1	
Mute Swan	158	344	347	110	176	94	68
Bewick's Swan			2			12	11
Whooper Swan			4		1		
Greylag Goose	4	3	3	4	11	1	14
Canada Goose	99	72	33	1	155	55	67
Barnacle Goose		2					
Shelduck	1	1			5	17	47
Wigeon	21	68	176	98	325	197	42
Gadwall	1		10	2	10	15	8
Teal	86	341	208	167	313	108	42
Mallard	929	662	1116	901	1541	1196	396
Pintail		1	2	5	2	6	
Shoveler	17	9	10		30	2	16
Red-crested Pochard			1		1		
Pochard	9	135	128	293	614	324	260
Tufted Duck	165	256	276	253	783	612	523
Scaup	1	3	2	1	2		1
Long-tailed Duck				1			
Velvet Scoter			1				
Goldeneye	1	2	54	121	115	124	144
Smew					3		
Red-breasted Merganser					1		
Goosander					1	30	
Coot	411	610	846	104	1274	806	730

Table 2 Waters counted, 1980-81

<i>Grid sq.</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Months counted</i>							
TA 02	Barrow-Barton Pits	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	
SE 91	Bagmoor Mines	S	O	N		J	F	M	
	Winterton Road Mines	S	O			J	F	M	
TA 11	Killingholme Pits	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	
TA 21	Fison's Lagoon, Immingham	S	O	N	D	J		M	
SE 90	Messingham Sand Quarries	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	
	Ashbyville Lake	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	
TF 39	Brigg Island Lake					J		M	
	Covenham Reservoir	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	
	Fulstow Fish Pit	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	
TF 08	Toft Newton Reservoir					J		M	
SK 97	LNER Pits, Lincoln					J		M	
	Brayford Pool, Lincoln					J		M	
	Riseholme Lake					J		M	
TF 07	Sudbrooke Park Lake					J		M	
TF 27	West Ashby Gravel Pits					J		M	
SK 96	Hartsholme Lake					J		M	
	Whisby Gravel Pits					J		M	
TF 26	Kirkby-on-Bain Pits					J		M	
TF 55	Gibraltar Point Mere	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	
SK 83	Harlaxton Park Lake							M	
	Grantham Canal							M	
	Denton Reservoir					J		M	
SK 93	Culverthorpe Lake					J		M	
TF 22	Coronation Channel (Spalding)	S	O		D	J	F	M	
TF 11	Langtoft Gravel Pits		O			J	F	M	
	Baston Gravel Pits					J		M	
	Baston Fen N.R.		O	N	D	J	F	M	
TF 21	R. Welland, Spalding	S	O	N		J	F	M	

Report on the Grainthorpe wader feeding survey 1980-81.

Introduction

By comparison with that of other major estuaries, and even with that of its own northern shore, the wader population of the south Humber bank has been relatively little studied. The situation has improved somewhat since 1976; coverage for the regular high water counts of the BTO/WT/RSPB Birds of Estuaries enquiry has increased and a number of co-ordinated watches to record pre-roost movements have been held throughout the lower estuary.

This work, which is continuing, all relates to roost sites and behaviour however. This study was designed to answer the following questions:

What species of wader use the area for feeding and in what numbers?

How are birds distributed throughout the area for feeding?

How do numbers, species and distribution vary throughout the year?

The project was supported by grants from the British Ornithologists' Union and Conoco Ltd, for whom a full report is in preparation. An outline of the study and results of the counts are presented here.

The Study Area

It was originally intended to include the entire intertidal area between an imaginary line drawn seaward (approximately NE) from Northcotes Point and a parallel line seawards from Pyes Hall. (See Figure 1). However it quickly became apparent that the shore at the north-west and south-east ends of this stretch was used for feeding by a relatively small proportion of the birds.

The main part of the study was therefore concentrated on a smaller area around Grainthorpe and Somercotes havens, the saltmarshes between the havens and north of Horseshoe Point, and the shore between.

Methods

1. *Mapping* (a) Preparation of the maps. At the start of the study the 1:10,000 O.S. map (from the survey of 1970-71) was used for mapping, modified by aerial photographs taken in 1975. However, after a series of heavy storms in September 1980 the haven scoured out a new wide bed and changed its course considerably. The maps were therefore re-drawn (sufficiently accurate to be usable on the ground) from an amateur survey carried out the same month.

Although the new wider haven bed remained for the duration of the survey, the haven gradually assumed a more winding course within it at low water and fresh silt began to accumulate, so that the size and shape of mud areas exposed changed constantly. At the same time, following the haven's change of course, a number of its smaller tributaries draining the marsh and shore straightened and deepened, also exposing new feeding areas.

In addition the area and shape of the saltmarshes also changed. The northern and north-west edge of Grainthorpe marsh was eroded by the same September storms, but gradually increased in size again during the course of the study. The smaller saltmarsh north of Horseshoe Point also increased in size during the survey, though the seaward edge was several times eroded by surging tides. All of these changes were incorporated into the large-scale field maps as their importance was recognised.

It was originally intended to put lines of marker posts across the shore to assist in mapping. However the force of tides and human agencies made this difficult. Instead various 'permanent' features on the shore (the coastguard practice post, treetrunks, wrecks and metal barrels half-buried in the sand, etc.,) were placed on the maps as accurately as possible by taking bearings on them from three fixed points on the bank. Birds feeding were then mapped by reference to these points and the natural features of the shore.

(b) The counts. 29 mapping counts were made at approximately weekly intervals (between 4-10 days apart) between 16th August 1980 and 15th March 1981. All counts were made in the period 2 hours after to 2 hours before High Water, as close as possible to Low Water

(although the shortness of daylight hours in mid-winter often dictated the time of the count). Where possible visits were made during the week, since even in mid-winter public use of the shore at weekends (for cockling, dog-walking and bird-watching particularly) and consequent disturbance of the feeding birds was high. On weekdays the study area was overflowed by low-flying aircraft approaching the range at Donna Nook. This did not unduly disturb the birds in the Grainthorpe basin, though wildfowl particularly were sometimes seen to be displaced northwards, into the study area, from the range itself by the aircraft.

On most visits the access point used was Horseshoe Point. The actual route taken across the study area depended on the number of observers available, and was chosen to cover the entire shore within approximately 2 hours, causing the least possible disturbance to the birds. All flocks or more scattered groups of feeding birds were counted and mapped, and any flocks or groups moving into, within, or out of the area during the count were indicated. Flocks of roosting or resting (i.e. non-feeding) birds were also counted separately, and these are not included in the totals. Such flocks were rare in mid-winter but occurred occasionally on passage in autumn and spring.

On eight occasions when more observers were available, access points at Tetney haven and Stonebridge were also used, and the entire study area was counted. However, for no species did these 'total' counts significantly increase the numbers over normal.

2. *Invertebrate sampling* (a) Mud sampling. It was originally decided not to attempt to sample the mud for invertebrates since the study area was thought to be too big to permit this to be done thoroughly with the labour available, and specialist help would be needed with identification. However, after discussions, the Anglian Water Authority agreed to provide sampling equipment and identify the invertebrates collected, in exchange for use of the data.

Five transects, A-E were therefore set up across the study area, and mud samples were taken at 5 points along each, from shore to low-water mark. When it became obvious that the majority of birds were feeding within the area between the marshes and haven, two further transects, F and G, were inserted between B-C and C-D, and sampling of A and E ceased. The transects were sampled at 3-monthly intervals, in June, September and December 1980 and March 1981.

Each sample consisted of a cube of sand/mud, $15 \times 15 \times 15$ cms, washed through a $\frac{1}{16}$ sieve. The animals collected were fixed in formalin to await examination.

(b) Surface Counts. During Autumn 1980 Lugworm, *Arenicola marina* numbers were approximately assessed by counting the casts and/or syphon holes (whichever number was greater) in a one-metre quadrat. Counts were made on a 100m grid over the shore between transect B and the haven. At the same time *Hydrobia* numbers on the surface were estimated in the same quadrats on a semi-quantitative scale, 0 to + + +.

At the start of the survey the main cockle bed lay close to the haven, on its NW bank. However, presumably due to a good spatfall, the cockle area spread during the course of the survey both down the haven and back up its tributaries onto the marsh. Numbers also increased to such an extent that commercial cockle gatherers caused serious disturbance during the late winter!

Results of counts and feeding areas

A list of the wildfowl and waders recorded using the shore, marshes or haven between August 1980 and March 1981 is shown as Table 1, together with the months of occurrence and peak counts in each month. For six species (Shelduck, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Grey Plover, Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit) the "1% non-breeding population" figure, criterion for a site of national importance to that species, was exceeded in at least one month during the time of the survey.

Due to lack of space it is not possible to show the feeding areas of individual species throughout the winter, but brief details of the major species are given below.

a. **Waders.** 19 species of waders were recorded during the survey. Of these 11 (see below) used the study area regularly throughout the winter; three (Lapwing, Ruff and Snipe) used the shore intermittently in small numbers through the winter, and five (Curlew Sandpiper, Black-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Spotted Redshank and Greenshank) were recorded only on passage.

Oystercatcher. More than half the total number at each visit were feeding on the mussel bed east of the haven. The rest were spread across the shore, concentrating from late winter on the new cockle areas.

Ringed Plover. The passage flocks fed close to the shore, usually in the muddy area landward of the saltmarsh to the north of Horseshoe Point. The few wintering birds fed in soft mud around the haven where it emerged from Grainthorpe marsh.

Golden Plover. Used the shore only in hard weather; mainly fed on the margins of the saltmarshes, or the shore seaward of the northern marsh.

Grey Plover. Widely dispersed in small numbers all over the area.

Knot. Always in tight flocks, 100-500 birds, at the edges of the marshes or on the edges of the study area; the shore NW of the Horseshoe Point saltmarsh and SE of the Haven. This species seemed most prone to disturbance, so was rarely seen on the main feeding area at weekends.

Sanderling. Always recorded seaward of the main sand bar.

Dunlin. About half fed on the mussel bed and in the creeks edging the Grainthorpe saltmarsh, SE of the haven. The rest were widely dispersed all over the area.

Bar-tailed Godwit. Most of the birds used the haven; a few fed on the mussel bed.

Curlew. Used the Grainthorpe saltmarsh; very occasionally 1-2 birds were recorded in the haven.

Redshank. Passage flocks were scattered across the whole shore; wintering birds fed in the haven or the creeks of the saltmarshes.

Turnstone. Most fed on the mussel bed. Later in the winter smaller parties fed in the lower-lying cockle areas.

b. **Wildfowl.** Three species, Brent Goose, Shelduck and Wigeon, used the study area throughout the winter though, probably because of disturbance, none were present at every visit. Teal used the area in autumn and small numbers of a further 6 species (Whooper Swan, Pinkfoot, Canada Goose, Mallard, Goldeneye and Red-breasted Merganser) were recorded on 1-2 visits each during the winter.

Brent Goose. Used the *Salicornia* zone of both marshes and the shore between the marshes, close to land. They were rarely recorded more than 100m from the shore or marsh edge.

Shelduck. Distributed in medium-large groups (30-200 birds) over the shore, mainly seaward of the two saltmarshes. Smaller groups (6-50) fed in the *Salicornia* zone of the saltmarshes.

Wigeon. Very wary, usually recorded on the haven or the margin of the marsh east of Somercotes haven.

c. **Other Species.** The haven was used by a number of seabirds, particularly Little and Great Crested Grebes, and an occasional diver. 1-2 Cormorants were seen at the seaward end of the haven in most months.

Discussion

This study was concerned only with the use of the Grainthorpe basin as a feeding area. No attempt was made to routinely follow roosting movements or cross-river movements, although these were recorded when seen. (This area does not regularly hold a high-water roost; above mid-tides all birds are pushed off the shore.)

The counts clearly show the importance of this site to birds on autumn passage, when for four species the 1% population level was exceeded in 1980. However, for three species, Shelduck, Knot and Grey Plover, this level was also exceeded during part of or all the mid-winter period. In addition the sum of peak counts for all species well exceeds 10,000 birds, indicating that this small area could be a nationally important feeding site in its own right; it must certainly be one of the most important sections of the Humber estuary.

Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks are due to many people; to the B.O.U. and Conoco Ltd for financial assistance; to Dr Nev Jones, Dept of Zoology, Hull University for helpful discussions when setting up the project and, with Tony Prater (RSPB) providing a reference for the grant application; to Dr Brian Barnett, A.W.A., for advice and assistance with the invertebrate sampling; to Dr Fiona Aungier, NCC, for the aerial photographs and access to NCC habitat surveys of the area; and by no means least, to the more than 20 members and friends who turned out in all weathers to count, map, record, scoop mud and hurl quadrats!

Anne Goodall.

Table 1 Species recorded feeding in Grainthorpe basin, 1980-81

Species	Months of occurrence, with highest count for that month*								1% British Pop.**
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Whooper Swan					2	9			
Pinkfooted Goose						1			
Canada Goose						235	199	274	c650
Brent Goose		59	144	400	368		4	30	600
Shelduck		93	120	450	778	550			2000
Wigeon		10	14	400	274				
Teal	58	26	2			6			
Mallard					41				
Goldeneye			7	7					
Red-breasted Merganser				1					
Oystercatcher	1288	3104	1325	899	1578	1269	1013	1207	3000
Ringed Plover	380	51	6	6	2	3	3	40	300
Golden Plover		101	13	3	20	184	90		2000
Grey Plover	79	477	109	121	113	124	67	97	100
Lapwing		1	6		3				
Knot	10	650	50	1200	3147	1695	2112	1000	2500
Sanderling	7	20	7	6	12	13	1	8	300
Curlew Sandpiper		1							
Dunlin	517	3249	2272	1657	1986	3652	1376	1800	5500
Ruff		2	1			1			
Snipe		2	2		1	5			
Black-tailed Godwit		18							
Bar-tailed Godwit	86	743	131	37	90	46	34	62	450
Whimbrel	6	3							
Curlew	2	15	10	14	3	2			
Spotted Redshank		1							
Redshank	134	359	104	140	151	279	80	153	1200
Greenshank		13	1						
Turnstone	72	30	28	7	30	52	46	30	250

*Month of highest count underlined

**From 'Estuary Birds of Britain & Ireland' A. J. Prater 1981

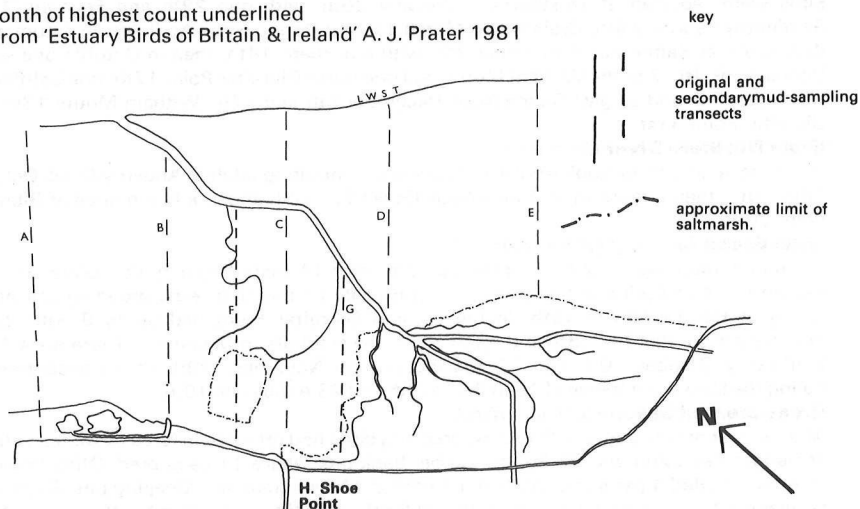


Fig 1. Sketch map of shore at Grainthorpe, showing the Haven, saltmarshes and sampling transects.

Systematic List 1981

Compiled by G. P. Catley

Introduction

The early part of the year was generally mild, which favoured unusual wintering species; *Ring Ouzel*, *Black Redstart* and *Firecrests* being noteworthy. March was one of the wettest this century but the generally warm conditions did produce some notable early records of summer visitors late in the month and in early April, before a terrible spell of gale-force northerlies with snow at the end of April caused widespread casualties amongst summer migrants and breeding birds. Spring wader passage was very poor but there was another exceptional number of *Dotterel* in May with a heavy passage of *Ring Ouzels*, good numbers of *Marsh Harriers* and more than usual *Montagu's Harriers*. Rarities were few in spring but included *Subalpine Warbler* and 2 *Purple Herons*. A few pairs of *Black Redstart* again bred as did a pair of *Garganey*. A number of unusual summer records included *Stone Curlew*, *Collared Pratincole*, *Red-necked Grebe* and *Greater Sand Plover*, the first county record. Autumn migration was again rather quiet with hardly any seabird movements and only a few coastal 'falls' in early September and October-November. Rarities included *Buff-breasted Sandpiper*, *Hudsonian Godwit*, first record, 2 *Greenish* and a *Pallas's Warbler* and a record autumn total of 6 *Yellow-browed Warblers*. The year ended with the coldest spell of December weather this century, which, however, failed to bring the type of invasions of birds seen in 1979.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

The only notable numbers early in the year were 45 at Saltfleetby February 1st-4th, 20 Mablethorpe 15th and 67 north at Donna Nook April 16th. Otherwise 1-15 were noted on the coast to May 2nd, with singles inland at Covenham Res. March 13th, Grimsby Docks February 28th-March 8th and Barrow Haven March 13th. Early returning autumn birds were at Huttoft July 15th and Saltfleetby 29th. Only small numbers were noted on the coast in the latter part of the year with peaks of 36 at Chapel Point November 28th and 14 Gibraltar Point December 30th.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Birds were reported at Trusthorpe 2 January 26th, with one 29th and February 12th, Saltfleetby February 4th, Grainthorpe March 1st and Donna Nook April 4th. In autumn one flew south at Saltfleetby September 7th, with one there 14th, then in October one south Donna Nook 4th, 2 at the Witham Mouth and one north Gibraltar Point 17th; one Saltfleetby November 7th and singles Donna Nook December 5th and 12th, Witham Mouth 13th and Gibraltar Point 31st.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*.

2 flew north at Donna Nook April 4th. There was a moulting adult in Anderby Creek October 18th-19th, then one north at Donna Nook December 12th and one found dead at Gibraltar Point 26th.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

In January there were 12 at Grainthorpe 13th, with 14 there February 6th. Gibraltar Point had up to 14 in April and there were 11 at Huttoft 12th and an early breeding pair had 2 young at Barrow Haven 19th. In the autumn Gibraltar Point had up to 9 with 23 at Immingham September 13th and up to 11 on the Hobhole to December. There were 12 at Saltfleetby October 10th and 12 Stallingborough November 29th then concentrations during the December freeze of 16 at Barton 9th and 23 Ashbyville 10th.

Great-crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

After few records in January/February, breeding birds had returned in force by March with 24 at Denton Res 22nd and 32 South Humber bank pits where 11 pairs bred. Other breeding records included 4 pairs at Denton and 3 each at Messingham and Deeping pits. Birds were regular on the coast from late July with 6 at Saltfleetby 26th. In September there were 17 at Immingham 13th and 15 at Covenham. In October 7 flew north Saltfleetby 12th and there were 24 at the Witham Mouth November 15th.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

One at Donna Nook January 3rd was the only early winter record. There was an unusual mid summer record of an adult in breeding plumage at Humberston on July 4th (GPC). Late year records were of one at the Witham Mouth from September 21st to late October and one at Covenham Res. October 15th; then one north at Donna Nook November 7th with one at Grimsby Docks December 28-31st.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

One was at Covenham Res. February 11th-March 4th then in spring one at Denton Res. May 3rd in summer plumage. There was one at Huttoft September 23rd and finally one at the Witham Mouth November 29th.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

The only records were of one at Gibraltar Point February 7-10th and one in summer plumage occasionally 'penguin' dancing with a Slavonian Grebe at Denton Res. May 3rd.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

A dark phase bird was found dead at Grainthorpe Haven January 9th otherwise the first records were at the Witham Mouth March 21st. During the April gales 10 flew north at Gibraltar Point 25th and there were 20 at the Witham Mouth 26th, with 1-10 elsewhere on the coast in spring. One flew west over Tetney Blow Wells May 22nd, one was at Donington June 12th and 20 north at Gibraltar Point 18th. Up to 20 birds were regular on the coast July-September with 26 north Gibraltar Point August 7th and 108 south Saltfleetby in one hour 15th. In the Humber there were singles at Barrow Haven June 6th, Pyewipe August 5th, 11th and 14th with one Trent Falls 25th.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

In June 12 flew north and 52 south at Gibraltar Point 17th, 10 north and 11 south August 7th and otherwise there were just odd singles June-September at Huttoft, Chapel Point, Donna Nook with 3 south August 1st and Saltfleetby with 3 August 7th. One was up the Humber at Winteringham September 19th and the last was at Gibraltar Point October 6th.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

2 flew south at Donna Nook on October 4th. (RLo).

Gannet *Sula bassana*

First noted at Gibraltar Point March 7th; there were then a number of gale wrecked birds in late April with 61 at the Witham Mouth 26th, singles inland at Bourne South Fen 27th, Pyewipe 28th and found dead at Bulby, Low Fulney and Holbeach all 29th. Up to 30 were regular on the coast from June-October with 50 at Huttoft August 7th, 125 north at Saltfleetby September 28th, and 40 north at Donna Nook 26th. 70 were at the Witham Mouth September 1st and 40 there October 22nd when 79 flew south at Gibraltar Point. In the Humber there was one at Goxhill August 21st and 8 at Killingholme September 10th; the last was at Gibraltar Point December 19th.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Recorded throughout the year but in generally low numbers with up to 20 at Gibraltar Point, 25 October 4th and 35 south November 13th; Tetney, Barrow Haven, Covenham and the Witham Mouth with up to 35 there October-December. There were 29 in Grimsby Docks December 23rd and 7 inland at Cadney in January with 11 there December 7th. Birds showing characteristics of the race *P.c. sinensis* were seen at Barrow Haven March 4th and Tetney April 11th.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

An exhausted bird picked up at Boston Docks March 18th was later released on the Hobhole April 17th. One was at Saltfleetby August 10th with another at the Witham Mouth on several dates from October 16th-December and one was found dead at Gibraltar Point August 2nd.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

One was seen at Huttoft pit February 6th and one was booming on odd dates in May at a site on South Humberside. A single bird was seen on a few dates in August/September at Barrow Haven and there were two records in November; an interesting one of a bird arriving off the sea at Saltfleetby 15th and one present for some time around 25th at Messingham. During the December freeze one was seen at Barrow Haven/New Holland 9th, with one at Barton 10th-16th found dead 26th and one at Lea Marshes 19th.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

The heronry census produced the following counts of occupied nests:

Abbey Wood, Thornton	35	Muckton Wood	34
Gatecliff Wood, Newball	17	Nocton Wood	1
Eveden Wood	12	Old Hag Wood, Doddington	36
Howsham Wood,	17	Troy Wood	71
Laughton Forest	14	Willoughby Wood	26
The Mere, Deeping	73		

The total of 336 occupied nests is the highest in the county records, which go back to 1962.

Away from the breeding sites few concentrations were noted. There were up to 15 at Killingholme July/August with 10 at Holbeach in August and 21 flying south at the Witham Mouth October 2nd.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

In May an immature flying north at Skidbrooke on 18th attempted to land on pools at Donna Nook but was driven off by Carrion Crows. (MM) A second bird landed briefly at Gibraltar Point on 26th before flying off to the north-east. (PRB). Both accepted by BBRC.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

A party of 4 flew north at Gibraltar Point May 25th (MJR, MIE) and an immature was at Grainthorpe Haven June 10-11th (BMC, MJT et al). 2 flew over Trent Falls on June 24th (AGr) and an adult at Killingholme July 3-4th (GPC et al) may have been the bird seen flying south at Saltfleetby 5th (JRW). Finally in a good year 3 flew north at Saltfleetby September 29th (MJT).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Numbers were generally low in the early part of the year; 42 at Cleethorpes in April being notable. From September numbers on the R. Welland, Spalding-Deeping, increased from 125 September 14th to 243 October 19th and 234 November 16th. Up to 34 were near Covenham November/December with 34 at Barton December 12th and 31 Pyewipe 11th.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Birds were regular at a few sites January-March with up to 11 at Tetney, 16 at Gibraltar Point, 10 in the Butterwick area and in addition in January 23 at Humberston 8th, 5 South Ferriby 18th, 8 Covenham 27th, New Waltham 7th and 5 south Anderby 31st. In March 6 at Donna Nook 12-19th, 25 east at Trent Falls 6th with 13 east 9th and a late bird at Huttoft pit April 20th. The first late winter birds were in November with up to 18 at Gibraltar Point from 8th, 3 north at Baston Fen 7th, at Donna Nook 6 south 7th, 8, 8th, and 4 north 15th with one at Anderby 15th. Birds were widespread in December with 10 at Covenham 3rd, 5 Huttoft 5th, 10 west at Trent Falls 10th, one Gibraltar Point 9th, 23 north-west at New Holland 15th, one Grainthorpe 9th and 2 Lea marshes 27th.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

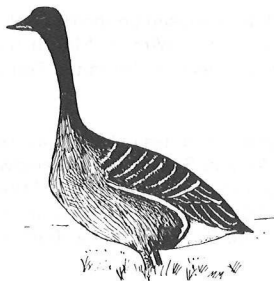
The only records early in the year were of one at Gibraltar Point January 1st and 11th, one Killingholme/Barton pits January 8th-April 6th and 11 south at Trent Falls January 5th. There was a pronounced influx October-December. The first were 3 west at Trent Falls October 3rd with 2 west 13th, one Gibraltar Point 13-22nd, 2 Witham Mouth 17th and 2 Covenham 28th. In November 2 Huttoft 3rd, 6 Saltfleetby 7-8th, 9 west Gibraltar Point 8th with 4 14th, 3 Cleethorpes 9th and 14 in off the sea there 8th, 3 west Trent Falls 7th and 5 Witham Mouth 15th. In December 1-3 at New Holland 19-31st, Cleethorpes, Hatcliffe, Killingholme, Trent Falls, and North Coates with 22 at Saltfleetby on 8th.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* (illustrated)

In October 2 flew south at Saltfleetby 21st (JRC, KA, WPB). A party of 3 birds was seen successively at Saltfleetby (MJT, BMC), Donna Nook (GPC) and Covenham Res. (JRC, KA) on November 14th and what were presumably the same birds stayed at Huttoft from November 19th-December 5th (KA, MM et al). A single bird was at North Coates from December 28-31st (RLo).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

In January there were peaks of 400 Holbeach 11th, 1100 Whitton 24th, 800 Trent Falls 25th with 135 north at Barrow Haven 23rd and 450 still at Trent Falls February



18th. One was at Tetney July 5-6th with the first autumn birds 44 at Trent Falls September 25th. Birds were more numerous than in recent years from October-December with up to 100 seen at several sites. The autumn peak at Trent Falls was 600 October 22nd with 1,000 at Holbeach November 25th and 168 at Gibraltar Point December 31st. Other sites were Killingholme-Barton area, Donington, Saltfleetby, Witham Mouth, Lea Marshes, Baston Fen, Gosberton, Donna Nook and Huttoft.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

The only early year record was of 4 at Holbeach January 11th. 16 were seen at Saltfleetby October 13th and in December a flock of 45 were at North Coates 19th with one there 27-31st.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

In February the feral flock at Kirkby-on-Bain pits numbered 84 birds with 13 at Whisby pit 7th. In the period April-June there were up to 6 at Gibraltar Point, 12 at Messingham with 1-3 at Tetney and Anderby while there were 4-5 pairs at Deeping pits May 10th. There was a notable influx of birds late in the year coinciding with the freezing conditions. Huttoft had 4 November 28th, then in December there were 19 at Immingham 23-27th, 3 at Covenham 14th, 34 at Saltfleetby 7th, 11 Tallington 29th, one North Coates 24-31st and finally 60 flying east over Louth 31st.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Large flocks in January included 232 at Burton Pits, 107 Ancaster pits and 70 West Ashby pits with 56 at Culverthorpe. Several parties of up to 30 occurred at unusual sites in June; i.e. Saltfleetby, Gibraltar Point, Frampton, Trent Falls and Grimsby Docks. There were up to 170 at Barton June-September with 70 to December but no other large numbers reported in the latter part of the year.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Records of presumably escaped birds included one at Burton Pits January 1-14th and on several dates in May, 3 at Messingham February 5th and 3 south at Trent Falls May 18th, 2 at Gibraltar Point May 24th with one south June 13th and one at Denton Res. November 17th and December 15th. Birds of wild origin included 2 at Tetney February 20th which preceded the largest ever influx into the county with 52 at North Coates February 27-March 3rd and 48 at Holbeach February 22-28th. In the autumn a party of 8 at Barton October 8th included a bird colour-ringed on the Solway. The large February flocks are taken to have been Russian birds forced out of their normal wintering areas in Holland by severe weather while the latter 8 would be of the Spitzbergen population (per M.A.Ogilvie).

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

At the Witham Mouth there were 2,000 January-May with 2,800 February 4th and 3 all summer. Also in the Wash were 3,000 at Freiston February 1st. The peak count at Donna Nook/Saltfleet was 400 February 8th and 21st with 272 at North Coates March 1st. Holbeach had 1,500 April 20th and one flew south at Trent Falls 12th. Returning birds from late September had built up to 2,000 at the Witham Mouth by late December with 150 at Humberston November 8th, 1,200 at Donna Nook December 23rd and 1,000 at Gibraltar Point 30-31st.

A party of 7 birds of the pale bellied race *B.b.hrota* were at Donna Nook December 27th-January 82.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

A single bird of unknown origin flew south at Donna Nook November 27th. (SL).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

High January counts included 500 Tetney 11th, 200 Saltfleetby 11th, 300 Freiston 25th and 900 Witham Mouth 30th. In February there were 1,000 at Holbeach 22nd, with 1,150 at Pyewipe 2nd. Pyewipe had 700 to April with 1,000 Holbeach March 7th. Trent Falls had a peak of 110 May 10th with 150 Gibraltar Point June 15th and 100 Read's Island 20th. 6 creches with 43 young were seen Whitton/Winteringham July 18th. Numbers at Pyewipe increased again from 855 September to 1,530 in November but were down to 446 December. Gibraltar Point had 200 October 30th and there were up to 150 at Winteringham, September-November with 900 at Grainthorpe Marsh December 8th and 350 Donna Nook 23rd.

Mandarin Aix *galericulata*

At Denton Res. there was a male June 9-10th and July 30-August 12th.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Generally low numbers were recorded in the early part of the year with up to 245 at Trent Falls, 230 Gibraltar Point, 200 Holbeach, 152 Baston Fen and 164 Whisby Pit January-March with smaller numbers at several other sites. A few birds were seen through the summer with 400 Gibraltar Point September 19th then 420 there October 1st with 300 Witham Mouth 16th, and 340 Trent Falls November 26th. Large concentrations during the December freeze included 550 Grainthorpe 8th, up to 1,000 Saltfleetby 25th and 17,000 between Kirton and Holbeach 28th.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Up to 6 birds were seen at numerous localities throughout the year with peaks in February-April. The largest numbers were at Kirkby-on-Bain pits with 32 January 27th and 50 February 28th. In summer 4 were at Messingham in June with one at Chapel pit and 2 Bardney July. During the latter part of the year there were up to 15 at Whisby pits in November, up to 9 Gibraltar Point October-November, 18 at Messingham December 3rd and 60 West Deeping pits 13th.

Teal *Anas crecca*

In January the only high counts were 320 Trent Falls and 146 Baston Fen 22nd, with 102 Whisby pit 25th and 213 Baston Fen February 8th. Autumn numbers were higher August-October with 125 Messingham August 25th, 355 north at Donna Nook 31st, and in September 400 Gibraltar Point, 375 Winteringham, 150 Holbeach, 1100 Trent Falls. In December Baston Fen held 180 6th and Saltfleetby 300 17th.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Early winter maxima were in January with 730 Covenham Res, 250 Trent Falls, 330 Gibraltar Point 1st, 331 Whisby pit 25th, 209 Ancaster pit, 288 Witham Mouth 11th, 120 Baston Fen and 154 Bagmoor mines. Large numbers built up again from August with 120 Barrow Haven 27th, 260 Gibraltar Point 31st, 500 Holbeach 21st, 1,200 Trent Falls September. In December there were 1,250 Covenham, up to 450 Trent Falls and 250 Saltfleetby.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Recorded January-May and August-December, records were concentrated in the Wash with few other sites recording more than 5 together. In February there were 17 Gibraltar Point 18th, 38 Witham Mouth 8th, and 35 Holbeach March 7th with 20 Kirton 5th. Saltfleetby had 17 August 31st and 40 flew west at Trent Falls September 15th with 42 west there October 9th. Numbers at Holbeach reached 14 October 17th with 53 Witham Mouth 23rd and 100 there December 27th.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

The first were a pair at Killingholme April 10th which subsequently reared 4 young, 2 of which were still present to August 31st. There was one at Donna Nook April 27th then in May a pair at Gibraltar Point 16th, pair Saltfleetby 12th and a pair Baston Fen 8th with the female still present in June. There were 2 at Kirkby-on-Bain on August 22nd.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

In the period January-April there were 18 at Whisby pit January 25th, up to 12 at Messingham, 10 at Baston Fen and 8 at Killingholme with 12 at Covenham in April. Autumn peaks were low with 12 Kirkby 3rd August, 24 Killingholme 10th, 21 Messingham 26th, 18 Donna Nook 31st and 36 Huttoft September 23rd with 33 there November 8th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

A female was seen at Twigmoor January 29th and there was a 'very tame' male at Crowland January 23-24th.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

January concentrations included 228 Toft Newton 25th, 82 Immingham 11th and 94 Barrow Haven 18th. There were 91 on the R. Welland February 25th with 119 at Crowle pit 1st. The only breeding records noted were of 5 pairs with broods on the South Humber bank pits, and one brood at Burton pits. 328 had gathered at Toft Newton by October 25th, and there were 180 at Messingham November 23-December 3rd; otherwise only low numbers were recorded late in the year.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

What was presumably the same male recorded in 1979 and 1980 was seen at Messingham from May 25th to at least June 6th. (JTH et al). Under consideration by BBRC.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

A male first located at South Killingholme pits March 5th was seen at North Killingholme pits on 6th (DW et al).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

The only large flocks in January-March were 210 Covenham January, 200 Toft Newton 25th, and 144 Kirkby pits 27th. There were 211 on the River Welland February 25th with 150 Fulstow pit March 7th. In the breeding season there were 5 pairs Baston Fen, 4 Barrow Haven/Barton, 3 Biscathorpe Lake and single pairs at Tetney, Covenham, Bardney and Benniworth Haven and 3 pair in the Scunthorpe area. The only large flock in the latter-part of the year was 365 at Toft Newton December 13th with 40 forced onto the Humber at Pyewipe by the freeze in December.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Birds were scarce in the January-May period with only up to 6 at Immingham, Cowbit, Anderby, Killingholme, Huttoft and Covenham with peaks at the Witham Mouth of 12 March 21st, and 46 April 26th. There were 2 at Tetney July 22nd with one Chapel Point and 2 Huttoft August 7th and 22nd respectively. From September-December there were 1-2 at Saltfleetby, Covenham, East Halton, Barton, Holbeach and Goxhill, the Witham Mouth and Cowbit with birds regular off Pyewipe October 2nd to December 31st and a maximum of 14 30-31st.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Recorded in all months with concentrations in the Wash, where there were about 100 January-April with a record 400 March 26th. Birds were regular at Pyewipe February-August with a maximum of 17 April 21st and a single male was inland at Lincoln Ballast pits February 19th. 100 were at Freiston shore June-July with 250 again at the Witham Mouth November 14th. Up to 15 birds were also seen at a number of coastal sites from Cleethorpes to the Wash during the year with 50 Gibraltar Point October 17th, 87 north at Donna Nook November 7th and one up the Humber at Barrow Haven December 23rd.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

In January singles were at Witham Mouth 11th and Covenham 18th, with one Trusthorpe February 21st and the Witham Mouth April 5th. After one at Saltfleetby September 29th there was a good influx with October birds at Gibraltar Point 13-23rd with 2 to 27th, Covenham 6th, Huttoft 22nd, and 2 at the Witham Mouth 15-17th. In November 5 flew north at Donna Nook 7th and one north 14th with one Grainthorpe 14th and a high count of 11 at the Witham Mouth 15th with 2 there 29th, one Gibraltar Point 13-15th and one Skegness December 22nd.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Early in the year a flock of 200 at the Welland Mouth January 24th and 120 at Trusthorpe 25th were the only large flocks. Up to 5 were at Covenham Res. in April with 59 at East Halton 18th and 101 Mablethorpe 7th. 140 flew south at Gibraltar Point June 22nd and 200 north at Saltfleetby July 21st. A few flocks of up to 80 flew north on the coast in August with westerly movements at Trent Falls of 45 August 4th and 58 8th. There were 150 at Saltfleetby November 7-15th and 260 flew north at Donna Nook 7th.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

In February there were singles at Trusthorpe 15th, Grainthorpe 21st, and Gibraltar Point 28th with one Huttoft March 1st. In April 2 flew north at Trusthorpe 1st, 4 north Gibraltar Point 23rd with one Witham Mouth 26th. 2 were at Saltfleetby September 12th with 3 north Gibraltar Point October 25th, 8 north Saltfleetby 3rd and 2 10th. In November Saltfleetby had 5, 7th with one Chapel Point 28th and finally 3 at Gibraltar Point December 31st and one Pyewipe 23rd-31st.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

During January-February there was a peak of 91 at Covenham January 24-25th, with 50 February 11-21st, 62 at Freiston February 1st and otherwise up to 20 at several coastal and inland sites. Higher counts in March included 103 at Covenham 1st, and 55 Barrow Haven 4th with 36 South Ferriby 15th. Late birds were at a few sites in May with an immature male at Barton June 2nd. The first returning bird was at the Witham Mouth September 13th with a slow increase to late December when 42 were at Covenham and 50 Barrow Haven and up to 11 at many other sites.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

A good number of records in January included males at Barrow Haven 1-12th, Trusthorpe 15th with a pair Saltfleetby 25th and single redheads Toft Newton 18-19th, Killingholme 8-22nd and Covenham 16-24th with 2 Grainthorpe February 6th. In November there were 2 redheads at Saltfleetby 7th and one Chapel Point 15th with a final male flying west at Trent Falls December 30th.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Up to 5 were noted at Freiston, Holbeach, Saltfleetby, Tetney, Gibraltar Point and Trent Falls during January-May with up to 15 at the Witham Mouth. 2 were at Tetney June 28th with singles Alkborough July 11th and Gibraltar Point 20th. Only small numbers were seen October-December with up to 5 at North Coates, Saltfleetby, Gibraltar Point, Covenham, Goxhill, Grimsby Docks, Tetney and the Witham Mouth with 12 there November 15th and 7 Donna Nook 7th.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Apart from a maximum of 28 on the Welland at Cowbit February 25th there were only 1-3 birds at Saltfleetby, Bagmoor, Barrow Haven, Cadney, Covenham, Baston Fen and Humberston from January-April with the latest at Messingham April 4th and Trent Falls to May 12th. From October 1-2 were recorded at Gibraltar Point, Burton Pits, Baston Fen, Trent Falls, Covenham, Saltfleetby and Huttoft with 8 on the Welland December 3rd, 8 at Cadney 28th, 12 south at Gibraltar Point 27th and 20 at West Deeping pits in December.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

An influx of birds in May produced records of 2 males and a female at Messingham 5th with female to 6th, a female at Lincoln Ballast pits 8th-July 8th, and 2 males and a female Denton Res. 20th. 3 males and a female were at Denton Res. June 19th and a female at Whisby pit October 18-25th.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

In September a single bird was seen at Gibraltar Point 21st (RL) and a juv. flew south west over North Coates Point 23rd (JdeL).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

The recent surge continued with most records in May and August/September, a number of birds summering and a good number of adult males being unusual. At Saltfleetby a female April 17-27th was joined by a male and female 28th with 3-4 different birds there in May. Birds were seen on 12 May days at Tetney – at least 5 birds, odd Blacktoft birds at Trent Falls, 1-2 regular at Gibraltar Point to June with a male June 26th. There were at least 5 birds in the Wash area, Pointon, Kirton, Holbeach, Frampton, Gedney and Butterwick with 3 there 31st and a pair at Holbeach to September. Other May records were 3 at Donna Nook, 2 Barrow Haven and one Nocton Fen. A female summered at Deeping Fen June-August, with a male July 29th, and 1-2 at Saltfleetby, Tetney, Freiston, Kirton and Frampton in June. August records were of 3 at Saltfleetby, 3 Tetney, up to 3 with a male near Bardney, up to 5 in the Wash, one regular at Gibraltar Point, one Donna Nook, then September records from much the same sites with males at North Coates 16th, Saltfleetby 13th and one late bird at Bennington November 22nd.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

In the period January-April there were up to 4 at Saltfleetby, one male January, a male Nettleton January 1st and Gedney 11th, with single ringtails Donna Nook, Gibraltar Point, Crowle, Snipe Dales, and Witham Mouth. Also 2 Saltfleetby to March 1st, 2 Gibraltar Point April 18th, and males Holbeach February 25th and Donna Nook April 12th. A late ringtail was at Tetney May 12-13th and an early one July 29th. Birds were again regular from October with 5 different birds in December at North Coates, Donna Nook and Saltfleetby, 4 Gibraltar Point 30-31st, 2 Baston Fen November 7th and odd singles at Deeping Fen, Covenham, Pinchbeck, Witham Mouth and Pyewipe.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

In May there was a female at Pointon Fen 10-12th (JBI, KKH), an adult male Saltfleetby 16th (DJ), immature male Skidbrooke/Saltfleetby 18th (MM), a female Donna Nook 22nd (SL), with a first summer female Tetney 30th (HB). In June an immature was at Tetney 11th (JL) and a first summer male at Gibraltar Point 9th and 13th (RL, SW) with the same bird there July 25-27th and August 1st. Also in June a female was at Donna Nook 19th (SL) and a first summer male there 18th (BMC) may have been the bird seen between Humberston and

Donna Nook July 13-August 15th (MM, GPC, HB, JRC, JL, RLo, KA et al). A second summer male was seen at Skidbrooke July 21st and 26th (BMC, MJT) and could have been the same as one at Saltfleetby August 5th (KA, JRC) and 10th (MJT).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Birds were present at a few sites on and off throughout the year but there was no definite proof of breeding. Gibraltar Point had 1-2 January-June and September-December. Birds were at Morkery and Stapleford wood all year and one at Nettleton January-March and October-December. 2 were at Kirkby Moor in January with singles in February at Crowle and Winteringham and passage birds in April/May at Barrow Haven 2, Saltfleetby 4+, Donna Nook 2, Covenham, Theddlethorpe and Immingham. Following one at Theddlethorpe August 31st and Burton pits September 26-27th there was a notable influx in mid October with 3 Saltfleetby, 2 Grimsby, and singles Anderby, Newball Wood, Brocklesby, Elsham, Donna Nook and Messingham. November birds were at Saltfleetby and Covenham with singles in December at Barton, New Holland, Roxton Wood and Twigmoor.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

There was one at Tumbly Wood February 18th then one Gibraltar Point May 1st and one Bourne Wood July 25th. There were 4 autumn records all coastal with one flying inland at Saltfleetby September 6th, one at North Coates 16th to October 1st, one south at Saltfleetby October 8th and one south Donna Nook 10th.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

The wintering bird in the Nettleton area was joined by a second January 11th-February 5th then one intermittently to March 15th (GPC et al). On March 1st it flew south-west over Claxby and was last seen over Market Rasen. In the latter part of the year one flew west at North Coates November 10th (RLo) and one was there again December 28th (RLo).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (illustrated)

In May one flew north at Saltfleetby 7th (TC, BW), another north there 16th (MM), with one south at Covenham Res. 19th (MM). One arrived off the sea at Saltfleetby August 9th (JRC, JRW), then one was at Waltham Pit September 13th (WRM, WJM), one Saltfleetby 14th (MJT) and in October one flying south east over Barrow Haven at 15.30hrs on 7th (GPC) was probably the bird which roosted at Saltfleetby 7-8th (JRW).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Apart from 4 at Nettleton January and 6 Donna Nook May 1st, reports of 1-3 birds were very widespread. There was a good autumn passage mainly in August with up to 7 at Tetney, and a peak of 15 Gibraltar Point 22nd with 15-20 at Donna Nook mid-late August.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Records of 1-2 birds January-April came from Covenham, Holbeach, Freiston, Fulstow, Saltfleetby, N. Scarle, Gibraltar Point, Witham Mouth, Manby, Winteringham, Snitterby and Barrow Haven with the only males at Fulstow February 25th and Goxhill March 20th. The

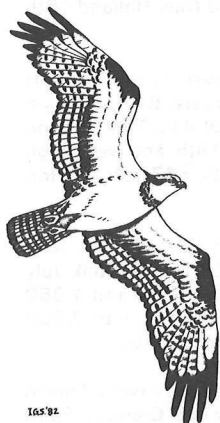
last was at Grainthorpe May 2nd. Early returning birds were at Sleaford September 9th and Baston Fen 20th. From October-December 1-2 birds were fairly regular at North Coates, Barton-East Halton area, Holbeach, Donna Nook and Saltfleetby with odd singles at Kirkby Moor, Anderby, Morton, Deeping Fen, Louth, Bonby, Keelby and the Witham Mouth. Altogether an exceptional number of records in the latter part of the year.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

In May there was one at Norton Disney 7th (RNG) one south at Theddlethorpe 10th (GPC) and one New Waltham 23rd (WPB). One flew south at Humberston June 25th (BMC, MJT), and there were a good number in July with singles Tetney 2nd (JL), Grainthorpe 5th (MM), Huttoft 14th (BMC, MJT), Gibraltar Point 24th (SW) one south Saltfleetby 29th (BMC) and one Barrow Haven 31st (GPC). An adult was at Goxhill August 14th (DAR) with one Tetney (IGS) and Donna Nook 15th (RLo), one at Barnetby 18th (RLo) and Gibraltar Point 28th (DJ) and 29th (JPS). One was hunting the Barrow Haven hirundine roost September 4-6th (GPC) and finally one was at Theddlethorpe 8th (MJT).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

There was one at North Coates February 27th (RLo) then one Saltfleetby March 27th



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(TC, JRW) with a single autumn occurrence at Gibraltar Point September 16th (AV).

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

There were up to 24 at Gibraltar Point during the year and a notable party of 25 at Barton December 16th.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Gibraltar Point recorded up to 16 and there were 18 at Donna Nook August 31st with a large covey of 28 at Goxhill December 15th.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

A good year for this species with calling males at Covenham May 20th (MM), 2 Donna Nook 19th with one to June 8th (SL et al), also in June 2 at Goxhill 11-12th with one to late July (GPC), and one Gunby gorse 26th (ES). In July one was at Alkborough 19th to August 2nd (PE), one found dead at North Thoresby 31st (PAD) and finally one at Kirkby Moor August 3rd (BMC, MJT).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Numbers at Gibraltar Point increased to 43 in September then 60 November and 40 again in December. 250 were counted at Stoke Rochford October 21st.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

A number of reports of 1-2 birds January-April but no breeding records known. There was again a widespread scatter of 1-3 individuals October-December with numerous sightings in the freezing weather of December when there were 11 on 70m of unfrozen stream at Barton 10th with 5 dead 27th.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Concentrations in January included 75 at Riseholme 4th with 47 Messingham 23rd. Late in the year there were 43 at Crowland pit October 19th with 59 at Tetney Lock November 21st and 55 Barton 25th. During the December freeze 60 were at Barton, 50 New Holland 15th and 73 Deeping pit 31st.

Coot *Fulica atra*

High counts in January were of 405 Burton pits 4th, 450 Barrow Haven 18th, 500 Toft Newton 25th and 530 Whisby pit 25th with 335 at Kirkby pits to February. Barrow Haven had 420 by August 23rd and numbers at other sites reached peaks of 412 Toft Newton October 25th, 312 Covenham 14th, with 300 Huttoft November 19th and very high December counts of 700 Barrow Haven/Barton 10th, 600 Tallington 4th, 567 Toft Newton 13th and 2,000 West Deeping pits 13th.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

High counts included 800 Tetney January 24th, 3,500 Gibraltar Point February 8th, with 1,500 there March 8th, 500 at the Witham Mouth May 15th and 1,000 Donna Nook July 31st. There were 790 at Tetney by August 16th with 1,000 Holbeach 15th and 1,350 Grainthorpe 29th. Counts were very high at Gibraltar Point to the year end with 7,000 September 13-14th, 12,000 south October 15th and 4,000 there December 13th.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

An early spring bird was at the Witham Mouth April 6th (SK) then in May there were 2 north at Donna Nook 7th (SL), 3 at Tetney 8th (JL) with an exceptional party of 9 Gibraltar Point 10th (SW RL) and a single at Tetney 26th (JL). Three were again at Gibraltar Point June 3rd (SW) with one Saltfleetby 16th (JRW TC). Another interesting winter record came from Pyewipe with 2 there December 22-24th (SH, IGS) and one to 28th (WPB, SH, JdeL).

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oediconemus* (illustrated)

An unusual record of one seen on the developing sandy foreshore at Saltfleetby July 28-29th. (JRW, KA, JRC, TC et al).

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

One was seen at Skidbrooke on July 11th (MJT). The 3rd specific county record. Under consideration by BBRC.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Early April birds were at Scunthorpe 4th, with 3 Messingham 11th, Saltfleetby 15-16th and Kill- ingholme 18th. Pairs bred at Scunthorpe and Elsham, with no other reports! Migrants were



regular in autumn from June-August with 1-2 regular at Barrow Haven, Killingholme, Bardney, Cadney, Covenham, Boston, Donna Nook, Gibraltar Point and Huttoft with the last at Messingham September 22nd.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

In the early year there were 200 at Cleethorpes February 12th and 250 Gibraltar Point March 8th. A good spring passage in May included high counts of 130 Tetney 20th, 354 Cleethorpes 18th, 200 Saltfleetby 8th and 162 27th. Breeding records included 45 pairs Tetney, 10+ Killingholme and Saltfleetby, with others inland at Barton 2-3 pair, South Ferriby one, Bardney, Melton Ross and Scunthorpe. Peak autumn numbers were 255 Tetney August 16th, 300 Gibraltar Point 29th, 270 at the Witham Mouth 31st, 232 Pyewipe 25th and 300 Witham Mouth September 20th.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Continuing the recent series of spring-summer records there were single males at Saltfleetby May 29-30th (JRW), Gibraltar Point June 17-20th (SW et al) and Saltfleetby July 5th (MM et al).

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

An immature bird present at North Coates on August 7th was the first County record of this South-eastern vagrant. (HB, JL). See description. Accepted by BBRC.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Another exceptional spring migration for this species with trips at 5 different sites totalling at a very minimum 51 birds. At Bourne South Fen numbers increased from 6 April 26th to a peak of 26 on 29th and then 23 May 1st falling to 6, 7th, and 3, 8th-9th. (KKH et al). At Tetney there were 4 May 3-5th (HB GPC et al), 8 North Coates 6th (RLo), with 7 Tetney 10th (HB), and 8 there 17-18th (GPC et al) with 3,21-25th (IGS WPB et al). Also during May there were 4 at North Ormsby 4th (KW), 7 on the Lincs side of the R.Idle 7th (DH) and 3 at Theddlethorpe 16-17th (KA et al). Three autumn birds were at Theddlethorpe on September 8th (MJT).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

In January there were 500 at Saltfleetby 13th with 450 Tetney 20th and 210 at Whitton 1st. 400 were at Grainthorpe April 12th with 120 northern birds at Goxhill 29th. Birds were present at some sites virtually all year with returning birds by mid July and 530 Tetney August 14th, with 1,000 at the Witham Mouth 29th. 700 were at Alkborough in September with 500 North Coates and 400 Holbeach, N. Kyme and Donna Nook in October and in November-December 600 East Halton, 500 Appleby and 1,000 Goxhill pre the freeze.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Large numbers present in April included 1,000 at Holbeach 20th and 400 Gibraltar Point 6th. Small numbers summered on the coast with the largest year counts in October/November when there were up to 1,100 at Gibraltar Point, 800 Holbeach, 300 at the Witham Mouth and 150 at Donna Nook.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

A large flock of 1,000 at Langton-by-Wragby was the only notable gathering reported in a poor year for visible migration of this species. One effect of the severe weather was a southerly movement of 600 at Gibraltar Point December 31st.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Concentrations during January-March included up to 8,000 at Gibraltar Point, 3,500 Cleethorpes, 5,000 Holbeach, 6,000 Witham Mouth and 2,000 Donna Nook. There were still 52 at Tetney June 1st and large numbers returned from mid July with 4,000 at Gibraltar Point 31st. In the period August-November there were up to 9,000 at Gibraltar Point August 29th, 15,000 at Holbeach November, and 3,000 Cleethorpes November 8th.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

A good spring migration was evident in May with 300 regular at Tetney and 1,200 there 31st. There were also 450 at Cleethorpes 18th, 400 Grimsby Docks 17th, 450 Donna Nook 21st, and 120 Saltfleetby 30th. Tetney still had 550 on June 1st but only 45 10th, while a later peak of 600 at Gibraltar Point June 3rd was followed by 250 at Saltfleetby 8th. Large numbers were again present in August with returning birds numbering 150 at Saltfleetby 1st, 230 Tetney 16th and 1,200 Gibraltar Point 1st.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

There were no spring records. The first few returning adults occurred from July 3rd with 1-2 in July-August at Gibraltar Point, Killingholme, Bardney, Covenham, Grainthorpe and

Saltfleetby with 8 south at Donna Nook August 31st. There was a fairly large influx in September from 10th to early October. Peak numbers in September were 11 Killingholme 13th, 7 Gibraltar Point 11-15th, 7 Bardney 12th, 8 Pyewipe 17th, 8 Saltfleetby 21st and 15 Witheringham 27th with 1-6 at Covenham, Goxhill, Freiston, Holbeach, Donna Nook, Cleethorpes and the Witham Mouth and a late bird at Covenham Res. November 1-9th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

A poor year; the only records being singles at North Coates July 4th (GPC), Covenham July 7th (KW) and Donna Nook September 11th (RLo).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

An early bird was at Donna Nook July 5th (SL) with typical September records at Messingham 11th (JTH) and North Coates 22nd (RLo).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

The only spring birds were at Tetney April 15th and Gibraltar Point 3 June 3rd with one 6th. Returning adults were seen from July 6th Grainthorpe, with 1-3 in July-August at Bardney, Holbeach, Tetney, Gibraltar Point and the Witham Mouth. Larger numbers were at Killingholme with 7 adults July 26th and 20 adults August 3-5th. There was a good influx in September with up to 9 at Pyewipe 18th, 5 Tetney 22nd, 19 Saltfleetby 20th, and 25 Goxhill 22nd with 1-2 at Donna Nook, Gibraltar Point, Covenham, and Cleethorpes to October when there were still 10 at Saltfleetby 3rd and the last at Gibraltar Point 30th.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Up to 3 were present at Trusthorpe to April 1st and 1-2 at Grimsby Docks to February 25th. There were also singles at Witham Mouth January 17th-25th, North Coates March 1st and Chapel Point April 2nd. A number of records in late August included singles Saltfleetby 22nd to 30th, Gibraltar Point 1-2, 28-31st, Pyewipe 20-24th and Witham Mouth 31st. In October singles were at Donna Nook 4th, Saltfleetby 13th, Witham Mouth 18th and Huttoft 2, 25th, with 2 at Trusthorpe November 15th onwards, one Saltfleetby 5-15th and finally Grimsby Docks December 30th.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

During January-April there were large numbers at several sites with up to 2,000 at Donna Nook, 2,500 Pyewipe, 3,750 Gibraltar Point, 2,000 Butterwick, 2,200 Cleethorpes and 10,000 Holbeach April 20th. A few birds summered on the coast with large numbers again present from August-December; up to 5,000 Gibraltar Point September 15th, and 9,680 Pyewipe November 24th.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tringa subruficollis*

A bird first seen flying over Trent Falls August 31st (AGr) was located feeding with Ruff on fields at Alkborough September 3-14th (GPC). Only the 3rd County record of this Nearctic wader, previous records being September 20th 1906 and September 13th 1975. Accepted by BBRC.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Birds were noted throughout the year with high January-March counts of 110 at North Coates February 8th and up to 30 Pyewipe. Up to 20 occurred in April-June at a few sites with much larger flocks by late July. Peak numbers occurred in August however, with 1-20 at several sites, a record 140 at Killingholme 31st, 70 Alkborough September 3-10th then in October 96 at North Coates 4th, with up to 25 there to December and 1-6 at a number of sites.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

There were 7 at Killingholme in January with 3 there to March 31st and 1-2 at Gibraltar Point, Deeping high bank, Whisby pit, Donna Nook, and Baston Fen to March with 6 at Saltfleetby April 7th and 4 still there 20th. Autumn birds arrived from early October with 1-2 at Anderby, Barton, Grimsby Docks, Baston Fen, Tallington, Gibraltar Point to December and 4 at Messingham December 3rd with 6 Saltfleetby November 8-15th.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Notable concentrations in February-March included 104 at Huttoft February 6th, 150 Goxhill March 22nd with 120 Baston Fen 28th. In the hard weather of December, birds were found dead at several sites and there were 76 at Saltfleetby 19th.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

The most notable records were late in the year with 1-3 at several coastal sites in November and a major influx of birds during December concentrated around 18-19th. Up to 4 birds

were widespread coastal and inland, there were 8 together in Goxhill 18th with 30 at Saltfleetby 15th and then 74 there 19th but only 8, 25th. At Gibraltar Point there were 9, 19th with 15, 27th and 13, 31st.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Birds were recorded in every month with large numbers in the Holbeach marsh area January-March; 70 January 11th, 47 March 22nd being the highest counts. During April-June 1-2 birds occurred at Tetney, Saltfleetby, Gibraltar Point, Chapel pit, Kirton, Donna Nook and Grainthorpe. Birds were more widespread and regular than normal July-September with 1-4 fairly regular at Tetney, Gibraltar Point, Killingholme, Brigg, Pyewipe and the Witham Mouth. Higher counts included 17 at Grainthorpe July 6th, 56 Kirton August 1st, 13 Holbeach 21st with odd singles at Donna Nook, North Coates and Pyewipe in November-December.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

A total of 2,500 at Gibraltar Point February 8th was noteworthy with 500 there March 8th. 21 flew west at Trent Falls April 12th well inland. There were 137 at Pyewipe May 8th and returning birds in good numbers by July with 400 Gibraltar Point 18th and 250 Donna Nook 31st. Numbers at Gibraltar Point were very high from August 29th, 3,000 to November, with 200 at Holbeach 30th August and in September 122 Pyewipe 24th with 28 west at Trent Falls 1st and 110 well up the Humber at Winteringham 19th, while Donna Nook had 120 15th.

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

An adult first seen at Blacktoft (Yorks) on September 12th (AGr) was feeding on Alkborough Flats on the 15th (GPC) and may have occurred there again during its stay in the area to October 3rd. The first County record of this Nearctic species, this also being the first for the Western Palearctic. See description.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

The first were at Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point April 12th with 30 at Tetney May 5th, 17 Gibraltar Point 11th, 12 South Killingholme 10th and 30 north at the Hobhole 4th. Many birds returned in late July with 30 south at Huttoft 25th, and 25 at Tetney 29th. In August 60 flew west at Trent Falls 8th, Tetney had 32 on 6th and Donna Nook 25 on the 22nd while 21 flew south at Gibraltar Point 2nd. The last was at Donna Nook October 18th.

Curllew *Numenius arquata*

Very high numbers were at Pyewipe all year with 600 all months but May-June, and peaks of 936 March, and 1,220 December 9th. Elsewhere Gibraltar Point had 250 February 4th and Holbeach 500 April 7th. There were 1,500 again at Gibraltar Point July 17th and September 5th with 400 at Holbeach 3rd and 106 Winteringham November 29th.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Recorded in all months with wintering birds during January-March at Tetney, Cleethorpes, Deeping and Holbeach. Spring passage was very weak with singles at only 5 sites and a maximum of 4 at Donna Nook May 9th. There were 7 at Killingholme July 14-19th with a maximum there of 14 August 30th. 1-4 were noted at eight other sites in August with 12 at Gibraltar Point September 18th. Late winter birds were 2 at Holbeach November 15th and one North Coates December 28-31st.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

At Pyewipe large numbers all year included 500 all months except May-July with peaks of 910 in February and April and 1,300 October-November. Elsewhere in March there were 750 at Gibraltar Point 7-8th, with 600 Holbeach 22nd. Tetney had a maximum of 350 August 16th with 800 at Gibraltar Point October 16th.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

The first spring bird was at Killingholme April 10th but spring passage was very poor with only 1-2 noted at Donna Nook, Covenham, Huttoft and Tetney April-May. Odd birds were present in June with a marked return from late July and large numbers then and through August with up to 23 at Gibraltar Point, 12 Killingholme, 15 Frampton, 20 Butterwick, 12 Saltfleetby and Holbeach, 21 Witham Mouth, 25 at Tetney and up to 10 at several other sites. Several were noted in October with late birds in November at Gibraltar Point 7th, Grainthorpe 11th, and Donna Nook to 15th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Wintering birds in January-March were at Bagmoor, Tattershall, West Deeping, Gibraltar Point and Whitton with 1-2 in spring April-May at Tetney, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby and

Gibraltar Point. Returning birds were widespread from mid June with 1-3 at several sites and 5 Gibraltar Point September 28th. Late winter birds were recorded at Donna Nook November 14th, Covenham 21st and Baston Fen December 6.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

The only spring birds were at Saltfleetby April 21st, Wolla Bank May 2nd and 2 at Donna Nook June 1st. In August Gibraltar Point had one on 4 dates, Saltfleetby one 4 dates, Wisbech one 10th and Donna Nook one 12th. September records were at Gibraltar Point 1-22nd, Tetney 20-23rd, Surfleet 2, 21st and finally one at Tetney October 3rd.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

The wintering bird at Barrow Haven was last noted March 16th. Spring migrants arrived from April 12th with maximum numbers in May when there were 8 at Tetney and 7 Covenham 8th. Returning birds were present in numbers from late July with 16 at Bardney 25th and 10 Gibraltar Point 30th. August was the peak month with up to 10 at Bardney, 15 at Denton Res. and the Witham Mouth, 10 at Holbeach and 30 at Covenham. Late birds were at Gibraltar Point 4 October 30th with one November 5th and Barrow Haven November 3rd.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Up to 200 were at the Witham Mouth early in the year with 320 at Cleethorpes February 22nd. In May there were 300 at Tetney on the 3rd with 100 at Grimsby Docks 17th. Only relatively small numbers were recorded in the latter part of the year with up to 65 at Tetney and 75 at Holbeach October 15th.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

A male was seen at North Coates pools on June 28th (HB).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

The only record was at Baston Fen on December 6th (NW, RK).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

3 early adults flew west at Trent Falls July 27th (AGr) but it was otherwise a poor autumn. 2 flew south at Saltfleetby September 6th (JRC, BMC), and one north at Donna Nook 26th (RLo), then in October one was at Saltfleetby 4th (MM) with one at Gibraltar Point 22nd (ABI).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

In spring one flew north at Gibraltar Point April 27th and one was at Donna Nook May 1st, Trent Falls 4th and 2 Saltfleetby 8th. Birds were fairly regular with 1-10 on the coast from Tetney-Holbeach July-October. Few notable movements were recorded. At Saltfleetby there were 18 south August 15th, 31 south 30th, 33 south September 6th, 41 south 12th, and 17 north at Donna Nook 26th when 4 flew west at Trent Falls. Singles were up the Humber at Barrow Haven July 9th and August 24th, and at Killingholme 2 August 9th and Trent Falls 30th. The last was at Gibraltar Point October 24th.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

A juvenile flew south at Saltfleetby September 6th (JRC, BMC).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

A winter bird was at Holbeach February 22nd and a spring one at Tetney May 4th. There were 1-2 at several coastal sites, Tetney-Holbeach from July-October but in general a rather poor migration. The only records of note were 5 south at Saltfleetby August 24th and 11 south there September 26th, 4 at the Witham Mouth October 2nd and 6 south at Donna Nook 22nd. 2 flew west at Trent Falls September 26th and a late winter bird was at Gibraltar Point December 30th.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

All the records came from Grimsby Docks. There was an adult February 22nd (GPC, DAR), an adult March 28th (MM, GPC), then a first winter September 12th (WPB) and an adult November 28th (MM) with possibly a different adult December 13th (GPC, WPB).

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Relatively few records compared to 1980. One was at the Witham Mouth February 8th, and one there April 26th with one Trent Falls 25th. 1-3 were noted in May-June at Barrow Haven, Killingholme, Saltfleetby, Tetney, Gibraltar Point and Covenham with 4 June 28-29th, and Trent Falls with 5, 22nd. 1-4 were noted at much the same sites July-September with 4 south at Donna Nook October 3rd and 12 at Saltfleetby 15th. Late birds were at Donna Nook November 7th and Covenham 21st with one at Gibraltar Point December 30th.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Notably large counts were 6,000 at Covenham Res. January 12th with 6,000 at Grimsby

Docks 19th and 4,000 Tetney in August. During hard weather there were at least 20,000 at Grimsby Docks December 13th.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

High counts in August included 1,000 at Tetney with 500 at Gibraltar Point 5th and 500 Donna Nook 21st. Peak numbers at Grimsby Docks were in December with 5,000+ 13th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Apart from 30 at South Killingholme May 10th numbers were low until August when there were 100 at Gibraltar Point 8th and good numbers inland with 150 again at Gibraltar Point September 16th.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

In January there were 800 at Covenham Res. 12th and 400 at Louth tip 13th with 750 Grimsby Docks 19th and 1,400 Messingham tip 21st, where large numbers were present most of the year. 250 adults were at the Witham Mouth March 8th and 300 at Tetney in May. In December Donna Nook had 600 12th.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

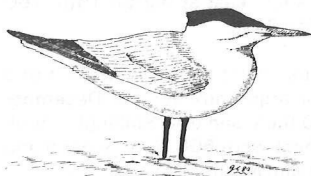
There was a good influx of birds in the early part of the year with odd birds in late spring-summer, and in complete contrast birds were virtually absent in the latter part of the year. During January-April there were up to 3 1st w and an adult at Grimsby-Cleethorpes-Humberston, 2 1st w and an adult at Messingham tip, 3 1st w Killingholme tip, up to 2 1st w, 1 2nd w, 1 3rd w, and an adult Saltfleetby, 1-2 1st w Mablethorpe-Trusthorpe, an adult North Somercotes, additional adult Pyewipe, a 2nd w Chapel Point and Cleethorpes and 2 1st w Barrow Haven. In May a 2nd w flew north at Theddlethorpe 10th with one there 21st, a 1st w at Huttoft 16th and Grimsby Docks 17th and a 2nd w north at Donna Nook 25th. A first summer was at Covenham June 30-July 3rd and probably the same at Saltfleetby July 5-7th. Autumn birds were a 1st w at Saltfleetby September 10th, one Gibraltar Point October 23rd and a 1st w Grimsby Docks December 13th. In all there were about 17 1st w, 5 2nd w, 1 3rd w, and 5 4th w/adults.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Up to 100 were noted at a few favoured sites throughout the year with 800 at Messingham tip January 21st, 246 Saltfleetby April 1st and in August 200 Donna Nook 21st, 255 Gibraltar Point 25th and 350 Tetney 30th. Gibraltar Point also had 400 September 3rd and Grimsby Docks 350 October 4th with 200 Witham Mouth December 30th.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

There was a large southerly movement on the coast in early January with 500 Trusthorpe and 305 Gibraltar Point 4th, 350 North Coates 200 Huttoft, 300 Chapel Point and 900 Trusthorpe 10th. A few were affected by the April gales with 23 at the Witham Mouth and 14 Trent Falls 25th. There were 25 again at Trent Falls May 18th and generally small numbers of 1-40 during the autumn on the coast but 170 south Saltfleetby September 6th, 345 south Donna Nook October 22nd, and 130 Saltfleetby and 120 Gibraltar Point November 29th.



Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* (illustrated)

An adult first seen at Messingham pits June 14th (BMC, MJT) flew off north-west and was relocated at South Ferriby Cement works 15-16th (DS, JTH et al). Both accepted by BBRC.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

First of the spring were 2 at Gibraltar Point April 10th with 50 there by May 31st, and 12 Tetney 30th. Trent Falls had singles June 2nd and 22nd. Maximum numbers occurred in July-August with 350 Tetney July 21st, including 150 juvs., 270 Gibraltar Point 30th, 100 Saltfleetby 28th and 175 Donna Nook 26th. In August there were 320 at Gibraltar Point 8th, 250 Tetney 4th, 200 Saltfleetby 11th and one Trent Falls 13th. 99 flew south at Gibraltar Point September 30th then 119 south October 1st and 56 south 2nd with 40 Witham Mouth 3rd and the last there 23rd.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

First of the year were 6 at Boston April 12th with 1-15 in spring at several localities. 2 pairs bred unsuccessfully at Tetney and one pair at Donna Nook, the first record there. Peak numbers in August included 68 Gibraltar Point 3rd, 42 Tetney 2nd, and 41 Saltfleetby 11th with 29 west at Trent Falls 8th. There was a late peak at the Witham Mouth of 35 September 19th with the last there October 17th.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

There was a concentration of spring records during the April gales with 6 east Trent Falls 17th then on the 25th, 15 east Barrow Haven, 19 at Donna Nook with 12 27th, 57 north at Tetney 25th with 40 north 26th and 9 north 27th, 10 at Killingholme and 39 at Huttoft pit 27th. There were 1-8 in May-June at Saltfleetby, Covenham, Tetney, Barrow Haven, Gibraltar Point and Fishtoft. During July-August 1-4 were noted at several coastal sites.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

First noted at Tetney April 15th, Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point 19th. There were 86 at Tetney May 31st and 45 pairs bred but only reared 12 juvs. Gibraltar Point had 60 on June 2nd; approx. 50 eggs were hatched and at least 28 young fledged. 8 pairs bred at Saltfleet and 26 pair at Skidbrooke, with 6 pair rearing 3 juvs. at Grainthorpe, and 2-3 pairs at the Witham Mouth. 3 flew west at Trent Falls June 8th and one was at Barrow Haven August 1st. Late records were of 7 south Gibraltar Point and 13 south Witham Mouth October 2nd, 4 at Holbeach 3rd and 3 Tetney 6th.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

A weak spring migration with the only records of 10 Covenham May 8th with 2 17th and one 19th, one Denton Res. May 9-10th, 2 Barton-Barrow Haven 16th and one Gibraltar Point 31st. Records were more widespread in August-September with 1-5 at several localities and 10 Covenham August 7th. Then in September 15 north at Donna Nook and 20 west at Barrow Haven 11th, 8 west Trent Falls 12th and 10 Holbeach 16th, 15 Witham Mouth 19th. Late birds in October were at Holbeach 10, 3rd with 2 15-17th and the Witham Mouth 17th.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

1-5 were fairly regular along the coast all year with 7 north Saltfleetby June 18th and 24 there September 29th with one on the Trent at Trent Falls 28th. 33 flew south at Chapel Point November 28th.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

There were 11 coastal records of 1-2 birds at Gibraltar Point, Saltfleetby, Donna Nook, Witham Mouth and Cleethorpes June-December with 4 at Gibraltar Point June 17th.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

There was an unusual record of one flying north at Donna Nook May 2nd (RLo). In November one was seen at Donna Nook 6th (CRM) and one found dead at Ingoldmells on the 13th was oiled. (KWW).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

In July there were 5 at Huttoft 3rd with one Barrow Haven 11th. Then in September 2 Saltfleetby 14th, 7 there 29th and 2 October 3rd and 10th, with 2 Huttoft 4th and 4 north at Donna Nook December 5th.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

In January there were flocks of 32 at Nettleton 1st and 40 Gibraltar Point 4th. Late in the year there were 20 at Holbeach October 3rd and 25 Gibraltar Point 27th. Then in December concentrations caused by the severe weather included 38 south east at Barton 16th, 150 Gibraltar Point 19th and 80 there 22nd with 60 at Deeping Fen 21st.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Notable numbers in the early year included 300 at Gibraltar Point January 30-31st and 1,000 south over South Witham February 24th. There was a large influx October-December with records of 700 at Gibraltar Point October 27th and 600 there and 600 Stallingborough November 29th, and 1,000 Grainsby 22nd. In December there were 500 New Holland and 1,300 Donna Nook 23rd with 750 Goxhill 24th and 500 Witham Mouth 30th.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

There were no counts from favoured areas but 20 at Covenham November 5th and 25 Anderby 19th.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

After the first at Market Deeping April 15th there was some notable visible migration during May-June. At Tetney 53 flew north west on 4 dates in May, at Barrow Haven 246 flew west on 8 dates with 100 May 22nd, at Trent Falls 545 flew west on 27 dates and at Gibraltar Point 971 flew south on 29 dates with 123 May 24th and 100 26th. 12 flew north at Grantham May 7th and there were 15 singing males in Morkery wood 20th. Parties of 20-25 were noted in late August-September at Alkborough, Gibraltar Point and the Witham Mouth with late birds at Gibraltar Point October 3rd, and Saltfleetby 4th and 12th.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Early April birds were at Saltfleetby 11th and Gibraltar Point 12th with up to 6 in spring at several localities. Gibraltar Point then recorded 8 July 30th and 16 on 31st, an unusual autumn total, with up to 7 in August and the last there September 17th.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

A record of 16 found dead within 20 miles radius of Cowbit October-December is rather distressing in the light of a continuing decline in the County.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

A few scattered breeding records received.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Noted as increasingly breeding in more urban areas and isolated fenland and marshland copses.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

January roosts included 7 at the Hobhole with 6 to February and 6 at Goxhill. There was one at Gibraltar Point February 21st and North Cotes March 22nd, the only other spring bird being at Tetney May 24th. Pairs bred at Twiggmoor, Risby Warren, Bourne Wood, Stapleford Woods, Goxhill, and in the Isle of Axholme. Autumn birds were again scarce with one Gibraltar Point August 23rd, and 1-2 there October 14-18th with one Donna Nook 3rd and 20-21st, then one dead near Covenham November 29th. Winter roosts noted were up to 8 Bourne south fen, up to 5 Hobhole December and up to 13 at Swaton.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Birds were present in all months but there was no confirmed breeding. 1-3 birds were seen at a large number of localities both coastal and inland mostly January-April and September-December with concentrations of 5 at Nettleton in January and 11 in a roost at Freiston February 8-15th and 4 there December 5th.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

The only breeding season records came from Stapleford Woods where there were a displaying pair May 27th and 4 birds July 25th.

Swift *Apus apus*

After the first at Scunthorpe May 5th, there were odd birds on 6th and then a huge and widespread arrival on the 7th with 100 at Barrow Haven 9th. There were up to 500 at Barrow Haven in July and 1,000 at Covenham June and August but the most notable movements occurred at Gibraltar Point. High southerly counts included 4,100 June 3rd, 5,000 14th, 4,000 July 6th and 16,000 south 16th. There were several records in early October with singles at Donna Nook, Humberston, Barton, Cleethorpes, 5 south Pyewipe 2nd and the last at Saltfleetby 9th.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Birds were scarce in the early year with the only confirmed breeding at Kirton Weirs and the Humber bank pits, but pairs summered at other sites and may have bred elsewhere. Birds were more regular and widespread August-December with 1-2 at 25 different localities.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

One was found at Gibraltar Point on May 5th (WPB et al). There was one at Saltfleetby August 14th (MJT) and a very late bird near Horncastle October 14-18th (SH, DD).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* (illustrated)

The only spring record was at Saltfleetby April 27-May 2nd (WPB, GPC et al). In August there were singles at Pinchbeck 3rd (AH), Saltfleetby 23-25th (TC), Donna Nook 30th (RLo), Gibraltar Point 25th and 31st (RL et al), Theddlethorpe 2, 30th (BMC, MJT). Further birds in September were 1-2 at Gibraltar Point, probably 4 birds 1-6th (RL, JPS et al),



Saltfleetby 2nd (GPC), Skegness 4-6th (RC) and Baston pits 10-30th (RK et al).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Records away from the normal breeding areas were Gibraltar Point April 2nd, singles regular at Tallington, Gibraltar Point August 3rd and Saltfleetby 14th and 30th. Then in November Baston Fen 14th, Nettleton 22nd.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Both this and the following species seem to be expanding into new areas, probably as a result of the provision of dead timber by Dutch elm disease. 1-3 were in Weelsby and Bradley

Woods, Grimsby January-April with singles Boston January 6th, and Kirton February 22nd. Gibraltar Point had one May 14th and one was at Barton June 2nd. In autumn there were singles at Covenham August 26-29th, Donna Nook September 7th, Baston Fen November 6th, Saltfleetby 19th and Bourne south fen December 6th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

There was one at Denton January and March with a pair at Burton pits on several dates from January-April. One at Hainton February 7th and a female Temple Wood March 28th, then one Roxton Wood April 12th and a pair confirmed breeding at Tallington. In August there was one at Skellingthorpe 25th and one Stoke Rochford October 21st. On December 6th one trapped in Bourne Fen was the first record for that area.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

There were up to 150 at Gibraltar Point in January with 150 at Donna Nook 18th, where 70 pairs bred. Southerly movements in October included 350 Gibraltar Point 3rd, 280 Saltfleetby 9th and 320 10th. Large flocks became concentrated during the hard December weather with 700 Friskney-Freiston November 22nd, then in December 750 Goxhill 18th, 700 Pyewipe 22-23rd, 400 Deeping Fen 6th, 430 Baston Fen 27th, 400 Donna Nook 23rd and 360 Tetney 6th.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

12 wintering birds were at Gibraltar Point to April with 10, 5th, and 2 at Donna Nook January 18-February 15th. There was a small influx in the late autumn with one at Donna Nook October 16th then 2, 28th and at Saltfleetby one October 15th, and up to 4 to December with 6 on 17th. At Gibraltar Point there were 4 November 9th and 3 December 9th.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

The only records were of one at Donna Nook October 10th (RLo) and 2 flying over Morkery Wood October 22nd (ES).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

The first was at Denton Res. March 15th with a good arrival in late March and 63 at Barrow Haven 31st. Otherwise spring passage was fairly light. In August 2,000 were roosting at Barrow Haven 3rd with 8,000 there 24th and 5,000 September 4th. The last was at Gibraltar Point October 25th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Several arrived around April 10-12th with the first at Gibraltar Point 9th. In May southerly passage there included 1,000 19th, 3,000 22nd. Some very high totals were noted in September with southerly passage at Gibraltar Point of 12,000 5th, 20,000 13th, 15,000 14th and 8,000 29th, 3,000 flew north at Donna Nook 5th and there were 15,000 at Huttoft pit 14th. The Barton-Barrow Haven roost contained 3,500 4th September, and a peak of 140,000 22nd with 7,000 still on 28th. November birds were scarce, Denton 4th, Saltfleetby 2nd, Gibraltar Point 13th, Barton 3rd and the last at Normanby Park 22nd.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

The first bird was at Gibraltar Point April 12th with southerly passage there in May of 100, 19th, 500, 22nd and 200, 24th, and 300 June 2nd. In August there were 200 at Covenham 8th and 140 Saltfleetby 19th. 1,000 flew south at Gibraltar Point September 10th and 260 south Donna Nook 11th. A very late movement of 27 south at Gibraltar Point November 7th was followed by 3 on 14th with the last at Stallingborough 22nd.

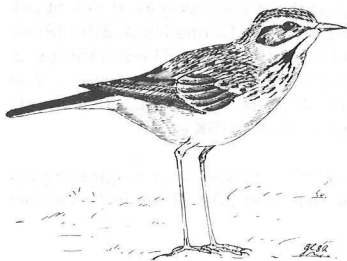
Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*
(illustrated)

After an early bird at North Coates on September 13th (RLo), there was one at Donna Nook October 6th (RLo) and one Saltfleetby 5th (JRW) and another there October 17-18th (HB, DW et al).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

In spring April-May there were 1-2 at Saltfleetby, Tetney, Bourne, Anderby and Gibraltar Point with 1-5 at Donna Nook, after the first at Boston April 8th with 2 males at Twigmoor May 10th. In August 14 flew south at Gibraltar Point 30th, with 4 south September 6th and 6 south 29th and 1-2 noted at

Donna Nook, Saltfleetby and Theddlethorpe to October 6th.





Little Tern at Grainthorpe (B. Lillycrapp)

Greenshank (K. Atkin). Large numbers present in July





G/S Woodpecker (B. Lillycrann)

Goldeneyes
(K. Atkin)



Water Rail
(Gary Lillycraap)

*A common
casualty of
the bad winter*

Siskin (K. Atkin).

*Numbers built
up from November*



*Blackcap
(B. Lillycrapp)*

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

The only notable records were of southerly coastal movements during September-October with 100 Gibraltar Point September 13 and 14th, 500, 19th and 350, 29th, with 240 south Donna Nook 17th and 500 again at Gibraltar Point October 3rd with 200, 24th.

Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

1-5 were regular along the coast to April 9th with 20 at Tetney February 7th. Birds were again regular from early October with 1-5 on the coast, 8 at Covenham October 15th, 10, 16th, 7 Gibraltar Point November 1st and 15, 14th with 8 again December 30-31st.

Birds showing characteristics of the Scandinavian race *A.s.littoralis* were seen at Killingholme March 25th and Barton April 9th.

A bird showing characteristics of Water Pipit *A.s.spinoletta* wintering at Saltfleetby was last seen March 19th.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

An early bird was at Barrow Haven March 31st with several arriving around 10-12th April, with 13 at East Halton 10th, 8 Deeping Fen and 6 Witham Mouth 12th. 30 were at Covenham 20th with 100 there May 2nd. In August 70 were roosting at Barrow Haven 5th and 60 were at Covenham 10th. Late birds in October were at North Coates 17th and Donna Nook 16th with an injured bird at Denton Res, November 10th.

Birds showing characteristics of the Blue-headed race *M.f.flava* were seen in April-May with 1-2 at Covenham, Donna Nook, Tetney and Saltfleetby with one Immingham June 3rd and Grainthorpe 23rd.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Singles were seen at 8 sites in January-April with a pair at Louth in April-May but no evidence of breeding. A juvenile at Tattershall June 7th could have been locally reared. Birds were noted again at several widespread localities July-December usually singly but 3 at Gibraltar Point August 17th and 4 there September 17th, 2 New Waltham September 27th, 2 Louth November 3rd and 4 Laceby Beck 29th.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Apart from 30 at Bardney June 26th, 10 Gibraltar Point 27th and 20 Barrow Haven August 5th there were widespread records of 1-7 birds.

Birds showing characteristics of White Wagtails *M.a.alba* were fairly regular in spring with 1-2 in April-May at East Halton, Gibraltar Point, Tetney, Cleethorpes, Covenham, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby and Pyewipe, then one at Donna Nook October 4th.

Waxwing *Bombicilla garrulus*

A small influx during the latter part of the year produced records of singles in November at Gibraltar Point 7th (RL), Stallingborough 8th (JWn), Holbeach 12th and Fosdyke 14th (IH) then in December in Grimsby 6th (CM) and 9th (JdeL), at Skegness 6-9th (RL PH) and finally Kirton near Boston 13th (AWP).

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

The overwintering bird of the black-bellied race *C.c.cinclus*, at Riseholme was present to at least January 4th.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Notable coastal counts were of 20 at Gibraltar Point August 29-30th and September 4th, 15 Donna Nook September and 16 Anderby November 8th.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Coastal concentrations included 50 Gibraltar Point April 10th, 30 pairs breeding at Donna Nook. Then in Autumn 100 Gibraltar Point August 29-September 2nd with 140 September 29th and up to 50 at Donna Nook September-October with 220 Gibraltar Point October 3rd.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

A year with no significant coastal falls. The only records of double figures being at Gibraltar Point with 20 September 15th, 35 on 29th and 33 October 3rd.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

An early bird was at Gibraltar Point April 10th with another at Saltfleetby 16-24th and one Temple Wood 20th. There were no other records outside the normal breeding sites.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

A male of the Red spotted race *L.s.svecica* was at Donna Nook on May 12th (DW et al).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

An overwintering bird was at Trusthorpe to March 2nd. Spring passage extended from March 22nd to April 13th with 1-2 birds at Saltfleetby 6+ individuals, Gibraltar Point 4 or 5 birds, up to 3 at Anderby and Donna Nook and singles at Huttoft, the Witham Mouth and Barrow Haven. Peak arrivals were around March 29th, and April 4-7th. Late spring birds were at Saltfleetby April 28th, Gibraltar Point May 9-12th and Barrow Haven and Donna Nook May 12th. Five pairs are known to have bred in the county rearing at least 17 young. One pair reared 2 broods, with young still in the nest July 20th, and other pairs may have done so. The autumn passage was very poor with singles Donna Nook September 2nd and October 31st, Saltfleetby October 9th, Goxhill 20th and 2 Gibraltar Point 18th, then one in Boston November 18th and one Gibraltar Point December 9th.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

There was a good spring migration with records from April 5th, Gibraltar Point, to May 11th. There were at least 6 birds at Saltfleetby, 5 Donna Nook, 4 Gibraltar Point, 2 Goxhill and singles Saltfleet, Langworth, Weelsby Woods, N. Somercotes Warren, and Humberston. Odd birds recurred again from August 9th with a series of 'falls' from August 31-September 7th when there were maxima of 14 Saltfleetby September 2nd, 15 Gibraltar Point 6th, 7 Donna Nook with others at Theddlethorpe, Irby-on-Humber, Cleethorpes, Anderby, Baston pits, Pyewipe, Pinchbeck, and North Coates. Late October birds were at Winterton and Saltfleetby 18th, and Gibraltar Point 2, 17-18th with one 29th.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

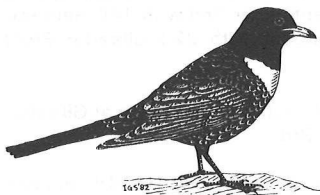
There was a rather weak spring passage after an early bird at Tetney April 11th, with a maximum of 4 at Tetney May 10th, 1-4 at Donna Nook in May and otherwise up to 2 at Gibraltar Point, Anderby and Hungerton. Autumn migration, in contrast was heavy and widespread from mid August-October 23rd. Peak numbers occurred during September after 22 at Saltfleetby August 31st, with 30+ there 6th, 14 Gibraltar Point 7th, 34 Donna Nook 11-12th, 12 Tetney 11th and 12-15 at Kirton 3rd. There were still 7 at Gibraltar Point October 1st with the last 23rd.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

A marked recent decline in passage and wintering numbers was continued. In the period February-April there were only 4 records of 5 birds, all coastal. An unusual record was of one at Grainthorpe May 21st with one Gibraltar Point June 25th. In autumn there was one at Saltfleetby August 7-October 20th, maybe more than one bird, with more records September-December and 1-2 fairly regular at Tetney, Gibraltar Point, Huttoft, Skidbrooke, Anderby-Chapel, Baston Fen, Wolla Bank, Louth and the Witham Mouth.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

There was a marked arrival in late March after the first at Pyewipe 12th, with most records around 21-28th. Spring maxima were 20 Saltfleetby April 11th and 18, 27th, 10 Covenham May 1st and 10 Tetney 8th. Birds in June were at Denton 1st, Humberston and Donna Nook early June-13th and Tetney 10-14th. Birds were regular again from July 9th with generally low autumn numbers but 37 at Gibraltar Point September 2nd and 20, 19th, less than 10 a day being noted elsewhere. The last were at Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point October 18th. Birds showing characteristics of the Greenland race *O.o. leucorrhoa* were seen at Donna Nook April 21st, May 9th and 22nd and Saltfleetby September 8-12th.

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus* (illustrated)

An overwintering bird was at Rippingdale until February 17th. There was a very pronounced spring migration from March 8th, Gibraltar Point, to May 17th. There were singles at Gibraltar Point March 18th and 30th, with 2 Saltfleetby 27th. In early April 2 flew west at Barrow Haven 8th, with singles Saltfleetby 7th and Gibraltar Point 11-12th. There was then a marked arrival from April 27-May 7th with maxima of 8 Gibraltar Point 29th, 14 Saltfleetby 28-May 2nd, 4 Covenham 27-28th, up to 4 Donna Nook, 3 Weelsby woods May 1-2nd and others at

Pyewipe and Tetney. In stark contrast birds were very scarce in autumn with single Gibraltar Point September 6th and 30th, Saltfleetby 9th and October 8th and 15-19th, Gibraltar Point 1-4th and 17th with a final bird Denton Res. 21st.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

There was a notable count of 51 at North Somercotes January 20th then departing winter visitors included up to 50 Donna Nook March-early April, 500 Gibraltar Point March 7th, 41 Saltfleetby 16th and 61 Chapel pits 22nd. In autumn 400 were at Saltfleetby October 24th and 250 Donna Nook with 75 at Tetney 25th and 250 Gibraltar Point 22nd and 27th. There was then a later peak in November with 250 Gibraltar Point and 200 Saltfleetby 7th, 100 at Gibraltar Point again 21st and 80 at Donna Nook.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Pre-emigration flocks in April included 300 at Denton Res. 3rd, 400 Burton Pits 28th, with 200 there May 2nd, and 50 Goxhill 6th. One was at Donna Nook June 13th, and July 4th. The first autumn birds were at Donna Nook August 30th and Saltfleetby 31st. There was a major influx October 17-25th with 500 Saltfleetby 17th, 400 west at Trent Falls 22nd, 1,000 Goxhill 23rd, and a pronounced westerly passage 24-25th, noted mainly in the south with 830 west at Baston Fen in 2 hours 24th, and 500 Faldingworth 25th. Another major arrival occurred November 7-8th with 4,000 Saltfleetby and 500 Gibraltar Point 7th, 1,250 Theddlethorpe 8th and again south westerly passage in the south. Gibraltar Point again had 600 November 13th and 1,800 28th with 1,200 Donna Nook 14th. In December hard weather concentrations included 800 Gibraltar Point 9th, but only 50 the 29th and 400 Barton 13th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

After 50 Gibraltar Point January 24th there were 20 there March 7th and 25 Tetney 3rd with 35 Donna Nook 29th. In the autumn Gibraltar Point had 60 and Saltfleetby 45 October 3rd with 40 Donna Nook November 6th and 50 Gibraltar Point 21st, 40 on 28th. In a hard weather movement in December 40 flew south Gibraltar Point 9th, with 20 south Grimsby Docks 10th and 25, 17th.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

A pre-emigration gathering of 250 was at Gibraltar Point March 7th with 60 there 29th. A male in song at Somercotes Warren April 28th was of interest with the final spring bird at New Waltham May 8th. The first of the autumn were at Saltfleetby September 2nd and Gibraltar Point 3rd. Few large numbers were noted in the autumn, with maxima of 300 south Gibraltar Point October 13th and 150 there 24th. In hard weather 130 flew south at Gibraltar Point December 9th with 35 south at Grimsby Docks and 30 west Trent Falls 10th, 36 south at the Docks 17th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

The only notable large groups during the year were 26 at Saltfleetby January 7th, 27 Gibraltar Point August 25th and 19 Theddlethorpe 15th with 14 at Saltfleetby and 21 Gibraltar Point September 1st.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

The first spring bird was at Bourne Wood April 13th. The breeding season seems to have been rather poor with few reports from breeding sites; 3 at Morkery Wood May 2nd, 4 at Killingholme May and 5 in Little Scrubs wood Bardney, being the only notable records. The last recorded, of this easily overlooked species, was at Gibraltar Point September 1st.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

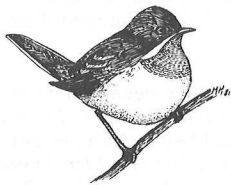
An early spring bird was at Barrow Haven from April 1st, with a more general arrival of odd birds from mid-April onwards. There was a maximum of 9 at Gibraltar Point in May with the last of the year at Donna Nook September 19th.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Early spring arrivals were at Barrow Haven April 11th and Chapel pit 12th with few noted until early May. In autumn there were up to 8 at Gibraltar Point in August-September with one to October 6th and one Saltfleetby 10th.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Singles were noted at Donna Nook August 9th, 15th and September 6th (CRM) with one Gibraltar Point September 5th (PRB) and presumably the same bird Saltfleetby 5th (BMC) and trapped 6th (JRW).



Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* (illustrated)

A male showing characteristics of the eastern race *S.c.albistriata* was present at Humberston/Tetney May 12-13th (HB et al). It was heard in brief sub-song on 13th. The 3rd County record. See note on racial identification. Accepted by BBRC.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

In August there were singles at Gibraltar Point 25th (RL, JPS et al), Theddlethorpe 31st (MB), and Donna Nook 15th, 17th with 3, 29th (RL, SL, CRM). Then in early September singles at

Donna Nook 1st, 2nd and 4th (SL, RL, CRM), and 1-2 Gibraltar Point 1-7th with another 16th and singles October 3rd and 25-27th (RL, JPS et al), 8 birds were ringed at Gibraltar Point during the autumn.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Early spring birds were at Saltfleetby April 17th and Barton 18th. Maximum coastal numbers in spring occurred in May with 12 at Tetney and 10 Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point, all 10th. Autumn counts at Gibraltar Point numbered 25 August 29th and September 5th with 24, 14th. Late birds were at Donna Nook October 24th with 4 or 5 showing characteristics of the eastern race *S.c.blythi* at Saltfleetby 2 October 18th, Theddlethorpe 18th, Anderby 20th and 25th and Donna Nook November 14th. See note on racial identification.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

The first of the spring was at Louth April 16th, with few coastal birds before spring peaks in May of 26 Gibraltar Point 24th and 22 Saltfleetby 19th. 15 pairs bred at Donna Nook and in autumn there were 46 at Gibraltar Point August 25th, and 50 at Saltfleetby September 2nd with the last at Donna Nook September 15th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Following the first at Saltfleetby April 27th, there was a more general arrival about 7-11th May at many sites. Up to 6 birds were fairly regular from late August-mid September on the coast at Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, and Gibraltar Point with 10 trapped at Theddlethorpe September 4th. Late birds were at Donna Nook, Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point October 18th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

One was at Gibraltar Point January 1st and 16th with up to 3 at Cleethorpes from February-April 9th. Spring migrants arrived from early April with up to 5 at coastal sites. Increased recent breeding has been noted in isolated fenland and marshland copses, a continuing trend this year. In autumn up to 10 birds were fairly regular at coastal sites from late August-October with singles at Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point to mid November and one Gibraltar Point December 9th and Saltfleetby 9-10th.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

During a series of 'falls' of continental migrants one was seen at Saltfleetby August 31st (BMC, JRC) and another trapped at Gibraltar Point on September 2nd was still present on the 4th (RL, JPS et al). The 9th and 10th County records.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

One at Saltfleetby on October 18-19th, in the favoured Willow hedge, was the 14th County record. (BMC et al.)

Accepted by BBRC.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

An exceptional autumn for this species with records of at least 6 and maybe 7 different birds, the most ever recorded in the County in a year. The first was at Saltfleetby October 10th (BMC et al), followed by another there October 18-19th (JRC, KA et al), with one at Donna Nook 18th (MM) and one Gibraltar Point 25th (PJ, RKW, KWW et al). Then in November one Saltfleetby 1st (BMC) possibly the same 2nd (MJT) with the last and latest ever at Saltfleetby November 14-15th (BMC, MJT, GPC et al).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Records of singing males in May came from Burton pits 8th (ACS), Gibraltar Point 10th (MM, PH), Roxton Wood 10th (JWn), Twigmoor warren 20th (RBW), Donna Nook 23rd (PH) and Broughton Woods 25-26th (JTH, GPC). There was also one in Newball wood June 2nd (KKH). Autumn records were of singles at Gibraltar Point August 1st (JPS) and Donna Nook September 1st (BMC).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

The only early winter bird was at Gibraltar Point January 4th and 10th. The first spring birds were at Bourne March 12th and Tetney Blow Wells 14th with a more widespread arrival from 20-31st. 20 were in Morkery wood May 9th with a prolonged coastal passage to late May. Autumn coastal records were of 1-3 birds at several sites late August-October. 1-2 birds showing characteristics of one of the Northern/Eastern races, *P.c.abietenus/tristis* were at Saltfleetby October 20-November 22nd and Donna Nook November 14-21st, and North Somercotes Warren October-November. See note on racial identification.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Early spring birds were 3 in Bourne woods March 28th, one Denton Res. 29th and 2 Messingham 30th. There were 20 at Barton April 18th and 42 in Morkery wood May 10th and 20th. Peak coastal passage was also in May with 12 North Coates 7th, 25 Donna Nook 8th and 50 Saltfleetby 9th. In autumn there were 100 at Gibraltar Point August 15th with 30 there 25th and 26 ringed at Theddlethorpe 29th. The last was at Donna Nook October 4th.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

35 were counted at North Somercotes Warren January 22nd and in spring there were 12 at Gibraltar Point April 4th and 20 Donna Nook 8th. Autumn passage was at a peak in October with 100 Gibraltar Point 3rd, 27 ringed at Theddlethorpe 14th, 20 Saltfleetby 17th but 100 there 18th, 30 Donna Nook 22nd and 50 Gibraltar Point 24-25th, then 57 at North Somercotes Warren November 17th.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Overwintering birds were at Bourne wood January 24th, North Somercotes Warren January 17-18th and Donna Nook to February 25th. Also in February there were singles at Theddlethorpe 4th and Scotton Common 8th. Spring migrants were scarce, singles at North Somercotes Warren March 20th, Covenham Res. 26th, Gibraltar Point 28th, Saltfleetby 31-April 1st, Gibraltar Point 2nd, 22-24th and 28th, North Coates 10-11th, 2 Saltfleetby 11th, one 12th and Donna Nook 12th and 18th. Then in May, Saltfleetby 3rd and Donna Nook 7-8th. Autumn birds were again scarce with singles Burton pits October 4th, Donna Nook 23-24th and in November Theddlethorpe 8th and Weelsby woods 9th.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

The first was at Tetney May 6th with a more general arrival from the 10th and 1-4 at Donna Nook 13-24th with 5 Gibraltar Point 22nd. In autumn there were 1-4 at a few coastal sites late August-late September with 7 Gibraltar Point September 23rd and 4 Saltfleetby 2nd. An exceptionally late bird was at Gibraltar Point November 8th, 22nd and December 5th, presumably all the same bird.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Spring passage was quite good; after an early bird at Gibraltar Point April 11-12th there were 1-2 at Donna Nook, Humberston, Saltfleetby, Tetney, Gibraltar Point, Stamford, Bradley Woods, and North Ormsby during May 4-14th with most 9-13th. In autumn 1-5 were noted on the coast during August-mid September with maximum numbers in early September; 15 Gibraltar Point 4th and Saltfleetby 6th. October birds were at Humberston 3rd with the last at Saltfleetby 9th.

Bearded Tit *Panarus biarmicus*.

Away from traditional sites 4 wintered at South Ferriby pit, January 18-March 15th with up to 4 Saltfleetby February 10-March 5th and singles Chapel pit April 1st and Gibraltar Point May 7th. 14-18 pairs bred in the South Humber bank pits and a pair summered at a site in South Lincolnshire. There was an unusual record of one at Pyewipe June 8th. In autumn there were 2 at Keadby collieries September 6th with more widespread records from October-December: 2 Gibraltar Point October 3-6th, and November 8th and 13th; 8 Holbeach October 18th, with 3 Saltfleet 24th and one Chapel pit 20th, 2 Huttoft 25th and one Winteringham 4th. In December there were 2 at Chapel pit 5th, 4 Huttoft 5th and 4 Baston pits 22-28th.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Large autumn flocks included 20 Gibraltar Point October 17th with 11 Donna Nook 26th, 45 Saltfleetby November 1st and 29 there 14th.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

The only record was from the South-west stronghold with 1-3 in Morkery wood all year and 2 with territories in March-May.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

There were no unusual records, just 1-2 occasional on the coast.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

In March 3 were at Gibraltar Point 7-8th with 41 in Morkery wood. Autumn records were fairly regular on the coast with 1-3 at Gibraltar Point July-November and peaks of 4 Saltfleetby October 18th and 3 Theddlethorpe 27th.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Some large flocks were noted during the year with 25 at Saltfleetby January 13th and 24 Gibraltar Point 17th. There were 60 at Gibraltar Point July 25th and 41 Saltfleetby August 22nd then in October 60 Gibraltar Point 4-5th and 11th, 39 Donna Nook 10th, 50 Gibraltar Point November 8th and 42 on the foreshore at Saltfleetby December 19-31st.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Maximum coastal counts were 50 Gibraltar Point March 28th with 12 Saltfleetby 20th then in October 6 Tetney and 20 Gibraltar Point 3rd.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

In Bourne wood there was one January 23rd and December 12th and 31st. In the south-west 2 pair bred at Denton and one was in Morkery wood mid March with records from Tortoiseshell wood July-August. An unusual record was of 2 at Ancaster ponds March 15th outside the normal area.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

One was at Kirton February 22nd, an unusual site. Singles were seen on the coast at Saltfleetby August 23rd and Gibraltar Point 30th and September-October. In December there were at least 6 Barrow/Barton, an unusual area.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

At Gibraltar Point there was a singing male June 17-19th (RL et al) and possibly a different individual July 4th (RL).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

There were no spring records but an unusual mid summer one of a male at Tetney July 7th. In August there were singles at Saltfleetby 8th and 14th, Gibraltar Point 12th and 14th and Donna Nook 30th. Then in September a male at Gibraltar Point 1st, 2 juvs. 2nd with one 3rd and 6th, one Seacroft 1st, Saltfleetby 5-6th, Theddlethorpe 8th, and North Coates 1st, 3rd and 27th.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

The only records in the early part of the year were of an overwintering bird at Saltfleetby to April 7th, with 2 January 7th, one at Barrow Haven January 17th and one Gibraltar Point February 28th. In October singles occurred at Anderby and Theddlethorpe 18th, Tetney 25-28th, Gibraltar Point 28th and Saltfleetby 26th-December 31st, with one at Baston pits November 5th.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

1-2 were noted all year in the Boston/Kirton and Frampton areas, this species being rare in the fens. On the coast one was at Gibraltar Point October 24th.

Maggie *Pica pica*

A species which is increasing rapidly in some areas. There were large gatherings of 24 Gibraltar Point January 1st, with 14 Donna Nook 17th. 14 at Mablethorpe April 7th with a non-breeding flock of 15 Goxhill April-May. In October there were 20 Gibraltar Point, up to 13 at Donna Nook and then 17 at Barton December 2-31st.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

A species which has declined drastically in some areas. Notable counts being 36 at Kirkby-on-Bain February 11th; 105 flying south-west over Baston Fen October 28th, 50 at Stallingborough November 15th and 22 Barton December 16th.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

There were 200 at Covenham May 24th and 60 Donna Nook September 1st on the coast. The only other report of note being of 400 at Atterby cliff November 22-December 3rd.

Carriion Crow *Corvus corone*

There was a definite southerly migration on the coast in March with 104 south at Gibraltar Point 7th and 36 there 8th with 114 south-west at the Witham Mouth 8th. In October 70 had gathered at Saltfleetby 17th with 30 west and 17 south Gibraltar Point 27th and 37

south-west at Baston fen 28th. A further 27 flew south at Gibraltar Point November 28th and 65 were at Little Grimsby December 6th. Hooded Crows *C.c.cornix* were noted at 12 widespread localities, coastal and inland in ones and twos to May 10th, with 3 at Kirkby Moor January 27th the most together. Birds were again present from October 18th with 1-2 at 8 sites and 3 Saltfleetby November 17th.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

A roost at Barrow Haven held at least 200,000 birds during February. Juvenile movements in June included 2,500 south at Tetney 14th, 1,500 north Donna Nook 15th and 1,200 south Gibraltar Point 16th. There were 30,000 roosting at Barrow Haven September 1st and 2,000 Gibraltar Point 20th then in October 10,000 south at Saltfleetby 13th and 1,300 north Donna Nook 19th.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Notable records included 450 flying south at Gibraltar Point September 29th with 600 at Lallaborough October 25th and in December 300 at Donna Nook 23rd and 750 at South Witham mid month.

Sparrow *Passer montanus*

In January there were flocks of 45 at Nettleton and 80 Gibraltar Point on 1st with 70 at the Witham Mouth 30th. 50 pairs bred at Donna Nook. In the autumn 300 flew south at Gibraltar Point September 29th and 450 October 3rd with 130 11th, and 90 south at Donna Nook 19th. There were 200 at the Witham Mouth November 1st.

Lincoln Fringilla *coelebs*

In the year there were up to 40 at Donna Nook February-March with 40 at Gibraltar Point and 140 south there March 7th and 30 Goxhill 20th. In May there were 29 singing males in Morkery wood 29th. Relatively small numbers occurred in the autumn on the coast with peaks of 85 Gibraltar Point October 31st and 100 south there November 28th. 40 flew south there again on December 9th in a hard weather movement with 100 there 29th.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

The only large flocks in the early winter period were in the Lincoln area with 200 Hartsholme park January 2nd, 84 Riseholme 4th, and 75 Burton pits 23rd. 40 flew south at Gibraltar Point March 7th with 1-8 noted at Nettleton, Covenham, East Halton, Barrow Haven, Donna Nook, Tetney, Bradley woods and Gibraltar Point to May 9th. The first autumn birds were at Saltfleetby September 2nd with up to 20 at Seathorne, Gibraltar Point, Donna Nook, Anderby, Burton pits and Saltfleetby to late November. Higher numbers in December included 27 Deeping Fen 6th, 100 Gibraltar Point 19th with 150, 27-29th and 40 31st.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

There were 80 at Gibraltar Point January 4th and 55 Saltfleetby February 10th then up to 70 Covenham March/April with 200 there July 5th. 300 flew south at Gibraltar Point September 29th with 100 there and 40 south October 1st, 150 south 3rd and 200 21st. In November there were 150 Gibraltar Point 8th and 120 Donna Nook 14th. Large flocks in the December freeze included 450 Gibraltar Point 27-31st and 600 North Coates 17th.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Few were noted on spring passage with a maximum of 50 south at Gibraltar Point May 7th. More occurred in autumn with 200 at Gibraltar Point and 250 south there September 29th and up to 50 at Donna Nook. In October there were 400 Gibraltar Point 1st with 300 to 10th, 300 North Coates 3rd, 68 Saltfleetby 7th and 50 the Witham Mouth 16th. Gibraltar Point again had 100 November 7-13th and 200 December 29th.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus* (illustrated)

There were up to 40 in Boultham park Lincoln in January and 18 in Morkery wood otherwise 1-10 were noted at several widespread sites to mid May. Birds were more numerous from September-December with 1-20 at several localities; southerly movements at Gibraltar Point of 28 October 3rd with 62 there also, 27 south at Donna Nook 6th. Then in November 45 south Gibraltar Point and 40 there 14th and numbers in Boultham park increased to 70 December 19th.



Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

After a flock of 150 at Saltfleetby February 10th there were few numbers of note with little sign of visible spring migration and maxima of 110 south at Gibraltar Point May 6-8th, and 120 north Donna Nook 1st, where 25 pairs bred. In September 1,000 flew south at Gibraltar Point 29th with 480 there October 2nd and 650 Saltfleetby 9th.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Large early winter flocks included 300 Gibraltar Point, 400 Freiston and 250 at the Witham Mouth in January then 200 Tetney February 21st and 250 Holbeach March 7th with 200 still at the Witham Mouth April 2nd. Returning birds were seen from mid September with maximum numbers of 350 Donna Nook October 17th, 350 Gibraltar Point 10th-December, then 600 Witham Mouth November 29th and 1,250 Freiston/Friskney 22nd. There were also up to 70 Saltfleetby, 40 Humberston and 150 at Cleethorpes.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

A very low key spring migration with a maximum of only 33 at Gibraltar Point May 24th. In the autumn there were 60 Gibraltar Point August 29th and 60 there September 29th when 50 flew south. 65 were at Saltfleetby September 5th and in October 100 flew south at Gibraltar Point 3rd and 200 south 11th, 42 at Saltfleetby 9th and 175 on the Hobhole bank near Boston 25th, with 40 again at Saltfleetby December 12th.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Singles were seen at Gibraltar Point January 10th, June 27th and July 4th with 2 there August 12th and one September 12th (RL et al). There was also one at Theddlethorpe October 18th (MJT).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Parties of up to 10 birds were noted at several localities throughout the year with 14 Gibraltar Point July 31st.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

One was seen in Burwell woods on January 4th (SL) and one found dead in Normanby park at the end of April (AF). The only other record was of one at Saltfleetby November 15th (DH).

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Singles were at Freiston February 4th, Pyewipe 12th and Cleethorpes 24th, Kirton Marsh April 5th. In autumn one was at North Coates September 22nd and October 6th and 17th with 2 Saltfleetby 8th and singles Pyewipe 22nd and Cleethorpes 25th. Donna Nook had 1-2 November 14-December 18th and 5 30th. Saltfleetby had singles November 21st and December 25th, with 2 west at Barton December 14th and the highest count of 7 at Goxhill 18th.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

In the period January-March there were up to 40 at Saltfleetby, 27 Pyewipe, 25 Donna Nook and 90 Gibraltar Point with up to 17 Trusthorpe and 2 at Killingholme March 6th. Birds were present again from October 17th with 39 North Coates 30th and 30 Pyewipe November 26th, 125 Gibraltar Point 29th and 68 Saltfleetby December with 1-2 at Cleethorpes, Covenham, Barrow Haven and the Witham Mouth.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Early winter flocks included 50 at Tetney Blow Wells January 4th and 40 Gibraltar Point February, with 135 Swinn wood 11th. During December the hard weather concentrated birds; at Castle Bytham 150, mostly males, 63 at Covenham 17th, 80 Pyewipe and 35 Donna Nook 23rd.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

A female was observed at Saltfleetby on September 6th (MM).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

A high concentration of 50 pairs bred at Donna Nook. In the autumn 60 flew south at Gibraltar Point September 29th with 90 south there October 3rd and up to 100 at Donna Nook in October.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

A number of flocks of up to 80 were reported in the Deeping Fen area in January. There were also 35 at Gibraltar Point January-February and 30 Saltfleetby February 12th with 53 at Tetney 25th. 4 pairs bred at Donna Nook. In December there were 35 again at Gibraltar Point by 31st with 120 North Coates 28th and 40 Barton on 1st.

Escaped Waterfowl in 1981

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

One flying over Hykeham road Lincoln on May 13th.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

One exceptionally tame individual, probably locally released on North Somercotes Lido January 7th-February 14th, March 2nd and December 28th.

Carolina Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

A pair at Barton May 28th with a female on several dates to November. A pair were seen with young near Tallington in June with one there again November 8th.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO 1979/80 REPORTS

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

Accepted one at Messingham June 16th 1979 (DS). This record previously rejected and published as such in 1980 report, now accepted after review.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO 1980 RECORDS

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Accepted one at East Halton October 27-28th.

Accepted one at Gibraltar Point October 19th.

Accepted one at Tetney Lock October 30th.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Accepted one at Saltfleetby October 19th.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata*

Accepted one at Theddlethorpe October 12th.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Additional record; one at Donna Nook November 9th (SA, RB, RDG et al) accepted by BBRC.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Additional record; one at Boston December 4th (PRB) accepted by BBRC.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Additional record; a female/immature showing characteristics of one of the Eastern races *S.t. maura* or *S.t. stejnegeri*, at Donna Nook November 9th (GPC) accepted by BBRC.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Additional record; 18 South-west over South Witham December 23rd.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Additional record; one at Croxby pond May 13th-27th.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Additional record; Morkery wood (Grantham area) October 12th-22nd.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Additional record; a pair on Immingham docks rearing 4 young.

SPECIES REQUIRING A WRITTEN DESCRIPTION

The following is a list of species, either rare, scarce or unusual in Lincolnshire/South Humberside, for which a written description is required before acceptance for the Bird Report. Such records will be judged by British Birds Rarities Committee (category A), or by the Lincs Bird Club Records Committee (category B).

(A) All species designated as 'Rare' by BBRC, for submission to that body. Lists now available from area representatives.

(B) The following species in Lincolnshire/South Humberside.

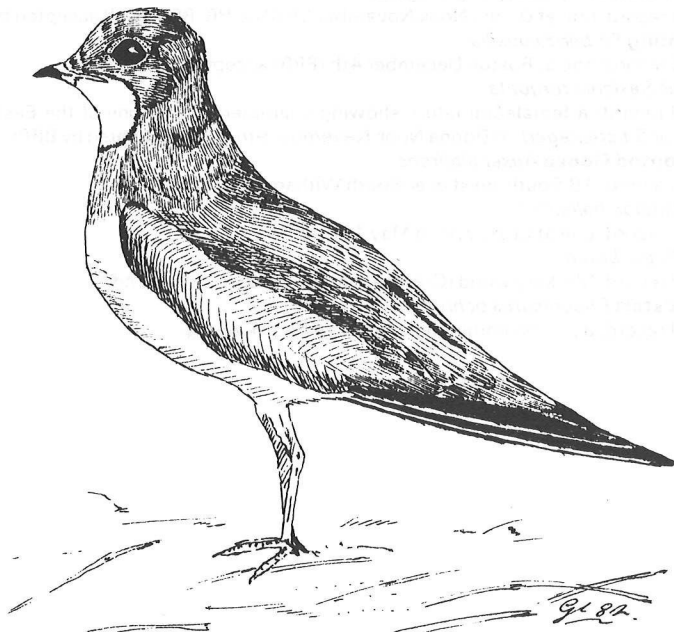
Great Shearwater; *Puffinus gravis*
Storm Petrel; *Hydrobates pelagicus*
Leach's Petrel; *Oceandroma leucorhoa*
Ferruginous Duck; *Aythya nyroca*
Honey Buzzard; *Pernis apivorus*
Red Kite; *Milvus milvus*
Goshawk; *Accipiter gentilis*
Rough-legged Buzzard; *Buteo lagopus*
Golden Eagle; *Aquila chrysaetos*
Montagu's Harrier; *Circus pygarrus*
Peregrine; *Falco peregrinus*
Spotted Crane; *Porzana porzana*
Corncrake; *Crex crex*
Kentish Plover; *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Temminck's Stint; *Calidris temminckii*
Pectoral Sandpiper; *Calidris melanotos*

Red-necked Phalarope; *Phalaropus lobatus*
Grey Phalarope; *Phalaropus fulicarius*
Stone Curlew; *Burhinus oedipnemos*
Long-tailed Skua; *Stercorarius longicaudus*
Iceland Gull; *Larus glaucooides*
Sabine's Gull; *Larus sabini*
Roseate Tern; *Sterna dougallii*
Black Guillemot; *Cepphus grylle*
Woodlark; *Lullula arborea*
Cetti's Warbler; *Cettia cetti*
Marsh Warbler; *Acrocephalus palustris*
Melodious Warbler; *Hippolais polyglotta*
Yellow-browed Warbler; *Phylloscopus inornatus*
Red-breasted Flycatcher; *Ficedula parva*
Raven; *Corvus corax*

(C) Other species requiring some supporting details;

Dipper; *Cinclus cinclus* (race involved)
Icterine Warbler; *Hippolais icterina*
Barred Warbler; *Sylvia nisoria*

Bluethroat; *Luscinia svecica*
Golden Oriole; *Oriolus oriolus*



Accounts of Lincolnshire Rarities

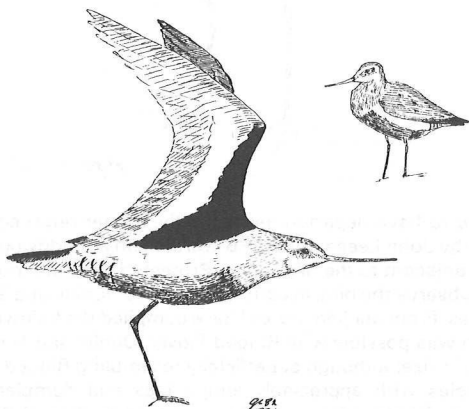
Hudsonian Godwit at Alkborough, 15th September 1981

On September 15th 1981, I was searching the fields at Alkborough, South Humberside, for a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, which had been feeding there the previous day. As there was no sign of the bird I looked on the mud flats where the accompanying flock of Ruff were feeding. On looking over the mud I heard an unusual wader call, a repeated 'kyow kyow'. On scanning the mud I quickly located a lone Godwit, the origin of the call. On a brief glance it looked like a Bar-tailed Godwit moulting out of summer plumage, but looking rather dark on the mantle. I assumed that it was the unusual 'Black-tailed Godwit' which Andrew Grieve had mentioned as being present at Blacktoft sands the previous day. The bird was, however, so unusual for a Black-tailed that I took a full description and then attempted to get closer to the bird by creeping around the edge of the saltmarsh. Unfortunately, whilst the bird was out of my view it flew off and I was just in time to see it land on a sandy island in the middle of the Trent.

The following is a copy of my description, the flight details were not added until October 3rd when it was at Blacktoft.

In size, shape and jizz the Godwit resembled a Bar-tailed, with shortish legs, a slightly upturned shortish bill and large amounts of reddish colour on the underparts. The bill was shorter than Black-tailed, slightly upturned dark brown with a flesh coloured base; ear-coverts greyish-buff, pale supercilium over eye; crown and nape grey-brown; chin creamy, throat, upper neck and upper breast greyish-buff; mantle and wings brown with a greyish cast and odd gold tipped black centred feathers, remnants of summer plumage on the mantle; primaries darker blackish-brown.

Underparts; Centre of belly and lower breast deep russet red extending in a narrow line to the tips of the undertail coverts; sides of flanks white with black bars down flanks at the rear and on the sides of the undertail coverts. Legs shorter than Black-tailed and a dark blackish colour.



Flight pattern October 3rd: Upperparts, dark blackish flight feathers with a narrow white wing bar shorter than Black-tailed. Mantle brown, lower back very dark brown contrasting with narrow white uppertail band, narrower than on Black-tailed. Underwing pattern unmistakable; whole of underwing dusky greyish but for pale whitish bar in centre and jet black axillaries and lesser-wing coverts.

Reference to my available literature on the evening of 15th, tentatively suggested a likeness to Hudsonian Godwit, a Nearctic long distance migrant, but the species is rare in the Nearctic and had never been recorded in the Western Palearctic, so the odds were not in its favour. Further reference to Prater et al briefly mentioned the Eastern race of Black tailed Godwit, which it says is smaller than the Western races and has more red on the underparts

in summer plumage. The main distinguishing features of Hudsonian, the flight pattern and more especially the underwing pattern, was not noted clearly until October 1st when the bird was again at Blacktoft, and its final identification was not confirmed until this date.

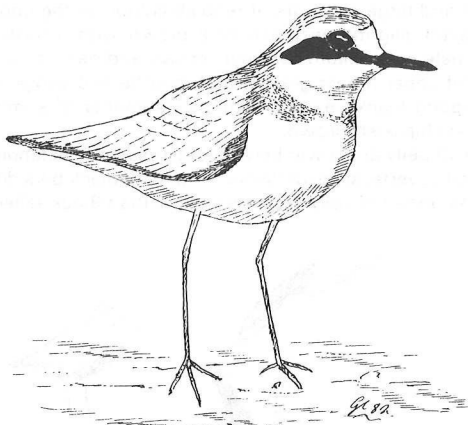
On October 3rd it flew out from Blacktoft in an Easterly direction over Trent Falls and out of sight, and was not seen in the area again. What was presumably the same bird was relocated in Devon in mid November 1981.

Graham P. Catley

Greater Sand Plover at North Coates Point, 7th August 1981

During a very high tide at North Coates Point, on the morning of August 7th 1981, large numbers of waders were observed arriving from the North Humber Bank and landing on the few remaining exposed areas of shingle.

Among a mixed flock of these waders, concentrated on the upper part of the beach, bordering the dunes, was a Charadrius type Plover, which recalled my previous experience of Greater Sand Plover. After about 30 seconds observation on the ground it became aware of my presence and flew directly away. Despite the inclement weather and somewhat brief encounter, the structure of the bird was well observed and a passable plumage description taken, confirming the initial identification.



Although assumed to have departed permanently, it later returned to the area and was found independently by John Leece, the RSPB warden, on a muddy pool, partially filled with overnight rainwater, adjacent to the RAF camp. Protected from the moderate North-easterly wind he was able to observe the bird, in company with 45 Dunlin, and 25 Ringed Plover, for a duration of 20 minutes. From our joint notes I have compiled the following description:

Direct comparison was possible with Ringed Plover, Dunlin and Turnstone, of which only the latter matched it in size; although superficially resembling Ringed Plover, it stood much taller than that species with appreciably longer legs and dumpier, longer body, while maintaining a more horizontal stance. Again compared to Ringed Plover, the all dark bill appeared longer and more robust, and exceeded half the head length. The upperparts were a pale brown with darker primaries. The underparts were white with light brown pectoral patches, similar in colour to the upperparts. Quite striking was a dark line extending from the lores to the ear-coverts, bordered by a narrow white supercilium, merging into a white forehead. The legs were dark although the actual colour was impossible to determine. While feeding it's movements appeared much slower and more casual than Ringed Plover. In flight the contrast between the dark flight feathers and paler coverts was noted, as was the white wing-bar.

There can be little doubt that this was the bird which frequented Spurn Point the previous week, especially considering the weather and tidal conditions.

Howard Bunn

Unusual races of three Warbler species recorded in 1981

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans albistriata*

The male at Tetney on May 12-13th, was initially considered to be possibly a first summer male due to the restricted amount of dark orange on the throat and upper breast, this being sharply demarcated from the belly which was a dull pinkish-buff. On consulting Williamson's Warbler guides, however, it was discovered that this characteristic is a feature of the race *S.c. albistriata* which breeds in S.E. Europe from Yugoslavia and Albania south to Greece, Asia Minor and Syria. A number of recent British records of this species have been referred to this race. The two previous County records at Ingoldmells May 11th 1970 and Tetney May 14th 1976 were not racially identified.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca blythi*

The latest records of Lesser Whitethroat in the County are usually mid-late September, so the occurrence of a number of birds from mid October to mid November was in itself quite an event. The first two birds seen at Saltfleetby on October 18th were part of a fall of Siberian passerines, which included a Richard's Pipit, Yellow-browed and Pallas's Warbler. At first glance these birds were not immediately obvious as Lesser Whitethroats. The most obvious difference to 'normal' autumn Lesser Whitethroats, was the colour of the mantle and wings which were a warm brown, tending to rusty, with prominent pale edges to the tertials resembling Whitethroat; *Sylvia communis*. The head pattern was also noticeably dull with little sign of the dark mask through the eye, a faint pale supercilium and dull grey crown. The whole of the underparts were a clear creamy-white. With the aid of 'Williamson', these birds were identified as belonging to the subspecies *S.c. blythi* which breeds in West Siberia north to the limit of forest growth and across to the Altai and Kirghiz steppes. This race normally winters in S.E. Persia, Afghanistan, Baluchistan and India.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita abietenus/tristis*

As in 1980 from mid October there were a number of records of Chiffchaffs showing characteristics of one or the other of the Northern/Eastern races *P.c. abietenus/tristis*. Both races differ from the British race in being much more soberly coloured, generally a dull brown to grey brown above and buff to white below with restricted amounts of yellow and olive in the plumage often confined to the rump, throat and carpal patch. The two races are obviously rather similar, and do intergrade in the east of *abietenus* range, and thus subspecific identification is open to question. The following descriptions are therefore not definitive but are the result of some intensive study of such birds both in Lincs. and Scandinavia by a number of observers.

Phylloscopus collybita abietenus breeds in Scandinavia, North and West Russia and winters in the South Caspian range, West Iran, Iraq and Arabia.

In general birds suggesting this race are a dull brown on the upperparts often with a brighter more olive or even yellowish tint to the rump, brighter edges to the flight feathers and often some suggestion of yellow on the throat or upper breast with a yellow patch at the carpal joint often visible. The call differs from the normal Hu-eet of British birds being variants on the 'cheet' call given by Williamson. Indeed the call note of these races is often what draws attention to them and is a good identification pointer.

P.c. tristis breeds from the Pechora River and the Urals across Siberia to the Kolyma River, north to the tree limit and south to central and southern Russia. It winters from the Himalayas to Pakistan and India.

Birds taken to be of this race were generally a dull greyish-buff on the upperparts with clear creamy-white underparts and no trace of yellow or olive in the plumage. They often show a narrow pale wing-bar formed by the pale tips to the greater coverts. In structure they tend to look more 'dumpy' than British birds and give the impression of a tip-tilted bill and high peaked forehead. The call note is a very distinctive 'swee-ooo'.

Graham P. Catley

Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory

Report 1981

Compiled by R. Lambert

It is always the aim at Gibraltar Point, as it is with all observatories, to achieve an ever greater measure of consistent recording. Regular visitors will, of course, be familiar with some of the problems of covering such a densely vegetated and extensive area. Nevertheless each year produces an improvement, and it is gratifying to scan through the daily log and note the unbroken series of figures for many resident species. There are gaps, inevitably, but major progress has been made since the years when weekend and holiday periods produced the only data. Some of the remaining gaps could be filled if more observers were diligent about submitting their records and to help facilitate this a suitable letter-box will in future be available at the new office in the Field Station complex.

Thanks to the efforts of 82 individuals and 23 groups who contributed to the daily log a total of 193 species was recorded in the year, including two additions to the observatory list, a *Black-necked Grebe* in February and a *Purple Heron* in May, the former only having been recorded once previously as a tide-line corpse. Rarely recorded species included: *Greenish Warbler* – 3rd record; *Honey Buzzard* – 8th and *Hoopoe* – 9th.

The year provided only a few outstanding events, though this fact should not be allowed to detract from its overall quality. One of the features was the unprecedented numbers of *Barred Warblers* present for so much of the autumn. This species is usually only 'found' when it turns up in a mist-net or heligoland trap so the recorded number, only ever representing the minimum number of birds present, suggests a very large influx. It is interesting, though not very useful, to speculate how many might have been present especially in early September. A second event was the very cold weather of mid-December, the long-term effects of which will only become evident in succeeding years. The short-term effects were very apparent producing, as they did, dramatic declines in the population of many species, and some surprising increases in others.

The breeding season was also something of a mixture of successes and failures. The two major successes were the breeding of *Tufted Duck* on the Mere, thus adding another breeding species to the Reserve list, and the fledging of at least 28 *Little Tern* chicks from the 30-pair strong colony. This last achievement is just reward for the effort invested in protection measures since 1975 when the colony consisted of only five pairs and no young were produced. On the failure side many species on the Common Bird Census plot show a decrease in the number of territory-holding birds. For most this was only a small change but for *Reed Bunting* the dramatic decline from 40 to 50 pairs in the mid-70s through 33 in 1979, 24 in 1980 to only 19 in 1981 is cause for concern. *Sedge Warblers* also did badly, not in numbers present, but in an almost total failure to produce any young. But, of course, there is always good news for the keen Gib. Point birder – one species had a very successful season. Which species? *Dunnock* – naturally!

SEASONAL SUMMARY OF 1981 RECORDS

JANUARY – MARCH

The British climate is often thought to provide a daily conversation topic but this early part of 1981 seems, in retrospect, to have produced few extremes of weather. There were a few unseasonably warm spells which gave a general impression of another mild winter following that of 1980/81. Decreasing numbers of birds, as late autumn and early winter migrants continue to move on, leaves the area fairly sparsely populated and lengthy spells of cold weather are required to concentrate feeding flocks of waders, thrushes or finches in the dunes or on the saltmarsh. It was therefore unsurprising to find totals of many species on the low side, and the ringing total to the end of March certainly bears witness to the paucity of finches, buntings and sparrows.

It would be unusual, however, for the Point to fail to provide something of interest for bird-watchers and on most days there were interesting observations. Wildfowl records included a

flock of *Bewick's Swans* 12 strong, which remained in the area from 15th to 28th February, maximum counts of 455 *Mallard* and 224 *Wigeon*, and a flock of 17 *Pintail* on 18th February. Waders are not easy to census during the winter months as high tides which force the birds onto the foreshore roosts only occur during the hours of darkness. Species not dependent upon estuarine feeding areas, such as *Snipe* and *Woodcock* were present throughout the period in good numbers.

The recent decrease in overwintering *Shorelarks* was halted this winter with 12 birds on the saltings near Greenshank Creek until early April. The other two species associated with this habitat, *Twite* and *Snow Bunting*, were also present until late March, *Twite* in abundance but *Snow Bunting* numbers were lower than normal. Raptors also helped maintain observer interest with regular sightings of *Hen Harrier*, *Merlin* and *Sparrowhawk*, and January produced both *Blackcap* and *Chiffchaff* records.

Unusual birds were scarce in the extreme, the only exception to total absence being a *Black-necked Grebe* which joined the resident pair of *Little Grebes* on the Mere on 7th February, staying for four days. This was the first 'live' record for the Observatory, a previous record from February 1965 being of a dead bird. *Great Grey Shrikes*, having once been resident almost all winter, are now rather rare visitors and only one record, on 28th February, was received this year.

The 'indicators of spring' were a little earlier this year, arriving from mid-March onwards. With north-westerly winds persisting through the third week of March it was surprising to find a *Chiffchaff* on the 15th, a *Wheatear* on 17th and a *Ring Ouzel* on 18th, the last record being the earliest ever for the Observatory. South-easterlies on 28th brought the next influx, with *Chiffchaff* and *Wheatear* again and the first *Sand Martin* and *Firecrest* on the same day, and two *Black Redstarts* and a small influx of *Redwings* over the next three days. The more easterly conditions resulted from an approaching anticyclone which was to have a profound effect until late April.

APRIL – JUNE

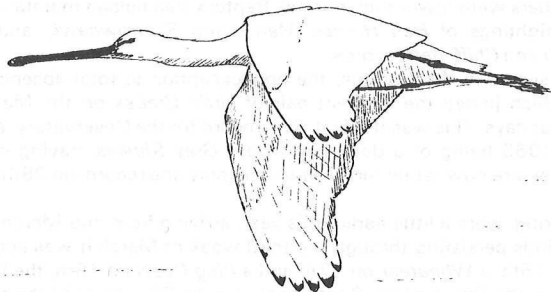
Early April produced its normal list of returning species, with *Redstart* and *Willow Warbler* in the first week and *Swallow*, *Blackcap*, *Sandwich Tern*, *Pied Flycatcher*, *Nightingale*, *Cuckoo*, *Whimbrel*, *Yellow Wagtail* and *Whinchat* before the end of the second week. Among these were some early records, 2 *Sandwich Terns* and a *Nightingale* on 10th became the earliest on record for the Observatory, and a *Fulmar* on 2nd only missed joining them by one day. With continuing easterly conditions migrants arrived in small numbers, large numbers evidently move northwards through central and western parts of the country under the influence of easterly winds. Two days of south-westerly winds on 8th/9th did manage to produce a small 'rush' of birds.

Towards the end of the month temperatures began to fall. New arrivals continued to trickle in – *Whitethroat*, *Sedge Warbler*, *Little Tern* and *Common Sandpiper* – but many of these early arrivals must have become casualties when the weather turned extremely cold, windy and wet, culminating in a blizzard on 25th. After this final flush of winter the weather slowly improved and, apart from the occasional *Fieldfare*, a few *Bramblings* and a *Hooded Crow*, signs of winter eventually disappeared and the summer started to exert its influence. A notable feature of the last week of April was the large number of *Ring Ouzels* which fed along Mill Pond Road for four days, the flock being 8 strong on 29th.

Sparrowhawks are certainly becoming more regular visitors to the area in recent winters but they rarely stay through the summer so two females on 29th and 30th encouraged the hope that they might do so this year. Other raptors of the period included a *Common Buzzard* on 1st May, and the first *Marsh Harrier* of the summer on 6th. May almost always provides the main influx of our summer visitors and in recent years helpful winds have brought a small 'fall' of migrants in the first week. In 1981 north-westerly winds continued until 7th but they did not prevent birds arriving in fair numbers on 2nd, when singles of *Lesser Whitethroat*, *Garden Warbler* and *Redstart*, several *Turtle Doves*, *Wheatears*, *Ring Ouzels*, *Sedge Warblers*, *Whitethroats*, *Blackcaps* and *Willow Warblers* appeared, along with *Fieldfare*, *Redwing*, *Goldcrests* and *Bramblings*. They were followed on 6th by a *Hoopoe* which obligingly remained in the same area of the east dunes for most of the day and was seen by several observers. Very little else arrived until south-easterly winds on 7th brought the first

southerly movement of hirundines, including the first *Swifts*, and a good selection of other species.

A steady increase in the number and variety of species present was highlighted by a few less usual records as the month passed: on 10th 9 *Avocets* flying into the saltings at the eastern end of the sleeper track to feed briefly before flying on northwards did credit to a Gillmor painting; 4 *Spoonbills* also flew north along the coast on 25th; and a *Purple Heron* on the following day alighted on the freshwater marsh before similarly heading north. The remarkable feature of all three records being the brevity of the visit and the fortunate location of observers in each case. How many records must be missed each year?



June's weather followed a regular pattern of alternating south-westerly and north-easterly winds with associated warm and cool conditions respectively. The former inevitably produced southerly movements of hirundines, mainly *Swifts*, though numbers were not yet exceptional. Speculation about the status of *Sparrowhawk* continued when a male appeared on 1st, at least one female being regularly seen at that time. As a result of such sightings the species appeared on the Common Bird Census analysis as a territory-holder though this is probably a little optimistic, and there is no evidence that breeding was attempted. One species that certainly did attempt to breed, and achieved partial success, was *Tufted Duck*, a new breeding record for the Reserve. Nine chicks were seen on the Mere on 22nd June after seven adults had been present all month, but they apparently only survived for 24 hours as there was no further trace of them after the following day.

More unusual records from June included an immature male *Montagu's Harrier* on 9th and 13th, a male *Kentish Plover* from 17th to 20th and an ever hopeful male *Golden Oriole* which, not surprisingly, failed to attract a mate despite persistent effort, this also from 17th to 20th. The end of the month brought the first returning migrant waders: *Little Ringed Plovers*, *Green* and *Common Sandpipers*, *Spotted Redshanks* and *Ruff*; together with a single *Crossbill*.

JULY – SEPTEMBER

The latter part of June and most of July proved to be extremely dry and a repeat of the drought experienced in 1976 was only avoided because of a few wet days at well spaced intervals in July and August. This may have accounted for the very poor fledging success of certain species especially *Sedge Warbler* and *Whitethroat*. As is noted in the ringing report the former produced virtually no young at all. Other juvenile birds began to appear in fair numbers on 4th July, and August produced good numbers of *Whitethroats*, *Willow Warblers*, *Linnets* and *Redpolls*, many of course having moved in from adjacent areas.

The traditional southerly passage of *Swifts* in July peaked on 16th when an estimated 16,000 flew over, most of the movement occurring between 0900 hours and 1100 hours at a rate in excess of 100 birds per minute! *Swifts* apart, the month produced further records of *Golden Oriole*, *Crossbill* and *Montagu's Harrier*, and a *Hobby* was observed for some time, apparently chasing rabbits on the new saltmarsh, before it was chased off by the resident *Kestrels* who obviously regarded the rabbits as a private source of amusement! Autumn waders continued to move through with *Greenshank*, *Curlew Sandpiper* and *Black-tailed Godwit* in the first half of the month, and increasing numbers of these and other species towards the end of the last week.

The first four days of August produced a *Wood Warbler*, *Black Tern*, *Sooty Shearwater* and both *Marsh* and *Montagu's Harrier*, but the wind then veered from south-west to north-east and increased in strength producing very inclement weather until 9th. Few birds were seen until this date. On 10th the first noticeable influx of migrants occurred bringing the first autumn *Redstart* and fair numbers of *Whitethroats* and *Willow Warblers*. A further increase of the last species on 12th was accompanied by the arrival of a *Red-backed Shrike* and several *Pied Flycatchers*, and 2 *Crossbills* were present in the west dunes for much of the day. The wind at this time continued from the west, a condition not thought to be conducive to migration, but birds continued to arrive in small numbers. A variety of warblers and a *Pied Flycatcher* arrived on 15th but there was little else of note until 25th when the first reports of *Wryneck* and *Barred Warbler* were received, and several *Whinchats* appeared in the trapping area in mid-morning. Obviously of continental origin these birds may well have arrived on the east coast following north-easterly winds on 23rd and drifted southwards along the coast in the following days. A short lull over the next few days gave observers time to search the Mere for autumn waders, the low water level making this site ideal. Good numbers of *Greenishanks* (up to 21), *Spotted Redshanks* (up to 11) and even 3 *Black-tailed Godwits* were attracted by the extensive areas of mud and shallow water.

The winds became south-easterly then north-easterly on 30th and 31st and migrants started to arrive in force, marking the start of one of the best autumn spells for many years. Two *Wrynecks* and a few *Redstarts*, *Whinchats* and *Pied Flycatchers* on 31st set the pattern, these species showing a marked increase in numbers from recent autumns. Another species should also be added to this list, *Barred Warbler*. With at least three of these skulking birds present in early September, records continuing until 27th October, and a total of 17 bird days, this was certainly a record year for the species. Accompanying this fall of migrants was a well marked specimen of *Greenish Warbler*, the third for the Observatory, which turned up in the ringing laboratory on 2nd having not been recognised initially in the hand. It was released in the west dunes and was still there on 4th.

The first winter visitors arrived, a *Fieldfare* on 2nd and a *Redwing* on 3rd, but the continuing anticyclonic conditions led to a decline in numbers of migrants towards the end of the first week. The second and third weeks of September were rather quiet except for hirundines heading south; with 12,000 *Swallows* on 5th, 20,000 on 13th and 15,000 on 14th, and 1,000 *House Martins* on 10th; and occasional 'rarities' such as the two *Crossbills* on 12th and a *Peregrine* on 16th. Activity resumed on 29th when *Song Thrushes* increased and large movements of pipits, tits, finches, sparrows and buntings were observed.



OCTOBER – DECEMBER

In some ways the late autumn was disappointing. For the second successive year thrushes failed to arrive in their usual numbers, maximum counts being 250 *Blackbirds*, 1800 *Fieldfares*, only 60 *Song Thrushes* and 300 *Redwings*. *Goldcrests* similarly were well below normal and there were no *Firecrests* in the autumn at all. Late summer visitors were rather scarce, a few *Little Terns* on 2nd October and a series of *Spotted Flycatcher* records starting on 8th November which undoubtedly concerned a single individual. It was caught on 22nd November and seen again on 5th December; this last date is thought to be the latest ever for the British Isles. Unfortunately, and perhaps unsurprisingly, it is unlikely that the bird survived as the weather deteriorated rapidly in early December.

Unusual records for the period included the *Barred Warblers* mentioned previously, a *Yellow-Browed Warbler* on 25th October, a *Great Grey Shrike* on 28th October and a *Waxwing* on 7th November (the first record since 1975). Winter visitors began to assemble with species such as *Merlin*, *Hen Harrier*, *Snow Bunting* and *Whooper Swan* in October and *Bewick's Swan*, *Pink-footed Goose*, *Shorelark*, *Siskin* and *Corn Bunting* in November. The early winter seemed to hold a promise of good bird watching for those prepared to brave the exposure of the east coast at this time of year since there were both quantity and variety of birds in the area. Then the degree of exposure became too severe as temperatures fell well below zero for much of the period from 7th to 28th December. This produced two major effects. Obviously some species suffered very badly and many casualties were found when the frost lifted. *Snipe*, *Redshank*, all of the thrushes and *Starlings* suffered most, birds unable to move on to more favourable areas rapidly succumbed. At the same time some species moved into the area to take advantage of a guaranteed food supply. Predators thrived on the large number of weak and exhausted mammals and small birds. *Hen Harriers*, *Sparrowhawk*, *Kestrels*, *Merlin*, *Barn Owl*, *Long-* and *Short-eared Owls* were all resident. Many smaller birds moved down onto the areas of saltmarsh covered by successive tides where the worst effects of the frost were alleviated and food was nearly always available, thus finch and bunting numbers remained relatively high.

The end of the cold spell was marked by a southerly passage of *Lapwings* and *Skylarks* and the year drew to a close with rather few species present. One species which made a welcome, if brief, return to the area, largely as a result of the wildfowling ban in operation due to the severe weather, was *Pink-footed Goose*. The sound of the feeding flock brought back nostalgic memories for those observers able to recall the large wintering flocks of *Pinkfeet* in the early to mid-sixties.

OBSERVATORY RINGING REPORT

The year's ringing started slowly, improved through the summer to an excellent early autumn, tailed off in November before ending with a flourish in December. No new species were added to the Observatory list but many species were caught in increased numbers. The most notable among these was *Barred Warbler*. Normally one or two a year, and none at all in the last two years, the total for 1981 was an unprecedented 8 birds. The pattern of the autumn passage, which accounts for the largest proportion of the annual total, is clearly illustrated by the numbers of various species caught: *Redstart*, *Lesser Whitethroat* and *Pied Flycatcher* markedly increased while the thrushes, *Robin*, *Garden Warbler*, *Blackcap* and *Chiffchaff* all decreased. *Wrens* continue to increase in number, a trend that may reverse after December's weather, and *Sedge Warblers* continue to decline. After two good years for *Firecrests* this striking species was sadly absent from the list, once again reflecting the situation in autumn. At the end of the year the severe weather brought a large feeding flock of buntings and finches and this is clearly reflected in the December totals.

Recoveries of birds ringed at the Observatory were not as exciting as those in 1980, though there was the usual selection of more interesting ones. Top of the list must be the *Yellowhammer* in the Netherlands, only the third foreign recovery of this species and the second to the Netherlands. A *Swallow* controlled in Austria seemed a little off-course if it was returning to Britain though it could equally well have been of continental origin off-course when caught at the Point in autumn. 1980 produced an unusual number of controls of *Chiffchaffs* and no *Willow Warblers*. Strangely, this year brought three controls of *Willow Warblers* and no *Chiffchaffs*.

Normally large numbers of small birds must be ringed before any recoveries are forthcoming and many ringers may catch thousands of a species and still hear nothing more about 'their' birds. Occasionally ringing only a few birds pays dividends as it did a few years ago when the only *Ruff* ever ringed at the Observatory provided the most southerly recovery for this species in Africa. 1981 cannot claim a comparative movement, but from a total of only 9 *Nightingales* ringed at the site it was interesting to have one from 1979 controlled in Warwickshire. Maybe it will turn up again in foreign parts – or is that too wishful thinking?

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

GIBRALTAR POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY RINGING TOTALS 1981

	RINGED			RECOVERED		
	FG	Pull	1981 total	Grand total	1981	Grand total
Little Grebe.....	1	—	1	3	—	1
Gannet.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Shag.....	—	—	—	1	—	1
Grey Heron.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Shelduck.....	—	—	—	2	—	—
Wigeon.....	—	—	—	1	—	1
Teal.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
* Montagu's Harrier.....	—	—	—	2	—	—
Sparrowhawk.....	1	—	1	31	—	5
Kestrel.....	5	—	5	29	—	3
Merlin.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Reg-legged Partridge.....	1	—	1	38	—	1
Grey Partridge.....	—	—	—	24	—	3
Pheasant.....	7	—	7	24	1	3
Water Rail.....	2	—	2	15	—	—
Corncrake.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Moorhen.....	—	—	—	7	—	—
Coot.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Oystercatcher.....	—	3	3	599	4	12
Little Ringed Plover.....	—	—	—	4	—	—
Ringed Plover.....	1	83	84	417	4	7
Golden Plover.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Grey Plover.....	—	—	—	12	—	1
Lapwing.....	1	—	1	19	—	—
Knot.....	—	—	—	104	—	1
Sanderling.....	—	—	—	141	—	3
Little Stint.....	—	—	—	20	—	—
Curlew Sandpiper.....	—	—	—	23	—	1
Dunlin.....	4	—	4	491	1	9
Ruff.....	—	—	—	1	—	1
Jack Snipe.....	3	—	3	13	—	—
Snipe.....	1	—	1	26	—	1
Woodcock.....	6	—	6	37	—	2
Bar-tailed Godwit.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Whimbrel.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Curlew.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Spotted Redshank.....	—	—	—	4	—	—
Redshank.....	1	3	4	61	—	1
Greenshank.....	—	—	—	3	—	—
Green Sandpiper.....	—	—	—	4	—	—
Wood Sandpiper.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Common Sandpiper.....	1	—	1	21	—	1
Turnstone.....	—	—	—	4	—	1
Black-headed Gull.....	—	—	—	40	—	1
Common Gull.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Little Tern.....	—	35	35	111	—	3
Razorbill.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puffin.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Stock Dove.....	—	4	4	55	—	2
Woodpigeon.....	3	6	9	137	—	7
Collared Dove.....	—	—	—	13	—	1
Turtle Dove.....	8	—	8	72	—	1
Cuckoo.....	5	—	5	182	—	9
Barn Owl.....	—	—	—	9	—	3
Little Owl.....	1	—	1	10	—	1
Tawny Owl.....	—	—	—	2	—	—
Long-eared Owl.....	—	—	—	13	—	1
Short-eared Owl.....	1	—	1	9	1	3
Nightjar.....	—	—	—	2	—	—
Swift.....	4	—	4	5	—	—
Kingfisher.....	2	—	2	25	—	—
Wryneck.....	2	—	2	50	—	—
Green Woodpecker.....	—	—	—	4	—	—
Great Spotted Woodpecker.....	1	—	1	20	—	1
Skylark.....	18	49	67	747	1	7
Shorelark.....	—	—	—	11	—	—
Sand Martin.....	—	—	—	26	—	—
Swallow.....	147	42	189	822	2	22
House Martin.....	1	—	1	26	—	—
Tree Pipit.....	1	—	1	62	—	—
Meadow Pipit.....	14	19	33	817	—	9
Rock Pipit.....	1	—	1	11	—	—
Yellow Wagtail.....	—	—	—	27	—	—
Pied Wagtail.....	3	—	3	44	—	1
Waxwing.....	—	—	—	2	—	—
Wren.....	149	—	149	1676	1	14
Duncock.....	586	—	586	7974	6	59

RINGING TOTALS 1981 – continued

	RINGED		1981 total	Grand total	RECOVERED	
	FG	Pull			1981	Grand total
* Rufous Bush Robin.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Robin.....	120	—	120	2115	1	25
Nightingale.....	1	—	1	10	1	1
Bluethroat.....	—	—	—	10	—	—
Black Redstart.....	2	—	2	22	—	—
Redstart.....	32	—	32	1306	—	10
Whinchat.....	22	—	22	278	—	—
Stonechat.....	1	—	1	28	—	—
Wheatear.....	9	—	9	226	—	2
Ring Ouzel.....	1	—	1	57	—	3
Blackbird.....	454	3	457	9148	9	201
Fieldfare.....	128	—	128	743	2	21
Song Thrush.....	211	—	211	3297	3	56
Redwing.....	90	—	90	1051	1	14
Mistle Thrush.....	6	—	6	150	1	5
Grasshopper Warbler.....	—	—	—	14	—	—
Sedge Warbler.....	29	—	29	773	1	4
Reed Warbler.....	66	—	66	688	—	10
Icterine Warbler.....	—	—	—	20	—	—
Sardinian Warbler.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Barred Warbler.....	8	—	8	47	—	—
Lesser Whitethroat.....	151	—	151	954	2	5
Whitethroat.....	207	3	210	5014	2	24
Garden Warbler.....	39	—	39	1006	1	2
Blackcap.....	113	—	113	1419	—	6
Greenish Warbler.....	1	—	1	2	—	—
Pallas's Warbler.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Yellow-browed Warbler.....	—	—	—	5	—	—
Wood Warbler.....	—	—	—	30	—	—
Chiffchaff.....	18	—	18	440	—	5
Willow Warbler.....	398	—	398	7269	3	17
Goldcrest.....	237	—	237	2228	3	13
Firecrest.....	—	—	—	27	—	—
Spotted Flycatcher.....	16	—	16	353	—	2
Red-breasted Flycatcher.....	—	—	—	8	—	—
Pied Flycatcher.....	46	—	46	1285	—	13
Bearded Tit.....	—	—	—	2	—	—
Long-tailed Tit.....	17	—	17	502	1	5
Marsh Tit.....	4	—	4	5	—	—
Willow Tit.....	4	—	4	93	—	2
Coal Tit.....	9	—	9	82	—	—
Blue Tit.....	298	16	314	2800	5	55
Great Tit.....	89	6	95	745	5	15
Treecreeper.....	2	—	2	19	—	—
Red-backed Shrike.....	1	—	1	9	—	—
Great Grey Shrike.....	—	—	—	6	—	—
Jay.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Maggie.....	5	—	5	69	1	8
Jackdaw.....	—	—	—	12	—	—
Hooded Crow.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Starling.....	219	24	243	2252	6	69
* Rose-coloured Starling.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
House Sparrow.....	154	—	154	7102	2	80
Tree Sparrow.....	281	89	370	3735	3	19
Chaffinch.....	125	—	125	1349	4	14
Brambling.....	83	—	83	380	—	1
Greenfinch.....	307	—	307	2323	—	28
Goldfinch.....	348	—	348	2039	2	20
Siskin.....	20	—	20	58	—	1
Linnet.....	124	—	124	2173	2	12
Twite.....	17	—	17	87	—	3
Redpoll.....	269	—	269	2229	2	32
Crossbill.....	1	—	1	13	—	1
Bullfinch.....	65	—	65	533	—	11
Hawfinch.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Snow Bunting.....	1	—	1	162	—	2
Yellowhammer.....	58	2	60	576	1	7
Rustic Bunting.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
Reed Bunting.....	166	4	170	2715	—	11
Corn Bunting.....	1	—	1	37	—	—
	6052	391	6443	89353	84	1035
Species:			86	147	34	81

*Species ringed at sites away from the Reserve.

County Ringing Report 1981

Compiled by P. Boyer

In 1981, as a result of the activities of 26 ringers or groups of ringers, 31,252 birds of 131 species were ringed in Lincolnshire and South Humberside. This figure shows a slight increase over 1980 and in this introduction I shall examine some of the increases and decreases and offer some possible explanations.

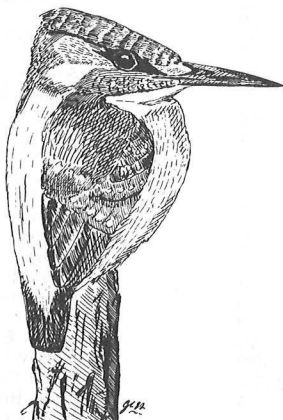
The most easily explained increases are those involving Black-headed Gull (+83%) and Sand Martin (+161%), with both these species being subject to particular interest of individual ringers. The gulls were mainly ringed as non-fledged youngsters at colonies and the martins as flying birds, both at colonies and pre-migration autumn roosts.

The group of species showing the greatest increase was the finches, with increases of 116% for Chaffinch, 39% for Greenfinch, and for Brambling a huge increase of 580%. This species is however one that is not normally ringed in large numbers in Lincolnshire. These changes may be due to the two cold spells during the year, when finches and associated species were more readily caught at regular feeding sites. Three other species showing an increase for this reason are Tree Sparrow 56%, Yellowhammer 181% and Reed Bunting 37%. Goldfinches also show an increase of 89% but these birds were mainly caught at Gibraltar Point during the autumn migration period.

One group of species showing an overall decrease was the thrushes with reductions of 17% for Blackbird, 19% Song Thrush and 51% Redwing. This is probably due to a poor autumn migration through Lincolnshire and therefore a reduction in numbers of birds available to be caught. This theory is reinforced by a decrease in the numbers of Robins ringed (down 19%) since this species is normally associated with migrating thrushes. Fieldfares however show an increase of 71% over 1980 and this may be largely due both to increased interest in the species and the cold spell in December which increased catching possibilities in this normally very wary species.

Waders were, as usual, mainly caught by the Wash Wader Ringing Group using canon nets in various sites on the Wash, and further information on all the group's work is contained in their recent report covering the years 1979-80. This report gives details of ringing, colour marking, moult sequences and wader weights. Copies may be obtained priced £2.50 from Dr N. J. B. A. Branson, Trinity College, Cambridge.

One of the highlights of any day's ringing is the discovery of a bird ringed in another country and there were 31 such occurrences reported during 1981. Eleven of the birds come from Norway, 5 each from Poland and Sweden, 4 from Finland, 2 each from the Channel Isles and the U.S.S.R. and one each from the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, West Germany, East Germany, Portugal and Mauritania. Details of all these birds can be found in the list of recoveries which follows the ringing totals list.



County Ringing Totals 1981 (Gibraltar Point totals included)

Little Grebe	2	Meadow Pipit	47
Great Crested Grebe	1	Rock Pipit	1
Shag	1	Yellow Wagtail	20
Grey Heron	1	Pied Wagtail	104
Mute Swan	9	Wren	665
Canada Goose	1	Dunnoch	1788
Brent Goose	1	Robin	559
Shelduck	3	Nightingale	6
Wigeon	3	Black Redstart	2
Gadwall	8	Redstart	63
Teal	4	Whinchat	42
Mallard	406	Stonechat	1
Tufted Duck	17	Wheatear	13
Sparrowhawk	3	Ring Ouzel	2
Kestrel	24	Blackbird	2445
Red-legged Partridge	6	Fieldfare	302
Pheasant	7	Song Thrush	824
Water Rail	2	Redwing	181
Moorhen	15	Mistle Thrush	11
Coot	72	Grasshopper Warbler	19
Oystercatcher	170	Sedge Warbler	240
Ringed Plover	92	Reed Warbler	410
Golden Plover	2	Icterine Warbler	2
Grey Plover	105	Barred Warbler	13
Lapwing	6	Lesser Whitethroat	350
Knot	21	Whitethroat	606
Sanderling	1	Garden Warbler	154
Dunlin	1278	Blackcap	403
Ruff	10	Greenish Warbler	1
Jack Snipe	4	Chiffchaff	115
Snipe	21	Willow Warbler	1250
Woodcock	13	Goldcrest	606
Black-tailed Godwit	1	Firecrest	1
Bar-tailed Godwit	19	Spotted Flycatcher	65
Curlew	7	Pied Flycatcher	82
Redshank	107	Bearded Tit	4
Greenshank	2	Long-tailed Tit	236
Green Sandpiper	2	Marsh Tit	15
Common Sandpiper	8	Willow Tit	82
Turnstone	40	Coal Tit	88
Black-headed Gull	469	Blue Tit	1546
Common Gull	27	Great Tit	568
Herring Gull	1	Nuthatch	2
Common Tern	28	Treecreeper	49
Little Tern	55	Red-backed Shrike	1
Stock Dove	26	Jay	6
Woodpigeon	37	Magpie	5
Collared Dove	21	Jackdaw	1
Turtle Dove	28	Starling	1676
Cuckoo	7	House Sparrow	343
Barn Owl	4	Tree Sparrow	815
Little Owl	4	Chaffinch	909
Tawny Owl	4	Brambling	306
Long-eared Owl	1	Greenfinch	2156
Short-eared Owl	2	Goldfinch	475
Swift	6	Siskin	21
Kingfisher	29	Linnet	540
Wryneck	3	Twite	18
Green Woodpecker	1	Redpoll	603
Great Spotted Woodpecker	6	Crossbill	1
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	5	Bullfinch	394
Skylark	89	Snow Bunting	1
Sand Martin	909	Yellowhammer	883
Swallow	3174	Reed Bunting	607
House Martin	9	Corn Bunting	61
Tree Pipit	5	Linnet x Greenfinch	1

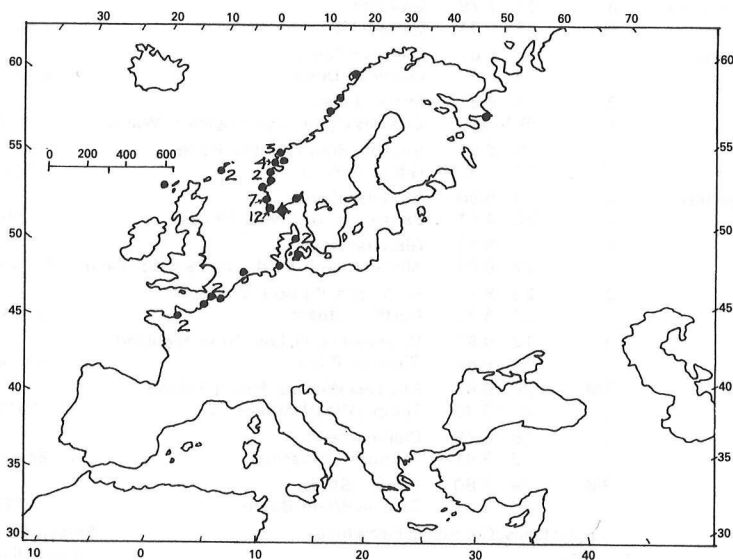
SELECTED RINGING RECOVERIES

Key to symbols and terms used in the recovery lists

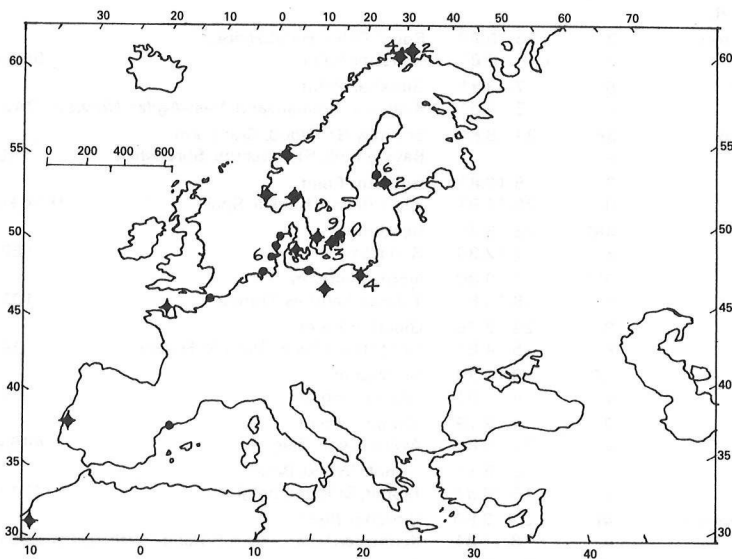
- Arrangement of entry: recoveries are arranged by species; ringing details are given on the first line and recovery data on the second.
- Age when ringed: this is given according to the EURING code; the figures do *not* represent years. Interpretation is as follows:
- 1 pullus (= nestling or chick)
 - 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 recover unknown
- Distance: distances, given in kilometers, and directions are approximate.

Greylag Goose	4F	27. 6.76	Loch Ochiltree, Dumfries & Galloway.	
	+	6.12.80	Kirkby-on-Bain	360 km SE
Coot	4F	25.11.72	Deeping St. James.	
	+	10. 2.80	Manfredonia, Italy	1726 km SE
	3	18. 8.80	Deeping St. James.	
	+	31. 1.81	Loch Spynie, Elgin, Grampian	590 km NNW
	3	13.10.71	Deeping St. James.	
	x	16. 3.81	Corby, Northants.	29 km WSW
Oystercatcher (See map)				
Little Ringed Plover	1	13. 7.80	Tallington.	
	+	15.10.81	Bouches du Rhone, France	1071 km S
Curlew	1	12. 7.78	Oulun, Laani, Finland.	
	x	25.10.81	North Somercotes	1954 km SW
Dunlin (See map)				
Black-headed Gull	6	5. 2.73	Deeping St. James.	
	x	15. 6.81	Skovsgard/Brovst, Jylland, Denmark	792 km NE
	6	13. 2.78	Boston.	
	x	30. 5.81	Sjolunda, Malmo, Sweden	895 km ENE
	5	3. 1.79	Boston.	
	+	24. 5.81	Ystad, Malmohus, Sweden	945 km ENE
	6	15. 1.80	Boston.	
	+	27. 6.81	Junbygda, Hedmart, Norway	1120 km NE
	1	14. 6.75	Nr. Bromarv, Uusimaa, Finland.	
	x	5. 5.81	Gibraltar Point	1578 km WSW
	1	7. 6.79	Vareserahu, Parnu, Estoniya, USSR.	
	x	8. 3.81	Wainfleet Marsh	1580 km WSW
	1	14. 6.80	Pieterburen, Groningen, Netherlands.	
	()	30. 7.81	Alford	416 km W
	5	3. 1.79	Zwin, Knokke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.	
	v	19.12.81	Boston	292 km WNW
Common Gull	4	5. 2.79	Holton Le Clay, Grimsby.	
	+	2. 7.81	Viker, Onsoy, Ostfold, Norway	925 km NE

Sand Martin	3	25. 7.81	Dyce, Aberdeen.	
	v	4. 9.81	Barton-on-Humber	406 km SSE
	3	23. 8.81	North Connel, Strathclyde.	
	v	28. 8.81	Barrow Haven	443 km SE
	3	10. 8.81	Carse of Delnies, Nairn, Highland.	
	v	4. 9.81	Barton-on-Humber	485 km SSE
	?	22. 7.80	Blanches Banques, St. Peter, Jersey	
	vF	24. 5.81	Ancaster Pit	440 km NNE
		8. 6.81	" "	
Swallow	3	31. 8.80	Gibraltar Point.	
	v	5. 5.81	Ebental, Klagenfurt, Kamten, Austria	1232 km ESE
	3	24. 7.80	Errol, Tayside.	
	vM	20. 9.81	Barrow Haven	348 km SSE
Wren	3	10.10.80	Gibraltar Point.	
	x	30. 7.81	Sheffield, South Yorkshire	112 km WNW
Nightingale	4	3. 5.79	Gibraltar Point.	
	v	1. 5.81	Wappenbury Wood, Warwicks	147 km SW
Redstart	2F	27. 8.80	Rimac Dunes.	
	v	14. 5.81	Revtangen, Rogaland, Norway	680 km NNE
Blackbird	3F	25.10.80	Theddlethorpe.	
	v	12. 4.81	Helgoland, West Germany	514 km E
	3F	2.11.80	Theddlethorpe.	
	x	20. 6.81	Malilla, Kalmar, Sweden	1079 km ENE
	3M	31.10.80	Rimac Dunes.	
	x	28. 3.81	Silkeborg, Jylland, Denmark	675 km ENE
	6M	13. 2.80	Gibraltar Point.	
	v	8. 1.81	Orum, Jylland, Denmark	704 km ENE
	3F	23.10.80	Gibraltar Point.	
	x	8. 4.81	Coesfeld, Nunster, West Germany	469 km ESE
	3F	12.10.80	Vranes, Randesund, Vest-agder, Norway.	
	v	5. 1.81	North Waltham	719 km SW
	1	29. 6.80	Skarscatra, Lidingo, Stockholm, Sweden.	
	v	7.11.81	Gibraltar Point	1300 km WSW
Fieldfare	5M	9. 1.80	Gibraltar Point.	
	x	5. 8.81	Turjanvirta, Varkaus, Kuopio, Finland	1915 km NE
	5M	20. 1.80	Gibraltar Point.	
	x	14.10.81	Harstard, Troms, Norway	1941 km NNE
	6	19. 2.79	Cleethorpes.	
	x	3. 4.81	Vuosaari, Helsinki, Finland	1693 km ENE
	3F	5.12.76	Bourne Fen.	
	x	18. 7.81	Oube, Finland	
Song Thrush	3	2.10.79	Theddlethorpe.	
	x	22. 2.81	Camas, Sevilla, Spain	1841 km SSW
	3	3.10.79	Gibraltar Point.	
	x	8. 1.81	Fuentos de Leon, Badajoz, Spain	1750 km SSW
	3	4.10.79	North Somercotes.	
	x	(14. 7.81)	Montijo, Estremadura, Portugal	1783 km SSW
	3	25.10.80	Gibraltar Point.	
Sedge Warbler	x	21. 3.81	Zuurdijk, Ezinge, Groningen, Netherlands	404 km E
	3	4. 9.81	Gibraltar Point.	
	v	12. 9.81	Lodmoor, Weymouth, Dorset	336 km SSW
	3	29. 8.81	North Cotes.	
	v	6. 9.81	Bybrook, Ashford, Kent	266 km SSE
Reed Warbler	3	13. 8.78	Wrangle, Boston.	
	v	15. 8.81	Titchfield Haven, Hants.	263 km SSW
	4F	1. 8.80	Rimac Dunes.	
	v	25. 7.81	Teesmouth, Cleveland	164 km NNW



Oystercatcher: Foreign recoveries, 1981



Dunlin: Foreign recoveries, 1981

KEY

- Ringed in Lincs. – Controlled/Recovered Abroad
- ◆ Ringed Abroad – Controlled/Recovered Lincs.

Lesser Whitethroat	3	21. 7.79	Gibraltar Point.	
	vM	21. 5.81	Cottam P.S., Retford, Notts.	77 km WNW
Garden Warbler	3	1. 9.81	Gibraltar Point.	
	v	28. 9.81	Lundy Is., Devon	403 km WSW
	3	6. 9.81	Rimac Dunes.	
	x	(9.11.81)	Skerries Lighthouse, Anglesey, Wales	319 km W
Blackcap	1	8. 6.81	Sholing, Southampton, Hants.	
	vM	17. 9.81	Gibraltar Point	272 km NNE
Willow Warbler	3	6. 8.80	Gibraltar Point.	
	v	22. 4.81	Bardsey Is., Gwynedd, Wales	346 km W
	4	7. 5.81	Gibraltar Point.	
	x	27. 6.81	Kincardine-on-Forth, Fife Reg., Scotland	417 km NNW
	3	23. 8.77	St. Albans, Purbeck, Dorset.	
	v	27. 5.81	North Waltham	355 km NNE
	3	12. 8.81	Drumnadrochit, Loch Ness, Highland.	
	v	14. 9.81	Gibraltar Point	561 km SSE
Goldcrest	3M	26. 9.80	Mierzeja Wislana, Elblag, Poland.	
	v	31.10.80	Temple Wood, Bourne	1313 km W
Blue Tit	3	25. 9.79	Cleethorpes.	
	v	9. 3.81	Fairburn, Yorkshire	86 km WNW
Great Tit	3M	18.12.80	Himley, Staffs.	
	v	20. 4.81	Temple Wood, Bourne	122 km W
Starling			Ringed Lincs./Controlled Elsewhere	Ringed Elsewhere/ Controlled Lincs.
UK outside Lincs.		6		3
Netherlands		3		
West Germany		1		1
Sweden		4		
Finland		1		
U.S.S.R.				1
Tree Sparrow	3	25. 6.80	Spurn Point, Humberside.	
	v	11. 5.81	Gibraltar Point	56 km SSW
Chaffinch	5F	7. 3.81	Gibraltar Point.	
	v	5. 4.81	Kvareres, Kristiansand, Vest-Agder, Norway	742 km NE
Greenfinch	3F	31. 8.81	Boothby Gt. Wood, Grantham.	
	v		Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, Shropshire	148 km W
Goldfinch	3	5.10.81	Gibraltar Point.	
	(I)	20.11.81	Isla, Cristina, Huelva, Spain	1864 km SSW
	4M	26. 8.80	Banthorpe.	
	x	7.12.80	Soria, Spain	1222 km S
Linnet	3M	1. 9.80	North Waltham.	
	x	28.10.80	Ychoux, Landres, France	1024 km S
	3	29. 9.79	Gibraltar Point.	
	x	15. 4.81	La Teste du Buch, Gironde, France	947 km S
Twite	3F	28.10.79	Nr. Boston.	
	v	4. 1.81	Gibraltar Point	27 km NE
Redpoll	3	4. 9.79	Gibraltar Point.	
	v	22.10.81	Awirs, Liege, Belgium	445 km ESE
	3	10. 5.81	Temple Wood, Bourne.	
	v	19.10.81	Tesfelt, Brabant, Belgium	421 km ESE
Yellowhammer	4F	22. 3.80	Gibraltar Point.	
	v	8.11.81	Kennemerdivinen, Nord-Holland, Netherlands	295 km ESE
Reed Bunting	4M	27. 9.80	Barton-on-Humber.	
	v	4.11.80	Gayton, Wirral, Merseyside	180 km WSW

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