

**Lincolnshire
Bird
Report
1982**



**Including the
Gibraltar Point
Observatory Report**

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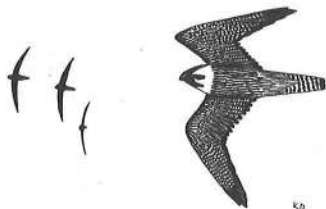
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Waterbird Counts 1981-82

Observer cover during the 1981/82 winter was very similar to the preceding season. Only 9 waters were counted in 6 or more months, compared with 12 in 80/81, but this was largely due to the midwinter freeze, described below. By contrast 17 waters were counted in 3 or more months, compared with 14 in 80/81. The major difference was that the International Waterfowl Census took place this year in January only, not January and March as in previous years. This is reflected in lower totals in March 82 of some species, such as Tufted Duck and Coot, which would by then be present on (uncounted) smaller waters. In addition Coot were counted regularly on almost all waters in 81/82, unlike the previous winter, so that the totals now give a more accurate picture of this species.

In mid-December 1981 the county was hit by blizzards with very low temperatures which persisted until the month end and returned, after a short milder period at New Year, until mid January 1982. All inland waters were more or less affected. On the official count date (Dec 13) a count was still possible on most waters, though the state of the roads often made reaching them rather dangerous. A few days later most waters were closed and some remained frozen for up to a month; extra counts in January came only from the south of the county and the coast. However most of the major waters were counted in January and since the freeze fell between two counts, it affected the survey less than it might have done.

Twenty-nine species were again recorded in 81/82, but four, Great Northern Diver, Slavonian Grebe, Red-crested Pochard and Smew were not recorded this winter. The four new species, Pinkfoot, Whitefront and Brent Geese and Eider, were all on the coast in January. Of the remaining species the majority, including the grebes, the swans, Wigeon, Gadwall, Pintail, Shoveler, Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Velvet Scoter, Goldeneye and the sawbills, show a similar pattern of numbers and distribution to the previous year. One or two of these call for comment; the increase in Shoveler numbers in March for example, was largely due to flocks at Baston Fen and Messingham, which between them held 41 of the 52 birds counted. The most important sites for wintering Goldeneye on the other hand were Covenham Reservoir and Barton-Barrow pits, which held 70-100% of the total in all months. (Note that these comments only apply to sites included in, and to the counts made for, the Waterbird Census).

Several species show an increase in numbers from 80/81. In the case of the Greylag this is due to the inclusion of the feral flock at Kirkby-on-Bain/Revesby in January and February but for Canada Geese the increase is more general. During 1981 numbers increased at Denton, Messingham Sand Quarries and Barton, while counts from Burton pits were available in 81/82 for the first time. All these sites regularly held flocks of 50+ throughout the winter, while the large flock at Grimsthorpe was also included in the January count.

The vast increase in Shelduck numbers on the other hand is due entirely to the inclusion in 81/82 of the counts at Pyewipes basin. As shown by Shepherd et al (1982) this site is certainly of national and probably of international significance for this species (1% international population figure exceeded in November 1981). Very small numbers were recorded elsewhere until Feb/March when the movement to breeding sites begins.

Pochard showed a quite different pattern in 81/82 to the previous season, when there was a January peak of more than 600 birds. This probably reflects both the midwinter freeze and the timing of counts at Toft Newton reservoir and Kirkby-on-Bain pits, which regularly held the bulk of this species. All the other sizeable flocks were in the NW, at Barton-Barrow, Messingham and Winterton Road, Scunthorpe.

Four species were clearly affected by the cold, with numbers dropping away after a pronounced peak in November-December. They are Teal, Mallard, Tufted Duck and Coot. The extent of this drop is in fact greater than the figures suggest, since it is masked by the additional waters counted in January, which account for at least a third of the January total in these species.

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

Anne Goodall

Reference

Shepherd, I. G., Hayhow, S. J. & Roden, A. The Birds of Pyewipes mudflats. Report to the NCC, Hull, 1982.

Table 1 Monthly Waterbird Totals, 1981-82

<i>Species</i>	<i>Sep.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>
Little Grebe	6	3	7	12	5	2	10
Great Crested Grebe	28	31	30	5	6	34	46
Red-necked Grebe						1	
Mute Swan	132	266	286	134	112	64	70
Bewick's Swan			6			7	
Whooper Swan		1		5		4	
Pinkfooted Goose					1		
Whitefronted Goose					2		
Greylag Goose			2	1	50	130	4
Canada Goose	251	20	253	302	438	112	77
Barnacle Goose				1			1
Brent Goose					105		
Shelduck	327	697	1372	321	648	629	929
Wigeon	75	22	78	158	251	113	55
Gadwall			3	1		18	6
Teal	173	71	279	271	60	55	196
Mallard	1036	1025	2022	2037	1595	1031	567
Pintail	5					3	4
Shoveler	10	12	19	1		4	52
Pochard	17	492	215	189	135	429	226
Tufted Duck	57	228	394	704	342	632	268
Scaup	1	2	3		11		
Eider					46		
Long-tailed Duck		1	1				
Velvet Scoter					1		
Goldeneye		7	77	99	119	121	103
Red-breasted Merganser					1		
Goosander			3		3	18	11
Coot	88	1142	1279	922	989	707	337

Table 2 Waters Counted, 1981-82

<i>Site</i>	<i>Months counted</i>							
Barrow-Barton pits and shore				N	D	J	F	M
Bagmoor Mines				N	D	J	F	M
Winterton Road Mines			O	N	D	J	F	M
N. Killingholme Pits				N		J	F	M
Pyewipes Basin		S	O	N	D	J	F	M
Ashbyville Lake				N	D	J	F	M
Twigmoor Gull Ponds			O	N			F	M
Messingham Sand Quarries			O	N		J	F	M
Holme Plantation Lake		S		N		J		
Cadney Reservoir					D		F	
Covenham Reservoir		S	O	N	D	J	F	M
Toft Newton Reservoir			O		D	J	F	
Burton Gravel Pits		S	O	N	D	J	F	M
Sea Bank Pits		S	O	N		J	F	M
Kirkby-on-Bain Pits						J	F	
Gibraltar Point Mere		S	O	N	D	J	F	M
Denton Reservoir		S	O	N	D		F	M
Baston Fen NR		S	O	N	D	J	F	M
River Welland		S	O	N		J	F	M

Additional Waters counted in January only.

NE coast, Immingham – Horseshoe Point; Revesby Reservoir; Grimsthorpe Lake; Deeping and Tallington Pits.

Nil Returns in January (Frozen):

Burton Stather Brick Pits; Brigg Island Lake; Clugston Pits, Messingham; Riseholme Lake; Sudbrooke Park Lane; Nocton Wood claypit.

Breeding Waders of Wet Meadows, 1982

During 1982 the British Trust for Ornithology, in association with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Nature Conservancy Council, co-ordinated a survey of the use of wet meadows by breeding waders, wildfowl and other associated species.

Objectives

The main object of the survey was to identify extant wet grassland sites of importance for breeding waders and wildfowl before those sites were lost through drainage and agricultural improvement. The data obtained will provide a baseline against which future changes can be compared by the BTO, and also will be used for conservation assessment purposes by the NCC, the RSPB and the County Trusts. Apart from the waders requiring special attention, which were Lapwing, Snipe, Redshank and Curlew, the survey also included surface-feeding ducks, Moorhens, Meadow Pipits, Yellow Wagtails, Sedge Warblers and Reed Buntings. Other species recorded with some frequency were Coots and Pied Wagtails.

Method

After a schedule of suitable sites had been prepared based on information provided by Club Area Representatives and R. B. Wilkinson (Field Officer, County Trust) recorders were issued with 1:25,000 scale maps, survey cards and instructions for carrying out the survey. On the maps the recorders were asked to mark (a) the site boundaries, (b) the position of permanent standing water and marshy areas and (c) the locations of major concentrations of breeding waders. Most sites were visited three times between mid April and the end of June, but records from single visits were also welcomed and were particularly relevant where it was found that 'known' good sites had recently been improved for agricultural purposes.

Recorders noted the numbers of paired or displaying birds (e.g. Snipe drumming) and other single birds which were believed to be breeding. 'Pairs' on the survey form were based on obviously paired individuals, displaying or singing males, nests or broods. Habitat details such as percentage of area wet, damp or dry were noted together with method of management such as hay-making, grazing or cultivation.

Results

Out of 27 sites producing positive results from a total area of 1,180 hectares, 50% were grazed (592 ha.), 17% were used for hay-making (198 ha.), and 33% had been converted to arable use (390 ha.). The average site area was 43.7 hectares (maximum 220, minimum 2.5). Sites mainly shut up for hay tended to have fewer pairs of waders than sites which were grazed or subject to a combination of both forms of management. However, sites partly grazed and partly cultivated appeared to support more waders than the sites which were solely grazed, a situation which has been noticed where wet meadows adjoin arable land, (e.g. Ouse Washes and Baston Fen), and where this combination appears to contribute to the success of some wader and wildfowl species.

The positive sites produced a total number of pairs of 116 Lapwings, 52 Snipe, 40 Redshanks and 3 Curlews. The Curlews occurred at only two sites, both in the north west of the Bird Club's survey area. Although five sites held 40 pairs of breeding Redshank, 35 of these pairs occurred on reclaimed coastal marshes, and only 5 pairs were found at inland sites.

The dampness of the positive sites is scheduled in the following table, where WET means free water above the toes of boots, DAMP means water above the soles of boots, and DRY means no water at the surface at all.

Table 1

<i>Percentage dampness of positive sites</i>	<i>WET</i>	<i>DAMP</i>	<i>DRY</i>
Timing of visits:			
1st mid April – early May	18	17	65
2nd mid May – early June	11	21	68
3rd June, to end of month	10	20	70

Ten sites produced negative returns and were generally less than 5 hectares in area. However the area did not appear to be important as sites of only 2.5 hectares produced positive results. The important factor was the DAMP percentage, and it was noted that DAMP meadows were of more importance than WET ones. All negative sites were between 90 and 100% DRY by the second visit, and in most cases were 90 to 100% DRY at the first visit.

Other breeding species recorded from the positive sites, in order of numbers of pairs, were:

Mallard (21), Moorhen (19), Meadow Pipit (11), Sedge Warbler (10), Reed Bunting (7), Teal (5), Yellow Wagtail (5), Shelduck (4), Shoveler (3), Tufted Duck (2), Coot (2), Pied Wagtail (2).

Single pairs of the following were noted:

Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Wigeon, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover and Little Ringed Plover.

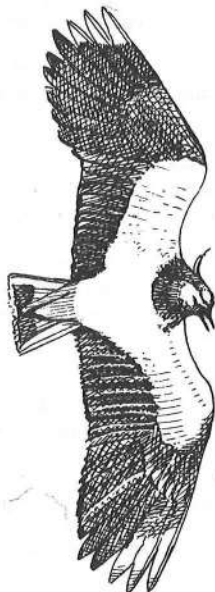
Acknowledgements

I wish to thank all those who took part in the survey and completed the BTO survey forms on which this report is based. I am also grateful to Mr R. B. Wilkinson for co-ordinating the recording on the County Trust reserves and for making Trust information available for this report.

E. J. Redshaw

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The Great Grey Shrike in Lincolnshire/South Humberside 1960-81

Introduction

This paper covers all the records of Great Grey Shrike, *Lanius excubitor* in the county during the period August 1960 to August 1981. The following principles have been used in the analysis which follows. Records have been analysed by winter periods i.e.; August-July rather than by calendar years. Standard 7 day periods were used commencing with July 30-August 5th and ending with July 23-29th. Each record (unless stated otherwise), refers to a single bird, regardless of how long it stayed in any locality. A 'wintering' bird is here regarded as any individual which stayed in one locality for 21 days or more during the year, excepting the two summer records which are dealt with separately.

'The Birds of Lincolnshire' 1952, noted the Great Grey Shrike as 'A very scarce but fairly regular autumn passage migrant and winter visitor', 'most frequently seen on the coast in October but occasionally also November, December and January'. It then noted three 'recent inland records December-January' and three March-April records for 1951-3. The 1968 supplement noted 'annual occurrences with 50 records from September to April', 'with several inland but most on the coast in autumn'.

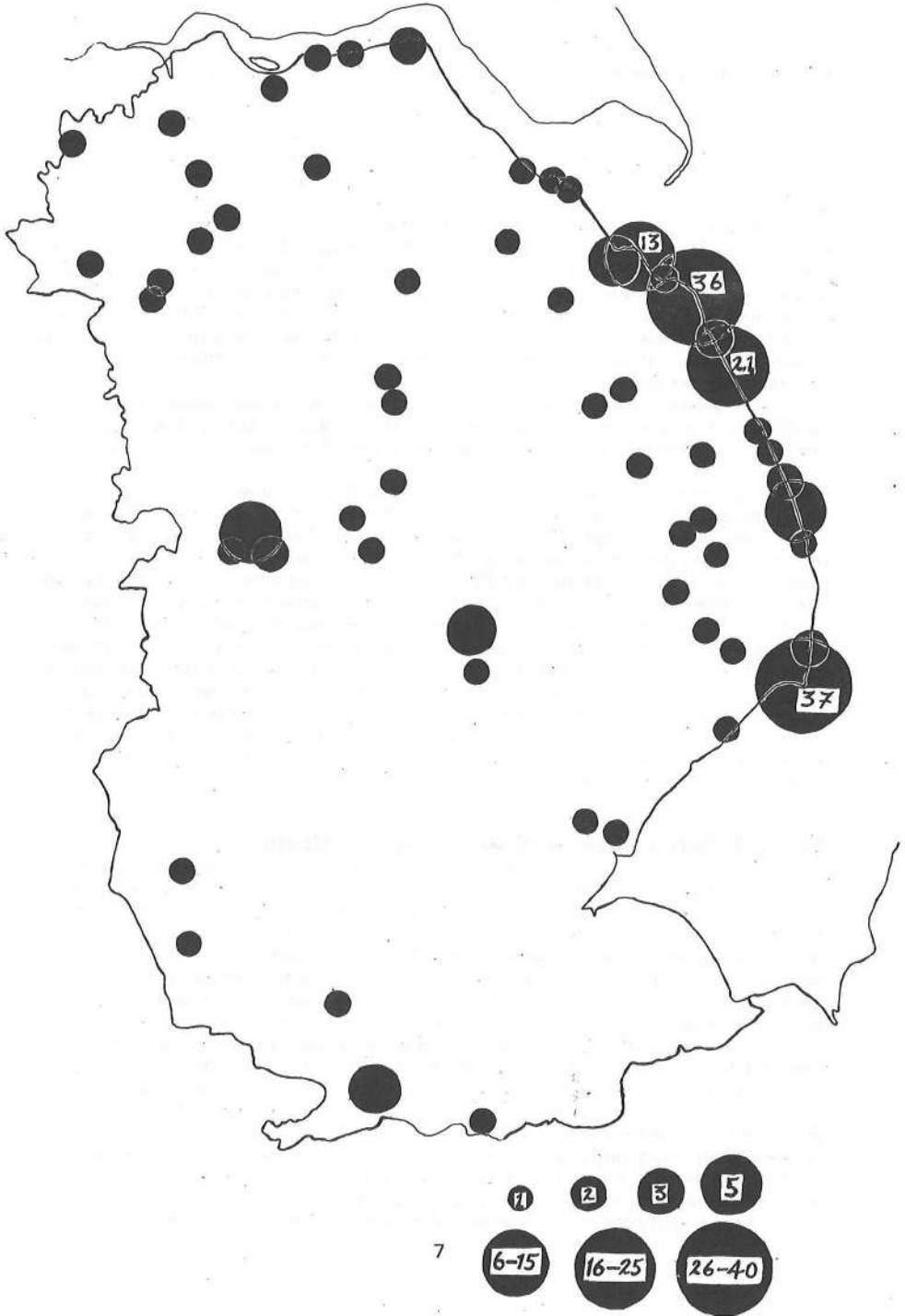
The number of records per winter 1960-1 to 1980-1 are shown in Fig. 1. During the whole period there was a total of 184 records of which the relatively high proportion of 33% were from inland localities. As Fig. 1 shows there was a notable increase in the number of records from the late 1960s onwards, with the all time peak in the 1970-1 winter but relatively fewer records from 1978-9 onwards. The increase from the late 60s must have been affected by the phenomenal increase not only in the number of active observers in the county but also by the increasing amount of time spent on observations at certain localities. Regular, almost daily coverage of some coastal sites, notably Donna Nook from the mid 60s, Saltfleetby from the mid 70s and Gibraltar Point throughout, will have increased the number of records of passage coastal birds, especially during the autumn when the coast is more thoroughly covered. It is however, likely that long-staying birds on the coast would have been recorded at some time during their stay, even with less frequent observations. The increase in the number of observers covering different sites especially inland, and the increased general awareness and interest amongst the general public must have accounted for some of the noted increase in inland records. Shrikes are often quite conspicuous perching on the tops of bushes, on telegraph wires etc; and can draw attention to their presence in this way, where other species would go unnoticed. They are also still of sufficient scarcity to make them 'worth looking for' once reported, by other birders, and thus long-staying birds are more likely to have been well documented during recent winters.

The noted fall in records since 1975-6 however, must be a real one as the number of active observers and the amount of regular watching has continued to increase, possibly even more so since 1975. Thus we would at least have expected a maintenance of the 1973-76 record levels, but all records, winter, autumn and spring, have fallen since 1975-6.

The actual number of wintering birds has remained rather low with a maximum of only four in the 1975-6 winter, a run of records from 1967-8 to 1975-6 and then a pronounced gap until a single again in 1980-1. The wintering bird totals could have been increased slightly by the inclusion of 2-3 birds seen at the same locality on only 2 occasions over a long winter period but the records have been restricted to birds known to have been present at the site throughout the 21 days minimum. Although the map shows clusters of records in close proximity in some areas, they are all split by years and dates into being different records and do not relate to wandering individuals in one winter.

Autumn records largely reflect the totals but there has been a pronounced increase in

Map showing sites of occurrence of Great Grey Shrikes in Lincolnshire/South Humberside 1960-1 to 1980-1



spring passage records since 1971, a record year with 10 records in March-May, most April. This increase is probably related in part to the increase in observer coverage of the coast in spring, since much activity was formerly concentrated on autumn passage with little in spring. This however, is probably not the whole story and cold late spring weather, notably during the 70s may hold up the emigration of wintering birds on the East coast. The 1971 spring peak was also noted in North Norfolk where '14 appeared in coastal localities prior to returning to the continent between April 6-17th'. It was obviously related to the high winter totals during the 1970-1 winter.

Comparing coastal with inland records during the period there were synchronous peaks in 1970-1 but thereafter there was little correlation; large coastal influxes during the autumn did not necessarily lead to a higher total of inland records during the subsequent winter.

Records were spread from September 18th-May 13th, Fig. 2, and in addition there are two authenticated summer records. The first of these was of a bird seen in Grebby Park from mid-May to mid-July 1971, the summer following the peak winter. It had established a territory in the area but during the latter part of its stay appeared to be ill. The second concerned a bird seen at Kirkby Moor from May 25th to June 14th 1975. Both showed characteristics of the nominate race and it is most likely that they were lingering winter visitors, perhaps both being in some way sick and unable to make the return journey to the breeding grounds.

As Fig. 2 shows there is a peak of records in October-November, actual peak October 22-28th, with a much smaller peak in late February and another spring peak in April-May. The inclusion of wintering birds, during each 7 day period they were present, (shaded portion), tends to mask the occurrence pattern.

Splitting the records into coastal/inland, wintering and non-wintering Figs. 3 and 4 shows the actual pattern more clearly. Coastal wintering birds tended to arrive earlier than inland ones, by an average of 3 seven day periods, but from thereon coastal wintering records declined through to the spring while inland ones were fairly constant.

Non-wintering records show very clearly the coastal migration peaks in October and April-May whereas inland records are fairly uniformly scattered through the period from October-April. Inland records of non-wintering birds probably refer to wandering individuals unable to maintain a suitable wintering territory, but they could include birds wintering over a large area where they may only be noted once. They could also be birds which have wintered further inland than Lincolnshire and are returning to the coast for emigration to the breeding areas. The small peak of records in February could be illusory, but this is the time during the winter most prone to spells of hard weather and snowfall and it could be that like other species, during these conditions Great Greys are forced to move to different feeding areas.

Spatial distribution and wintering habitats

In winter quarters Great Grey Shrikes are characteristically birds of open heath with scattered scrub and bushes and wide open spaces, which is the preferred habitat. They are also found in areas of tall hedgerows and scrubby sites, notably with Hawthorn, Blackthorn or Buckthorn cover. This type of habitat is mostly confined to inland sandy heaths and coastal dunes but small fragments can be found in more low-lying marshy areas, old quarries etc. The spatial distribution of records within the county, as shown on the map, clearly reflects the distribution of this type of habitat within the county. There are concentrations of records of passage birds, but also some winterers, on the coastal dune systems with attendant Sea Buckthorn scrub, in the heath districts of the North-west, the heaths round Lincoln and Woodhall Spa areas, and along the southern edge of the Wolds. Other records are scattered through more marginal wintering habitats.

Wintering Great Grey Shrikes are said, on some occasions, to return to individual wintering territories for a number of winters, but there is no direct evidence for this in the county. Certain wintering areas have been used over a number of consecutive winters, but this may be more a factor of the suitability of the site for the species as a wintering area, rather than site fidelity by one specific individual.

During the period concerned there were 9 wintering records at Gibraltar Point, 41% of

Fig. 1 Numbers of Great Grey Shrikes recorded per 'winter' 1960-1 to 1980-1

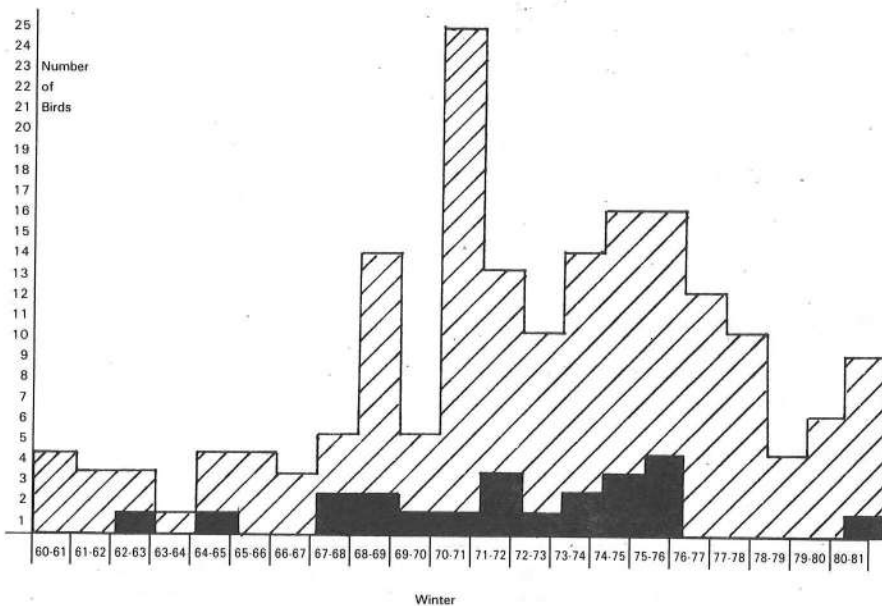
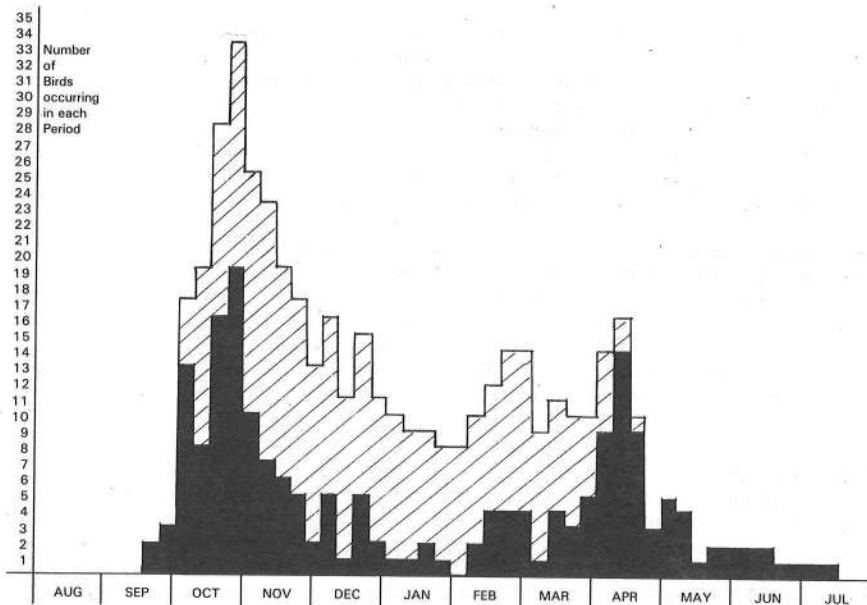


Fig. 2. Occurrence of Great Grey Shrikes analysed in 7 day periods 1960-1 to 1980-1



Key: Black portion - wintering birds
 Shaded portion - all other birds

Note: In Fig 2 wintering birds are recorded for each 7 day period of their stay.

all winter records, with 3 each at Saltfleetby and Donna Dook and otherwise single wintering birds at 6 inland and one coastal site. The inland ones were: Friskney Decoy 64-5, Rand Wood 67-8, Goxhill 70-1, Flixborough 71-2, Tetney blow wells 74-5, and Burton pits 75-6, with the other coastal one at Theddlethorpe 71-2.

These records would tend to refute the theory of birds returning to specific sites for a number of consecutive winters but would suggest that birds settle in the first suitable wintering territory they find, and also suggest that sites are more suitable in some winters than others, presumably due to a better food supply being available. Successful establishment of a winter feeding territory will depend upon the reliability of the food supply through the winter. Great Grey Shrikes feed on a variety of insect and invertebrate life, small mammals, and also to a variable degree on small birds during the winter, thus the regular presence of a number of small passerines in a wintering territory will be advantageous.

Ringling recoveries

There is one ringing recovery of Great Grey Shrike in the County, a bird found dead at Crowland on November 6th 1966 had been ringed at Spurn Point on October 10th of the same year.

Specific Notes

Over past years a number of interesting observations relating to Great Grey Shrikes have been made in the County and a selection are included below. (I should be pleased to hear of any other observations not included below).

A number of birds have been heard singing during the winter at a variety of sites. Singing has always been associated with actual long staying 'wintering' birds. Although recorded from October 12th through to early spring it does not seem to be a feature of birds in spring and this suggests that it is a form of establishment and defence of winter feeding territory. Individuals have been heard singing for up to 15 mins continually and most records in support of the above, have actually been in mid-winter December-January.

Although regularly observed Great Greys are not often seen actually catching prey, and obviously invertebrates would be impossible to identify in the field. There are a number of records of birds chasing a variety of small passerines, but relatively few of actual kills! Species involved range in size from Goldcrest to Greenfinch; Meadow Pipits often seem to come in for attention. A bird at Saltfleetby during the 81-2 winter was a voracious bird eater often seen chasing small passerines. At the same site during December 1975, a Great Grey was seen to fly out over the saltmarsh and stoop at a flock of Twite. Outside the period of this study a bird at Flixborough in December 1982 killed and ate a Dunnock which was mobbing it while perched in a hedge. Also the 1981-2 bird at Saltfleetby was seen 'flycatching' in a rather specialised manner on February 14th. On an unusually warm day it was perching on the top of a group of elder trees and regularly making vertical flights of 15-20 m to intercept flying 'beetles'. It was invariably successful in taking the insects as they flew across the marsh, they were invisible to the eye until watched through binoculars when the birds expert timing was obvious.

It is hoped that the above observations will encourage further study of wintering Great Grey Shrikes in the county, especially as regards territoriality and specific feeding behaviour.

Conclusions

The present study shows that the status of the Great Grey Shrike in Lincolnshire/South Humberside has actually changed little since the original statement in the 'Birds of Lincolnshire', when one takes into account the increase in number of observers and observations during the period since 1952. The Great Grey Shrike is still a relatively scarce but regular autumn and spring passage migrant on the coast, varying considerably in numbers from year to year. It is a scarce, but not annual, winter visitor to the coast and occasionally to inland heaths and similar sites and in addition is a very rare summering vagrant. The varying numbers recorded per winter probably reflect not only the vagaries of migration

Fig. 3 Periods of occurrence of wintering Great Grey Shrikes

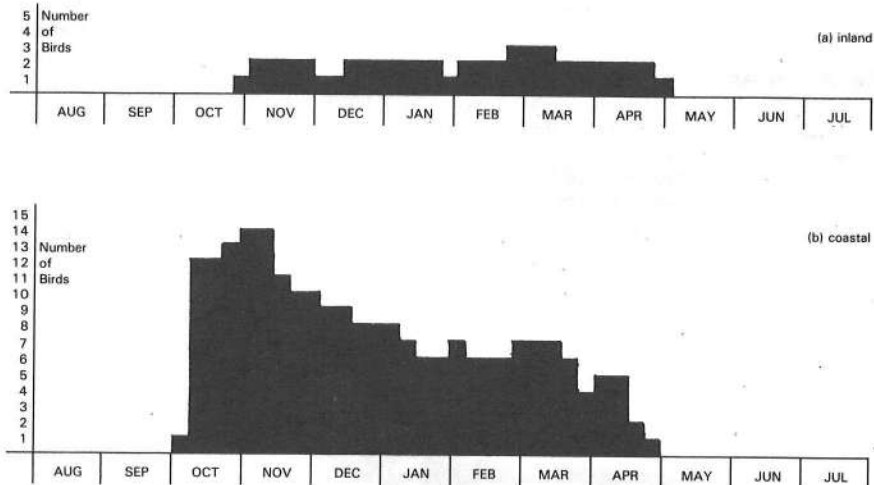
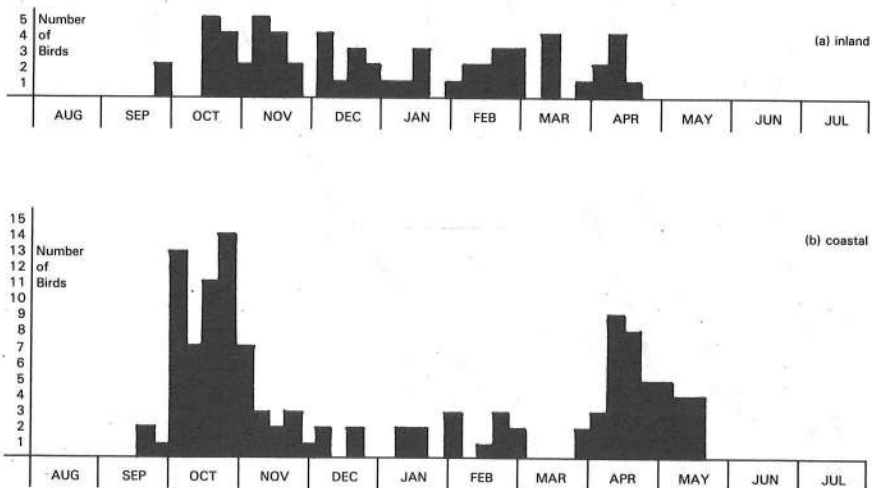


Fig. 4 Periods of occurrence of non wintering Great Grey Shrikes



In Fig. 3 a single wintering bird is recorded for each 7 day period throughout its stay.

but also possibly the population fluctuations within the breeding areas, as with other species of northern winter visitors.

Graham P. Catley

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Systematic List 1982

Compiled by G. P. Catley

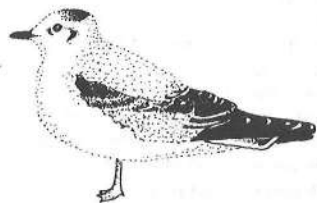
Introduction

The first part of this introduction gives a general idea of the year and the trends of occurrence of some species which featured either by their prominence or absence. This is then followed by a review of the scarcer migrants and rarities which were located during the year.

The very cold weather of late December 1981 and early January produced some hard weather movements of *Lapwings* and *Skylarks* in particular and also accounted for some large wildfowl concentrations. High numbers of *Brent Geese* included some 'Pale-bellied' birds and a single 'Black Brant' while *Bewick's Swans* occurred in exceptional numbers in February in particular. *Hen Harriers* also featured prominently in the early months but wintering thrushes were scarce until returning *Fieldfares* arrived in good numbers in April. Late March and early April brought the early arrival of several summer visitors but from then on the spring migration was in general rather disappointing, with few overshooting migrants and fewer *Marsh* and *Montagu's Harriers* and *Dotterel* than in recent springs. The breeding season seems to have been a fairly good one for most species with few showing a marked reduction after the hard winter: *Hérons* were slightly down but *Kingfishers* were the worst affected with only one pair proved breeding. Of the scarcer species only two pairs of *Black Redstart* were reported breeding and one to two pairs of *Garganey* may have bred while odd pairs of *Sparrowhawk* seem likely to have also bred.

Several species of wader returned early in the 'autumn' from mid July and the bulk of the autumn wader passage was over by late August. *Little Stints* were very scarce and *Curlew Sandpipers* also thin on the ground. There were only one to two light coastal 'falls' in late August-September with few *Wheatear*, *Whinchat*, *Redstart* and *Pied Flycatcher*, all these being more regular in October. Good numbers of *Barred Warbler* were once again noted on the coast. Autumn seabird passage was generally poor except for two good spells September 5-6th and October 7-8th when good numbers of skuas occurred. Large flocks of terns, notably *Sandwich* and *Common* were a feature on the coast in late August-early September. October and November saw some good easterly winds and some notable coastal falls, numbers of *Blackbird* in particular were very high and *Redwing* were well represented but *Fieldfares* were scarce. The mild weather in early November encouraged several summer visitors to linger unusually late especially on the coast, and good numbers of *Chiffchaffs* and *Blackcaps* were still present in December.

Species which tended to be scarcer than usual in 1982 were; *Common* and *Velvet Scoters*, *Purple Sandpiper*, *Little* and *Glaucous Gulls*, *Long-eared Owls* and on passage few *Wryneck*, *Nightingale*, *Red-backed Shrike*, *Bramblings* and *Lapland Buntings*.



Although the numbers of the commoner migrants were not particularly outstanding during 1982 there was still a good crop of rarities and semi-rarities. The year began with a new race of *Brent Goose*, a 'Black Brant' in January and was followed in February by an *Arctic Redpoll* at Saltfleetby which stayed until early April. Two *Iceland Gulls* were found in February-March but the next rarities were not until May with overshooting *Hoopoes* 2, an *Ortolan Bunting*, 3 *Temminck's Stints*, 2 *Spoonbills*, a *Red-footed Falcon* and a *Broad-billed Sandpiper*. The summer was enlivened by an adult *Lesser Golden Plover* in July but the only rarity of note in August was a *Buff-breasted Sandpiper*, the second in two years. Two *Sabine's Gulls* and two *Leach's Petrels* were the seabird highlights of September with a county first in the form of an adult *Sharp-tailed Sandpiper* and a notable county 3rd, a *Blue-winged Teal*. October always tends to produce a good crop of rarities and the 1982 list included 3 *Yellow-browed Warblers*, a *Pallas's*, a *Red-breasted Flycatcher*, *Hoopoe*, *Sabine's Gull*, *Honey Buzzard*, 3 *Richard's Pipits* and 4 different *Parrot Crossbills*. November is generally a quieter month but the discovery of an adult *Isabelline Shrike* at Anderby and another county first an *American Redstart* at Gibraltar Point, both on the 7th, combined to give the autumn a hectic end on a very high note.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Up to 10 were noted on the coast from January-April and August-December, otherwise there were counts of 25 Saltfleetby January 21st and 17 24th, 23 at Donna Nook on February 13th and 22 20th with 30 Saltfleetby 14th. 18 flew north at Donna Nook on April 24th and inland birds were at East Halton January 9-12th and March 8th and New Holland May 26-28th. In the late winter there were more notable numbers in December with 39 at Donna Nook 11th, 70 north off Huttoft 18th and 105 north there 26th, the 33 south 29th and 29 on 28th while 81 flew south at Gibraltar Point on 30th with 35 south 31st.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

In January there were 3 first winter birds at Covenham Res. from 9-13th and one Saltfleetby 24th with one Gibraltar Point 13th February. One was on the Coronation channel at Spalding on March 4th and a first winter at New Holland from 11-20th. Another first winter bird which arrived at Covenham Res. on April 11th stayed throughout the summer, moulting to first summer plumage. It was found dead on August 14th. One flew south at Gibraltar Point on November 14th and one north at Donna Nook December 11th and one south 29th with one at the Witham Mouth December 5-6th.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

There were only two records with one at the Witham Mouth on November 6th and one swimming south at Huttoft on December 18th seen later at Anderby.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

There were 9 at Covenham Res. on January 19th and 8 at Huttoft Pit on April 6th while on the coast a pair bred at Gibraltar Point and probably at Donna Nook. In October there were up to 9 at Gibraltar Point and 8 at Saltfleetby on the 27th with 8 at Donna Nook on December 13th. Up to 5 were noted elsewhere.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Apart from 10 at Covenham Res. January 9th no large numbers were reported in the early winter. By March there were 17 at West Deeping pits on 19th, and 18 at Messingham

20th with 16 at Denton Res. April 21st. Breeding records included single pairs at Chapel pit, Longwood gravel pit and Baston Fen, the latter failed. 4 pairs bred on the River Glen near Guthram and 5 pairs reared 11 juvs. at Denton Res. On the South Humber bank pits 13 pairs reared 10 juvs. and one pair reared two broods, with one juv. April-June then 3 juvs. July 17th, all reared successfully; a late nesting pair were still sitting August 3rd. During the autumn and late winter up to 10 were noted on the coast and in the Wash at a number of sites, with 17-18 between Swineshead and Hubbert's bridge from August 28 to September 11th; 14 Covenham Res. August 7th and October 24th; 14 at the Witham Mouth September 6th and 16 there October 2nd; 25 at West Deeping November 26th and 10 on the River Welland (Spalding-Borough Fen) November 16.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

One stayed in Grimsby Docks until January 6th and there were 2 on Covenham Res. on 9th with one to 10th and one Witham Mouth 31st. An influx in February produced records at New Holland from 3-15th, Sutton Ings 6th-March 7th and Covenham Res. 3rd-March 16th with one later in March at Fulstow pit 23rd. One in full summer plumage was at Covenham Res. June 11-14th then in the autumn/late winter there were singles at the Witham Mouth October 7-8th and 31st, Covenham Res. October 13-23rd and Denton Res. October 31-November 5th and 27th, with one Gibraltar Point December 11th.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

The only records were in autumn with one at West Deeping August 6th and 2 at Covenham Res. 23rd. Two were at the Witham Mouth October 31st two at Gibraltar Point November 9th and one Covenham Res. November 19-28th.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

All the records were at Covenham Res. with one summer plumage June 28th, 2 July 27th and 2 August 24th.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Recorded from January-September only. 2 flew south at Saltfleetby on January 6th, the next being one at Huttoft March 27th. Up to 5 were noted at coastal sites from April-July with one inland at Lincoln Ballast pit on June 11th. Peak autumn numbers were 9 north at Donna Nook August 21st and 12 south there 28th, 23 south Saltfleetby August 18th, 21 south and 8 north at Huttoft 6th with 13 there 15th. One was up the Humber at Goxhill on September 6th with 13 at the Witham Mouth the same day and up to 8 elsewhere on the coast August-September.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

The only record was of one at Saltfleetby on August 19th. (BMC MJT).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

All records were August-October. Up to 5 were noted from Donna Nook to Gibraltar Point with peaks of 23 north and 8 south at Gibraltar Point August 21st and 10 Saltfleetby 15th with 28 there on the 18th. In September 18 flew south and 4 north at Huttoft on the 6th and 12 north and 5 south at Saltfleetby 11th, with 2 at the Witham Mouth 5th. October records were at Saltfleetby 1st, Gibraltar Point 3rd and 2 at Huttoft 8th.

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

2 flew north close inshore at Saltfleetby on September 5th. (BMC).

Gannet *Sula bassana*

Recorded April-November. Up to 20 noted on the coast and in the Wash with peak numbers being during the autumn. On September 5th there were 70 at the Witham Mouth and 50 flew north at Gibraltar Point. Then on the 6th 30 were in the Humber at Goxhill and 121 at the Witham Mouth with 29 north at Donna Nook, while 64 flew south off Huttoft on 26th. In October 108 were at the Witham Mouth during gales on the 8th. November records were at Goxhill 5th, Witham Mouth 2, 6th, Gibraltar Point 13th and Saltfleetby 3 south 15th.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Up to 20 on the coast and in the Wash and Humber with peaks of 30 at Covenham Res. January 9th, 40 Witham Mouth 31st, 30 Gibraltar Point February 13th and 64 between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border 28th. 20 flew south at Donna Nook October 6th and there were up to 60 at the Witham Mouth from late October-December.



Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (illustrated)

All records came from the Witham Mouth, March 13th and October 7th and Donna Nook with 2 flying north April 17th, one dead May 25th and one south August 28th.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

For the first year since the 1940s there were no records from the South Humber Bank pits. The only bird of the year was at Gibraltar Point on October 31st.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

The Heronry census produced the following counts of occupied nests: Abbey Wood, Thornton 31; Gatecliff Wood, Newball 16; Eveden Wood 20; Howsham Wood 15; Laughton Forest 15; The Mere, Deeping 69; Muckton Wood 43; Nocton Wood none; Old Hag Wood, Doddington 19; Troy Wood 70; Willoughby Wood 18.

Following the severe winter some sites were down slightly on 1981 but the total of 316 nests was still equal to 1980; the increase was checked but the decrease was not serious. Peak numbers away from breeding sites were 14 at N. Killingholme May 15th and 13 Surfleet 27th with 12 at Raithby July 6th.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

One flew south at Saltfleetby on May 3rd (ACS et al), and one was seen at Gibraltar Point on May 15th (SEC, AES et al).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Apart from 46 at N. Killingholme on February 10th and 50-60 there November-December the only other large numbers were on the River Welland, Spalding-Borough Fen with 162 May 20th, 53 September 13th, 191 October 18th, 257 November 16th and 269 December 13th.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

A good year with record numbers in the early winter period. In January there were 3 at Covenham Res. and Grainthorpe 14th, 3 Baston Fen 16th, 19 Lea Marshes 20th, 14 Colby Lane (Lincoln) 29th with 13 there to February 3rd, 2 Gibraltar Point 29th and 10 Toft Newton 31st to February 8th. Also in February 10 flew west at New Holland 2nd, and 30 south at Gibraltar Point 2nd with 40 south there 7th, 8 14th, 4 27th and 3 28th. There were 7 at Huttoft 11th and 22 Saltfleetby 24th with a flock of 103 flying south-east over Covenham Res. at 11.50 hrs on 24th (MM). Stragglers in March included one Covenham Res. 5th, with 3 27th, 23 at the Witham Mouth 27th and 2 at Gibraltar Point 13th and 31st. The first late winter birds were 4 at New Holland October 25th with 2 at Gibraltar Point 31st. Small numbers in November-December were; 5 Cleethorpes November 6th, 3 the Witham Mouth 7th, 6 south Donna Nook 6th with one 12-23rd, 9 North Cotes 16th and 3 Saltfleetby 21st with 4 Gibraltar Point 8th and 2 17th then in December one south Donna Nook 4th, and one Baston Fen 10th.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

3 wintering birds were at New Holland to January 14th with 2 to March 30th, and one was at the Witham Mouth January 3rd. In February there were records at Lea Marshes one dead 24th, River Welland 12th, Butterwick 2, 28th and Lincoln Ballast pit 3, 18th with 10 flying south-west at Holbeach 13th and 4 Covenham Res. March 20th. One was on the Brayford Pool Lincoln on June 30th (KD). Late winter birds arrived in October with several records at Gibraltar Point after 6 on 16th, 3 24th, 7 south 25th, 3, 27-30th and in November 3, 7th increasing to 10 on 11th and 3 to 15th. Also in November 9 flew south at Donna Nook 9th and 5 south 25th, 2 south-east at Chapel pit 17th with 5 Saltfleetby 8th, 2 Toft Newton 28th and one Huttoft 6th. The only December records were 4 at the Witham Mouth 4th, 8 south Gibraltar Point 4th and 18 south 5th with 11 north over Covenham 29th.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

4 were seen at Saltfleetby on January 16th (DHu). At Covenham Res. a flock of 13 was noted November 28th (PHY) with 3 there December 3rd (MJT) and 3 again at Huttoft pit December 30th (PHa).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Larger numbers than in recent years were noted both in the early winter and late autumn period. During January-February there were a number of records of parties of up to 50 birds, with larger flocks being; at Gibraltar Point 190 and 117 south January 4th, 230 and 215 south 7th, 280 25th and 130 south 26th. Holbeach held 500 throughout and 80 were at New Holland 23rd. In February 220 flew north-west at New Holland 1st with 124 at the Witham Mouth 6th and 200 Waddington 8th, 100 Gibraltar Point 1st and 1,500 Alkborough/Burton Stather 28th. 320 were still at Whitton March 5th and 50 at Holbeach 13th. Singles were noted at Saltfleetby April 18th and Donna Nook May 26th. The first autumn birds were 2 at Gibraltar Point on October 9th with peak movements in November. At Gibraltar Point there were 130 11th, 153 22nd, while at Donna Nook southerly movements included 70 13th, 202 20th and 900 22nd. 220 flew south at Saltfleetby 20th and 180 south Covenham 22nd. In December there were 250 at Donna Nook 10th and 100, 15th with 200 at North Cotes 12th.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

A single bird was at Tetney January 19-23rd. In autumn there were 5 at Huttoft bank October 7th and a single West Deeping pits the same day, then in December 2 at Tetney 6th and one West Ashby pits 12th.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Up to 10 were recorded at a number of sites throughout the year. The main concentration was the feral flock at Kirkby-on-Bain where there were 146 January 31st, 130 February 13th and 60 August 25th. 18 were at Covenham Res. on January 7th with 15 there 10th and 12 Coleby Lane February 3rd. One bred with a Canada at Denton Res. rearing 4 hybrid young. There was an influx in late October-early November with 30 at Saltfleetby and Huttoft October 30th, 18 North Cotes November 1st with 20 there 8th, 25 Saltfleetby 2nd and 80 at Huttoft pit 6th.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

A white phase adult was at Fulstow from January 5-13th (MM et al) with a similar bird with Brents at Gibraltar Point February 7th (AWP, RL). A second year bird was at Messingham January 23rd (DS). All published with the escape proviso.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

A flock of 62 were at Baston/Langtoft pits all year. In the early year there were 30 at Tetney in January and 63 Barton with 70 at Chapel St. Leonards February 14th. A pair bred for the first time at Gibraltar Point and in June 42 flew north at Donna Nook 12th. At Denton Res. there was a flock of 100-300 from October-December with 400 on October 11th, while there were 161 at Holywell lake November 20th, 100 Chapel St. Leonards 15th and 50 Riseholme 18th with 110 at Stoke Rochford December 26th.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

There were singles at Donna Nook with Brents January 21st, Whisby pits May 23rd, Burton pits all summer and a pair 'breeding' at Chapel pit in June probably originated from a collection at Ingoldmells.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

The dark-bellied race *B.b. bernicla* continues to increase. Peak numbers in January were; 34 Cleethorpes and 57 Tetney 19th, 260 North Cotes 10-16th, 766 Donna Nook/Saltfleet 29th, 500 Gibraltar Point 9th, 3,200 Kirton Marsh 24th and 2,120 Holbeach 17th. In February one was up the Humber at Stallingborough 7th when 450 were at Donna Nook. The Gibraltar Point-Norfolk border count of 28th revealed a total of 7,659 birds and 100 lingered at Gibraltar Point to March 7th with 50 26th. In the Wash there was an exceptional flock of 1,500 at the Witham Mouth on May 2nd. In summer one was at Freiston throughout and one Donna Nook June 19th with first returning birds in August, 30 Gibraltar Point 15th and 2 Witham Mouth 26th. In October there were 75 at North Cotes 1st, 113 including a leucistic bird at Donna Nook 9th with 300 Gibraltar Point 31st. In early November one flew west at New Holland 3rd with 45 west off Goxhill on the 5th; 26 were at Cleethorpes 6th and 23 with 35 south east 9th, 230 at Tetney 4th, 100 south off Huttoft 6th, 210 Saltfleetby 6th with 252 there 7th all south and 200 11th-13th. At Donna Nook there were 850 by 15th and at Gibraltar Point 1,100 29-30th with 3,000 at the Witham Mouth into December. 2 were at Goxhill December 3rd and a count from Gibraltar Point to the Norfolk border on 5th produced a total of

13,590 birds while another count from North Cotes to Saltfleetby on 4th totalled 1,354 – an exceptional county total. A later peak of 1,400 was noted at Donna Nook on December 25th. During the late winter period flocks in several places from Grainthorpe to the Wash were feeding on corn fields inside the sea wall, a habit not previously used to any extent in the county.

Pale-bellied Brents, of the race *B.b. hrota* were present along the coast from North Cotes to Saltfleetby during January-February. The exact number of birds is difficult to determine as different areas were counted on different dates and the flocks regularly split and moved about. All records noted; In January North Cotes 2 10th and 19th, Grainthorpe 9th and 9 on 16th with 10 25th, Donna Nook/Saltfleet 4 21st, 6 23rd, 9 29th, and Saltfleetby 2 21-23rd. Then in February Saltfleetby 5 6-14th, 7 21-24th.

Black Brant; A bird showing characteristics of the North-east Siberian/Nearctic race *B.b. nigricans* was seen at Donna Nook/Saltfleet on January 21st (GPC) and again 23rd (MM HB). The first county record of this race. (see description.) Accepted by BBRC.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Two were seen at Saltfleetby July 23rd (JRW). One was seen with Shelducks at Pyewipe on December 10th (WR & WJM). Possibly the same bird as one at Saltfleet in January 1983.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Large concentrations early in the year included; 400 Witham Mouth January 3rd, 550 North Cotes 19th, 400 Saltfleet 21st, 1,062 Pyewipe February 26th and a total of 7,250 between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border 28th. There were still 826 at Pyewipe March 8th and 146 April 12th. In May the Humber held 270 at Winteringham-Read's Island 30th. Two pairs bred at Covenham Res. and other creches included 39 and 16 at Winteringham July 25th and 10 Gibraltar Point 2nd. Up to 150 were noted from the Humber-Wash in August-December with larger numbers being 207 Read's Island October 27th, 500 Witham Mouth November-December, 600 Stallingborough November 28th, 1,100 Tetney December 6th and 5,030 between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border December 5th.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

Single males were at Covenham Res. October 15-17th and Denton Res. November 27th.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Notable flocks in the January cold spell included; 800 Tetney/North Cotes 13th, 1,100 Alkborough 16th, 235 Donna Nook 17th, 300 Saltfleetby 21st, 450 Lea Marshes 20th and 1,294 Holbeach 17th. There were far fewer in February with a total of 3,350 between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border on 28th being the only record of note. A male was at Covenham Res. June 11th and at Gibraltar Point there was one 10th and 2 July 25th. Numbers there reached 450 by September 25th and 600 October 3rd with 850 24th and 3,000 flying south there 26th. The large wildfowl movement in early November included 350 west up the Humber at Goxhill 5th, 181 south east at Cleethorpes 6th, 350 Grainthorpe and 247 Saltfleetby 6th. Later peaks were 200 Donna Nook 15th, 441 Read's Island 25th and 230 Gibraltar Point 14th. December numbers were lower with peaks of 400 Read's Island 13th and 250 Gibraltar Point 29th.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

1-4 were noted at a number of sites from January-May and August-December, exceptions being; 16 at Kirkby-on-Bain February 16th and 8 March 10th. 5 Barrow Haven October 1st, 9 West Deeping pits 7th, 17 Lincoln Ballast pit November 20th and up to 11 at Denton Res. 27-30th.

Teal *Anas crecca*

The only large flocks in the early winter were 100 at Saltfleetby January 22-February 3rd and 100 Baston Fen February 28th with 140 there March 19th. There were 132 at Gibraltar Point August 30th with about 350 through September and 115 flying south at Donna Nook September 25th. In October notable flocks were 190 at Saltfleetby 3rd, 500 Gibraltar Point 23rd and 1,000 at Donna Nook late October-early November. Also in early November 200 flew west at Goxhill (1 hr) on 5th and 120 south at Donna Nook 6th. Gibraltar Point had 300 17th with 125 at Saltfleetby 30th and 180 Baston Fen 21st where there were 256 December 27th. 120 were at Saltfleetby December 13-17th and 72 Read's Island 7th with 150 Gibraltar Point 31st.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Site maxima in the early winter were; 210 Pyewipe January 17th, 230 Baston Fen February 28th, 200 Easton March and 992 from Gibraltar Point-Norfolk border 28th February. Numbers at Gibraltar Point increased from 146 July 30th to a peak of 673 August 30th. Other high counts were 400 Thurlby Fen 27th with 500 Covenham Res. September 12th. In October there were 850 at Covenham 1st, 350 Gibraltar Point throughout with a peak of 500 and 1,000 south 26th, 470 Read's Island 27th and 1,000 Donna Nook late October-early November. On November 6th 450 were at the Witham Mouth and 135 flew north with 85 south at Donna Nook. Late peaks were 500 Gibraltar Point November 15th, 521 Read's Island 16th and 220 Cleethorpes 30th. December figures were similar with 598 Read's Island 7th, 295 Baston Fen 20th, and 850 Gibraltar Point 30th.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Up to 15 were recorded at a number of sites, mostly coastal, January-May and August-December. Exceptions were; 33 Holbeach January 17th, 83 Witham Mouth 28th, 60 Welland/Holbeach and 82 Terrington February 28th. A party of 22 flew west at East Halton October 15th and there were 14 at Huttoft 1st, 18 Donna Nook 15th. In November 32 were at the Witham Mouth 7th, 24 Gibraltar Point 6th with 36 north there 16th and 13 27th.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Early arrivals in March were a male on the River Trent near Littleborough ski club March 18th and one Baston Fen 24th. In April a pair were at Saltfleetby 3-16th, a male Killingham 7-16th and a pair Lincoln Ballast pit 8th. A pair were at Killingham May 29th and a pair Gibraltar Point June 15-21st with a male at Lincoln ballast pit 1st and 9th. In autumn there were 1-3 at Barrow Haven from July 1st-August 17th, single males at Goxhill August 11th, West Deeping 16th and Huttoft September 2nd and a juv. at Killingham 10th.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

A bird which was probably a first winter male was at Huttoft pits from September 24th-30th (RBe GPC et al). The third county record of this Nearctic vagrant. Accepted by BBRC.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Up to 15 were noted at several sites throughout with the following exceptions, 14 pairs were at Baston Fen March 19th. In autumn Huttoft pit held 30 September 30th, 50 October 4-9th and 30 to November 6th. Elsewhere there were 20 at Twigmoor October 10th, 42 south at Gibraltar Point October 29th and 14 Stoke Rochford December 26th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

An immature male was at South Ferriby pits from October 28th to at least November 3rd. (JTH et al).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Up to 38 were on the Humber at Pyewipe during January-February but peak numbers were in February with 134 Barrow Haven 14th, 100 Kirkby-on-Bain 13th and 42 Sutton Ings 2nd with 30 on Longwood pit 13th. Six broods were found on the South Humber bank pits totalling 26 juvs. in June/July and one pair bred at Brotherhouse pit Crowland. There were some small coastal movements in October/November with 50 at the Witham Mouth 6th November. 177 were at Crowle November 30th with 81 Messingham 14th and in December 115 Barrow Haven 5th and 40 Huttoft 18th.

(Ferruginous type ducks)

Two reports of 'Ferruginous Duck' *Aythya nyroca* both at Sutton Ings pit from February 28-March 6th and December 18-28th are both regarded as having been the 'Ferruginous type' hybrid known as 'Paget's Pochard', a hybrid resulting from interbreeding of Ferruginous Duck/Pochard. The second bird was very obvious but the former was only identified as such on minor plumage discrepancies and size and proportions. Any suspected Ferruginous Duck should be well studied and the fullest description taken.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Peak numbers in the early winter were generally quite low with a maximum of 140 at Covenham Res. January 3rd, 51 on the River Welland 23rd, 35 Denton Res. February 9th, 30 Longwood pit 13th and 82 River Welland 26th with 42 at Baston Fen 20th. Breeding records included 6 broods totalling 29 juvs. on the South Humber bank pits,

with the last 5 newly hatched on August 19th. A pair bred at Covenham Res. and a pair with 7 juvs. was on the Fulstow canal June 29th, a female with 4 juvs. Chapel pit July 6th, and 2 females with 2 and 3 juvs. at Kirkby-on-Bain on August 25th. In the late winter the only notable flocks were 104 Covenham Res. November 9th with 103 December 12th and 60 Barrow Haven December 20-31st with 76 on the River Welland 13th.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

In January there were up to 14 at Pyewipe to 21st with 2 Gibraltar Point 22nd and 23 at the Witham Mouth February 6th. One was at Covenham Res. May 6th with 4 at the Witham Mouth 23rd and a pair Covenham August 8th with one there September 22nd. In October there were singles at Whisby pit 9th, Chapel pit 9-14th, Huttoft 3rd, 11 Witham Mouth 8th and 3 Barrow Haven/New Holland to December 31st. November records were of 11 at Butterwick 4th probably the same 10 at the Witham Mouth 6th, Covenham 7th, 4 Stallingborough 28th with one Sutton Ings December 8th, 3 Witham Mouth 18th and singles Covenham 23rd and Whisby pit 26th.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Birds were present all year at the Witham Mouth/Freiston with maxima of 250 January 30th then 89 February 14th and 50 March 12th. There were 100-225, all immatures, off Freiston through the summer. There were also up to 10 at Pyewipe all year with a peak of 26 to February 14th. Elsewhere in January there was a notable movement with records at Gibraltar Point, 2nd, 3rd, 2 4th, and 10 10th, 14 flew east at Goxhill 8th, 9 north at Donna Nook 9th, 3 at Grainthorpe 10th and 13 with 7 south at Saltfleetby 10th. There were occasional coastal records of up to 10 birds from March-September with exceptionally 35 flying south at Anderby August 10th and 23 south at Gibraltar Point September 10th. October movements included: 4 adults north-east at Cleethorpes 25th, 7 south Gibraltar Point 13th, 11 south 26th and 6 28th with 12 30th. November movements were one south-east Cleethorpes 6th; 8 south Donna Nook 6th, 9 south 7th, 2 north and 12 south 27th; 18 Gibraltar Point 6th and 4 south 20th. In December there were 2 imm. males at Covenham Res. 3-12th, 125 between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border 5th with 15 and 18 south at Gibraltar Point 30th.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* (illustrated)



The only record early in the year was one south off Huttoft January 9th. There was however, a very good influx during October-December. October records were 2 north at Donna Nook 9th and one south 16th, one Saltfleetby 16th, one Witham Mouth 17th. At Covenham Res. there was one from 13th with 2 from 14th then 4-5 from 23rd-November 12th and one to December 31st. November produced another influx with singles at Chapel pit 6th and 12th, Anderby 8-14th, Witham Mouth 13th, 3 at Saltfleetby 15th, and at Donna

Nook 2 flew north and one south 6th with one south 7th, one 17th and a flock of 7 north 20th. Another influx was noted about December 5th with records at Donna Nook 2 south, 4th, Witham Mouth 4th, different bird 5th and 18th, and all on 5th, singles Frampton, Holbeach, Gedney and Immingham, 2 at Wainfleet and 6 Gibraltar Point. A juv. female was on Cleethorpes boating lake from 17th into 1983.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Very few records through the year and few notable flocks recorded. There were 135 at the Witham Mouth February 28th and up to 50 on odd dates on the coast throughout. One was inland at Tattershall bridge on the River Witham May 11th. Most other notable records were in November. 200 flew west up the Humber off Goxhill (1 hr) 5th, then 540 north and 177 south at Donna Nook 6th with 475 at the Witham Mouth also 6th.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Very scarce during 1982. A female wintering off Pyewipe stayed until February 1st. Most other records were at Gibraltar Point with one January 3rd, then in autumn 7 August 27th, 4 south September 10th, 2 October 7th and one south 31st, 7 south November 16th, one south 24th and one December 5th. The only others were singles at Anderby November 14th and Huttoft December 28th.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Up to 10 at several sites inland and coastal January-May and September-December. Peak

early winter numbers were 40 Barton January 3rd, 40 Covenham 16th, 45 Witham Mouth 22nd, 120 Holbeach February 28th, 48 Barrow Haven 14th, 63 Covenham 25th, 68 West Deeping 9th and 180 off the Welland Mouth 28th. There were still 63 at West Deeping March 19th and 2 late birds at Covenham Res. to May 16th. An early returning bird was also there July 28-August 6th. The November wildfowl movements only included small numbers of Goldeneye with 39 at the Witham Mouth 6th, the peak date also at Donna Nook, with 8 north and 17 south. Covenham had 59 on November 7th and 47 December 11th.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

Single redheads were seen in January at Covenham Res. 11th and 23rd, Grainthorpe 23rd, Stallingborough 24th and Huttoft pit from 5th to March 10th with a male at Huttoft bank 9th. In November there was a redhead at Whisby pits 14-20th, with 2 at Denton Res. 30th and a male at Huttoft pit December 18th.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Up to 5 were noted on the coast and in the Wash from January-April and September-December. In addition one was at Killingholme pits February 9-14th, 10 were at the Witham Mouth April 12th and 3 flew north at Gibraltar Point May 21st. In July singles were at Cleethorpes 3rd, Humberston 23rd, Frieston 24th and 3 flew south at Gibraltar Point 7th with 2 Saltfleetby August 18th. In the autumn there was one at East Halton October 15th, and in November 5 flew west at Goxhill 5th, 31 were at the Witham Mouth 6th, 11 flew north and 15 south at Donna Nook 6th and 8 were at Butterwick 4th.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Recorded from January-March and September-December with up to 6 at a number of inland and coastal sites. Peaks in the early winter were: 9 Deeping high bank January 27th, 47 River Welland at Cowbit 23rd, 26 Whisby pit February 14th, 13 Baston pits 9th. Up to 18 were on the River Welland 12-26th and up to 11 at Thorpe-on-the-hill pits 9-23rd. There were still 8-16 at West Deeping March 8-19th. November movements included 2 west at Goxhill 6th and 9 east Barton 7th, one north and 2 south Donna Nook 6th, 3 Tetney 4th, 2 New Holland 10th, 2 Baston Fen 28th, 1-2 Saltfleetby 6-7th and 7 West Deeping 11th.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

At Whisby pits there was a fem/imm. September 19th with 2 on 26th and one to October 9th and a single fem/imm. again December 26th. A male was seen at Denton Res. November 27th.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

A dark phase juvenile was photographed as it flew south at Donna Nook on October 13th (BMC MJT).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

An early bird flew north-west at Saltfleetby March 17th and a male south there April 5th with a female 10th and a female at Holbeach 11th. From May onwards there were possibly 2 pairs in the area from Gibraltar Point to the Norfolk border with 2 additional juveniles from late July and odd fem/imms. during May and through to September. All other records refer to fem/imms. except where stated. May singles were at Tetney and Grainthorpe 16th male Humberston 20th, New Holland north-west 9th and 19th, Saltfleetby 10th, Donna Nook south 21st, 2 23rd, 24th and 28th with 3 flying across the Humber into Lincs. from Sunk Island 23rd. In June Donna Nook 2 12th, 23rd, Grainthorpe 1st, Saltfleetby 16th, North Cotes 11th, Baston Fen 20th, Heighington Fen 16th. 2 from Blacktoft were at Alkborough July 11th and one Donna Nook 14-24th, Tetney 11-15th, Baston Fen 13th and a male at Nocton Fen from 25th with a female from August 7th both to September 15th. Other August birds were at North Cotes a male 25th, Grainthorpe 25th, Saltfleetby 12th, Donna Nook 8th, 17th and 28th and Baston Fen 28th. In September an imm. male was at Conisholme 1st, singles Saltfleetby 5th and 19th, Tetney 19th, Baston Fen 2nd, Wisbech 5th and a late bird was at Tetney on November 2nd.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

In the January-March period there were 1-2 at Donna Nook with 4 January 23rd and

3 30th, 1-4 at Saltfleetby (6+ birds), 1-4 at Gibraltar Point (5+ birds), 1-3 North Cotes/Tetney/Humberston, 1-2 in the Wash Wainfleet-Holbeach (4+ birds), one Pinchbeck Fen, and one Bourne/Baston Fens. Additional records came from Huttoft 2 January 9th, Fulstow 12th, Covenham 31st, Read's Island January and Crowland 23rd, Fulstow February 14th with a male Cadney 15th. In March one Horkstow 4th, a male, 2 ringtails Crowle 1st, Covenham 20-26th, Huttoft 27th and Chapel pit 23rd. April birds were at Donna Nook to 24th, Saltfleetby to 26th, Edlington 6th, Hobhole/Frampton/Holbeach 9-10th, Gibraltar Point to 27th with late birds there May 8th, 10th and 24th and at Donna Nook May 2nd and 22nd. An early autumn bird was at Baston Fen August 27th with more records in early October. In the period October to December there were 1-3 at Saltfleetby (7-8 birds at least) with 3 males November 1st, 1-2 Donna Nook, 1-2 Bourne/Baston Fens, 1-2 at Gibraltar Point (5+ birds), 1-2 Kirton/Holbeach and additionally a male North Cotes October 6-November 2nd, Huttoft October 30th, Tealby November 20th, Anderby 8th, New Holland 11th, male Caythorpe heath 25th, Worlaby/Bonby November 25-December 27th, Minton November 23rd and a male at North Somercotes November 30th.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

In May a female was at Grainthorpe 16th (HB), a female New Holland 18th (GPC), a second summer male Donna Nook 16th (BMC) and a female flew south-east over the Humber from Sunk Island, passing over Immingham 23rd (SML). An adult male and a female were seen separately at the Witham Mouth also on the 23rd (SK, R&KH), and a female flew north at Donna Nook 29th (RLo). A first summer male was seen at Saltfleetby June 1st (BMC MJT) and in August there was a female at Tetney 29th (HB) and an imm. male at Gibraltar Point 31st (BTO).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

In the period January-March single birds were seen over an extensive period at East Halton/Goxhill, Nettleton, Gibraltar Point, Corby Glen, Morkery Wood, Saltfleet/Donna Nook with odd records at Broughton, Messingham, Woodhall, Lissington and Norton Disney and 3 at Kirkby Moor January 31st. Odd singles on the 31st in April-May with a pair at Bradley Woods May 15th and a pair displaying at Stapleford Woods in May. There is as yet only circumstantial reported evidence of breeding in the county in recent years but a number of summer records suggest that a nesting probably took place at 2-3 sites in 1982 as a minimum. Odd singles again widespread from August to December with several in November, 1-2 at Gibraltar Point, singles Saltfleetby, Morkery and Tortoiseshell Woods throughout and 2 together Flixborough December 13th.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

One flew south at Louth on February 19th (JRC) and one was seen in the Baston Fen/Guthram area on May 9th (EJR, RK) with one Cuxwold 10th (TNu). One flew south at Saltfleetby on June 11th (JRW) and one south over Immingham July 2nd (DHe). There were 2 records at Gibraltar Point with one there November 14-16th (GPC, MM, ACS, et al) and one flying south December 6th (RLa).



Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus* (illustrated)

One was present all day at Crowland on January 23rd (EJR, FB) and one was seen soaring with a Marsh Harrier at Gibraltar Point on May 7th (RLa, MJR). A moderate influx in the late autumn produced the following records: one at Gibraltar Point October 13-15th (PP, RWa), one flying south at Saltfleetby 15th (IGS) and one also flying south Donna Nook 23rd (RLo). In November there was one at Gibraltar Point 8-9th, one 16th and finally one hunting near Hallington on December 15th (RLab).

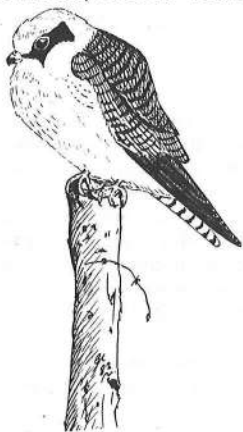
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

An early bird was seen at Ashbyville, Scunthorpe on April 6th (KB, GR), and another flew north-east over Covenham Res. 25th (KWi, KR). In May one was seen near Blyborough from 1-2nd (Mr PD per IH), and one flew down the River Idle

near Haxey Grange 7th (DHu). One was in the Hobhole/Sibsey area from June 9-10th (PRB, SK, PHy) and one flew south-west over Covenham Res. 27th (KWi). There was one at Croxby pond on July 8th (TNU, B&GLi) and what may well have been the same bird flew north over Brigg August 25th (RNG) and south over Goxhill 26th (GPC).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Apart from 1-4 at several sites the only notable concentrations were in August-October with 12 East Halton Skitter August 9th, 10 Frampton 23rd, 15 Donna Nook 14th and 12 21st with up to 5 at Gibraltar Point and 6 at Donna Nook September 4-5th with 6 Saltfleetby October 13th.



Red-footed Falcon *Falco vesperinus* (illustrated)

A female, probably first summer, was seen at North Kill-ingham pits on May 16th (GPC). Accepted by BBRC.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

In the period January-March there were 1-2 fairly regularly at Donna Nook, Saltfleet/Saltfleetby, Gibraltar Point, Holbeach/Frampton, New Holland/East Halton and North Cotes/Tetney/Humberston. Others were at Grimoldby Ings January 24th, Cowbit 23rd, Cadney February 28th, Crowle 5, March 1st, Bonby, a male 4th found dead April. April records came from Nettleton 9th, Donna Nook 5th and 16th and Covenham 12th. Some birds returned early with one Nocton Fen August 24th and singles Covenham September 5th, New Holland 9th and Donna Nook 10th. Again from October-December 1-2 were regular at Donna Nook, Holbeach/Frampton, New Holland/Barrow Haven, Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point with others at North Cotes October 9th, Theddlethorpe 25th, East Halton male November 20th,

Covenham 12th, Elsham 25th and Covenham December 26th.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

In May there were two records on the 23rd at the Witham Mouth (SK, R&KH), and at Kenwick near Louth (MJT). One was seen at Whisby pit July 4th (KD) and in August there were singles at New Holland 19th (GPC), Baston Fen 27th-September 1st (EJR, KKH, R&KH, PNW, et al) and Saltfleetby 30th (DJ). There were then three in September at New Holland 14th (GPC), Blankney 19th (MJW) and South Kyneston 20th (SK).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Rather disappointingly there were just three records during the year at Saltfleetby, one flying south February 22nd, (JRW) one at Gibraltar Point May 18th (JO) and at Goxhill September 18th (DAR).

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

On the coast 6 pairs bred at Donna Nook and there was a maximum there of 24 on August 21st with 1-10 at Gibraltar Point and a maximum of 40 November 8th. 31 were at Blyborough November 20th.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Two pairs bred at Donna Nook and there was a maximum count of 17 there December 4th. At Gibraltar Point the maximum was 36 December 9th with 35 31st. These were the only records received!

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Calling males were heard at Donna Nook May 28th (RLo) and June 1st (GPC), Scotter June 17th (DA) with 2 in Thurlby Fen June 29-July 3rd (KKH, EJR, RS).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

A total of 215 were counted in the Crowland area on January 23rd and the maximum at Gibraltar Point was 60 December 19th.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

1-2 birds were noted at several widespread sites during January-March and September-December. 7 males were calling at Barton in April and other counts exceeding 2 birds were 3 at Saltfleetby October 30th, 4 Chapel pit November 2nd and 3 Gibraltar Point 30th.

Corncrake *Crex crex*

One was flushed at North Cotes on September 15th (RLo) and one heard calling at Gibraltar Point on October 24th (PRB).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

The only high counts recorded were of 176 at Deeping high bank pits January 19th with 161 there 23rd and 120 at Barton through December.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Notable flocks during the year included; 200 Barton January 25th and 108 Kirkby-on-Bain 31st, 142 Killingholme February 10th, 120 Baston Fen 28th and 150 there March 6th. There were 308 at Kirkby on July 18th, 450 August 8th and 106 Covenham 14th. Later in the year there were 320 at Huttoft November 2nd with peaks of 153 Ashbyville December 30th and 468 Messingham 27th.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

In January there were 200-265 at Cleethorpes with 2,000 at Grainthorpe 16th and 2,000 Gibraltar Point 12th and a peak there of 5,000 February 10th. During April-May there were 160-170 at Cleethorpes and 500-700 at Gibraltar Point with singles inland at Whisby pit April 17th and Hemingby May 22nd; 57 were at Winteringham May 9th. 5 pairs bred at Donna Nook and 8 were at Covenham Res. July 26th. Numbers built up rapidly during August with 1,200 Donna Nook 20th and 3,100 Gibraltar Point 17th and 5,500 there 20th. A count from Gibraltar Point to the Norfolk border on September 19th produced a total of 28,750 with 25,000 at the former locality. There were 8,400 on the same count on December 5th. 200-250 were at Cleethorpes through December.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

One flew north at Donna Nook on May 5th (RLo) with possibly the same bird at Tetney on the 8th (J de L). One was at N. Killingholme on June 20th (WR&WJM) and an adult and 4 juvs. were at Gibraltar Point on July 24th (RLa).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

The first spring bird was at N. Killingholme on April 12th with others at Burton pits 2 15th, Kirkby-on-Bain 2 27th and Gibraltar Point 24-25th and 30th. Singles were noted at a number of inland and coastal sites during May. The only breeding records reported were; a pair failed Burton pits, a pair with 2 young Swinderby G.P., pair bred Spalding sugar beet factory, pair bred Hungerton, pair with 3 young Nettleton and 2 pair bred Kirkby-on-Bain. The breeding population in the county seems to have declined rapidly during recent years and observers are requested to check out past and possible breeding sites during 1983 so a more accurate assessment can be made. Autumn passage birds 1-3 were noted at several sites on the coast and inland from July-August. Maximum numbers were 5 Donna Nook July 28-29th. The only September records were 2 Covenham Res. 1-6th, Gibraltar Point 1st, 16th and 23rd.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Few were present in the early winter with maxima of 41 Pyewipe January 5th, 173 between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border February 28th and 100 at Gibraltar Point to April. Peak spring passage as usual was in late May-early June with the majority of the birds being of the small dark backed 'tundrae' type. Up to 65 were at Donna Nook, 60 Goxhill 18th, 175 peak at Saltfleetby 26th with 150 to 30th, 105 Winteringham 23rd and 312 Cleethorpes 26th, but only 26 June 2nd, and 75 Gibraltar Point May 27th. 16 'tundrae' were at N. Killingholme to June 4th and 60 at Gibraltar Point 24th. 5 pairs bred at Donna Nook and at least one Saltfleetby. Autumn passage was heaviest during August/September with 125 Killingholme August 6th, 300 26th and 180 30th, 180 Saltfleetby 17th, 144 Gibraltar Point 3rd and in September 150 Killingholme 15th, 336 Cleethorpes 22nd, 150 Gibraltar Point 4th. A late high count of 273 was made at Cleethorpes on December 5th.

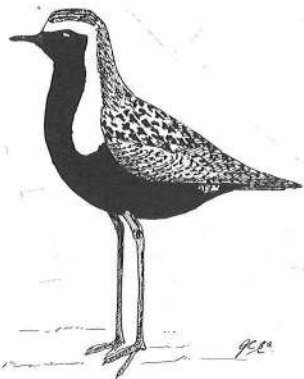
Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

A male was at N. Killingholme on June 6th (BMC, MJT, GPC). This record extends the run of annual occurrences to 6 years.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Fewer records than in the last few years. The Deeping/Thurlby fen area had a trip of up to 16 from early May to the 8th (KKH, AF) and 3 were seen at Tongue End on the 9th (PHy).

There were also singles at Tetney 12th (HB) and Grainthorpe 21st (MJT). A late autumn bird was seen on Read's Island mudflats on October 16th (RN&ALG).



Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* (illustrated)
An adult in full summer plumage showing characteristics of the Nearctic race *P.d. dominica* was seen at North Killingholme pits on July 24th (GPC). This is only the second county record of this species; the previous record at Wisbech S.F. on August 10th 1974 was not assigned to a particular race. Accepted by BBRC.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

There were flocks of 200-500 in the period January-March at East Halton, Tetney, Cleethorpes, Fiskerton, Huttoft, Holbeach and Stainby. Larger numbers on spring passage in April included 1,000 Toft Newton 8th, 500 most southern form, N. Ormsby 15th and 1,000 mostly northern there 17th, 500 Thurlby fen 18th. Singles were at Tetney May 20th and Hungerton June 8th. Flocks of up to 300 built up by late July at North Cotes/Grainthorpe, Donna Nook and Winteringham.

Again from September-December there were numerous widespread reports of 100-400 birds with larger flocks 1,000 New Holland October 27th, 1,500 Caenby corner 4th, 600 Goxhill November-December and 500 Grainthorpe November 6th.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Apart from 211 at Pyewipe on January 14th all the large numbers in the early winter were in the Wash with 1,440 between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border on February 28th and 2,000 Holbeach March 9th. Numbers at Gibraltar Point in May reached a peak of 200 24th and up to 50 were there in June. As usual a few oversummered at Grainthorpe and in the Wash. Large concentrations in September-October included 700 Witham Mouth September 19th, 700 Gibraltar Point 17th, 1,500 Holbeach October 6th, 1,000 Butterwick 19th and 190 at Cleethorpes in October. Up to 10 were in the Humber Killingholme-Winteringham. Smaller numbers were recorded November-December the maximum being 2,010 between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border December 5th.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

In a hard weather movement 1,000 flew west at Barton January 3rd and 1,600 south at Gibraltar Point the same day with 1,765 south there 4th. Notable February flocks were; 3,000 Stallingborough 6th, 1,300 Crowland 12th, 750 West Deeping 9th, 520 Saltfleetby 14th and 630 the Witham Mouth. Pre-emigration flocks in March included; 900 East Halton 2nd, 550 Stallingborough 3rd and 2,000 Laceby 6th. There was a large influx at East Halton in late July with 4,000 there 24-25th. 1,400 were counted between Caenby corner and Owmsby on August 18th, then from October-December there were widespread flocks of 2-500 birds with 1,500 Elsham-Bonby October 16th, 700 Read's Island November 7th, 1,300 Colsterworth 26th and 1,000 Lincoln December 13th.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

High early winter flocks were; 500 Grimsby Docks January 10th, 3,000 Humberston 17th, 1,100 North Cotes 26th, 800 Donna Nook 9th, 600 Saltfleetby 23rd then in February 13,550 between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border on the 28th. Gibraltar Point still had 5,500 March 25th and 3,000 April 8th with 1,000 25th. Summering birds were 200 at North Cotes/Grainthorpe June 29th and 40 Gibraltar Point 19th. Flocks increased rapidly from late July with 1,550 Gibraltar Point 21st and 10,000 there August 22nd and 27-28th, September peaks were 15,000 Gibraltar Point 19th and 3,500 Cleethorpes to late October with 60 at Goxhill 6th. Later peak winter figures in December were 4-5,000 Cleethorpes 5th, 4,000 Donna Nook 18th and 10,000 Gibraltar Point 30th with a total of 45,000 between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border on the 5th.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

There were up to 200 at Cleethorpes to March and 200 Gibraltar Point February 11th increasing to 540 April 10th. Spring passage was at a peak in late May with 900

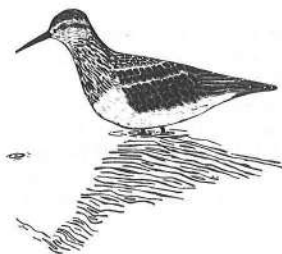
Cleethorpes to late May, 650 Saltfleetby 26-29th, 400 Donna Nook 23rd, 400 Gibraltar Point 23rd and 550 28th; numbers then fell very quickly to early June. Large numbers were again present on passage from late July with 700 Gibraltar Point 23rd and 300 Grainthorpe 21st. From then on numbers varied greatly at different sites on the coast, there being 600 Gibraltar Point August 9th and 1,000 there September 5th, decreasing to 300 16-19th, but only 50 maximum at Donna Nook. Later peaks were 500 Cleethorpes October 19th and 450 Gibraltar Point 2nd. Very low numbers present November-December.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

The only spring record was at Gibraltar Point on May 1st. It was also a poor autumn for this species – all records listed. In July 7 were seen at Humberston 25th and one N. Killingholme 30th, the next being 3 at Gibraltar Point August 20th, one 21st, one Saltfleetby 25th and 2 Wisbech S.F. 28th. In September there were 3 at Covenham Res. 6th with 2 to 10th, 2 Wisbech 26th, 3 Gibraltar Point 5th, one 16th and singles N. Killingholme 15th and Holbeach 19th. A few more in October were at Covenham 9-13th, Saltfleetby 3-6th, 2 18-29th, Donna Nook 7-21st with 2 13th and 3 19th, Gibraltar Point 3rd, 3 6-10th, 13th and 23rd. A late bird was at Saltfleetby November 2nd.

Temminck's Stint; *Calidris temminckii*

In May there were single birds at N. Killingholme 15-16th (GPC et al), Baston Fen 18th (EJR) and Covenham Res. 18-19th (MM, KWI, RLab et al). One was seen at Gibraltar Point on June 2nd with 2 present from 3-5th (MJR, PRB, ACC). The only autumn bird was a juv. at Bardney pits from August 24-29th (ACS et al).



Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* (illustrated)

Two were present at Wisbech S.F. on September 5th (Pha) and one at Gibraltar Point September 25-26th (RLa, PRB, MTNHS) with a fourth bird at Saltfleetby on October 14th (BMC, MJT).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

An adult at N. Killingholme pits from September 18-20th was the first county record of this vagrant from N.E. Siberia. (GPC et al). See description. Accepted by BBRC.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Spring birds were 3 at Gibraltar Point April 25th and 2 there May 1st with one 5th and singles Grainthorpe May

29th and Donna Nook 30th. As with Little Stint it was a rather weak autumn passage. 2 adults were at N. Killingholme July 25th with 9 ads. 29th then up to 9 to August 22nd, the first juv. 23rd and up to 9 to 31st. Also in August there were up to 5 at Gibraltar Point 23-31st, 5 Saltfleetby 15th, one 21st, 2 North Cotes 25th, 6 Covenham 15th, one 26th and one Bardney 24th. In September there were 23 (20j) at N. Killingholme 2nd, numbers falling off then a new peak of 32 j. 15th and 42 18th with 20 20th and odd birds to October. There were also odd birds at North Cotes to October 10th with 7 September 11th, up to 4 at Gibraltar Point and 1-3 at the Witham Mouth, Donna Nook, Holbeach, Covenham, Saltfleetby and Wisbech S.F. during September. Other October birds were at Saltfleetby 6th, Donna Nook 10th, 2 11th, Anderby 13th, and Gibraltar Point 2nd, 2 6th and 10 late birds at Saltfleetby November 6th.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Very few recorded in 1982. 1-2 were at Trusthorpe from January to February 27th, 3 the Witham Mouth January 30th and one March 29th. Then none until August 21-22nd Witham Mouth and singles in September at Covenham Res. and the Witham Mouth 4th and Donna Nook 6th. Further birds in October were at Gibraltar Point 24th, Theddlethorpe 27th and Tetney 31st. One was at Butterwick November 4th and one Huttoft December 12th with one Trusthorpe 28th into 83.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Peak January-April numbers were; 6,000 Pyewipe January 7th, 10,519 between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border February 28th. High April counts were 5,000 Holbeach 11th and 2,000 Gibraltar Point 25th. 350 were at Saltfleetby May 26th and about 200 summered at Grainthorpe. July concentrations included 2,000 Gibraltar Point

25th and 600 Grainthorpe 4th. From August-December there were numerous reports of flocks of up to 1,000 at coastal localities, in the Humber and Wash with 5,600 between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border September 19th and 14,160 there December 5th. In addition to which there were 5,000 at Cleethorpes October and 1,600 Donna Nook November 16th with 1,700 there December 11th.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

One at Saltfleetby on May 26th (MJT et al) was only the second county record of this species which breeds as close as Scandinavia. See description. Accepted by BBRC.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

An adult was present at Saltfleetby from August 11-16th (BMC et al). Only the 4th county record but the second in two years. Accepted by BBRC.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Wintering birds January-March were present at Pyewipe maximum 17 January 25th, North Cotes/Grainthorpe max. 35 January 23rd, Covenham max. 31 19th, Donna Nook January 6th and March 29th and New Holland January 19th. Spring passage of 1-6 birds was noted in April-May at Saltfleetby, Covenham, Baston Fen, N. Killingholme and Gibraltar Point with 25 at Donna Nook April 5th and 23 Kirton Marsh 24th, 7 males lekking. Odd males returned in June and numbers at N. Killingholme increased to 50 by July 25-30th. At North Cotes/Grainthorpe there were 20 July 30th with a later peak of 45 September 18th and fewer to October. Up to 10 were also noted at a number of widespread sites mostly coastal in August-September with most in late August. At N. Killingholme there were 60 August 9-21st then 85-90 22-26th with 50 to September 18th and fewer to October; 30 were at Wisbech S.F. August 28th. November records were of 23 at Winteringham 7th and 2 Billingborough fen 13th with 9 at S. Killingholme December 27th.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

In January 2 were at Gibraltar Point 4th and one Donna Nook 12th then 2 at Saltfleetby February 23rd and 3 March 3rd, one 12-23rd and 2 Donna Nook 27th. In April Gibraltar Point had singles 3rd, 17th and 21st, Donna Nook 2nd and 16th, Saltfleetby 6-15th and Baston Fen 2 2nd. An early autumn bird was at Donna Nook September 5th and one Saltfleetby 24th was followed by a pronounced arrival in October with one 3rd and 6th, 3 12th, 9 14th, 8 15th, 11 29th and 8 30th. At Donna Nook there were singles 5th and 22nd and 5 days in October/November, Gibraltar Point 10th, 12th, 16-17th 23rd and 30th and Theddlethorpe 9th, Barton 20th. The only other November birds were at Gibraltar Point 28th and 30th and Saltfleetby 2-27th and December 10th.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

During January there were 180 Lea Marshes 24th and 58 Baston Fen 9th increasing to 135 by February 19th. 8 pairs bred there and 12 pairs on the River Glen near Guthram, with at least one pair each at Twigmoor and Barrow Haven. At the latter site there were 40 August 12th-October. There were 60 at N. Killingholme in October with 80 at Saltfleetby 18th and November peaks of 100 N. Killingholme 20th, 50 Bradley pit 5th and 36 Gibraltar Point 4th. Numbers built up at Baston Fen to 142 by December 20th.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Apart from reports of 1-2 birds inland and coastal there were; 4 Saltfleetby January 1st, 10 Gibraltar Point 1st with 16 3-4th and 9 9th then up to 6 to February 4th. A poor autumn on the coast with a maximum of 6 at Anderby November 6th and 6 Gibraltar Point December 24th.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

There were 2 at Pyewipe January 6th with one 12-13th and one Tetney 6th. First spring birds were at Gibraltar Point March 24th with 3 26th then 1-4 noted April-May at Killingholme, Baston Fen, Gibraltar Point, North Cotes and Read's Island. July birds were at Tetney 15th, Goxhill 10th and Killingholme 25th, then 1-5 at Killingholme, North Cotes, Donna Nook, Witham Mouth, Covenham, Winteringham and Gibraltar Point from August to September. There were 7 at Gibraltar Point September 1-2nd and an exceptional flock of 230 at Holbeach August 21st. In October there were 1-3 at Gibraltar Point, one Read's Island 16th, 2 Whitton November 7th, Gibraltar Point 13th and 20 Seacroft 7th with a late bird at Cleethorpes December 5th.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

In the January-April period there were up to 200 at Grimsby Docks and 1,230 between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border on February 28th. Summering birds in June included 40 at Grainthorpe. Numbers on the coast increased rapidly from July reaching peaks in August-September then falling away into the winter. At Gibraltar Point 450 on July 23rd had increased to 5,000 August 30-31st with 5,000 again September 4th and 7,000 17th, 2,400 October 2nd, 1,400 November 4th and 850 December 30th. In the Humber there were 50 at Barton September 29th and 26 Winteringham 26th with up to 50 at Barton/Goxhill in October, 97 Donna Nook October 6th. One was inland at Covenham Res. September 16th with 65 at Cleethorpes December 5th.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

The first spring bird was at Covenham Res. April 16th. There were then up to 10 birds at a number of coastal localities during April-May with 20 Tetney May 15th, 25 north at Gibraltar Point 8th and 14 there 29th. An unusual record was of 14 at Gibraltar Point June 5th. Birds returned in good numbers in July with 11 East Halton 24th, 20 Witham Mouth 25th, 13 south Saltfleetby 26th and 14 south 27th. Up to 10 were noted on the coast and Wash/Humber during August with 57 at Donna Nook 28th, 18 south Saltfleetby 18th and 42 south 21st while at Gibraltar Point 81 flew south between 13th and 31st. 2 were at Covenham Res. 14-27th. In September there were 10 at Frampton 19th, 15 south Saltfleetby 5th and 39 south at Gibraltar Point 1-5th, 4 south 26th and 2 29th. In October there were 5 at Saltfleetby 3rd with one 6th, 3 Gibraltar Point 6th and 3 11th with a late bird at North Cotes November 5th.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Two areas Pyewipe-Grimsby Docks and the Wash from Gibraltar Point held the bulk of the population at all seasons. In the early winter there were 1,050 at Pyewipe January-March 8th and 500 April 25th. In the Wash there were maxima of 770 Holbeach March 27th and 150 Gibraltar Point January 12th and March 14th. 700 were there June 30th. Large numbers were again present in September-October with 3,000 Holbeach and 1,215 Dawsmere September 19th, 800 Holbeach October 10th and 1,200 Read's Island 9th. A flock of 90-100 wintering in Goxhill marsh contained a pure albino from October 24th into 1983.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Wintering birds were at Cleethorpes-Humberston to April 24th, Pyewipe January 14th and North Cotes January 17th, 19th and February 23rd. Spring birds arrived from April 6th Saltfleetby-Donna Nook with 1-2 there and Cleethorpes, Killingholme, Gibraltar Point and Grainthorpe through April-May. June singles were at North Cotes 16th, Killingholme 19th and Donna Nook 20th. In July Killingholme had 3 17th and 10 25th with 2 Donna Nook 3rd. Quite scarce during August-September with up to 4 at Bardney, Donna Nook, Stallingborough, Grainthorpe and Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point with 9 there August 16th. At Killingholme there were 10 August 3rd, 11 9th and up to 9 to the 25th with 1-5 to September 20th. Singles were seen at Cleethorpes October 19th and Humberston December 11th into 83.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Early winter concentrations included 560 at Cleethorpes January 31st, a peak of 1,068 Pyewipe February 8th, 760 between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border 28th, 974 Pyewipe March 3rd and 400 Holbeach 13th. There were up to 170 at Gibraltar Point in August and 1,260 between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border September 19th with 462 Cleethorpes 22nd and 200-250 there October-December: 500 were at Butterwick October 6th and 240 Saltfleetby December 13th.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

A presumed wintering bird was seen at Gibraltar Point on February 11th and 28th. Up to 5 were noted on spring passage April-May at Killingholme, Donna Nook, Gibraltar Point with one there June 12th, and Covenham Res. Good numbers returned in July with peaks of 15 at the Witham Mouth 25th, 11 Saltfleetby 8th, and 1-10 at a number of sites until October. Maxima were 11 Killingholme August 4th, 20 Gibraltar Point 15th, 25 North Cotes-Tetney September 11th and 21 22nd. A late bird was seen at North Cotes on November 7th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

After one at Donna Nook on March 16th there were 1-3 in spring March-May at North Cotes, Tetney, Humberston, Saltfleetby, Donna Nook, Heighington and Gibraltar Point. Birds were again regular from late June with 1-4 at numerous inland and coastal localities until October, notable concentrations being 11 Wisbech S.F. August 18th, 6 Gibraltar Point 2nd, and 5 there September 2nd. A wintering bird was seen at Newsham lake on November 25th and December 22nd.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Spring migrants were noted at Gibraltar Point on May 9-11th and at Donna Nook one June 1st with 4 on the 2nd. A rather poor autumn passage with singles in August at Killingholme 7-8th and 21-23rd, Donna Nook 7th, Saltfleetby 8th and 27th, North Cotes 13th and at Gibraltar Point 1-2 5th-17th and 21-22nd. In September singles were noted at Donna Nook 7th, Bardney 15th, Barrow Haven 22nd, Gibraltar Point 27th and a late bird there October 6th.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

The first spring migrants were at Gibraltar Point April 21st, Denton Res, 22nd, and Donna Nook 23rd. Up to 5 were noted in May at a number of sites with a maximum of 14 at Covenham Res. May 16th and 7 Denton Res. 11th, 6 Tetney 13th. 1-2 were at Gibraltar Point June 19-27th and one was displaying at Donna Nook on July 1st. There were up to 10 again at widespread localities from July- to late September with exceptions being 20 Covenham Res. July 25th with 17 29th, 11 Killingholme August 3rd, 14 the Witham Mouth 22nd, 18 Bardney 3rd, 50 Covenham Res. 6th, 15 Wisbech S.F. 10th and 13 Gibraltar Point 10th. Also at Gibraltar Point there were 2 October 2-13th then one November 4th, 2 27th with one at Donna Nook November 13th and a wintering bird at Messingham December 25th into 1983.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Very few notable records during the year. There were 50 at Cleethorpes January 19th and 172 between Gibraltar Point and the Norfolk border on February 28th with 75 at Holbeach March 27th. The only spring passage peak was of 2-300 at Cleethorpes in April with 445 on the 10th. Up to 5 were at Covenham Res. in May and 2 at Whisby pits 23rd. In September there were 150 at Freiston 4th, 2-300 Cleethorpes to early October, 100 Gibraltar Point 16th, one Covenham 28-29th and finally a maximum of 450 at Cleethorpes October 20th.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

One was seen on the flashes at Donna Nook on the morning of June 19th (RLo, CRM).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

One was seen at Gibraltar Point on July 20th (MJR, KAV). In September 4 were at the Witham Mouth on the 5th (SK, KH) and one flew south at Huttoft 6th (WPB) with another at the Witham Mouth on 19th (SK). During north-easterly gales on October 8th a total of 10 were at the Witham Mouth, 4 pale adults and 6 separate immms. (KH, RLab).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

In spring 5 flew south off Huttoft on April 11th and one was at Grainthorpe May 10th. Small numbers 1-10 were fairly regular on the coast and in the Wash from July-October with peaks being; 19 south Saltfleetby August 16th, 19 18th, 99 south 21st and 46 south 27th, 41 south Donna Nook 21st, 27 south Gibraltar Point 30th and 18 north 31st. Then in September 191 south off Huttoft 6th and 23 south there 26th, 25 at the Witham Mouth 5th, 17 south Saltfleetby 4th and 21 north with 5 south there 5th and one Pyewipe 1st. November records were one north Donna Nook 7th, 4 at the Witham Mouth 7th, one 13th and singles Gibraltar Point 14th and 16th. A late bird was seen off Huttoft on December 8th.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

An adult flew south at Saltfleetby on August 21st (BMC) and a juvenile was seen at the Witham Mouth on October 8th (RLab).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

A rather poor autumn passage. The first of the year were at the Witham Mouth and 2 Holbeach July 25th. From August-October there were several records of 1-3 birds on the coast and in the Wash with exceptions being 13 south Saltfleetby August 21st, 6 south

Gibraltar Point 29th, 4 north Saltfleetby September 5th, 4 the Witham Mouth 5th with 19 there 6th, and one in the Humber at Goxhill 6th. 12 were at the Witham Mouth October 7th and a high total of 42 there 8th with November records there 7th and Gibraltar Point 1st, 2 16th and one 20th.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

A first summer bird was at Donna Nook on May 20th (SL) with a different first summer there June 12th (RLo) and one at Grainthorpe July 4th (BMC). A juvenile was seen at N. Killingholme pits on August 16th and on the Humber there on 29th (GPC). Possibly the same adult was seen flying east at Saltfleetby on September 30th (BMC) and roosting in a field at Huttoft the same day (GPC). A first winter was seen at Humberston on October 23-24th (ACS, KA et al) and 2 adults were at Cleethorpes December 14th (MM) with one 17-18th (GPC, MM) probably the same bird as January 83.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

On the whole a rather poor year with most records at unusual times. In January there were singles at Gibraltar Point and Trusthorpe 2nd and Huttoft 9th. 2 flew north at Donna Nook on April 24th, the only other spring birds being 2 first summer Killingholme May 20th, an adult Saltfleetby 21st, first summer Gibraltar Point 25th and 1-3 first summers at Covenham Res. from May 4th-June 20th. Other June birds were at Tetney 5th and Saltfleetby 3 1s 27th. In July there were ads. at Donna Nook 12th and Saltfleetby 22nd and 3 1s flew east at Covenham 28th. 1-2 were seen irregularly during August-September at Donna Nook, Covenham, Saltfleetby, Gibraltar Point, Huttoft, Grimsby Docks, Seacroft, Barton and the Witham Mouth. In October there was a 1w at Barrow Haven 1st, one Donna Nook 6th, one south Huttoft 7th, 7 south Gibraltar Point 25th with 3 south 26th and 4 south 31st. November was the most notable month with one dead North Cotes 14th, one Cleethorpes 7th, 2 Barton 7th, one Chapel Point 12th, 8 ads. south Donna Nook 8th, 13 (10ads) Witham Mouth 7th and 3 north with one south Gibraltar Point 16th. In December there were 7 at the Witham Mouth on the 5th, 4 south Gibraltar Point 5th and one Huttoft 28th.



Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini* (illustrated)

An adult flew south off Huttoft on September 6th (WPB). There were then two records of juveniles at the Witham Mouth on September 24th (RLab) and October 7th (KH).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Notably large concentrations during the year included 7,300 Pyewipe on January 28th and 3,700 Cleethorpes 31st; 2,000 Covenham Res. April 26th; 10,000 Gibraltar Point September 26th and 15,000 Grimsby Docks-Cleethorpes December 17th.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

In January there were 1,000 at Pyewipe 17th and 500 inland in Nettleton Valley 31st. Up to 5,000 were roosting at Covenham Res. in February. 1,000 were counted at Gibraltar Point on September 26th and 500 at Donna Nook October 2nd with 1,200 there December 18th and 1,000 Gibraltar Point 31st, but by far the largest concentration was at Grimsby Docks-Cleethorpes with a peak of 10,000 December 17th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Fairly widespread inland and on the coast in July-August; up to 40 birds together with several of the Scandinavian race *L.f. fuscus*. At Pyewipe there were 55 September 12th.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

385 were counted at Pyewipe on January 3rd and 150 at Donna Nook May 15th. Gibraltar Point had a peak of 1,000 September 26th but again the largest numbers were at Pyewipe/Cleethorpes with up to 2,000 December.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

At Covenham Res. there was a second winter moulting to second summer on February 9th (KW, MM) and a first summer at Grimsby Docks on March 20th (MM).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Far fewer records than of recent years; all records noted. At Cleethorpes an adult was pre-

sent from January 13th to March 21st and 3 first winters at Pyewipe 3rd January with 2 7-9th. A 1w. was at Covenham Res. January 7th and one Messingham 21-27th. Possibly the same 1w. was seen at Grimsby Docks on February 15th and Humberston 21st. A second winter was seen at Huttoft April 12th. An adult was noted at Gibraltar Point on the unusual date of August 29th. The only late year records were a 1w. flying north at Donna Nook on October 9th and another 1w. at Messingham December 25th.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

370 were at Grimsby Docks on January 4th and 300 flew north at Huttoft on April 12. Numbers at Saltfleetby reached a peak of 108 on August 4th and 400 were at Gibraltar Point on September 26th with 350 there October 4th. 420 flew south off Huttoft on October 7th and there were 450 at Grimsby Docks December 11th.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Odd birds were seen on the coast in January with 16 at Gibraltar Point 4th and 2 dead Cleethorpes 19th with 2 inland at New Holland 6th. 14 were seen at Cleethorpes March 14th and there was a southerly movement of 1,300 off Huttoft April 11th with 50 at the Witham Mouth 13th. Otherwise few were noted until October when there were 35 at the Witham Mouth 7th and 100 14th. November did not produce many more records but there were 35 at the Witham Mouth 6th and on the 15th 140 flew south at Gibraltar Point and 500 south off Saltfleetby in one hour.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

8 early spring migrants were at Gibraltar Point March 26th and 1-4 there during April-May. Other spring records were 2 Huttoft April 11th, Witham Mouth 13th, 2 Donna Nook May 1st and 4 Saltfleetby 26th. One was at Barrow Haven June 24th and 46 flew north at Donna Nook 17th while Gibraltar Point had 1-10 with 20 16th. The number of birds on the coast increased during July—August with July peaks of 150 Saltfleetby 22nd, 90 Donna Nook 17th, 180 Grainthorpe 21st, 80 Gibraltar Point 24th and 2 inland at Covenham Res. 30th. August peaks were 250 Saltfleetby 19th, 160 Donna Nook 28th, 67 Cleethorpes 6th, 2,000 North Cotes 20th and 200 Seacroft 30th. At Gibraltar Point there were 650 16th and prominent southerly movements with 2,500 south 29th, 3,000 south 30th and 500 north 31st. Again in early September there were 150 south 1st, 100 south 4th and 50 south 26th with up to 150 there to 18th. October records came from Donna Nook 2nd, Witham Mouth 4 8th and Gibraltar Point 22 south 2nd, 57 3rd, and 1-3 to 26th.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

The first spring birds in April were at the Witham Mouth 6th then 5 Tattershall pits 17th and 20 Covenham Res. 25th with one West Deeping 28th. There were 1-3 on the coast and at Covenham Res. in May and 5 at Fiskerton 7th then 15 at Covenham Res. June 1st. At Kirkby-on-Bain there were 11 July 18th. On the coast 100 were at Saltfleetby August 27th and 36 flew south off Huttoft 19th with 50 at Gibraltar Point 18th and 25 there September 18th. 2 were at Denton Res. September 6th and 100 at the Witham Mouth 19th then in October one Cleethorpes 4th and 2 Gibraltar Point 6-7th.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

First of the spring was at Covenham Res. April 17-20th with 7 22nd and one 26th. In May there were 2 Barton 3rd, 5 Covenham 7th, 2 19th and singles Donna Nook 11th and Gibraltar Point 20th. 2-3 were seen at Gibraltar Point on 3 dates in June with 10 23rd, and up to 8 there on 5 dates in July. There was also one Saltfleetby 8th and 4 27th. August produced records at Gibraltar Point 1-3 with 7 2nd, 6 14th and 9 21st with 12 Donna Nook 29th, 60 south Saltfleetby 18th (BMC, MJT) and an unprecedented flock of 3,500 roosting at North Cotes 20th (RLo). In early September there were singles at Saltfleetby 1st and 4th, Goxhill 6th, Gibraltar Point 6th, 2 11th and Donna Nook 2 26th.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

First of the spring were 4 at Gibraltar Point on April 24th and one Donna Nook 27th. A pair were courtship feeding at Cleethorpes May 9th and there were 25 pairs at Donna Nook 21st with up to 25 at Gibraltar Point and 3 at the Witham Mouth 23rd. At Donna Nook 6 pairs bred with no success at one site and 40 pairs at another. The maximum number at Gibraltar Point was 30 birds in June with 9 juvs. there July 25th. No records were submitted from the RSPB at Tetney. 2 were at Covenham Res. June 30th and July

23rd and 45 flew south at Saltfleetby July 20th with 35 at the Witham Mouth 25th. There were 21 at Holbeach on August 21st and 5 Covenham 1st with 42 Gibraltar Point 2nd and 1-15 there to September. After odd birds in early September the last was at Tetney 18th.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Very weak passage at both seasons. The only records in May were one Donna Nook 12th, 3 Gibraltar Point 13th and one Huttoft 14th with one Covenham Res. 6-7th and a maximum of 7 12th, then a decrease to one June 1st. Birds were seen fairly regularly at Covenham from July-October with maxima of 12 August 21st, 7 September 19th and 11 29th. In the Wash there was one at the Witham Mouth July 25th a maximum of 7 at Holbeach in August and 12 Frampton September 19th with 10 at the Witham Mouth October 2nd. Elsewhere there were 1-3 on the coast in August-September with 7 North Cotes August 20th, 6 Trusthorpe September 25th, 15 Saltfleetby 15th, 14 south Huttoft 26th and one Raithby lake 28th. October birds were at Stallingborough, Huttoft and Anderby 3rd, Covenham 4 1st, Donna Nook 2nd, Gibraltar Point 2nd and 3rd with late birds at Barton 25th and the Witham Mouth November 6th.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

1-3 noted along the coast in most months with 14 at the Witham Mouth on October 7th and 4 Donna Nook November 27th.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

A dead bird was found at Cleethorpes on January 19th and another at Saltfleetby on the 30th. From July-September there were 7 records of 1-2 birds on the coast at Gibraltar Point and Saltfleetby with 3 north at Gibraltar Point November 16th.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Singles flew north at Donna Nook on November 20th and December 11th (RLo).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Only four records during the year. One at Huttoft January 9th then one dead Saltfleetby February 13th, 2 south at Donna Nook June 17th and one 4 miles above Spalding on the River Welland on December 23rd.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

A wintering flock at Gibraltar Point numbered 70 on January 3rd and 80 on the 20th while 80 were seen at Alkborough on the 16th. In February there were 120 at Beniworth Haven on the 4th and 30 at Gibraltar Point 20th while 45 were seen on Risby Warren on March 3rd. The only late winter flock noted was 22 at Donna Nook in December.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

The hard weather in January no doubt accounted for some large flocks in the early year with notably 500 Stainby January 23rd, 1,500 Gibraltar Point 22-23rd, 1,350 Kirkby Moor 31st, then in February 5,000 Stallingborough 3rd, 560 Sutton Ings 11th, 4,000 Goxhill 13th and 450 Gibraltar Point 24-25th. 250 were at Donna Nook March 20th and 110 there June 17th. In autumn 1,000 were at Frampton all September and 3,400 flew south at Gibraltar Point on October 24th and 400 north at Cleethorpes November 9th. 1,000 were at Gibraltar Point November 10th and 8,000 flew south there 13th with 1,000 17th. In the late winter 2,000 were at Worlaby/Elsham Carrs December 24th.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Large concentrations noted during the year were of 116 Anderby January 27th with 100 there February 14th and 175 28th, 25 Tetney January 23rd, 22 Stallingborough February 6th, and 86 Normanby Park 20th. 21 were in Morkery Wood all June. Later in the year there were 32 at Cleethorpes October 29th and a roost of 150 at Barrow Haven November/December, with 44 at South Witham December 9th.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

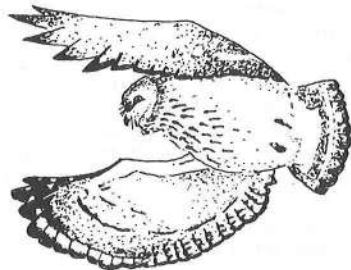
The first birds of the spring were 2 at Theddlethorpe and 2 Kirton Marsh April 25th, 2 Huttoft 27th and one Gibraltar Point 30th. Visible spring migration was very poor with maxima of 22 north and 6 south at Donna Nook 22nd, and 250 south at Gibraltar Point 22nd with 159 south 23rd; a total of 585 flying south there between 5-25th May. The main arrival of birds was between 4-12th May and Tetney had 20 on the 20th. Few were noted during the autumn with maxima of 10 south Gibraltar Point August 23rd, only 4 September records and two in October, Barrow Haven 1st and Gibraltar Point 7th.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

A very early bird was at Humberston on April 6th with the next three at Donna Nook, Saltfleetby and Nettleton on the 27th. Most arrived in early May with maxima of 5 at Gibraltar Point and Donna Nook in May-June. A distinctive rufous phase female was at N. Killingholme from June 6-19th (BMC, MJT, GPC). 5 flew south at Gibraltar Point on July 10th where the last was seen on August 31st. 4 were still at Saltfleetby on August 25th and a late juv. lingered there until October 11th.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Widespread reports of 1-3 birds throughout the year. A large number of reports of birds day feeding in March-April may have referred to birds which were short of food as at least 3 of these were found dead at roosts in the same period.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua* (illustrated)

Two pairs bred at Boston and one at Kirton in the fens. Singles were at Gibraltar Point June 26th, August 22nd and October 8th and 15th and at Saltfleetby there were 2 March 8-May 27th. Otherwise a few widespread reports.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Described as widespread in the Kirton/Framp-ton/Wyberton area with 6+ pair breeding. A pair possibly bred at Gibraltar Point and singles were on the coast at Saltfleetby November 13th and Tetney December 6th.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

At the Hobhole roost there were 4 from January 23-February 16th with one to April 9th and 2 April 4th. Another roost at Deeping St. James held 12 birds on January 24th and there were 3 on Risby Warren 23rd with 1-2 there February 21-28th. 1-3 were seen at Gibraltar Point and nearby from January 2nd-April 22nd with one there July 10th, August 10th, 15th and 31st. One was seen at Fiskerton March 18th and a pair bred at Stapleford Woods; the only breeding record reported! In autumn Gibraltar Point had one October 9-12th, and 21-23rd with one south at Donna Nook 22nd and one Saltfleetby 28th where one came in off the sea on November 15th. Gibraltar Point again had one November 20th and in December there were 2 at Goxhill 3rd and one at the Hobhole roost from 18th into 1983.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

During the January-April period there were 1-2 at Saltfleetby, 1-3 Gibraltar Point, and 1-3 occasionally at a number of other sites coastal and inland. 5 were at Donna Nook January 9th and there was a notable influx around February 14th, with 10 at North Cotes that day. Another increase in records took place on the coast in mid April. 1-2 were at Donna Nook from May 16-August with one dead July 28th and a pair laid eggs at Gibraltar Point but were predated. Others in May were at Tetney 14th and 26th and Grainthorpe 19th. A number of birds returned from early August with 5 records of 7 birds then 7 in September. There was then a very prominent influx during October and into November with several birds seen arriving from off the sea. At Saltfleetby there were 1-2 to December and 1-3 at Donna Nook. Several arrived from October 6th with most from 15-25th on the coast thus; 4 East Halton October 15-31st, 7 North Cotes/Grainthorpe October 21st and 7 Gibraltar Point 15th with records of 1-3 at a number of other sites through October-December. Peak numbers in November were 8 Tetney 15th, 5 Gibraltar Point 13th then in December 6 East Halton 6th. Probably an absolute minimum of 85 birds were seen during October-December spread throughout the county.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

The only records came from Stapleford Woods where there was a male June 2nd, a pair 6th, 2 males 11th and 3 birds August 6th. This is surely a poor reflection of the status of the species in the county and reports from other breeding sites would be appreciated.

Swift *Apus apus*

After one at South Witham on April 28th and one Gibraltar Point May 2nd there was a large and widespread arrival on the 3rd with 30 at Gibraltar Point, 50 north at Saltfleetby

and 30 west at New Holland as maxima. 300 were at Covenham Res. on May 30th and 120 flew south at Gibraltar Point 29th. In June 180 flew north at Donna Nook 26th and 450 south at Gibraltar Point 12th with 425 south 27th and 1,000 south 29th. More southerly movements there included in July 10,000 south 4th, 1,000 7th, 1,500 10th and 1,500 15th, then 1,000 August 15th with 2,000 south 29th. October records were more numerous than usual with singles Barrow Haven 1st, 3 south Huttoft 2nd, 2 Humberston 5th, one Gibraltar Point 1st, 2 3rd, one 7th, 8th, one south 14th and 15th. Late birds were at Goxhill 29th and in November at Donna Nook 6th, North Cotes south 8th and Gibraltar Point one south 9th.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

This species was obviously badly affected by the hard winter in December-January and there were subsequently very few records in 1982 compared with 1981 and only one case of proved breeding. January records came from Cleethorpes 7th and 31st, Louth 18th, Friskney Decoy 16th, Saltfleetby 19th and Saltfleet 29th with singles in February at Louth 19th and Brotherhouse pit Crowland 26th. One was seen at Newsham lake on May 4th and a pair bred successfully at one site in the North-west but there were no breeding birds either at Kirton or the South Humber bank pits. Birds became slightly more frequent from August with 1-2 at Denton Res. To December 1st, 2 Newsham August 7th and Gibraltar Point 22-24th then in September 2 there 9th and one to 26th, one Donna Nook 11th. An interesting record was of a bird trapped at Theddlethorpe on September 11th which had been ringed at Gunthorpe on the River Trent 92 km SW only 9 days previous on September 2nd. October records were at Stallingborough 3rd, Louth 9th and Barton 20-25th with the only bird of the year at Burton pits on November 7th and one Baston Fen December 7th.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

An early bird was seen at Gibraltar Point on April 17th (TEE, CE). A second spring bird was at Donna Nook on May 29th (RLo). In October a late bird was seen at Gibraltar Point from 9-10th (DG) and presumably the same bird from 19-20th (DS, PAC).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

The only record was of one at Donna Nook on May 7-8th (RLo).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Outside of the regular breeding areas there were records at Covenham January 11th, Gibraltar Point September 25th and Elkington Vale, Louth October 10th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Continued its presence in the north-east of the county with a pair at East Halton March 8th and a pair breeding in Bradley Woods. Other less regular sites were Whitton March 3rd and Alkborough 16th, and one Kirton May 8th and 13th and June 2nd with one Baston Fen June 29th. The only late year record outside the usual areas was one at Gibraltar Point on August 18th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

An encouraging continued increase in the number of records reported. 2 were seen at Hovendon House, Fleet, on January 31st and a pair at Kirton Hall Weir from February 3rd bred with fledged young seen on June 13th and one ringed. In March one was at Denton 14th and Hartsholme Park 19th. A pair were displaying at Burton pits on April 27th and one was in the Wold Newton area in April with one Denton 23rd. May records came from Bourne Woods, Aswarby thorns and Woodhall a male 3rd. One was at Newsham on August 7th and December 22nd with one at Bradley Woods November 22-December 30th and one Hartsholme Park also 30th.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Hard weather movements in January included 1,000 west at Barton 3rd, 120 south New Holland 6th, 105 south-west at Grimsby Docks 5th, 80 south Gibraltar Point 3rd and 290 south 4th. In addition there were about 150 at Gibraltar Point all month, 200 Donna Nook 17th, 190 Saltfleet 23rd and 210 Saltfleetby 10th. 60 pairs bred at Donna Nook. In October south-westerly passage was noted from Holbeach across country to South Witham on the 10th with 80 south-west in 2 hrs. at Baston Fen 17th. 180 were at Gibraltar Point 2nd with 200 and 150 south there 15th and 200 south 24th, 400 south



Honey Buzzard, juvenile (M. J. Tarrant)

Blue-winged Teal (Keith Atkin)





American Redstart (David M. Cottridge)

Arctic Redpoll (Graham Catley)





*Parrot Crossbill, above (Graham Catley)
and left (H. Bunn)
Ortolan Bunting, below (Keith Atkin)*

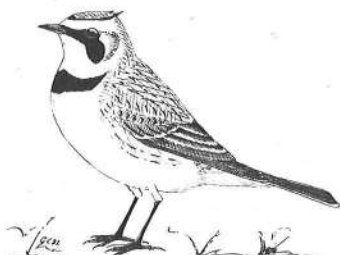


*Broad-billed
Sandpiper, left
(Keith Atkin) and
below (M. J. Tarrant)*



*Buff-breasted
Sandpiper (B. M.
Clarkson)*

26th, and 150 south 27th. In November 140 flew south at Gibraltar Point 4th and 175 south 13th with up to 150 present to late December. There were also 300 at Holbeach November 4th and 200 Donna Nook late November with 400 Elsham Top December 24th.



Shorelark *Eremophila alpestris* (illustrated)

2 wintering birds were at Saltfleetby from January 17th to March 28th, with 4 February 12th, and one to April 27th. 2 were also seen at Grainthorpe on January 24th. One was at Saltfleetby on October 28-29th and at Donna Nook there were 8 November 6th, 2 7th, 2 20th, and 6 27th with 9 December 4th, 4 10th and one 12th. Gibraltar Point/Seacroft had 2 November 10-11th with 3 12th and 2 14th, 2 16th, one 27th and 6 December 4th.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

The first spring migrants were 2 at West Deeping pits March 19th with single Spalding and Baston Fen 21st

then more from 27th with a good influx in early April and peaks of 150 Barton 10th, 134 West Deeping 13th and 70 Covenham 24th. No reports from breeding colonies. Autumn roosts were occupied from mid July with peaks of 2,000 Barrow Haven August 18th and 5,000 26th, 4,000 at Baston Fen 27-30th and 1,200 at West Deeping 31st. 200 were at Covenham September 6th but few were noted on coastal passage. Late birds were 6 south Gibraltar Point October 19th and 7 27th with the last there November 9th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

There was a small flurry of records in early April with the first at Saltfleetby 5th then on the 6th one Huttoft, and 2 Ashbyville with one Barton 7th. Most arrived late in April and early May. Low numbers were noted on coastal passage in spring the maximum being 200 south at Gibraltar Point May 14th and 100 south 16th. 1,000 flew south at Gibraltar Point on August 20th and 2,000 were roosting at Baston Fen in the first week of August. September produced the most spectacular numbers with a good southerly passage at Gibraltar Point, peaks being: 3,000 1st, 1,000 2nd, 1,500 4th, 1,000 10th and 15th, 2,000 16th. At Donna Nook peaks were 1,250 10th, 1,000 18th and 800 19th. A roost at Grainthorpe Haven peaked at 12,000 September 3rd and the Barrow Haven/Barton roost increased from 9,000 September 2nd to a new record peak of 250,000 16th with 70,000 still there 29th. 650 flew south at Gibraltar Point on October 3rd and 150 south 23rd and 24th. A few were noted along the coast and at New Holland and Baumber in early November with the last at Gibraltar Point 5 November 14th.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Three early spring birds were at Huttoft and Covenham April 6th and Barton 7th with a more general arrival from the 25th and most in mid May. 40 were at Covenham Res. July 14th and 200 flew south at Gibraltar Point August 21st. In September southerly coastal passage peaked at 200 Donna Nook 18th and 400 Gibraltar Point 8th. Birds were still widespread to late October with 40 Boston 23rd and 50 Gibraltar Point 24th. Several were noted in early November with the last 3 flying south at Gibraltar Point 14th.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Singles were seen at Donna Nook on October 27th, 29th to November 1st and November 8-20th (SL). Another was at North Cotes from October 31st to November 7th (HB et al). Donna Nook birds accepted by BBRC.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Coastal records in spring were at Donna Nook April 22nd and 25th with odd birds in May, Gibraltar Point 2 April 25th, 2 May 5th, 8th, 2 9th 2 11th and 15th. A singing male was in Morkery Wood on June 13th and 30th the only breeding season record reported. There was a good autumn passage at Gibraltar Point in August with 2 17th then 10 and 40 south 19th, 24 south 20th, 8 south 21st and 1-4 to 27th with 1-4 in September to 19th. In addition there was one Saltfleetby August 23rd and a late bird at Donna Nook on October 9th.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Spring passage was prominent in April with 41 at Saltfleetby 2nd, 40 Gibraltar Point 15th, 80 Donna Nook 17th, 70 Barton 6th and 150 there 14th. 7 pairs bred at Donna Nook. Southerly coastal passage in September included 150 at Donna Nook 19th and peaks at Gibraltar Point of 200 8th, 100 with 150 grounded 13th and 125 19th, 100-150 being present to 26th. 170 flew south at Donna Nook on October 3rd and 100 south Gibraltar Point 26th while 55 were at Covenham 21st. 50 flew south-west at the Witham Mouth on November 7th.



Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Maximum numbers in the early winter were 5 Grimsby Docks to March 8th, 5 Cleethorpes/Humberston to March and 1-2 Saltfleetby to March. Records at Covenham Res. were 2 January 11th, 2 February 7th, 23rd, and 3 March 5th. Early autumn birds were at Goxhill September 6th and Seacroft 8th. October peak numbers were 15 East Halton 5th, 10 Gibraltar Point 26th and 4-5 at Cleethorpes to December. In November there were 5 at Donna Nook 26th and numbers at Gibraltar Point increased to 9 14th then 21 17th with 6 there December 30-31st.

The distinctions between the Scandinavian Rock Pipit *A.s. littoralis* (illustrated) and the Water Pipit *A.s. spinoletta* are not perfectly defined for birds in the ear-

ly spring, late autumn and winter and the similarity of the two races at times is not well appreciated. It is possible therefore that some past and present records may be wrongly assigned, particularly to Water Pipit. It would be helpful if descriptions of claimed birds of both races were submitted to the Committee.

Birds claimed as being of the race *A.s. littoralis* were as follows: Saltfleetby February 17-April 14th, N. Killingholme March 6th, East Halton 3 March 8th, Covenham Res. March 11th, 14th, 2 17th and one April 4th.

Birds claimed as being of the race *A.s. spinoletta*, Water Pipit, were Saltfleetby February 12th with 2 27th to April 10th and one to 17th, Covenham Res. April 18-19th then later in the year Saltfleetby. October 30-31st with 3 November 27-December and Grimsby Docks December 11th and 17th.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

The first of the spring was at Covenham Res. on April 4th with 35 there by 19th and 53 26th. There was a good influx about 10th with 9 at Barton and 18 Saltfleetby 20th. A very high count of 125 was made at Covenham Res. on May 3rd but there were only 25 there 12th. Autumn concentrations in August included 16 at Butterwick 20th and 36 Covenham 27th with a marked southerly passage at Gibraltar Point. 125 passed south between 17th-30th with 20 on the 21st, and this continued into September with 79 south 2-9th and 24 7th. 25 were at Seacroft September 10th, 22 Covenham 4th, 8 Frampton 9th, 11 Barton 29th and 6 Huttoft 30th. 2 flew south at Gibraltar Point on the late date of October 28th and a very late juv. was seen at Covenham Res. on November 12th.

Birds showing characteristics of the race *M.f. flava* were noted as follows 1-3 fairly regular at Covenham Res. April 15 to early June, a male Donna Nook 11th 16th and 20th May and one Tetney June 5th and July 1st.

Birds showing characteristics of the race *M.f. thunbergi* were seen at Barton, male May 7th and Covenham Res. male May 10th and 21st.

4-5 birds with 'yellow heads' were seen during April-June. See note at back of report.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

At Louth there were singles in January then a pair from February 28 and later proved breeding. Others in the spring were at Grimsby Docks March 10th, Gibraltar Point 28th and Tetney May 1st. Autumn records were quite scarce; 2 on Laceby Beck September 11th and singles Denton Res. 7th and Gibraltar Point 13th. In October one was at Denton 15th and odd dates to December 1st, one Louth October 26th into 1983, one New

Waltham 10th, and Gibraltar Point 2 12th, 13th and 3 16th with one Grimsby 29th. One was again at New Waltham November 5th and one Lincoln December 3-6th and 28th.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

A maximum of 14 at Donna Nook on September 13th was the only record submitted.

Birds showing characteristics of the race *M.a. alba*, White Wagtails, were at Saltfleetby March 27-28th, New Holland April 14th and May 8th, Covenham Res. April 9-19th, 2 29th and May 4-5th with one Gibraltar Point May 4th.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Most reports suggest that the resident population was not badly affected by the hard winter with only relatively small decreases noted at most sites. At Baston Fen numbers were said to be unaffected while a 20% reduction was noted in Morkery Wood on 1981 figures. Coastal maxima at Gibraltar Point were 35 June 30th and 25 October 10th.

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

At Gibraltar Point there were about 40-50 all year and at Donna Nook 25 pairs bred with an autumn maximum of 25 and 25 flying south October 3rd.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

A 50% reduction in breeding numbers from 1981 was noted in Morkery Wood but there were no comparable figures. There was a fairly well pronounced coastal fall in October but Gibraltar Point had earlier arrivals in September with 19 3rd, 25 14th and 15 15th. In October the fall began on the 6th and was most noticeable from 9-11th. Gibraltar Point had peaks of 25 6th, then 65 9th, 40 10th, 30 15th and 20 23rd. At Saltfleetby there were 12 6th and 20 9th with 30 at Theddlethorpe 9th, 12 being trapped, and 9 trapped 10th.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Very few reports from breeding sites in 1982. The first of the spring was one at Saltfleetby April 23rd with records outside normal areas in May at Burton Pits 10-15th, New Waltham 11th and Gibraltar Point 22nd. The species was noted as 'greatly reduced or absent' in the South Witham area in 1982. An autumn passage bird was at Saltfleetby on August 15th.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Three early spring migrants were at Gibraltar Point March 20-23rd, Donna Nook a male 23rd and Covenham Res. male 27-28th. A coordinated influx in early April included records at; Donna Nook 6 3rd and 5 4th, Grainthorpe 10th, Saltfleetby male 4-6th and 11th, Anderby 2 2nd and Gibraltar Point 2 3rd, 15th and 2 16th. In May there were singles at Donna Nook 11th, Grainthorpe 13th and Covenham 26th with an unusual record at Gibraltar Point June 11th. One was seen at Saltfleetby July 15-22nd. Breeding records included a pair at Immingham Docks from April 21st, with the female sitting 'all summer' but no juvs. seen, a pair with 2 juvs. at Pyewipe in mid July, no others reported! A family party of 5 were seen at Brigg on September 10th. One was still at Immingham October 2-3rd and Grimsby 20th with passage birds at Tetney village 11th October, Gibraltar Point 10th, 12th, 15th and 26th, Donna Nook 29th, Saltfleetby 2 28th and one 30th, Theddlethorpe 28th. In November one was at Anderby 6th with 2 there 8th, and singles at Donna Nook, Grimsby and Gibraltar Point, all 7th. Late wintering birds were seen at Killingholme December 6th and 30th and Ingoldmells 17th.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Spring passage birds were an early female at Pyewipe April 3rd then a male Saltfleetby 20-21st and at Gibraltar Point 2 15th, 4 16th, 17th and 23rd. In May there were singles at Donna Nook on 6 days, Linwood Warren 3rd, Weelsby woods 3rd, Gibraltar Point 2nd, 5th and 8th, Saltfleetby 7th, 16th and 20th and a male with territory at Twigmoor 23rd. There were three records in July at Theddlethorpe 11th, Elsham 27th and Baumber 31st. Autumn passage was not very heavy with less than 3 on any day at Donna Nook and only the following in August; Gibraltar Point 19th, 23rd and 29th with 5 31st and Denton Res. 26th. In September there were 1-4 at Gibraltar Point to 25th, one Louth 23rd and a few more at Saltfleetby; 4 5th, then 9 11th, 8 19th and 1-3 to 23rd. October records were again at Saltfleetby 2 3rd, 7 6-9th; Donna Nook 3 11th, 17th and 3 21st one 24th, while Gibraltar Point had 1-5 with 10 9th and one 15-16th. There was one at Humberston Fitties 11-18th and finally a late bird at Donna Nook on November 7th.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

The only spring records were as follows; Donna Nook 2 May 4th, 7-8th, 2 12th and 16th, Saltfleetby 7th and 13th, Tetney 5th, Tongue End 9th and Grainthorpe 2 13th. Very few were noted on passage in August with no more than 6 at any site but more occurred in September-October. At Saltfleetby maxima were 16 September 11th, 20 19th, at Donna Nook 10 15th and 25th, North Cotes/Tetney 8 11th, Gibraltar Point 1-8 with 13 6th and 11 25th and 6 Huttoft pit 28th. Inland records came from Killingholme, Fiskerton, Winteringham and Denton. In October there were 2 Anderby 3rd, 2 Huttoft to 13th, 11 Saltfleetby 3rd with 3 15th, 1-2 Gibraltar Point to 15th and 8 Donna Nook 3rd with one 28th. Late birds in November were seen at North Cotes 2nd and Ingoldmells 15th.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Very few records again this year. In the early year one was at Wolla Bank January 21-February 4th and one Gibraltar Point March 17th. In autumn one was at Gibraltar Point September 2nd and one Wolla Bank 6th with in October one Gibraltar Point 2nd, 9-11th and 23rd, Saltfleetby 3rd and 15th, East Halton 15th and Grainthorpe 23rd. Singles in November occurred at Chapel pit 2-6th, Donna Nook 13th and December 4th and probably one bird at Killingholme December 6th and 30th and Immingham 23-29th.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Widespread records but only low numbers in both spring and autumn. First spring birds were at Gibraltar Point March 20th, Saltfleetby 28th and Baumber 29th. There were then several in early April with 1-6 at a number of sites in April-May and 9 Cleethorpes April 26th then in May 10 Donna Nook 16th, 10 Saltfleetby 14-17th, 10 Gibraltar Point 8th and 25 9th. A female was at Donna Nook on June 2nd and a few juvs. returned from July 3rd on the coast. Autumn passage of 1-10 birds was noted from August-October exceptions being 12 Witham Mouth August 22nd, 13 Gibraltar Point October 3rd. Late birds in November were at North Cotes 8th, Saltfleetby 6-11th, Covenham 11-14th and Donna Nook 23rd.

Birds claimed as showing characteristics of the Greenland race *O.o. leucorrhoea* were at Donna Nook May 7th, 3 11th, Gibraltar Point 5th, 10 8th, 2 10th and Kirton Marsh 8 8th.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

An exceptionally poor year for records of this species cf 1981. All records are listed; in spring there was one Tetney April 5th, Covenham 13th, Saltfleetby 2 20th, Donna Nook 20th, 2 Weelsby woods 9th and one Gibraltar Point 21st. Then in May singles Saltfleetby 9th, 12-13th and 2 8th, with 1-2 at Donna Nook and one Gibraltar Point 12th. An early autumn bird was at Gibraltar Point on August 27th and there were just five records in October; Gibraltar Point 8-10th, Saltfleetby 9th and 2 11th, Goxhill 15th, and Donna Nook 21st and 23-24th.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Pre-emigration flocks on the coast included in March 25 Donna Nook 20th, 34 Saltfleetby 24th and at Gibraltar Point 30 6th, 35 20th, 40 23rd, 60 24th and 25 27th, then in April 30 3rd and 45 at Donna Nook 3rd. Autumn influxes were very marked on the coast in October and November. Peak dates in October were 24-25th and 29th. Donna Nook had 80 24th and 100 29th, Saltfleetby 40 24th, 80 28th and 152 29th, while at Theddlethorpe 86 were ringed 24th, 72 ringed 25th and 87 ringed 29th. At Gibraltar Point there were 100 on the 9th with 120 19th, 150 21st and 200 24th with 150 25th. The November arrival was most marked from 5-7th. At Donna Nook there were 200 5th with another 200 6th, at North Cotes 150 5th, Theddlethorpe 125 ringed 5th and 125 ringed 7th. At Gibraltar Point there were 500 and 100 south on the 6th with 200 there 13th, 80 with 70 south 15th and 80 29th. High numbers remained on the coast and at many inland sites through December with eg; 50 Flixborough 13th and 60 Gibraltar Point 31st.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Following the severe winter, with some high local mortality and the departure of most birds from the county there were few records until a marked arrival of departing flocks in April. All were inland with 100 at South Witham 7th, 150 Worlaby 10th, 86 Thornton Curtis 12th, 90 Horkstow 14th, 300 Wold Newton 18th, 200 Weelsby woods 24th and 80 Nettleton 27th. Late birds in May were at Gibraltar Point 2nd, 5th and 10th,

Barton 10th and Donna Nook 9th and 16th. Some early autumn records in August were Saltfleetby 1-8th with 2 17-21st and South Somercotes 3rd. Very few arrived during September and only low numbers occurred on the coast in October but a few more in November. In October south-westerly passage was noted at South Witham on 19th, and 25th but the maximum at Gibraltar Point was only 160 south 24th, 100 were at Saltfleetby also 24th and 150 flew west at New Holland 25th. More arrived in November with 250 at the Witham Mouth 7th and 220 Donna Nook 4th, and 530 west at Billingham Fen 13th. Gibraltar Point had 1,500 4th, 150 with 150 south 6th and 110 with 130 south 13th. A very late influx in December probably originated further north in Britain. 560 were at Elsham 6th and 2,500 flew south-east at New Holland 7th with 500 at Barton 9th and 1,000 there 15th. 300 flew south at Gibraltar Point 4th and 1,000 were there 19th with 400 31st.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

44 were counted in Normanby Park on February 20th. Breeding numbers in Morkery Wood were equal to 1981, unaffected by the bad winter. Autumn passage on the coast was quite light with maxima at Gibraltar Point of 45 September 26th, 100 October 9th, 60 12th and 40 November 4th with 40 there December 19th. At Donna Nook there were up to 30-35 in October-November with 15-25 in December.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

As with Fieldfare very scarce following the severe winter. There were 30 at Barton March 30th and 12 to April 14th, 40 flew south-west at Donna Nook April 3rd when 80 were at Gibraltar Point and 21 were at Saltfleetby 12th. Late birds in May were at Donna Nook 13th, Saltfleetby 8th, Gibraltar Point 18th and 22nd and Theddlethorpe 29th. The first of the autumn was at Gibraltar Point on September 2nd with a marked arrival from October 6th when there were 100 at Saltfleetby and 400 Gibraltar Point. Also there were 500 9th, 180 with 200 south 10th, 400 12th and 250 16th with 200 Theddlethorpe 14th, 140 Donna Nook 16th and 50 inland at Twigmoor 10th. Further passage in November included 150 with 140 south at Donna Nook 4th, 150 5th and a further 150 7th, while at Gibraltar Point there were 250 with 100 south 6th and 100 7th, 100 more 8th and 100 south 12th. 110 were at Sutton Ings on December 28th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Notable assemblies of birds during the year were; 10 Gibraltar Point February 10th, 9 and 8 south there 13th and 17 Normanby Park 20th. In autumn 20 at Stoke Rochford September 10th, and 20 flying south at Gibraltar Point December 13th.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

The first of the spring was at Saltfleetby on April 20th with 4 males there 25th and 2-3 to mid June. Also in April there were 3-4 in Newball Wood 25th 2 Chapel pit 27th and singles Donna Nook 24th, Great West Wood 24th and Denton 23-May 10th. Others in May were at Nettleton, Hatcliffe, Killingholme 2 males to August, Bardney, Fosdyke, Goxhill to June 2nd and Donna Nook. One was at Gibraltar Point June 30-July 4th and one Biscathorpe July 22nd. Autumn coastal records came from Saltfleetby August 1st, Gibraltar Point September 17th and Huttoft pit October 13th (MJT). A much under-recorded breeding species.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

First of the spring were at Burton pit April 16th with several arriving from the 25th. 13 were at Nettleton May 13th and 1-8 at Gibraltar Point in May, 4 pairs breeding at Donna Nook. There were 10 at Gibraltar Point September 2nd and the last there October 3rd.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A late arrival, the first being 4 at Gibraltar Point May 2nd with 8 at Humberston Fitties 20th notable. 3 pairs bred at Donna Nook and one pair at Denton Res. unusually. A good coastal autumn passage with 88 ringed at Theddlethorpe from August-October. Other October records being at Donna Nook 2 3rd, one 9th, Gibraltar Point 6-7th, 10th, 16th and 28th with an exceptionally late bird there November 12-13th.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Most records were at Gibraltar Point with a spring bird May 28th (RLa), an unusual record of one July 5-8th (RLa) and then a juv. trapped 31st (RLa). Another was trapped at Saltfleetby August 1st (JRW, PC) and one Donna Nook August 7th (RLo, CRM).



Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* (illustrated)

An average set of autumn records. In August one was trapped at Theddlethorpe 27th (MB) and one at Gibraltar Point 29-30th with 2 there 31-September 1st then one 3rd, one trapped 6th, another 7th, 2, one trapped, 9th, one 15th and one 22nd (RLA, BTO et al). 5 birds trapped, probably 8+ in all. Others in September were 2 Saltfleetby 5th (JRW) and one 6th (KWi) with another there 11th (GPC, DJ, RB, KWi et al) and one Donna Nook 13th (RLo) with a later bird there October 11th (BMC, MJT).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

The first of the spring was at Saltfleetby April 25th with most arriving from May 5th. 4 pairs were at New Waltham 28th and it was relatively common in the Denton area and on the Humber bank but scarce in the Lincoln area in 82. Autumn coastal passage peaks were 16 Gibraltar Point September 4th, and 25 there 8th. October records came from Gibraltar Point 2-3rd, 8th, 2 10th and 11th, Saltfleetby and Theddlethorpe both 9th.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

After an early record of one at Ashbyville on April 6th there was a more widespread arrival from 24th with 8 males in Morkery Wood on May 20th, 21 at Donna Nook 18th and 25 Gibraltar Point 10-11th. 14 pairs bred at Donna Nook and there were 60 at Gibraltar Point July 3rd. Also on the coast a total of 488 were ringed at Theddlethorpe from July-September and August peaks were 50 Gibraltar Point 14th and 32 Saltfleetby 30th. Gibraltar Point recorded most in September with 40 9th and late birds were at Winteringham 26th, Gibraltar Point October 3rd and 9th and Saltfleetby 9th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

An early migrant was at Saltfleetby on April 23rd otherwise several arrived from May 2nd with most mid month. Notable autumn coastal records were 7 at Gibraltar Point August 28th and 22 there September 6th then in October 5 Theddlethorpe 10th, 6 Saltfleetby 6th and 2 9th, 4 Gibraltar Point 6th, 4 Donna Nook 9th, 2 10th, 12th. A very late bird was seen at Gibraltar Point from November 13-24th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

A wintering female was in Grimsby March 9th otherwise there was a widespread arrival of spring migrants from April 9-15th. Outside regular areas a pair bred at Baston Fen. Autumn coastal passage stretched from August-November with early peaks of 10 Gibraltar Point August 4th and 28th then 17 September 3rd, 20 8th and 10 29th. The largest arrivals took place in October between 6-24th maxima being; 25 Donna Nook 21st, 8 Saltfleetby 9-11th, 21 ringed Theddlethorpe 9-11th, 35 Gibraltar Point 9th and 9 23rd. November records came from Saltfleetby 13th, Donna Nook 5 13th, Gibraltar Point 1-4, Barrow Haven 24th. Then in December Gibraltar Point 1-4 to 31st, Donna Nook 5th, Theddlethorpe 4th and 12th, Saltfleetby 5 ringed 3-13th, one 25-28th, Barton 2 9th one 11th, Burton Stather 18th.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Amazingly in such an outstanding autumn for this species on the East coast there was just one record at Saltfleetby from October 10-11th (TS, KA, JRC et al).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Single birds were seen at Saltfleetby on October 7th (JRC), 21-23rd (BMC, MJT) and 28th (MJT) and Anderby November 2nd (KA).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

In spring one was at Gibraltar Point April 22-29th and another May 9th with one at Donna Nook April 25th. Two early autumn birds were seen at Theddlethorpe July 20th and Gibraltar Point 30th. Others in August were at Donna Nook 8th, Gibraltar Point 15th with one there September 7th and one Saltfleetby September 5-6th.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

At Gibraltar Point a wintering bird was seen on February 11th and 14th. The first spring passage birds arrived there March 25th with several at other sites 27-29th and 1-4 on

the coast in April-May. 6 males were in Morkery Wood June 30th and 1-2 at Gibraltar Point to 8th. Up to 3 were noted on the coast from August-September with most in October-November, maxima being; 8 Donna Nook October 9th, 9 11-13th, 8 21st, 8 Gibraltar Point 7th then in November 4 North Somercotes Warren 4th, 5 Donna Nook 4th, 3 Theddlethorpe 5th. A few were regular to late November with in December one Sleaford 3rd, Theddlethorpe 4th and Gibraltar Point 30th.

Birds suggesting characteristics of the race *P.c. tristis* were seen at Anderby November 10th, 2 North Somercotes Warren November 4th and 1-2 at Donna Nook October 10-21st.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

After an early bird at Elsham March 27th there was a widespread arrival from April 5-6th with good numbers by 10th when 11 were at Barton, 10 Roxton Wood 11th and 20 Kirkby Moor 13th. May coastal passage was poor with a maximum of 15 Donna Nook 26th and 20 Gibraltar Point 2nd. A high concentration of 52 singing males were in Morkery Wood June 13th. August was the peak month for coastal passage with 203 ringed at Theddlethorpe 21-28th, 50 Saltfleetby 21st, 150 Gibraltar Point 14th then 200 17th and 500 21st with 200 to 26th. Fewer were noted in September but Gibraltar Point still held 50 6th. Late birds were at Gibraltar Point 2 October 10th, Donna Nook 11-24th and Anderby November 10th.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

A few were noted on spring migration on the coast with up to 10 at Donna Nook in March and 20 Gibraltar Point 21st, 25 26th and 20 27th with 30 again April 3rd and 20 10th and 10 17th. Autumn influxes began early at Gibraltar Point with 30 on September 15th, 45 26th and 50 29th but most occurred in October from the 5th. 85 were trapped at Theddlethorpe 5-6th, and 50 more there 9th, 20 were at Saltfleetby 6th and 60+ 9th with 30 23rd, and at Donna Nook there were 45 9th, 40 15th and 20 21st. Peaks at Gibraltar Point were 100 9-10th, 40 15-16th, 73 23rd and 100 27th with 30 there November 4th and 16th.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Relatively few in spring but a good arrival of birds in November. In March there was one at Gibraltar Point 21-26th, a male at Barton 24th, 3 Saltfleetby 28th with 1-2 to April 3rd, one Chapel pit and Huttoft 27th then one Gibraltar Point April 3rd and 17th. Singles were seen at Gibraltar Point on September 14th, 2 October 15th, one 23rd and 30th before a marked influx in November. Donna Nook had one 7th, Saltfleetby 8th, Anderby 2 10th, Morkery Wood one 16th, Gibraltar Point 2 10th, 3 11th, 6 12th, 5 13th and 2 14th one to 16th. 4 were ringed at Theddlethorpe on 13th one remaining to December 4th with others trapped 26th and December 4th. December singles were also at Gibraltar Point 5th, 18-19th and 24th.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

The first spring birds were seen at Gibraltar Point May 9th, Grimsby and Swallow 12th and Denton 13th. Gibraltar Point had 4 28th and Donna Nook 3 18th with 4 22nd and one June 12th. Coastal autumn passage included 15 at Gibraltar Point August 27th and 10 September 3rd, 8 4-5th and 7 8th, 10 North Somercotes Warren September 11th, while 4 were still at Bracebridge Heath 17th. The only October records were at Gibraltar Point 3rd, 2 6th 17th and 24th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* (illustrated)

There was only one record of one at Donna Nook on October 16th (HB, MM) and 17th (RLab).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*



The only spring records were at Saltfleetby May 9th and Gibraltar Point 27th and 22nd. Autumn passage occurred with low numbers from August 7th. August records were; Donna Nook 7th, Saltfleetby 7-8th, 15th and 22nd, Theddlethorpe 27th and Gibraltar Point 29th. 1-2 were at Saltfleetby in September with 6 5th, and 4 11th, 1-2 at Donna Nook with 5 6th and 1-2 at Gibraltar Point with 5 6th and 4 15-16th. Then in October there were 2 Saltfleetby 6th, one 18th and 21st, one Donna Nook 7th, 9th and 2 11th, one 13th, 18th and 20th, Anderby 9th, Gibraltar Point 2 6th, 7th, 2 10th, 12th and a very late bird at Donna Nook November 4th.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Away from their breeding sites there were 2 at Huttoft pit January 21-March 10th with one Gibraltar Point January 22nd and 2 Brotherhouse pit (Crowland) 23rd. After a winter absence the first bird to return to the Humber bank pits was seen on March 15th and it was then a good breeding season with 60 juvs. counted on July 10th. Coastal records in October were at Huttoft pit 8 2nd, 7 3rd and 25 4th, 4 9th, Gibraltar Point 2 12th, 4 14th, 2 15th and Saltfleetby 6 15th with 4 at Chapel pit November 2nd.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

The most notable flock was one of 67 birds at Linwood Warren on February 20th along with 6 Coal, one Blue, one Willow Tit, 2 Goldcrest and a Treecreeper. On the coast there were 10 at Saltfleetby August 23-October 23rd and 18 Gibraltar Point October 16th with 15 to November 16th.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

All records came from the stronghold in the south-west with singles at Baston Fen January 23rd and October 17th and West Deeping pits March 26th. At Denton there were 1-2 on several dates August-December and 1-4 in Morkery Wood all year with singles at Easton and Lobthorpe lane in November-December.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Widespread records of 1-4 birds. Coastal records 2 Donna Nook September 6th, one 13-18th, 1-2 Gibraltar Point July-December.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

The only coastal records received were as follows; 2 Gibraltar Point February 21st one March 21st. One Theddlethorpe September 8th, 2 Donna Nook October 19th, one Gibraltar Point 6th and one suggesting characteristics of the continental race *P.a. ater* at Humberston Fitties 18th.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

At Saltfleetby there were 43 on the saltmarsh plants January 23rd with up to 23 to February 21st and a flock of 20 in reed beds at Barton February 18th. Gibraltar Point had up to 35 in September and Donna Nook 28 November 27th.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Maximum coastal figures were 22 at Saltfleetby March 28th then 19 ringed Theddlethorpe June 27th and 19 rd. July 4th with 28 at Gibraltar Point October 31st and 10 December 29th.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

The only records received were from Tortoiseshelle Wood summer and autumn, Lobthorpe lane November 26th, Woolsthorpe-by-Belvoir a pair bred, Denton Res. December 17th and Aswarby Thorns wood December 13th.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

In March 10 were in Roxton wood 7th and 2 at Baston Fen 28th. 2 were displaying at Barton pits April 14th and one was at North Somercotes Warren 9th. One ringed at Kirton in May was retrapped there in September. On the coast 5 were trapped at Theddlethorpe from July-October, 2 were at Gibraltar Point July 7th, one 24th, 30th and one Saltfleetby August 22nd. In October there were birds at Gibraltar Point 9-16th, 28th and November 14th, December 22nd and 31st.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

A male seen at Anderby Creek on November 7th (MJW) was still there on the 8th. What was almost definitely the same bird was later seen at Gibraltar Point on November 15th (RO, RLa, DRB, JPS et al). This is the second county record of this fine shrike, the previous record being at Donna Nook October 28-30th 1978.

It has been accepted by BBRC as 'one of the races *isabellinus-phoenicurooides-speculigerus*, with characters closest to *phoenicurooides-speculigerus* (intergrade)'.

For comment on racial identification and description see back.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Only two autumn records in a poor year. Singles were seen at Donna Nook on September 13-15th and October 9-12th.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

An overwintering bird was at Saltfleetby from January 1st-March 22nd. Others in the early year were at Gibraltar Point February 22nd and Baston Fen March 21st. In October one was at Donna Nook 12-13th and 29th, Huttoft bank 7th, North Cotes 10th with one Gibraltar Point 8-28th then in November 10th and 28th, probably the same bird to December 4-5th. Others in November were at North Cotes 11th, Saltfleetby 15-20th and in December Flixborough 11th and Saltfleetby 13th.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

An unusual record of one at Pyewipe from January 3-8th. In the fens there was a pair at Spalding all year, proved breeding in 82, and 3-4 pairs at Kirton-Frampton-Wyberton all year. A flock of 17 was seen on Crowle waste on March 1st. One was at Gibraltar Point August 30th and one North Somercotes Warren November 30th. 30 were in Morkery Wood December 16th.

Maggie *Pica pica*

Flocks of up to 15 birds were reported from many widespread localities throughout. There were up to 20 at Gibraltar Point with 25 October 25th and 34 December 4th with 40 14th. A flock of 23 was at Theddlethorpe October 31st.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Concentrations in January included 60 Risby Warren 23rd, 24 Barton 25th and 45 Nettleton 31st. At Morkery Wood 400 flew west on the 6th January in 4 flocks, in 15 mins. 105 were at West Deeping February 9th and 40 Spittal 8th with 49 at Sutton Ings March 2nd and 150 Risby Warren 3rd. The only other notable flock was 100 at Snitterby November 20th.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Large winter flocks reported included 250 Spridlington February 8th, 395 West Deeping 9th and 200 Donna Nook 13th with 250 Thurlby fen 20th. A roost at Thornton Abbey held 800 March 2nd. In the late winter period there were flocks of 1,500 Snitterby November 20th, 250 Redbourne, 250 Blyborough and 400 Caenby all 27th.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Apart from 21 at Saltfleetby January 23rd the only notable records in the early year were at Gibraltar Point where 135 flew south January 24th and 20 south February 28th. Southerly movements there in autumn included 32 September 2-26th, 10 October 19th, 20 27th, 30 November 14th, 13 15th and 41 17th. In addition to these there were 31 at Saltfleetby October 4th.

Hooded Crows *C.c. cornix* were again scarce with one Saltfleetby occasionally January 10-April 24th, one Burton Pits January 1st, one Messingham 23rd, Gibraltar Point February 7th, Donna Nook March 15-16th and 27th, and Stallingborough April 5th. There were just two later in the year Tetney November 8th and Messingham December 27th.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

In January there were up to 3,000 roosting at Gibraltar Point. A roost at Barrow Haven numbered 25,000 on August 26th and 20,000 Barton September 16th. Coastal passage in October involved 4,000 flying south at Donna Nook on 6th, with 2,000-2,500 there all month, 3,000 Saltfleetby 28th and at Gibraltar Point 1,000 flew west on 27th with 3,500 there 30th. 1,500 were at Donna Nook in early November and large roosts included 200,000 at Barrow Haven December 9th and 120,000 at Spalding Common all month.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Large flocks during the year included 4-500 at South Witham January 12th, 130 Burwell February 15th then later in the year 500 Stallingborough August 22nd, 500 New Holland all October, 300 Gibraltar Point 19th with 100 flying south there 24th. At Donna Nook 100 came in from across the Humber on 16th October and 70 flew north 10th. 700 were at Barrow Haven from November-December and 80 flew south at Gibraltar Point November 20th. In December a flock of 675 was at South Witham 17th and 100 Gibraltar Point 31st.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Up to 50 were at Gibraltar Point from January-February and 20 pairs bred at Donna Nook. Southerly passage at Gibraltar Point in October peaked at 100 9th, 200 10th, 150 13th,

60 15th and 21st and 100 24th. November peaks were 80 13th, 55 14th and 120 20th. Also in November there were 56 at Blyborough 20th and 50 Roxton wood 27th with 56 at Messingham December 27th and 55 Gibraltar Point 31st.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

The cold spell in January concentrated birds into some unusual feeding areas; 35 were at East Halton 12th and up to 50 at Gibraltar Point in a large mixed finch-bunting flock. At Burwell Wood 90 were noted February 15th and 66 were on Risby Warren March 3rd with 40 there 15th. There was a poor passage on the coast in both spring and autumn with the only notable spring records 40 south at Gibraltar Point March 13th and 20 south there April 3rd. In the autumn maxima at Gibraltar Point were 20 and 40 south October 24th, 30 and 60 south November 4th and 50 with 70 south 6th, 60 being present there 28th.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Apart from 1-4 at a few sites in January-April the most notable records were of 17 East Halton January 12th, 200 on the Hobhole bank 23rd and at Gibraltar Point where there was a flock of 100 January 2nd and 9th decreasing to 75 12th and only 6 by 24th. There were again 10 there February 22nd and late spring birds on May 8th, 2 10th and 11th. The first of the autumn were seen at Saltfleetby October 6th with 5 there 9th one Donna Nook 8th and 4 11th, 3 Gibraltar Point 11th and 1-6 to 31st with 1-6 on eight dates in November. The only other records were 30 at Swallow November 18th, 2 Nocton wood December 2nd, 30 Louth December 31st and singles Gibraltar Point and South Witham 13th.

Serín *Serinus serinus*

A male arrived off the sea at Gibraltar Point on November 13th and was seen well before flying off south-west (JPS). The first since 1976. Accepted by BBRC.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

A large winter flock at Gibraltar Point numbered 600 January 2nd but decreased to 180 by 30th and 200 February 14th. There were 60 at Baston Fen in February. A roost at Peaks Lane Grimsby held 250 September 5th and up to 50 were at Donna Nook in October. Southerly passage at Gibraltar Point peaked at 60 October 15th, 100 November 4th, 70 13th, 75 17th and 104 there 26th. In December large flocks included 200 Pinchbeck 5th and 70 Castle Bytham 17th.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

In January there were 60 at Saltfleetby 23rd with up to 150 at Gibraltar Point and 100 still there February 21st. Spring coastal passage was very light with maximum movements in May being only 50 south at Donna Nook 9th, 40 south Gibraltar Point 10th and 50 south 11th. Autumn flocks gathered on the coast from September with 50 at Butterwick 4th and 150 Gibraltar Point 8th with most in October thus; 100 East Halton 15th, 40 Saltfleetby 10th, 72 Saltfleet 16th, 120 Tetney 8th and southerly passage at Donna Nook of 60 16th and at Gibraltar Point 120 with 50 south 15th, 100 there to 27th and 360 28th with 200 31st. 100 flew south there November 13th and there were 92 at Saltfleetby 2nd.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Wintering flocks were seen in Boultham Park Lincoln, 36 January-early March, Hartsholme Park maximum 50 January 9th and Covenham 1-15 to January 17th. The only other early year records were singles at Gibraltar Point February 28th, 20 Louth 15th, 1-3 Gibraltar Point March 7-28th, one Cleethorpes 24th, and New Waltham 27th. In April Barton 2 6th, Barrow Haven 5 14th and Gibraltar Point 11th and May 13th. First of the autumn were 3 at Saltfleetby October 6th with 3 south there 15th and 4 19th. 1-4 were at Donna Nook 7-15th with 7 16th, one Cleethorpes 29th and 1-2 Gibraltar Point 6-28th with 20 23rd. In November there were 1-2 there with 8 6th, 6 13th and 8 south 28th and 6 there December 11th. Numbers in Hartsholme Park reached 20 by December 26th.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

The only large flocks in January-March were up to 55 at Pyewipe January, 130 Chapel pit January 31st and Gibraltar Point with 100 23rd, 450 February 28th and 250 March 2nd. Spring passage in April included 150 north at Donna Nook 24th and up to 100 at Gibraltar Point to 18th. 200 were at Stallingborough May 15th and 70 flew north at Donna Nook 8th. Large autumn flocks included 100 Theddlethorpe August, 450

Saltfleetby August 19th with 900 there September 19th and 150 Donna Nook 25th. 400 were roosting at New Waltham 13th and 235 were at Gibraltar Point 26th. In October 150-200 were at Donna Nook to November with 400 16th, 300 Grainthorpe 2nd, and 200 Gibraltar Point 3rd. In December there were 500 at Pinchbeck 5th and 125 Gibraltar Point 30th.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Coastal flocks were at their largest in the early winter in January with respective maxima of 50 Cleethorpes 19th, 60 Humberston 3rd, 200 North Cotes 1st, 200 Grainthorpe 1st, 164 Donna Nook 17th, 30 Saltfleetby 23rd, 350 Gibraltar Point 17th and 250 Witham Mouth 3rd. The population was fairly high through February but few remained in March; maxima 75 Gibraltar Point 20th and the last 4 there April 11th. Many returned from September with 100 Saltfleetby 3rd and 200 Donna Nook 25th. Peaks in October were 250 Donna Nook 12th and 220 Gibraltar Point 8-10th. November coastal flocks included 80 Cleethorpes, 70 Tetney, 500 Donna Nook 27th, 75 Gibraltar Point, 500 Butterwick 4th and 200-250 at the Witham Mouth, with smaller numbers in December.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

A flock of 22 were on the coast at Saltfleetby occasionally in January-February. There was virtually no coastal spring passage with a maximum of 6 Humberston May 20th, 8 Donna Nook 9th and 30 Gibraltar Point 22nd, 15 29th. In autumn 40 were at Gibraltar Point September 7th and 80 October 9th.

Birds showing characteristics of Mealy Redpolls *C.f. flammea* were a flock of 10 birds at North Somercotes Warren March 21st.

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*

One at Saltfleetby from February 21st to April 11th showed characteristics of the Fennoscandian race *C.h. exilipes*. (GPC, MM et al).

The third county record of this species; the first of 2 birds was also at Saltfleetby on October 12th 1975. Under consideration by BBRC.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

One flew south at Donna Nook on September 6th (SL, RLo).

In view of the occurrence of some Parrot Crossbills in the county in October 1982 the following records are being assigned only to 'Crossbill sp.' as they were not seen well enough for positive identification.

'Crossbill sp.'

Gibraltar Point singles October 13th and 24th (RLa), 3 south November 14th (GPC, ACS, JPS et al). All seem to have probably been Parrot. Willingham Woods 3 November 13th (GPC).

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus*

At Humberston Fitties a male was present on October 11th with 2 males 12th the first to 14th and the second to 23rd (GPC, HB et al). A first year male was picked up exhausted at Ingoldmells on October 12th and taken to Gibraltar Point where it died (per RLa). Another male was found feeding on thistles at Grainthorpe also on the 12th, it was also exhausted and was caught and taken to Donna Nook where it also died (WH per SL).

(See note later in report.) Humberston and Grainthorpe birds accepted by BBRC; Ingoldmells bird under consideration.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Up to 10 together at numerous sites throughout the year.



Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* (illustrated)

The only record was of one seen in Bradley woods on March 2nd and 11th (JdeL).

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*

A probable first year male found at Gibraltar Point on November 7th stayed until December 5th and was enjoyed by hundreds of admirers (RWa, KWin, RLa et al). The first county record of this American wood warbler and only the 4th for Britain and Ireland. Under consideration by BBRC.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

A very poor year with very few records. In January there were 2

at North Cotes 1st, one Saltfleet 6th, 2 Saltfleetby and 2 Cleethorpes 10th. In October singles were at Tetney 10th and Grainthorpe 21st with one north at Donna Nook 23rd, 2 there 24th and one 31st, and 2 Cleethorpes 19th. Donna Nook had singles November 13th and 25th with 2 south at Gibraltar Point 13th, singles 14th and 16th and finally one there December 6th.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Present in good numbers in January with fewer in February and most having left by March. Maximum flocks along the coast were in January/February; 2 Goxhill January 8th, up to 6 Grimsby Docks, 21 Cleethorpes 18th, 60 North Cotes 17th, 50 Donna Nook 30th, 90 Saltfleetby 21st, 25 Trusthorpe 21st, 200 Gibraltar Point 16th and 30th and 30 Holbeach 31st with 7 at Covenham Res. January 10th and one February 13th. The only notable flock in March was 60 Gibraltar Point 17th with the last 2 there 20th. The first autumn birds arrived on October 5th with 10 at Saltfleetby and 60 Gibraltar Point by 17th. Peak numbers in November-December were 2-3 Cleethorpes, 73 Tetney November 16th, 300 Donna Nook 27th to December with 350 9th, 46 Saltfleetby November 15th with 85 December 17th and at Gibraltar Point 150 December 18th and 100 to 31st.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

The presence of several large winter feeding flocks suggests that the local population may be increasing. In January there were flocks of 40 Gibraltar Point and 60 Saltfleetby 23rd with 60 Toft Newton 31st then in February 24 Tetney 7th and 41 Burwell 15th. March flocks included 50 at Roxton Wood 14th and 45 Risby Warren 3rd. Four pairs bred at Donna Nook. The only autumn record of note was of 40 at Donna Nook October 10th but there were again some large flocks in December with 50 Donna Nook 4th, 92 Covenham 3rd and 80 12th, 80 Tetney 6th and an exceptional flock of 180 at Burton pits 24th.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

A female found feeding on the north-east bank of Covenham Res. on May 17th stayed until 21st (MM et al).

Red Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Only relatively small numbers were seen in the early year with maxima of 30 Cleethorpes January 18th, 47 Saltfleetby 23rd 80 Gibraltar Point 24th, while later 25 were at Humberston February 3rd and 50 Saltfleetby March 22nd. 30 pairs bred at Donna Nook. In the autumn October records included 70 at Donna Nook 10th, 100 Huttoft 4th with 80 Gibraltar Point 15th and 50 flying south there that day. There were still 80 at Gibraltar Point November 13th and 20 Cleethorpes December 14th with 35 Covenham 3rd.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

In the early year there were 25-35 at Gibraltar Point from January-April 3rd with 10 12th. Elsewhere notable flocks included 50 Tetney January 17th, 22 Barton February 18th, 25 Blankney 21st and 14 Saltfleetby March 20th. 2 pair bred at Donna Nook and one was at Frampton from May-August. Late winter maxima were 11 Donna Nook November 26th, 110 Saltfleetby December 17th and 40 Bonby top 24th.

'ODDMENTS' WATERFOWL etc

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

One at North Somercotes Lido in January. One of a pair which arrived in Grimsthorpe park in 1980 was still there on June 8th.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

One with Canadas at Tetney/North Cotes January 11-29th.

Carolina Duck *Aix sponsa*

A male on Covenham Res. April 20-21st.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

One at Gibraltar Point on April 16th.

Marbled Teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris*

One at Huttoft Pit November 14th (BMC).

Additions and Corrections to 1981 Report

CORRECTIONS

Swallow

Barrow Haven roost figures should have read 35,000 September 4th and 70,000 28th not 3,500 and 7,000 as printed.

ADDITIONAL RECORDS

Dotterel

Bourne south Fen a trip of 8 April 19th (MA, TM).

RECORDS ACCEPTED BY BBRC

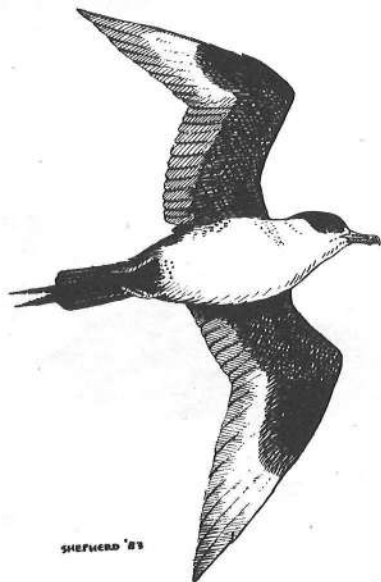
Collared Pratincole

Richard's Pipit

All except Saltfleetby October 5th (Under consideration).

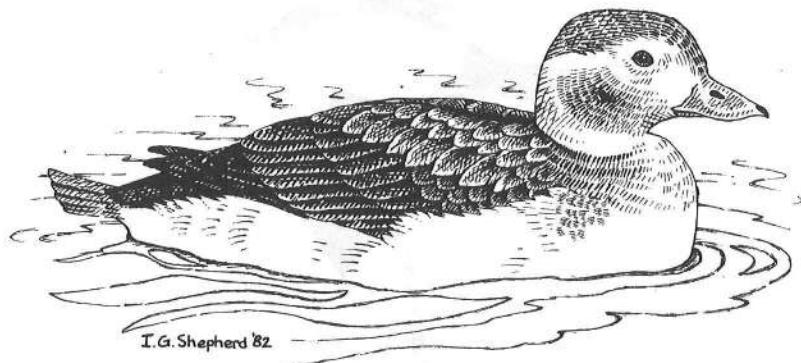
Greenish Warbler

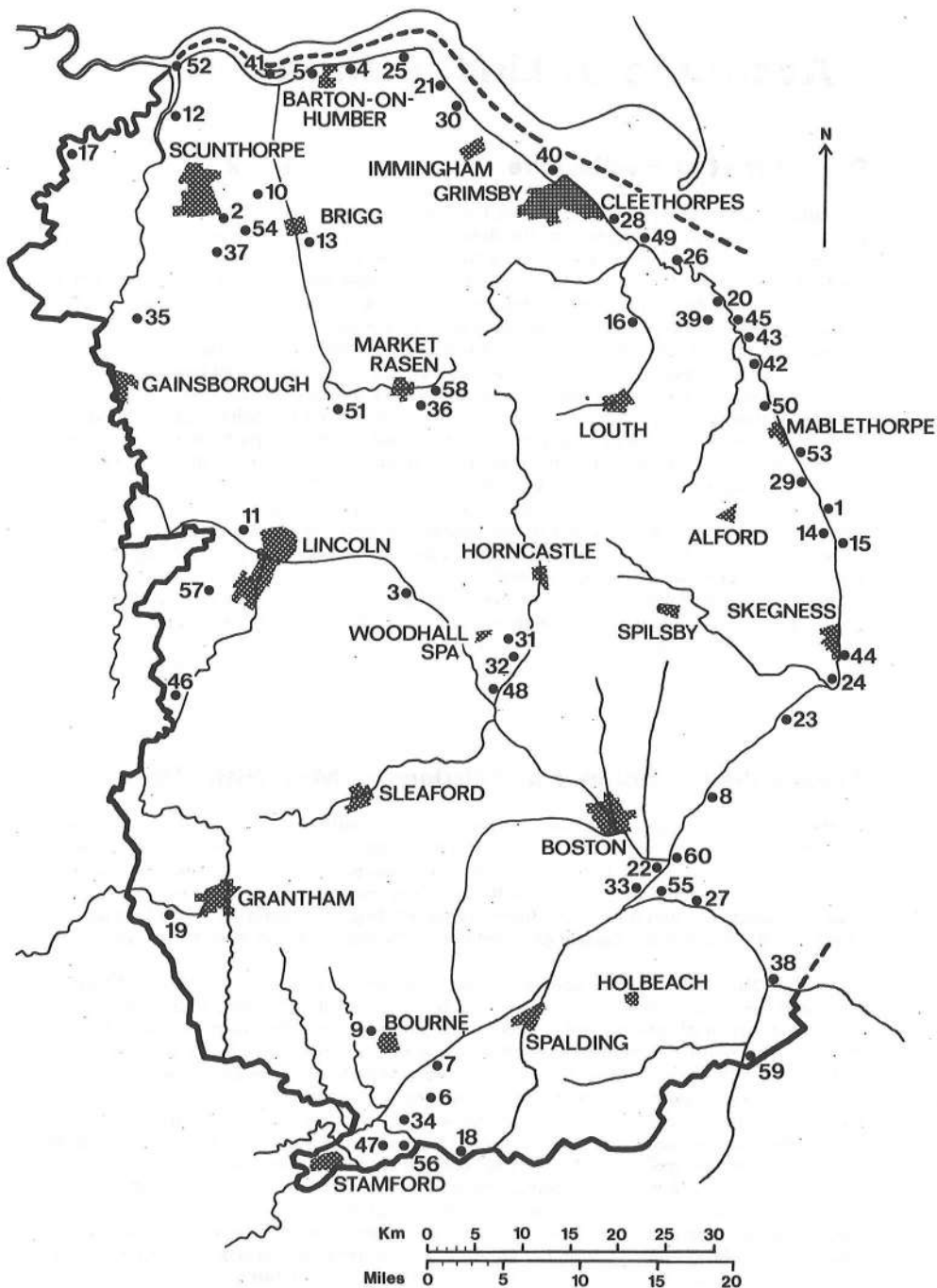
Both records.



Lincolnshire — Ornithological Sites

1. Anderby Creek
2. Ashbyville lake
3. Bardney ponds
4. Barrow Haven
5. Barton pits
6. Baston pits
7. Baston fen
8. Benington marsh
9. Bourne woods
10. Broughton woods
11. Burton pits
12. Burton Stather
13. Cadney reservoir
14. Chapel pit
15. Chapel Point
16. Covenham reservoir
17. Crowle waste
18. Deeping lake
19. Denton reservoir
20. Donna Nook
21. East Halton pits
22. Frampton marsh
23. Friskney marsh
24. Gibraltar Point
25. Goxhill
26. Grainthorpe marsh
27. Holbeach marsh
28. Humberston
29. Huttoft
30. Killingholme
31. Kirkby moor
32. Kirkby-on-Bain pits
33. Kirton marsh
34. Langtoft pits
35. Laughton forest
36. Linwood warren
37. Messingham
38. Nene-mouth
39. North Somercotes warren
40. Pyewipe
41. Read's Island
42. Saltfleetby
43. Saltfleet haven
44. Seacroft
45. Skidbrooke
46. Stapleford woods
47. Tallington pits
48. Tattershall pits
49. Tetney marsh
50. Theddlethorpe
51. Toft Newton reservoir
52. Trent Falls
53. Trusthorpe Point
54. Twigmoor
55. Welland mouth
56. West Deeping pits
57. Whisby pits
58. Willingham forest
59. Wisbech sewage farm
60. Witham mouth





Accounts of Lincolnshire Rarities

Black Brant at Skidbrooke, January 21st 1982

On January 21st 1982, while counting Pale-breasted Brent Geese, *B.b.hrota*, at Skidbrooke, I located an individual with the Brent flock which showed characteristics of the race *B.b.nigricans*, colloquially known as the Black Brant. In general appearance it was similar to the birds of the other two races present, there being 700 *B.b. bernicla* and 4 *B.b. hrota* on the day in question. It did, however, look slightly smaller than many of the others, but it was the plumage which was so distinctive.

The head, neck, breast and upper belly were a black colour with a brownish tinge to the neck and upper breast in good light, while the lower belly was dark grey and the undertail coverts the normal white. The white mark on the neck was a very prominent feature, being deeper than any of the other birds, and forming an almost full collar, joined round the front of the neck and only narrowly broken at the rear. The upperparts were a dark grey and the flanks a very bright whitish colour, being made more obvious by the contrast with the surrounding dark-grey and black of the breast, belly and upperparts.

Whilst watching the bird it was once surrounded by a group of *B.b. bernicla* which threatened it with necks held down and aggressive gestures, otherwise it fed normally amongst the flock. It was still present on the 23rd January when it was seen by H. Bunn and M. Mellor, but was not seen thereafter.

Identification of this race of Brent Goose obviously requires fairly critical examination of Brents, but this individual was certainly more obvious than I would have expected. This is a new race of Brent Goose for the County.

Graham P. Catley

Broad-billed Sandpiper at Saltfleetby, May 26th, 1982.

At the edge of the developing dune-formation on the Saltfleetby foreshore lies a muddy depression which is refreshed only by the highest tides and which is one of the last areas to dry out on a receding tide. It has not only proved attractive to migrant Curlew-Sandpipers and Little Stints, but over the last few months has been visited by a Buff-breasted Sandpiper and a Kentish Plover. When visiting the reserve, it is the first place I check, as the waders are closely grouped and fairly approachable whilst they are busily feeding.

On May 26, 1982, I had a special reason to go there; a recently-purchased 500mm telephoto lens was to be used for the first time and my subjects were to be the migrant Sanderling, some of which were in full nuptial plumage, and the "tundrae-type" Ringed Plovers. The numbers were noteworthy and a count produced 650 Sanderling, 350 Dunlin and 175 Ringed Plovers. After a cursory search with the binoculars, I made a cautious approach with the camera, taking the first photographs. As I moved forward, the closest birds took to the air, until several frames later, I was left with three birds in front of me which had been separated from the main flock. Two of these - Dunlin in full summer plumage - allowed me to approach close enough to obtain some acceptable shots, but when they, too, took flight, the remaining bird in the viewfinder looked different. It appeared black above, white below with distinctive headstripes. The Fresnel screen of the camera allowed me no clearer detail so binoculars were lifted. It took me only seconds to identify it as a Broad-billed Sandpiper although it took me longer to realise that I was watching one on my own "patch". Only seventeen days earlier, I had been studying one on the salt pans of Lake Alyki in Northern Greece. Such is the value of gaining experience of birds abroad!

Before taking notes, I decided to try to photograph it and was reasonably successful, although an "approach and shoot" technique is rarely as easy as from a hide. With some shots in the bag, I settled down to enjoying and studying the bird. Its feeding action was noticeably different from the waders present in that it employed a sweeping motion from side to side, probing with bill-tip in a deliberate manner, before running on a few steps at a time.

The sandpiper was noticeably smaller than a Dunlin and its short, grey legs gave it a somewhat squat posture with a fairly horizontally stance. The black-brown bill appeared disproportionately long, the upper mandible being broad with the tip sharply downward-pointing and looking flat with a head-on view.

It appeared darker than any other waders present and gave the initial impression of being black above and white below. A closer inspection showed the upperparts to be black to black-brown with contrasting white edgings and markings, especially on the head. A broad, black crown-stripe stood out against the white lateral crown-stripes and a long, broad, white supercilium reached the rear of the crown. On the forehead, the lateral crown-stripe and the supercilium merged to form a forked appearance. On the back, a pair of white "braces" formed a V, characteristic of Jack Snipe. The feathers on the back were black with orange-russet edgings; the coverts were broadly-edged creamy-white with black-brown centres. The blackish remiges showed thin white edges. The rump was black and the tail-centre had a thick black line from rump to tail-end; the tips of the outer tail-feathers were grey, being more pronounced when the tail was fanned. The underparts were predominantly white although the upper breast showed some streaking which continued along the flanks towards the undertail coverts. At rest, the primary tips projected a little way beyond the tail.

When the bird took to the air, its flight was generally erratic in the manner of a Common Snipe, and it tended to keep to the rear of the flying wader flock. Its dark rump and indistinct wing-bar were useful aids to finding the bird in the flock. I interpreted its single call-note on taking-off as "truick" or "treek".

The bird stayed for most of the day and some observers were able to see it in the early evening, before it finally left the area at 1810 and was not seen again. This record constitutes only the second for Lincolnshire, following the previous one at Wisbech Sewage Farm on May 9th, 1959.

Michael Tarrant.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at North Killingholme, September 18th-20th 1982.

Whilst making the daily wader count at North Killingholme pits, at about 15-00 hrs. on September 18th, I noticed a bird feeding amongst the reeds fringing the south-west corner of the first pit, which in brief views suggested Pectoral or Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. After about 15 mins all the waders took flight and the bird in question landed with a group of Dunlin and Curlew Sandpiper, in the open in the middle of the pit. I had time to confirm its identification as Sharp-tailed Sandpiper before it promptly ran out of the water and into the reeds again. It then spent the next 1½ hrs. feeding in the same general area foraging amongst the reeds and sedges and occasionally venturing out onto the open mud. At about 17-00 hrs. it flew off with a party of waders and was relocated sleeping on some floating weed in the second pit where it gave good views down to about 40m until dusk.



Description;

In size only slightly bigger than some Dunlin present, about as long as Curlew Sandpiper, but lacking the bulk of that species especially about the head and bill and with shorter legs. Overall impression was of a small head on a medium length neck with a longish body and wings and shortish legs usually held flexed. Bill very short, straight blackish with flesh/olive base to lower mandible. Head square, flat-crowned and small; eye dark with narrow pale eye-ring, lores brown, ear-coverts dark brown streaked finely with black. Supercilium pale creamy, faint and narrow before eye broader behind where it was faint streaked darker. Crown looked dark at a distance, in good light was rufous streaked with black; rear of crown and nape grey-brown (paler than cap), streaked darker blackish-brown. Chin and throat creamy lightly streaked, looked pale cheeked under ear-coverts. Lower throat and breast fairly bright buff heavily spotted, streaked and chevroned, most obvious on the breast sides, with chevrons on the lower breast. Buff colour faded out on the lower breast into a whitish-creamy belly just before the legs; some darker streaks extended onto the belly and the flanks were marked by a row of ruddy-brown chevrons facing to the rear. Undertail-coverts obviously buff, contrasting with the whitish belly, and marked with rows of dark streaks most obvious from the rear; above the undertail-coverts was an obvious whitish line formed by the pale edge to the tail between the dark wings and undertail-coverts. Mantle quite bright buff with rows of heavy blackish streaks; pale mantle V present but not very obvious. Scapulars brown with greyish-buff edges and another pale scapular line made a V, less obvious than the mantle V. Rest of wing-coverts dark-brown with buff fringes; tertials dark-brown with slightly brighter buff edges, primaries black with buff fringed narrow. In flight showed a very broad dark blackish centre to the tail and rump with greyish outer-tail feathers and a narrow pale wing bar on rather uniformly dark wings. Legs blackish with greenish tinge in good light.

Habits: One of the most obvious and characteristics things about this bird was its jizz or habits which were quite unique. It could usually be located merely by watching its actions as it fed amongst the foot of the reeds and sedges in the soft mud. It bore a strong resemblance to a small crane as it moved with head and neck held forward almost toppling over with the rear end uptilted and its deliberate jerky leg movements. It fed in this manner all the time even when on the open mud, but seemed to prefer the soft mud. It occasionally ran rather quickly over the open mud, again rather crane-like and when alarmed stood very upright looking rather deep bellied. It remained at Killingholme until the 20th. This is the first county record of this species.

Graham P. Catley

Parrot Crossbills at Humberston, October 11th – 23rd 1982.

On October 13th 1962 a male Parrot Crossbill, *Loxia pytyopsittacus*, was trapped at Tetney, the first County record. During the subsequent winter another male was found dead on January 16th 1963, at Doddington road gravel pit, Lincoln and further investigation showed there to be a flock of up to 9 birds there during January with 2-3 still present until May 25th.

These remained the only county records until October 11th 1982, 19 years and 363 days after the first, when an adult male was found in some small pine trees at Humberstone Fitties. Incredibly three more males arrived on the 12th, one joining the first at Humberston and two others being found at Grainthorpe and Ingoldmells. The Grainthorpe bird, which was attempting to feed on thistles when found, was caught in a weak condition and taken to Steve Lorand 20 years since his first encounter! Unfortunately it died in the night which was very windy. The Ingoldmells bird was caught, again weak, in the car park and taken to Gibraltar Point where it likewise died in the night. Another Crossbill sp. seen only in flight at Gibraltar Point on 13th may well also have been a Parrot.

This concentrated arrival was associated with a large High pressure area over Scandinavia and northern Asia with resultant north-easterly winds, which also produced a widespread fall of Siberian and Scandinavian vagrants along the East coast from October 6th onwards, peaking during 10-13th.

The first Humberston bird stayed until the 14th and the second until the 23rd October. They fed constantly on the abundant crop of Pine cones at the Fitties, all the cones examined proved to be of Scots Pine, *Pinus sylvestris*. Their method of feeding involved acrobatically climbing about the pines then snapping off the selected cones at the base and carrying them to a suitable branch where they were held in one foot while the massive bill prized out the seeds. They were very quiet and one of the best ways of locating them was by standing still and listening for the cones dropping to the floor when discarded. The birds were naturally very tame, though initially exhausted they remained tame when well fed; indeed they characteristically 'froze' when anyone walked by, in preference to flying.

Identification criteria could be well tested on these obliging birds. The bill of course, is most obvious being a striking and useful feature; It looks massive, is almost as deep as it is long (see measurements), and the upper mandible curves down along its whole length; cf. Common Crossbill. The tip of the lower mandible does not project above the ridge of the upper mandible when the bill is closed. The head also looks massive and heavy, powerful and lacking a pronounced forehead, due to the deep based bill. No Common Crossbills were present for comparison but these birds did look heavily built and bigger; the plumage tones of these two appeared to be a deeper crimson than male Common but this may not be a good feature.

The flight call is described by Jonsson as 'repetitive metallic 'kupp' slightly coarser than Crossbill but not too easily distinguished from it' while A. P. Moller noted that of Danish birds as being a 'gyp gyp' as opposed to 'gip gip' for Crossbill. The difference in

pitch is 3kHz for Parrot and 4kHz for Common. I noted the call of the Humberston birds as slightly deeper than Crossbill and wrote it 'tyup tyup'. It was not, however, as distinctive as I had expected and as a sole feature would not be totally reliable. The first Humberston male was heard giving a 'gopp gopp' call and singing on the 12th.

The following table gives the measurements of the two dead birds, the second Humberston bird trapped 12th, and the first 1962 bird for comparison.

	Grainthorpe	Ingoldmells	Humberston	Tetney 62
Wing	108mm	106mm	108mm	98mm
Bill depth	15.5mm	13.8mm	15mm	14mm
Bill length	20mm	20.5mm	19.5mm	20mm
Tarsus	19mm	—	—	19mm
Tail	63mm	—	—	55mm

Graham P. Catley

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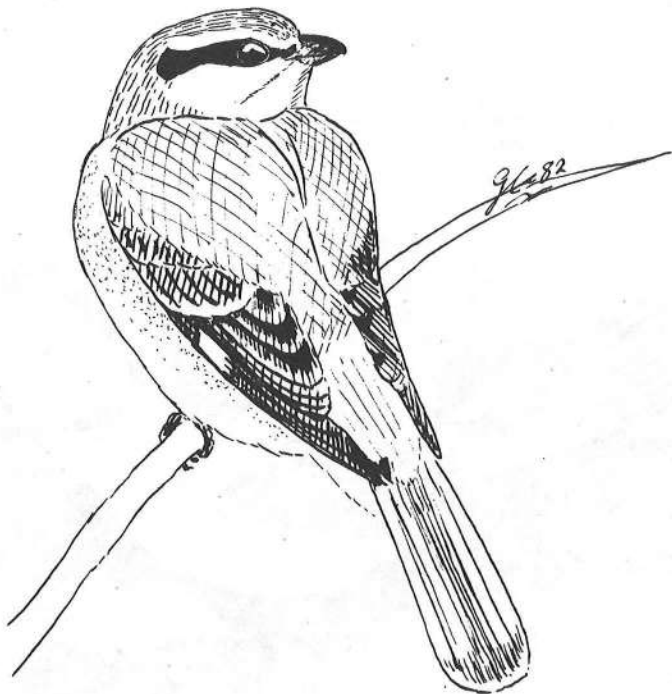
Isabelline Shrike *Larius isabellinus speculigerus*?

The Isabelline Shrike first seen at Anderby November 7-8th and then at Gibraltar Point November 15th-16th posed no specific identification problems as it was an adult male in immaculate plumage. Indeed with the assistance of the recent literature on the species it was quite easy to assign this individual to a race of the species.

A general description of the birds plumage is given for reference; Bill stubby and deep based with a little horn colour at the base; well defined sharp black mask from bill through eye to ear-coverts; pale creamy supercilium narrow back to eye broader behind eye; rusty forecrown at close range, rest of crown, nape, mantle and back a pale grey, with brownish tinge; rump and tail bright rusty, rufous-orange, tail darker in centre and at tip; wings dark brown with pale creamy edges to tertials and prominent white patch at the base of the closed primaries forming a white wing-block in flight; chin and throat whitish demarcated from the rest of the underparts which were a rich salmon-buff, paler on the belly and richer on the sides of the breast; undertail-coverts creamy, undertail rufous; legs grey.

From this description we can rule out the race *L.i. isabellinus* on the sharply defined mask, prominent before the eye, the colour tone of the upperparts, sandy in *isabellinus*, and the white in the primaries, usually absent or ill-defined in this race. The race *L.i. phoenicuroides* is more like our bird but shows a distinct contrast between a rusty crown and grey-brown mantle and also has whiter underparts. This leaves us with the race *L.i. speculigerus* the description of which fits our bird rather well including 'crown con-colourous with mantle', sharply defined black mask, rich salmon-buff underparts and prominent white patch at base of primaries.

A description of another adult male Isabelline Shrike at Fair Isle from October 9-12th 1981, (FIBOR 1981), matches our bird in almost every detail. It was also assigned to the race *L.i. speculigerus*, the 'Daurian Red-tailed Shrike' and confirmed by 'skins' examination, the conclusions of which are included in the account.



This is the second County record of Isabelline Shrike and the first of this race, the previous record being of a first-year bird at Donna Nook from October 28-30th 1978, it was assigned to the race *L.i. phoenicuroides*.

Graham P. Catley

(For BBRC decision on racial identification, see Systematic List).

American Redstart at Gibraltar Point, 7th November – 5th December 1982

On November 7th, K. Winfield and I began our weekly visit to Gibraltar Point at dawn, with hopes of a mixture of the last autumn migrants and the continuing arrival of winter birds. Although the morning was mild, a moderate to fresh south-westerly was blowing as a trough of low pressure moved north-east across Britain. Another trough of low pressure which had been crossing the Atlantic was due to move into the south-west later that day, so due to the unsettled conditions we resorted to the cover of the west dunes and the farm.

By 08.00 hrs, rewarded with a small flight of Swallows, a Hen Harrier and three Whooper Swans we continued through the Sea Buckthorn bushes which bristled with feeding Blackbirds, the result of the previous day's fall. Working our way along the southern edge of the plantation in the grounds of the farm, we noted a small brightly marked warbler in a leafless hawthorn bush. It was immediately obvious that this was no ordinary warbler as it showed bright yellowish-orange patches on the sides of the breast just before and below the carpal joint, and a pale yellow wing bar. Only tantalizingly brief views were obtained before it disappeared into the thick cover of the hawthorns and cherries, but after five minutes it reappeared and slowly worked its way through the centres of the bushes towards us. Most of the time it busily flitted from branch to branch within the bushes but after a short period of preening it fanned its tail to reveal the bright yellow basal tail feathers with a dark centre. For twenty-five minutes we had intermittent views of the bird in good light conditions and a description was gradually pieced together.



Warbler size of a slim Blue Tit with a long tail about one third of total body length. Black thin bill; crown, nape and ear coverts pale green, diffusing into white chin and throat; eye dark with pale orbital ring. Flanks buff with yellow patches just below the carpal joint; breast and belly light buff to white around vent. Mantle, back and rump greyish with olive green wash; wing darker than back with a pale yellow patch formed at the base of the outer secondaries. Yellow base to all but the central tail feathers for half their length, central and tips of the remaining tail features dark brown.

The bird was identified as an American Redstart and when returning to the area was soon located from its short clear monosyllabic "tchip" call. It called repeatedly as it flitted through the bushes eventually flying with tit-like buoyancy over our heads to a coppiced willow.

It was caught in a mist net the following day and was presumed to be a first winter male weighing a satisfactory 10g. It remained in the plantation until December 5th by which time over fifteen hundred observers had seen it. This is the first record of the species for the county and the fourth for Britain and Ireland, the third being recorded at Islay, Strathclyde two days previously.

R. K. Watson

'flava' Wagtails

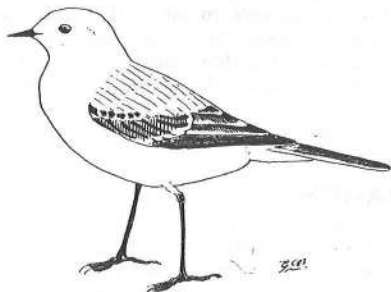
During April-June 1982 there were records of 7 rather unusual 'flava' wagtails in the County. Six of these showed an unmarked 'yellow' head and nape, thus differing markedly from normal male *flavissima*, and suggesting another race or even species! Most plumage and bare part patterns did not differ significantly from the highly variable *flavissima*, but important differences for each bird are given below; Where no other feature is mentioned this can be taken as similar to *flavissima*.

The birds are divided into 4 groups, the individuals within each group showing similar characteristics;

- A Covenham Res. 3 ♂♂ April 20th-early May & early May; May 26th.
Pale yellow head, nape and underparts (paler than *flavissima*) mantle yellowish-grey.
- B Covenham Res. 1 ♂ April 20th-early May.
Pale yellow head and underparts; mantle and nape and crown yellowish-grey.
- C Barton-on-Humber 1 ♂ May 17th.
Bright yellow head, nape and underparts (similar colour to *flavissima*) Mantle and rump greyish-olive.
- D Covenham Res. May 16th. 1 ♂
Very bright yellow-orange head and underparts; lower nape and mantle bright greenish-olive. This bird also differed from *flavissima* in its wing pattern; tips to median coverts very broad white forming a very prominent white upper wing bar, much more obvious than the narrower one on the greater coverts.
- Lincoln Ballast Pits. June 18th-20th. 1 ♂
Bright yellow head, nape and underparts, with whitish undertail coverts; mantle bright greenish-olive.

Whether any of these birds is assignable to a particular race is open to question. They are all being studied by BBRC, along with others in Britain in spring 1982. The two birds in group D would appear to be nearest to the race *M.f. lutea* but may be of unknown origin. The presence of 'yellow-headed' birds with greyish tinged mantles should, however, serve as a warning upon premature identification of Citrine Wagtail. I urge anyone seeing 'yellow-headed' birds in spring 1983 to record full details.

Thanks are due to Ken Wilson, Keith Atkin and Kevin Durose for supplying descriptions, and photos, upon request.



Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory Report 1982

Compiled by R Lambert

At long last Gibraltar Point had made the grade, reached the dizzy heights of recognition as a premier bird-watching site and all because of one bird. On 7 November the Reserve was graced by the presence of its first trans-atlantic passerine migrant, an immature *American Redstart*, which remained in the same small patch of hawthorn and ivy-covered elms for four weeks, attracting a vast number of observers through the whole of November. It was rather disappointing to discover, when the euphoria had dissipated, that what would have been only the third British record for this species was in fact the fourth — another (or the same bird?) had been seen on Islay a few days earlier! Notwithstanding the comment in *British Birds* that Gibraltar Point is "normally rarity-starved", within the next week a further new species had been added to the Observatory's list, an adult male *Isabelline Shrike*, and a second *Serin* for the Reserve had been seen. So it was that the year, which had by no means been unproductive to date, provided some of the best bird-watching in the history of the Observatory.

A brief glance through previous reports suggests that one or two new species a year is the normal expectation. Add to these a *Parrot Crossbill* in October and the year achieves a record. Unfortunately the crossbill was a sickly bird released here after being picked up further north and is thus not acceptable as a genuine record, though several records of *Crossbill sp.* at this time were almost certainly of this species. In addition there was a selection of infrequently seen species which includes *Slavonian Grebe* — 3rd record; *Bittern* — 4th; *Snow Goose* — 3rd; *Corncrake* — 7th; *Temminck's Stint* — 2nd; *Pectoral Sandpiper* — 2nd. There were also the first late-autumn records of *Hoopoe* and the first spring and summer records of *Icterine Warbler*.

The increase in the number of such records can be explained in part by increased effort by observers and, as noted in last year's report, the number of contributors to the daily log increases each year. A pity it was then that these essential contributors to the Bird Observatory's work were disappointed by low numbers of migrants in spring and in early September, traditionally the busiest part of the autumn passage. This was compensated for in part by a good August and the aforementioned highlights in November, albeit at times when observers are usually thin on the ground. The breeding season proved to be one of mixed fortunes; species such as *Whitethroat*, *Blue Tit* and *Dunnock* produced high numbers of fledglings while *Sedge Warbler*, *Skylark* and *Reed Bunting*, together with most of the finches fared particularly badly, continuing the declines of recent years. A pair of *Canada Geese* provided a new breeding record, raising six young from a nest on the Mere, and the resident pair of *Tawny Owls* at last succeeded in raising one youngster after failing to do so for the last three years.

The winter periods were a complete contrast. The weather in January and February, while not matching that of the preceding December, was still colder than normal and there were few birds apart from those able to utilise the tidal margins for feeding and the predators which they in turn attracted. December was quiet for the converse reason that the weather was extremely mild and there were no cold-weather movements from the continent or northern Britain to swell the Reserve's wintering populations. The only species present in unusually large numbers at the end of the year was the *Blackcap*, attempting to overwinter, and hoping that the mild weather would continue.

JANUARY — MARCH

January began, as might be expected, much as December ended, with high concentrations of some species and a steady southerly movement of others. It will be remembered that December had been a month of very severe cold weather and the rise in temperature at the end of the month continued into January. The wildfowling ban also continued and the

resulting flock of 230 *Pinkfooted Geese* stayed in the area until 7th when 215 were seen heading south along the Wash shore. The finches and buntings feeding on the saltmarsh, together with attendant predators, slowly decreased from the large numbers early in the month until, in mid-February, only remnants of the wintering population remained. Spectacular views of *Snow Buntings* were obtained by most visitors in January, up to 150 of these restive birds being present, but by mid-February all but a handful had left the area, followed by small passage flocks over the next two weeks. *Twite* on the other hand stayed rather longer with a large flock seen on 7th March. Predators were very evident and though unwelcome visitors for the assembled passerines they gave observers a rewarding return on their effort. Four *Hen Harriers* were regularly seen, *Merlin* and *Sparrowhawk* occurred occasionally along with the ubiquitous *Kestrels*, and four species of owl, *Tawny*, *Barn*, *Short-eared* and *Long-eared* were recorded.

The weather was dominated by stable anticyclonic conditions and though there were brief cold periods, especially in January, there were very few cold-weather movements seen. 135 *Carion Crows* moving southwards along the edge of the Wash were an unusual sight in late January as were the large roosts of 1500 *Woodpigeons* and 3000 *Starlings* which accumulated in the plantation and farm at this time.

February 7th produced the winter's only record of a *Hooded Crow* and the Observatory's second record of *Snow Goose*, the latter feeding with the *Brent Geese* south of the river, standing out clearly in the murky conditions. Mid-February saw the first summer-visitors with *Greenshank* and two *Chiffchaffs* though both do overwinter. Another scarce overwintering species, in this case a winter visitor in the true sense, the *Great Grey Shrike* only put in one appearance, on 22nd February.

Early March saw records limited to weekends as both human and bird visitors were in short supply in what is traditionally the quietest time of the year at the Point. Improvements normally occur towards the end of the month as returning migrants appear. The first movements took place in mid-month with a small but steady flow of *Jackdaws*, *Rooks*, *Great Tits* and *Chaffinches* in a southerly direction. Where they were heading is difficult to decide though it is likely that at least a strong element were moving eastwards via Norfolk. Summer visitors first arrived on 20th with the usual species involved, *Wheatear* and *Black Redstart*, followed by a *Firecrest* on 21st, *Gadwall* on 22nd and *Black-tailed Godwit* on 24th. *Chiffchaffs* and further *Firecrests* were present for the rest



of the month joined on 27th by eight *Sandwich Terns*, a very early record and the earliest ever for Gibraltar Point.

A pair of *Canada Geese* moved into the Mere on 25th and were obviously intent on establishing themselves in the remaining days of March.

APRIL – JUNE

April started very hesitantly with wet weather and rather few birds and it was mid-month before the first real influx occurred after westerly winds on 14th and 15th. This included *Willow Warblers*, the first *Redstarts* and more *Black Redstarts*, *Wheatears* and hirundines. The numbers, though small, were increasing when the winds veered to the north-east as the now dreaded but expected spring anticyclone moved in from the Atlantic to maintain an easterly airflow until almost the end of the month. Migrants continue to trickle through under such conditions but the bulk of northward moving birds are drifted westwards and appear in the midlands and along the west coast in large numbers. Occasional interesting sightings occurred, such as the *Hoopoe* on 17th, and winter visitors continued to move through, staying briefly on the coast to partake of a few choice morsels before attempting the sea-crossing.

The events of May were an improvement with more variable weather and a consequently better selection of observations. Waders figured strongly in the daily reports, no doubt showing a greater tendency to follow the coast than do passerines, with all four sandpipers, *Little Stint*, *Spotted Redshank* and *Little Ringed Plover*, only *Ruff* being absent. A *Rough-legged Buzzard* flew in from the direction of north Norfolk on 7th accompanied by the first *Marsh Harrier* of the year, the two birds providing an excellent opportunity for a comparison to be made of flight patterns, gliding and thermalling over the adjacent marsh before flying off strongly to the north-west. A *Spoonbill* entertained resident members of the 'Birds in Spring' course when it landed in the new borrow-pit against Bulldog Bank on 15th and a *Peregrine* flew along the shore on 18th. The month concluded with an *Icterine Warbler* singing briefly in the West Dunes on 28th, the first time this species has been recorded in spring though, significantly, spring records in Britain have increased in recent years.

Late departures of winter species are as much a feature of May as summer arrivals and a *Brambling* on 11th is the latest spring record for the Observatory. *Fieldfare* and *Redwing* were present until 10th and 22nd respectively and the last *Hen Harrier* put in a final appearance on 24th. The oddest record in the month was a *Glossy Starling* which, as with many escapes, caused many visiting birdwatchers a moment or two of panic as they struggled to identify this magnificent flash of iridescent blue. Fortunately it frequented the same small area of the east dunes for the whole of its stay so was readily identified, despite some strange descriptions, by the location.

June brings a rather quieter time to the Reserve as the resident birds concentrate on the business of raising new broods of young and all the migrants bar a few stragglers have moved on. Sometimes it can be a good month for those elusive rarities for which most birders constantly seek but in 1982 they were very scarce – only a couple of *Temminck's Stints* to whet the appetite. One of these diminutive denizens of the arctic tundra was seen in poor light on the Mere on 2nd June and was joined on the following day, in front of the assembled observers, by a second bird, both staying to feed around the margins of the Mere for two more days.

An indication of the kind of spring it had been might be given by the fact that the year's first *Ruff* was not recorded until 23rd while *Grasshopper Warbler* was even later on 30th.

JULY – SEPTEMBER

The period started with light south-westerly winds, conditions which almost guarantee a marked southerly movement of *Swifts*. The start of this feature of *Swift* behaviour, normally occurring in mid-July, had been recorded in the last week of June this year and peaked very early in July with at least 10,000 birds estimated to have passed through on 4th. Other species normally associated with the early autumn, and not expected until the later part of this month, put in an appearance the day before. A young and very spotty

Wheatear suggests a not too distant breeding site, but it is more probable that a similarly aged *Little Ringed Plover* had travelled rather further. Other young birds were becoming more evident and high counts of *Whitethroats* gave an indication of an early and successful season for this species. Some records from this period of species not normally seen during the summer months may also suggest attempted or even successful breeding in the general area around the reserve though some seem a little improbable. The species concerned were *Long-eared Owl*, *Barn Owl*, *Treecreeper* and *Willow Tit* with *Icterine Warbler* as a very tenuous possibility. A male of this last species was heard singing in the west dunes on 3 days early in the month and a juvenile was caught on 31st. Since Spurn also had another young bird on 1st August the two events at Gib. were almost certainly unconnected. The early arrival of the two birds from the continent plus spring and summer records of adults both here and elsewhere in Britain does draw attention to a possible change of status for this species in the future, especially since the first report of a singing male recorded in the UK was only forthcoming in 1981.

There was little else of particular note in July, expected species arriving steadily through the month with numbers quite respectable. North-easterly winds from 18th to the end of the month depressed visible hirundine movements and were too early to bring any continental birds, apart from those already mentioned, though an adult and 4 juvenile *Avocets* which fed briefly on the new marsh on 24th could easily have been of Dutch rather than British origin.

The winds began to change on 1st August becoming variable before settling in a westerly quarter on 7th and remaining so for the rest of the month. While these conditions are not conducive to continental emigration they do maintain a high post breeding population of summer visitors prior to their departure south. Thus numbers of *Whitethroats*, *Lesser Whitethroats* and ,especially, *Willow Warblers* were exceptional for over a fortnight, decreasing slowly towards the last few days of August. Significant movements were less evident, however, though record numbers of *Tree Pipits* and *Yellow Wagtails* were watched in early morning from 19th to 21st heading out over the Wash from the main trapping area in the east dunes.

At the end of August and in early September it is normally expected that arrivals of largely continental migrants will occur on the east coast of Britain and the birds will then move southwards down the coast. Many migrants, of course are not seen at all at ground level, passing over high enough to be out of normal visual range. Coasting flocks would be expected to include good numbers of *Whinchats*, *Redstarts*, *Pied Flycatchers* and a selection of warblers. Unfortunately there were no flocks, only small numbers of these species in a steady trickle through most of September. That birds of continental origin were involved in the 'coasting' movement is shown by an above-average count of *Barred Warblers* and the occasional *Fieldfare* and *Redwing*, but of *Wrynecks*, *Red-backed Shrikes* and *Icterine Warblers* there was not a sign. *Pied Flycatchers* only managed 24 bird-days in the whole of September, and *Blackcap*, *Garden Warbler* and other normally common species were present in rather small numbers. A few vagrants paid courtesy visits in the period with reports ranging from *Montagu's Harrier* and several *Buzzard sp.* to *Glaucous Gull* and *Pectoral Sandpiper*, the records of single birds of this last species on 25th and 26th apparently involving different individuals.

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

The present pattern of autumn migration has moved away from that of the 1960's and early 1970's. There have been no large arrivals of thrushes, *Robins* and *Goldcrests* for a number of years and, for this location at least, 1982 was to prove no exception. A period of heavy rainfall early in October grounded a few *Fieldfares*, *Song Thrushes* and *Goldcrests* but the main influx of these species occurred over an extended period with a peak on 24th when many other species were seen moving through in good numbers. The large arrival of *Robins*, *Goldcrests*, *Blackcaps* and other more exotic warblers which was seen from Spurn Point northwards and on the north Norfolk coast on the 11th unfortunately missed Gibraltar Point completely. It is apparent from a study of the prevailing meteorological conditions and satellite photographs that there were two separate

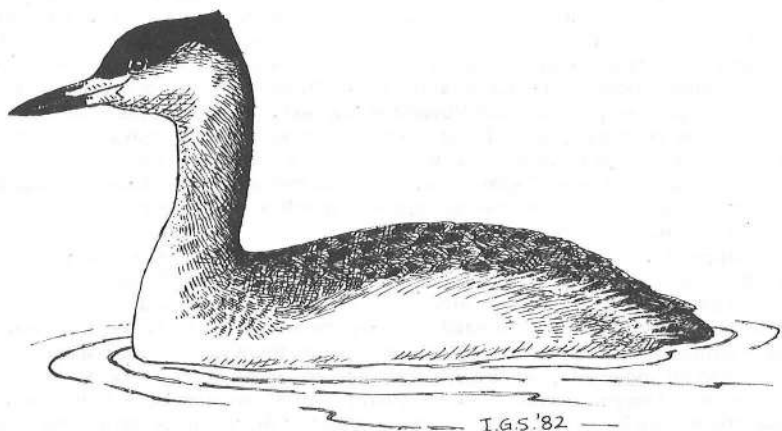
movements of birds involved. The really impressive influx of *Goldcrests*, *Pallas's Warblers* etc from northern Europe was concentrated along the coast between north-east Scotland and Yorkshire, Spurn seeing the southern edge of the broad-front movement, while Norfolk received birds from further south, mainly the Low Countries. The latter is the one which should have reached across the Wash but with birds moving in from the east and south-east it is easy to see how Norfolk interrupts the flow. So it was that one of the best autumn falls for many years failed to materialize.

All of this should not be allowed to infer that it was a poor month for birds, there were reasonable numbers of a good variety of species and a selection of more unusual species kept birders on their toes throughout the month. It was pleasing to see *Great Grey Shrikes* regularly, at least one, possibly two birds being present from 8th until December; *Rough-legged Buzzards* also paid frequent though brief visits. A *Hoopoe* on 9th and 10th may have remained in the area, to be seen again on 19th and 20th, or they may have been two separate individuals. Another uncertainty concerns crossbills. With an influx of *Parrot Crossbills* into eastern Britain in early October a scatter of records of *Crossbills* through October and into November posed identification problems and all were categorised as *Crossbill sp.* Other records included a *Corncrake* on 24th and a *Bittern* on 31st.

November more than made up for any disappointment lingering from early October when, after a quiet start with few observers, fog and evidently few birds, things suddenly looked more interesting. On 7th, in windy conditions almost guaranteed to ensure a careful check of the more sheltered parts of the Reserve, two local birders, Rob Watson and Ken Winfield, were suddenly confronted with a totally unfamiliar species feeding in dense scrub cover along the river-bank. The bird was tentatively identified as an *American Redstart* and confirmed as such when relocated a little later. On the next day the flood gates opened, with some 300 visitors through the day to tick off the bird before it disappeared. Happily this was not to happen, this obliging, superb little bird remained feeding in the same small area until early December giving ample opportunity for all the bird-watchers in the country to see it – at least it seemed as though the whole of the British birding fraternity passed through in those succeeding weeks. Two impressive features of this influx of observers were, firstly, the high standards of behaviour and co-operation shown by all, and secondly the series of records received as a consequence. A further addition to the Observatory list was obtained; an *Isabelline Shrike* which had been seen by many visitors at Anderby Creek, paid a brief visit on 15th and was last seen as dusk descended, sitting in the same bush as the *American Redstart*! A *Serin* settled fleetingly near the trapping area before flying off over the plantation on 13th. *Rough-legged* and *Common Buzzards* were occasionally seen, both being present on 16th along with 2 *Sparrowhawks*, 2 *Hen Harriers* and a *Merlin* – this was turning into another good raptor winter. *Firecrests* were rather difficult to count accurately with so many observers and so many *Firecrests*!, the peak count was 6 on 12th but there could have been several more. Warblers completed the scenario with a cast including up to 10 *Blackcaps*, 2 *Chiffchaffs* – one an eastern-race individual, and late *Reed Warblers* and *Garden Warblers*, plus various and varying reports of an odd bird whose identity ranged from *Acrocephalus*-type to *Hippolais*-type so it was hardly surprising that a definite identification was not attempted. Among all this intense activity and excitement other records tended to be overlooked, an example being the report of two *Slavonian Grebes* seen on the sea on 9th. This was only the third record for the Observatory, the previous two being in the winter of 1969/70, and should therefore have attracted more attention, but unfortunately there were no further details forthcoming.

As November progressed the numbers of observers slowly decreased so that, by the time the *American Redstart* vanished there were only infrequent visitors, mainly at weekends, and there was a greatly exaggerated decline in the number and variety of birds being reported. Small movements of *Lapwings*, *Fieldfares* and *Skylarks* were recorded, most of them particularly unusual, and occasional records of *Firecrests*, the *Great Grey Shrike* and *Lapland Buntings* were submitted together with an isolated record of a *Red-necked Grebe* on 11th December. *Brent Geese* appeared in larger numbers than normal for this part of the Wash, reaching the 2000 mark by early December, the population level being maintained by the development of a new feeding habit – on winter wheat – no doubt introduced by birds normally wintering on the Essex marshes.

December proved to be unusually mild, a complete contrast with 1981, and the only notable feature through the month was the large number of over-wintering *Blackcaps*. There were 20 bird-days in the month with at least four birds present on 18th and 30th and 8 new birds were caught in the period, with another two retraps of birds ringed in November. Possibly some will survive the winter to return to their more northerly breeding areas, probably in central Europe.



OBSERVATORY RINGING REPORT

One of the remarkable statistics which emerges from an analysis of the Observatory's annual totals is the consistency of the figures from year to year. The history of ringing activities at Gibraltar Point shows marked peaks and troughs as the interest and support of local ringers changed, and the fluctuations make for difficulties when carrying out any long-term assessments of the ringing data. It is therefore with some satisfaction that a look back over the past five years shows such consistent results. Despite inevitable variations within each year, due mainly to weather and availability of man-power, it seems likely that the optimum effectiveness of catching on the site has been achieved. Additional effort certainly appears to produce rather fewer new birds than might at first be expected, and it is apparent that the totals of new birds caught at one site rapidly decrease when that site is used too frequently except when a large influx or passage of migrants is occurring.

The most important periods in each year involve the autumn and spring passage and, as with all east coast sites, the former provides the greater proportion of birds ringed. Spring can sometimes produce a selection of interesting species and some small, but significant influxes of summer visitors, but 1982 was a disappointing year. In the whole of April only 81 birds were ringed, and this included the meagre total of 20 summer visitors. The situation improved in May though the species involved were unexceptional, before June returned another drop in numbers. Much effort has been applied to the ringing of pulli *Skylarks* over the last five years with a fair degree of success. Possibly slightly less time was available for this task in 1982 though the dramatic decrease in the number of young *Skylarks* ringed this year is a direct result of heavy predation by *Carrion Crows* in May and June, the locally breeding pair raising five young to fledge on 9th June.

July brought the first indications of better things to come with a few increases and a better variety of species caught. *Whitethroats* showed the most dramatic increase, up 100% on recent years, while *Blue Tits* and *Great Tits*, up 50%, evidently had a very successful breeding season. Despite the concern expressed in last year's report for the fate of *Wrens* in the December freeze they survived the winter extremely well and numbers handled in mid-summer show that they have maintained the population level achieved in 1981. July also produced a very early *Icterine Warbler* caught in the Heligoland traps on 31st; the third *Tawny Owl* for the Observatory, the result of another successful breeding record and most surprisingly, 5 young *Treecreepers*. Whether this attractive diminutive species had bred on the reserve or in the southern part of the Skegness area is not apparent, though they do not normally disperse far from their nesting site after fledging.

August amply fulfilled the promise of July with exceptional totals of *Willow Warblers* (503), *Whitethroat* (106) and *Dunnocks* (121) and interesting species such as *Long-eared Owl* and *Manx Shearwater*, the latter a new species for the Observatory, a gale-blown bird found in Derby and released at the Point. Surprisingly, for variety and numbers were par for September, October and November, the rest of the autumn seemed rather an anti-climax. The continuing lack of 'fall' conditions produced few peaks in the steady passage of departing summer visitors, and though the rest of the east coast had that spectacular arrival of 'eastern' species on 11th October the ringing totals for Gibraltar Point in the following days shows no significant influx whatsoever. The "Norfolk-shadow" effect being demonstrated to perfection.

The disappointment at missing out on the best autumn fall for many years was tempered in early November by the *American Redstart* event. Though it proved a fascinating period for observers with interesting records on virtually a daily basis, the opportunities for mist-netting were limited, both by the number of human visitors and unsuitable weather. When the weather failed to co-operate there was always the compensation for would-be ringers of good birdwatching, a factor which could not be applied at the end of the year. December was almost not worthy of a mention and would have contributed little to 1982 except for the notable numbers of *Blackcaps* present at the end of the month, 10 individuals being handled, 8 of these new birds.

The year was thus one of varying success, sometimes very frustrating, at other times very rewarding, producing an overall satisfactory result. There are, of course, those elusive recoveries to look forward to, especially since 1982 provided such a high quality crop from previous years' efforts. A perusal of the recoveries in the County Ringing Report will reveal the *Ringed Plover* in Ghana, the Algerian *Swallow*, the Portuguese *Fieldfare*, the Moroccan *Blackcap* and, best of all, the *Pied Flycatcher* which was reported by an Italian missionary from the depths of the equatorial rain-forest in the Central African Republic. These are the stuff of ringers' dreams but only marginally shade the exceptional exchange of birds along the east coast between Spurn Point, Donna Nook, Theddlethorpe, Rimac and Gibraltar Point. A *House Sparrow* journeying from Spurn to Gibraltar Point must surely challenge the *Blackcap* and *Swallow* for equal merit.

GIBRALTAR POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY RINGING TOTALS 1982

	RINGED		1982 total	Grand total	RECOVERED	
	FG	Pull			1982	Grand total
Little Grebe.....	2	—	2	5	—	1
Manx Shearwater.....	2	—	2	2	—	—
Wigeon.....	1	—	1	1	—	1
Mallard.....	1	—	1	—	—	—
Sparrowhawk.....	1	—	1	32	—	5
Kestrel.....	2	—	2	31	—	3
Red-legged Partridge.....	2	—	2	40	1	2
Pheasant.....	8	—	8	32	1	4
Oystercatcher.....	—	—	—	599	1	13
Ringed Plover.....	3	25	28	445	1	8
Dunlin.....	15	—	15	506	—	9
Jack Snipe.....	1	—	1	14	—	—
Redshank.....	3	—	3	64	—	1
Little Tern.....	—	18	18	129	—	7
Woodpigeon.....	6	2	8	135	—	1
Turtle Dove.....	10	—	10	82	—	1
Cuckoo.....	1	—	1	183	—	9
Tawny Owl.....	1	—	1	3	—	—
Long-eared Owl.....	2	—	2	15	—	1
Short-eared Owl.....	2	—	2	11	—	3
Kingfisher.....	2	—	2	27	—	—
Skylark.....	11	30	41	788	—	7
Sand Martin.....	1	—	1	27	—	—
Swallow.....	144	35	179	3001	1	23
House Martin.....	3	—	3	29	—	—
Tree Pipit.....	4	—	4	66	—	—
Meadow Pipit.....	131	12	143	960	1	10
Yellow Wagtail.....	1	—	1	28	—	—
Wren.....	128	—	128	1804	3	17
Dunnock.....	433	4	437	8411	11	70
Robin.....	187	—	187	2302	1	26
Redstart.....	22	—	22	1328	—	10
Whinchat.....	5	—	5	283	—	—
Wheatear.....	11	—	11	237	—	2
Ring Ouzel.....	1	—	1	58	—	3
Blackbird.....	697	9	706	9854	19	220
Fieldfare.....	21	—	21	764	2	23
Song Thrush.....	256	—	256	3553	3	59
Redwing.....	132	—	132	1183	1	15
Mistle Thrush.....	2	—	2	152	1	6
Sedge Warbler.....	80	—	80	853	1	5
Reed Warbler.....	113	—	113	801	1	11
Icterine Warbler.....	1	—	1	21	—	—
Barred Warbler.....	5	—	5	52	—	—
Lesser Whitethroat.....	118	—	118	1073	—	5
Whitethroat.....	381	—	381	5395	—	24
Garden Warbler.....	48	—	48	1054	—	2
Blackcap.....	221	—	221	1640	1	7
Wood Warbler.....	3	—	3	33	—	—
Chiffchaff.....	40	—	40	480	—	5
Willow Warbler.....	747	5	752	8021	—	17
Goldcrest.....	269	—	269	2497	3	16
Firecrest.....	4	—	4	31	—	—
Spotted Flycatcher.....	27	—	27	406	—	2
Pied Flycatcher.....	10	—	10	1295	1	14
Long-tailed Tit.....	16	—	16	518	—	5
Willow Tit.....	3	—	3	96	—	2
Blue Tit.....	141	14	155	2955	2	57
Great Tit.....	86	—	86	831	—	15
Treecreeper.....	6	—	6	25	—	—
Great Grey Shrike.....	1	—	1	7	—	—
Magpie.....	8	—	8	77	2	10
Starling.....	196	16	212	2464	6	75
House Sparrow.....	150	—	150	7252	4	84
Tree Sparrow.....	147	100	247	3982	2	21
Chaffinch.....	66	—	66	1415	—	14
Brambling.....	84	—	84	464	—	—
Greenfinch.....	245	—	245	2568	6	34
Goldfinch.....	167	—	167	2206	1	21
Siskin.....	—	—	—	58	—	2
Linnet.....	211	—	211	2384	2	14
Twite.....	60	—	60	147	—	3
Redpoll.....	133	—	133	2362	2	34
Bullfinch.....	53	—	53	586	4	15
American Redstart.....	1	—	1	1	—	—
Snow Bunting.....	6	—	6	168	—	2
Yellowhammer.....	26	—	26	602	—	7
Reed Bunting.....	132	8	140	2855	2	13
Corn Bunting.....	2	—	2	39	—	—
	6262	278	6540	95894	88	1127
		Species:	77	150	31	81

Note: Only species ringed or recovered in 1982 are included in this table, although the 'Grand Total' columns also include the totals of species handled in previous years. For a full list see the 1981 Bird Report.

COUNTY RINGING TOTALS 1982 (Gibraltar Point totals included)

	<i>Grand Total</i>		<i>Grand Total</i>
	<i>1982</i>	<i>1979-82</i>	<i>1982</i>
Little Grebe	2	6	1117
Great Crested Grebe	7	9	576
Manx Shearwater	2	2	3
Mute Swan	11	21	2
Canada Goose	1	2	53
Brent Goose	1	2	13
Shelduck	3	8	20
Wigeon	2	32	2
Gadwall	4	22	2550
Teal	13	45	39
Mallard	520	1906	746
Pintail	2	2	406
Shoveler	4	9	17
Pochard	21	32	16
Tufted Duck	262	436	264
Sparrowhawk	3	8	459
Kestrel	11	57	3
Red-legged Partridge	2	20	6
Pheasant	9	21	269
Water Rail	1	5	1088
Moorhen	14	76	139
Coot	231	431	555
Oystercatcher	3	506	4
Little Ringed Plover	6	20	117
Ringed Plover	41	281	1572
Grey Plover	17	284	663
Lapwing	3	20	12
Knot	3	148	74
Dunlin	204	3975	26
Jack Snipe	4	13	96
Snipe	1	50	10
Woodcock	9	44	42
Bar-tailed Godwit	2	105	26
Curlew	1	21	735
Redshank	24	400	412
Green Sandpiper	1	4	2
Common Sandpiper	1	19	39
Black-headed Gull	390	2007	1
Common Gull	11	59	8
Common Tern	21	245	12
Little Tern	75	185	3
Stock Dove	57	133	1726
Woodpigeon	47	159	290
Collared Dove	28	125	535
Turtle Dove	50	128	305
Cuckoo	11	44	97
Little Owl	5	18	923
Tawny Owl	4	19	280
Long-eared Owl	2	17	28
Short-eared Owl	3	7	758
Swift	35	55	121
Kingfisher	6	56	504
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	1	7	303
Skylark	76	542	1
Sand Martin	262	1524	10
Swallow	1269	9330	369
House Martin	11	143	452
Tree Pipit	4	29	46
Meadow Pipit	199	450	23,428
Yellow Wagtail	18	51	117,062
Pied Wagtail	81	326	
Wren	396	1732	

Note: species ringed in 1979-81 but not in 1982 have been omitted from the list but are included in the overall total.

County Ringing Totals 1982

Compiled by P. Boyer

The ringing totals for 1982 show a marked reduction from an average of 31,200 over the previous three years to 23,428 birds. This is due to two main factors. Firstly several ringers or groups have not submitted totals in time for inclusion in the report, secondly, an overall reduction in effort has been noted by some ringers in their submissions.

Analysis of totals submitted show that over 50% of all birds ringed in Lincolnshire and South Humberside were ringed at the two main coastal ringing sites i.e. Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe N.N.R. The figures therefore are more greatly affected by migration through the county than population trends within the county. Returns from the above two sites together with that from Donna Nook show that good numbers of Willow Warblers and Whitethroats were ringed throughout August and September during long spells of westerly winds across the country, forcing birds to migrate down the east coast of Britain rather than the more normal westerly routes.

Later on in the year, whilst the county did not benefit greatly from the large falls of Scandinavian migrants in mid-October with large numbers of Goldcrests witnessed elsewhere in eastern Britain, Blackbirds arrived in good quantity with several birds bearing rings from Norway, Sweden, Denmark and West Germany being caught at coastal sites.

Blackcaps also figured highly in ringing totals at this time and it could possibly be that many of these birds remained in Britain resulting in relatively high numbers of overwintering birds. Of the mainly sedentary species ringed throughout the county several show a marked decrease in numbers ringed: Blue Tit down 53% from 1,546 in 1981 to 735 in 1982; Wren down 50% from 665 to 396 and Dunnock down 38% from 1,788 to 1,117. Since the overall reduction in all species for the county is only 25% these decreases are much larger than normally expected and this may be an indication that in some areas at least these species suffered badly from the effects of the severe weather early in the year.

1982 was another good year for recoveries from the African Continent with no fewer than seven birds ringed in Lincolnshire and South Humberside recovered in Morocco (2), Algeria (2), Ghana, the Central African Empire and South Africa together with a Reed Warbler ringed in Morocco recovered at Deeping St. James.

All of these recoveries are reported in greater detail below.

SELECTED RECOVERIES

First line date and place of ringing.

Second line date and place of recovery or control and displacement.

Bewicks Swan		Grey Plover	
18.12.78 Slimbridge, Glos.		22.10.63 Benington	
25. 2.79 Slimbridge, Glos.		31. 8.81 Benington	0 km
7. 3.81 Polder Zeldert, Baarn, Netherlands		Dunlin	
24. 2.82 Saltfleet Haven, Lincs.		8. 8.79 Eiblag, Poland	
27. 3.82 Asselersand, Elbe Estuary, W. Germany		5. 3.82 Alkborough Flats	
Water Rail		Redshank	
20. 8.81 Reitbrook-Hamburg, Hamburg, F.R. Germany		18. 6.79 North Uist, Western isles	
18.10.81 Ancaster, Sleaford	710 km W	28. 2.82 Friskney Flats, Wainfleet	.693 km SE
Coot		Black-headed Gull	
14.12.76 Deeping St. James		31.12.78 Boston	
4. 1.82 Copenhagen, Sjælland, Denmark	899 km ENE	7. 7.82 Noret, Lovanger, Vasterbotten, Sweden	1761 km NE
Oystercatcher		1. 2.76 Boston	
5.10.75 Gibraltar Point		23. 4.81 Kamari, Jogeva, Estonia	1737 km
5. 5.82 Sandes, Rogaland, Norway	721 km NNE	29.12.81 Boston	
Ringed Plover		19. 5.82 Killingden, Oslo, Norway	1010 km NE
8. 9.77 Gibraltar Point		8. 6.77 Leornadsberg, Sweden	
12.12.82 Geniu, Volta Region, Ghana	5253 km S	12.12.81 Boston	1182 km SW

Common Gull

13. 2.78 Boston
 8. 7.82 Hakefjorden, Goteborg, Och Bohus, Sweden 922 km NE
 14. 1.67 Deeping St. James
 21.11.82 Kvorning, Jylland, Denmark 768 km NE

Herring Gull

- 10.12.79 Wingate, Durham
 5. 2.82 Donna Nook 177 km SE

Tawny Owl

11. 5.81 Little Gringley, Retford, Notts.
 6. 7.82 Brigg, Humberside 30 km NE

Kingfisher

2. 9.82 Gunthorpe, Notts.
 11. 9.82 Theddlethorpe, Dunes 92 km ENE

Sand Martin

5. 5.82 La Saulce, Hautes-Alpes, France
 29. 5.82 Ancaster G.P. Sleaford 1066 km NNW
 30. 8.81 Barrow Haven
 18. 6.82 Ballchraggan, Highland, Scotland 506 km NNW

Swallow

13. 9.81 Barrow Haven
 9.12.81 Rosetta, Natal, South Africa 9687 km SSE
 12. 9.81 Barrow Haven
 17. 5.82 Ouled, Chaker, Errachidia, Morocco 2456 km SSE
 14. 9.80 Gibraltar Point
 28. 4.82 Sidi Okba, Biskra, Algeria 2080 km SSE
 20. 9.82 Donna Nook
 29.10.82 Sidi Lazreg, Oran, Algeria 1982 km S
 4. 9.80 Skegness
 26. 4.82 Calvi, Corsica 1326 km SSE

Blackbird

	<i>Ringed Lincs. Recovered Abroad</i>	<i>Ringed Abroad Recovered Lincs.</i>
Northern Ireland	1	
Eire	1	
Netherlands	2	2
Belgium	2	
West Germany		1
Denmark	1	
Norway	2	2
Sweden	2	2

Fieldfare

- 8.11.81 Gibraltar Point
 4. 1.82 Amoreira, Estremadura, Portugal 1694 km SSW
 26.10.81 Theddlethorpe Dunes
 10. 1.82 Querqueville, Manche, France 432 km SSW

Reed Warbler

3. 5.81 Settat, Morocco
 15. 5.82 Deeping St. James 2263 km N.
 1. 9.80 Barrow Haven
 8. 9.82 Bayonne, Pyrenees-Atlantiques, France 1136 km

Lesser Whitethroat

4. 9.81 Rimac Dunes
 18. 5.82 Abernethy, Tayside 398 km NNW

Blackcap

21. 6.80 Gibraltar Point
 5. 1.82 Zoumi, Quezane, Morocco 2082 km SW
 6.10.81 Theddlethorpe Dunes
 28. 2.82 St. Maartenszoe, Netherlands 302 km ESE
 7.10.82 Graemeshall, Holm, Orkney
 23.10.82 Theddlethorpe Dunes 645 km SSW
 26. 1.80 Skegness
 17. 1.82 Scartho, Grimsby 54 km NNW

Willow Warbler

27. 8.79 Donna Nook
 19. 5.82 Ronnskar, Uusimaa, Finland 1640 km ENE
 15. 7.82 Barcaldine, Strathclyde
 21. 8.82 Gibraltar Point 524 km SE

Pied Flycatcher

5. 9.81 Gibraltar Point
 22. 2.82 Deng, Central African Empire 5319 km SSE

Long-tailed Tit

18. 7.82 Swanpool, Lincoln
 27.10.82 Theddlethorpe Dunes 56 km ENE

Great Tit

15. 8.81 Theddlethorpe Dunes
 22.10.82 Heslington, York 106 km NW

Starling

	<i>Ringed Lincs. Recovered Abroad</i>	<i>Ringed Abroad Recovered Lincs.</i>
Netherlands	2	1
Belgium		1
Scotland (Orkney)	1	
West Germany	1	
Denmark	3	
Norway	2	
Finland	2	
U.S.S.R.	3	

House Sparrow

- 12.10.82 Spurn Point
 19.10.82 Gibraltar Point 56 km SSE

Brambling

22. 2.81 Temple Wood, Bourne
 19. 1.82 South Kyme, Lincoln 25 km NNE

Siskin

- 24.10.81 Gibraltar Point
 23. 2.82 Woking, Surrey 207 km SSW

Redpoll

12. 5.81 Gibraltar Point
 31. 3.82 Chambray-Les-Tours, Indre-et-Loire, France 641 km S
 25. 8.80 Somercoates Warren
 13.10.81 Leige, Belgium 478 km SW



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