

Lincolnshire Bird Report 1983



**Including the
Gibraltar Point
Observatory Report**

Published by the Lincolnshire Bird Club

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Waterbird Counts 1982-83

After a wet start the weather in autumn alternated between clearer sunny periods and duller misty ones. Then following a week of gales in November, overnight temperatures for the first three weeks of December stayed below freezing with many days of freezing fog. January was milder and squally but the freeze returned in February, with snow and ice for most of the month. Neither of the cold periods was as severe as those of the previous winter however, and the apparent drop in some species in December (e.g. Mallard, Coot, Greylag Goose) should be treated with caution, since 3 waters which normally hold high numbers of these species were not counted in that month. A number of other species (e.g. Teal, Shoveler, Great Crested Grebe) although similarly affected to some extent, do normally show a decrease in mid-winter.

This was the third winter of co-ordinated counts, and again observer cover has increased. Nineteen waters were counted at least 6 times, and a total of 26 waters were counted in 4 or more months. (September as usual had fewest counts, since many waters hold few birds so early in the winter.) This compares with 14 waters in the first winter and 17 in 1981/82, and for this reason it is difficult to compare the total numbers counted. However, for most species, allowing for the less extreme weather in 82/83, and the missing December counts noted above, the overall pattern is broadly comparable. To assist in looking at this pattern, the main body of the table shows the January count totals from the monthly counted waters only. The total number counted in January's International Waterfowl Census (involving an additional 15 sites) is shown separately at the end.

The increase in waters counted is also reflected in the species total, up 6 on last year to 35. A total of 41 species have now been recorded in the 3 years, 8 of them new this year. Apart from a late Garganey and an inland Red-throated Diver (both in the north-east), these were all ornamental waterfowl and with the exception of the Ruddy Duck, presumably escapes. The increase in records of Barnacle and White-fronted Geese must be similarly regarded, paralleling the increase in feral flocks of Greylag and Canada Geese.

Despite the increase in observers, one species appears to have decreased. Although overwintering numbers are comparable, far fewer Little Grebes have been counted in the last two autumns than in the first year of the census.

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

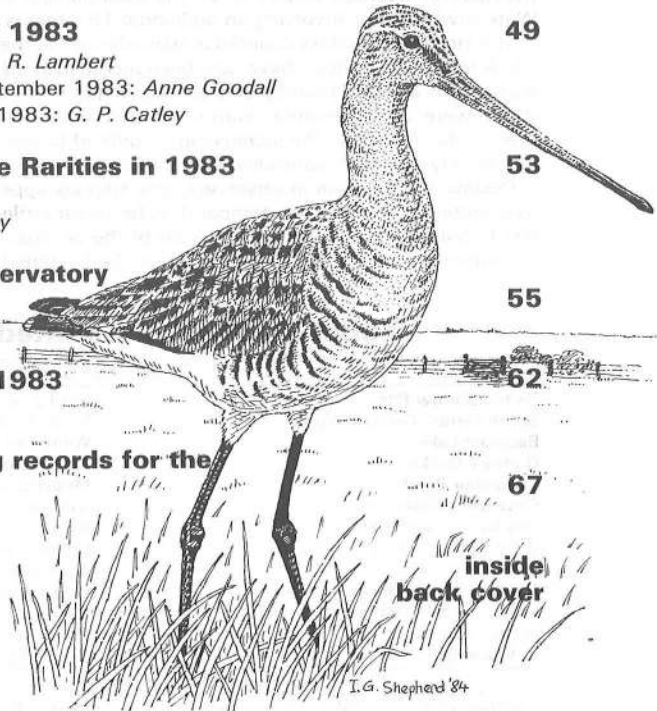
Anne Goodall

Table 2 – Waters Counted in 1982-83

<i>(a) Monthly Counts</i>	
Barton/Barrow Pits	Read's Island Flats
South Ferriby Cement Works	North Killingholme Haven
Bagmoor Lake	Winterton Road Pits
Grimsby Docks	Ashbyville Lake
Twigmoor Ponds	Messingham Sand Quarries N.R.
Covenham Reservoir	Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe N.N.R.
Sea Bank Claypits N.R.	Burton Gravel Pits N.R.
West Ashby Gravel Pits	Lincoln LNER Pit
North Scarle Pits	Apex-Whisby-Thorpe Pits
Revesby Abbey Reservoir	Kirkby Moor N.R.
Kirkby-on-Bain Gravel Pits	Gibraltar Point Mere
Denton Reservoir	Grimsthorpe Park
R. Welland	Boston Fen N.R.
<i>(b) additional waters counted for the January International Census</i>	
Cleethorpes Boating Lake and foreshore	Denton Park Lake
NE coast, Tetney – Horseshoe Point	Scawby Park lakes
Brigg Island Pond	Fillingham Lake
Messingham Heath Sand Quarries	Riseholme Lake
Sudbrooke Park Lake	Bardney Settling Ponds
Brayford Pool	Nocton Wood Claypit
Nocton Fen	Harlaxton Park Lake
Grantham Canal	

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Illustrations:

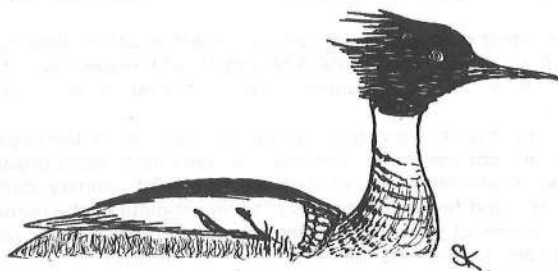
Cover Picture: 'Grey Heron' by G. P. Catley

Photographs: K. Atkin, J. R. Clarkson, R. Lambert

Line drawings by G. P. Catley, K. Durose, S. Keightley, I. G. Shepherd

Table 1 – Monthly Waterbird Totals, 1982-83

<i>Species</i>	<i>Sept</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Total Jan</i>
Red-throated Diver						1		
Little Grebe	3	12	13	2	2	2	17	5
Great Crested Grebe	69	68	67	12	17	40	91	20
Red-necked Grebe							1	
Mute Swan	124	284	384	388	293	209	94	350
Bewick's Swan			12	1		8	4	
Whooper Swan			2				27	
Pink-footed Goose			3	9	1			1
White-fronted Goose			1	1	4			4
Greylag Goose	147	158	132	78	275	49	82	284
Snow Goose				4	2			2
Canada Goose	385	535	548	471	468	411	592	653
Barnacle Goose			1	3	1	1	2	1
Brent Goose		2	265	2		12	14	
Egyptian Goose		1		1			1	
Emperor Goose			1	1		1	1	
Shelduck	489	665	892	731	654	484	484	1663
Wood Duck				1				
Mandarin		1	1					
Wigeon	308	127	170	144	544	416	439	704
Gadwall	8	29	44	18	47	16	6	47
Teal	960	691	889	477	494	282	279	507
Mallard	1638	2291	2315	2071	3118	1664	738	5262
Pintail	9		2	1	2	2	5	2
Garganey	1							
Shoveler	103	55	175	34	31	20	41	31
Pochard	165	304	297	91	420	381	220	454
Tufted Duck	369	456	588	339	714	527	564	773
Scaup						3	3	
Long-tailed Duck		3	5	1		1		1
Goldeneye		7	88	74	98	157	115	100
Smew			1					
Goosander			5	2	21	27	11	21
Ruddy Duck	1							
Coot	2047	2453	2288	1429	1878	1594	1171	2044
Number of waters counted:	17	23	25	22	26	25	22	41



The Nocturnal Gull Roost Census 1983

Between 22nd and 31st January 1983 the British Trust for Ornithology organised a national census of nocturnal gull roosts. Three previous national censuses of inland gull roosts have been carried out, at ten yearly intervals from 1953 onwards, but the 1983 census included coastal nocturnal roosts for the first time.

The data were collected by counting the gulls on their flightlines into roosts and/or by counts or estimates of gulls at the roosts. In addition to recording the numbers of each gull species seen, observers were asked to state whether their site was regularly used by roosting gulls, whether the roost was regularly counted, and if so whether the numbers of gulls were about average for the time of year.

Prior to the census, possible inland sites were checked for the existence of roosts. In the event three inland roosts were counted. This was also the case during the previous census in 1973. Two sites, Covenham Reservoir and Apex Pits, North Hykeham, held roosts during both censuses. The third roost in 1973 was at Tallington Pits, but that site is now used for water sports and did not hold a roost in 1983. The third 1983 site, Langtoft Pits, is within five miles of Tallington. Apex and Langtoft Pits data were gathered by counting gulls on their flightlines, whilst the Covenham Reservoir figure is an estimate of the gulls on the water.

The total number of gulls recorded using the inland roosts was 26,000. Details of the numbers of gulls, by species, using these roosts can be seen in Table 1. During the 1973 census a total of 31,480 gulls were counted at inland roosts, but it should be noted that this total included an exceptional 15,000 Common Gulls roosting at Covenham. All species except Common Gull were recorded inland during this census in higher numbers than in 1973 (Black-headed Gulls 35% increase Herring Gulls 189% increase) and Common Gulls were only less numerous at Covenham.

It should be noted at this point that an estimate of 60,000 gulls roosting at Apex pits was made one month after the census of that site (by a different observer). As can be seen from the table, had this figure been recorded during the census it would have almost trebled the total inland count.

All the fourteen observers along the Lincolnshire Wash coast counted the gulls on their flightlines on the same evening. None were able to supplement this with counts or estimates of roosting gulls as the birds were roosting out of sight of the observers due to the low tide at dusk on census day. Therefore no attempt could be made to locate the main concentrations of birds, although the highest numbers were at the mouths of the Steeping, Witham and Welland. It seems probable that the roost is thinly spread around the lower edges of the saltmarsh on evenings when the tide is low.

Table 2 shows the total numbers of gulls, by species, counted on the Lincolnshire Wash coast. All observers noted that they had recorded fewer birds than expected (although only two stated that regular counts were made) and the combined total for all species of 15,669 does seem surprisingly low.

There are no recognised inland roost sites adjacent to the Wash, and so it seems likely that on the evening of the census gulls remained thinly scattered around fields in their inland feeding areas. The sky was overcast during the evening but cleared around dusk, and it is possible that gulls may have moved into the Wash after dark in clear, moonlit conditions.

Counts of roosting gulls on the Lincolnshire Wash made in January 1973 and 1974 (Jackson 1974) produced totals of 24,636 and 20,929 respectively, but 2 sites in 1973 and 4 sites in 1974 were not counted, so both of these counts should be regarded as absolute minima.

Gulls coming in to roost along the south bank flightlines to the upper Humber estuary were counted by eight observers. The four Humber mouth roost observers had to abandon their intended flightline counts on the evening of 30th January, due to heavy snowfall reducing visibility, and finally had to resort to an estimate of the number of gulls on the ground. The numbers of gulls, by species, recorded on the Humber roosts are shown in Table 2. The upper Humber counters estimated that at least 12,500 of the total 14,700 gulls were roosting on Redcliff Middle Sand at the end of the count. Movement of gulls was

Table 1 – Numbers of Gulls at Inland Nocturnal Roosts

Date	Site	Grid Ref.	A	B	C	D	E	All Spp Total
30/1	Covenham Reservoir	TF 345965	1370	1930	85	—	14	3399
22/1	Apex Pits	SK 926664	16200	1097	630	—	90	18017
22/1	Langtoft Pits	TF 115109	4300	250	—	—	—	4550
Inland Sites Total			21870	3277	715	—	104	25966

Table 2 – Numbers of Gulls at Coastal Nocturnal Roosts

Date	Site	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	All Spp Total
23/1	Lincolnshire Wash	7090	6697	1014	16	852	—	—	15669
22/1	Upper Humber	8331	3354	417	—	32	984	1591	14709
30/1	Humber Mouth	25000	12000	3000	3	1500	—	—	41503
Coastal Sites Total		40421	22051	4431	19	2384	984	1591	71881

Species code for both tables: A Black-headed Gull E Great Black-backed Gull
 B Common Gull F 'small' unidentified gulls
 C Herring Gull G 'large' unidentified gulls
 D Lesser Black-backed Gull

still in evidence at darkness, so it seems possible that birds from adjacent smaller roosts at Pudding Pie Sand and Read's Island may have moved onto Redcliff Middle Sand later.

The Humber mouth counters also recorded that gulls were continuing to arrive on the coast as darkness descended, so despite the estimated lower Humber figure, both Humber roost totals would probably be best regarded as minima.

Summing the totals of gulls recorded on the Wash, Humber, and at inland roosts produces a county total of 97,881 gulls recorded during the census. Breaking that total down into county totals for each species, there were 62,291 Black-headed Gulls; 25,325 Common Gulls; 5,146 Herring Gulls; 19 Lesser Black-backed Gulls; 2,488 Great Black-backed Gulls, with 984 'small' and 1,591 'large' unidentified gulls.

The problems arising when attempting to census gulls are many, various, and at times extreme. When counting gulls on their way to roost it is difficult to cover every flightline. Birds may, especially at inland sites, be arriving from several directions at once, and in any case flightlines are likely to vary in location with wind direction. Gulls flying higher or lower than the mainstream of birds are easily overlooked. A large flock or flocks arriving and having to be estimated can cause difficulties especially to less experienced observers. Assessing the numbers of gulls on the roost itself can be made more difficult by the varying density of birds in different parts of the roost and by obstacles to counting, such as sandbars, islands, or waves hiding birds from view. Possibly the most serious problem is that at some sites birds continued to arrive at roosts after dark, when counting is obviously impossible.

In view of all these factors it seems reasonable that the number of gulls recorded at nocturnal roosts in Lincolnshire during the 1983 census should be regarded as the minimum number present.

I wish to thank all those who took part in the census and completed the BTO forms on which this report is based. I also thank A. C. Bowes, K. Durose, A. L. Goodall and R. Lambert for the further information they supplied.

Ian G. Shepherd

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The 1983 Mute Swan Census in Lincolnshire and South Humberside

Introduction

During April and May 1983 Bird Club and BTO members carried out a survey of breeding and non-breeding Mute Swans. Full or partial censuses have been carried out in Britain in 1955, 1961, and 1978. Due to the foresight of successive BTO representatives full surveys have always been undertaken in the old county of Lincolnshire at these times, and the accumulated data now permits comparative assessment of the status of this species.

Method

During 1983 census observers were asked to visit all suitable habitats within the period 1st April to 31st May, and record and allocate birds to the following categories:

- (a) Non-breeding flocks
- (b) Pairs in territory, but without nests
- (c) Pairs with nests
- (d) Pairs with broods
- (e) Pairs known to have nested but failed

A series of visits was required in order to establish if territorial birds built nests, or raised broods. In addition observers were asked to note the type of habitat in which the birds were found. For non-breeding birds at least one count was required around the weekend of 16/17th April. All observations were recorded on standard forms provided by the BTO, using separate forms for each 10 km square.

Results

Of the ninety 10 km squares in the survey area, three were not covered for the survey of non-breeding flocks, and four for the breeding/territorial birds. (See Figs 1-3.) Forty-three squares produced nil returns for the former category, and thirty produced nil returns for the latter. However three of these squares had only small areas within the two counties. As might be expected, the largest blocks of nil returns were from the limestone uplands and the Wolds. Perhaps unexpectedly, there were also nil returns from two large areas along the Trent valley and along the upper Ancholme.

Of the 356 non-breeding birds, many counts were of only one, two or three birds in each square, and the majority of positive squares had less than ten birds. There were only five major groups of over twenty birds, as follows:

TF 10	R. Welland, Market Deeping – West Deeping	30
TF 11	R. Glen and Bourne Eau	77
TF 21	R. Welland, Cowbit – Crowland	61
TF 49	North Somercotes tidal flashes	25
SK 97	Brayford Pool	47

Total numbers in each square varied where different sites in a square were visited at different times of the month, sometimes by different observers. In such cases the total number nearest to the 16th/17th April has been used. (Fig. 1)

Of interest were the 77 birds in TF 11. Normally these would be found on the R. Glen between Guthram and West Pinchbeck in TF 12, but due to river dredging and bank construction works by Anglian Water Authority they had moved upstream. The 47 birds on Brayford Pool, Lincoln, reflect the continuing trend of comparatively low numbers that have been experienced since 80 birds died or were destroyed following the oil-spill in 1960. Prior to that time over 100 birds were frequently present. The R. Welland has always held good numbers which were, in medieval times, "the Common Game of the Towne" of Crowland. The swans were marked on the first Sunday In June. In June 1983 there were 158 birds on the R. Welland in Crowland parish.

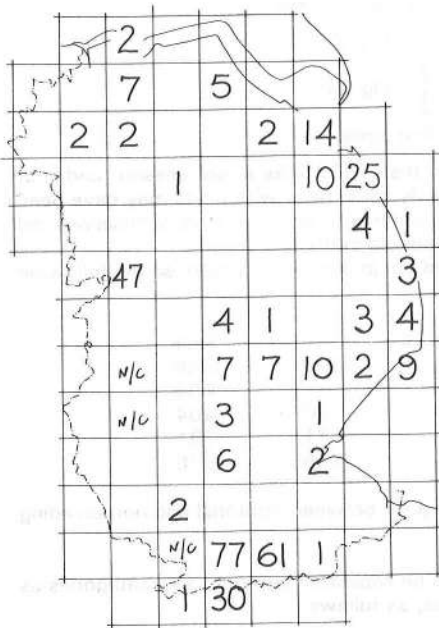


Fig. 1 – Non-breeding Birds

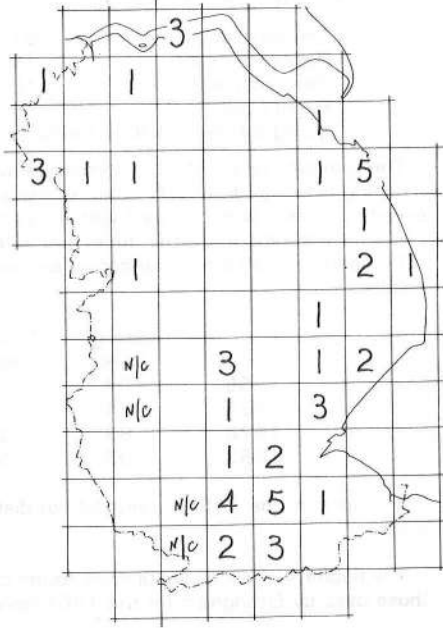


Fig. 2 – Territorial Pairs

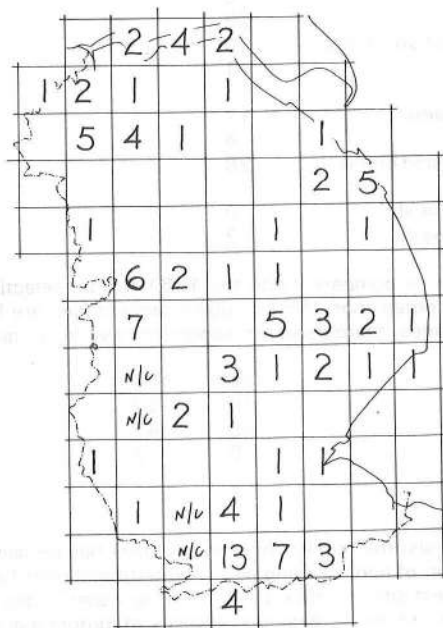


Fig. 3 – Pairs with Nests

N/C = Not covered
in this survey

The results for the territorial and nesting pairs are as follows:

Territorial pairs	51	(Fig. 2)
Pairs with nests	45	} (Fig. 3)
Pairs with broods	46	
Failed pairs	18	
giving a total of 160 potential breeding pairs.		

The general comment from observers was that 1983 was a late season, and that hatching extended into early June. Consequently some pairs with nests may have been elevated to pairs with broods if watching had continued. However, several observers did continue watching into early June, and were able to verify late broods.

Comparison with the earlier censuses carried out in the county produced the following results:

	<i>Nesting Pairs</i>	<i>Territorial Pairs</i>	<i>Flocks</i>	<i>Total Birds</i>
1955	107	(254)*		468
1961	84	8	220	404
1978	83	27	171	391
1983	109	51	356	676

*The report of the 1955 survey did not distinguish between territorial and non-breeding birds.

The habitats in which nests were found can be separated into the same categories as those used by Eltringham for the 1961 census, as follows:

A Standing water	
1. lakes	7
2. ponds	8
3. clay pits	23
4. sand, gravel and stone pits	20
5. reservoirs	1
B Moving water	
1. rivers and streams	17
2. canals	4
3. dykes, ditches and drains	28
C Coastal	
1. estuarine/saltmarsh	0
2. lagoons/borrowpits	2

The overall results can be compared with the 1961 habitat selection percentages, and, although it should be noted that 1961 national percentages are being compared with 1983 county percentages, there does not appear to have been much change:

	1961	1983
A Standing waters	46	53
B Moving waters	49	45
C Coastal	5	2

Discussion

It will be noted that whilst the number of breeding pairs has remained reasonably stable since 1955, the number of non-breeding birds and territorial pairs has risen considerably. The slight change in nest site selection from "moving water" sites to "standing water" sites may be a reflection of the increasing availability of maturing gravel pits with suitable emergent and marginal vegetation, or it may be due to the more intensive control of herbage by watercourse managers thereby making "moving water" sites less desirable.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the many observers who took part in this census.

E. J. Redshaw

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The 1983 Spring Sanderling Passage Project on the Humber

Introduction

Spring passage of Sanderling through Britain is concentrated on the west coast with smaller numbers on the south and east coasts. Prater (1981) considered that away from the north-west coast, only the Wash has an important spring passage.

It has been known locally for some years however that the south shore at the mouth of the Humber is also important to Sanderling on spring passage. Between 1976 and 1981, the average May peak at Tetney was 1100 birds (range 850-1300) with a further 100-400 each at Cleethorpes, Donna Nook and Saltfleetby. Since 1981 Tetney numbers have declined and numbers at the other three sites have correspondingly increased. Adequate cover of this area in spring was never achieved for the Birds of Estuaries Enquiry counts however, nor was the Humber represented in the 1979 Wader Study Group Spring Passage Project, so that its Sanderling passage has never been documented.

It was decided therefore to monitor spring passage through the Humber in 1983. Although Sanderling was the target species observers were also asked to count Ringed Plover, and record where possible the number of obvious '*tundrae*'-type birds.

Site Coverage and timing of counts

The aim of the project was to cover the entire south shore from Cleethorpes to Mablethorpe. The Humber estuary 'proper' is generally considered to end at the Donna Nook coastguard station, but the north-east Lincolnshire coast below this also holds significant numbers of Sanderling on passage and was therefore included in the project. (see Fig. 1) The shore was divided into eleven sections, of which five (Cleethorpes beach, Tetney-Horseshoe Point, Donna Nook, Skidbrook-Saltfleet and Saltfleetby) were counted every second or third day. The remaining six sections were counted once a week, where possible on the Sunday. All counts were carried out at least 2 hours after high water, when roosting birds had dispersed to the feeding areas. Birds using the Tetney roost were also counted independently on each Spring tide series.

Since 1976 extreme dates for the main Sanderling peak at Tetney (warden's log) have been 16th-31st May, with most in the last week of May. Information on the other sites was scantier, but peaks recorded in the Lincolnshire Birds Reports have fallen mainly between 17th May and 8th June. Observers were therefore asked to cover the period 14th May - 14th June.

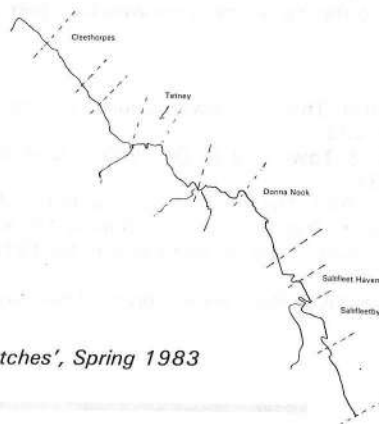


Figure 1 – Sanderling count 'stretches', Spring 1983

Results

1. Sanderling The counts from the five sites counted every 2nd or 3rd day are shown in Fig. 2.

Before the survey began, reports from three of the sectors indicated that unusually high numbers of Sanderling were already present in April, and counts at Donna Nook and the Tetney roost began in mid-April. Donna Nook had what was to be its peak count on April 30th, but unfortunately no other counts were made during this period.

From May 14th, all sectors had a series of peaks with numbers fluctuating roughly in parallel between sites, though the amplitude varied. Thus all sites had a peak between 26-28th May; Donna Nook and Saltfleet Haven had previous peaks on 16 and 21 May, the former seen also at Saltfleetby. Counts began late at Cleethorpes and Tetney, but there is clear evidence from the latter site that on 18th May numbers were dropping from an earlier peak. The same may be true at Cleethorpes, which also had a late peak on 6th June. Both these sites, within the estuary, had higher numbers than sites on the North Sea coast.

The six sites counted weekly show a less clear cut pattern. Inter-specific competition with humans for the inter-tidal areas at the Humber mouth can be very high at this time of year, so that all weekend counts are difficult and the Bank Holiday count in the Cleethorpes south sector had to be abandoned. However all areas had at least one peak between 20-30th May. Two also show an earlier peak, 14-16th May, and one a peak on 2nd June. Again the highest counts were recorded at sites within the estuary.

Table 1 shows the 'weekly summed peak' counts – the highest count from each site in each 7-day period of the survey.

2. Ringed Plover The pattern of movement for this species was less clear-cut. Numbers between Humberstone and Tetney were highest during the first week of the project and Donna Nook had a sharp peak 15-17th May, with few birds seen after that. For most of the other sites however birds were present throughout, with highest counts falling between 22-25th May. As with Sanderling there was evidence of several peaks.

Birds showing characteristics of the race *C.h. tundrae* were recorded on Cleethorpes beach to 12th June, at Tetney to 6th June, at Merrikins Pullover on 7th June, at Skidbrooke to 3rd June and Saltfleetby to 2nd June. Weekly summed peaks are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Dates	14-21 May	22-28 May	29 May-4 June	5-11 June	12-18 June
Sanderling	1067	2513	1149	896	115
Ringed Plover	697	627	390	156	128

Weekly summed peak counts of passage birds, Humber mouth.

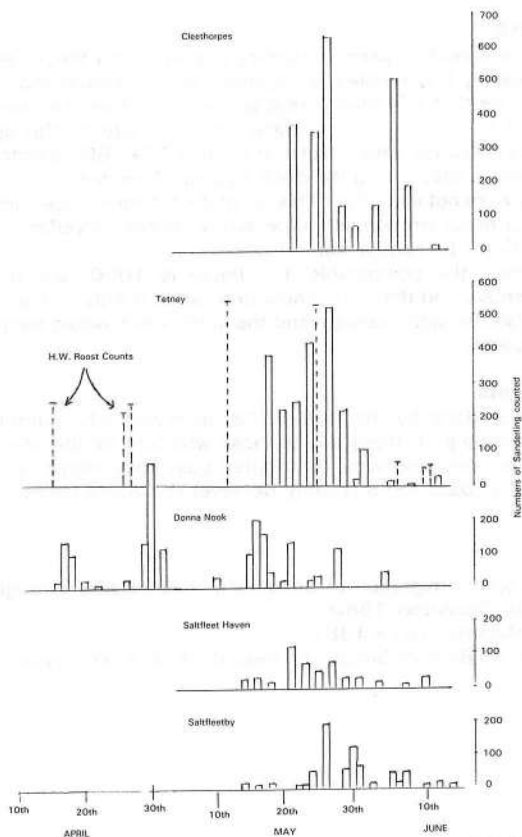


Figure 2 – Sanderling counts at 4 sites, Spring 1983

Discussion

The extent to which 1983 was an unusual year for Sanderling passage in the Humber, apart from the lower peak numbers, is not fully known. There is some indication that 1979 passage was similarly extended. In that year Donna Nook had a series of peaks (100-200 birds) from April to early June; no counts were made at Tetney until mid-May but the peak count, of 850 on 27th May, was lower than usual and 80 birds were still present on 12th June. The Wader Study Group spring passage project in that year (Ferns 1980) found an extended passage in the south-east of the country and a more complicated pattern in the north-east with passage occurring later than in the south. Birds were certainly still moving through the Humber in June 1979.

By comparison, in 1981 the entire passage at Donna Nook occurred between 20-26th May, with a peak count of 450 birds on 21st May. May passage peaked on 18th May 1981 at Cleethorpes, falling away sharply to the end of the month, and on 21st May at Tetney when 1100 birds used the roost. The following day this had halved and these also left within two days.

Passage in early spring is often masked, within the estuary, by the presence of wintering birds; 200-400 Sanderling winter between Cleethorpes and Grainthorpe. However, for the only years when counts through March are available (1981 and 1977 respectively) there is evidence of a March peak both at Cleethorpes and Tetney. This is of interest in the light of Ferns suggestion that there is an influx into the country in March, and of the peaks noted very early in April at some east coast sites in 1979.

Conclusions

One per cent of the West European Sanderling population for the passage months is 500 birds; an area holding this number is regarded as of International importance to the species. It is obvious that this total is regularly exceeded on the Humber, and on these numbers the Humber is apparently the most important site for this species on the east coast. Prater (1981) shows a mean total of some 1700-1800 Sanderling on North Sea and Channel coasts in May, using the BoEE figures. (This does not include the Humber, since May counts were not available.) This is not the full total since numbers of Sanderling are also known to occur on non-estuarine sandy shores; nevertheless the Humber's May total is very significant by comparison.

For Ringed Plover the comparable 1% figure is 1000, but this species occurs throughout the estuary and the south shore population is only a small part of it. A bigger study involving also the upper estuary and the north shore would be required to examine its passage adequately.

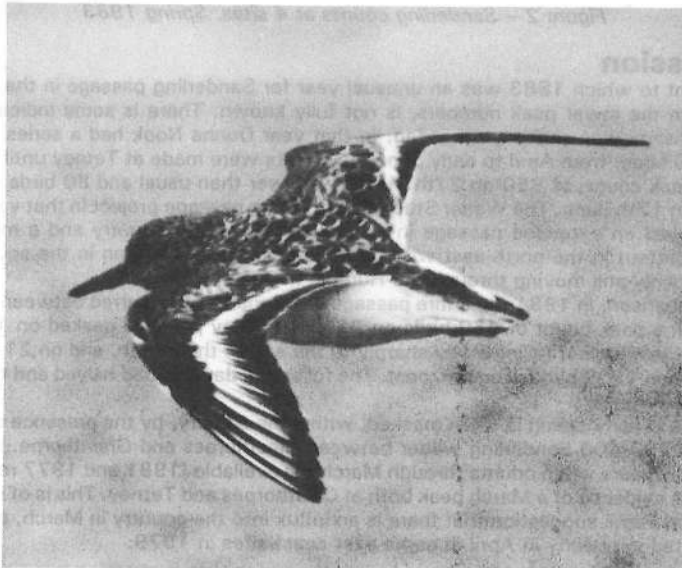
Acknowledgements

The hard work was done by the total of 18 observers who contributed counts, but acknowledgements are particularly due to those who took on the intensive sites. Thanks are also due to the following who contributed past data: Roger Norman (Cleethorpes beach); the Reserves Dept RSPB (Tetney Reserve) and Steve Lorand (Donna Nook).

Anne Goodall

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Systematic List 1983

Compiled by G. P. Catley

Introduction

1983 was a very different year to 1982 with its own special ornithological events and its own list of species, which makes the yearly cycle of birdwatching all the more interesting.

January was characterised by almost constant west to north-east gales in the far north and the North Sea and the immediate result of this bad weather was one of the largest wrecks of auks ever recorded on the east coast. After more than usual numbers of live auks in January the wreck proper commenced on February 6th with large numbers of dead Guillemots, Razorbills, Puffins, Little Auks and Kittiwakes being washed ashore during the following two weeks. Several Little Auks were also wrecked inland; a full account of the wreck is given elsewhere in this Report. Rarities associated with the gales included a Black Guillemot at Huttoft and an adult Bonaparte's Gull at Donna Nook, the second County record, both in February. Mediterranean Gulls were found at more places and in greater numbers than usual from January right through the year but this was possibly also just a result of observers looking at other sites. After the wreck it all went very quiet but a Rose-coloured Starling at Market Deeping and a Woodlark at Gibraltar Point filled the gap until the first summer migrants arrived in mid March. It looked as if it might have been a fairly early spring with good numbers of some migrants, especially Willow Warbler in early-mid April, and 2 overshooting Hoopoes and a White Stork but cold north-easterlies returned in late April-early May to dampen another spring. As the weather did eventually warm up into mid May there was a good assortment of overshooting spring migrants with Purple and Night Herons on the same day at the same place! Kentish Plover, Temminck's Stint, Red-necked Phalarope, 4 Golden Orioles and 2 Ortolans and, amazingly, two warblers with very different origins caught in the same trap at Gibraltar Point; a female Subalpine Warbler and an Arctic Warbler, the first spring record for Britain if accepted. Overshooting continued into June with a second Night Heron and a Little Egret, another Golden Oriole, a Marsh Warbler and several Hobbies. On the breeding front most species seemed to have had a fairly good year as a long warm spell developed in June-July but most of our rarer breeding birds failed to appear. There were no Garganey and no Black Redstart breeding records submitted, but this species tends to inhabit areas not visited by birders and thus is often poorly documented. On the positive side a very exciting development was the successful breeding by a pair of Marsh Harriers, the first such record since 1962; a pair of Sparrowhawks was at last proved to breed, but surely there are now several pairs breeding in the County? Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers also continued their slow spread but few Little Ringed Plovers were reported and Little Terns had a poor year.

A hot July produced some unusual records with 2 Honey Buzzards, a summering Long-tailed Duck, and a Lesser Golden Plover. The autumn started badly with a lack of easterly winds in August and no good coastal falls; an inland Honey Buzzard was noteworthy and a few Pomarine Skuas were noted on the coast. In fact as the year moved into September it was mostly the sea which provided the excitement with regular north-west to north-east winds and gales on 3-5th, 11th and 25th. Seabirds were in good numbers - Gannets, Arctic Skuas, more than usual Pomarines, one Long-tailed, a few Sooty Shearwaters, 3 Leach's Petrels and 3 Sabine's Gulls. On land Hobbies had an unprecedented autumn and in a generally poor autumn for waders 4 Pectoral Sandpipers were found. The cream though was provided by a first winter Citrine Wagtail at Gibraltar Point, obligingly feeding on the Mere.

Eventually an easterly airflow did develop from 29th to October 3rd and the results were immediately obvious on the coast with a large fall of Goldcrests and a scattering of other rarities; 4 Red-breasted Flycatchers, 2 Yellow-browed Warblers, a Richard's Pipit and the second county Cetti's Warbler. A most unexpected arrival however, was not on the coast but on the Viking Way near Woodhall; a first winter Roller, the first since 1962. Found on the 2nd it had probably arrived with the fall, and stayed for nearly three weeks to delight

observers from near and far. As October continued it became obvious that an invasion of Jays was taking place; a full account is given elsewhere. Attention switched back to the coast in the last three days with an unprecedented movement of Little Auks and 3 Grey Phalaropes with them. Many Jays lingered into November and a very mild spell early in the month encouraged many summer migrants to stay fairly late, whilst incoming winter visitors were very scarce. Fieldfares and Redwings were only noteworthy by their absence and only Blackbirds were in decent numbers. An unusually late Great White Egret at Gibraltar Point in November completed a full year list of Herons! A late Richard's Pipit and an eastern race of flava wagtail at Donna Nook led us into December and wintering species slowly increased with good numbers of Brambling, Siskin and Snow Buntings. A fine Red Kite at Donna Nook rounded off another memorable year.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Birds were fairly regular along the coast from January-April. Notable movements in January were 65 north-west at North Cotes 3rd, at Donna Nook 63 north 2nd, 77 north 22nd, 44 north 29th, Saltfleetby 138 north 3rd, 42 north 22nd, Theddlethorpe 613 north 2nd, Gibraltar Point 33 south 3rd, 26 south 4th, 23 south 5th. In February there were good numbers on some days, 53 with 24 more north at Donna Nook 19th, 62 Saltfleetby 19th and 80 20th, with one Grimsby Docks 19th, 2 Cleethorpes 19th and singles inland at Barrow Haven 14th and Lincoln Apex Pit 20th. 152 flew north off Huttoft on March 27th and the last of the spring were 3 at Donna Nook May 7th. Very few were noted from September-December, with the only counts in excess of 10 being 12 at Gibraltar Point October 30th and 17 south at Saltfleetby November 20th.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

At Saltfleetby there were 2 January 3rd, one February 19th, one November 18th and 3 south 20th. At Donna Nook singles south January 8th and 29th, and 2 south December 3rd, with singles Trusthorpe January 2nd, Holbeach March 8th and Gibraltar Point November 19th, December 2nd and 31st.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

There were four singles; at Trusthorpe January 2nd and Saltfleetby 3rd, and Saltfleetby again October 23rd and November 20th.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Widely reported with 1-5 in suitable sites throughout the year in addition to which there were 6-8 at Gibraltar Point March-April and up to 9 at Donna Nook in autumn, with up to 10 at Barton December.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

No large numbers were noted in the early winter with maxima of only: 9 Covenham Res January, 9 the Witham Mouth January-February and 5 Donna Nook February 19th. Returning breeding birds in March included 11 at Kirkby-on-Bain and 22 at West Deeping with 22 Denton April 21st. Breeding records included 14 pairs on the Humber Bank Pits, rearing 11-14 young, 2 pairs at Crowle, 6 pairs at Denton Res rearing 5 young and single pairs at Norton Place, West Ashby, Sutton Brick Pit and Burton Stather Pit. Higher autumn/late winter concentrations were noted at the Witham Mouth; up to 24 August, 18 September with 70 7th, 20 October and 15 November; the South Forty Foot Drain with 28 in August and 19 October; Revesby Res 15 November and Covenham Res max 12 December.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

A rather moderate year with just two early winter records at the Witham Mouth January 18th and Covenham Res February 13th-March 14th. An interesting record was of a juvenile at Covenham Res from August 15th to September 17th. Singles were also seen at Saltfleetby October 23rd and the Witham Mouth November 20th.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

One was at the Witham Mouth January 29th, then in February one was on Covenham Res on 20th and one Barton on 24th stayed until March 30th. There was an interesting influx in October with one north at Donna Nook 1st, one Huttoft 2nd, one Covenham Res 18th and 5 there 23rd, then in November one there again 13th and 2 at the Witham Mouth 6th, with one 8th.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

A total of 20 was found dead on the coast during the 'auk wreck' in February. 2 were seen at the Witham Mouth on February 13th and 15th and one at Gibraltar Point March 27th. There were then 1-5 fairly regular along the coast and in the Wash April-September. 7 flew north and 15 south at Donna Nook on May 21st, but the most notable movements were in August-September. In August there were 36 seen at Saltfleetby 20th, 12 Donna Nook 7th, 10 south Huttoft 11th and 12 south 28th, 45 Witham Mouth 28th, with 10 north Gibraltar Point 28th and 8 north 29th. The highest counts were in September with 128 Huttoft 3rd, 19 north Gibraltar Point 6th and 158 south at Saltfleetby 10th. The only October records were at Gibraltar Point on 5th, 29th and 30th.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

A moderate autumn with in August one south Donna Nook 19th (RLo), 10 north Gibraltar Point 28th (JPS), then in September 3 Huttoft 3rd (BMC, MJT), 2 Gibraltar Point 1st (PGC, NT), one north 6th (SK, PN), at Saltfleetby one 6th (BMC) and 11th (BMC), Chapel Point one south 11th (JRC) and one south at Donna Nook 24th (RLo).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

In June one was at Saltfleetby 6th with 8 south there 7th and at Gibraltar Point 2 north 12th and one 21st. The only August records were of 2 north at Donna Nook 13th and 2 north Saltfleetby 28th. There was a good series of records in September with off Huttoft 2 3rd, 6 south 5th, 4 6th, 4 north 11th; at Saltfleetby 4 4th, one 5th, one 23rd, 8 south 24th, one south Donna Nook 11th; 2 Chapel Point 11th; at the Witham Mouth 5 7th, 2 8th, one 9th, one 10th, 3 25th, and at Gibraltar Point 3 south 3rd, 2 south 4th, one 5th, 4 north 6th, 4 7th, 19 north and 2 south 11th and 4 north 12th. One was picked up exhausted in Lincoln on September 3rd and released on the coast.

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

On September 3rd one was seen feeding over beach pools at Donna Nook (SL, RLo) and 2 were seen at Huttoft (BMC, MJT). Another was seen at Saltfleetby on 30th (DW). An albino bird found exhausted on gas rig in the North Sea on November 7th was taken to Mablethorpe, fed and released there on 12th (per SL, WPB).

Gannet *Sula bassana*

In January there were singles at Donna Nook 21st and the Witham Mouth 30th with 2 at Gibraltar Point 23rd, but only one found dead in the February wreck. Up to 10 were fairly regular on the coast and in the Wash from April-November. In addition up to 40 were noted on the coast on several dates from late August-September with peaks of, in August: 152 north Donna Nook 7th, 105 Saltfleetby 6th, with 52 7th and 45 20th. Peak movements at all sites were connected with frequent gales in September: at Saltfleetby there were 54 6th, 68 south 10th, 76 11th; at Huttoft 352 3rd, 107 south 5th; at North Cotes 86 south 11th; Donna Nook 271 south 11th and 114 south 12th and Gibraltar Point 43 north 6th, 224 south 11th and 213 north 12th with 54 south. In the Wash there were 176 at the Witham Mouth 7th, 30 8th, 42 11th, 30 25th, and 60 at Holbeach 11th, while up the Humber there were 6 Goxhill 9th and singles 16th and 29th. In October there were 1-4 Gibraltar Point, 4 East Halton 8th and one Witham Mouth 25th with a few at Donna Nook to mid-November and one December 11th, one Gibraltar Point November 7th, 2 13th and 4 north December 30th.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

By far the highest totals were at the Witham Mouth with 146 January 2nd and 304 30th, then up to 40 February-March and August-December. Elsewhere there were up to 30 at Gibraltar Point most of the year with 36 March 5th and 37 April 3rd, 25-30 at Cleethorpes in September and up to 9 on Read's Island January and December. At Donna Nook 11 flew north April 29th and there were peaks of 18 September 14th and 21 12th. Inland records came from Covenham Res most of the year, with 11 February 6th, Denton Res April 22-25th, West Ashby May 28th, Denton again September 16th and Revesby Res 2 October-November.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

During the February gales one flew south at Donna Nook on 2nd and one was kept alive at Mablethorpe from 9th-20th. One which arrived at Denton Res on 9th stayed until 13th and was then found dead on 28th; it had been ringed as a nestling on the Farnes on July 19th 1982. Autumn records came from Donna Nook, one north August 7th, Cleethorpes

10th, Covenham Res September 19th, one north at Donna Nook 30th with another north there October 29th. One was caught exhausted at Cleethorpes on October 7th and one was at the Witham Mouth from October 8th to the year end with 2 November 20th.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

The only record was from a site on the South Humber Bank on January 6th.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

An adult was seen at Saltfleetby on May 14th (JRW). The 4th County record. Accepted by BBRC. Another adult was seen at Goxhill June 2-3rd (DAR et al) but has not yet been submitted to BBRC.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

One was present at Messingham on June 22nd (JTH). The 11th county record (12 birds). Not yet submitted to BBRC.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*

One was seen at Gibraltar Point on the late date of November 19th (CJJ, SAJ et al). The second county record. Under consideration by BBRC. (What was possibly this bird was present on Croft Marsh from mid-November to mid-January but details were not good enough for submission to BBRC).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Heronry counts: Total 337 nests.

Abbey Wood	51	Willoughby Wood	15	Evedon Wood	21
Howsham Wood	15	Gatecliff Wood	12	The Mere Deeping	64
Laughton Forest	10	Old Hag Wood	26	Double Rivers	1
Muckton Wood	42	Troy Wood	80	(near Crowle)	

No other significant records.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

One flew south-west at Saltfleetby on May 14th (JRW). The 14th county record.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

One was seen flying north-west at Denton Res on April 6th (IEHS). The first record since 1971 and only the 5th record in all (7 birds).

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

A single bird made passing visits to Saltfleetby (BMC, JRW), Donna Nook (SL, CRM), and Theddlethorpe (MB) on April 17th and what was probably the same bird was seen at Gibraltar Point 18th (RL, AWP, KWW), Chapel Pit 19th (JRW), Gibraltar Point again 21st (RL) and 24th (PAH) and Huttoft 24th (JAC).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Peak January figures were 55 Kirkby-on-Bain 16th, 42 Baston Fen 3rd and 112 R. Welland, Spalding-Borough Fen 17th. 33 were at Donna Nook on the unusual date of May 7th. Late winter peaks were 42-50 at North Killingholme November-December 18th and 265 R. Welland December 16th.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

In the early winter there were 8 at Gibraltar Point intermittently from January 23rd-February 27th, with 11 February 16th and 19th, 6 at Messingham January 16th and one Holbeach 30th. 3 were at Gibraltar Point March 5th and 16 flew east at New Holland 12th. Late winter birds arrived from October, 2 Gibraltar Point 25th, one 30th and 4 31st, with others at Chapel Pit 2 28th, Huttoft 5 30th and Pudding Pie Sand 7 30th. November produced further records at Humberston 2 south 11th, 5 east then north-west 12th, Messingham 12 on 15th, Covenham Res 2 5th, North Cotes 4 south 13th, Mablethorpe 12th and Gibraltar Point 4 3rd, 19 20th, 25 24th to December 2nd, then 26 4th and 10 11th. Other December records were 14 south at Donna Nook 4th, 15 Toft Newton 4th and 2 Baston Fen 18th.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

The only records in the early winter were of 3 at North Cotes January 3rd, 3 New Holland February 11th, 10 Gibraltar Point 26th and 25 at South Ferriby March 12th, with 27 at Messingham on 13th. In October there were 4 at Gibraltar Point 24th with 4 south there 27th and 2 30th, while 9 flew north at Donna Nook 30th. A few more in November included 2 south at Saltfleetby 5th, 2 west at Theddlethorpe 12th, 2 Tetney Lock 17th, 2 Covenham Res 26th-December 3rd and at Gibraltar Point 8 13th and 2 15th. The only other December record was of 4 at Baston Fen early in the month.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

A party of 5 were at Frampton on January 2nd (per RBW) and 3 were seen at Gibraltar Point on November 13th (MM, WPB et al).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

In the early winter there were a few records of flocks of up to 100 birds, with exceptional in January 200 north over Lincoln 5th, 475 at Holbeach 2nd, with 600 there 28th and 83 north and 173 south at Gibraltar Point 26th. A flock of 1,000 was on Read's Island on February 3rd. Returning birds were noted from September onwards, large flocks being 400 Winteringham October 30th with 800 Whitton 29th, then in November 200 Baston Fen 19th, 400 south at the Witham Mouth 20th and 230 east at Aubourn 29th. The Humber flock numbered 900 on Read's Island on December 26th and 250 were at Frampton 21st, while 100 flew north at Welton-le-Marsh 21st and 200 were at Minting 27th-30th.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

The only early record was of 14 at Saltfleetby on January 8th. In the late winter there was one at Gibraltar Point on October 26th with 4 there November 13th and 2 at West Ashby Pits 20th-December 2nd. At Winteringham there were 5 on November 27th increasing to 17 by December 18th and these stayed into 1984.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

The feral flock at Kirkby-on-Bain numbered 204 on January 16th and 190 December 29th and birds bred there. There were 1-3 at Denton Res on numerous dates with Canada Geese, especially September onwards. A pair at Messingham bred and 3 birds with 4 hybrid Canadas were present in late December. Elsewhere there were 144 at Baston Pits on January 2nd, 41 Langtoft Pits 9th, 14 south at Saltfleetby 2nd and one at Donna Nook 22nd-March 11th. There was a series of records at Gibraltar Point of 2-4 birds from April-June and 2 south at Donna Nook June 4th. 15 were at Baston Pits September 11th, singles Gibraltar Point 6th, Saltfleetby October 23rd and 45 at Revesby Res December 13th.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Two presumably feral birds were seen at Kirkby-on-Bain on January 16th (MSD).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

	J	F	S	O	N	D
Barrow Haven/Barton	—	64	—	112	—	18
Holywell Lakes	—	—	—	—	148	137
Denton Res	260	—	350	350	—	230
Langtoft Pits	60	—	—	—	—	—
Baston Pits	152	—	36	—	—	—

Additionally there were up to 50 at West Ashby Pits all year, 31 Tetney June 8th and 28 north at Blyborough 3rd, 55 north at Snitterby Carrs November 5th and up to 30 Tetney 18th-30th, with 1-10 at a few other sites.

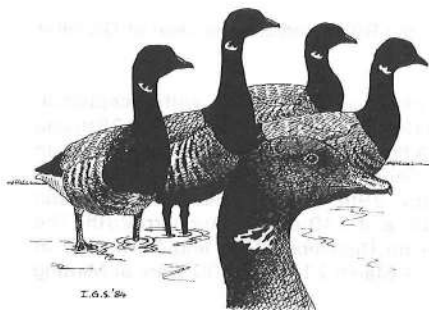
Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Separating wild from feral birds is never easy, but it would appear that the only birds really suggestive of being wild were 4 at North Cotes, with Brents, from November 12th-21st and 6 flying north at Donna Nook on 12th. All other records were of birds usually with flocks of Canada Geese. One was occasional all year at Whisby/Thorpe Pits with one Kirkby-on-Bain January 12th-early February, 1-2 Grimsthorpe Park February 13th-March 13th. The same feral pair as in 1982 attempted to breed at Wolla Bank Pit. One was at Barton late September-early October and 1-2 at Denton Res September 24th-October 8th. There were then 1-3 at Holywell Lakes November 27th-late December and one Denton Res December 23rd.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* (illustrated)

Monthly maxima at the main wintering sites were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	S	O	N	D
Tetney/North Cotes	1000	—	300	40	—	110	380	432
Donna Nook/Saltfleet	1200	—	—	—	—	—	1100	2600
Gibraltar Point	2100	2000	350	116	2	1600	1000	700
Witham Mouth	2000	2000	—	4500	120	1000	3000	3000
Holbeach/Frampton	4000	4000	1000	—	—	225	300	—
The Wash (incl. above)	22207	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



Additionally in the early winter 233 flew south at Trusthorpe January 2nd. There were scattered records of 1-30 birds in May with 50 at Butterwick 23rd and 500 Holbeach 29th and 7 inland at Covenham Res 1st. One was at Saltfleetby June 5th and one summered at Freiston. Returning autumn birds were noted from September 11th and away from the above sites there were up 40 at Cleethorpes October-December, singles Goxhill October 1st, East Halton 15th, New Holland and Killingham December 18th.

B.b.hrota: A single record of an adult pale-

bellied bird flying down the Humber off Barrow Haven/New Holland on December 18th.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

The two birds in Grimsthorpe Park were still present in March 83; the only other record was of 2 at Huttoft Pit on December 3rd.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

A single bird was seen on the coast between Tetney and Saltfleetby from January-April 11th, mostly with Shelducks. It was presumably the bird seen at Pyewipe in December 1982.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	S	O	N	D
Read's Island/Winteringham	127	62	100	107	652	186	66	156	91	62
Pyewipe, Grimsby	150	—	—	—	—	—	—	325	1000	1000
Tetney/North Cotes	600	—	—	85	110	—	—	—	—	381
Donna Nook/Saltfleet	362	450	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	500
Gibraltar Point	150	108	—	—	—	—	100	229	200	75
Witham Mouth	600	—	—	—	—	—	300	250	250	250

The Wash counts in January, Gibraltar Point-Norfolk border, produced figures of 8,977 2nd and 5,936 30th, with 3,000 at Holbeach 31st. Pairs bred inland at West Ashby Pits and Covenham Res and a total of 72 juvs were off Read's Island July 27th, while there was a party of 13 birds inland at Bardney Ponds on 20th.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

A female was seen at Covenham Res on August 19th.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

	J	F	M	S	O	N	D
Read's Island	722	726	410	90	247	366	116
Tetney/North Cotes	200	200	—	—	160	—	111
Gibraltar Point	430	210	75	400	920	200	500
Baston Fen	250	300	—	—	—	—	283

The peak Wash count was only 551 January 30th and there were 177 at Holbeach February 28th. May records came from Tetney 4 2nd and a male to 27th, with returning birds from late July and 82 at Gibraltar Point by August 30th, 68 at the Witham Mouth 29th, 320 flew north at Donna Nook on November 12th and there were 61 at Covenham October 7th and 50 Huttoft December 2nd.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

During January-April there were 1-4 at Barrow Haven, Denton Res, Covenham Res, Grimsby, Barton, Goxhill, Huttoft, Whisby, Baston Fen and Tetney, with 6 at Messingham March 20th and 24 Kirkby-on-Bain January 16th. One was at Barrow Haven June 30th. There were again 1-6 during August-December at Barrow Haven, Huttoft, Gibraltar Point, the Witham Mouth, Goxhill, Covenham Res, Chapel Pit, Denton Res and Burton Stather, with exceptionally 30 Kirkby-on-Bain October 7th, 8 Gibraltar Point 25th, 7 Biscathorpe November 17th, 7 Gibraltar Point 13th, 13 Sandilands Pit December 11th and 8 Covenham Res 18th.

Teal *Anas crecca*

	J	F	A	S	O	N	D
Gibraltar Point	128	150	640	330	600	268	400
Holbeach	50	—	—	120	—	—	—
Baston Fen	300	—	—	—	—	—	300

Additionally there were 70 South Killingholme March 20th, 22 Tetney May 4th and 2-3 irregularly during May-July at Gibraltar Point. No breeding records noted. In September there were also 40-50 at Cleethorpes, Huttoft Pit and Denton Res, with 70 Covenham Res 29th and 110 Winteringham October 2nd. Donna Nook had 122 November 12th and Read's Island 222 13th, with 52 at Kirkby-on-Bain on December 7th.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

	J	F	M	A	S	O	N	D
Read's Island	550	273	11	20	416	400	420	537
Covenham Res	450	—	—	—	—	500	—	450
Gibraltar Point	770	200	60	30	850	800	600	300
Witham Mouth	250	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Baston Fen/Pit	524	—	—	—	—	—	—	520

The maximum Wash count was 1,657 on January 2nd. Other high counts in February were 99 Saltfleetby 6th, 120 Barrow Haven 14th and 158 Cleethorpes 21st. 57 were at North Killingholme on June 18th and later 400 Holbeach September 25th and 1,134 Bardney November 3rd, with 165 Donna Nook 12th and 150 Norton Disney December 11th.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

During January-April the highest concentrations were in the Wash with Wash counts of 28 January 2nd and 245 30th, but also 60 at the Witham Mouth 19-30th and 79 Holbeach 31st. There were also 1-7 occasionally at Gibraltar Point, Kirkby-on-Bain, Covenham Res, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Baston Fen, Tetney and North Killingholme. 2 were at Gibraltar Point on May 1st and 1-6 fairly regular at Donna Nook from June to the year end, with 5 Saltfleetby July 26th and 1-2 regular at Gibraltar Point in late July. 1-10 were again noted occasionally at the above sites August-December, with exceptionally 20 west at Goxhill September 20th, up to 30 at Gibraltar Point September-October, 11 East Halton October 15th and 16 Covenham Res November 5th.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

A rather poor year with not even any suggestion of breeding. Spring birds were males at Messingham April 12th, North Killingholme 24th, Tetney 24th-May 4th, Baston Fen May 13th and Saltfleetby a pair 16th with a male 22-24th. Autumn records were, however, more regular than normal with one Saltfleetby July 30th and August 17-22nd, a juv Thorpe Pits August 21-25th, one Goxhill 4th, a male North Killingholme 7th and a pair 17-22nd, one Gibraltar Point 7th and 14-22nd, with 1-2 there September 1-10th, 3 7th, and one Saltfleetby September 11th.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Up to 10 were noted occasionally from February-December at Gibraltar Point, Tetney, Baston Fen, Covenham Res, West Ashby Pits, and Barrow Haven/Barton, with 1-5 at a number of other sites. There were also 27 at Messingham March 20th. A female and 5 juvs were seen at Baston Fen in June. Gibraltar Point had up to 25 in August-October and in November 20 flew north at Anderby 13th and 105 were at Huttoft 12th, with 20 there December 2nd.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

A female was seen at Whisby Pits (Lincoln) on January 29th (KD et al) and another on the R. Ancholme at Cadney on September 28th (CJ).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Maximum counts were 164 Baston Pits January 2nd, 49 Denton Res 11th, 58 Kirkby-on-Bain 3rd, 123 Barrow Haven February 14th, 53 West Deeping 24th, 84 Barrow Haven March 1st and 49 Gibraltar Point 3rd. There was one brood of 4 juvs at Twigmoor and 3-5 broods on the Humber Bank Pits. Late winter numbers were very low with maxima of just 68 Covenham Res October 9th and 43 Gibraltar Point December 24th.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

	J	F	M
Barton	—	—	45
Baston Fen	43	48	—
Baston Pits	320	—	—
R. Welland	—	96	81
West Deeping	—	146	—
Langtoft	70	—	—

Breeding records included one brood of 7 at Crowle, one brood of 8 at Holbeach, one brood Covenham Res, 8 broods at Baston Fen, 10 broods at Biscathorpe Lake and 5-8 broods on the Humber Bank Pits. The only late year concentrations were 63 Covenham Res October 1st and 73 November 17th and 48 Revesby Res 17th.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

During January-March there were 2 females Baston Pits January 25th, one Donna Nook 8th, one Trusthorpe 2nd, one Covenham Res 3rd, 2 males Grimsby Docks 29th and females Covenham Res February 18th and April 13th and Messingham March 31st. In the Barton-New Holland area there were up to 3 females and 3 males January to March 1st, with 5 males and one female New Holland 16th. A male was at Barrow Haven August 1st and one at Huttoft 25th, then in September one Covenham Res 5th, 2 12th, one 23rd and a male North Cotes 12th. In October Gibraltar Point had one 6th, the Witham Mouth one 9th and Saltfleetby 7 30th, with 5 at the Witham Mouth November 6th, 7 8th and 2 20th and one south at Gibraltar Point 13th, with 6 there December 17th and one Stallingborough 30th.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

In the Wash there were up to 70 at the Witham Mouth all year with about 200 summering at Freiston Shore and 1-20 at Gibraltar Point on several dates. Up to 10 were also off Tetney in mid-summer. Elsewhere on the coast there were up to 10 in several months with some impressive movements during October-December. In October there were 21 at Saltfleetby 23rd and 90 at the Witham Mouth 9th, with 50 at Gibraltar Point 22nd and 20 24th. In November there were 15 Anderby 12th, 25 Theddlethorpe 13th, 50 Gibraltar Point 12th, 47 13th and 45 north 14th. Elsewhere on 12th 36 flew north at Donna Nook and on 13th 24 north there, 74 north at Huttoft, 11 north at Chapel Point and 90 north-west off Humberston. In December 33 flew east down the Humber at Barrow Haven on 19th and 70 flew north at Gibraltar Point on 2nd.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Following the good late winter 82 influx there were a number of records in January-February with, in January, a female North Cotes 23rd, Saltfleetby 3rd, Gibraltar Point 2nd with 2 4th, Barton imm male 19th, the Witham Mouth one to February, Cleethorpes a female to February 26th and Covenham Res 20th-April 14th. Further February records were of 1-3 at the Witham Mouth to April 1st, 2 Covenham Res 20th and a male North Cotes 12-19th. A most unusual mid-summer record concerned a first summer male at Covenham Res July 6th-October 16th. Further records in October were of singles at Tetney 9th and 26th, East Halton 29th and 1-3 Donna Nook 29th-November 16th with 4 north 12th. Also in November there were 3 at the Witham Mouth 6th, 2 north Gibraltar Point 12th, a female Denton Res 13th and single males Huttoft Pit 12-13th and Covenham Res 17-21st. The only December record was of 4 flying south at Donna Nook 3rd.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Up to 50 were noted occasionally from the Humber to the Wash with exceptionally 100 at the Witham Mouth September 25th, then on November 12th 69 south at Grimsby Docks, 150 north-west at Humberston and 946 north with 45 south at Donna Nook. A female was up the Humber at New Holland December 18th.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

2 flew south at Gibraltar Point on February 13th and 4 south at Huttoft on April 17th. One was at Saltfleetby August 7th, then in October 3 were there 23rd, one flew south at Gibraltar Point 2nd and one south Huttoft 9th, with a female at Covenham Res 23rd-November 13th and an immature male there November 14-23rd. Other November records were at Anderby 2 13th, 2 north at Donna Nook 16th and one at the Witham Mouth 20-26th.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

	J	F	M	A	M	S	O	N	D
Covenham Res	68	76	73	39	3	5	5	40	96
Witham Mouth	32	60	—	—	—	—	—	17	—

The January Wash count was 56 2nd and 118 30th, with 16 at Baston Pits 2nd. In February there were 55 at New Holland 13th, 26 West Deeping 4-24th, 58 Holbeach 28th and 24 Gibraltar Point 27th, where there were 1-8 to April. Other April birds were 7 at Barrow Haven 20th and one Burton Stather 2-9th. In May 3 were at Covenham Res 5th, one 31st and singles Tetney 2nd and Gibraltar Point 11-14th. 3 early birds were at Thorpe Pits on August 6th. A movement on October 29th produced 23 north at Donna Nook, 15 west at East Halton and 30 at Whitton. In addition to the above there were 1-5 at a number of sites October-December.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

The only record was of a red-head at Baston Fen on January 3rd.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

There were records of 1-3 on the coast in January-February with up to 20 at the Witham Mouth. April records were at Tetney 2 26th, 5 29th, Holbeach 4 17th, Huttoft 1 17th and the Witham Mouth 2 2nd, then in May one Tetney 2nd, 2 13th and one South Ferriby 26th. A male was at Saltfleetby on July 17th. 1-5 were again noted on the coast and Wash from September 17th-December, with 9 East Halton October 29th and 10 at the Witham Mouth December 26th.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

	J	F	M
R. Welland	19	26	2
West Deeping	6	6	7
Baston Pits/Fen	27	—	1
Langtoft Pits	11	—	—

In addition to the above there were 1-2 at Covenham Res January 15-30th and one New Holland 22nd and February 13th, with 1-2 Gibraltar Point 26-27th. In March further records were at Covenham Res 4th, Saltfleetby 4th and South Ferriby 2 12th. Late year records were very few; in October one Whitton 29th, 2 Gibraltar Point 9th and one 30th, then singles November 6th, 12-13th, 2 on the River Welland 15th and 5 Covenham Res 30th, with 2 at Denton Res December 1st.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Single females were seen at Denton Res on March 15th and April 18-19th, with a male at Lincoln Apex Pit July 16th and 2 females there December 10th.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

There were two rather unusual records in July when a pale bird flew west over Boston 16th (SK) and another flew south-east at Tetney on 29th (JC, J de L). Another was seen at Boothby Pagnell on August 30th (AB).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

One flew leisurely south at Donna Nook on December 21st (SL, RLo). Only the 6th county record this century.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* (illustrated)

A pair bred successfully in the county rearing 3 young, the first breeding record since 1962. In addition to which a male and 1-2 females summered at a second site, being present from May-early August. A single bird was at Holbeach on February 28th, but there were no other records until an arrival of migrants in April with males at Saltfleet 16th, Saltfleetby 17th, Huttoft Pit 17th and Theddlethorpe 24th. Other singles were at Barton 25th, Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point 28th. May records were again mostly coastal with 2 Wolla Bank 3rd, singles Tetney 4th, 8th and 13th and a pair 22nd, Donna Nook 7th and 27th, Grainthorpe 8th and 22nd, Saltfleetby 3rd, 9th, 18th and 22nd, Gibraltar Point 11th, 14th, 20th and 24th, South Somercotes 7th and inland at Snitterby 18th and Burton Stather Pit 15th. Gibraltar Point then had singles regularly to August and further June records were of singles Sutton-on-Sea 9th, Baston Fen 11th, Saltfleetby 12th and



a female in the Snitterby/Caenby area from mid-June to July 19th. August produced further records at Tetney 12-13th, Goxhill 18th, Covenham 12th, one at Saltfleetby irregularly to mid-September and at Donna Nook 8th, 11th and 30th. Up to 3 were in Notten Fen from 22nd to September 18th with 1-2 at Gibraltar Point September 3-23rd, singles Huttoft 4th, Witham Mouth 7th and Baston Fen 17th and 25th. The last birds in October were one north at Donna Nook 3rd and singles at Gibraltar Point 3rd and 15th.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

In the early winter, January-March, there were up to 3 at Saltfleetby (5-6 birds), 1-2 at Donna Nook (3+ birds), singles at Bourne/Baston Fen, Holbeach to February, a male Tetney to March and 1-3 at Gibraltar Point to April 16th. Elsewhere there were January singles at Tetford 1st and Alkborough 22nd, in February Gedney/Dawsmere 28th, the Witham Mouth 13th, Crowland 14th and one found dead at West Ashby. A ringtail was at Humberston March 6th and one New Holland 24th. Further April birds were a ringtail Saltfleetby 17th, 2 different males Tetney 3rd and 7th and one Covenham 20th. All May records were coastal: at Wolla Bank a male 3rd, Tetney 4th and Gibraltar Point 6-8th. The first returning birds were not noted until October and there were then 1-3 at Saltfleet/Saltfleetby to December, 1-3 at Donna Nook 25th-December 31st, 1-2 at Gibraltar Point with 3 December 22-24th, 1-2 at Tetney, one Snitterby Carrs in late October, Theddlethorpe 28th and Kirton Marsh 31st. Then in November a 2nd winter male was at New York 12th, a ringtail Barton 14th, singles Witham Mouth 8th and 20th, Rothwell 20th, Grainthorpe 6th and additional December records at Holbeach a pair 22nd and Huttoft a male 2nd.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

During May there was a ringtail at Grainthorpe 22nd (HB, MM), with presumably the same bird at Tetney 23rd, 28th and 30th accompanied on 23rd by a male (JC). Another ringtail was at Billingborough Fen on 31st (EJR), then in June one Saltfleetby 4th (BMC) and another 17th (BMC). Another ringtail flew south at Saltfleetby on August 15th (BMC, MJT). (There was also a probable first summer male at Gibraltar Point from July 23-28th, but its specific identity caused some confusion).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

The welcome increase in the number of records continued, but there was still only one case of proved breeding reported, on the Wolds near Louth, although it seems likely that birds are now nesting in a number of areas in the county. There were numerous records in the general environs of Scunthorpe/Twiggmoor/Broughton all year with up to 3 together. During January-May there were records of 1-2 birds from 29 different sites, with a few records indicative of coastal passage in April. 1-2 were again noted at 36 sites from July-December with signs of a marked passage and influx in October/November, especially October 1-4th, with 4+ at Donna Nook and 4+ at Saltfleetby. 3 were at Kirkby Moor in November.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

A fair year with 2 in Welton Wood on January 9th (RKW) and singles at Saltfleetby, a pale bird north April 16th (JRW) and 17th (GB). One was at Goxhill from August 16-17th (GPC) and one Hungerton September 17th (IEHS), with finally one at Castle Bytham November 7th (R. Lamin).

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Another disappointing year with just two records; one at Gibraltar Point February 27th (TEB, MGC, MRC) and one flying south-west at Sandilands on November 13th (JRW).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

An early bird flew north at Saltfleetby on April 16th (JRC) and there were singles in May at Tetney/Tetney Lock 2-3rd (ACS, DJ, JC et al), Gibraltar Point 3rd (KW), 4th (RL, PRB) and 13th (AJG) and Cadney Res 27th (MT).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Widely distributed and fairly numerous, but no marked passage concentrations noted, with coastal maxima of only 5-6 in August-October.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

In the early winter, January-March, there were fairly regular records of singles at Donna Nook, Saltfleet/Saltfleetby, Gibraltar Point and New Holland, with other odd singles in January at Louth 14th, South Reston 24th and Holbeach 2nd and 31st, then in March

Fulstow 1st, Read's Island 12th, Immingham 3rd, Wainfleet 23rd and Doddington area 12-15th. April birds were at Thorpe (Lincoln) 2nd, Donna Nook 2nd, Heckington 5th, Saltfleetby 1-9th and 25th, and Tetney 11th. There was a most unusual mid-summer record of a first-summer bird at New Holland on June 19-20th. There were then three records in August, a male New Holland 4th and a female/immature Barrow Haven 25th and North Killingholme 28th and no more until October. Singles were then fairly regular at Donna Nook, Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point, with 3 different birds in the Barton-East Halton area and others in October at Baston Fen 23rd, Screddington 28th, Mablethorpe 16th, North Cotes 11th, Louth 10th; at Snitterby November 5-6th, the Witham Mouth 20th and Blyborough December 11th.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

After an early bird at North Somercotes Warren on April 16th (BMC, MJT), the next birds were not noted until June, with one at Threckingham 1st (SK), Aubourn 6th (KD), North Killingholme 18th (GPC), Tetney 27th (JC), Saltfleetby 27th (BMC) and Waddington 30th (PJD et al). One was seen fairly regularly in the Swanpool area of Lincoln from June 17th to July 29th (KD, ACS et al). One was at Saltfleetby July 24th (KA, HB), one at Burton Road (Lincoln) August 1st (DJ) and Messingham 25th (CJ). September produced a flush of records, with singles at Gibraltar Point 5th (SJM et al), Atkinson's Warren (Scunthorpe) 5th (RNH), Swanpool 12th (KD) and Thorpe Pits 16th and 21st (KD), Stockwith Mill Hagworthingham 20th (GMR) and Tetney 29th (J de L), with an adult and a juvenile at Cadeby 7th (GPC). A late bird was at Anderby on October 7th (AWMcG). An excellent series of records; hopefully this species will soon become a regular breeder in the county.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

One was seen at Holbeach on January 2nd (PT, R&KH) and there were singles in March at Saltfleetby 20th (JRW) and Swanpool 21st (KD), with one at Laceby 16th (WPB). One was seen at Donna Nook on August 26th and 30th (SL, CRM), with another at Baumber September 26th (MEH) and finally what was most likely to be the same bird flying south at North Cotes October 10th (MM) and Donna Nook 10th (RLo).

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

High January counts were 41 at Gibraltar Point 16th and 27 Atterby Carrs 16th. Coastal breeding records included 6 pairs at Tetney, 6 at Donna Nook and 4-5 Saltfleetby. December maxima were 39 Timberland Fen 2nd, 34 Barton 22nd and 17 Donna Nook 25th.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

The general decline in numbers appears to be continuing with any group of 20+ being noteworthy. The only high counts submitted were 42 Gibraltar Point January 12th and 35 there February 17th, with 32 at Horsington November 23rd.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

An arrival in June produced records of 1-2 at Donna Nook 15th to August 3rd (SL, RLo, CRM, BMC, RLab et al), 3 Scotter 15th (RNH), 2 Metherringham Delph 7th (PH), one Covenham 30th (KW), then 1-2 Saltfleetby July 2-3rd (JRW) and one Silk Willoughby August 1st (MJT).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Apart from maxima at Gibraltar Point of 30 January/February and December, the only other records received were of an albino at Tetford October-November and 76 at Woodhall Spa November 23rd.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Reports of 1-3 birds from numerous coastal and inland sites, mostly January-March and September-December, with 3-6 at Ancaster December 3rd. This is always a very secretive species and is obviously greatly under-recorded.

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Singles were seen at North Cotes on August 21st (RLo), Donna Nook on August 31st (SL) and Theddlethorpe on September 11th (JRW, CRM)

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

The only notable counts were of 32 Gibraltar Point September 2nd, then in December 45 Baston Fen 3rd, 158 Deeping High Bank 16th and 70 Barton throughout.

Coot *Fulica atra*

	J	F	M	A	S	O	N	D
Barton/Barrow Haven	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	293
Covenham Res	—	—	54	143	295	289	175	—
Kirkby-on-Bain	239	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Deeping	480	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Langtoft	400	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Baston Fen	—	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Baston Pits	—	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Ashby Pits	—	—	—	—	—	—	151	—

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes	600	—	—	—	—	200	200	420	665	750	540	—
Tetney	500	—	—	220	—	—	200	700	—	—	—	—
Gibraltar Point	—	2000	2000	2000	55	—	—	11000	12500	11700	10000	8000
Witham Mouth	—	—	—	500	—	—	—	200	270	—	—	—
The Wash	8528	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Breeding records included 15 pairs at Tetney which reared 10 young and pairs on Read's Island and at South Ferriby. Other notable counts were 2,000 at Holbeach and 1,700 at Donna Nook both September 11th.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Most records were at Gibraltar Point with 2 May 5th (RLa), 2 north August 11th (RLa, RKW, KWW, AC), one September 7th (ACS et al) and 11th (RLa et al) and one south October 8th (SBS). The only other record was of 2 flying north at Donna Nook on June 3rd (SL).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

The earliest spring birds arrived in March at Spalding SBF 2 7th, Atkinson's Warren 20th, Whisby Pits 24th, Saltfleetby 24-26th and Baston Pits 31st. 1-2 were noted on spring passage at a few sites in April-June with 4 Thurlby May 17th and 7 Covenham Res 17th. 2 pairs bred at Spalding and one at Hungerton, with pairs probably breeding at Winterton and Messingham. Autumn passage birds 1-3 were noted at several sites during July-August, with 4 Bardney July 27th and August 17th and 15 Messingham on August 1st. The only September records were at Bardney 2 11th and Covenham Res 22nd, with one at Messingham October 5th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Read's island	108	48	—	—	20	—	—	43	48	53	62	124
N. Killingholme	—	—	—	—	60	—	—	250	167	100	—	24
Cleethorpes	350	—	—	—	185	—	—	418	314	—	—	—
Donna Nook	—	—	—	—	250	—	—	—	80	—	—	—
Saltfleetby	—	—	—	—	127	—	—	235	50	—	—	—
Gibraltar Point	91	—	100	40	42	—	50	194	122	60	—	—
Witham Mouth	—	—	—	—	34	—	—	—	—	80	—	—

Other May maxima were 88 Barton 17th, 115, 19th and 77 Goxhill 20th. Several of the birds in May showed characteristics of the *tundrae* race. Breeding records included 36 pairs at Tetney, 5 at Donna Nook, 2 at Bardney and singles at Barton and Baston Pits. Other autumn peaks were 150 Holbeach August 12th and 70 there September 25th, 80 Goxhill September 23rd and 70 Barton October 11th.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

A single bird was present at Gibraltar Point from May 7-8th (EB et al).

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

The only records were of 2 at North Cotes May 4-5th (JC, IGS, WPB et al) and one at Donna Nook 10th (SL), with 14 at Burringham North Grange from 8-12th (CJ).

Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

An adult in summer plumage, showing characteristics of the American race *P.d. dominica*, was seen at Saltfleetby on July 16th (GPC). The 3rd county record and the second in two years. Accepted by BBRC.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

	J	F	M	A	J	A	S	O	N	D
Winteringham/Read's island	—	—	—	250	—	—	1000	—	394	233
Goxhill/East Halton	—	—	—	—	110	200	—	—	530	400
Tetney/North Cotes	430	—	—	250	350	700	—	—	200	200
Huttoft	750	—	200	—	—	—	—	—	—	320
Saltfleet/Theddlethorpe	400	—	—	—	200	—	—	—	180	500
Grainthorpe/Donna Nook	300	—	—	—	—	—	800	—	230	—
Witham Mouth	250	—	—	—	35	200	—	—	—	150

Other counts in excess of 300 were 605 Bourne Fen January 10th, 2,000 Ponton Heath late January, 700 Calcethorpe March 7th, 1,000 Hungerton April 12th, 2,000 Cold Hanworth 3rd, 400 Kelstern 18th, 500 Helpringham 6th, 500 Caenby Heath September 15th, 270 Barton November 15th, 350 Langton-by-Wragby 20th, 370 Bassingthorpe December 23rd, 325 Cleethorpes 2nd and 300 Wrawby 11th.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Tetney	—	—	—	—	600	370	74	91	325	—	—	—
Gibraltar Point	410	317	350	50	64	30	7	200	750	250	500	100
Donna Nook	—	—	—	—	150	—	—	—	—	—	520	—
Holbeach	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1000	500	—	—
Witham Mouth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	150	—	150	—	—

The only other large counts were in the January Wash count 2,202 2nd and 2,156 30th, 400 Frampton March 1st and 1,200 Butterwick September 9th. 1-10 were up the Humber from Killingholme-Winteringham January and August-November.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (illustrated)



Only flocks of 500 or more are mentioned; January produced 500 at Scawby 2nd and 1,031 at Colsterworth 9th, then in February 1,080 flew south at Gibraltar Point on 27th. Up to 900 were at Donna Nook in the first two weeks of March, with 1,000 at Huttoft 7th. A high concentration of 1,250 was noted at Read's Island on July 12th and 1,500 were at Winteringham on September 22nd. In November there were 800 on Read's Island on 13th, 725 Stainby 21st and 1,450 at Bardney 20th, while the only good December counts were 700 Barton 12th and 1,150 Blyborough 27th.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes	—	—	—	—	—	32	—	—	—	—	—	3700
Tetney	—	—	—	135	30	—	—	75	—	—	—	—
Donna Nook	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5000
Gibraltar Point	10650	8000	8000	10000	150	860	5000	13800	10500	5000	18000	400
Holbeach	—	3000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6700

The January Wash counts gave totals of 32,109 on 2nd and 25,095 on 30th. In addition to the above, there were up to 30 up the Humber, East Halton-Read's Island in August-September, 360 Butterwick September 8th and 500 Witham Mouth November 8th.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes	—	—	—	—	629	504	—	425	835	—	—	190
Tetney	—	—	—	230	600	104	106	215	—	—	—	—
Donna Nook	—	—	—	—	200	—	75	—	—	—	—	—
Saltfleetby	—	80	—	—	189	51	104	260	—	—	—	—
Gibraltar Point	63	60	70	25	290	150	14	410	310	200	40	23

Other passage records in May were 5 North Killingholme 18th, 26 20th and 5 26th, 7 Goxhill 20th and at Covenham Res 7 2nd, 4 15th and 1 16th. The peak passage on the coast was around May 12th and 22-28th with June peaks from 1-12th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

There were a few spring records at Saltfleet May 14th and 22nd, Saltfleetby 16th, Donna Nook 21st and Cleethorpes 27th. The first autumn birds were at Saltfleetby August 1st

and Holbeach 2 28th, before a marked influx in September/October. At Donna Nook there were 1-4 from September 11th-October 5th; Saltfleetby 4 11th, then 2-4 to October 9th; Gibraltar Point 2 10th, 13 14th and a slow decrease to 2 27th, with 1-5 to October 5th, then 2 October 15-16th. At Covenham Res there were 4 September 14th, then up to 12 to 17th with a peak of 17 13th and 1-10 to October 10th, with 3 16th, one 19th and 2 21st. Elsewhere in September there were up to 9 at Messingham from 15th, at North Cotes one 12th, one 19th, 4 25th, at Humberston Fitties one 12th, Goxhill one 13th and 16th, North Killingholme 3 19th, a maximum of 5 at Lincoln Thorpe Pits 16th, 3 at Holbeach 25th, one Bardney 11th and 29 Winteringham 22nd. In October there were also at North Killingholme one 3rd, 2 6th, one 8th, one Bardney 4th, 11 Messingham 5th, 2 Tetney 2nd, 2 Winteringham 2nd and 3 6th, with a late bird at Gibraltar Point on November 19th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

The only record was of one at Covenham Res on May 16th (MM, KW).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

A good series of records in September at Donna Nook, with one 5-14th, then 2 different birds 18-19th and one 20-22nd, 2 again 23rd (SL, RLo, CRM). Another was seen at East Halton Skitter on September 13th (GPC) and one at Cadney Res from 26th-October 2nd (CJ).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

There were no spring records. July records were one at Gibraltar Point 25th, one North Killingholme 25th, 2 27th, then an increase there up to 8 August 4th and 1-4 to 28th. Other August records came from Saltfleetby 3rd, Tetney 3rd and 20th and Kirton Marsh 31st. Further September reports came from North Killingholme 2 14th and 4 27th to October 6th, Goxhill 3 23rd, Holbeach 4 25th, Covenham Res one 18th, Donna Nook 25th, Tetney 7 25th and 2 29th, Saltfleetby 2 11th, one 23-24th and Gibraltar Point 3 12th, one 13th. Other October birds were 2 Tetney 4-6th, one 22nd, and 2 Saltfleetby 9th.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Very few noted, the only records being at Trusthorpe January 1st, 22nd and February 4th, the Witham Mouth March 1st, April 2nd and October 8th, Tetney April 11th, July 15th and August 13th and at Donna Nook September 9-14th and October 21-27th.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Read's Island	910	2677	562	290	—	—	—	—	—	161	244	486
Cleethorpes	—	—	—	—	400	—	—	915	3500	5000	4000	1700
Tetney	—	—	—	1200	600	30	150	730	—	—	—	—
Donna Nook	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	400	—	—	1930	—
Gibraltar Point	930	—	1600	1000	1300	160	500	2000	2500	3000	3000	3000
Holbeach	—	5000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1000	—	—

The January Wash counts gave totals of 20,052 on 2nd and 15,660 30th. There were 1,000 at the Witham Mouth on March 1st and up to 15 inland at Kirkby-on-Bain in mid-April, with 100 at Goxhill May 20th. In November there were 2,500 at Stallingborough 27th.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Early winter records came from South Killingholme one January 8th, Donna Nook 9 5th, with a maximum of 21 11th and 12 to 16th, and Tetney small numbers to April with a high count of 45 March 18th. Spring records were of 8 at South Killingholme April 21st and 10 24th, up to 8 at Tetney April 6th-May 6th with 15 8th, a Ruff and 4 Reeves at Butterwick Hale April 17th, 3 Donna Nook 13th, one Gibraltar Point 8th and 3 23rd, then in May 2 there 1st and 10 Saltfleetby 13th. Returning autumn birds were noted from June 21st 5 at North Killingholme, where numbers increased to 11 July 5th and 27 25th, then 22 August 11th and 31 22nd. Elsewhere there were 1-5 at Whisby Pits, Kirton, Covenham Res, Thorpe Pits, Saltfleetby, and the Witham Mouth July-August, with 1-9 at Donna Nook August 13 to October 11th and 1-11 at Gibraltar Point July to November 13th. Others in September included 8 Tetney 30th, 13 Donna Nook 13th and 5 Winteringham 22nd. There was a high total of 62 at Grainthorpe on October 9th, but the only December records were one at Pyewipe 10th and 10 Tetney 28th.

Jack Snipe *Limnocryptes minimus*

Early winter records were all singles; North Killingholme January 8th, Swallow February 13th, Saltfleetby March 19-20th and Gibraltar Point 20th and 29th. Coastal records in

April were 2 at Donna Nook 18th, one Gibraltar Point 13th and singles Saltfleetby 1st, 13th and May 19th. Birds returned from September 11th North Cotes, with one North Killingholme 19th, 2 Saltfleetby 29th and 1-2 at Donna Nook 29th to December 3rd. Others in October were one Cleethorpes 11th, Tetney 6th, Gibraltar Point 29th, Saltfleetby 14th and 31st, and 4 Donna Nook 13th. There were 3 at Goxhill November 18-29th.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Notable early winter gatherings were 60 North Killingholme January 8th, 56 Baston Fen February 12th to March 26th, 60 Huttoft February 27th. Then in March 50 at Chapel Pit 13th, 50 Alkborough 19th and 178 Huttoft Pit 7th. 15 were drumming at Baston Fen on June 6th. The only late winter peak was 35 at North Killingholme November 10th.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

There were 1-5 at Gibraltar Point from January to March 28th and odd singles elsewhere on the coast February-April. Coastal passage was again evident, although light, 1-4 birds from October 21st-early December. 7 were noted in Timberland Fen in late November.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

The only early winter record was one at Holbeach January 2nd. Spring passage birds were 2 at Gibraltar Point March 12th then in April, 10 Holbeach 17th, at Tetney 1-8 17-30th, with 20 19th and 1-2 to May 29th. 2 birds showing characteristics of the Icelandic race were at South Killingholme April 21st. Further records in May were singles Covenham Res 4th and Saltfleetby 14th, with 6 at Gibraltar Point 1st and one North Killingholme June 5th. In autumn there were singles in July at Donna Nook 6th, Covenham Res 8th, Read's Island 10th, with 4 Tetney 15th, 4 there August 10th and one 23rd. At Gibraltar Point there were 1-4 from August 15th to October 5th, with 1-3 at North Killingholme September 12th to November 13th, singles Donna Nook September 14-15th, Saltfleetby 4-10th and very large numbers at Holbeach in September, with 100 10th and 300 11th. Gibraltar Point had singles October 22nd and 30th and there were singles in November at Saltfleet and Read's Island 5th and Cleethorpes 17th, with 80 at Holbeach December 2nd and 2 Gibraltar Point 30th.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Tetney	—	—	—	75	140	93	230	340	—	—	—	—
Donna Nook	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	350	—	—	—
Gibraltar Point	1350	400	70	150	5	50	250	3500	400	5500	3800	20

The January Wash count totalled 5,517 on 2nd and 1,517 on 30th. Other notable counts were 150 Butterwick January 3rd, 60 Cleethorpes June 20th and 59 there December 11th.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

After an early bird at Gibraltar Point on March 29th there was a very good spring passage with 1-15 birds at most coastal sites during April/May and the following high counts: in April 37 East Halton 26th, 20 Gibraltar Point 26th, and in May 48 Tetney 7th, at Gibraltar Point 40 4th, 46 north 7th and 35 north 14th. 2 were inland at Swanpool Lincoln on 3rd and 3 at Wragholme Ings 7th. Unusually there were 1-2 at Donna Nook throughout June, with 1-2 at Tetney in June, 1-3 at Gibraltar Point, and 2 Mablethorpe 30th. Autumn passage was again very pronounced from July to September, with 1-15 again regular at coastal sites and in the Humber and Wash. High totals were 19 East Halton July 29th, 50 Saltfleetby 30th, 17 Covenham Res 26th and 16 27th, with at Gibraltar Point 30 23rd, 70 24-25th. In August 19 East Halton 4th, 33 Tetney 2nd, 45 Frampton 13th, 26 south at Wolla Bank 7th, 28 south at the Witham Mouth 10th, 45 Read's Island 3rd, at Saltfleetby 26 south 5th, 38 south 7th, 20 19th and at Covenham Res 7 17th and 6 22nd. Only 1-7 were noted in September, with October records 1-2 at Gibraltar Point to 28th, 2 south Anderby 7th and 2 Holbeach 9th.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Read's Island	20	72	24	—	—	—	200	221	201	25	15	48
Goxhill/East Halton	50	—	300	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60	100
Pyewipe	368	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gibraltar Point	300	110	—	—	—	150	300	300	2000	500	300	525
Holbeach	—	370	—	—	—	—	—	2500	2000	—	—	—

The January Wash counts gave totals of 1,360 2nd and 1,173 30th. The albino at Goxhill from October '82 was last seen on March 7th. No breeding records were reported, but a few pairs were known to still be present in the north-west. Other notable counts were 270 at the Witham Mouth September 11th and 105 at Cleethorpes November.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

The wintering bird at Humberston/Cleethorpes was present from January to March 19th. Other early winter/spring birds were at Tetney February 10th and April 19th, Gibraltar Point 4 March 26th, one May 5th, North Killingholme April 24th, Holbeach 17th, Donna Nook on 5 dates 17th to May 21st and Saltfleetby 19th and May 9th; one flew south over Covenham Res May 6th. Returning birds were present from June 17th, with 1-5 at Tetney, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Gibraltar Point, Holbeach, Bardney, Wolla Bank and Covenham Res to October, with peak numbers as usual at North Killingholme where there were 2 July 10-12th and up to 11 to August 22nd. The wintering bird returned to Humberston from October 30th into 1984 and one was at Saltfleetby on November 11th.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes	—	—	—	—	—	—	103	—	450	—	—	—
Donna Nook	—	—	—	150	—	—	—	—	160	—	—	—
Gibraltar Point	97	200	70	200	20	—	—	256	260	250	100	200

The January Wash counts totalled 964 on 2nd and 1,193 on 30th. Other notable counts were 80 North Killingholme January 8th, 200 at the Witham Mouth August 13th and 100 Stallingborough December 4th. 70-100 were at Tetney April-June and 32 pairs bred there.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

An early spring bird was at Gibraltar Point on March 20th and there were then 1-2 at coastal sites from April 15th to late May, with inland birds at Covenham Res May 11th and Bardney 11th. Autumn birds returned from June 18th, with 1-10 at a number of sites to October 30th. Higher counts were up to 15 at North Killingholme July 12th-August 17th, 20 Tetney August 21st, 14 Holbeach 5th, 15 Gibraltar Point 20th and 25 south there September 6th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

At Thorpe Pits Lincoln there were up to 5 in the early year, 5 March 20th and up to 10 in autumn, with 3 in December. Elsewhere in the early winter there were singles at Willoughby January 9th-February 5th, Crowle January 1st, Nocton 16th, Firsby Clough 13th and Baston Pits 9th-February 13th. Spring birds were at Baston Pits March 12th, Metheringham 27th and Willoughby 30th. April records were at Willoughby 6th, Donna Nook 14th and 23rd, Tetney 17th and 27th, Bradley 2 12th, West Ashby 2 23rd, Gibraltar Point 26th and Saltfleetby May 28th. There were then widespread records of 1-4 from mid-June to October, with 6 at Donna Nook August 19th and 30th. November records were 2 Alford 8-18th, Donna Nook 5th, Baston Fen 19th and Kirkby-on-Bain 29th, with December birds at Baston Fen 3rd, Norton Disney 11th and Branstion Island 25th.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* (illustrated)

The only spring bird was at Tetney on April 23rd. There were records in July at Covenham Res 7th, North Killingholme 14th and Gibraltar Point, with 1-3 from 24th to August 27th and 5 July 28th. Other August birds were singles at Thorpe Pits 13-16th, Saltfleetby 17th, 21st and 24th and Holbeach 28th. In September there were 1-2 at Saltfleetby 9-22nd, and singles Thorpe Pits 21st, Donna Nook 2-3rd and 7th and Covenham Res 25th.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

An overwintering bird was at Messingham from at least December 26th 1982 to February 22nd. There were then 1-4 at a number of localities on spring passage from April 17th to early June, with peaks of only 8 Covenham Res May 4th and 14th. Autumn passage was also rather poor, from July-September, with 1-10 at several localities and peaks of only 16 Covenham Res



July 25th, 15 Tetney August 12th and 30 Holbeach 5th. The only October records were at Kirkby-on-Bain 7th and Gibraltar Point 1-2nd and 15th.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes/Humberston	400	—	—	—	—	—	—	169	220	170	—	—
Tetney	—	—	—	—	180	20	—	60	—	—	—	—

The January Wash counts totalled 147 on 2nd and 119 on 30th. 250 were at Holbeach September 25th and inland birds were at Covenham Res July 31st and Thorpe Pits August 4th.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

One was seen at North Cotes on May 30th (HB).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

At Donna Nook one flew south and two north on October 29th (RLo).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

One was seen off Huttoft on January 15th (BMC, MJT). This species is rare but occasional during the winter in the North Sea. There was a good series of autumn records, all of which are noted. At Saltfleetby there was one on July 26th (BMC, JRC, MJT), 2 south August 28th (MM), one 29th (BMC), then in September 2 south 11th (JRW, BMC) and 2 south 28th (HB). The Witham Mouth had 2 August 10th, 2 28th and 6 29th (SK), then in September one 8th, 2 11th (SK, RH, KH) with 14 on October 9th (SK), a high count, and 2 late birds on November 8th (SK, RH, KH). Gibraltar Point had only one on August 29th (JPS) and others in September were at Donna Nook one south 3rd, 2 north and 6 south 11th, 2 south 12th, one north 30th and a late bird north November 11th (SL, RLo). Also in September there were singles at Theddlethorpe 5th (BMC), Chapel Point south 11th (MM) and North Cotes south 11th (WPB).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

The Witham Mouth produced unusual records with 3 on January 19th and 2 April 1st. Gibraltar Point had singles June 9th and 23rd and birds were regular on the coast and in the Wash from July to October with up to 20 per day. Most of the higher numbers occurred with gales around August 28-29th and September 3-5th and 11-12th. Thus at Donna Nook peaks were 32 south August 29th, 30 south September 3rd, 205 south 11th and 32 south 12th; at Saltfleetby 72 south August 28th, 30 September 5th, 36 6th, 73 south 10th, 222 south 11th; at Gibraltar Point 40 south September 3rd, 32 south 6th, 242 south 11th, 48 south and 79 north 12th; at the Witham Mouth 43 August 28th and 27 September 11th, 159 south at Huttoft August 28th with 30 there September 3rd and 110 south 11th, 25 at Holbeach 11th, 187 south at Chapel Point 11th and 62 south at North Cotes 11th. Ten were up the Humber at North Killingholme on September 29th. In October there were 1-7 on the coast and in the Wash, with November records at Anderby 2 12th, Donna Nook 1st, 10 12th, 13th and 2 16th and a late bird north there on December 15th.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

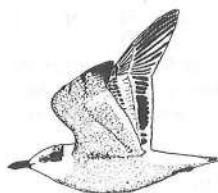
An adult was seen at Saltfleetby on the 'skua day' of September 11th (JRW, BMC).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

The only July record was at Saltfleetby on 27th. 1-5 were fairly regular on the coast and in the Wash in August/September/October with exceptions being: at Saltfleetby 18 September 6th, 54 south 11th, 10 south 10th, at Donna Nook 27 south 11th and 7 south 12th, at Gibraltar Point 64 south 11th and 36 north 12th, 28 at the Witham Mouth 8th and 35 11th and 19 south at Chapel Point 11th. Birds were noted to November 3rd at Donna Nook and also at Gibraltar Point one south 11th, 2 13th and Saltfleetby one 20th.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* (illustrated)

An incredible year with about 14-16 birds recorded. In January there were first winter birds at Lincoln Apex Pit 22nd and 30th and Swanpool 23rd (KD), adults at Fulstow 19th (MM) and Cleethorpes early January to February 5th (MM, GPC et al). Another first winter bird was at Apex Pit March 27th and Thorpe Pit 31st and Apex again April 2nd (KD). May produced a first



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summer at Tetney 16th (IGS) and a second summer at Saltfleetby 30th (BMC, MJT), and there were 2 first summers there on June 5th (BMC). An adult was at Grimsby Docks on July 10th (GPC), 15-17th (WPB) and 25th (KW) and further adults in August were at Saltfleetby 5th (BMC), Donna Nook 6th (RLo) and Covenham Res 12th (KW), with an adult there again September 20th and 29th (BMC, MJT). Donna Nook had an adult on October 21st (RLo) and there were first winters at Apex Pit November 6th and December 10th and 28th (KD).

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

A fairly good year for this species overall, with some interesting records including 17 north and 7 south at Gibraltar Point on January 4th, a further bird there on February 15th and singles at the Witham Mouth February 13th and 15th. In May there was an adult at Thorpe Pits on 8th and 2 first summers at Barrow Haven 15th, with 1-2 first summers at Covenham Res from 1st to July 10th. Further June records were at North Killingholme 1st and Donna Nook 21st and in July North Killingholme 10th and Thorpe Pits 12th. Records in August came from Read's Island 5th, Donna Nook 7th, the Witham Mouth 27th, Saltfleetby 5 north 7th, Gibraltar Point 13th and 25th and Goxhill 3 26th with one there September 23rd. Also one Saltfleetby 6th, one north Donna Nook 4th and 6 east 30th, then 7 north October 29th, 3 north November 12th, 35 south 13th and 6 north 16th. Gibraltar Point had one October 2nd and 10 November 13th and other November records were at the Witham Mouth 8th, 4 north at Chapel Point 13th and one Thorpe Pits 19th.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

In September there was one at Saltfleetby on 6th (BMC) and on 11th an adult/first summer flew south at North Cotes (WPB) and an adult in summer plumage flew south at Gibraltar Point (JPS).

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia*

An adult flew north at Donna Nook on February 2nd (SL). The second county record of this North American gull. (Under consideration by BBRC).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

High January counts included 4,000 at Gibraltar Point 2nd, 5,000 Langtoft Pits 23rd and 8,200 Grimsby/Cleethorpes 29th. Gibraltar Point then had good counts of 4,000 August 5th, 20,000 October 4-5th and 2,500 December 31st. There were 4,700 at Donna Nook on September 14th and 1,000 Mablethorpe December 11th.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Gibraltar Point had up 1,250 in January-February and there were 2,500 at Barton February 2nd. Eight hundred flew south at Gibraltar Point on April 8th and an albino was at Covenham Res May 2-5th. Saltfleetby had 1,000 August 9th and Donna Nook 1,000 September 14th and 24th, with 1,000 at Gibraltar Point 5th. In December there were 2,000 at Mablethorpe 11th and 1,500 Gibraltar Point 31st.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

This species is very unusual in the winter January-March and November-December, with just odd records as in 1983. Donna Nook had one February 12th and then 1-4 March 31st to June 9th. There were up to 40 at Messingham in May-June and at Saltfleetby 55 June 7th, with 30 at Gibraltar Point 12th and records of 1-12 there July-August, with 34 August 14th and 56 17th. A very high total of 420 at Lincoln Apex Pit on September 28th was a roost count; 52 were at Gibraltar Point on 15th and 100 at Brocklesby October 7-15th.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Gibraltar Point	342	200	—	200	—	—	300	150	—	500	—	—

Other high figures in January, 685 Huttoft 15th, 350 Holbeach and 500 Langtoft Pit 23rd, 1,100 Donna Nook March 13th, 250 Stallingborough November 27th and 390 Cleethorpes December. A bird of one of the yellow-legged races was seen at Saltfleetby on May 30th (BMC, MJT).

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoideus*

A second-summer bird was present at Messingham on April 15-16th (CJ).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

At the most regular county site Pyewipe/Grimsby Docks/Cleethorpes/Humberston there

was an adult January 23rd to February 12th with another adult February 21st to March 6th. Also a first-winter January 4-31st and 4 (first-winter, second-winter and 2 third-winters) were at Pyewipe February 9th, with a second winter at Humberston March 17-18th. Elsewhere in January there were first-winters at Lincoln Apex Pit 16th, Covenham Res 23rd and Saltfleetby 30th, with first and second-winters at Messingham in January and February. Others in February were first-winters at Barton 2nd, Read's Island 3rd and Covenham Res 7th, with a second-winter at Lincoln Apex Pit March 20th and one south over Swanpool on 26th. An adult flew north at Anderby on May 2nd and another was at Tetney 25th. There were only three records in the late winter, an adult at the Witham Mouth on November 8th, an adult at Donna Nook on December 11th and a first-winter at Apex Pit 31st.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

	J	F	M	A	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes/Pyewipe	1000	—	—	—	—	300	400	—	—
Gibraltar Point	100	—	—	63	500	400	200	200	—

Other high counts were 100 at the Witham Mouth January 19th, 340 Covenham Res 21st, then 200 Tetney April, 280 Saltfleetby August 19th, 208 Huttoft September 3rd and 900 Donna Nook December 11th.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

In the early winter there were regular small numbers on the coast with 1-5 at Pyewipe/Cleethorpes and 1-20 coastal. Peak counts were 137 at Huttoft January 15th, 860 Saltfleetby 25th, 42 north and 37 south Gibraltar Point 4th and 25 Donna Nook 12th. Ten were at the Witham Mouth February 15th and 10 Covenham Res 26th. A total of 178 were found dead in the 'auk wreck' February 7-22nd. Up to 50 were noted irregularly on the coast from May-November, with singles inland at Messingham June 9th, Lincoln Apex Pit July 20th and August 13th, and Covenham Res September 11th. It was apparently a very poor autumn for large movements and the only numbers reported in excess of 50 were 158 at Saltfleetby June 5th, 97 there August 6th, 136 south at Donna Nook September 11th, 55 at the Witham Mouth 8th and 108 Saltfleetby November 20th.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

After the first at the Witham Mouth on April 11th there were other April records at Tetney 15th, Gibraltar Point 3 26th and 12 north 30th, Witham Mouth 4 30th and North Cotes 2 29th. There were then up to 15 coastal in May/June, with 30 at Saltfleetby June 14th and 2 pairs displaying at Saltfleet 10th. Numbers on the coast began to build up from July, with 75 Tetney and 183 Gibraltar Point 28th and one up the Humber at Read's Island 13th. There were up to 200 at Donna Nook in August and 100 Tetney, 60-70 at Saltfleetby and up to 400 at Gibraltar Point, with 1,200 north there on 28th. There were some good coastal movements in early September, 114 Saltfleetby 6th, 80 Sutton-on-Sea 4th, 413 Huttoft 3rd, 1,100 moving east at Butterwick pre-dusk on 8th and at Gibraltar Point 350 1st, and southerly movements of 140 2nd, 300 3rd, 1,000 4th, 300 6th, 800 11th and 1,000 12th. There were up to 50 at Gibraltar Point and the Witham Mouth to October 9th, with a late bird at Gibraltar Point November 12th.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

The first arrivals in April were 2 at Billingham on 22nd, then 3 West Deeping 23rd, 2 Gibraltar Point 25th and 6 30th, with 4 Kirkby-on-Bain 28th and 4 the Witham Mouth 30th. There were odd records of 1-4 in May/June, but the only breeding record noted was of a pair which hatched two young at Tetney. It would be nice to receive records of breeding pairs from other sites in the future. Maximum autumn numbers were 74 north Saltfleetby August 6th and 123 north 7th, with 150 at the Witham Mouth 10th and 250 there September 8th. Also 125 south at Saltfleetby 3rd, with 95 there September 11th. A few lingered into October, with a high count at the Witham Mouth of 20 9th, then singles Cleethorpes 15th, Tetney and Saltfleetby 22nd.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

After the first of the spring at Tetney on April 30th, there was a noticeable passage on May 2nd with 11 at Tetney, 33 flying down the Trent at Keadby and 41 at Covenham Res, where there were still 20 on 3rd and 2-3 to 6th. Others in May were 3 at Thorpe Pits 8th, 4 Saltfleet 25th and 2 Gibraltar Point 26th. Gibraltar Point had 1-7 irregularly June-

September 18th and Donna Nook 1-10 August to October, with 51 north August 29th. There were also 1-10 at Saltfleetby July-October, with 44 August 7th and 15 9th. Others were singles Goxhill August 4th and September 16th, Wolla Bank August 5th and Covenham Res 2 September 12th and one to 19th.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

First of the spring were at Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point 4 on April 23rd, with 10 at the latter site on 24th and one the Witham Mouth 30th. The main arrival at Tetney was in late May-early June and 3-4 were regular at Cleethorpes May-June 13th. 45 pairs bred at Tetney rearing 20 young; there were 20 pairs at Donna Nook with no success and 25 pairs at Saltfleet, while 10 pairs at Saltfleetby reared 7 young. Maximum numbers at Gibraltar Point were 35 in June, but 65 on July 20th, then up to 30 in August and 45 5th. Other coastal maxima were 59 Saltfleetby July 13th, 33 Cleethorpes August 12th and 16 at the Witham Mouth 13th. At Covenham Res there were 3 on July 17th and 5 September 12th. The only other September records were 3 at Gibraltar Point 1st and 6th, with one 11th and a late bird at the Witham Mouth October 9th.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

A very poor spring for this species and rather scarce on autumn migration. The only spring records were; in May singles Huttoft 2nd, Crowland 5th, then 3 Holbeach 1st, 2 Gibraltar Point 3rd and one 31st and 6 Covenham Res 6th, with June records at Saltfleetby 2 13th and Covenham Res one 20th. In autumn there were 1-2 at Thorpe Pits July 30-August 30th, with 16 15th; 1-4 Covenham Res July 17th-October 9th intermittently; at the Witham Mouth 3 July 12th, 3 August 10th and 12 13th, one September 11th; at Tetney one July 28th and August 7-10th; one Holbeach July 31st; at Donna Nook 3 north August 24th and 3 south September 3rd; 10 south at Saltfleetby August 21st; at Huttoft 2 north August 11th and 3 September 3rd; 15 at Butterwick August 11th, 4 Sandilands September 4th, 2 south North Cotes 11th and one at Goxhill 13th. Then in October singles Spalding 8th, Thorpe Pits 9th, Apex Pit 16th and Covenham Res 23rd.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

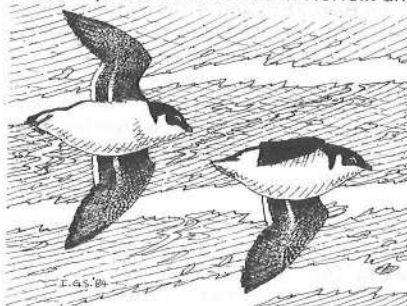
Up to 11 live birds were noted on the coast and in the Wash during January-February, with one inland at Covenham Res February 26-March 2nd and birds up the Humber at Stallingborough February 20th, New Holland 13th and Goxhill 17th. In the 'auk wreck' a total of 1,110 dead birds was found February 7-22nd, an unprecedented number for the county. There were again 1-4 fairly regular on the coast from August-November, with 12 Donna Nook October 29th and one East Halton the same day, and 10 Donna Nook November 1st with 14 12th.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

1-6 were noted on the coast and in the Wash in January-February. In the February 'auk wreck' a total of 2,510 birds was found dead from Cleethorpes to the Norfolk border, a staggering number. One was found inland at Bourne during the wreck on the 9th. Later 1-2 were noted on the coast June-November, with one up the Humber at East Halton October 8th and 2 there 29th.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

At the height of the 'auk wreck' a live bird was seen off Huttoft on February 13th (KW). None were found dead. Only the 10th county record of this species which remains very rare compared to its status in Norfolk and Yorkshire.



Little Auk *Alle alle* (illustrated)

This species was again very badly affected by the severe winds and gales in the early year which led up to the auk wreck. A total of 200 dead birds was found on the coast/Wash February 7-22nd, in addition to which a number were wrecked inland. Singles were found at Pinchbeck February 8th, released alive, Gunness 7th, Marshchapel 7th, Santon 7th, released at East Halton 8th, Grainthorpe 12th, Whaplode 12th, Alford 23rd, Moulton 8th also released, Cowbit 11th, Metherringham 9th, Leverton 13th, Hobhole Outfall

13th, released. 5 live birds were found in the Mablethorpe area and other live records were singles at Gibraltar Point 6th and 12th, 2 at Donna Nook 12th and 3 north at Huttoft 6th. After such a wreck it was surprising that there should be another good influx to the county in the same year mostly in October. The peak day was October 29th when a total of 567 flew north at Donna Nook (SL, RLo, CRM), by far the largest county day total ever; and other records were 5 at Gibraltar Point (KWW, IH), 39 flying west up the Humber at Whitton 11-15 to 15-30 hrs (RNH) and 39 flying west at East Halton Skitter 13-30 to 16-00 hrs (GPC). Only one was seen at Donna Nook on 30th (SL, RLo), but one was found inland at Kirkby Underwood and released at Boston (JL, RLam). Singles were on the River Ancholme at Horkstow and Brigg (KY), 3 flew north at Saltfleetby (BMC, MJT) and one north at Chapel Point (HB). One flew north at Donna Nook on November 12th, with 5 north 16th and one 21st (SL, RLo, CRM) to complete a memorable year.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

There were singles at Trusthorpe on January 2nd, and Donna Nook 29th and February 11th before a total of 284 were found dead in the wreck February 7-22nd. The only other records were late in the year. At Gibraltar Point there were 2 September 12th, 7 October 28th and singles 29th and 30th and 7 north November 12th, with 2 at Saltfleetby October 23rd and 2 north at Donna Nook November 16th.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Early and late winter concentrations included 35 Donna Nook January 31st and 40 Burton Stather 19th, with 22 Theddlethorpe February 22nd and 30 Kelstern March 10th. There were 100 at Waddingham November 18th and then in December 31 Donna Nook 1st, 55 Gibraltar Point 30-31st and 150 Normanby 28th.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Large flocks in the early winter included about 500 Gibraltar Point January-February, 650 Burton Stather January 9th, 500 north-west over Kelstern 19th, 997 South Witham 12th, with 1,300 there February 17th and 1,000 Kirton Lindsey January 30th. 300 flew north at Gibraltar Point on March 26th and 380 were at Donna Nook April 5th. A flock of 350 was feeding on peas at Cuxholme on June 21st. Late autumn arrivals included 500 at Donna Nook September 27th and 1,000 Gibraltar Point October 29th, then in December flocks of 700 Langworth 9th, 850 Blyborough 27th, with 600 at Goxhill/Thornton Abbey late December.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

The most notable concentrations were 165 at Snitterby January 16th, then 200-250 Barrow Haven October-December, 40 Stallingborough November 15th and 45 Utterby 27th, then in December 98 Castle Bytham 9th and 66 Normanby Park 29th, while a count of the huge regular flock at Gunness gave a total of 415 on December 28th. Additionally 10 flew south at Theddlethorpe May 8th and 8 south at Gibraltar Point September 13th.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

First arrivals were at Donna Nook and Barrow Haven 2, all April 20th followed by several more in ones and twos in late April. Movements in May/June were not as well marked as some springs, but included at Gibraltar Point (all south) 30 May 7th, 37 11th, 300 14th, 50 31st, 66 June 2nd, 500 8th, 20 10th and 12 north 24th, 8 north 25th. At Donna Nook up to 30 per day to June 9th, with 48 on May 7th, 50 south at Theddlethorpe May 8th, 20 west Holbeach 29th, 72 west Barton 31st, then in June 100 north Theddlethorpe 5th and 20 west Kirton 4th. No large autumn numbers were reported and late birds were at Gibraltar Point October 8th and Donna Nook October 12th and November 8th.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

After the first at Saltfleetby April 17th there were 11 more late April records before a more widespread arrival in early May, with 5 Donna Nook 11th and 6 Wolla Bank 28th. The only autumn concentration was of 9 at Saltfleetby August 21st, with late birds at Tetney September 4th, Gibraltar Point 10th and Wickenby 20th.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Fairly scattered reports of 1-2 birds with only 6 breeding records reported, a very poor representation. Coastal records involved up to 5 at Saltfleetby January-March, singles Gibraltar Point February 27th, Donna Nook March 1st, 4 between Chapel and Huttoft

March 26th and one Tetney April 21st, then one Wolla Bank July 1st; a pair bred Theddlethorpe being seen regularly, and later in the year singles at Donna Nook October 12th, 13th and 31st, with one Huttoft December 2nd.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Widespread reports of 1-2 birds including a pair breeding in Hykeham Road Lincoln. Coastal records involved 2 Tetney March 4th, with one there April 21st and 24th, one Gibraltar Point June 8th and August 13-18th, one Saltfleetby July 4th and 2 there October 14th.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Again widespread records from all over the county even in the largest towns. The only coastal record was of 1-2 at Gibraltar Point most of the year.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

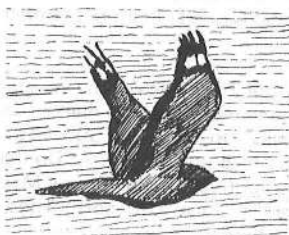
The only breeding records received concerned a pair rearing 2 juvs in Bourne Woods and a pair with large juvs in Stapleford Wood on May 21st, a very poor reflection of this species status in the county. Other records suggestive of breeding included one successively trapped Theddlethorpe June 11th, July 3rd and September 24th and records of one at Gibraltar Point August 29-31st and 2 at Swallow February 28th, April 14th, 2 May 23rd, 24th and 31st and one July 20th. Winter roosts were in low numbers, with just one in Bourne Woods, one Hobhole January, up to 6 Seacroft January 9th-February 28th, with one Gibraltar Point February 12th, 13th, 23rd. Possible spring migrants in April were at Gibraltar Point 15-16th, 24-25th and 29th, Tetney 30th, then in May Tetney 1st and 12th and Theddlethorpe 5th. Autumn migrants included singles at Donna Nook September 29th, October 29th and in off the sea November 12th, Gibraltar Point September 13th, October 25-26th and 29-30th and Anderby November 12th. In December one was at Gibraltar Point 2-3rd, 9th and 27th and 7 Seacroft 31st, with one at the Hobhole roost from mid-October.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Monthly totals for numbers of individual birds

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
17	19	23	26	13	1	3	0	6	13	15	21

1-3 were present at several sites coastal and inland January-May and September-December, with a notable increase in coastal records in April and early May, presumably reflecting pre-departing wintering birds. A pair bred at Holbeach and 2 were displaying at West Pinchbeck in May. One was occasional at Gibraltar Point in June and there was a single in July at Tetney 5-8th. Fewer were noted in the autumn/late winter, but there were 4 Tetney November 19th and 6 there December 22nd, with 6 at Fulstow 18th.



Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* (illustrated)

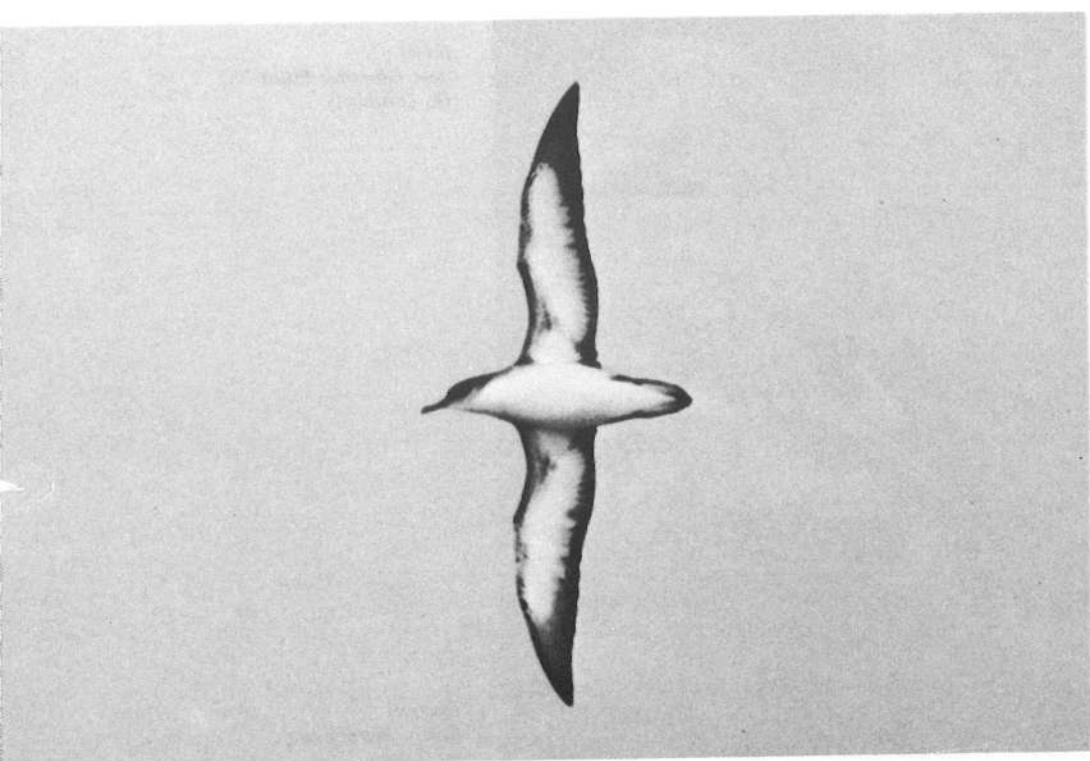
The only records received were of 3 birds in Stapleford Woods in June from 2nd and 3 there August 23-30th, with another unfortunate bird killed by a car on the Revesby estate in August. We again appeal for records from other sites so that a more reliable idea can be gained of this species' present status. A coastal record came from Donna Nook May 23rd-24th (DW). Very rarely noted on passage.

Swift *Apus apus*

April birds were at New Holland 28th, Donna Nook, Holbeach, Denton and Gibraltar Point 2 29th. There was then a general arrival from May 2nd, with widespread reports on 5th. Spring maxima were 115 at Covenham May 8th, 100 south at Theddlethorpe 15th and 3,200 Saltfleetby 28th. In June there were 300 at Covenham 5th and 400 Messingham 23rd, with 635 south-east at Tetney 26th, 1,000+ south at Theddlethorpe 8th and southerly movements at Gibraltar Point of 3,500 June 8th, 726 11th, 1,000+ 26th, then in July 17,000 south 2nd and 455 14th. Late birds in October were at Skegness 2nd, 2 Donna Nook 3rd, Saltfleet 7th, Manby 8th and Anderby 10th.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

A great improvement on the 1982 records with proved breeding at 5 sites, one of which failed and birds noted all year at Burton Pits, Lincoln Apex Pits, West Ashby/



Manx Shearwater (K. Atkin)



Female Long-tailed Duck, Cleethorpes (K. Atkin)



(Left)
Jay, Gibraltar Point
(R. Lambert)

(Below)
Roller, Horncastle
(K. Atkin)



Citrine Wagtail.
Gibraltar Point, right
(J. R. Clarkson) and
below (K. Atkin)





Arctic Warbler (R. Lambert)

Female Subalpine Warbler (R. Lambert)



Horncastle/Scrivelsby. In addition there were records of 1-3 birds at 14 sites January-July and as usual notably more from August-December, with records of 1-2 birds at 18-20 sites coastal and inland.

Roller *Coracias garrulus*

A first autumn bird found between Woodhall Spa and Horncastle on October 2nd stayed in the same area until 19th and was seen by several hundred observers. It is only the 5th county record and the first since one in June 1962 (ABar, GPC et al). Previous records were in May (1), June (1), September (1) and October (1). Accepted by BBRC. See description and write up.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Only two records at Donna Nook April 26th (R. Suddens) and between Silk Willoughby and Burton Pedwardine April 28th (MSD).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Another poor year with spring records at Saltfleetby 3 May 2nd and one to 4th, Gibraltar Point 3rd and Donna Nook 11th. In the autumn one was at Donna Nook September 12th, singles Gibraltar Point 6th and 24-25th and unusually one inland at Swanpool Lincoln 17th.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Unlike the other woodpeckers the Green seems to still be rather restricted in its distribution and in relatively low numbers, its preference for feeding on the ground particularly on ants, as opposed to dead wood, could well account for its lack of recent expansion. Records away from regular sites included singles at Alford January 1st, Laughton Forest February 27th, Tetney/North Cotes April 23rd, Burton Hillside May 2nd, Swallow June 19th, Caistor October 3rd and Gibraltar Point 29th. 3 were noted at Kirkby Moor November 7th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Continues to expand its range breeding in several new sites in 1983 and prospecting in others. Records still away from breeding sites included Holbeach February 2nd, Gibraltar Point April 11th, September 1st, 4th and October 29th, Donna Nook August 11th, Theddlethorpe September 27th, Goxhill November 11th, Barton 1-2 November-December and Stallingborough December 4th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

The welcome increase and spread continued with new breeding records at Crowle and Barrow and a pair at Atkinson's Warren all year. Pairs were also regular at Burton Pits and Potterhanworth Wood. Other odd records were Swanpool Lincoln January 2nd, Scunthorpe Golf Course February 14th, Dole Wood 2 March 17th, Boultham Park 26th, Swanpool June 18th, Whisby Pits July 24th, Denton Res 28th, Belton Park 10th and Swanpool 3rd, Swallow October 12th, Bourne November 17-22nd, Baston Fen 19th, Witham-on-the-Hill 22nd, Roxton Wood 20th and December 18th and Willoughby December 24th.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

One was seen at Gibraltar Point March 19-20th (RLa, PRB et al), then in the autumn one flew south-east over South Witham October 20th (ES) and one was at Saltfleetby October 30th-November 6th (JRW et al).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

In the early winter there were 800-1,000 at Saltfleetby January-February, with 320 at Donna Nook January 9th and 250 there February 2-3rd, up to 185 at Gibraltar Point in January, with 210 February 15th and 150 still there March 3rd and 100 April 26th. There were 100 at North Kelsey January 19th and 120 west at Easton 9th, with 150 west North Witham 12th, then in February 200 Baston Fen 12th, 350 Holbeach 28th and 400 Tattershall in March. Forty pairs bred at Tetney and 50 pairs at Donna Nook, while there were 150 at Gibraltar Point June 5th. Autumn movements of note were 100 south-west at Theddlethorpe September 22nd, 300 in off the sea Witham Mouth October 8th, 230 in off the sea at Donna Nook October 29th and at Gibraltar Point 200 south 22nd, 140 north 24th, with 250 there 29th. Large coastal flocks from November included 1,000-1,200 at Saltfleetby and 1,100 Donna Nook December 1st, with 200-250 at Gibraltar Point and 100 inland at Snitterby November 26th.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Again a very poor year for this species. Early winter records came from Donna Nook 6 January 9th, 3 February 2nd, 5 3rd and one March 20th and Gibraltar Point 2 February 12-13th. A very late bird was seen at Saltfleetby on May 10th. The late autumn/winter produced only 2 Donna Nook October 31-November 6th and 5 there November 27th, with 4 Gibraltar Point November 5-6th, one Saltfleetby December 3rd and 29th and 2 Seacroft 24th.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

March birds were noted at Baston Fen 2 17th, West Deeping 19th, Burton Stather 20th, Denton Res and Whisby Pits 3 24th. There were 120 at Barrow Haven April 20th, but no other large spring numbers reported. 2-3 pairs bred at West Ashby, 12 pairs at Castle Bytham and 2-3 at Barrow/Barton. A poor autumn for roosts, the maximum at Barrow Haven being 1,000 August 25th and 400 noted at West Deeping September 12th. At Gibraltar Point southerly passage in September peaked at 200 10th and 440 15th. Late birds were at Gibraltar Point October 24th and Donna Nook November 8th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

An exceptional record was of one seen at North Hykeham on February 4th (SHu). The first spring birds were at Bulby April 11th, Whisby Pits 2 12th and then at 9 other sites 13-15th. Coastal movements in spring were very light with maxima being 85 north Donna Nook May 6th, 200 south Gibraltar Point 7th and 200 south there June 8th, and 100 south Theddlethorpe May 15th. Autumnal movements were much more pronounced, but in contrast to recent years no large roosts were reported. Six hundred were counted at Donna Nook on August 15th and 500 flew west at East Halton September 13th, otherwise all large southerly movements were at Gibraltar Point, with up to 200 on several dates August/September and 1,500 August 27th, 4,000 September 1st, 3,000 9th, 13,000 10th, 7,000 15th, 1,000 16th 8,000 17th and 5,000 24th. In October 150 flew south there 2nd, with 20 15th, then late birds 3 November 4th and 3 south 6th. An albino was at Saltfleetby October 5th and a late bird there November 4th, with one Donna Nook 5th, the Witham Mouth 8th and Edenham near Bourne also 8th.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Early April birds were at Alford and Saltfleetby 16th, Covenham and Gibraltar Point 4 17th and 5 more sites 20-23rd, but most arriving in early May. Spring passage was poor with up to 20 north on a few dates May/June at Donna Nook and peaks at Gibraltar Point of 40 south May 7th, 35 22nd and 25 31st; 600 flew south there on the unusual date of June 8th. Autumn coastal movements were noted at Donna Nook, 140 south September 9th, 200 north and 400 south 10th, 120 south 14th and 350 north 18th, Theddlethorpe 2,000 north 17th and Gibraltar Point, all south, 800 1st, 500 10th, 440 15th, 2,000 17th, 200 20th, 500 24th. Two hundred were noted on passage at the Witham Mouth on October 8th. Late birds in November were at Seacroft 5th, Bourne 12th and Fulstow 17th.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Two records from Donna Nook, one September 29th (SL RLo) and one November 28th (SL).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Birds on spring passage were noted as follows after the first at Gibraltar Point April 8th; one 15-17th, 2 23rd, 3 26th, 2 May 3-4th, 2 south 7th, 2 south 8th and one 14th. At Donna Nook there were 1-4 April 16th-May 7th, one Kirkby-on-Bain April 9th, Barton 16th and 24th, 2 Barrow Haven 20th, one Saltfleetby 24th and 4 30th, with 2 May 1st, one 2nd and one 13-14th. Records from breeding sites included one in Bourne Wood, 2 at Swallow in June, a pair Twigmoor May/June and 2 singing males in Twyford Forest May 10th. In autumn there were singles at Donna Nook August 24th-September 22nd and at Gibraltar Point one August 26th, one south 30th, then in September one 1st, one and two south 2nd, one 5th, 10 south 6th, 6 7th, one 9-10th, 40 south 12th, 20 south 13th, 8 south 14th and one 15th.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

A flock of 60 was in Snitterby Carrs January 2nd and 100 North Kelsey 19th, with 50 at Gibraltar Point February 6-12th and April 9-14th. Thirty pairs bred at Tetney and 15 at Donna Nook. In September there were 200-250 at Saltfleetby 13th and 75 Cleethorpes

4th, with coastal movements of 100 south-west Humberston Fitties 12th, 100 south at Theddlethorpe 17th, 1,400 south at Chapel Point 16th and at Gibraltar Point (all south) 250 10th, 1,600 12th, 300 20th 150 22nd, 300 24th. There were also 300 there October 4th and 150 8th, 100 south-west at the Witham Mouth 8th, 118 Covenham Res 18th, 500 Donna Nook 1st and 50 flying south-west at Willoughby 2nd. Gibraltar Point then had up to 100 in November and 100 December 17-18th.

Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Peak numbers in January-March were of 9 at Gibraltar Point, 2-3 Tetney and 1-3 Donna Nook. Inland birds were at Covenham Res February 18th and Raithby April 8th. Returning autumn birds were noted from September 23rd at Donna Nook, with highest numbers in October, when there were 5 Goxhill 1st, 12 Donna Nook 29th, 6 Sandilands 21st and 6 Gibraltar Point 1st, with later maxima of 7 Cleethorpes December, 5 Tetney December 3rd and 7 Gibraltar Point 30th. Inland there were unusual numbers at Covenham Res with one September 30th, then October maxima of 10 7th and 30 26th, with 3 late November to December 7th. There were also 1-2 Denton Res October 31-November 1st, 2 Bardney October 23rd and one Lincoln Apex Pit December 11th.

A.s. littoralis: Birds showing characteristics of this race were recorded as follows, East Halton March 7th, Covenham Res 30th-April 1st and 7th, then in autumn at Bardney October 4th and East Halton 8th.

A.s. spinoletta: Birds showing characteristics of Water Pipits were noted at Saltfleetby, where 1-2 wintering birds were present from January 1st to April 13th, with one again November 19th and 2 December 27th into 1984. Other singles were at East Halton January 10th, Humberston 27th, Saltfleet March 20th and Covenham Res October 21-November 3rd.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

A very early bird was seen at Baston Fen on March 20th with the next at Covenham Res April 6th and Donna Nook 9th. There was a more general arrival from 13th with April maxima of 35 Barton 25th, 45 Tetney 30th, 21 Haverholme Park 24th, 16 north Donna Nook 29th, 18 Baston Fen 23rd and 75 Covenham Res 19th. May maxima were 30 Tetney 1st and 60 Covenham Res 2nd with 100 there 8th. Fifty were at Tetney July 20th and 24 at Covenham Res August 12th with 30 Witham Mouth 10th, while 26 flew south at Donna Nook 18th. In September 15 were at Frampton 9th and 18 Bourne Fen 10th, with 1-6 flying south at Gibraltar Point 1st-14th, 20 south 6th, and the last there 17th.

M.f. flava: Birds showing characteristics of Blue-headed Wagtails were noted at Covenham Res April 19th, a different bird 20-22nd, May 4th, 8th, 11-12th, 2 25th, June 25th and September 19th.

M.f. cinereocapilla: A bird showing characteristics of the Ashy-headed Wagtail was seen at Covenham Res on May 4th (KA).

A juv/first winter bird at Donna Nook from November 17th-December 1st showed characteristics possibly of one of the eastern races (SL, GKB, CRM, RLo). Not submitted to BBRC.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

A superb juv/first winter bird frequented the Mere at Gibraltar Point from September 4-10th (KWW, RKW, PK et al). It was well photographed and gave many people an excellent chance to test the identification criteria for this species. With a pending review of the original county record, Gibraltar Point May 22nd 1977, this is either the first or second county record. Accepted by BBRC.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Birds were noted fairly regularly at Louth 1-2 January-March 13th, August 6th and September 28th to December 31st, and Denton Res January 26th-March 10th and September 14th to December 31st, with a maximum of 4 October 2nd. Others early in the year were at Laceby January 7th, 2 Holywell Lake 17th, Langtoft 23rd, Lincoln February 14th, Norton Place March 27th, Anderby Creek 2 13th with one April 17th, Covenham Res April 15th, Gibraltar Point May 1st and 25-29th and Waddingham June 3rd. In the latter part of the year one was at Boothby Pagnell August 30th, one Tetney September 28th, at Donna Nook one north September 24th and 2 south October 4th, at Gibraltar Point in September one 9th, one south 10th, one 12-15th, one south 18th and 24th. One was at Saltfleetby October 9th, then in November singles Horncastle 4th,

Baston Fen 26th, West Ashby 28th, Nettleham 30th and in December Holywell Lake 4th, with 2 in Bourne Fen 3rd into 1984.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

The only notable records were of 8 flying north at Donna Nook March 8th, a flock of 70 at Bardney August 17th and 15 at Covenham Res November 29th.

M.a. alba: White Wagtails were quite common in spring with singles in March at Snitterby 27th and West Deeping 31st, then a major arrival in April with singles Barton 9th, Tetney 14th, 20th, 29th-May 1st, Covenham Res 17th increasing to 11 19th, then down to 4 23rd, Huttoft 3 16-17th, Lincoln Thorpe/Whisby 4 14th, Donna Nook 27th, Holbeach 29th and Gibraltar Point 16-17th, with 2 30th. There were then 8 at Covenham Res May 2nd with some to 8th and in the autumn one at Gibraltar Point August 25th.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

The only records received were of 4 pairs breeding at Donna Nook with a peak count of 12 October 22nd and monthly maxima at Gibraltar Point of:

J	F	M	A	A	S	O	N	D
12	14	12	30	20	31	20	—	—

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

Again the only significant records were of the highly concentrated coastal population. Donna Nook had up to 50 March-early April and 20 pairs bred, with autumn maxima of 80 September 21st and up to 60 in October. About 120 pairs bred at Saltfleetby, where there were 150 on September 29th. Monthly maxima at Gibraltar Point were 55 January, 60 April 30th, 130 August 27th and 200 31st, 200 September 1st with 76 22nd and 60 October 2nd.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

A high concentration of 29 was noted at Hubbard's Hills Louth on January 26th. A light coastal passage in April included 11 at Tetney 11th, with 8 continental birds ringed at Theddlethorpe 15th and a bird ringed at Storre Faerder, Vestfold, Norway, on October 1st 1982 caught there on April 9th. There was a moderate coastal fall from September 30th-October 2nd, with 20 Donna Nook 30th, 50 there 1st and up to 35 to 4th, while at Theddlethorpe 36 were ringed 1st, 22 2nd and 13 8th. Gibraltar Point had 50 1st-2nd with 30 8th and later 20 24th and 20 November 5th, while Donna Nook had 20 November 4th.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

The first of the spring was a male at Saltfleetby April 13th, with 1-2 at Gibraltar Point from 24-29th. One was at Theddlethorpe May 2nd, where a male was in song to early July and a male and a female trapped there in June could suggest local breeding. The only other records away from regular breeding sites were at Lincoln Swanpool June 6th and Saltfleetby August 10th.



Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* (illustrated)

March birds were at Humberston and Saltfleetby 17th, Covenham Res 20th and Gibraltar Point 26th. A moderate passage in April included singles at Blyborough 4th, Barton 9th, Covenham Res 7th, Spilsby 12th, Tetney 21-23rd, 2 at Anderby 4th and 17th, 1-3 at Donna Nook 2nd-17th, 1-2 at Gibraltar Point 1st-10th, with 3 16-17th, Seacroft 29th and singles Saltfleetby 16-17th, 19th and 26th. More unusual were a number of records in May; Saltfleetby 10th, Donna Nook 7th and 31st, Hallington 29th and Gibraltar Point 1st, 4th, 2 7th and one 30th. No breeding records were reported, a most disappointing situation, but 3 females and 2 males were seen at Atkinson's Warren on September 23rd, with a male 25th. Autumn migration was very poor with the only birds being 2 Immingham Docks September 14-15th and singles Donna Nook September 22nd, Gibraltar Point October 8th and Saltfleetby November 5th.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

A fairly good spring passage on the coast, with in April 3 Saltfleetby 17th and one 19th, 2 Donna Nook 16th and 1-2 25th to May 11th, 3 Gibraltar Point 16-17th and 1-2 to May 7th, and one Tetney 17th. Inland records came from Burton Hills 17th and Burton Pits,

Atkinson's Warren and Barton 23rd, while in May there were further coastal records at Tetney 2-3rd and 16th and Saltfleetby 2nd and 8th. The only record even suggestive of breeding was a male at Twigmoor June 4th. In autumn coastal records involved 1-2 at Saltfleetby August 23-September 8th, 1-4 Donna Nook 20th-October 10th, 1-5 Gibraltar Point 26th-September 24th and 4 Theddlethorpe September 1st, with 2 5th. The fall of September 29th-October 4th produced 5 at Tetney 30th, 5 Saltfleetby 30th and 12 1st, 5 Donna Nook 30th and 7 1st, 5 Gibraltar Point 1st, with 1-2 lingering to 9th. Other singles were at Cleethorpes October 1st, Humberston 3rd and inland at Lincoln Swanpool September 17th, Atkinson's Warren Scunthorpe 23-28th, then in October Burton Stather 9th, North Cotes 2 10th. A late bird was at Donna Nook on November 4th.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

In the spring the first was at Saltfleetby April 19th, with 1-3 at Tetney 24th-May 15th, 1-2 Donna Nook 27th-May 15th, singles Gibraltar Point 22nd May 8th, singles Barton April 23rd and Grimsby 30th, with 3 at the Witham Mouth 30th, then also in May one Saltfleetby 2nd and singles Wolla Bank 4th and 15th. July records came from Baston Fen 2nd, South Somercotes 11th and Donna Nook 31st, where there were 1-9 to October 5th. Other coastal sites recorded 1-10 August-early October, with peaks of 16 Tetney August 16th, 14 21st, 18 Saltfleetby 21st and 21 28th, 16 Gibraltar Point 30th, 14 Donna Nook October 1st. There were also 6 Baston Fen September 10th and 1-3 at several other sites August-September. The last birds were at Saltfleetby October 20th and Gibraltar Point 25th.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

In the early year there were long-staying birds at Immingham 2 January to February 24th and March 6th, singles Wolla Bank January 12th, Donna Nook 9th, East Halton February 27th, Saltfleetby 2 March 4th, Huttoft 2 7th, Tetney one April 8th and Saltfleetby 1-2 April 1-5th. Birds were more numerous from August to the year's end, with 1-3 at Gibraltar Point fairly regularly, 1-3 Donna Nook August 20th-November 15th, 1-3 Saltfleetby October 9th-December 20th and 1-3 in the Huttoft-Wolla Bank-Chapel area October-December. Other singles were at Grimsby Docks October 9th and Tetney November 19th and December 16th and Humberston 22nd.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

The first birds in March were at Saltfleetby 13th and Humberston 17th, with 1-3 at a few other sites in late March. The highest numbers during the spring passage were in mid-April, with 22 Donna Nook 16th, 20 Gibraltar Point 16th and 23 Saltfleetby 17th. A late peak of 26 was noted at Donna Nook on May 11th. June birds were at Waddingham 3rd, North Cotes 2 3rd, Winteringham Haven 5th, Saltfleetby 1-2 1st-6th and Donna Nook 1-2 1st-14th. The only July records were coastal at Donna Nook 1st and Saltfleetby 25th. Autumn passage was particularly poor, with no more than 12 at any site on any one day. The last was at Donna Nook on November 5th.

O.o. leucorrhoa: One Greenland Wheatear was seen at Donna Nook on September 23rd.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Another rather poor year for records of this species. A very early bird was at Pinchbeck on March 15th. A number of coastal records were apparent in April, with singles Tetney 11th and 16th, Donna Nook 18th, Huttoft 14th, Anderby 17th, 2 Gibraltar Point 16th with 5 17th and 2 20th and 23rd; at Saltfleetby one 14th, 2 16th, 6 17th, 2 19th and one 23rd, with one May 1-3rd and one Donna Nook also 3rd. Autumn records were even worse, with at Gibraltar Point one September 13th, 2 October 1-2nd, one 3rd, 2 5-6th, 3 7th, one 8th, Saltfleetby singles September 30th, October 29th, Donna Nook singles October 1st and 19th and finally a very late bird at Biscathorpe Lake November 17th.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

In January 119 were noted at Hubbard's Hills Louth on 26th and 90 at Gibraltar Point 2nd, with 60 there 29th and February 26th. The first eggs were noted at Bourne on February 15th, a reflection of the generally mild winter. Autumn coastal migration was most prominent in November, but in October there were 50 Donna Nook 30th and 300 Gibraltar Point 29th. In contrast to Redwing and Fieldfare there was a good influx in November, with 800-1,000 at Saltfleetby 11th, 97 ringed at Theddlethorpe 12th, 300 Gibraltar Point 11th and 500 12th, but a maximum of only 155 Donna Nook 12th. Inland

100 were noted at Barton 8th and 130 at Old Bolingbroke 15th. Gibraltar Point had 100 December 3rd and 65 were at Holbeach 27th.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

The relatively mild winter produced some high early winter counts, with 4-500 at Gibraltar Point in January and an increase to 700 February 16th, before numbers fell to only 20 22nd. A number of pre-emigration flocks were seen in April, the largest 69 Horkstow 2nd, 140 Brigg 9th and 180 Biscathorpe 7th. A number lingered into early May near the coast, with up to 30 at Tetney and Tetney Blow Wells to 7th and 2 Donna Nook 10th. One was seen at Grimsby on June 6th and one Saltfleetby 16th. Birds became regular on the coast from August 10th, with 1-2 at Saltfleetby, Theddlethorpe, Donna Nook, and Covenham, while up to 12 were at Gibraltar Point. There was hardly any coastal passage noted in the autumn, with the only records of note in November 100-150 at Saltfleetby 11th, 120 Donna Nook 11th, 300+ 150 west Gibraltar Point 11th, and 500 27th. Inland there were 350 at Goxhill 18th and in December 400 Ludborough 25th, 200 Gibraltar Point 6th and 500 Biscathorpe 29th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

50 were counted at Gibraltar Point on January 8th and 20 at Donna Nook on February 24th, but no notable spring passage was recorded. Autumn passage was also very light, with maxima as follows; Gibraltar Point 33 August 31st, 50 September 13th, 74 22nd, 60 25th, 100 October 1st and 60 south 23rd; Saltfleetby 67 September 23rd, 45 29th, 92 October 1st, 62 19th and 200-250 in early November. Donna Nook had up to 40 September-November, with 100 October 1st.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

High early winter concentrations included 110 South Killingholme January 8th, 83 Stall-ingborough 26th and 55 Gibraltar Point 2nd, while in February there were 50 there 13-17th and 170 26th, with 170 at Barton 16th. In April there were 17 at Biscathorpe 7th and 42 Gibraltar Point 10th, with 3 records in May at Donna Nook 4th, Tetney 11-12th and Donna Nook 19th. First of a very poor autumn was at Donna Nook August 26th. Few were noted until November, October maximum at Gibraltar Point being only 70 22nd. Peaks in November were still low 140-170 Saltfleetby 3rd, 300 and 50 west Gibraltar Point 12th and 200 Donna Nook 11th, while inland there were 250 Barton 8th and 350 Goxhill 18th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Up to 8 were noted at a few sites March and July-December, with a number on the coast and exceptionally 10 Witham Mouth February 12th, 11 Saltfleetby June 15-18th, 20 Gibraltar Point July 16th and 12 August 21st, 16 Saltfleetby September 15th and a party of 32 flying west at Pinchbeck August 29th.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

One was trapped at Theddlethorpe on October 1st (M. Boddy et al). Only the second county record.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Spring passage birds were noted in April at Saltfleetby 19th into May, with 1-3 males and a pair breeding, Tetney 23rd, Huttoft 20th, Burton Pits 23rd and Gibraltar Point 24th and 30th. Two males were heard in Bourne Woods 21st and singles in May at Baston Fen 6-13th, Little Scrubs Bardney 11th and Goxhill 31st. June records came from Tetney Blow Wells, where a pair bred, Snipe Dales 2 27th, Donna Nook 25th and Barrow Haven 30th, with one 2 miles south of Horncastle July 14th. Autumn records were of 3 at Saltfleetby August 10th and one 21st and 2 Gibraltar Point 20th. This species appears to have declined disastrously in the county in recent years and all records of passage and breeding birds are required for 1984 to help assess the present status.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

The first April arrivals were at Saltfleetby and Donna Nook 17th followed by Chapel Pit 19th and Barrow Haven 3 20th, then by several more in late April, but the main arrival was in early May. Autumn coastal numbers were rather low, with a maximum of 15 at Gibraltar Point August 13th and the last at Theddlethorpe October 5th.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

A singing male was found defending an ideal breeding territory at Messingham on June 4th, but failed to attract a mate and was not seen or heard after 10th (CJ, JTH et al).

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

The only April records were at Wolla Bank 17th, Barton 20th-30th, Gibraltar Point 24th and Chapel Pit 26th. Most arrived during May and totals of singing males at the coastal pits were 16 Huttoft, 8-9 Wolla Bank and 6 Chapel Pit. Coastal autumn peak was of 20 at Gibraltar Point September 6th and the latest birds were there October 1st and 2 2nd and Huttoft one 2nd.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Single birds were seen at Saltfleetby August 27-28th (BMC) and September 4th (BMC, MJT), with one trapped 8th (JRW) and one October 1-2nd (BMC, JRC). At Donna Nook there was one 1st (CRM), 6th (SL) and 13th (SL).

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

A female trapped at Gibraltar Point on May 7th and 14th (RLa et al) was the 4th county record. Under consideration by BBRC.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

At Donna Nook there were 2 August 19th and one 20th, one September 23rd and one October 1st (SL, RLo, CRM). 2 were trapped at Gibraltar Point on August 30th and a third 31st, with one to September 4th (RLa, BTO et al). One was trapped at Theddlethorpe August 10th (MB) and one seen at Saltfleetby 29th (BMC).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Following one at Donna Nook on April 21st there were singles on 23rd at Barton, Tetney and Willoughby and 2 at Gibraltar Point. Spring peaks on the coast were of 15 Gibraltar Point May 7th and 10 Saltfleetby 14th. On the coast in autumn there were only 1-3 at Donna Nook, but 17 at Saltfleetby August 27th and good numbers at Gibraltar Point, with 44 August 27th and 45 31st, then in September 25 13th. Late birds were at Gibraltar Point October 1st and Donna Nook 9th and November 3rd.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

The first of the spring were again on the coast at Saltfleetby and Theddlethorpe April 17th and Donna Nook 18th, but more widespread from 23rd Barton – Denton Res. Fifteen pairs bred at Donna Nook and 60 at Saltfleetby. Autumn coastal passage was only moderate, with peaks of 35 Saltfleetby August 29th and Gibraltar Point 42 31st and 25 September 1-13th. Late birds were at Donna Nook October 2nd and Gibraltar Point 1st, 5 2nd and 6th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

The only April record was at Gibraltar Point on 24th followed by one at Donna Nook May 2nd and Denton Res 4th, with more scattered records from 8th. It was, in common with many 'drift' migrants, a poor autumn on the coast with only 1-5 at most sites August-early October, exceptions being 12 Gibraltar Point August 27th, 20 September 1st, 10 6th and 12 13th. The last was at Gibraltar Point October 7th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Wintering birds were noted at a few sites from January-March, with up to 8 at Gibraltar Point, at least 2 at Theddlethorpe to February 23rd and singles Burton Stather January 15-19th, Saltfleetby 2nd, Donna Nook 9th and February 4th, and New Waltham February 18th. Spring passage birds occurred from early April with 1-5 at several coastal sites and 16 Gibraltar Point May 4th; 5-6 pairs bred at Saltfleetby. It was, in comparison to recent years, a very poor autumn for this species, with the only record in excess of 9 being a count of 15 at Gibraltar Point October 2nd. In November there were singles at Saltfleetby and Theddlethorpe 5th, Cleethorpes 11th, Gibraltar Point 6-19th and December 3rd and also one at Pinchbeck December 5th.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

One trapped at Gibraltar Point on May 14th (RLa et al) is the 4th county record and the first spring record for Great Britain. Under consideration by BBRC.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

In an intensely 'westerly' autumn it is not surprising that there were just two records at Donna Nook September 30th (SL) and Saltfleetby October 2nd (BMC).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

In the spring there was a single male at Tetney Blow Wells on April 29th-May 4th and two there May 5th, a male at North Somercotes Warren April 30th, then in May singles

Crowle 5th, Gibraltar Point 8th and Donna Nook 15th and 21st. The only autumn record was at Gibraltar Point from August 27-28th.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Early winter records came from North Somercotes Warren January 3-8th, Hallington 7th and West Deeping February 4th. The first 'spring' bird was at Denton Res March 14th and 1-4 were noted on spring passage at many coastal sites through April-June. Very few occurred on autumn passage with no more than 3 per day reported from any one site. A bird showing characteristics of one of the eastern races, *abietinus/tristis*, was trapped at Theddlethorpe on October 30th. November birds were at Donna Nook and Saltfleetby 5th, Barton 8th, Burton Pits 19th, and December ones at Ancaster 3rd, New Holland 29th and North Somercotes 31st.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

A very early bird was at Bottesford March 22nd, otherwise the first of the spring were at Donna Nook April 8th, Theddlethorpe, Saltfleetby and Barton 2 9th, with a heavy passage from 14th to 25th. 45 were at Saltfleetby 17th, 35 trapped at Theddlethorpe 16th, 70 Gibraltar Point 16th, 30 23rd, 55 Barton 20th and 20 Crowle 22nd. 35 pairs bred at Saltfleetby and 50 singing males were noted in Morkery Wood in May. In contrast autumn coastal migration was relatively poor, with day maxima at Donna Nook of 20 August 20th, 80 Gibraltar Point 31st-September 1st and 50 13th. October birds were at Theddlethorpe 2 1st, Donna Nook 3rd and 12th and Gibraltar Point 1st, 2 2nd, 5 5th and 6th.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

A flock of 100 was noted in Broughton Woods on February 28th. Coastal passage in April involved 1-10 birds at a number of sites, with 13 Gibraltar Point March 20th and 40 there April 13th, 15-20 at Saltfleetby 18th and 15 Donna Nook 12th. Autumn birds were noted on the coast from early September, with often up to 60 at Donna Nook and up to 40 at Gibraltar Point, before a major fall September 29-October 3rd. Peak numbers varied from site to site with 150 Donna Nook September 29th, 500 30th-1st, then 110 5th and 200 again 29th with 160 31st. At Saltfleetby over 2,000 were estimated on October 2nd (JRW) and 80 were there 29th. North Cotes had 50 1st and 129 were ringed at Theddlethorpe 1st, with 41 new 2nd including a Norwegian-ringed bird, then 47 ringed 8th and 41 29th. Gibraltar Point had totals of 100 September 25th, 500 October 1st and 1,000 2nd, then 200 to 8th and down to 60 15th, but 200 again 29th. Other smaller influxes in November accounted for 10 ringed at Theddlethorpe 5th and 24 12th, (a total of 489 were ringed there in autumn) and at Gibraltar Point 70 4th, 100 12th and 40 13th.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Rather fewer than in recent years especially in the autumn. In March there were singles at Gibraltar Point 12th and 19th and Saltfleetby 17th, then a fair influx in April with 1-2 Saltfleetby 3-8th, 1-2 North Somercotes Warren 3-10th, 1-2 Gibraltar Point 4-22nd, 2 Donna Nook 11th and one Humberston 5th. More unusual were 4 records in May, singles trapped at Theddlethorpe 15th and 30th and 2 at Gibraltar Point 31st, with another most unusual record at Theddlethorpe June 8th. There were just four autumn/winter records at Saltfleetby and Donna Nook October 31st, and Donna Nook November 16th and December 20-22nd.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

The only April bird was at Gibraltar Point on 30th, followed by one Denton Res May 3rd and Tetney 6th, then more widespread records from 8th. 1-3 were noted on the coast at Donna Nook and 1-6 Gibraltar Point to early June. There were several September records, mostly inland, with 6 still in Bradley Woods 24th and one Baumber 30th, found dead same day, and up to 10 at Gibraltar Point. October birds were at Gibraltar Point 5 2nd, 4th and 2 5th and Tetney 7th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

One was seen at Cleethorpes on September 30th (RKN) with one trapped at Skegness October 1st (AB), another trapped at Gibraltar Point 2nd (RLA et al), one Donna Nook 2nd (DW) and finally one trapped at Donna Nook October 21-22nd (RLA, CRM, KC).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

A fairly good spring influx was noted with coastal records at Tetney April 30th, Donna

Nook 24th and 29th, 2 May 6th, Gibraltar Point 25th, 28th, 30th and 2 May 4th, Saltfleetby May 1st, with 5 2nd, and inland singles Surfleet April 20th, Morkery Wood 23rd, Spalding May 6th and South Witham 14th. Coastal autumn passage was quite poor, with 1-2 Tetney August 18-20th, 7 Saltfleetby August 18th, 12 21st and 4 to 25th, 1-7 at Donna Nook August 8th to September 5th with 20 August 20th, 8 ringed at Theddlethorpe August 20-27th, 1-5 at Gibraltar Point August 8th-September 23rd with 8 1st, 2 Seacroft 20th and singles Cleethorpes August 22nd, North Somercotes Warren 29th, Well near Alford September 1st, 2 Saltfleetby 4th and one 14th, then one Donna Nook 30th, 2 Tetney October 2nd and one Saltfleetby 4th.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

30-40 pairs bred on the South Humber Bank with fairly good success. In the autumn/winter there were fewer than usual records away from this area. An irrupting flock of 18 was at Barrow Haven September 29th, then in October 2 flew north at Gibraltar Point 24th and one south at Donna Nook 31st. Four were at Saltfleetby November 8th and 4 Chapel Pit 12th, with one seen at Huttoft December 1st.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

All notable parties were coastal with 14 Saltfleetby August 27-28th and 20-25 there in October; up to 25 at Gibraltar Point in October and 20 in November and 20 at Covenham October 18th. A total of 88 were ringed at Theddlethorpe October 2nd-November 5th, giving some idea of the autumn passage of flocks on the coast which largely goes unnoticed.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

1-2 birds were in Potterhanworth Woods from March throughout the year, about the northern limit of the main range in the south-west of the county. Other records from the south-west included 2 territorial males in Morkery Wood and one in Twyford Forest, 5 birds in Tortoiseshell Wood on January 11th and 4 in Lobthorpe Lane on February 18th, with 1-2 at Denton Res all year, but most frequent October-December. Singles were also seen at Baston Fen in March/April and on August 28th and December 3rd.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

1-3 widely reported throughout, with coastal records of singles on 4 dates at Donna Nook August 30-September 23rd and a maximum of 5 at Gibraltar Point August 25th.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Apart from a flock of 50 in Broughton Woods on February 28th all records submitted were coastal. Singles were at Gibraltar Point February 26th and April 3rd and 16-17th, then Humberston July 9th, with 1-5 from August-October; most in October at Cleethorpes, Humberston, Donna Nook, Theddlethorpe and Gibraltar Point. In November there were 2 Gibraltar Point 5th and singles Donna Nook 3rd and December 2nd.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

A count of 82 was made at Hubbard's Hills on January 26th and there were up to 25 at Gibraltar Point January-May and up to 35 August-December, with 55 August 31st, 62 September 22nd and 55 October 22nd. Donna Nook had up to 30 late August-early November, with 40 October 4th.

Great Tit *Parus major*

19 were in Hubbard's Hills January 26th and 14 Saltfleetby March 6th, with 25 Gibraltar Point 27th. Ten pairs bred at Saltfleetby and in autumn there were up to 20 at Gibraltar Point August-October, 15 Donna Nook October 4th and 23 Great Scrubs Wood November 20th.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Records from the south-west came from Grimsthorpe Park, where they bred, Tortoiseshell Wood and Little Haw Wood, Denton Res 1-2 February 13th, August 14th and 28th, September 2nd and 11th and December 24th, and Bourne Wood 2 December 11th. A pair was found well north of the usual range at Potterhanworth Woods in February and was present there all year.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Away from regular woodland sites there were the following: one Baston Fen January 3rd, one North Somercotes Warren January 8th and July 3rd, singles Saltfleetby September 16th and 23rd, 2 ringed at Theddlethorpe in late September with one to December, and

at Gibraltar Point singles March 5th, 27th, September 25th, October 1st and 15th and November 21-22nd.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

In May there was an adult male at Goxhill 8th (DAR et al) and a female/imm male there 20th (GPC), with a singing male at Gibraltar Point 25th (RLa, AWP) and Skegness 30th (RBW) and a singing male again at Saltfleetby June 2nd-4th (BMC).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

A single spring record concerned a female at Tetney Blow Wells on May 11th. Coastal records in August were at Saltfleetby, with one 10th to September 2nd and 2 19-20th, Donna Nook one 24-25th and 30th-September 1st, 5-6th and 10th, and Theddlethorpe one September 13th.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

In the early winter there were singles at Gibraltar Point January 8th and Waltham 22nd, with one Burton Stather February 19th to March 20th and 2 on February 20th. At Saltfleetby there were 2 February 20th to April 13th and one at Louth April 21st. One was seen at Marshchapel September 30th and 2 at Gibraltar Point on October 2nd, with one to 6th. Then in November there were singles at Baston Fen 20th and Kirkby Underwood 6th and December 4th; also in December were singles at Rothwell 20th, Ewerby Pond 22nd and Ashbyville 18th into 1984.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

The only record away from breeding sites in the early year was one at North Somercotes Warren on April 3rd. A full account of the extraordinary influx in September-December is given elsewhere in this report.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Flocks of up to 10 birds were quite widespread. At Donna Nook there were up to 16 in spring and 15 in autumn and maxima at Gibraltar Point of 25 January, 30 February, 35 March and 30 November. Also in the latter part of the year there were 19 Goxhill November 27th and 15-20 Barrow Haven November-December, with 20 Barton December.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Only relatively small numbers were recorded in the early year, with maxima of 55 Blyborough January 23rd and 60 Theddlethorpe 22nd, then in March 50 South Ferriby 13th, 43 Normanby Park 27th and 6 east at Donna Nook 18th. Some movements in November included 42 in from the sea at Saltfleetby 12th, 7 south at Donna Nook 4th and 24 south 5th, with 18 there 24th; 150 at Stallingborough 15th and 40 there December 4th. Also in December there were 350 at East Keal 13th, 45 Gibraltar Point 19th and 87 at Saltfleet 31st. A bird showing characteristics of the race *C.m. monedula* was seen at Barton on November 6th (GPC).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Large flocks in the early year included in January 1,000+ Keelby 7th, 1,500 Snitterby 16th, 350 Woodthorpe Hall 24th, 300 Stallingborough 26th, then in February 200 South Ferriby 4th, 160 Donna Nook 22nd and 500 Messingham 22nd. Later there were 200 Donna Nook May 14th and 170 Tetney June 26th, with 350 Worlaby/Bonby July 15th. Few large flocks were noted in the latter part of the year, with just 300 Stallingborough November 15th and 160 Donna Nook 23rd, then 200 East Keal December 13th, but a roost of 3,000 at Aswarby Thorns mid-late December.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Coastal movements at Gibraltar Point in the spring included 11 north March 25th, 12 south 29th and 7 south 31st, then 29 north April 2nd; 25 were at Huttoft Pit May 14th and 23 Donna Nook 27th. From September onwards there were some relatively large flocks, with 25 Saltfleetby September 17th, 35 Donna Nook 20th, 22 Gibraltar Point 24th and 32 Goxhill 29th; then in October up to 17 on Cleethorpes Shore, 37 Donna Nook 5th with 34 to 16th, 27 Gibraltar Point 22nd, with 8 south 23rd and 18 south 30th, and a very large flock at Saltfleetby of 215 29th. November again produced southerly movements at Gibraltar Point, with 20 5th and 11 12th, and 38 at Goxhill. There were 30+ at Messingham in late December and 30 flew north at Gibraltar Point 21st, with 12 south 22nd.

C.c. cornix: Birds showing characteristics of Hooded Crows continued to be very scarce with just four records in the early winter; Pyewipe January 4th, Weelsby 11th and Humberston 30th, with one Gibraltar Point March 26th. An unusual record was of one at Grainthorpe on June 19th. In October there were 2 at Saltfleetby 29th and 1-2 recorded at Gibraltar Point 25th to December 6th. November records again came from Saltfleetby 13th, Theddlethorpe 13th and 18th, Donna Nook 30th and Killingholme 27th, with further December records at Tetney 28th, Donna Nook 30-31st and Gibraltar Point 2 north 30th.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Peak movements of juveniles in June were of 4,000 at Donna Nook 27th and 3,500 north at Theddlethorpe 25th. Autumn passage at Donna Nook involved up to 6,000 birds on many dates in October/November, with 10,000 north November 13th and 10,200 south 18th. A roost at Cleethorpes held 10,000 in October, increasing to 30,000 in December. Another roost at Edlington Scrubbs, Horsington, held 15,000 in November and Gibraltar Point had 25,000 December 5th.



Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* (illustrated)
A probable first-summer male was noted at Market Deeping from mid-February to March 8th (Mrs M, DHu et al). The 6th county record. Accepted by BBRC.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Large flocks noted in the early year were 100 at Donna Nook January 2nd and 160 Gibraltar Point also 2nd, with 500 at East Halton February 14th. Autumn passage was noted at Donna Nook from September 23rd-November 24th, with a peak of 430 south November 8th. Large flocks included 450 Hemmingsby November 20th and in December 300 Stallingtonborough 4th, 352 Castle Bytham 11th, 265 Blyborough 27th and 400+ Barrow Haven late December.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Large flocks appear to be decreasing in frequency, the only flocks in excess of 30 in the early year were at Hovenden House 75 January 2nd, 200 Crowle 29th, 92 Burton Hills February 2nd, 41 Saltfleetby March 26th and 100 Skidbrooke 27th. A total of 20 pairs bred at Donna Nook, where autumn passage was noted from September 15th-November 25th, with a peak of 42 south on the latter date. Gibraltar Point had monthly maxima of 50 September 6th, 200 October 2nd and 50 November 5th. There were also 136 at Penny Hill November 20th, 125 Saltfleetby 23rd and 300 Branston Island, Bardney, December 25th.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Apart from a high total of 258 at Hubbard's Hills on January 26th there were few early year records of note. Spring passage included 80 south at Gibraltar Point March 5th and 60 south 19th, with 30 south there April 9th. Autumn passage at Donna Nook involved up to 50 birds on several dates from September 29th, with 62 November 30th and at Gibraltar Point 50 October 2nd, 50 November 4th, 100 6th and 25+20 south 12th, with 50 there again December 30th. There were up to 35 at Saltfleetby in November and 100 Gauntby December 7th.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

The only early winter records were of 1-2 at Donna Nook January-February 4th, 8 Easton January 19th, 2 Gibraltar Point 30th, 8 Castle Bytham February 15th and one Gibraltar Point March 28th. A few were noted on spring return passage, with singles Blyborough April 6th (dead), North Somercotes Warren 9th, Donna Nook and Barton 16th, 2 Huttoft 16th, Wolla Bank 17th, with several Theddlethorpe 1st and 15th, 2-4 Gibraltar Point 6th-16th and 2 late birds there May 7th. There was a good autumn influx after the first, 8 September 29th, at Donna Nook where there were up to 9 to mid-November; 1-10 were noted occasionally during October-November at Goxhill, Covenham, Cleethorpes, Stallingtonborough, Keelby, North Ormsby, Miningsby, Denton Res and Saltfleetby. Larger numbers in October were 12 Tetney 26th, 16 Baston Fen 23rd, 17 Donna Nook 21st and at Gibraltar Point 45 1st, 30 2nd, then up to 15 with 22 south 30th and 53 31st.

November counts there were 17 5th, 52 6th, then up to 26 and others in November included 20 Saltfleetby 7th, 36 Hobhole Bank 8th, 15 Wyham 20th and 36 Barton 8th. Birds were less widespread in December, with 2 Walesby 4th, 4 Bradley Woods 11th, 35 Wold Newton 27th, 60 Saltfleetby 29th and at Gibraltar Point 70 2nd, 45 4th, 50 17th, then 10-30 to 29th, with 70 30th and 60 31st.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Gibraltar Point recorded the only significant flock in the early winter, with maxima of 275 January 5th and 270 February 17th. Late year maxima there were 200 September, 500 October, 200 November and 700 December 31st. Elsewhere there were large flocks in October at Covenham Res 140 12th and Donna Nook 130 31st. In November there were 350 in a roost at Barton 8th and 500 South Ferriby 16th, then in December a flock at Tetney varied from 110 11th to 345 16th.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Fewer reports of large flocks (30+) were received, especially away from Gibraltar Point where monthly maxima were 70 January, 50 May 8th, 275 September, 210 October, 200 November and 100 December. Elsewhere there were 35 New Holland April 28th and 36 south at Donna Nook May 7th, the spring passage peak. A flock of 200 was at Butterwick August 11th and up to 50 Cleethorpes in September, with 48 Saltfleetby and 45 Tetney 28th. Saltfleetby again had 120 in October to 10th and later 100 December 29th. The only other count was of 60 at North Cotes November 18th.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Early winter records were few and came from Boultham Park (Lincoln) up to 22 in January and 12 March 26th, Broughton 20 in January and 10 February 28th, Twigmoor 40 March 20th, Gibraltar Point 2 January 2nd, 4 March 26th, Kirkby Moor 3 March 8th and Chapel Pit 2 March 31st. April passage birds were at Theddlethorpe 9th, 15th, 17th, Gibraltar Point 3rd, 17th, with 3 Horncastle 2nd and 50 Kebb Wood 6th. A late female was trapped at Theddlethorpe on May 22nd. The first of the autumn was at Saltfleetby on September 25th, with a widespread influx from October-December and 1-20 birds occasionally at Donna Nook, Cleethorpes, Baston Fen, Saltfleetby, Kirkby Moor, Louth, Bourne, Norton Place, Walesby, Alford, Theddlethorpe, Hoplands Wood, New Waltham and Boultham Park. Larger numbers were 25 Gibraltar Point October 2nd, 25 Atkinson's Warren November 9-13th, 60 Usselby 19th, 40 Twigmoor 19th and 100+ Woodhall Spa December 28th.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Notable January flocks were at Bourne Fen 400 10th, Saltfleetby 210 8th, 100 25th, Gibraltar Point 200 1st and North Cotes 100 23rd. Visible spring passage was light at Donna Nook between April 1st and May 11th, with a peak of 150 north April 13th. Eighty were at New Holland 28th and up to 200 Gibraltar Point 16th-May 1st, where 100 flew south May 7th. Later monthly maxima at Gibraltar Point were 400 August, 600 September, 300 October and 250 December 30-31st. Other large coastal concentrations were of 250 Saltfleetby September 19th and at Donna Nook up to 900 in autumn, with 1,200 October 4th.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Coastal maxima:

	J	F	M	O	N	D
Tetney/North Cotes	30	—	—	140	—	—
Donna Nook	600	—	—	—	—	100
Saltfleetby	—	48	28	—	12	—
Gibraltar Point	160	100	70	200	200	330
Holbeach	1000	—	—	—	250	—
Witham Mouth	350	350	—	—	—	—

In April there were 15 Witham Mouth 2nd, 3 at Tetney 16-17th with one to 22nd, 32 Saltfleetby 3rd, one Donna Nook 16th and at Gibraltar Point 60 4th and 4 to 16th. The only September records were at Saltfleetby 11th, Gibraltar Point 2 13th and Humberston 2 22nd. There were 25-35 at Cleethorpes November-December and 600 Butterwick December 11th.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Apparently still decreasing rather rapidly. Few were noted on spring passage and the only flocks of 15+ during the year were as follows: 40 Twiggmoor March 20th, 18 Donna Nook May 7th, 40 Gibraltar Point also 7th, then 70 there August 25th with 45 26th and 100 September 13th, and finally 30 Great Scrubbs Wood November 20th.

C.f. flammea: There were 4 Mealy Redpolls at Broughton February 22nd and one Saltfleetby March 4th.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

All records given: 4 males were at Broughton January 22nd and a female there February 22nd. 7 were seen at Little Cawthorpe on January 16th and a male was singing at Gibraltar Point on February 19-20th. In March there were 4 in Bradley Woods on 8th and a male at Saltfleetby 31st. A male and a female were seen at North Somercotes Warren on July 2nd, with the male on 3rd and finally one at Saltfleetby October 1-2nd.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

A male at Donna Nook on May 21st (DW) was only the second county record, but on the same date and at the same locality as the first in 1979.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Very widespread with reports of 1-10 birds, the only exceptions being 20 Lobthorpe Lane February 18th and 12 Saltfleetby September 25th.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

In spring one was seen at Barton on April 16th (GPC). An interesting breeding season record came from Twiggmoor June 2nd (PH). It would be surprising if this elusive species does not still breed somewhere in the county. A single bird was at Gibraltar Point on October 2nd (KAD, RDOS et al) and one flew west at Donna Nook on December 27th (SL).

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

The only early winter records came from Gibraltar Point January 1st and February 6th, Donna Nook January 2nd and Alkborough March 19th. An unusually early autumn bird was at Donna Nook on August 29th. There was then a small influx in October, with 1-3 at Donna Nook 13th to November 27th, 3 west at Cleethorpes 8th, 2 11th and one 31st, singles Tetney 22nd and 27th and Kirton Marsh 31st. Further November records were from Goxhill and Saltfleetby 4th, Gibraltar Point 2 6th and in December 8 at Donna Nook 9th.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Coastal flock maxima:

	J	F	M	O	N	D
Donna Nook	250	150	—	42	—	600
Saltfleetby	100	54	12	—	16	45
Theddlethorpe	—	60	—	—	—	—
Gibraltar Point	300	150	80	37	100	230

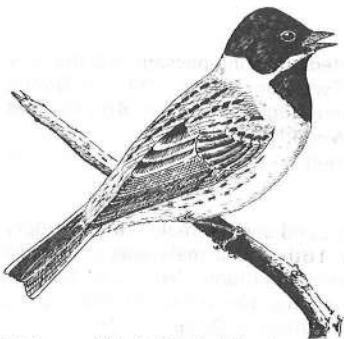
Other records were of 4 Humberston January 27th and 40 Ingoldmells/Skegness February 14th in the early winter. The first of the autumn were at Saltfleetby 2 August 20th, with one Goxhill September 29th, one South Ferriby 29th, then in October 3 Goxhill 9th, one Huttoft 10th, one Cadney Res 28th and in November 6 Goxhill 3rd, one 18th, 4 Killingholme 20th, one Covenham Res 19th and 2 24th, 4 Witheringham 6th and one Withermouth 8th, with 4 20th. Six were at Tetney December 28th, 10 Humberston 22nd, one Covenham Res 29th and one Withermouth 26th.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Notable flocks of over 50 birds were seen at Donna Nook in January up to 60, 81 Saltfleetby January 8th, 50 Burton Hillside February 5th, with 100 19th, 70 Barrow Haven 14th, 70 Goxhill 17th and 50 Gibraltar Point 26th. At Saltfleetby 25 pairs bred, a high concentration. Large flocks again gathered in favoured feeding sites during November-December, with 58 Killingholme November 10th, 50 Goxhill 18th and 100 29th, 175 Beesby 20th, then in December 80 Goxhill 12th, 80 East Halton 14th, 70 Tetney 22nd, up to 60 at Donna Nook and up to 75 at Gibraltar Point.

Oortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

For the second successive year a female was found at Covenham Res, being present from May 2-6th, with incredibly 2 females present on the latter date (MM, KA et al).



Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* (illustrated)
High coastal breeding concentrations included 20 pairs at Tetney, 40 at Donna Nook and 25-30 at Saltfleetby. In October there were 80 at East Halton Skitter 1st and up to 100 at Donna Nook, with 160 4th. Fifty were at East Halton November 29th and 68 Gibraltar Point 26th, with 70 East Halton 12th and 100 Gibraltar Point 17th.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

This species appears to be being recorded in larger numbers, mostly during the winter periods when some large flocks are being located. In January peak numbers were 55 Barton 19th, 70 Thed-

dlethorpe 22nd, 65 Saltfleetby 16th and 40 Donna Nook 31st, with in February 32 Thedlethorpe 14th, 30 Tetney 26th, 29 Gibraltar Point 12th and 25-30 there March 11-25th, and 61 at Saltfleetby 24th. Notably high numbers in April included 30 Grainthorpe 23rd and 33 Gibraltar Point 7th. Five pairs bred at Donna Nook. Large feeding flocks were again noted during November-December, with 40 Barton November 8th, 83 Snitterby 6th, 45 Saltfleetby 18th and 30 Gibraltar Point 18th. In December there were up to 80 at Donna Nook, 40 East Halton 14th, up to 80 at Gibraltar Point, 29 Tetney 16th, but the largest count was of 240 roosting at Saltfleetby 3rd.

Additional 1983 record

Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*

A singing male was present at Donna Nook from July 10th to August 21st (SL, RLo, CRM et al). This species is not now officially on the British List.

1982 Corrections and Additions

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

The correct dates were September 26th-30th, not 24th as stated.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Scotter, about 8 June (RNH).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

2 south October 28th – this record refers to Donna Nook and not Gibraltar Point as stated.

1981 Additions

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

One in a Bourne garden September 1-30th.

Ornithological Events of 1983

The Auk Wreck, February 1983

Early in February it became apparent that small numbers of birds were being washed ashore along the coast of Lincolnshire and South Humberside. The birds were mainly auks, with attention being focussed initially on that little-seen species the Little Auk, of which there were even a few inland records (see Systematic List). Other species involved were mainly Razorbills, Guillemots, Puffins and Kittiwakes. Contrary to immediate assumptions however, there appeared to be little evidence of oiling – subsequent figures revealing less than 10% and only light when present – and it was soon apparent that we were seeing the first victims of a natural disaster in the seabird world. As more corpses, and a few live but very weak birds, drifted up onto the beaches on the fresh north-easterly winds, it became essential to try to make some assessment of the numbers involved. Parts of the coast are censused on a monthly basis each winter as part of the Beached Bird Survey organised by the RSPB, but this was happening mid-way between counts. Arrangements were therefore made to cover as much of the coast as was possible. In the event the whole of the coast from Cleethorpes to the Lincs/Norfolk border was surveyed, although there were a number of small gaps where extensive saltmarsh prevented accurate counts being made. There were also several duplicated counts and the overall picture very quickly became confused as some observers were removing birds from the beach while others were not. In addition the main counts were made during the week 13th to 20th Feb and, since it is evident from repeat counts that many more birds were coming ashore at the end of that week and the next, the numbers shown should be regarded as minimum counts. In fact, if the repeat counts in the north of the county are indicative of the coast as a whole, the numbers involved were substantially higher than shown.

Table 1 – Beached Birds on the Lincolnshire Coast, February 1983

<i>Species</i>	<i>Cleethorpes Saltfleet Haven</i>	<i>Saltfleet Haven – Gib Point</i>	<i>Gib Point – Norfolk border</i>	<i>Total</i>
Razorbill	1291	720	499	2510
Guillemot	476	259	375	1100
Puffin	165	67	52	284
Little Auk	109	50	41	200
Kittiwake	67	39	72	178
Fulmar	6	1	13	20
Gannet	—	1	—	1
gulls	8	7	52	67
waders	2	—	24	26
divers	—	—	3	3
ducks	1	—	9	10
geese/swans	—	—	4	4

Above Cleethorpes a less intensive search was made, but very few corpses apparently made their way into the Humber, and none above Goxhill though the search extended to South Ferriby.

Such 'wrecks' of auks seem to occur fairly regularly, perhaps on a ten-year cycle, though the present one may well set a number of records, partly as a result of the intensive efforts to accumulate the available data. A complete explanation may take some time to arrive at, but it would appear that the blame can be placed jointly upon a food shortage in some areas of the North Sea, coupled with the prevailing weather conditions in February. These held birds in a region where they were unable to find food so that thousands starved or succumbed to exposure.

R. Lambert

The Humber Oiling Incident, September 1983

At 23.30 hours on Tuesday September 27th 1983 the Anglo-Iranian oil-tanker SIVAND, with a cargo of Nigerian light crude, went astray from the tugs attempting to dock her and fouled the jetty at Immingham. In the following 10 hours approximately 6000 tonnes of oil spilled into the Humber, and due to the combination of winds and tides in the following week, eventually reached every part of the river. The most severe oiling occurred in the immediate vicinity of Immingham on the south shore, (between East Halton and Pyewipes) and on the Wildfowl Refuge at the upper end of the river, on the north shore. The important wader feeding areas in Spurn Bight and below Cleethorpes were fortunately relatively lightly oiled. It is also fortunate that the cargo was a light oil, since up to a third of it was calculated to have evaporated, whilst possibly the same amount was carried out of the estuary and broken up by wave action at the river mouth.

For 12 days after the incident an oil-monitoring exercise was carried out by ornithologists on both shores of the river and the total numbers of birds monitored and reported oiled daily are given in Table 1. Birds found dead are listed by species in Table 2. It is certain that the full mortality due to this incident will never be known. Observers noted that badly oiled birds were not with the main flocks, but had to be hunted for in creeks and runnels where they would be easy prey for foxes etc. The tides and currents running in the river are such that corpses of birds dying in such places would be taken right out of the estuary and probably never found. Also, the incident occurred at the height of the passage season, and it was noted that during the 12 days of monitoring turnover of wader flocks was extremely rapid. Lightly oiled birds could therefore have left the estuary, and if any of these died from oil-related causes later in the winter, they would not have been recorded.

Table 1 – Birds monitored and reported oiled

<i>Date</i>	<i>Birds monitored</i>	<i>Lightly oiled</i>	<i>Badly oiled*</i>	<i>Percentage oiled</i>
September 29	2887	229	18	8.6
30	14172	2103	10	14.9
October 1	7473	1015	25	13.9
2	8930	601	109	8.0
3	5882	1038	100	19.3
4	6312	1026	286	20.8
5	1716	120	10	7.5
6	5277	320	33	6.7
7	2179	39	26	3.0
8	3428	77	17	2.7
9	10886	372	29	3.7
10	550	19	6	4.5

*Birds in this category were considered by the observer unlikely to survive.

Table 2 – Birds found dead or picked up oiled

(September 29 – November 4th)

Cormorant	3	Shelduck	1
Wigeon	1	Teal	6
Mallard	10	Pintail	1
Red-breasted Merganser	1	Moorhen	1
Dunlin	4	Curlew	1
Redshank	5	Black-headed Gull	74
Common Gull	5	Lesser Black-backed Gull	2
Herring Gull	12	Great Black-backed Gull	11
Guillemot	3	Finch sp.	1
		TOTAL	142

Taken to RSPCA:

Grimsby 51

Hull 12: 63

GRAND TOTAL

205

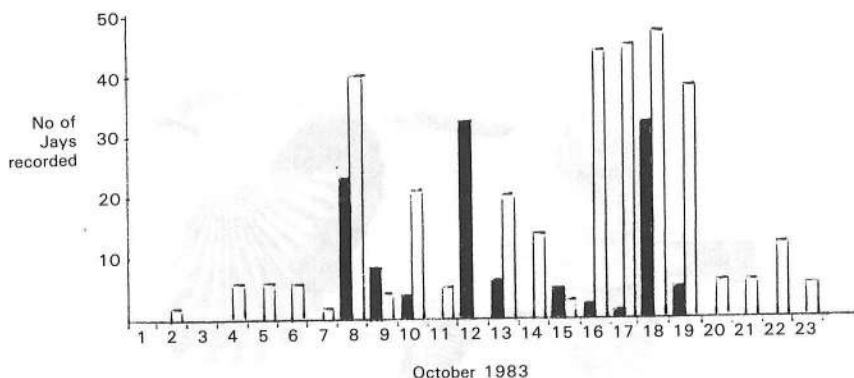
It was noted early in the exercise that oiling was much easier to see on light-plumaged birds such as gulls and Shelduck and was difficult to see on waders and ducks such as Mallard (especially females) except at close quarters. Oiling numbers for these species are therefore minima. Gulls also figure highly in the mortality table since many died and were picked up on land. As discussed above, birds dying on the shore were far less likely to be found.

Anne Goodall

The 'Invasion' of Jays, autumn 1983

From early October 1983 there was an exceptional number of records of Jay flocks in the county, usually well away from known breeding areas, with a very high proportion on the coast. The fact that the species is so unusual on the coast however, probably meant that all coastal records were reported while numbers at inland sites may have been put down to local birds. The prime reason behind the movement would appear to have been a food shortage; the staple autumn food of acorns largely failed in 1983 and this probably gave rise to the wanderings. Certainly many birds were seen trying to scavenge in unusual sites and many were much tamer than is usual with this wary species, again suggesting that they were short of food. The continental races of Jay have been known to invade Britain in the past, and it was initially assumed that the coastal birds were probably of continental origin. However, of the birds trapped and seen closely at Donna Nook, none apparently showed characteristics of these races. Secondly none of the flocks on the coast were actually seen to arrive from off the sea. Some arrived from over the Humber at North Cotes but these could have come from Spurn. It will be interesting to see if any of those ringed are eventually reported elsewhere.

Most of the coastal birds were moving either south or south-west, but there were occasional exceptions and a full account is given below to show the magnitude of the movements. See also Fig. 1 which shows daily totals of Jays recorded on the Humber and North Sea coast.



KEY:

Black bars: Jays on the Humber coast, above Donna Nook

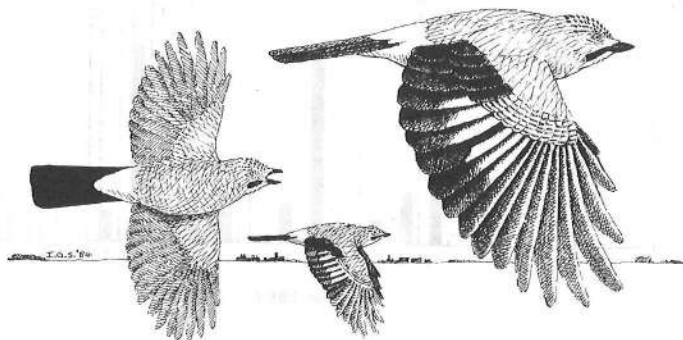
White bars: Jays on the North Sea coast, Donna Nook - Gibraltar Point

Fig. 1 - Jay records, October 1983

The first coastal record was at Theddlethorpe on September 27th followed by 2 north there on October 2nd. There were then 1-3 at Donna Nook, Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point during 4-6th with 2 at Anderby 7th. The 8th was a Saturday and the first big day with 20 at Saltfleetby, 20 north at Theddlethorpe, 7 west at Barton and 16 foraging in hedgerows at Goxhill Haven. 8 were at Barton 9th and one at Baston Fen, staying until 22nd, 2 at Saltfleetby and 2 Gibraltar Point. The 10th produced a good westerly passage over Barton, no numbers noted, 21 at Donna Nook 2 at Ulceby and 2 at Stallingborough. 5 at Donna Nook on the 11th were followed by 16 in Goxhill on 12th and two parties of 13 and 3 flying west high over Barrow-on-Humber. 20 were in the North Somercotes/Saltfleet area on 13th and 6 arrived at Barton from high up to the East, turned and flew north across the Humber then turned east and south again back across the river before descending into an old quarry. Saltfleetby had 14 on 14th and there were 3 at North Cotes, one at Donna Nook with 1-2 at Barrow, Thornton Abbey and Gibraltar Point on 15th, followed by a very good day on 16th with 2 at Donna Nook, 13 at Saltfleetby mostly south, 2 North Cotes, 4 Theddlethorpe moving west, 4 west at Covenham, 3 Gibraltar Point and a flock of 22 foraging in the dunes at Mablethorpe. The 17th produced the only substantial movement at Gibraltar Point with 45 south and others, 2 south at Ulceby Cross, 2 south Kenwick Bar and one at Tetney. Several parties of 12-20 were noted at Winteringham, up the Humber, around the 18th, 30 flew north at Theddlethorpe 18th with 17 at Donna Nook and 3 arrived at Louth staying into 1984. Donna Nook had 8 on the 19th and Saltfleetby 17 plus a flock of 9 which circled at a height of 100' before descending into a hedge, 5 arrived at North Cotes and 4 were at Theddlethorpe. There were then odd records of 1-3 birds at Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Theddlethorpe and Gibraltar Point to the end of October with 8 south at Gibraltar Point 22nd and 5 there 23rd.

There were still odd coastal records of 1-3 birds during November/December at Tetney, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Theddlethorpe, Skegness and Gibraltar Point but birds tended to become more concentrated inland. In November there were singles at Utterby and Covenham 2nd, Goxhill 4th, Little Grimsby 5th and 21st, North Thoresby 5th with 10 there 23rd; 1-5 were at Fulstow November 15th into 1984 and there were also 9 Revesby November 15th, 11 Wragby, 17 Morkery Wood and 11 Elsham Hall all 20th with 2 at Alford Mill 12th. Others in December were at Heckington, Sleaford and 3 at Biscathorpe Lake on 29th feeding in a ploughed field.

G. P. Catley

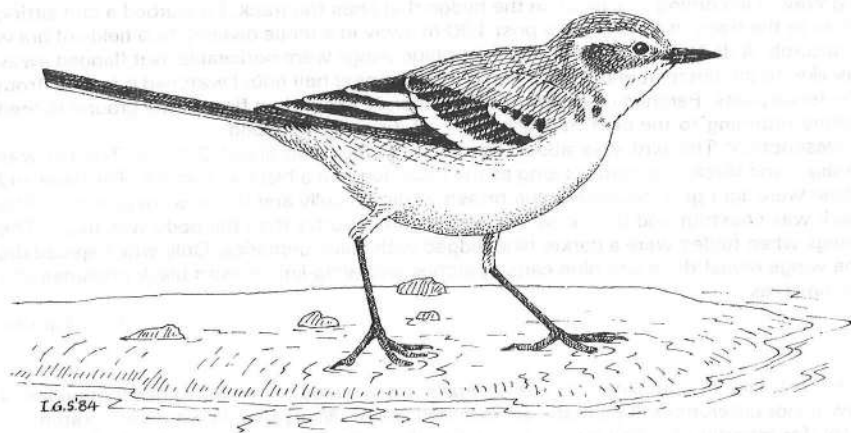


Accounts of Lincolnshire Rarities

Citrine Wagtail at Gibraltar Point, 4th-10th September 1983

The occurrence of the BTO ringing course at Gibraltar Point usually ensures that all self-respecting vagrants keep well away from the reserve during that week! However, on the Sunday, K. W. Winfield, P. J. Keller and I were in the Mere hide when a small pale wagtail flew in from over the eastern bank. It began to take flies from the muddy shore between the *Scirpus* stems some 50 metres away, and although our views were restricted it was obvious that it was not one of the more familiar wagtails. After 10 minutes it left the Mere to feed briefly in a recently cleared drainage ditch before moving to a dense bed of *Scirpus* where it was lost. On returning to the Mere the following evening it was observed on the island nearest the hide, thus affording much better views and confirming our belief that it was a juvenile Citrine Wagtail. From the two visits the following description was collated.

Wagtail, size of a slim Meadow Pipit but with longer tail, although slightly shorter than Yellow Wagtail. Bill fine, medium length, black.



Crown, nape, mantle, ashy-grey; feathers of mantle with fine white tips giving scaly effect when very close. Rump darker grey, uppertail coverts blackish. Lores whitish, ear coverts light grey, flecked with white feathers. Thin dark eye stripe from base of bill to just behind eye. Dark blue line from bill to lower edge of ear-coverts, where it faded. Broad white supercilium, meeting at the front to give a light forehead; broadened over and above eye then narrowed further back to where it joined a narrow whitish surround to the ear-coverts, most noticeable when close or seen head-on.

Chin, throat and side of neck white. Dark, triangular-shaped flecks starting from the side of neck fading as they mapped the faint line of a gorget around the upper breast. This line was accentuated by the whiteness of the chin and throat against the dirty-white of the breast and flanks through to undertail coverts.

Wings dark grey. Median wing coverts strongly tipped white, greater coverts to a lesser extent giving a striking double wing-barred appearance. Primaries on closed wing dark, lighter edge to secondaries showing as a pale panel similar to Willow Tit. Tertiaries black with brownish inner webs and broad white outer webs.

Tail blackish-grey with strongly contrasting white outer feathers. Eye dark, legs long and black, long prominent hind claws. Call "zzrreeip" or "zzweeit"; loud, harsh, strident, sometimes almost bi-syllabic at others monosyllabic especially when flushed, when often repeated. When feeding it had the gait of a small active wagtail, constantly jerking its head but only occasionally wagging its tail. Flight buoyant and deeply undulating.

This was the first or second record of Citrine Wagtail in Lincolnshire, the first British record being from Fair Isle in 1954. Normal breeding range is north-east and east Russia, west Siberia and West and Central Asia; the western race winters in Asia to Arabia and in north-east North Africa.

R. K. Watson

Roller near Woodhall Spa, October 1983

On a grey, overcast day, October 2nd 1983, I decided to walk through Highall Wood, just north-east of Woodhall Spa, and then back along the old railway track that forms the 'Viking Way'. On coming to a break in the hedge that lines the track, I disturbed a bird sitting close to the track. It flew off to a post 100 m away in a fence dividing two fields of grass and scrub. A dark chestnut back and bright blue wings were noticeable as it flapped away jay-like, to the fence. It was 17.45 hrs and for the next half hour I watched it feeding from the fence posts. Perched on a post it looked sharply about then flew to the ground to feed before returning to the post. It finally flew off into Highall Wood.

Description: The bird was about 16 ins long, the head about 2-3 ins. The bill was straight and black, not quite as long as the head, led into a black eye-stripe. The head and chest were light grey becoming blue-brown while the belly and flanks were pale blue. The back was chestnut and the tail which was slightly shorter than the body was black. The wings when folded were a darker blue, edged with black primaries. Only when spread did the wings reveal the azure blue carpal patches and wing-linings with black primaries and secondaries.

Tony Barmby

For the sake of completeness a few details not included in the above description and a few minor differences in plumage are included below. Many people were very grateful to Tony for reporting his find so quickly and enabling them to see this delightful bird.

Bill stout and black, pointed at tip; black line from bill back to eye broader around eye and tapering off upturned behind eye. Crown and nape buffish with a bluish tinge to several feathers. Chin, throat and upper breast cinamon-buff demarcated from pale turquoise lower breast and belly and feathers tipped white. Mantle chestnut; rump bluish; on closed wings a bright turquoise patch at the carpal. Wing coverts deep turquoise but primary coverts much brighter, same as carpal; tertiaries chestnut slightly paler than mantle; primaries black. Tail dark greenish-brown in centre with wedge of pale turquoise on either edge narrowing across the tip and split by downward projection of two central tail feathers; undertail similar pattern. Legs and feet dull brown.

In flight upperwings showed black flight feathers with pale turquoise mid-wing panel and very bright turquoise carpal patches and a deep marine-blue line along the lesser coverts. Underwing coverts were bright turquoise, the brightest part of the bird; under-side of flight feathers a deep marine-blue with black tips.

G. P. Catley

Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory Report 1983

Compiled by R. Lambert

A summary of any year's events is never easily produced without bias. There is always a tendency to incur an element of regret for the lack of this species and that, for the unhelpful weather which took birds elsewhere or for the lack of observers at a time when the birds did arrive. Unsurprisingly 1983 contained elements of all of these and they are duly detailed below, along with the salient highlights of the year. 1983 proved, in many respects, to be rather different from recent years.

The early part of the year was strangely quiet as the unseasonably mild weather continued, with very low numbers of feeding finches and buntings, though the weather in the North Sea proved more hazardous for seabirds as witnessed by the 'wreck' of auks in February. Mid-April and early May provided the main influx of spring migrants, concentrated into two short, sharp bursts of activity with quiet spells between, followed by an unprecedented passage of *Swifts*, *hirundines*, *Turtle Doves* and *Lapwings* in early June.

The breeding season was blighted by persistent easterly winds in the early summer which kept temperatures below normal and reduced the success rate of many early broods. There were no new breeding records for the Reserve and no significant changes in breeding populations after such a mild winter. Possibly as a result of the late start to the summer the normal influx of young warblers, tits, *Dunnocks* etc didn't materialise until late August but when it did the numbers and variety of birds were spectacular. Unfortunately the gales of the first week of September depressed both the avian and human activity – everything sought cover! The indications at this time of the year were of an excellent autumn but the expected 'falls' of thrushes and Robins failed to materialise, only *Goldcrests* and *Jays* in October arrived in quantity, the latter species producing totals which exceed previous totals for the Observatory since 1949! November and December, despite unusually mild weather again, produced steady increases in the number of birds present, mainly finches and buntings, feeding on the saltmarsh seeds.

With remarkable consistency the year produced two new species records for the third year in succession; a female *Subalpine* Warbler in May and a *Great White Egret* in November. Other unusual species seen include a *Citrine Wagtail* and an *Arctic Warbler* (in spring) – 2nd records; and a *Bean Goose* – 4th record.

There were very few early arrivals in Spring the only 'earliest-ever' record being a *Reed Warbler* on 12th April and in autumn, a *Stonechat* on 7th August. There were, however a fair number of late departures, the most notable of which produced a series of records well beyond the previous 'latest' date of 24 July. The species concerned was *Avocet* and autumn records on 11 August, 7th and 9th September and 8th October reflect the continuing success of this species, in the Netherlands especially. Other tardy birds were an *Icterine Warbler*, the only record this year, on 6th October, a *Sandwich Tern* on 13th November and a *Little Stint* on 19th November.

One early departure occurred which will have a significant effect on the work of the observatory. Paul Boyer, a regular contributor since 1976 and the mainstay of the ringing activities at Gib, left in July for Benbecula. Inevitably his efforts will be missed and the Western Isles will undoubtedly benefit in turn. We wish him and his family every success in the future.

January – March

The year was inevitably headed for a slow start. Every indication through the preceding month was of a mild winter and January confirmed this with only a couple of hard frosts and generally higher than average day-time temperatures. Since the wintering population was lower than normal during December and there were no cold snaps to produce the

usual pattern of cold weather movements January proved to be rather uninspiring for birds. *Blackcaps* present in high numbers earlier in the winter continued to be found in a range of habitats, and a few small flocks of winter thrushes were present in the dune scrub, but the saltmarshes held very few finches and buntings. Traditionally common species such as *Greenfinches*, *Linnets*, *Yellowhammers* and *Corn Buntings* were relatively scarce and there was only one record of *Brambling*, two birds at the end of the month. As a result of mild conditions and adequate food being available elsewhere the normal coastal concentrations of these species were lacking. Even species such as *Twite* and *Snow Bunting* which rely on saltmarshes each winter were present in below average numbers though the latter did reach a peak of 300 birds on New Years Day. Only wildfowl achieved average figures with good flights of duck from the river mouth onto adjacent arable land being observed.

This pattern continued on into February. It was enlivened by some small influxes of birds and a marked southerly movement of *Lapwings* on 27th when the wind veered to the west after a run of easterlies. Less common species recorded include the only *Shore Larks* of the late winter on 12th/13th, a male *Crossbill* on 19th and the now well established high number of *Blackcaps*. A single *Little Auk* on 6th, though unusual in that it was observed flying across the tip of the Spit and the New Marsh, gave little indication of events that were to transpire later that week. Reports reaching the Reserve of large numbers of this species in the North Sea were confirmed on 12th when unprecedented numbers were found along the tideline following fresh onshore winds. They were accompanied by *Puffins*, *Guillemots* and *Razorbills*, also in large numbers, and general observations over following days had to be curtailed, the need to monitor the situation along the coast and into the Wash taking precedence. (See the report elsewhere in this issue)

Apart from these distractions the area provided little of interest until mid-March when the first of the returning migrants put in an appearance. Many species arriving in early spring are not accurately summer visitors since many winter in southern Britain/northern France and have not travelled far, and a few such as *Chiffchaff* occasionally winter in the immediate area. Only the fact that they are the first records in a year in which they have not over-wintered indicates that they are representatives of a general movement north. Thus the first *Firecrest* arrived on 12th followed by a *Greenshank* on 20th, a *Spotted Redshank* on 26th with a *Black Redstart* on the same day, a *Wheatear* and a *Willow/Chiff* on 27th and a *Whimbrel* on 29th, a fairly typical year. The only rarity in the month was a *Woodlark* which was seen feeding in the East Dunes on 19th and 20th, a species which has hardly been recorded in the last decade.

April – June

Unfortunately the mild nature of the winter weather did not continue into April, and the early part of the month was decidedly cold. The consequent trickle of migrants only began to show an increase in the second week and nearly a fortnight had passed before the first *Swallow*, *Willow Warbler*, *Reed Warbler* and *Whinchat* were recorded. On 16th, as temperatures began to rise, possibly tempting more observers into the field, there was a marked improvement in the level of activity in the area due mainly to an overnight arrival of large numbers of *Willow Warblers* and *Wheatears* accompanied by a few *Swallows*, *Sand Martins*, *Redstarts*, *Ring Ouzels* and *Blackcaps*. The following day saw a small decrease of *Willow Warblers* and *Wheatears* but *Swallows*, *Redstarts*, *Black Redstarts* and *Ring Ouzels* were more numerous. This brief burst of activity was to be the only one of significance in the month. Favourable south easterly winds were probably responsible for bringing the first *Little Terns*, *Turtle Doves*, *Sedge Warblers*, *Lesser* and *Common Whitethroats* on 23rd, succeeding days bringing further 'firsts' for the year with *Cuckoo* and *Pied Flycatcher* on 25th, *Common* and *Sandwich Tern* on 26th, *Swift* on 29th and *Spotted Flycatcher* on 30th. This later part of the month also provided the few unusual records; two *Nightingales* on 24th and a *Marsh Harrier* on the 28th. The highlight however, was an adult *Spoonbill* which afforded excellent views on 18th and evidently remained in the vicinity for some days since there were additional records on 21st and 24th.



May, especially the first week of the month, usually brings the greatest number and variety of migrants in the spring and, though numbers of birds were below average this period produced the expected influx. On 3rd, despite overcast conditions and rain or drizzle for much of the day, a *Wryneck* was found in the West Dunes, followed shortly by an *Osprey* over the East Dunes and two *Black Terns* which spent time feeding over the Mere. The next day the wind veered east-north-east, holding birds in the area and, as it continued to swing more to the south-east over the following days, produced a rapid increase in the number of off-passage migrants. By the 7th the wind was southerly and the day produced a marked southerly movement of *hirundines*, *Turtle Doves*, *Tree Pipits* and *Yellow Wagtails* together with the peak monthly counts of species such as *Lesser* and *Common Whitethroats*, *Garden Warblers* and *Wheatears*. In typical fashion the bird of the day turned up unexpectedly in a mist-net, a female *Subalpine Warbler*. It would almost certainly have been otherwise overlooked but fortunately the ringing laboratory was manned and a new species was duly added to the Reserve's list. Little else was seen over the next week apart from a few birds on 8th, including a *Wood Warbler*, as, with winds now from a south-westerly quarter, birds evidently left to continue their journeys north and east. The *Subalpine Warbler* didn't join this exodus since it was caught again on the following weekend, the 14th, this time in a heligoland trap. Disappointingly only two birds were caught in the trap on this particular occasion but visiting ringers were amazed to find that one was a retrapped *Subalpine Warbler* and the other an *Arctic Warbler*! If the latter is accepted it will be a first spring record in Britain for this species. Other records pale into insignificance alongside this but observers did note a large southerly passage of *Turtle Doves*, *Swifts* and *Chaffinches* and an influx of *Redpolls*.

The second half of May was unexpectedly quiet. Easterly winds predominated which kept temperatures below average and probably forced migrants inland, there were very few on the coast! The emphasis at the end of the month was therefore on breeding species. Several *Tufted Ducks* were seen on the Mere through into June and probably attempted to breed but no young were seen, and a pair of *Wheatears* frequented the southern end of the West Dunes until the 20th May with a single bird present until the 31st though a nesting attempt was not suspected. May had also seen a scattering of unusual sightings that, for once, failed to materialise in June. These included two *Avocets* on 5th, a *Kentish Plover* on 7th/8th and a *Golden Oriole* on 25th. June was therefore

comparatively excitement-free. Apart from a sudden flush of birds heading south on 8th when winds became south-westerly, after a run of easterlies again, there was little to report. The movement on 8th, including 3500 *Swifts*, 600 *House Martins*, 200 *Swallows* 500 *Turtle Doves* and 300 *Lapwings*, occurred on an unusually early date for such an event. There were also very few young *Starlings* moving into the area during the later part of June. Totals can be swollen to a figure in excess of a thousand birds in a good breeding season so these events may be a reflection of unsuitable weather and a consequent reduction in breeding success or, especially in species such as the *Swift*, even in attempted breeding. Certainly, due to the persistence of easterly winds, the spring temperatures had been generally low.

July – September

The *Swift* movement, seen at ground-level only with light south or south westerly winds, continued, with these winds prevailing in the first week of July. The passage peaked on 2nd with at least 17,000 birds moving through in three hours early in the morning. Thereafter there were fewer *Swift* records than normal

Returning waders began arriving, *Ruff*, *Spotted Redshank*, *Common Sandpiper* and *Greenshank* in the vanguard to be followed in mid-month by *Whimbrel*, *Wood Sandpiper*, *Curlew Sandpiper*, *Green Sandpiper* and *Little Ringed Plover*. Passerine migrants were represented by a *Yellow Wagtail* and a *Wheatear*, both possibly from fairly close breeding sites, but numbers of early autumn birds did not appear until a week into August. *Willow Warblers* started to move in on 7th and two *Pied Flycatchers* on 9th were unfortunately not accompanied by other associated species (especially in view of the north-easterly wind at the time). By 11th there was more to be seen as more *Willow Warblers* and *Whitethroats* moved into the dune scrub but small migrants were still relatively scarce. The high tides provided the greatest concentrations of birds with 11,000 waders present on 10th and over 29,000 on 11th comprising mainly *Oystercatchers* (11,000) and *Knot* (13,000). Other waders maintained the good showing of July with *Ruff*, *Greenshank*, *Spotted Redshank*, *Green*, *Wood* and *Common Sandpipers* in better numbers than in recent years. In contrast *Little Ringed Plovers* and *Whimbrels* were well below average.

At the end of the second week of August the autumn passage began to take on a more recognisable form as *Whinchats*, *Wheatears* and warblers appeared; the first *Fieldfare* returned on 16th and the numbers of birds gradually increased with no marked influxes until the last week. Yet another spell of easterly winds – too early to bring any ‘eastern’ species – was obviously discouraging the normal east-coast concentrations of birds though the steady build up of *Lesser Whitethroats*, *Willow Warblers*, *Redstarts*, *Whinchats* and *Garden Warblers* continued. Then on 30th the wind backed south-westerly then southerly on 31st bringing further increases in numbers of birds present. The first *Barred Warblers* were caught on 30th and *Whitethroats*, *Lesser Whitethroats* and *Willow Warblers* filled the dune scrub. The annual BTO ringing course got into its stride on 1st September and the resulting ringing totals of 449 birds in the day gives an indication of the numbers present. Unfortunately the euphoria evaporated quickly when the following day saw winds increasing to force 7 very effectively preventing any ringing and making observations almost impossible. In any case the birds disappeared into the densest cover they could find and were to remain thus hidden until conditions improved on 6th. As the wind decreased catching improved to produce a total of 361 new birds, evidence that few birds had risked moving on in the inclement weather. That they did so soon afterwards is shown by the marked decrease in birds present in following days. Most of the reports for the remainder of September emphasise the lack of off-passage migrants but include several notable records of visible migration especially of hirundines and pipits; 3000 *Swallows*, 200 *Sand Martins*, 500 *House Martins* and 250 *Meadow Pipits* on 10th; by 12th *Meadow Pipits* were the main participants with 1600 south accompanied by 40 *Tree Pipits*. The hirundine passage continued apace – 7000 *Swallows* on 15th, 8000 *Swallows* and 2000 *House Martins* on 17th – to the end of the month though pipits decreased steadily. Even on days when conditions were unhelpful for observers it was often worth a try at sea-watching, one such being 11th September when efforts were rewarded with 242 *Arctic Skuas*, 64 *Bonxies* and an adult *Sabines Gull* flew south

into the Wash. Rarities were somewhat thin on the ground, apart from the gull there was a *Nightingale* on 1st, a few *Barred Warblers* in the first week, single *Wrynecks* on 6th, 24th and 25th, a *Hobby* on 5th and *Avocets* on 7th and 11th. The highlight was a juvenile *Citrine Wagtail* which was found at the Mere on 4th and stayed in this area until 10th attracting a good number of observers.

The end of September brought the first arrivals of thrushes with a few *Blackbirds* and more *Song Thrushes* on 22nd along with an unusual movement of large numbers of *Blue Tits*. Further arrivals of *Song Thrushes* were joined by the first big influx of *Goldcrests* on 25th. Undoubtedly these movements continued especially with easterly winds from 28th but there were no observers for the whole of the last week so there is unfortunately no data to support the assumption.

October – December

The effects of the winds at the end of September became immediately apparent on 1st October when the East Dunes were found to be teeming with *Robins*, *Fieldfares*, *Song Thrushes*, *Redwings*, *Bramblings* and *Goldcrests*, the last species conservatively estimated at a total of 500. The following day produced even more interest when various observers turned up a *Red-breasted Flycatcher*, two *Great Grey Shrikes* and a *Hawfinch* in addition to *Goldcrests* (now at least 1000), *Robins*, *Chaffinches* and *Siskins* in plenty. The first *Twite* were located, a large party of *Long-tailed Tits* were present and there were strong southerly movements of *Lapwings* and *Swallows* through the day. Anticipation that an excellent months bird-watching was in prospect was soon proved unwarranted as further arrivals failed to materialise. The northern European population of *Goldcrests* had provided an excellent 'fall' but there were rather few following behind, and where were the *Fieldfares*, *Redwings* and *Blackbirds*? Peak daily counts of 80, 50 and 300 respectively were a long way below average figures, even the last figure on 29th was very much the exception, and the usually busy last week of October for thrush arrivals was strangely quiet. It produced the first *Bewick's* and *Whooper Swans* and a major increase in *Brent Goose* numbers but little else. One most unusual record, on 29th, was of a small 'fall' of *Little Auks*. Four seen over the East Dunes early in the day were rather out of place but a single bird seen at dusk busily chasing *Blackbirds* over adjacent arable land caused observers to look twice! The other species which also figured unusually in the daily log in October was *Jay*. Normally only one or two records occur each year. In 1983 the first bird was seen flying north on 4th, increasing to 2 on 9th, 3 on 16th, then the unprecedented number of 45 flew south on 17th. Records continued through the month and to the end of the year of up to 5 birds, some having taken up residence in the area.

Since *Blackbirds* and *Fieldfares* remained scarce through the last two months of the year, with only small arrivals on 11th/12th November totalling 500 and 300 birds respectively and of 500 *Fieldfares* on 27th, attention was drawn to other wintering species. *Shore Larks* were only seen on 5th/6th November and 24th December but *Snow Buntings* began to increase in November peaking with a flock 230 strong, early in December. They were joined by over 300 *Twite*, 700 *Greenfinches*, 250 *Linnets*, 100 *Yellowhammers*, 70 *Bramblings* and 80 *Corn Buntings*. By the end of the year the saltmarshes and strip-saltings were full of finches and buntings harvesting what had evidently been a bumper seed-crop. Their presence naturally attracted the attention of predators and *Hen Harriers*, a *Sparrowhawk*, a *Merlin* and *Long-eared owls* were regularly seen hunting these areas.

Rarities are not frequently seen at this time of the year but a new species was added to the Observatory list nevertheless. A *Great White Egret* was seen by several observers on 19th November when it flew over the plantation and out onto the Freshwater Marsh, but unfortunately it made only a brief visit though it possibly remained in the vicinity until mid-January 1984 as records of a 'stork' in the area from mid-November to mid-January eventually filtered back to the Point!

This ended a strangely untypical year. Some species were remarkable only by their absence while others were present, if briefly, in exceptionally high numbers. A good 'fall' of birds has not materialised for many an autumn and this year came nearest to achieving it with the arrival of *Goldcrests* in October. Maybe next year? – and maybe there will be a few more thrushes, warblers, chats, rarities . . . !

Observatory Ringing Report

Visitors to Gibraltar Point are immediately 'impressed' by the extent of Sea Buckthorn scrub which clothes extensive areas of the dune ridges. The spread of this species when the pressure of rabbit-grazing ceased, due to the advent of myxomatosis in the late 1950s, has been a feature of the area, and the process continues. The area to the north of the sleeper track has long been the main site for mist netting operations, within trudging distance of the ringing laboratory, but in recent years its productivity had decreased. This is almost certainly due to the increasing height and density of the scrub. At the same time the development of scrub to the south of the sleeper track reached a point where net-rides could be cut in less dense scrub. Since this area is nearer to the laboratory it was a logical step to provide a series of rides in the area during early 1983, and these produced immediate benefits in early October when large numbers of *Goldcrests* moved through. It has also allowed nets to be set in most prevailing winds as there is usually shelter in some part of the area. Frustratingly the autumn influx of thrushes, which might have really proved the worth of the new rides, failed to materialise.

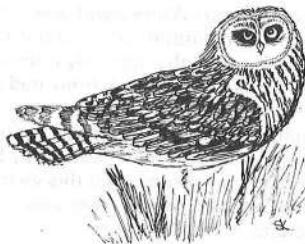
Totals for the year were significantly down on recent years in all areas. As already noted the lack of *Blackbirds* in October and November depressed the annual total though enough were ringed to lift the grand total for this species above the 10,000 mark, the first to do so. Other species showing a decrease were *Sedge Warblers*, *Whitethroats* and *Willow Warblers*, the last two as a result of a slow start to the autumn passage. Increases were shown by two other warblers, *Lesser Whitethroat* and *Garden Warbler*, and by *Goldcrests*, *Pied Flycatchers* and *Siskins* and the success of the breeding season for *Blue Tits* and *Great Tits* was also amply demonstrated!

Three new species were added to the Observatory's ringing totals, a female *Subalpine Warbler* in early May, followed a week later by an *Arctic Warbler*, the first spring record for Britain. The third species was a *Little Auk*, one of the many storm-blown birds to be found inland in February. It was rescued from a fish farm near Louth and released back to the sea at the Point. The last significant addition to the ringing totals occurred after the October influx of Jays. Four were caught bringing the total for this species to five, the previous record being of a bird caught in 1954.

Despite the decreases the year's efforts did bring the overall total of birds ringed at the Observatory above 100,000 for the first time.

Recoveries were also well below normal with only 46 compared with 88 last year. There were some interesting ones in among the more usual 'locals' and the increasingly frequent exchanges between Gib and the north Lincolnshire coast as activity there increases. A *Short-eared Owl* ringed in April and recovered only two months later is the first for Britain to be recovered in Sweden and confirmation that many of our spring birds are migrants and not necessarily resident, and a *Reed Bunting* from October turned up in Western France in early December, only the fifth to cross the water into France, a measure of the sedentary nature of the population of this species in southern Britain.

It is worth re-iterating the need for birdwatchers and ringers to visit Gibraltar Point if the work of the Observatory is to continue, and necessary to plead once again for visitors to submit records, promptly, to the Field Station so that everyone can be kept informed of events and the daily records maintained. The Trust continues to encourage people to use the facilities provided and every contribution is welcomed.



Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory

Ringing Totals 1983

	RINGED		1983 Total	Grand Total	RECOVERED	
	FG	Pull			1983	Grand Total
Sparrowhawk	1	—	1	33	—	5
Kestrel	4	—	4	35	1	5
Red-legged Partridge	3	—	3	43	—	2
Pheasant	2	—	2	34	1	5
Ringed Plover	1	42	43	488	—	4
Little Stint	1	—	1	21	—	—
Dunlin	3	—	3	509	—	9
Little Tern	—	41	41	170	—	—
Little Auk	1	—	1	1	—	—
Stock Dove	—	4	4	59	—	2
Woodpigeon	5	2	7	142	—	7
Turtle Dove	7	—	7	89	—	1
Cuckoo	7	—	7	190	1	10
Long-eared Owl	3	—	3	18	—	1
Short-eared Owl	1	—	1	12	1	4
Kingfisher	2	—	2	29	1	1
Skylark	15	25	40	828	—	5
Swallow	145	46	191	3192	3	24
House Martin	1	—	1	30	—	—
Tree Pipit	7	—	7	73	—	—
Meadow Pipit	67	5	72	1032	—	10
Rock Pipit	1	—	1	12	—	—
Pied Wagtail	1	—	1	45	—	1
Wren	135	6	141	1945	1	18
Duncock	480	10	490	8901	4	73
Robin	158	—	158	2460	3	29
Black Redstart	2	—	2	24	—	—
Redstart	18	—	18	1346	—	10
Whinchat	30	—	30	313	—	—
Wheatear	7	—	7	244	—	2
Blackbird	457	11	468	10322	9	233
Fieldfare	45	—	45	809	—	23
Song Thrush	235	4	239	3536	—	60
Redwing	75	—	75	1258	—	15
Mistle Thrush	15	—	15	167	1	7
Sedge Warbler	43	—	43	896	—	5
Reed Warbler	96	—	96	897	—	11
Subalpine Warbler	1	—	1	1	—	—
Barred Warbler	3	—	3	55	—	—
Lesser Whitethroat	159	—	159	1232	1	8
Whitethroat	265	—	265	5660	—	24
Garden Warbler	71	—	71	1125	—	2
Blackcap	115	—	115	1755	1	8
Arctic Warbler	1	—	1	1	—	—
Chiffchaff	23	—	23	503	—	5
Willow Warbler	543	13	556	8577	—	18
Goldcrest	396	—	396	2893	1	17
Firecrest	4	—	4	35	—	—
Spotted Flycatcher	17	—	17	423	—	2
Red-breasted Flycatcher	1	—	1	9	—	—
Pied Flycatcher	25	—	25	1320	—	14
Long-tailed Tit	17	—	17	535	—	5
Willow Tit	4	—	4	100	—	2
Coal Tit	1	—	1	83	—	—
Blue Tit	222	16	238	3193	3	59
Great Tit	87	13	100	931	1	15
Treecreeper	3	—	3	28	—	—
Jay	4	—	4	5	—	—
Starling	196	16	212	2676	5	80
House Sparrow	107	—	107	7359	3	87
Tree Sparrow	161	93	254	4236	2	23
Chaffinch	67	—	67	1482	1	15
Brambling	41	—	41	505	—	1
Greenfinch	215	—	215	2783	2	36
Goldfinch	135	—	135	2341	—	21
Siskin	18	—	18	76	—	2
Linnet	204	16	220	2604	1	15
Twite	10	—	10	157	—	3
Redpoll	155	—	155	2517	—	32
Bullfinch	36	—	36	622	—	15
Snow Bunting	3	—	3	171	—	2
Yellowhammer	22	—	22	624	—	7
Reed Bunting	141	—	141	2996	1	14
Corn Bunting	4	—	4	43	—	—
	5551	363	5914	101808	46	1160
		Species:	74	153	23	81

Note: Only species ringed or recovered in 1983 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 Lincolnshire Bird Report 1981.

County Ringing Report 1983

Compiled by Alan Ball

1983 was the fifth year of collecting the information from, and results of, bird ringing carried out within Lincolnshire and South Humberside, for these annual reports. The number of birds ringed during the year rose slightly from an average of just under 30,000, for the first four years, to nearly 35,000. I should point out that there was a greater ringing effort throughout the county in 1983, therefore the totals do not necessarily indicate that there were a greater number of birds available to be caught. As several factors affect the number of birds caught, such as ringing effort and weather conditions, it is difficult to draw conclusions about particular species. However, it is possible to look at some of the more common resident species and offer some explanation for the varying numbers caught.

Most species showed an increase during 1983. Dunnocks and Wrens for example both show an increase compared with the last two years and are now up to their pre-1981 winter numbers. Something like a third of their population died in that winter. Blue Tits and Great Tits also show a big increase but perhaps most of this can be attributed to a greater emphasis on woodland ringing generally throughout the county. Other commonly ringed birds to show a significant increase are Goldcrest and Robin, the former species present in very good numbers during the autumn migration. The most encouraging increases were shown in the birds of prey, mostly due to providing nestboxes for owls and Kestrels.

The only common birds to show a decrease during 1983 were Swallow, Redwing and Fieldfare. Swallows in the past have been ringed mainly on migration at reed-bed roosts, where there was a reduced effort this year. It also appears that not many of the traditional roosting sites were used. Redwings and Fieldfares were very scarce in the autumn and winter, the time when most are usually caught.

One of the most important series of results from ringing affecting the county during 1983 occurred when vast numbers of auks were washed up on the shoreline in February. (See report elsewhere in this issue.) Due to the problems they have had with their computer, the British Trust for Ornithology were not able to supply details of all the recoveries they received. However, from the few recoveries that were submitted it appears that the Puffins originated from East Coast colonies, whilst the Razorbills came from West Coast colonies. It has been suggested that Guillemots were mainly from the more northern colonies and the single Guillemot recovery received, from Shetland, agrees with this. The first Icelandic ringed Razorbill to be found in Britain was picked up at Huttoft and one picked up at Freiston was only the second Razorbill from Norway to be found here.

Of the other recoveries that have been selected for inclusion in this report I draw your attention to the following: the Short-eared Owl from Gibraltar Point to Sweden; the Swallow to South Africa, the second one found there in recent years from Lincolnshire; the Blackcap found in Lebanon, the first recovery in that country for any species from Lincolnshire in the last five years. Also, of the thousands of Goldcrests present on the coast in autumn, two ringed birds re-trapped by Belgian ringers were only the second and third British-ringed Goldcrests to be found in Belgium.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to all those who sent me information promptly, in time for inclusion in this report.

County Ringing Totals 1983

(Gibraltar Point totals included)

	FG	Pull	1983 Total	79-83 Total		FG	Pull	1983 Total	79-83 Total
Little Grebe	1	—	1	6	Tree Pipit	—	—	10	39
Great Crested Grebe	3	—	3	12	Meadow Pipit	83	30	113	563
Manx Shearwater	2	—	2	4	Rock Pipit	2	—	2	5
Leach's Petrel	—	—	—	1	Yellow Wagtail	10	—	10	61
Shag	—	—	—	1	Pied Wagtail	85	12	97	423
Grey Heron	—	—	—	1	Wren	679	11	690	2422
Mute Swan	4	3	7	28	Duncock	1605	48	1653	7381
Greylag Goose	—	8	8	8	Robin	923	109	1032	3988
Canada Goose	4	3	7	9	Nightingale	5	—	5	24
Brent Goose	1	—	1	3	Bluthroat	—	—	—	7
Shelduck	1	—	1	9	Black Redstart	2	—	2	7
Wigeon	—	—	—	32	Redstart	47	—	47	348
Gadwall	—	—	—	22	Whinchat	40	—	40	124
Teal	7	—	7	52	Stonechat	1	—	1	2
Mallard	109	2	111	2017	Wheatear	13	—	13	67
Pintail	—	—	—	2	Ring Ouzel	—	—	—	17
Shoveler	—	—	—	9	Blackbird	2487	431	2918	13876
Pochard	8	—	8	40	Feldfare	50	—	50	771
Tufted Duck	42	—	42	478	Song Thrush	849	136	985	4824
Scaup	—	—	—	1	Redwing	133	—	133	1509
Marsh Harrier	—	3	3	3	Mistle Thrush	22	13	35	117
Sparrowhawk	3	—	3	11	Cetti's Warbler	1	—	1	1
Kestrel	8	22	30	87	Grasshopper Warbler	4	—	4	100
Red-legged Partridge	4	—	4	24	Sedge Warbler	183	—	183	1607
Grey Partridge	1	—	1	1	Marsh Warbler	—	—	—	—
Pheasant	3	—	3	24	Reed Warbler	438	29	467	2389
Water Rail	2	—	2	7	Booted Warbler	—	—	—	1
Moorhen	13	—	13	89	Icterine Warbler	2	—	2	8
Coot	30	—	30	461	Sardinian Warbler	—	—	—	1
Oystercatcher	843	5	848	2031	Subalpine Warbler	1	—	1	1
Little Ringed Plover	1	4	5	25	Barred Warbler	5	—	5	28
Ringed Plover	11	48	59	340	Lesser Whitethroat	336	4	340	1475
Golden Plover	6	—	6	10	Whitethroat	871	4	875	3808
Grey Plover	271	—	271	579	Garden Warbler	190	3	193	829
Lapwing	—	15	15	35	Blackcap	535	—	535	2700
Knot	1091	—	1091	1795	Greenish Warbler	—	—	—	1
Sanderling	—	—	—	18	Arctic Warbler	1	—	1	1
Little Stint	1	—	1	8	Pallas's Warbler	—	—	—	2
Curlew Sandpiper	—	—	—	2	Yellow-browed Warbler	—	—	—	9
Purple Sandpiper	1	—	1	2	Wood Warbler	107	—	107	632
Dunlin	2479	—	2479	6657	Chiffchaff	1516	120	1636	7219
Ruff	—	—	—	29	Willow Warbler	1781	—	1781	4231
Jack Snipe	1	—	1	14	Goldcrest	8	—	8	54
Snipe	11	—	11	61	Firecrest	87	24	111	399
Woodcock	1	—	1	45	Spotted Flycatcher	3	—	3	5
Black-tailed Godwit	—	—	—	1	Red-breasted Flycatcher	67	—	67	245
Bar-tailed Godwit	330	—	330	436	Pied Flycatcher	—	—	—	19
Whimbrel	—	—	—	1	Bearded Tit	—	—	—	1
Curlew	28	—	28	49	Long-tailed Tit	368	—	368	1167
Redshank	232	2	234	671	Marsh Tit	1	5	94	416
Greenshank	1	—	1	5	Willow Tit	89	—	89	417
Green Sandpiper	—	—	—	4	Coal Tit	79	82	161	417
Wood Sandpiper	—	—	—	1	Blue Tit	1450	582	2032	7570
Common Sandpiper	5	—	5	24	Great Tit	642	365	1007	2907
Turnstone	68	—	68	211	Nuthatch	2	—	2	6
Black-headed Gull	114	491	605	2612	Treecreeper	62	—	62	227
Common Gull	14	—	14	73	Red-backed Shrike	—	—	—	4
Herring Gull	—	—	—	1	Great Grey Shrike	—	—	—	3
Great B-backed Gull	1	—	1	1	Jay	39	—	39	76
Sandwich Tern	—	—	—	18	Maggie	9	4	13	46
Common Tern	—	53	53	298	Rook	—	190	190	200
Little Tern	—	66	66	251	Starling	1692	34	1726	11727
Guillemot	2	—	2	2	House Sparrow	324	—	324	1938
Razorbill	1	—	1	3	Tree Sparrow	673	123	796	3165
Little Auk	4	—	4	4	Chaffinch	436	6	442	2575
Puffin	—	—	—	1	Brambling	61	—	61	715
Stock Dove	16	47	63	196	Greenfinch	1581	14	1595	8387
Woodpigeon	16	20	36	195	Goldfinch	289	—	289	1619
Turtle Dove	27	5	32	160	Siskin	54	—	54	125
Cuckoo	14	7	21	69	Linnat	705	56	761	3312
Barn Owl	3	9	12	30	Twite	16	—	16	262
Little Owl	5	29	34	53	Redpoll	763	3	766	3653
Tawny Owl	5	2	7	24	Crossbill	—	—	—	1
Long-eared Owl	2	—	2	9	Bullfinch	491	5	496	1948
Short-eared Owl	—	—	—	7	Hawfinch	—	—	—	1
Swift	18	—	18	73	American Redstart	—	—	—	14
Kingfisher	10	—	10	66	Snow Bunting	3	—	3	14
Wryneck	—	—	—	5	Yellowhammer	438	15	453	2259
Green Woodpecker	—	—	—	6	Reed Bunting	622	11	633	2526
Gt Sp Woodpecker	6	5	11	28	Red-headed Bunting	1	—	1	1
Lr Sp Woodpecker	2	—	2	9	Corn Bunting	52	—	52	176
Skylark	66	41	107	649					
Sand Martin	515	—	515	2039					
Swallow	548	406	954	10284					
House Martin	34	—	34	177					
					TOTAL	31178	3766	34944	153,682

Selected Ringing Recoveries Received During 1983

Arrangement of entry: recoveries are arranged by species; ringing details are given on the first line and recovery data on the second.

Age when ringed: this is given according to the EURING code; the figures do not represent years.

Interpretation is as follows:

1. pullus (=nestling or chick)
2. full grown, year of hatching unknown
3. Hatched during calendar year of ringing
4. Older than 3 above, exact age unknown
5. Hatched during previous calendar year
6. Older than 5 above, exact year unknown

Sex: M = Male F = Female

Manner of recovery:

- v caught or retrapped
- + shot or killed by man
- x found dead or dying

/?/ manner of recovery unknown

distances, given in kilometres, and directions are approximate.

Mute Swan

- 1 30.07.82 Skegness
v 10.06.83 Cleethorpes 49 km NNW

Kestrel

- 3F 22.10.83 Gibraltar Point
x 28.10.83 Lakesend, Welney, Norfolk 61 km S

Coot

- 3 27.08.82 Deeping St. James
x 04.05.83 Dunton, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire 65 km

Oystercatcher

- 1 09.07.67 North Cotes
v 20.08.82 Wrangle Marsh 53 km S
1 09.07.67 North Cotes
v 23.08.82 Leverton Marsh 56 km S
8 20.08.82 Wrangle Marsh
+ 12.06.83 Berunes, Sudur Mula, ICELAND 1542 km NNW

The first two recoveries listed above were two from the same brood of four and have been included because of their age. In addition to the above 4 Norwegian Oystercatchers were found in Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire-ringed birds were found in France (1), Sweden (1) and Norway (7).

Knot

- 2 02.09.73 Kroonspolders, Vlieland, NETHERLANDS
x 14.04.82 Frampton Marsh 331 km W
6 10.09.75 Friskney
+ 24.08.83 Gardaskagi, Gullbringu, ICELAND 1799 km NW

Dunlin

- 6 25.03.82 Sidi Moussa, El Jadida, MOROCCO
v 13.08.83 Benington 2351 km NNE
4 10.05.81 Zevlan, Oviedo, SPAIN
x 23.05.82 Gibraltar Point 1156 km NE
2 28.12.81 Holbeach Marsh
v 27.08.83 Gdansk, POLAND 1255 km E

- 4 30.07.76 Friskney
x 15.06.82 Nidfjardarnessel, Hordur Mula, ICELAND 1676 km NNW

In addition to the above, foreign-ringed Dunlin were found from France (1), Denmark (1), Norway (7), Jersey (1), Ireland (1) and Wales (1); and Lincolnshire-ringed Dunlins were reported from Norway (1) and Sweden (6). The recovery from Iceland is only the second Dunlin from the Wash to be found in Iceland.

Snipe

- 3 12.08.76 Kloster, Rostock, EAST GERMANY
x 12.09.81 North Thoresby 889 km W

Bar-tailed Godwit

- 6F 20.02.76 Friskney
x 04.09.83 Insel Sylt, W. GERMANY 564 km NNE

This is only the fourth British-ringed Bar-tailed Godwit to be subsequently found in Germany.

Turnstone

- 3 14.09.80 Saevika, Vest Agder, NORWAY
v 12.08.83 Friskney 687 km SW

Redshank

- 4 07.04.81 Freiston Shore
v 15.07.83 Stykkishdmur, ICELAND 1859 km NW

Black-headed Gull

- 1 01.07.82 Warsaw, POLAND
x 28.02.83 Croft, Skegness 1401 km N
3 30.12.80 Lincoln
x 02.07.82 Oost Flevoland, NETHERLANDS 413 km ESE
6 29.11.65 Deeping St. James
+ 12.05.83 Rugen, Rostock, E. GERMANY 905 km ENE
6 15.01.80 Boston
x 29.07.83 Osudden, Jonkoping, SWEDEN 1007 km ENE

Common Gull

- 2 06.12.77 Karingholmen, Orebro, SWEDEN
x 27.12.81 Gibraltar Point 1146 km SW
8 13.02.78 Boston
x 28.04.83 Aust Agder, NORWAY 792 km NE

Sandwich Tern

- 1 14.07.72 Sheelabs Island, Co. Down, IRELAND
x 03.06.83 Grimsby 373 km ESE

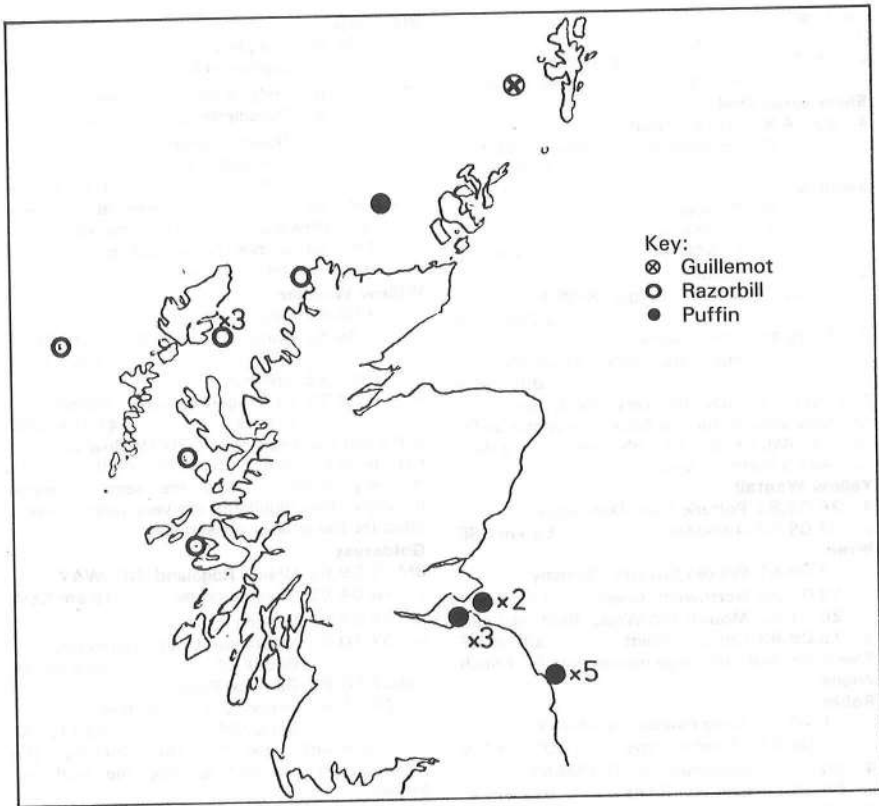
Razorbill

- 1 19.07.81 Eyjafjardar, ICELAND
x 17.02.83 Huttoft Bank, Sutton-on-Sea 1786 km SE

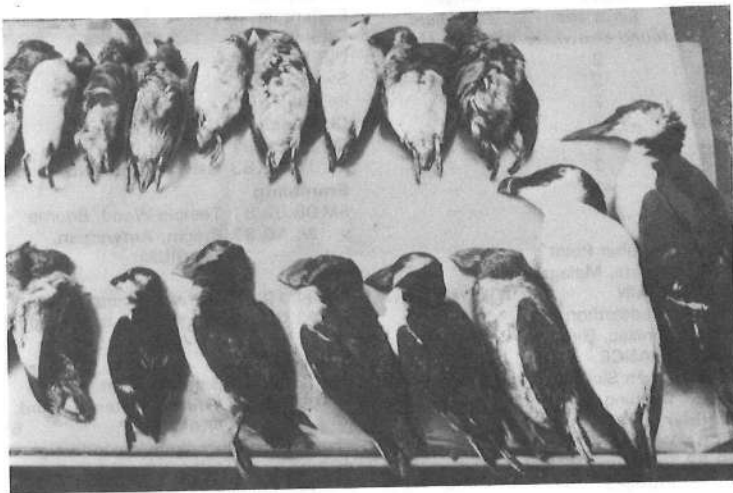
- 1 23.07.80 Hornoya, Finnmark, NORWAY

- x 20.02.83 Freiston Shore 2504 km SW

The above two birds were found as the result of the auk wreck that occurred after the violent weather. Only 8 foreign-ringed Razorbills have previously been found in Britain. The above are the first from Iceland and the second from Norway to be found in Britain. See also map opposite.



Map Showing Origins of Auks Recovered during the 'Wreck'



Cuckoo

- 3 03.08.80 Gibraltar Point
 v 08.05.83 Great Saltee, Wexford,
 IRELAND 484 km WSW

Short-eared Owl

- 4 23.04.83 Gibraltar Point
 x 05.06.83 Louberg, Vasterbotten, SWEDEN
 1562 km NE

Swallow

- 4F 02.09.82 Skegness
 x 27.03.83 Nr. Maclear, Cape Province,
 S. AFRICA 9750 km SSE
 3 05.09.80 Skegness
 [/] 13.04.83 Selonan, Nador, MOROCCO
 2020 km S
 3 20.09.80 Donna Nook
 [/] 22.01.83 Sidi Lazreg, Oran, ALGERIA
 1980 km S

The last Swallow recovery listed above is relatively unusual for few Swallows winter as far north as Algeria, and its rather late ringing date suggests a northern origin.

Yellow Wagtail

- 4 26.08.83 Potteric Carr, Doncaster
 v 07.09.83 Ancaster 68 km SSE

Wren

- 3 12.08.81 Peakes Coverts, Grimsby
 x 13.07.83 Northwich, Cheshire 172 WSW
 3 26.11.82 Moulso Old Wood, Bedfordshire
 v 15.09.83 Gibraltar Point 133 km NE

These are unusually large movements for British Wrens.

Robin

- 3 01.10.82 Store Faerder, NORWAY
 v 09.04.83 Theddlethorpe 897 km SW
 4 30.03.81 Helgoland, W. GERMANY
 v 09.10.82 Gibraltar Point 514 km W
 3 23.10.82 Gibraltar Point
 x 30.10.83 Rotterdam,
 NETHERLANDS 310 km ESE

Blackbird

	<i>Ringed in Lincs and found elsewhere</i>	<i>Ringed elsewhere found in Lincs</i>
Norway	2	2
Sweden	2	—
Denmark	2	—
W. Germany	2	1
Netherlands	2	1
Spain	2	—
Scotland	1	—
Ireland	1	—

Song Thrush

- 3 03.10.80 Gibraltar Point
 + 06.12.81 Arriate, Malaga,
 SPAIN 1061 km SSW
 3 03.10.81 Theddlethorpe
 x 23.10.83 Panillac, Gironde,
 FRANCE 911 km S
 5 14.01.82 North Slob, Wexford, IRELAND
 v 13.08.83 Deeping St. James 418 km E

Sedge Warbler

- 3 05.08.81 Wrangle
 v 01.09.82 St. Seurin D'Uzet,
 FRANCE 840 km S

Blackcap

- 5M 19.06.83 Temple Wood, Bourne
 v 24.06.83 Skelton-in-Cleveland 194 km N
 3M 03.07.82 Bridgewater, Somerset
 v 10.09.82 Theddlethorpe 336 km NW
 3M 08.09.82 Theddlethorpe
 x 24.04.83 Al Hadath, Beirut,
 LEBANON 3543 km SE

The first two Blackcap recoveries above show unusual northward movements in the same summer. The last is only the seventh British-ringed Blackcap to be found in Lebanon.

Willow Warbler

- 3 29.08.82 Gibraltar Point
 x 12.09.82 Burgo de Osma, Soria, SPAIN
 1305 km S
 3 16.07.83 Ancaster
 v 22.08.83 La Fougeraie, Sark, Channel
 Islands 413 km SSW

In the last five years over 7,200 Willow Warblers have been ringed in Lincolnshire and the Spanish recovery above is only the second foreign recovery. This highlights the very poor recovery rates for the smaller passerines.

Goldcrest

- 3M 27.09.81 Utsira, Rogaland, NORWAY
 v 18.04.82 Theddlethorpe 718 km SSW
 3F 25.09.83 Skegness
 v 07.10.83 Moerbeke, Oost Vlaanderen,
 BELGIUM 327 km SE
 3M 02.10.83 Gibraltar Point
 v 28.11.83 Sinaai, Oost Vlaanderen,
 BELGIUM 333 km SE

An excellent year for this species, the Norwegian-ringed bird is only the sixth for Britain.

Starling

	<i>Ringed in Lincs and found elsewhere</i>	<i>Ringed elsewhere found in Lincs</i>
W. Germany	1	—
E. Germany	1	—
Estonia	2	1
U.S.S.R.	1	—
Sweden	2	—
Ireland	1	—

Chaffinch

- 5F 29.08.82 Gibraltar Point
 [/] 15.12.83 Galway, IRELAND 625 km W

Brambling

- 5M 08.03.81 Temple Wood, Bourne
 v 25.10.82 Brecht, Antwerpen,
 BELGIUM 383 km ESE

Linnet

- 3M 04.10.79 Gibraltar Point
 x 12.04.83 Graye-sur-mer, Calvados,
 FRANCE 422 km S

Reed Bunting

- 3F 02.10.83 Gibraltar Point
 v 04.12.83 Yffiniac, Cotes-du-Nord,
 FRANCE 555 km S

There have been only fourteen foreign recoveries of British ringed Reed Buntings; five of them to France.

Guidance for submitting records for the Annual Bird Report

This note could be subtitled 'the county recorder's moans'! The majority of the lists of records received for the Report are quite satisfactory in their format and content; however there are still a number of observers who submit non-conventional lists. This simply means more work for me and more chance of odd records being missed. Others may over-summarise – very rare – or not include all the information which they could. Everyone is reminded also that the very last date for acceptance of records every year is January 31st.

Records should be submitted in standard species order (that followed in the Bird Report systematic list), with records of each species then listed chronologically, or chronologically by site names. They should NOT be sent in as a record from your diary, as this makes filing extremely tedious. It may take you a couple of hours longer, but 100 peoples' takes me 200 hours longer!

Here is a general idea of what I am looking for:

Great Crested Grebe: Zittering Pits 10-25 January to March with 63 on February 7th; 15 pairs bred rearing 28 young; 10-40 again August-December. Dampweed Fen, 7 on April 8th.

Slavonian Grebe: Zittering Pits, 1 October 6th.

Fulmar: Rocky Point 1-5 on 5 dates in July; 77 north in a NW gale on August 2nd. One inland at Zittering pits May 6th.

and so on.

As a county we are sadly lacking in reports of breeding birds, most noticeable with the scarcer species. Nightjar is only regularly reported from one wood – is it only breeding at one site? How are we to know without other records? It is also noticeable with less rare species, e.g. Tree Pipit and Common Tern. Even our Sand Martin colonies are not documented. Please do not assume that whatever the record, someone else is sending it in; it is better to receive it 5 times than not at all.

And what happens to all the things which you send in which don't appear in the Bird Report? Why bother to send them in if they are not going to be used? Well obviously with several species there is just too much information each year to be put into the Report so most is summarised and some left out. However all that left out is filed with the other information and kept; it is not just thrown away, and is thus just as important.

And so to rarities and semi-rarities. There appears to be a widespread reluctance to submit a description of these birds which is very disappointing. All the species listed over and those considered by British Birds Rarities Committee are of rare occurrence in the county. Their publication is an endorsement of the record which other authorities then accept. Thus it is only right that the observer should prove by way of a description that he or she has made a correct identification before the record can be accepted. If people are in any way conscientious it should after all only be a case of copying your field description from a notebook onto a sheet of paper and adding any sketches etc. It is certainly no good trying to come up with a description at the end of December of a bird which you saw in May if you didn't make any notes at the time. So often I get the same reply; "Yes but I know what a Temminck's Stint looks like, you don't want a description of one of them do you?" The fact that it was nearly a mile away in torrential rain does tend to make a difference to seeing it at 30 feet in bright sunlight but how is the Records Committee supposed to know which it was? So please, if you see one of the following get a description down at the time then copy it out as soon as possible afterwards. It only takes a little time to do and it will then be ready for the Report. Also if anyone finds a possible rarity which they would like some help with or would like confirmed, give me a ring at the time, NOT two weeks later and I will usually be able to get someone to come and help out.

Photographs of rarities: please send them to me with your descriptions whatever the quality. I will look after them and return them to you, and even a poor photo is often a clincher and confirms a description.

We produce what is generally considered to be a very prompt and informative Annual Bird Report but it is still open to improvement in content and quality. Please help us to make the 1984 Report even better than this one.

G. P. Catley

Species requiring descriptions in Lincolnshire/South Humberside

(a) All species considered by British Birds Rarities Committee. (Anything rarer than those listed below. If in doubt, take the description.)

(b) County rarities for consideration by the County Records Committee:

Great Northern Diver	Grey Phalarope
Cory's Shearwater	Long-tailed Skua
Great Shearwater	Sabine's Gull
Storm Petrel	Iceland Gull
Leach's Petrel	Roseate Tern
Purple Heron	Black Guillemot
White Stork	Ring-necked Parakeet
Mandarin (female)	Woodlark
Ferruginous Duck	Richard's Pipit
Honey Buzzard	Tawny Pipit
Red Kite	Yellow Wagtail (races other than flavissima and flava)
Montagu's Harrier	Dipper
Goshawk	Bluethroat
Rough-legged Buzzard	Cetti's Warbler
Golden Eagle	Savi's Warbler
Peregrine	Aquatic Warbler
Spotted Crake	Melodious Warbler
Corncrake	Yellow-browed Warbler
Stone Curlew	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Kentish Plover	Raven
Dotterel (autumn)	Scarlet Rosefinch
Temminck's Stint	Girl Bunting
Pectoral Sandpiper	Ortolan Bunting
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Serin
Red-necked Phalarope	

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