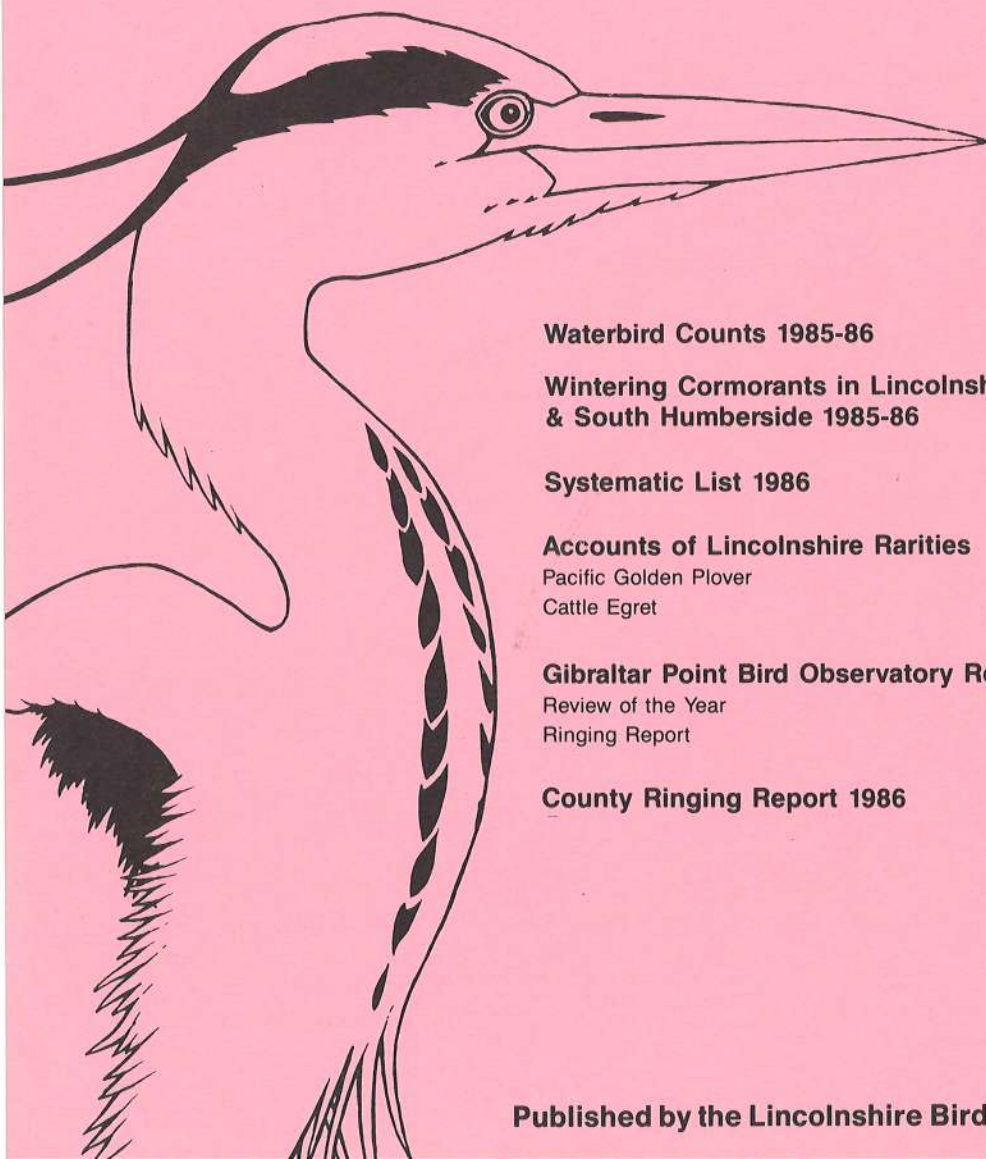


LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD REPORT 1986

Including the Gibraltar Point Observatory Report



Waterbird Counts 1985-86

**Wintering Cormorants in Lincolnshire
& South Humberside 1985-86**

Systematic List 1986

Accounts of Lincolnshire Rarities

Pacific Golden Plover

Cattle Egret

Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory Report

Review of the Year

Ringling Report

County Ringing Report 1986

Published by the Lincolnshire Bird Club

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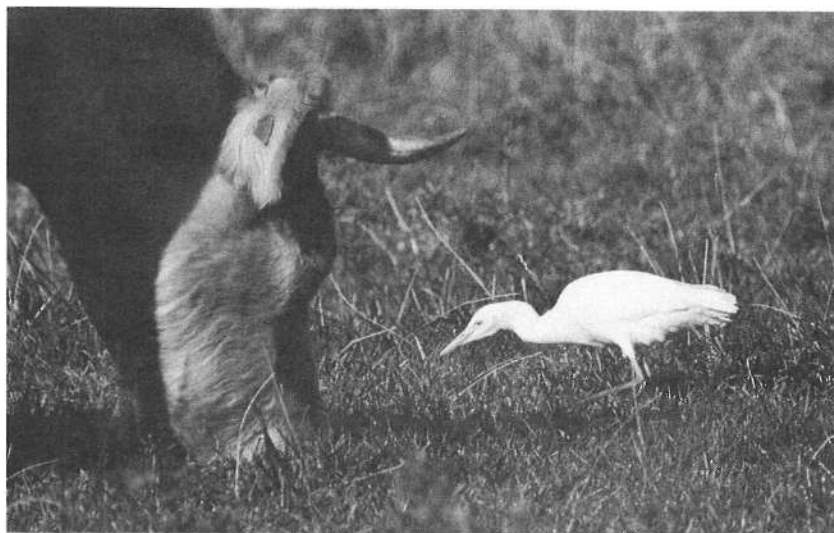
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Cattle Egret at North Hykeham (K. Atkin)

Waterbird Counts 1985-86

During the winter of 1985-86 twenty-three observers counted birds on 30 waters, 21 of these being covered in at least six months from September to March.

Weather up to the end of October was mainly mild, turning cooler towards the end of the month. Light frosts from 11th-14th November produced thin ice round the edges of some waters on 14th. Mild, damp weather returned until the end of the year. A cold airstream on 28th brought snow showers and several waters were frozen over on 29th. January produced mainly wet and windy weather with snow on 8th-9th. Wet and windy conditions returned until February 5th after which there was continuous frost to 28th, with many waters completely frozen over. Cool weather in early March lasted until 7th, turning warmer thereafter.

Thanks are due to all the counters who provided records for the Wildfowl Counts in Lincolnshire and South Humberside.

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

John Redshaw

Table 1 - Monthly Waterbird Totals 1985-86

Species	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Little Grebe	3	5	4	3	1	5	5
Great-Crested Grebe	62	78	45	33	42	26	80
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cormorant	-	2	10	24	12	23	19
Mute Swan	156	261	464	285	258	229	188
Bewick's Swan	-	-	2	-	122	23	30
Whooper Swan	-	-	-	1	-	4	-
Bean Goose	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pink-footed Goose	-	-	-	132	34	20	2
Greylag Goose	130	259	609	302	142	428	150
Canada Goose	876	1096	147	581	863	431	365
Barnacle Goose	-	3	-	1	1	1	1
Egyptian Goose	3	-	3	3	-	-	1
Shelduck	2554	28	148	50	158	504	27
Wigeon	124	328	824	185	259	530	799
Gadwall	7	16	20	33	58	32	21
Teal	860	844	706	428	186	51	214
Mallard	2308	2310	2815	3927	3295	1875	910
Pintail	21	12	1	-	-	4	1
Shoveler	5	24	50	59	31	4	20
Red-crested Pochard	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pochard	31	124	446	618	520	1202	326
Tufted Duck	208	290	559	648	872	1136	729
Scaup	-	-	-	-	11	6	3
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	5	5	5	5	2
Common Scoter	-	-	18	-	-	-	-
Goldeneye	-	-	18	83	144	107	156
Smew	-	-	-	1	2	9	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	1	-	-	12	-
Goosander	-	-	17	16	9	58	45
Ruddy Duck	12	-	9	6	7	14	7
Moorhen	40	47	54	46	42	49	46
Coot	751	1858	3117	2775	2961	2722	1656
Waters Counted:	20	23	27	25	29	20	26

Table 2 - Waters Counted in 1985-86

<i>Bird Club Area</i>	<i>Grid Square</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Months Counted</i>											
SE	TF10/22	R. Welland, Spalding - Borough Fen	S	O	N	D	J	F	M					
SE	TF22	Coronation Channel, Spalding	-	-	N	D	J	F	M					
SE	TF24/34	Sth. Forty Foot Drain, Boston	S	O	N	D	J	F	M					
SW	SK83	Denton Reservoir	S	O	N	D	J	F	M					
SW	TF02	Grimsthorpe Lake	S	O	N	D	J	F	M					
SW	TF10	The Mere, Deeping St. James	-	-	-	D	J	F	M					
SW	TF11	Baston Fen N.R.	S	O	N	D	J	*	M					
SW	TF03	Culverthorpe Lake	-	O	N	-	J	-	M					
SW	TF10	Tallington Lakes (G.P.s)	-	-	N	D	J	F	M					
SW	TF11	Langtoft Common Pits	-	O	-	-	J	F	-					
SW	TF11	Langtoft West End Pits	-	O	N	D	J	F	M					
LW	TF04	Sleaford Ballast Pit	-	-	N	D	J	-	M					
LW	SK96	Whisby Pits	-	-	N	D	J	*	-					
E	TF58	Brickyard Pond, Sutton-on-Sea	S	O	N	-	J	-	M					
E	TF26	Kirkby-on-Bain Pits	S	O	N	D	J	F	M					
E	TF55	Gibraltar Point Mere	S	O	N	D	J	-	M					
E	TF57/58	Sea Bank Clay Pits	S	O	N	D	J	*	M					
UW	SK97	Riseholme Lake	S	O	N	D	J	*	M					
UW	SK98	Fillingham Lake	S	O	N	D	J	*	M					
UW	SK97	Brayford Pool	S	O	N	D	J	F	M					
UW	SK97	Burton Pits	S	O	N	-	J	F	M					
UW	TF07	R. Witham & South Delph	S	O	N	D	J	F	M					
UW	TF08	Toft Newton Reservoir	S	O	N	-	J	F	M					
NE	TF39	Covenham Reservoir	S	O	N	D	J	F	M					
NE	TA02	Barton-Barrow Clay Pits	S	-	N	D	J	F	M					
NE	SE92	Pudding Pie Sand (Humber)	S	-	-	D	J	F	-					
NW	SE92	Read's Island	S	O	N	D	J	F	-					
NW	SE90	Brigg Island Lake	S	O	N	D	-	*	M					
NW	SE91	Bagmoor Lake	-	O	N	D	J	F	M					
NW	SE90	Ashbyville	-	O	N	D	J	F	M					

- * water frozen over, no waterfowl present
 - no count



Bewick's Swan (K. Atkin)

Wintering Cormorants in Lincolnshire and South Humberside 1985-86

During the winter of 1985/86 the British Trust for Ornithology carried out a national survey of wintering Cormorants. The Cormorant is often blamed by those with an interest in fishing or fisheries for reducing fish numbers and damaging the fish stock by wounding, although neither has been objectively assessed. Until the introduction of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 the Cormorant was unprotected. Since that Act came into effect it has been necessary for those persons wishing to shoot Cormorants "to prevent them causing serious damage" to apply for a licence so to do. It was felt that a survey of wintering Cormorants was needed in order that conservation bodies could give advice on distribution and numbers of the species to the Government Licencing Authorities.

Unfortunately, survey coverage of sites in the county was not complete, and in order to provide as accurate an estimate of the county's Cormorant population level as possible, the data given in Table 1 also include counts subsequently obtained from other sources.

Table 1 Monthly Cormorant Totals, 1985-86

Site	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Reads Island	O	O	1	0	8	5	NC	NC
Grimsby Docks	17	NC	12	15	18	7	NC	NC
Cleethorpes	19	11	3	9	2	2	12	NC
Tetney	2	9	6	26	4	10	5	10
Saltfleetby+	4	3	9	15	10	4	13	NC
Gibraltar Point +	10	7	9	30	26	19	22	10
Freiston Shore	57	NC	NC	NC	34	29	NC	NC
Witham Mouth	20	40	52	26	43	45	29	10
Cadney Reservoir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Toft Newton Reservoir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Covenham Reservoir +	NC	10	3	14	20	18	5	NC
Trent (Torksey)	NC	19	21	21	21	21	21	NC
Total:	129	99	115	156	186	160	86	30
No. of Sites Counted:	10	10	11	11	12	12	9	5

+ = sites which were counted more than once in some months. In such cases the tabled count is that which occurred on the date nearest to the mid-month.

NC = not counted.

Other sites with significant counts during the winter were - Grainthorpe Haven 19 on 9th Oct; Gedney Drove End 45 on 13th; Butterwick 24 on 30th and Donna Nook 45 in November. No counts were received for Denton Reservoir, but references in Lincolnshire Bird Reports suggest that only very occasional records of 1-2 Cormorants are usual for that water.

No Cormorants were recorded at Toft Newton or Cadney Reservoirs, although both sites were visited in every month September - April, and none were seen at Barton during survey visits made in October, November, February and April. The bailiff at Toft Newton confirmed that there had been no Cormorants present during the 1985/86 winter (A L Goodall pers comm). The only published record of Cormorants at Toft Newton is of "occasional records of small numbers" in 1980. However, it seems that they may have been fairly regular in small numbers prior to the reservoir being cleaned in 1982 (A L Goodall pers comm). Since this reservoir is stocked for fly-fishing the recent lack of Cormorant records seems surprising. Concerning Cadney, there are past records of "one or two occasionally" in 1979 and "occasional reports of small numbers" in 1980, whilst in 1981 there were "7 in Jan and 11 on 7th Dec". There were no further published records 1982-85.

At Barton-Barrow Pits 2-10 Cormorants were present daily from September to April (GP Catley pers comm). Birds from the upper Humber gather from 2-3 hours before dusk on a lightship off Chowder Ness, where peak counts were 19 in the 1984/85 winter, 14 in 1985/86. All birds fly off in a north-easterly direction at dusk, possibly heading for the roost at Hornsea Mere c 15 miles away. (GP Catley pers comm).

The tabled counts for Covenham Reservoir, Gibraltar Point and Saltfleetby are the mid-month counts. Although these sites were often counted more than once per month, there are in general no counts significantly higher than those tabled, though at Covenham there were two counts of 28 and 29 Cormorants in early and late December respectively, compared to the tabled count of 10 birds.

Given that there were likely to be small numbers of Cormorants scattered along the coast which remained uncounted, it seems reasonable to suggest an average population of between 170 and 200 during the winter. However, individual birds may move up to 100 km during the winter season (G M Dunnet in Lack 1986) and numbers will therefore vary both between and within winter periods.

The wintering Cormorant population of Britain is believed to be "almost certainly native". It has therefore been estimated that, since around 8,000 pairs of Cormorants breed in Britain and Ireland, the total wintering population is likely to be some 20,000-25,000 birds (G M Dunnet). So it seems that the Cormorants wintering in Lincolnshire represented very approximately 1% of the national total in 1985/86.

Unfortunately, published counts of Cormorants in the county from previous winters are too incomplete to allow detailed comparison of the 1985/86 winter's apparent population level to that of past winters. Those counts published for various sites seem to indicate a considerable increase in Cormorant numbers in the county from the late 1960's, when highest single counts (from any site) were of 17 birds in '67, 15 in '68 and 12 in '69, to the mid 1970's when highest single counts were of 60 birds in '73, 38 in '74, 57 in '75 and 85 in '76. During the last decade numbers seem generally to have been maintained at similar levels to the mid 1970's. There are two extraordinarily high counts, of 146 and a massive 304 Cormorants at the Witham Mouth in January 1983, reported in that year's Lincolnshire Bird Report. Such numbers are very unusual and do not reflect the numbers regularly counted at that site (K Heath, pers comm), but may represent birds gathering early in the morning before moving up the R. Witham, possibly to fish the fenland drains (M Davies pers comm) or a pre-roost gathering in the evening (G.P. Catley pers comm).

Grateful thanks are due to all the observers who took part in the BTO survey, and to M Davies, GP Catley, A L Goodall, K Heath, C Trollope, J Walker, R Watson and K Wilson for supplying further information.

Ian G. Shepherd

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T. & A.D. Poyser, 1986



Cormorant at Covenham Reservoir (K. Atkin)

Systematic List 1986

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Species accounts written by

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Review of the year

1986 was an excellent year for variety and numbers of several species in the county with two species added to the county list and a number of notable rarities recorded.

The early winter period was again enlivened by some very hard weather in February which produced an influx of wildfowl and grebes from the more severely affected Continent. Divers were in generally low numbers, and remained so all year, but 8 Red-necked Grebes arrived late January - February along with another good influx of Smew and Goosanders, 6 Bean Geese, large numbers of Wigeon and Scaup and at least 5 Rough-legged Buzzards in the early year. A large flock of diving duck is now wintering regularly off the grain jetty at New Holland in the Humber and peak counts showed 520 Pochard, 300 Tufted and 209 Goldeneye there with up to 47 Scaup. There was a small scale oiling incident in the early winter with several auks found dead on the tideline along with waders killed by the freezing February temperatures. Sea watching was productive with 2 Pomarine Skuas, at least 90 Little Gulls and a dark Fulmar in February while at least 10 different Glaucous Gulls were found in January.

The early spring revealed a welcome increase in Sand Martin numbers over the low of 1985 but few birds of note, the exceptions being a Spotted Crake in early April, a pair of displaying Mediterranean Gulls from late March to mid April, 2 Spoonbills and the third county Green-winged Teal. In contrast May and June produced a host of overshooting migrants with the highlights being: 2 Little Egrets, 2 more Spoonbills and 2 White Storks, in a superb 'heron' year, 4 Honey Buzzards, a Red-footed Falcon, the first Black-winged Stilt since 1969, 2 Red-necked Phalaropes, the second ever Short-toed Lark, Savi's and Marsh Warbler and the third county Scarlet Rosefinch. On the breeding front to our debit no Marsh Harriers nested successfully and no Garganey were found but a pair of Woodlarks bred again as did Ruddy Ducks, with others displaying, a pair each of Siskins and Gadwall were proved to breed and at least 3 pairs of Black Redstarts made a welcome return.

A pair of Black-necked Grebes showed promising signs and Sparrowhawks continued to increase in breeding season sightings if not proven breeding but Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers were much reduced, in the north of the county at least, by the severe winter.

Late summer saw a good return passage of many waders from later July, Curlew Sandpipers and Little Stints being scarce however throughout the autumn. Caught up in the movements were three 'class' waders with the chief amongst them the first county Pacific Golden Plover, joined briefly by an American Golden, and both in summer plumage as was a superb Long-billed Dowitcher which made an extended stay. Another notable county second in July was a male Sardinian Warbler which was trapped and then proceeded like its predecessor to summer in the appealing Gibraltar Point Buckthorn! August was generally poor for rarities but another Spotted Crake, Red-necked Phalarope and Marsh Warbler occurred as did a single Icterine Warbler.

Seawatching was certainly not as productive overall as in 1985 but odd days stood out well with 121 Fulmars on August 8th, and 180 September 9th, 60 Little Gulls and Long-tailed Skua on September 28th, 239 Gannets, 3 Long-tailed Skuas, 15 Pominaries on October 26th and a superb selection of birds over the two days November 1-2nd with on 1st, 2,000 Kittiwakes, 17 Pomarine Skuas and 100 Bonxies then on 2nd at least 800 and probably 1,000 Little Auks, 360 Common Scoter, 30+ Red-breasted Merganser and thousands of Dunlin and Starlings caught up in the movements.



Little Auks at Huttoft, November 2nd 1986 (M.J. Tarrant)

Waders were unremarkable after August but 'herons' compensated in the later autumn with the first county Cattle Egret, a Night Heron and the first county juvenile Purple Heron lingering through November before being found dead. On the coast it was a bumper late September-early October with 2 Arctic Warblers to the fore, another superb influx of at least 22 Yellow-browed Warblers and 9 Red-breasted Flycatchers, a juvenile Dotterel adding further spice, and one of the few Great Grey Shrikes of the year.

Winter thrushes were again late in arriving in bulk with few before late November when a good influx occurred along with several thousand Lapwing, at least 48 Long-eared Owls, the best autumn since 1975, a few '*tristis*' Chiffchaffs, one staying to winter, and the precursor to a welcome influx of Waxwings in early 87 being the 7 recorded in late December.

Species showing continuing increases in sightings throughout the year were headed, quite surprisingly by three raptors. Merlins were recorded in all months but June and July, Hobby with even more records than 1985 but still no proof of breeding and Peregrine with at least three birds wintering in the two winters; a very welcome sign and providing some memorable birdwatching. Species which were scarce in 1986 included Long-tailed Duck, Dotterel with just 9 birds in spring, Great Grey Shrike and Hooded Crow, neither showing any sign of a recovery in numbers, Barn Owl and Stonechat both still on the decline and an almost total absence in spring and autumn passage of Goldcrests with a similar decrease in many breeding sites.

So on the whole some ups and some downs but all in all a very good years birdwatching in the county and a continuing increase in observer coverage and hence improvement in quality of the annual Report.

Graham P. Catley.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Generally low coastal numbers in the early winter with maxima of 10 north Saltfleetby January 5th and 11 south 18th, 18 south there February 22nd (2 hours) and 31 off Saltfleet March 8th with 13 Tetney 16th. In April 52 south at Gibraltar Point 1st and 40 on 3rd with the last 2 north off Huttoft 19th. First of the autumn were at Trusthorpe 1st September and 4 Theddlethorpe 2nd with a general arrival from 14th and maxima of 11 south Saltfleetby 24th and 20 Gibraltar Point 28th. In October off Huttoft there were 20 on 16th and 18 north, 5 south 26th, with 18 at Gibraltar Point 2nd, 24 on 12th and 11 on 26th then 15 there November 2nd, and on the same day 18 at Donna Nook and 22 north off Huttoft. December numbers were all less than 20 except 25 north off Theddlethorpe 21st and 34 Gibraltar Point 31st. One flew east on the Humber at Goxhill on October 7th.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

In the early part of the year singles were noted at Grimsby N Wall January 18th and February 8th and on the R Witham at Kirkstead Bridge 27th then in March off Trusthorpe and Gibraltar Point both on 9th. Unusually one flew north off Saltfleetby on June 8th in summer plumage (ACS). One was seen at Saltfleetby on October 26th with 2 there November 30th and 2 Gibraltar Point 2nd with one 15th and finally one flew north off Huttoft December 31st.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

At least 2 different birds were seen off Huttoft on October 26th (PH,ACS,RKN).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Notable early winter gatherings were 10 at Ashbyville February 11th with 13 Barton-Barrow Haven 11-13th. Autumn maxima were at Barton-on-Humber Pits 10 on September 30th and 11 Barton-Barrow Haven October 26th with 10 Saltfleetby 5th and 8 Toft Newton 14th then 10 Tetney November 13th and in December 12 Barton-Barrow Haven 14th, 11 Saltfleetby 14th and 9 Tetney 12th.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Up to 10 at a number of localities with maxima of 19 Covenham Res January 1st, 12 West Deeping February 2nd, 30 Tallington Pits 9th, 18 Apex Pit 8th and 19 at Denton Res April 26th with 10 off Freiston Shore May 8th. Breeding records included 10-11 pairs on the South Humberside Pits with low success, 8 pairs rearing 11 + juvs at Denton Reservoir and single pairs at the following new or little used sites; Fulstow Pit, North Somercotes Lido, Belleau trout farm, Sutton Ings Pit. None bred at Messingham where the year's maximum was only 3 birds. Notable concentrations in autumn-winter included 16 Covenham Res July 3rd, 17 Dogdyke-Bardney Lock (R Witham) 30th, 15 Witham Mouth August 16th increasing to 85 October 15th, 20 Whisby Pits November 8th and a decline again to 16 at the Witham Mouth December 6th.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

A good early winter influx with singles in January at Covenham Res 8-10th then February 2nd and 8-12th, Barton-on-Humber Pits 8-9th, Witham Mouth 8th (picked up exhausted), Cadney Res 9th, Ashbyville 8-11th, Cleethorpes 13-16th and Holbeach St Marks 28th with one Covenham Res March 2-31st and one Donna Nook 16th.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

One was seen at Covenham Res January 9th with 2 at Holywell Lake February 17th and one found dead at Butterwick March 9th. One was again at Covenham Res September 14th with December singles at Langtoft Pits and off Huttoft Bank both on 21st.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Singles in breeding plumage were at Covenham Res April 12th and 23rd with 3 in display at Whisby Pits from May 24-June 4th. A juv was at Covenham Res August 8-20th with another bird there September 23-27th and finally one at Huttoft Pits December 13th into 1987.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

3 were seen at Gibraltar Point on January 3rd with one there February 14th and 2 north off Huttoft on 2nd including a dark phase bird. Birds became more regular offshore from March onwards with some unusually pronounced movements in June including 20 north and 10 south at Donna Nook 5th, 15 Saltfleetby 8th and 10 16th, 10 off Huttoft 15th, 12 east at Terrington 15th, one up the Humber at Goxhill Haven 20th and one found exhausted on the sea wall at Holbeach on 22nd. An albino bird was seen off Huttoft on June 29th. Autumn movements were generally small with less than 20 birds per day but 121 flew south at Saltfleetby August 8th and in September 80 south off Huttoft 3rd and 180 north at Saltfleetby 9th. In the Wash 12 were at the Witham Mouth August 16th and 4 September 7th with 2 west off Holbeach Marsh also 7th. Two flew down the Humber off Goxhill Haven on August 9th and one flew over the town at Grimsby on 18th.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

A very poor year with just 6 records. One flew north at Saltfleetby on August 23rd (GPC) then in September at the Inner Dowsing there were singles 12th and 16th with 2 on 15th (PL) and 2 flew north off Huttoft 3rd (MM). At Gibraltar Point 2 flew north on October 26th (SK).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Birds seen from the Inner Dowsing were as follows; 2 May 22nd with 2 on 25th, 25+ June 5th and singles 6th and 7th, one July 20th and 2 on 24th, 4 August 1st, 2 on 7th and 4 8th, 3 September 16th. On the coast June records came from Donna Nook 2 north 5th, one south 20th, Gibraltar Point one south 5th and Saltfleetby 13 south 16th with records there in July of 17 south 6th, one south 21st and one 25th; 2 south Donna Nook 29th, 2 west Tetney 21st

and 5 south off Huttoft 3rd. In August 3 at Witham Mouth 16th, singles Saltfleetby 8th and 10th, 2 north Gibraltar Point 27th and one south 28th, then in September 6 south off Huttoft 3rd, singles Saltfleetby 6th and 24th and at Gibraltar Point 3 north 7th, 22 north 8th and 5 north 26th. Then 2 south, 3 north there October 26th when 4 flew south at Saltfleetby and 6 north, 7 south off Huttoft. Late birds in November were at Goxhill Haven, one west on 2nd and off Huttoft singles north and south 1st, and 2 south 15th.

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

A marked movement on October 4th produced three records but perhaps less than 3 birds with singles at Saltfleetby (G. Sellors), Theddlethorpe one south (KW) and off Huttoft also south (KA,PH). One resting apparently exhausted at Messingham Pits on October 10th from 0900 to 1300 eventually flew off strongly to the north-west (JTH,CJ,RNH).



Leach's Petrel at Messingham (J.T. Harriman)

Gannet *Sula bassana*

On the coast up to 20 birds per day noted from March 16th onwards with more notable numbers as follows: in June 30 at Saltfleetby 8th then 43 north there July 13th and 40 north, 60 south August 23rd with 38 north at Gibraltar Point 22nd. Highest counts were made in October with 75+ at the Witham Mouth 5th, then on 26th 121 south at Saltfleetby 0900-1200 and 239 south off Huttoft 06.45-14.00. There were an unusual number of records right through November with 36 north off Huttoft on 2nd and 21 north Gibraltar Point also 2nd then in December off Saltfleet 3 north 7th and one 23rd and off Huttoft 11+ 7th one south 20th and 3 on 31st. In the Humber there were 6 east off Goxhill Haven September 11th and 7 west 23rd with an adult west at East Halton Skitter November 1st.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Tetney	?	?	20	10	9	4	5	12	?	?	?	?
Covenham Res	38	36	20	?	1	12	-	-	-	-	-	28
Gibraltar Point	25—	30	25—	30	8	4	3	20	30	30	20	33
Witham Mouth	72	65	31	34	16	12	4	36	32	51	20	31
Freiston Shore	35	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31

A roost at Torskey contained 20 birds on January 5th and in the Humber the maximum at Barton-on-Humber was 14 March 8th. Twenty flew north at Saltfleetby February 22nd and 23 north there March 29th. At Gibraltar Point 24 flew south August 27th and 19 south at Saltfleetby September 24th with 14 north October 11th. Off Huttoft 42 moved south on November 2nd.

Inland there were occasional records of 1-3 birds in February-June and August-October at Bardney Lock, Lincoln, Apex Pit, Thorpe Pits, Swanpool, Snipe Dales, Denton Res and Cadney Res.

Birds claimed as showing characteristics of the race *P.c.sinensis* were seen as follows; Barrow Haven February 18th, Barton-on-Humber March 2nd, Covenham Res 4 on 1st and one 13-14th, Witham Mouth 3 on 16th and singles Tetney and Saltfleetby 29th then in April Covenham Res 18th and Grainthorpe 26th.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

One was at Saltfleetby on January 5th then in February 2 at the Witham Mouth 8th and one at Boston Lock gates 11-27th. One was found dead at the Nene Mouth on March 9th and singles were seen from the Inner Dowsing on June 8th and July 31st. In October one was seen at Gibraltar Point 5th and one flew south off Huttoft 26th with finally 2 inland at Cadney Res on December 16th.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Birds still present from December 1985 included one at Lincoln Ballast Pit to January 9th and one at Messingham still there in early March but then found dead. Singles were seen at Barton-on-Humber Pits from January 21-28th and February 25-March 9th and one was present at Burton Pits on March 5-6th, feeding by a manure hill when all the water areas were frozen over.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

A second winter bird was present in the Goxhill/East Halton area from at least October 8-12th (DAR, GB, JM).

Accepted by BBRC and the 5th accepted County record with previously one in May, 2 November and one December-January. *An adult at the same site in June 1983 and included in the 1983 Report was not submitted to BBRC and is excluded from the totals.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

One at Manor Farm North Hykeham Lincoln, roosting at Apex Pit from October 12-26th (RCa, MDa et al) forms the first accepted County record. See description. Accepted by BBRC.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

One was seen at Chapel Pit on May 25th (P Sims et al) with possibly the same bird at Gibraltar Point later the same day (P I Andrews). A second bird was seen at Tetney/North Cotes from June 29-July 2nd (HB, GKB, AB et al).

There are 11 previous County records all since 1966 with 4 in May (5 birds), 4 June, 2 July, one September. (5 in 1970 and 3 in 1973). Tetney/North Cotes bird accepted by BBRC, other records UC by BBRC.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Heronry counts;

Abbey Wood	44	Kingerby Wood	2	Evedon Wood	27
Howsham Wood	7	Muckton Wood	26	The Mere	
Laughton Forest		Willoughby Wood	17	Deeping St. James	77
Tuetoes Wood	13	Gatecliff Wood	18	Hospital Wood	
Laughton Forest		Old Hag Wood	19	Holbeach	5
Village	11	Troy Wood	52		

Total 318

At Gibraltar Point 16 flew south-west July 2nd and there were 12 on August 3rd, maximum at Tetney being 12 in May.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

A juvenile/first winter bird at Deeping St. Nicholas from November 6-30th was eventually found dead, (RH, KH, SK, ACS et al). The first county record of an actual juvenile and the latest ever with 14 previous records of 15 birds, 2 April, 8 May, one June and 2 July-September, 11 of these since 1970.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

2 birds were present following silage cutters at Holbeach Hurn on June 9-10th (KH et al). Six previous records of 8 birds with one April, one April-June, one of 3 in May, 2 June and one November-December. Last recorded in 1983.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

In late April an adult flew south at North Cotes on 22nd (IGS) and was present at Grainthorpe Haven from 23-27th (MM, RN, PH et al) while another adult was seen on Goxhill Marsh from 22-26th (DAR, GPC et al). One was present at Gibraltar Point from May 8-16th (DRB, MRC, VMH et al) and one flew north high overhead at North Somercotes on 26th (PJW). Another bird was again at Gibraltar Point on July 21st (G Clem).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Deeping High Bank	106	44	31	-	-	-	-	-	80	167	254	171

Other large flocks were on Lea Marsh, maximum 39 January 16th and at West Deeping, 69 March 2nd.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

In January-March 1-3 birds were at North Somercotes, Donna Nook, Saltfleet, Saltfleetby and Covenham Res with 5 at Sleaford Ballast Pit January 25th and 6 Barton-on-Humber 8th. One at Cleethorpes remained from January 12th to April 17th and the flock at Lea Marsh increased from 1 January 15th to 48 18th and 66 25th, peaking at 79 February 23rd to March 11th, after which there was a gradual decrease to 24 March 16th, 21 21st and 4 22-23rd. Other large flocks in this period were up to 13 at East Butterwick to February 3rd when they moved to Messingham; up to 15 here to March 22nd, with 1 remaining all summer until November 6th; 10 at Amcotts March 10-16th, 42 Winteringham 17th and 12 a mile north of Caenby Corner on 2nd. In the south of the county 119 flew south-east over Cowbit Wash January 18th with 18 there March 7th, 29 15th; there were 28 at the Welland Mouth January 1st, 19 south-west at the Nene Mouth 18th, 35 at Holbeach St. Marks 26-28th and 17 Lutton Marsh February 9th. Deeping High Bank had 20 February 15th, 30 March 15th, and there were 12 on the River Welland near Spalding March 2nd. April records were 1 Saltfleet 1st, 4 West Deeping 4th, 2 Deeping High Bank 13th with 2 Tetney same date and 1 there 16-19th; a single also at Donna Nook on 19th.

First of the autumn were 6 at Saltfleetby October 24th, and 4 west at New Waltham 27th. Inner Dowsing recorded singles on November 11th and 13th, 5 16th, with 15 Grainthorpe Haven 22nd, 19 south at Lutton Outmarsh 27th. Southerly movements were recorded in December at Gibraltar Point, 8 14th, and at Huttoft Pit, 16 6th, 8 7th, 5 31st, with 2 there 13-14th, 4 on 26th. Five at Lea Marsh on 13th had increased to 48 (including 13 juvs) by 24th and remained to the year's end; 5 were at Messingham 6-10th with 3 remaining into 1987, and 2 were at Holbeach St Marks on 29th.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

In January 13 were at Gibraltar Point on 1st, 1 Deeping High Bank 2nd, 12 Humberston 9th with 1 13th, 1 Lea Marsh 15-16th and 4 West Deeping Pits 17th. None were then reported for a month until 4 arrived at Barton-on-Humber Pits February 18th, 2 at Sutton-on-Sea 19-20th and 2 were at Tattershall Pits from 22nd to March 2nd. Also in March, 2 were at Amcotts 10-21st and 1 Baston Fen 17th, with a notable flock of 39 at Covenham Res April 2nd (KW) but only 2 there 11th and the last of the spring, 1 Torksey 22-26th and a 1st winter bird on Hatfield Levels 16-25th.

First autumn birds were 1 at Ashbyville October 12th, 2 south Saltfleetby 19th, with southerly passage at Gibraltar Point of 9 birds on 20th, 3 25th, 17 31st, continuing into November with 12 2nd, 2 6th, 9 8th, 1 15th. Also in November 6 flew south at Covenham Res 2nd, 6 at Chapel Point 3rd and 9 at Tetney 17th, with the same 9 seen at Covenham Res the same day. In December 3 flew south at Gibraltar Point on 1st, 12 7th; 2 south-east Butterwick Marsh 6th, 27 north at Leasingham 14th (CJJ), 5 south at Covenham Res 21st with 2 at Theddlethorpe on 23rd and 2 Messingham 26th.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Of 6 birds at Tattershall Pits on February 27th, 5 showed characteristics of the tundra race *A.f. rossicus*, the 6th resembling typical *A.f. fabalis*. (ACS)

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Largest numbers in the year were around the Wash, with 750 Holbeach St Marks January 1st, 150 there 28th; 55 south Gibraltar Point 1st, 40 at Butterwick Marsh 4th and 50 Surfleet 15th. In February 100 flew west at Swineshead on 7th, 320 were at Holbeach Hurn and 80 at Gedney Dyke 9th and 150 Frampton Marsh 13th. The only reports from the Humber were of 86 west at Barton-on-Humber 8th, 46 north-west at North Cotes 11th and 34 south at Donna Nook/ Saltfleet 25th. Inland 150 flew west at Sleaford February 5th, 235 on 13th. In March 4 were at Wainfleet 17th, 3 Huttoft Pit 16-23rd, with 2 Covenham Res 18th. A single at Holywell Lake June 16th was most probably an escape.

First autumn birds were 1 at Gibraltar Point September 12th, 5 south on 13th, but October records came only from the Humber with 40 at Winteringham on 2nd, increasing to 200 by mid-November, and 80 at Cleethorpes 22nd. Passage resumed at Gibraltar Point in November with 120 south 2nd, 84 east 20th, 175 west 27th, and other large movements were 128 south at Sutton Ings 15th, 110 south-east at Cleethorpes 17th, 206 east Frampton Marsh 19th, and 200 west at Cleethorpes, 190 south-west at Barton-on-Humber all on 27th; 140 south-west at the latter site December 10th. In December the largest flocks were on the Humber, with 830 Read's Island 20th, 750 Winteringham 31st and smaller numbers at Grainthorpe Marsh, 60 17th and Saltfleetby 38 20th. In the Wash there were 33 at Kirton Marsh 3rd, 280 Welland Mouth 16th and 45 north-east Holbeach St Marks 29th; 37 flew west at Thorpe Pits on 24th.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

In March there were 10 on Lea Marsh 17-18th and 7 at Huttoft Pits 22-24th. In November 16 flew north at Huttoft Bank 2nd, 2 east at Goxhill Haven 4th with 7 at Gibraltar Point the same day.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Up to 5 birds were reported from Burton Pits, Denton Res, Goxhill-Barton, Lea Marsh, Donna Nook, Huttoft, Covenham Res, Grainthorpe and Tetney. Covenham Res also had 15, March 18th and Denton Res up to 10 'wild' from March 8th to April 12th. Larger flocks were reported from Tattershall, 300 January 4-11th, West Deeping 138 March 2nd, Kirkby-on-Bain 253 November 23rd, with 30 at Gib Dec 6th and 40 Ingoldmels on 21st. The Messingham flock had 9 April 23rd, 34 August 17th, 40 November 7th, increasing to 50 December 10th.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

A blue phase adult was present at Messingham from 1985 to March 4th (GPC, CJ et al) and a white phase bird was at Gibraltar Point from May 14-18th.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Denton Res	339	268	50	-	-	-	-	54	105	400	420	357
Burton Pits	-	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	79	-
Chapel/Ingoldmels	225	175	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	350
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	35	35	-	-	165	255	128	25	-

Small numbers were widespread, with feral breeding on a number of waters throughout the county. Other larger flocks were reported from Barton-on-Humber, 41 west February 24th, 78 there September 4th, 130 17th and 100 east October 26th; Messingham 25 May 3rd, 150 November 7th; Cleethorpes 40-50 in September, with 40 at Snipe Dales on 2nd and 200 West Ashby December 21st. Westerly movements at Tetney included 48 June 8th, 23 10th and 34 13th, and breeding pairs were reported in May/June at Holland Fen, Baston Fen, Burgh-le-Marsh, Fiskerton Pits and Langworth Pits.

An adult of one of the smaller races, probably *B.c. richardi* (Cackling Canada) was seen flying south-west at New Holland on August 18th and at Barton-on-Humber Pits September 25-26th (GPC). It was later seen at Burton Pits November 8-9th (J. Rance) and verbally reported at Burton/Riseholme (Lincoln) in October-November. (Photograph G.P. Catley)

**Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis***

Probable 'wild' birds were 9 at New Holland, October 3rd, a first winter bird Covenham Res October 26th, 26 Apex Pits December 6th, 1 with Brents at Humberston December 18-24th and another, also with Brents, on Kirton Marsh 19th. Other records, more suggestive of escapees were 8, Chapel Lake/Ingoldmels from January 1st to February 4th with at least 8 again in December, and single birds at Ashbyville January 10th, Messingham from 15th to mid-June, Tetney February 26th, Holywell Lake 22-23rd and again June 4-16th, Deeping High Bank March 15th, Wolla Bank Pit May 3rd and Gibraltar Point 8-10th. In the autumn

one flew east with Canadas at Barton-on-Humber October 26th, and other single birds were reported from Ashbyville, Chapel Pits, Burton Pits, Kirkby-on-Bain Pits and Denton Res.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes/Humberston	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	50	-	100
Tetney/North Cotes	1000	-	1000	26	47	1	-	-	-	400	250	300
Donna Nook/Saltfleet	1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1780	850
Saltfleetby	350	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	2	20	-	39
Gibraltar Point/Wainfleet	3800	500	-	-	530	-	-	-	50	300	1200	200
Friskney	3500	-	-	275	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrangle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-3335
Leverton/Butterwick	2000	-	2000	350	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-3900
Freiston	-	-	1500	1450	1000	-	-	8	-	-	-	-
Witham Mouth	3000	1950	1000	500	300	-	-	-	342	3500	875	1000
Frampton	-	3000	1000	-	750	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kirton	-	2000	2000	2000	2000	-	-	1	1	500	800	1100
Holbeach	2000	2500	700	1100	1000	4	3	-	120	1000	800	1300
Terrington	-	-	-	1500	1200	10	-	-	96	-	-	-

Other notable flocks early in the year were 280 Gedney Drove End January 12th, 750 April 13th, with 1 inland at Deeping High Bank April 12th. On the Humber there were 37 Grainthorpe Haven May 10th, 35 14th, 6 16th with 3 at Donna Nook 23rd, 1 north 25th and the last singles at Saltfleetby June 1st, Tetney 3rd. On the Wash Holbeach Marsh still had 1000 May 22nd, 4 June 29th, and there were 10 Nene Mouth 1st, 3 15th, with birds present at Gibraltar Point on 9 days in June, max 5 24th. Small numbers were present in the Wash in summer, including 3 Holbeach July 12th, 8 Freiston Shore August 9th, 12 Witham Mouth 17th, 11 26th and 1 Kirton Marsh August 20th - September 16th. Gibraltar Point recorded birds on 4 days each in July and August, max 3 July 17th, 4 August 7th. First autumn birds in the Humber were 1 North Cotes September 21st, with 6 north at Saltfleetby 24th, 8 north Huttoft 26th. In the Wash there were 7 at Wrangle and 16 Gedney Drove End on 21st with 96 Terrington 28th and 120 Holbeach 29th, 320 Gedney Drove End October 19th. A hundred flew south at Saltfleetby October 11th and 470 north Huttoft Bank November 2nd, while a count between Friskney and Freiston Shore December 14th totalled 4150 birds. Birds of the pale-bellied race, *B.b.hrota* were at Witham Mouth, 1 February 16th, 12 Saltfleetby 22nd, 6 March 26th. In October 1 flew east at Goxhill 3rd and singles were reported at North Cotes 31st - November 3rd, Donna Nook November 2nd, Grainthorpe Marsh 22nd, with 2 Saltfleet 24th.

Egyptian Goose *Alopechen aegyptiacus*

A single bird was present at Chapel/Ingoldmels from January 1st to February 28th (at least) and again in December, with 1 at Brigg November 26th. (Most probably local releases).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Winteringham/												
Read's Island	-	128	200	-	-	-	-	-	700	-	-	-
Pyewipes	458	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	-	-	200
Cleethorpes/Humberston	190	137	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetney/North Cotes	520	200	200	760	86	79	57	10	-	-	100	140
Donna Nook/Saltfleet	458	-	116	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84	-
Saltfleetby	754	180	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	255	-	-	-	100	40	130	47	80	-	450	72
Witham Mouth	600	-	400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	174	200
Holbeach Marsh	1800	800	350	312	120	115	160	-	105	85	500	800
Terrington	-	-	-	-	250	280	-	447	983	681	-	1630

Other large flocks in the Wash were 500 Butterwick January 9th, with counts between Friskney and Freiston Shore producing totals of 450 January 5th, 600 26th, 350 February 23rd. In April there were 200 Frampton Marsh 24th, and in the autumn 200 flew south at Gibraltar Point November 15th, with 450 Butterwick December 6th and 130 Wrangle 10th.

Inland there were 4 Risby, April 17th, 23 Twigmoor June 13th and 8 at Messingham February 8th, increasing to a max of 42 May 3rd, 6 December 27th. Two pairs bred there and other inland breeding records were Brigg SBF, 1 pair; Thorpe/Whisby Pits, 1-2 birds April-June, 3 juvs August 17th; 5 pairs at Butterwick Hale May 11th, 6 broods totalling 41 juvs at Covenham Res in June and a pair with 4 juvs at Kirkby-on-Bain Pits July 19th. In the Trent Valley there

were 1-3 birds at Gainsborough in March, with 50 Wharton's Wharf on 5th and a max of 12 at Lea Marshes April 25th, increasing to 17 26th.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

Probably the same male was present at North Somercotes Warren/Lido September 29th and November 24th-December 6th, Chapel/Ingoldmells December 21st into January 1987.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

	J	F	M	S	O	N	D
Tetney	250	150	-	-	100	-	220
Huttoft Pit	42	83	-	122	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	1800	200	510	200	850	700	345
Witham Mouth	136	-	-	-	207	650	-
Holbeach Marsh	250	-	-	-	-	156	-
Baston Fen	315	380	577	-	-	-	150
Whisby Pits	-	-	-	-	19	40	100

Other large flocks early in the year were at Read's Island, 680 January 6th, Barton-on-Humber 120 9th, Humberston 110 16th, with max 95 Deeping High Bank in February and 78 West Deeping Pits March 2nd, 250 Frampton 16th and 75 Goxhill Haven 17th. In the spring there were 59 Barton-on-Humber April 19th with 21 at Tetney the same day, 8 on 26th and 1-3 May 3-22nd. At Goxhill Haven there were 44 April 6th, a 1st summer male 23-25th, 2 1st summer males May 2nd and a pair June 5th. Single birds were recorded at Gibraltar Point May 10th, Grainthorpe 21st, Belleau 25th and North Killingholme June 5th. A female was at Messingham June 20th and a male 23rd. In July there were 5 birds at Goxhill Haven 3rd, a male at Huttoft Pit 20th, then 17 west at Tetney and 17 recorded at Gib all on August 24th. In November 352 flew north at Huttoft Bank on 2nd, 103 west in 1½ hours at Cleethorpes on 3rd, and 95 were at Humberston December 4th.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

In January-February there were 1-5 occasionally at Barton-on-Humber, Goxhill, North Somercotes Lido, Covenham Res, Thorpe Pits and Holbeach St. Matthew, with 8 Tattershall January 4th, 10 Kirkby-on-Bain Pits 5th, 6 Holywell Lake 17-23rd, max 30 Langtoft Pits, and at Apex Pits 12 3rd, 21 5th and 17 February 9th. In March-April there were 1-6 occasionally at Barton-on-Humber Pits, Barrow Haven, Goxhill, Tetney, Saltfleetby, Huttoft Pit, Messingham, Covenham Res, Lea Marsh, Lincoln Ballast Pit, Denton Res, R. Welland at Crowland and Deeping St. James, with larger groups at West Deeping Pits, 22 March 22nd, 8 each at Burton Pits and Baston Fen 10th and 10 Thorpe Pits 28th. In May there were 3 pairs at Bourne South Fen, with 2 males at Gibraltar Point 19-21st and at Whisby Pits on 29th; a pair there June 2nd and a single bird at Thorpe Pits June 24th. A female with 6 small juvs was at Chapel Hill on 29th. In autumn there was a single bird at Gibraltar Point July 18-19, 2 August 26th, and 1-2 Messingham July 3rd-October 7th. From September-December there were 1-5 occasionally at Saltfleetby, Chapel Hill, Huttoft Pit, Denton Res and Terrington, with 1-13 at Holywell Lake from October 28th to the year's end, at Whisby Pits 16 November 9th, 10 December 14th, and at Burton Pits 19 November 30th, 37 December 14th, 33 19th. Also 6 Covenham Res November 16th, 7 Tattershall December 7th, 8 Apex Pits 29th and max 30 in December at Langtoft Pits.

Teal *Anas crecca*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Messingham	111	-	-	-	2	-	-	50	100	245	80	-
Gibraltar Point	200	-	-	91	6	4	-	200	1600	700	420	200
Baston Fen	92	-	132	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85

Other large flocks early in the year were at Read's Island, 400 January 6th; Humberston 65 13th, Lea Marsh 80 February 23rd, Covenham Res 50 9th and Barton-on-Humber 45 March 17th. In spring there were 40 Huttoft Pit April 12th, 60 South Killingholme 17th, 60 Saltfleetby 19th, then a male at Gainsborough May 11th, and 1-4 birds present at Gibraltar Point on 4 days in June. Breeding records came from Messingham and South Killingholme, where a female with 4 unfledged juvs was present August 4th. Autumn records included 46 Goxhill Haven July 12th, 80 Saltfleetby August 24th, then 350 Winteringham/Read's Island September 14th. At Terrington there were 154 October 12th, 164 December 9th; at Huttoft Bank 74 flew north and 26 south October 26th, 143 north November 2nd, with 53 north at Donna Nook the same day. Also in November there were 200 at Wolla Bank 8th, 51 South Killingholme 28th and a max of 115 at the Witham Mouth, then in December the month's max of 250 at Thorpe Pit 24th and 90 South Killingholme 31st. Gibraltar Point had 100 most of the month,

with its max of 200 also on 31st.

A male of the North American race *A.c.carolensis* (Green-winged Teal) was present at Goxhill Marsh on April 23rd (GPC).

(Accepted BBRC) The third county record but possibly only 1 or 2 birds involved throughout. (Previous single males in November 1984 and March 1985.)

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Barton-on-Humber	166	201	130	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150	200
Covenham Res	-	400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	850	952
Gibraltar Point	600	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	600	300	600	212
Holbeach Marsh	210	450	75	-	-	-	-	253	450	45	-	-
Terrington	-	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	289	-	363

In January there were also 705 Read's Island/Winteringham 4th, 125 Thorpe Pits 12th, 300 Theddlethorpe 25th, with 175 Tattershall February 1st, 250 Bagmoor, 250 Crosby and 150 Boston, all on 11th. In June 11 broods totalling 80 juveniles were on Covenham Res, with 195 adults at Terrington on 15th. September flocks included 400 Read's Island/Winteringham 14th, with 100 north at Snipe Dales 15th; then in November 200 at Donna Nook, 125 north at Huttoft Bank, all on 2nd, 200 Whisby Pit and 500 Wolla Bank 8th and the month's maximum of 200 at Messingham 21st. Huttoft Pit held 250 December 6th, with 700 Wrangle 10th.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

In January and February there were 1-4 occasionally at Barton-on-Humber, New Holland, Cleethorpes, Humberston, Covenham Res, River Witham (5 mile House), Gibraltar Point and Baston Fen, with monthly maxima of 104 at Holbeach Marsh in January, 52 at Witham Mouth in February and 1000 Terrington on February 23rd. In March there were 1-2 birds (mostly males) at Frampton 6th, Baston Fen 10th, 10 15th, North Somercotes 11th, Covenham Res 16th, Goxhill Haven 17th, Saltfleetby 23rd and 29th, 5 26th, Chapel Pit 27th, Grainthorpe 29th, then Welland Mouth April 25th, Grainthorpe May 10th, and the last of the spring 1 Tetney May 24th, 2 Saltfleetby 25th.

First autumn bird was a female at Holbeach Marsh August 24th with 30 there and 2 Winteringham Haven 31st. From September-December there were 1-4 birds occasionally at Goxhill Haven, Humberston Fitties, Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, Covenham Res, Huttoft, with 5 north there September 16th, 16 north November 10th, Wolla Bank, Gedney Drove End and Gibraltar Point, with larger numbers there of 7 September 21st, 9 north 26th, 13 on October 5th, 12 south November 15th. Other larger concentrations were 7 west New Holland September 6th, 35+ at Holbeach Marsh 7th and maximum counts there of 12 October, only 3 November but 19 December. Maxima at the Witham Mouth were 24 October, 18 November, and in December there were 447 Terrington 4th, 530 9th and 100+ at Nene Mouth 25th.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

First of the spring was a male at Gibraltar Point April 5th with a pair at Huttoft Pits 6th. No further influx occurred until mid May, when there was a pair on Goxhill Marsh 15th, the male staying to at least 26th, 2 males at Saltfleetby 22-25th, a single male at Donna Nook 25th and others at Messingham on 23rd and 30-June 2nd. There were no breeding or summering records and the only autumn birds were singles in August at Goxhill Marsh 11th, Kirkby-on-Bain Pits 17th and Gibraltar Point 8-24th.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

In January-March there were 1-7 birds at Barton-on-Humber, 11 there January 1-4th, Messingham, Lincoln LNER Pit, Apex Pit, Huttoft Pits, with 9 March 15th, Wolla Bank, 11 same date, Gibraltar Point, 12 on 29th, Holywell Lake and Baston Fen, 14 there also on 29th. In April there were up to 8 pairs at Baston Fen, but none bred; other April birds were at Tetney, 7 23rd and at Goxhill Marsh, a maximum of 14 including 11 males on 6th, up to 2 males to May 2nd, then a single male at Gibraltar Point May 9th. In June maximum 10 were at Messingham 6th, a male Bourne South Fen 11th, 2 Goxhill Marsh 21st, maximum 4 at Tetney 24th and birds on 3 dates at Gibraltar Point, 6 on 27th. Confirmed breeding records came from South Ferryby Cement Works, an adult with 3 juveniles June 19th; Chapel Hill, possibly 2 broods 27th, and a male with 2 juveniles at Chapel Pits 29th.

Notable numbers in autumn were 22 Goxhill Marsh August 10th, 16 Messingham September 26th, with up to 15 at Huttoft Pit from 30th-November 15th and 10-11 at Denton Res from October to December 7th. At Huttoft Bank 19 flew north on November 1st, 9 were at Barton-on-Humber Pits 4th, 22 Sutton Ings Pit 8th, up to 15 Holywell Lake from 15th to December 2nd, and 6 at Whisby Pits December 14th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

A female at Langtoft Pits February 16th (PNW).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
New Holland/Goxhill (Humber)	400	390	296	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Messingham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	100	105

Other large concentrations in January-March were 55 Toft Newton Res January 12th; 90 Apex Pit February 9th, 70 River Witham (5-mile House) 16th and 60 Tattershall 20th. Deeping High Bank had a maximum 127 in February, 59 in March, and at Barrow Haven Pits there were 113 February 9th, 451 24th, 520 28th and 250 March 2nd. Also in March, 50 Covenham Res and 85 Tattershall 3rd, 85 Gibraltar Point and 100 Tallington on 9th. Breeding records came from the South Humber Bank Pits where there were at least 3 broods, 17+ juveniles, with 6-10 other pairs probably nesting; Lincoln LNER Pits, where 4-5 pairs raised at least 14 juveniles; Twigmoor, an adult with brood June 13th and the River Till, a female with brood on August 8th. In December there were flocks of 150, Sleaford Ballast Pit 10th, 50 Cadney Res 16th, 90 Apex Pit 29th.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
New Holland/Goxhill (Humber)	300	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49	60
Covenham Res	254	160	180	-	-	-	-	-	75	-	-	-
Burton Pits	96	84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61	100	90
Tattershall	160	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deeping High Bank	119	232	200	-	-	-	-	-	105	-	-	67

Also, early in the year, 98 Toft Newton January 12th, 319 Barton Pits February 24th, 200 March 2nd, 76 West Deeping Pits also 2nd and 150 Tallington 9th. Breeding records came from Lincoln LNER Pit, where 6-10 pairs reared 28-36 juveniles; South Humber Bank Pits, 4+ broods with 19+ juveniles; 2-3 pairs each at Messingham, Raithby Lake, Morrisons Pit (Gainsborough), 19 juveniles, Burwell Park Farm, Timberland Delph, Grimsthorpe Park. Single pairs nested at South Elkington, Maltby Lake (Louth), Fulletby Grange, Barkston, West Fen Drain (12 juveniles), Chapel Hill (2 juveniles), Covenham Res (4 juveniles), R. Till, Holywell Lake, Stoke Rochford, South Ferriby (8 juveniles), Laughton, Twigmoor. In July there were 68 Covenham Res 12th, then in winter 79 Cadney Res November 20th, 120 December 23rd, 50 Huttoft Pits December 13th, 100 Whisby Pits 14th and a month maximum of 69 at Lincoln LNER Pit.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Birds in the Wash in the first half of the year included 23 Butterwick/Freiston Shore March 8th; at the Witham Mouth 26 January 12th, 9 16th, 25 February 16th and 7 March 1st, with 1 Boston Haven February 15th; on Holbeach Marsh 21 January 12th; at Nene Mouth a male January 18th, a female March 1-9th and 12 birds 15th, and at Terrington 115 February 16th. In the Humber there were 11 Barton-on-Humber January 9th, a male March 9th; at Barrow Haven Pits 7 February 13th, a male 24th, a female April 19th; at Goxhill 9 February 26th; off New Holland 5 January 5-26th increased to 38 February 16th, then 47 March 16th, at Grimsby Docks 3 January 10th, and 1 North Killingholme March 1-3rd. Inland there were singles at Messingham January 20th and March 26th and at Deeping High Bank January 2nd, 3 March 15th. At Covenham there were 2 females February 23rd, an imm male March 1st, 2 2-3rd, a single male again 8-9th and 3 females 13-26th; another imm male was on the River Lud at Louth February 13th, and 2 females on the River Trent (Wharton's Wharf) March 5th.

In autumn a female was at Dogdyke on the River Witham July 30th and a single bird flew west at Goxhill Haven September 18th, 2 November 2nd with 9 there 3rd. Two were at Goxhill Haven September 30th, with 2 south Huttoft Bank same day, 2 there October 26th. At Saltfleetby there were 1 north, 1 south October 5th, 1 there 12th, 28 21st, and at Witham Mouth 4 19th.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Witham Mouth	150	50	25	20	61	20	1	13	75	120	-	26

Early in the year other flocks in the Wash included 15 Butterwick Marsh January 1st, 13 Gibraltar Point 25th, 80 Freiston February 23rd with 900, including 40% adult males

Butterwick/Freiston Shore March 8th (KA). Elsewhere one was at Saltfleetby January 1st, a female off Cleethorpes/Humberston 7th, 7 flew south at Trusthorpe February 18th and at Tetney there was a female March 8th, 3 birds April 24th, with a female until 27th. Another female was at Inner Dowsing 12th and 3 males flew south at Huttoft 21st. In May there were 5 at Tetney 16th, 3 22nd, 2 23rd, 12 males at Freiston 29th and birds at Gibraltar Point on 4 days, 3 on 11th, then 1 June 2nd and 4 through July and August. At Holbeach Marsh there were 12 June 24th, at Saltfleetby 1 flew north July 20th, 39 there 27th, with 1 at North Cotes/Gainthorpe August 1-5th and 30 Butterwick Marsh 19th. In September 25 flew north at Huttoft Bank 28th, 2 males 3 females were there October 5th and 6 flew north 26th; at Gibraltar Point there were 15 September 27th, 26 north October 12th and 5 there 26th, with a male and 3 females at Saltfleet October 4th. At the end of the year movements included 2 males west at Goxhill Haven November 3rd, 6 west 6th, at Huttoft Bank 16 north November 2nd, 7 north December 21st and at Gibraltar Point 2 November 15th, 19 south 16th, 3 there 23rd and 9 December 7th.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

At Covenham Res there were 5 from 1985 to March 9th, with 4 to April 22nd and 1 to 27th, 3 at Witham Mouth January 7th, 1 Holbeach Marsh February 16th and at Gibraltar Point 3 south January 1st, 1 north 2nd, 1 there March 3rd. An unusual record was of 3 males flying north at Chapel Point May 29th (PGC), then in autumn 1 south Huttoft Bank October 26th, 2 north November 1st, 5 north 2nd, and a single bird at Covenham Res November 22nd into 1987.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

The only records in the Humber in January-April were 9 Grimsby Docks January 10th, 3 west at Barton-on-Humber April 12th with 6 there 21st. On the coast in this period there were up to 25 at Huttoft, 50-100 at Trusthorpe, up to 55 at Gibraltar Point, with southerly movements in April of 30 Huttoft 19th, 120 Gibraltar Point 20th. Inland a male was at Ashbyville March 19th, 2 females at Covenham Res April 12th. In May-June a female flew east at Goxhill Haven May 2nd, 9 there June 5th; at East Halton Skitter there were 23 May 29th, 9 31st, with 25 north at Donna Nook and 16 at Saltfleetby June 14th, 24 north Huttoft June 4th and movements at Gibraltar Point of 25 south May 27th, 30 north June 20th.

Large autumn movements at Donna Nook were all in July, with 130 north, 17 south 12th, 70 north 13th, 80 north 27th; 50-60 were at Saltfleetby from July 12th into September and up to 80 at Gibraltar Point July-August, 130 south there July 19th. Twenty were at Butterwick Marsh 6th and 2 females at Covenham Res 14th. At Huttoft Bank there were 50-90 October-December, 360 north November 2nd when 40 flew north at Saltfleet, 20 at Donna Nook; also 50-60 at Gibraltar Point in October-November, 25 Witham Mouth October 19th. The only inland record was again at Covenham Res, 4 females November 6-9th, and in the Humber, a female at Barton-on-Humber December 9th.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

One flew south at Huttoft Bank June 15th, 1 north Saltfleetby July 12th and another single bird was at Gibraltar Point August 4th. At Covenham Res there was an imm male September 30th and a 1st w male November 6-30th, the only inland records. Coastal records in October-November were 1 south Huttoft Bank October 25th, 3 males north 26th, 3 males south and 3 birds north November 1st; 2 at Gibraltar Point October 26th and November 15th, and 1 Donna Nook November 2nd. Finally a female was at Goxhill Haven December 21st.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
New Holland/Goxhill (Humber)	209	120	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Covenham Res	123	105	123	68	-	-	-	-	-	11	60	91
Thorpe/Whisby Pits	8	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Apex Pits	6	12	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Witham Mouth	85	104	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	12

In January-March there were 1-10 birds at Crosby Mines, Messingham, Lea Marsh (on River Trent), Tattershall, with 20 March 2nd, Sleaford GP and Crowland, with larger counts from Gedney Drove End, 20 January 12th, West Deeping Pits 15 19th, 45 March 2nd, and Tallington 20 9th. On April 12th there was 1 Kirkby-on-Bain, a male Crowland and 68 at Covenham Res, with 5 there 20-24th, 1 27th; also 7 Messingham 16th, 6 20th, a 1st s male at Denton Res 26th and at Barton-on-Humber 5 19th, 2 29th and a female May 1st. In the autumn 1 was at Huttoft Pit July 13th and a juvenile at Barton-on-Humber August 22nd. On November

2nd 32 flew north at Huttoft Bank, 78 at Donna Nook and 20 west at Goxhill Haven. A maximum 6 were at Messingham November 15th and 20 Holbeach Marsh December 7th.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
January	14	1	7	5	1	1	109	2
February	20	3	2	1	-	2	82	45
March	8	-	-	2	-	-	8	24
Males	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	18
Redheads	-	3	6	4	1	3	-	37

In January a redhead was at Barrow Haven 25th, then at New Holland 26th, with a different bird at Witham Mouth the latter date. Up to 5 birds were widespread from February-March 10th, with maxima as follows (number of males in brackets): Barton-on-Humber 1 (1), Barrow Haven 5 (2-neither of these same as the Barton male), New Holland 2 (2-same as Barrow birds), Tetney 5 (2), North Somercotes Lido 5 (0), Saltfleetby 3 (0), Covenham Res 4 (0), Huttoft Pits 4 (1), Trusthorpe 4 (1), Apex Pit 1 (1), Tattershall Pits 5 (1), Tattershall Bridge 3 (3), Lutton Outmarsh 3 (1), Moulton Marsh 2 (0), Nene Mouth 2 (0), Deeping High Bank 6 (3), West Deeping 4 (1), Tallington 2 (1), a possible total of 55 birds, 18 of them males. In November a male flew south at Huttoft Bank 2nd, and 2 redheads were at Barrow Haven December 22nd.

The table shows the total number of records in January-March each year since 1979 (note some individuals are present in two months), with the ratio of males to redheads where this is given in the Report. (In 1979 numbers were said to be 'about equal' and in 1985 'redheads predominated'). Over the years for which numbers are given, the ratio is about 2 redheads to each male. 1986 saw the second highest total in the eight years for this normally scarce bird, and an unusually high number of March records.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

In the first half of the year most records came from the south of the county, with up to 8 at the Witham Mouth from January-February 16th, 2 March 1st and April 10th; singles at Gibraltar Point January 1-2nd, February 16th and 23rd, March 3rd; 2 Deeping High Bank January 2nd and Lutton Outmarsh 20th, 4 on the South Forty-foot at Boston February 16th and on Holbeach Marsh 1 March 27th, 4 April 11th, a male May 11th and a female June 6-19th. Two females were at Nene Mouth and a single at Butterwick May 11th, and the only spring records in the north came from Tetney, a female April 23rd, 4 27th. In July 3 were at North Cotes 1st, 4 Tetney 19th, then 1 flew north at Huttoft Bank August 26th, 3 west at Goxhill Haven September 18th. Single females were at Saltfleetby October 5th and 26th, with the only south of the county records, 11 Witham Mouth 5th, 7 19th, 4 26th and at Gibraltar Point 3 26th, 6 November 2nd. Also on 2nd 30 flew north at Huttoft Bank, 16+ north at Donna Nook and 3 west at Goxhill Haven, with 2 there 3rd and 2 north at Saltfleetby December 20th.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

	J	F	M	A	M	D
River Trent						
(Burton Stather)	-	29	-	-	-	9
Apex Pit	25	18	28	-	-	9
Tallington	-	40	18	-	-	-
West Deeping Pits	22	-	12	5	-	-
Deeping High Bank	11	69	19	-	-	1

In January-March there were 1-3 birds occasionally at Barton-on-Humber, Cleethorpes, Tetney, North Somercotes Lido, Covenham Res, Lea Marsh, Burton Pits, Fishtoft, Witham Mouth, Holbeach Marsh, Baston Fen and Denton Res. Barrow Haven had 8+ in March and other large concentrations were on the River Trent, at Susworth 3 March 9th, 6 10th, at Wharton's Wharf (Gainsborough) 23 5th, 20 10th, 23 13th, 3 16th. In April 5 were at West Deeping Pits 2nd, 1 4th, then a female on the Humber at South Ferriby June 19-24th. Autumn movements included 3 south at Huttoft Bank October 26th, 1 south November 2nd when 1 flew north at Donna Nook and 2 west at Goxhill Haven, then 1 south Saltfleetby 8th. A male was at Messingham 23-28th, at Lincoln LNER Pit there were 2 December 23rd and a female at Barrow Haven December 24-26th.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
	0	5	1	9	3	5	6	18	37

A female was at Barton-on-Humber January 8-30th and February 14-17th, with others on

the River Witham at Tattershall February 26th, Holbeach Marsh 28th and 2 females at Covenham Res 12-March 2nd. Also on 2nd 2 birds were on the River Welland near Spalding, and a single male was at Culverthorpe Lake 23rd. In April a pair were at Barton-on-Humber 21st, 2 females at Twigmoor 27th and 2 males, 1 female at Denton Res 29th-May 7th, the males displaying during this time. Display was also recorded at Whisby Pits where a pair summered, but no juveniles were seen. Other summer records were 2 at Messingham May 22nd, 2 Twigmoor June 15th, a male Burton Pits 26th. In autumn a male was at Denton Res August 14th, with a pair there November 7th, and at Barton-on-Humber 3 female/imms were present September 30th, 2 October 1st.

At Barrow Haven the January maximum was 1 male 5 females, increasing in February to 2 males 10 females, then 2 males 7 females in March with 3 males 2 females April 27th. On June 29th 2 males 1 female and 4 juveniles were present, then 5 males 3 females/imms September 7th, a male October 26th-November 27th, 4 females December 14th and 1 male 4 females from December 24th into 1987.

The table shows the number of different birds recorded annually since 1978 - note the increase since the first breeding record in 1984.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

An influx in late May of at least 4 birds started with an adult soaring over Greetwell/Twigmoor on 23rd (GPC), eventually drifting away north-east. One in off the sea at Saltfleetby on 24th (KA,PH) turned north over Saltfleet Haven and was probably the immature seen flying north-west at Donna Nook, where later another immature arrived off the sea and sat for 45 minutes on the shingle ridge, before leaving north-west (MST). Another bird arrived off the sea at Saltfleetby, then turned south over Theddlethorpe (KA, PH,JRC). The majority of previous records have been in autumn.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

A male had returned to a previous breeding site by March 27th, with 2 males displaying on April 20th and 3 females present on May 10th. Two nests were built, but there was no proof of breeding, although up to 3 males and 3 females were seen during the summer, some birds remaining to early September. A male and up to 3 females were present at another site in spring and early summer, but it is not known whether there was any breeding attempt. Otherwise there was a widespread spring passage with April singles south near Lincoln, at Messingham, Pye's Hall and Saltfleetby all on 24th, the latter remaining to 28th, when a 1st summer male was at Goxhill Marsh. In May, singles at Barton-on-Humber 1st, Pye's Hall 3rd, Goxhill Marsh 16th, probably same bird as previously and at Thornton Abbey on 21st, Donna Nook 5th, 9th and 14th and Saltfleetby 8th and 25th. Two were at Tetney 13th, with singles 21-25th and Grainthorpe Marsh 3rd and 21-28th. One was in the Huttoft/Anderby area on 10-11th and again at Huttoft on 26th. Other singles were at Shepeau Stow 5th, Digby Top 9th, Witham Mouth 11th and Baston Fen 31st. Gibraltar Point had 3 on 8th and 6 singles during rest of May.

Singles in June were at Tetney 2-3rd, Pye's Hall 4th, Withern 12th, South Ferriby 12-28th and Gibraltar Point on 6 days, then in July one there 3rd and Saltfleetby 27th, with male and female at Frampton Marsh 18th. Records began to increase in August, with singles at Gibraltar Point on 5 days, Grimsthorpe Park 9th, North Cotes 10th, Frampton 11th, Read's Island 12th, Baston Fen 9th and 28th, Humberston 16th, Shepeau Stow 24th, Nocton Fen 28th, Gedney Drove End 30th and Fiskerton 31st. A male and female were at Nocton Fen up to September 23rd, other singles at Wrangle 4th, with 3 on 5th, Theddlethorpe 7th, Tetney/Donna Nook 26-28th, Gibraltar Point 6th, male 14th and one 16-18th and Baston Fen male 14th and one 27th. All female/immatures unless stated otherwise.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Monthly maxima (Males: grey birds. Ringtails: females/immatures)

		J	F	M	A	S	O	N	D
South Wash Roost	Males	4	8	5	1	-	-	4	5
	Ringtails	6	10	10	4	-	-	2	5
Donna Nook/ Saltfleetby N R	Males	2	2	1	1	-	-	2	2
	Ringtails	4	3	1	-	1	-	1	1
Tetney/Grainthorpe	Males	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1
	Ringtails	1	2	1	1	1	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	Males	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Ringtails	2	2	5	-	1	4	2	2

Occasional records of 1-2 birds from January to April were at Butterwick Marsh, Friskney,

Witham Mouth, Kirkby Underwood, Fulstow, Thoresby Bridge, Trusthorpe, Fishtoft, Nene Mouth (3), Leverton, Frampton, Burton Stather, Huttoft and Anderby Creek. Late spring birds in May were at Gibraltar Point 3rd and 18th, Tetney 14th and Saltfleetby 26th. Unusual summer records were ringtail at Gibraltar Point June 5th (RKW) and male Holbeach St. Marks/Dawmsmere July 27th (PC). Occasional records of 1-2 birds from September to December were at Bourne, Wrangle, Frampton, Market Deeping, Nocton Fen, Butterwick, Witham Mouth, Kirton, Saxilby, Martin Airfield, Nene Mouth, Huttoft Pit, Chapel Pit, Whitton, Bagmoor, Fulstow and Baston Fen.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

In May a female was at Saltfleetby on 24th (KA), with a male at Wingland/Nene Mouth on several dates (R. Horrocks), then a 1st summer female there from June 1-8th (GPC,MM et al) and a male again nearby at Lutton Outmarsh on July 9th (R. Lord).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Continues to increase, with widespread reports throughout the year, although resident birds are now tending to mask any migrants and winter visitors. Breeding was proved at 7 sites, with 2 pairs at one of the sites, but one of these was shot out. In addition, there were breeding season records from about 30 other sites.

Wintering/passage birds in January-April recorded singly at about 40 sites, with 2 birds at a further 10 sites and at least 8 different birds in South Humberside Pits area. Passage/winter birds from August-December singly at about 60 sites, with 2-3 at a further 10 sites and at least 8 different birds again at South Humberside Pits. Coastal records were mainly on the NE coast and at Gibraltar Point and passage also recorded on Inner Dowsing.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

One was at Kirkby la Thorpe on January 17th (SK), then some passage in April with single north at Snipe Dales 11th (SL), at Pye's Hall 13th (J de L) and Denton 17th (A. Weston). An unusual record was one at Sweeting Thorns/Twigmoor on July 27th (RNH), with more typical September singles at Pinchbeck 19th (S. Owens), Willoughby Wood 23rd (RR) and 2 north-east at Lincoln Ballast Pit on 20th (N.A. Cullen). Three were seen at Stainby on October 4th (ES).

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Up to 3 were in the Laughton Common area from January 30th to March 1st feeding on rabbits (JTH, GPC,CJ). Other singles flew south-east at Swallow on February 22nd (MST), south at Gibraltar Point on March 3rd (MRC, DRB, S. Curtis et al) and one was at Tumby Woodside on April 20-21st (MM, KW, JRC).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

One was at Swallow on April 22nd (T. Nuttall) and in May one flew north-west at Barton-on-Humber Pits on 6th (GPC), with others fishing at Huttoft Pit on 18th (ACS) and Belleau Trout Farm on 25th (Anglian Water), then one at Gibraltar Point on June 14th (DRB, MRC, JMH, SB). In August, another was at Gibraltar Point on 15th (G. Carr et al) and one was caught in a net at West Ashby Trout Farm and then released on 29th (S. Butchart).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

The only records of note were 5 west at Tetney on July 27th, a maximum of 11 at Gibraltar Point on August 24th, with up to 7 there and 8 at Goxhill/East Halton Skitter in early September.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

A 1st summer male was at Goxhill Haven on May 19th (GPC). Of 18 previous records, 6 were in May, 4 in June and the rest spread over the autumn. Accepted by BBRC.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

One or two birds were regular on all parts of the coast from the upper Humber to the Wash January to April and September to December, with 3 Saltfleet January 12th and Gibraltar Point February 21st. Late spring birds were at Theddlethorpe May 10th and Tetney on 24th. Early autumn birds have become more frequent, with singles at Goxhill juvenile August 11th, Donna Nook 21-25th, Gibraltar Point 23rd and Deeping Fen 31st. Other inland records were singles at Fulstow January 4th, Deeping Fen January-February, Howdales February 6th, Pinchbeck 23rd, Stickney 26th and Pelham Lands 27th. In March, singles at Navenby Heath 1st, Raithby 3rd, Amcotts 10th, Covenham Res 16th, South Cockerington 29th and Blyborough Grange 26th to April 4th, then Kirton End April 28th. Birds were more widespread inland in autumn, with singles during period September to December at South Witham (regular), Covenham Res, North Hykeham, Snipe Dales, Fulstow, Wilsford, Atkinson's Warren, Anwick Fen Sleaford, Deeping Fen, Pinchbeck West, Holton le Clay, Conisholme, Baston Fen, East Butterwick, Wootton, Raithby and Helpringham.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Another good year with more than 50 records. Singles in May were at Denton Res 10th (IEHS), North Killingholme 14th (JM), Nocton Fen 15th (DSm), Humberston 17th (BMC), Theddlethorpe 18th (KW), Barton-on-Humber 21st (GPC), Tetney 22-24th (AB, IGS), Pye's Hall 25th and different 26th (MM), Bracebridge Heath 26th (KDD), Belleau and Covenham 27th (KW). On June 8th, 2 were at Gibraltar Point (D. Hill) and one Saltfleetby (BMC), with singles at Bourne 12th (RS), South Ferriby 22nd (RNH) and Kirton 26th (SK). In the area south-west of Lincoln, there were 12 sightings from June to mid-September mainly at Swanpool (KDD, ACS) and Thorpe/Whisby Pits (PH, DJ, NAC, KDD), but also at Hykeham (DJ), Haddington (DJ) and Birchwood (KDD). Some July birds apparently summering included one Twigmoor 5th (KDD), with 2 on 20th (RNH) and singles Denton 10th (IEHS), North Somercotes 6th (BMC), with perhaps same Donna Nook 19th (KA, PH) and Saltfleetby 25th and 30th (BMC), with others Holbeach St Marks 20th (RH, KH) and West Ashby Pits 25th (SBu). Passage began in August, with one in off the sea at Saltfleetby 5th and 1-2 there 23-26th (BMC, MM, GPC), also singles at Burringham 3rd (CJ), Moulton Marsh 14th (DSm), Tetney 17-18th (AB, IGS), Kelstern 20th (J de L), Gibraltar Point 29th CRM et al), and Winteringham (RNH) and Lutton Outmarsh 31st (R. Lord). Singles in September were at Gibraltar Point 3rd, 16th and 27th (A. Creasey, IH, Hav. & Well RSPB), Scopwick 13th (ABa), Theddlethorpe 19th (BMC), Saltfleetby 24-28th (GPC, SJM, BMC) and Tetney 28th (MWS).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

The welcome increase continues with about 12 records.

A male was at Morkery Wood on January 21st (ES) and one wintering at Saltfleet/Donna Nook from 1985 to March 19th (GPC, MM, KW et al) was seen to kill Knot, Redshank, Skylark and Feral Pigeon. In February, there was a female at Londonthorpe 13th (DH) and one Rauceby Warren 16th-23rd (KDD), then again March 23rd (MWS). A female was at Winteringham Haven on August 30th (RNH), with a male at Saltfleetby on 9th and September 14th (BMC), then one Gibraltar Point 21st (RKW,PJK). One was at Deeping/Baston Fen from October 6th to end of December, with a male and female present on December 14th (PNW, RS, AF et al). Others in October were adult female at Donna Nook 16th and one Tetney 17th (MST). One was at Theddlethorpe November 29th (MB) and an adult male at Kirton November on December 9th (DSm).

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

There were 22 at Tetney on February 8th, but maximum numbers were recorded from autumn onwards, with 50 in the area of Lincoln Ballast Pit on October 20th and 36 there on December 31st. Gibraltar Point had 20 on November 20th and in December there were 26 at Rauceby on 11th and 60 at East Butterwick on 19th.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

In February, there were 32 at Covenham on 9th and 16 at Gibraltar Point on 23rd, with 10 there on October 29th. Also in October, there were 21 at Normanby by Spittal on 29th and in December, 10 at Cadney Carrs on 10th and 20 at East Butterwick on 19th.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Males were recorded in May at Goxhill Marsh on 19-20th (DAR, GPC) and Donna Nook 25th (MST) and in June 2 at Horbling Fen 24th (SK), with singles Lobthorpe Lane 28th (ES) and Thurlby Fen 24-30th, then another bird there August 4th (EJR, GMO).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

There were 50 at Stoke Rochford on October 29th and the only other record of interest was a white bird at Gibraltar Point on December 23rd.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Wintering birds included 4 at Barton-on-Humber Pits on January 26th and 8 there on February 24th, with 6 at Barrow Haven Pits on 9th. In April, 5 males were singing at Barton-on-Humber and singles were recorded at Messingham on 18th and Gibraltar Point on 19th. One was at Thurlby Fen on July 3rd, but there were no significant records during the rest of the year.

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*

Singles were recorded at Gibraltar Point on April 12th and 19th (EB, DRB, KWW, IH et al) and from August 26th to September 8th (P.D. Adams et al). This was the 2nd successive autumn record here of one staying for a reasonable period, after many years with none recorded.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

There were 80 at Lincoln Ballast Pit in January and a maximum of 130 at Barton-on-Humber Pits on 21st with 120 there in November and December and 65 at Holywell Lake on 31st.

Coot *Fulica atra*

	J	F	M	O	N	D
Barton/Barrow Haven	170	336	-	-	121	315
Burton Pits	147	160	80	225	335	300
Apex Pit, N. Hykeham	550	480	-	-	-	-
West Deeping Pits	492	-	1623	-	-	-
Tattershall Pits	-	795	427	-	-	-

Other large concentrations were 233 at Toft Newton Res on January 12th, 110 at New Holland on March 8th, 147 at Covenham Res on September 30th, 180 at New Holland on October 26th, 120 at Ashbyville and 400 at Messingham on November 7th, with 201 at Huttoft Pit on 2nd and 175 there December 13th.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes	324	442	230	373	324	327	408	580	-	-	344	-
Tetney	-	298	320	360	71	150	199	510	500	-	-	460
Grainthorpe	408	-	-	-	-	-	-	3000	1500	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	5570	-	1200	666	298	-	40	4000	12350	20000	10000	1200
Wrangle	-	-	350	-	-	-	-	-	1270	-	-	3600
Hol St. Mks	400	420	700	2000	250	400	220	350	280	350	100	485
Hol St. Matthew	-	-	-	-	-	1500	2500	3600	850	-	-	-

Additionally, large coastal flocks were present at Friskney, 10000 January 5-26th, Butterwick 400 18th, and Terrington 1119 September 28th. Early inland records were singles at Tattershall March 8th and Fiskerton 17th, with 2 Covenham 22-23rd, 1 April 17th, and 3 at Messingham March 26th, 2 to mid-July, probably breeding. Others in spring were 2 Lea Marsh April 25th, 2 Thorpe Pits May 11th, 1 Covenham 17th, and on the Humber 20 Read's Island April 2nd, 21 Goxhill Haven May 16th. Up to 3 pairs were at Holbeach Marsh from March, with 3 juveniles fledged. In September 1 was inland at Thorpe Pits on 24th.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

An adult at Tetney June 19th (AB) was the fourth county record. Accepted BBRC.

The previous records were of 2 Gibraltar Point April 26th 1965, and 1 Grantham Sewage Farm December 25th 1968 and February 2-6th 1969.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

A good year with 14 birds recorded. Single birds were at Holbeach St Matthew February 18th and Holbeach St Marks March 16th (PC, KH, RH), with 3 flying west at Stallingboro' April 4th (JWW). In May singles were at Tetney 2-4th (IGS, HB) and Grainthorpe 24th (MM) with another at Read's Island June 19th (GPC) and 2 Gibraltar Point 25th (JMH). Finally, 4 on Holbeach Marsh July 19-25th. (PC, SK, KH, RH et al).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

The first arrival was a single at Thorpe Pits March 31st with another at Covenham Res April 2nd. The main influx was mid to late April when there were 1-2 at Barton-on-Humber, Thurlby Pit, and Covenham Res, 3 at Messingham, West Ashby and Thorpe/Whisby Pit, remaining at the latter site to June 26th. In May/June 1-2 birds were at Goxhill, South Ferriby (display seen but no breeding proved), Tetney, Cadney Res, Kirton Quarries and Caythorpe Lake (display only) with at Covenham Res 3 May 6th, Messingham also 3 6th, 5 23rd, 1 pair breeding, Kirkby-on-Bain 4 23rd, 8 June 15th, at least 1 pair breeding, and other breeding records from Thurlby Pit, 2 juveniles, and Spalding SBF where 2 pairs had broods of 3/4 juveniles. Autumn passage included occasional singles in July-August at Goxhill Marsh, Saltfleetby, Messingham, with 3 July 14th to August 7th, Tetney, Cadney Res, Covenham Res, Baston Fen and Frampton, with 6 at Moulton Marsh August 5th and up to 6 at Gibraltar Point from 5-31st. In September there were singles at Messingham 5th, Gibraltar Point on 6th, 12-13th and last of the year on 17th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes	-	-	-	10	190	50	39	230	-	-	-	-
Tetney	-	-	-	-	221	-	-	-	-	325	218	-

Early year records were of 20 Barton-on-Humber January 9th, 65 Barrow Haven 25th. In

addition to those tabled Humber spring passage included 200 Read's Island May 14th, 105 East Halton Skitter/Goxhill 18th, 97 22nd, 56 29th, 300 Winteringham Haven 19th and 64 Saltfleetby 27th, with 51 *tundræ* birds at the latter site June 7th. Breeding/summering birds inland were 6 displaying at Tattershall March 8th; 4 from 17th on at Ashbyville, 6 at Messingham 26th with 1 pair raising 2 juvs, 2 Thurlby Pit from 21st - June 25th and 1 pair at New York with 4 juvs in a bare arable field June 18th. Wash breeding records included 1 pair each at Holbeach St Matthew and Moulton Marsh. At Gibraltar Point 32 of 38 nests were predated.

First notable autumn flocks were 47 at North Killingholme July 23rd with 60 August 1st, 140 10th. Also in August there were 400 Butterwick 10th, 200 Gibraltar Point 18th, 235 at Goxhill Haven and 102 Saltfleetby all 19th, 86 Holbeach Marsh 21st. One flew south over Snipe Dales on September 1st and 200 were at Gibraltar Point 9th, with 52, Barton-on-Humber October 2nd.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

A female was at Tetney May 24th (AB)

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

All records at traditional sites, with the first 2 at Bourne South Fen on May 10 (HG) and 11th (SK, GMO). Tetney had 3 16th (AB, IGS) 4 on 18th (GPC). A juv was at Donna Nook October 1-4th. (RL0, MM)

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

An adult was at Tetney July 21-28th, then intermittently to August 19th (AB, RSL et al) with the same bird at North Cotes Point August 5th and 8th (GPC, MM). UCBBC. See description and account. The first County Record.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

An adult was at Tetney/North Cotes on July 27th (BMC, MM, AB et al). The third specific county record. The previous two, also adults were in July 1982 and July 1983. Accepted BBRC.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Lea Marsh	600	0	645	1000	-	-	-	-	-	250	-	400
Winteringham/												
Read's Island	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1550	1000	-	-	3000
New Holland/Goxhill	800	0	-	-	-	-	-	250	-	-	750	800
Cadney Carrs	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	100	100	300	800	600
Tetney	200	0	700	900	-	-	300	1500	600	-	-	-
Holbeach Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	400	200	-	700

Other winter flocks were present at Friskney, 120-160 January 5-26th, Sutton-Huttoft, 825 19th, Waddington 1000 22nd and Saltfleet, 220 25th. There were no February records, even at regularly counted sites, showing the effect of the severe weather in that month. Spring passage began with 307 at Kelstern March 28th, then 300 Gibraltar Point April 1st, 1000 Hungerton Quarry and 600 Huttoft all on 3rd, 800 in the Rand area 6th and 63 at Marshchapel 23rd. In May 2 were present at Butterwick Hale on 11th, 4 at Tetney 24th, with 10 there June 8th, and 1 South Ferriby 17-18th.

Autumn passage began with 300 Donna Nook on July 29th, 120 South Somercotes 31st, then 1000 North Cotes August 12th, 450 Donna Nook 25th, 200 Pyes Hall September 9th and 220 Witham Mouth 13th. October flocks included 120 Barton-on-Humber 2nd, 200 Denton Village 3rd, 1200 Normanby-by-Spital 29th, with in November 300 Welby, near Grantham 9th, 100 North Kelsey and 200 Heighington 12th, 523 Faldingworth 23rd and month maximum 320 Snipe Dales 28th. In December there were 250 Saltfleetby on 7th, 200 Huttoft 13th, 425 Hogsthorpe and 750 Faldingworth on 20th.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes	115	147	80	80	51	-	-	-	165	100	-	65
Tetney/North Cotes	60	52	300	586	250	180	300	540	600	-	-	40
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1000	2000	4500	1000	5000
Wrangle	-	-	-	-	200	-	-	-	529	-	-	1265
Witham Mouth	-	-	150	200	-	-	-	150	-	-	-	-
Holbeach Marsh	-	-	-	400	350	50	250	150	1000	-	-	750

Other counts early in the year were 50 Butterwick Marsh January 11th with one inland at Fulstow the same day, 4 Goxhill Haven February 4th. In March 300 were at Frampton 26th and 136 were found dead between Wrangle and Freiston (11km) on 9th, with 60 dead Friskney-Freiston (17km) April 6th. Six flew east at Barton-on-Humber May 9th, 5 west Goxhill 29th

and passage flocks were at Nene Mouth, 300 3rd, Freiston Shore 150 8th, with 51 at Cleethorpes in mid month and singles inland at Messingham 20th and June 16th.

In July 250 birds at Holbeach Marsh on 6th were in winter plumage but many of 250 there 19th were still in full summer plumage. Autumn flocks in the Wash in addition to those tabled included 400 Kirton Marsh August 11th, 250 Butterwick Marsh 20th, 449 Terrington September 28th, 409 October 12th. Inland singles were at Covenham Res August 26th, Ashbyville September 12th, and 100 were at Cleethorpes October 6th.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

No large flocks were reported in the first half of the year but in late summer 350 were at Swinderby June 28th, 460 at South Somercotes July 7th and up to 5000 at Tetney in August. In October 1000 were at Normanby-by-Spital 29th, and November movements included 728 west at New Holland 14th, with another 500 grounded, 1200 there on 15th when 500 flew south at Gibraltar Point, and 1500 west at Grainthorpe 19th. At Cadney Carrs 1000 present from November 12th remained to December and 500 were at Barton-on-Humber 27th. Large December flocks were 1000 Goxhill 11th, 620 Hogsthorpe 17th, 2000 Read's Island 20th and 1000 Thornton Abbey 31st.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes	2000	4500	1180	-	-	-	-	-	400	-	-	500
Tetney	3600	-	600	384	30	250	210	210	220	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	3000	5000	-	-	2000	5000	13900	30000	35000	10500
Holbeach Marsh	10000	12500	3000	2100	122	800	300	300	-	-	-	7500

Other records early in the year include 500 January 9th at Butterwick, 375 Gedney Drove End 12th, 10 at Goxhill Haven February 26th. Frampton held 450 February 15th, 1000 March 6th, 500 26th, Nene Mouth 7000 March 9th, Witham Mouth 500 1st and 700 28th. In May 2 were inland at Messingham 6th, and in the Wash 1200 Terrington 4th, 1000 Freiston Shore 8th. On Holbeach Marsh, flocks of 250, June 29th and 200 July 6th were in winter plumage. On September 7th 500 were at Pyes Hall, but large December flocks were all in the Wash: 2000 Gedney Drove End 5th, 15500 Wrangle 10th and 5000 Nene Mouth 25th.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes	-	46	89	200	930	-	-	600	350	-	250	80
Tetney	135	-	190	260	1584	75	200	50	-	-	-	-
Saltfleetby	240	-	-	-	247	35	85	240	55	-	141	-
Trusthorpe	-	110	175	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	-	-	63	150	270	250	200	190	20

Single birds early in spring were inland at Cadney Res March 15th, Thurlby Pits April 23rd and Kirkby-on-Bain Pits May 2nd. Peak passage dates on the Humber in May were 11th at Cleethorpes, 27th at Tetney and Saltfleetby, with other records of 6 Barrow Haven 13th, 3 19th, and at Goxhill Haven 3 15th and 22nd, 11 23rd and 3 June 5th. Inland one was at Messingham 18th, 5 at Cadney Res 25th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

The only spring records were 1 Cadney Res May 12th, 2 Saltfleetby June 7-8th, singles Gibraltar Point 1st and 16th, Messingham 10th, Tetney 24-26th. Autumn passage began at Gibraltar Point, 1-3 birds July 14-19th, followed by an adult at Messingham 31st. In August single birds were at Moulton Marsh 5th and 7th, Saltfleetby 10th and 24th, Holbeach Marsh also 24th, Winteringham Haven 30th and Terrington 31st. Tetney had single juvs 10-12th and 17-26th, 2 juvs 28th; Covenham Res 2 birds 12th, an ad and 2 juvs 13th, 4 birds 15th with 1-3 to 28th; Goxhill Haven 2 juvs 19th, and Gibraltar Point 1-2 birds on 11 days in August, with 3 24th and 28th, 4 31st, then 1-2 again to mid-September with 3 on 10th. Other late autumn birds were at Covenham Res, 5 September 5th, 1 10th, 6 14th, at Messingham, 1 15th and a juv October 9-10th, another juv at Kirton Marsh 6th, and last of the year at Gibraltar Point November 15th (EB).

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

A good spring passage with one at Messingham May 18th, 2 19th (JTH), singles at Tetney 22nd (AB) and Saltfleetby 27th (BMC, MM). In autumn a juv was at Gibraltar Point August 24-27th (PHY et al).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

In spring singles were at Messingham May 14th, Tetney 21st, 26th and June 22nd, Whitton June 27th. First autumn birds were 2 ads at Holbeach Marsh July 22nd with 1 at Tetney 25th.

Passage was moderate with most on the Humber and Tetney the most regular site; in August, 2 ads there 1-7th, single ads 8th and 20-23rd, 1 juv 27th, 6 juvs 28th, 2 birds 30-31st. Other records were 2 North Cotes 5th, 2 juvs Goxhill Haven 19th, 5 Saltfleetby 23rd, 3 Winteringham 31st, and on the Wash, 3 Gibraltar Point 8th, 1-2 16-31st, 1 Holbeach Marsh 8th and 17 31st. In September 2 were at Gibraltar Point 8th and Goxhill Haven 11th, 6 Winteringham 13th, singles at Holbeach Marsh 5th and 29th and last of the year at Tetney 30th.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Scattered records throughout the year, mainly of single birds. First was at Cleethorpes on January 12th, then 4 at Trusthorpe February 25th-March 4th, with 1 to 15th. Also in March, 1 at Grimsby North Wall 29th, 2 there April 14th, 3 16th. Singles in April were at Ingoldmells 5th, Huttoft Bank 19th and Witham Mouth 27th, then at Huttoft May 10th. In autumn one was at Witham Mouth August 20-24th, 3 at Gibraltar Point September 27-28th with 2 south 27th, 1 there October 3rd. Singles were at Huttoft October 26th and November 2nd, with on the latter date 1 Donna Nook (north), 2 Saltfleetby and 1 north at Gibraltar Point, another there 6th. In December 1 was at Trusthorpe 6-26th and 6 flew north at Huttoft 21st (BMC).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes	1550	1920	2070	550	720	-	-	-	3500	-	-	1000
Tetney	-	-	520	1480	100	30	2000	2000	-	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	1000	-	-	472	523	-	750	500	2000	4000	1700	600
Butterwick	1050	1500	950	-	-	-	-	2000	-	-	-	2200
Holbeach St Marks	1200	1300	4125	5250	186	10	1500	2223	2500	3250	3000	7000
Holbeach St Matthew	-	-	-	-	-	-	2500	2300	2500	-	-	-

Large winter flocks in addition to those tabled included, at Winteringham/Read's Island 894 January 4th, 450 Winteringham Haven February 11th, at Barton-on-Humber 150 January 4th, 500 9th, at Grimsby Pyewipes 1500 19th, at Saltfleetby 1100 12th. March flocks in the Wash were at Witham Mouth, 900 1st, Nene Mouth 3000 9th, Frampton 500 on 26th, while inland there were 1-9 occasionally at Cadney Res from March to November, 18 Lea Marshes April 25th and birds at Messingham from 29th to September 5th, maximum 14. Spring passage flocks in May were 1000 at Freiston Shore and 710 at Terrington 8th, 450 Read's Island 14th. First returning birds were 530 at Saltfleetby July 21st, with additional autumn flocks of 2685 at Terrington September 28th, 700 Gedney Drove End October 19th. At Huttoft Bank 16000 flew north November 2nd, and in December there were 1300 at Grimsby Pyewipes 7th, 2400 Wrangle 10th, and 500-1000 Barton-on-Humber/Barrow Haven.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Tetney	2	9	24	4	-	1	1	9	2	35	10	-

Wintering birds were again present with 1-4 January-March at New Holland, Goxhill Marsh, Grimsby Pyewipes, Humberton, Tattershall and Fulstow, 16 there February 4th. In April there were 8 at Messingham 6th, at Covenham Res 1 11th, 4 13th and 2 19th, at Cadney Res 2 17th and at Lea Marsh 11 25-26th, with 3 males at East Halton Skitter May 2nd, 2 birds at Read's Island 5th. Single males in June were at Thorpe Pit 21st, Humberston 24th, Barrow Haven 25th, Read's Island 26th, with 1 bird at Gibraltar Point 24th and 2 Messingham 23-25th, 3 on 27th. There were no reports of lekking or display. In July 1 at Inner Dowsing 26th, with 1-6 in August at South Ferriby, Goxhill Marsh, North Cotes, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Messingham, Thorpe Pits, Bardney, Moulton Marsh and Frampton. Higher numbers were at North Killingholme, 15 9th, 20 15th; Cadney Res 12 18th, 8 29th; Covenham Res, 4 9th, 25 11th, 65 juvs 13th, 75 16th, 150 30th; Kirkby-on-Bain 9 17th, and Gibraltar Point 14 8th, 10 24th. In September there were 1-2 at Donna Nook, Saltfleetby and Huttoft, with 10 at North Killingholme 7th, at Covenham Res 95 2-3rd, 50 18th, 8 26th, 6 October 1st and 2 11th, and at Gibraltar Point a month maximum of 12 September 20th, then 1 October 5th, 2 16th. Also in October there were 10 Moulton Marsh 6th, then in November 10 at Cadney Res 12th, 2 13th, at Frampton 7 19th and at North Cotes/Grainthorpe 25 8th, maximum 32 males 19th, including one white bird. The only December record was of 35 at Grimsby Pyewipes on 8th.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

January singles were at West Ashby Pits 11th, Huttoft Pit and Saltfleetby 15th, Stallingborough 23rd and Hubbards Hills 28th, then in February at North Killingholme 4th, Barrow Haven 9th. In spring there were single birds at Willoughby March 26th, West Ashby 23rd and April 17th, Saltfleetby April 14th and 27th with 2 19th, Baston Fen 25th and Kirtan Marsh 30th. The return began early in October, with 1 Barton-on-Humber 1-2nd, 2 5th; singles Goxhill

Marsh 3rd and 24th, Saltfleetby 4th and 17th, Theddlethorpe 12th, Gibraltar Point 18th, continuing into November with 2 2nd, 1 8-9th and 15th. Also in November Barton-on-Humber had 1 3rd, Saltfleetby 2 2nd, 1 6th, Tetney also one on 6th. Messingham had 2 13th, singles 14th, 30th and December 11th.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Large concentrations early in the year were at Barton-on-Humber, 35 January 4th and 20 April 15th, Sutton Ings Pit 80 February 1st, and Baston Fen where there were maxima of 137 March 15th and 89 in April. Single birds were drumming at Tetney Blow Wells and North Kelsey Carrs, 4 at Snipe Dales, 5 at Baston Fen and 7 at East Butterwick Hale. In December there were 42 at Tetney on 7th.

Long-Billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

And adult first found at Holbeach St Marks July 19-24th (PC et al) was relocated on Moulton Marsh August 3-14th (PHY et al) Accepted BBRC

There have been 2 previous specific records, September 28th-October 6th 1963 and September 28th-October 10th 1971, and one 'Dowitcher sp' on August 15th 1982.



Long-billed Dowitcher at Moulton Marsh (M.J. Tarrant)

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Early in the year there were 1-5 at Barton-Barrow in January-March, 7-9 at Gibraltar Point January-February 12th, and 2-3 at Snipe Dales January-April 19th. Probable returning winter visitors were singles on the coast in April at New Holland 14th, Saltfleetby 20th and Gibraltar Point May 4th, and roding birds recorded included 3 at Linwood Warren, 1 Swanpool, 3 Norton Disney, 8 Stapleford Woods and 3 at Temple Woods. In August there was one at Gibraltar Point on 26th, but only 1-2 in October-December at a few sites, with 2-3 again at Snipe Dales from November 26th and 7 at Gibraltar Point December 31st.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Holbeach Marsh	-	-	20	22	-	-	36	450	430	20	160	80

Coastal records in spring included 2 at Tetney March 26th, April 10th and May 7-10th, 3 12th; 7 at North Cotes April 27th; 1 at Read's Island March 22nd, 6 30th and 1 displaying April 20th, and 1 at Gibraltar Point May 23rd. One was inland at Messingham March 19th and 2 at Kirkby-on-Bain May 1st. In June 2 were at Messingham 25th, and on Read's Island all month with 4 3rd, 9 19th, 4 26th. In the autumn there were 2 birds at Tetney July 2nd, singles there occasionally from 26th-September 17th, 1 Wainfleet July 5th, 2 Messingham 17th, 1 Humberston 24th, and 1-2 at Gibraltar Point to August, then 15 south there 2nd, 12 there 16th. Also in August, 2 were at Swanpool 7th and singles at North Killingholme 15-17th and September 7th, with 2 at Goxhill on the latter date. Gibraltar Point had 4 October 4th, 1 12th, then in winter singles were at Donna Nook November 2nd, Kirton Marsh 17th, Read's Island December 6th, Grimsby Pyewipes 7-8th, and 2 North Killingholme on 9th.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes	107	385	176	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetney/North Cotes	62	68	300	50	25	36	70	50	40	-	-	85
Gibraltar Point	290	-	-	139	150	2 2500	700 3000	4000 2000	2700			

Other notable flocks were 300 at Witham Mouth February 1st, 150 Wrangle May 1st, with 10 south-east at Covenham Res 2nd, 15 at Read's Island 5th, 25 14th. In July there were 55 at Frampton 13th, 350 Holbeach St Matthew 20th, 1333 26th and 800 August 10th, then 60 at Pyes Hall September 7th and 4 east at Snipe Dales October 4th. December flocks in the Wash included 120 Holbeach St Marks 7th, 260 Terrington 9th and 3310 at Wrangle on 10th.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

First of the year was on Holbeach Marsh March 27th, followed by 1 at Gibraltar Point April 2nd, with others in April at Tetney, 4 16th, Saltfleetby 15 north 19th; at Witham Mouth 2 21st, 5 25th, and singles at East Halton 22nd, Lea Marsh 26th. More were present in May/June with maximum counts at the main sites of 12 Tetney May 11th, 11 Gibraltar Point 16th, 10 Holbeach Marsh 3rd with 22 5th and 5 June 29th, 12 Saltfleet also 29th, 4 Saltfleetby June 1st and 15th, and the only inland bird at Messingham May 3rd. Autumn passage began in mid-July with 12 at Gibraltar Point 15th, and peaked in the last week; 8 Inner Dowsing and 20 Gedney Drove End 24th, 55 south at Saltfleetby 25th and month maximum counts of 55 Holbeach Marsh 25th and 65 Tetney 26th. Maximum coastal counts in August were 64 Tetney 1st, 30 on 3rd and 12th, 10 30th; 4 at North Killingholme and 250 west at Donna Nook 1st; 20 Butterwick 20th and 20 Holbeach Marsh 8th and 24th. Inland there were singles at Louth and Snipe Dales 22nd, 8 at Baston Fen 4th and 4 at Covenham Res 17th. September birds were singles at Saltfleetby 8th, Tetney 9th, Snipe Dales 20th, Gibraltar Point 26th, 2 27th, and last of the year 1 Thorpe Pits 30th.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Goxhill	-	76	84	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grimsby	-	489	656	-	-	-	-	-	101	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	320	60	-	200	150	57	100	470	100
Holbeach St Marks	215	143	480	350	42	161	1000	400	800	58	150	250

Other large numbers were c45 North Killingholme February 4th, 200 Read's Island April 2nd. At Barton-on-Humber birds flying east high overhead totalled 35 April 22nd, 23 28th. Inland birds were displaying at Lea Marshes in April, Hungerton Quarry May 8th, Beckingham Range June, but there were no confirmed breeding records. Also in June there were 370 Terrington 29th, 100 Goxhill 30th, then a maximum 125 at Saltfleetby July 20th, 400 Read's Island September 14th and 234 Terrington October 12th.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Early in the year there were single birds at Cleethorpes/Humberston from 1985 to April 5th, Saltfleetby January 4-5th, Tetney 26th, February 8-16th and March 5th, with 2 from 7th to May 6th, Gibraltar Point March 29th and April 13th and Barton-on-Humber also April 13th. Singles in May were at Frampton 6th, Tattershall and North Cotes 12th, and in June at Tetney from 6-27th, with 3 North Killingholme and 4 Holbeach Marsh on 22nd and 1 at the latter site 29th. Between July and September there were occasionally 1-2 birds at Goxhill Marsh, Cleethorpes, Tetney, North Cotes, Grainthorpe, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Messingham, Ashbyville, Covenham Res, Kirkby-on-Bain, Gibraltar Point - up to 3, late August - Moulton Marsh and Gedney Drove End. Larger numbers were at North Killingholme, 4 July 10-20th, 5 23rd, 4 August 9th; Holbeach St Matthew, 3 July 6th increasing to a maximum 27 25th, and Holbeach St Marks 5 July 22nd, 1-2 August 3-21st, 17 24th, 12 31st, 6 September 5-7th. October birds were at Gibraltar Point, 1 4th, 2 9th, 1 11th, and at Tetney 1 13th, with no wintering records at the end of the year.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Grimsby	286	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	-	-	-
Cleethorpes	172	122	220	138	-	-	-	-	170	-	-	150
Tetney/North Cotes	200	-	50	100	-	112	100	-	-	-	-	-
Holbeach Marsh	-	150	-	100	-	150	200	-	1500	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	95	-	57	-	-	-	-	90	100	150	250	50

Other large concentrations early in the year on the Humber were 50, Barton-on-Humber

January 4th, 58 30th, 50 Goxhill Haven 18th, and on the Wash 100 at the Witham Mouth March 1st, 150 29th. Between Wrangle and Freiston (11km) 100 were found dead March 9th, with 77 dead between Friskney and Freiston (17km) on April 6th. Inland there were 23 Baston Fen January 19th, 25 Fulstow February 4th, maximum 10 Cadney Res March 17th and 1-3 at Thorpe Pits occasionally between March and December. At Lea Marshes there were 10 April 27th with display seen but no breeding proved. Inland breeding records came from Messingham, 3 pairs, and Coleby Low Fields. In autumn there were 200 at Butterwick August 18th, 400 Winteringham Haven September 14th. Barton-on-Humber had 40-80 November-December, with 121 Saltfleet 22nd, 11 Cadney Res 27th and 400 Butterwick December 6th.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

In February one was found dead on Lutton Outmarsh, and in March a single was at Nene Mouth 2-15th. Tetney had birds daily from April 23rd to May 24th, maximum 3, and there were 12 at Witham Mouth April 25th, 1 North Killingholme 26th, with 1-2 in May at Donna Nook 5th, Tattershall 18th, Goxhill 20th, Grainthorpe 21st, Messingham 20-21st. Singles in June were at Gibraltar Point 12th and 19th, Saltfleetby 15th, Goxhill Haven 20th, Theddlethorpe flying south 22nd, with 2 Holbeach Marsh 29th, 3 North Killingholme 30th. Between July and September there were 1-3 birds occasionally at Barton-on-Humber, Goxhill Marsh, North Killingholme, with 4 August 1st, Messingham, Covenham Res, Cadney Res, Thorpe Pits, Kirkby-on-Bain and Snipe Dales; 5-10 at Saltfleetby, Gibraltar Point and Butterwick. At Tetney birds were present daily to September with monthly maxima of 5 June, 7 July, 9 August, 10 September. Larger numbers were at Holbeach St Matthews in July, 42 6th, 40 20th, 20 26th, and at Holbeach St Marks, 12 19th, 25 22nd, 68 27th, 20 August 3rd, 62 9th, 20 24th, 70 September 7th, 30 14th. At Moulton Marsh 31 flew south August 3rd and 12 flew south at Saltfleetby 6th. In October there were singles at Saltfleetby 2nd, Grainthorpe 4th, at Tetney 3rd, 13th, 26th and November 6th, and at Gibraltar Point November 1st and 23rd.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Early in the year there were singles at Fulstow January 1st and February 27th, Deeping Fen January-April, Newsham Lake January 25th with 2 26th, Gibraltar Point and Butlins, Skegness February 22nd and Saltfleetby St Peter 23rd. In March single birds were at Kirkby-on-Bain 2nd, Baston Fen 17th, Willoughby 27th-April 3rd, with 2 West Ashby Pits 23-31st and 1-3 Thorpe Pits 4th-April 26th. Also in April, single birds at Huttoft 12th, Snipe Dales 18th, Tetney 19th, 21st, 26th, 30th and May 1-3rd, with 2 West Ashby Pits May 1-12th. Sites with 1-2 birds occasionally between June-September included Barton-on-Humber, South Killingholme, North Cotes, Brigg, Covenham Res, West Ashby Pits, Baston Fen, Denton Res, Witham and Claythorpe, with 1-3 at Goxhill and Bardney, 3 at Thurlby Fen July 3rd and at Holbeach St Marks 19th. In the same period Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point had 1-4 with 8 at the latter site September 1st, Messingham and Kirkby-on-Bain 1-5, Thorpe/Whisby Pits 1-6, 10 on August 17th, 7 28th, with 6 at Moulton Marsh August 5th, 9 Kilton Lindsey Quarries July 17th, and the autumn passage maximum of 16 at Tetney August 8th. Towards the year's end there were singles at Saltfleetby October 4th, Snipe Dales 20th, November 1st and 17th, Newsham Lake October 24th with 2 December 22nd, Messingham November 3-11th, and in December at Atkinson's Warren 9th, Witham 21st and Willoughby 25th.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

In spring there were singles at Saltfleetby May 17th and 31st, 1 north at Donna Nook 19th. First of the autumn was one at Gibraltar Point July 15th, then 1 Donna Nook 29th and most records in August: singles at Tetney 14th, Messingham 14-17th, Goxhill Marsh 17-25th, Saltfleetby 23-24th, and at Thorpe Pits 1 24-30th, 2 31st, 1 to September 9th.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Single birds in April were at North Somercotes 19th, Tetney 22-23rd, Goxhill Haven 25th, Saltfleetby 27th, with 2 at Messingham 24th. Most of the spring passage occurred early in May, with maximum 6 at Tetney 7-8th, Cadney Res 3 8th, Covenham Res 5 on 6th and 15th, 1 25th, and 1-2 at several other sites. In June singles were at Covenham Res 18th, Chapel Pit 29th. As usual more birds were present in autumn with largest concentrations in July of 20 Tetney 17th, 15 29th; maximum 12 Holbeach Marsh 22nd, 10 24th, maximum 6 Covenham Res 25th. August maxima were 8 Goxhill Haven and 4 North Killingholme all on 2nd, 30 Covenham Res 13th, 16 Tetney 17th, 10 Moulton Marsh 20th, 6 Bardney 28th. Then in September singles at Thorpe Pits 4-9th and 30th-October 2nd; at Covenham Res to September 26th, and at Gibraltar Point 8 3-4th, birds present to September 15th, and last of the year 2 there November 2nd.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes	65	60	243	298	-	-	-	-	380	-	-	140
Witham Mouth	50	60	100	5	25	-	-	100	57	100	140	55
Holbeach St Marks	17	15	100	170	-	27	26	69	178	80	-	35

In February there were 14 at New Holland 16th, then on spring passage 107 Tetney April 26th, 70 May 7th, and also in May 24 Goxhill Haven 1st, 11 Barrow Haven 6th, 28 11th, 75 Terrington 4th, 48 18th and one inland at Covenham Res 17th.

Inland in the autumn there were singles at Messingham July 23rd and 30th, Thorpe Pits August 17th, Cadney Res 21-29th, Covenham Res 11th, with 2 30th-September 5th. In the Wash 200 were at Butterwick August 10th, 30 at Gibraltar Point 22nd. One flew south at Snipe Dales September 9th, 1 was at Covenham Res October 24th, and a flock of 170 at Butterwick December 6th.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

In spring a male was at Messingham May 25th (CJ, JTH et al) and a female at Covenham Res June 7-8th (DF, KW, MM, ACS, RN et al). Autumn birds were a juv at Covenham Res August 12-15th (MM et al), a juv at Huttoft Pit September 2nd (MM) and 1 Humberston Fitties 9th (SJM). An exceptional year; between 1960 and 1985 there were only 35 records in total, with previous maximum 4 in 1965 and 1974 (see paper in 1984 Report). Notable also is the recent increase in spring sightings; 9 of 19 birds 1976-86 have been in spring, whereas all 21 between 1960-75 were in autumn.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Another good year, with over 100 records. In the early winter one flew west at Cleethorpes on January 12th (IGS) and 2 north at Chapel Point on February 2nd (PHY, GMO) and there was an unusual spring record at Inner Dowsing on April 16th (PL). Small numbers were recorded fairly regularly at Inner Dowsing and on the coast from August to November, mainly at Saltfleetby, Huttoft and Gibraltar Point, with peaks at Huttoft of 15 south on October 26th and 17 south on November 1st. Singles were well up the Humber at Goxhill Haven on September 13th and November 2nd. A late bird flew south at Witham Mouth on December 7th (SK).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

The only early winter record was one south at Huttoft on February 2nd. Autumn passage began early, with 2 at Saltfleetby on June 30th and birds were regular on the coast between the Humber Mouth and the Wash to early November. Peak numbers in August were 30 at Gibraltar Point on 17th and 18th and 20 Witham Mouth on 22nd, with southerly movements at Donna Nook of 59 21st and 83 22nd, then at Saltfleetby 51 24th and 44 30th. In September, 130 flew south at Huttoft on 3rd and numbers at Inner Dowsing reached a peak of 22 on 12th. In October, 30 flew south at Huttoft on 4th and 25 at Saltfleetby on 26th, then 60 south at Huttoft on November 1st. One was inland at Covenham Res on August 11th and birds in the Humber included one west at Goxhill Haven on the same date, with 2 west there on September 13th. Late birds were 3 south at the Witham Mouth on December 7th.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

A juvenile was at Gibraltar Point on August 27th (GPC) and in September another at Inner Dowsing on 11th, with 2 on 18th (PL), then an adult north at Saltfleetby on 28th (GPC, ACS). In October, there was a juvenile at Inner Dowsing on 2nd (PL) and 2 adults and a juvenile flew south at Saltfleetby on 26th (BMC).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Early autumn birds in June were singles at Saltfleetby on 22nd and 30th and Huttoft and Holbeach Marsh on 29th. Singles were regular at Inner Dowsing in July, with one at Huttoft on 13th. In the Humber, one flew east at Goxhill Haven on August 13th. Birds were regular at Inner Dowsing and on the coast from August to November, with 18 south at Huttoft on September 3rd and 10 at Inner Dowsing on 24th. In October, there were 11 at Theddlethorpe on 4th, when 12 flew south at Huttoft, with 3 north and 91 south there on 26th and 46 south at Saltfleetby on the same day. Another spectacular movement occurred on November 1st when 100 flew south at Huttoft. The last of the year was at Inner Dowsing on 27th.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Early in the year, an adult flew south at Saltfleet on January 12th (BMC) and on March 29th a 1st winter and 2 adults were at Grimsby/Cleethorpes (GPC, MM). The adults were displaying and were subsequently seen at Covenham Res on April 3rd (MM) and 6th (MST, ACS, DJ),

then at Grimsby again on 12th (MM). Unfortunately, they were not relocated, but, interestingly, a 1st summer bird was in the Messingham Black-headed Gull colony on May 9th (CJ). That or another 1st summer bird was at Saltfleetby on June 22nd (BMC), an adult flew north at Huttoft on July 19th (BMC) and one was present at North Cotes on 28th (GPC, MM et al). In September, there was a 2nd winter at Pye's Hall on 27th (HB, MM), then another adult at Saltfleetby on October 26th (BMC). Inland in November, there was an adult at Apex Pit, North Hykeham, on 15th and a 1st winter there on 22nd (KDD). Finally, a 2nd winter flew east at Holbeach Marsh on December 7th (PC).

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Good numbers were recorded in February, with 30 at the Witham Mouth on 1st, 2 north at Chapel Point and 11 at Huttoft on 2nd, with 45 north there 3rd, one on 4th, 3 north 15th and 4 18th. Thirteen flew north at Trusthorpe on 15th and one was found dead at Leverton on 23rd, with 2 dead there on March 9th. Also in March, there were singles at Huttoft 3rd, Freiston Shore 22nd and 2 at the Witham Mouth 29th. Spring passage and summering birds were mainly singles occasionally from April to July at Messingham, Tetney, Barrow Haven, Donna Nook, Gibraltar Point, Butterwick and Covenham Res, with 3 there on June 9th. In autumn, birds were more regular in August at Covenham Res, with up to 3 recorded and others at Tetney and the Witham Mouth. The main passage was from September to November, with peaks of 60 north at Saltfleetby on September 28th and up to 22 at Inner Dowsing in November. Single figure counts, maximum in brackets, were recorded at Donna Nook (1), Goxhill Haven (8), Gibraltar Point (8), Theddlethorpe (8), Huttoft (7), Lincoln Ballast Pit (1) and Deeping High Bank (1). The only December record was one at Covenham Res on 21st.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Early in the year, there were 3,400 at Pyewipe, Grimsby, in January, with 1,000 at Covenham Res on April 23rd. About 100 pairs bred at Laughton, 120 pairs at Messingham and 500 pairs at Holbeach Marsh, the latter all failing due to high tides. Early autumn concentrations included 5,000 at Butterwick on August 19th and 20,000 at Tetney on 25th. A roost at the Witham Mouth contained 10,800 on December 6th.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

In January, there were 1,000 at Goxhill Haven on 26th and 600 flew south at Huttoft on 30th, then in February 1,200 south there on 2nd, 4,200 north on 3rd and 1,000 north on 11th. Also in February, there were 8,000 at Tetney on 10th. A roost at the Witham Mouth contained 4,500 on December 6th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

In the early winter, singles were recorded at Barton-on-Humber Pits on January 6th and 20th and Apex Pit, on 16th, then in February at Theddlethorpe on 9th, New Holland 11th and Scunthorpe 16th. Passage began in March, with small numbers fairly widespread in spring and summer and peaks of 42 at Tetney on March 29th, 20 at Chapel St Leonards May 26th, 40 at Covenham Res July 6th, 70 at Donna Nook 17th, with up to 15 at Inner Dowsing. Birds showing characteristics of *L f intermedius* were at Grimsby Docks on April 16th and Huttoft on June 15th, when there were also 2 of *L f fuscus*, with 6 of this race at Covenham Res on July 12th and 3 at Gibraltar Point in mid August. In autumn, numbers at Lincoln Ballast Pit peaked at 172 north on August 21st and 125 on October 3rd. Late birds in November were singles at Denton Res on 3rd and 17th, Huttoft on 23rd and 2 at Saltfleetby on 30th. The only December records were singles at Chapel Pit on 7th and Cleethorpes on 31st.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

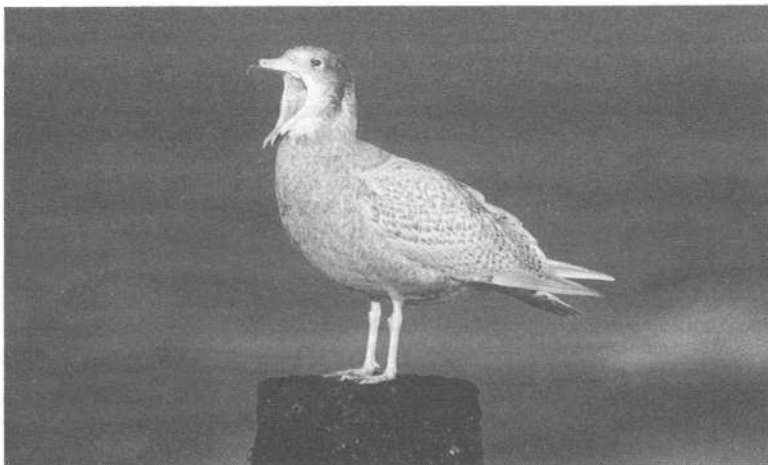
A large concentration of 4,000 was at the Witham Mouth on January 12th and at Tetney there were counts of 300 on February 1st and 418 on July 30th. Southerly movements in October included 600 at Saltfleetby and 270 at Huttoft on 26th. A roost at the Witham Mouth contained 1,350 on December 6th.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

A 2nd winter bird flew south at Saltfleet on January 12th (BMC) and a 1st winter at Cleethorpes was present from 18th to February 2nd (KA, PH et al). A 2nd or 3rd winter was at the Witham Mouth on February 16th (ACS, DJ) and a 2nd winter at the Nene Mouth on March 2nd (PC).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

There was a good series of records from January to April starting with 3 (1st, 2nd and 3rd winters) at Pyewipe, Grimsby, on January 1st, the 1st winter present to 15th. There was an



First-winter Glaucous Gull at Huttoft (B.M. Clarkson)

adult at Cleethorpes from January 7th to February 13th, 1st winters there January 18-19th and at Grimsby North Wall on February 8th, March 29th and a different bird April 12-13th. First winters were also at Covenham Res on January 26th, February 15-19th and March 9th, with a different bird on 25th, at Donna Nook (N) on January 1-12th, with 2 at Saltfleet on 11th, one north at Chapel Point on February 2nd, at Winterton Tip March 6-7th and Saltfleetby 16th. There was an adult at Huttoft on January 30th, another south March 9th, with a 2nd winter south 16th and adult again on 23rd. A different adult to the Huttoft bird flew south at Trusthorpe on March 9th. In April, one was at Gibraltar Point on 16th, a 1st summer flew west at Barton-on-Humber on 19th and Moulton Marsh Tip had 2 adults on 1st, with one to 11th and 2nd winters on 2nd and 30th. An unusual June record was a 2nd summer at Donna Nook from 2-8th (MST). Numbers were smaller later in the year, with 4th winter/adult at Holbeach St Matthew on September 7th and Holbeach St Marks on 14th and 1st winter at Pyewipe, Grimsby, on October 6th. In November, there was an adult at Moulton Marsh Tip 26th, 1st winters at Inner Dowsing on 8th and Hobhole Outfall on 16th. Huttoft had an adult on November 3rd, 1st winter on December 6th and 2nd winter 20-26th.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

In the early part of the year, there were 1,200 at Pyewipe, Grimsby, on January 1st, with up to 200 at Tetney in February. Tetney had a count of 188 on June 23rd, with 150 at Holbeach Marsh on July 6th, mostly immatures. Later in the year, there were 435 at Cleethorpes on November 2nd and 640 there on December 31st.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Early in the year, 90 flew north at Gibraltar Point on January 3rd and up to 50 were present at Inner Dowsing from January to March. Peak numbers occurred in February, with 100 at the Witham Mouth on 1st, then on 2nd 150 at Huttoft, 60 north at Chapel Point and 240 east at Lutton Outmarsh. Two were well up the Humber at Barton on 3rd and 7th. An exceptional inland flock of 41 adults was at Messingham on May 24th. Small numbers occurred on the coast to October, with up to 100 at Inner Dowsing in September and October, 95 at Saltfleetby and 110 at Gibraltar Point on October 26th. A large movement occurred on November 1st when 2,000 flew south at Huttoft, 153 were counted at Gibraltar Point and 24 flew west up the Humber at East Halton Skitter. A maximum of 200 was at Inner Dowsing 16th. Inland, one flew north-east at Snipe Dales on 21st. There was a late movement of 100 south at Huttoft on December 20th.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

First was at Inner Dowsing on April 4th and small numbers were recorded in spring on the coast to June, when up to 12 were at Tetney and 16 flew north at Theddlethorpe on 8th. Inland records were at Saxilby on May 2nd, Covenham Res 17th and Ravenhorpe on July 13th. Numbers built up from late July, with 200 at North Cotes on 23rd, 250 Humberston Fitties

August 5th, 360 Tetney 6th, 200 Saltfleetby 8th, 250 Butterwick 18th and 300 at Gibraltar Point 30th, increasing to 500 on September 14th. One was up the Humber at Goxhill Haven on September 1st and the last flew south at Huttoft on November 1st.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

First was at Grimsby Docks on April 16th and small numbers occurred in spring, with maxima of 22 at Tattershall on April 27th and 20 at the Nene Mouth on May 5th. Inland breeding pairs were at Bardney, 4 at Thorpe Pits and with newly fledged young on the Witham near Tattershall on July 5th. Peak autumn numbers were 42 at Saltfleetby on August 10th, 200 Butterwick 18th, 50 at the Witham Mouth 22nd and 30 at Thorpe Pits on 28th. Up to 20 were at Inner Dowsing September 10-11th, with 40 at Gibraltar Point on October 3rd and the last 3 there on 11th.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

After the first at Chapel St Leonards on April 25th, only small numbers occurred in spring, with single figure counts to early June at the Witham Mouth, Tetney, Grainthorpe, Barton-on-Humber, Goxhill Haven, Barrow Haven, Hobhole Drain and Inner Dowsing. Inland birds were singles in May at Messingham on 3rd and 24th and 2 at Covenham Res on 6th, 17th and 19th. Small numbers were recorded on the coast from late June, with 10 at Saltfleetby on July 19th, 25 at Tetney on 27th and single figure counts at Inner Dowsing, Gibraltar Point, Butterwick and Huttoft, where the last was a juvenile on October 16th.

Little Tern *Sterna albitrons*

First were 2 at Tetney on April 23rd and there was a spring peak of 32 at Gibraltar Point on May 21st, but only 7 pairs bred. No details were received from other colonies and autumn peaks were 48 at Saltfleetby on August 3rd, with 11 at Holbeach Marsh on 21st. In the Humber, 2 flew east at Barrow Haven on 16th. Inland, one flew south-west at Deeping High Bank on September 1st and the last 2 were at Gibraltar Point on 27th.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

First was at Barton-on-Humber Pits on May 2nd and there was a poor spring passage to June, with occasional records of up to 3 there and at Messingham, Saltfleet Haven, Covenham Res, Denton Res, Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point. An early autumn bird was at Holbeach Marsh on July 21st and peaks in August included 10 adults at Covenham Res on 11th, with 10 there on 28th and 23 at the Witham Mouth on 19th. Smaller numbers were recorded to early October at Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, Huttoft, Ashbyville, Goxhill Haven, Butterwick, Donna Nook, Gibraltar Point, Frithville, Deeping High Bank and Luton Outmarsh, where the last was recorded on October 8th.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Up to 5 were recorded on the coast all months of the year. An oiling incident resulted in 100 being found dead in February between Huttoft and Gibraltar Point, with 90 dead on the Wash between Friskney and Freiston, February to April. Elsewhere, a few were found dead at the Humber Mouth and in the south Wash, including one inland at Fishtoft on February 8th. In June, there were 7 at Tetney 1st and 30 at Inner Dowsing 5th, with up to 50 there from September to November. Gibraltar Point had a maximum of 25 September 27th and 26 flew south at Saltfleet on October 4th. One was inland at Baston Fen on December 19th.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

One was at Gibraltar Point on January 3rd and in February 25 were found dead between Huttoft and Gibraltar Point. Small numbers were fairly regular in coastal waters from June to December, with peaks of 10 at Inner Dowsing on June 5th, 24 at Saltfleetby on August 3rd, including flightless juveniles, 30 at Inner Dowsing on September 23rd, 11 at Gibraltar Point on October 5th and up to 40 at Inner Dowsing in early November, with others at Donna Nook, Tetney and Huttoft.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

In January, one was found dead at Donna Nook (N) on 11th, with 4 dead between Skegness and Anderby Creek on February 6th and 1 dead on 22nd. Autumn movements began in late October, with 5 south at Huttoft (WPB) and one north at Saltfleetby on 26th (BMC). In November, one north at Huttoft late on 1st (MST) was a prelude to a tremendous all day northerly passage on 2nd. A minimum of 800 passed Huttoft in 8½ hours (ACS, JRC, BMC, MJT), 430 at Donna Nook in 8 hours (HB, RLo, GPC, MM), with 75 recorded at Gibraltar Point and 60 at Saltfleetby in ¾ hour (KDD). Although some duplication obviously occurred, it seems likely that well over 1,000 passed through as birds could easily be missed in the wave troughs. Also in November, 19 flew south and one north at Huttoft on 3rd (JM, PJW), with one north on 23rd (RN) and 2 at Inner Dowsing on 20th. Finally, one flew north at Huttoft

on December 2nd (BMC, MJT).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Six were found dead between Skegness and Anderby Creek in January and February and one flew north at Huttoft on February 3rd. In June, one flew south at Saltfleetby on 16th, with 12 south at Donna Nook on July 5th and one south at Theddlethorpe on August 24th. One was at Inner Dowsing on September 14th, with 10 on 19th. Singles in October were at Gibraltar Point on 5th and north at Saltfleetby on 19th and 26th, with one there on November 2nd. In December, one flew south at Huttoft on 7th and one north at Saltfleetby on 20th.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

In the early part of the year, there were 43 at Gibraltar Point on January 7th, a flock of 90 at Goxhill Marsh on 31st, 60 at Deeping High Bank on February 9th and 39 at North Kyme on March 2nd. There were 60 at Theddlethorpe on May 16th and 108 were counted between Saltfleetby and Spilsby on June 30th. The only concentrations reported later in the year were 25 at Pye's Hall on September 9th and 53 at Gibraltar Point on December 18th.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Large flocks in the early winter included 2,000 at Stallingborough on January 16th and 2,000 at Goxhill on 30th, with 3,000 there on February 14th and 1,000 at Laughton Forest during the month. An estimated 70 pairs bred at Snipe Dales. In November, there were 1,300 at Gibraltar Point on 9th and 1,200 flew north at Saltfleetby on 20th, then 4,000 were present at Goxhill from December 11-13th.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

In January, there were 100 at New Holland on 8th, with 124 there on February 16th. Migrants at the Inner Dowsing were 1-2 from May 22-30th, with one on June 10th. In November, there were 200 at Cadney Carrs on 12th, with 60 at New Holland on 14th and 80 at the Hobhole on 23rd. In December, 50 were at Goxhill on 11th, with 70 at Lincoln Ballast Pit on 21st and 70 at Huttoft on 27th.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

First was at Silk Willoughby on April 21st and the only spring concentrations reported were 25 at Tetney on May 23rd, with 60 south at Theddlethorpe on 24th and 48 at Saltfleetby on June 7th. Eighty were counted between Saltfleetby and Spilsby on June 30th. In September, there were 52 at Pye's Hall on 7th and the last was at Snipe Dales on October 16th.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

First were at Denton Res and Snipe Dales on April 26th and there was a spring peak of 10 at Gibraltar Point on May 23rd, with 10 there on August 8th. Last was at Pinchbeck on September 19th.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Pairs bred at Hartsholme, Snipe Dales, South Hykeham, Skidbrooke, North Cotes, Grainthorpe, Garthorpe, Fiskerton, and Hatton Wood, with others present in the breeding season, May to July, at Ludborough, Long Sutton, South Witham, Stow, Brandy Wharf, Welton Wood, Gibraltar Point, Wyberton Marsh, Louth, Saltfleetby and Mablethorpe. Records were also received from 27 other sites January to April and 19 sites August to December.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Records were received from about 25 sites during the year, with coastal birds at Saltfleetby in February and Gibraltar Point on September 25th.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

No significant records.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

In the early part of the year, there were 2 at Barrow Haven on January 12th, with singles in March at Elsthorpe on 3rd and Cleethorpes on 31st and up to 3 at Chapel Pit from 15-24th. In April, there were 6 at Seacroft on 13th, singles at Gibraltar Point on 14th and 20th, with another bird east on 14th and singles also at Risby Warren on 17th, Willoughby on 18th and Sleaford Ballast Pit on 26th. One was at Tetney on May 14th and June 1st and there were summer records at Laughton Forest, Seacroft (1 pair) and Theddlethorpe, with 2 pairs breeding in the south Fens. An influx occurred in November, with singles at Donna Nook (N) on 2nd, Gibraltar Point 2nd and 28th, 12 at Inner Dowsing 13th, 3 14th, 1 15th, when 2 were at Theddlethorpe, then 3 at Tetney on 16th. In December, birds with a broken wing were found dead on the tideline at Friskney on 14th and Barrow Haven 24th. Up to 7 were at the Hobhole roost, 6 at Barrow Haven, 8 at River Witham/Brant confluence, 3 at Gibraltar Point and singles at Barton-on-Humber, Theddlethorpe, Willoughby and Kirkby Laythorpe.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

One or two were present all year at Gibraltar Point, Holbeach St Marks, Holbeach St Matthew and East Halton Skitter, with displaying birds at the latter two sites, but no proof of breeding, and others recorded in summer at Read's Island, Gedney Drove End and Kirton Marsh. In the first half of the year, there were records of up to 3 at about 50 sites, with 6 at Friskney on January 5th and 11 there on 26th. Small numbers were recorded from September to December from about 15 sites, with a migrant in off the sea at Huttoft on November 1st, then 2 on 2nd. In December, there were 4 at Friskney on 14th and 5 at East Halton Skitter from 25-31st.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

At Laughton Forest the first bird of the year was noted on May 19th with two there on 29th. Two unusual May records concerned birds seen during daylight: one between Garthorpe and Luddington was at the roadside on 25th and at Skegness one was resting on the horizontal timber of a fence on 27th following a night of strong SW winds. At the traditional breeding sites records were as follows: Stapleford Woods, two pairs, including a male retrapped from 1984: Laughton Forest at least two males during July and two nests with young were found on 14th: Norton Disney Woods, 3 males were noted during July. During August there were at least 6 birds at Laughton Forest with the last being seen on 19th. The final record of the year was of a male found dead on 29th on the Norton Disney - Thurlby Road.

Swift *Apus apus*

First birds were on May 3rd with 2 at Covenham Res, 2 Grimsby Pyewipe and 2 at Messingham. Small numbers were recorded widely thereafter but the main influx was from the middle of the month with 200 Barton-on-Humber 12th, 250 Cadney 13th, 300 Covenham Res 13th and 650 on 17th, 400 Messingham 23rd, 167 south Gibraltar Point 18th and 300 south there on 27th. In June, again at Gibraltar Point 1200 flew south 17th. In July moderate movements were noted at Frampton Marsh with 200 on 13th and 120 Holbeach Marsh 19th but as usual the most spectacular movements were at Gibraltar Point with 4000 on 4th, 1300 on 8th, 3000 on 20th, 12,000 on 29th and 10,000 on 31st; all records were of birds flying south. Southerly passage continued at Gibraltar Point during August with 8,000 on 2nd and 20,000 on 7th. Smaller numbers were noted at several sites with 1000 west at Tetney 2nd and 400 north 9th, 150 Lincoln Ballast Pit 9th and 500 Covenham Res 29th. In September very small numbers were noted at several sites with the last at Covenham Res on 15th.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

In the early part of the year 1-2 were recorded at fourteen widely scattered sites. Pairs bred at Whisby Pits, Burton Pits, Messingham, Barrow Haven and Castle Bytham. Other breeding season records, between April and July, came from Ashbyville, Belleau, Tattershall, Tetney, Goxhill, Kirkby-on-Bain, Kirkby Moor and Baston Fen. Post breeding records from August until the end of the year were of 1-2 birds occasionally at twenty-four sites and 3 on the Great Eau in August.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

One was at Gibraltar Point May 1st (D. Albans)

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

There were no spring records. In August one was at Saltfleetby 23rd, another 24-28th and 2 on 31st. There were also singles at Tetney 26th, Bourne 27th and Gibraltar Point 28-30th, 2 31st. In September at Saltfleetby there was one 6th and 2 on 13th. In October singles were at Covenham Res 1st and North Cotes 5th.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Records were received from a few of the usual breeding sites with 4 birds being noted at Kirkby Moor during May. Apart from this the only records were of 1-2 at scattered sites with no significant migration or coastal sightings, but singles away from breeding sites at Barton-on-Humber January 8 - February and October 1st.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

From South Ferryby - Goxhill/East Halton there were scattered breeding records and regular birds in autumn/winter away from woodlands. On the coast in the early part of the year there were singles at North Cotes January 8th, Saltfleet March 4th, Pye's Hall May 3rd, Cleethorpes 9th and regularly at Gibraltar Point during May. During the autumn there was some evidence of migration. In September there was one at Pye's Hall 7th, one Saltfleetby 19-20th and another in off the sea 21st, one Theddlethorpe 20-21st, 2 Donna Nook 29th, one Humberston Fitties 30th and singles were noted on 18 dates at Gibraltar Point with 2 14-15th and 20th. In October one was at North Cotes 5th and singles were noted at Gibraltar Point until the end of the

year with 3 on 2nd and 2 on 16th October. Also at the end of the year one was at Humberston Fitties 24th December.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Following a severe winter no records were received from a number of former breeding sites in the north of the county. Breeding season records came from Pinchbeck, where a nest hole was excavated in an Elder during March, and in the same month singles at Hopland Wood 16th, Bourne Wood 23-27th, and Baston Fen 29th. In April there was a male at Brumby Wood 15th, a male and two females at Burton Pits 25th and at Bradley Wood a pair excavated a nest hole. During May one was noted at Kirkby Laythorpe 5th and at Laughton a pair bred. Other records came from Towns Holt, Grimsby June 16th, a single at Scopwick 29th - July 4th and one at Whisby Pits 15th. At the end of the year birds were noted at Harmston November 9th and Starmen Pit Lincoln 23rd, Twigmoor December 14th and another male at Town's Holt, Grimsby 26th.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

One was on the Inner Dowsing Tower June 16th (PL). The second county record, the first being a bird of the Eastern race at Gibraltar Point from September 18-26th 1971. Accepted BBRC.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

At the 1984/85 breeding site 3 birds had arrived by March 30th and there were at least 3 throughout the summer. One male was holding territory and, possibly, another male was present. A family party of six birds was seen from August 3-9th. The only other record was of a single at Donna Nook October 12th (IGS, JW).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

There were some substantial wintering flocks with peaks during January of 550 Gibraltar Point 3rd, 240 South Ferriby 6th, 560 Saltfleet 5-12th, 400 Barton-on-Humber 8th, 600 Holbeach Marsh 12th, 2000 Nene Point 18th, 800 Friskney-Freiston 26th. February peaks were: 70 with another 152 flying east Barton-on-Humber 5th, 650 New Holland 6th, 400 Gibraltar Point 9th, 300 Lincoln 9th, 250 Witham Mouth 9th, 280 Cowbit/Crowland 6th, 500 Holbeach March 28th, 150 Tetney throughout the month increasing to 200 in early March when there were 105 Witham Mouth on 1st. No significant autumn flocks were noted until late in October when there were 100 Tetney 19th and 200 Gibraltar Point 26th. In November 1600 flew inland off the sea at Huttoft on 2nd, 100 south Gibraltar Point 4th and 500 North Cotes 8th. Finally, in December there were 90 Gedney Drove End 5th and 150 Saltfleetby 14th.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

At Donna Nook there were 4 from January 11th until February 22nd; two of these were displaying on January 12th when one was seen feeding the other. An unusual October record was of one inland at Covenham Res on 13th (KA). In November there were singles at Gibraltar Point on 1st, 9th and 23rd.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

After the first at Messingham March 23-24th there were a few in the early part of April with the main influx occurring at the end of the month with 20 Barrow Haven Pits 27th, 45 Barton-on-Humber Pits 29th and up to 50 in the first two weeks of May at Messingham. Breeding records were received from Whisby Pits where there were over 20 nests, Sausthorpe 20-30 pairs and Kirkby-on-Bain at least 50 nests. In July there were 100 Baston Fen 6th, 100 Messingham 17th and in August 40 west at Tetney 2nd, 150 Messingham 19th whilst 1000 at Barrow Haven on 9th provided not only the highest count of the year but also one of the few bright spots in what appears to be the continuing decline of this species. In September there were 2 Huttoft 6th, 4 Saltfleetby 6th, 5 Messingham 13th, 5 Gibraltar Point 14th and, finally 3 south there on 21st.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

First bird of the year was at Fulstow April 6th and the second at Whisby Pit 17th. Migration began to pick up from 22nd when there were 10 at Barton-on-Humber, 40 Barrow Haven Pits 27th, 50 Covenham Res 27th, 50 Messingham 29th. The main influx was in May when there were 80 Messingham 12th, 150 south Theddlethorpe 16th and 200 24th, whilst at Gibraltar Point 500 flew south on 23rd and 26th. In August there were 2000 Covenham Res 27th, 2000 west Tetney 31st and at Gibraltar Point southerly migration was noted with 2000 17th, 1500 22nd, 3000 30th and 1000 31st. Substantial roosts occurred in September at Barton-on-Humber Pits where there were 15,000 on 9th and 20,000 17th and further southerly migration occurred with 750 Theddlethorpe 6th, 2000 Gibraltar Point 7th and 300 on 20th, and an albino bird was at Aubourn 6th. In October there were 100 Gibraltar Point 2nd, 83 on 6th and singles

at Anderby Creek and Barton-on-Humber 29th. There were a few late birds in November with one Gibraltar Point 1st, 2 2nd and 1 7th, 2 Truethorpe 15th, one Goxhill 18th and finally a juvenile there on 22nd.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

After the first at Lincoln Ballast Pit April 22nd there were singles at several sites until the end of the month and 10 Covenham Res 27th. During May peaks were: 40 Messingham 9th and 60 there on 12th, 100 Barton-on-Humber Pits 9th and 150 on 21st, 40 Barrow Haven Pits 11th, 140 Ashbyville 17th, 80 Goxhill Marsh 21st, 400 south Gibraltar Point 25th. Autumn migration was largely concentrated between the end of August when there were 350 Covenham Res and 500 south at Gibraltar Point on 29th and the first two weeks of September when there were 300 north Theddlethorpe 7th, 50 Holbeach St Marks 7th, 80 north and 30 south Snipe Dales 8th, 150 Denton village 13th, and 300 Covenham Res 15th. Movements continued in October when there were 100 Gibraltar Point 2nd and 41 on 26th and singles were noted at Anderby Creek and Barton-on-Humber 29th. There were several November records with 2 Gibraltar Point 1st then singles Barton-on-Humber 2nd, Louth 3rd, Goxhill 4th and 2 west there on 7th. Single birds were also seen at Saltfleet/Donna Nook 9th, Immingham 10th, Tetney 16th, North Somercotes 16th, with the last bird of the year there on 20th.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

One was at Tetney/North Cotes October 26th (HB, AB) and what was probably the same bird from November 6-9th at the same site.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

After the first at Ancaster Gravel Pits April 16th there were singles at Laughton 20th, Barton-on-Humber 25th and 26th, Messingham 26th, Denton 28th and 2 Tetney 28th, 2 Gibraltar Point 28th whilst at Snipe Dales a pair was present from 22nd staying until 21st July. In May one was at Barton-on-Humber 1st and 3 Donna Nook 18th. A pair bred at South Witham and also during June there were 3 pairs Linwood Warren, a pair Twigmoor 3rd, at least 14 pairs Laughton Forest 3rd and "several pairs" Bardney Great Scrubs Wood 23rd. Autumn migration took place mainly in August with 8 south Gibraltar Point 3rd and 1-6 from 16th to 31st with 8 south 30th. There was also one Saltfleetby 17th, one Winteringham Haven 20th and 3 Hartsholme 20th. During September at Gibraltar Point there were on 1st, 1 4th, 2 6th and 28th and singles at Inner Dowsing 11th and Saltfleetby 13th. Finally, in October one on 2nd and 3 4th at Gibraltar Point.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

In the early part of the year the only significant counts were 100 east Glebe Park Lincoln February 4th and 60 Risby Warren April 17th. Breeding records were received from Cadney Res where there were at least 6 pairs and Snipe Dales where there were 20 pairs. The main autumn passage was in September; at Gibraltar Point there were 100 4-5th, 156 south 16th, 200 south 20th, 300 south 21st and 110 south 24th. Elsewhere there were 60 Theddlethorpe 13th, 100 on 20th and 60 south 27th, 70 Goxhill/East Halton Skitter 23rd and 50 south Snipe Dales 23rd. During October there were 200 Covenham Res 11th and at Gibraltar Point 100 south 13th and 200 south 21st.

Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

At the beginning of the year there were 10 Nene Mouth January 18th and 25 from Friskney to Freiston 26th. There were 2-4 Cleethorpes/Humberston from January to March and 4-6 at Tetney during the same period with 8 on March 28th. At Gibraltar Point the January maximum was 20 on 5th. There were 3 Saltfleet Haven February 15th and at Covenham Res 8th one was seen feeding on a dead gull. Five flew west Barton-on-Humber 16th and one was at Covenham Res March 19th. In April one was at Gibraltar Point 6th whilst at Tetney there were 2 3-6th, 1 23rd. Wintering birds were first noted from September 2nd when there was one at Pye's Hall. At Covenham Res there were 2 on 23rd increasing to 6 on October 10th and with 1-3 until November 17th. One was on the Inner Dowsing September 30th - October 1st and also during October there were 2 Goxhill Haven 3rd, 4 Witham Mouth 5th, 5 Huttoft 25th and one Gibraltar Point 19th. In November there were 6 Gibraltar Point 9th, 16 north Huttoft 2nd and 5 East Halton Skitter 17th. In December there were 10 Nene Mouth 25th, 7 at Tetney, 2 Barrow Haven and 12 Gibraltar Point 31st.

A.s. littoralis Single birds of the Scandinavian race were at Barton-on-Humber February 12th and Covenham Res November 12th.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

The first at Covenham Res April 15th was quickly followed by 3 on 16th, 32 18th, 50 on 23rd

and up to 75 from 25th to 30th. These were easily the highest numbers recorded and are indicative of the more general influx. Peaks elsewhere included 14 East Halton 22nd, 27 Tattershall 24th, 10 Deeping High Bank 26th, 15 Barton-on-Humber Pits 29th, 17 Barrow Haven 30th and up to 35 from late April into May at Tetney. In May there were 20 Barrow Haven Pits 2nd and 11 Skegness Cricket Ground 4th. A pair bred at Biscathorpe Lake which is unusual as the species is rare on the Wolds. Autumn migration was noted from August 14th when there were 30 at Cadney Res and 30-70 at a number of sites until the end of the month. September peaks included 10 Theddlethorpe 13th, 20 Cadney Res 14th, 41 Gibraltar Point 4th, 10 Covenham Res 15th and 1-5 widespread until the end of the month. In October singles were at Covenham Res 1st, North Somercotes 3rd and Saltfleetby 12th.

M.f. flava Birds showing characteristics of Blue-headed Wagtails were noted as follows: a male Covenham Res April 21-25th and a female 24-25th. Also in April single males were at Barrow Haven Pits 27th, Tetney 28th and Barton-on-Humber Pits 29th. In May single males were at Covenham Res 1st and 21st, Goxhill Marsh 2nd, and one at Cadney Res 14th was present throughout the summer and seen taking food to a nest (CJ). In June single males were at Covenham Res 1st and 15th and a male feeding young was there 26th (RN). Finally a male was at Goxhill Marsh July 12th.

M.f. thunbergi A male showing the characteristics of the Grey-headed race was at Barton-on-Humber Pits May 14th (GPC).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

In January-February singles were noted at five sites: Wybers Wood, Grimsby, Denton Res, Louth and Lincoln. One was at Brigg Island March 15th and a male was at Barton-on-Humber May 5th. In July a male was at Thurlby Fen 3rd and singles were at Gibraltar Point August 30th and 31st. In September singles were noted at nine sites with up to 3 staying at Denton Res until October 4th and one at Snipe Dales until November 1st. In October singles were at New Waltham until November 23rd, Saltfleetby 6th, Gibraltar Point 4th, Manor Farm North Hykeham 25th. In November there were singles at Denton Res 7th and 12th, Barton-on-Humber 10th, Thorpe Pits 1st, Snipe Dales 28th, Louth to the year's end and 2 Gibraltar Point 15th. Other birds were singles at Lincoln 10th, Thorpe Pits 24th, Grimsby 27th and Holywell Lake 17-29th.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

In the early part of the year the only significant counts were: 10 roosting at Barton-on-Humber Pits January 15th; 50 at a roost at Scunthorpe Steelworks March 4th and one Inner Dowsing 30th and in April 15 Covenham Res 23rd and one Inner Dowsing 2nd. In the latter part of the year there were up to 30 Cadney Res August and September, 20 Saltfleetby September 13th and 8 Gibraltar Point 21st. At Baston Fen there were 120 roosting October 18th and 136 on November 15th. Also in November there were 40 Messingham 7th and 25 Baston Fen December 6th.

M. a. alba After the first White Wagtail Saltfleetby March 23rd there were 1-3 Covenham Res 27th until April 21st. Also in April there was one Tetney 3rd and 2 26-28th, one Theddlethorpe 1st, one Thorpe Pits 6th, one North Somercotes Warren 6th, 2 Barton-on-Humber Pits 13-22nd and one 28th, one Inner Dowsing 14th and at Covenham Res there were 11 22nd, 15 25th 8 27th and 1-2 until May 12th. Other May birds were singles at Grainthorpe Haven 1st, Tetney 1st and 7th, Huttoft Pits 5th and Skegness 6th.

Waxwing *Bombicilla garrulus*

In February there were 2 Laceby 2nd (WPB, M. Jerem), one Skegness 8th (EB), one Spalding 8th and one Boston 20th-22nd (PGC, R & JC). In December there were 2 Lincoln 23-28th, one Humberson Fitties 24th (IGS), one Birchwood Lincoln 30-31st (KDD, ACS et al) and 3 Barton-on-Humber 31st (GPC).

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

At Theddlethorpe there were low numbers in the spring and only 93 were ringed all year, the lowest total since 1981. The only other significant record received was of 17 breeding pairs at Snipe Dales.

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

At Snipe Dales 22 pairs bred and peaks at Gibraltar Point were 50 October 2nd, 40 November 7th and 40 on December 31st.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

In April 11 continental birds were ringed at Theddlethorpe from 5-19th and at Tetney there were 4 continental birds on 9th. In the latter part of the year there were, in September, 10

Saltfleetby 20th and 11 Gibraltar Point 25th, 20 there October 13-14th and in November, also at Gibraltar Point 15 on 2nd and 12 on 15th.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

The first birds arrived April 26th at College Wood and at Saltfleetby where a singing male stayed until the 27th. There were 3 at Bourne 28th. The main arrival occurred from the middle to the end of May with one Gibraltar Point 16th, a male Twigmoor 16-19th, and on 18th there were 3 Tumby Wood, 3 Temple Wood, one Kirkby Moor and one Messingham, one Bardney 23rd, and a male at Burton Pits 24th. At Whisby Pits there were 3 males from 26th onwards and a pair bred, two juveniles being seen August 24th. The only other autumn record was of one at Gibraltar Point August 15th.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

The first bird of the year was on Inner Dowsing March 28th. In April single birds were recorded as follows: Tetney/North Cotes 3rd, 6th, 11th, 13th, a pair from 17-19th; Pye's Hall 12th, 20th and 24th; Friskney 6th; Humberston Fitties 16th and 25th; Donna Nook 13th; Covenham Res 18th, 23rd and 24th; Inner Dowsing 20th; Saltfleetby 24th; Gibraltar Point 5th, with 2 16th, 3 19th and 4 26th. At Scunthorpe Steelworks there was a pair from late April and 4 juveniles were seen from late May with a second male present in early June. Other breeding records came from Spalding SBF where a pair reared two broods of three which fledged on 23rd June and 12th August respectively. At Grimsby Docks a female with a newly fledged juvenile and a fully fledged juvenile were seen on 6th August indicating that two broods were raised there. Autumn passage was noted in October when there were singles Tetney 5th, Donna Nook (N) 5th and 12th, North Cotes 11th, Pye's Hall 14th. At Gibraltar Point there were singles 13-14th, 18-19th, 21st and 2 on 23rd. In November one was at Freiston Shore 30th and presumably wintered as one was still there in January 1987.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

The first bird was at Covenham Res April 18th followed by a small influx from 25-27th when there were singles at Tetney, Pye's Hall, Theddlethorpe, Gibraltar Point, North Cotes and Saltfleetby. In May migration was barely more pronounced with singles at Gibraltar Point 2nd, Saltfleetby 3rd and 8th, Donna Nook 8th and 10-11th, Theddlethorpe 17th and Tetney 10th and 19th. In June a pair attempted to breed at Newell Wood, a male was in song and a pair was seen entering a nest hole 16th but later deserted. One was at Gibraltar Point July 9th but autumn migration only began in earnest at the end of August when 1-2 were at Gibraltar Point 20-31st, Winteringham Haven 20th, and further singles at Tetney 27-28th, Whisby Pits 30th, North Killingholme Haven 31st. In September there were singles on Inner Dowsing 13th, 14th, 17th and 30th whilst 1-12 were reported from eight coastal sites from Pye's Hall to Gibraltar Point over the same period, peak date being the 13th when there were 4 Theddlethorpe, 12 Donna Nook and 9 Saltfleetby, with 8 Gibraltar Point 14th. In October there were 3 Gibraltar Point 1st, 2 2nd and 1 4th, 2 Tetney 3rd and singles 5th and 12th, one Inner Dowsing 5th, one North Somercotes Warren 6th and finally one Saltfleetby 15th.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

The first of the year was at Gibraltar Point April 25th followed by 2 Tetney 26th and one Saltfleetby 30th. The main spring influx occurred in the first half of May when one to two were reported from twelve sites. One was at Tetney June 2nd and singles at Saltfleetby on July 16th, 21st, and 27th. Autumn passage proper began in August when there were 8 Gibraltar Point 16th, and 6 31st, and 5 Witham Mouth 25th. In September peaks were 10 Saltfleetby 13th, 11 14th, and 8 Gibraltar Point 16th with 1-2 reported from 4 other sites. There were only two October records, singles at Donna Nook and Witham Mouth 5th.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

In the early part of the year there were singles at Grimsby Docks January 5th, Saltfleetby March 16th, Huttoft April 19th, and Gibraltar Point May 10th. Numbers picked up a little in the latter part of the year when there were singles at Donna Nook September 27th and Saltfleetby 30th and in October at Gibraltar Point 4th and Tetney 5th. In November one was at North Killingholme Haven 6-12th and another at Donna Nook 8th. In December, between Kirton and Fosdyke there was a pair 9th and finally a single bird 20th.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

After one at Manby March 16th 1-3 were reported widely until early May with peaks of 7 Covenham Res April 23rd, 11 Saltfleetby 24th and 5 Risby Warren 24th, and in May 12 Tetney 8th. In June there were singles Saltfleetby 1st, Gibraltar Point 30th and 2 Tetney 1st. Juvenile birds were noted in July at Saltfleet 9th and Tetney 9-11th. Autumn migration peaks were 11 Saltfleetby August 16th and 9 Gibraltar Point September 3rd. In October a few single

birds were seen, at Cadney Res 2nd, Gibraltar Point 3rd, Witham Mouth 7th and the last bird of the year was at Saltfleet 21st.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

After one at Saltfleetby April 12-13th there were 3 Tetney/North Cotes 16-19th then 1-2 until 27th, 2 Theddlethorpe 19th, one Gibraltar Point 20th, one Barton-on-Humber 21st, 3 Atkinson's Warren 22nd, 1 24th, 2 Saltfleetby also 24th and one there 26-27th. In May one was at Saltfleetby 1-5th and 8th, one Barton-on-Humber Pits 2nd and a pair at Atkinsons Warren 4-7th. There was a most unusual record in July when a male was singing at Donna Nook 13th (MST). Autumn migration was very light beginning in September with singles at Saltfleetby 18th and North Somercotes 25th. In October there were singles at Pye's Hall, Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point 5th and Donna Nook 12th. Finally, a male was at Gibraltar Point December 18th (RKW, RR)

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Significant counts at the beginning of the year included 60+ Goxhill Marsh January 16th, 100 Donna Nook February 15th, 44 Gibraltar Point March 18th. Autumn migration was apparent during September at Snipe Dales when there were "several falls" from 26th-October 24th. Also in October there were 85 Saltfleetby 13th, 150 Gibraltar Point 13-14th, 100 on 19th and 114 from 28-29th. Once again the most substantial numbers were recorded in November when there were 150 Tetney/North Cotes 2nd, 66 Snipe Dales 2nd, a remarkable 1500 Inner Dowsing 13th, 96 Theddlethorpe 15th, 100-200 Gibraltar Point throughout the month with a peak of 300 on 7th, and 60-100 at Barton-on-Humber Pits into December. Also in December there were 50 Tetney 20th and at Gibraltar Point 60 on 2nd and 80 on 21st.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

In January there were 100 Barton-on-Humber 1st whilst at Gibraltar Point the month's maximum of 240 on 6th had gradually reduced to 35 which moved out by 31st. Birds returning to their breeding quarters were apparent in April when there were 170 Blyborough Grange 17th, 8 Scawby 24th, 15 Claythorpe Mill 27th, 58 Tetney 27th and 5 Burgh le Marsh 29th. There was only one May record, a single at Gibraltar Point 8th. The first autumn arrival was at Saltfleetby September 14th and the next record was of 132 flying west at Donna Nook October 24th. In November up to 170 were at Snipe Dales 1-4th, 100 Leasingham 2nd, 1600 flew south-west Witham Common 2nd in one and a half hours and 150 Gibraltar Point 7th and 16th. In December there were 60 Gibraltar Point 12th and 180 27th, 200 Goxhill Marsh 18th, 100 Tetney 20th, 152 Barrow Haven 24th and 480 Goxhill to East Halton Skitter 25th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

At Gibraltar Point there were 55 January 1st. Twenty-three pairs bred at Snipe Dales and autumn maxima were 25 Saltfleetby October 5th and 60 Gibraltar Point in mid-month. The only other significant record received was of 50 Gibraltar Point November 7th.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

At the beginning of the year there were 100 Barton-on-Humber January 1st and at Gibraltar Point 140 1st and 100 21st; in March 88 flew south there 23rd. There were very few April records with singles at Messingham 6th, Immingham 9th, Tetney 28th and 8 Gibraltar Point 24th. Birds began to return to their winter quarters in September with one Saltfleetby 18th and 2 24th, 2 Gibraltar Point 24th and 12 Theddlethorpe 27th. The main autumn influx was in October when there were 20 Donna Nook 5th and 40 on 15th, 40 Pye's Hall 5th, 450 south Snipe Dales 12th, 130 Saltfleetby 13th, 120 Gibraltar Point 13th and 1000 16th. In November 806 flew south-west at Witham Common 2nd and there were 40 Barton-on-Humber 4th, 200 Gibraltar Point 7th and 100 Inner Dowsing 13th. In December there were over 100 at Barton-on-Humber early in the month.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

In June there were 12 Swinderby airfield 22nd and in July near Eagle there were 20 in a strawberry field on the 10th. In August there were 10 Saltfleetby 2nd and 6 south 24th whilst there were 23 Gibraltar Point 18-27th. In September there were 10 Gibraltar Point 12th and 16 Colsterworth 14th. In October there were 6 Linwood Warren 24th.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

The first males were heard at Barton-on-Humber Pits on April 26th and Saltfleetby 27th with 1-2 at Tetney from 28th, a pair breeding, and one Messingham 29th to July with a female May 6th and a pair probably breeding. More singing males in May as follows; Barton-on-Humber 2 9th, Barrow Haven different birds 1st and 13th, Donna Nook 2 5th with one to 28th, Gedney Hill 2 on 6th, North Cotes 2 on 2nd, Goxhill Marsh 4th, Wolla Bank 2 on 3rd, Saltfleetby 4th and Snipe Dales with 2 pair from 3rd and the last seen September 9th.

Additional birds in June were at Linwood Warren 23-July 1st, Dogdyke 22nd, Gainsborough 15th, Chapel Pit 29th, Bardney Forest 8th and Laughton Forest 3rd. A pair bred in Temple Wood and one was at Morkery Wood in July with another Denton 21st.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

A singing male was present at Lincoln Ballast Pit from June 18-25th (KDD, ACS, DJ et al). There are four previous accepted county records with one May, 2 August and one September, the last in 1976.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

The first arrivals in April were at Wolla Bank and Chapel Pit on 19th with 2 Barton-on-Humber Pits 24th, 4 26th, Ashbyville 25th, Messingham 26th where 35 pairs bred, and Snipe Dales 28th. There were 35 pairs at Barton-on-Humber Pits on May 8th and 11 pairs bred at Snipe Dales with 17 pairs along 2 miles of the River Witham and South Delph. The last birds were seen at Messingham on August 29th, Saltfleetby September 6th, Snipe Dales 15th and Gibraltar Point 21st.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

A singing male was present at Chapel Pit on June 4th (GPC) and an autumn bird was seen well and photographed at Saltfleetby on August 24th (MM, BMC, MJT).

There are 8 previous county records with 2 in May, 5 June and one October; 6 have been recorded since 1978 and 4 arrived between 3-5th June.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

The only April bird was at Barton-on-Humber Pits on 29th; 2 were at Messingham on May 3rd and 35 pairs bred there, and 11 males were at Barton-on-Humber by 8th May. One was recorded in song in a dry hawthorn and privet site at Kirkby Laythorpe from 26th-June 2nd and 11 pairs were located in Thurlby Fen. Late birds were 3 in Goxhill Marsh September 26th with one October 3rd, Gibraltar Point October 4th, Ashbyville 3-11th and Saltfleetby 1-12th.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

One was seen at Donna Nook (N) from August 13-14th (MM et al).

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

A male was trapped at Gibraltar Point on July 6th (IH, KWW, JH) and was retrapped there on August 24th (BTO). It was seen for the last time on 31st (GPC).

This is the second county record and closely mirrors the first of a male trapped at the same locality on June 30th 1979 and present until September 15th. Accepted BBRC.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Single birds were recorded at Tetney August 12th (HB), Saltfleetby 23rd (GPC), 24-25th (HB, ACS, BMC et al) and 31st (HB) and Theddlethorpe 31st (BMC). One was ringed at Gibraltar Point on September 16th (IH) one seen at Saltfleetby 8th (BMC) and one at North Cotes on October 1st was seen to have been taken by a Sparrowhawk (CJ), with another at Saltfleetby 4th (BMC).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

April arrivals were 3 at Chapel Pit 25th, 2 Barton-on-Humber Pits 26th, one Gibraltar Point 26th and one Aby 27th. On May 3rd 13 were ringed at Theddlethorpe and there were 12 at Gibraltar Point 5th with 9 at Barton-on-Humber 2nd. Autumn maxima on the coast were 9 Saltfleetby August 29th, 25 Gibraltar Point 25th and 16 there September 14th. Late September inland birds were at Scopwick 26-27th and Barton-on-Humber 26th with October birds at Winteringham 2nd, Saltfleetby 1-4th and Gibraltar Point 2nd, 4th and 13th.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

The first April birds were at Tetney, Chapel St Leonards and Messingham 25th, Theddlethorpe, Gibraltar Point 2, and Saltfleetby 4 26th and Denton 27th.

At Snipe Dales 45 pairs bred and at Theddlethorpe 50 were ringed on July 12th with 334 trapped all year. August maximum at Saltfleetby was 64 on 17th with 100 at Gibraltar Point 24th. There were still 12 at Gibraltar Point on September 14th with the last 3 on 27th and one at Saltfleetby October 4th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

The first birds were not noted until May with one Snipe Dales 4th, 12 pairs later breeding, Barrow Haven 6th, Tetney 7th, Denton 9th, Burton Pits 11th and Messingham 12th. Six were in Twigmoor Woods on May 28th. Autumn coastal passage was again poor with a maximum of 10 at Gibraltar Point August 21st and the last there September 27th. Other late birds in September were Snipe Dales 15th, Denton 15th, Theddlethorpe 27th then in October Winteringham 2nd and Tetney 5th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

The only early winter record was in Bourne Woods on February 23rd. The first spring birds were at Messingham 2 April 18th, North Somercotes Warren 22nd, Gibraltar Point 26th and Barton-on-Humber 27th. Thirteen pairs bred at Snipe Dales. Another very poor autumn coastal passage with maxima per day of no more than 4 at any site except 7 Theddlethorpe and 16 North Somercotes Warren both on August 20th. December records at Gibraltar Point 6th and 13th, Lincoln 22nd and Barrow Blow Wells 26th.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

One was trapped at Gibraltar Point on September 20-21st (AHP, IH, KWW et al) and a second was present at North Cotes from September 26-29th (IGS, HB, GPC et al).

These are the 5th and 6th autumn county records; of the previous four two were in September, and two in October. Both accepted BBRC.



Arctic Warbler at North Cotes (P. Haywood)

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Another superb autumn influx with at least 22 birds recorded-the best year ever, just beating the 21 in 1985.

The first birds in September were at Gibraltar Point 14th (D.B. Forgham), with one Saltfleetby 26th (SJM) then at Donna Nook (N) one 26th (BMC, MJT) with 2 on 27-28th (AGP, PH, GPC, ACS et al). Also at Donna Nook (N) there were a series of records in October with 2 from 4-5th (MM, GPC et al) one 6-7th (CJ, IGS) 2 on 10th (CJ) one 11-12th (KA, MM, SB, HB, R & JC) and one 15th (CJ). Two were at Tetney/North Cotes on 5th (HB), one Pyes Hall 5th (GPC, MM), 2 North Somercotes Warren 6th (PJW), single first winter birds ringed at Theddlethorpe 4th and 12th (MB), one Cleethorpes pumping station 13th (RKN), 2 Saltfleetby 13th with one to 14th (BMC, MJT), and at Gibraltar Point one 12th (PJK, KWW) and one 19th (EW). The only November record was one on the Inner Dowsing tower on 13th (PL).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Spring migrants were noted at Burton Pits May 3-5th (DJ, PH), North Somercotes Warren 3-4th (GPC, PJW), Scawby Woods 14th (CJ) and Twiggmoor 15th (CJ). A male was at Linwood Warren from June 2-3rd (SB). A good autumn with inland birds at South Witham August 5th (ES) and Grimsthorpe Park 9th (KA, PH) and coastally at Donna Nook 25th (KW), 27th (MM), Saltfleetby 28th (BMC, MJT) and Gibraltar Point 2 ringed 16th, one ringed 17th (IH et al) and one 25th (CJM et al). One was at Saltfleetby on September 14th (GPC, MM).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

The only early winter bird was at Sleaford January 2nd. Early spring arrivals were at Denton March 21st, Barton-on-Humber Pits 25th with 2 26th, Haverholme 25th, Kirkby Moor 29th, Tetney 30th and Scotterthorpe 31st. There were 10 at Twiggmoor on May 15th and 8 Messingham September 9th. On the coast 6 were at Donna Nook (N) on October 27th and there was a marked influx in November with 8 North Somercotes Warren 4th, singles Gibraltar Point 2nd and 9th with 2 16th and Saltfleet 15th. Birds showing characteristics of the northern/eastern races *abietinus/tristis* were also very evident with one suggesting *tristis* at Saltfleetby 12th

(KA), one of 2 trapped at Theddlethorpe on 2nd (MB) also *tristis* one *tristis* and 2 *abietinus* at North Somercotes Warren 9th (HB, MM) with 2 *tristis* and one *abietinus* there 24th (GPC). In December there was a single bird at Gibraltar Point 6th with 2 at Messingham from 27th into 1987 one of which showed characteristics of *tristis* and was also heard calling and in song (CJ, JTH).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

The first of the spring was at Snipe Dales on April 11th, 90 pairs subsequently breeding there. Other early birds were at Barton-on-Humber Pits 12th with 28 there 26th and a maximum of 50 on May 2nd, Swallow and New Holland 16th, Tetney, Denton and Ashbyville 17th with 2 Messingham 16th, 25 there 26th and 40 males May 3rd. Other high spring counts included 45 Twigmoor May 15th, 27 Saltfleetby 4th and 20 Elsham 23rd. On the coast in August 50 were at Donna Nook (N) on 17th and 150 at Gibraltar Point 16th and 24th with 28 there September 14th. October birds were noted at North Cotes 1st, Snipe Dales 4th, Saltfleetby 1-4th and Gibraltar Point 3 on 9th. A very late bird was at North Somercotes Warren on November 9th.(MM,HB)

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

A really terrible year for both spring and autumn passage despite some ideal weather in late September-early October and a good influx of Yellow-browed Warblers and Red-breasted Flycatchers. The early winter maximum at Gibraltar Point was 7 on January 31st. The only spring bird! at Theddlethorpe was on April 19th and Gibraltar Point had 4 on 13th. Fifteen pairs bred at Snipe Dales. Only 12 were ringed all autumn at Theddlethorpe and the maximum at Saltfleetby was 18 on October 13th while Gibraltar Point had 30 on November 14th and 24 on 21st with 20 December 7th.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

In spring one was at Gibraltar Point April 19th and one ringed Market Rasen 26th, 2 were at Tetney May 20th and one Gibraltar Point 30th. In autumn one was at Donna Nook (N) on September 25th with 2 27-28th then 2 there October 4-6th and one 11th with 2 at Donna Nook on 5th and one on the Inner Dowsing also 5th. The only bird at Theddlethorpe was a first winter female trapped on December 14th.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

First of the spring was at Gibraltar Point May 7th with a marked arrival from 13th at Tetney Blow Wells and records at Saltfleetby, Messingham, Goxhill, Scopwick, Leasingham all 15-16th and Scawby 13th. Two were found dead by some greenhouses at Burgh-le-Marsh on 31st and singles noted on the Inner Dowsing from 23-June 17th. Autumn maxima at Gibraltar Point were 7 in August, 8 September 14th and 7 19th with the last there being 2 on October 11th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

A good autumn with 9 birds recorded. In September there was one at Saltfleetby on 18th (BMC, MJT) with another there 24th then 3 on 25th (BMC, MJT) with one to 26th (KA, BMC, MJT). One was at Donna Nook (N) from 24-26th (SJM, BMC, MJT, KA, MM et al) and one Saltfleet 27th (HB). In October one was at Donna Nook (N) on 4th (RNH, WG) and on 5th one at Gibraltar Point (E Berks RSPB) and Saltfleetby (PH, AGP et al).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

The only spring records were of 2 at Saltfleetby May 3rd, one in song, one Gibraltar Point 4th and one Tetney 18th. Up to 4 were noted on the coast at Saltfleetby, Donna Nook (N), Donna Nook Tetney/North Cotes, Theddlethorpe, Gibraltar Point, Humberston and Seacroft on several dates from August 9-30th, September 13-30th with a maximum of 6 at Donna Nook (N) on August 14th. In October birds were present at Tetney/North Cotes 4-5th, 7th and 3 on 13th, Donna Nook (N) 5-6th, Saltfleetby 3 on 5th and 2 14th and Gibraltar Point 2nd.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

On January 9th before the bad weather 25+ were wintering at Barton-on-Humber Pits, but only 2 remained in February. One was at Wolla Bank on January 4th and one Gibraltar Point May 1st. Only 12 pairs bred on the South Humber Bank Pits following the severe winter but many pairs reared 2 and 3 broods and 12 juveniles were together on July 14th. Autumn maximum at Barton-on-Humber was only 20 on September 26th. Dispersing autumn birds were seen at Lincoln Ballast Pit 4-5 October 3rd, Saltfleetby 12 south 16th, Goxhill 3 on 24th, Messingham 4 on 15th, Holbeach St Marks 2 15th and Gibraltar Point 4 on 18th with 2 there November 1st, 8 Messingham on 15th, 4 Holbeach St Marks 6th and 4 Goxhill 22nd with finally 1-3 at Messingham December 6-31st.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caedatus*

The only reports in excess of 10 birds were as follows; in January Lincoln Ballast Pit 14 on

16th, Barton-on-Humber Pits 11 on 8th and Linwood Warren 12 on 19th, then in September 19 Lincoln Ballast Pit 26th, 11 Barton-on-Humber Pits November 29th and 20 Messingham December 28th.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

In the south-west stronghold birds were noted at Morkery Wood 2 in January-February, Bourne Woods 3+, Callans Lane Wood 2 February 23rd, Denton Res pair present all year and bred, Rauceby Warren one January-February and 2 December 7-13th, Dunston Heath Woods in April, Haverholme 2 February 17-August with 3 on 22nd, Belton Park a pair bred, South Witham July 19th, Neville Wood 2 February 2nd and Revesby February 23rd.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Widespread records of 1-3 birds; 6 pairs bred at Snipe Dales and 6 were at Messingham December 28th.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Away from breeding sites one was at Barton-on-Humber Pits on January 20th and at Gibraltar Point there were autumn singles on September 26th, October 1st and 26th. There were 40+ in Loughton Forest on September 4th and 10 at Messingham on December 28th.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

A total of 113 ringed at Theddlethorpe was the worst year total since 1980. Autumn coastal maxima were 25 Saltfleetby September 11th, 36 Gibraltar Point 11th and 35 October 3rd with 30 noted at Messingham on December 28th.

Great Tit *Parus major*

The only records of note were totals of 17 Saltfleetby on April 16th and 21 at Gibraltar Point on October 28th.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

One was seen at Denton Res on January 1st, the only record there in 1986. Elsewhere in the south-west were 2+ in Bourne Woods all year, one at Haverholme February 17-22nd, 2 Rauceby Station March 23rd and one Dunston Heath Woods April 13th. Four were in Neville Wood, Potterhanworth, on February 2nd with one 16th; 3 pairs present at Irnham in June with one Monk's Wood 22nd and most unusually one at Twigmoor 8-9th (RNH) well outside the normal range. Several were present in Belton Park in July with 2 Tortoiseshell Wood 20th, one Dole Wood 27th and one Casewick near Stamford 8th. Several were noted in Grimsthorpe Park on August 9th and one was at Haverholme 22nd.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

A peak of 4 was noted at Barton-on-Humber Pits in January on 8th, the birds all feeding in hawthorn hedges. One was occasional all year at Kirtton (Boston) and on the coast there were one Saltfleetby January 26th, 2 Gibraltar Point 3-4th with singles to February 16th then 2 November 16th and one Theddlethorpe October 3rd.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

A first summer male was singing at Snipe Dales on May 23rd (SL) and one was trapped at Gibraltar Point on 24th (KWW et al).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

A poor year with just three records. A male was seen at Little Cawthorpe near Louth on May 22nd with a male holding territory and in song at Saltfleetby July 14-30th and another adult male there September 14-19th (still in summer plumage).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

The wintering bird at Rauceby Warren/village remained until March 23rd and was seen again from December 1st into 1987. Additionally one was at Donna Nook (N) from October 4-5th and one at Low Fulney near Spalding on December 18th.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

There was a maximum of 12 at Linwood Warren on October 24th, but the only reports away from breeding areas were singles at Goxhill Marsh from April 28th to May 1st and Gibraltar Point on August 19th.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Concentrations in excess of 20 included 50 at Barton-on-Humber Pits in January and February, 30 at Lincoln Ballast Pit on January 7th and 29 there December 24th, 25 at Goxhill Marsh on January 26th and a flock of 36 there December 11th, with 24 Saltfleetby September 9th, 30 Gibraltar Point October 4th and 30 Theddlethorpe November 15th. A count of 23 pairs in the Bourne South, Thurlby, Baston and Deeping Fens reflects a recent increase in numbers.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

At Denton, 200 were present all year and in February there were 500 at Sotby on 22nd and

100 at Langworth on 23rd, with 100 at Covenham on March 28th. Large flocks of c1,000 were at Stamford on August 4th and Willoughby Wood in November and December, with 600 at Snipe Dales on December 30th and 100 at Thornton Abbey on 31st.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

In February, there were counts of 422 at Carlton Grange on 14th, 300 at Sotby on 22nd and 400 at Langworth on 23rd, with 200 at Goxhill Marsh on March 20th. At Snipe Dales 85 pairs bred and there were 205 at South Somercotes Ings in the second half of July. There were 400 at Messingham on September 26th and up to 1,000 roosting in Willoughby Wood in November and December. Other large flocks in December were 400 at Goxhill on 18th, 900 at Wootton on 27th and 2,000 roosting at Thornton Abbey on 31st.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

At Gibraltar Point 40 flew south on March 30th and there were 25 there on September 27th. Numbers at Goxhill Marsh reached 34 on April 6th and there were 34 again there on September 18th, with 45 November 22nd. A flock at Theddlethorpe reached a peak of 110 on December 24th.

Corvus corone corone (Hooded Crow). The only records were singles at Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe from January 4th to February 9th and April 6th, with others at Pye's Hall on March 30th and in April at Goxhill Marsh on 6th, Huttoft on 22nd and Tetney 25-27th, then only one later in the year at Theddlethorpe on November 8th.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Early in the year the roost at Scunthorpe steelworks reached 30,000 in February. A leucistic juvenile was seen at Covenham Res on July 10th. In autumn, there was a roost of 40,000 at Barton-on-Humber Pits on September 17th and coastal numbers in October included 3,000 at Gibraltar Point on 16th and 3,500 at Theddlethorpe on 28th. In November, 13,000 arrived off the sea at Huttoft on 2nd, with 3,000 at North Killingholme on 10th and Inner Dowsing on 13th, then 4,000 at Theddlethorpe on 15th. A huge roost at Holbeach St Marks in November and December was estimated as well in excess of 100,000 and there were roosts of 50,000 at Goxhill Marsh and 40,000 at Scunthorpe Steelworks in December.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

No significant records.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Concentrations early in the year included 50 at Butterwick and 150 at Holbeach St Marks on January 1st, with 130 at Barton-on-Humber on 8th. There were 50 at Deeping High Bank on February 9th, 60 at Barton-on-Humber on March 30th and 100 at Fulstow on April 17th. Later in the year, there were 75 at North Killingholme Haven on September 14th, 50 at Moulton Marsh on November 26th and 85 at West Ashby Pits on December 21st.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Winter concentrations included 100 at Swallow on January 15th, 85 at Burwell on February 19th, with 60 at Laughton on March 1st and 50 at Bourne South Fen on 15th. Spring passage at Gibraltar Point peaked at 131 south on March 23rd and 177 south on 30th. In April, 120 flew north at Theddlethorpe on 19th and 70 pairs were estimated at Snipe Dales. Autumn numbers in October included a maximum of 200 at Gibraltar Point on 14th, 80 at Donna Nook on 15th, 150 at Linwood Warren on 24th (mostly females) and southerly movements at Theddlethorpe of 50 on 16th and 28th, then 100 on November 15th.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

In the period January to April, there were single figure counts at Thorpe Pits, Pinchbeck, Revesby, Spilsby, Barton-on-Humber Pits, Laughton, Frampton Marsh, Messingham, Inner Dowsing, Weelsby Woods, Blyborough Grange, Tetney, Barrow Haven, Aswardby, Pye's Hall, Gosberton, Covenham Res and Kirton. Larger numbers were as follows: in January, 45 at Gibraltar Point on 2nd and 20 at the Witham Mouth on 12th; in February, up to 24 at Deeping St. Nicholas, 10 Holbeach Hurn on 9th, 20 at Burwell on 19th and up to 70 at Gibraltar Point in the 2nd half of the month; in March, 150 at Raithby Lake, Louth on 3rd, 35 at Bourne South Fen on 5th, 16 at Gibraltar Point on 8th and 75 at Claxby on 23rd; in April, 30 at Bourne Wood on 11th, 88 at Bourne South Fen on 18th, 50 north at Theddlethorpe on 19th and 50 at Scotterthorpe on 20th. Late birds on May 1st/2nd were one at Gibraltar Point, 6 at Covenham Res, 7 at Barton-on-Humber Pits, 2 at Kirton and 5 at Barrow Haven. Interestingly, birds were flycatching from hawthorns at the latter three sites. The last of the spring was at Langtoft on 10th. First of the autumn were 2 at North Somercotes on September 18th and there were single figure counts in the period to the end of the year at Saltfleetby, Barton-on-Humber

Pits, Messingham, Scopwick, Snipe Dales, Lincoln, Twigmoor and the Witham Mouth. At Inner Dowsing, there were 10 on September 23rd, with smaller numbers to the end of the month, then 20 on October 5th and 6 on November 13th. Larger concentrations were as follows: in October, max. 30 at Tetney/North Cotes on 5th, 16 at Donna Nook (N) on 5th and 30 on 12th, 20 south at Theddlethorpe on 12th and 60 there on 16th, 50 at North Somercotes all month and regular at Gibraltar Point, with up to 75 recorded; in November, 10 at Theddlethorpe on 3rd and 20 south on 9th; in December, 20 at Laughton Forest on 19th and 50 on 31st.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Concentrations early in the year included 250 at New Holland on January 26th and numbers at Gibraltar Point from January to early March peaked at 500 on February 22nd. Later in the year, there were 550 at Witham Common on November 5th, decreasing to 250 in December, with 150 at New Holland in November and December. Gibraltar Point had 100 on October 19th and 26th and December 31st and 100 were at North Killingholme Haven in late December.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Largest numbers early in the year were at Gibraltar Point, with from 100-160 January to April, peaking at 260 on January 12th. There were 50 at Bourne South Fen on May 4th and up to 85 at Gibraltar Point from September to December, apart from 100 on October 26th.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

In the period January to April, there were single figure counts at Barton-on-Humber Pits, Barrow Haven, Bottesford, Messingham, Lincoln, Scopwick, Swanpool, Baston Fen, Laughton, Grimsby and North Somercotes Warren. Birds feeding on nuts were recorded at Bottesford and Swanpool. Larger numbers were as follows: in January, 12 at Denton Res on 1st, 10 at Hartsholme Park and 10 south at Gibraltar Point on 4th, 35 at Boultham Park, Lincoln on 5th, with 15 there on March 15th; in April, 20 at Bourne Wood on 8th. Late birds in May included one south at Gibraltar Point and 2 west at Barton-on-Humber Pits on 1st, one at Tetney and 10 south at Theddlethorpe on 3rd, then 2 at Gibraltar Point on 8th. A pair nest-building at Snipe Dales on 16th later reared 3 juveniles and were present to July 21st. Other unusual records were singles south at Theddlethorpe on June 8th and July 30th and singles at Gibraltar Point on June 27th and August 7th. In the period September to December, there were single figure counts at Donna Nook (N), Tetney, Barton-on-Humber, Snipe Dales, Bourne Wood, Saltfleetby, Messingham, Laughton, Baston Fen, Boultham Park and Hartsholme Park. Larger numbers were 25 south at Theddlethorpe on September 27th, then in October 15 south there on 12th and 25 present on 16th, when 20 were at Gibraltar Point, with 12 there November 2nd. A rather poor late autumn and winter.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Early in the year, there were up to 200 at Gibraltar Point from January to March, with 250 on January 7th and 100 at Tetney on January 18th and March 1st. In autumn, Gibraltar Point had 100 by August 26th, increasing to 300 on September 18th and 600 south on October 21st. Also in October, there was a maximum of 150 at Snipe Dales on 6th and 250 at Theddlethorpe on 12th. Gibraltar Point had 100 on November 1st and there were 100 at Witham Common on 15th, then 143 at Donna Nook on December 27th.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Tetney	100	15	100	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	60
Gibraltar Point	50	300	300	50	-	-	-	-	-	100	6	45
Butterwick	1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	200
Friskney-Freiston	800	130	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	750
Witham Mouth	350	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	200
Kirton Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	150	150
Holbeach St Marks	1300	1000	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	300	150

Other early winter concentrations were 300 at Donna Nook on January 26th, then 250 at Nene Mouth and 150 at Lutton Outmarsh on March 2nd. Late spring birds were 2 at Tetney on April 24th. First of the autumn were 5 at Saltfleetby on September 24th. There were 100 at North Cotes on November 8th and a singing male at Donna Nook on 12th was unusual as were 13 inland at Baston Fen on 30th with 6 on December 6th.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Few concentrations were reported. In the early part of the year, there were 100 at Laughton Forest from February 15th to March 6th, with 50 at Messingham on March 4th. In autumn,

there was a maximum of 50 at Saltfleetby on September 20th, up to 70 at Snipe Dales in October and 70 at Laughton on November 18th.

Mealy Redpoll: Birds showing characteristics of the nominate race, *C.f. flammea*, were 3 at Rauceby Warren on March 10th and 10 at Snipe Dales on December 29th.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

In the south-west, birds remained at Bourne Wood from 1985, with 6 on January 5th, up to 25 in February and a maximum of 30 on May 8th. Ten were still present on July 5th. There were 6 at Morkery Wood on March 27th and 9 on June 7th, 8 at Bourne Wood on October 13th and 9 at Denton Res from November 7th to the end of the year. All of these may have involved the same 'resident' population, but it is not known if breeding control occurred in the county. Apart from these, there were 45 at Twigmoor on June 9th. Some passage in July included a male north at Theddlethorpe on 9th, one at Gibraltar Point on 16th, with 5 south on 27th and 5 there on August 4th.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

A female/immature male at North Somercotes Warren on June 23rd (GPC, MM) was the 3rd county record. The others were both at Donna Nook in May 1979 and May 1983.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Few concentrations were reported, but there were 11 at Rauceby Warren on January 24th, 10 at Gibraltar Point on February 16th, 12 at Barton-on-Humber Pits on April 26th, 52 on an oilseed rape field at Linwood Warren on September 6th and 10 at Gibraltar Point on 27th. Although 57 were ringed at Theddlethorpe, it was considered a relatively poor year.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Up to 6 were present at Brumby Wood, Scunthorpe, from March 10th to April 15th (RNH, GPC, ACS, CJ et al). The only other record was one in Twyford Forest on December 2nd (ES).



Juvenile female Lapland Bunting (A. Ball)

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

In the period January to March, there were single figure counts at Tetney, Saltfleet, Donna Nook, Gibraltar Point and Chapel St Leonards. The large wintering flock at Butterwick peaked at 350 on January 18th, decreasing to 100 in late February and 50 in early March. There were 10 at Nene Mouth on January 2nd, increasing to 30 on February 13th. Numbers at Holbeach Marsh peaked at 50 on February 9th and there were 48 at Lutton Outmarsh on 12th, with 16 at Benington on March 9th. Last of the spring was one at Huttoft on April 12th. After one at Saltfleetby on September 14th, there were single figure counts in the period to the end of the year at Tetney, Pye's Hall, Donna Nook, Cleethorpes, Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, Humberston Fittes Gibraltar Point and Nene Mouth. Larger numbers were 10 at North Cotes on November 8th, 13 at Holbeach St Marks on December 29th and 18 at Frampton Marsh on 16th. Kirton Marsh had up to 20 in November and December and the Butterwick flock reached 130 on November 22nd and 156 on December 6th. Singles up the Humber in November were at Winteringham Haven on 7th and Goxhill Marsh on 22nd, with 2 at East Halton Skitter on 26th.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Donna Nook	65	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	-
Gibraltar Point	220	200	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	85

In the period January to March, there were single figure counts at Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, Trusthorpe and Holbeach Marsh. Larger numbers were up to 13 at Butterwick in January and 12 at the Nene Mouth on February 8th. Inland, there were singles at Covenham Res on February 4th and April 19-21st, with 2 west at Snipe Dales on 19th. After 2 at Donna Nook on September 21st, there were single figure counts in the period to the end of the year at Goxhill/East Halton, Immingham, Anderby Creek and Holbeach Marsh. Larger numbers were up to 110 at Huttoft in the 2nd half of November and 32 south at Saltfleetby on 15th, with 52 at Trusthorpe from December 21-26th. Inland, there were singles at Covenham Res on September 26th and Snipe Dales on November 27th.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

In the early part of the year, there were 50 at Langworth in January, 100 at Twiggmoor on March 15th, with 67 at Covenham Res on April 11th, 60 at New Holland on 14th and 60 at Risby Warren on 17th. An estimated 45 pairs bred at Snipe Dales. In December, there were 50 at Kirton Marsh on 10th, and 115 in Weelsby Woods from 20-26th.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

The only significant record was 100 roosting at the Witham Mouth on December 6th.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

In January, there were 24 at Friskney on 5th and 37 at Barton-on-Humber Pits on 26th, with 60 there on February 14th and a leucistic bird on 24th. Also in February, there were 30 at Tetney on 8th, 160 at Deeping High Bank and 30 at Barrow Haven on 9th, with up to 80 at Deeping Fen during the month. Few concentrations were reported later in the year, with 46 at Scopwick on September 29th and 30 there October 14th, then up to 20 at Kirton Marsh in December.

Escapes etc 1986

Rough legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

A bird first seen at Donna Nook in mid July moved on 19th to Saltfleetby, where it stayed into 1987. It had a dark blue band on each leg with a 'loop' for jesses at the rear and had thus been in captivity for some or all its life.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Atkinson's Warren May 7th; Ashbyville June 15th.

1983 Additions and Corrections

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*

Gibraltar Point November 19th: indefinitely pending by BBRC awaiting further information !

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

Gibraltar Point May 7-14th: accepted BBRC.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

Gibraltar Point May 14th: again pending by BBRC but seems destined to be not accepted.

1984 Additions and Corrections

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Add: River Welland at Crowland Bridge, March 6-11th.

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

North Cotes-Saltfleet November 25-29th: accepted BBRC.

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca carolinensis*

Gibraltar Point November 11th: accepted BBRC.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Add: West Deeping Pits April 23rd (RT).

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

Saltfleetby May 19th: accepted BBRC.

Dowitcher Sp. *Limnodromus* sp.

Donna Nook November 15th: not accepted BBRC

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Add: West Deeping Pits, 6 April 23rd

Roller *Coracias garrulus*

Ingoldsby Wood July 14th: not accepted BBRC

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Add: Crowland Wash June 20th (A Lamb).

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Gibraltar Point September 22nd: being reconsidered by BBRC

Escapes etc 1984

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*

Thorpe Pits September 11th (KDD).

'Ferruginous Type' Hybrid

Thorpe Pits, a female November 24-25th (KDD).

1985 Additions and Corrections

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

Two adults in the north-west Wash February-March: both accepted BBRC

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Add: River Welland at Crowland, a male March 17-April 26th, a female November 17th (RT).

Buzzard Sp Amend to read:

Buteo/Pernis a bird claimed as *Pernis* flew south at Saltfleetby on August 26th (BMC).

Buteo sp. a bird claimed as *lagopus* flew south at Seacroft August 26th (AB, SK).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Add: a ringtail at Crowland December 18th and 29th.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Gibraltar Point, two additional birds on August 28th: accepted BBRC.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

The individual at Theddlethorpe September 10th becomes the 4th county record.

Escapes etc 1985

'Ferruginous Type' Hybrid

Thorpe Pits, a male February 15-17th (KDD).

Records of note from the Inner Dowsing Tower 1971-77.

The following are the 'highlights' of the ornithological observations made on the Inner Dowsing during 1971-7 by Paul Lee's father who was working the site during that period. A much fuller picture of the ornithological events during the period has been supplied by PL and is held in the Club's archives.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

October 11th 1971; November 6-7th 1972; October 30th 1973; October 19th 1976; 2 on November 2nd 1977.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

June 27th 1972.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

April 28th 1973.

Corncrake *Crex crex*

2 on October 7th 1973 with one to 8th.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

September 21st 1971; July 3rd 1972; August 19th 1972; July 21st 1977.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

July 17th 1977.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

May 9th 1977

Shorelark *Eremophila alpestris*

October 1972; December 9th 1972.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula para*

September 29th 1972.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

October 30th 1977

Accounts of Lincolnshire Rarities

Pacific Golden Plover at Tetney/North Cotes, July-August 1986

At 1145 hrs on July 21st 1986 Russel Slack, an RSPB voluntary warden, flushed a 'Golden Plover' from the borrow pits at Tetney, which showed the dark-grey underwings characteristic of 'Lesser Golden Plover'*. RS watched the bird until 1200 hrs when it flew off, but later, having informed Tony Baker, he relocated it at 1600 hrs and both observers saw the bird fly over the sea-wall and into a sugar-beet field where it landed with a small flock of Golden Plover. The basic appearance of the bird was very similar to the accompanying Golden Plover until it raised its wings which contrasted well with the white underwings shown by the wing-lifting Golden Plovers. On consulting the literature that evening RS formed the opinion that the bird was of the asiatic race **fulva*. The bird was seen briefly by RS on the 22nd and by RS and TB on the 23rd then more extensively on the 24th by the same observers and also I.G. Shepherd and D. Wright. It was watched at 10-15m range in the canal and detailed notes were taken by TB and IGS. As they watched it flew up to join a passing flock of Golden Plovers and TB was struck by its diminutive size, half the size of Golden with shorter wings and much smaller body bulk and much more rapid wing beats. On the 26th the Pacific Golden Plover was located in a tidal creek as the tide fell and was watched by a large number of observers. It was again present in the creek on the 27th when amazingly it was joined briefly by an American Golden Plover*. The Plover then followed the same routine of being present in the tidal creek at low tide and disappearing at high tide until the 29th, and over these 4 days was seen by many hundreds of observers many of whom however, only saw the bird at a considerable distance and hence found its identification less than straightforward. It was also seen at Tetney on August 3-4th and then again on August 17-19th, the last date it was recorded. By the end of its stay it was in an advanced state of moult to winter plumage.

The following description is based on the notes taken by TB and IGS mainly on July 23-24th with further notes on plumage differences on August 18th by TB.

Size, shape and jizz: The most obvious differences from Golden Plover *P. apricaria*, were the long legs which were always obvious and probably exaggerated by the diminutive bulk of the body, the long thin bill which was calculated as longer than the distance from the base of the bill to the eye, and the small head and long neck (recalling Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*), probably exaggerated by the alertness of the bird (23rd). On other occasions the head and neck were sunken and not dissimilar to Golden Plover in shape when the long legs were the only obvious pointer to its identity. In flight with Golden Plovers it could be seen to be half to two-thirds the size of Golden Plover with narrower, shorter wings and a more rapid wing beat. At rest the primaries only projected marginally beyond the tail tip. Plumage: Recalled summer plumage Golden Plover of 'northern race'.

Upperparts: Forehead pale fawn. Crown brown with paler streaking continuing down to nape. Nape a conspicuous pale fawn patch. Supercilium narrow and inconspicuous in front of the eye, behind eye bright and broad, creamy in colour extending down side of breast and merging at bend of wing with slightly whiter flank stripe connecting to white undertail coverts. (No noticeable bulge in the white at the bend of the wing was recorded although many observers commented on this feature having seen the bird at about 60m range in the creek). Mantle, scapulars and lesser coverts appeared very pale on 23rd; a rather washed out fawn. In good sunlight on the 24th and August 3rd they showed bright gold spangling very much akin to summer *P. apricaria*. Blackish tone to median and greater-coverts and blackish primaries created contrast. In flight the upper wing showed a clear wing-bar flared at the bend of the wing into a large pale patch (missing greater-coverts and inner primaries). Underparts: Dark lores and eyestripe enclosing 'brownish' face merging into black throat. Foreneck, breast and belly to vent solid black, bordered above by obvious white flank stripe. Flank stripe broken by several black bars, these being prominent in flight on 23rd and appeared to continue onto the axillaries. Undertail coverts white; In flight underwing dark grey with slight contrast between sooty axillaries and underwing-coverts and smoky flight feathers.

Soft parts: Legs, bill and eye blackish.

Call: heard on August 3rd (only occasion it was heard at Tetney). Called about 8 times in

quick succession, a clear high-pitched but mellow sweet and short "soo-eet" or "choo-eet" recalling a cross between Willow Warbler and Spotted Redshank.

Behaviour: Generally a solitary bird associating with Dunlin on occasions and with Golden Plover when taking refuge inland, but feeding alone. Favoured feeding spots, a bend in the river and the 'concrete bridge' creek visited at low tide, consisted of relatively dry mud on the higher banks. A small area was worked repeatedly. Seen to take Ragworms. Shy and wary readily taking flight when approached too closely. Normally silent when flushed. Plumage differences on August 18th: The 'face' was now entirely pale buffish; The pale fawn forehead of 23rd had 'spread' to cover the forehead, lores and chin in a broad band; rusty-golden 'V's on the scapulars contrasted with the coverts which were both paler and whiter edged. The black underparts had taken on a very blotchy appearance. In all other respects the bird was immediately recognisable as the original bird.

Tony Baker



On August 5th 1986 I was searching for waders at Horseshoe Point when a small flock of Golden Plovers took off from the area of developing foreshore and flew towards the inland fields. As they flew one bird called repeatedly a clear 'tlooit' call reminiscent of American Golden Plover but subtly different. As the flock passed over the sea bank the lone bird turned and flew back out to the foreshore where I was able to watch it over the next two hours at times down to 15m. Alongside Golden Plovers this bird was noticeably smaller in the body about 70% but it had much longer legs, making it stand as high as the Golden, and the generally similar plumage made it much less obvious than American Golden Plover. This bird was very vocal calling regularly when taking wing and also in flight. The call was reminiscent of American Golden Plover and even Spotted Redshank but was distinctive in its mellowness, length of call, the rolling 'rrr' sounds often included and the fairly high pitch; I noted the slightly varying calls as; "tlooit" "tloort" "chueert" and "chuit". I realised that the bird was a Pacific Golden Plover but some obvious differences in plumage and the very vocal nature of this individual. Despite the fact that the Tetney bird was seen there again, in heavy moult and the sheer unlikeliness of there being two different birds of such a rare species led me to the opinion that this was indeed the same bird as that seen in late July and later in August at Tetney.

Graham P. Catley

* The Lesser Golden Plover was originally split into two recognised races, the Asiatic *Pluvialis dominica fulva* and the Nearctic *P. d. dominica*. It is now, however, generally accepted that these two races are true species and Hayman, Marchant and Prater 1986, have coined the names Pacific Golden Plover for *fulva* and American Golden Plover for *dominica*. The only previous accepted county records of 'Lesser Golden Plover' referred to a single bird of unspecified race at Wisbech SF on August 10th 1974 and two *dominica* at North Killingholme on July 24th 1982 and Saltfleetby on July 16th 1983; thus this record of Pacific Golden Plover becomes the first county record and if accepted only the 5th record in Britain and Ireland compared to a total of 108 records of American Golden up to and including 1985.

Cattle Egret at North Hykeham October 12th - 26th 1986

During the morning of 13 October 1986 I received a 'phone call in the RSPB East Midlands Regional Office from Mrs Sue Shucksmith who told me that her son had been out fishing the previous evening and had seen a bird which, after looking through his bird books, he thought was a Cattle Egret. She told me that she had been down to see the bird that morning and also thought it was a Cattle Egret but wanted someone to come out and confirm it.

Mrs Shucksmith's description of the bird as a white heron, about half the size of a normal Grey Heron with a yellow bill and dark legs made me think that the bird was indeed a Cattle Egret. Her statement that the bird was following around and feeding behind the cattle made me even more sure that this was what it was.

Resisting the temptation to rush out of the office immediately (and get in trouble for twitching during work hours!) I waited until lunchtime and with Martin Davies went down to see Mrs Shucksmith. We arrived at the River Witham at approximately 1.00 p.m. and walked north along the bank towards the sewage farm at North Hykeham. The bird was located some way past the sewage farm feeding with cattle on the bank and was immediately identifiable as a Cattle Egret.

We watched the bird feeding around the cattle for approximately one hour and the following notes were taken. The bird was present that day until just before dusk when it was seen to fly off in a westerly direction.

Fieldnotes:

Overall general appearance was of a small heron about half the size of a normal Grey Heron and with all white plumage. A yellow bill with deeply jowled appearance around the face and yellow green legs. On closer inspection when the heron bent down towards the ground and it was possible to use the ground as a background to the heron, a small buff area was noticeable on the forehead. The bill was a dull yellow colour and quite dirty in parts with the base of the bill and facial skin a greenish yellow. Iris was yellow. Legs were yellow green. Some quite elongated white throat feathers.

Had a hunched appearance in flight with the neck folded right back, legs projecting beyond the tail. Was heard to call once, a short 'raak' call when in flight only.

Additional Notes:

Stout bill, short neck, walking among cattle feeding. Seen taking flies and other small insects. At one time jumped on the back of cattle but was quickly removed by the cow shaking itself. It mostly spent its time around the feet of cattle. When timed for 15 minutes made an average of 18 stabs per minute for food. Most common method of feeding was a downward stab at the ground but also did a considerable amount of head swaying before actually bending down to delicately pick out some food. Occasionally broke its walk with quite a fast run to get a particular food item.

During the first day the heron spent most of its time on the bank by the sewage farm with the Friesians but subsequently moved about one mile further north to associate with some Charolais cattle on Mr Roe's farm.

Over the next few days I contacted Mr Roe whose land the heron was on and he agreed to keep his cattle in a field which had short grass so people could get good views of the bird. He also put over one of his fields to a car park for visiting birdwatchers.

Richard Campey

Additional information supplied by Andy Sims et al;

Throughout the bird's stay at Manor Farm it followed the same daily routine arriving at the farm between 0900 and 1000 hrs and feeding there until the evening when it flew off in a west-south-west direction to roost. On October 19th its roost site was located when it flew into Apex Pit, approx 3km west-south-west of Manor farm, at 1807 hrs and landed in a large bush on a wooded island in the pit. It was still roosting in the same site the following morning and arrived there at 1817 hrs on 20th and 1754 hrs on 21st. It was last seen at this roost site on the morning of October 26th, (P. Haywood), the last occasion on which it was reported. It had presumably followed gulls flying in to roost at Apex Pit and found the wooded island an ideal resting spot.

This is the first fully accepted record of the Cattle Egret for Lincolnshire/South Humberside and has been accepted by BBRC.

Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory Report 1986

**Compiled by M.R. Curry and D.R. Bromwich on
behalf of the Lincolnshire and South Humberside
Trust for Nature Conservation**

1986 produced many examples of the considerable influence that weather conditions can have on breeding and migrating species. A bleak January was followed by one of the coldest Februaries of the century, with a temperature of -12.4 C on the evening of the 20th/21st being the lowest recorded at Gib since records began in 1973. Many birds suffered during this prolonged cold spell. The arrival of spring saw a continuation of cold, miserable weather, which delayed the main arrival of summer migrants by anything up to three weeks, and the departure of some wintering species until the middle of May. The first broods of the earlier breeding species were severely affected, with insectivores faring particularly badly.

Slightly better conditions during June and July allowed a period of catching up for some breeding species, though this respite was short-lived. August turned out to be the coldest since 1963, culminating in the tail-end of Hurricane Charlie which brought an inch of rain on the 25th. A glorious Indian Summer during September and October then provided excellent migration conditions for many birds moving south at this time. This may well account for the considerable reduction in tern numbers. The last week of August is traditionally the peak period for migrating terns at Gib, and 1985 saw over 21,000 Sandwich Terns move past at this time. The 1986 count was approximately 500! The same applied to 'commic' terns with a similarly low proportion. Lack of terns also meant a reduction in skua numbers, with more Arctic Skuas recorded on one day in August 1985 (100 on 29th) than during the whole of August 1986.

November and December were both mild and wet, December having 30mm more rainfall than the monthly average of 57mm. The prevailing south-westerlies produced little in the way of winter flocks or hard-weather movements. Notable absentees were the thrushes; small flocks occurred from time to time associated with disruptions in the weather pattern, but Redwings remained scarce. Goldcrests were another species notable by their absence.

Although the numbers of birds may have been low during the year, there was still an excellent selection of species with just over 200 recorded (including escapes, sub-species, etc). A new species for the Reserve list was Little Egret, which landed at a saltmarsh pool for 10 minutes on 25th May, having been observed further up the coast earlier in the day. It was also a good year for uncommon warblers, with the second Sardinian Warbler for the Reserve, the second Arctic Warbler, plus one Barred and three Yellow-browed Warblers. Other irregular visitors included a Temminck's Stint (fourth record), two Spotted Crakes (fourth and fifth), Slavonian Grebe (seventh), Golden Oriole (eighth) along with Osprey, Hoopoe, Long-tailed Skua, Red-breasted Flycatcher, two Spoonbills and three Wrynecks.

Once again our thanks are due to the stalwart band of regular contributors to the Gib Point daily log, and to all others who have submitted records enabling this report to be compiled. During the course of the year, however, it did occasionally become evident that some records appearing in the LBC newsletters had not been submitted at Gib. We would urge everyone who visits the Reserve and records their observations to ensure that these records are submitted; a free field sheet is available for this purpose at the Visitor Centre or from one of the wardens. 1987 will be the 39th consecutive year that the daily log will have been maintained and ALL records of ALL species are important to build an accurate picture of populations of species at Gib.

January-March

The beginning of the year provided sea-watchers with some rewarding observations as easterly winds kept birds close to the shore. Highlights in the first week included both Red-throated and Black-throated Divers, Long-tailed Duck and Velvet Scoter. Common Scoter numbers peaked at 38 on 2nd and 16 auks (at least one Razorbill and 2 Guillemots) were recorded on the 3rd. Wildfowl were also at their most numerous early in the month with 13 Whooper Swans (the only swan records for the month) south on the 1st and the Brent



Black-throated Diver (S.Keightley)

Goose flock reaching a peak of 3800 on the 5th.

Among passerines Skylarks peaked at 550 during the first week but then declined rapidly, though Rock Pipit numbers had risen to 20 by the fifth. Both Fieldfares and Redwings also increased, and small southerly movements of these species were observed, together with Siskins, Corn Buntings and Lapland Buntings. Spring tides on the 12th produced the best wader records for this period, including 5570 Oystercatcher, 1000 Dunlin and 290 Bar-tailed Godwit.

Colder conditions arrived on the 25th, bringing 220 Snow Buntings, the maximum count for the 1985/86 winter. Finch and bunting numbers generally remained noteworthy throughout February, with in addition to the Snow Buntings, up to 70 Bramblings, 300 Twite, 500 Greenfinches, 150 Goldfinches and 200 Linnets recorded at different times. Raptors spent much time harrassing the finch flocks. Hen Harriers (up to 3, with 5 on March 27th) were recorded almost daily throughout the quarter whilst 1 or 2 Sparrowhawks and up to 3 Merlins and Kestrels were present to the end of February, smaller numbers in March. Raptor highlight of early March was a Rough-legged Buzzard on the 3rd, moving slowly south over the Reserve. Meanwhile, westerly winds on February 5th brought snow and signalled the onset of a prolonged cold spell. The Mere began to freeze and 3 Mallard and a Coot on the 9th were its last records for a month.

Warmer conditions finally arrived on March 4th and by the 6th the Mere was free of ice again. Seven Canada Geese immediately began territorial battles over the main island and Pochard, Goldeneye, Mute and Bewick's Swans all put in an appearance. A Water Rail on the 18th was the first seen since early January and first records for 1986 included two Gadwall on 22nd with a Little Grebe and drake Shoveler on 23rd.

On the 6th Ringed Plovers and a pair of Oystercatchers were observed displaying on the shore and southerly passage of Lapwings was noted regularly from this date, together with Chaffinches, Starlings, Fieldfares and smaller numbers of several other species. Singing males also became more obvious from this time, particularly Skylark, Blue Tit and Dunnock, and two Tawny Owls called regularly in the Plantation.

Further signs of the changing seasons were seen from mid-month. A Black-tailed Godwit flew south on the 16th and four Pink-footed Geese north on 17th; an early Wheatear arrived on the 25th and a Spotted Redshank on 29th, whilst the last two Goldeneye of winter were noted on 30th.

April-June

April began with good sea-watch records, including an exceptional count of nearly 200 divers on 1st, of which at least 52 were Red-throated, and a Slavonian Grebe on the 4th and 5th. Conditions continued cold, prolonging the presence of wintering species such as Brent Goose, Twite, Brambling and Siskin. Despite this, however, summer migrants continued to trickle in. Chiffchaff appeared on the 1st, Whimbrel on the 2nd, and Black Redstart along with the only spring record of Garganey on the 5th. No new species then arrived until the 12th, and numbers of those already reported remained low - three Wheatears on the 9th being the highest count of that species for the month. Records from the Mere included a Spotted Crake on 12th (seen again on 19th), a White Wagtail on 14th and a Yellow Wagtail on 16th. Firecrest was first recorded on the 19th, when there were also six Willow/Chiffs in the Plantation and three Black Redstarts on the Field Station wall; exceptional records in this poor spring! The 20th added the first Swallow, Sand Martin and Ring Ouzel to the years list, then on the 24th Whitethroat, Little Tern and a Sandwich Tern were all recorded - the latter record the only one until well into May. The 25th saw the first Whinchat and on 26th a good fall of new arrivals included Redstart, Garden Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, House Martin and Common Tern, with small increases in the numbers of some species already 'in'. Finally for the month the first Cuckoo was recorded on 27th and two Tree Pits on the 30th.

Whilst the expected variety of new species continued to arrive through the first half of May, numbers stayed notably low and remaining winter visitors, such as 500 Brent Geese, emphasised the lateness of the spring. The only Hoopoe of the year was observed briefly in the East Dunes on the 1st, when the first Bearded Tits were also seen. Sedge Warbler and Turtle Dove were first recorded on the 3rd; Sedge Warbler numbers stayed low throughout the season, with no more than two pairs breeding on the reserve.

Little Ringed Plover, Great Skua, Black Tern, Swift, Reed Warbler and Pied Flycatcher on the 4th were all new for the year. Pied Flycatchers were not recorded again until the autumn and the second Ring Ouzel of the year on the 4th was also the last record of this species for the spring. The first Common Sandpiper appeared on the 6th and Spotted Flycatcher and Greenshank on the 7th, along with only the second and last Redstart of the spring passage. Three Marsh Harriers hunting over the saltmarshes early in the morning of the 8th were another first for the year and contrasted with the last record of Fieldfare for the spring on the same day, though a Spoonbill which arrived on this date remained until 16th, moving regularly between the river mouth and the Mere. On the 14th the Brent were joined by four Pink-footed Geese and a Snow Goose, of questionable origin, which was seen to land on the Wainfleet marshes and stayed there until the 18th.

By the middle of the month most breeding species had taken up territory, but it became clear from the failure of many first nestbox broods that adults were having difficulty in finding sufficient food for their nestlings. In the wet and windy conditions which prevailed for the second half of May spring migration, such as it had been, also slackened with few new arrivals. Little Terns reached their maximum count of 32 on the 21st, but only half this number stayed to breed. The 24th and 25th brought female Golden Oriole, Avocet, Little Stint and the first Little Egret for the Reserve, which alighted briefly in the saltings at the end of the Sleeper Track. This bird had been reported earlier in the day at Chapel Pits and was probably the same one that was seen on the Norfolk coast for some time after this date. Only the second Garden Warbler of the year was reported on the 27th, and a Firecrest ringed on the 30th proved to be the last record of this species for the year to round off a generally bleak month.

At the beginning of June most records of interest came from the sea and shore, including a Little Stint on the 1st and 6th, an Arctic Skua on the 3rd and a Manx Shearwater on the 5th. As usual passerine activity was fairly quiet - 160 House Martins over the Mere on the 5th and 250 juvenile Starlings on the 6th being the largest counts of any species in the month. CBC work during the first part of the period showed that warbler numbers were generally low, though Whitethroats appeared to be having a successful season in the West Dunes and Plantation, where several pairs of Blackcaps and two pairs of Chiffchaffs were also recorded. Redpolls were also in good numbers at this time.

In this generally quiet time the Mere provided several records of interest with a White Wagtail on the 15th, two drake Gadwall which stayed from 19th to 21st and two Avocets which dropped in briefly on the 25th. Elsewhere on the Reserve a mid-summer Siskin was

noted for the third year in succession on the 27th, and a Willow Tit near the Summer Warden's hut on the 29th was an interesting record, but fittingly for a rather dismal quarter the month closed with most of the 30th being shrouded in sea fog.

July-September

The first few days of July saw the annual increase in Shelduck numbers on the New Marsh, which reached a maximum of 130 on 6th. After this numbers dropped to single figures as the birds left for the moulting grounds. Autumn passage waders also began to appear, with Common Sandpiper on the 1st, two Black-tailed Godwits on 2nd and a Whimbrel on the 5th. An adult male Sardinian Warbler, caught on the 6th and the second record for Gib provided much interest during a month typically quiet for passerines, and a male Crossbill on the same day maintained the occurrence of this species at Gib during July.

From mid-month more waders began to arrive, with Spotted Redshank, Greenshank and Green Sandpiper at the Mere on the 16th and 17th, and Ruff appearing on the 20th. During the last week the small resident population of no more than 7 pairs of Little Terns was swelled by a further five as their fledglings took flight for the first time. Although disappointing in terms of breeding pairs, with these low numbers reflected at other colonies on the Lincolnshire coast, five young from only seven pairs is a good fledgling ratio.

Throughout the month small southerly movements of Swifts (hundreds rather than thousands) had occurred, and the final days brought at last the anticipated larger movements (12000 on 29th and 10000 on 31st). This continued into early August with the maximum count of 20000 on the 7th, followed on the 8th by a very large, but uncounted, movement of Swallows with smaller numbers of House Martins and Sand Martins.

Early August also produced first autumn passage records for many species, with Black Tern, Marsh Harrier, Tree Pipit and Great Skua in the first five days and Golden Plover, Curlew Sandpiper and Pied Flycatcher in the second. The following days were quieter, though the detailed identification of three full adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls of the North Scandinavian race *Larus fuscus fuscus* highlighted the potential interest of our usually under-recorded gull species. A more productive spell began on the 15th, with an Osprey passing south and a Nightingale recorded close to the Observatory, and the next few days saw a general increase in both passerine and wader records. Peak counts included 150 Willow Warblers, 40 Whitethroats, 19 Yellow Wagtails and 8 Wheatears, and the only Jay of the year also arrived in this period. It was becoming increasingly clear by this time however that the peak movement of terns usually associated with the last ten days of August was not materialising, and the maximum counts were almost derisory with 55 'Comemics' on 29th and 300 Sandwich Terns on 30th. The last week of the month was dominated by the passage of a very deep depression, the tail end of Hurricane Charlie, which brought very strong winds with periods of rain and disrupted the BTO Ringing Course. Despite this there were some interesting records during this period, including the retrapping of the Sardinian Warbler on 24th and the arrival of Wrynecks (part of a well-recorded East Coast fall), a Temminck's Stint and a second Spotted Crane, which remained at the Mere into September.

A strong southerly hirundine movement developed at the end of August and continued through to mid-September, with maximum counts of 500 House Martins on 29th, 2500 Swallows on 30th and 42 Sand Martins on 3rd. Most other migrants were in evidence at this time though generally in low numbers - 9 Wheatears on 3rd and 41 Yellow Wagtails on 4th were notable counts. The last Cuckoo was reported on the 7th and the last Swift on 11th. Wader passage was also low in numbers, though the high tides of 7th and 8th produced peak counts of 14000 Knot, 13000 Oystercatcher, 3000 Bar-tailed Godwits and 2000 Grey Plover.

From mid-month the first winter passerines began to arrive, the first four Bramblings at the peak of Linnet passage on the 18th, the first Goldcrest on 19th and Siskins became more numerous, with 3 on 17th and 7 on 20th. At the same time autumn passage of summer visitors was continuing, with highlights being a fall of Redstarts, 12 being ringed at the Observatory, and a good variety of warblers, including Yellow-browed, Barred and Arctic. The last three Turtle Doves were recorded on 19th, and the last week of the month saw first winter records of Merlin, Lapland Bunting and Redwing, last records of Whinchat, Whitethroat, Garden Warbler and Yellow Wagtail, and the only record for the year of Little Owl. One of the highest ever counts of Teal was recorded on the Mere, with 1600 birds on 21st.

By normal standards autumn sea passage remained exceptionally low, though a short

period of easterlies at mid-month did push the birds nearer the shore. This gave peak counts of 34 Gannets, 21 Kittiwakes, 500 Sandwich Terns, 20 Arctic Skuas and the only Pomarine of the month. The first Red-throated Diver of the autumn was recorded on 16th and the first Little Gull on 19th. Better conditions for sea-watching arrived again towards the end of the month, and sightings at this time included Black-throated Divers, Manx Shearwaters and a Slavonian Grebe. The 1st positively identified Arctic Tern moved south on 27th and the last Little Tern on 28th.



Wryneck (MJ Tarrant)

October-December

The increased auk movement that had been noted at the end of September continued into the first few days of October with maximum counts of 8 Guillemots on 2nd and 11 Razorbills and a Puffin on the 5th. Other seawatch records included 18 Red-throated Divers on 2nd, with smaller numbers on subsequent days, three Black-throated on 4th and 11th and the only positively identified Great Northern of the winter on 26th. The only 1986 record of a Shag was reported on the 5th and skuas continued in disappointing numbers, though a notable exception was the 26th with 13 Arctics, the second and last Pomarine and a reported 9 Great Skuas. The warm, light, westerly winds of the first eleven days assisted the free passage of most migrant species through the Reserve and did not encourage large falls. As a result this was a month of few notable records, though summer migrants continued in small numbers. The last hirundine movement of any size took place on the 2nd, involving 100 each of Swallows and House Martins, with 3 Great Spotted Woodpeckers on the same day; the latter species was subsequently recorded in single numbers throughout the month. Last records included Pied Flycatcher on 2nd, Wheatear on 3rd, Redstart, Reed Warbler and Tree Pipit on 4th. The 5th saw a Red-breasted Flycatcher, only the twelfth record for the Reserve.

The first notable movement of thrushes occurred on the 4th, with 40 Redwings seen flying in off the sea, whilst Blackbird and Song Thrush numbers were of a similar order. Passage wader numbers remained low and wildfowl numbers were also slow to build up before mid-month. The water level in the Mere was extremely low at this time after the long dry spell and supported very little with the exception of a roosting flock of 300 Teal. From the 12th activity increased, however, with records of 300 Brent Geese, 13 Siskins and the second Yellow-browed Warbler of the autumn. There were further falls of thrushes between 13th and 17th including the first Fieldfare record (50) and 500 Redwing on 15th. The 13th also saw a southerly movement of over 100 Meadow Pipits and the finch flocks began to build up, with 200 Chaffinches and 75 Bramblings on the same day.

On 18th the first Jack Snipe of the winter was noted and Twite numbers had risen to over

a hundred, while the 19th produced the first Rock Pipit for this season and a third Yellow-browed Warbler, as well as an excellent wader roost which included 30000 Knot, 20000 Oystercatcher, 4500 Grey Plover, 4000 Dunlin and 4000 Bar-tailed Godwit. Wildfowl numbers also began to increase, with 500 Wigeon recorded and the first 9 Whooper Swans passing south on the 20th.

Southerly movements of many species continued to the end of the month, but numbers were generally low. Maximum counts included 600 Linnets on 21st, 80 Swallows on 26th, 150 Redwings, 160 Chaffinches and 40 Twite on 29th. Three more Whooper Swans passed over on 25th, and a further 17 on the last day of the month.

The first two days of November brought northerly airstreams and gave rise to more productive records. In common with other sites on the East Coast a large influx of Little Auks was recorded on 2nd, with at least 75 at Gib, several of which were seen flying inshore amidst flocks of Starlings before turning out to sea again. Unseasonal waders included a Greenshank on the 1st and 2 Common Sandpipers on 2nd, when more typically a Purple Sandpiper was also present. Two Bearded Tits, the first Snow Bunting, a Shorelark and a Lapland Bunting were all recorded on the 1st, with a very late Willow Warbler heard calling on 2nd.

Then with the return of south-westerlies on the 3rd a prolonged period of mild, wet conditions arrived and prevailed right through to the end of the month, and records were again uneventful. Highlight of the first week was the wader roost with over 35000 Knot and 10000 Oystercatchers on the 6th, and wildfowl movements were also evident with 7 White-fronted Geese on the 4th, a single Pink-footed Goose and 2 further Whooper Swans on 6th. The 7th saw the last Swallow of the year and one of the biggest thrush falls of the autumn with 300 Blackbirds, 200 Redwings and 150 Fieldfares. Also noted on the 7th were 20 Goldcrests, this being the highest count for the month in what transpired to be a very poor autumn/winter for this species. On the 8th a female/immature Red-breasted Merganser was present on the Mere, along with Jack Snipe and Water Rail - these three species representing the most notable records from the Mere for many days. The following period was very quiet with only slight southerly movements of Skylarks, Meadow Pipits and finches. Small falls of thrushes did occur, though numbers on the Reserve remained low as these flocks quickly passed through. On the 15th 2 Grey Wagtails were recorded, and the southerly movement included 500 Lapwing and 200 Shelduck, while the 16th brought 2 Treecreepers and 2 Chiffchaffs. Continuing mild weather during the second half of the month saw little more in the way of influxes, however, just the gradual dissipation of finch and thrush flocks. By the 25th the Reserve was so quiet that the most notable feature was the 150 House Sparrows feeding on spilt grain near to North Car Park!

December proved to be an unsettled month, exceptionally mild and very wet. These unseasonable conditions meant that the variety and number of species normally associated with December were not evident. Most notable absenteers were the wildfowl, with very few duck on the Mere. Teal and Mallard were present in small numbers on most days (maxima 117 and 40 respectively) but no more than 6 Wigeon were present and then none after the 7th. Two Pintail on the 4th were the only other dabblers recorded. Maximum counts of wildfowl on the marshes were also well down, with 345 Wigeon on 4th, 43 Pink-footed Geese on 6th and never more than 200 Brent Geese.

Similarly the thrush flocks - normally such a feature at Gib - were only noteworthy because of the small numbers present. There were some small falls, notably that of the 13th which resulted in totals of 60 Fieldfares, 40 Blackbirds, 14 Redwings and 12 Goldcrests (the monthly maximum). Thereafter numbers dropped back to much smaller totals, though a surprise visitor on the 18th was a Ring Ouzel, only the third December record for the county since 1981. Flocks of other passerines were also very disappointing. Greenfinch and Goldfinch reached about 60 each, with only 30 Chaffinches and 12 Corn Buntings. Twite were not recorded until the end of the month, and Snow Buntings, which had reached 85 by the 12th, dropped to only 11 by the year's end. The mild conditions did however bring two Blackcap records, on 6th and 13th, and a Chiffchaff on 6th. Probably due to the lack of small birds, raptor numbers were also lower than usual. A single ringtail Hen Harrier was occasionally joined by a second bird, and a male appeared on 31st. Only a single Kestrel and an occasional single Sparrowhawk were seen, and Merlins were very disappointing with no record at all until the very end of the month; a single bird on 30th and 31st.

Records for December reflected the uncharacteristically mild weather conditions of the 1986 winter.

Observatory Ringing Report 1986

Compiled by A.W. Paul

1986 will not go down as a vintage year for ringing at the Bird Observatory. Number ringed were well down on the previous year although to balance this a little the species numbers were up.

The migration periods in both the spring and autumn never lived up to expectations and one can only assume that the birds passed overhead to inland sites. It becomes apparent from looking through the daily census log that the spring was notable for the late arrival or absence of nearly all common migrants in any great numbers. The autumn and early winter records were in the same strain with all thrush species showing greatly reduced numbers and the thrush roost in the thick hedgerow at Sykes Farm was almost non-existent. To give an example, 6 x 40ft and 1 x 30ft nets resulted in a catch of four Blackbirds and two Tree Sparrows, at a time of year when we usually catch well.

A noticeable feature of the year was the number of wet and windy days. Looking back through the diary it soon becomes apparent that many of these days fell when ringers were available and ringing could have been carried out. Many a morning was spent at the ringing lab watching the rain while catching up on the paper work. The weather also proved to be a hindrance when it came to the rebuilding of the third Heligoland trap. This is slowly beginning to take shape, but it is a slow, hard task especially with the limited amount of labour available. At this point I would like to thank Martin Curry, Dave Bromwich and Jeremy Halls for their help with work on and around the trapping area. When the decent weather eventually arrived ringing took precedence over trap building of course, so again delaying its completion.

The ringing totals for 1986 are abysmal with a decrease of two and a half thousand. There are reasons for this (not excuses!) not least of which was the decrease of over a thousand birds on the BTO ringing course, thanks to the tail end of Hurricane Charlie when two full days were lost. Overall Willow Warblers showed a decrease of 1029 on the 1985 total, a further three species showed a decrease of more than a hundred each and another twelve species a loss of 50 each. Compared to the four species showing an increase it becomes clear why there is such a deficit. One of the species which did show an increase was Meadow Pipit, up 182 in 1986, achieved by the increased use of tape lures.

The Sedge Warbler still shows a steady decline in numbers ringed, as does its status as a breeding bird at Gibraltar Point. Between 1981 and 1986 the annual ringing total of this species has declined by 93.8%.

Year	Number ringed	% change
1981	113	
1982	80	-29.2
1983	43	-46.3
1984	64	+48.8
1985	13	-79.7
1986	7	-46.2

On a more cheerful note, the second Sardinian Warbler for the Observatory was ringed on July 6th, and later retrapped in moult, enabling us to submit a moult card to the BTO. Together with the first bird's moult card we think these are the only moult cards submitted for Sardinian Warbler in Great Britain.

Recoveries and controls are included in the county ringing report, but I would like to mention a few. A Goldcrest ringed in the Netherlands on October 19th 1985 was controlled at Gibraltar Point two days later on October 21st (report not received until 1986). Two Starlings controlled at the Observatory were found to have been ringed within a week of each other at the same site in Lithuania. A Redshank controlled at Gib on March 30th 1986 had been ringed by WWRG on September 9th 1975.

To close this report it only remains to thank the 76 visiting ringers, including one from Germany, who between them carried out ringing on 100 days, producing a total of 3772 birds of 80 species.

NOTE: This being 'Year 5', the table of ringing totals includes all species ever ringed at Gibraltar Point, not just those species ringed during 1986. This full list was last produced in 1981; however, if the totals for 1982-86 are added to those given for 1981, certain discrepancies will become apparent. These are mainly due to copying, typing and printing errors over the 5 years, and have been corrected in the current list.

Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory Ringing Totals 1986

SPECIES	FG	Pull	1986 Total	Grand Total	RECOVERIES	
					1986 Total	Grand Total
Little Grebe	-	-	-	5	-	1
Manx Shearwater	-	-	-	2	-	-
Gannet	-	-	-	1	-	-
Shag	-	-	-	1	-	-
Grey Heron	-	-	-	1	-	1
Shelduck	-	-	-	2	-	-
Widgeon	-	-	-	1	-	1
Teal	-	-	-	1	-	-
Mallard	-	-	-	12	1	1
Montagu's Harrier*	-	-	-	2	-	-
Sparrowhawk	1	-	1	41	-	5
Kestrel	4	-	4	41	-	5
Merlin	-	-	-	1	-	-
Red-legged Partridge**	-	-	-	43	-	2
Grey Partridge	-	-	-	24	-	3
Pheasant**	-	-	-	36	-	5
Water Rail	-	-	-	16	-	-
Corncrake	-	-	-	1	-	-
Moorhen	1	-	1	8	-	-
Coot	-	-	-	1	-	-
Oystercatcher	-	-	-	599	-	13
Little Ringed Plover	-	-	-	4	-	-
Ringed Plover	4	4	8	604	2	8
Golden Plover	-	-	-	1	-	-
Grey Plover	-	-	-	12	-	1
Lapwing	-	-	-	24	-	-
Knot	12	-	12	116	-	1
Sanderling	-	-	-	141	-	3
Little Stint	-	-	-	22	-	-
Curlew Sandpiper	-	-	-	23	-	1
Dunlin	23	-	23	614	-	10
Ruff	3	-	3	4	-	1
Jack Snipe	-	-	-	14	-	-
Snipe	-	-	-	26	-	1
Woodcock	1	-	1	44	-	2
Bar-tailed Godwit	1	-	1	2	-	-
Whimbrel	-	-	-	1	-	-
Curlew	-	-	-	1	-	-
Spotted Redshank	-	-	-	4	-	-
Redshank	2	-	2	68	-	1
Greenshank	-	-	-	3	-	-
Green Sandpiper	-	-	-	4	-	-
Wood Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	-	-
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	23	-	1
Turnstone	1	-	1	6	-	1
Black-headed Gull	-	-	-	85	1	3
Common Gull	-	-	-	63	1	1
Little Tern	-	7	7	204	-	1
Guillemot	-	-	-	1	-	-
Razorbill	-	-	-	1	-	-
Little Auk	-	-	-	1	-	-
Puffin	-	-	-	1	-	-
Stock Dove	-	2	2	65	1	3
Wood Pigeon	6	-	6	187	-	7
Collared Dove	-	-	-	13	-	-
Turtle Dove	3	-	3	99	-	1
Cuckoo	12	-	12	215	-	10
Barn Owl	2	-	2	11	-	3
Little Owl	-	-	-	11	-	1
Tawny Owl	-	-	-	3	-	-
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	19	-	2
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	12	-	4
Nightjar	-	-	-	2	-	-
Swift	-	-	-	5	-	-
Kingfisher	-	-	-	33	-	1
Wryneck	1	-	1	54	-	-
Green Woodpecker	-	-	-	4	-	-
Great Spotted Woodpecker	4	-	4	32	-	1
Skylark	15	7	22	882	1	6
Shore Lark	-	-	-	11	-	-
Sand Martin	1	-	1	34	-	-
Swallow	239	16	255	5655	2	34
House Martin	2	-	2	36	-	-
Tree Pipit	6	-	6	85	-	-
Meadow Pipit	187	-	187	1284	1	12
Rock Pipit	1	-	1	13	-	-
Yellow Wagtail	1	-	1	30	-	-
Pied Wagtail	-	-	-	30	-	2
Waxwing	-	-	-	2	-	-
Wren	87	-	87	2384	-	18
Dunnock	271	-	271	9925	6	83

Rufous Bush Robin	-	-	-	1	-	-
Robin	70	-	70	2791	-	32
Nightingale	1	-	1	12	-	1
Bluethroat	-	-	-	10	-	-
Black Redstart	1	-	1	25	-	-
Redstart	18	-	18	1392	-	10
Whinchat	5	-	5	341	-	-
Stonechat	-	-	-	31	-	-
Wheatear	2	-	2	257	-	2
Ring Ouzel	-	-	-	58	-	3
Blackbird	313	4	317	11461	7	265
Fieldfare	1	-	1	836	-	23
Song Thrush	134	-	134	4295	-	67
Redwing	27	-	27	1420	1	16
Mistle Thrush	13	-	13	198	1	10
Grasshopper Warbler	-	-	-	14	-	-
Sedge Warbler	7	-	7	932	-	6
Reed Warbler	68	-	68	1167	-	11
Icterine Warbler	-	-	-	22	-	-
Sardinian Warbler	1	-	1	2	-	-
Barred Warbler	1	-	1	57	-	-
Lesser Whitethroat	127	-	127	1594	-	-
Whitethroat	235	-	235	6337	-	26
Subalpine Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Garden Warbler	52	-	52	1294	-	2
Blackcap	88	-	88	2082	-	10
Greenish Warbler	-	-	-	3	-	-
Arctic Warbler	1	-	1	1	-	-
Pallas's Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Yellow-browed Warbler	1	-	1	8	-	-
Wood Warbler	4	-	4	42	-	-
Chiffchaff	15	-	15	571	-	5
Willow Warbler	523	-	523	10939	2	22
Goldcrest	17	-	17	3217	2	19
Firecrest	1	-	1	43	-	-
Spotted Flycatcher	11	-	11	435	-	2
Red-breasted Flycatcher	-	-	-	9	-	-
Pied Flycatcher	7	-	7	1372	-	14
Bearded Tit	-	-	-	2	-	-
Long-tailed Tit	-2	-	2	551	-	5
Marsh Tit	-	-	-	5	-	-
Willow Tit	3	-	3	109	1	3
Coal Tit	2	-	2	87	-	-
Blue Tit	137	43	180	3730	5	69
Great Tit	151	-	151	1224	3	21
Treecreeper	-	-	-	34	-	-
Golden Oriole	1	-	1	1	-	-
Red-backed Shrike	-	-	-	9	-	-
Great Grey Shrike	-	-	-	7	-	-
Jay	-	-	-	12	1	1
Magpie	5	-	5	88	-	11
Jackdaw	-	-	-	12	-	-
Hooded Crow	-	-	-	1	-	-
Starling	114	-	114	3551	3	101
Rose-coloured Starling*	-	-	-	1	-	-
House Sparrow	62	-	62	7656	-	89
Tree Sparrow	9	18	27	4476	-	23
Chaffinch	85	-	85	1647	1	16
Brambling	21	-	21	591	-	1
Greenfinch	135	-	135	3312	1	40
Goldfinch	36	-	36	2547	-	23
Siskin	5	-	5	86	-	2
Linnet	124	-	124	3046	-	15
Twite	2	-	2	173	-	3
Redpoll	58	-	58	2812	3	37
Crossbill	-	-	-	18	-	-
Bullfinch	27	-	27	711	1	16
Hawfinch	-	-	-	1	-	-
Snow Bunting	3	-	3	215	-	2
Yellowhammer	5	-	5	731	-	7
Rustic Bunting	-	-	-	1	-	-
Reed Bunting	48	-	48	3272	-	14
Corn Bunting	1	-	1	54	-	-
American Redstart	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals	3671	101	3772	118154	48	1306
Species			80	155		

* Birds ringed on sites away from the reserve.

** The ringing of these birds has been prohibited by the B.T.O.

No new birds of these species appear on the lists after 1985.

County Ringing Report 1986

Compiled by Alan Ball

During 1986 over 21,000 birds of 120 species were ringed in Lincolnshire and South Humberside. This figure is the lowest for several years and is about 75% of the normal annual total. However, with ringing, it is the variation of the activities of individual ringers which influence the totals more than the variation in the numbers of birds. Several ringers either did very little or even no ringing at all during 1986.

Even so, two factors have also contributed to this low figure. Firstly the severe weather at the beginning of the year certainly took its toll of the smaller resident bird species. From the ringing totals it can be calculated that Wrens were about 65% of normal, Kingfishers and Long-tailed Tits about 45% and Treecreepers only 33% of normal. Fortunately these are all species that can recover quite quickly after such set-backs. The second factor affecting the totals was the rather poor late autumn passage of Blackbirds, thrushes and Goldcrests which are normally caught in good numbers at coastal sites. On the brighter side, following concern of the effect of the African drought on our summer migrant breeding birds, numbers seem to be higher than last year which suggests a recovery, hopefully, to their normal numbers.

Four new species were added to the County Ringing Totals bringing the total number of species ringed in the County to 178 species since 1979. The new species added were Lesser Black-backed Gull, Grey Wagtail, Golden Oriole and Carrion Crow. The first of the new species resulted from a cannon-net catch on Boston rubbish tip which also accounted for 156 Herring Gulls and 22 Great Black-backed Gulls. Only one of each of these had been caught in the county since 1979. Several of the gulls caught in this catch were already ringed - see the section on recoveries following this report. The readers attention is also drawn to the 199 Lapland Buntings ringed at a site in the county during 1986. Only 129 had been ringed in Britain prior to 1986. In 1986 more Lapland Buntings were ringed in Lincolnshire than Reed Buntings!

One of the main reasons for ringing birds is to find out more about their movements and therefore the bulk of this report is devoted to publishing a selection of recoveries. Unfortunately space does not permit a complete list of recoveries and several quite noteworthy ones have had to be omitted. Your attention is drawn to the Swedish-ringed Hen Harrier and to the Black-headed Gull and Herring Gull both ringed in Italy.

Selected Ringing Recoveries Received during 1986

Key to symbols and terms used in the following list of recoveries.

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

Age when ringed: this is given according to the 'EURING' code. The figures DO NOT represent ages in years.

- 1 = pullus, nestling or chick
- 2 = full grown, but year of hatching unknown.
- 3 = hatched during calendar year for ringing
- 4 = hatched before current year, exact age unknown
- 5 = hatched during previous calendar year
- 6 = hatched before previous year, exact age unknown

Sex: M = Male, F = Female

Manner of recovery:

- v = caught or retrapped
- vv = ring number read in field
- +
- x = shot or killed by man
- x = found dead or dying
- ? = manner or recovery unknown

Movement: distances, given in kilometres, and directions are approximate where given.

Cormorant

1	03.07.84	Farne Islands, Northumberland	
x	25.04.86	Fishtoft, Boston	320 km SSE

Shag

1	14.07.85	Isle of May, Fife	
x	23.02.86	Wainfleet	390 km SSE
1	30.06.84	Craigleith, Lothian	
v	07.11.84	North Cotes	339 km SE
1	27.06.84	Isle of May, Fife	
v	16.02.86	Market Rasen	340 km SSE

Grey Heron

1	08.05.84	Laughton Forest	
x	06.03.86	Formby, Lancashire	152 km W

Hen Harrier

1	08.07.84	Styrnas, Vasternorrland, SWEDEN	
x	21.05.85	Holbeach Marsh	1545 km SW

This is the first Swedish-ringed Hen Harrier found in Britain. Previously there has been one from Finland and three to Norway.

Sparrowhawk

1F	12.07.86	Uppingham, Leicestershire	
v	28.08.86	Bourne	29 km NE

County Ringing Totals in 1986

Species	1986 FG	1986 Pull	1986 Total	79-86 Grand Total					
Little Grebe	-	-	-	6	Sand Martin	161	-	161	2428
Great Crested Grebe	-	-	-	13	Swallow	483	383	866	14260
Manx Shearwater	-	-	-	6	House Martin	123	-	123	504
Leach's Petrel	-	-	-	2	Tree Pipit	7	3	10	67
Shag	-	-	-	1	Meadow Pipit	201	14	215	927
Grey Heron	-	75	75	146	Rock Pipit	-	1	1	7
Mute Swan	46	-	46	107	Yellow Wagtail	6	2	8	85
Greylag Goose	-	-	-	19	Grey Wagtail	1	-	1	1
Canada Goose	3	2	5	54	Pied Wagtail	30	7	37	508
Brent Goose	-	-	-	9	Wren	365	-	365	4294
Shelduck	-	-	-	10	Duncock	1088	16	1104	11358
Wigeon	-	-	-	32	Robin	422	32	454	5820
Gadwall	-	-	-	22	Nightingale	10	-	10	60
Teal	-	-	-	52	Thrush Nightingale	-	-	-	1
Mallard	1	-	1	2042	Bluthroat	-	-	-	2
Pintail	-	-	-	2	Black Redstart	1	-	1	9
Shoveler	-	-	-	9	Redstart	31	-	31	463
Pochard	-	-	-	40	Whinchat	7	-	7	162
Tufted Duck	-	-	-	478	Stonechat	-	-	-	5
Scaup	-	-	-	1	Wheatear	4	-	4	85
Marsh Harrier	-	-	-	7	Ring Ouzel	-	-	-	18
Sparrowhawk	9	-	9	36	Blackbird	1556	246	1802	20982
Kestrel	6	28	34	173	Fieldfare	5	-	5	870
Merlin	1	-	1	2	Song Thrush	439	87	526	6938
Hobby	-	-	-	1	Redwing	92	-	92	2329
Red-legged Partridge	-	-	-	25	Mistle Thrush	21	8	29	199
Grey Partridge	-	-	-	1	Cot's Warbler	-	-	-	1
Pheasant	-	-	-	27	Grasshopper Warbler	-	-	4	119
Water Rail	-	-	-	8	Sedge Warbler	139	-	139	2001
Moorhen	1	-	1	104	Marsh Warbler	-	-	-	2
Coot	1	-	1	464	Reed Warbler	259	27	286	3415
Oystercatcher	516	1	517	3076	Booted Warbler	-	-	-	1
Little Ringed Plover	1	-	1	45	Icterine Warbler	-	-	-	11
Ringed Plover	27	5	32	530	Sardinian Warbler	1	-	1	2
Golden Plover	-	-	-	10	Subalpine Warbler	-	-	-	1
Grey Plover	33	-	33	885	Barred Warbler	1	-	1	30
Lapwing	9	6	15	87	Lesser Whitethroat	265	-	265	2274
Knot	26	-	26	2014	Whitethroat	719	-	719	5627
Sanderling	-	-	-	19	Garden Warbler	148	-	148	1307
Little Stint	-	-	-	9	Blackcap	371	4	375	3799
Curlew Sandpiper	-	-	-	4	Greenish Warbler	-	-	-	2
Purple Sandpiper	1	-	1	3	Arctic Warbler	1	-	1	3
Dunlin	1260	-	1260	9619	Pallas's Warbler	-	-	-	2
Ruff	13	-	13	64	Yellow-browed Warbler	3	-	3	14
Jack Snipe	2	-	2	19	Wood Warbler	4	-	4	25
Snipe	13	-	13	131	Chiffchaff	99	22	121	968
Woodcock	3	4	7	64	Willow Warbler	1527	94	1621	12871
Black-tailed Godwit	-	-	-	2	Goldcrest	55	-	55	5456
Bar-tailed Godwit	22	-	22	697	Firecrest	3	-	3	75
Whimbrel	1	-	1	3	Spotted Flycatcher	48	29	77	612
Curlew	-	-	-	96	Red-breasted Flycatcher	-	-	-	6
Spotted Redshank	-	-	-	3	Pied Flycatcher	17	-	17	385
Redshank	49	2	51	831	Bearded Tit	-	-	-	19
Greenshank	1	-	1	13	Long-tailed Tit	109	-	109	1769
Green Sandpiper	-	-	-	7	Marsh Tit	4	-	4	68
Wood Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	Willow Tit	69	-	69	619
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	31	Coal Tit	37	16	53	689
Turnstone	59	-	59	311	Blue Tit	967	681	1648	12505
Black-headed Gull	198	-	198	3307	Great Tit	744	401	1145	5899
Common Gull	25	-	25	214	Nuthatch	-	-	-	7
Herring Gull	156	-	156	157	Treecreeper	14	-	14	314
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	-	1	1	Golden Oriole	1	-	1	1
Great Black-backed Gull	22	-	22	23	Red-backed Shrike	-	-	-	5
Sandwich Tern	-	-	-	23	Great Grey Shrike	-	-	-	3
Common Tern	-	-	-	304	Jay	6	3	9	114
Little Tern	-	15	15	337	Magpie	7	-	7	76
Gullinmot	-	-	-	3	Jackdaw	1	6	7	41
Razorbill	-	-	-	3	Rook	3	200	203	601
Little Auk	-	-	-	4	Carrion Crow	-	18	18	18
Puffin	-	-	-	1	Starling	2033	8	2041	18118
Stock Dove	-	8	8	340	House Sparrow	244	-	244	2898
Woodpigeon	20	6	26	311	Tree Sparrow	138	45	183	4245
Collared Dove	22	6	28	235	Chaffinch	357	16	373	3781
Turtle Dove	8	17	25	234	Brambling	74	-	74	924
Cuckoo	13	2	15	107	Greenfinch	927	8	935	11454
Barn Owl	6	9	15	66	Goldfinch	76	-	76	2079
Little Owl	1	-	1	40	Siskin	7	-	7	168
Tawny Owl	2	9	11	85	Linnet	229	17	246	4737
Long-eared Owl	7	4	11	41	Twite	90	-	90	439
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	9	Redpoll	206	-	206	4695
Nightjar	1	-	1	2	Crossbill	3	-	3	21
Swift	38	-	38	160	Bullfinch	359	-	359	3178
Kingfisher	6	-	6	94	Hawfinch	-	-	-	1
Wryneck	1	-	1	11	American Redstart	-	-	-	1
Green Woodpecker	3	-	3	11	Lapland Bunting	199	-	199	216
Great Spotted Woodpecker	6	-	6	49	Snow Bunting	4	-	4	59
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	1	-	1	12	Yellowhammer	114	-	114	3006
Skylark	145	42	187	1159	Reed Bunting	180	-	180	3490
					Red-headed Bunting	-	-	-	1
					Corn Bunting	7	-	7	258

Totals 18713 2634 21347 227634

Kestrel

1	03.07.85	Linwood, Market Rasen	
x	25.03.86	Doddington, Cambridgeshire	100 km S

Water Rail

4M	11.12.82	Ancaster	
v	29.11.86	Ancaster	

Ringed Plover

1	11.07.84	Gibraltar Point	
v	31.05.86	Schleswig Holstein, WEST GERMANY	750 km ENE

Grey Plover

5	27.08.76	Friskney	
?	24.07.86	Pas-de-Calais, FRANCE	290 km SSE

Knot

4	10.09.83	Wainfleet	
v	27.05.86	Balsfjord, Troms, NORWAY	2000 km NNE
4	10.09.83	Wainfleet	
v	11.05.86	Balsfjord, Troms, NORWAY	2000 km NNE

Other Knot recoveries included one from Norway, one from France, one from West Germany, three to West Germany and one to Holland.

Dunlin

Four Norwegian-ringed Dunlin were retrapped in Lincolnshire and ones ringed here were found in Belgium and Holland.

Snipe

3	26.08.78	Wainfleet	
+	31.12.85	Cork, Eire	625 km WSW

Bar-tailed Godwit

6	20.08.85	Wainfleet	
v	24.04.86	Nordfriesische Inseln, WEST GERMANY	570 km ENE

The above movement was repeated by a second bird on the same dates. The fourth and fifth British-ringed recoveries of this species in Germany.

Redshank

3	09.08.85	Marquenterre, Somme FRANCE	
x	05.03.86	Grainthorpe Haven	365 km N
4	08.09.79	Friskney	
x	01.03.84	FAEROES	1000 km NNW

Green Sandpiper

Two birds ringed at Marston S.F. in autumn 1985 were both retrapped there in autumn 1986 showing that birds can make use of the same site whilst on passage.

Black-headed Gull

1	23.06.82	Lake Kalwa, Olsztyn, POLAND	
vv	21.03.85	Gibraltar Point	1358 km W
3	12.12.81	Boston	
x	15.08.84	Vallentuna, Stockholm, SWEDEN	1330 km NE

1	24.06.84	Wainfleet	
x	20.01.86	Kalaat-el-Andaleus, TUNISIA	
5	21.04.81	Porto Marghera, Venezia, ITALY	
x	19.08.83	Freiston	1210 km NW

Included in the above is the first Black-headed Gull from Italy to Britain and first from Britain to Tunisia. Not included above were birds to Denmark, Finland and Poland or one from Estonia.

Common Gull

1	06.07.84	Murmansk, U.S.S.R.	
x	19.01.85	Huttoft	2355 km SW
6	17.05.81	Nidingen, SWEDEN	
x	30.11.86	North Hykeham	913 km SW



Green Woodpecker (A. Ball)

Herring Gull

1	30.05.82	Portoferraio, Livorno, ITALY	
x	28.06.83	Holbeach Marsh	1340 km NW

The above recovery is the first Herring Gull from Italy to Britain and involves a bird of the *michahellis* race. A cannon-net catch of Gulls on the Boston Tip on 28.08.86 included birds ringed as a juvenile in Cleveland, a pullus from Craigleith, and three pulli from the Isle of May.

Sandwich Tern

4	28.08.80	Leverton	
x	03.04.86	Pyrenees Atlantiques, FRANCE	960 km S

Stock Dove

6	24.06.84	Dunsby	
x	22.02.86	Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire	30 km SE

Woodpigeon

4 21.08.84 Deeping St Nicholas
 x 30.05.86 Mildenhall, Suffolk 70 km SE

Turtle Dove

3 03.09.85 Deeping St Nicholas
 + 29.03.86 Yelimane, MALI 4100 km S

Tawny Owl

1 28.05.85 Linwood, Market Rasen
 x 15.11.85 Holbeach 65 km SSE

Only five longer movements of Tawny Owls in Britain have been recorded.

Meadow Pipit

3 22.09.82 Gibraltar Point
 + 01.01.83 Los Palacios, Seville, SPAIN 1650 km SSW

Blackbird

4 16.10.85 Kroonspolders, NETHERLANDS
 v 20.10.85 Theddlethorpe 314 km W

Note the quick recovery of the above. Another Blackbird was found in Lincolnshire having been ringed in Netherlands. Lincolnshire-ringed Blackbirds were recovered in Sweden, Denmark (2), West Germany (2) and the Netherlands.

Fieldfare

4M 13.10.81 Molen, Vestfold, NORWAY
 x 02.04.84 Gibraltar Point 874 km SW

Song Thrush

1 30.05.85 Middle Rasen
 + 25.12.85 Onda, Castellon, SPAIN 1491 km S
 3J 07.07.85 Temple Wood
 + 10.12.85 Pyrenees Atlantique, FRANCE 1073 km S

Reed Warbler

4M 26.05.85 Thatcham, Berkshire
 v 27.05.85 Thurlby Fen 161 km NNE
 Note the very quick (next day) recovery.

Lesser Whitethroat

3 15.08.84 Theddlethorpe
 x 09.03.86 Damascus, SYRIA 3620 km SE
 Surprisingly, this is only the third British-ringed Lesser Whitethroat to be recovered in Syria - there have been several to Lebanon and Israel.

Blackcap

3 04.08.82 Theddlethorpe
 x 14.04.86 Marrakech, MOROCCO 2484 km SSW

Willow Warbler

3 22.07.84 Theddlethorpe
 x 10.04.86 La Rioja, SPAIN 1251 km S
 3 26.07.81 Ingoldsby Wood
 x 20.04.86 Pyrenees Atlantique, FRANCE 1049 km S
 3 05.08.86 Nairn, Inverness
 v 17.08.86 Theddlethorpe 534 km SSE

Goldcrest

3M 19.10.85 Makkum, Friesland, NETHERLANDS
 v 21.10.85 Gibraltar Point 338 km W
 Note the quick recovery.

Great Tit

5F 29.04.84 Donna Nook
 v 12.02.86 Bromham, Wiltshire 276 km SW

Jay

6 21.04.84 Gibraltar Point
 + 31.01.85 Hanwarth, Norfolk 68 km ESE

Starling

5F 21.02.83 Cleethorpes
 x 01.05.86 Zetel, WEST GERMANY 530 km E
 1 23.05.85 Lekeciai, LITHUANIA S.S.R.

x 16.12.85 Toft Newton 1568 km W
 3M 15.07.85 Ventres Ragas, LITHUANIA S.S.R.

v 21.12.85 Gibraltar Point 1379 km W
 3F 12.07.85 Ventres Ragas, LITHUANIA S.S.R.

v 29.12.85 Gibraltar Point 1379 km W
 3F 19.07.85 Ventres Ragas, LITHUANIA S.S.R.

v 15.03.86 Skegness 1378 km W
 3F 29.07.85 Ventres Ragas, LITHUANIA S.S.R.

v 20.02.86 Boston 1405 km W
 3M 08.08.85 Ventres Ragas, LITHUANIA S.S.R.

v 15.02.86 Boston 1405 km W

All foreign recoveries are listed and remarkably includes five birds ringed at the same site in Lithuania.

Chaffinch

6M 05.02.83 Woodhall Spa
 x 15.04.86 Stranda, NORWAY 1100 km NNE
 4F 06.05.86 Saltfleetby
 x 10.09.86 Los, Gavleborg, SWEDEN 1283 km NE

Siskin

3 03.11.85 Bourne
 v 18.04.86 Shrewsbury, Salop 150 km W

Linnet

1 19.08.79 Spalding
 x 20.10.80 Vizcaya, SPAIN 1150 km S

Redpoll

3M 16.09.84 Ancaster
 v 08.07.86 Westbere, Kent 220 km SSE

Reed Bunting

3 13.10.85 Donna Nook
 v 27.12.85 Castle Donington, Leicester 120 km WSW

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