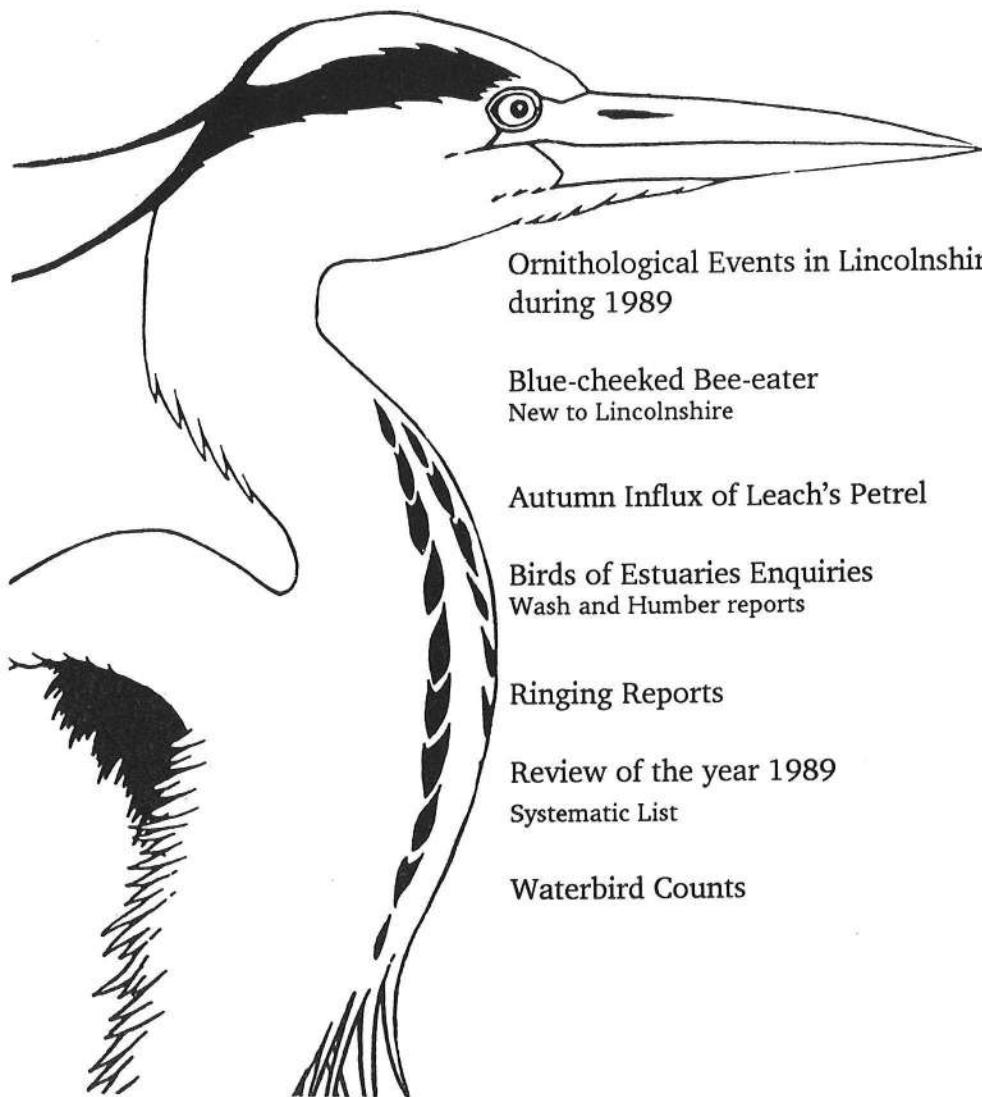


LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD REPORT 1989

including the Gibraltar Point Observatory Report



Ornithological Events in Lincolnshire
during 1989

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater
New to Lincolnshire

Autumn Influx of Leach's Petrel

Birds of Estuaries Enquiries
Wash and Humber reports

Ringling Reports

Review of the year 1989
Systematic List

Waterbird Counts

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The Autumn Influx of Leach's Petrels in 1989

The weekend of September 9-10th produced a seabird spectacle not previously witnessed in the county with an unparalleled variety and numbers of species giving observers from the Humber to the Wash the opportunity to witness the type of seabird passage normally confined to northern and western coasts. One species in particular, the Leach's Petrel, drew everyone's attention due to the unprecedented numbers involved and gave often excellent views of this rare and essentially transient county species. Details of the numbers of most species are given in the main body of the systematic list and this paper concentrates on the Leach's Petrel records.

The Leach's Petrel is essentially a pelagic species spending most of its life at sea and coming ashore only to breed on what are normally inaccessible island colonies. They are usually only seen from the shore when periods of gales force them inshore, often in a tired and weakened condition. There are only four large breeding colonies in Britain, all in the north-west of Scotland, with sporadic breeding at a few other sites and a small colony in the Lofoten Islands off Norway being the only outposts on this side of the Atlantic. The entire British population is estimated at under 10,000 pairs whereas those in the Newfoundland area of the Nearctic are often numbered in millions of pairs (BWP Vol 1). After breeding the petrels move south to the regions of tropical convergences in the south Atlantic for the winter months and only stragglers occur in the northern hemisphere in winter. It is suggested that a proportion of the eastern Nearctic population moves east across the Atlantic before moving south, and a western Atlantic origin for the bulk of the two previous major wrecks of this species in Britain and northern Europe has been postulated, as both wrecks followed extensive periods of severe westerly gales. The wreck from September 26th to October 10th 1891 included mostly adults. The 1952 wreck when up to 7000 birds died in Britain alone was concentrated from October 21st to November 8th (BWP Vol 1). Adults desert the chicks before they fledge, in early to mid-September, moving south alone and leaving the young to follow later in the autumn. It would thus appear from the timing of the bulk of the 1989 records that most were likely to be adults, possibly failed or non breeders.

The first bird noted in 1989 was at Gibraltar Point where one flew south on the afternoon of September 2nd during moderate northerly winds. The conditions were not exceptional and would not normally have been expected to produce any petrel records on the coast but obviously Leach's Petrels had been moved into the North Sea and birds perhaps in a weakened condition, or due to some other cause, were willing to drift with the prevailing wind. Sunday 3rd dawned calm but birds obviously already disorientated on the previous day were found on the Humber, with 2 flying over the river off Goxhill Haven-New Holland before landing and drifting out with the ebb tide. Another was seen off Barton-on-Humber and one well inland at Messingham paused briefly before flying off strongly to the north-west. A single bird was then noted at Huttoft on the 7th before the main influx.

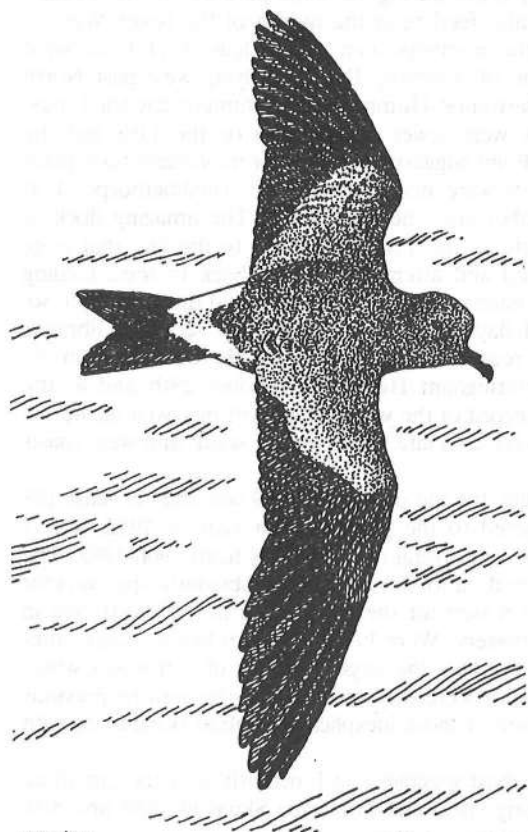
By midday on Friday 8th the wind had swung to north-east and it increased to force 6-7 overnight continuing throughout Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th, touching force 8 at times before subsiding on Monday 11th. As the gale coincided with a weekend most birders were out at some time over the two days, and fairly good coverage was obtained on the Saturday, with better coverage on Sunday, but few observations on the Monday.

From the few observations made on the Monday it would appear that a major movement on that day may have gone largely unrecorded.

On Saturday 9th in the Humber single birds were noted at Barton-on-Humber and off Humberston, while a minimum of 6 were off the Witham Mouth in the Wash. Coastal movements were difficult to interpret throughout the weekend period with observations from most sites between Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point, but few observers noted the times of their watches, and as birds moved north and south it was difficult to estimate the number of birds actually seen. The configuration of the Lincolnshire coastline, the Spurn shadow effect and the variable movements of birds, make it impossible to come to a perfectly accurate figure for the number of birds seen, but minimum numbers at specific sites, where long watches took place, can be arrived at. Evidence from other seabird movements in the past and this present movement suggest that different groups of birds

may occur at different localities, not just following the coast as might be expected. Many skuas in September 1988 arrived off Huttoft from out to sea, ie the north-east, passing fairly close to Huttoft and then veering out again and away south-east. It is unlikely that they would have been visible from Donna Nook/Saltfleetby or from Gibraltar Point, similarly many birds coming out of the Wash past Gibraltar Point on September 9th moved away north-east into the North Sea and would most probably not have occurred at sites further north along the coast. Off Mablethorpe the only Leach's Petrel seen between 09.20 and 11.30 on the 9th flew north-east out to sea, while 5-6 were seen off Huttoft during the same period, and later 5-7 off Saltfleetby. Movements and their visibility are further complicated by spells of poor visibility and rain squalls, which often serve to bring birds closer inshore during short periods when they may only be seen from specific sites during that period. Additionally, tides may make a difference at places further north like Saltfleetby where a long gently shelving beach is present.

Birds recorded on the 9th on the coast included 7 at Saltfleetby late am/early pm, with 5 Huttoft 08.15 to 11.15, and at least 12 there from 14.00 hrs onwards, and 5 at



Leach's Petrel

Anderby Creek, also pm. A suggested minimum total of 24 birds can be calculated from this part of the coast on the 9th. At Gibraltar Point 14 flew out of the Wash in one hour mid am, and a further 18 were seen from 13.00 to 15.15, giving an absolute minimum of 32 birds there for the day, but obviously with such numbers involved there must have been many more during the periods when no observations took place. Although some of these may have been birds seen further north, it seems likely that most were different and with so many probably missed anyway, a combination of all the day totals would not be an overestimate and would give a total of 64 birds for the 9th.

Coverage on the 10th was very good with seawatching from 06.30 to 17.00 off Chapel Point and Huttoft, during which time an absolute minimum of 27 birds were recorded. The total of 21 at Gibraltar Point in a shorter time period, again adds weight to the suggestion that many more birds were forced into the shelter of the Wash and recorded at Gibraltar Point as they flew back into the North Sea, and that many of these birds would be different to those seen further north during the same periods. At the Witham Mouth birds were flying in circles and also feeding in the mouth of the River Welland and it was thus difficult to estimate the numbers seen but at least 9-11 birds were counted. In the Humber there was one off Grimsby Docks, 2 flying west past North Killingholme Haven and at least 2 at Barton-on-Humber. The minimum day total must have been at least 62. As stated, there were fewer observations on the 11th, but the count of 35 in 4 hours pm at Gibraltar Point suggests that a major movement took place in the calmer conditions. Off Huttoft 9 were noted, with 2 off Theddlethorpe, 1 at Frampton Marsh, 2 at Barton-on-Humber and one off Goxhill. The amazing flock of 140 Gannets at Barton-on-Humber early on the 11th also points to the fact that large numbers of birds were still disorientated and attempting to get back to their feeding areas. Thus a considerable number of Leach's could have been missed this day. Even so, at least 46 were noted, an exceptional day total. A single bird was seen at Gibraltar Point on the 12th and there were later records of singles off East Halton Skitter on the Humber on September 28th, off Winteringham Haven on October 28th and at the Witham Mouth on the 29th. The final record of the year at Langtoft pits, well inland, on December 3rd, could have been connected to a late wreck on the south and west coasts of Britain at that time.

It would appear that the autumn tally for the county in 1989 was thus at least 183 birds, an incredible figure when compared to the previous best year of 1952, with 7 found after the huge wreck in that year, and a total of 38 records from 1960-1988. The proximate factors which brought the birds into the area were obviously the weather conditions at the time, but the original reason for the birds being in the North Sea in large numbers will no doubt remain a mystery. Were Leach's Petrels like so many other species suffering a lack of food supply (witness the large numbers of Kittiwakes which arrived in the Humber in autumn 1988) or were they pushed into the area by previous storms in the far north, or was it just one of those inexplicable seabird occurrences with which we are faced from time to time?

We have witnessed some superb seabird spectacles in Lincolnshire in the last three years with Pomarine Skuas in 1987, Long-tailed and Pomarine Skuas in 1988 and now Leach's Petrels in 1989. What can we hope for in 1990?

Thanks to all observers who submitted Leach's Petrel records for 1989 - for obvious reasons it has not been possible to include initials with all records!

Graham P. Catley

Waterbird Counts 1988 - 89

Thirty-six observers counted wildfowl at 41 sites during the winter of 1988-89, and the gross monthly totals are shown in Table 1. The locations, with descending order of maximum monthly counts, are shown in Table 2. Two species to reach qualifying levels for flocks of National Importance were as follows:

Mute Swan (QL : 180) R. Welland, 192 on Sept. 18th, 88, and 241 on Oct.17th, 88.
Coot (QL : 1000) Baston Common Pits, 1023 on Dec.18th, 88.

Due to the mild winter Goosander numbers remained comparatively low and did not reach the qualifying level of 50 birds. High numbers of Mallard and Wigeon were present in Metherringham and Nocton Fens in the early part of 1989, and records represent the combined counts of several observers.

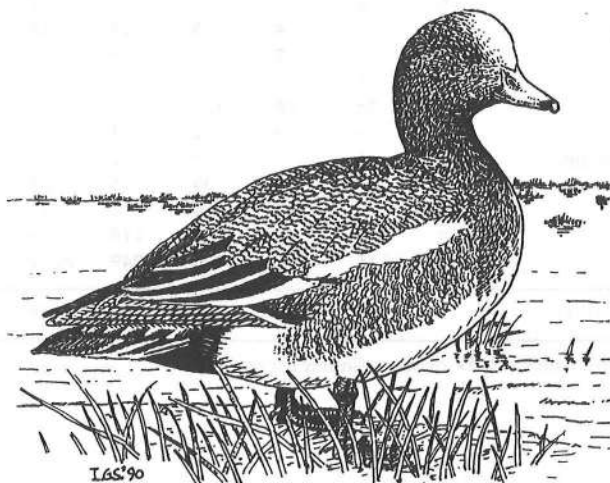
Thanks are due to all the counters who provided records for the Wildfowl Trust's counts.

Scientific names of species are given in the systematic list.

John Redshaw

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Wigeon

TABLE 1 - Monthly Waterbird Totals 1988 - 89

SPECIES	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Red-throated Diver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Grebe	35	22	39	27	27	37	30
Great Crested Grebe	92	89	73	46	66	121	152
Red-necked Grebe	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Cormorant	23	29	38	34	41	53	34
Shag	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Bewick's Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooper Swan	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Bean Goose	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Pink-footed Goose	-	-	2	2	1	2	1
White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Greylag Goose	223	624	217	253	510	650	384
Canada Goose	601	1444	684	979	897	657	400
Barnacle Goose *	1	2	4	2	2	5	2
Egyptian Goose *	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shelduck	-	7	9	4	43	37	56
Mandarin *	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Wigeon	261	142	354	171	4304	2809	1495
Gadwall	24	53	153	173	229	234	77
Teal	263	177	336	785	389	292	184
Mallard	2041	2544	3000	4310	4820	2837	1840
Pintail	1	3	1	2	7	6	-
Shoveler	39	45	25	22	30	33	44
Red-crested Pochard	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Pochard	97	657	740	634	910	1056	212
Tufted Duck	301	599	811	766	1143	1270	1172
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
"Ferruginous" type *	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Scaup	5	5	-	1	3	9	25
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	4	13	14	12	7
Common Scoter	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
Velvet Scoter	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Goldeneye	1	33	66	107	175	195	128
Smew	-	-	-	2	7	7	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Goosander	1	-	18	34	15	27	46
Ruddy Duck	20	32	15	8	6	11	18
Moorhen	34	60	54	139	176	178	147
Coot	1017	2016	2709	2945	3249	2272	1373
Sites Counted: (n=41)	18	28	30	34	39	36	39

* indicates birds which may be or are definitely escapes

Table 2 - Sites Counted in 1988 - 89

Grid Square	Location	Months Counted	Monthly Max.
North			
TA 02	Barton/Barrow Clay Pits	S O N D J F M	854 J
SE 90	Messingham Sand Quarry	S O N D J F M	794 J
TF 39	Covenham Reservoir	S O N D J F M	775 N
SE 80	Messingham Landfill	D J F M	193 D
SE 90	Kirton Lindsey Quarries	F M	186 F
SE 81	Burton upon Stather Brickpits	J F M	120 J
SE 90	Brigg Island Lake	J F M	102 M
TA 00	Cadney Reservoir	S D J F M	100 J
TA 11	North Killingholme Pits	O N D J F M	76 N
West			
TF 16	Metheringham Fen	J F M	2717 J
TF 16	Nocton Fen	D J F M	2581 J
TF 16	Bardney Sugar Factory Ponds	O N D J F M	862 D
SK 98	Fillingham Lake	O N D J F M	498 O
SK 94	Ancaster Sand Pits	S O N D J F M	442 D
SK 97	Burton Gravel Pits	D J F M	222 J/F
SK 97	Riseholme Lake	S O N D J F M	202 J
TF 07	R.Witham, Fiskerton-Bardney	O N D J F M	178 D
TF 25/16	R.Witham, Kirkstead-Chapel Hill	N D J F M	175 D
SK 97	Brayford Pool	S O N D J F M	132 M
SK 94	Frieston Flashes, Caythorpe	S O N D J F M	113 N
TF 04	Sleaford Ballast Pits	O N D J M	86 N
SK 94	Syston Lake	J F M	67 F
TF 14	Asgarby Pit	J F M	30 F
TF 15	Billinghay Skerth	N D J F M	23 N
TF 08	Toft Newton Reservoir	O N	17 N
East			
TF 26	Kirkby on Bain Pits	S O N D J F M	1375 S
TF 57/58	Sea Bank Clay Pits	S O N D J F M	1019 S
TF 55	Gibraltar Point Mere	S O N D J F M	304 S
TF 58	Brickyard Pond, Sutton on Sea	O N D J F M	146 J
South			
TF 11	Baston Common Pits	O N D J F M	1406 J
TF 10	Tallington/West Deeping Pits	S O N D J F	1021 D
TF 11	Langtoft West End Pits	O N D J F M	1017 N
TF 02	Grimsthorpe Lake	S O N D J F M	788 J
SK 83	Denton Reservoir	S O N D J F M	705 O
TF 11	Baston Fen	S O N D J F M	634 J
TF 03	Culverthorpe Lake	O N D J M	536 M
TF 22	Coronation Channel, Spalding	S O N D J F M	514 S
TF 10/22	R.Welland, Spalding-Boro' Fen	S O N D J F M	429 F
TF 11	Langtoft Common Pits	O N D J F M	256 J
TF 01	Holywell Lake	D J F M	239 D
TF 24/34	South Forty Foot Drain, Boston	S O N D J F M	219 O

BIRDS OF ESTUARIES ENQUIRY

DECEMBER 1988 - DECEMBER 1989

THE WASH

The table shows the count totals of each species from the counting sections of Lincolnshire. Figures mentioned in the narrative below are totals for the entire Wash, including Norfolk.

Perhaps the most impressive feature of the mid-winter counts was the sheer number of Brent Geese in the Wash. With a successful breeding season in 1988 the numbers swelled and the total of 27612 in December, which sets a record for the Wash, included about 30% young birds. This represented just over a quarter of the British wintering population. Eider numbers continue to show a healthy increase and despite the mild weather the number of Long-tailed Duck was very high through until April although their return has not been witnessed in late 1989.

The December and January totals of Oystercatchers were two-three times higher than in the same period the previous season. The mid-winter Knot numbers were around normal but in October the count, coinciding with the peak migration, revealed a massive 157594 birds. The July count at Gibraltar Point also coincided with a peak Sanderling movement with 2677 at roost there. Dunlin showed a slight and very welcome increase, not only in the Wash but also nationally which reverses the trend over the last few years. Both Curlew and Redshank were very close to the figures of the previous winter but it seems that there was not the usual February influx of Turnstones into the Wash, the numbers remaining more or less static early in the year.

Once again the mild winter caused the populations of Golden Plover and Lapwing to remain high in eastern England at each end of the year.

As with all estuary counting, particularly on large sites, it is the synchronous counts which provide the only consistently reliable data for the populations using the site. More often than not though actual peak numbers of species can be missed but occasionally the timing of the count is just right. For example, in September 1987 the count matched the main Spotted Redshank influx and 175 were counted at the Welland Mouth. Similarly in October 1989 the count matched the main influx of Knot with 45000 at Gibraltar Point and 9000 at the same time at Holme. This begs the question are these numbers present each October or was 1989 an unusual year?

CONTRIBUTORS

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R. Lord

THE WASH COUNTS 1989 - LINCOLNSHIRE TOTALS

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
002 R-t Diver	3	3	1		1							
003 B-t Diver	2											
004 G N Diver		1										
007 Little Grebe			6	2			3			3	12	
009 G C Grebe	10	9	10	6	14		28	35	30	94	2	6
012 Bl-n Grebe										4		
020 Fulmar					2			1				
043 Gannet								1	16	5		
044 Cormorant	181	131	145	70	34	10	53	89	120	162	113	90
071 Grey Heron	6	3	8	15	16	9	8	15	15	30	14	
086 Mute Swan	2	4	2	2	10						2	
087 Bewick's Swan	4										1	3
088 Whooper Swan											2	
090 Pink-f Goose	107	1								4		
091 White-f Goose		2										
098 Brent Goose	20736	17136	10044	11984	9738	51	8	3	10	4719	13033	13211
102 Shelduck	7370	5928	3708	2081	924	217	177	95	1020	1980	7478	5713
106 Wigeon	41	22	22					56	34	416	968	699
111 Teal	230	111	22	14		1		664	124	33	486	602
113 Mallard	1617	1254	302	186	193	262	36	81	421	567	1371	920
115 Pintail	1101	2315	75	8				29	101	18	113	253
118 Shoveler				4		1		5			4	2
124 Tufted Duck			2	4			2		1			
125 Scaup	2											
126 Eider	34	95	86	49	240	92	330	134	88	36	37	63
131 Long-t Duck	34	8	4	12	1							
132 Common Scoter	80	72	10				1	7				25
137 Goldeneye	41	30	20	17						27	9	40
140 R-b Merganser	59	30	50	61	2					3	13	7
250 Oystercatcher	34220	20832	14728	12011	6662	1296	6782	27704	30798	19628	20603	5976
262 Ringed Plover	95	92	169	130	362	383	265	1303	149	361	110	46
272 Gold Plover	1888	1736	481	590	37	10	945	619	334	721	938	511
273 Grey Plover	5892	3666	6502	5599	7210	439	2732	7687	2812	4813	4368	1705
279 Lapwing	3140	3934	79	31	79	13	395	320	877	968	2288	1578
281 Knot	30761	26917	26552	14472	8018	685	7910	13072	40547	53251	47185	21589
282 Sanderling	78	1	23	90	21	380	2677	115	250	9	38	32
294 Curl Sandpiper							2					
295 Purp Sandpiper		1										
296 Dunlin	24000	29197	25915	29063	26968	630	26850	16070	17406	19582	14594	14434
300 Ruff				6	1				3			
301 Jack Snipe										1		
302 Snipe	8	12	1	3	3	3	13	26	12	16	21	7
309 Bl-t Godwit		70	2	38	12		183	320	286	829	664	91
310 Bar-t Godwit	2032	2919	624	623	899	14	4725	2888	805	3600	598	2457
313 Whimbrel					153	5	300	249	29	51	1	
315 Curlew	1471	1610	1636	2410	884	147	1106	7092	5401	3828	1563	324
317 Spot Redshank			1				2	7	56	25	1	
318 Redshank	2846	2938	2289	2147	1019	193	1397	3235	3450	1424	1161	1341
320 Greenshank				1	29	6	144	87	88	24	3	
324 Gn Sandpiper			1	1			1	3	1			2
327 Com Sandpiper					12		15	18	10			
330 Turnstone	337	326	788	806	780	21	719	393	392	461	318	229

BIRDS OF ESTUARIES ENQUIRY DECEMBER 1988 - FEBRUARY 1989

THE HUMBER

Tables 1 shows the total numbers of wildfowl and waders counted on the Humber during BOEE/National Wildfowl Count fieldwork in mid-winter 1988-89.

Sadly, there were, once again, no complete counts of the entire estuary this season. In fact, coverage achieved was significantly worse than in recent seasons. There were no counts made on the outer south bank, between Grainthorpe Haven and the southern end of the Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, so tabled totals of virtually all wader species and also Brent Goose and Shelduck are likely to represent gross undercounts of the real Humber populations. On the upper estuary south shore there are no NWC data for the diving duck flock off New Holland and no count of the Barton/Barrow flocks in February. These are in the systematic list species tables however.

Whilst BOEE/NWC data collected on individual sites within the estuary are of great value, and can provide vital information if those sites are threatened by development. The need for complete estuary-wide coverage providing an overview of the entire Humber waterfowl populations has never been greater.

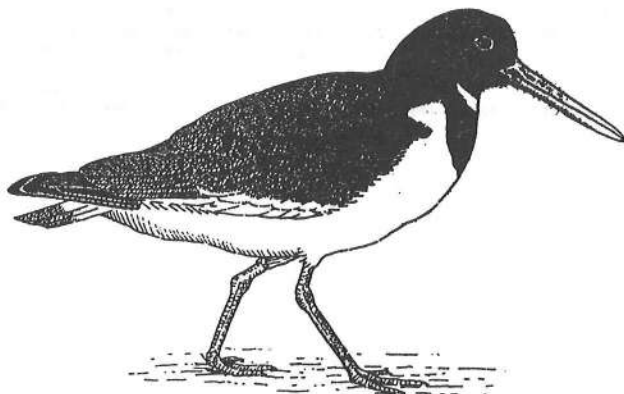
Given the total lack of data from a significant length of the south shore this season, no meaningful comparisons can be made between numbers of birds present in the estuary in this and previous seasons. Nor can the importance of the mid-winter populations be accurately placed in national or international contexts.

Many thanks are due from myself to the inner and mid-estuary south bank counters and also from north bank count organiser Paul Scanlon to his team. More counters are urgently required for inner and outer south bank sites.

I G Shepherd

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Oystercatcher

**Table 1 BOEE/NATIONAL WILDFOWL COUNT TOTALS FOR MID-WINTER 1988-9
HUMBER ESTUARY**

		December 1988		January 1989		February 1989	
		Whole Estuary	South Bank	Whole Estuary	South Bank	Whole Estuary	South Bank
Great Crested Grebe	GG	6	5	-	-	5	3
Cormorant	CA	87	33	37	15	46	17
Mute Swan	MS	3	3	43	-	6	2
Pink-footed Goose	PG	500	500	-	-	35	35
White-fronted Goose	WG	-	-	-	-	24	-
Greylag Goose	GJ	26	5	14	-	38	7
Canada Goose	CG	-	-	51	-	34	2
Brent Goose	BG	1393	912	916	680	954	476
Shelduck	SU	2925	1365	2752	1495	4867	2404
Wigeon	WN	1964	703	2685	660	1683	318
Gadwall	GA	25	-	31	-	32	-
Teal	T	1625	200	1060	199	1033	267
Mallard	MA	5026	1066	4193	615	3528	674
Pintail	PT	-	-	10	6	34	3
Shoveler	SV	-	-	13	-	8	-
Pochard	PO	345	303	545	500	21	15
Tufted Duck	TU	286	262	336	310	38	24
Scaup	SP	40	40	65	65	-	-
Eider	E	7	6	3	2	1	-
Long-tailed Duck	LN	-	-	1	1	-	-
Common Scoter	CX	28	28	9	9	-	-
Velvet Scoter	VS	3	3	-	-	-	-
Goldeneye	GN	58	57	49	47	1	-
Smew	SY	1	-	1	-	1	-
Goosander	GD	16	-	10	-	-	-
Oystercatcher	OC	3223	279	2499	508	3470	787
Ringed Plover	RP	185	157	259	231	310	282
Golden Plover	GP	8122	2120	10346	2905	4893	3080
Grey Plover	GV	432	120	693	414	900	880
Lapwing	L	12646	5540	11046	3400	5611	4183
Knot	KN	38474	2200	24853	3862	7132	3900
Sanderling	SS	273	239	122	106	310	309
Dunlin	DN	20141	2900	21899	5728	17008	7000
Ruff	RU	4	4	-	-	10	10
Snipe	SN	146	2	41	2	73	27
Black-tailed Godwit	BW	-	-	3	-	-	-
Bar-tailed Godwit	BA	630	248	1054	298	914	503
Curlew	CU	1883	666	2484	711	2704	748
Spotted Redshank	DR	1	-	1	-	2	1
Redshank	RK	2671	757	2052	648	2063	838
Turnstone	TT	259	121	281	136	161	100

N.B. No data available for outer South Bank i.e. Grainthorpe Haven to Mablethorpe North End.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 1989

A full summary of the year's weather patterns can be found in the Gibraltar Point Observatory Report.

One new species was added to the County list during 1989 that being the brief staying Blue-cheeked Bee-eater at Leverton in July, but a second probable addition is still under consideration by British Birds that being a Lesser Crested Tern which flew north at Gibraltar Point on May 30th.

Very mild weather in both winter periods produced low numbers of wintering wildfowl but the Wash Little Egret was present again in January-February, the only other really notable birds in the early period being a Red Kite in the south Wash and a new Ring-necked Duck in the south of the county in March. A good passage of Ring Ouzel was again evident in late April but May was not really exceptional. A White-tailed Eagle, probably seen in late April wandered around the county in May and late in the month a Little Egret, Bluethroat, Red-footed Falcon and the first spring Buff-breasted Sandpiper added some spice. June saw another Black Kite in the Wash and a Caspian Tern on the River Trent but the long hot summer weather produced little apart from the afore mentioned Bee-eater and the most impressive influx of Quail for several decades with more than 50 located. Despite low water levels few waders of note occurred in the early autumn and the only really interesting period of the autumn was concentrated from September 7-15th when a period of east-north-east winds predominated. Seabirds were affected first with new record totals of Fulmar 1970 10th, Sooty Shearwater 70 records, Manx Shearwater 1000+ 9-10th, Gannet 1000+ 9-11th, Leach's Petrel 180+, a Balearic Shearwater and 6 Storm Petrels through the autumn. An accompanying fall of eastern migrants was dominated by good numbers of Redstart and Pied Flycatcher but also included a Bluethroat, Scarlet Rosefinch, Red-breasted Flycatcher, 5 Icterine and 3 Barred Warblers, a few Red-backed Shrikes and a Honey Buzzard which was probably affected by the same weather systems.

An unsettled and mainly westerly late September-October accounted for 5 Grey Phalaropes and also the lack of eastern migrants with just 2 Yellow-browed Warblers and one Richard's Pipit on November 1st; there was, however, an exceptional arrival of Rock Pipits on the coast from late October and Grey Wagtails arrived and stayed to winter in higher than normal numbers. The late winter period was again very mild but good for birds with exceptional numbers of some waders; 10000 Golden Plover and 9000 Lapwing on the middle Humber, 2500 Grey Plover and 45000 Knot at Gibraltar Point and 7500 of the latter at Cleethorpes with 10000 at Holbeach showing the importance of our county for these species. Fieldfares arrived in force from late December and notable birds included 4 Water Pipits, 4 Red-crested Pochard, a Spotted Crake found dead on the coast, a Dipper and a Kentish Plover which subsequently wintered on the Humber.

On the debit side, the decline of some species continued; no Shorelarks were recorded at all and only 2 Great Grey Shrikes were found; there was only one passage Dotterel and few Firecrest were noted in either spring or autumn. Perhaps reflecting the mild winter weather there were few Glaucous Gulls, wild swans and Snow and Lapland Buntings. Peregrines on the other hand continued to increase in numbers seen and Ospreys also showed well. On the breeding bird front it was a generally good year with the scarcer species in general all doing well. Little Terns at Tetney reared 65 young and Ruddy Ducks continued to spread to new areas while a total of 37 pairs of Gadwall found were mostly as a result of the AWA Rivers surveys in the south of the county. Marsh Harriers were fairly steady at 3-4 pairs and one pair of Montagu's Harriers again bred but Hobbies are showing a real increase with 6 pairs proved and another 5 probable with several other sites possibly holding birds. Woodlarks reached a new population peak but had a rather disastrous season and only 3 pairs of Black Redstart were actually found; Grey Wagtails with 4 pairs proven seem to be becoming more regular breeders and to end this summary on a high note, a female Stone Curlew was found incubating 2 eggs in the county - the first attempted breeding since 1904!

Graham P. Catley

Systematic List 1989

Edited by G.P. Catley
Compiled by K. Atkin and G. P. Catley

Species Accounts Written by:

- A. Ball : Guillemot - Puffin
D. J. Bradbeer : Pectoral Sandpiper - Grey Phalarope
H. Bunn : Red-legged Partridge - Temminck's Stint
G. P. Catley : Honey Buzzard - Peregrine - Richard's Pipit - Pied Flycatcher
J. Clarkson : Feral Pigeon - House Martin
P. Clement : Bearded Tit - Corn Bunting
P. Hyde : Shelduck - Ruddy Duck
S. Keightley : Fulmar - Spoonbill
R. Lord : Red-throated Diver - Black-necked Grebe - Mute Swan - Brent Goose
S. Routledge : Pomarine Skua - Mediterranean Gull
P.N. Watts : Little Gull - Black Tern

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Up to 45 were off Gibraltar Pt. in January and up to 41 in February. In March 10 were seen at Saltfleetby on 26th and in April 9 flew east at Barton-on-Humber 14th. In August there were 3 at Huttoft on 27th and late year coastal maxima were at Saltfleet and Mablethorpe on November 26th with 20 and 10 respectively and in December 69 flew up the Humber off Tetney on 3rd, 100 at Gibraltar Pt. on 9th dropping to 63 on 27th.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

The first records of the year were single birds at Witham Mouth on January 14th and Gibraltar Pt. on February 5th. Grimsby Docks held a single bird on September 15th and one flew south at Huttoft on 17th. Late year records involved single birds at Gibraltar Pt. on November 3rd, Huttoft on 9th and Theddlethorpe on December 3rd, although there were 3 at Gibraltar Pt. on 9th and later, single birds at Grimsby Docks on 25th and Tetney on 29th.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

As usual only a few records of singles at Gibraltar Pt. on January 15th and at Tetney on 29th (DJB). In October, single birds flew south at Huttoft on 15th (JRM, KSM, DJB) and north at Gibraltar Pt. on 30th (JPS).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

The only concentrations of note during the year were 8 at Tetney on January 6th then at Barton-Barrow Haven Pits monthly maxima of 16 in August, 31 in September, 24 in November and 12 in December while 12 were at Whisby Pits September 2nd and 12 Tetney October 3rd.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Witham Mouth	7	1	6	4	2	23	3	20	38	72	10	6
Deeping High Bank								30	52	27		
Covenham Res							7			12	10	15
Baston GP		22	16									13

Elsewhere in the county, the South Forty Foot Drain in Boston held 12 birds on March 19th and there were 29 at Denton Res on 27th, the highest spring count there for 10 years. In April, there were 18 birds at Cadney Res. Breeding pairs were recorded from the Humber Bank Pits (11-14), Baston GP (10), Kyme Eau (5), Denton Res (several), Deeping St James (3), R. Ancholme (3), Deeping Lake (2) and singles at East Halton, Fultow, Huttoft, Belton Park, Lincoln Ballast Pit, Ancaster GP and Messingham SQ. Late year maxima extra to those above were of 14 at Barton/Barrow Haven on September 14th, 25 on the South Forty Foot on 24th and 10 at Tattershall GP on November 19th.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

The single bird present at Witham Mouth, January 9-15th, may have been the same bird seen there in December 1988. The only other records for the year were of a juv on Covenham Res on September 18-19th and other single birds at Gibraltar Pt. on October 14th and Tetney on December 2nd.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Up to 3 were at Gibraltar Pt. January 4-9th and a single at the Witham Mouth February 4th. At Covenham Res. 1-2 were present from September 15th to the year end with a juvenile October 1-2nd when 3 birds were present. Also in October, singles were at Holbeach St. Marks 16th, Witham Mouth and Gibraltar Point 29th and one between the Hobhole and Witham Mouth November 9-26th.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

In the first half of the year singles were recorded from Witham Mouth on January 15th, Covenham Res on April 28th and Messingham SQ June 11-12th. From early August to October 28th Covenham Res held 1-2 birds and, elsewhere, singles at Whisby/Thorpe Pits September 21-28th and Barton/Barrow Haven December 16-27th. The last record for the year was a single bird at Covenham Res December 10-31st.

Fulmar *Fulmaris glacialis*

Spring passage was noted at several localities. The April maxima of 34 south occurring at Chapel Point on 2nd, 15 at Witham Mouth and 14 north and 2 south at Gibraltar Pt. on May 21st, with 15 north there on 22nd. Smaller numbers were recorded throughout June and July. In August there were records from Goxhill on the 20th, and 18 at Huttoft on 27th. Peak passage of the year occurred in September, 180 north Gibraltar Pt., 71 Mablethorpe and 70 north Saltfleetby on 9th, followed by 500 north Gibraltar Pt., a staggering 1970 north at Chapel Point, 62 Witham Mouth, 25 Frampton Marsh, 7 Barton-on-Humber, 2 east Goxhill all on 10th, then 170 north Gibraltar Pt., 400 north Huttoft, 7 Barton-on-Humber and 4 east at Goxhill all on 11th. Finally, a blue phase bird was seen off Grimsby Docks and in the mouth of the Humber on October 1st.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

The first record was of one north at Donna Nook on August 1st, followed by 3 north Huttoft, 3 south and one north Mablethorpe on 27th and one north at Gibraltar Pt. on 28th. Peak passage occurred in September, the highlights being 8 north Gibraltar Pt. on 2nd, 7 north Huttoft on 3rd, 3 north Gibraltar Pt. on 8th, 19 north between Mablethorpe and Gibraltar Pt. on 9th, 13 north between Huttoft and Gibraltar Pt. on 10th, 2 north Huttoft, and one Theddlethorpe on 11th and 2 north Gibraltar Pt. on 24th. In October, 2 were seen in the Humber mouth on the 1st and 7 flew north off Chapel Point on 8th.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Birds were recorded from May 17th with one north at Donna Nook, 2 south at Gibraltar Pt. on 20th, followed by 12 south and one north there on 21st, and one north on 22nd with one from Huttoft on 21st. Small numbers were recorded through July and into August, 25 north and 8 south at Huttoft, and 7 south at Mablethorpe August 27th being the peak. As with many of the seabirds recorded in 1989, above average numbers were recorded in September; 694 north at Mablethorpe and Huttoft between 06.30-15.00 hrs on 10th being exceptional counts for the county. Birds continued passing through into October with 7 Witham Mouth and 4 north at Huttoft on 8th.

Balearic Shearwaters *P.p. mauretanicus* were reported from Saltfleetby September 9th (HB) and Gibraltar Pt. one north on October 27th (JPS).

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

This is a species seldom seen in Lincolnshire. 1989 saw above average occurrence reflected down the whole east coast of England. The first record was of an adult trapped at Huttoft on August 29th (AGB,SK) with others seen at Huttoft on September 10th (DB,ACS), one Witham Mouth October 8th (RH,KH) and 3 at Gibraltar Point on 29th (JPS,RKW).

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

As with Storm Petrel, this was an unprecedented year totalling at least 183 birds (see paper by GPC page 2 of this report). Passage began in early September and the main movement noted in the gales which occurred mid-month.

Gannet *Sula bassana*

Birds were recorded at Gibraltar Pt. from February 5th with a maximum of 7 on 14-16th. 27 passed Chapel Point on April 2nd, and 24 north at Gibraltar Pt., May 30th. Small numbers were noted during the months of June and July before notable passage began again in August with 53 north Chapel Point on 14th, and 100 south Huttoft on 27th. In September, at Huttoft, 190 north on 3rd, 400+ on 9th, and 200 north at Gibraltar Pt. also on 9th. On the 10th, there were 56 at Barton-on-Humber with 104 juvs west at Goxhill, 185 at Witham Mouth and 300 north Gibraltar Pt., and 500 north and 60 south at Chapel Point. 90% of all the birds counted were immatures. The following day saw 140 at Barton-on-Humber, 100 Goxhill and 250 Huttoft, with 33 Barton-on-Humber on 12th and 30 north and 56 south at Huttoft on 30th. In October there were 55 north and 15 south at Theddlethorpe on 1st, with 416 Witham Mouth and 70 Gibraltar Pt. on 8th. 18 flew up the Humber at North Killingholme on November 8th and the last record was at Gibraltar Pt. on 25th.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Totals for the Wash for Birds of Estuary Enquiry numbered 181 in January and 131 in February.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Witham Mouth	45	20	41	10		4	15	15	30	60	62	29
Gibraltar Point	42	36	35	24	7		4	10	50	30	36	27
Grimsby Docks	20		15			3			17	31	17	20
Covenham Res	20			30						10	30	25

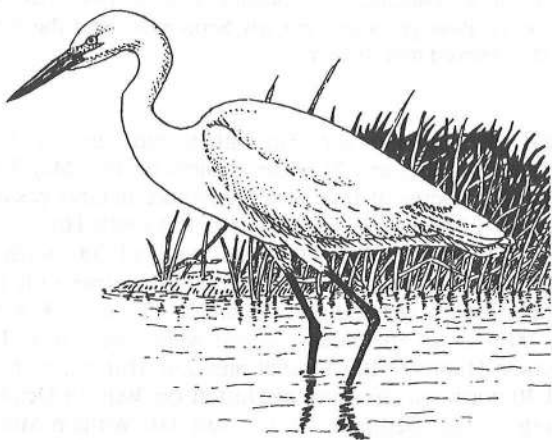
Other significant counts were 29 Barton-on-Humber on January 3rd, 30 Saltfleetby March 26th, 16 Barton-on-Humber April 4th, 23 Frampton Marsh June 3rd and 3 Barton-on-Humber on 21st, 28 Tetney August 19th, 10 inland at Tallington Pits throughout the autumn, also inland 8 flew south-east over Denton Res on September 23rd. In October, 29 at Tetney on 7th, a maximum of 9 Deeping St James on 15th, 29 Barton-on-Humber November 9th, and 34 there December 29th. Birds recalling the race *P.c. sinensis* were reported from Barton-on-Humber from February-March, 2 Read's Island March 7th and Grimsby Docks April 14th with up to 4 present at Covenham Res March-April.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

The first record was at Covenham Res on April 10th, with one at Gibraltar Pt. 25th, and Frampton Marsh May 23-24th. Autumn records came from Witham Mouth September 1st, Huttoft on 14th, Cleethorpes November 24th, 2 Witham Mouth on 26th, with finally one at Deeping Lake on December 22-23rd.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

A bird present at Messingham SQ since 1988 was seen in January. Another was present at Lincoln Ballast Pit February 22nd-March 11th. Others were at New Holland/Goxhill and Barton-on-Humber on March 4th. The final records referred to December with birds at Messingham SQ from the 10th into 1990, and Barton-on-Humber from 18th into 1990.



Little Egret

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

The long staying bird present from at least 1988 occasionally re-appeared in the Wash at Frampton/Holbeach from January 2nd-February 12th (SPB,PT,RH,KH,JW,IM). An adult was present at North Cotes from May 21-24th (SR,KEW,GPC,HB, et al), the Wash bird being present at Holbeach and Frampton Marsh areas on August 20th (SG,PNW), September 2nd (JW) and again November 11th-12th (RH,KH,PT,CJJ).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

A total of 401 pairs were recorded as follows:

Abbey Wood 48, Howsham Wood 13, Laughton Forest/Tuctoes 17, Laughton Forest/Village 25, Laughton Forest/Peacock 3+, Kingerby Wood 5, Warren Wood 6, Willoughby Wood 31, Mucton Wood 32, Gatecliff Wood 6, Old Hag Wood 19, Troy Wood 74, Evedon Wood 22, Holbeach Hospital Cottage 16, Deeping Mere 84.

Away from breeding sites, good numbers were recorded at Donna Nook with up to 12 in June and a maxima of 16 at Gibraltar Pt. on 30th, with 20 there on August 6th, 17 at Tetney on 8th, and 15 at Goxhill September 27th.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Both records received relate to birds present at typical spring passage times. One at Grainthorpe Haven April 29th and one at Gibraltar Pt. May 7th.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Deeping High Bank	300	300	148						118	176	173	157

Elsewhere in the first half of the year there were 110 at Lincoln on January 19th and 26 at Billingham Skirth on April 10th. In August Barrow Haven held 19 adults on 12th. Later there were 40 at New Holland on September 11th and 45 there on October 24th. In November, Blackbank held 23 on 5th, Killingholme 25 on 11th, Tattershall GP 24 and Holme Lake 19 on 27th. Numbers increased in December at Tattershall to 35 and Baston GP held 28 on 23rd.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Very few records for the year with 5 south at Gibraltar Pt. on January 4th, 4 south at Lutton Marsh on 14th and a single bird at Messingham SQ 23-26th. In February there was a single bird at Gibraltar Pt. 16-17th. Later in the year there were 2 at Gibraltar Pt. and 7 at Bardney on October 28th, 10 south at Saltfleet and 6 south at Gibraltar Pt. on 29th and a single bird south there on 31st. In November there were 3 at Gibraltar Pt. on 4th, 4 on 11th and 2 on 18th, a single at Butterwick Common on 5th and 6 at Messingham SQ 11-12th.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

During the early part of the year there were 2 at Messingham SQ on January 7th, 2 south at North Cotes on 19th and 3 at Gibraltar Pt. on 29th to February 18th. In the Susworth/Scotterthorpe area there were 2 from February 26th to March 28th. Also in March, 47 flew north at Cleethorpes on 18th. The first returning birds were in October with a single north at Saltfleetby, a single at Gibraltar Pt. 19th, 7 south there on 29th and 5 south 31st. In November, Huttoft Pit held 6 and 8 flew south at Gibraltar Pt. on 4th with 2 south and one east there on 5th, a single north at Donna Nook and singles at Tetney and Blackbank Pits same date. There were 6 at Covenham Res on 6th with a further 2 on 11th and 10 at Hartsholme, Lincoln on 25th. The last record was of 5 south at Gibraltar Pt. on December 19th.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

There were notable early year movements and concentrations with 300 at Holbeach Marsh on January 1st, 700 at Witham Mouth on 2nd, 500 at Roxby on 16th, 200 north-east at Cleethorpes on 18th, 135 at Gibraltar Pt. on 29th and 250 south-west at Haverholme on 31st. In February there were 70 west at Barton-on-Humber on 8th and 85 settled near Frampton on 21st. The first returning birds were 6 at Witham Mouth on October 14th thereafter 276 were at Gibraltar Pt. on 23rd, 200 flew west at Barton-on-Humber and there were also 450 at Read's Island on 26th. Later, 100 flew south-east over Baumber on November 1st, 100 flew south over Saltfleetby on 4th, there were 140 at Holton-le-Moor on 22nd. Throughout November and December the Read's Island/Winteringham/Whitton population remained at between 400-500.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Records of a single bird on May 2nd and 2 from October 15th to the end of the year at Denton Res were probably escaped birds. More genuine was the record of 5 south at Gibraltar Pt. on October 30th.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Baston GP		185	119	91					260	470	192	
Tattershall GP									250	262	492	312
Messingham SQ				13			71		156		100	

Other than these, in the first half of the year 7 were seen occasionally at Gibraltar Pt., January to early May, 19 at Lincoln BP on February 11th, 10 at Cleethorpes on May 7th, 18 north-east at Gibraltar Pt. on 29th and 9 north at Donna Nook on June 15th. There were 10 south at Gibraltar Pt. on August 27th, 20 on September 23rd and 25 north at Louth on October 2nd. Breeding was recorded at Deeping St James (20 pairs/50 goslings), Baston GP (10 pairs/90 goslings), Kirkby on Bain (1 pair/6 goslings), Messingham SQ (1 pair/4 goslings) and single pairs at Ewerby Pond and Chapel Point.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Denton Res	230							138	120	175	224	140
Messingham SQ	143		60		42			260		152	130	

Concentrations elsewhere were of 90 at Binbrook on January 6th, 100 in the Read's Island/Goxhill area during August, a maximum of 50 at Gibraltar Pt. in September and 150 at Ancaster GP on December 26th. A single bird showing the characteristics of Richardson's Goose (*B.c.hutchinsii*) was recorded from Ashbyville during April.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

A single bird with Brent Geese at the Witham Mouth on February 26th was the only record of a probable wild bird. One recorded at Denton Res on December 23rd was possibly wild. Other whose origins are doubtful, were singles at Baston GP on January 19th, Burton Pits on February 25th, Messingham SQ April 20-25th and Gibraltar Pt. from May 23rd to June 10th. All late year records were also of single birds; at New Holland associating with Canada Geese on August 8-9th, at Whisby Pits 27-28th and at Stoke Rochford on December 28th. Feral breeding was recorded from Read's Island pairing with Canada Goose. One paired with a Canada and accompanied by a hybrid at Messingham on September 14th could have been this bird.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East Halton	4									2	1	
Humberston		85									142	
North Cotes	1960				35					450		725
Donna												
Nook/S'fleet						1			1	500		
Gibraltar Point/												
Wainfleet	825	304	200	85	2	15	1	2	10	400	1000	1000
Friskney	3000	800	200	18	40		2			75	1000	700
Wrangle/Leverton	3500	1435	1273	414	233					407	3692	2250
Benington/												
Butterwick	1267	2847	1954	646	1407				6	3200	2023	600
Witham Mouth	3500	4000	1650	1950	864		2	3	1500	2000		2000
Frampton/Kirton	5831	3800	1050	2466	5000	1	3	1		1858	1900	1900
Welland Mouth	240	1600	1889	3500	2500					280	1240	800
Holbeach	1540	3150	1700	1970	1870		1			585	2850	3350
Gedney/Terrington	1033	250	128	935	1344					223	229	486
Totals	20736	18186	10044	11984	13260	16	9	6	1516	9028	13934	13086

The above table shows the peak numbers recorded during each month at various coastal sites. Inland, Baston GP recorded a single bird on November 19th. Birds showing the characteristics of the Pale-bellied Brent (*B.b.hrota*) were recorded from North Cotes on January 16th, 2 at Tetney on February 5th, at Witham Mouth on 12th and 5 at Humberston on December 9th.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Read's Island	-	-	950	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetney/N.Cotes	-	325	108	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1000
Gib. Pt.	200	104	125	100	41	125	69	32	77	490	500	100
Leverton	600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benington	570	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Butterwick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	-
Witham Mth.	300	320	260	150	-	-	-	3	61	300	320	300
Frampton	-	-	-	-	200	-	-	-	-	-	125	-

Lincolnshire Wash totals for January and February were 7370 and 5928 respectively. Elsewhere on the coast, the only notable numbers were 100 at Cleethorpes in December. Inland, birds were present all year at Messingham SQ with maxima of 47 there on January 21st and February 2nd; one pair bred. The only other inland breeding records received was of one or two pairs at Baston GP. Elsewhere, there were 24 at Covenham Res. on April 26th, with smaller numbers seen at West Ashby, (where 1 pair probably bred) Whisby, Cadney Res., Twigmoor and Nettleton.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Read's Island	100	-	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	570	-
Tetney	220	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gibraltar Pt.	2000	365	-	-	-	3	-	-	250	570	1000	1300
Witham Mouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	142	170	-	-
Baston Fen	700	575	450	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	180

The above table gives monthly maxima for each location. Small numbers were recorded during spring and early summer, with a pair at Deeping St.James on May 13th and a male summering there; 2 at Messingham SQ on 10th and 7 Alkborough on 28th. June

records were 5 males at Chapel Pit 24th, up to 3 males Gibraltar. Pt. 14th-29th and a male at Messingham 10th-14th. Birds began returning during August, with 6 at Grainthorpe 20th, 12 west at Barton on 23rd, 25 north at Huttoft on 28th and 28 at Alkborough 31st. In September there were 100 all month at Frampton. Other October counts were 100 at Holbeach 16th, 138 at Saltfleetby 19th and 136 5th at Covenham Res, increasing to 276 by the 14th. Inland, there were 210 at Whisby on November 8th, 53 Messingham SQ 23rd and 59 at Tattershall GP where numbers increased to 130 during December. Burton GP recorded 100 December 5th.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Barton/Barrow	3	3	6	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Fulstow Pits	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
Covenham Res.	2	-	15	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Messingham SQ	33	-	17	6	2	-	2	-	23	30	26	13
Kirkby-on-Bain	57	65	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Tattershall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	18	130	109
Langtoft	20	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	129	126	136
Baston	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	-
Deeping St. James	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	19	-	-	-

In the breeding season a minimum of 37 pairs were present countywide, of which 18 were proved to have bred. Single pairs bred at Burton GP, Whisby Pits and Bourne Fen; 3 pairs summered at Deeping St. James, where one brood was seen; 11 pairs summered on the R. Slea, Haverholme-S.Kyme, where 7 broods of between 1 and 11 were counted, together with one unhatched clutch of 11 eggs. Finally, 7 pairs in the S.Kyme-Chapel Hill area produced 6 broods.

Teal *Anas crecca*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Read's Island	-	-	250	-	-	-	-	850	-	-	-	-
Messingham SQ	149	-	-	-	-	9	-	125	378	300	340	-
Gibraltar Pt.	160	100	-	-	-	-	-	110	200	272	50	1550
Baston Fen	92	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	306

No proven breeding records were received, but 3 pairs summered on the River Slea and one on Donnington Dyke. Other notable numbers from late summer onwards included 470 south in 2 1/2 hours at Witham Mouth on the 20th, when there were also 100 at Grainthorpe. In September, 75 went south at Huttoft on 3rd, 90 west at Goxhill 11th and 100 south 19th at Huttoft. Numbers further increased during October, with 83 at Lincoln Ballast Pit and 65 at Witham Mouth 10th, 377 at Saltfleetby by 19th and 150 Grainthorpe on 27th. In December there were 76 at Deeping St. James.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Lincs. Wash	1617	1254	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Covenham Res.	640	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	510
Gibraltar Pt.	1500	275	-	-	-	115	-	550	375	600	1000	500
Messingham SQ	141	-	-	-	-	-	-	320	-	200	-	-
Tattershall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	174	156	117	156
Baston Fen	199	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	178	-	-

Early in the year, 185 were at Denton Res on January 15th and 750 were at Read's

Island on March 7th. 400 were on Metheringham Delph on September 3rd, while during December 300 were at Grainthorpe on the 3rd and 196 Deeping High Bank on 16th.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Lincs Wash	1101	2315	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Covenham Res.	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	64	2	-
Witham Mouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120	60	82	-
Huttoft Pit	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holb.St.Marks	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Terrington	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200

Small numbers were recorded at widespread localities throughout the county during January - April, although there were no records of birds summering. In the autumn apart from the localities tabulated, there were up to 25 at Gibraltar Pt. during October, 33 south at South Ferriby on November 9th and 20 at Frampton Marsh on 19th.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

The first spring record was of a male at Covenham Res on April 30th. A pair was seen at East Halton on May 16th, with another at Deeping High Bank on the 24th. These were followed by a male at Covenham Res on 31st and one on June 1st at Barton-on-Humber. In early August at Deeping St. James there was a male from 2nd-4th, a juvenile on 5th and a pair on 8th. Successful breeding was reported from Whisby GP with an eclipse male still present on August 7th. Finally, juvenile males were at Covenham on August 10th and at Barton-on-Humber on 18th.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Birds were seen in small numbers throughout the county early in the year. Larger numbers included 35 at Kirkby on February 19th, up to 12 at Baston Fen during February and March, 13 at Whisby on March 27th and 9 at Covenham Res on 29th. In the breeding season, a brood of 6 flew successfully at South Killingholme, with another of 5 noted at Barton-on-Humber, a pair also bred at Messingham SQ. 2 pairs summered at Baston Fen, with singles noted at Winteringham Haven, Donnington Fen, R. Sleas, Billingham Skirth, Kyme Eau and Deeping High Bank. Two males were at Saxilby on May 6th, when there were also 6 birds at Covenham Res. At Messingham SQ, 16 were counted on June 10th. Maximum numbers during the late summer and autumn were 31 at Barton/Barrow Haven on August 5th, 60 at Huttoft Pit on September 16th, 19 at Messingham SQ on October 6th, and 14 at Lincoln Ballast Pit on October 14th. There were 15 at Holywell on November 9th and 19 at Lincoln Ballast Pit on December 16th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

A female was at Tallington on January 29th (KW), this bird also being seen at Langtoft Pit on the same day (PH). A female was present at Sutton brick pit on November 17th (KW), with a pair at Baston GP on 19th (EJR). Two were present on Langtoft Pit on December 3rd, and finally a male was present in the Read's Island-South Ferriby area from the 27th.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Winter counts were of 500 at New Holland on January 10th, 93 at Messingham on 12th, 43 at Whisby on 27th, and 55 at Ancaster on 28th. In February, there were 125

at Toft Newton Reservoir on 1st, 200 at Kirkby-on-Bain GP on 19th and 121 at Barrow Haven on 25th. Baston GP held 206 on January 15th, with 204 counted there on February 19th. Breeding season records were of broods of 2 and 6 at Barrow Haven on May 18th, and of 4 broods at Messingham SQ. In September, there were 277 at Baston GP on 24th, Messingham SQ had 106 on October 21st and Gibraltar Pt. 54 south on 28th. November counts were of 104 at Messingham SQ on 4th, 249 at Baston GP on 19th and of up to 86 at Tattershall GP during the month. Numbers built up during December at New Holland, with 150 on 7th and 320 there by 31st. Elsewhere there were 322 at Baston GP on 23rd, 140 at Barton-on-Humber on 24th, 80 at Bagmoor on 27th and 65 at Fulstow Pit on 30th.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

A first winter male seen at Baston GP on March 19th (EJR) has been accepted by BBRC.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
New Holland	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300
Covenham Res.	-	-	-	-	85	95	-	-	-	260	-	-
Messingham SQ	78	-	78	-	-	53	-	-	47	-	-	-
Burton GP	114	213	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cadney Res.	-	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84
Tattershall GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	94	174	281	223
Deeping H. Bank	-	105	92	-	-	-	74	-	-	-	102	82
Baston GP	82	-	141	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66

Other notable counts were of 150 at Barrow Haven on March 18th, 131 at Deeping St. James on December 16th with 300 at Deeping Lake on 22nd, and 150 at Fulstow Pit on 30th. Counts of territorial pairs in summer were made on Kyme Eau (25), West Fen Catchwater (21), Billingham Skirith (15), River Sleas (15), Donnington Dyke (7), New Cut (7), River Glen at Guthram (7) and Baston Fen (4). Successful breeding records came from Messingham SQ (4 broods), Twin Rivers (2 broods), Whisby (1 brood of 7), Covenham Res (1 brood of 5), Denton village (2 broods, total 20), Barton-on-Humber (1 brood of 6), Barrow Haven (3 broods of 6, 6 and 2), Loughton (2 broods of 6 and 2), Biscathorpe Lake (8 broods totalling 40), and Deeping St. James (2 pairs).

Scaup *Aythya marila*

In January, 15 were at the Witham Mouth on 2nd and 9 at Messingham SQ on 9th. On the Humber there were 14 at Barrow Haven on January 1st, 65 at New Holland on 10th and 44 at Barton on 31st. 24 were still present at Barrow Haven on March 18th, with singles at Langtoft and Messingham SQ. Small numbers were seen in April on the R. Ancholme (1) on 8th, Killingholme (pair) on 17th, and at East Halton Skitter (5) on 21st. At Barrow Haven 3 were present on April 8th, with 2 remaining until 16th; a female summered there, being joined by a 1st summer male on May 22nd, both remaining until August 5th. Records in late summer/autumn were of a male at South Ferriby cement works on August 27th, a single on Covenham Res. on September 10th, and a maximum of 30 at the Witham Mouth during October. Birds remained scarce until the end of the year, with a flock of 7 at Tetney on November 12th and single birds all month at Covenham Res. and at Kirkby-on-Bain on 19th.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120	-	30	-
Witham Mouth	100	104	96	22	56	42	6	143	46	59	50	60
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	-	21	150	150	-	-	-	-	-

Elsewhere early in the year there were no significant records away from the Wash. In June, 12 flew south at Donna Nook on 11th and 5-7 were at Tetney during June-August. In the autumn, 9 flew north at Gibraltar Pt. on September 10th and on the Humber there were 2 at Humberston on 9th and 2 at Goxhill on 27th. Records continued to be scarce away from the Wash with small numbers seen until the end of the year at Humberston, Tetney, Huttoft, Chapel Point and Gibraltar Pt.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Covenham Res.	11	10	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Lincs Wash	34	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Witham Mouth	2	8	5	6	2	1	1	-	-	2	-	-

In January, 3 were at Tetney on 1st, when there was also 1 at Gibraltar Pt. Three were present at Grainthorpe Haven on 19th and a pair was noted at Barrow Haven on 21st, the male remaining until April 8th. During February-March, single birds were seen at Ingoldmells, Benington, Lutton Marsh and on the Hobhole Drain. In the spring, a female was present at Donna Nook from mid-April until June 4th. Summer records were of a female at Tetney on July 8th and 1 at Grainthorpe on 22nd and 29th. In October, 1 flew south at Gibraltar Pt. on 28th. There were no other autumn or winter records apart from those tabulated.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

In the Humber, there were 6 at Goxhill on January 4th and 9 at New Holland on 10th, with 60 at Cleethorpes on February 19th. In March, 32 were seen at Goxhill on 31st with the same number at East Halton Skitter on April 21st. In the Wash in January, 77 were counted at the Witham Mouth on 14th, with 60 there on February 19th. Earlier there had been 72 at Benington on 12th. In March 10 were at Witham Mouth on 12th, and Gibraltar Pt. had 50 on March 7th and a further 31 on April 8th. Later on in spring, 1 was seen at Frampton Marsh on May 7th, 3 were at Donna Nook on 29th and 15 flew north at Gibraltar Pt. on 31st, where up to 40 also flew north on June 21st. A male was at Goxhill on June 30th.

Larger movements occurred during the autumn. In July at Gibraltar Pt., 215 flew north on 5th followed by 227 north on 19th and 140 north on 22nd. Elsewhere 15 flew north at Donna Nook on 15th, 50 west at Tetney on 22nd and 6 east at Goxhill Haven on 23rd. In August, 16 were at Barrow Haven on 5th and 40 at Tetney on 20th; at Huttoft, 25 flew north on 27th and 30 on 28th. Numbers continued to increase during September with a large movement occurring on 10th, with 290 north at Chapel Point, 220 north and then 71 south at Huttoft, and 97 west at North Killingholme. The next day saw 40 fly north at Huttoft.

October records were 42 at Huttoft on 15th, 69 south at Gibraltar Pt. on 28th, and up to 6 remaining all month at Witham Mouth. After 52 flew north at Gibraltar Pt. on November 17th, numbers dwindled with one at Witham Mouth on 18th, 2 at Covenham Res. from 22nd to 25th, and 1 still there on December 3rd.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Small numbers were recorded early in the year, with 3 at Goxhill/New Holland on January 1st-7th, and 1 at Witham Mouth on 15th. At Gibraltar Pt. 3 flew north on March 7th, with 3 south on 29th. In summer, there was a male at Covenham Res. on July 18th. Autumn records included 1 at Witham Mouth on October 2nd, 6 at Gibraltar Pt. on 14th and 5 on 15th, when 1 went north at Huttoft. Singles were also seen at both these sites later on 29th. In November, 2 were at Theddlethorpe on 1st and 1 went south at Huttoft on 4th. Finally, there were 2 at Gibraltar Pt. on December 11th.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Covenham Res.	72	100	86	21	1	-	-	-	-	42	100	120
Messingham SQ	10	10	14	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Lincs. Wash	41	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Witham Mouth	15	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	5	25

In January, there were 17 at Baston and Langtoft Pits, and 120 at New Holland on 31st. Those at Baston/Langtoft remained until March 19th. In February, 23 were at Whisby on 11th. Smaller numbers were seen regularly during this period at Gibraltar Pt., Huttoft Pit and Benington. Seven remained at Whisby until March 27th. In the spring/summer, there were 2 at Ashbyville on April 5th-7th, 7 at Thorpe Pits on 13th, and 12 at Barrow Haven on 15th-16th. May records included 1 at South Ferriby on 7th and a female at Barrow Haven which summered, still present on August 5th. Five were seen at Goxhill on July 19th. On October 1st, 3 flew north at Theddlethorpe and at Gibraltar Pt. where there was a maximum of 20 during the month and up to 9 irregularly into December. Elsewhere, between 1-6 were recorded at Barrow Haven, Trusthorpe, Denton Reservoir, Tattershall Pits and on the Hobhole Drain through to the end of the year.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

Following the low numbers recorded in 1988, a small influx occurred early in the year. In January, 5 (2 males) were at Langtoft GP on 6th, with 6 (2 males) on 15th and 5 (1 male) on the 29th. There were also 5 (2 males) at Market Deeping Pits on 27th and 6 (2 males) at Tallington on 29th. These records are presumed to refer to the same group of birds. In February, 4 (1 male) remained at Langtoft GP until 10th; a single male was also seen here on December 22nd-24th.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

In the early part of the year, regular numbers were recorded at several sites in the Wash, with a total of 59 in January. Up to 40 were at Holbeach from late January through to March 11th, with 30 still present on 25th, and 17 on April 5th. At Gedney Drove End, 44 were present on April 9th. Gibraltar Pt. recorded smaller numbers of 1-5 during this period. Elsewhere, there were 2 at Deeping High Bank on January 14th, 3 at Witham Mouth on March 11th and up to 5 during April. One was at Tetney on April 9th. Few remained later into spring, with 2 at Frampton Marsh on May 18th and 1 north at Gibraltar Pt. on 23rd. In summer, there was 1 at Gibraltar Pt. on June 24th and 2 at Tetney on 25th. Singles were also recorded at these localities during July on 18th and 22nd respectively.

Autumn records began with 7 south at Gibraltar Pt. on August 16th, and in September there were 3 south at Huttoft on 10th and singles at Witham Mouth on 9th, Frampton Marsh on 10th, Gibraltar Pt. on 15th, and at Cleethorpes on 27th. More birds were seen during October, with 3 north at Chapel Point on 8th, 4 at Tetney on the same day, up to 6 at Huttoft, and a maximum of 4 at Witham Mouth on 28th. During this period, Gibraltar Pt. recorded 4 south on 27th, 20 south on 28th and 19 south on 29th. Small numbers were then regular on the coast through into December, with the final record involving 6 at Witham Mouth on December 17th.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Swanholme Lk.	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Apex Pit	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whisby	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thurlby GP	8	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spalding	-	34	11	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Deep.H.Bank	11	4	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5

In January-March, 1-4 were recorded at Keadby Canal (Crowle), Bardney, Messingham SQ, Fiskerton, Susworth, Denton Res, South Forty Foot Drain, Langtoft GP and Baston GP. In summer, there was a female at Barrow Haven on June 18th and a female/imm at Spalding on July 30th. Autumn records were received from late October, when single birds went south at Gibraltar Pt. on 27th and 29th. In November, 4 flew south at Huttoft on 4th, 1 flew west at Read's Island on 24th, and 1 was seen at Tetney on 26th. December records were of singles at Messingham SQ on 6th, Tetney on 17th, and Langtoft on 24th; 3 were at Cadney Res on 17th and one was on the South Forty Foot Drain on 17th to the end of the year.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

At Barton/Barrow at least 19 adults in April. 4-5 pairs bred at Barrow Haven, successful broods of 2, 3 and 3 being counted. At Barton, 5 pairs produced broods of 3 and 1-2. Also there were 3-4 unpaired males present at these sites. Birds dispersed during the autumn, leaving just 2 in September and 1 in October. Five were noted in November and 7, including 3 males, in December. The only other site where successful breeding was documented was at Burton GP, where 2 males were seen during April and May and a female with 4 ducklings on July 15th. Breeding occurred here for the first time in 1988. Elsewhere, small numbers were recorded January-March; Whisby, with a maximum of 3 males and a female on March 28th; Denton Res, with 1-2 in February; Twigmoor, Covenham Res, Fulstow Pit, and Messingham SQ all recorded single birds. Spring records were, 1 at Messingham on April 2nd, 2 males at Twigmoor on 21st, increasing to 3 males and a female by 26th, 1-2 at Denton Res, May 7th-9th, and 1 at Kirkby-on-Bain on June 1st. A male was at Grimsthorpe Lake July 9th and 2 females at Covenham Res on 18th. In August-October, 1-2 birds were recorded at Denton Res, Messingham SQ, and at Kirkby-on-Bain where a male recorded on October 21st stayed until December 3rd; a first winter male was seen here November 19th, with a single bird still there December 31st. Other records in November were 1 at Tattershall on 18th and 4 at Covenham Res on 25th. In December, 2 were at Baston GP on 23rd, and 2 males were at Fulstow Pit on 30th, a locality where successful breeding occurred in 1987. These records suggest that the species is consolidating its presence in the county, with several places away from the Humber Pits seeming to have potential as breeding sites in the near future.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

One at Gibraltar Point on September 16th (MWR et al); a typical autumn record.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

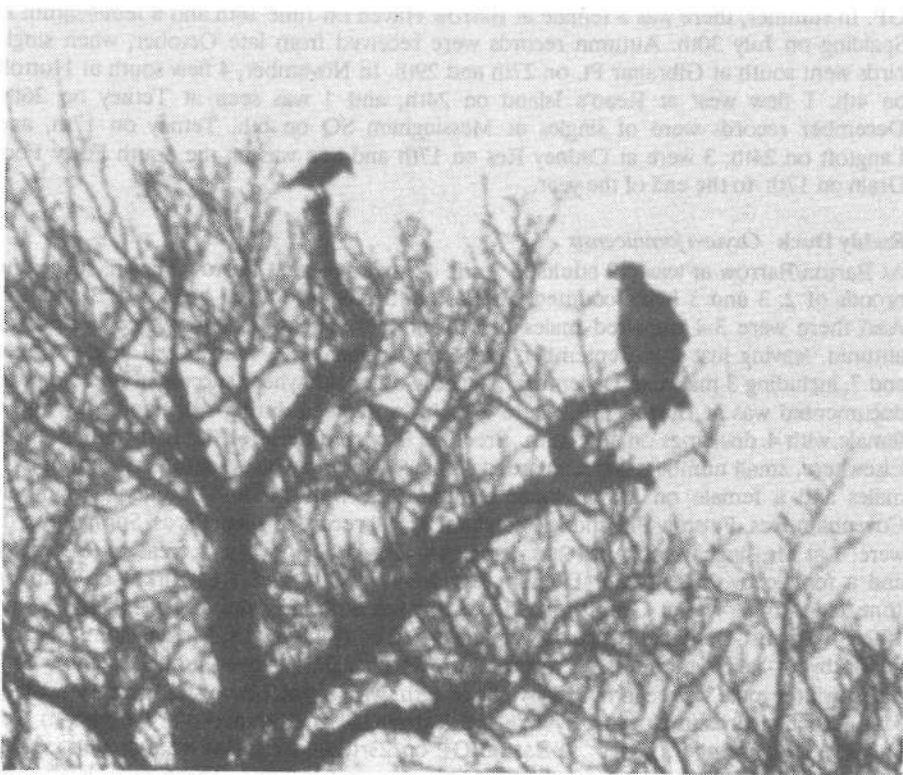
One seen over Frampton and Holbeach Marsh on June 9th (MHC,CRC,SK) is the third or fourth county record. (Under consideration by the BBRC).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

One seen flying south-east at Gedney Drove End on February 11th (PT) continues the recent increase in sightings obvious since the mid 1970's.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

A bird probably in its first summer was present at Revesby Res. from at least May 12-17th (RJFC,SHMB,JRC et al). The local gamekeeper claimed it had been present for two weeks prior to the 12th. What was almost certainly the same bird was seen over Manton and Scawby Woods on the 21st (WG) and reported that evening at Brigg sugar beet factory and the following morning in Scawby Park. The first records since the 1985 October bird. (Under consideration by BBRC).



White-tailed Eagle (G.P. Catley) Revesby May 1989

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

At one site, two pairs displayed in spring and eventually one male paired to two females reared two broods of 3 each. At a second site, a pair bred but the young disappeared and were most probably predated. Elsewhere, there were odd spring records at another site and a male and 5 fem/imms from August 3rd to September 21st may well have been a successful family party. These records apart, passage was not exceptional. An immature male at Frampton Marsh on February 26th may have been the bird recorded in December 1988. First of the spring passage birds was a male at Tetney March 19th with a female at Gibraltar Pt. on March 29th and subsequently there were 2 there April 8th, a male 28th and in May one on 3rd then 1-2 femm/imms 12-31st. Other April birds were a male at Benington 23rd and females at Barton Pits 29-30th and one west at Tetney 30th. A female was regular in Baston-Thurlby Fen in May and September and other May fem/imms were in Bonby Carrs 8th, Revesby 15th, Messingham 21-27th and Cadney 27th. A female flew east over Haxey June 11th, one was at Tetney 3rd, the Kyme-Eau 19th and Saxby Carrs 19th. A female at Dunston Fen July 8th and one N.Kyme 26th preceded August birds at Tetney/Grainthorpe 6th, 8th, 12-13th, Trusthorpe 9th, Messingham 16-21st, South Ferriby-Read's Island 1-2, August 11th to September 4th, Market Deeping 7th and singles on seven dates at Gibraltar Pt. with 3 on 8th and 2 on 30-31st and a single there September 7th and 16th with one Bourne South Fen 3rd.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

	J		F		M		O	N		D
S.Wash roost	2g	3rt	2g	4rt	2g	4rt	2rt	2g	4rt	3g 5rt
S.Wash roost B	5g	4rt	3g	3rt	2g	1rt	?	?		2g

On the north-east coast, Tetney-Saltfleetby there were 1-2 males and a ringtail from January-March 26th then a ringtail at Saltfleetby April 15-22nd, an interestingly early male at Tetney August 28th then a ringtail September 13-23rd and a first-winter male, second-winter male and 2 ringtails in October and 2 males, one second-winter, and a ringtail from November on. A ringtail was at Huttoft September 11th and one at Gedney Drove End 16th. At Gibraltar Pt. there were 1-2, a male and ringtail, January-March and 1-2 ringtails in April to 22nd. Another early record of a ringtail August 8th and then a male and ringtail September 23-October 31st and a maximum of 3 on December 7th. Inland records came from Messingham, a ringtail on January 5th-February 2nd, also seen at Scotter 1st, a male at Bonby April 22nd, a male and ringtail at Fulstow January-February and in the late winter a male and ringtail at Read's Island occasionally in November-December, a ringtail Nocton Fen October 9th, a male Caenby Corner November 2nd, male Thoresby Bridge December 17th and a male Bourne South Fen November 22nd with ringtails at Baston Fen December 31st, Boothby Pagnell 1st and Rippingale 4th.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

The pair which reared five young in 1988 again hatched five young but only raised one juvenile to flying. On the coast, a female was at Saltfleetby May 13th and a male Tetney August 27th. Gibraltar Point recorded a female May 25th and a first summer male July 4th. In the Wash there were records of a female Frampton Marsh May 13th and immature male Holbeach/Frampton Marsh June 9th with a female there 10-17th and 2 females at Gedney Drove End June 4th and one Holbeach Marsh July 14th. Inland, a ringtail was seen near Barkston village on August 9th.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

One over Frampton Marsh on April 18th (SK, AGB).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Breeding was recorded as proven from 25 sites with 31 pairs and birds noted in display or mid-summer at a further 19 sites. As at least 8 pairs now breed annually in less than optimal habitat in the Barton-Killingholme area the above figures are obviously hopelessly inadequate and the total county breeding population is most probably in excess of 200 pairs. Numerous coastal records in October-November no doubt reflected some passage of Scandinavian/continental birds.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

A small autumn influx produced birds at North Killingholme August 25th for about a week, South Ferriby-Winteringham August 23rd-September 4th, Gibraltar Pt. September 11th and Denton Res. October 11th.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Spring birds passed through Gibraltar Pt. April 15th and Keale Cotes 17th with 2 at Donington 28th then in May one at Grimsthorpe Lake 1st, Frampton and Tydd Gote 13th, flying south at Fulstow 23rd and fishing at Messingham before flying south 25th. One was at Fillingham Lake June 11th and finally one at Denton Res. and Manor Park Lakes from October 11-15th.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

A pair on Immingham Dock reared 2 young in a nest placed on a bare metal floodlight platform 25m high. The only notable autumn gatherings were 10 in the Kingerby area August 7th and 15 at Gibraltar Pt. September 23rd. Widespread and numerous in the late autumn-early winter period.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

A very obliging first-summer male was at Gibraltar Pt. from May 30-June 4th (MAG, et al). It gave superb views to observers as it hunted moths over the east dunes in the late afternoon/evenings. (Accepted by BBRC)



Red-footed Falcon (K. Atkin) Gibraltar Point June 1989

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

During January-March there was a minimum of 12 birds on the Humber-coast and up to 8 in the Wash with another 9 inland giving an absolute minimum county total of 29 birds in the early winter. A few passage birds were noted in April to May 24th with 8-9 birds additional to those above. August records are now regular with at least 9 birds noted after a male at Gibraltar Pt. on the 6th. Only odd birds were noted in September, up to 7 birds, but regular winterers arrived from October onwards. Humber-coast birds numbered 9 with 5+ in the Wash but 11 inland. Most records concern females/first-year males (brown birds) but blue adult males were noted at Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Pt. in January-March, Tetney August 25th, Gibraltar Pt. August 6th, 24th and September-December and at Cleethorpes October.

A female ringed at Theddlethorpe on October 16th 1988 was found dead near Tilbury, Essex in late March.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Six pairs were proved breeding rearing a total of at least 12 young in addition to which pairs probably bred at a further four localities and possibly at three more. Additional birds in May were at Cleethorpes and Gibraltar Pt. 7th with 1-2 at the latter site 23-25th, Stubton 11th, Swaton 20th, possibly the same bird at Barrow Haven 22nd and Goxhill 23rd, singles Donna Nook 23rd and 28th, an adult feeding on dragonflies at Crowle Waste 29th, then in June one Bradley Woods 4th, Goxhill 11th, South Ferriby 13th, Humberston 18th and Gibraltar Pt. 24th and 26th. July birds were noted at Laughton Forest 14th, Ruskington 20th and Somerton Castle 23rd. Additional August birds included Newsham Lake 9th, Kirton Lindsey 27th and Gibraltar Pt. 29th where there were further records September 3rd, 11-15th & 23rd and singles Holdington 13th, Scopwick 18th and Branston Booths 21st.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

A continuing and welcome increase in numbers seen during the year. In January there were birds at Holbeach Marsh 1st and Frampton Marsh 8th, Market Deeping 7th and Witham Mouth February 26th then some possible migrants in March at Saltfleet/Skidbrooke 4th, Benington and Gibraltar Pt. 12th and Tetney 23rd with singles at Gibraltar Pt. again April 17-23rd and May 23rd. First autumn birds arrived in September with one South Ferriby 4th then Gibraltar Pt. 13-15th, Deeping Lake 17th and Theddlethorpe 28th. A further series of winter records began in November at Gibraltar Pt. 19th, a female at Red Hill Goulceby 11th, Witham Mouth 12th and Anwick near Ruskington 15th while one was occasional at Tetney from Nov 5th - December and other December birds at North Thoresby 2nd, Barton Pits 9th and Read's Island 23-31st.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

No significant records were received.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

All submitted records are included, a probable reflection of this species' decline. In the South Fens where it is uncommon, a pair was at Pinchbeck on May 7th. In October there were 11 at Covenham Res. on 10th and 14 at Swallow on 18th, with 25 at Winteringham on November 17th, then in December 13 at Thoresby bridge on 25th and up to 10 at Tattershall and 12 at Butterwick.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Birds were again comparatively numerous and widespread for the third successive year, involving mainly singing males. Coastal records were all in June, at Cleethorpes on 11th, Gibraltar Pt. on 12th and Theddlethorpe on 17th. In the Wash, 2 were dust bathing at Frampton Marsh on 12th and were last recorded on August 16th, while nearby one was at Fishtoft Drove near Boston. In the south fens, 1-2 were at Pinchbeck South Fen in June, then in July 5-8 birds were at Nocton Fen on 12th, with 5 at Deeping Fen, 10 at Langtoft Fen and 5 at Hawthorpe, which were last heard on August 19th. On the Wolds birds were at Rothwell June 15th-16th and at Swallow on July 26th and August 2nd. Others were in the Isle of Axholme in July at Stockholes Turbary on 15th and Wroot Grange on 28th. The remaining records were all from along the Lincoln Edge, with June birds at Welby Heath on 1st, 3 at South Witham from 29th-30th, then further north at Waddingham Catchwater on 22nd, 2 at Harmston Quarry during the summer, and in July at Dunston Heath on 2nd, 2+ at Metheringham Heath from 11th-13th and 2 at Harmston Heath from 16th-18th.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

The largest numbers reported were from Gibraltar Pt., with a max. of 50 in April and October.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

1-3 passage/wintering birds were seen at numerous sites from January-April, with one remaining at Gibraltar Pt. to early May. Birds were again fairly widespread from September-December, with a max. of 5 at Lincoln Ballast Pit on November 4th. An encouraging number of summer records were received, with birds present at Baston GP, and Baston Fen, and breeding suspected at Ancaster GP, Sleaford Ballast Pit, Lincoln Ballast Pit and Thurlby Fen, where 5 males were calling in spring. Confirmed breeding was recorded at Messingham SQ with 2 pairs at Barton-on-Humber.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

One found freshly dead at Saltfleetby on November 22nd (JRW).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

At Messingham SQ numbers dramatically increased to 58 on September 2nd, indicating a strong passage. Other maxima included 30-40 at Deeping High Bank from September-December, 60+ at Barton-on-Humber on November 12th and 140+ at Barton/Barrow Haven in December.

Coot *Fulica atra*

	J	F	M	S	O	N	D
Barton/Barrow Haven	-	-	-	-	-	405	355
Messingham SQ	187	-	-	342	-	-	-
Tattershall GP	-	-	-	402	601	818	1031
Whisby Pits	-	-	-	327	400	-	-
Baston GP	920	280	130	380	600	770	1110

Other large concentrations were 206 at Messingham SQ in July, 255 at Covenham Res. and 150 at Huttoft Pit in September, and 500 at Deeping Lake and 278 at Burton GP in December.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes/												
Grainthorpe	355	407	351	-	-	-	-	-	-	553	1059	1111
Gibraltar Point	30	39	8000	2580	250	70	460	7445	10000	10000	90	2000
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	-	1500	2300	1564	1000	-	1542	-	-

Other large concentrations early in the year involved 3000 at Friskney on January 22nd, 2920 at Benington on 14th, and a total Lincs Wash count for the month of 34,220. This fell to 20,832 in February which included 2400 at Friskney and 1040 at Freiston 19th. On the Humber, 56 were at South Ferriby May 7th, 40 flew west at Barton on July 31st and 75 west at Goxhill August 5th, 394 at North Cotes on July 29th and 400 at Cleethorpes on August 7th, with 464 there on September 28th. Witham Mouth held 400 on October 15th. Inland there were 5 at Whisby GP on April 22nd and breeding pairs were at Kirkby-on-Bain GP, 2 pairs at Messingham and a pair at Tumbly Woodside, which is the first confirmed inland breeding record away from tidal rivers. Coastal breeding included 5 pairs at Skidbrooke and c. 10 pairs at Frampton Marsh.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

A single bird was at Gibraltar Pt. on March 25th and at Tetney on 26th-27th, with 2 there May 7th. One was at Gedney Drove End on July 13th, while Read's Island had 4 on August 24th, with 2 remaining to September 7th.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

A female, first seen on May 9th, was incubating 2 eggs at a site in the county from June 12th-21st and was present to July 13th. It had been colour ringed as a juvenile in the Brecks in 1986. This is the first known attempted breeding since 1904.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

First arrivals were in March at Messingham SQ on 27th-29th and Susworth on 28th, followed by 1-2 birds during April at Gibraltar Pt. on 9th, Kirton Lindsey quarries on 16th, East Halton on 17th, Ashbyville on 24th-30th and Bardney on 30th. Passage continued throughout May with birds at Read's Island on 1st, Donna Nook and Gibraltar Pt. on 3rd, Cleethorpes on 6th, 10th-12th and 24th, Goxhill on 15th and Bardney on 21st. At Gibraltar Pt. singles occurred on several dates in June with the last on 29th. Breeding occurred at South Killingholme, Baston, Digby and Castle Bytham, with 2+ pairs at Baston GP and 4+ pairs at Kirkby-on-Bain GP. Autumn birds in July and August were at Barton, West Deeping, Cadney Reservoir and Donna Nook, with 4 at Covenham Res., 7 at Gibraltar Pt., 5 at Messingham SQ, 2 at Immingham and 3 at Blackbank Pits. The only September records were of 2 at both Gibraltar Pt. and Covenham Res. with the last there on 14th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Humber BOEE count	231	289	169	-	-	-	-	-	6	230	76	213
Read's Isl./Barrow H.	50	-	-	-	101	-	-	60	-	91	50	60
Cleethorpes	200	109	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	200	38
Gibraltar Point	17	29	73	102	75	40	100	230	250	24	40	3
Witham Mouth	24	25	40	7	-	-	10	544	350	220	6	35

Notable early year records away from the areas above were the Lincs Wash counts of

95 and 92 birds for January and February respectively, and 81 at Tetney on March 12th. In May 120 were at North Cotes and 150 at Donna Nook on 13th, with 120 at Holbeach on 22nd and 34 birds showing characteristics of the race *C.h.tundrae* at Goxhill on 15th. Autumn movements in August involved 100 at Donna Nook on 1st and 200 at Killingholme on 21st. Inland birds were present at Messingham SQ from February to September, with a max. of 9 during late May, 1-2 at Cadney Res most of May, with August records from Blackbank Pits, Cadney Res. and Covenham Res. The only breeding records received were from Kirkby-on-Bain GP, Baston GP, Bardney, South Ferriby (4), Donna Nook (10-12) and Frampton (4), giving a rather incomplete picture.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

A first winter male which frequented the Read's Island/Barton area from December 24th-30th was probably present from November 19th (GPC, JTH, WG et al).



Kentish Plover

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

The only record was of a female at Gibraltar Pt. from May 23rd-28th.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

With another successive mild winter, large numbers of birds again remained in the county during this period. January 1st produced 2000 at Tetney and 6500 at Huttoft, with 4000 still there on 28th, and the Wash count revealed 1888. In February 600 were at Ingham on 1st and 1736 remained in the Wash, while the Humber held 1000 at Goxhill on 26th and 500 at Cleethorpes. In addition 200-500 were present at Benington, Fulbeck Airfield, Fiskerton and Baston Fen. In March, 500 were at Gibraltar Pt. and 410 at Baston Fen on 26th with 950 at Stainby on 27th, 800 at Kelstern on 8th and 500 at Holbeach St. Marks on April 21st. The only May records were of 99 of the northern race at Whitton on 1st, while 5 remained at North Cotes until 21st. Early immigrants (7) were at Donna Nook on June 25th, with the first main arrivals appearing in late July, including 700 at Donna Nook 22nd. Several sites recorded 200-400 throughout the autumn with 550 at Witham Common on September 20th, 700 at North Cotes on 17th and 550 there on October 19th. Large increases were apparent from late October, with exceptional numbers present to the year end. There were 600 at the Witham Mouth November 18th, 3600 at North Cotes 19th and 1000 at Cleethorpes, with a total Humber count of 9632. This was exceeded in December when the Winteringham/Read's Island flock increased from 1000 1st to 10000 on 30th, adding to the 500 at New Holland on 2nd, 2500 at Cleethorpes and 2500 at Tetney on 17th. Elsewhere several other sites recorded 100-450 to the year end.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Humber BOEE count	414	883	1065	-	-	-	-	-	-	190	295	314
Tetney/North Cotes	320	708	980	-	-	-	-	-	-	138	330	281
Gibraltar Point	40	54	7000	600	110	20	12	2500	2500	2000	76	35
Witham Mouth	250	186	1000	115	-	80	20	50	11	100	195	210

The Wash counts for January and February numbered 5892 and 3666 respectively. In addition there were 260 at Cleethorpes in February and 255 at Gedney Drove End on March 12th. Returning passage birds numbered 264 at Grainthorpe on May 25th, and further up river there were 5 at both Goxhill on 15th and Read's Island on 23rd. Another was at Goxhill on June 11th, with 350 at Holbeach on 10th and 80 at the Witham Mouth on 25th. Inland birds were at Messingham SQ on September 15th and Covenham Res. on October 1st.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Large concentrations during the early part of the year are as follows: in January along the Humber there were 2000 both at Tetney and Grainthorpe, 800 at New Holland on 28th and Goxhill on 3rd, and 2000 on Read's Island on 7th. Messingham SQ had 180 on 2nd and Huttoft 1000 on 1st, rising to 2000 on 28th, while in the south, the Wash count totalled 3140, with 500 at the Witham Mouth on 7th, 1600 at Gibraltar Pt. 8th, 2000 at Deeping High Bank on 16th and 500 at Frampton Fen on 2nd. February counts included 4000 at Baston Fen on 19th and 3934 in the Wash, with good numbers still present in early March at Messingham SQ 620 on 3rd and 500 at Gibraltar Pt. on 11th. Numbers began to increase again from July and 800 were at Messingham SQ on August 5th, with larger influxes occurring from October to the year end, when some exceptional numbers were present. A southerly movement at the end of October included 1000 at Theddlethorpe on 29th and 574 at Gibraltar Pt. on 30th. The Witham Mouth had 500 on 29th, while in November 900 were there on 18th, 2000 at Swineshead on 19th, 5000 at Heckington on 20th, 1000 at Messingham SQ and 3000 at Covenham Res both on 12th, 732 at Goxhill on 9th, 1000 at North Cotes on 15th and 3000 at Read's Island on 21st. Finally in December there were 900 at New Holland on 2nd, 1100 at Humberston on 10th, 3000 at Deeping High Bank on 15th, 1600 at Tetney on 17th, 1000 at Huttoft on 21st, 1500 at Pyewipe on 22nd, 2500 at Covenham Res and 1000 at Gibraltar Pt. both on 28th, and 8000 in the Winteringham/Read's Island area on 30th.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Cleethorpes counted 1100 in January, 5000 February, 1000 March, 1400 October, 1182 November and 8260 December. Gibraltar Pt. reported 200 January, 1000 February, 25000 March, 5000 April, 150 May, 3 June, 7000 July, 20,000 August, 12,100 September, 45000 October, 12000 November, 5000 December. Witham Mouth saw 2300 in January, 800 February, 500 March, 90 April, 10000 October, 2600 November and 6000 December. Frampton recorded 2473 June, 2,000 July, 2000 August, 2500 November. Holbeach had 3100 February, 15 June, 40 July, 600 August and 18000 November. The Wash BOEE counts totalled 30761 January and 26917 February. There were 339 at East Halton Skitter on January 20th, 1000 at Gedney Drove End on February 11th, 1500 at Luton Marsh on March 11th, with 600 there April 8th, 11 west at Goxhill May 12th and at Grainthorpe 5 on May 25th, 150 July 22nd and 1300 November 15th. The December Humber BOEE count revealed 10750.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
R. Humber	106	309	88	-	-	-	-	-	-	390	193	185
Gibraltar Point	57	30	29	175	200	380	450	1100	500	90	190	41

Additional counts were of 149 at Tetney on February 12th, 264 at Cleethorpes on March 17th, 400 at Grainthorpe on May 25th, 55 at Donna Nook on June 1st, with 120 there in late July and 350 at Cleethorpes November 3rd. Inland 2 were at Kirkby-on-Bain May 12th, 4 at Bardney on 21st and singles at Messingham SQ from 26th-June 4th and again on August 11th and 25th-27th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

The first was at Kirkby-on-Bain GP on May 12th, followed by singles at Gibraltar Point on 27th and in June from 4th-5th with 2 on 7th. Last of the spring was at Messingham SQ on 15th. Early autumn birds appeared in July at Donna Nook on 16th and Gibraltar Pt. on 23rd, with the main arrival from mid-August. At Covenham Res one was present from 10th, with 5 from 28th and 9 on 31st, Gibraltar Pt. had up to 5 from 27th-31st, 2 were at Holbeach Marsh on 26th, 4 at Cleethorpes on 20th, 2 at Donna Nook on 27th and singles at Killingholme on 18th, Winteringham Haven on 30th and Bardney on 31st. In September Covenham Res had up to 8 until 21st, 1-2 were at Gibraltar Pt. to mid month, with 3 at Holbeach Marsh on 3rd, 4 at Winteringham Haven on 4th, 2 at Read's Island on 17th, one at Messingham SQ on 14-21st and the last at Goxhill from 27th-29th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

In May 2 were at Messingham SQ on 21st (DB,CJ,GPC,JTH et al) and a single at Kirkby-on-Bain GP from 21st-23rd with possibly the same bird from 27th-28th (KW,DB,AB,RJC,SK et al).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

4 records, all in autumn, were singles at Bardney on August 1st (PB), Messingham SQ 24th-25th, (JTH, RNH, CJ et al) an adult female trapped at Marston SF on 29th (GP,AB) and Gibraltar Pt. September 16th (EWA et al).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

A very poor year, which was almost to be expected following last year's exceptional numbers. In the spring, singles were at Holbeach St. Marks on May 22nd, Read's Island on 23rd and 2 Kirkby Pits June 1st. First in autumn were singles at Witham Mouth July 23rd and Holbeach Marsh on 30th. In August there were 4 at Read's Island-South Ferriby on 2nd, 1 Gibraltar Pt. 3rd, 2 there on 15th-17th, up to 8 Frampton Marsh mid month and 2 adults at South Killingholme 21st-26th. Only September record was of 2 birds flying south at Saltfleetby on 9th, with the last of the year at Gibraltar Pt. on October 1st.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

The only early year records were of a single at Trusthorpe on January 8th, 14th and 29th, again on February 2nd, one at Witham Mouth on 12th, 2 there on March 5th and a single at Grimsby Docks 12th -15th. Autumn singles were Donna Nook on August 1st and Gibraltar Pt. October 4th. Witham Mouth regularly recorded a single from November 18th and Grimsby Docks one on December 3rd, 10th, 26th and 2 on 29th.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Upp.Humber	987	1180	760	-	522	-	-	350	790	500	364	1570
Cleethorpes	3200	3000	3180	-	1200	-	358	-	-	3000	4000	2400
Tetney	700	1045	1500	-	-	-	-	-	-	189	300	190
Gib.Point	300	250	3500	3000	400	41	1500	6000	3500	8500	650	200
Witham Mth.	3000	-	2000	-	-	-	-	650	-	2500	1100	2200
Lincs Wash	24000	29000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

May passage flocks included 700 at Donna Nook on 13th, 400 Pye's Hall on 25th and inland at Kirkby Pits where there were 43 on 12th with 1-3 at Ashbyville, Covenham Res, Cadney Res and Bardney. In June there were 1000 at Holbeach Marsh on 10th then a large autumn flock of 2000 there on July 17th. Elsewhere there were smaller numbers of returning birds at the usual inland sites including a Covenham Res maxima of 60 on September 1st. Grimsby Pyewipes had 650 mid-October whilst Frampton Marsh November maximum was 500. The upper Humber December total includes 1000-1300 Barton-Barrow Haven late month.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

A bird was present at Cleethorpes Country Park on May 31st (DJB) which constitutes the first spring record for Lincolnshire and only the 5th in total.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

The approximate county totals were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
	13	32	31	24	47	2	42	79	17	20	10	4

Birds were again present in winter with 1-15 January-March at North Cotes, Witham Mouth, Goxhill Haven (4 males), Cleethorpes, Tetney, Gibraltar Pt. and Grimsby Pyewipes with 26 at the latter site on February 2nd. In April there were 20 at Witham Mouth 7th, 5 Tetney on 9th and 7 Messingham SQ on 10th. Records of 1-9 birds in May were received from numerous sites while only occasional singles were reported in June. In July 1-3 birds were fairly widespread, with maxima of 10 South Killingholme on 16th and 20 Gibraltar Pt. on 22nd. Peak autumn number was 63 at Alkborough Flats on August 31st with 1-5 birds at many other sites. In October North Cotes had 7 on 19th, Grainthorpe 9 on 28th then 9 Donna Nook November 25th. Last record of the year was 4 at Humberston December 26th.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

A slightly better year than the last with January records of 4 North Killingholme on 5th, 1-2 Gibraltar Pt. first half of the month and singles at Saltfleetby 22nd, Thurlby Fen 23rd and Messingham SQ on 31st. Tetney had 2 on February 12th and Gibraltar Point 1 on 18th-19th. In March, singles were at Baston Fen and Saltfleetby on 5th, Lincoln Ballast Pit on 12th then last of the spring at Frampton Marsh April 6th. The return began mid-September with 1 at Messingham SQ 16th and 2 at Gibraltar Pt. 23rd and 30th. Numbers increased in October with a single at Cleethorpes CP on 3rd, 2 at Goxhill 18th, 1 Messingham SQ early in the month, 1 Tetney 22nd, a single at Biscathorpe Lake on 26th and 1-2 Gibraltar Pt. all month. Witham Mouth had occasional singles mid-October to mid-November, while elsewhere in November, birds were at South Ferriby, a single on 9th and 2 on 26th, 1 at Gibraltar Pt. 10th with 2 on 11th, one on 26th and 1 Frampton Marsh 20th.



Jack Snipe (G.P. Catley)

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Only noteworthy early year record was 10-20 at Denton Reservoir January to early April. In March there were 77 Baston Fen 26th decreasing to 41 by April 8th. Records of breeding and display came from Saltfleetby (1), Binbrook (6), Baston Fen (7), Ancaster (2), West Ashby, Messingham (2-3), Scotterthorpe and East Butterwick (7). In autumn there were 46 Donna Nook on August 26th, with 51 Messingham SQ on September 23rd, 50 Frampton Marsh mid-October and in November 20 were at West Ashby Pits on 4th.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Early in the year there were up to 5 at Gibraltar Pt. early January (1-3 to end April). 3 trapped at Theddlethorpe on January 7th included a retrap from November. In May roding was observed at Appleby Keb Wood (4 on 27th), Temple Wood (2), Skellingthorpe Old Wood and Caistor which is a poor reflection of the breeding population of this widespread woodland breeder. Roding birds in June were seen at Callans Wood, Temple Wood and Twyford Forest with confirmed breeding records at Bourne Wood and Great Boothby.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Holbeach Marsh	17	-	-	50	-	-	14	360	100	79	32	200

In spring a single was at Tetney on March 27th, 1 at Gibraltar Pt. on April 8th, 1 Barton-on-Humber on 15th and 2 Messingham SQ on 23rd and 29th. In May, Gibraltar Pt. had 2 on 5th and 15th, Messingham SQ 1 on 19th-20th and North Cotes a single on 24th. There was only one June record, a single at Gibraltar Pt. on 14th. 1-10 birds were recorded at many sites July-September including 4 at North Killingholme September 2nd, increasing to 14 by the 20th, peaking at 63 on October 27th then decreasing to 25 by November 18th, with just a single remaining on December 2nd. Last of the year away from Holbeach were 2 which flew west at Cleethorpes December 21st and 1 at Barton-on-Humber on 24th.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cleethorpes	180	367	370	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	12	375
Gib.Point	1050	700	11000	270	100	14	780	5000	5000	3000	75	25
Witham Mth	70	110	12	-	-	6	9	-	-	56	56	42
Lincs Wash	2032	2919	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

A bird at Cleethorpes January 15th was in summer plumage. Significant flocks early year were 630 Benington Marsh January 14th, 1450 there February 12th and 74 Tetney March 12th. In May there were 34 at Trent Falls on 14th, 16 Goxhill 15th and max. 66 Read's Island/South Ferriby 21st. Inland, 2 were at Messingham SQ 5th-6th and 24th. In July, 75 were at Pye's Hall on 22nd, then in August 171 Grainthorpe 12th and 18 Barton-on-Humber third week.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

First of the year was at Gibraltar Pt. on April 8th then 18 there on 30th and 14 Tetney on 29th. In May, Gibraltar Pt. recorded 20-30 birds regularly, 19 were at Tetney on 7th and 10 Donna Nook on 28th. Elsewhere in spring there were smaller numbers at East Halton, Witham Mouth, Frampton Marsh, Goxhill, Kirkby-on-Bain, Messingham SQ and Covenham and Revesby reservoirs. Return passage from mid-July included 10 Frampton Marsh 18th, 10 Grainthorpe 22nd, 15 Donna Nook 22nd, Tetney 40+ same date, 10 Witham Mouth 23rd and Gibraltar Pt. maxima of 17 south on 27th and 21 on 31st. Numbers continued to build up in August with 50 at Tetney on 5th, 37 Holbeach Marsh 9th, 20 Frampton Marsh, 20 Witham Mouth 20th and 50 Grainthorpe same date. Gibraltar Pt. maxima were 63 south 16th and 40 south 29th. In September 20 flew over Louth on 27th. Smaller numbers elsewhere in autumn were at Barton-on-Humber, Read's Island, Saltfleetby, Goxhill, Covenham Res. and Whisby Pits, with the last of the year at Gibraltar Pt. October 23rd.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Humber	687	719	487	-	-	-	250	773	592	364	552	200 +
Gib.Point	200	225	50	180	79	28	500	400	300	1900	200	30
Witham Mth	55	55	175	44	-	52	60	420	150	150	56	65
Lincs Wash	1471	1610	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Inland in January there were 44 Marston SF on 16th with 39 February 23rd and only coastal record of note was 60 Saltfleet on 16th. In March, 42 were at Messingham SQ on 7th whilst 1-4 birds displaying at Hungerton Quarry on 27th were present until June 11th although the only reported, confirmed breeding was 1-2 pairs at Fulbeck Airfield. Large autumn flocks away from the table were 1500 Holbeach Marsh July 17th and 60 Donna Nook late month then inland in August 50 at North Hykeham 20th, and Messingham SQ had a maximum of 50 on 28th. In November, there were 115 at Cleethorpes mid-month while Grimsby Pyewipes maximum was 344. The only noteworthy December record was 49 at Messingham SQ on the 10th.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

A wintering bird was present at Cleethorpes/Humberston to March 30th with probably the same bird at Tetney 5th-12th and February 19th. Only other early year record was 1 at Holbeach St. Marks on March 11th. None were reported in April. Spring passage began early May with 4 at Frampton Marsh 5th, a single at Humberston 6th, 2 Tetney

early month and further singles at Gibraltar Pt. 7th-10th, Messingham SQ 10th and Grainthorpe on 11th. 4 birds were recorded in June with singles at Holbeach Marsh 10th, Kirton Marsh 18th, Goxhill 23rd and Tetney 23rd-25th. In July, 1 flew south at Gibraltar Pt. on 4th and Donna Nook had 1 on 6th, 9th and 14th, singles at Read's Island and Bardney on 15th and up to 4 Holbeach St. Marks 17th-30th. Records of 1-2 birds came from many sites during August-September and involved up to a possible 70 individuals, including a Holbeach St.Marks maximum of 33 on August 3rd. Singles in October were at East Halton 5th-18th, Holbeach St.Marks 16th, Covenham Res 18th and an occasional 1-2 Gibraltar Pt.. The probable same returning wintering bird was at Cleethorpes/Humberston October 30 to the year end, with one Holbeach St.Matthew November 18th.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Gib. Point	100	150	350	145	26	78	150	100	183	150	300	57
Witham Mth.	250	200	155	180	-	-	180	100	-	300	225	90
Lincs Wash	2846	2938	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

In addition, there were 260 Tetney in January. An albino bird was at Lutton Marsh on February 5th. Inland, Messingham SQ had up to 8 from mid-March to September 17th, 2-3 pairs breeding. In May, Kirkby Pits had 6 on 1st, Saxilby 2 on 6th and 1-3 Cadney Res where breeding probably occurred. In August there were 80 Read's Island on 2nd. Covenham Res autumn maximum was 6 on September 14th and high tides pushed 220 on to Cleethorpes CP on 18th. Other large flocks were 420 Cleethorpes October 3rd, up to 100 Barton-on-Humber to December, 45 North Killingholme November 11th, 100 Saltfleet 12th, then 10 Baston GP 19th. In December, there were 200 Humberston on 10th and 53 Baston Fen 16th. Other breeding records received were 420 pairs Frampton Marsh and 30+ pairs at Tetney, 11 prs South Ferriby/Whitton and 1 pair each at Butterwick Hale and Baston Fen.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

A wintering bird was at Gibraltar Pt. February 18th, whilst the first spring record was from Cleethorpes on March 27th. In April, single birds were at Witham Mouth 9th and Tetney 22nd. May maxima were 19 Tetney-North Cotes 23rd, 11 Donna Nook 25th with smaller numbers at Frampton, Messingham, Barton-on-Humber, Gibraltar Pt., Covenham Res, Kirkby Pits, Holbeach St.Marks and Horseshoe Point. Fewer birds were recorded in June. Return passage from mid-July included 22 Holbeach St.Marks on 21st with a maximum there of 35 on 30th. August maxima were 83 Holbeach Marsh on 3rd, 12 North Cotes on 6th, 10 Gibraltar Pt. 10th and 19 South Ferriby 22nd. Smaller numbers of birds were reported from numerous sites September-October and included 12 at Frampton Marsh mid-September. A wintering bird was at New Holland from November to 1990.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

January birds were 3 at Bardney on 1st, 4 Kirkby-on-Bain 22nd, singles at Baston Fen, Langtoft GP, Whisby and Covenham Res 1 of which remained in the area to mid-April. In February, Thurlby Fen had 1 on 5th as did Kirkby on 19th. March saw singles at Baston Fen 5th, 11th, Tetney Blow Wells 11th, Humberston 26th-April 22nd, 3 Bardney 26th and 1 Barrow Haven 29th. Spring passage peaked mid-April and included birds at Tetney, Louth, Kirkby, Bardney, Bonby, Cleethorpes and Gibraltar Pt. In May, singles were noted at Goxhill on 5th and 12th, Donna Nook 12th and 18th with 5 there

on 23rd. Autumn return began mid-June with small numbers reported countywide then in July maxima of 8 Donna Nook on 9th and 14 Bardney late month, with 8 at Donna Nook August 1st and 8 Frampton mid-month. Only small numbers were reported September-October with 4 records in November while December saw 7 birds at various sites.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

An average year starting with early spring singles at Bardney and Kirkby-on-Bain May 1st, Cleethorpes CP 4th and another there 10-11th, then a concentrated arrival was noted between 21st-25th, with singles at Bardney on 21st-23rd, Kirkby-on-Bain and Covenham Res 21st, Marshchapel and Donna Nook 23rd and Horseshoe Point 25th. In June, single birds were at Gibraltar Pt. on 24th, 28th-29th and Bardney 25th. There were 3 birds in July with individuals at Gibraltar Pt. on 7th and Bardney and Donna Nook on 23rd. August singles were at Bardney 1st, Messingham SQ 3rd, Gibraltar Pt. 7th-10th and again Bardney 8th and 13th. Another was at Messingham SQ on 21st, the same site holding a juvenile on the 25th which remained to September 5th.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

First of the spring was recorded at Ashbyville on April 12th. From then, small numbers were widespread to late May, Covenham Res maximum being 7 on May 2nd. Return passage was evident from late June, again small numbers being widespread. In July, South Killingholme had 10 on 29th and Covenham Res 22 on 25th and 27th. August maxima were 17 Bardney 8th, 15 Covenham Res 10th and 30th, 14 Holbeach Marsh 17th. Best number in September was 7 Covenham 4th. Last of the passage were singles at Messingham and Gibraltar Pt. on October 8th, although 2 were present at Baston GP November 19th.

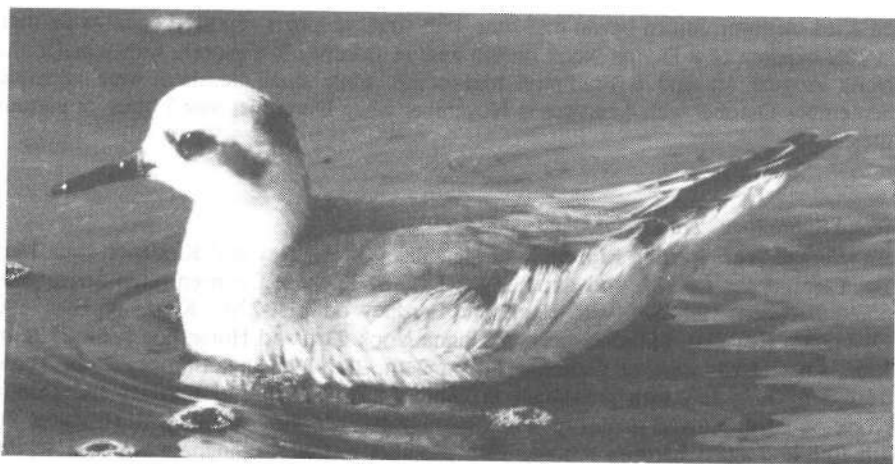
Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Witham Mouth	100	65	200	100	-	-	37	7	29	110	55	75

Significant numbers early year were 337 Lincs Wash in January and 326 there in February. Away from the coast in spring, there were 22 Goxhill May 12th, singles at Kirkby-on-Bain and Bardney on 21st and 2 Messingham SQ 26th. In autumn there were 19 Goxhill July 26th, a single at Messingham SQ 24th-29th then in August 14 Goxhill on 5th, 1-2 Covenham Res from 10th with a maximum of 9 on 30th, 2 Whisby Pits 26th, a single at Messingham SQ 25th-26th and 2 at Bardney on 31st. Gibraltar Pt. maximum was 50 mid-month. In November there were 450 at Cleethorpes on the 11th.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

The best year since 1985 with 5 autumn records, the first being a juvenile/1st winter at Covenham Res September 18-21st (KA, GPC, DJB). In October a 1st winter bird was seen from a boat off Grimsby Docks on the 1st (GPC, DJB et al) and an adult at Covenham Res 9th-11th (KA et al). Another flew south at Huttoft on 15th (PGC, DJB, KSM, JRM et al) and finally one at Witham Mouth on the 28th (SK).



Grey Phalarope (K. Atkin)

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

The first bird was recorded at Huttoft on August 6th with 5 south there 27th and 4 north 28th when 2 were off Mablethorpe. 1-3 were recorded at Gibraltar Pt. from August 11-26th. In September, 2 were off Huttoft on 3rd with numerous reports on 9th including 2 Humberston, 4 north Saltfleetby, 3 Mablethorpe and 6 Huttoft where there were 8 next day and 1 south 11th. Four adults were off Theddlethorpe 12th and 2 at Huttoft 30th. At Gibraltar Pt. northward moving birds were 2 on 2nd, 1 on 9th, 3 on 10th, 1 on 11th and 1 on 22nd. In October, 6 were off the Humber mouth on 1st with widespread records again on the 8th; 2 at Saltfleet, 2 Mablethorpe, 15 Huttoft and 13 south at Chapel Point. At the Witham Mouth there were 7 on 14th with 2 Gibraltar Pt. 21st, and the last bird of the year flying south off Huttoft November 12th.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

The only spring birds were at Witham Mouth April 9th and Gibraltar Pt. with 2 north on June 10th. Birds were widespread on the coast in July with maxima of 12 north 18th and 13 north 31st both at Gibraltar Pt. In August, 23 were at Holbeach Marsh on 1st with 25 on 12th and 20 on 27th at Gibraltar Pt. and on the latter date 96 north and 50 south off Huttoft. The largest numbers were recorded in September with 34 off Huttoft 3rd, 200 there 9th, 50 on 10th and 20 on 30th. At Chapel Point 19 north and 44 south on 10th with 16 at Witham Mouth, 7 at Frampton and 7 flying west at North Killingholme also 10th and 3 at Killingholme 11th. 1-10 at several sites in October with maximum numbers being 42 at Witham Mouth and 25 at Gibraltar Pt. both on the 8th. November birds were at Tetney and Gibraltar Pt. 2 on 5th, Chapel Point 9th and Huttoft 12th.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

An early adult was in the Wash at Holbeach Marsh July 30th (PC) with the next a juvenile at Huttoft August 27th (GPC). In September there was one south at Gibraltar Pt. 2nd (MAG) with single juveniles at Mablethorpe 9th (GPC) and Chapel Point 10th (GPC).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

In early autumn there were 1 north Gibraltar Pt. July 18th, 2 north at Donna Nook 20th, with August birds: 1 Gibraltar Pt. 13th and 14th, 1 Witham Mouth 26th and 2 Huttoft 27th. In September on the 9th, 1 Grimsby Docks and 15 Mablethorpe with one west off North Killingholme Haven, 11 at Huttoft and 7 Witham Mouth 10th, then 10 Huttoft 30th. In October a maximum of 25 off the Humber Mouth 1st, with 8 north and 20 south at Chapel Point and 28 Witham Mouth all 8th. In November there were singles at Gibraltar Pt. 5th, Huttoft 9th and the last inland at Covenham Res 12th.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

A second winter bird at Cleethorpes January 1st and a first winter at the Witham Mouth February 12th were the only early winter birds. In spring an adult was at Tetney on April 9th and a first-summer at Barton/Barrow Haven pits 16th. There were no further records until August when a second winter bird was at Gibraltar Pt. 1st, an adult South Killingholme on 5th and a juvenile East Halton 26th. In September a first winter at Gibraltar Pt. 2nd with the next a second winter at Covenham Res October 29th and finally a first winter at Lincoln Ballast Pit December 31st.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Approximate county totals were :

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
9	1	2	9	53	19	14	11	137	56	15	-

In January 8 flew south at Gibraltar Pt. on the 2nd and 1 on the 3rd, with 1 Grimsby Docks February 26th. An adult at Barrow Haven March 4th with 1 Covenham Res 27th. Up to 3 together were noted at widespread localities from April-August with exceptional peaks of 7 Messingham May 5th and, possibly the same birds, up to 6 at South Ferriby 16-22nd. A strong passage in September on the coast with 12 north at Saltfleetby and 18 north at Mablethorpe 9th, 37 Huttoft, 48 north at Chapel Point both 10th. The October peak at Gibraltar Pt. was 13 on 22nd with 24 on 27th and 8 on 28th. In November, 4 flew south at Huttoft 4th, 2 north at Saltfleet 5th and 9 adults west at North Killingholme 8th.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

At Boston Tip there were up to 5000 during January-March and October-December. Other high counts were 4000 Gibraltar Pt. July 31st, 3000 Barton August 16th and at Gibraltar Pt. 3500 August 8th and 3000 October 25th. Breeding numbers on Frampton Marsh were estimated at 1500 pairs rearing 2000 young.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Largest numbers of this species were as follows : 500 Gibraltar Pt. on July 28th and 31st, 400 Donna Nook July 16th, 1000 Barton on August 16th, 1000 Gibraltar Pt. August 8th-11th with 1500 on September 5th, 101 being unusual at Messingham SQ September 28th. Rubbish tips are favourite places for Gulls and 1000 were at Boston Tip in October.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

In January, 2 adults were at Kirkby-on-Bain and 1 Leadenham Tip on 5th with 2 there on 7th, 1 Barton on 17th, 1 Messingham February 23rd. At Gibraltar Pt., 75 flew south April 8th. June produced good totals with 55 at Covenham Res on 29th, 67 Gibraltar

Pt. and 30 Witham Mouth on 25th. There were up to 70 at Gibraltar Pt. in July. August was good inland with up to 57 at Lincoln Ballast Pits also 65 at East Halton on 26th, Gibraltar Pt. had 45 on the 4th and North Killingholme 100 on Sept. 18th, the largest total for the year. The largest total for October-November and December was 13 at Lincoln Ballast Pits. December records are increasing with one Humberston on 9th, Read's Island 26th, 2 Digby SQ 29th and one New Holland 31st.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

The largest concentrations were at rubbish tips with 1-2000 from January-March, 2-3000 August-September and 3-5000 October-November at the Boston tip. An interesting record was of 100 flying south east over Denton Res on January 1st. 500 were at Pyewipes on February 8th. On June 4th there were 150 at Gibraltar Pt. Elsewhere the max numbers were 410 at Cleethorpes September 30th, 600 at Pyewipes November 12th. There were 2 sightings of one of the yellow-legged races, probably the *L.a.michahellis*, at Blackbank on August 28th and 29th and at Winteringham a moribund bird on September 4th.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

One at Moulton Marsh tip on February 11th (PNW,AB) and again at Witham Mouth on the 12th (SK), a first winter bird and a 2nd winter bird at the Witham Mouth April 11th (SK,CC).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Only 10 reports this year, the first being at Winterton tip on January 20th then Moulton Marsh tip February 18th, an immature at Pyewipes 26th, and an adult at New Holland 27th. There were 3 April reports, 2 at Winterton tip 11th, a 2nd winter at Witham Mouth 9th and a 1st summer at Gibraltar Pt. 19th and 20th. On November 18th, an adult flew south east at Killingholme, and 2 adults flew west at Barton 23rd. There was a 2nd winter bird at Pyewipe on December 16th and a 1st or 2nd winter bird at Barton-on-Humber on the 17th.

Greater Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

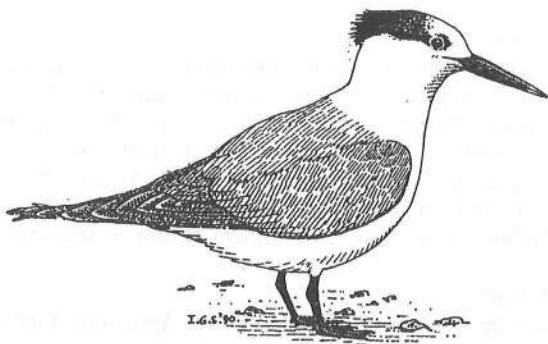
Present every month with the maximum numbers being at Cleethorpes, with 460 on September 28th, 343 on October 19th and 500 on Nov. 11th. The highest totals at Gibraltar Pt. were 200 on August 31st, and 400 on October 15th. Pyewipe also had 400 on December 16th.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

At Gibraltar Pt. 265 flew south on February 16th and 24 adults were at Huttoft same day. There were several records in May, mainly from Gibraltar Pt. with 32 north on 2nd, also 12 at Barton-on-Humber 30th. Larger numbers appeared in August with 200 seen at Gibraltar Pt. and Donna Nook on the 1st, and 35 in Grimsby Docks 13th. Few large movements in September but a maximum of 110 north at Huttoft 10th. Large numbers were seen at Witham Mouth in October with 662 on 8th, and 345 on 14th, then up to 600 were again there in the first half of November. Also 140 flew north at Gibraltar Pt. on October 8th and 225 south off Huttoft on November 12th.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

One on the R. Trent at Torksey on June 6th flew into Lincs (D Fogg) Accepted BBRC.



Sandwich Tern

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

First record was at Gibraltar Pt. on April 1st, when 2 flew north and 1 flew south. Other April records were 1 at Witham Mouth 11th, and 1 at Swanpool 29th. May maximum was 30 at Donna Nook. In June a maximum of 16 were seen at Gibraltar Pt. on 20th. July and August saw larger numbers, 70 flew north at Mablethorpe July 13th, 80 at Tetney 27th, and even larger numbers at Gibraltar Pt. with up to 700 between 16th and 20th and 500 at Donna Nook on 29th. The maximum number in August was 265 at Gibraltar Pt. on 2nd with 150 at Tetney on 1st and 5th, and 125 south at Chapel Point on 11th, 55 at Cleethorpes 13th, and 45 Holbeach St Matthews 26th. In September, 50 at Witham Mouth on 1st and 10th, with 88 north at Gibraltar Pt. on 11th. There were still up to 30 at Witham Mouth on October 8th, 1 at Gibraltar Pt. on 21st, and the last record at Tetney on November 11th.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

First in spring was at Witham Mouth on April 15th. In May, 22 were at Covenham Res on 23rd, and 7 at Messingham SQ on 17th. At Kirkby-on-Bain where they bred successfully 7 were first noted on the 21st and on Frampton Marsh there were 20 from 22nd. 1 pair bred at Tetney and approx 20 pairs at West Deeping. Peak passage in autumn was between August 15-31st with 30 at New Holland on 15th and 36 there 16th, 21 at Barton-on-Humber 16th, 100 at Holbeach St Matthew 16-18th, 82 at Holbeach St Marks on 26th and 35 at Gibraltar Pt. 27th where 75 flew south on September 1st with 38 at Witham Mouth on 10th, and 28 north at Chapel Point same day. There were no reports for October but 1 was seen at Witham Mouth on November 4th (SK).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

First record was at Witham Mouth on April 11th, also there 12 on 22nd, and 2 at Whisby Pits on 30th. In May 1 at Gibraltar Pt. on the 10th and 1 at Messingham SQ on 13th. The autumn return started in late June with 1 flying south at Gibraltar Pt. on 24th and 2 at Donna Nook 26th, increasing to 6 on several days. Only two records for July but 8 for August with a maximum of 21 at Gibraltar Pt. and 12 at Frampton Marsh on 15th, with other records from Winteringham 12th, Chapel Point 8th, Holbeach Marsh 1st, 16th and 18th and New Holland where there were 2 on 16th and Barton on 29th. Only one record for September with 1 on the 8th, and in October 1 south on 4th and 4 juvs. on 11th, all at Gibraltar Pt.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Late arriving this year with the first record at Gibraltar Pt. of 2 on April 27th. Unusual inland records were 1 at Messingham on May 5th and in June 1 at Barton on the 6th and 2 on the 20th. At least 90 pairs bred at Tetney, rearing 65 young and 19 pairs at Donna Nook. Highest numbers reported elsewhere around the coast were 55 at Gibraltar Pt. on July 5th and up to 42 at Cleethorpes during August, 25 at Holbeach St. Matthews on August 16-18th, 40 at Witham Mouth on the 6th and 20 on several days at Frampton Marsh. The last record was of 2 at Witham Mouth on September 17th.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

The first record was of 1 flying south at Gibraltar Pt. on April 30th. First inland record was of 2 at Kirkby-on-Bain Pits on May 5th and the largest number was of 8 on Covenham Res on the 8th. Other May records came from Messingham 1-2 on 7-8th and 20-23rd and Deeping Lake 1-2 on the 20-21st. Two were seen at Whisby Pits on June 19-22nd and 3 at the Nene Mouth July 21st. A maximum of only 2 at any one site in August with 10 birds in total. Late records came from Chapel Point on September 10th, Witham Mouth October 28th and Baston GP on November 10th (PNW).

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

The only records early in the year were singles at Gibraltar Pt. on January 9th and Saltfleetby on 29th. On the coast there were several records of 1-3 birds August-October. In November, 57 flew west at North Killingholme in one hour and fifteen minutes on 8th and 1 went north at Chapel Point the next day. At Huttoft there were 6 north and 2 south on 23rd with 1 at Gibraltar Pt. on 25th where the last was seen December 11th.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

The first records were at Gibraltar Pt. in May with 2 north on 20th and 4 north next day. In June 2 flew south at Donna Nook on 20th and 2 flew north there on August 27th. In October there were 4 north at Theddlethorpe on 1st., and 1 at Mablethorpe on 8th. The last records were in November with 1 in the Humber at Killingholme on 8th and 6 east at Goxhill Haven the next day and 1 at Gibraltar Pt. on 20th.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

There were 2 early year records, both involving dead birds on the tide line at Friskney on January 22nd and February 19th. In late October 1 flew south at Gibraltar Pt. on 27th with 4 south there and one at the Witham Mouth on 28th. There were 2 at Frampton Marsh on November 2nd and 1 west at Goxhill Haven, and 1 north at Huttoft on 9th. The last records were in late November with 14 north at Huttoft on 23rd and 1 north at Mablethorpe on 26th.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

There were only 3 records of single birds : south at Gibraltar Pt. on May 20th, south at Saltfleetby on September 9th and north at Chapel Point on October 8th.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

The only significant counts received were of 50 at Boston Stump November 16th and 1000 at New Holland on December 31st.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

In January there were up to 26 at Goxhill, 20 at Covenham Res and a maximum of 34 at Gibraltar Pt. on 15th. In March there were 50 at Killingholme on 22nd. Apart from 12 at Santon Warren in June there were no other concentrations until September with up to 27 at Swallow. In October, 76 at Goxhill and in November a peak at Gibraltar Pt. of 37 on 5th.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

In the early part of the year large counts included 850 at Scopwick January 14th, 500 at Barton-on-Humber February 6th, 500 at Gibraltar Pt. 14th and 500 at Wrangle on 19th. Then in March 475 flew north at Theddlethorpe on 4th with 830 at Blankney Fen on 17th and 500 at Gibraltar Pt. on 30th. In the autumn peak counts in October were 350 at Goxhill on 27th and 2000 at Gibraltar Pt. on 29th while 1915 flew west there on 30th and 2420 south on 31st. In November Gibraltar Pt. held 4140 on 1st with 2805 south on 5th. Finally in December there were 800 at Willoughby on 27th.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

In January there were up to 300 at New Holland and in February 30 at Anderby Creek on 26th. At the end of the year significant concentrations included 53 at Cleethorpes CP on October 18th and 22 south at Gibraltar Pt. on 31st. In November there were 40 at Swineshead on 11th 70 at Wyberton 17th and 120-150 at Covenham-St-Mary throughout November and December. Also in December there were 500 at New Holland on 31st.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

The earliest birds were in April with records from Billingham on 21st, Baumber on 24th and Messingham and Goxhill on 30th. In May there were 3 at Barton-on-Humber on 3rd and 15 at Theddlethorpe on 13th, while birds were present at Gibraltar Pt. from 4th, with a regular southerly passage from 13th to 21st reaching a peak on 17th with 63 south. In the autumn late birds were at Goxhill on October 4th and at Dunsby Wood on 5th.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

There was one record of this recently elevated species at Gibraltar Pt. September 4th.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

The first arrivals were noted at Humberston and Tetney April 15th, then at Gibraltar Pt. 18th and Ashbyville and Scotterthorpe 30th. In May Gibraltar Pt. held a maximum of 6 on 10th and at Donna Nook there was a maximum of 8 until early June. There was a single record for September at Grainthorpe on 16th.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Records of 1 or 2 birds throughout the year were widespread but suggestive of the distribution noted in the paper on this species in the 1987 report (Sheppard) with greatest concentrations along the north-eastern coastal strip. At Gibraltar Pt. and Deeping High Bank 1-2 were present all year and pairs known to have bred were noted at Kingerby, Goxhill, Haconby Fen, RAF North Cotes, Grainthorpe, Tetney, Hemmingby and Martin with 2 pairs at Dunsby Fen and Deeping Fen whilst in the Fulstow area (TF39) there were 9 pairs.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Pairs were noted all year at Alma Park Wood Grantham, Saxby, Denton Res, Holbeach St. Marks and Saltfleetby. Birds probably bred at Deeping High Bank and Wragg Marsh, Spalding and breeding was proved at Kingery, Braceby, Stainby and Ravendale Quarry whilst there were 2 pairs at Dunsby Fen and 3 pairs at Haconby Fen.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

There were no significant records of this common and widespread species.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

In the early part of the year concentrations included 6 at East Halton/Goxhill, 2 at Killingholme, 3 at Humberston, whilst a maximum of 4 was noted in the Nunn's Bridge-Hobhole area. 1 was at Thurlby Fen through January and February and 1 was at Laceby March 17th.

At Gibraltar Pt. there were 1-3 birds all year with 3 pairs in July. Other breeding season records came from Keb Wood May 27th, Bourne Wood June 5th, Messingham 8th, and Donna Nook throughout the month. In July, 1 was at Donna Nook on 18th and 2 at Messingham August 27th.

There was a flurry of autumn coastal records with 1 at Anderby Creek September 19th and an adult male retrapped at Theddlethorpe on 16th had originally been ringed on April 25th 1987. Another bird was trapped there on October 29th. Also in October, at Gibraltar Pt. a wet and tired individual possibly a new arrival, was noted on 8th and another was at Saltfleetby 29th and 1 Thurlby Fen 31st.

Winter concentrations began to build up in November with up to 4 at East Halton, 2 Hobhole, 1 found dead at Cleethorpes CP 14th and 7 at Branston building up to 14 by the end of December. Also in December there were 3 at the Brant/Witham confluence, 1 at Denton Res 23rd and 4 at the Hobhole.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

From January to May, records mainly involving 1-3 birds, were received from about 40, predominately coastal sites.

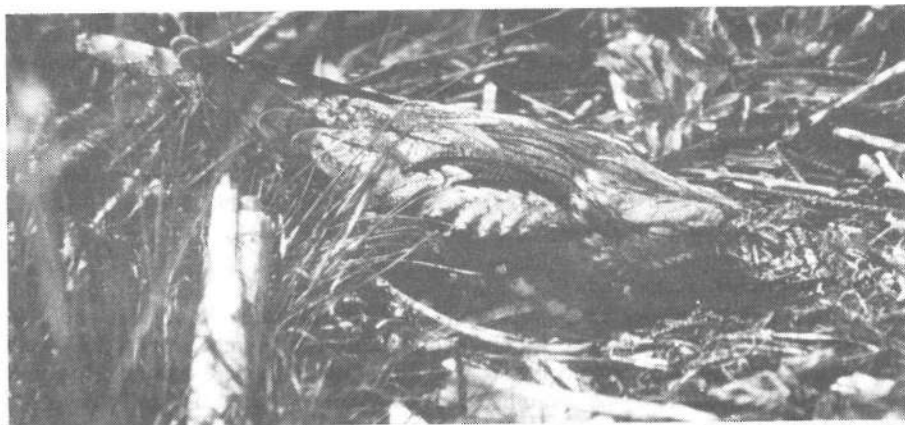
Of particular note, however, were 8 roosting at Wrangle on January 22nd and 5 at Deeping High Bank on March 6th. In June singles were at Saltfleetby 1st and Messingham 8th and breeding activity was noted at Holbeach Marsh. In July, there were birds at Haconby Fen on 9th, North Cotes on 20th and at Donna Nook from 22nd-31st, and in August there was 1 at East Halton 2nd and Killingholme 17th.

Numbers began to build up from September with numbers and distribution being similar to the start of the year, peaks being 5 at Covenham/Fulstow November 26th and 4 at Pyewipe in December.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

The first arrival was a male at Laughton Forest on May 16th while at Crowle Waste there were up to 4 on 17th increasing to at least 6 by 21st. In June, there were 3 males and a female at Laughton on 12th and 4 were recorded there on 23rd, although no full survey was done.

Two males were at Keb Wood during June. In August at Laughton, a male and 2 recently fledged juveniles were seen on 15th in a different area to the June birds and another young bird was found dead on 22nd.



Nightjar (G.P. Catley)

Swift *Apus apus*

The first birds of the spring were seen at Messingham on April 26th, Louth on 28th, Covenham Res on 29th, 2 at Gibraltar Pt. and 4 at Barrow Haven on 30th. The main influx began in the second week of May with 400 at Covenham Res on 11th, 400 at Barton/Barrow Haven on 12th, 600 there on 25th and at Gibraltar Pt. a monthly maximum of 150 south on 31st. In June a detailed study in the Helpringham area produced about 200 breeding pairs whilst at Frampton Marsh a southerly passage of about 500 birds took place from 18th-20th. As usual, however, the largest movements were at Gibraltar Pt. where 4500 flew south on 25th, 2500 on 26th and a massive 20000 on 27th. Other substantial concentrations were noted in July with 400 at Goxhill on 14th, 500 East Halton on 16th, 500 south at Donna Nook late in the month and at Gibraltar Pt. 1000 south on 27th and 800 on 28th. The only notable count in August also came from Gibraltar Pt. with 70 south on 10th. Finally, there was a single bird at Donna Nook September 20th and 3 at Gibraltar Pt. on 23rd.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Records of 1-2 birds were widespread early in the year including coastal ones at Tetney, Skidbrooke and Saltfleet. In the breeding season a pair at Barrow Haven raised two broods, the first having seven young and a pair at Barton-on-Humber raised at least one brood. Pairs also bred at Appleby Carrs, Ashbyville, Messingham, between Bonby and Worlaby, Kirkby-on-Bain pits, Deeping St. James and a pair were at a nest hole at Baston Fen but no young were seen. Birds were also recorded during the breeding season at Haverholme, Thurlby Fen and Whisby GP. Post breeding season records of 1-2 birds came from over twenty sites including several on the coast with one at Cleethorpes from September to December and another at Humberston from November 5th to the end of the year.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus*

One seen and photographed at Leverton Marsh on July 12th (Mr. & Mrs Humberstone), was the first county record of this exotic species. Accepted by BBRC. (See account on page 67 of this report).

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

All records in April, at Wrangle on 23rd one was found dead (BWD), Wellingore Heath 27th (SP) and another was at Anderby on 29th (ST).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

There were no spring records. In September singles were at Theddlethorpe 10th-12th (Birklands RG), Gibraltar Pt. 10th (IRH) and 13th (PP), Saltfleetby 13th-16th (KD,RN) and at Bourne on 17th (Mrs Baker).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

There was a good scatter of records from the regular sites throughout the year concerning this increasing species. A pair bred at Barton-on-Humber, where they were present all year, with a juvenile being seen on July 25th. Two were present all year at Immingham Dock/Killingholme and other unusual records included one at Tetney April 15th and one at South Ferriby from November 12th to December 3rd.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus major*

This widespread breeding species was reported from a good number of sites with breeding records from Deeping St. James,(two pairs), Bradley Woods, Roxton and Black Walk Nook. More unusual were singles at Gibraltar Pt. from January to April 1st, Spalding February 2nd and Thurlby Fen on 4th. At Gibraltar Pt. 1-2 were regular from mid August to mid November and 1 was at Immingham Dock November 16th-19th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Denrocopus minor*

In January records were received from Holton-le-Moor Park, Twigmoor, Roxton Wood, Kirkby Moor, Burton Pits where they were also recorded in March, April and December, and Boultham Park until May and again from August to December. In March there were singles at Bradley Woods and Haverholme Park where birds were also noted in July and October. One was at Hoplands Wood April 8th, Crowle Waste May 21st, Louth July 1st, Scopwick August 5th, Bourne Wood on September 21st and Witham-on-the-Hill on 28th. In November one was at Denton Res on 25th and a male was at North Hykeham on December 25th. Breeding records came from Linwood Warren, Newsham Wood and Deeping St. James where there were two pairs.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

At the main county breeding site there were 3 birds from 23rd February and in the breeding season four pairs and two additional males. Only 4 juveniles fledged. At a second site a pair present from March 17th bred but their first two broods failed. Other records came from Ashbyville March 21st (RNH) and in October two south at South Witham on 24th (ES) and 1 at Gibraltar Pt. on 30th (JPS).

Skyllark *Alauda arvensis*

Large concentrations early in the year included 120 at Holbeach St.Marks January 10th and 100 at Gibraltar Pt. on 5th and 27th with 120 there on February 9th. In October there were over 200 at Saltfleetby from 29th into November and migrating birds were noted at Mablethorpe on 27th when 100 flew in from sea. At Witham Mouth 200 flew in on 29th and at Theddlethorpe where 250 flew south a.m. same day. At Gibraltar Pt. movement was noted from 23rd with 500 south, 400 mainly south 29th, 430 on 30th and 115 on November 1st and 200 at Holbeach St.Marks on 17th.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

The fortunes of this species continues to decline and for the first time since 1946 no records whatsoever were received.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

The earliest arrivals were 2 on March 15th at Sleaford Ballast Pit then one at Denton Res on 17th. There were 62 at Barton-on-Humber on 28th, 50 more on 29th and over 70 on 31st and 150 at Messingham on 30th. In April there were 80 at Ashbyville on 5th and 100 at Barton-on-Humber on 10th. A spring peak of 220 was noted at Messingham on May 11th. Breeding birds were noted as follows: Barton-on-Humber cliffs 15 pairs, South Ferriby over 10 pairs, Santon Warren 20 pairs, Baston GP 97 pairs, Hagworthingham 150 pairs, Kirkby-on-Bain 100 pairs, Spalding 400 pairs, Messingham 15 pairs with 30 nearby and breeding was also recorded at Castle Bytham and Ancaster GP but no counts available. Significant autumn movements were noted in August with 300 at New Holland on 14th and 4-5000 west at Barton-on-Humber on 18th. In September, there was a roost of up to 3000 birds in the first half of the month at Barton-on-Humber. The last birds of the year were 2 at Gibraltar Pt. on October 2nd.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

The first bird of the year was at North Somercotes Lido on March 25th and was promptly followed by singles at Tetney and Barton-on-Humber on 26th, Humberston and Saltfleetby on 27th, Yaddletorpe 28th and 2 at Messingham on the same day and another at Gibraltar Pt. on 29th. Small numbers continued to filter through in April but migration began in earnest with 75 at Gibraltar Pt. on 30th and reached a peak in early May with 100 south there on 6th, 300 south on 8th and 150 north at Donna Nook on 9th. Southerly passage was recorded at the end of July with a maximum of 600 at Gibraltar Pt. on 28th, a movement which continued there through August with peaks of 1500 on 3rd and 500 on 30th. Also in August there were 1000 at Goxhill on 2nd and at Theddlethorpe there were 250 south on 8th, 300 north on 19th and 500 south on 20th and at New Holland a leucistic juvenile was noted on 7th. In September there was a roost of 1500 birds at Lincoln Ballast Pit on 4th and the roosts at Barton-on-Humber exceeded 5000. There was steady movement throughout the month at Gibraltar Pt. with maxima of 1000 south on 5th, 15th and 23rd, whilst the October peak there was 65 south on 23rd. In November there was one at North Cotes on 5th and a trickle through Gibraltar Pt. as follows : 1 south on 1st, 2 on 4th, 4 on 5th, 2 on 11th, a single on 18th and the final bird of the year on 23rd.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

The first spring record was at Messingham on April 9th, followed by singles at Spalding on 11th, Covenham Res on 15th, 4 at Barrow Haven on 16th and 2 at Gibraltar Pt. on 22nd. In May there were over 60 at Barrow Haven on 25th and a monthly peak of 75 at Gibraltar Pt. on 31st. Significant numbers continued there into June with 96 south on 10th. Returning birds were noted in significant numbers from mid August when 200 flew south at Theddlethorpe and 150 south at Gibraltar Pt. on 24th. In September there were 250 at Messingham on 7th and 100 south on 21st whilst at Gibraltar Pt. maximum counts were: 300 south on 14th, 100 south on 15th, 1000 south on 16th and 300 south on 21st. In October there were 100 at Ancaster on 2nd, 30 at Gibraltar Pt. on 7th and one at Saltfleet on 29th. There were three records in November with 3 at Louth on 1st, one at Horncastle on 4th and the last bird at Gibraltar Pt. on 5th.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

In a poor autumn for eastern vagrants the only bird found was at Gibraltar Pt. on November 1st (JPS).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

First male of the spring was at Laughton Forest on April 9th and there were at least 24 males there by May 6th and the last of the autumn there on August 17th. A very poorly documented breeding species the only other territorial birds noted were 4 males at Twigmoor May 20th and 2 Kirkby Moor May 24th. Other spring records were at Bourne April 17th, Tetney 15th, Ashbyville 24th and Gibraltar Pt. 25th and May 1st, 7th, 22nd and 24th with singles at Cleethorpes May 4th, Theddlethorpe and 2 Donna Nook 7th. Autumn coastal passage was very light with just 1-2 at Gibraltar Pt. August 17-31st and September 9-17th, with 4 south 12th and one Saltfleetby September 10th.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Early year concentrations included 53 on the River Glen at Guthram January 22nd and 48 south-east at Thurlby Fen February 12th with 44 the spring maximum at Gibraltar Pt. on April 1st. 36 pairs bred on the foreshore between South Ferriby and Whitton on the Humber and 50+ pairs at Frampton Marsh and 45-50 pairs at Donna Nook. Autumn coastal passage peaked in September with 300 south at Theddlethorpe 13th and 400 south 16th while at Gibraltar Pt. 400 south 13th, 120 on 16th, 100 on 17th, 200 south 22nd and 23rd and in October 200 on 25th and 105 on 31st were the peaks.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

The most pronounced arrival since being given specific status; from October when the first individual was found at Covenham Res 17th (KA) with another at Gibraltar Pt. 25th (JPS) then one found at South Ferriby sluice on the 30th which remained into 1990 (WG,RNH et al). Finally another at Barton from December 24th into 1990 (GPC et al).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Maximum count at Gibraltar Pt. in the early winter was 24 on January 5th with the last there on April 8th. Two were at Covenham Reservoir from January to March and 2 Scandinavian Rock Pipits, *A.p.littoralis*, were recorded at Tetney March 31st-April 2nd and Covenham Reservoir April 3rd. First of the autumn was at Grimsby Docks September 15th and there was a really large late autumn arrival from mid-October to mid-November with higher than usual numbers remaining to winter.

The following counts give an idea of the numbers involved on the Humber and coast but with only one Wash count where numbers may well have been phenomenal. On the Humber there were 8 between East Halton and Goxhill October 8th and 9 between Barton and New Holland in December. Inland at Covenham Res 5 October 5th-11th with 1-3 to December. On the coast 10 at Pye's Hall October 23rd and at Saltfleet 90+ and Saltfleetby 50+ October 29th with 42 at Gibraltar Pt. 25th and 72 there 29th then up to 30 in November and 44 December 31st.

At Tetney there were 19 on November 5th and 56 December 14th and in the Wash 30+ at the Witham Mouth October 15th with 72 at Frampton Marsh November 4th.

Yellow Wagtail *Montacilla flava*

A quite early arrival at Covenham Res where 2 were present March 30th increasing to 32 by April 12th, 100 on 26th and the spring peak of 118 on May 9th. Elsewhere spring maxima were relatively low but 54 flew south at Gibraltar Pt. on May 1st. Evidently an excellent breeding season with some really notable gatherings during the early autumn. At Goxhill 16 on July 19th increased to 48 August 2nd, 30 were at Cadney Res July 20th and 100 at Tetney 30th while at Covenham Res 50 on the 27th increased to a peak of 200 on August 10th with other high August counts of 40 Witham Mouth 6th, 40 Holbeach Marsh 18th and at Gibraltar Pt. 30 south 20th and 32 south 30th. Good numbers remained in September with 20 at Messingham 8th and 30 on the Grantham Canal at Stanwith on 17th and late birds at New Holland 2 on 21st, Gibraltar Pt. to 24th and East Halton Skitter October 5th.

M.f.flava: *Blue-headed Wagtails*, all males, were concentrated at Covenham Res with 1 April 15th and 24th, with up to 4 on 26th to May 10th and 1 carrying food there June 12th. Others were at Cadney Res April 27th, Messingham May 2nd, East Halton May 12th and 19th, South Killingholme 18th, Bardney 13th and Messingham 3rd.

M.f.thunbergi: A male *Grey-headed Wagtail* was present at Kirkby-on-Bain pits on May 21st associated with an arrival of Temminck's Stints.

Grey Wagtail *Montacilla cinerea*

Pairs were present all year at Haverholme Park and Lincoln where a pair bred rearing 4 young and other pairs were proved breeding at Market Deeping and Louth, the most for some years. Odd birds in January-March were at Nettleham, Covenham Res, Freshney Bog, Gibraltar Pt., Withern and Spalding with one at Ulceby April 21st, Goxhill May 12th and Gibraltar Pt. 9th. Records at Biscathorpe June 11th, Kirkby Pits July 16th and Gibraltar Pt. 30th preceded an exceptional autumn passage from August-November with a minimum of 13 birds staying to winter at the following sites: Lincoln, Denton Res, Sincil Drain (Lincoln), Hartsholme Park, Louth, South Ferriby, New Holland and Deeping Lake. Passage was concentrated in September-October with a minimum of 49 birds noted and a total of 12 during September 12-14th, no doubt associated with the east coast fall, and a further 10 in November.

Pied Wagtail *Montacilla alba*

Notable gatherings of *M.a.yarrelli* were 30 at Cleatham February 8th, 35 Cadney Res July 20th with 60 there September 1st and roost counts of 50 Deeping St. James September and 35 Willoughby December 25th.

M.a.alba *White Wagtails* occurred from late March with 1 at Covenham Res 30th and a maximum of 13 there April 29th with up to 5 to May 3rd, at Grimsby Docks March 28th then 2 April 28th-30th and one June 2nd and elsewhere in April Scunthorpe 8th, Cadney Res 14th, Messingham 13th and 26th, South Ferriby 16th, Witham Mouth 21st with 4 on 22nd, Whisby Pits 3 on 28th and May birds at Theddlethorpe 3 on 1st, Cadney Res 12th, Hemswell 13th, Thornton Abbey 2 on 15th, Goxhill 19th and 2 Gibraltar Pt. 27th.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

After such a marked late autumn arrival in 1988 it was surprising that the only record in the early year was of 3 at Grimby Docks from April 1-2nd. In the late winter 1-3 were reported on odd dates at Barton Pits in December and there were 2 at Skegness on the 30th with 3 there 31st.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

One seen at Baston Fen on December 16th (EJR) was only observed in flight and thus subspecific identification was not possible.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

With such a widespread and at present very numerous species it is difficult to quote anything of significance. The only records received were of 25 at Twigmoor May 9th, 216 ringed at Theddlethorpe during the year, 26 pairs breeding at Donna Nook and maxima at Gibraltar Pt. of 38 January, 84 October and 40 in November.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

At Donna Nook 30+ pairs bred and autumn coastal peaks no doubt reflected a good passage with 54 at Saltfleetby September 16th, 103 ringed at Theddlethorpe 2-16th and 180 at Gibraltar Pt. on October 26th.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

At Gibraltar Pt. a count of 32 on January 6th was notable but little coastal passage was evident in the spring and the only autumn falls occurred late with 27 at Theddlethorpe and 25 at Mablethorpe both October 27th and 56 Gibraltar Pt. 26th obviously all part of a notable arrival during a brief south-easterly; 30 were again at Gibraltar Pt. on November 17th.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

The first spring males were heard at Twigmoor and Bourne Wood on April 26th, Whisby Pits 27th and Lincoln Ballast Pit and Wilsford Heath Quarry 30th, the latter staying to May 4th. Distribution of the species within the county seems to vary from year to year with at present none north of Lincoln apart from a recent population of up to 6 males at Crowle Waste. Distribution may well be affected by habitat management. the maximum numbers recorded were 11 males at Kirkby Moor on May 6th with 5 males there 14th but only 4-5 pairs at Temple Wood this year. Coastal records came from Gibraltar Pt. May 1st and 30th, Saltfleetby May 7-16th and an adult trapped at Theddlethorpe August 12th.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

There was a typically dated spring record at Donna Nook on May 23rd and an autumn record of a first-winter male trapped at Theddlethorpe on September 7th.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

The only March migrants were at Cleethorpes CP on 16th and 2 Humberston 21st with only a few in April as follows: Covenham Res 3-9th, Humberston 9th, Saltfleetby 15th, Theddlethorpe 30th, then in May males at Gibraltar Pt. 9th-10th, Cleethorpes CP 16th and Barton Pits 17th.

Breeding records included 3 pairs on Grimsby Docks, where there were odd birds to October 28th, and at least 3 broods of 4,4 & 3 were reared; other singing males occurred in June at Scunthorpe Steelworks, Barrow Haven a first-summer male 18th and 1 Louth July 1st. A very poor autumn passage with just one in September at East Halton 14th then in October a male at Theddlethorpe 5th and one Pyes Hall 27th, with a male and female at Gibraltar Pt. 27th-29th and the female to the 30th, and finally one at Chapel Point on November 9th.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

A very early bird was at Pye's Hall on April 2nd with the only other birds in that month 2 at Gibraltar Pt 17th and one 20th, Rippingale and Grimsby Docks 26th and Cleethorpes 26th-27th. A few occurred on the coast in May and territorial males were present at Twigmoor with 2 April 30th and up to 4 from May 9th-26th and at least one pair breeding, and a male at Sweeting Thorns 20th. A male was at Scotton Common on August 15th. A notable series of arrivals in mid September on the coast gave the following daily maxima:

	September	10	11	12	13
North Cotes			3		1
Pyes Hall				8	20
Donna Nook				8	5
Saltfleet					6
Saltfleetby		4		16	20
Theddlethorpe			6	7	
Gibraltar Point		25		23	
Frampton Marsh		28			

Around this time there were also singles at Messingham 2nd, Cleethorpes 19th, Denton Res 23rd, then October birds at Pye's Hall and Saltfleetby 5th, Donna Nook 8th, Gibraltar Pt. 8th, 2 15th and also inland at Pinchbeck 15th.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

No April birds were found and there were just a few records of 1-2 in May, mostly in the north of the county from the 2nd, while in the south there was a maximum of 6 at Deeping High Bank 10th. A male in song at Butterwick Hale June 12th was the only suggestion of breeding. A notable arrival mid September at inland as well as coastal sites:

	September	10	11	12	13	14	15	20	21
East Butterwick	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Cleethorpes CP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	13
Grainthorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-
Saltfleetby	-	-	-	9	9	9	-	-	-
Nocton Fen	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	28	-	-	12	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

A late bird was at East Halton Skitter on October 18th.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Wintering birds in January were present at Grimsby Docks 3rd and Chapel Point, a female 14th and Anderby Creek 8th with a pair at East Halton from 20th - February 21st. Passage birds in February included males at Goxhill and Skegness 26th, and New Holland 26th-28th, with other birds at Bourne South Fen 8th, Surfleet 13th then in March another male Goxhill 7th, and singles at Immingham 22nd-23rd and Gibraltar Pt April 5th and 22nd. Autumn migrants at Gibraltar Pt. included a male on September 15th, one 23rd then 1-2 regular in October with 5 present on the 26th. Other October birds were males at Barton Pits 10th, Covenham Res 14th, Anderby Creek 15th and Saltfleetby 2nd and female 6th. Males were again at Gibraltar Pt. November 1st and 30th and wintering individuals turned up at Messingham, male November 23rd-December 2nd, female at Cleethorpes December 9th-1990, male Grimsby Docks December 25th-1990 and one Immingham 29th, and a male Sth. Ferriby 31st-1990.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

First spring migrants were at Grimsby Docks on March 11th and Humberston 12th, East Halton and Ashbyville 16th and then birds noted at a further ten sites to the month end. Spring maxima were low with 14 at Cleethorpes CP April 26th but a larger than normal passage in May, with up to 16 at Donna Nook, and many birds suggesting characteristics of the Greenland race *O.o.leucorhoa*. A male was at Gibraltar Pt. on June 2nd and the first of the autumn juveniles at Donna Nook on July 17th, but autumn passage was again poor, 17 at Gibraltar Pt. on September 11th being the only count of note. Last of the year was also there on October 29th.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

A very marked spring arrival precipitated by some very unseasonal cold northerly weather in late April; large numbers occurred in the Wash with 7 at Butterwick, 10 Freiston and 6 Witham Mouth all on 21st and 2 Leverton 23rd and 1 at Surfleet 19th. On the coast there were 8 at Saltfleetby 22nd-23rd and at Gibraltar Pt. singles 10th & 13th and 9 there 17th with one 18th-22nd and others at Cleethorpes CP 18th, Humberston Fitties and Donna Nook 29th, Witham Mouth 26th and at Covenham Res 3 on 17th and one 27th-30th. In contrast early May produced few birds with just singles at Cleethorpes CP 4th, Donna Nook 5th & 13th, Gibraltar Pt 3rd, 5th & 7th, Frampton Marsh 5th, North Killingholme 9th and Theddlethorpe 10th-13th. First of the autumn was at Gibraltar Pt September 10th-13th with 2 on 12th during the easterly falls. An early October bird was at Saltfleetby 5th-8th and there was then a concentrated arrival on the 27th when there were 2 at Pye's Hall, singles at Frampton Marsh and Mablethorpe and a flock of 5 coming in off the sea and landing in one bush at Theddlethorpe; singles were then noted at Saltfleetby 29th and Gibraltar Pt 31st with a final first-winter inland at Barton Pits on November 4th.



Ring Ouzel (K. Atkin)

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Apart from 62 at Gibraltar Pt. on January 6th and 60 at Theddlethorpe on the 20th the only high early year count was of 80 in Scunthorpe central park on March 23rd. October produced several falls both coastal and inland and mostly from the 18th onwards. After 39 at Theddlethorpe on 5th there were 36 there 18th and 20 on 27th, 30 at Barton Pits 19th and 150 Gibraltar Pt. 22nd preceding the fall of the 27th when 35 arrived at Mablethorpe, 20 at Theddlethorpe and 20 at Messingham 30th with 65 Gibraltar Pt. 31st and up to 60 there in November. Further arrivals at Barton Pits included a peak of 30 on November 9th and 60 on December 30th.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Good numbers lingered in the coastal Buckthorn crop early in the year with 800 at Theddlethorpe January 7th then 500 to 21st and 300 on 28th while at Gibraltar Pt. the January maximum was 650 on 22nd with 400 February 5th and elsewhere 200 Legsby February 1st, 60 Goxhill 7th, 100 Laughton 22nd and 80 Scotterthorpe March 28th. Pre-emigration flocks in April peaked at 100 at Laughton Forest 9th and an exceptional 45 were still at Gibraltar Pt. on May 1st with 3 there 31st and one June 1st-4th, then 2 on August 5th. At Donna Nook one on May 27th preceded a summering bird present from June 29th-July 27th. First of the actual autumn straggled in from September 12th with a marked arrival on October 27th when 120 flew west at Goxhill, 120 at Mablethorpe and 200 west at Pye's Hall. Although there were a few flocks of up to 100 in late November and 300 at Spalding NR 22nd, the main influx was again in December and mostly late in the month. Flocks in excess of 250 were at Baston Fen 400 on 2nd, 500 Deeping Lake 3rd, 350 south-west at South Witham 17th, up to 800 at Barton-Barrow Haven Pits 18th-31st, 300 Thealby & 1000 Frampton Fen 27th, 300 Huttoft and 300 New Holland both 31st.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Very few reports of this species compared to the other thrushes. Migrants often mix with other thrush flocks and are not so immediately obvious. 30 were noted at Theddlethorpe January 21st and in the late December influx, 50 were counted at Barton Pits and 100 at Gibraltar Pt. both on the 22nd.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Few early winter concentrations were noted with just 150 at Theddlethorpe January 7th decreasing to 50 on 21st. A flock of 80 at Barton February 6th and 140 at Gibraltar Pt. March 5th with the last 3 there on April 27th. Interestingly a male in breeding condition was trapped at Theddlethorpe on June 8th. The first autumn bird was also there on September 14th but the first real movements occurred in October with 100 Gibraltar Pt. 8th and on the 10th, 82 west at Barton Pits and 40 west at Goxhill then on 15th, 250 at Theddlethorpe, 215 at Spalding NR and 1000 south-west at Deeping St. James. A series of arrivals of up to 100 at Barton pits in November then 600 there December 18th-31st and also in December 3500 south-west at South Witham in 3 hours on the 17th, then 250 Bagmoor 27th and 250 Scunthorpe viaduct 30th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Post breeding flocks of note were 30 at Kirkby Moor on July 2nd, 22 at Gibraltar Pt. on August 17th and 21st, and 30 recorded at Denton Res. on October 11th.



Grasshopper Warbler (G.P. Catley)

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Following an early bird at Allerton April 16th and one Messingham 18th, there were a further 14 records before the month end. Breeding season records came from Gibraltar Pt., Ancaster, Dry Dodington, Great Scrubs Wood, Lincoln Ballast Pit, Messingham, Tetney Blow Wells, Melwood Grange, Low Burnham, Callans Lane Wood, Ingoldsby Wood and Bourne Wood with peaks of 4 males at Saltfleetby, 2-3 at Crowle waste and 10 at Snipe Dales. A more representative series of records for the county as a whole would be useful. September coastal records came from Donna Nook 13th and Gibraltar Pt. 23rd-29th.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Early arrivals were at North Cotes and Gibraltar Pt. both on April 9th with others at Messingham 13th, East Halton Pit 17th and Barton Pits 19th and a more general arrival by the month end when 15 were at Humberston Fitties 29th. At Messingham, 30 singing males were present in early May and 23 at Saltfleetby 14th while 20 pairs bred on the Humber bank between South Ferriby and Whitton. Last 3 of the year were at Gibraltar Pt. on September 23rd.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Joint first spring birds were at Barton pits and Burton pits on April 16th ahead of the next at Messingham 25th, Theddlethorpe 26th and Gibraltar Pt. 30th. Up to 30 males were in song at Messingham in late May and 35 pairs bred in borrow pits between South Ferriby and Whitton. Latest birds of the year were in October at Theddlethorpe 11th and North Killingholme 12th.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

A marked arrival with the brief spell of easterly winds in September; after one at Gibraltar Pt. 8th-9th, other singles were found at Donna Nook 10th-17th (SPB,JL,ACS,KDD), Saltfleet 13th (CJ), Cleethorpes 15th (RKN) and Theddlethorpe ringed 16th (MB,FEB).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

From being a regular autumn migrant in the 1960's and 70's, this species appears to have declined to almost vagrant status in the 80's. Despite suitable conditions on the coast at times during the autumn there were only three birds noted all autumn with 2 first-winters at Saltfleetby September 12-13th (KW, GPC) and one at Frampton marsh September 10th (CRC, SK et al).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

One at Barton Pits on April 13th and one at Gibraltar Pt. on 20th preceded a more widespread arrival from the 22nd and good numbers 28th-30th. 149 were ringed at Theddlethorpe during the year. Coastal autumn peaks were 12 ringed at Theddlethorpe August 23rd and 18 Gibraltar Pt. 28th then in September 5 Barton Pits and 17 Gibraltar Pt. 12th, 2 Witheringham and 20 Theddlethorpe 17th and 5 Gibraltar Pt. 24th. Two were trapped at Theddlethorpe on October 7th and other late birds were at Anderby Creek on October 11th and at Pye's Hall 28th.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Tetney hosted the first of the year on April 15th, followed by birds on the coast and at Messingham, Denton Reservoir, Goxhill, Barton Pits and Baumber 23-30th with 11 at Gibraltar Pt. 27th. The coastal strip obviously holds some high breeding concentrations; 38 territories in 9.5 hectares at Theddlethorpe, 47 pairs at Donna Nook, 83 males at Saltfleetby May 7th and 45 at Gibraltar Pt. 10th. Last birds in September were 14 at Gibraltar Pt. 19th with 10 on 22nd and 2 on 24th and singles inland at New Holland 21st and Messingham 23rd.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

The only April records came from Gibraltar Pt. on the 22nd and 29th with a more general arrival from May 2nd-7th at Great Boothby, Messingham, Lincoln Ballast Pit, Theddlethorpe, Laughton and Denton. No coastal concentrations were noted during the autumn. Is this species, like the Barred Warbler, declining as an autumn passage migrant? The last noted was at Theddlethorpe on October 1st.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Only three early winter birds were noted - all males, all at Theddlethorpe, on January 7th, 22nd & 29th with singles at Swallow February 8th and Gibraltar Pt. 23rd. Arrival of spring birds was noted from March 29th on which date singles were at Barrow Haven, Messingham and Gibraltar Pt. with one Cleethorpes 31st. The total of 55 ringed at Walesby during the year included 42 juveniles. Again no large numbers were noted on the coast in autumn and the only November-December records were from Theddlethorpe where concentrated ringing produced records of 12 birds from November 5th-December 9th.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

With winds predominantly westerly in late autumn the series of recent large autumn arrivals came to an abrupt halt with just 2 birds recorded; one ringed at Theddlethorpe on October 7th (MB, FEB) and one at Gibraltar Pt. from October 11th-13th (GPC et al).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Singing males arrived in May with two at Laughton Forest 6th, singles Gibraltar Pt. 8th, Tetney village 9th and Woodhall Spa 10th with 2 at Twigmoor 16th-21st but no suggestion of any breeding. Always scarce in autumn, passage birds were noted at Deeping St. James August 10th and Gibraltar Pt. September 9th-12th and 22nd-24th.



Chiffchaff - Siberian race *P.c. tristis* (G.P. Catley)

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Singles at Baston Fen January 2nd and Goxhill and East Halton Pit February 21st were the only ones noted before a marked arrival of spring birds in March with 2 at Goxhill 6th, Barrow Haven 10th and Humberston Fitties 11th preceding birds at a further 15 widespread localities to the month end. A later passage in mid April peaked with 4 at Barton Pits 15th and 7 Gibraltar Pt. 14th while at Twigmoor there were 12 on the 12th and 15 on September 15th with 4 at Barton Pits September 12th the only notable autumn numbers. One was at Theddlethorpe November 18th and singles Messingham December 1st and Grimsby 4th. A bird showing characteristics of the race *P.C.abietenus* was at Donna Nook on October 8th. Birds showing characteristics of the race *P.C.tristis* included a male in song in Goxhill Marsh from March 11th-23rd and one at Saltfleetby October 8th.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

With the very mild weather in late March there was a widespread scatter of records after the first at Whisby Pits on 27th with others during 28th-31st at Denton, Gibraltar Pt., Messingham, Goxhill, Barton Pits, Barrow Haven, Humberston and Bourne. April passage peaks included 16 at Barton Pits 14th, 40 males Goxhill-East Halton 21st and 25 at Saltfleetby 15th with up to 35 males on territory at Messingham and 32 at Saltfleetby May 14th while 60 were at Twigmoor 9th. The only coastal count of note in the autumn was 55 at Gibraltar Pt. on August 22nd with late birds 2 inland at Messingham September 18th and one Gibraltar Pt. October 12th.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

A single flock of 43 in Laughton Forest on February 1st and a spring passage peak of 19 at Gibraltar Pt. on March 19th. Autumn falls did not compare with 1988 but notable numbers occurred early with September peaks of 45 at Pye's Hall 13th, 21 Frampton Marsh 10th, 100 ringed at Theddlethorpe 2nd-16th and at Gibraltar Pt. 100 on 16th, 150 on 22nd and 100 on 23rd-24th with October peaks there of 54 on 1st and 100 on 11th when 30 were at Anderby Creek and later 40 at Pye's Hall 28th.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Another poor year continues the recent trend. Spring birds in March were found at Linwood Warren 19th, Humberston Fitties & Theddlethorpe 25th, Grimsby Docks 27th and North Cotes 31st, with further April arrivals at Theddlethorpe 1st and 22nd, Gibraltar Pt. 8th and Tetney 15th. All the autumn birds were at Gibraltar Pt. on September 12th-13th, 27th-30th and October 22nd.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

An early bird was in Bourne on April 26th with the next at Gibraltar Pt. on May 3rd then odd birds from the 14th with 3 at Gibraltar Pt. 24th and 4 Donna Nook 25th. August maxima were of 11 at Scotton Common 15th and 7 Saltfleetby 20th, but good numbers remained in September with an exceptional 10 at Gibraltar Pt. 23rd when one was at East Halton Pit and the last a day later at Denton.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

The east coast falls in September produced some early records with one ringed at Gibraltar Pt. 10th staying to the 11th; one at Donna Nook 12th (CJ) with 2 there 13th (KDD,KW) and possibly one of the same 17th (ACS). Another bird was at Gibraltar Pt. September 30th-October 3rd.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Spring migrants were scarce, with April birds at Bourne Wood 20th, a male and female at Humberston Fitties 29th then in May a female at Stallingborough 3rd, a male Grimsby Docks 5th, Theddlethorpe 7th and a female Donna Nook 9th. An unusual record concerned a male at Gibraltar Pt. on June 1st. The only August migrant was at Saltfleetby 20th then after odd birds in early September there was a marked fall from 10th-18th:

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
North Cotes	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Pye's Hall	-	-	-	8	-	5	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	3	-	15	-	-	-	6	-	-
Saltfleet	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-
Saltfleetby	-	4	-	12	10	4	-	2	-	-
Gibraltar Point	11	24	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	12

Others in this period were at Cleethorpes during 12th-22nd, Grimsby Docks 15th, New Holland 17th and Theddlethorpe where 24 were ringed 2nd-16th. October records were few with just singles Gibraltar Pt. 1st, Saltfleetby 3rd and Donna Nook 8th and 29th.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

In January there were 2 at Huttoft Pit on the 1st and 1 at Lincoln Ballast Pit on 22nd and a single at Gibraltar Pt. on March 26th. At least 6 pairs bred at the now regular site at the South Humber Bank Pits where there was also high autumn numbers with up to 50 in October and November and 30 in December. A pair probably also bred at Huttoft Pit as there was a pair and 3 juveniles there on August 2nd-5th, and at Wolla Bank Pit where there were 5 birds (including recently fledged young) on August 5th. In late autumn there were 2-3 at Chapel Pits on November 11th.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

The monthly maxima during the two winter periods were 24 at Messingham on January 23rd, 25 at Twigmoor on February 14th, 29 at Burton Pits on May 5th. In the latter period there were at least 50 at the Barton-Barrow Haven Pits on October 25th, 40 at Deeping St. James throughout October-December and 30 Willoughby Wood on December 27th.

At the coast there were 21 at Gibraltar Pt. on November 5th and 20 at Saltfleet on November 11th.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Most records received were from the centre and southwest of the county with breeding records from Ancaster Valley, Denton Res., Haverholme Park, Nocton Park and Potterhanworth Wood. At the coast there was a single at Gibraltar Pt. on June 23rd (MAG).

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

There were widespread records throughout the year with a maximum of 7 at Lincoln Ballast Pit on October 17th.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Widespread but very few records of high numbers received; 25 at Twigmoor on February 14th was the highest. In autumn, widely reported in pairs and singles away from the breeding areas.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

There were up to 50 at Gibraltar Pt. in late September and October, apart from 40 there in March and another flock of 40 at Twigmoor in February there were no other records.

Great Tit *Parus major*

The only records involving more than 12 birds were up to 20 at Gibraltar Pt. in November and 14 at Twigmoor on February 14th.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Records received were mainly from the centre and southwest of the county with breeding season records from Burton Woods, Grimsthorpe Park, Haverholme, Hoplands Wood, Neville Wood, Temple Wood and Wilsford Heath Quarry. One at West Grange Wood Isle of Axholme, on May 4th was well outside the normal range.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

There were many records of singles and pairs from suitable breeding locations throughout the year with a maximum of 6 at Twigmoor on February 14th. At the coast there were singles at Theddlethorpe on June 25th, July 12th and October 1st, also 1 at Gibraltar Pt. on August 31st and 1-2 from October to December 10th.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

The only record was of one at Wrangle on June 18th (RP).



Red-backed Shrike (K. Atkin)

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

The sole spring record was of one at Donna Nook on May 11th. In September there were single migrants at Theddlethorpe on the 12th, Saltfleetby on the 13th and Donna Nook 13th-17th, with 2 there on 23rd.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

The traditional wintering bird at Rauceby Warren from 1988 (and previously) remained to March 20th and (presumably the same) returned again on October 29th and stayed into 1990. There was a single at Saltfleetby from April 21st to 23rd and another at Ancaster from November 9th which remained there into 1990.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Records received indicate little change in the distribution in the county; away from the usual breeding areas a pair bred again at Goxhill. At Gibraltar Pt. there was, unusually, only one record, a single on September 8th. The maximum recorded was a flock of at least 20 at Moor Farm, Kirkby on March 5th.

Magpie *Pica pica*

There were concentrations of more than 20 birds together at the following sites during the year: at Goxhill there were three roosts totalling 99 birds, 40 at Saxby and 43 at Barton-on-Humber all in January, 36 at Lincoln Ballast Pit in February, 32 at North Killingholme, 50 at Donna Nook and 53 at Fulstow in November and 38 at New Holland in December. At Gibraltar Pt. between 25-35 were recorded throughout both winter periods.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Very few large flocks or gatherings recorded. There was a roost of about 1800 at Thornton Abbey in January and between 750-1000 at Willoughby Wood in December (compared with around 7500 in December 1988). All other roosts reported held below 80 birds.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

There was a roost of 6500 at Thornton Abbey in January and up to 1000 roosting at Willoughby Wood in December. The only other large flocks were 1350 at Whisby Road, Lincoln in August and up to 500 at Ancaster in December.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

At Goxhill Marsh numbers rose from 30 in March to 56 in September. No other large flocks of over 30 were recorded from inland areas. At Gibraltar Pt. 72 flew south between April 6th-15th.

Hooded Crow *C.c.cornix*. In the January to March period there were singles at Messingham, the East Halton-Killingholme area and one at Theddlethorpe on February 16th. In May there were singles at Grainthorpe 6th-11th, Tetney 14th and Cleethorpes 14th, whilst single birds flew south at Gibraltar Pt. on 1st and 5th. In December there were singles at Killingholme and New Holland both on 2nd.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

The only records of large numbers were 1250 at Cleethorpes on March 18th, 9000 at Lincoln Ballast Pit on October 17th and the maximum count at the Holbeach St. Matthew roost was 100,000 in November. At Gibraltar Pt., the maximum for the year was 1000 between October 28th and November 4th.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Apart from flocks of 150 and 120 moving south at Gibraltar Pt. on October 23rd and 24th respectively, there were no other significant records except a flock of 300 New Holland in December.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Winter concentrations in the early part of the year were generally low with 40 at Scotterthorpe on January 1st, 50 at Cleatham on January 2nd, 41 at Whisby Pits on February 11th, 53 at Goxhill on February 21st and 54 Cleethorpes CP on March 16th. There were very few breeding records received. In the latter part of the year there were 85 at Tetney on October 3rd, 68 at Cleethorpes CP and 80 South Ferriby both on November 23rd.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Winter flocks were generally few with 50 at Scotterthorpe on January 1st, 40 at Cleatham on January 8th, 33 at Burton Pits on January 15th and 58 at Scotton Common on February 1st. At Theddlethorpe there were southward movements of 100 on April 9th, 50 on October 15th and in November there were 50 south on 1st, 80 on 5th and 40 on each of the 12th and 19th; at Gibraltar Pt. movements involved 57 south on March 12th, 91 on October 26th, 71 on 30th, 114 on 31st and 50 on November 1st.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

In the early part of the year there were 20 at Scotterthorpe on January 1st and 40 Cleatham on 8th. Elsewhere in January and February there were single figure flocks at Messingham, Denton, Scotton Common, Covenham Res, Gibraltar Pt., Neville Wood, Temple Wood, Laughton Forest, Theddlethorpe and East Halton. At Bourne, 70 flew north on April 10th. There were late birds at Gibraltar Pt. with 1-2 on April 20th-22nd, 10 May 1st and a single female there on May 30th. The first bird of the autumn was a male at Gibraltar Pt. on August 10th, followed by singles in September at Theddlethorpe 11th and Gibraltar Pt. 11th-12th. In October there were 20 at Theddlethorpe on 15th and 30 flew south there on 27th; at Mablethorpe 50 also flew south on 27th. In November flocks of 5 flew south at Theddlethorpe on 1st and 12th and at Gibraltar Pt. there were up to 7 between November 7th-9th and 27 on 30th.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

The only records of large numbers during the year were from Gibraltar Pt. with monthly maxima of 160 in January, 350 in February and 450 in October.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

January saw 90 at Baston Fen on 7th and 65 at Gibraltar Pt. on 21st. April birds south at Gibraltar Pt. included 22 on 28th, 87 on 29th, 127 on 30th and 90 on May 1st. Post breeding flocks were noted at Cleethorpes CP with 85 on August 22nd, Normanby Park 61 on September 21st, East Butterwick 72 on September 28th and 92 Goxhill on 29th; throughout the month there were up to 250 feeding in stubble at Deeping St. Nicholas. The only winter flock of any size was of 300 at Gibraltar Pt. on October 7th.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

In the early part of the year there were very few flocks reported; there were up to 30 in the Barton area between January and the end of March, 11 at Messingham in the same period; 20 in Coulson Road, Lincoln on January 20th and up to 23 in Boultham park on February 6th, at Humberston Fitties there were up to 28 on March 25th. In April there were 10 at Bourne on 10th, a max of 12 at Gibraltar Pt. 22nd and 20 at Denton Res 29th. In May, 1 flew west at Goxhill on 5th, 2 at Gibraltar Pt. on 1st and 3rd, 2 at Twigmoor on 3rd and 12th and a single at Broughton Wood 17th. In mid-summer, 2 flew south at Theddlethorpe on June 10th and another south there on July 22nd; there was a female at Gibraltar Pt. on June 17th. Autumn flocks were generally scarce, up to 6 at Gibraltar Pt. from mid-September to October 16th, a max of 17 at Cleethorpes October 25th and 15 at Theddlethorpe throughout October and November. At Gibraltar Pt. there were 70 on October 23rd, 161 26th, up to 114 29th-31st, declining further in November.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Very few large flocks recorded. At Gibraltar Pt. there were monthly maxima of 200 in January and 150 in February and April, with 100 at Frampton the end of August, 300 at Cleethorpes CP September 11th and up to 200 Gibraltar Pt. during September.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

	J	F	M	A	O	N	D
Cleethorpes	-	40	-	-	40	-	-
Tetney	-	-	110	-	-	40	55
Gibraltar Point	45	30	50	3	50	40	48
Freiston	180	97	60	-	-	-	-
Leverton	-	99	60	-	-	-	-
Friskney	50	-	55	-	-	-	-
Butterwick	200	-	-	-	200	-	-
Witham Mouth	400	200	39	10	125	250	200
Benington	690	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lutton Marsh	50	50	45	-	-	-	-

Following the September 1988 inland record at Covenham Res, there were 7 there on April 28th, the last of the season. Other records included 12 at Cleethorpes CP March 21st, 37 flying south at Anderby Creek October 11th and 10 Pye's Hall on October 23rd. Other inland records were of 11 which exceptionally stayed at Winterton Tip from December 4th into 1990 and single Goxhill and Barrow Haven November 12th.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Very few large flocks recorded. At Messingham there were 25 on April 4th, 100 on October 22nd and 40 November 15th; in Loughton Forest there were 70 on October 17th.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

In Bourne Woods birds remained from 1988 with up to 12 throughout January and February but none was seen after April 10th. There were up to 12 in Loughton Forest from February 23rd into early March including 4 males in song, 7 birds last seen there on May 6th but no evidence of breeding. Elsewhere except for a pair in Willingham Forest on February 12th other records were of single birds, a male at Twigmoor on January 9th, Ingoldsby Wood on February 14th and Walesby March 17th. At Kirkby Underwood 13 flew south on May 8th and 1 flew north at Gibraltar Pt. on August 6th.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

At Theddlethorpe a juvenile was trapped and ringed on September 2nd and released the following day (BRG,MB). The sixth record for the county (but only the second in autumn) and the fourth year in succession that one has occurred.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Records were received of up to 10 birds together throughout the county during the year.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

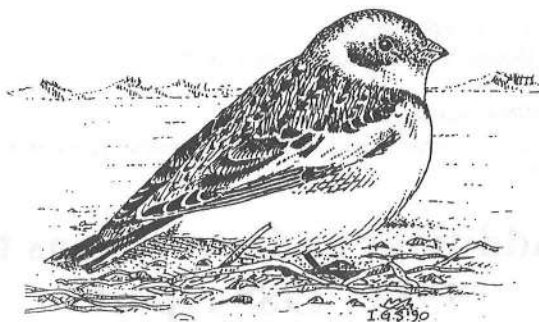
There were singles at Brumby Wood on April 15th, Gibraltar Pt. April 17th and at Dunsby May 6th.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Early in the year there were up to 2 at Tetney throughout January and February, 12 at Witham Mouth on January 15th, 2 at East Halton Skitter January 1st-20th and singles at North Cotes January 16th, Gibraltar Pt. 2nd, 8th-9th and at Alkborough Flats 24th. In February there was a flock of 26 at Frampton Marsh on 7th and singles at Lutton Marsh 1st and 26th, Holbeach Marsh 26th, Gibraltar Pt. 5th and 9th and Leverton 19th. In March there was a single at Lutton Marsh on 3rd and unusually one inland at Covenham Res on the late date of April 23rd. In the second winter period the first returning bird was at Saltfleetby on September 20th. Flocks in October and November were generally fairly small with maxima of 7 at Gibraltar Pt. on October 31st, 6 at Butterwick on November 12th and 44 (maximum for winter) at Frampton Marsh on November 25th, otherwise up to 3 were seen, usually on single dates, at Goxhill, Tetney, Grainthorpe, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby, Mablethorpe and Witham Mouth.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalia*

In January numbers at Gibraltar Pt. reached a peak of 52 on 29th declining in February to a max of 22 on 12th, 2 remaining there until March 8th. Elsewhere in the early part of the year there were 10 throughout January at Toft Newton Res, 10 at Huttoft on January 1st and 15 at Donna Nook the same day. In February there were 19 at Trusthorpe on 2nd and 10 on 16th, 18 at Grimsby Docks from 11th-19th declined to 4 on 26th, and 19 at Skegness on 26th. During this period numbers in the Wash were generally very low with no more than occasional singles being recorded, a flock of 6 at



Snow Bunting

Frampton Marsh on February 5th was the peak number seen. There were late birds inland at Covenham Res with a single there on April 8th-9th and another or possibly 2 there on 23rd-26th. A female at Skidbrooke on June 29th was the third county record for the month. Autumn arrivals began in October with a single at Chapel Point on 8th and 3 there 22nd. A single flew west at Goxhill on October 27th; 1 flew south at Gibraltar Pt. the following day, when there was also one at Witham Mouth. On the 29th there was 1 at Huttoft. In November there were flocks of 7 at Witham Mouth on 4th, 27 at Gibraltar Pt. 12th, 12 at Holbeach St. Marks 17th, 10 flew west at Barton Pits 20th, 13 at Huttoft 23rd and 14 at Saltfleet 26th. There were singles or up to 3 together at seven other localities including Covenham Res, where there were singles on 6th and 25th-26th. There were generally fewer records in December with little change evident from the previous month, a max of 25 at Gibraltar Pt. and 20 south at Theddlethorpe on 2nd and 15 south at Seacroft on 10th were the only notable records.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

In January there was a monthly maxima of 120 at Scotterthorpe on 1st and 60 at Baston Fen on 7th. In February there was a flock of 50 at North Killingholme on 27th and 50 at Covenham Res on 22nd increasing to 150 by March 5th. In December there were 150 at Rauceby Warren and exceptionally high numbers at New Holland with a peak of 350 on 31st.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

The only large flocks or concentrations recorded were 30 at Baston Fen on January 7th, 100 at roost at Witham Mouth and a winter max of 56 at Gibraltar Pt. all on the same date. At Donna Nook an estimated 60 pairs bred. In the second winter period there were the following maxima recorded at roosts: 170 at Witham Mouth on October 14th declining to 100 by December and about 123 at Walesby throughout the month.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

In January there were 63 at Huttoft on 1st, 40 at Scopwick 7th and 35 at Saltfleet Haven on 28th. In February there was a flock of 70 at Frampton Marsh on 5th and 40 at Holbeach Marsh 10th. The only record of any number later in the year was of 30 at Witham Mouth in December.

Escapes etc 1989

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

One flew south at Donna Nook on October 28th (GPC).

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

The remaining bird of a released pair, resident for several years, was at Tattershall Pits on November 19th.

Additions and corrections to 1983 - 1988 reports

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*

Gibraltar Point November 19th 1983

Not accepted by BBRC

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

One at Stamford on May 20th 1988

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Baumber, one on October 11th 1988.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

A female at Gibraltar Point on June 8th 1987 only recently submitted to BBRC and accepted.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

Gibraltar Point on May 14th 1983

Not accepted by BBRC

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Pye's Hall - 2 on October 20th, 3 on 21st and 1 on 22nd 1988

All accepted by BBRC

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Pye's Hall October 12-13th 1988

Accepted BBRC

NEW TO LINCOLNSHIRE

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater

at Leverton Marsh, July 12th 1989

The bird was first seen flying up to some roadside wires, inland of the inner sea bank, by Mrs. Humberstone as she arrived home after shopping. The bird had something in its beak and at first the bird was dismissed as a Mistle Thrush carrying a snail or something at the distance involved. She then realised it was something different by its colour and shape and dashed home to fetch Mr. Humberstone and some binoculars. The bird was watched for about 20 minutes before it was seen to fly off northwards. After the bird had been positively identified with the aid of a suitable field guide, the local Observatory staff at Gibraltar Point, the RSPB Regional Office at Lincoln and the County Recorder were all telephoned, but the bird was not seen subsequently.

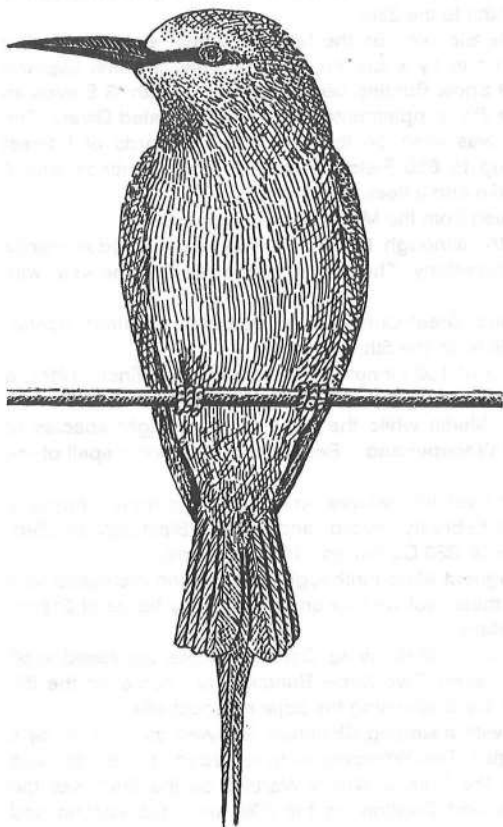
The bird seemed to like perching on the roadside wires from which it was seen to drop down and take food items on a couple of occasions from near the ground along a ditch.

It was not possible to tell what it picked up but on one occasion it was seen to take a fairly large prey item back to the wires. It then seemed to roll the item around in its bill before swallowing it. It moved along the wires not letting the observers get closer than about 50 metres or so. Some distant photographs were taken but unfortunately these were into the light.

The bird was about the size of a Mistle Thrush and was a typical bee-eater shape when perched and had pointed wings in flight. It was bright green underneath and had green upperparts. It had a long tail - the middle pair of feathers were very long projecting about the same length again as the rest of the tail. The bill was very long and pointed. There was a black stripe through the eye and a bright bluish cast either side of this. The actual eye-colour was not seen. The throat patch was orange-yellow. It was heard to call a few times with a shrill shriek not unlike a Grey Parakeet.

The bird was obviously a bee-eater and was specifically identified from its overall green colour, including its upperparts, long central tail feathers and head markings.

Mr. & Mrs. R. Humberstone



Blue-cheeked Bee-eater

Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory Report 1989

Compiled by Phil Davey

A fairly mild winter was succeeded by an unusually dry summer with little precipitation. Rainfall was particularly low in May and July although all months except April and December were down on the mean for the period 1979-1989.

Climatic conditions affected the performance of breeding birds on the reserve with most species doing well. The favourable weather was partly instrumental in the minor success enjoyed by the Little Terns, with the first chick fledged for three years. The peak migration times were relatively quiet, however, with no major influxes of birds, or wintering flocks of finches, buntings and thrushes.

A total of 205 species was recorded of which three were new to the Observatory list, namely Dotterel, Lesser Crested Tern and Ring-necked Parakeet. Many thanks to those who contributed their records for inclusion in the Reserve Log.

January - March

A fairly mild start to the year with winds mainly from the south-west and temperatures above freezing except for a colder spell from the 18th to the 23rd.

A Long-tailed Duck was at the mouth of the Steeping on the 1st, with further sightings during the month. A party of Little Gulls was seen to fly south on the 2nd while the first Lapland Bunting of the year was also recorded, 29 Snow Bunting being seen on the 6th. 3 Slavonian Grebes were present off the reserve on the 7th, supplemented by 45 Red-throated Divers. The first Great Northern Diver for four years was seen on the 15th. Other records of interest included 5 Bewick's Swans on the 4th, up to 650 Fieldfare and 30 Corn Buntings with 4 species of Owl, frequent Hen Harrier, 2 Merlin and a flock of 45 Twite.

Two Water Rail and two Jack Snipe were seen from the Mere Hide throughout.

February proved to be quite a dry month, although the winds were again predominantly south-westerly, occasionally backing south-easterly. The lowest temperature of the year was recorded on the 17th, falling to -4.5C.

Sea watching produced Red-throated Divers, Great Crested Grebes, Eider, Common Scoter, Gannets, Kittiwakes and a Black-throated Diver on the 5th.

Finches were well represented with maxima of 160 Linnet (9th) and 350 Greenfinch (14th), a Lapland Bunting was seen on the 5th and 9th and 22 Snow Buntings on the 12th.

Raptors included 3 Long-eared Owls and Merlin while the Mere attracted eight species of duck, Water Rail, Jack Snipe (18th/19th), 3 Whooper and 1 Bewick during the cold spell of the 16th/17th.

Other sightings were of 65 Pinkfeet flying over the reserve on the 9th and more unusually Greenshank on the 18th, only the second February record, and a male Blackcap on 23rd. Wader counts included 700 Bar-tailed Godwits, 230 Curlew and 150 Redshank.

The relatively mild weather persisted throughout March although precipitation increased to a monthly total of 50mm, still lower than the mean but well up on the February figure of 21mm. Winds were again predominantly south-westerly.

On the 5th, 400 Fieldfare were accompanied by 140 Redwing. Common Scoter increased to 50 on the 7th when 3 Velvet Scoter were also seen. Two Snow Bunting were noted on the 8th when two Hen Harriers were seen, probably the birds using the adjacent roost-site.

The first migrants appeared from the 11th, with a singing Chiffchaff, followed on the 12th by a Ruff (second earliest date) and a Grey Wagtail. Two Wheatear were recorded on the 19th, and the second earliest Sand Martins, two on the 21st. A Willow Warbler on the 28th was the earliest ever record and the Marsh Harrier and Swallow on the 29th were the second and fourth earliest respectively.

Waders peaked on the high tide at 25,000 Knot, 11,000 Bar-tailed Godwit, 8,000 Oystercatcher,

7,000 Grey Plover, 3,500 Dunlin and 73 Ringed Plover together with 1500 Brent Geese. Other March sightings of note were Peregrine (12th), Avocet (25th) and Bearded Tit (26th). 50 Twite and 28 Corn Bunting were present at the end of the month.

April - June

A good variety of spring migrants moved through the reserve in April although none in great numbers. Easterlies dominated until the 7th after which the wind became more variable. Total rainfall for the month was slightly above average at 45.7mm. Conditions were generally cool and overcast.

Three Sandwich Terns on the 1st were the second earliest. The year's first Green Sandpiper occurred on the Mere on the 7th and 8th, the latter date producing a Firecrest and the first Black-tailed Godwits of the year. The 9th saw the earliest ever Sedge Warbler record with Little Ringed Plover and two Twite also noted. Ring Ouzels peaked at nine birds on the 17th.

Sightings of Osprey and Whimbrel on the 15th were among other 'firsts' of the year. The 17th and 18th witnessed a major fall with several notable species recorded. These included Hawfinch (fourth record of the decade), two Redstarts, Yellow Wagtail and Cuckoo. A Peregrine was observed on the 18th and 19th while a first summer Glaucous Gull was seen on the 19th and 20th. The latter date also produced the second earliest ever Lesser Whitethroat with Reed Warbler and House Martin on the 22nd and Whitethroat and Grasshopper Warbler on the 23rd. A Tree Pipit was recorded on the 25th and the first Little Terns on the 27th. Common Tern and Common Sandpiper on the 30th were also firsts for the year.

A Shag (25th) and Mergansers were seen on the sea. Wader numbers peaked at 3000 Dunlin (6th) and 5000 Knot (7th). Up to 45 Corn Bunting & 7 Brambling were seen on several dates with a Merlin also present.

May heralded the beginning of the prolonged dry spell with only 6.0mm of rain compared to the mean of 57mm. Days of long sunshine with temperatures of up to 21.7 degrees celcius were a feature plus light to moderate variable winds.

The first week brought winter migrants with 45 Fieldfare, 10 Brambling and Hooded Crow on the 1st.

Migrant Yellow Wagtails numbered 54 on the 1st with two Black-tailed Godwit (5th) and Spotted Redshank (7th and 10th).

Single Ring Ouzels were still present between 3rd and 7th, the latter date bringing the first Hobby and a Spoonbill with Wood Warbler on the 8th. The first Black Redstart was noted on the 9th and 10th with the first Arctic Tern on the latter date. Turtle Dove peaked at 63 on the 17th while the first Manx Shearwaters of the season were recorded on the 20th with 13 on the 21st. A maximum of five Black Terns were recorded on the 20th.

Raptor records included up to two Marsh Harriers on four days and a Peregrine on the 23rd, with 1-2 Hobbies from the 23rd to 25th and Montagu's Harrier 25th.

May also saw the first reserve record of Dotterel (23rd-28th), Little Stint (27th), a Nightingale and a Redstart on the 30th. A first summer male Red-footed Falcon which arrived 30th remained until June 4th & the latest ever Brambling, and another reserve first, a Lesser Crested Tern were also seen on the 30th.

June proved to be considerably wetter than May with total rainfall of 46.3mm but still below average. Variable winds became mainly easterly from the 12th veering to the southwest on the 25th coinciding with a maximum monthly temperature of 26.5 celcius.

A male Pied Flycatcher was reported on the 1st and a male Wheatear seen on the 2nd. An unseasonal record was of two Arctic Skuas on the 10th when House Martins peaked at 96 birds. A Quail was heard calling on the 12th. Passage waders included a Black-tailed Godwit on the 14th, singles of Ruff, Wood Sandpiper and Common Sandpiper during the last week of the month with occasional Little Stint and Little Ringed Plover and more regular Whimbrel. 4500 Swifts headed south on the 25th. The sea retained some interest with four species of tern and a flock of 40 Common Scoter on the 21st. A single Hobby was seen on 24th and 26th

July - September

July was again a dry and warm month with winds predominantly light north easterly for the first half of the month tending towards south westerly at the end.

Most waders began to make an appearance on their autumn migration with at least 1500 Dunlin, 7000 Knot, 450 Sanderling and up to 5 Greenshank. Sandwich Tern peaked at 700.

There was a Spotted Redshank on the 4th along with a male Montagu's Harrier, then on the 5th the first Little Tern to fledge since 1986 took to the air. The first Manx Shearwater was seen on 7th, a Red-breasted Merganser, 12 Arctic Skua and one Great Skua on the 18th. Also at sea were large numbers of Common Scoter throughout the month with 227 on the 19th. There were up to seven Little Ringed Plover (20th) while Common, Green and Wood Sandpiper were all recorded. Ruff reached a maximum of 20 individuals on the 22nd. Three Little Gulls were sighted on the 28th.

August was dominated by south westerly winds and high daily temperatures of up to 28 degrees celcius. Exceptionally dry yet again, with total rainfall of 31mm being 25mm less than the mean.

200 Kittiwakes roosted on the 1st when a second winter Mediterranean Gull, and more unusual, a Green Woodpecker were reported. The 5th produced the earliest autumn record of Fieldfare (five) and a Crossbill the following day. Early Hen Harrier and Merlin both occurred on the 7th followed by up to three migrant Marsh Harriers on the 8th.

Migrant passerines included the earliest autumn record of Brambling (13th) and a maximum of eight Spotted Flycatcher on the 21st. A single Hobby was reported on the 29th.

Waders were well recorded with up to 20000 Knot, 7500 Oystercatcher, 6000 Dunlin and 1100 Sanderling. Little Stint peaked at 5 (31st) with two Curlew Sandpiper (15th).

Stranded eels in the Mere attracted a record 20 Grey heron on the 6th whilst offshore tern flocks were accompanied by up to 25 Arctic Skua and occasional Great and Pomarine Skua.

September was another month of well below average rainfall (37.15mm.) and generally hot, sunny days. Winds were a mixture of south westerlies and north westerlies. The strong north easterlies of the 8th - 12th yielded a wealth of seabirds.

A total of eight Pomarine and one Long-tailed Skua were recorded during the month and the 2nd produced eight Sooty Shearwater and a first winter Mediterranean Gull. There were counts of 500 Fulmar and 300 Gannet, while Manx Shearwater peaked on the 9th with 31 individuals together with 18 Leach's Petrel, 29 Arctic Skua, and seven Great Skua. This was followed by 3 Pomarine and a remarkable 35 Leach's Petrel on the 11th. Also on the 11th were 28 Whinchat, 17 Wheatear and a Buzzard, whilst the 12th produced 17 Lesser Whitethroat, 12 Spotted Flycatcher, Firecrest and two Ring Ouzels. Other passerines of note included an Icterine Warbler on the 8th/9th and Red-breasted Flycatchers 10th & 30th - Oct 1st. There were three records of Wood Warbler from the 9th - 12th, and two of Wryneck on the 10th and 13th. A Peregrine was reported on the 13th and 15th, and then the 16th turned up a Honey Buzzard and the reserve's fifth Pectoral Sandpiper.

Wader counts peaked at 12000 Knot, 10000 Bar-tailed Godwit and 3500 Dunlin.

October - December

Winds were mainly from the west in October backing to the east on only four dates. Rainfall was less than half of the ten-year mean of 68mm. An unusual record on the 4th was a Purple Sandpiper in the main creek, while the last Sand Martins of the year flew south on the 2nd. A Yellow-browed Warbler was also seen, 11-13th and the 14th brought a Red-necked Grebe. The first Lapland Bunting of the winter occurred on the 25th when a Water Pipit was also present. On the 27th - 29th two Black Redstarts were recorded with a single to 30th, the latter date including a Woodlark, followed by Ring Ouzel and Blackcap on the 31st.

Wildfowl and waders included 8500 Dunlin (1st), 10000 Oystercatcher (13th), 45000 Knot (15th) with 7 Whooper Swans passing through on the 29th together with 6 Bewick's and 5 White-fronted Geese 30th.

Sea-watching proved very profitable with three species of Skua, up to six Velvet Scoter,

24 Little Gull (27th), Balearic Shearwater and Goosander (27th), 4 Little Auks and a Long-tailed Duck (28th) and 3 Storm Petrels with a Slavonian Grebe (29th). A Great Northern Diver was reported on the 30th.

Kingfisher, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Treecreeper were recorded on several dates throughout.

Winds in November were again mainly from the West with a spell of easterlies from 15th to 21st coinciding with an influx of Thrushes. The first of the month brought a Richard's Pipit, a late Greenshank on the 4th was followed by another on the 18th. 3 Bewick's and 8 Whooper Swans flew south on the 4th and the following day a Ring-necked Parakeet was seen along with the last House Martin. By the 12th Snow Bunting had reached a maximum 27 while on the sea 145 Eider flew by on the 17th. A Razorbill headed north on the 20th and a Guillemot was seen on 25th. Meanwhile the last Swallow of the year passed through on the 23rd.

Regular sightings were made of usually single Lapland Buntings, Tree Sparrow, Treecreeper, Kingfisher and Merlin while Jack Snipe and Water Rail still frequented the Mere. Brent Geese peaked at 1000+ (12th) with a similar number of Wigeon on the same date with 52 Common Scoter (17th).

Northerly winds dominated the first ten days of December followed by a spell of easterlies until 17th. South westerlies then set in until a final cold spell of easterlies at the end of the year. The Brent Goose flock remained at 1000+ individuals. A flock of 25 Snow Buntings on the 3rd was reduced to a single bird by the 17th with occasional Lapland Bunting until the 10th. The sea had several Red-throated Divers all month augmented by a Guillemot and 2 Velvet Scoter (11th) and 2 Merganser with 12 Eider on the 31st. On the 17th a record count of Teal on the mere yielded a total of 1550. Four Hen Harrier were observed at the roost. 1000 Lapwing, doubtless of continental origin, heading south-west and 5 Whooper Swans passing through on 19th. Regular sightings were made throughout of Sparrowhawk, Short-eared Owl, Barn Owl, Merlin and Water Rail.

Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory

Ringing Totals and Report 1989

At the commencement of a decade, it is of interest to compare the 1979 ringing figures with those of 1989.

TABLE 1.

Species	'79	'89	+/-
Skylark	214	4	- 210
Swallow	220	31	- 189
Duncock	543	464	- 79
Robin	232	153	- 79
Blackbird	610	77	- 553
Fieldfare	177	3	- 174
Song Thrush	331	84	- 247
Redwing	254	2	- 252
Sedge Warbler	113	23	- 90
Blackcap	238	68	- 170
Starling	234	6	- 228
House Sparrow	156	13	- 143
Tree Sparrow	154	2	- 152
Chaffinch	101	27	- 74
Brambling	68	1	- 67
Greenfinch	394	3	- 391
Goldfinch	161	17	- 144
Linnet	195	17	- 178
Redpoll	185	72	- 113

On reading through the report of 1979, it becomes apparent that certain species show a dramatic decline in the numbers ringed. I have chosen 19 of the more common species to illustrate this (table 1).

The 1979 aggregate of these 19 species alone exceeds the 1989 total. Although ringing intensity in 1989 was only 33% of that in 1979, 53 days compared with 165, I feel the great reduction in numbers is in part due to the very mild winters. Birds have not been flocking to the coastal strip in search of food. This is shown in the decrease of finches ringed during 1989 whereas 3 Greenfinches were ringed at Gibraltar Point 182 were ringed at a site in Skegness.

Tree Sparrows have been on the decline during the last few years, with 1989 being no exception to this trend. No pulli were ringed in the nest boxes in Sykes Farm or the Plantation, this is the first time since the nest box scheme began in 1977 that no pulli have been ringed. Only two adult birds were ringed during this last year. As indicated in the 1988 report, this decline is not restricted to Gibraltar Point but reflects a national decrease.

The mild weather also probably accounts for the lack of thrush roosts, and the small numbers of migrating thrushes compared with previous years. Confirmation of this can be found in the daily log with maximum counts in the low hundreds.

The BTO once again held a successful ringing course although the actual numbers caught were down on the previous year it was voted one of the best by the participating members. With the members of the course and visiting ringers plus the four regular ringers from the observatory, a total of 52 ringers ringed 2997 birds of 68 species. I would like once again to thank the groups who come to ring at Gibraltar Point, without whom Icterine Warbler, Wood Warbler and Red-breasted Flycatcher would not have been ringed in 1989. Last but not least, I would like to thank the staff at Gibraltar Point for their invaluable help during the past year, and to the Employment Training Team who reconstructed No. 1 trap in time for the ringing course.

A.W.Paul. Hon. Ringing Sec. Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory.



Short-eared Owl

Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory Ringing Totals 1989

Species	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Manx Shearwater	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Sparrowhawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	4
Kestrel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Ringed Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	-	-	7
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	28	-	-	-	32
Bar-tailed Godwit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Redshank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	-	-	-	9
Little Tern	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Little Auk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Stock Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Wood Pigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	3
Little Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Kingfisher	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
G.S.Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Skylark	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Sand Martin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	18	8	-	-	-	31
Tree Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
Meadow Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	69	-	-	-	70
Wren	-	-	1	4	3	8	23	81	47	2	6	-	175
Dunnock	-	-	-	4	2	15	34	143	254	10	2	-	464
Robin	-	-	1	4	-	2	6	37	90	3	10	-	153
Redstart	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	41	-	-	-	42
Whinchat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	16	-	-	-	18
Stonechat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Wheatear	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	-	-	-	9
Ring Ouzel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Blackbird	2	-	3	1	2	7	5	20	8	3	26	-	77
Fieldfare	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Song Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	10	52	14	6	-	84
Redwing	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Mistle thrush	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	3
Grasshopper Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Sedge Warbler	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	9	10	-	-	-	23
Reed Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	31	-	-	-	68
Icterine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Lesser Whitethroat	-	-	-	-	2	9	13	54	43	-	-	-	121
Whitethroat	-	-	-	-	12	20	49	129	45	-	-	-	255
Garden Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	32	-	-	-	43
Blackcap	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	19	40	1	1	-	68
Wood Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Chiffchaff	-	-	2	3	1	-	3	4	11	-	-	-	24
Willow Warbler	-	-	-	1	3	11	19	138	68	-	-	-	240
Goldcrest	1	-	3	9	-	-	-	11	328	6	15	-	373
Firecrest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Spotted Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	11	-	-	-	13
Red Breasted Fly.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pied Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	20	-	-	-	-	23
Long-tailed Tit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	13	-	-	27
Willow Tit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Coal Tit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Blue Tit	-	-	-	4	31	58	21	34	76	-	2	-	226
Great Tit	-	-	10	2	9	18	3	11	13	4	-	-	70
Treecreeper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Magpie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
Starling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	6
House Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	7	3	-	13
Tree Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Chaffinch	-	-	-	2	1	3	1	6	10	-	4	-	27
Brambling	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Greenfinch	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	3
Goldfinch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	10	1	-	-	17
Linnet	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	13	-	-	-	17
Redpoll	-	-	-	-	3	11	8	13	35	1	1	-	72
Bullfinch	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	3	-	1	-	11
Yellowhammer	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Reed Bunting	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	17	6	1	-	28
TOTALS	5	-	21	39	72	180	204	845	1468	76	82	5	2997
RETRAPS	13	-	15	34	28	58	32	244	468	17	61	-	970

COUNTY RINGING REPORT 1989

Compiled by K. Winfield

1989 saw a total of 22,889 birds of 122 species ringed in Lincolnshire and South Humberside, with four new species added to the county total: Storm Petrel, Gannet, Cormorant and Pectoral Sandpiper. We also saw the rarer breeding birds of last year breeding once again with 6 Marsh Harrier, 4 Montagu's Harrier and 12 Wood Lark pullus ringed. Barn Owls also had a good year with 82 pullus ringed.

There was an increase in Sand Martin numbers ringed and recovered, giving us our best year yet, the bulk of the recoveries being from two sites, Icklesham in Sussex and Stodmarsh in Kent.

The year started very slowly for most ringers, probably owing to the winter of 88/89 (one of the mildest) not being cold enough to cause the birds to flock to the coastal strip. The winter of 89/90 was so mild that birds like Skylark were still feeding on farmland, reflecting in the numbers ringed, 32 in 1989 compared with 458 in 1988. The breeding season went well for many of the species which breed later in the season, but some of the early breeders were down in numbers. One species which has benefited from the mild winters, and had a good breeding season, is the Long-tailed Tit, which was widespread throughout the county, with 327 ringed, the best year since 1983.

The autumn brought a few of the more rare birds, which one looks for when mist-netting during September and October, including Icterine Warbler 2, Yellow-browed Warbler 1 and Red-breasted Flycatcher 1. There were also good numbers of Pied Flycatchers and Redstarts caught.

Of the birds which were recovered or controlled, the Wash Wader R.G. had their seventh Oystercatcher to Iceland and the fourteenth to the Faeroes, a Knot which was their second from Poland, and a first Dunlin from Spain and a sixth from France. A Fieldfare ringed at Waddington, was shot in Greece and was the third British ringed Fieldfare to there. A Magpie found dead at Lincoln, and ringed in Ruislip, was the longest movement of any British or Irish Magpie.

I would like to thank all the ringers who sent in their totals, and all the people who found ringed birds and sent the details to the British Museum. Without them, these totals would be meaningless, and I would plead to any ringer in the county, whose totals are not included, to let me have them.

Ken Winfield, 7 Burlington Road, Skegness PE25 2EW.



Scarlet Rosefinch (M. Boddy)

SPECIES	1989 FG	1989 PULL	1989 TOTAL	1979-89 GRAND TOTAL					
Little Grebe	-	-	-	6	SkyLark	28	4	32	1951
Great Crested Grebe	-	-	-	13	Sand Martin	1003	-	1003	4609
Manx Shearwater	1	-	1	18	Swallow	204	217	421	15731
Storm Petrel	1	-	1	1	House Martin	112	-	112	953
Leach's Petrel	-	-	-	5	Tree Pipit	5	-	5	83
Gannet	1	-	1	1	Meadow Pipit	73	-	73	1229
Cormorant	1	-	1	1	Rock Pipit	-	-	-	7
Shag	-	-	-	1	Yellow Wagtail	1	-	1	91
Grey Heron	1	42	43	460	Grey Wagtail	1	-	1	4
Mute Swan	15	-	15	166	Pied Wagtail	4	9	13	557
Greylag Goose	1	-	1	20	Wren	826	5	831	6558
Canada Goose	50	-	50	109	Duncock	1296	11	1307	15210
Brent Goose	-	-	-	18	Robin	676	12	688	8183
Shelduck	-	-	-	10	Nightingale	5	-	5	80
Wigeon	-	-	-	32	Thrush Nightingale	-	-	-	2
Gadwall	-	-	-	22	Bluthroat	1	-	1	3
Teal	2	-	2	55	Red-flanked Bluetail	-	-	-	11
Mallard	1	-	1	2047	Black Redstart	75	-	75	582
Pintail	1	-	-	2	Redstart	19	-	19	215
Shoveler	-	-	-	9	Whinchat	1	-	1	11
Pochard	-	-	-	40	Stonechat	10	-	10	124
Tufted Duck	-	-	-	478	Wheatear	2	-	2	24
Scaup	-	-	-	1	Ring Ouzel	1332	61	1393	26033
Marsh Harrier	-	6	6	13	Blackbird	10	-	10	913
Montagu's Harrier	-	4	4	13	Fieldfare	409	34	443	8678
Sparrowhawk	30	-	30	115	Song Thrush	102	-	102	2761
Kestrel	9	76	85	347	Redwing	4	7	11	235
Merlin	1	-	1	4	Mistle Thrush	-	-	-	1
Hobby	-	-	-	1	Cetti's Warbler	1	-	1	133
Red-legged Partridge	-	-	-	25	Grasshopper Warbler	137	-	137	2509
Grey Partridge	-	-	-	1	Sedge Warbler	251	3	254	4096
Pheasant	-	-	-	28	Marsh Warbler	-	-	-	2
Water Rail	1	-	1	10	Reed Warbler	-	-	-	31
Moorhen	-	-	-	113	Booted Warbler	361	-	361	3203
Coot	-	-	-	464	Icterine Warbler	772	-	772	7871
Oystercatcher	676	2	678	4841	Sardinian Warbler	173	-	173	1950
Little Ringed Plover	-	16	16	71	Subalpine Warbler	435	71	435	5677
Ringed Plover	83	5	88	670	Barred Warbler	-	-	-	2
Golden Plover	1	-	1	16	Lesser Whitethroat	-	-	-	2
Grey Plover	135	-	135	1176	Whitethroat	-	-	-	2
Lapwing	5	2	7	121	Garden Warbler	1	-	1	17
Knot	22	-	22	4162	Blackcap	-	-	-	1
Sanderling	-	-	-	20	Greenish Warbler	1	-	1	27
Little Stint	-	-	-	11	Arctic Warbler	203	-	203	1545
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	-	1	1	Pallas's Warbler	1028	53	1081	16482
Curlew Sandpiper	-	-	-	4	Yellow-browed Warbler	1095	4	1095	8573
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	4	Radde's Warbler	33	24	57	826
Dunlin	935	-	935	12126	Wood Warbler	1	-	1	7
Ruff	-	-	-	69	Chiffchaff	203	-	203	1545
Jack Snipe	-	-	-	24	Willow Warbler	1028	53	1081	16482
Snipe	60	-	60	218	Goldcrest	1095	-	1095	8573
Woodcock	7	-	7	88	Firecrest	33	24	57	826
Black-tailed Godwit	-	-	-	7	Spotted Flycatcher	1	-	1	7
Bar-tailed Godwit	7	-	7	1362	Red-breasted Flycatcher	59	-	59	471
Whimbrel	-	-	-	6	Pied Flycatcher	-	-	-	19
Curlew	9	-	9	176	Bearded Tit	327	-	327	2496
Spotted Redshank	-	-	-	6	Long-tailed Tit	14	-	14	101
Redshank	101	2	103	1392	Marsh Tit	61	-	61	809
Greenshank	-	-	-	15	Willow Tit	100	13	114	1231
Green Sandpiper	1	-	1	16	Coal Tit	1788	514	2302	20563
Wood Sandpiper	-	-	-	2	Blue Tit	669	314	983	10877
Common Sandpiper	2	-	2	48	Great Tit	2	-	2	14
Turnstone	2	-	2	447	Nuthatch	54	-	54	464
Black-headed Gull	64	352	416	4419	Treecreeper	-	-	-	1
Common Gull	7	-	7	295	Golden Oriole	-	-	-	6
Herring Gull	360	-	360	826	Red-backed Shrike	-	-	-	4
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	2	Great Grey Shrike	2	-	2	136
Great Black-backed Gull	67	-	67	143	Jay	8	-	8	98
Sandwich Tern	-	-	-	38	Magpie	-	4	4	69
Common Tern	-	45	45	382	Jackdaw	4	37	41	1214
Arctic Tern	-	-	-	1	Rook	-	2	2	21
Little Tern	-	62	62	406	Carrion Crow	1096	-	1096	22102
Guillemot	-	-	-	3	Starling	917	-	917	3120
Razorbill	-	-	-	3	House Sparrow	46	29	75	4719
Little Auk	1	-	1	9	Tree Sparrow	338	8	346	4908
Puffin	-	-	-	1	Chaffinch	4	-	4	844
Stock Dove	2	6	8	378	Brambling	729	8	737	13985
Woodpigeon	14	-	14	388	Greenfinch	71	-	71	2278
Collared Dove	1	-	1	256	Goldfinch	47	-	47	231
Turtle Dove	10	2	12	265	Linnet	214	-	214	5598
Cuckoo	2	3	5	127	Twite	4	-	4	652
Barn Owl	4	82	86	260	Redpoll	183	-	183	5248
Little Owl	3	2	5	82	Crossbill	-	-	-	23
Tawny Owl	5	26	31	192	Scarlet Rosefinch	1	-	1	2
Long-eared Owl	2	-	2	51	Bullfinch	215	-	215	4075
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	10	Hawfinch	-	-	-	1
Nightjar	-	-	-	2	American Redstart	-	-	-	1
Swift	19	91	110	332	Northern Waterthrush	-	-	-	1
Kingfisher	8	-	8	121	Lapland Bunting	-	-	-	317
Wryneck	-	-	-	13	Snow Bunting	-	-	-	59
Green Woodpecker	-	-	-	15	Yellowhammer	47	4	51	3298
Great Spotted Woodpecker	6	-	6	70	Reed Bunting	243	-	243	4147
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	-	-	-	13	Red-headed Bunting	1	-	1	260
Woodlark	-	12	12	17	Corn Bunting	1	-	1	260
TOTALS	20678	2211	22889	303729					

SELECTED RINGING RECOVERIES RECEIVED DURING 1989

Key to the 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 date on the second.

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

1 = Pullus, nestling or chick.

2 = Full grown, but year of hatching unknown.

3 = Hatched during calendar year of ringing.

4 = Hatched before current calendar year, exact age unknown.

5 = Hatched during previous calendar year.

6 = Hatched 2 or more calendar years before, exact age unknown.

8 = Hatched 3 or more calendar years before, exact age unknown.

12 = Hatched more than 5 calendar years before, exact age unknown.

J = Still in juvenile plumage when ringed.

Sex : M = Male F = Female.

Manner of recovery :

v = caught or trapped.

vv = ring number read in field.

+ = shot or killed by man.

x = found dead or dying.

? = manner of recovery unknown.

Movements : Where given, distances and directions are approximate.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT

6 14.08.87 Schleswig Holstein, Germany
v 09.03.88 Leverton.

REDSHANK

4 12.08.83 Friskney
x ??06.88 Thingeyjar, Iceland 1735 Km NNW

TURNSTONE

1 20.06.84 Mustasaari Vaasa, Finland
v 10.08.87 Friskney
v 02.08.88 Butterwick 1681 Km SW.

BLACK-HEADED GULL

Lincs. ringed birds: 4 to Denmark, 3 to Finland, 2 to Netherlands, 3 to Sweden, 2 to USSR.
Birds to Lincs : 1 each from Estonia, Belgium, Netherlands & West Germany.

HERRING GULL

3 03.12.88 Wyberton
? 05.07.89 Lappajarvi, Vaasa Finland 1781 Km NE
There were also 5 birds from Scotland controlled at Wyberton.

BARN OWL

1 29.06.88 Deeping St. Nicholas
x 28.04.89 Port Talbot, S. Wales

CUCKOO

3j 18.08.85 Theddlethorpe Dunes
x F 28.05.89 Long Clawson, Leics. 97 Km SW

SKYLARK

Two birds colour-ringed on Wrangle Marsh on 24.11.86 were seen at Fair Isle B.O. on 24.02.89 734 Km N

SAND MARTIN

Lincs. ringed birds: 2 to Cambs., 2 to Kent, 1 to Notts. 1 to Norfolk, 1 to Suffolk & 7 to Sussex.
Birds to Lincs : Cambs 1, Kent 2, Sussex 1.

WREN

4 03.04.88 Dartford Sewage Works, Kent
v 16.10.88 Benington Marsh, 169 Km N.

SPARROWHAWK

1 04.07.88 Rensvik feei Norway
v 23.10.88 Gibraltar Point 1194 Km SSW

KESTREL

1 22.06.88 Bourne
x 17.02.89 Little Plumstead Norfolk 123 Km E
1 29.06.88 Bourne
x 07.10.89 Porthallow Helston, Cornwall 394 Km SW.
1 01.07.89 Baston
x 10.10.89 Saffron Waldon, Essex 186 Km SSE.
1 08.07.89 Martindales
x 16.10.89 Lewes, Sussex 254 Km S.

MERLIN

2F 16.10.88 Theddlethorpe Dunes
x 23.04.89 Tilbury, Essex 211 Km S.

OYSTERCATCHER

8 30.07.76 Friskney
x 20.05.89 Floi Arnes, Iceland 1726 Km NW.
8 21.08.74 Friskney 21.08.74
x 12.08.89 Stremoy, Faroes 1097 Km NNW.
Wash-ringed birds include 1 to the Netherlands and 4 to Norway.

LAPWING

4M 30.10.88 Marston Sewage Farm
x 23.03.89 Rotterdam, Netherlands 369 Km ESE

KNOT

3 11.08.87 Gdansk, Poland
v 31.07.88 Wainfleet 1237 Km W.
This bird probably originating from the Siberian breeding population.
Wash-caught Knot include 1 from W. Germany and 5 from Norway.

DUNLIN

4 23.07.74 Benington
x 08.02.89 Safi, Morocco 2423 Km SSW.
6M 16.04.85 Charente Maritime, France
v 02.08.88 Bennington 791 Km N.
4M 08.05.82 Seville, Spain
v 02.08.88 Butterwick 1807 Km NNE.
Wash-ringed Dunlin: 1 to Finland, 1 to Sweden
Wash-caught Dunlin: 1 to Norway.

BLACKBIRD

Lincs ringed birds : 4 to Denmark, and one each to W. Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands.

FIELDFARE

4F 02.01.71 Waddington
+ 10.03.74 Frorina, Greece 2150 Km SE
1 06.07.87 Karkkila, Finland
+ F 15.10.88 Gibraltar Point 1665 Km WSW

The bird to Greece is only the 3rd record of a British ringed Fieldfare.

REED WARBLER

3 10.10.86 Swanpool
 x 24.09.89 Glibat-Tichlaa, Mauretania
 3J 12.09.89 Theddlethorpe Dunes
 v 25.09.89 Nantes, France 695 Km S.

BLACKCAP

3 30.06.88 Norton Place
 x 09.02.89 Sidi Sliman, Morocco
 3JM 26.07.88 Market Rasen
 v 26.02.89 Tadjdiout, Algeria 1896 Km S.
 3M 23.10.88 Theddlethorpe Dunes
 x 10.11.88 Cher, France 756 Km S.

CHIFFCHAFF

3 09.10.88 Bourne
 x 24.10.88 Croydon, Surrey 159 Km S.

WILLOW WARBLER

3 07.07.88 Market Rasen
 v 16.08.88 Westbere, Kent 255 Km SSE.
 3 26.08.88 Gibraltar Point
 v 21.04.89 Sevenoaks, Kent 202 Km S.

GOLDCREST

3F 22.09.88 Vlieland, Netherlands
 v 01.10.88 Theddlethorpe Dunes 314 Km W.
 3M 22.10.88 Gibraltar Point
 x 25.03.89 Gwynedd, Wales 291 Km W.

PIED FLYCATCHER

1M 17.06.88 Lারণton, Durham
 v 07.05.89 Theddlethorpe Dunes 194 Km SE

GREAT TIT

2F 07.11.87 Norwich, Norfolk
 x 10.04.88 Long Bennington 144 Km WNW.

MAGPIE

5 27.02.88 Ruislip, Greater London
 x 15.04.88 Blankney Heath, Lincoln 169 Km N.

STARLING

3M 12.12.81 Boston
 x 15.06.88 Arkhangelsk USSR 2834 Km NNE
 Lincs ringed birds include 2 to Denmark and
 one each to East Germany, Finland and
 Sweden.

GREENFINCH

4F 25.11.84 Lydney, Glos
 v 19.04.89 Market Rasen 242 Km

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