

Lincolnshire Bird Report 1990

Gibraltar Point Observatory Report

Birds of Estuaries Enquiry : Wash and Humber reports

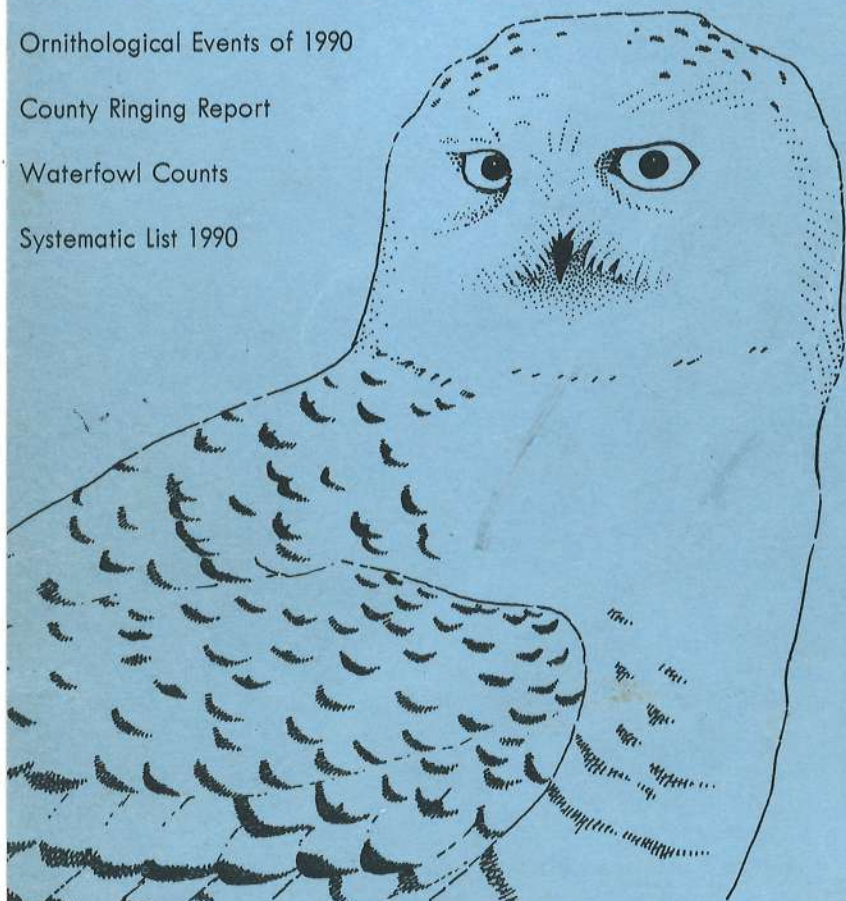
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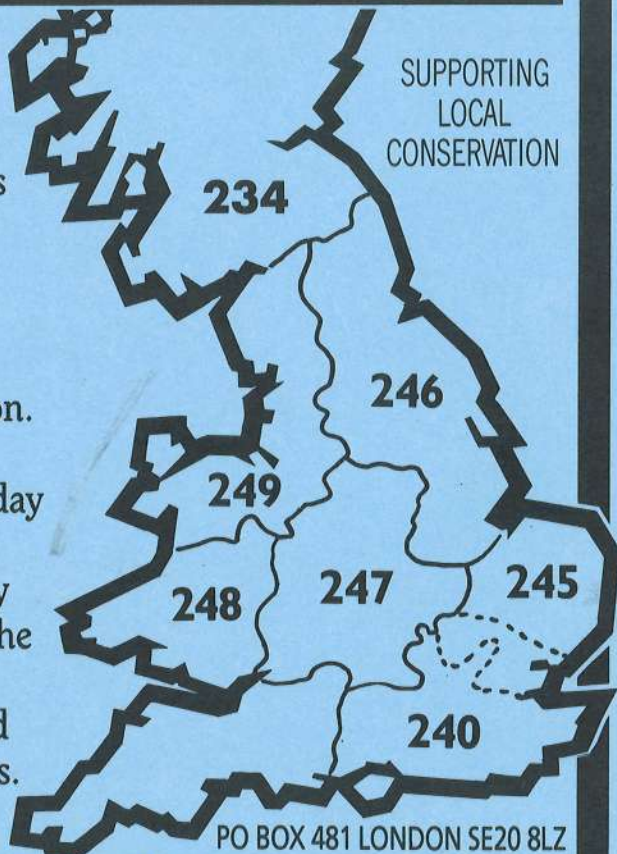
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L. W. Mr C Jennings, 3 Wansbeck Road, Leasingham, Sleaford NG34 8LP.

S. W. Mr R Sheppard, 21 Beech Avenue, Bourne PE10 9RR.

S. E. Mr R Lord, Marsh Cottage, Marsh Lane, Kirton, Boston PE20 1LY.

E. Miss B Pierce, 69 Queens Street, Horncastle LN9 6BH

Wildfowl Trust Representative:

E J Redshaw, 7 Fennell Road, Pinchbeck PE11 3RP

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North Lincs/South Humberside: I G Shepherd, 38 Lindsey Road, Cleethorpes DN35 8TN.

East Lincs: R K Watson. 8 High Street, Skegness PE25 3NW.

South Lincs: R & K Heath, 56 Pennytoft Lane, Spalding PE11 3PQ.

West Lincs: A L Goodall, 22 Laburnum Drive, Cherry Willingham, Lincoln LN3 4AS.

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Line Drawings: I G Shepherd & S Gillings

The most impressive coastal fall ever?

The early autumn of 1990 was particularly disappointing for would be observers of coastal passerine migration on the Lincolnshire coast with many species notable only by their absence or extremely low numbers. Whitethroat & Willow Warbler, Whinchat & Northern Wheatear were in low numbers and in particular Pied Flycatcher & Redstart were virtually absent during August-September with once again no Icterine Warbler, Red-backed Shrike & only single Wryneck & Barred Warbler. Comparisons with early autumn during the 1960's & 1970's suggests a real decline in these species.

October 1990 got off to a quiet start with generally westerly dominated weather systems but a northerly on 7th followed by a calm dawn on 8th produced a huge westerly passage of Fieldfares mainly concentrated in the south of the county, but with flocks north to the Humber. On the Wash 4000 flew west into Lincolnshire from Terrington in two hours early on the 8th, the movement continued into the 9th in the south-west. By the 12th there were signs of a change in the weather with a very light southerly wind but generally bright sunny conditions. These conditions continued through 13th becoming more south-easterly overnight 13-14th but still very bright, hot and sunny during the day, becoming more westerly again during 15-16th. An obvious southerly passage of Skylarks, Meadow & particularly Rock Pipits with odd Lapland Buntings was taking place on 12th continuing through to the 15th with further movements on 19th & 22-24th. The first birds of northern/eastern origin, a Yellow-browed Warbler & a nominate Treecreeper also arrived on 12th but it was late on 13th before a small fall developed with 2 Black Redstart & a Richard's Pipit. With some hoped for overnight cloud a further fall occurred with some encouraging numbers found on 14th including 2 more Yellow-browed Warblers, 2 Willow Warblers, Firecrest, 2 Redstart, 8-10 Black Redstart, 3 Richard's Pipits and the third county record of Isabelline Shrike at Pyes Hall.

Many of these birds remained during 15th but there was a general exodus on the night of 15-16th. Conditions improved again on 17th as the wind swung to south-east and increased during the day to force 5-7 but with a still clear sky until late in the day when a front moving north-east from the Channel brought overnight rain, cloud and mist/fog by the morning of 18th. The consequent east-south-east airflow blowing out of the Baltic/Scandinavia around a large high pressure system over Siberia was thus providing the ideal conditions for a good fall of passerine night migrants. The number of birds present early on the 18th were however, not encouraging with just small numbers of thrushes & Goldcrest but things were to improve rapidly! The similar set of weather conditions persisted for the next four days with the wind swinging from east to south-east and varying in strength to force 6-7 with heavy rain late on 18th and force 6-7 early on 21st with almost constant drizzle and low cloud throughout. Although clearer on later days the easterly airflow persisted to 25th with further small falls particularly on 24th

Birds arrived almost constantly during 18-21st with particularly heavy influxes during the afternoon of 18th, 19th and early on 21st.

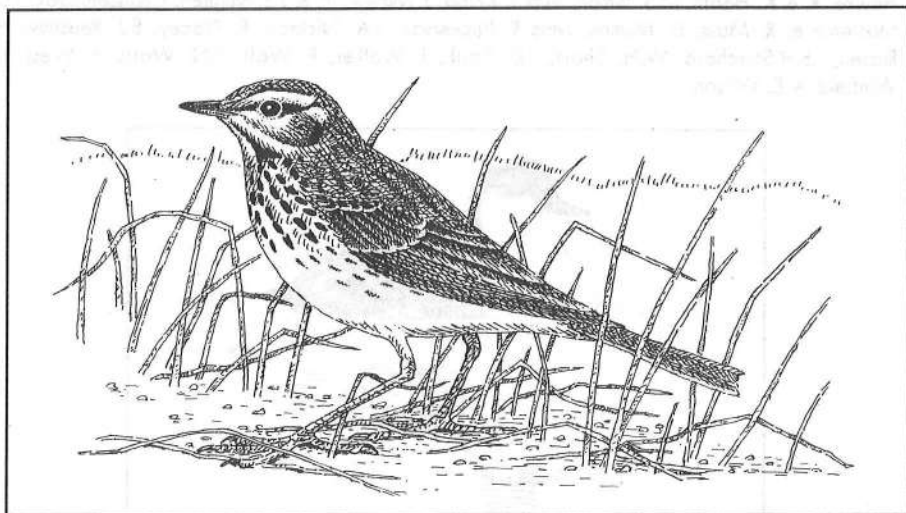
For sheer weight of numbers involved, the thrushes were the most obvious with site peaks of 12,000 Redwing Donna Nook/Pyes Hall 18th, 2000 Blackbird Seacroft 20th, 9,500 Fieldfare Gib. Pt. 19th & Ring Ouzels along the whole coast often in small parties with a minimum of 100 birds found to the month end. Goldcrests flitted everywhere with uncountable numbers at times, but conservative estimates of 4000 Pyes Hall-Donna Nook 18th, 1000+ 19th and a further large arrival on 21st. It is impossible to estimate the numbers of this and other species which arrived during this huge fall, but the 4000 at Pyes Hall-Donna Nook (Ponderosa) on 18th were on a 2km stretch of coast, multiplying this up by the length of the coast would produce a total of many tens of thousands. Robins were the next most obvious species with 600 Pyes Hall-Donna Nook late on 18th & just from the few sites covered on 19th there must have been in excess of 2000 birds

present on that date and obviously many more along the uncovered coastal areas. Good numbers of finches mostly Brambling, 340 Gib. Pt. 19th & Siskins along with a few Mealy and a single Arctic Redpoll arrived with odd Common Crossbill and a minimum of 11 Parrot Crossbills, the obvious coastal tip of a large autumnal influx reflected in wintering flocks found in November-December.

Chats included 17 Black Redstart, 4 Redstart a few Northern Wheatear and 2 Siberian Stonechats together at Skegness. Two more Richard's Pipits were found and more amazingly two Olive-backed Pipits the second and third for the county while a late Tree Pipit added to the species variety. Warblers were few in number but rich in quality; only 2 Garden Warbler but about 35 Blackcap, 30 Chiffchaff, 3 late Willow Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, 3 Reed Warbler, 4 Yellow-browed, 2 Dusky & 2 Radde's Warblers completed the eastern arrival but where were all the Pallas's? Additionally 6 Firecrest, 3 Red-breasted Flycatcher together at Gib. Pt., the only ones of the autumn, 2 Great Grey Shrikes and 4 Waxwing added further to the passerine variety. Less exciting but obvious nevertheless were large numbers of Dunnock, Wren, odd Short-eared & Long-eared Owls, Woodcocks, Jack Snipe and a very obvious arrival of Sparrowhawks.

What would have been found with better coverage we will never know but it is certain that the rarities which were found were only part of what must have been one of the best Lincolnshire falls of the 20th century. It is a sobering thought that in these days of huge increases in the numbers of active birds & twitching there were no more than four observers on the whole of the Lincolnshire coast on 18th October, one of the most impressive birding dates ever in the history of our county; I doubt if the same could be said of Norfolk or Yorkshire!

Graham P Catley.



Olive Backed Pipit

WATERBIRD COUNTS (NON-MARINE WATERS) 1989-90

Wildfowl were counted at 44 sites during the winter of 1989-90 and the gross monthly totals are shown in Table 1. The locations, with descending order of maximum monthly counts, are shown in Table 2. New sites to be counted were Deeping St. James "Lake" and "The Mere", Tattershall Gravel Pits, Revesby Reservoir, Swanholme and Hartsholme "Lakes" near Lincoln and Boultham Park Lake. Counting was discontinued at West Ashby Pits (recreational pressure), Toft Newton Reservoir, Billingham Skerth and Asgarby Pit (count numbers too low to be worthwhile). At Bagmoor Lake, Scunthorpe, the site has been drained. Details of counts at marine sites are included in the Estuary Enquiry Reports.

The following species reached qualifying levels for flocks of National importance:-

Gadwall (QL:50) Langtoft West End Pits.

90 to 135 October to February,
max 234 on 14th Jan 90.

Coot (QL:1000) Baston Common Pits.

1109 on 23rd Dec 89 and 1131 on 12th Jan 90.

Mute Swans on the R.Welland just failed to meet the qualifying level of 180 birds. the maximum counts being 176 on 13th Oct 89 and 173 on 11th Nov 89.

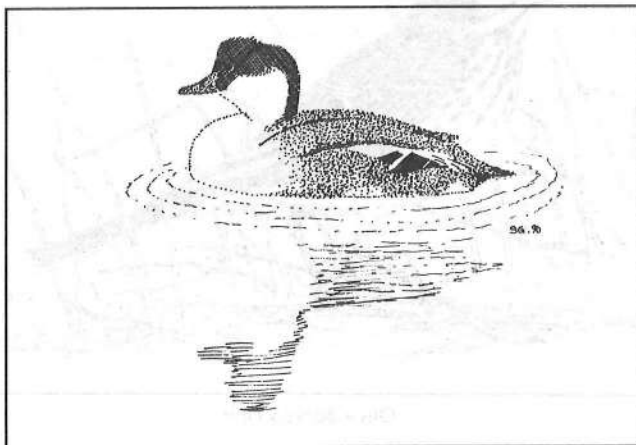
Thanks are due to all the counters who participated in the counts for the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, and to Richard Heath for assisting with abstraction of data.

Scientific names of species are given in the systematic list.

John Redshaw.

Names of Participants:

A.Ball, S. Black, Miss Bright, G. Catley, P.G. Collins, W.A.Cook, C. Dobson, Ms J. Eastmead, L.Enderby,, M. Feane, Miss C. Godfrey, P.B. Grimes, B. Hancock, G. Hardy, M. Harrison, C. Hawke, R. & K. Heath, M.S. Inman, Miss J. Knibb, J. Mawer, P. & J.S. Mighell, I. Misselbrook, J.D. Mortemore, R. Moss, D. Mumby, Miss R. Nickerson, J.A. Nickson, P. Precey, E.J. Redshaw, R. Russell, I.E.H.Shepherd, W.H. Short,, I.D. Smith, J. Walker, R. Watt, P.N. Watts, P. West, K. Winfield, K.E. Wilson.



Smew

Table 1

MONTHLY WATERBIRD TOTALS 1989-90

SPECIES	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Little Grebe	56	56	51	29	38	22	45
Great Crested Grebe	178	134	114	66	107	165	200
Slavonian Grebe	2	-	-	2	2	2	-
Black Necked Grebe	1	-	-	2	2	1	7
Cormorant	18	33	57	74	59	75	45
Mute Swan	344	484	531	440	448	309	324
Bewick's Swan	-	-	35	-	-	8	-
Whooper Swan	-	-	15	-	-	-	-
Pink-footed Goose	8	1	-	3	1	101	2
White-fronted Goose *	1	2	-	2	2	6	-
Greylag Goose *	835	1219	1446	765	1116	729	540
Canada Goose *	712	879	1029	992	1347	983	725
Barnacle Goose *	3	1	4	2	1	2	-
Brent Goose	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Egyptian Goose *	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Shelduck	2	2	4	11	6	34	97
Wigeon	60	148	293	355	715	218	283
Gadwall	45	179	348	344	503	473	83
Teal	416	1010	1051	2770	537	405	216
Mallard	3175	3392	3238	4536	4398	3265	1495
Pintail	5	36	10	4	6	4	4
Shoveler	40	82	48	36	71	227	66
Red-crested Pochard	-	-	3	-	1	2	1
Pochard	312	188	911	856	1311	1259	209
Tufted Duck	558	617	1158	1581	1696	1586	1292
'Ferruginous' type *	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Scaup	-	-	4	2	1	1	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	1	2	2	2	-
Goldeneye	1	3	50	116	134	151	43
Smew	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Goosander	-	5	1	53	40	27	68
Ruddy Duck	4	5	5	11	7	7	16
Moorhen	136	224	228	299	213	208	132
Coot	2373	3250	448	4373	5436	3495	1626
Sites Counted (n=44)	38	42	43	42	41	43	41

Species omitted in 1989 Bird Report - Monthly Waterbird Totals 1988 -89

Mute Swan	348	427	385	257	460	464	413
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* indicates species which are either feral or are believed to be escapes.

Table 2

Sites Counted in 1989-90

Grid Square	Location	Months Counted	Monthly Max.
North			
TA 02	Barton/Barrow Clay Pits	S O N D J F M	983 D
SE 90	Messingham Sand Quarry NR	S O N D J F M	768 S
TF 39	Covenham Reservoir	S - N D J F -	626 D
TA 00	Cadney Reservoir	S O N D J F M	386 D
SE 90	Ashbyville	- O N D J F M	248 F
SE 90	Kirton Lindsey Quarry	S O N D J F M	243 D
SE 90	Brigg Island Lake	S O N D J F M	127 J
SE 81	Burton Upon Stather Brickpits	S O N D J F M	110 O
SE80	Messingham Landfill	S O N D - F M	104 N
TA 11	North Killingholme Pits	- O N D - F M	83 N
West			
TF 16	Bardney Sugar Factory Ponds	S O N D J F M	970 N
TF 16	Nocton Fen	S O N D J F M	705 S
SK 94	Ancaster Sand Pits	S O N D J F M	461 J
SK 97	Burton Gravel Pits NR	S O N D J F M	426 O
SK 96	Swanholme "Lakes"	S O N D J F M	414 D
SK 98	Fillingham Lake	S O N D J F M	350 S
SK 96	Hartsholme "Lakes"	S O N D J F M	270 D
TF 04	Sleaford Ballast Pits	S O N D J F M	239 S
SK 94	Syston Park Lake	S O N D J - -	174 D
TF 07	R.Witham Fiskerton - Bardney	- O N D J F M	129 O/F
SK 97	Brayford pool	S O N D J F M	122 F
SK 97	Riseholme Lake	S O N D J F M	119 N
TF 25/16	R.Witham Kirkstead - Chapel Hill	S O N D J F M	86 N
SK 96	Boultham Park Lake	S O N D J F M	72 S
East			
TF 25	Tattershall Gravel Pits	S O N D J F M	2928 J
TF 55	Gibraltar Point Mere	S O N D J F M	1579 D
TF 36	Revesby Reservoir	S O N D J F M	1291 J
TF 26	Kirkby-on-Bain Gravel Pits	S O - D J F M	830 J
TF 57/58	Sea Bank Clay Pits NR	S O N D J F M	815 O
TF 58	Brickyard pond, Sutton on Sea	S O N D J F M	91 D
South			
TF 11	Boston Common Gravel Pits	S O N D J F M	3130 J
TF 11	Langtoft West End G.P.	- O N D J F M	1490 J
TF 10	Tallington/West Deeping G.P.	- - N - J F -	1444 J
TF 02	Grimsthorpe park lake	S O N D J F M	737 D
TF 11	Boston Fen NR	S O N D J F M	717 D
TF 10/22	R.Welland Spalding - Borough Fen	S O N D J F M	519 D
TF 24/34	South Forty Foot Drain, Boston	S O N D J F M	492 S
TF 10	Deeping St. James "Lake"	S O N D J F M	387 D
SK83	Denton Reservoir	S O N D J F M	375 D
TF 22	Coronation Channel, Spalding	- O N D J F M	370 O
TF 10	Deeping St. James "Mere"	S O N D - F M	340 F
TF 11	Langtoft Common Pits	- O N D J F M	236 O
TF 01	Holywell Lake	S O N D J F M	235 J
TF 03	Culverthorpe Lake	S - N - J F M	48 F

THE 1990 CENSUS OF BREEDING AND NON-BREEDING MUTE SWANS

INTRODUCTION

The census, organised in England by the British Trust for Ornithology and Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, aimed to produce an estimate of the total Mute Swan population, and assess the changes in the breeding population since the last census undertaken in 1983. During April and May 1990 members of the BTO, WWT and Lincolnshire Bird Club visited as many 10km squares as possible to plot the presence of Mute Swans in the following categories: A) non-breeding, b) territorial pairs not breeding, c) pairs with nests, and d) pairs with broods. Ideally at least two visits were required to ascertain if territorial pairs bred and produced broods. All observations were recorded on standard forms provided by the organisers.

RESULTS

Of the ninety 10km squares covering Lincolnshire and South Humberside, twenty-seven shared areas with other counties. In most cases the census in these areas was undertaken by observers from the adjoining counties, except where our own counties covered the major portion of the square. Returns have been received for thirteen of the above squares for our portions. Returns were not received for seven squares within the two counties. Many observers produced nil returns for breeding and non-breeding birds in the squares they surveyed, and as in the 1983 survey some of these were from the limestone uplands and the Wolds where suitable open water bodies are scarce.

For comparison figures for 1983 are shown in parenthesis.

Of the 458 non-breeding birds (356) many counts were of 5 or less. there were, however, eight major groupings (5) of over 20 birds, as follows:

TF 10	R. Welland & Deeping Mere	58	(30)
TF 11	Langtoft/Boston Gravel Pits/R. Glen	34	(77)
TF 22	R. Welland/Coronation Channel	22	(-)
TF 15	Billinghay area	46	(-)
TF 48	Great Eau area	36	(-)
SK 88	R. Trent	25	(-)
SK 97	Brayford Pool/Burton Pits etc.	79	(47)
SE 90	Messingham pits	20	(-)

Surprisingly, there were only 6 (61) non-breeders along the Cowbit/Crowland section of the R. Welland. The distribution of non-breeding birds is shown in Fig. 1.

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

Territorial pairs	50	(51)	see Fig. 2.
Pairs with nests/broods	82	(91)	see Fig. 3.

Results for failed pairs were not sufficiently comprehensive in coverage to include details in this report. The general comment from recorders was that 1990 was a poor year due to early drying out of many water-bodies, and the low levels in many fenland and marshland drains. Comparison with previous censuses is shown in Table 1

Year	Nesting Pairs	Territorial Pairs	Non-Breeding	Total Birds
1955	107	-	254	468
1961	84	8	220	404
1978	83	27	171	391
1983	109	51	356	676
1990	82	50	458	732

The report of the 1955 census did not distinguish between territorial and non-breeding birds. The number of nesting pairs quoted for 1983 includes 18 failed clutches. The habitats in which nests were found can be separated into the same categories as those used by Eltringham in the 1961 census, as follows:

A. Standing Water

1. lakes	6 (7)
2. ponds	10 (8)
3. clay pits	5 (23)
4. sand, gravel & stone pits	16 (20)
5. reservoirs	0 (1)

B. Moving Water

1. rivers & streams	15 (17)
2. canals	1 (4)
3. dykes, ditches & drains	35 (28)

C. Coastal

1. estuarine/saltmarsh	0 (0)
2. lagoons/borrowpits	0 (2)

DISCUSSION

From the above it will be seen that, in fact, there were more pairs breeding by dykes, ditches and drains than in 1983, and consequently breeding does not seem to have been affected, overall, by the reduction in water levels. Also there was little change in the numbers nesting by rivers and streams, though the reduction represents a 12% downturn. Breeding by lakes and ponds showed little change (6% upturn). But the greatest change was in the reduction of pairs nesting at clay pits (78% downturn), and this may be due to the infilling of suitable sites with refuse since 1983. The reduction in numbers at sand and gravel pits (20% downturn) is not unexpected. Although new pits are continually being excavated, many of the mature ones are increasingly being disturbed by recreational pressures. Others are being infilled with quarry washings and waste, or are being topsoiled over the quarry floor, and in both cases are then returned to agricultural use.

Although there were more birds present than were recorded in any previous census the returns do not state just how many of the 458 non-breeders were immatures.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the many observers who took part in this census, and especially the BTO Regional Representatives for abstracting information onto my summary sheets and maps so that this report could follow the same format as the 1983 census report.

John Redshaw

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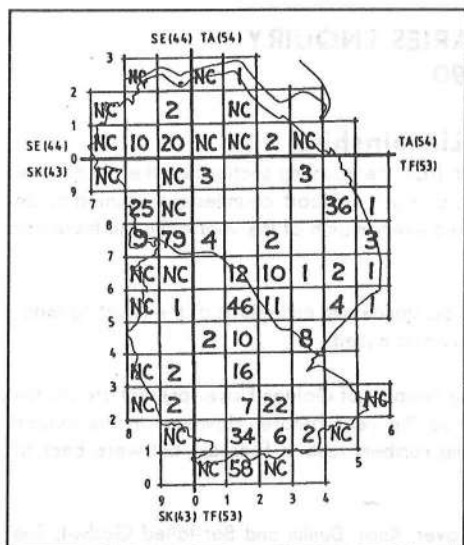


Fig. 1 Non-Breeding Birds

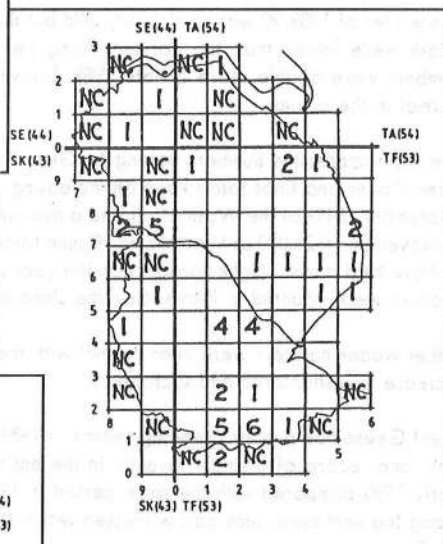


Fig. 2 Territorial Pairs

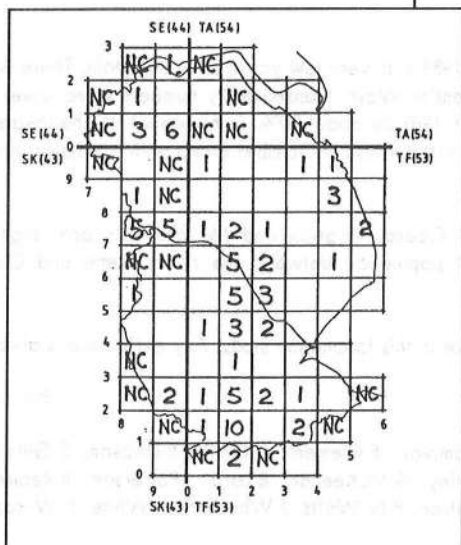


Fig. 3 Pairs with Nests

NC = Square not counted separately for Lincolnshire and Sth Humberside

BIRDS OF ESTUARIES ENQUIRY 1990

THE WASH (Lincolnshire)

The table shows the summed total for each month from the counting sections on the Lincolnshire side of the Wash. The Wash is of course counted as a unit and both counties are counted at the same time. Once again the Wash has been counted every month of the year although there are some months with incomplete coverage.

As always the counts are not possible without the assistance and enthusiasm of the counting team, to whom go the grateful thanks of James Cadbury and myself.

The winter of 1989/90 was particularly mild but the numbers of Golden Plover present around the Wash were lower than the corresponding period the year before. However in the autumn numbers were double those of late 1989. Lapwing numbers rose in February but were back to normal in the autumn.

The most impressive numbers belong to Grey Plover, Knot, Dunlin and Bar-tailed Godwit. The Grey Plover and Knot totals keep on increasing. Grey Plover peaked at 13,587 in Lincolnshire in September (84% of the Wash total) and a massive 164,000 Knot were counted in the whole Wash in November (123,000 at Snettisham). Dunlin totals have increased overall and Lincolnshire seems to have held a much higher proportion this year particularly in the autumn. Over 9,000 Bar-tailed Godwit were counted in November, the Lincolnshire total being around 80% of this.

Other wader numbers were near normal with the exception of Turnstone which showed a slight increase in both March and October.

Brent Geese had a poor breeding season in 1989 with very few young seen in Britain. There was only one record of a single juvenile in the entire Wash. Consequently numbers were lower in early 1990 compared with the same period in 1989 by about 30%. A movement of Shearwaters along the east coast was also witnessed within the Wash in October along with a massive influx of Gannets.

The Lincolnshire proportion of Pink-footed Geese, Wigeon and Mallard was only slightly increased over 1989 figures and the Pintail population between the rivers Nene and Ouse continues to decline.

Grateful thanks once again to all who partake in this fascinating study. Any extra help is always welcome.

Bob Lord

CONTRIBUTORS: A Ball, C Casey, M Champion, P Clement, I Dennis, R Dobson, S Gillings, B Hancock, R & K Heath, P Hyde, S Keightley, A McKeenan, R Lord, I Patterson, B Redman, K Rogers, C Smith, P Todd, T Walker, R Watson, P N Watts, J Wheldon, A White, P Wilson.

THE WASH COUNTS 1990 - LINCOLNSHIRE TOTALS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
R - t Diver	1									1	22	4
Little Grebe	8		1								5	6
G C Grebe	8	2	9	27	4	1	3	4	85	114	35	2
Slav Grebe											4	
Fulmar				2	5	1	5		1			
Sty Shearwater										2		
Mx Shearwater										1		
Gannet					12		95		96	246	18	
Cormorant	109	82	73	48	28	1	55	97	187	205	151	148
Shag								1			1	
Grey Heron	1	1	1	9	5	2	9	7	9	12	16	8
Mute Swan		1								1		
Bewick's Swan											7	
Whooper Swan											27	
Pink-f Goose	581	153									30	
Greylag Goose				1								7
Canada Goose			2	2	2							8
Brent Goose	14577	15227	9667	6397	4736	5	10	11	15	6642	11251	19318
Shelduck	7731	7085	2557	666	631	48	257	55	302	1437	5983	5572
Wigeon	361	1861	1					7	365	370	941	720
Gadwall		1									2	
Teal	67	9	14			2	5		105	104	146	85
Mallard	2049	851	195	87	171	11	54	191	666	397	890	2029
Pintail	638	75	6						32	2	804	9
Shoveler			4					10	3			
Pochard											51	
Tufted Duck			8		3							
Scaup								1				
Eider	63	9	52	73	11	7	29	42	45	10	74	56
Long-t Duck										1	7	
Common Scoter		1					14			4	1032	35
Velvet Scoter										1	5	
Goldeneye	56	54	12								37	18
R-b Merganser	28	5	30	3						5	26	12
Oystercatcher	22305	22611	9684	8880	2637	1494	8713	11721	20376	17780	24605	20593
Avocet												1
L R Plover				2			1					
Ringed Plover	38	17	135	157	422	20	99	1568	1684	244	288	404
Gold Plover	662	846	363	35	1	65	514	1139	1307	1222	850	2491
Grey plover	3212	3855	7027	9266	5824	14	240	2243	13587	8202	6337	5638
Lapwing	3124	4695	88	6	15	123	143	141	465	1423	636	2007
Knot	39950	28550	8757	5980	1224	150	7958	12106	9426	9723	37901	42891
Sanderling	71	12	78	59	29	1	165	655	441	200	79	30
Little Stint							1					
Curl Sandpiper							3					
Dunlin	23886	25750	20097	21538	6540	204	12210	23378	24835	35623	30721	23428
Ruff			1	19	3			1	10			5
Jack Snipe												
Snipe	2	1	3	3		4		1	16	14	12	15
Woodcock											1	
Bl-t Godwit	130	191	280	33		5	11	85	823	726	391	90
Bor-t Godwit	2313	4258	1615	486	282	89	1600	2144	6415	7599	8085	907
Whimbrel				45	44	5	223	100	27	1		
Curlew	953	1700	2358	425	225	282	1232	1059	3218	7010	1719	1125
Spot Redshank			1	1		1	13	84	21	7	1	
Redshank	1532	1536	2950	1473	446	218	1542	1732	2343	2977	1650	2086
Greenshank			2	23	13		186	61	90	93		
Gn Sandpiper								1				
Com Sandpiper				1	8		19	29	5			
Turnstone	351	374	900	214	375	25	323	725	569	946	730	497

BIRDS OF ESTUARIES ENQUIRY: THE HUMBER

December 1989 - February 1990

The table shows the total number of each species of wildfowl & wader counted on the Humber during the three mid-winter counts. Unfortunately no complete estuary-wide counts were achieved and hence the figures are not fully representative of the estuary populations, all being under recorded. The coverage did however, improve from that achieved in the previous season with at least the major wader concentrations counted throughout the estuary. The counts of the diving duck flock off New Holland have been extracted from the regular local counts at this site. For the third winter in succession, generally mild weather resulted in very high numbers of Lapwing and Golden Plover remaining around the estuary through to the turn of the year. The Humber remained the only BOEE site of international importance for Golden Plover with a 5 season (1986-1990) January average of 27,249 birds present.

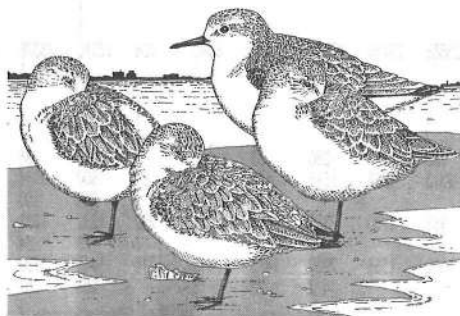
The national Lapwing total on BOEE sites in January was over 50% up on last winter's high levels, & the extraordinary total of 30,892 counted on the Humber in that month raised the estuary's January five season average to 22,028 birds. Since the international importance level for Lapwing is set at 20,000, the Humber became the only BOEE site to qualify as internationally important for Lapwing in Britain.

BOEE data show the Humber regularly (based on 5 seasons data for 1985-6 to 1989-90) holds internationally important numbers of two wildfowl & seven wader species in mid-winter. Around 1.2% of the north-west European population of dark-bellied Brent Geese occurred as did around 1.7% of that population of Shelduck. Over 1% of the east Atlantic flyway populations of seven wader species occurred, these being, in addition to Golden Plover & Lapwing, Knot (8.3%), Dunlin (2.3%), Bar-tailed Godwit (1.3%), Curlew (1.2%) & Redshank (3.5%).

Many thanks are due from myself & the 1989-90 north bank count organiser, Paul Scanlon, to all the counters. New recruits are always welcome & are especially needed along the outer south shore between Donna Nook & the southern end of Saltfleetby NNR.

Contributors: H.Bunn, A.Daws, A.L.Goodall, B.Harrison, D.J.Bradbeer, A.Housman, A.Malkinson, J.Mawer, I.G.Shepherd, J.Sprina. A.Shearsmith, J.Walker, D.Wood, D.Wright.

I.G.Shepherd.



Sanderling

B.O.E.E. Counts : Humber 1989 -1990

	DECEMBER '89			JANUARY '90			FEBRUARY '90		
	NORTH BANK	SOUTH BANK	WHOLE ESTUARY	NORTH BANK	SOUTH BANK	WHOLE ESTUARY	NORTH BANK	SOUTH BANK	WHOLE ESTUARY
Red Throated Diver	-	-	-	-	52	52	-	-	-
Little Grebe	-	5	5	-	6	6	-	10	10
Great Crested Grebe	-	2	2	2	-	2	-	15	15
Cormorant	15	18	33	48	46	94	13	65	78
Mute Swan	2	-	2	17	8	25	5	3	8
Whooper Swan	-	6	6	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pink-footed Goose	100	350	450	28	420	448	-	-	-
Greylag Goose	99	-	99	32	-	32	10	-	10
Canada Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	10
Brent Goose	3	1560	1563	65	1515	1580	176	1053	1229
Shelduck	1075	2241	3316	1760	2467	4183	795	1766	2561
Wigeon	2538	160	2698	737	397	1134	1260	130	1390
Gadwall	-	-	-	30	-	30	21	-	21
Teal	1195	-	1195	700	354	1054	130	80	210
Mallard	3216	513	3729	2751	954	3705	724	580	1232
Pintail	19	-	19	7	-	7	1	-	1
Shoveler	32	-	32	21	-	21	22	-	22
Pochard	-	150	150	11	550	561	40	80	120
Tufted Duck	-	200	200	20	200	220	30	180	210
Eider	1	-	1	-	70	70	-	9	9
Common Scoter	-	-	-	-	90	90	-	-	-
Goldeneye	-	60	60	-	88	88	-	30	30
Goosander	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oystercatcher	1950	1237	3187	123	2024	2147	3262	1488	4750
Ringed Plover	3	154	157	73	232	305	36	98	134
Kentish plover	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1
Golden Plover	3080	7295	10375	11819	15430	27249	750	1758	2508
Grey Plover	242	400	642	111	1232	1343	26	486	516
Lapwing	8910	10917	19827	14190	16702	30892	1568	1533	3101
Knot	2055	16810	18865	10905	19989	30894	8870	2416	11286
Sanderling	22	484	506	8	172	180	27	244	251
Purple Sandpiper	-	1	1	-	2	2	-	1	1
Dunlin	5745	7058	12803	13649	9255	22904	3160	6421	9581
Ruff	-	1	1	7	-	7	-	-	-
Jack Snipe	-	2	2	-	-	-	2	-	2
Snipe	36	16	52	41	20	61	33	36	69
Black Tailed Godwit	8	-	8	1	3	4	-	2	2
Bar Tailed Godwit	73	435	508	192	1078	1270	5	189	194
Curlew	791	449	1240	670	813	1483	397	798	1195
Spotted Redshank	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1	3
Redshank	853	2022	2875	3662	1540	5202	968	2159	3127
Turnstone	62	113	175	146	89	235	79	244	323

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 1990

Every year is different in the bird world and it is essentially the unpredictability of the events of each year which add interest to regular birding. One new species was recorded during 1990 and no fewer than nineteen British Birds rarities recorded, with additionally seven records of a total of 89 Parrot Crossbills, and amongst these two county seconds, three thirds, three fourths and a fifth. Rarities are however, only a small part of any year and it is the varying fortunes of our common species which show most results from regular studies. Annual fluctuations however, have to be taken in longer term contexts to provide an overview of population trends and species distributions.

The year began with continuing mild weather and consequently few influxes of wildfowl or northern gulls, but very high numbers of Lapwing and Golden Plover remaining until February and wintering Water Pipits and the Kentish Plover still on the Humber, while a Red Kite which adopted the wooded hillside at Burton Stather for two weeks in February was the first long stay bird in the county this century.

Spring came early for a few species, with exceptionally warm weather in March and consequent arrivals of Wheatears, Sand Martins and Chiffchaffs in abnormal numbers, with additionally a few oddments, but the only sign of the large arrival of southern species on the south coast of England was provided by a single Night Heron and a very early Alpine Swift. April was rather undistinguished, but another large influx of Ring Ouzels occurred late in the month when two Cranes were seen. Dotterel and Garganey were again scarce, but there was an unprecedented passage of Black terns in early May followed by an early Icterine Warbler, Purple Heron, the first Tawny Pipit since 1980, a Great Reed Warbler and a Lesser Grey Shrike equalling the only years record of Red-backed in mid June followed by the second spring Lesser Yellowlegs in mid June.

Summer was hot and dry, but few Quail appeared and the only rare wader on all the open mud was a Broad-billed Sandpiper. On the breeding front Marsh Harriers reared more young than ever before, Ruddy Ducks showed signs of an increase and spread, Hobbies and Woodlarks were in good numbers but had rather mixed fortunes in what looked like a good year. A pair of Hawfinch were proved to breed for the first time for many years and from June onwards there was a large irruption of Common Crossbills which continued until October/November.

The early autumn coastal falls of the 1960's and 70's never seem to materialise now, and the autumn migration in general was characterised by very low numbers of many regular common species like Willow Warbler, Whitethroat, Whinchat, Redstart and Pied Flycatcher in particular. A Scarlet Rosefinch was the passerine highlight of the early autumn, while waders although in very high numbers failed to produce much in the way of quality, a Baird's Sandpiper in September and a run of Avocet records on the Humber being the exceptions. A small influx of Common Buzzards was evident in mid September, and October produced more raptors with the second Red Kite of the year, a White-tailed Eagle and very large numbers of Sparrowhawks. At sea, things were not exceptional but some good Gannet days passed and Arctic Skuas were in good numbers especially compared to the very low numbers of Pomarines.

October the high point in the coastal migration season is always expected with anticipation and trepidation, so often passing with little to show, but October 1990 for once hit the Lincolnshire coast full-on. Light easterly winds from 12th gave rise to another large passage of Rock Pipit and Skylark with a small fall of eastern species during 13-15th which included an Isabelline Shrike, the fourth county member of the genus for the year. The next fall from 18th-24th was unprecedented in the history of the county with huge numbers of Goldcrest, thrushes, Robins and associated arrivals of Richard's Pipits, Parrot Crossbills, two Olive-backed Pipits, two or three Dusky Warblers and two Raddes Warblers found amongst the throngs (see article).

Ring Ouzels figured prominently in the late autumn arrivals with several around to November, when the expected northerly winds gave rise to movements of Little Auks, Longtailed Ducks and two species of scoter. Following the October coastal records of Parrot Crossbills, three wintering flocks were found in November/December totalling 80 birds with good numbers of Common Crossbills also still in evidence, and a Black-bellied Dipper discovered in the far south-west. The highlight of December and probably the year however, was the arrival of a young male Snowy Owl, a county first.

Graham P Catley.
County Recorder.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Compiled and written by Graham P. Catley

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*.

Early year coastal maxima were 57 Saltfleetby January 13th, 31 Tetney 14th, 39 Huttoft 20th & at Gib. Pt. 24 3rd with 112 February 16th and the last there April 19th. A slightly oiled first-winter was on Barton pits March 7-29th. First of the autumn were summer plumaged birds off Mablethorpe August 20th and Tetney 27th with good numbers late November-December; 21 Witham Mouth November 4th, 25 Donna Nook and 30 Mablethorpe 25th with 120 Gib. Pt. December 16th.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*.

A concentrated group of three records in March at Revesby Res. 17-18th, Gib. Pt. 21st & Witham Mouth 24th with one late bird at Gib. Pt. November 4th.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*.

A flurry of records early in the year may have involved only 3 birds with one off Humberston January 18th (IGS), Tetney February 11th (DJB) at Covenham Res. one flying around on January 13th went off north (KMW) a first-winter there January 31- February 16th with possibly the same March 3-9th (KEW et al) and possibly the same bird at Cadney Res. March 13-16th (JTH et al). One flew north then inland at Huttoft on November 4th (JRC,RJFC,ACS,GPC). One Witham Mouth December 23rd (SK).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*.

A high breeding total of 21 pairs on the Barton-Barrow Haven pits and totals there of 60+ mid-August, 38 to mid-September, 17 October and 15+ Nov-December. Elsewhere 9 Gib. Pt. April 1st, 16 Whisby November 4th, 11 Humberston 25th & 15 Deeping St.James December 19th.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*.

In the early winter up to 22 off Tetney Jan-Feb with 15 Revesby Res. January 28th. Pre-breeding groups of 14 Deeping High Bank March 25th, 17 Baston pits, 15 Denton Res. & 11 Cadney Res. 26th, 15 Barton-Barrow Haven 8th where 12 pairs bred rearing 10 young, 8 pairs breeding at Deeping St.James. In the Wash peaks around the coast of 60 Aug, 87 Sept, 100 Oct, 30 Nov with 25 on the South forty foot drain October 11th and 26 at Tattershall pits December 30th.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*.

Only one record during the year at the Witham Mouth September 7th.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*.

At Covenham Res. 2 present from 1989 remained to February 15th with one to 28th and others in January, 2 Witham Mouth 13th, one Gib. Pt. 21st where one also February 8th. Four at the Witham Mouth November 4th with singles off North Cotes 25th then in December Huttoft 26th and south off Chapel Point 29th.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*.

A bird present at Barton pits in Dec.1989 was at New Holland January 7-21st and last seen at Barrow Haven February 3rd while one at Covenham Res. from Dec.1989 was last seen February 17th and 2 others in breeding plumage there April 11-18th with a juvenile there August 1-13th and one October 6th. Others at Toff Newton September 10th and Gib. Pt. November 10th.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*.

First recorded on March 24th with 3 off Gib. Pt. followed by 10 Witham Mouth April 22nd and 12 north Gib. Pt. May 12th. Up to 16 per day on the coast June-September with 20 off Huttoft September 7th the most noted. One up the Humber at Barton August 16th.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*.

One in August at Gib. Pt. 19th then in September 14 north off Huttoft and one Gib. Pt. 7th with singles north at both sites and Saltfleetby 8th and 3 Gib Pt. 21st. One flew north off Chapel-Huttoft and 2 off Gib. Pt. October 7th.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*.

Not recorded until June with singles north off Gib. Pt. 4th and Mablethorpe 21st. 1-10 on a few dates July-September on the coast with notable peaks of 47 north Huttoft September 7th, 9 Chapel Point October 7th and 2 south off Huttoft November 3rd. Up the Humber 1-2 Goxhill Killingholme September 20th and in the Wash 2 Witham Mouth September 20th and 2-4 Holbeach Marsh 21-22nd.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*.

One flew north off Huttoft on September 25th (KMW.PRD).

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*.

In the Wash singles off Frampton Marsh (SK) & Holbeach (PC) September 15th then on 25th 2 off Huttoft (KEW) & one up the Humber off East Halton Skitter (GPC) with a late bird also on the Humber off Barton December 8th (WG.CN.KP).

A petrel sp. flew north off Gib. Pt. on September 25th (KMW).

Gannet *Sula bassana*.

Not recorded until March with 3 off Gib. Pt. 24th & 5 north 25th. Small numbers then regular off the coast June-October with notable day counts of 204 Huttoft September 7th, 96 in the Wash 9th, 270 Gib. Pt. & 175 Witham mouth 25th then in October 519 off Chapel-Huttoft, 150 Gib. Pt. & 90 in the Wash 7th. Early November produced 16 at Gib. Pt. 3rd and 6 Huttoft 4th with odd birds up the Humber during the year and one Barton November 3rd.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

An increasing coastal and estuarine species with many more now feeding inland during the winter months. Up to 11 were at Deeping St. James January-May and 21 Aug-September. On the coast maxima were 46 North Cotes January 14th, up to 38 at Gib. Pt. Jan-March, 40-50 Covenham Res. Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec. Up the Humber up to 35 at Read's Island all year with a maximum of 46 April. Autumn movements included 25 north off Mablethorpe August 11th, 25 Gib. Pt. 27th, 41 South Anderby October 9th and peaks of 50 Gib. Pt. Oct & 23 Tetney Dec. Large numbers in the Wash throughout; see table.

Birds claimed as showing characteristics of *P.c.sinensis* were 1-2 Covenham Res. February 17-March 10th, Deeping St. James February 25th and Barton pits March 8th.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.

Reports of 1-2 in Grimsby Docks Jan-Feb, & one Covenham Res. March 26th. In August singles at Terrington 12th. Deeping St. James 20th & December 16th. Tetney August 26th with singles south

off Huttoft October 7th & Anderby 9th then in November Witham Mouth 4th. Tetney 18th. Mablethorpe 25th with 6 south off Chapel Point December 29th.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*.

Overwintering birds were noted in January with 1-2 at Barton Barrow Haven to at least 28th. Messingham 25-26th, Lincoln Ballast pit 3rd March and Whisby pits Feb-early March. At Barton pits there were 1-2 from early October to late December, one Gib. Pt. December 12th and Lincoln Ballast pit 20th-1991.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*.

An adult was seen at Frampton from at least March 25-April 5th (AMcK et al). The 9th county record with others 3 May, 1 June, 1 Oct. 2 Nov. 1 Dec. This the earliest ever was associated with an unprecedented influx into southern and western England. Accepted by BBRC.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*.

No sightings in the Wash during the year but one typical spring record at Kirkby-on-Bain pit on May 6th (PHy.SK).

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*.

An adult at North Cotes on May 5th (RLo).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*.

An all white bird was again in the Laughton forest heronry on February 18th and up to 15 roosted in Goxhill marsh in July-August.

Abbey Wood	47	Troy Wood	80
Laughton Forest (3 sites)	38	Muckton Wood	26
Warren Wood	6	Kingerby Wood	6
Old Hag Wood	16	Gate Cliff Wood	8
Deeping St. James (The Mere)	103	Eveden Wood	24
Howsham Wood	12	Holbeach Hospital Wood	11
Willoughby Wood	30	Total	407

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*.

An unusual record of an immature at Deeping St. James October 13-30th.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*.

An adult of unknown origin was present in the Wash being seen at Witham Mouth September 16th then Gib. Pt. 21st and October 5-7th.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*.

Early winter peak herds 42 Baston GP. Jan-March at Barrow Haven-New Holland 37 Feb. 45 March, 52 April, 33 May, 35 Dec. with 38 East Butterwick Feb, 29 Messingham April and 45 Deeping St. James March. Late year peaks on the River Welland at Deeping of 72 Oct, 84 Nov, 75 Dec.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*.

A poor early winter with odd singles at North Cotes, Moulton Marsh & Gib. Pt.; the wintering herd at Lea Marshes numbered 43 with 14 juvs. January 9th, 41 February and up to 16 at Crowland Feb-March. Return passage in March saw 21 at Messingham 4th, 19 east at New Holland 9th. First of the autumn 2 at North Cotes October 13th with 15 West Grimsby 17th, 7 Huttoft 24th, 12 27th and 10 Nov. 1-6th. At Skidbrooke 10 October 31st. New Holland 4 November 2-6th, 5 Covenham 1st and 6 Witham Mouth 4th. At Nocton Fen 10 November 17th, 11 24th and 23 December 1-2nd with 9 Baston Fen 25th and 2 south over Covenham Res. & Saltfleetby December 16th.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus Cygnus*.

The only early year records were at North Cotes Feb-March 4th, Gib. Pt. March 4th, 25 Witham Mouth 18th, 35 north-east at Cleethorpes 19th and 17 New Holland 23rd. Late spring birds 3 Saltfleetby April 14th, one Cadney 8th and South Ferriby May 6th., First of the autumn at Gib. Pt. October 19th with 2 31st, 15 Huttoft & 4 Kirton Marsh 21st, 10 Saltfleetby 22nd, one New Holland November 5th, up to 6 Gib. Pt. Nov, 5 Holbeach Marsh 4th & 3 Hogsthorpe December 31st.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*.

An individual showing characteristics closest to the race *A. f. rossicus* was present at Messingham from February 24-March 27th and a flock of 7 seen at Tetney December 23rd.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*.

The Humber flock roosting in the Winterringham/Read's Island area numbered 535 Jan. 400 Feb. and in the late winter increased from 270 October 11th to 800 30th and remaining around 7-800 to 1991. Feeding flocks from this roost included 400 Scunthorpe January 20th, 110 Laughton 9th while flocks of 300 flew south at Tetney 7th & 200 west over Lincoln 12th. In the south of the county at Holbeach/Frampton there were up to 470 Jan. 137 Feb. & 105 Nov-Dec. A flock of 300 Timberland fen January 12th & at Gib. Pt. 190 18th 105 south 20th. 100 February 10th & 51 west March 8th. First returning autumn birds were 9 Witham Mouth September 20th, 4 Covenham 21st & 30 Gib. Pt. 22nd. A flock of 120 flew south high over North Cotes November 1st, 150 east at Kirkby Moor & 120 Fishtoft 18th with 150 Welton le Wold & 300 south at Gib. Pt. 27th, 80 south there December 30th.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*.

A small influx in the early winter produced 12 Messingham January 4-13th and 1-3 February 3-March 6th, with 6 Tetney January 7th & 8 Huttoft February 17th. Four flew south at North Somercotes on November 25th.

Feral birds included 2 at Denton Res. Jan-March & Jun-Nov. & one Deeping St. James September 23rd.

Greylag Goose *Anser Anser*.

Peaks at the main feral population centres as follows: Kirkby/Tattershall/Revesby 501 Jan, 286 May, 477 Nov, 270 Dec, at Deeping/Langtoft /Baston/Grimsthorpe 330 Jan, 479 Feb, 330 Sept, 270 Dec, at Messingham 120 Jan, 113 Aug, 150 Nov. Breeding records included 3 broods at Baston pits, 3 broods Ewerby pond, 2 pair Deeping St. James, one pair 2 juvs East Halton pit and one pair Messingham. The 330 at Baston pits on September 16th contained 60% juvs. At Chapel lake 75 December 31st.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*.

Main concentrations at Baston/Langtoft/Deeping/Grimsthorpe/Holywell with 565 Jan, 476 Feb, 169 Sept, at Messingham 112 Feb, 150 Aug, 100 Nov., at Barton/Read's Island 100 July, 120 Aug, 95 Oct with 119 Denton Res. November 23rd, 140 Ancaster December 30th and 260 Chapel lake 31st. Breeding records included 6 broods Barton/Barrow Haven. 10 Read's Island, 35 juv Tallington, 10 pair Messingham.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*.

An adult with the Read's Island Pink-feet flock from Jan-March 14th & again from October-1991 may be a wild bird as may October singles off Huttoft October 7th and north-west at Tetney 14th. A feral flock of up to 10 at Chapel lake probably accounted for the 5 at Gib. Pt. May 3rd and all the others were records of 1-2 feral birds with Canada flocks one of which paired with a Canada at Baston pits.



Lesser Yellowlegs

G.P. Catley



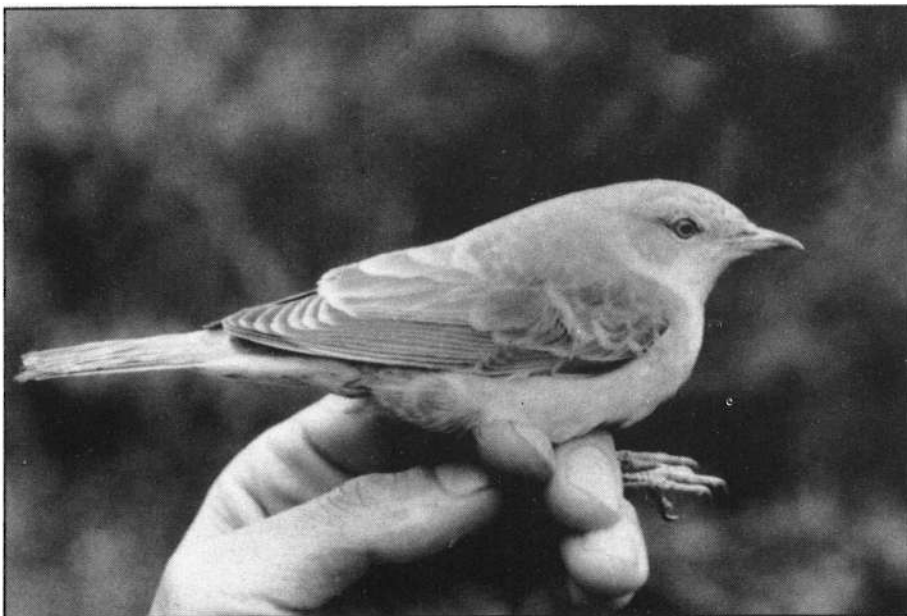
Isabelline Shrike - Pye's Hall

Keith Atkin



Parrot Crossbill - Willingham Forest

Keith Atkin



Barred Warbler

M. Boddy

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*.

All Wash data in the separate report. On the north-east coast peaks were 1500 North Cotes/Grainthorpe/Saltfleet Jan, 900 Feb, 1400 Oct, 1200 Nov, 1400 Dec. A spring peak of 4000 at Frampton Marsh April 1st and inland singles at Covenham Res. April 24th & May 2nd with 2 summer birds at Grainthorpe June 30th. Flocks returned from mid-September with 300 Witham Mouth 16th & 13 North Cotes 19th. One up the Humber at Read's Island November 13th. B.b.hrota 2 at Grainthorpe January 6th & 4 Tetney December 16th.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*.

On the middle Humber peaks at Read's Island/South Ferriby of 650 Jan, 308 Mar, 550 May, 250 July, 345 Aug (220 adult 120 juvs), 550 Nov. At Donna Nook/Saltfleet 930 Jan, 646 Nov, 920 Dec. Inland at Messingham there were 42 February 6th, 2 pair breeding, at Covenham Res. a peak of 40 in March and one brood seen and other breeding records Croxby Pond one pair, Deeping St. James 2 pair, Baston Langtoft pits 2 broods with a total of 120 juvs at South Ferriby August 16th and an additional 40 juvs at South Killingholme July-August.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*.

A very tame male at Grimsby in the early year paired with a duck Mallard. Three were at Greatford April 29th & a pair Denton res. March 18th followed by 5 an eclipse male and 4 fem/ imms at North Somercotes Warren September 9th with a female Huttoft pits December 22nd.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*.

Peaks of 1600 at Gib. Pt. in Jan, 1800 Feb, 420 Baston Fen Jan, 210 March with 500 Read's Island January 8th & March 14th then 24 still there April 24th. Inland a maximum of 112 at Whisby pits January 20th. During May-June 1-3 noted on odd dates at a few sites but no sign of breeding. An arrival in September produced totals of 365 in the Wash 9th, 75 Messingham & 104 Goxhill 13th, 200 Gib. Pt. 15th & 530 there 27th, 183 Barton 17th & 60 Huttoft 29th. At Read's Island 200 had arrived by October 30th with 320 November 6th and a marked build up at Gib. Pt. in late October produced totals of 1000 23-26th, up to 2000 Nov and 3500 Dec. Up to 210 at Tetney early November and inland 110 at Kirkby pits November 11th with 380 Baston Fen December.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*.

An eclipse adult male found at Messingham on September 14th (CN et al) was present with odd absences until December 1st moulting to full plumage by late October. It was also seen at nearby Kirton quarries on October 4th (JTH). Only the second county record following the first at Covenham Res. in February 1974.

Accepted by BBRC.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*.

An increasing species recorded throughout the county with up to 15 birds at various sites mostly Jan-April & Aug-Dec. Peaks of 90 Langtoft & 21 Fulstow Jan-Feb, 41 Baston Fen Feb, 174 Tattershall/Kirkby, 32 Burton/Whisby & 18 Messingham Jan. Two pairs bred at Deeping St. James with broods of 11 & 3 seen. No census of the rivers which produced the extensive breeding records in 1989. Late autumn-winter peaks of 28 Deeping St. James Aug-Dec, 149 Langtoft, 43 Baston Fen, 30 Tattershall/Kirkby, 46 Burton/Whisby and 18 Barton/Barrow Haven Nov/Dec.

Teal *Anas crecca*.

Peaks of 300 Read's Island January & August, 220 Messingham Aug. & 175 Sept, 87 Baston Fen March 22nd. Breeding pairs were noted at Spalding NR, Fulstow, North Thoresby, Crowle Waste, Twigmoor. Autumn passage included 76 west at Barton September 17th & in October an increase to 400 Gib. Pt. with a maximum of 600 22nd and 400 to 30th. At Pyes Hall 300 November 1st.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*.

High early winter counts included 550 Covenham Res. January 7th, 1400 Gib. Pt. February & 424 New Holland/Barton February 14th with 150 there in June and 318 November. In autumn 384 Messingham August 27th. 230 Deeping St. James September, 650 Gib. Pt. November 6th, 683 Covenham Res. Nov, & 750 there December.

Pintail *Anas acuta*.

The county stronghold is in the Wash at Terrington with 628 Jan, 500 Feb, 105 Nov, & 2000 Dec. Apart from these 1-10 in Jan-May at 9 sites & July-Dec at 11 sites. Exceptional counts included 13 east at Goxhill October 15th, 18 north off Huttoft/Chapel & 21 west at Whitton with 105 Holbeach range all November 4th with 60 Gib. Pt. November 2nd, 19 4th & 10 11th.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*.

First spring migrants were a pair at Saltfleetby March 17th a male Cadney Res. 28th followed by pairs at Deeping High Bank April 1-18th, Spalding April, Gib. Pt. May 3rd, Covenham Res. 9th, Baston pits 21st & Crowland 12-14th with a single male at New Holland April 13th. The only autumn record was at Messingham in September.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*.

Up to 20 at Barton/Barrow Haven, Gib. Pt., Baston Fen, Whisby pits, Messingham & Lincoln Ballast pit January-April with 42 Huttoft pit in January and later 36 there Oct, 24 Nov, 14 Dec. 1-2 pairs present all summer at Barton/Barrow Haven and a female with 10 juvs seen at Bardney May 24th. Autumn maxima were 60 Barton all September and 1-10 at Messingham & Gib. Pt.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta ruffina*.

A male first seen at South Ferryby in late December 1989 appeared at New Holland January 1st moving to Barton 3rd-March 12th. A female was at Fulstow pit January 28-29th and another Langtoft pit February 11th; an eclipse drake at Messingham May 28-June 6th. A female Covenham Res. August 21st followed by a party of 7 (eclipse male, 6 fem/imms) at Messingham September 4th with the male to 9th and one there November 3rd. A party of 3 (eclipse male, fem & juv) were at Baston pits November 4th with a male and 2 fem Baston/Langtoft December 22nd. A female Sutton Ings pit December 22nd and Gib. Pt. 23-28th with a final male at Bagmoor 21st. An exceptional series of records all of course with an escape proviso.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*.

Early year maxima on the Humber off New Holland/Goxhill 550 in Jan, 80 Feb with 125 Messingham January 20th & at Baston pits 339 Jan, 420 Feb with 66 Fulstow & 136 Tattershall January. Breeding records of 3 broods of 2,2,1 at Barton pits and one pair Messingham. In the late winter 124 Tattershall Oct, 100 Nov, 205 Dec, with 141 Baston pits December 16th and 90 New Holland 19th.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*.

The New Holland/Barton flock peaked at 200 Jan, but 80 still there March 29th. At Fulstow up to 200 Jan/Feb, at Baston pits 180 Feb, 145 March, at Tattershall 510 Jan, 179 Feb, and at Croxby pond 76 April 15th with 60 Messingham May 19th. Widespread breeding records with 26 broods recorded a poor reflection of the total widespread population; In the late winter 254 Covenham Res. November 25th, 169 Tattershall Dec, at New Holland 260 December 19th, 156 River Welland 14th & 118 Deeping St. James.

Tufted/Pochard hybrid.

At Baston/Langtoft pits there were 1-2 Lesser Scaup type hybrid drakes from January 7-February 4th with one December 22nd.

Scaup *Aythya marila*.

A very poor early winter with just single males at Kirkby pits January 8th, New Holland February 25th & Witham Mouth March 18th. One off Friskney & 2 Freiston August 12 & 27th with 4 Mablethorpe September 11th. More numerous from October with 4 Barrow Haven 4th, 3 Chapel 7th & in early November 3 Huttoft, 4 Covenham Res. & 11 Winteringham all 4th, a male Kirkby 27th, at Gib. Pt. 3 7th, one 10th and female Swanholme pits December 28th.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*.

On the coast 1-7 occasional throughout with exceptional counts of 42 Tetney January 14th, 8 February 10th. In October 11 of Gib. Pt. 22nd, 10 Huttoft 21st & in November 27 Tetney & one Barton 4th, 14 Gib. Pt. 4th, 50 10th, 22 December 9th & 22 north off Mablethorpe November 25th. Wash counts are given elsewhere.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*.

A poor early winter with the only records 2 at Covenham Res. from December 1989 to February 24th, 3 February 16th, one to March 18th & 3 Witham Mouth January 13th. One north off Huttoft September 25th then in October one south Chapel & one Welland Mouth 7th one Covenham Res. 19th & 3 Gib Pt. 23rd with a notable early November movement; 7 north off Huttoft, 7 Witham Mouth & 3 Tetney all 4th, 2 up the Humber off new Holland 5th, one Goxhill 26th with 2 Tetney 18th, one 19th. At Covenham Res. one November 1st with 2 by 4th, 3 from 25th and 4 from December 16th-1991.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*.

A small movement in April with 30 Theddlethorpe 5th, 4 New Holland 9th & 7 Gib. Pt. 21st then a male inland at Covenham Res. May 12-13th. Up to 20 on the coast July-December with 30 Gib. Pt. & 55 Mablethorpe September 11th then a prominent passage in late October with 170 Gib. Pt. 21st, 93 22nd, 120 Huttoft in 1 1/2hrs 21st. High November counts with 93 south off Huttoft 3rd, 205 north there 4th & 42 6th, at Holbeach Marsh 532 4th, 60 6th, at Gib. Pt. 60 4th, 65 9th, 150 10th, 40 11th, off Tetney 50 4th, 32 11th & in the Humber a maximum of 25 off Barton/New Holland 3-6th & 19 Goxhill 10th. A flock of 39 off Donna Nook December 2nd.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*.

None in the early winter, the first 2 Witham Mouth October 7th, 3 Gib. Pt. 20th, one 21st, one 25th with the almost annual records from Covenham Res. a male October 27-28th, female 31st-November 5th. Also in November 2 Chapel & 2 Tetney 4th with 2 off New Holland 6th & one Tetney 10th.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*.

Peaks at Covenham Res. of 84 Jan, 92 Feb, 60 March, 61 Nov, 75 Dec & at New Holland 86 Jan, 30 Feb, 65 Nov, 100 Dec. Inland a maximum of 30 at Whisby pits February 18th. Late spring birds 2 Barrow Haven to May 25th, one Covenham 23rd, Messingham & Cadney 3 to 3rd. First of the autumn at East Halton September 25th with a marked early November passage of 65 north Huttoft. 100 up the Humber at Whitton and a further 48 Barton, 21 Witham Mouth & 32 Tetney all 4th, 65 west at New Holland 5th.

Smew *Merganser albellus*.

At Langtoft pits 2 males present from December 1989 remained to February with a redhead February 4th & a male & 2 redheads there December 22nd. The only other record was of a redhead on the South forty foot drain at Boston February 26th.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*.

Up to 7 at Gib. Pt. Jan-April & 1-3 Aug-Nov. Inland a pair on the River Welland at Crowland March 4th with late singles Tetney April 8th & Gib. Pt. 3 south May 8th. At Saltfleet Haven 6 on

July 16th before autumn records one North Cotes September 19th & 23rd, 2 Mablethorpe 11th then 1-5 on the coast and Wash Oct-Dec with a good early November passage; 8 off Huttoft, 19 Gib. Pt. 12 Tetney, 18 Witham Mouth and 9 west up the Humber at Whitton all 4th, 8 Huttoft & 11 Gib. Pt. 6th with one up the Humber off Goxhill 10th.

Goosander *Merganser merganser*.

Records of 1-4 during Jan-March at Flixborough, Baston Fen, Cadney Res. Tetney, Brant/Witham, Tattershall with a male on the South forty foot drain Jan-May 2nd with late birds Barton April 11th and peaks of 6 Swanholme/Apex Jan, 20 Bardney Mar, 35 Baston/Langtoft/Deeping Mar, 10 Spalding Jan. Few in November but December peaks of 10 Burton pits, 20 Swanholme, 9 Thurlby, 11 Grimsthorpe with 46 River Welland at Spalding.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*.

At the main site Barton/Barrow Haven pits 4-5 in Jan-Feb with a minimum of 20 late March and 6 pairs bred but only 3 broods of 3, 1 & 2 were noted as fledged the latter still a small juv. on September 1st but only 2-6 birds Oct-Dec. At other regular sites up to 3 at Fulstow/Covenham Res. Jan-late April & Sept-Dec, one Kirkby pits Jan-May & July-Dec. At Denton Res. up to 3 May-Sept, Messingham singles Jan, May, Aug, Goxhill August 9th, Deeping St. James December 9th. Other breeding records came from Grimsthorpe Lake 3 males a female & 2 juvs on July 16th

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*.

A bird was present in the Flixborough/Burton Wood/Amcotts area from at least February 7-18th (GPC, JTH, CJJ, RNH et al).

Another flew south at Donna Nook and Saltfleetby on October 30th (D & C.C.).

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*.

An immature, probably first winter, which flew south at Spurn on October 23rd was seen to make landfall in the Donna Nook area (J Mcl), and what was presumably the same bird was seen over Wyberton & Frampton Marsh on 27th (Phy, JWel).

There were no records from 1933-1985 but this is the third since then.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*.

First arrivals at Holbeach Marsh March 25th and Barton pits 26th with a good spring passage from late April-mid June involving 35 records of 39 birds spread through the county and obvious peaks on May 7th, 16-18th & 20-31st. The only males reported were at Gib. Pt. April 9th, Read's Island May 12th, Grainthorpe 23rd and a first-summer Wootton June 12th. Four pairs bred rearing broods of 5, 4, 2 & 1 in the south of the county and another pair were seen nest building and displaying at a site where there were 4-5 birds in May-June. Again 30 widespread records from July-mid September away from breeding areas in addition to which the autumn roost at Nocton Fen contained a maximum of 9 birds August 23rd with 6 still there to September 22nd. Late birds were seen at Huttoft pit & Mareham le Fen November 4th and Gib. Pt. October 24th, November 11th & 25th.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*.

The Wash roost counts reflect the number of birds in the south Wash area with maxima of 7 Jan, 10 Feb, 5 March while in the north-east Wash, Gib. Pt./Wainfleet there were maxima of 5 Jan, 4 Feb, 3 March & 2 to April 15th. On the north-east coast Tetney/Saltfleetby up to 4 birds (2 males) Jan-March and elsewhere male Fulstow January 1st, rt.Worlaby 19th, rt.Baston Fen 27th & February 18th, male Baumber January 5th & March 11th, male Crowland March 27th then presumed spring passage birds in April; Grainthorpe 13th, male Manby 14th, Frampton 26th, Gedney 28th, Donna Nook 30th & Saltfleetby May 3rd. First autumn birds arrived in September with a male Grainthorpe 1st, rt.Gib. Pt. 20th then from Oct-Dec. on the north-east coast a regular

second-winter male & rt. with 2 males in Dec. and 2 rts. odd dates, possibly the same at Fulstow in December with a male & 2 rt. 9th. At Gib. Pt./Wainfleet peaks of 5 Oct/November 3rd & 10th & 1-3 Dec with a maximum of 7 in the south Wash roost in December. Elsewhere a male Kelstern November 4-5th, rts. Boothby Pagnell 6th, Nocton Fen 17th, Baston Fen 20th, Risby Warren December 13th, Bourne south Fen 21st & 30th & Deeping High Bank 29th.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*.

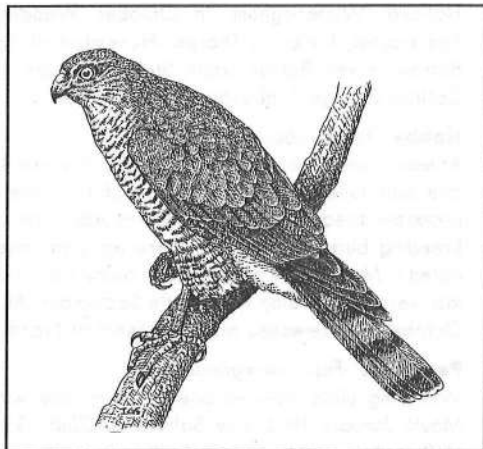
A pair returned to the inland breeding site in late April but did not nest there although reports of a juvenile nearby in August suggests that breeding did take place. An early migrant female was at Fosdyke Wash April 29th with one Kirton Marsh May 12th and a male north at Humberston 15th with a female North Cotes 28th. A male on Nocton Fen for a few days around June 10th and late autumn birds at Witham Mouth August 23rd and juveniles South Ferriby 25th & Gib. Pt. 30th. In the west Wash the first female was seen April 29th with odd sightings throughout the summer.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*.

One was seen at Gib. Pt. on March 27th (KMW) & another at Saltfleetby October 20th (RN).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*.

Now once again a widespread breeding species with a county population probably equal to that of the pre-toxic chemical era in the early 1950's. Only 33 actual cases of proved breeding were reported however, but another 21 records in May-June from other sites probably also reflected breeding birds; there are few reports from the centre & south-west of the county where the population must be large. A large autumn coastal passage no doubt included many continental/Scandinavian birds with day/site peaks of 6 Pyes Hall/Stonebridge September 29th & October 20th, at Gib. Pt. 5 October 8th, 9 23rd, 7 25th, 10 27th & 4 30-31st with 5 trapped Theddlethorpe 27th.



Buzzard *Buteo buteo*.

A small arrival in the north of the county in September with one Tetney/North Cotes 9-13th, possibly the same north-west there 9th, Risby Warren/Roxby 1-9th & 2-3 Appleby/Saxby Carrs 9-13th with probably one of the same still there November 17th. One Bulby October 11th, south at Theddlethorpe 24th with a pale bird Scallows Hall (North Thoresby-Binbrook) November 5th and one Risby Warren December 20-1991.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*.

Possibly the same early bird was at Holbeach Marsh March 10th & Tongue End Baston Fen 14th with April migrants one north at Barton 3rd & one Saltfleetby 24th. A single immature bird spent May 6-8th at Kirton Lindsey quarries catching fish at 13.30 hrs & 18.15 hrs on 6th & 11.45 hrs & 17.10 hrs 7th. One Long Eau May 8th one north Covenham & probably same Croxby pond 13th then in June Messingham 3-6th and Witham Mouth 10th. A bird at North Cotes/Grainthorpe July 28-29th hunted over the sea before flying inland at Tetney and presumably the same south at Donna Nook 31st. In August one Haltoft End 9th & Biscathorpe 12th with 2 Grimsthorpe September 2nd and one to 14th and one Swallow October 7th.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*.

Peak autumn gatherings of immatures were mostly in early August with 19 Donna Nook, 15 Grainthorpe 11th, 18 Saltfleetby 12th & 10 Gib. Pt. 14th then 12 Bonby/Saxby Carrs September 13th.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*.

A first-summer female at Gib. Pt. from June 4-15th (PRD, KMW et al) was often seen robbing Kestrels of food, a habit noted previously for this species. Accepted BBRC

Merlin *Falco columbarius*.

During Jan-April up to 4 Tetney-Saltfleetby, 2 Gib. Pt. singles Cleethorpes, New Holland, Barrow, Louth, East Halton, Messingham, Read's Island, Waithe, Byard's Leap, Pinchbeck, Culverthorpe, Baston Fen and in the Wash 2 Holbeach Marsh & 2 Witham Mouth. May birds at Frampton 13th, Grainthorpe 14th, and one Marshchapel July 27th. In August 2 Gib. Pt. and singles at Read's Island, Nocton Fen, Tetney & Donna Nook. From September- December on the north-east coast 2-3 Tetney-Grainthorpe, 2-4 Donna Nook-Saltfleetby, 2 different birds Theddlethorpe & at Gib. Pt. a maximum of 3 October 11th with 1-2 otherwise; in the Wash 1-2 Holbeach Marsh & Witham Mouth, 3 Friskney December 29th. Many inland records as follows; in September 2 New Holland, Winteringham, in October Waddington, near Sleaford, South Witham, South Somercotes, Kirkby la Thorpe, November at Appleby, North Cockerington, Hubberts Bridge, Barrow Haven, Barton, Louth, Stallingborough, male Kirkby Moor then December male Goxhill, Carlton Grange, Ludborough & Baston Fen.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*.

At least 7 pairs were proved to breed of which 4 are known to have reared broods of 3, 3, 2 & 1; one pair failed and the outcome of the others is unknown. Additionally 3 other pairs most probably bred and mid-summer records from a further 9 sites could also have referred to breeding birds. First arrivals were early at breeding sites on May 5th with about 10 migrants noted in May and 29 other reports away from known breeding areas during June-September. The last were at breeding sites in late September. An injured juvenile picked up on the coast in early October was released after treatment at North Somercotes on November 2nd.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*.

Wintering birds included one with and one without jesses on Holbeach Marsh, one Witham Mouth January 1st & one Saltfleetby 22nd, Gib. Pt. February 1st & 10th, March 13th & 16th, Holbeach again March 11th, Saltfleetby 14th, Tetney April 25th. First of the autumn at Saltfleetby August 12th with an immature South Ferriby September 1st-15th at least, an adult Goxhill 14th and 2-3 birds in the Read's Island/Barton area November-December including 2 perched on the Humber Bridge on November 28th. One Mablethorpe September 19th, Gib. Pt. 22nd and an exceptional number of October-December records; Wrangle October 7th, Pyes Hall 17th, Donna Nook 22nd, Burton Wood 27th, Risby Warren 29th and possibly the same there December 30-1991. One Tetney October 14th irregular to 1991, Gib. Pt. December 2nd & Rauceby Warren 9th.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*.

The status of this species is becoming complicated by the widespread introduction of Red-leg/Chukar hybrids by game rearing interests all over the county.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*.

No significant records of this declining species.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*.

A poor year in contrast to 1989 with calling males in May at Waddington & Scampton 22nd, Deeping Fen & Tumby Woodside 29th then in June Scotton Common 13th, Normanby le Wold 27th with 2 Fiskerton July 2-August 2nd.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*.

No significant records.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*.

Displaying males in April-May were 4 at Lincoln Ballast pit & 7 Barton/Barrow Haven where most probably bred. Up to 15 at the former site from July-Sept. and 20+ at the latter Oct-Dec.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*.

The only early winter count of note was 54 at Baston pits January 12th. Autumnal maxima of 120 Barrow Haven/Barton August-December, 40 Messingham September 7th & 60 East Halton pit October.

Coot *Fulica atra*.

Peaks of 370 Barton/Barrow Haven Jan, 311 Nov, 323 Dec, 1130 Baston pits Jan, 624 Feb, 325 Sept, 451 Nov, 1200 Dec. At Tattershall 1197 Jan, 554 Feb, 408 Sept, 646 Oct, 726 Nov, 795 Dec. An autumn count of 267 Messingham August 27th.

Crane *Grus grus*.

Two spring records of singles at Frampton Marsh April 25th (AMcK,PHY,SK et al) & an immature flying south over Covenham Res. April 28th (SR,RN).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*.

Peaks of 980 Tetney/North Cotes Jan, 400 June, 1500 Oct, at Cleethorpes 341 Jan, 500 June, 613 July. Birds were present on the upper-middle Humber from mid-February with a peak of 62 South Ferriby April 27th & about 10 pairs breeding on Read's Island. On the coast 5 pair bred at Skidbrooke, 1 Saltfleet, 1 Pyes Hall, 1 Donna Nook and inland 1 Baston pits, 1 New Holland reared 2 juvs, 1 Anton's Gowt & at Messingham up to 5 Feb-Aug 1 pair breeding with a pair Scotterthorpe/Laughton May/June & odd inland records from Bardney-Lincoln area May & Aug-Sept.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*.

One at Gib. Pt. February 25th with another April 1st probably the same as one Frampton the same day with one Read's Island 9th. Unusual inland records in June at Messingham 2-3rd & Sibsey 10th. On the Humber a series of autumn records at South Ferriby/Read's Island with 2 July 28-29th. 2 August 7-16th, 3 more including a colour ringed juvenile (probably from West Germany) August 25-September 3rd, 1 5th, 4 more 14th with 2 to 15th. A party of 3 at Gib. Pt. September 10th and a late bird at Frampton Marsh December 8-9th.

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*.

The same female as in 1989 returned to a site in the county where it was present from at least April 10-June 5th. No nesting attempt was noted in 1990.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*.

March arrivals from 19th South Ferriby, 20th Cadney Res. & 22nd Messingham where there were up to 5 to May 12th. A moderate spring passage during April/May with no real peaks. The only breeding records reported were 3 pairs at Kirkby pits, 4 pair Baston pits & single pairs at South Killingholme, Langtoft pits, Little Bytham & Bardney SBF. A maximum in autumn of 7 Gib. Pt. July 12-August 5th, 7 Bardney August 11th & the last at Winteringham September 8th & Covenham Res. 15th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*.

At Cleethorpes 158 Jan & at Read's Island/South Ferriby 130 Jan, 70 Feb, 190 Aug, 80 Sept, 34 Nov-Dec. Peak spring passage of tundrae type birds during May 8-June 7th with peaks of 254 Read's Island 16th, 300 Goxhill 18th, 220 there 21st, 130 Saltfleetby 20th, 85 Skidbrooke 23rd & 167 Donna Nook 24th. A scatter of inland records with breeding pairs at Langtoft/Baston, Bardney, Kirkby pits and on the coast 15 pairs at Donna Nook/Skidbrooke, Autumn passage from early July

with 70 Killingholme 28-30th & 265 there August 17th, 123 Goxhill 20th, 122 North Cotes 31st, 200 Saltfleetby September 22nd, 115 Goxhill 10th, and exceptional numbers in the Wash in August-September with 703 Freiston August 12th, 700 Witham Mouth 25th & 300 there September 9th. A late high count of 520 Cleethorpes December 29th.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*.

The wintering bird in the Read's Island/Barrow Haven area on the Humber was present until April 1st when last seen at Barton moulting into first-summer male plumage (JTH, GPC, WG et al).

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*.

Another very poor year with just a briefly seen trip of 4 at Tetney May 19th (TH) and 7 on Fulbeck airfield.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*.

Up to 500 at a number of traditional sites Jan-Feb & Aug-Dec, with peaks of 12000 Read's Island Jan, 900 Sept, 2000 Nov-Dec, 3000 Humberston Fitties Jan, 2000 Feb, 1000 Dec, 800 Goxhill/New Holland Jan, 600 Nov, 700 Dec, 5000 Tetney/North Cotes Jan, 600 Sept, 3000 Nov, 600 Huttoft Jan, 1500 Nov. Spring passage flocks of note were 400 Kelstern April 21st, 1000 Denton village 7th, 150 Fulbeck 10-13th & 100 Boothby Graffoe 24th. In the latter part of the year a maximum of 4500 Donna Nook Nov, 1500 Saltfleet & 2000 Witham Mouth Dec.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*.

A very high count of 1150 at Tetney January 14th with 250 Cleethorpes Jan. On the middle Humber a spring maximum of 17 Goxhill May 5th & autumn peak of 14 Barton/Read's Island September with 27 Goxhill/East Halton October 4th. One inland at Kirkby pits May 2nd & 2 3rd with one Messingham 17th. At Cleethorpes 110 December 29th.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.

Notable flocks in January were 1000 Cleethorpes, 1250 New Holland/Goxhill, 2500 North Cotes, 1500 Fulbeck & 2000 Anderby February 8th. At Messingham 1000 were present August 12th & there were some large arrivals from late October with November-December peaks of 1000 Read's Island, 3000 Strubby airfield, 1000 New Holland, 4000 Tetney, 1500 Humberston, 5000 Saltfleetby, 4000 Donna Nook, 2000 Saltfleet & 1150 Pyewipe.

Knot *Calidris canutus*.

High January counts of 1130 North Cotes, 10,000 Cleethorpes, 2000 Feb & Gib. Pt. counts exceptional to the Wash figures of 8000 April, 1800 May, 1000 June, 20,000 August, 7500 Oct. On the middle-upper Humber 1-5 on odd dates Apr-May & up to 10 Sept/Oct & one inland at Kirkby pits May 2nd. On November 4th 770 flew north off Huttoft with November maxima at Donna Nook of 4000, 3000 Dec & 5000 Cleethorpes.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*.

Peaks at Cleethorpes of 120 Jan, 364 Feb-Mar, 312 April & at Saltfleetby 146 Aug, 102 Sept. Spring passage on the middle Humber peaked at 8 Goxhill May 21st with inland records at Whisby pits May 1st, Messingham 4th, Kirkby 21st, Bardney 13th with 5 at Covenham Res. 14th. At Read's Island-Killingholme 1-2 June 7-August 31st with 500 Donna Nook July 22-23rd & 45 Huttoft December 27th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*.

The only spring birds were at Read's Island May 12th, Donna Nook 3rd & 23rd & Gib. Pt. 24th. Singles on July 22nd at Read's Island & Welland Mouth, Grainthorpe 29th, Donna Nook August 4th, North Killingholme 12th before an influx from 16th through September with peaks of 12 South Ferriby/Winteringham September 14th, 19 17th, 9 Gib. Pt. 24th, 14 25th then in October 8 3rd, 3 6th

& 1-2 to November 2nd. Others in October at Goxhill 1st, 2 Norton Disney 13th. Additionally 1-4 at Saltfleetby, Covenham, Tetney, North Cotes, Bardney, North Killingholme, New Holland, Witham Mouth, Barton, Messingham, Grainthorpe, Baston pits & Donna Nook Aug-Sept giving a total of about 76 birds during August-November.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*.

A small influx in early May with one Whisby pits 3-5th, Kirkby pits 4-7th & 2 Messingham 4-5th.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*.

A juvenile at the Witham Mouth September 16th (SK). Only the 4th county record. (reported)

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*.

The only record was of a juvenile at Gib. Pt. August 16-17th (PRD, MG, KMW et al).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*.

In May 1 Donna Nook 3rd, Tetney 13th, Messingham 10th with 2 there 15th and probably the same 2 Read's Island 16th & Goxhill 21st where there were 4 different birds to 25th & 1 inland at Kirkby pits June 3rd. An arrival of adults in late July with a maximum of 10 Read's Island/South Ferriby 22-30th followed by a good arrival of mainly juveniles during August-September with peaks of 16 North Killingholme August 27th, 9 Tetney September 15th, 19 South Ferriby September 1st, 17 Witham Mouth 16th, 7 Barton 17th, 8 Gib. Pt. 12th & October records 5 Tetney 6th, Holbeach 7th, 2 Barton 11th & at Gib. Pt. 4 4-6th singles 19th, 25-26th, Grainthorpe 21st & Tetney November 1-10th. A minimum of 140 birds recorded July-November.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*.

Another poor early winter with just 1-2 Grimsby Docks/Cleethorpes Jan-Feb & 1 Witham Mouth January 13th. In an exceptional passage of arctic waders on May 3rd a party of 3 were at Goxhill Haven. One Witham Mouth August 25th and at Huttoft singles September 7th & October 7th with others Tetney & Trusthorpe November 4th & 1-2 Cleethorpes 4th-1991.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*.

Peak counts at South Ferriby/Read's Island of 600 Jan-Feb, 800 Aug, 2000 Oct, 1200 Nov at Tetney 1000 Jan & Oct, Cleethorpes 4000 Jan, 2000 Mar, 3000 April & at Gib. Pt. 600 April, 2000 July, 3000 Aug, 2400 Sept, 2000 Nov. A spring passage peak of 500 Read's Island May 16th & small numbers at inland sites March-June. In autumn 500 New Holland September 10th, 700 Barton 17th, 580 Goxhill October 1st. On November 4th 450 flew north off Huttoft with 2000 at Donna Nook in December.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus*.

One on the Mere at Gib. Pt. on July 26th and early on 27th (PRD, KMW et al) is only the 5th county record; the previous 4 all in May 1959, '82 & 2 in '84.
Accepted by BBRC.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*.

Recorded Jan-March with site maxima in the period at Grimsby Pyewipe 16, Cleethorpes/Humberston 42, Skidbrooke 9, Kirkby pits 1, Langtoft/Baston pits/fen 3, Holbeach 2, Gib. Pt. 5, Messingham 12, Witham Mouth 9. Several on passage in April-May with a peak in early May when maxima of 25 Kirkby pits 1st, 15 Gib. Pt. 3rd, 10 Donna Nook 7th & 18 Messingham. A poor autumn June-October with maxima of 18 Goxhill, 20 Marston SF, 10 Bardney, 7 Messingham & Moulton Marsh. The only Nov-Dec records were of up to 16 at Pyewipe & 1 Tetney.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*.

Recorded on odd dates during Jan-March with 1-2 at the following sites: North Killingholme, Goxhill, Covenham, Gib. Pt., Baston Fen, Donna Nook, Deeping High Bank, Saltfleetby, Messingham & Kirkby pits with April records from Swallow 4th, Gib. Pt. 5th & 13th Huttoft 17th &

Kirkby pits 22nd. First of the autumn at Gib. Pt. September 14th with a maximum of 8 at Marston SF late September & October birds at Gib. Pt. 4th, 12th, 26th, Goxhill 1st, East Halton 3rd, 2 Donna Nook/Pyes Hall 18th, Tetney 27th, 3 Saltfleetby 7th then in November 2 Skidbrook 24th, Saltfleetby 18th, Humberston 27th & Wolla Bank December 2nd.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.

Spring peak at Baston Fen was of 75 March 10th with an autumn peak of 300 Marston SF September. The only drumming birds reported were 6 Messingham, 1 Scotterthorpe & 2 Baston Fen.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*.

Roding males included 4 at Linwood Warren, 2 Skellingthorpe, 5 Keb Wood & 15+ Laughton Forest & singles Bourne Wood, Swallow & Hoplands Wood. A good coastal arrival during October 18-30th with 20-40 on the north-east coast.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*.

The well established wintering & passage area at the Welland Mouth/Holbeach had monthly peaks of 130 Jan, 185 Feb, 280 March, 33 April, 57 Aug, 832 Sept, 732 Oct, 72 Nov. Additionally birds were much more numerous on the Humber with up to 31 at Pyewipe/Tetney Jan-March & 21 Dec, the former probably the birds from North Killingholme autumn 1989. At Read's Island/Barton 13 in April/May with 1-3 late July a flock of 20 adults west at New Holland 24th arriving at South Ferriby where 26 August 24th & 40 September 3rd. Inland at Messingham 5 April 14th, 1 May 24th & 9 June 7th with odd records at other coastal sites April/May, 4 Gib. Pt. April 26th and small numbers July-October at Huttoft, Pyes Hall, Barton, Chapel, Messingham & North Killingholme. November birds included 5 at Winteringham 5-6th & Barton 21st & one Huttoft pit 4th.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*.

At North Cotes 450 January 14th with 300 Cleethorpes Jan, 210 Feb, 110 March. A spring peak of 17 Read's Island May 15th & at Goxhill 30 May 4-18th & a maximum of 4 inland at Messingham 2-5th. A flock of 18 immatures at Goxhill June 6th with 20 Grainthorpe 30th and 104 there July 29th. An exceptional autumn passage, see Wash counts, with 10,000 Gib. Pt. October, 3400 Holbeach Marsh September 9th & 51 Barton September 29th with 33 Goxhill October 4th.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*.

A wintering bird seen with Curlew at Read's Island January 13th was presumably the bird at Messingham March 14th. First of the spring appeared to be singles East Halton & Gib. Pt. April 19th with a poor but extended passage peaking as follows: in the Wash 29 April 29th, 20 Frampton & 12 Grainthorpe May 1st, 11 East Halton 4th, 43 North Cotes 5th, 5 Cadney 6th then 10 north Covenham 12th & on 13th 44 in the Wash, 26 north Gib. Pt., 5 north-east Barton & 5 East Halton/Killingholme. A number of June records with 1 Barton 5th, 2 Goxhill 6th, 6 Cleethorpes 17th & 5 in the Wash 24th. Some impressive autumn counts with in July: 23 Tetney 14th, 174 south-west Saltfleetby & 243 south Donna Nook 24th, 223 the Wash 22nd (with 121 Benington) then in August 22 North Cotes 18th, 31 south Mablethorpe 20th, 100 Wash 12th & 27 there September 9th. October singles at Goxhill 4th, Holbeach 7th & Gib. Pt. 13-14th, with 3 there Nov. 2nd & 2 3-4th.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*.

The Goxhill Marsh flock peaked at 250 Feb, 230 July, 255 Sept-Oct, & Read's Island 400 March with 600 July while an exceptional 1400 were at Holbeach January 30th. Inland at Messingham there were 71 Jan, 50 March, 75 Aug, with up to 50 during the year occasional at Nettleton, Kirkby, Risby Warren and lesser numbers at a few other sites. Breeding records were scarce as usual with a pair Hungerton, 2 pair Messingham/Manton & some at Fulbeck. In the autumn 400 Read's Island Sept, 250 Oct. A total of 631 Pyewipe March the only reported count from this important site.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*.

This species seems to be decreasing at all seasons. The only winter records were 1 Humberston Jan-March & December 15th with 1 Terrington February 10th. Noted in spring from April 28th with 1-4 to June 3rd at Grainthorpe, Covenham Res., Messingham, Kirkby & Gib. Pt. with late June birds 1-2 at Tetney, Gib. Pt., Messingham & Holbeach. At most sites a poor autumn but again some impressive numbers in the Wash with 82 Holbeach Marsh August 22nd & 11 there September 9th, 5 October 7th. At Pyes Hall/Donna Nook 8 July 9th, 4 September 30th peaks, but no more than 2 together elsewhere.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*.

High January counts included 400 North Cotes 14th, 177 Saltfleetby 13th, 110 Donna Nook 3rd., 90 Read's Island, 116 New Holland 1st & 300 Cleethorpes Feb, 170 March. Breeding records included 4-5 pair East Halton skitter, 1 pair Messingham, Baston pits, 8 pair Donna Nook & several Read's Island. At Grainthorpe 370 August 31st & at Read's Island/South Ferriby 230 Aug, 150 Sept, 100 Oct with 70 North Killingholme September 8th & again high Wash totals.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*.

An overwintering bird was at New Holland to April 26th with another at Cleethorpes February 13th & March 8th. Spring passage birds were noted from April 19th North Killingholme with peaks of 10 Gib. Pt. April 30th & 11 May 5th with 19 in the Wash April 29th & 13 May 13th; elsewhere 1-4 to June 26th. Autumn passage peaked in late July with 186 in the Wash 22nd including 105 Holbeach, maximum at Gib. Pt. of 14 22nd & 15 August 20th with later Wash counts of 61 August 12th, 90 September 9th, 93 October 7th & elsewhere 1-6 at several other sites with 12 Covenham Res. August 19th & a late record of 3 Saltfleet October 28th.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*.

A bird in summer plumage was present at Gib. Pt. on June 15th (PRD,KMW et al). The second spring record for the county & the 8th in all. Accepted by BBRC.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*.

During Jan-March 1-2 noted at 11 localities with 15+ birds involved and during April May 1-3 at 11 sites involving 19+ birds. From June-Oct noted at 20 sites with a peak of 6 Gib. Pt. & Marston SF, 7 Spalding SBF & 9 Bardney. In November-December 1-2 at 12 sites involving 13+ birds.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*.

A marked spring passage in early May with 1 Kirkby pits 2-3rd & 2 4th, 1 Barton 5-6th, Gib. Pt. 6-7th, Donna Nook 7th & Grainthorpe 20th. Unusual June records at Messingham 8-30 th, Gib. Pt. 25-30th & Donna Nook 25-26th. A good autumn passage; at Messingham July 22-28th, 2 August 13-14th, 1 17th, Gib. Pt. July 18-20th, August 28-29th, Cleethorpes July 8th, Donna Nook 9th, Scotter Bottom August 4-9th & 13-14th, Bardney 18-19th, Saltfleetby 4th, Holbeach 10th, Kirkby pits 2 20th, Covenham Res. 3-4th & September 8th & at Marston SF August 24-September 19th with 3 16th.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*.

A very early bird at Tetney March 17th well ahead of the next at Denton Res. & Ancaster 3 April 14th. A poor spring passage with 1-2 at only 10 sites through to late May & a maximum of 5 Tattershall May 3rd. Birds returned from late June with 4 at Boston GC 26th. A widespread autumn passage July-September with peaks of only 10 Holbeach July 15th, 10 Covenham Res. 28th, 10 Donna Nook August 8th, 10 Bardney 26th, 8 Killingholme 29th & the last at Marston SF September 17th.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*.

Peaks at Cleethorpes of 247 Jan, 200 Mar-April & 200 Dec. Spring passage on the Humber started in April with 22 Goxhill 19th & 22 Barrow Haven 22nd & peaked in early May with 98 Goxhill 4th

down to 41 5th & 25 there 21st with in autumn 39 July 31st, 29 October 1st, 43 December 3rd. Inland singles at Kirkby pits May 2nd, Messingham 3rd, 2 4th, Whisby pits 1st & 2 17th, Bardney 20th. Very high counts in the Wash - see table.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*.

A juvenile at North Killingholme August 27th (JWa et al).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*.

The only record was of one at Donna Nook on November 5th (IlA).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*.

A very poor autumn with most claimed at Gib. Pt. where in August 2 20th, 3 22nd, 2 23rd, 3 29th singles September 8th & 14th, October 15th, 21st & 22nd. Elsewhere adult Frampton July 23rd, off Mablethorpe 6 September 11th, 2 19th, 3 20th, Huttoft August 25th, 5 September 25th, 1 26th, Donna Nook September 3rd, 2 Holbeach Marsh 8th, Witham Mouth 20th & Tetney & Holbeach Marsh November 4th.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*.

The only spring birds were seen at Gib. Pt. April 29th & May 6th. Up to 30 per day on the coast July-Oct, with peaks of 214 Mablethorpe September 19th, 53 20th off Huttoft 186 7th & 194 25th with 50 Gib. Pt. 21st, 35 25th, Witham Mouth 40 8th. A high total of 52 off Chapel/Huttoft October 7th, 25 Gib. Pt. 21st with late records in November at Gib. Pt. 1-3 2-6th, Huttoft 5 4th, 2 6th, Saltfleet 2 4th & Mablethorpe 25th. One up the Humber at New Holland August 19th.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*.

A sub-adult was off Mablethorpe August 20th (GPC), an adult off Huttoft September 25th am (KEW,SR) and possibly the same there pm (KMW,PRD) with 6 juveniles off Chapel/Huttoft October 7th (GPC,SR).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*.

Generally scarce during the autumn with 1-5 on odd dates from late July with notably 42 off Huttoft September 7th, 44 25th, 8 Gib. Pt. 25th, 19 Witham Mouth 20th, 7 Holbeach Marsh 21st, 16 22nd & October peaks of 17 Chapel/Huttoft 7th when 6 off Gib. Pt. & 8 in the Wash. Late birds in November off Huttoft & 5 Holbeach Marsh 4th with 2 up the Humber at Goxhill 26th & at Gib. Pt. 2 3rd & 1 27th.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*.

In January a second-winter on Winterton tip 13-27th with a first-winter Covenham Res. 14th, first-winter Witham Mouth March 18th and first-summer Barton May 20th possibly the same as South Ferriby June 25th. During August a second-summer/adult at North Killingholme 6th, Covenham Res. first-summer 11th & adults 19th & 26th with adult Saltfleet Haven September 1st, adult Witham Mouth 8th, adult Wrangle October 7th and finally adult north-west at Mablethorpe November 25th.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*.

The only early winter record was of 17 at Gib. Pt. January 3rd with one there March 28th, one New Holland April 3rd. Spring passage was heaviest from April 28-June 2nd with records of 50 birds & peaks of 5 Covenham Res. April 30th, 5 Messingham May 1st, 12 Whisby pits 3rd, 5 Gib. Pt. 9th, 4 Kirton quarries 4th & 1-2 Barton, Fiskerton, Bardney, Cadney Res. & North Cotes. A fairly poor autumn after one Covenham Res. July 18-27th & a peak there of 7 August 27-September 11th, 4 Messingham August 21st, 4 Huttoft September 25th, 6 there October 21st, 5 Donna Nook & 6 Mablethorpe November 25th, 1-3 on odd dates at Holbeach, Frampton, Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, South Ferriby Aug-Oct & December birds at Huttoft pit & 5 south off there 26th.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*.

An early winter maximum of 5000 at Immingham tip/Pyewipe in January, at Gib. Pt. 4500 Jan, 6000 Feb, 3000 Mar & 4500 Aug. The Frampton colony contained 1858 nests all of which failed due to high tides.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*.

The second county record was of a summer plumaged adult which roosted at Whisby pits April 27-29th (KDD et al).

Common Gull *Larus canus*.

A total of 540 non-breeding first-summer birds were at Barton shore May 29th with 1000 there November & peaks at Gib. Pt. of 2700 Jan, 5000 Feb, then 1000 North Cotes December 9th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*.

Apparently becoming more regular in winter with 6 records in Jan-Feb mostly at tips. Spring passage began in March with 30 north-east at South Witham 20th & a maximum of 30 Gib. Pt. April 20th. An early autumn peak of 400 Whisby pits July 22nd later 116 Gib. Pt. August 21st, 160 Croxton September 9th, in October 86 East Halton 5th & 56 Gib. Pt. 24th.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*.

Early winter saw a marked arrival at tips in the north of the county from January 15th with 400 Winterton tip 12th increasing to 2000 25th, 1500 Immingham 17th. At Gib. Pt. 250 flew south March 22nd and 150 there June 7th. Late winter tip counts of 3000 Boston Oct, 2000 Dec, 1650 Pyewipe December 12th with 1000 adults Winterton tip 30th.

Yellow-legged Gulls

Single adults showing characteristics of one of the yellow legged races probably *L.a.micahelis* were at South Killingholme July 26-August 17th, East Halton August 17th, Whisby pits July 22nd, Thorpe pits 17th, Scotter Bottom August 6th. The most ever in one year.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoideus*.

A first-winter which arrived at Winterton tip January 12th (GPC et al) was last seen on 27th with a second-winter there 25-27th (WG, GPC, JTH et al) and presumably the same flying west at Barton pits 26th (GPC).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*.

Another poor early winter with a fourth-winter at Pyewipe/Immingham tip January 29-March 4th and a first-winter there March 6th, adult Witham Mouth 18th, adult Winterton tip 29th with 2 first-winters there 30-April 4th & 1 to 8th. In December a first-winter Tetney & adult Frampton 9th & 1-2 adult/fourth winter at Pyewipe 18th-1991.

Glaucous/Herring hybrid

A first-winter at Pyewipe January 31st (GPC).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*.

Maxima at northern tips were 500 at each Winterton & Immingham January with 520 Cleethorpes 10th. Impressive numbers at Gib. Pt. in the autumn with 600 September 10th, 200 October 4th at Boston tip 800 Sept, 200 Dec. Off Huttoft 100 flew north-west November 4th with 1150 present at Pyewipe December 12th.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*.

A marked movement in late March produced 15 at North Cotes 22nd then on 25th 320 south at Gib. Pt. & 200 Holbeach Marsh with 25 at Gib. Pt. again May 1st. Up to 20 at coastal sites from June-November with 137 north off Huttoft (1 hour) & 135 Gib. Pt. November 3rd, 210 Holbeach & 260 Witham Mouth 4th with 44 up the Humber off Whitton 24th.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*.

An early bird flew north at Gib. Pt. March 12th with 51 east there April 29th & 30 east 30th with up to 21 in May & 20 Witham Mouth April 29th. Numbers built up from July with 60 North Cotes 25th, 30 Cleethorpes 27th & 264 Gib. Pt. 20th. Extensive autumn passage with 172 Gib. Pt. August 19th, 300 30th, 180 September 1st & 100 15th while 242 were in the Wash August 9th, 80 Mablethorpe 20th & in September 109 Witham Mouth 9th, 50 16th. Last birds were 4 Gib. Pt. October 6th, 3 Chapel & 27 Witham Mouth/Holbeach Marsh 7th.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*.

First of the year were at Whisby pits with 7 April 29th & others Denton Res. & Langtoft 30th. Breeding records from Bardney pits 2 pair, Frampton Marsh 14 pair, Tallington 35 nests, Kirkby pits, Whisby pits 5, Tetney 1 pair failed & Skidbrooke 1 pair. Autumn passage peaks were 48 North Killingholme August 29-31st, 145 south Gib. Pt. 20th with 65 29th, 150 north Huttoft September 8th, 100 Witham Mouth 9th. Last of the year 5 Huttoft, 15 Holbeach/Witham Mouth October 7th & one Gib. Pt. 15th.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*.

A strong spring passage on April 23-24th with 5 north-east at Saltfleetby & 17 Covenham Res. 23rd with 25 there & 89 east at Barton (08-15-10-00) 24th. At Covenham Res. peaks of 16 April 28th & 8 May 3rd with one Read's Island April 27th & an oiled moribund bird Barton May 12-14th. Few recorded in autumn with peaks of 17 Mablethorpe August 20th, 12 Gib. Pt. 29th & 10 September 1st. Last of the year 3 off Chapel October 7th & 1 there 15th.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*.

A late arrival with the first at Holbeach Marsh April 28th & 3 Gib. Pt. 30th. Unusual records in May were 2 at Barrow Haven 3rd, 2 Read's Island 16th & singles Covenham Res. 2nd & Kirkby pits 13th. Maximum count at Gib. Pt. was 39 on May 26th where 25+ pairs bred rearing at least 13 young. Elsewhere 15 pairs bred at Skidbrooke but all failed; no totals received from Tetney and Saltfleetby. In the Wash there were 30-40 off Holbeach July 21-23rd with 18 August 12th while peaks at Gib. Pt. included 25 August 8th & 20 September 7th the final record.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*.

One at Covenham Res. April 25th preceded an unprecedented movement in early May. Following south-easterly winds on 1-3rd birds appeared from 1st with 3 Covenham Res. 4 Messingham, 2 Kirton quarries & 9 Scotter Bottom with the main arrival on 2nd; 55 Barrow Haven, 76 Barton, 105 Covenham Res. 48 Scotter Bottom, 15 Messingham, 38 Whisby pits, 25 Tattershall, 25 West Ashby pits, 1 Gib. Pt. 2 near Boston a minimum total of 390 birds. New arrivals on 3rd included 34 at Barton, 5 New Holland, 60 Messingham, 4 Gib. Pt., 25 Kirkby pits; another 128 birds with fewer over the ensuing 3 days; 7 Boston Fen 4th, 6 Kirton quarries 5th. The minimum total for the influx being a staggering 545 birds during 1-5th. Odd birds to mid June. A generally poor autumn with 1-7 at 7 sites mostly in the Wash & Covenham Res. to October 21st.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*.

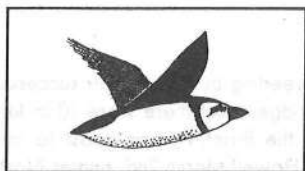
1-5 on odd dates on the coast with 8 Gib. Pt. September 3rd, 10 Huttoft October 7th, 30+ Gib. Pt. 20-21st with 8 there November 4th & 27th, 10 Donna Nook November 25th & 3 up the Humber off New Holland November 5th.

Razorbill *Alca torda*.

1-5 on the coast and Wash May-November with a peak of 15 south off Huttoft October 21st & one up the Humber off New Holland November 5th.

Little Auk *Alle alle*.

There were 5 at Gib. Pt. & 1 Witham Mouth October 21st with 1 Tetney 30th then a good early November movement with 9+ Huttoft 3rd then on 4th 61 north there 10 Gib. Pt., 5 Butterwick, singles Holbeach Marsh, Grimsby Docks, 2 Tetney & 24 Witham Mouth with one up the Humber at



Whitton/Winteringham where there were 8 5th & singles 6th & 24th with others in the Humber 21 west & 16 east at New Holland 5th & 2 Goxhill 26th. Three off Huttoft 6th & one found moribund inland at Timberland 5th. Good numbers again in December on 23rd with 3 Witham Mouth, 11 Tetney, 1 Gib. Pt., 52 Huttoft then on 27th 8 Huttoft & on 28th 110 north there in 2 1/2hrs with 30 south off Gib.Pt and 14 off Chapel 29th.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*.

An exhausted bird was picked up at South Ferriby January 21st with others seen at Mablethorpe September 19th, Holbeach October 7th & November 6th & Gib. Pt. November 4th.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*.

In the north of the county there were 1000 at New Holland in January & 300 were shot there in May with a regular flock of 500-1000 in the Scunthorpe-Manton-Messingham area throughout.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*.

Notable flocks included 86 Thornton Abbey January 23rd, 105 Gib. Pt. February 11th with 44 East Halton October 4th, 60 Barton 30th, 72 Thornton Abbey December 28th 80 Winterton tip 30th & 200+ Risby Warren late December.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*.

A massive 9000 were present at Alma Wood near Grantham January 24th with 800 Thornton Abbey 26th then 1750 Covenham February 3rd. At Gib. Pt. peaks of 500 May 12th & October 23rd with 2000 Firebeacon Lane Grainthorpe December 2nd.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*.

The large flock at New Holland grain terminal numbered 500+ in January but 150+ were shot there in May with about 200 in summer & 2-300 to December. At Gib. Pt. 36 flew south November 11th & in December there were flocks of 150 Normanby Park, 100 Goxhill & 200- Twenty-Bourne.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*.

This species seems to be decreasing as a spring migrant with the first birds in late April at Immingham 22nd, Boston 24th & Barton 29th but few in May with maxima of 8 west at Barton 8th, 44 south Gib. Pt. 15th & 20 Theddlethorpe 16th. A notable autumn gathering at Nocton Fen with 36 September 2nd and the last records Binbrook 21st & 2 juveniles at New Holland 24th.

Cuckoo *cuculus canorus*.

Two early males were at Stainfield April 17th & West Rasen 21st with several first arrivals during 27-30th. A rufous phase bird was at Tetney June 3rd & the most juveniles recorded 6 at Donna Nook-Skidbrooke July 3rd where the last was seen September 4th & 7th.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*.

A total of 27 breeding pairs were reported with reports from a further 65 localities through the year.

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca*.

A first-winter male first seen at Low Farm Thornton Curtis on December 13th (DAR et al) was relocated in the Wainfleet/Friskney Marsh area on 24th (Mr. Worth et al) where it remained into 1991. The first county record of this superb bird; see write-up.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*.

Only 14 breeding records reported and birds seen at a further 24 localities through the year is a poor reflection of the county status of this species.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*.

No significant records of this widespread and common species.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*.

At Gib. Pt. there were up to 4 in the early year with 2-3 pair breeding but only 1 pair successful and odd singles Aug-November 3rd. In the Hobhole/Nunn's Bridge roost there were 10 in Jan-Feb, with 1-2 to late March & 3-5 Nov-December. Three in the Brant/Witham roost to late February & also in January 2 Surfleet 20th with 1-2 Nov-Dec, 3 Howell March 2nd, singles North Killingholme & Immingham Dock January with one Denton Res. to March 8th. A migrant at New Holland March 9th, one dead Cleethorpes 20th & April singles Saltfleetby 8th & 28th, 3 Bourne Fen & 1 Messingham 8th where there were odd records all summer. Pairs bred at Keb Wood, Laughton 2+ pair, Temple Wood, Skellingthorpe, Metheringham Delph, Doddington, Ancaster-Rauceby & Bourne Woods; again a poor reflection of the true county breeding status. Singles at Ropsley Rise Wood August 18th, Donna Nook 22nd, Fulstow September 4th, East Halton October 1st, 2 November 13th, 3 Theddlethorpe October 24th, 1 off sea 27th, 1 south off Huttoft November 3rd, Donna Nook 9th, Goxhill 12th & Thurlby N.R. 17th.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*.

During January-May 1-2 were present at 24 localities throughout the county with up to 3 at Gib. Pt., Alkborough Flats, Deeping High Bank & 5 at Tetney in the early winter. A pair possibly bred at a site on the Wash and 1-2 summered at Gib. Pt. A coastal influx in mid-October with singles North Cotes 16th, Donna Nook 18th, 20th & 22nd, Tetney 14th, 19th with 3 Gib. Pt. 7th. Recorded Sept-December at rather fewer sites than normal mostly around the Wash with 1-2 at only 12 sites, up to 3 Moulton Marsh & Gib. Pt., 4 Whitton/Winteringham and an unusually high concentration of 9+ Bonby Carrs December 30th.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*.

A fairly comprehensive survey of churring males in the north-centre of the county in May-June produced totals of 10 Crowle Waste, 30+ Laughton Forest, 1 Keb Wood, 2 Broughton Woods and 3 Doddington Wood. No survey was possible at Twigmoor, Kirkby Moor or Nettleton but none were found despite searching in the Market Rasen area.

Swift *Apus apus*.

Late April saw the first arrivals at Gib. Pt. 29th and Denton & Langtoft 30th. Main arrival was during 1-5th May with 10 Stamford 1st, 50 Barton 3rd. At Messingham 260 18th & Covenham Res. 350 27th with a June maximum of 400 Barton 5th and southerly passage at Gib. Pt. of 750 21st & 350 23rd; The Goxhill breeding population numbered 200 in July with a massive southerly movement through Theddlethorpe of 5000 in 3 hours 06-0900 July 1st. In August 400 were still at Kirkby Underwood 28th and a few lingered to September 10th, 10 at Bourne Wood, with singles thereafter at Gib. Pt. September 28th and October 27th, with one Louth October 19th.



Alpine Swift *Apus melba*.

An unprecedentedly early bird was seen in the Stamford area on March 20-21st (PJP,N&JM). Only the 9th county record with 2 April, 2 June, 1 July, 2 August, 1 October. Accepted by BBRC.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*.

Confirmed breeding was reported from 21 sites with birds noted in January-April at a further 14 localities and during May-June suggesting breeding at another two. More numerous July-December with dispersing juvenile and adult birds recorded at 29 localities.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*.

There were four typical spring records at Scremby April 24th (LdG), Saltfleetby May 1-3rd (KEW et al), Swineshead May 5th(V) and Donna Nook June 1st (IL).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*.

Just one bird was found during the year at Gib. Pt. on September 8th.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*.

The usual concentration of pairs in the north-west, Scotter, Laughton, Twigmoor, Flixborough to Risby area, the west Lincoln area, Market Rasen area, Woodhall-Kirkby and in the south-west. A pair were at Barton throughout and two on Immingham Docks with one coastal record at Theddlethorpe September 22nd.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*.

Coastal records came from Tetney Marsh January 14th, Gib. Pt. Feb 21-Mar 19th, Apr 27-29th, June 26th, Sept 9-12th with singles Oct-Dec and others at Saltfleet village November 1st and Theddlethorpe Oct 24th, Nov 2nd and through December.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*.

Pairs proved breeding at Deeping St. James & Weelsby Woods with pairs at Burton Pits, Linwood Warren, Bradley Woods, Hoplands Wood and odd records during the year from Roxton Wood, Newsham Wood, Towns Holt Grimsby, Swallow, Binbrook, Grainsby, Louth, Fotherby, Baston Fen, Lincoln Ballast pit, Deeping Lake, Dunsby Wood and Sweeting Thorns.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*.

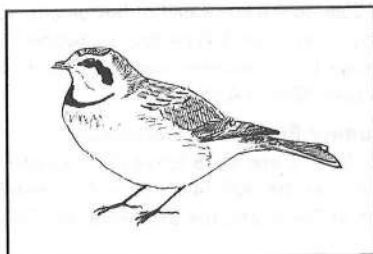
At the main breeding site first birds were noted back on February 18th with subsequently 3 pairs breeding and 3 other males present in summer but only 2 broods are known to have fledged of 2 & 3 young. At the second site a male was present from at least March 23rd to June with two males on one date in April but no female present. A wintering bird was present on fields near Risby Warren from late December to 1991. (RNH et al).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*.

A continuing decrease in the county breeding population was noted from several areas. A marked coastal passage in October with 200 Gib. Pt. 13th, 150 22nd and 500 24th and peaks of 300 Pys Hall and 200 Saltfleetby 12-16th and good sized coastal flocks in Nov-December with 250 Saltfleetby, 200 Donna Nook, 100 Gib. Pt. and 100 Holbeach Marsh Nov 4th.

Shorelark *Eremophila alpestris*.

A party of 5 seen at Saltfleetby on November 15th (KEW). Presumed same 6 Jan-Feb 91.



Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*.

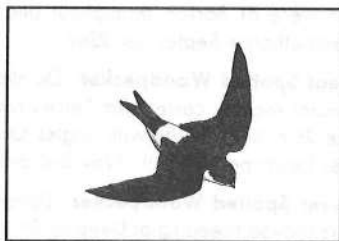
Another good March arrival after the first at Messingham & Ashbeyville 13th, 2 Barton & 1 Gib. Pt. 15th there were peaks of 50 Whisby 21st, 25 Barton pits 25th & 30 Kirkby pits 29th with 100 at Barton April 4th. Breeding colony counts reported showed the following; 10 pairs Barton Cliff, 17 South Ferriby, 70 Nettleton, 100 Spalding, 150 Kirkby-on-Bain, 248 Little Bytham quarry, 100 Langtoft pits (in 3 colonies). During autumn 940 flew south at Gib. Pt. July 7th & up to 3000 roosted at Barrow Haven in August. Last of the year was at Gib. Pt. on October 27th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*.

First of the spring at Gib. Pt. March 29th with early April migrants at Baston pits & Kirkby Underwood 4th, Temple Wood 6th and Barton & Denton 8th. The autumn roost at Barton pits included 2000 August 23rd and peaked at 10,000 September 2nd. A late movement of an estimated 400 at Gib. Pt. on October 14th with the last two there November 18th.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*.

An early bird at Gib. Pt. March 29th with the next 3 at Tallington April 8th. Spring southerly passage on the coast peaked at 95 Gib. Pt. May 16th & 70 were at Messingham 12th. At South Killingholme there were 29 nests on one oil tank at the Conoco refinery. At Theddlethorpe 100 were seen July 31st and a late movement included 260 at Gib. Pt. October 3rd, 120 6th, 80 14th with the last 5 there November 15th.

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*.

One worked its way south at North Cotes on October 13th (HB) possibly one of the 2 found at Grainthorpe Haven on 14th (GPC) with one still there 15th and possibly another 20th (SR). Others were at Gib. Pt. 14-15th (KMW et al) and Humberston Fitties 21st (SR).

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*.

An adult at Gib. Pt. on May 13th (P.Beaumont, KMW, PRD et al) was only the 6th county record, the 4th in May.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hogsoni*.

One was present at Donna Nook from October 18-20th (GPC et al) and another was trapped at Seacroft on 20th (AB). The second and third county records, the first in October 1980. Donna Nook bird accepted by BBRC.

Tree pipit *Anthus trivialis*.

First Spring arrival was at Laughton Forest April 15th where there were 9 males 25th and a total of 40 pairs bred with 40 birds still present August 15th. Other spring migrants were noted April 25-May 20th on the coast and at Barton pits. Other breeding birds noted were 4 pairs at Twigmoor, 4 Bourne Woods, 3 Walesby, 3 Linwood Warren and a male at Holywell Heath. The only autumn passage birds recorded were at Gib. Pt. September 11th and a very late bird at Donna Nook October 22nd (KA, SR, RR).

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*.

At Gib. Pt. there were totals of 55 January 8th, 100 March 18th, 50 April 6th, 90 August 28th, 160 September 8th, 400 14th then in October 500 13th, 240 south 14th, 200 19th with elsewhere 100 south at Theddlethorpe September 8th, 70 south 9th and at East Halton Skitter 50 September 25th.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*.

Following the huge late autumn influx in 1989 there were high coastal totals early in the year with 9 Barton-New Holland, 7 Tetney, up to 133 Donna Nook-Pyes Hall-Grainthorpe Jan-Feb, 67 Gib. Pt. January with up to 30 March, 50 Skidbrooke February 1st and the last 2 at the Witham Mouth April 22nd. First of the autumn were 3 at East Halton Skitter September 25th with another large October passage and day maxima of 10 East Halton 3rd, 25 25th, 18 Tetney-North Cotes 19th, 40 Gib. Pt. 15th, 55 19th & 45 31st & at Saltfleetby 80+ 12th with 80+ Grainthorpe Haven 13-15th and a marked southerly passage at this time. At East Halton 15 were present in late December. *A.p.litoralis*; singles Barton March 14th, April 1st, Covenham Res. April 22nd, December 10-1991, East Halton Sept 25th, Pyes Hall November 13th.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*.

Overwintering birds were present at Barton to March 17th, South Ferriby to January with further singles in January at Saltfleetby 4th and Barrow Haven 7th.

Yellow Wagtail *Montacilla flava*.

Early April arrivals at Baston pits & Winterton 4th followed by 2 Covenham Res. 11th where maximum numbers were 40 16th & 80 25th with a later peak of 25 North Cotes May 3rd. No exceptional numbers recorded in autumn & maxima of 25 Cadney Res. August 22nd, 30 North Killingholme September 9th with the last 6 at Witham Mouth October 7th.

Blue-headed Wagtail *M.f.flava*.

A male Barton May 5th & 1-2 Covenham Res. late April. Sykes Wagtail *M.f.beema*; a male showing characters of this race at Nene Point May 25-27th (PC).

Grey Wagtail *Montacilla cinerea*.

1-2 recorded from 19 localities during January-March with further records of 1-2 in April-May at Hagworthingham, Denton Res., Goxhill & New Holland. The increase in breeding numbers continues with pairs proved at Kirkby-on-Bain 4 juvs, Stockwith Mill 2 juvs, Haverholme Park 4 juvs, and pairs probably breeding at Tealby, Louth Halls Mill, Keddington Lock and Aswardby Mill. Not as numerous in autumn as 1989 with 1-2 at 18 sites August-October and Nov-Dec birds at Tetney, Spalding, Pyewipe, Pinchbeck and Holywell Lake.

Pied Wagtail *Montacilla alba*.

Winter roosts included 200 in the Swanpool-Lincoln Ballast pit area January 16-28th with 30 there in March. After a very good breeding season there were numerous autumn flocks with 35 Cadney Res. September 9th, 32 Bottesford 11th, 30 Whisby 8th, 22 Laughton & 25 Messingham October 4th and a pre-roost count of 153 Ashbeyville November 15th, 26 Baston Fen December 31st. *M.a.alba*. A good March passage of White Wagtails with 1-2 Gib. Pt. 16-30th, 6 on 19th, 2 Barton, 3 Cleethorpes & singles Cadney & Ashbeyville 19th, Donna Nook 31st & Grimsby Docks 22nd. The usual scatter of 1-2 from 6 localities in April with 4 Covenham Res. 22nd and one May bird at Cadney Res. 15th.

Waxwing *Bombicilla garrulus*.

A small arrival early in the year with 3 remaining at Skegness from December 1989 to mid-January and others in that month at Stamford 7-10th, South Ferriby 8th, Goxhill 11th, 4 Barton 12th, Lincoln 16th & 19-20th, Gib. Pt. 14th and Horncastle 29-Feb 7th & 4 Broughton Woods February 18th. In October 3 arrived at Saltfleet village and one in off the sea at Donna Nook 20th with November records at Tetney 1 & Winterton 2 both 4th, up to 10 at Gib. Pt. 1-11th, 6 Immingham 8-17th, one Holbeach 28th and one Bagmoor December 21st. One Sibsey December 4th & singles dead at Minting November & Market Rasen December 1st.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*.

A bird of the nominate black-bellied race *C.c.cinclus* was present at Tinwell pumping station near Stamford from early December into 1991.

The 11th county record of this race the most recent being 3 in 1980 with one to 1981 and one in March 1988.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*.

A maximum of 40 Gib. Pt. in January and an obvious coastal fall in mid-October with 40 Gib. Pt. 19th, 40 Donna Nook-Pyes Hall 19-21st the most reported.

Duncock *Prunella modularis*.

Spring peaks of 45 at Gib. Pt. March 28-April and an obvious coastal passage in October with 47 there 24th and large numbers reported from other sites during 18-30th.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*.

At Saltfleetby there were 4 orange breasted migrants on April 23rd. There was then a huge coastal fall in October from 18-24th with the following day/site maxima recorded: Pyes Hall-Donna Nook 600 18th, 300 19th, 100 20th, Saltfleet village 200 19th, Gib. Pt. 65 18th, 210 20th, 180 21st, 150 23rd and still 30 31st. At Saltfleetby seaview 80 19th, at Tetney-North Cotes 3 early on 18th increased to 150 19th with 50 20th, 25 Tetney (north) & 25 Humberston Fitties 20th. At Theddlethorpe 400 on 20th (127 ringed) with 100 (52 ringed) 24th and 75 Mablethorpe 19th.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*.

First arrivals at Bourne Wood April 20th, Kirkby Moor 3 males, Saltfleetby 2 & Messingham 26th. At least one remained at Saltfleetby to May 23rd, one at Gib. Pt. April 29-30th, one Humberston 29th with a pair at Theddlethorpe from April 28th probably bred as a juvenile was there August 5th. Other birds away from the usual breeding areas were at Messingham April 26-May with 2 for a few days, Spalding town centre May 1-22nd, Baston Pits May 5-June 25th and Kirkby pits where a pair bred. Maxima of 6 males at Whisby pits and 4 Bourne Woods but fewer noted at Temple Wood.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*.

A wintering bird was reported at Freiston in January with the first spring migrants in a poor passage at Tetney March 17th, Saltfleetby 18th and April birds at Donna Nook 21-22nd, Saltfleetby 1-2 21-22nd, Gib. Pt. 8-10th & May 5th. The only breeding record noted was of 2 pairs on Grimsby Docks. A good autumn arrival from mid-October with one North Cotes 13th, Gib. Pt. 13th, 4 on 14th, one 15th, 4 Donna Nook-Pyes Hall 14-16th then from 18th 2 Donna Nook-Pyes Hall with 4 19-23rd, 2 Gib. Pt. 19th, 3 20-21st & 1-2 to 27th, 1-2 Saltfleetby, North Cotes, Saltfleet village & Humberston Fitties 19-21st, one Goxhill 22nd and male Skegness 25th.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*.

First coastal migrants were at Donna Nook April 21-22nd & Gib. Pt. 21st & 29th with one Humberston Fitties 28th and a few early May singles. Breeding season records came from Temple Wood and Grimsthorpe park, pairs bred, Twigmoor with 6 males in song from late April-May and odd females seen, Manton Warren 2 males and female June 17th and South Witham male in song May 3rd. Very few coastal autumn records with day/site maximum of only 3 August-September & October records from Grimsby Docks 3rd, Donna Nook 13th & 21st, Pyes Hall 14-15th, North Cotes 2 19th, Saltfleet village and Gib. Pt. 21st.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*.

Spring passage of 1-2 noted from April 29-late May at coastal sites, Barton & New Holland with a male in song at Loughton forest July 3rd. A poor autumn passage with 1-3 at inland sites, 4 North Killingholme August 22nd and coastal maxima of 8 Donna Nook August 28th, 10 Gib. Pt.

30th, 20 there September 7th, 4 October 14th with late birds 2 there 25th, one Humberston 20-21st and an extremely late bird at South Ferriby November 17-22nd (GPC, WG).

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*.

A very poor early winter with a male at South Ferriby to January 18th, a pair Donna Nook February 22nd, one Dragonby 3rd and March passage birds at Cleethorpes 3-11th, Barton 7-12th and Gib. Pt. 27th. First autumn bird was at Gib. Pt. August 23rd with 1-3 there regularly, several birds, Sept 22-November 6th. Elsewhere a pair East Halton September 27th and a good passage in October-November with 1-2 at Barton, Grimsby Docks/Cleethorpes (3+), Saltfleet (2), Humberston Fitties (2), Holbeach Marsh, Donna Nook, South Ferriby (2), Covenham, Stallingborough (2), with wintering pairs at Barrow Haven & Baston Fen November-1991 and one Moulton Marsh December 28th.

Siberian Stonechat *S.t.maura/stegnegeri*. A female/immature at Skegness October 21-25th (KDD et al) with a second bird 23-25th (KA et al). Both accepted by BBRC.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*.

Some early March arrivals with 6 at Cleethorpes 11th & singles South Ferriby 12th, Ashbeyville 13th, Frampton & Pyewipe 14th, Grainthorpe & North Cotes 16th then a heavy and prolonged passage both coastal and inland from late March to late May with peak day counts of 7 Skidbrooke March 24th, 7 Saltfleetby April 17th, 5 North Killingholme, 6 Goxhill & 9 Pyewipe 19th, 12 Donna Nook 22nd and 14 there May 1st, 9 Barton Wold May 12th. First autumn juvs. were in July at Tetney 1st & Pyewipe 8th with a poor but extended autumn passage from August-late October. The day maximum at Gib. Pt. was only 10 September 7th but there were 5 late birds from Pyes Hall- Gib. Pt. & Covenham October 28-29th and November birds at Covenham 1st and 1-2 Grimsby Docks 1-4th.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*.

One west at New Holland March 29th preceded another good April passage with 1-3 Ashbeyville 20-22nd, Covenham 12-16th, 2 Tetney 13th & then a major fall from 18th peaking during 22-23rd. Gib. Pt. had up to 6 18th-May 3rd with 14 April 22nd, Saltfleetby 8 22nd & 11 23rd up to 3 to May 12th, Donna Nook 6 21st & 15 22nd, with 1-2 at Scunthorpe, Barton, Pyes Hall, Grimsby Docks, Cleethorpes, Tetney, Witham Mouth, Covenham, Humberston, Waithe, Freiston & Kirton. A minimum of 42 birds were recorded during April 22-23rd with at least 85 birds in total. The autumn again produced an exceptional passage following a male at Theddlethorpe October 7th there was a large fall from 18th-early November with considerable through movements totalling a minimum of 108 birds. Day peaks were as follows: 10 Donna Nook-Pyes Hall October 19th (16+18-28th), 10 Theddlethorpe 20th, 8 27th, 5 Gib. Pt. 25th, 5 North Cotes 19th, 6 Marshchapel, 4 Mablethorpe all 19th, 10 Saltfleetby 21st, 4 Skidbrooke 21st, 4 Seacroft 24th, 4 Humberston 21st and 1-3 at all coastal sites. In the Wash 3 Kirton Marsh 24th, Frampton 27th and Wrangle November 2nd with inland 1-3 at Goxhill 18-24th and a partial albino 26-30th, Barton 30th and a late bird at West Rasen December 9th.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*.

At Humberston Fitties 136 were present on January 20th with monthly maxima at Gib. Pt. of 68 Jan, 45 Feb, 45 March and 55 April 1st. Some large coastal arrivals in October-November with 90 Gib. Pt. October 8th then 85 18th, 250 20th & 300 21st then 2000 more 24th, 500 November 2nd & 250 5-6th. Elsewhere 34 at Pyes Hall October 12th with 400 Pyes Hall-Donna Nook 18th, 60 Tetney & 70 Saltfleet 19th, 300 Theddlethorpe 20th with 250 there 24th, an estimate of 2000 Seacroft 20th, 200 Saltfleetby and 120 Humberston Fitties 21st. In early November 54 ringed at Theddlethorpe 3rd and 60 in Saltfleet village 4th.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*.

Some good sized flocks were still present in early January with 500 New Holland 1st, all gone 13th, 800 Barton 3rd, 500 Covenham 2nd-February, 250 Nettleton Valley 7th and 330 Gib. Pt. Jan-Feb. A flock of 250 were at Apley March 12th with 420 Walesby 4th and numerous April reports with maxima of 50 Kirkby 11th, 50 Binbrook 12th, 40 Laughton 23rd and 40 heading out to sea at dusk from Theddlethorpe 24th. In May 1-2 were at South Ferriby, Barton, Goxhill, Theddlethorpe, Saltfleetby & Marshchapel to 27th. First autumn arrivals at Gib. Pt. September 13th where October influxes occurred on 8th 485 south, 9500 on 19th, 4500 21st, 3000 24th, 750 26th. A huge westerly movement throughout the county but most prominent in the south occurred on October 8-9th during which 4000 flew west into Lincs. at Terrington in 3 hours 8th, 1460 west at South Witham, 1000 west at Thurlby in 2 hours both 8th and 1000 west at Stamford 9th. Another huge arrival centred along the east coast from October 18-24th resulted in the following day counts: 2000 Pyes Hall-Donna Nook 18th, 1500 more 19th, 500 21st, 1000 Saltfleet & 5000 North Cotes 19th, 1000 Seacroft 20th, 700 Theddlethorpe 21st, 3000 Kirton Marsh 24th. Another impressive movement started in December and continued into 1991 with peak December counts of 1000 Horkstow, 500 Thoresway, 350 Stenigot and 1500 Fulstow.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*.

Some quite large numbers were involved in the October arrivals but mixed in with other species Song Thrushes are less conspicuous. The only totals of note being 20 North Cotes October 13th, 200 Pyes Hall-Donna Nook 18th, 100 Theddlethorpe 20th & 60 24th, 50 Seacroft 20th, 70 Gib. Pt. 18th, 95 19-20th & 45 24th.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*.

The only early year records of note from March with a south-easterly movement at Theddlethorpe of 128 18th and 640 19th with 89 at Holbeach Marsh 15th, 50 Burton pits 12th & 170 south-west at Laughton forest 20th. Unusual records again from Theddlethorpe in summer with males ringed on May 26th, 28th & June 15th. First of the autumn were 2 at Gib. Pt. September 11th with a huge and possibly unprecedented fall in mid-October. On 18th the 2 km of coast from Pyes Hall-Donna Nook held at least 12,000 with large numbers arriving additionally on 19th-21st but a day count of only 500 19th. Only 300 were at North Cotes early on 18th but 5000 there by 19th when 4000 were in Saltfleet village, 1000 Mablethorpe then on 21st 1000 Saltfleet, 1000 Seacroft, 1000 Saltfleetby & 500 Theddlethorpe. At Gib. Pt. there were earlier movements of 650 8th then 430 18th with 6200 19th and a further 3000 21-24th decreasing to 500 26th with 1500 Kirton Marsh 24th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*.

Increasing dramatically as a breeding bird in the north and north-west of the county with a 4-500% increase in breeding numbers in some areas. Post breeding flocks of note included 16 Gib. Pt. June, 18 Laughton Forest July 3rd, 24 Scotter Bottom August 23rd and 29 Cuxwold September 23rd.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*.

First of the Spring at Theddlethorpe April 14th with a marked arrival and passage from 19th to May 14th including at least 52 singing males and records from a further 12 sites in June. Peak numbers included 8 at Barton-Barrow Haven April 26-June and probable breeding birds being 4 males Bourne Woods, 5 Saltfleetby and 5 Auster Wood.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*.

A very early migrant was at Tetney April 4th preceding a more general arrival from 21st which did not gain any momentum until early May when 39 males were in Goxhill marsh 4th. A very poor year at Messingham with just 5 males in summer and the last noted at Barton September 4th and 2 Gib. Pt. 9th.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*.

The only April birds were at Barton pits 24th with 6 on 29th, Laceby Beck 25th, Lincoln Ballast pit and Messingham 29th with 40 males at the latter site May 18th and 26 in Goxhill marsh 4th. One there October 1st with the last of the year at Donna Nook October 18-19th, Theddlethorpe 20th and Gib. Pt. 22nd.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*.

A male in brief song was present along the Waithe Beck near North Thoresby on May 19th. (KA.HB). The 6th county record.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*.

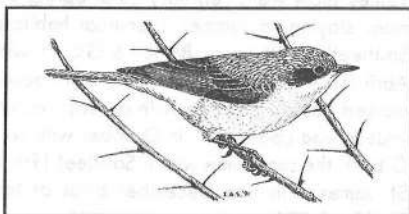
A very early spring migrant was at North Cotes on May 7th (RLo).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*.

Just one autumn record of a first-winter trapped at Theddlethorpe on September 15th (M&F.E.B.).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*.

First spring male arrived at Barrow Haven April 14th with 2 there 22nd then 2 Barton 24th & on 25th Alma Wood and 2 Gib. Pt. where there were 10 May 3rd. Low autumn passage peaks of 7 Theddlethorpe August 25th and 12 Gib. Pt. 27th with October records from Barton pits 1-5th, Gib/ Pt. 3rd & Saltfleetby 14th & 21st.



Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*.

As usual first spring birds were coastal with one Gib. Pt. April 19th then 40 there and 35 Saltfleetby by 29th when 7 at South Witham. May maxima were not much higher with 40-50 Saltfleetby 7-20th and 55 Gib. Pt. 4-10th. A local increase in breeding birds was noted in the Bourne area and Barton-Goxhill. Very low autumn passage numbers with a maximum of just 30 Gib. Pt. August 26th, an annual total of just 207 ringed at Theddlethorpe the lowest since 1984. The last were at New Holland September 11th and Kirkby Underwood 16th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*.

Late April heralded the first definite birds at Alma Wood 27th, Cleethorpes 28th & Gib. Pt. 29th with a more widespread arrival from May 5th. At Messingham 8 males June 1st but a huge decrease in breeding numbers noted in Temple Wood and another poor autumn with no more than 5 as a day max at any site and the only October records at Gib. Pt. 1st and 2 Pyes Hall 18th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*.

The only early winter birds were at Gib. Pt. January 2nd, 2 more 4th & Theddlethorpe 13th, 2 March 3rd & one ringed 17th a retrap from December 1989. First spring migrants arrived about the same time Swanpool March 20th, Gib. Pt. 24th and Burton Pits 31st with a general arrival from early April onwards. In autumn after 8 Saltfleetby October 8th there was a widespread but not large coastal fall from 18-24th maxima being 7 Gib. Pt. & 10 Pyes Hall-Donna Nook 19th with 9 ringed Theddlethorpe 20th & 10 24th. A few November birds including singles at Immingham and Pinchbeck.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*.

Two early records at Gib.Pt September 11th (PRD.KMW,PT) & North Cotes 16th (HB) with October singles at Saltfleet 12-13th (GPC et al), 14th (GPC), Donna Nook 14th (KDD), Gib. Pt. 20th another 22nd, Saltfleetby (JRW) & North Somercotes Warren (GPC) both 21st.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*.

An unprecedented arrival! A first-winter was present between Stonebridge car park Donna Nook and Pyes Hall from October 21-22nd (AHJH et al) and another trapped at Theddlethorpe October 24th (M & F.E.B.). The 3rd and 4th county records. Pyes Hall bird accepted by BBRC.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*.

A simultaneous arrival of one at North Cotes (HB) and Saltfleet village (GPC,SR) October 19th with one possibly a new bird at the latter site 20th (GPC,DHu). The 4th & 5th county records. Both accepted by BBRC.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*.

A terrible year with just three records; in spring at Belton Park April 29th and Gib. Pt. May 4th and at Donna Nook on September 9th.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*.

The number of wintering birds seems to be falling again with just one in the early period at Tetney Blow wells February 23rd. Spring passage was however, early and birds were numerous many staying to summer in unusual habitats. March migrants arrived from 12th Burton Pits and Saltfleetby, 14th Louth, Barton & Gib. Pt. with early peaks of 12 Laughton Forest 20th and 25 there April 1st. A further arrival in late April accounted for 8 at Saltfleetby 21st and 12 Gib. Pt. 28th. A marked autumn passage with an early autumn peak of 10 Gib. Pt. September 7th followed by a widespread coastal fall in October with up to 7 at Pyes Hall-Donna Nook 18-24th and up to 7 at Gib. Pt. the same time with 6 Saltfleet 19th. November birds were all coastal but one at Deeping St. James 17th and December birds at Immingham 5th, North Somercotes 7th & 28th-1991 & Pinchbeck 18th.

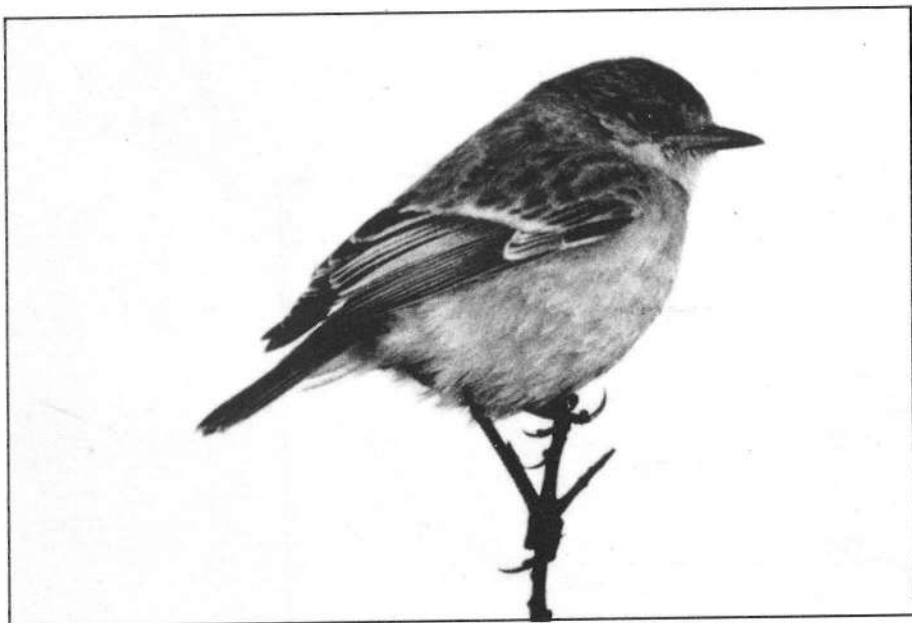
P.c. tristis. Birds suggesting characteristics of this eastern race were at Saltfleetby October 20th and North Somercotes Warren November 25th.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*.

The only March records were at Tetney Blow wells 23rd & Whisby pits 31st with a widespread arrival from April 1-7th and a notable peak of 100 Barton 27th, 35 being at Messingham May 18th, 45 Twigmoor 10th and 32 Goxhill marsh 4th. Autumn maximum at Gib. Pt. was only 60 on August 30th & notably late October birds were at Saltfleet 12-13th, Grainthorpe 14-15th, Tetney 19th & Gib. Pt. 2 21st with one 22nd.

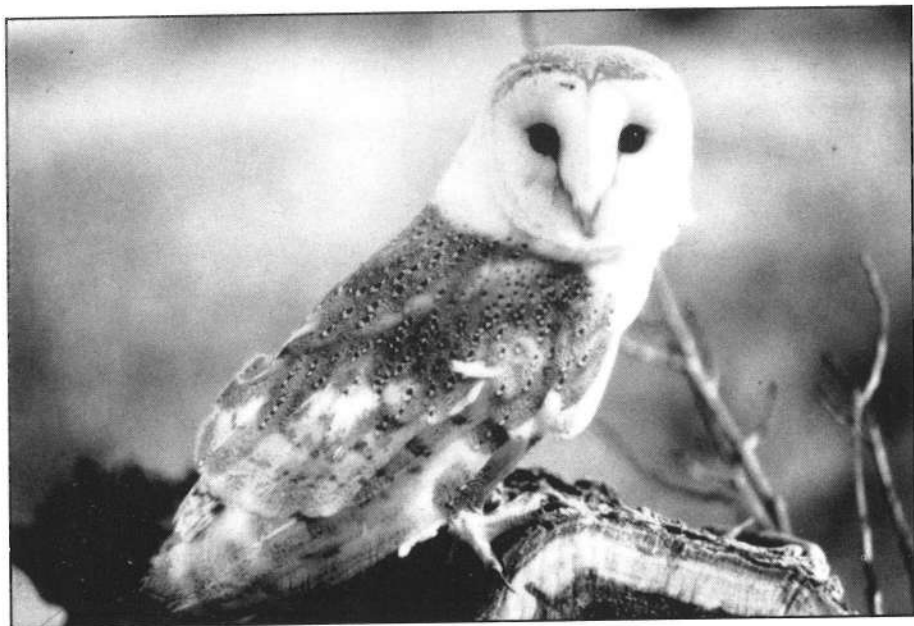
Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*.

A small spring coastal passage was noted with 60 Gib. Pt. March 31st and 45 there April 1st with 23 Saltfleetby 17th. An early autumn arrival produced 60 Saltfleetby September 29th with an unprecedented fall from October 18-24th involving thousands of birds on the coast with day peaks as follows: at Pyes Hall-Donna Nook along 2 km of coast late on 18th there were an estimated 4000 birds with 1000 there 19th, 500+ 20th and many new arrivals amongst 1000 21st. At North Cotes 200 19th with 50 Tetney and 50 Humberston Fitties 20th, 500 Saltfleet village 19th, 150 seaview Saltfleetby 19th and 550+ Saltfleetby 21st with 400 Theddlethorpe (163 ringed) 20th & at Gib. Pt. 530 19th, 1000 21-22nd with 400 24th then down to 100 30th. At Seacroft 800 20th with 1000 21st and 500 24th and 250 Mablethorpe 19th.



Stonechat (Eastern Race) - Skegness

Keith Atkin



Barn Owl

Nick Williams



Great Grey Shrike - Gibraltar Point

Keith Atkin



Fieldfare

Nick Williams

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*.

Another poor spring with just 7 birds. North Cotes March 5th, Saltfleetby 14th with 2 April 22nd, Gib. Pt. March 21st, Theddlethorpe & Humberston April 29th. In autumn one Pyes Hall September 29-30th and October singles at Grainthorpe Haven 14th, Gib. Pt. 20th, 24-26th & 31st, North Cotes 21st, Seacroft 24th and Donna Nook 25th.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*.

First arrivals at Willford Heath quarry May 6th & Deeping St. James & Saltfleetby 7th with few noted before 20th but after a general late arrival several pairs were noted in some areas, 18 pairs bred at Haverholme Park, and a general increase was noted in the Rippingale/Dunsby area. Autumn coastal maxima was 30 at Gib. Pt. September 7th with the last Kirkby Underwood October 1st.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*.

The only record was of 3 together at Gib. Pt. on October 21st (SPB, KMW et al).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*.

Very few spring records with one Theddlethorpe April 28th & at Gib. Pt. 21st, male May 2nd, 2 10th and 2 15th. A very poor autumn with a county total of just 15-20 birds from August 7-October 21st mostly at Gib. Pt. with a day maximum there of 4 September 11th.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*.

In the Humber Bank pits few wintered but a flock of 16 arrived back March 8th and subsequently 10 pairs bred with good success. During late September-October in excess of 70 birds there with up to 20 December. Other pairs bred at two further sites used in 1989 with 2 pairs at one. Two migrants were at Pyes Hall October 14th with possibly the same 2 south at Theddlethorpe 14th and a few at Messingham November. Up to 10 in the sea bank clay pits October-December with one Deeping St. James December 13th.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*.

An increased population in most areas following a series of mild winters. An interesting recovery of a bird ringed in Wytham Wood (Oxfordshire) on Nov. 29th 1989 and retrapped at Theddlethorpe June 17th. A flock of 25 at Burton pits July 8th and 29 at Gib. Pt. October 19th.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*.

Recorded in the usual woods in the south & west up to Neville and Potterhanworth. The population in Temple Wood increased to 5-6 pairs and one was at Burton pits July 8th.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*.

A decrease was noted in Temple Wood with none found in 1990 but there were no other significant records of this widespread breeding species.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*.

Increased breeding has been noted in gardens & suburbs away from the usual woodland sites in the north of the county.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*.

Some high counts at Gib. Pt. early in the year reflect the present high population levels of this species with 62 there January 20th, 95 February 16th, 60 March 31st & in autumn 50 September 15th with 50 Barton pits early October.

Great Tit *Parus major*.

An exceptional total of 80 were recorded at Gib. Pt. March 3-7th with 45 there November 13th & December 1st.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*.

Recorded in the usual south-west woodlands up to Neville wood with extralimital birds at Burton pits, Hoplands wood January-April, Immingham mid-March, Hartsholme park spring and 2 in Bradley woods October-1991.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*.

An exceptional post-juvenile dispersal was noted on the coast with 11 ringed at Theddlethorpe July-September and one there November 11th. One was at Saltfleetby September 25th, one Saltfleet village October 21st & November 1st.

Single birds showing characteristics of the nominate race *C.f.familiaris* were at Saltfleetby October 12th (GPC) & 21st (GPC,HB) possibly the same bird. The only previous county record was one shot at North Cotes on March 13th 1947.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*.

Spring males were recorded at Gib. Pt. May 14th (KMW) & 31st (PRD) and Saltfleetby May 2nd (JRW) with an unusual autumn record of a first-summer male trapped at North Somercotes on August 18th (MS).

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*.

The third county record was of a first-winter individual showing characteristics of the race *L.i.phoenicuroides* which was found at Pyes Hall from October 14-15th (SW,GPC,SR et al). Accepted by BBRC.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*.

Only one record during the year of a brief staying male in song at Gib. Pt. on June 10th.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*.

A superb adult feeding along the sea-bank at Kirton marsh on May 12th (RH,GMO et al), was only the fourth county record, the second in spring and the first since 1970. Accepted by BBRC.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*.

Wintering birds were present at Rauceby Warren to March 31st with possibly the same at Ancaster to February 6th. Another seen briefly at North Hykeham January 5th. During the autumn singles were at North Cotes-Grainthorpe October 21st, Gib. Pt. 22-25th with the Rauceby bird returning from October 23rd -proving elusive to 1991. One again at Gib. Pt. November 4th and a very elusive bird in the Bagmoor-Winterton tip area seen just twice from late October-December but still present in 1991.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*.

The species is scarce in the fens and hence a count of 6 at Boston Cemetery on May 17th and one at Deeping St. James December 9-19th were noteworthy.

Magpie *Pica pica*.

Large winter flocks included 37 Sutton-on-Sea February 11th, 54 Saltfleetby 20th with 42 there October 8th. During April-May there was a non-breeding flock of 40 immatures at Barrow Haven. This is now a common species in the fens.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*.

In January at least 400 roosted at Thornton Abbey 23rd & a flock of 120 were at Winterton tip 25th with 1000 at the former site and 700 Risby Warren late December. Breeding populations vary from area to area being much affected by land use changes.

Rook *Corvus ferugilegus*.

The Thornton Abbey roost totalled 3000 on January 23rd with the local breeding population of 800-1000 there during June-August and 2000 there in December.

Carion Crow *Corvus corone*.

On the coast the maximum count at Saltfleetby was 71 on February 20th with 25 at Gib. Pt. October 23-24th while the Goxhill/New Holland flock was 32 on November 5th with 35 Deeping St. James December 13th.

Hooded Crow *C.c.corone*.

Another poor early winter with 2 at Saltfleetby February 10th and singles at Gib. Pt. 25th & 28th. In autumn one at Donna Nook October 28th and one Theddlethorpe December 23rd.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*.

At Theddlethorpe 5000 were feeding on sea-buckthorn on October 27th. No high roost counts were reported but there was a good north-westerly passage over November 3-5th including 5000 over Holbeach marsh 4th.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*.

A general decline in breeding numbers noted from several areas but no other records.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*.

A declining species the only notable counts in the early winter being 80 New Holland January 13th, 51 Messingham February 7th, 60-80 Cleethorpes country park Jan-Feb, with 95 March 1st. At Holbeach marsh 23 pairs bred in nestboxes in a garden. Autumn totals included 40 Theddlethorpe October 12th, 40 west at Gib. Pt. November 1st, 40 Goxhill 12th with 150 Moulton marsh December 28th and 80 Barton 30th.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*.

March proved an exceptional month with at least 250 Linwood Warren 23rd and coastal movements with 250 south at Theddlethorpe 18th & easterly movements at Gib. Pt. of 950 18th, 1500 19th, 90 20th, southerly passage of 70 21st, 65 26th and 575 28th. At Theddlethorpe 100 flew south September 29th & at Gib. Pt. 160 October 14th with 260 there 19th. Inland 300 were feeding on beech mast at Normanby park in December with 100 Swallow 12th.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*.

A poor early winter with 1-10 on odd dates at 8 localities January - April with a notable return passage in March at Gib. Pt. where 60 flew east 18th, 40 19th and 40 20th. Late birds in May were at Theddlethorpe 4th, 2 east at Gib. Pt. 13th. First of the autumn were 6 at Theddlethorpe September 26th with a marked arrival in mid-October where maxima of 24 flew south at Donna Nook and 75 Mablethorpe 19th, 20 Theddlethorpe 20th & 10 Saltfleet but high numbers at Gib. Pt. with 340 19th, 270 20th, 35 21st & 55 24th. In Nov-Dec peaks of 15 Welby November 25th, 10 Holbeach marsh 30th and in December 60 Normanby park 4th and 150 Stenigot top 19th increasing to an impressive 350 31st (RN,KEW).

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*.

A total of 600 flew east at Gib. Pt. on March 19th. In autumn a flock of 300 Saltfleetby October 17th with 300 Barton November 3rd.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*.

The usual high autumn flocks built up with 84 Deeping St. James August 18th, 64 Cleethorpes 20th & 50 Cadney Res. 22nd then in September 131 Goxhill 20th, 50 Barrow Haven 23rd with 100 Gib. Pt. 29th & 200 south there October 6th.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*.

During Jan-March up to 15 at a few sites with 15-25 on odd dates at Boultham & Hartsholme parks Lincoln, Swaby, Linwood Warren, Barton & Twigmoor with 40 Laughton forest March 20th and at Gib. Pt. 48 east March 19th and 38 south 28th. Singles flew south at Gib. Pt. May 5th & June 5th with one Theddlethorpe June 1st. In autumn coastal peaks at Gib. Pt. in October were 25 19th & 23rd, 39 25th & 60 south 31st, 45 south Theddlethorpe 13th and 1-20 at a few sites September-December. Inland larger flocks were 30 Bourne Wood October 26th, 40 Kirkby Moor November 21st and 38 Hartsholme park December.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*.

A total of 119 flew east at Gib. Pt. March 19th. A declining breeding population is apparent throughout the county. Autumn flocks of note included 200 South Ferriby August 7th, 250 New Holland 25-September 25th, 300 Goxhill August 28th, 200 Gib. Pt. 23rd & 200 October 7th.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*.

Up to 60 were at Humberston Fitties, 60 Saltfleetby and 130 Donna Nook in January with Wash totals of 1525 Jan, 757 Feb, 41 March, 447 Oct, 974 Nov, 957 Dec. Inland the flock of 10 at Winterton tip from November 1989 remained to at least January 10th with 2-4 at Cadney Res. March 12-23rd and singles April 6th and 25th with the last at Tetney 6 on April 22nd. An early flock of 80 at Holbeach September 8th. At East Halton one October 3rd was unusual and a flock of 19 again appeared at Winterton tip in December. On the north-east coast a maximum of 125 Pyes Hall October 28th and 80 North Cotes November 1st.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*.

Notable early winter flocks were 75 at Twigmoor January 25th & at Linwood warren 100 January increasing to 200 March 9th and 160 23rd with 65 at nearby Willingham April 21st and 50 there December 22nd.

C.f. flammea. Mealy Redpolls were identified with 3 at Linwood warren March 23rd and in autumn one North Cotes October 19th with 2 20th, 2 Saltfleet village 20th, a male Louth November 9th and one Gib. Pt. 7th.

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*.

Only two reports in the early year with 2 at Kirkby Moor March 17th and 3 south at Gib. Pt. 18th. From June 10th there were a series of waves of arrivals right through to November with numerous flocks staying to winter to 1991. Peak counts at specific sites during June-December were as follows: Gib. Pt. 40 June 10th, 15 Aug 22nd, 15 Sept 7th, 8 Oct 19th, Twigmoor 8 Willingham forest 35-62, Bourne Wood 40, Messingham 14, Braceborough wood 6, Callans lane wood 20, Ingoldsby wood 3, Caveby wood 3, Laughton forest 90 late June, Walesby 22, North Somercotes 28 Sept 9th, Broughton woods 30, Kirkby Moor 5, Welton-le-Marsh 21 and odd records of 1-2 Aswardby Mill June 15th, Theddlethorpe, Stapleford 1-4, Kirmington 8 July 22nd, Immingham 1-2, Huttoft Aug 30th, Saltfleet village 2 Oct 21st and Saltfleetby 2 Aug 26th.

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus*.

An amazing influx to the county from October onwards. First were 5 south at Donna Nook October 18th with male and female 19-20th, a female Humberston Fitties 20-23rd & 3 Gib. Pt. 19-26th. At Kirkby Moor a flock from late October with a maximum of 44 birds November 11th and up to 35 together to late November and 20 to 1991. Another flock of up to 17 were found at Willingham forest December 2nd-1991 and a flock of 19 Laughton Forest December 2nd -1991. All October birds accepted by BBRC.

There were 15 previous records with 11 in 1962-3 including a wintering flock of 10, and 4 in October 1982.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*.

A juvenile trapped at Gib. Pt. on September 13th (D.Hazzard, KMW et al) was only the 7th record in total but the 5th in successive years and the third autumn in a row that the species has occurred.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*.

A male showing characteristics of the northern race P.p.pyrrhula was seen at Donna Nook on October 21st (GPC,HB).

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*.

Most records again came from the north-west of the county with one at Twigmoor January 23rd then in March 1-2 in Brumby woods and up to 7 in Scawby park. A pair were proved to breed in Scunthorpe in April-May, the first proven breeding for some years and 2 were seen in Bourne wood on June 20th.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*.

A poor early winter with just a few records of 1-5 at North Cotes, Tetney, Gib. Pt., Saltfleetby, Kirton & Wrangle during January-March and up to 50 in a roost on Frampton marsh in January. A good autumn passage from October 3rd, East Halton, with peaks of 7 south at Saltfleetby October 12th, 19 Pyes Hall 20th, 20 Skidbrooke 28th then in Nov-Dec, 20 Grainthorpe, 10 Saltfleetby, 15 Donna Nook, 10 Tetney/North Cotes, 20 Butterwick and 1-5 at other coastal sites with inland birds at Covenham Res. November 1st, Goxhill Haven 10th and Lea Marsh 17th.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*.

Very few again in the early winter with none at Gib. Pt. in January and only 6 in February. Elsewhere on the coast a maximum of 21 Saltfleetby January 22nd, 19 Cleethorpes 6th, 20 Frampton and 6 Tetney 14th, 8 Huttoft February 24th. A male at South Ferriby March 4-5th. First of the autumn 2 Nene Point September 20th with 1 west at Goxhill October 4th, 3 inland at Winterringham November 4-5th & coastal maxima of 80 Donna Nook November 25th, 40 Gib. Pt. Nov, 53 Saltfleetby-Skidbrooke, 15 Tetney December 16th, 12 Grimsby Docks December 2nd & 2 Butterwick November 3rd.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*.

The large flock at New Holland feeding on an unharvested barley field increased from 350 January 1st to 450 13th before dispersing in February when 70 were at Rauceby Warren 3rd & 80 Swallow 14th. On the Wolds there was a flock of 55 at Farforth December 13th.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*.

A total of 40 at Barton pits on January 7th and 50 East Halton skitter October 3rd with a roost count of 200 at the Witham Mouth November 25th.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*.

The only early winter flocks were 100 at Moulton marsh January 16th, 40 New Holland February 22nd and a maximum of 50 Gib. Pt. February-March. A decline in breeding numbers has been reported from several areas during the 1980's. In December there were flocks of 61 Farforth 19th, 40 New Holland and 30 Deeping St. Nicholas 28th.

Additions & Corrections 1988/1989.

1988:

Common Scoter: in report reads as: Covenham Res. 2 November 9th..... should have been: 200-250 arrived in parties from the south-east settled on Res. for 15 mins then all flew off north-east (KEW).

1989:

Pink-backed Pelican: A presumed escape was found exhausted on the beach at Chapel St. Leonards on February 26th (RKW). It was taken to Skegness Natureland where it subsequently died. It was probably the same bird seen flying over north Norfolk prior to this date.

1990 Escapes

Pink-backed Pelican: The second in two years landed on fish ponds at Alford Road Mablethorpe on October 27th, staying all day and flying off eventually eastward.

Egyptian Goose: The regular releases at Cleethorpes January 31-February 28th, Chapel St. Leonards boating lake (2), Grimsthorpe & Tattershall.

Snow Goose: Pinchbeck 2 flew north December 16th.

Ruddy Shelduck: Messingham 2 on September 8th.

Desert Finch: Deeping St. Nicholas a female from November 11th-1991.

Submission of Records 1990-91.

A new system of record submission was introduced during 1990 in an attempt to aid earlier production of the annual bird report. Response was really excellent with the majority of contributors sending in records at the requested times.

Those observers who are late in their submissions every year, will find that their records are not included in this report as the need to stick to very tight deadlines has to be strictly enforced if we are to have a promptly produced report. The majority of the delay in publication is due to the printers and it is thus necessary for us to have the report ready to go to the printers at the earliest possible date. For this reason submission of records on a regular basis through the year is necessary to spread the workload of the recorder as regards collation and interpretation of the records. If all records are submitted on a monthly or bi-monthly basis it helps enormously as the first part of the species write-ups can be written by mid-summer! It should be stressed that all records to the end of October or early November should be in by early December to allow work on the autumn species and the absolute deadline is January 15th. December produces few records and these can easily be added to the species texts after they are written; this method of submission/writing would allow the finished texts to be ready for early February as opposed to the late June of recent years.

As stated the response to the new system during 1990 was really superb, especially as it was only introduced midway through the year and I am quite sure that a full response can be expected for 1991.

The 1990 Report.

It will become obvious to regular readers of the annual Bird Report that a number of refinements have been made to the systematic list for 1990. With a recently published County avifauna the

general status of most species will be appreciated and only annual variations from this will be published herein.

Thanks to a well established and excellently organised counting team in the Lincolnshire Wash there are now monthly wildfowl and wader counts throughout the year, the results of which are published in the report articles. Because so much information is published in this format individual records for said counts are not required for the systematic list and will not be included therein, only exceptional counts to the monthly ones being included.

For widespread breeding species it is not relevant to include odd breeding records unless they show a specific pattern or range expansion/contraction and similarly for well distributed passage migrants only large concentrations are included where relevant. Reducing the input of largely irrelevant information on some species has allowed further expansion on other species where warranted and hopefully will make for a more interesting and relevant annual summary.

Graham P. Calley
County Recorder.

SNOWY OWL (NEW TO LINCOLNSHIRE)

Included on the list of Lincolnshire birds on the basis of a claimed record at Bottesford in the winter of 1868-69, the Snowy Owl was recently removed due to the lack of substantiated evidence. (Atkin & Lorand 1989.) In particular the loud far carrying calls said to have been made at night, although possibly emanating from another source, do not support the normally silent nature of the wintering Snowy Owls; (Mikkola 1983.)

On the morning of December 13th 1990 one of the workers at Low Farm Thornton Curtis noticed a bird, he recognised as a Snowy Owl, sitting in the middle of a ploughed field. The farmer then informed local observers of whom D.A. Robinson confirmed the identification and tentatively identified it as a male. After about two hours it was mobbed by two Great Black-backed Gulls and flew off. Despite searching over the next few days, it was not seen again in the area but was reported being mobbed by gulls on some allotments on the outskirts of Cleethorpes on the morning of 17th before again flying off south-west. What was almost certainly the same individual was then located by Mr M Worth on his farm at Wainfleet on December 24th.

On the 29th the news was released nationwide and the birds presence attracted huge crowds of admirers over the following weeks as it stayed through to at least late February 1991 in the same general area on the flat open fields between Wainfleet & Friskney.

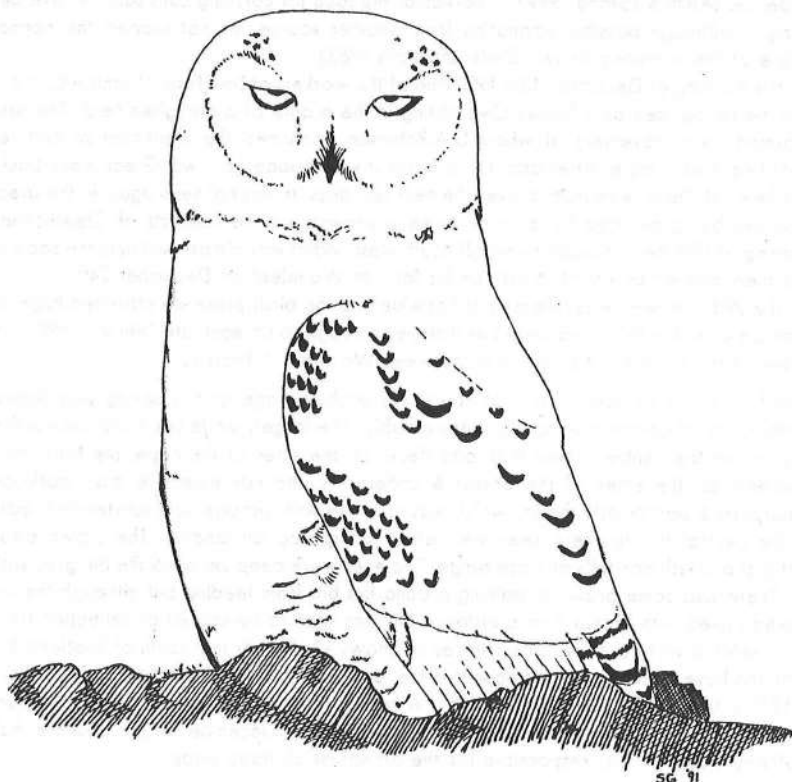
Identification as to species was of course no problem; ageing and sexing was based upon a combination of certain plumage features notably; The largely white head and neck with fine dark flecking on the central crown with odd flecks on the sides of the nape, the fairly faint brown crescents on the sides of the breast & underparts, the not extensive dark markings on the upperparts & particularly the tail which was all white with just one dark sub-terminal mark on one of the central tail feathers, seen well when tail spread on landing. The crown also showed vestigial blackish ear-tufts at close range. The eyes were deep yellow & the bill grey with a black tip. There was some brownish staining around the bill from feeding but although the underparts looked sullied with brown from a distance this was seen to be caused by reflection from the soil upon which it was perched. Occurrences of Snowy Owls in Britain south of Shetland & mainland Scotland have become very infrequent in the last 20 years, with the last multiple southerly arrival in 1972 & the last English record in 1981. A new immature male Snowy Owl was reported from Shetland in late November 1990 and another in Wales in December so it is possible that a minor southerly incursion was responsible for the arrival of all three birds.

The Wainfleet bird was actively hunting early on the morning of December 29th when it was seen feeding on a dead hare, it is not known whether it killed it or found it as carrion. When feeding it was constantly alert looking around and at one point obviously spotted something away to the north. It took off and flew rather fast at least 300m to a grassy seabank where a brief skirmish with a Merlin on the ground, resulted in the owl robbing the falcon of its prey, which the owl promptly swallowed before returning to feed on the hare. With the large attendant crowds present during daylight from 30th onwards the owl was not seen to feed much at all but spent the day sitting in the large open fields presumably feeding at dawn, dusk and during the night. Whether its activity was influenced by the visitors it is impossible to say but crepuscular feeding, even during the daylight of the arctic summer, is quite normal and birds wintering in the high arctic must feed in darkness in the long hours of almost complete darkness. Other prey items seen during its stay were very few but included a mouse and odd small mammals.

This was thus the first accepted record of this exciting high arctic owl for the county and a fitting end to an exceptional year for rare birds in the county.

A series of superb photos of mostly immature Snowy Owls taken on their wintering grounds in the Canadian prairies was published in the February 1988 issue of BBC Wildlife magazine.

Graham P Catley.



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GIBRALTAR POINT OBSERVATORY REPORT 1990

K.M.WILSON

The year's weather patterns followed a similar trend to the late 1980's with a mild winter period responsible for smaller numbers of traditional winter visitors, and a hot dry summer benefitting many dune-nesting passerines, but lowering breeding success of some waterbirds. The drought conditions necessitated the closing of the reserve due to high fire risk during much of August.

1990 was certainly outstanding ornithologically; although a fairly average total of 206 species was recorded, eight of these were new to the reserve. Breeding shorebirds enjoyed a successful year and October saw one of the largest migrant falls on record. Many thanks to all observers who contributed to our daily log

Jan-March

Another mild start to the year, emphasised by the presence of 3 Blackcap during the first week and much reduced numbers of continental passerines, with a complete absence of Snow Bunting and Twite. However, Lapland Buntings were frequent (up to 6) and there was a Waxwing on the 14th. 2 Treecreepers remained with the tit flock and at least 1 Kingfisher was present. Highlights from the sea were 17 Little Gulls south on 3rd and a Slavonian Grebe on the 21st. The severe gales of the 25th produced little of note.

Wildfowl numbers were fairly average but the Mere offered a good selection, including regular Pintail and Goldeneye. Water Rail, Jack Snipe and Woodcock were also seen here. Brent numbers were well down but Pinkfeet were regular in sizeable flocks with Greylag on the 8th. Birds of prey showed well all month, Kestrels, Sparrowhawks, a female Merlin on the beach and 5 Hen Harrier at the roost and Barn, Tawny and Short Eared Owls.

February's raptor picture was similar but with a Peregrine on 1st and 10th. Low pressure systems brought strong winds causing exceptionally high tides. Another Slavonian Grebe was seen and up to 112 Red Throated Divers on the sea, with 3 Goldeneye on the Mere and 3 Red Breasted Merganser on the Fenland Lagoon. Wader numbers were poor i.e. only 5,000 Knot but Brent were up to 4,000.

The year's first Snow Bunting were 6 on the beach and the Corn Bunting roost peaked at 51 birds. Kingfishers continued to be reported and a Great Spotted Woodpecker appeared on the 21st. Towards the later part of the month, light corvid passage brought 2 Hooded Crows. On the 25th an Avocet was at the River Steeping mouth and 4 Hen Harriers were hunting over the Freshwater Marsh. A Whooper Swan flew north on the 26th.

In contrast to the previous month, March was particularly dry with light mainly south-westerly winds. The highlights were the reserve's second Goshawk, in off the sea on the 27th and a large southerly passerine movement over the 18th/19th featuring thousands of finches and thrushes, predominantly Chaffinch and Greenfinch but also bringing up to 60 Brambling and 3 Crossbill. 2 more Hooded Crows passed through early and there was a marked southerly tit movement on 7th.

Jack Snipe, Whooper Swan and Water Rails were recorded again and Short Eared Owls were up to 3. Other raptors remained in usual numbers with 2 resident Merlin and 2 more Peregrine sightings.

The first summer migrant was a Sandwich Tern on the 12th, when a Bewick's Swan flew north and over the following week Chiffchaff, Sand Martin, White Wagtail, Wheatear and Firecrest were new for the year. 320 Kittiwake flew south on the 25th and a single Little Gull on 28th. The 29th provided a Stonechat and an unusually early House Martin.

April-June

April experienced comparatively cool temperatures with some early frosts but mainly light and dry winds. Fieldfare and Redwing were recorded daily with regular Siskin and Brambling and a few Woodcock and Jack Snipe. The Mere produced Avocet on the 1st, heralding an excellent period for migrant waders including Black Tailed Godwit, Spotted Redshank, Ruff, Green Sandpiper and double figures of Greenshank.

Up to 3 Short Eared Owl could be seen over the Old Saltmarsh, with an occasional Barn Owl. 2 Tawny and 4 Long Eared Owls were also present. Other than 2 Hen Harrier and 2 Merlin, exciting raptor records were 3 Buzzards on 1st and a male Marsh Harrier on 9th. Easterly winds saw the arrival of many migrants including exceptional numbers of Ring Ouzel (up to 14) with single Black Redstart and Pied Flycatcher. 2 Grasshopper Warblers took up territory and Coal Tit and Great Spotted Woodpecker appeared. The 29th brought the first Swift, Arctic Skua and a singing Nightingale.

High pressure with light easterly winds and little precipitation through May aided continuing spring passage and the dunes were alive with Whitethroats and Willow Warblers. A singing Wood Warbler stopped briefly on the 4th and Flycatchers, Whinchats and Ring Ouzels were well represented. A sprinkling of Wheatear involved several of the Greenland race. A Woodlark flew north on the 6th and, on the 13th, the reserve's first Tawny Pipit, along with 2 late Brambling and a Redwing. The first of 2 May Golden Orioles was singing on the 14th and the next day Turtle Dove passage peaked at 44. Black Terns were seen on several days and twice on the Mere, where a pair of Garganey loafed on 3rd. Hobbies were seen on 4 dates and 4 species of owl were regular. Wader sightings included a flock of 200 Sanderling, a Wood Sandpiper on 6th, 11 Black-Tailed Godwits on 7th, 26 Whimbrel flying north on the 13th and up to 15 Ruff.

June, usually a quiet month, but not so this year with a female Red Footed Falcon for 11 days, a singing Red Backed Shrike on 10th, a Lesser Yellowlegs showing well on the Mere on 15th and, another potential reserve first, a Ring Billed Gull on 17th. On top of this, record numbers of Crossbill arrived during a nationwide irruption. Although warm, with rainfall below average, some stormy conditions hindered nesting birds, notably shorebirds. Marsh Harriers and Hobby sightings continued with a late Merlin on 2nd. Also late was a Siskin on 5th, Pink Footed Goose on 7th and several Tree Pipits.

At sea, the first Manx Shearwaters of the year and up to 3 Great Crested Grebe, whilst on the shore, 1,000 Knot mid month. Wood and Green Sandpiper and Little Ringed Plover were on the Freshwater Marsh, where Barn and Long Eared Owls hunted. A Great Spotted Woodpecker remained and southerly Swift movements peaked at 750 on 21st.

July-September

Exceptionally hot and dry weather through July resulted in the drying up of freshwater areas, making the Mere particularly attractive to waders. Over 20 species were recorded, including the reserve's first Broad Billed Sandpiper on 26th/27th. There were 5 Curlew Sandpiper and several Wood, Green and Commons. Ruff, Black Tailed Godwit and Greenshank were present in good numbers.

Seawatching was rewarded with daily Arctic Skuas, large flocks of Sandwich Tern and a few Manx Shearwater. Noteworthy raptor sightings were a Hobby on 10th, a couple of Marsh Harrier and Short Eared Owl.

Returning Wheatear and Whinchat were in evidence from the first week, several Crossbill were still in the area and the first Willow Tits of the year were trapped. Kingfisher were frequent and Swifts flew south in droves e.g. 600 on 29th. An impressive 940 Sand Martin flew south in an hour on 7th.

Drought conditions prevailed through August with mainly south-westerly winds. High tides pushed large numbers of waders onto the reserve. 20,000 Knot, over 1,000 Sanderling, 3,000 Dunlin and over 100 Grey Plover exhibiting varying amounts of summer plumage.

At sea, Fulmars, Gannets and Kittiwakes with both Sooty and Manx Shearwaters. Arctic Skua continued to show daily, with a scattering of Poms and Bonxies. Large roosts of Terns included occasional Arctic and Black.

Wood Sandpiper, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper and Spotted Redshank could be seen at close range on the Mere until it virtually dried up and a Pectoral Sandpiper frequented the muddy fringe on 16th/17th. A Merlin was an early return on the 5th with two the following week. Marsh Harriers were evident throughout and a juvenile Montagu's Harrier headed south on 30th. Typical autumn migrants arrived during a period of easterlies, including Redstart. Pied and Spotted Flycatcher, more Wheatears and Whinchats and a single Stonechat. There were 2 early Firecrests on 23rd and up to 15 Crossbill. Treecreeper and Great Spotted Woodpecker were also seen.

September was warm and generally dry. Westerlies and north-westerlies prevailed, not ideal for birdwatching; however, a Leach's Petrel flew north on 15th, the 21st yielded over 50 Arctic Skua, 6 Bonxies, 8 Manx and 3 Sooty Shearwaters and the 25th saw 270 Gannet, 35 Arctic Skua, 8 Bonxie, 40 Skuas and Black Terns also passed through.

Little Stint and Curlew Sandpiper numbers escalated to 15 and 8 respectively, there were 12 Greenshank on 4th, 3 Avocet on 10th and Jack Snipe on two dates. Marsh Harriers, Merlin and Short Eared Owl were occasionally reported with the first returning Hen Harrier on 20th followed by a Peregrine on 22nd. A Greater Flamingo was on the Old Saltmarsh on the 21st.

A fall of migrants on the 7th involved 30 Spotted Flycatcher and 20 Whinchat with smaller numbers of Redstart and Pied Flycatcher, 15 Crossbill were still being seen and on the 8th, and an obliging Wryneck. On the 9th, a Greenish Warbler and both Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers and on the 11th, an early Yellow-Browed Warbler. The reserve's second Scarlet Rosefinch was trapped on 13th and there was a scattering of Grey Wagtail and Stonechat, with first returning Twite on 23rd.

October - December

October started dry with light to moderate south-westerlies. The first few days brought Firecrest, Pied Flycatcher, the first autumnal Bramblings and the re-appearance of the Flamingo. On the 6th, finches and hirundines were on passage, with 3 Merlin and a Long-Eared Owl. Attention then focused on the sea, where on 7th, Arctic and Great Skuas, Sooty and Manx Shearwaters and Little Gulls were recorded. The year's only Jay and 3 Short-Eared Owls were also on this date. Next day a Ringnecked Parakeet and on the 14th a Long-Eared Owl flew in off the sea and a Richard's Pipit was found, remaining until the next day with Black Redstart and Stonechat.

There was heavy rain on 18th with a wind change to north-east and a prevalence of thick fog. The morning of the 19th witnessed a breathtaking thrush invasion featuring 9500 Fieldfare and 6200 Redwing. Every piece of vegetation was dripping with Goldcrests and warblers came in the form of Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps. 10 Crossbill were soon forgotten with the arrival of Gibraltar Point's first Parrot Crossbills (3). On the 20th, birds came from even further east and included 2 more 'firsts' - Olive Backed Pipit and Little Bunting. During this period, 3 Red Breasted Flycatchers, Firecrest, Lapland Bunting, Great Grey Shrike and at least one Yellow Browed Warbler added to the interest. Blackbirds numbered 2,000+ with 5 Ring Ouzel in association and large groups of Brambling (totalling 340) outnumbered Chaffinches. A late Pied Flycatcher was on 20th and a late Marsh Harrier from 24th. A staggering 10 continental Sparrowhawks were counted on 26th.

November's winds came mainly from the north but conditions were mild and rainfall was average. Many migrants lingered from the October fall e.g. Ring Ouzel, Firecrest, Chiffchaff and Blackcaps. 40 Tree Sparrow flew west on 2nd and a Great Grey Shrike was seen briefly on 4th. Waxwings were present from 1st, peaked at 10 on 5th, when an Arctic Redpoll was observed around the Mere. Snow Bunting and Twite numbers looked promising.

Whooper Swans were present almost daily and 3 Scaup were on 2 dates. Sea watching produced a Puffin, 10 Little Auk and a Black Throated Diver on 4th, a Black Necked Grebe on 10th and a Great Northern Diver on 19th. Skua records persisted with the last Pom on 3rd, Arctic on 6th and Bonxie on 27th. Little Stint and Whimbrel stayed into the first week and the last hirundines were 5 House Martins on 15th and 2 Swallow on 18th. There were further reports of Lapland Buntings and Great Spotted Woodpecker. Raptor highlights were a Peregrine on 6th, Marsh Harrier on several dates, up to 5 Hen Harrier, 5 Kestrel, 3 Sparrowhawk and 2 Merlin with the usual Owls being widely reported.

December weather was decidedly more wintry - low temperatures, frosts and strong winds. A Peregrine was seen twice early on and a Bittern on 12th. Numbers of wintering thrushes/finches were again well down and Snow Bunting were outnumbered by Lapland Bunting (up to 7 on 3rd). Twite were up to 60 late in the month and there was a single Waxwing on 23rd. A female Red Crested Pochard also arrived on this date and was a first for Gibraltar Point. At sea, 8 Guillemot on 7th, a record 120 Red Throated Divers on 16th and a Little Auk on 23rd.

Water Rail, Woodcock and Kingfisher were frequent on the Freshwater Marsh and a Great Spotted Woodpecker remained throughout.

Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory Ringing Report

A total of 3,204 birds were ringed this year, of 58 species, a shortfall of nine species on 1989. Two species of note were ringed by visiting ringers again, this years being crossbill and scarlet rosefinch. Although the 1990 total was slightly up on last years it was apparent that of these, few were warblers.

This year, a constant effort site (CES) was established and maintained for the first time at Gibraltar Point. The site chosen was at the southern end of the West Dunes, consisting mainly of elder scrub, representing ideal passerine habitat, and being operable in most wind conditions. It proved possible to carry out only the first six visits but this should have provided sufficient data for the CES to be useful, especially if continued in subsequent years in conjunction with the common bird census (CBC).

The BTO ringing course was very curtailed with only ten members in attendance, including Dave Francis who was the sponsor in charge, and myself. However, the trainees and 'C' ringers had a good sum of birds to handle, more so than if the course had been fully subscribed. Hopefully, the course will be fully attended next year as one of the reasons bookings were down this year was due to the BTO's relocation to Thetford in the spring of 1991.

The number of ringers working at Gibraltar Point was down on last year which is hardly surprising considering the ringing course was twenty short in number. It was fortunate that a visiting group of ringers was in residence when the October fall took place along the east coast, and that we were able to get some ringing done during the goldcrest influx, although alas no firecrests were ringed. Without visiting ringers during these periods the annual total would have been very low indeed. Once again, we are indebted to those ringers who remain faithful to Gibraltar Point.

This year saw the disbandment of the bird observatory sub-committee. One of the reasons for this action was that Ron Hickling, who was the chairman of the committee for many years, felt that the time had come to hang up his binoculars and ringing pliers!

A special word of thanks must go to Ron for all the hard work he has put into the Observatory over the years, to wish him all the best for the future and hope that he will still be able to make it to Gibraltar Point whenever he can.

In ending this report, I would like to thank Phil Davey, Carl Hawke and Kevin Wilson for their input into the work of the Observatory.

A W Paul
Honorary Ringing Secretary
Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory

Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory Ringing Totals 1990

SPECIES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Sparrowhawk				1					2	1	3		7
Kestrel								1	1		1		3
Ringed plover								1	2				3
Dunlin		12						5					17
Little Stint									2				2
Woodcock											1		1
Redshank		2											2
Little Tern								7					7
Tawny Owl										1			1
Woodpigeon									1				1
Kingfisher								1	3		2		6
G. S. W'pecker									1				1
Swallow							4	13	6	7			30
Meadow Pipit								2	42	5			49
Wren			1	3	6	6	2	40	50	13	15		136
Dunnock			2	1	3	7	4	112	141	8	6		284
Robin			5	3	5	9	4	35	75	84	39		259
Redstart								1	12				13
Whinchat								3	17				20
Stonechat										2			2
Wheatear									3				3
Blackbird		1	1	4	5	1		18	7	251	215		503
Fieldfare										1	8		9
Song Thrush			1	1	5			10	27	29	6		79
Redwing										41	12		53
Mistle Thrush					2								2
Sedge Warbler					1			3	11				15
Reed Warbler								22	37				59
Less. W'throat					8			38	39				85
Whitethroat					12	3	6	71	39				131
Garden Warbler								6	6		1	1	14
Blackcap					2	2		18	27	7	7		63
Y'browed Warbler										1			1
Chiffchaff			1	1	5			1	16	4	3	1	32
W' Warbler				3	7	7	1	103	99	1			221
Goldcrest			24	6	3			8	116	327	48		532

Ringing Totals 1990 Cont'd

SPECIES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Sp. Fcatcher									6				6
Pied Flycatcher								2	1				3
Long Tailed Tit		1		1				7	3	27			39
Willow Tit								3					3
Coal Tit									1				1
Blue Tit			4	2	57	14		40	64	8	3		192
Great Tit			11		22	2		19	16	3	3		76
Treecreeper									1				1
Starling										5			5
House Sparrow					5				8				13
Tree Sparrow									1				1
Chaffinch			1	1	1	3		6	11	14	3		40
Greenfinch									7	1	3		11
Goldfinch				1	4	2			24	5	2		38
Siskin				1						2			3
Linnet				4	4			3	25				36
Redpoll				2	9			6	24	2	1		44
Crossbill									1				1
Scarlet rosefinch									1				1
Bullfinch								6	1		1		8
Yellowhammer					2								2
Reed Bunting			3						26	2	4		35
TOTALS	16	54	35	168	56	21	611	1003	853	387			3204
RETRAPS	6	32	37	71	25	4	183	358	106	122			944

COUNTY RINGING REPORT 1990

Compiled by Mike Boddy.

A total of 28,365 birds was reported as having been ringed in Lincolnshire and South Humberside during 1990; this represents a considerable increase over the numbers recorded in the past few years. A more detailed examination shows, however, that the underlying increase - obtained by comparing totals for general ringing from Groups and individuals who supplied data for both 1989 and 1990 - was only just above 3%. The major factor explaining the large rise was the number of waders ringed by the Wash Wader Group in 1990 - up by 2,700 over 1989. Also, nine ringers supplied totals this year but not in 1989: of the 1,722 birds involved, 60% came from three people operating in their first year as ringers in the County.

Single birds of two species - Waxwing and Olive-backed Pipit - were ringed for the first time in Lincolnshire, at least since 1979 when the LBC started collating totals. Other unusual birds included Radde's Warbler, Golden Oriole, 9 Crossbills, Scarlet Rosefinch and Lapland Bunting, whilst a brood of Grey Wagtails was ringed for the first time. The highest annual numbers yet of nestling Marsh Harriers (12) and Barn Owls (108) were ringed in 1990. For another raptor, the Sparrowhawk, totals ringed continued their recent high level. Between 1979 and 1987, only 50 were ringed in Lincolnshire; since then annual totals have been 34, 30 and now 36, virtually all full-grown birds.

Several species which winter in the Sahel suffered considerable decreases from 1989 in totals ringed: Sand Martin (-58%), Sedge Warbler (-28%) and Whitethroat (-41%). Totals for three other warblers were also well down; Lesser Whitethroat (-29%), Garden Warbler (-31%) and

Willow Warbler (-25%). There were, however, significant increases recorded for a number of passerine species: both Long-tailed Tits (409 ringed) and Treecreepers (92 ringed) were at their highest levels yet, probably as a result of three successive mild winters. The overall ringing total for House Martins increased by 529 (55%), largely as a result of the enthusiasm of one ringer. Finally, the spectacular coastal falls of birds in October - at least matching those of 1988 - resulted in particularly high catches of Robins (1,262 ringed), Ring Ouzels (10 ringed) and Goldcrests (1,628 ringed).

There were some interesting recoveries reported during 1990 and as many as space allows have been included; unfortunately, it is not possible to comment on more than a few of them. The Pectoral Sandpiper ringed at Grantham and reported from Hertfordshire, was the first recovery of a British-ringed bird of that species; the individual identity was confirmed by detailed observation of the state of moult, after part of the ring number had been read in the field. Herring Gull recoveries abroad are quite common but the bird which moved from Boston to Murmansk was one of only a handful reported from Russia. The local ringers from Gibraltar Point will have been pleased with the Cuckoo recovered in Greece, as the first ever from that country. The nestling Barn Owl ringed at Deeping St. Nicholas and reported from Gloucestershire, followed one which moved from Deeping to be recovered in Glamorgan during 1989. An examination of the recoveries listed in recent years shows the increasing influence on them of the major ringing site at Icklesham, in Sussex: 7 of the 419 Sand Martins ringed in Lincolnshire during 1990 were retrapped there on their southward migration. The high numbers of Long-tailed Tits trapped in the County during 1990 also produced an exceptionally long movement; a bird which remained at Theddlethorpe from June until October had been ringed in Oxfordshire during the previous winter.

I would like to thank everyone who rings birds in Lincolnshire and South Humberside for their co-operation in helping me to prepare this report. The list of contributors includes all Groups and individuals who sent in totals and recoveries. Many other people took part in bird-ringing sessions: their important support is hereby acknowledged.

Contributors to Ringing Report

AG Ball	C du Feu	A Parker	RJ Wakeling
Birklands RG	D Fogg	R.Pearson	Wash Wader RG
AC Blackburn	Gibraltar Point	G Priestley	PN Watts
N Boddy	A Goodall	G Shaw	H Whitehead
S Britton	S Huddleston	P Snow	D Wilson
P.Childs,	CC Larkman	F Stewart	Winfield & Paul
M Davies	J Marshall	N Taylor	
C Dobson	Mid Lincs RG	M Verdegaal	

COUNTY RINGING TOTALS FOR 1990

SPECIES	FG	PULL	TOTAL	SPECIES	FG	PULL	TOTAL
Grey Heron	0	30	30	Wren	658	5	663
Mute Swan	2	0	2	Duncock	1014	18	1032
Canada Goose	21	0	21	Robin	1222	40	1262
Teal	4	0	4	Nightingale	5	4	9
Tufted Duck	1	0	1	Redstart	26	0	26
Marsh Harrier	0	12	12	Whinchat	24	0	24
Sparrowhawk	36	0	36	Stonechat	2	0	2
Kestrel	7	71	78	Wheatear	5	0	5
Merlin	2	0	2	Ring Ouzel	10	0	10
Hobby	1	0	1	Blackbird	2294	48	2342
Moorhen	4	1	5	Fieldfare	29	0	29
Oystercatcher	356	0	356	Song Thrush	465	15	480
Little Ringed Plover	1	4	5	Redwing	325	0	325
Ringed Plover	9	1	10	Mistle Thrush	16	11	27
Golden Plover	1	0	1	Grasshopper Warbler	6	3	9
Grey Plover	52	0	52	Sedge Warbler	99	0	99
Lapwing	9	5	14	Reed Warbler	228	0	228
Knot	238	0	238	Barred Warbler	1	0	1
Sanderling	7	0	7	Lesser Whitethroat	255	0	255
Little Stint	2	0	2	Whitethroat	457	4	461
Curlew Sandpiper	5	0	5	Garden Warbler	119	0	119
Dunlin	4225	0	4225	Blackcap	472	0	472
Ruff	13	0	13	Yellow-browed Warbler	1	0	1
Jack Snipe	9	0	9	Radde's Warbler	1	0	1
Snipe	62	0	62	Chiffchaff	194	0	194
Woodcock	11	0	11	Willow Warbler	780	32	812
Bar-tailed Godwit	6	0	6	Goldcrest	1628	0	1628
Curlew	5	0	5	Firecrest	3	0	3
Redshank	32	0	32	Spotted Flycatcher	41	35	76
Greenshank	7	0	7	Pied Flycatcher	9	0	9
Green Sandpiper	6	0	6	Long-tailed Tit	409	0	409
Wood Sandpiper	1	0	1	Marsh Tit	29	0	29
Common Sandpiper	2	0	2	Willow Tit	40	0	40
Turnstone	76	0	76	Coal Tit	115	10	125
Black-headed Gull	517	119	636	Blue Tit	1614	438	2052
Common Gull	39	0	39	Great Tit	592	272	864
Herring Gull	51	0	51	Nuthatch	4	0	4
Great Black-backed Gull	35	0	35	Treecreeper	92	0	92
Common Tern	0	80	80	Golden Oriole	1	0	1
Little Tern	1	7	8	Jay	3	0	3
Stock Dove	4	3	7	Maggpie	20	0	20
Woodpigeon	14	4	18	Jackdaw	6	5	11
Collared Dove	10	2	12	Rook	9	1	10
Turtle Dove	9	2	11	Starling	1882	8	1890
Cuckoo	4	0	4	House Sparrow	454	0	454
Barn Owl	2	108	110	Tree Sparrow	57	22	79
Little Owl	1	0	1	Chaffinch	547	7	554
Tawny Owl	8	14	22	Brambling	6	0	6
Long-eared Owl	1	0	1	Greenfinch	1928	0	1928
Nightjar	1	0	1	Goldfinch	103	0	103
Swift	46	69	115	Siskin	13	0	13
Kingfisher	12	0	12	Linnet	160	21	181
Green Woodpecker	1	0	1	Twite	56	0	56
Great Spotted Woodpecker	12	0	12	Redpoll	146	0	146
Skylark	56	3	59	Crossbill	9	0	9
Sand Martin	419	0	419	Scarlet Rosefinch	1	0	1
Swallow	122	358	480	Bullfinch	186	1	187
House Martin	529	0	529	Lapland Bunting	1	0	1
Olive-backed Pipit	1	0	1	Yellowhammer	75	0	75
Tree Pipit	2	0	2	Reed Bunting	283	0	283
Meadow Pipit	103	0	103	Corn Bunting	1	0	1
Yellow Wagtail	1	5	6				
Grey Wagtail	1	4	5				
Pied Wagtail	6	10	16				
Waxwing	1	0	1				
				TOTALS FOR 1990	26453	1912	28365

SELECTED RINGING RECOVERIES RECEIVED DURING 1990

Recoveries are arranged by species; ringing details are given on the first line and recovery data on the second. Age when ringed is based on the 'Euring' code (the numbers do not represent age in years): 1 = nestling, or pullus; 2 = full-grown, year of hatching unknown; 3 = hatched during current year; 4 = hatched before current year, exact age unknown; 5 = hatched during previous calendar year; 6 = hatched more than one calendar year earlier, exact age unknown; 8 = hatched more than two calendar years earlier, exact age unknown; J = in juvenile plumage when ringed. Sex - M = Male; F = Female. Manner of recovery: v = 'controlled', i.e. trapped and released by a ringer; vv = ring number read in field; + = shot or killed by man; x = found dead or dying.

GREY HERON

1 02.05.88 Laughton Forest
x 03.08.90 Macclesfield, Cheshire
1 06.05.89 Laughton Forest
x 10.04.90 Richmond, North Yorks

MUTE SWAN

1M 04.06.90 Belsay, Northumberland
x 08.10.90 Gibraltar Point
5 23.03.87 Brayford Pool, Lincoln
x 29.01.90 Newcastle on Tyne

SPARROWHAWK

1F 08.07.90 Grimthorpe, S. Yorks
v 20.10.90 Theddlethorpe Dunes
3M 22.10.88 Gibraltar Point
x 03.12.89 Pas de Calais, FRANCE

KESTREL

1 24.06.90 Deeping St. Nicholas
x 26.11.90 Dover, Kent

OYSTERCATCHER

6 10.08.87 Friskney
x 22.06.90 Stremoy, FAROES
8 12.08.83 Friskney
x 14.06.90 Fair Isle, Shetland

KNOT

Single birds from NORWAY & GERMANY
were caught at Friskney on 01.01.90

PECTORAL SANDPIPER

4F 28.08.89 Grantham
vv 09.09.89 Tring, Hertfordshire

DUNLIN

3 28.08.83 Shannon, Clare, EIRE
v 24.07.90 Freiston
3 12.10.88 Rutland Water, Leics

DUNLIN Cont'd

v 24.07.90 Freiston
3 02.09.89 Scatness, Shetland
v 26.07.90 Freiston

SNIBE

2 03.09.89 Marston S.F.
+ 18.02.90 Wexford, EIRE

BAR-TAILED GODWIT

6 14.08.87 Wainfleet
+ 29.12.89 Manche, FRANCE
3 30.08.88 Holbeach
x 25.11.89 Terschelling, NETHERLANDS

REDSHANK

5 16.02.87 Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd
v 21.08.89 Holbeach
4 02.08.88 Butterwick
4 12.06.90 Auster Hunav., Iceland

TURNSTONE

6 12.07.75 Friskney
v 18.08.89 Benington
6 13.05.88 South Uist, Hebrides
v 25.07.90 Butterwick

BLACK-HEADED GULL

1 16.06.79 Kirton Marsh
x 30.04.90 Claddagh, Galway, EIRE
1 12.06.89 West Deeping
x 15.02.90 Lands End, Cornwall
3 08.12.86 North Somercotes
x 05.06.90 Vastnorrlund, SWEDEN
Full-grown birds ringed at Boston
were recovered in DENMARK, ESTONIA,
NETHERLANDS SWEDEN. Age '1' birds
from Frampton were found in Cheshire
and Bedfordshire.

COMMON GULL

5 23.01.88 Boston
vv 20.11.89 Sjaelland, DENMARK

HERRING GULL

8 03.12.88 Boston
x 10.08.90 Lerwick, Shetland
8F 03.12.88 Boston
v 16.01.90 Lumley, Durham
3 02.12.89 Boston
+ 26.01.90 Jylland, DENMARK
3 29.12.89 Boston
x 06.08.90 Murmansk, U.S.S.R.
3 03.10.79 Seaton Carew, Cleveland
v 02.12.89 Boston

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

8. 03.12.88 Boston
+ 07.02.90 Vest-Agder, NORWAY
8 03.12.88 Boston
x 30.07.90 More Og Romsdal, NORWAY
5 29.12.89 Boston
vv 22.04.90 Jylland, DENMARK
8 03.12.88 Boston
x 30.10.89 Nord Trondelag, NORWAY
3 06.07.88 Murmansk, U.S.S.R.
x 15.07.89 Kirton Marsh

CUCKOO

6F 22.05.88 Gibraltar Point
+ 25.11.89 Messolonghi, GREECE

BARN OWL

1 25.08.87 Deeping St. Nicholas
x 01.09.90 Chipping Camden,.,. Glos
1 04.07.89 Birtthorpe Sleaford
x 27.11.89 Kissingbury, Northants

SAND MARTIN

3F 26.08.86 Sevenoaks, Kent
v 25.06.90 West Ashby
3F 22.07.88 Loiret, FRANCE
v 04.07.89 West Ashby
3J 23.06.90 Altrincham, Manchester
v 11.07.90 Spalding
3 22.07.89 Ashton, Manchester
v 24.07.89 Spalding
4M 06.09.89 Icklesham, Sussex
v 23.05.90 West Ashby
Also 9 'controls' at Icklesham in
1990 of birds ringed a Calceby (2),
Spalding (5) and West Ashby (2).

SWALLOW

1 30.06.90 Kirmond-le-Mire
v 24.08.90 Icklesham, Sussex
1 12.06.90 Owston Ferry
v 16.09.90 Stokeferry, Norfolk

WHEATEAR

5M 01.04.88 Gibraltar Point
x 15.09.90 El Jadida, MOROCCO

BLACKBIRD

3F 21.10.88 Theddlethorpe Dunes
x 20.07.90 Gelderland, NETHERLANDS
3F 26.11.88 Market Rasen
x 05.03.90 Heligoland, GERMANY
4F 12.03.89 Stoke Rochford
x 05.11.89 Varmland, SWEDEN
6M 14.02.88 Boston
x 13.01.90 Buskerud, NORWAY
6F 13.01.90 Skegness
x 17.03.90 Kerteminde Fyn, DENMARK

SONG THRUSH

4 16.05.88 Wrangle, Boston
x 24.11.89 Portlaoise, Leix, EIRE

SEDGE WARBLER

3 11.09.88 Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE
v 13.05.89 Theddlethorpe Dunes
4M 21.08.87 Stodmarsh, Kent
v 05.05.89 Stamford

REED WARBLER

3 22.09.90 Theddlethorpe Dunes
v 27.09.90 Icklesham, Sussex
3F 24.09.89 St. Albans Head, Dorset
v 07.07.90 Theddlethorpe Dunes
3 15.08.86. Gibraltar Point
v 31.08.90 Icklesham, Sussex
3 06.09.87 Gibraltar Point
v 03.08.90 Litlington, Sussex

GARDEN WARBLER

3 13.08.88 Wicken Fen, Cambs
v 04.08.90 Market Rasen
3 22.07.90 Market Rasen
v 31.08.90 Icklesham, Sussex
3F 18.08.85 Beachy Head, Sussex
v 20.05.90 Bourne

CHIFFCHAFF

4F 08.04.89 Theddlethorpe Dunes
v 05.08.90 Crookham SF, Hampshire
3J 15.06.89 Grantham
v 24.09.89 Beachy Head Sussex

WILLOW WARBLER

2M 02.08.89 Whisby Gravel Pits
v 04.05.90 Theddlethorpe Dunes

GOLDCREST

3F 15.09.89 Gibraltar Point
v 10.10.90 Spurn Point B.O.

LONG-TAILED TIT

2M 29.11.89 Wytham, Oxfordshire
v 17.06.90 Theddlethorpe Dunes

STARLING

6M 07.01.89 Market Rasen
x 24.05.90 Kuopio, FINLAND

STARLING Cont'd

6M 26.01.86 Market Rasen
x 21.08.90 Sjaelland, DENMARK
3M 22.12.86 Lincoln
x 21.05.90 Skaraborg, SWEDEN

CHAFFINCH

3M 13.05.89 Jylland, DENMARK
v 13.11.89 Stamford

GREENFINCH

5F 22.04.89 Aberdeen, Grampian
v 02.12.90 Theddlethorpe St. Helens
5M 06.04.90 Martlesham, Suffolk
v 10.03.89 Theddlethorpe St. Helens

REED BUNTING

3M 11.07.89 Rutland Water, Leics
v 25.11.90 Market Rasen.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE 1990 BIRD REPORT

S.Abbot
K. Atkin
A. Ball
T. Barnatt
G. Beasley
J. Birkett
Birdline East Anglia
Birdline North East
F.E. Boddy
M. Boddy
D.J. Bradbeer
S.A. Britton
S.P. Botham
R. Burgh
P. Burnett
R.J. Carr
G.P. Catley
L. Chandler
J. Clarkson
P. Clement
P.G. Collins
S. Cox
A. Credland
N.A. Cullen
D & C Cullum
J. Dale
M. Dale
S.M. Dale

C. Dobson
K.D. Durose
P.R. Davey
J. Fielders
D. Fogg
R.J. Foster
S. Foster
R.J. Gardiner
W. Gillatt
S. Gillings
L.D. Grooby
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J.T. Harriman
M.E. Harrison
A.H.J. Harrop
J. Harrop
P. Haywood
K. Heath
R. Heath
R.N. Hebb
I. Hildred
A.J. Housman
T. Housman
P. Hyde
V. Hydes

M. Inman
C. Jarvis
D.M. Jenkins
C.J. Jennings
S. Jennings
S. Keightley
T. Kerry
R. Lamin
I. Lang
S.M. Lister
J.E. Littlewood
P. Locking
M. Longworth
J. Mawer
J. McLoughlin
A. McKeeman
B. McLean
H.P. Mills
I. Misselbrook
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C. Nimmick
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T. Nuttall
G. Orton

E. Parnell
R. Pearson
B. Pierce
P.J. Precey
G. Priestley
E.J. Redshaw
R. Riddington
I.J. Ridley
S. Routledge
A. Ryde
T. Shearsmith
I. Shepherd
I.E.H. Shepherd
D. Sheppard
R. Sheppard
A.C. Sims
M. Simms
G.C. Steele
M. Tartellin
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