

# Lincolnshire Bird Report 1992

Gibraltar Point  
Observatory Report

Breeding European Nightjars  
in Lincolnshire/South Humberside

Kumlien's Gull at Apex Gull Roost

Cormorants at Deeping St James:  
A New Breeding Species for Lincolnshire

Birds of Estuaries Enquiries:  
Wash and Humber Reports

County Ringing Report

Review of the Year

Systematic List

White-throated Sparrow  
at Willingham Woods



## Lincolnshire Bird Club



## **THE LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD CLUB**

Was inaugurated in September 1979 with the following aims:

To encourage and further an interest in the birdlife of the counties of Lincolnshire and South Humberside.

To collect and publish information on bird movements and populations.

To encourage conservation of the wildlife of the two counties.

To provide sound information on which conservation policies can be based.

Joining the Lincolnshire Bird Club is a great way to make new birdwatching friends and contacts in Lincolnshire and South Humberside.

If you are a 'beginner' but keen to become actively involved in birding, you will find that learning about your county's wild birds - how, when and where to see them - is both easier and more enjoyable when undertaken in the company of our local enthusiasts.

If you're already an active birdwatcher you can add another dimension to your birding by becoming involved in our varied activities.

### **WHO are we?**

All sorts of people, linked only by our interest in birds and birdwatching in our county. Our membership covers a wide range of birding experience, from the newest 'beginner' to 'expert'. Everyone is welcome.

### **WHAT do we do?**

Apart from providing a social forum for local birdwatchers, we also:

Organise our own surveys of bird species in Lincolnshire.

Take part in national bird surveys and censuses, organised by national conservation bodies.

Hold slide-show/lecture meetings around the county between October and March.

Hold more informal local meetings, organised to meet the needs and interests of local group members.

Provide a quarterly newsletter, 'Lincolnshire Bird News'.

Publish an annual Lincolnshire Bird Report, featuring the systematic list of birds, the county ringing report, a Gibraltar Point Observatory report, reports on long and short term surveys, plus other reports on our county's birds.

### **HOW do we do it?**

We separate the county into 7 regions (shown on the map) each with its own Area Representative. This means that all members have a local contact who can introduce them to the range of LBC activities in their part of the county, and to other birdwatchers there.

### **WHY not join us?**

Contact our Membership Secretary: John Ingoldby, 73 Horncastle Road, Boston PE21 9HY (Tel: 0205 369640). Yearly subscription runs from January to December and includes entitlement to a FREE copy of the annual Lincolnshire Bird Report for the previous year. New subscriptions received after 1st October cover the full following calendar year.

Even if you are not able to take an active part in our surveys, your subscription will be put to valuable use in funding our field work and in the publication of its results so important if all concerned parties are to gain a good understanding of the fortunes of our county's wild bird populations.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **The Birds of Lincolnshire and South Humberside**

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# CONTENTS

	Page
Editorial . . . . .	4
<i>Graham P Catley</i>	
Breeding Nightjars in Lincolnshire/South Humberside . . . . .	6
<i>Graham P Catley</i>	
Cormorants at Deeping St. James: A New Breeding Species for Lincolnshire. . .	11
<i>Philip J Precey</i>	
Birds of Estuaries Enquiry 1992 The Wash . . . . .	13
<i>Bob Lord</i>	
Birds of Estuaries Enquiry 1992 The Humber . . . . .	15
<i>Ian Shepherd</i>	
Review of the Year . . . . .	20
<i>Graham P Catley</i>	
Systematic List 1992 . . . . .	22
<i>Graham P Catley</i>	
List of Contributors . . . . .	87
White-throated Sparrow at Willingham Woods - December 5th 1992 - March 1993 . . . . .	88
<i>Mid-Lincs Ringing Group</i>	
Kumlien's Gull at Apex Gull Roost . . . . .	91
<i>Kevin DuRose</i>	
Gibraltar Point Observatory Report Review of the Year . . . . .	92
<i>K M Wilson &amp; P M Troake</i>	
County Ringing Report . . . . .	95
<i>Mike Boddy</i>	
Interesting Sightings of Colour Ringed Birds in the County in 1992 . . . . .	101
Rarities List . . . . .	102

Front Cover Design: D Wright

Rear Cover Map: I G Shepherd

Illustrations: A P Chick

Typeset from disk and printed by East Coast Grafix Ltd., North Somercotes

## EDITORIAL

Some obvious changes to the 1992 Annual Report will be obvious to regular readers and are in need of some explanation.

### A/ Name changes;

In accordance with the English name changes adopted by British Birds as from January 1993 (The 'British Birds' List of English Names of Western Palearctic Birds) the Lincolnshire Bird Club has also adopted these changes with effect from this 1992 Annual Report. Most of the changes make little difference to the names now in current usage and indeed names like Northern Wheatear simply follow the recent general trend to qualify such non species specific names and have already appeared in many journals and Reports. As far as contributions to the Newsletter and Annual Report are concerned there will be no need for observers to adopt the new names in their lists if they have no wish to do so, alternatively if they do wish to then that will be perfectly acceptable. LBC Reports will, however, now be using the new standardised names. Only one 'new species' is added to said list, that of Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*, formerly a race of Herring Gull. This species has yet to be accepted as a good species by the BOU but to maintain standardisation with BB we include it as a full species in this Report pending a decision by the BOU in hopefully the near future.

B/ Species requiring descriptions by BBRC or LBRC. All species for which supporting details, descriptions, notes, photographs, recordings etc; are needed for adjudication by said records committees are indicated by an \* within this report. Observers are reminded that records of these species without supporting details will not be considered acceptable for the 1993 and future reports.

### C/ Status comments.

Under each species name/latin name, in the systematic list is a brief statement regarding the status of the species within the county with further references to any useful prior publication in LBC Annual Reports, any exceptional occurrences, breeding records for casual breeders etc; This is intended as a quick reference and for further in depth information readers are of course advised to consult The Birds of Lincolnshire and South Humberside by K. Atkin and S. Lorand.

### D/ List of additional species.

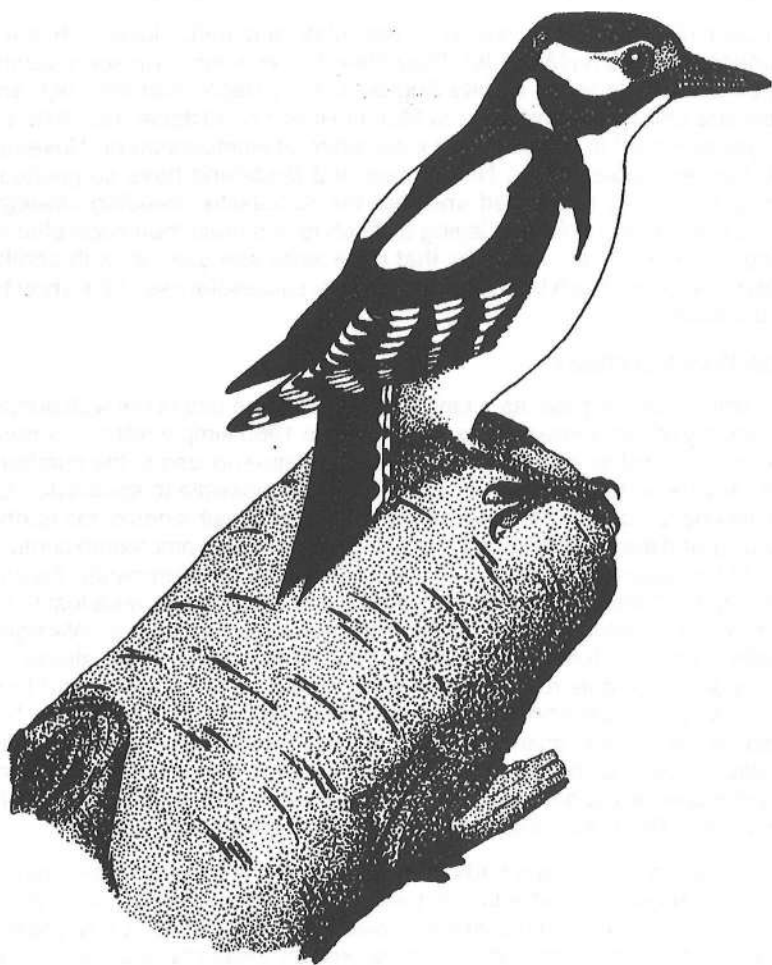
At the end of the report is a further list of species which have occurred in the county but were not acceptably recorded during 1992 along with a brief comment as to when last recorded or the years for species recorded only once or twice. This means that a full county species list can be found in each report by combining these two lists.

### E/ Lincolnshire Bird Club Records Committee.

The Records Committee now has five members reflecting better regional representation; Graham Catley, Howard Bunn (NE), Wayne Gillatt (NW), Kevin Wilson (SE and mainly Gib Point), Phil Hyde (SE and SW). All records considered by the committee for 1992 have been commented upon by all members and the accepted records are included within the report. As with other records committees it is worth pointing out that in many cases where a record is not accepted this is very often because the documentation or views may have been insufficient and in only a few

cases is there anything to suggest that a genuine mistake has been made. It is hoped that people finding, or seeing, any of the species on the LBCRC list [within this report] will submit their notes/photos etc; as soon as possible after the sighting to GPC for circulation around the committee; do not wait until a month later or the year end do it while the sighting is fresh in your mind.

Graham P Catley





## BREEDING EUROPEAN NIGHTJARS IN LINCOLNSHIRE/SOUTH HUMBERSIDE.

The European Nightjar is a charismatic bird, its crepuscular behaviour, hawking, flicking, hovering and chasing over open heathland vegetation combined with its haunting churring song and the male's distinctive koick calls and wing clapping display all create an enduring and unforgettable experience for anyone who has come into contact with it. The churring song is a characteristic of warm summer evenings on heathland buzzing with myriads of insects and flying moths which form its staple diet throughout its short sojourn into our northerly climate.

In Lincolnshire most birds arrive in late May and early June with the earliest documented record on May 16th. They often rear two broods in warm summers but most birds have departed by late August or early September although an exceptionally late bird was found dead at Market Rasen on October 1st 1970 and there is a coastal record in the Birds of Lincolnshire at Humberston on November 28th 1864. Recent studies in the New Forest and Breckland have suggested that all churring males are not paired and that the successful breeding strategy of the species may involve a female laying a clutch to one male then soon after hatching leaving the brood to be reared by that male while she goes off with another male and lays a second clutch thus making the most successful use of the short breeding period available.

### County Breeding history;

The history of the Nightjar as a Lincolnshire breeding bird is not well documented. The majority of the references to years prior to 1960 simply refer in general terms to the areas of distribution within the county and give no idea of the number of birds which may have been present in any year. It is impossible to speculate how many pairs may have occupied the extensive blown sand heathlands of the north-west of the county and the Market Rasen and Lincoln areas in the nineteenth century before many of the areas were altered for ever by human developments. Areas around Scunthorpe, notable Crosby Warren, Ashby and Frodingham were lost to industrial and housing developments, Laughton and Scotton Commons, Willingham and Walesby were all afforested in the early part of this century and afforestation and housing developments ruined much of the area around Lincoln. Apart from these areas however, and the heathland around Kirkby Moor and Woodall, the European Nightjar would never have been a widespread species in the county due to its specialist choice of breeding habitat. Outside of the areas mentioned above churring males or pairs have occurred in odd years in forestry clearings at Bourne Woods 1965, Bardney Forest 1973 and Epworth Turbary about 1990.

Documentation of breeding birds from various sites has been fragmented over the years often relying on individual birdwatchers making a series of visits to known sites over a few consecutive years followed by a gap. In the early years visits to find nests often concentrated on precise known locations and later in the 1970-1980's annual visits for a regular 'year tick' again led to a rather limited series of published records. Records from other localities were often chance reports from forestry workers or birds found on chance late evening visits. The number of birds

present in the county in any one year has never been fully established and indeed the only known attempted estimate was based on 'a special effort' in 1970 when a total of 49 adult birds was recorded [LNU report for 1973]. There is no indication of how many of these were males or females and no idea of their distribution through the county. Other figures quoted in the same table refer to 10 adults in 1968 and 17 in 1969 but the 1970 figure is quoted as a best estimate for the period.

#### Individual site history:

##### Kirkby Moor/Woodall.

Formerly a regular breeding site the only recent reports were of 1-2 pairs in 1964, birds present in 1966, 1973 and 1979. Habitat management at Kirkby Moor and Moor Farm by the L&SHTNC appears to have created some suitable breeding sites but the relatively restricted area available may inhibit recolonisation. Former clear fells in some of the Woodall woodlands, notable High Hall Wood, may have held Nightjars when they were at their best about ten years ago but there appears to have been no visits to the area at that time as far as is known.

##### Market Rasen/Willingham Forest/Linwood Warren.

Males were heard at Linwood in the 1950's with singing males again noted in 1959, 1960, 1962, 1965, 1966 and breeding was reported in 1970-1975 (P & K Herrick per R W Wilkinson). No birds have been found in the area in recent years despite searching from 1987 onwards until a singing male was recorded near Linwood Warren on May 22nd 1992. With the Willingham Forest now coming of harvesting age and a number of clear fells already in existence it will be interesting to see if any are large enough to attract birds back in 1993. It seems likely that as the clear fell area available increases over the next few years birds will almost certainly reoccupy this woodland.

##### Skellingthorpe/Doddington.

Birds were seen at this locality in 1951 'several Doddington area', 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1973 all at Skellingthorpe with 3 males on a clear fell at Doddington again in 1990 but none in 1991 or 1992.

##### Stapleford Woods.

Birds were noted at this locality every year from 1976-1988 since when the habitat has become unsuitable due to the newly planted conifers forming a closed canopy. A maximum of 4 males were present in 1984 but in most years 2 pairs were noted with only a single male found in the last year of 1988.

##### Norton Disney.

A locality close to Stapleford which had pairs recorded in 1964 (3 pairs), 1965, 1966, 1973, 1977 and 3 males there in 1986 when a dead male was also found on August 29th.

##### Nettleton.

This site held singing males in 1979 and 1987 and the general habitat in the area around Nettleton Bottom and Holton-le-Moor is quite good for the species so odd pairs may turn up here in some years.

#### Crowle Waste.

The area of Crowle/Thorne Moors which lies within the county boundary is partly owned by the L&SHTNC. The whole block has suitable habitat for the species and has presumably held breeding birds for many years although the only reports refer to 3 males in 1976 and present in 1980 before regular surveys commenced in 1989. The whole Thorne/Crowle population is one of key importance in the east midlands area and the total number of churring males often exceeds 40 with the Crowle section generally holding 7-10 males with 8 in 1992 (P Roworth pers comm).

#### Atkinsons Warren.

In 1985 2 males and a female were present on this site on June 17th with a pair to the end of August and breeding presumably took place. The area has since suffered large scale destruction due to industrial and housing development.

#### Wrawby Moor.

A pair were reported at this locality in the early 1960's on the periphery of Elsham Golf Course.(C.Capp per M.Hopper) The locality has not been checked in recent years and is worthy of a future survey.

#### Epworth Turbary.

One bird was present here in one recent spring and large scale clearing of birch scrub could attract the odd pair in future.

#### Greetwell/Twigmoor/Manton

Reports from this extensive but contiguous site have been rather erratic over the years but date back to at least 1948 when 'small numbers were present', in 1952 3 males were on Manton Warren on May 17th. The Manton Warren has since been ploughed and developed for gravel and sand extraction. At Scawby ie; Twigmoor/Greetwell, 3 pairs were reported in 1960. It seems possible that up to 10 pairs may have been in this area in some years in the 1960's and 1970's judging from the records from scattered localities within the whole area. One pair bred every year from a date prior to 1971 to 1979 in a small clearing at Twigmoor, this site was unnecessarily planted with conifers about 1980 and has not been used since. Other pairs have bred in other areas of Twigmoor Woods and areas at Greetwell have never been looked at for many years due to difficulty of access. More recent clearing of birch scrub in this area may attract more birds in 1993.

#### Broughton Woods.

This is another area where the private nature of the woodlands makes access almost impossible and thus surveying very erratic. Extensive clear felling of old deciduous, mainly Beech, woodland since 1984 has created some good habitat and indeed a pair bred at a small clear fell site for a few years in the late 1970's. At least 2 males were heard on the periphery of the woods in 1990 and others were reported from further in the woods by local people. Conifer growth in this area is however, rapid and clear fells are only viable as breeding sites for 4-5 years as opposed to 8-10 years at many Forestry Commission woodlands.



### Keb Wood/Appleby.

Extensive clear felling and replanting of this large conifer block began in the mid 1980's and by 1988 at least 2 males were on territory there with 2 again in 1989 but a sudden increase to 7 in 1991 as the available breeding and feeding area increased with further large scale clear felling.

### Scotton Common/Laughton Forest.

During the years from about 1940 to the late 1970's Laughton Forest was principally a solid block of pine plantations but it seems likely that peripheral areas of semi-natural heath and odd SSSI clearings within the forest would have held a few pairs of breeding Nightjars. Indeed the L&SHTNC reserve at Scotton Common held up to 3 churring males from 1956- 1977 with one male still there in 1988. Clear felling of the main conifer woodland crop began in the late 1970's but the regular presence of Nightjars was not reported until 1984 when at least 4 churring males were found. It is almost certain however, that birds would have been breeding from the date of the first clear fells. The area of clear felling increased exponentially to the late 1980's and in 1988 GPC attempted the first survey of the majority of the clear fells based upon several visits through the spring period which resulted in a total of 19 churring males being located. No full survey took place in 1989 but a further attempt at a more comprehensive survey involving a number of volunteers on one evening in early June 1990 resulted in a total of 30 churring males. In 1991 29 males were found but some areas were not covered and thus the higher total found in 1992 is in part attributed to better more comprehensive coverage of the whole of the available habitat in the forest.

### The 1992 Survey.

During the spring/summer of 1992 an attempt was made to survey all suitable known Nightjar breeding habitat in the county under the auspices of the BTO/RSPB survey. Although probably not 100% complete most of the county sites were covered and negative returns were received from Stapleford, Doddington, Bourne Wood, Kirkby Moor, Moor Farm and Woodall. A single male was heard in Willingham Forest on May 22nd but there were no further reports from this locality although it is not clear how detailed further survey work was in this area. Similarly a male was heard on one date in June in Bardney Forest but again the report was not followed up. These two males are included in the full county total.

The rest of the results were as follows;

Laughton Forest	39 males several females also seen
Keb Wood/Appleby	6 males at least 3 females seen
Broughton Woods	3 males
Twigmoor	1 male
Crowle Waste	8 males
Bardney Forest	1 male
Linwood	1 male

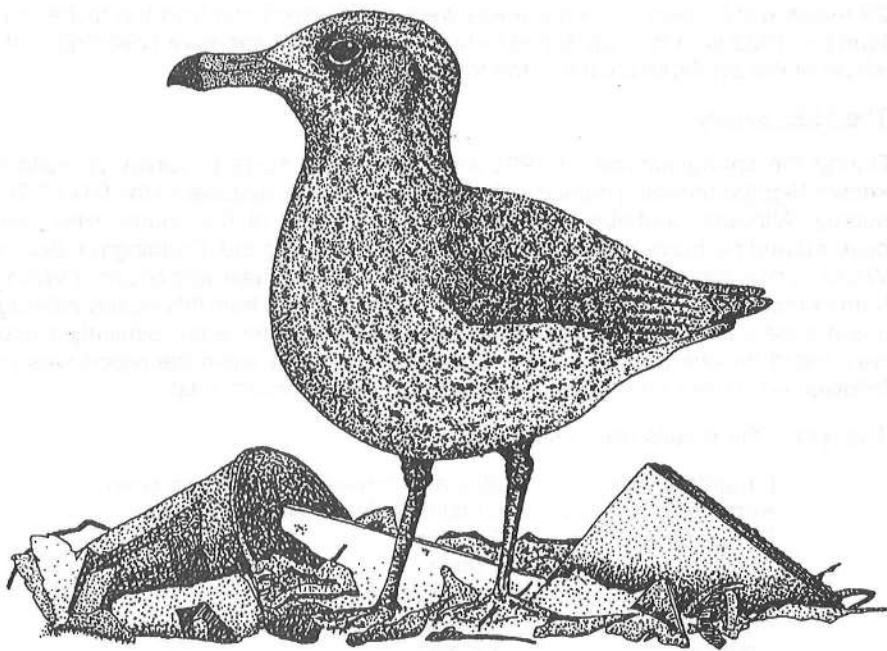
giving a grand total of at least 59 churring males. First birds were at least 5 at Keb Wood on May 19th and the last reported were at least 2 still singing at Laughton on August 16th.

The total of 59 males represents a new maximum figure for the county. It is likely that such a population level will be maintained for a number of years, without any drastic change in the fortunes of the species, as continued clear felling at Laughton and Willingham should provide enough suitable breeding habitat for at least 10-15 years until the present crop harvest is completed and we will then have to wait another 50-60 years for the next rotation!

#### Acknowledgements;

I would like to thank everyone who took part in the 1992 survey and especially the members of the Grimsby Group who assisted with my surveys at Laughton in 1990, 1991 and 1992. Also thanks are due to Peter Roworth for the results of the English Nature survey at Crowle and to Miles Hopper and Barrie Wilkinson for providing historical information on a number of localities. My thanks also go to the Forestry Commission for their continued co-operation in arranging access to Laughton and Willingham Forests for my survey work.

Graham P Catley



## **CORMORANTS AT DEEPING ST JAMES: A NEW BREEDING SPECIES FOR LINCOLNSHIRE**

In the far south of Lincolnshire , at Deeping St James, immature Cormorants had been occasional visitors in ones and twos until the autumn of 1989. By the end of September of that year they had become a permanent fixture with up to seven birds seen on every visit. A routine was soon established with a day time haul up on an island in the larger of the two lakes and a nightly roost in a large tree by the smaller lake being swelled by birds feeding in the fens or in the nearby gravel pits.

Numbers stayed pretty constant over the first year, with the first adult seen on December 22nd 1989 and the first breeding plumaged bird on February 25th 1990. Display was first noted amongst the immature birds on April 10th with an adult present at the time. It was around this time that I heard of the inland colony in a heronry at Little Paxton in Huntingdonshire, and so hopes were raised that similar events could occur here, especially taking into account the 103 pairs of Grey Heron breeding nearby.

However, things stayed quiet for another year with another autumn jump in numbers taking the roost to 33.

In the spring of 1991, up to 5 adults were present in the 30 strong roost and two adults, one in breeding plumage, were seen displaying on March 17th. However, although 41 birds were present through the summer, again there was no breeding. Another autumn jump took the roost count to 65 birds with 40 staying around to the years end; things looked set for another good year.

1992:

Adults were present right from the start of the year with ten breeding plumaged birds seen on February 15th. By the end of February some birds had taken to roosting overnight not in their traditional tree but in the large heronry and some very active displaying and twig-carrying was seen on the daytime roost on March 15th with 34 birds present.

On April 29th three obvious pairs of displaying adults were found in the heronry and the roost tree was found to hold a large heron-like nest complete with sitting female and attendant male. On my next visit on March 3rd two of the heronry pairs had started nest building and from then on breeding activity continued apace.

By June 16th a total of 16 nests, all but one in five Scots Pine trees in the heronry, were counted with 33 birds in attendance. One of the nests was occupied by a pair consisting of an adult male and an immature female. On June 21st the Cormorant became a successful Lincolnshire breeding bird when three velvety, black and incredibly ugly chicks were found on the original roost tree nest. More chicks followed soon after with another brood this time of 2 on June 24th. The last nest was found on July 6th making a total of 17 with 4 more broods appearing on the same day.

A total of 21 chicks were counted from 9 nests on July 16th with the original brood close to fledging. By July 24th 14 nests had chicks but disaster struck one family:



the nest collapsed in the night leaving the female standing on the branch which previously supported the nest, looking very sorry for herself for a good month afterwards.

It soon became obvious that the nests were not as strong as they appeared; a second nest had collapsed by August 6th, thankfully after the single chick had fledged, and 7 more nests had gone by the time the last chicks fledged; one fall killing at least two young chicks.

In total at least 33 chicks were hatched of which 30 fledged to become part of a record roost of 126 on August 16th.

### The Future

Unfortunately the future of this colony is not 100% assured-- local anglers consider 17 pairs of Cormorant to be 17 pairs too many and one need only look at the fate of the Norfolk colony to see what sort of effect a concerted effort of disturbance could have. At that site 14 pairs in 1990 were reduced to zero by being "discouraged" from breeding in 1991, presumably by anglers.

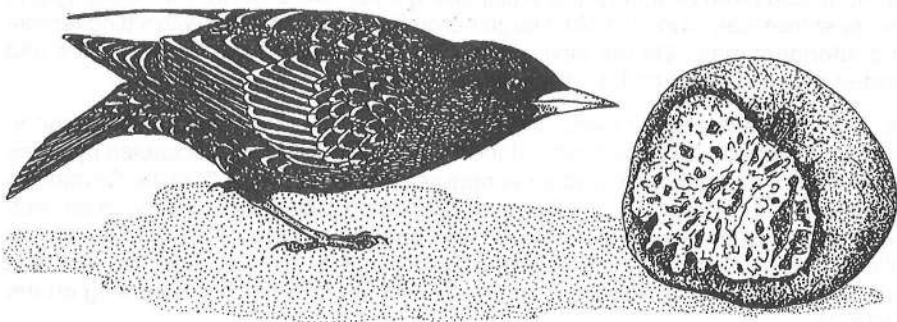
Still for the time being birds keep coming in with counts of 100 plus now regular and colour-ringed birds present from Abberton (Essex) -2-, Tenby (Dyfed) and one from Denmark.

### **Summary**

After a continuing rise in numbers from autumn 1987, 17 pairs of Cormorant finally nested in the heronry at Deeping St James during 1992 the first such occurrence in Lincolnshire.

It should be noted that this site is strictly private although good numbers of birds can be seen flying in over the village just before dusk, especially during the autumn.

Philip J Precey.



## BIRDS OF ESTUARIES ENQUIRY 1992

### THE LINCOLNSHIRE WASH

The table shows the summed totals for each of the waterfowl species recorded in the counting sections within the Lincolnshire Wash. The data has been extracted from the Wash totals which includes counts undertaken simultaneously both in Lincolnshire and on the Norfolk side. These counts are undertaken monthly (with the exception of June) and most months see all sections counted although inevitably, with such a large number of counters, from time to time some sections are missed through lack of cover and an incomplete count results. Nonetheless the scientific information which has been collected by the "team" of enthusiastic volunteers continues to be vitally important locally, nationally and internationally. Therefore, once again, both James Cadbury (as Norfolk organiser) and I would like to express our thanks to all who participate not only in the BOEE, but also in other surveys and counts often arranged at short notice.

Once again in national terms the Wash has excelled in the numbers of waterfowl present during the year. The variety though, as one would expect, remains similar to other years. Wildfowl numbers on the whole have remained fairly stable with one or two notable exceptions. The Brent Goose population suffered a small set-back (no doubt to the delight of some!) through a disastrous breeding season and no young were counted anywhere in the Wash. More important, in county terms, is the continuing decline in the Pink-footed Goose population. Numbers this year are probably the worst on record, despite the Wash (Norfolk) population increasing to record numbers. Wigeon and Pintail numbers were also down on previous years, although Shelduck numbers in January and December were above average. Counts of Eider show a continued increase in numbers and I suspect that before too long over 700 in the early year will be the norm.

Oystercatchers seem to be in real trouble. Many observers were reporting dead or dying Oystercatchers in one or two locations at the end of the year, following which there was a great deal of activity to assess the numbers involved. There were also reports of birds behaving oddly, feeding inland on any available grass. The final analysis showed that around 250 birds had died. Furthermore, the total count had reduced significantly and appeared to be following a trend over the last 3-4 winters. The reason for the deaths and the declining population seems to be related to the abundance of their primary food source, cockles of the 2-3 year age class. Poor spat-fall and subsequent settlement allied to possible climatic factors are thought to be the principle reasons.

The very mild conditions in the early winter encouraged Lapwing to remain in the area and a massive 50616 were counted in December. Black-tailed Godwits continue to increase but Turnstone numbers have been poor.

Contributors: M Ackerman, B Allan, A Ball, J Cadbury, C Casey, I Dennis, R Dobson, S Gillings, B Hancock, R & K Heath, K Horton, C Howard, P Hyde, J Kitson, S Keightley, R Lord, S & R Lingard, B Martin, D Missin, I Paterson, B Redman, R Riddington, C Smith, P Todd, T Walker, R Watson, N Watts, A Webb, J Wheldon, A White, P Wilson (apologies for any omissions).

Bob Lord

# THE WASH COUNTS 1992 - LINCOLNSHIRE TOTALS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
R-t Diver	61			1					1	13	7
Little Grebe	2		1							3	
G C Grebe	2	3	1	19	5	9	48	33	38	17	28
Fulmar				5	3						
Gannet			1	1	1		10	17	1		
Cormorant	56	136	82	79	31	64	122	83	90	118	87
Shag									2		
Grey Heron	11	6	6	14	12	20	27	34	23	23	17
Mute Swan	2			3		2				2	3
Bewick's Swan			16							24	
Whooper Swan	8	3							6		
Pink-f Goose		1		3							41
Greylag Goose			2	4				12			
Canada Goose	1				3						
Brent Goose	23508	23376	10749	7832	6390	24	16	2322	9572	14953	13533
P-b Brent G					1						
Shelduck	8674	3492	1456	1382	393	425	138	867	1389	6076	11274
Wigeon	2821	96	75			8	14	2364	1243	1875	2038
Gadwall							6				
Teal	111	60	17				91	213	123	130	63
Mallard	2299	711	348	151	96	42	79	585	130	1123	1501
Pintail	3263	21	20					141		8	70
Shoveler	1						3				
Pochard										14	
Scaup		13		1					1	90	122
Eider	692	381	686	188	172	63	134	18	30	61	98
Long-t Duck		1	5	1						3	1
Common Scoter	17		12	1	1						41
Velvet Scoter										5	
Goldeneye	11	116	39	3						9	14
R-b Merganser	17	31	23	23	1				7	35	9
Goosander	1										
Oystercatcher	9064	17155	13984	12414	5758	6638	10710	12483	3904	18779	14519
Avocet					2						
Ringed Plover	11	176	160	73	965	125	754	359	32	53	42
Gold Plover	775	1530	1789	402		886	8329	1230	1303	635	4593
Grey Plover	4361	3404	8596	10009	7779	944	6207	7279	3931	5343	4105
Lapwing	1071	2875	59	18	12	2575	695	2386	804	1789	50616
Knot	15812	17285	9925	11239	1612	2727	1033	40967	12585	43002	25392
Sanderling	128	83	100	75	29	370	540	81		4	110
Little Stint							3				
Curl Sandpiper							1				
Dunlin	11629	13486	24185	30723	11733	8478	11668	14663	10003	24001	18630
Ruff	10				11		5				
Snipe	2	4	3	3			129	55	19	22	7
Woodcock										1	
Bl-t Godwit	300	100	3	31			361	405	203	66	853
Bar-t Godwit	3576	5054	1293	214	80	2745	2679	8100	908	9574	8590
Whimbrel				7	7	115	155	21			
Curlew	938	1069	1667	1351	183	1452	1534	3527	942	1318	944
Spot Redshank			1				3	10	3		
Redshank	926	1133	1237	2648	518	1365	2298	1855	863	1431	1219
Greenshank					34	93	51	49	5		
Gn Sandpiper							4				
Wood Sandpiper								1			
Cmn Sandpiper				3	3	15	39	3			
Turnstone	288	202	333	631	138	69	385	405	279	116	182



## BIRDS OF ESTUARIES ENQUIRY: THE HUMBER 1992

The table shows the summed totals for each of the waterfowl species counted over the whole estuary and along the south shore only. No counts were attempted in June or July. Data for wildfowl species, with the exception of Shelduck, recorded on the north bank between January and April were not available to me, hence the question marks in the whole estuary totals column.

Map 1 shows the count sectors and Figure 1 shows the coverage pattern of those sectors through the year. Coverage was generally much improved this year, particularly in the mid-winter months, but there were problems; as usual. In spring, there were no north bank counts in May, and no counts on the outer south shore between Somercotes Haven and Saltfleetby NNR in April or May. This lack of complete coverage in spring is particularly significant with regard to the tabled spring totals of Ringed Plover and Sanderling. The Ringed Plover occurs widely along the north shore, and Cherry Cob Sands in particular has held up to 1,000 in May (Steve Lister pers. comm.). Given the total of 386 Ringed Plover recorded in May from just the inner and mid south shore sections, I speculate that the true number present on the entire estuary would have approached, if not exceeded, the international importance criterion of 1,000 birds, as it has in previous years. The May Sanderling total of 1,424 birds did, once again, indicate the international importance of the Humber flats during spring passage, but the total recorded would undoubtedly have been higher had the outer south shore tidelines been fully counted (very few Sanderling occur on the north bank).

There was no count made along the north bank in August. In October, none of the major south shore roosts between Cleethorpes and Grainthorpe Haven were counted, so the table totals for that month of all wader species, and possibly Shelduck, represent gross undercounts.

Wader numbers recorded were in general consistent with recent years. The peak count of Knot occurred in January and, at 37,093, represented around 10% of the estimated East Atlantic Flyway population. In late winter the population reached around 30,000 birds, mirroring the previous December total. Winter maxima on the Humber have ranged between approximately 31,000 and 38,000 since 1988/9, so the Humber's winter population has shown no trend of increasing numbers, in marked contrast to that of the Wash.

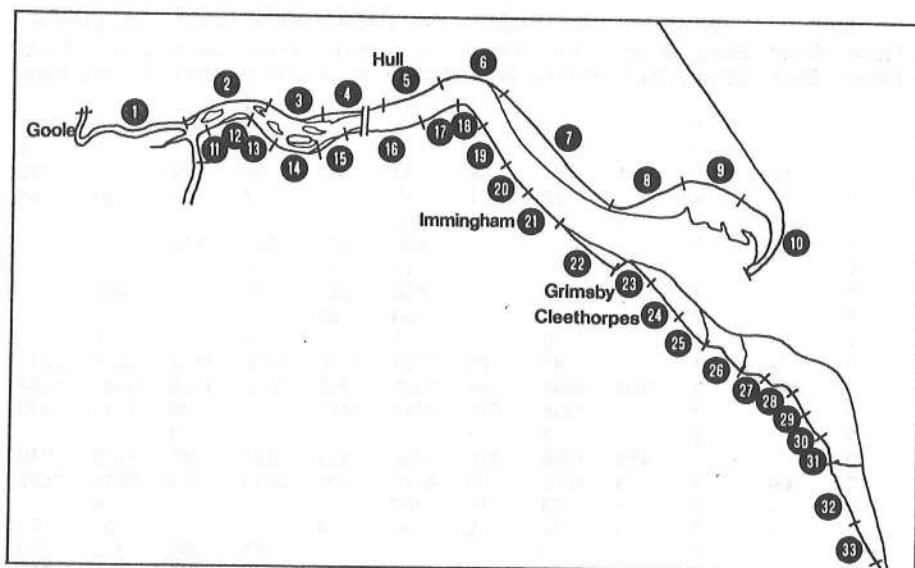
Winter maxima of Sanderling on the Humber have shown a small, but consistent, increase year by year over the last five winters. The five-year average maximum count ending in the '91-'92 winter, at 611 birds, represented 4.4% of the estimated British population. Whilst this increase may in part be due to improving count coverage, there does seem to be some genuine increase in wintering numbers also.

Black-tailed Godwits were recorded during all counts except that for May, but once again the numbers recorded during BoEE counts in both winter periods never exceeded 40 birds, whilst numbers recorded feeding on the Pyewipe flats reached circa 130 in January - March and circa 100 in November. Where do these birds roost over the majority of high tides, which completely inundate the Pyewipe shore? The nearest major roost is at Cleethorpes, but they certainly did not use that site.

# HUMBER BoEE 1992

		JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL	
		Entire	South	Entire	South	Entire	South	Entire	South
		Estuary	Bank	Estuary	Bank	Estuary	Bank	Estuary	Bank
Red Throated Diver	RH	?	7	?	-	?	1	?	-
Little Grebe	LG	?	7	?	-	?	3	?	-
Great Crested Grebe	GG	?	4	?	-	?	-	?	-
Cormorant	CA	?	97	?	115	?	112	?	16
Mute Swan	MS	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-
Whooper Swan	WS	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-
Pink-footed Goose	PG	?	2	?	-	?	-	?	-
White-fronted Goose	WG	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-
Greylag Goose	GJ	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-
Canada Goose	CG	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-
Banacle Goose	BY	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-
Brent Goose	BG	?	3176	?	2134	?	46	?	1
Shelduck	SU	3311	1878	3043	687	3161	1209	3683	1115
Wigeon	WN	?	413	?	276	?	376	?	3
Gadwall	GA	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-
Teal	T	?	110	?	196	?	125	?	7
Mallard	MA	?	670	?	715	?	243	?	73
Pintail	PT	?	2	?	9	?	2	?	3
Shoveler	SV	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-
Pochard	PO	?	272	?	-	?	-	?	-
Tufted Duck	TU	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-
Scaup	SP	?	53	?	-	?	-	?	-
Eider	E	?	28	?	1	?	1	?	1
Long -tailed Duck	LN	?	2	?	-	?	-	?	-
Common Scoter	CX	?	57	?	-	?	-	?	-
Velvet Scoter	VS	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-
Goldeneye	GN	?	110	?	32	?	11	?	-
Red-breasted Merganser	RM	?	5	?	-	?	2	?	-
Goosander	GD	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	-
Oystercatcher	OC	5687	1937	3988	1649	4528	1822	2626	1121
Little Ringed Plover	LP	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ringed Plover	RP	298	201	263	196	82	62	156	104
Golden Plover	GP	9416	1999	22646	7640	5041	2966	334	3
Grey Plover	GV	1336	593	1093	1003	1034	363	1273	132
Lapwing	L	12685	4064	12069	3480	1762	630	31	14
Knot	KN	37093	6778	6484	5128	6208	206	2206	12
Sanderling	SS	483	458	801	721	420	420	295	248
Little Stint	LX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Curlew Sandpiper	CV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	PS	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dunlin	DN	23762	6430	12656	7072	23901	4503	18293	1580
Ruff	RU	23	15	7	2	2	-	4	-
Black-tailed Godwit	BW	3	-	18	17	39	33	10	1
Bar-tailed Godwit	BA	1798	491	817	426	670	245	36	36
Whimbrel	WM	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Curlew	CU	1306	389	2841	840	3091	679	1665	449
Spotted Redshank	DR	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redshank	RK	3019	1337	2866	1603	3846	1355	4219	467
Greenshank	GK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green Sandpiper	GE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Sandpiper	CS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turnstone	TT	422	211	350	182	339	246	425	121

MAY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER		
Entire	South	Entire	South	Entire	South	Entire	South	Entire	South	Entire	South	
Estuary	Bank	Estuary	Bank	Estuary	Bank	Estuary	Bank	Estuary	Bank	Estuary	Bank	
?	-	?	-	1	1	1	1	16	3	-	-	RH
?	-	?	-	6	3	5	2	-	-	5	3	LG
?	-	?	1	4	3	-	-	5	5	6	4	GG
?	15	?	54	77	58	73	49	99	74	146	129	CA
?	-	?	-	27	21	10	-	7	7	39	37	MS
?	-	?	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	WS
?	-	?	-	-	-	603	413	614	614	-	-	PG
?	-	?	-	-	-	11	11	1	-	-	-	WG
?	-	?	-	2	-	456	250	164	-	230	-	GJ
?	-	?	-	-	-	130	130	-	-	-	-	CG
?	-	?	-	3	-	5	5	4	-	4	-	BY
?	-	?	-	40	21	1569	1510	1592	1592	2615	2225	BG
?	983	?	306	3094	724	3996	989	3548	1609	5341	2084	SU
?	-	?	-	1598	316	4349	1475	3313	139	3793	1330	WN
?	-	?	-	2	-	-	-	11	4	-	-	GA
?	-	?	489	1396	410	732	159	1390	345	1405	910	T
?	69	?	5	2062	735	2640	836	2613	729	5015	1532	MA
?	-	?	-	73	10	360	-	-	-	4	-	PT
?	-	?	-	34	2	64	4	-	-	23	23	SV
?	-	?	-	3	-	-	-	218	200	332	272	PO
?	7	?	-	-	-	3	-	217	200	300	300	TU
?	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	-	-	SP
?	-	?	-	3	1	2	-	15	14	4	4	E
?	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	LN
?	7	?	35	35	33	-	-	107	106	13	12	CX
?	-	?	-	-	-	3	-	6	4	3	3	VS
?	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	192	173	300	300	GN
?	-	?	-	3	3	-	-	2	2	-	-	RM
?	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	GD
?	1056	?	1951	4426	2387	3383	1113	2777	2243	5467	2630	OC
-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	LP
?	386	?	989	818	385	277	78	289	223	233	122	RP
?	-	?	874	22461	4513	9901	1612	4941	2098	16969	714	GP
?	99	?	218	23461	976	514	184	396	178	664	530	GV
?	16	?	435	9121	4614	4908	1982	7611	3559	13549	8553	L
?	11	?	51	536	396	3619	3163	7260	6653	30621	16077	KN
?	1424	?	775	425	424	249	244	271	271	511	452	SS
?	-	?	1	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	LX
?	-	?	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	CV
?	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	PS
?	2536	?	3342	14610	4234	11675	1702	9611	5622	18129	7228	DN
?	-	?	24	116	12	73	4	4	-	-	-	RU
?	-	?	3	166	3	93	-	27	-	40	-	BW
?	58	?	137	415	98	412	73	478	245	722	259	BA
?	2	?	32	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	WM
?	66	?	416	1403	634	1487	309	979	425	2344	392	CU
?	-	?	1	4	2	3	-	-	-	1	-	DR
?	197	?	389	6545	989	3238	634	3245	1356	3123	1668	RK
?	2	?	14	16	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	GK
?	-	?	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	GE
?	9	?	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CS
?	60	?	16	303	197	149	42	293	213	328	192	TT



Map 1

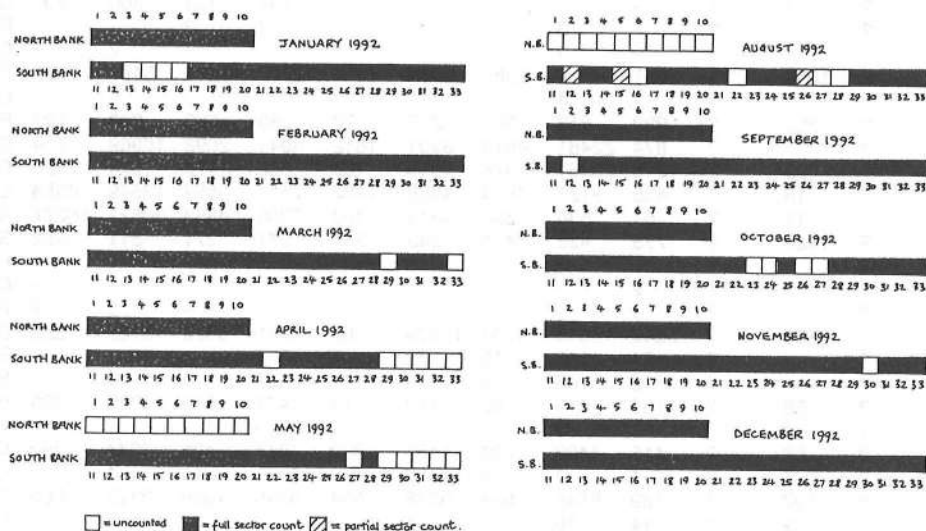


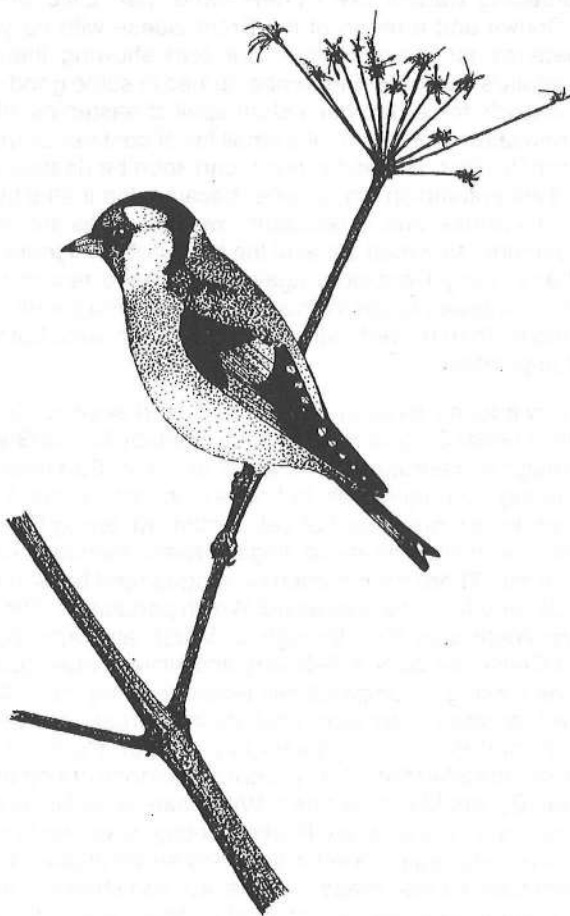
Table 1

Maybe some extra checking of coastal fields (on both sides of the river, as there is considerable interchange of waders between Pyewipe and the north shore) is required in future?

Shelduck total numbers were similar to those of recent years at around 3,000 - 3,500 birds in the early part of the year and again from September to November. Since the November and December counts included all sites regularly holding significant numbers of Shelduck, the increase to 5,341 birds by mid December count date presumably reflects a genuine mid-winter arrival of Shelduck onto the estuary.

Once again, north bank organisers Steve James and Callum Rankine, inner south shore organiser Keith Parker, outer south shore organiser John Walker and myself from the mid south shore all send many thanks to everyone who participated in the counts.

Ian Shepherd





## REVIEW OF THE YEAR

In every birding year the events in the birding world are highly dependant upon the weather, which affects not only the British Isles but areas far removed from our local sphere of influence, and its consequent effects upon species migrations, breeding success or failure and feeding movements. The year 1992 was unique in many ways in comparison to the previous decade. The early winter mild, with no spells of severe weather, the usual blast of short lived warm air in March followed by a generally cold spring thereafter with an exceptionally lengthy period of east to north-east winds in May-June. The summer then turning out to be hot and sunny giving late breeding birds a high rate of success in comparison with earlier nesting attempts. The expanses of mud soon revealed that the first autumn shorebirds were not accompanied by any juveniles and the results of a total breeding failure in the Arctic in summer 1992 quickly manifested itself in low autumn passages of most northern breeding waders like Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Grey Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit and a return of the Brent Geese with no young. The effects of weather patterns far removed from our own showing themselves through our migratory regulars. Although September turned in some good northerly blows there were few seabirds to be had but a short spell of easterlies mid month did provide some compensation in the form of a small fall of continental migrants and the hope was there for October. Hopes however, can soon be dashed and despite the best seawatch of the autumn on 4th, October became dominated by northerly winds and blocking anticyclones and a resultant low total of asiatic vagrants ensued. By contrast November provided some of the best visible migration for many years and mild weather in early December again encouraged record numbers of Northern Lapwing and European Golden Plover to flood into the county. A sharp spell of frost late in the month then moved many on further south-west but failed to enhance the winter bird population.

Notable overwintering birds in January included several Common Buzzard, two Rough-legs, 2 Great Grey Shrikes and the Grimsby Docks Great Northern Diver all present through to February with a small arrival of Bohemian Waxwings, always welcome, during January-March, but none in the late winter. Wild swans and many wildfowl were in low numbers but yet another wintering Red Kite brightened the January scene and three more sightings between then and April probably involved at least two birds. There having been no wing-tagged birds in the county yet, these may all be derived from the successful Welsh population. The number of Common Eider in the Wash was high through to March and April but winter swans and Pink-footed Geese left early in February and white-winged gulls were again scarce with Icelands making a comparatively better showing than Glaucous. Some good flocks of Red-throated Diver were offshore in February and the first of what proved to be a series of Wood Larks appeared at Gibraltar Point to be followed by others in March-April, one inland at Whisby and a record total of singing males at the county breeding site. By late March Northern Wheatears were flocking in but their unusual travelling companion, a one day Rustic Bunting, was most unexpected. The early spring however, once again failed to bring any arrival of Black Redstart and Firecrest both of which species also made a dismal autumn showing. Many summer visitors struggled in during April with an influx of Hobbies late in the month being of note

and an exceptional passage of Northern Wheatears occurred throughout the month and into May. Two trips of Dotterel appeared briefly in late April with another in May but the wader highlights of the spring were a stunning Marsh Sandpiper in mid May followed by a more expected Broad-billed Sandpiper in early June. May itself proved to be a very unusual month with the whole of the east coast struggling under the weight of Red-footed Falcons and eastern rarities, Lincolnshire managed to avoid recording a single falcon and our share of rarities was decidedly thin! That said in any other year a total of 5 Cattle Egrets, Red-throated Pipit, Savi's Warbler and Woodchat Shrike would have been a respectable spring. There was also a good passage of Black Terns, but no White-winged, some good counts of passage Sanderling and Great Ringed Plover but only two Temminck's Stint all spring. June proved a good month with three Marsh Warbler, Common Rosefinch and Caspian Tern. On the breeding front Marsh Harriers went from strength to strength with the most pairs and young to date following an exceptional spring passage and even Montagu's Harriers bred again but Hobbies were poorly reported. Avocets attempted at a new site but failed, Black Redstarts clung on at one locality, how many more are undetected, Little Terns had better success than of late and in what was a poor year for the species Common Crossbills were proved to breed at one locality. The first comprehensive census of churring Nightjars turned up an unexpected high total and early June showed that a small influx of Quail had occurred. The male Mediterranean Gull bred again but with less success although the ensuing months from June-October saw an impressive series of records on the coast. Two unseasonal July birds were a Sabine's Gull and Honey Buzzard both at Gibraltar Point but more expected were good numbers of summering Lesser Black-backed Gulls accompanied by an increasing total of Yellow-legged Gulls mostly on inland rubbish tips. Great Ringed Plover, Ruff and Black-tailed Godwit made a good showing in August and late in the month a few Wood Sandpiper drifted in on a light easterly which also gave rise to another good passage of Black Terns this time accompanied by a single juvenile White-winged Black, amazingly the first in the county for fifteen years. A successful breeding season for local small birds was reflected in large post-breeding flocks of wandering tits during September. A short period of easterly winds mid month drifted in a fall of Pied Flycatcher, Common Redstart, Whinchat and a little cream in the form of Icterine and Barred Warbler, two Red-breasted Flycatcher, four Richard's Pipits, Bluethroat, Ortolan Bunting and a Hoopoe one of two autumn birds following a bird less spring. Unusually late flocks of Common Swifts stayed into mid-September, three Red-necked Phalarope was a good total but seabirds failed miserably despite some favourable weather. October blew in with some promise and the best seawatch of the autumn on 4th with a notable count of Great Skuas and over ensuing days the results of a small fall of Goldcrest, Robins and thrushes brought the only asiatic birds of the month, a Pallas's Warbler, Olive-backed Pipit, three Yellow-browed Warbler and three more Richard's Pipit later in the month concluding a pretty dismal autumn for rarities. Good numbers of Short-eared Owl were seen arriving off the sea and by early November huge flocks of Blackbirds were flooding in and spreading inland despite the almost total lack of Fieldfare and Redwing which both remained scarce until a passage late in December. Snow Buntings put on a good show in the later months of the year and Shorelarks turned in their highest total for over ten years with a nice flock of eight staying to winter. Some gales in November may have accounted for a small arrival

of four Red-necked and three Slavonian Grebes to the year end. Another wintering Rough-legged Buzzard was located and huge flocks of Northern Lapwing and European Golden Plover swamped the county from north to south. December usually the quietest of months chose 1992 to spring a bumper surprise with the first county White-throated Sparrow diving into a well set mist net in Willingham Forest to the delight of the thousands who flocked to see it over the following weeks as it looked set to stay well into 1993. Almost outdone by the sparrow another north east nearctic vagrant the first county Kumlien's Gull put in a very brief appearance in the Apex gull roost and to close the year a wintering Richard's Pipit brought another year to an eventful close.

Graham P Catley County Recorder

## SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

Compiled and written by Graham P. Catley

### **Red-throated Diver; *Gavia stellata*.**

Offshore July-May; most mid winter with max of 521 Jan 6th 1980.

There was an obvious concentration of birds off Gib Point during the early winter with peak counts of 50 Jan 6th, 85 26th, 50 27th, 52 Feb 6th, 102 7th, 126 8th, 65 9th, 57 17th and up to 20 in March. Elsewhere a max of only 6 off Tetney and 10 Saltfleetby in Jan/Feb. Last of the spring were 2 at Gib Point April 13th and one May 15th and 2 Tetney April 26th. In autumn birds noted from Aug 16th at Donna Nook and Gib Pt with only low monthly maxima at the latter site of 7 Sept 23rd, 35 Oct 24th, 11 south Nov 1st, 24 on 13th and 27 27th, 21 Dec 4th and 20 29th. Elsewhere on the coast Huttoft Aug 23rd, 3-4 there October 4-11th and 30 Dec 5th, 16 Saltfleetby Dec 3rd. In the Wash 7 Wrangle Nov 15th and a badly oiled bird on Covenham Res Dec 22-27th.

### **Black-throated Diver; *Gavia arctica*. \***

Very scarce September-March/April; One summered 1982.

The first-winter bird on Covenham Res. from 1991 stayed until at least Feb 2nd and another first-winter was on the Hobhole near Fishtoft on Feb 2nd. There were a number of coastal claims from Oct-Dec mostly from Gib Pt, none of which were fully established thus; One at Gib Pt Oct 23rd with 2 24th, Nov 1st, 5th, 7th, 8th and Dec 6th and Saltfleetby Oct 19th.

### **Great Northern Diver; *Gavia immer*. \***

Very scarce August-March; See 1991 LBR.

The very obliging first-winter bird remained in Grimsby Docks until Feb 15th and there was a single record off Tetney on Jan 12th. One flew up the Humber off Tetney then back out again on Nov 15th (DJB,TS,TH) and one flew south at Gib Pt Dec 12th.

**Little Grebe; *Tachybaptus ruficollis*.**

Widespread breeding species with autumn/winter movements.

Only small numbers in the early winter with 9 at Deeping St James in Feb and unusually 5 on Covenham res. Jan 12th. Up to 10 adults at Whisby pits April-June. At the Sea Bank Clay pits 4-5 pairs bred but at many sites early nests failed although many later broods were more successful in July-August. At Barton-Barrow Haven 9 Jan 25th; only 7-9 pairs bred but several late broods hatched in July and one pit held a total of 23 on Aug 1st. One pair with 2 broods of 3 & 3 at East Halton pit August 10th and a pair with eggs at Holywell Aug 9th. A total of 8 New Holland Aug 15th increasing to 16 by October with 23 together Nov 13th and 5 more Barrow Haven-Barton pits same date then 12 Barton Dec 30th. Other autumn concentrations at Kirkby-on-Bain 8 Aug 6th with 35 Sept 5th, 15 26th and at Cleethorpes CP 15 on Sept 17th with 13 Oct 19th, Whisby 8 Sept 16th, 14 Oct 12th and Tetney 5 Oct 4th.

**Great Crested Grebe; *Podiceps cristatus*.**

Widespread breeding species; 100 pairs in census 1975; very obvious increase since.

The only high winter counts were 14 at Langtoft Common/pits Feb 16th and up to 15 at Deeping St James. The usual pre-breeding March concentrations of 18 Bardney pits 8th, 12 Thurlby pits 18th, 19 Toft Newton 22nd, 19 Deeping High Bank 15th and 17 on the Sth Forty foot drain Chain Bridge-Huberts bridge 15th. At Barton-Barrow Haven 10-11 pairs were present, 8 pair bred and hatched 15 young 11 fledging, one pair being double brooded. Elsewhere 7 pair bred at Deeping St James, 4 pair Whisby and 50- 60 pair on the River Witham Bardney-Boston with an additional 20 pairs on adjacent dykes and drains. One nest at Chapel Hill contained 10 eggs on April 19th while one in Timberland delph held 7 eggs May 4th; both exceptional clutches and the former a West Palearctic record according to BWP. During the early autumn post breeding concentrations occurred at Kirkby pits with 20 Aug 6th, Witham Mouth 75 August 30th, Deeping St James 18 in Aug, 11 in Sept, 12 Oct, 9 Nov 1st and 23 Deeping High Bank mid August with 14 Barton-Barrow Haven Sept, 15 to Oct 18th and 7 Nov 15th, 12 Revesby Res Oct 9th. Other birds moved to post breeding feeding areas eg; 11 Cadney Oct 3rd and inland and coastal wintering flocks included 16 Thurlby sand pit Nov 18th, 10 Toft Newton Nov 22nd, 19 Dec 6th and 20 on 27th, 34 Apex pit Dec 20th, 12 Covenham Dec 5th, 11 Bardney 4th and on the coast 14 Tetney Nov 8th with 42 in the Wash at the Witham Mouth Sept 15th.

**Red-necked Grebe; *Podiceps grisegena*.**

Scarce September-March/April; 100+ Jan/Feb/March 1979; summer records 1981, 1982.

Four records but possibly just 3 birds all in the late winter period; the first inland at Toft Newton Res from Nov 15th-28th one Covenham Nov 20-Dec 6th with 2 there Dec 12-14th and one to 20th and finally one at Saltfleetby Dec 29th.

**Slavonian Grebe; *Podiceps auritus*.**

Scarce August-May; annual maximum of 17 in 1979.

Three early year records; one south at Gib Pt March 10th and single adults in breeding plumage at Barrow Haven April 4-5th and Whisby pits May 5-13th. One

at Toft Newton Oct 23-26th with another first-winter there Dec 5th-at least 15th. At Ashbeyville one was present from Nov 18-24th and finally one was on the Humber at Barton on Dec 30th.

**Black-necked Grebe;** *Podiceps nigricollis*.

Scarce most months mainly Mar-May, Aug-Sept.

Only two autumn records; at Covenham Res a first-winter from Aug 26th-Oct 1st and one Langtoft pits Oct 3rd-31st continue the recent downturn in fortunes of this species.

**Fulmar;** *Fulmarus glacialis*.

Offshore March-Nov; rare Dec-Feb; day max of 272 30/4/78, 500 on 18/9/1977, 1,970 on 10/9/1989

Unusual January records of one south at Saltfleetby 10th and Gib Pt 23rd where there were subsequently 1-3 on odd dates Feb-March and a max in April of 50 on 26th then 29 May 2nd and 19 June 16th. Up to 15 on the coast from July-Oct but no notable movements recorded the most 19 north at Anderby Oct 10th and the last south at Gib Pt Nov 2nd.

**Sooty Shearwater;** *Puffinus griseus*.

Scarce offshore Aug-Nov. 100+ in 1977; day maxima 29 [LBR 1991]

Just 2 birds in September north at Gib Pt 8th and 23rd but an unprecedented number of claims in October. It should however, be noted that during the predominantly northerly winds in October southward moving Arctic Skuas were shearing offshore in a manner which could have given rise to some misidentification. The vast majority of all Sooty records on the whole east coast always refer to birds moving north. In October at Gib Pt singles south on 4th, 5th and 6th, 10 north 9th, 1 10th and 11th, Saltfleetby 11th, Anderby 10th, Huttoft 3 on 11th and the most unusual record of all concerned a bird seen well up the Humber at Barton Humber bridge on Oct 3rd (WG,ND).

**Manx Shearwater;** *Puffinus puffinus*.

Variable numbers offshore July-Oct scarce April-June & Nov; day max 694 on 10/9/1989.

Two spring records of 2 north at Gib Pt on May 2nd and one Donna Nook 29th. A total of less than 150 birds were noted during the autumn. Most birds were surprisingly in the Wash with 2 Witham Mouth July 5th, 2 Holbeach Marsh July 5th, 10+ Aug 1st, 2 28th, 1 31st, 2 Sept 1st, Butterwick September 12th and at the Witham Mouth an exceptional 81 Oct 4th (13.50-15.40hrs). On the east coast one Tetney July 19th, at Gib Pt 7 north Aug 1st, 5 south 2nd, singles 7th and 14th, Sept 17th, 5 north Oct 4th and 4 north 5th. One north Huttoft and North Cotes Aug 30th, one north Huttoft Sept 11th and in October 12+ south Huttoft/Anderby and 5 north all 4th with 2 north 11th and single North Cotes 5th and Saltfleetby 11th. Up the Humber 2 at Barton Aug 30th.

**European Storm-petrel;** *Hydrobates pelagicus*. \*

Vagrant July-Nov. [LBR 1991]

Two birds were attracted to a tape lure at Huttoft on the night of Aug 7th (AB).



**Leach's Storm-petrel; *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. \***

Rare Sept-Nov with 2 22/5/84. 183+ in autumn 1989. [LBR 1989 & 1991]

A standard set of 5 autumn records. One south at Gib Pt September 17th then up the Humber one east off New Holland 23rd (GPC) and one Barton 25th (WG), one Huttoft October 3rd (HB) with a late bird picked up exhausted at Ingoldmels on November 8th (per RSPB).

**Northern Gannet; *Morvus bassanus*.**

Offshore; scarce Jan-May & Nov/Dec common June-Oct; day max 500 on 10/9/1989, 509 on 7/10/1990. [LBR 1989].

In the first three months of the year there were 4 records; Saltfleetby 4 adults south Jan 19th and off Gib Pt one south Feb 14th, 4 March 8th and 3 21st. One picked up inland at Kirton on Aug 8th later died. Although there were often up to 30-40 per day on the coast during July-October there were really few impressive movements. In September at least 50 were up the Humber at Barton on 6th with 54 in the Wash at Holbeach Marsh 14th and 42 Witham Mouth Oct 4th. At Gib Pt 80 moved south Sept 23rd. Several days saw small numbers up the Humber to early October and on the 4th 76+ were off Huttoft/Anderby and 97 north at Gib Pt with 49 south off Mablethorpe 15th. A late high total of 29 off Gib Pt Nov 13th and one south there Dec 21st.

**Great Cormorant; *Phalacrocorax carbo*.**

Increasingly common coastal & inland Aug-May, fewer June/July.

Continues to increase particularly at inland sites culminating in the first county breeding colony [see article for details of this and numbers and colour ringed birds seen at Deeping St James through the year]. During the early year coastal maxima of 56 Gib Pt Jan-March and 18 April-May with 35 Saltfleetby Jan 10th and 17 April 26th, 11 Sea Bank Clay pits April 14th. In the Wash (excluding Gib Pt) 80 Feb 22nd, 69 March 22nd, 67 April 19th. Inland 23 Covenham Res Feb 22nd, 17 north at Bardney pits Jan 27th, 20 Boston docks Jan-March and up to 21 Langtoft pits Jan-Feb. A party of 4 breeding adults west at Read's Island May 15th. Regular reports of 1-5 birds at many localities May-July when formerly rather rare. From August onwards numbers of passage and wintering birds increased at favoured sites as follows; Gib Pt 20 Sept, 60 Oct 24th, 45 Nov 13th and 38 Dec 13th; Covenham 67 Oct 7th and 85 16th; Tetney 32 Nov 3rd; Saltfleetby max 62 Dec 29th; Saltfleet 40 north to roost late pm Dec 21st; Inland 18 Apex/Whisby Dec 20th; Barton/Read's Island 14 Aug 2nd, 15 Oct 19th (including a colour ringed bird from Abberton Essex ringed in 1991 or 1992), 40 roosting Dec 4th.

**Shag; *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.**

Scarce-rare; occasional influxes [LBR 1991]

Two rather unusual records of first-summer birds at Wolla Bank pit May 17-24th and Read's Island June 8th. A moderate autumn influx with birds up the Humber at Barton-Barrow Haven 3 on Sept 6th, then 6 Pywipe Oct 7th and an impressive 25 at Whitton- Winteringham Oct 18th. Later 2 Grimsby Docks Nov 19th and one Dec 17th and 2 in the Wash at Witham Mouth Oct 11th and 25th.

**Great Bittern; *Botaurus stellaris*.**

Bred early 1940's to 1979; max 6 booming; now rare Oct-March.

Only one wintering bird at the regular Boultham Mere site from Jan 6th to March and one Barton pits at least Jan 25th. A small brown heron reported by the NRA dyke cutter in Owersby Beck on August 6th was located in the same spot as the 1991 Purple Heron and proved to be a juvenile Bittern. The only late winter records were Saltfleetby November 8th and in the usual pits at Barton on November 3rd and Dec 23rd. A bird was however, again found at Boultham Mere in early 1993 and this continued the run of birds wintering at this site where they have been annual since 1979 (per KDD).

**Cattle Egret; *Bubulcus ibis*. \***

An adult first seen at Messingham on May 6th (ND,JTH et al) fed amongst a flock of sheep until the 10th roosting on Messingham reserve but became rather elusive during the latter part of its stay. A party of 4 adults were seen in cattle pastures at Langham near Hogsthorpe on May 7th (Mr R Hill). All were associated with a marked movement into the near continent and southern Britain at the time. The 2nd-3rd county records (6 birds). All Accepted by BBRC.

**Little Egret; *Egretta garzetta*. \***

A typical dated spring overshoot at Tetney on May 2nd (TS,TH,SCPW). Another was found in the Wash at Holbeach Marsh/Range from Aug 1st-19th (RH & KH et al). The 17th and 18th county records.

**Grey Heron; *Ardea cinerea***

Breeding resident and passage migrant; [LBR 1985. Heronries data]

Breeding census results as follows:

Abbey Wood	34	Warren Wood	4	Evedon Wood	22
Howsham	9	Willoughby	23	Holbeach Hosp	12
Laughton	24	GateCliff	8	The Mere Deeping	105
Kingerby	2	Old Hag Wood	16	St James	
Muckton	12	Troy Wood	58	Nocton Wood	1

The total of 330 nests was 45 down on the total for 1991

**Eurasian Spoonbill; *Platalea leucorodia*.**

Scarce April-Aug rare Oct-Jan. max party 6 June 1978.

One at Gib Pt on April 27th continues the recent run of poor springs for this formerly more regular species indeed there were more in autumn; A juvenile was at Gib Pt Aug 3rd with an unusual record of 2 birds at Boultham Mere on Aug 30th (JHayes) then what may all have been the same juv as the earlier Gib Pt records was seen at Gib Pt Sept 19th (a colour ringed bird), flying south at Donna Nook 20th (AHJH) and over Huttoft pit on 22nd (R.Sutton).

**Mute Swan; *Cygnus olor*.**

Widespread breeding resident; census 106 pair 1955, 84 pr 1961, 109 pr 1983, 82 pr 1990. [LBR 1990].

The Deeping High Bank herd, max 33 Feb 16th seems to have relocated to Deeping St James where there were 75 in May, 157 June and 135 July, 122 Aug but only 21 Sept, 98 Dec 13th. Nearby at Baston Common there were 56 birds in April. At

other major localities up to 45 were at Barrow Haven Jan-March, 26 Cleethorpes Boating Lake Jan-Feb, up to 44 Baston Common/Langotft end Feb-March with 85 Lincoln Brayford pool July 28th, 98 Dec 13th. In the South Ferriby-East Halton clay pits complex 8 pair bred but only 4 broods of 10,8,8, & 6 were reared. Autumn/late winter flocks assembled at favoured sites; New Holland/Barton 35 Sept 13th, 35 Oct 18th, 40+ Nov, Cleethorpes CP 15 Oct 16th, R.Glen west Pinchbeck 28 Oct 2nd and Tattershall 50 in Nov.

**Tundra Swan; *Cygnus columbianus*.**

Passage & winter Oct-March; one July 1952, summered 1986.

An exceptionally poor early winter period with the only records away from Nocton Fen being of 2 at Carlton Grange Jan 13-15th, 6 Messingham 6th, 2 Cadney 13th & 15 east at Gib Pt March 2nd with 16 Frampton Marsh March 22nd. The Nocton Fen Bardney herd totalled 41 with 8 juvs Jan 25-26th but had fallen to 16 by Feb 15th. Again very few birds in the late autumn winter period. During October 10 south at Kirton Marsh 15th, 2 Deeping St James 18th, 28 Saltfleetby 26th and 3 south-west at Gib Pt 27th. In the Wash 9 Holbeach Range Nov 14th with 6 21-31st and 9 Dec 15th. At Gib Pt 3 south Dec 5th, Saltfleetby 11 Dec 29th, Covenham 4 Dec 14th and inland at Nocton Fen 7 (1j) 9-20th with 9 into 1993.

**Whooper Swan; *Cygnus cygnus*.**

Passage & winter Oct-April; one 30/6/82.

Again a poor early winter. A flock of 8 at Gib Pt on Jan 18th & Wainfleet on 25th with 2 Gib Pt 23rd then 11 Feb 12th & 3 east March 8th, with 3 Leverton March 22nd, then one Gib Pt April 27- 28th & May 2nd. A herd of 21 still on Nocton Fen to Jan 5th and one Brayford pool from 1991-March 16th presumably same bird at Boultham Mere March 22nd, a flock of 11 flew east at Barton March 29th; the only other record was of 22 east at Deeping St Nicholas March 8th. More numerous than Tundra in the late autumn winter; First arrivals were in October 3 south at Gib Pt 8th, 2 south 11th, 5 16th, 4 south 18th, 1 19th and 4 south 22nd; Huttoft pit 1 on 1st, 2 13th, Whisby 4 11th, Cleethorpes CP 3 16th with 5 Covenham 16th, 4 south Anderby 18th and 5 Chapel pit 28th. In November 5-6 Fulstow 1-11th, 3 22-23rd, 23 north-west at Bardney, 6 west Tetney and 2 west Gib Pt all on 8th, 4 Holbeach 28th and 1 Croxby Pond Nov-Dec 19th. Further December records were 32 north-west at Donna Nook and 15 north-west at Spalding both 9th, 6 south Gib Pt 10th and 17 south-east Ancaster 17th.

**Pink-footed Goose; *Anser brachyrhynchus*.**

Two winter flocks Humber & NW Wash; passage Sept-Dec & Feb/Mar

The Wash flock around Boston/Kirton totalled 210 in Jan and 350 Feb but 500 flew north there Feb 14th and 840 in two flocks 20th. At Gib Pt there were 150 Jan 7th, 170 north-west 21st, 100 Feb 14th and 1-7 to March 29th. The Humber flock included 80 at Winteringham Jan 18th with 350 feeding at Appleby/Roxby 10th and 270 over New Holland 27th. Elsewhere 150 north at Scampton Jan 13th, 150 flew south-west over Alma Wood Jan 13th & 31 north at Kirkby Moor 21st, 70 west at Goxhill March 14th, 3-400 north Baumber 20th and 130 north at North Cotes 29th with 100 north- west Humberston 16th. Possibly feral birds were at Tetney April 18th with 7 on 20th, 1-3 at Gib Pt 2-3rd and 3 on the Skidbrooke ridge May 12th. Certain escapes were at Messingham in spring and 2 Read's Island August with

one of the latter to 1993. First of the autumn were 16 west at Barton Oct 1st and the Humber flock based at Winteringham Haven built up to 250 Oct 10th then 405 by 16th, 466 19th and 538 31st \*[when 3 colour-ringed birds were present]. This flock then remained at around 5-600 birds to late December often feeding on the fields inland at Roxby. Movements of flocks on the coast included 27 North Cotes Oct 17th, 56 south Saltfleetby 14th, 100 south Saltfleet 17th and 70 south-west at Donna Nook 28th; At Gib Pt 38 south-west 8th, 18 east 19th, 28 south 20th and in Nov 45 south 20th, 149 Dec 13th and 70 south 29th. Flocks probably passing en route to North Norfolk in November included 120 south-east at Rothwell 20th, 2 flocks of 120 and 220 east at New Holland 26th and 40 east at Witham Mouth 28th then in December 70 south-east at Thurlby Fen 20th and 60 east at Covenham 19th.

\*Three of the flock at Winteringham on Oct 31st were colour ringed and had been marked at Martin Mere in Lancashire; These were the first reported Lancashire marked birds in the county apart from one shot at Holbeach in November 1988 having been ringed a month previous at Martin Mere. (per Carl Mitchell WWT).

### **Greylag Goose; *Anser anser*.**

Common feral breeder, first bred 1957; possibly rare winter visitor; [LBR 1991]. The main centres of feral populations were at Tattershall with 650 Jan 4th, Apex/Whisby 90-130 Jan-Feb, Langtoft 200 Jan-March, 181 Aug 20th, 317 Oct 30th & Deeping St James 136 Jan-Feb, 80 March, 65 Aug 10th, 155 Sept 13th, 120 Oct-Nov. A total count for Langtoft, Deeping and Tallington of 533 Sept 20th. Elsewhere 60 Revesby Res Jan 28th & 20 Cawkwell 10th and in the later year at Bardney monthly max of 80 Sept 10th, 110 Oct 10th, 102 Dec 4th. Breeding records submitted were of 7 pair 24 juvs Deeping St James, 2-3 pair Metheringham Delph, 2 broods 15 juvs Bardney pits & 1 pair +2 juvs East Halton pit.

### **Canada Goose; *Branta canadensis*.**

Common feral breeder [LBR 1991]; B c richardi Aug-Nov 1986 [LBR 1986] In the south of the county a max of 200 at Langtoft Jan-March, 183 Oct 30th with 60 on the Sth. Forty foot drain Jan 18th, Tallington 155 Aug 16th, Holywell 17 young reared and a total of 146 Oct 17th. In mid Lincs 160 Cawkwell Jan 10th & 125 South Ormsby Feb 8th, at Ancaster 174 Aug, 54 Oct and 93 Nov, Whisby 60 Jan 8th, Ludford 70 Aug 23rd. On the Humber 70 were on Read's Island March 5th with 56 adults and 62 juvs there June 26th, 105 Aug 7th and 163 there and Barton Aug 11th where there were 4 broods of 18 juvs, later 129 Read's Island Oct 14th. On the coast 80 at Gib Pt Aug 17th. At Holywell 146 Oct 17th.

### **Barnacle Goose; *Branta leucopsis*.**

Scarce Oct-March, occasional influxes; increasing feral population breeds irregularly, first 1982.

A difficult set of records to interperate. A known feral bird was at Whisby pits Jan-Feb and one Langtoft throughout paired with a Canada Goose in summer. One was at Bagmoor Jan 5-11th and singles Gib Pt Feb 10-11th, 20th and 24th with 4 south there 27th presumably the same 4 seen at Grainthorpe 23rd and Covenham 8th and 26th. A party of 3 at Barton Pits May 13th did not associate with the local Canada flock and moved on the same day. A party of 4 which appeared at Read's Island

on Aug 11th however, had at least one captive colour ringed bird. One remained at Read's Island Aug-Oct 14th but 4 flew west at the Humber bridge on Oct 3rd the day of a large influx of Spitzbergen birds to the north - east coast (see ringing record of one Barton Oct 1981). Two arrived at Cadney Oct 9-Nov 7th and one was at Gib Pt Oct 8th, 2 at Frampton Oct. 23-25th while 2 arrived at Winteringham with the Pink-feet flock Oct 18th with one staying 19-31st.

### **Brent Goose; *Branta bernicla*.**

B b bernicla very large numbers Wash & coast Sept-May, scarce summer

B B hrota scarce Oct-March; B b nigricans 3 records 1982, 87, 91. \*

For Wash and Humber counts see those sections. At Saltfleetby 400 Feb 9th with late spring records of 19 Grainthorpe Haven April 29th, 42 Tetney/North Cotes May 3rd and 4 (2ad 2juv) Saltfleetby 13th with 3 19th. The largest concentrations in spring occur in the north-west Wash with 2500 Frampton April 26th and in May 1520 at Holbeach Marsh on 16th. At least 12 summered in the Wash. One also summered at Donna Nook. First autumn arrivals were 29 Tetney Sept 18th with 200 at Gib Pt by 26th and 200 Holbeach Marsh 27th. Numbers built up during the rest of October with 85 north off Huttoft 4th and coastal maxima of 250 Humberston 29th, 530 Tetney-Saltfleetby 9th, 1080 27th, 2000 Dec 22nd. At Gib Pt 420 1st with 1000 by 31st but only 800 Nov 4th and 400 in December. On Holbeach Marsh 500 present Oct 2nd but as everywhere no young were recorded during the late winter period due to a total breeding failure in the Arctic in summer 1992.

Inland one at Thurlby sand pit Feb 10-16th.

B.b.hrota; A single pale bellied bird at Moulton Marsh Jan 11th where there was also a bernicla/nigricans intergrade on the same date (AHJH). Two B b hrota were up the Humber at Barton Nov 29th and 2 Kirton Marsh Dec 27th.

### **Egyptian Goose; *Alopochen aegyptiacus***

Some feral birds and probable occasional vagrants from Norfolk.

One flew south at Saltfleetby on March 23rd and pairs were reported to have bred at Kirkby-on-Bain and Tattershall, both possibly locally released pairs.

### **Common Shelduck; *Tadorna tadorna*.**

Very common Humber/Wash/NE coast; scarce/regular inland; Wash census 1969 385 pair.

For winter estuary counts see tables. A breeding census on freshwater sites located 38 pairs with 68 non-breeding groups and 41 adults with 40 young in summer (per EJR). In the Winteringham- South Ferriby area of the Humber peak spring total was 705 on May 23rd with 424 and 8juvs June 8th, 190 adults with 48juvs July 8th and 176 adult and 94 juvs 17th; evidently not a very successful breeding season. In the late winter high totals included 1200 Grainthorpe/North Cotes Dec 13th and 950 Butterwick 12th; for full estuary counts see papers.

### **Mandarin Duck; *Aix galericulata*.**

Rare; local releases confound status; bred Tallington 1980.

Pairs are now appearing with regularity at some localities but how many are of local release origin remains unclear. A pair were at Whisby May 14th with the fem to 20th, 2 pairs at Grimsthorpe on at least April 25th and 2-3 pairs at Rauceby Warren were presumably the 2 pairs proved breeding in the Sleaford area whilst another 2



pairs were near Bourne; A series of records came from Deeping St James from Aug 6th a female, with a max of 7 including a male Aug 17th and up to 5 females to Sept 13th with one to 28th. Also 3 at Huttoft Sept 8th (there are birds in the collection adjacent to the pit! can they fly?) and a female at Kikstead Bridge Dec 20-30th (another likely escapee).

**Eurasian Wigeon; *Anas penelope*.**

Large numbers Humber/Wash/NE coast Aug-March; common inland; scarce April-June; 9 breeding records last in 1975.

Early winter coastal counts of 2500 at Gib Pt Jan 26th with up to 1450 there in Feb and 870 March and up to 60 in Jan-Feb at Huttoft pits, 170 there March 3rd, 160 Tetney Jan 12th. Inland maximum numbers were 380 Tattershall Jan 4th with 200 Feb and 850 Bardney Feb 15th, 167 Whisby Jan 12th, up to 300 Baston Fen Feb with 207 Langtoft in March. May-June records of 1-2 birds at Read's Island, East Halton pit, Whisby, Gib Pt and Deeping St James. First main arrival of the late winter period started in September with 700 Gib Pt by 27th and subsequently up to 1400 there to Nov 29th and 2800 Dec 12th. Elsewhere on the coast 109 Donna Nook Sept 20th, 130 at Grainthorpe and Tetney Sept 17-19th, 220 Dec 6th. On the Humber 120 Read's Island Oct 19th, 586 Winteringham/South Ferriby Dec 20th and 400 Alkborough Flats 24th. Inland 70 Kirkby pits Sept 26th and 168 Dec 21st with 205 Tattershall Nov, 123 Whisby Dec 14th and 180 Bardney Dec 4th.

**Gadwall; *Anas strepera*.**

Increasing breeding population and winter most Sept-April.

The main sites in the county were clearly Langtoft pits with a Jan max of 84, 59 in Feb and 2-3 pair April-June and Tattershall with maxima of 62 Feb, 63 Oct, 160 Nov and 117 Dec; Elsewhere up to 16 Barton/Barrow Haven Feb with a pair to May, 10-12 Covenham- Fulstow Feb 19-25th, 20 Messingham March 13th, 18 Whisby April 4th with a brood of 11 young seen there in June; At Deeping St James up to 26 in Jan-March and 10 April with 4 pairs in summer. Other breeding season records came from the Kyme-Eau 5 pairs (3 broods seen), Billingham Skirth 1 pair, Timberland Delph 1-2 pair and Tattershall Bridge-Langrick Bridge on the River Witham 4 pairs (1 brood of 10 and another nest found). A flock of 20 at Boultham Mere June 23rd. Apart from the main sites at Tattershall and Deeping St James numbers in the autumn/late winter were quite low with up to 15 noted only at Holywell, Barton, New Holland, Gib Pt and Fulstow/Covenham. About 55 at Deeping St James Aug 10- Dec 17th and 34 Swanholme Lakes Dec 13th.

**Common Teal; *Anas crecca*.**

Large numbers Aug-April; decreasing breeding numbers; *A.c.carolinensis* 3 records 1984-88. \*

The usual key localities recorded the only high early winter totals with 320 at Whisby Jan 25th, up to 150 Baston Fen Feb- March and 161 Deeping St James in January. A small influx was noted in the north and centre of the county in June. Passage birds moved west up the Humber in September with 53 at Barton 6-8th and numbers building at Winteringham/South Ferriby from 60 Aug 17th to 125 26th, 300 Sept 6th, 440 Oct 19th and 685 Dec 20th. On the coast at Tetney 80 by Aug 31st fell to 45 Sept 18th, 150 were in Somercotes Haven Oct 1st and max at Gib Pt were 128 Aug, 110 Sept but 550 Oct 1st, 135 Nov 22nd and 120 Dec with 550 at Saltfleetby Dec

3rd. Inland at Baston Fen 53 Sept 26th increased to 85 Oct 4th and 120 Nov 1st with only 50 Dec. A flock of 100 was at Marston SF Sept 6th and 150 there Oct 27th with 72 Messingham Sept 7th and in December 91 Bardney 13th, 60 Barton 26th and 149 Deeping St James 28th.

**Mallard; *Anas platyrhynchos*.**

Large numbers all year.

Few really representative counts submitted but 625 on Covenham Res Jan 12th and 400 R. Witham at Boston Docks 11th with 200 Saltfleetby 11th. Up to 320 at Gib Pt Sept-Dec and up to 355 Deeping St James Aug-Sept, 250-500 Barton-New Holland Aug-Dec and additionally 579 Winteringham-South Ferriby Dec 20th. Elsewhere 1000 Bardney/Nocton Fen Sept 7th, 310 Baston Fen Oct 11th and 255 Tattershall Nov.

**Northern Pintail; *Anas acuta*.**

Fairly large numbers in SW Wash; elsewhere scarce/regular Aug- May; bred 1940 & 1952.

In the Gedney-Terrington area of the Wash mid winter counts of 3263 on Jan 25th but only 21 Feb 22nd and 20 March 22nd. Away from the SE Wash very few records with a max of 12 Gib Pt Feb- March, 6 Tetney Feb 24th and 1-4 Jan-April at Covenham, Toft Newton, Messingham, Baston Fen, Langtoft, Deeping St James Barton pits, Read's Island. A female at Walcott May 12th. More widespread records than usual during the second half of the year with 1-10 on many dates Sept-Dec at the following; Barton, New Holland, Gib Pt, Donna Nook, Humberston, North Cotes, Messingham, Baston Fen, Bardney, Huttoft and Kirkby. Exceptional to these were records of 24 Gib Pt Aug 30th, 46 there Sept 6th, 16 19th. At Barton two flocks of 38 and 22 flew west on Sept 13th and a regular passage of flocks high to the south-east was noted on many days in October peaking at 82 in two hours on 10th following a flock of 40 south-east at East Halton on 7th.

**Garganey; *Anas querquedula*.**

Scarce Mar-Oct; irregular breeder.

An unprecedented winter record of a female at Deeping St James on January 18th (PJP). First spring migrant was a male at Cleethorpes CP March 12-18th followed by a pair in Grimoldby lngs April 30th. A small influx in May led to the first proven breeding record for some years. Single males were noted in May at Cadney Res 14th, Bardney pits 22-28th and Kirkby pits 24-26th with a pair at Whisby 20th and in June male Boultham Mere 3rd and 23rd with a pair Messingham 3rd. On the Humber bank pits a male arrived May 8th and was seen in display 11th and with a female 25th. The female was accompanied by 10 small young on June 27th (SR) with 2-3 of the same still present July 20th and an eclipse male at Barton July 19th and East Halton Pit June 28th. Autumn parties of 5 birds were at Messingham July 23-31st with 3 Aug 1- 14th and Gib Pt up to 5 Aug 10-20th.

**Northern Shoveler; *Anas clypeata*.**

Scarce/rare breeder; fairly common autumn/ scarce winter/spring.

The winter peak count was only 16 at Covenham Jan 19th with 8 there March 20th and otherwise 13 at Langtoft March 31st, 12 Deeping St James March 2nd and no more than 6 at any other site. Up to 2 pairs during April-May at Langtoft, Gib Pt,

Read's Island, Nocton Delph, Metherringham Delph and Barton where 2 broods of 10 and 4 were seen. One male at Baston Fen May 5th but none bred in 1992. At favoured localities there were up to 15 Barton pits Aug-Oct 23rd with 9 Nov 20th and 1-2 Dec, Deeping St James up to 12 Aug-Oct then 44 Nov 17th falling to 28 22nd and then 35 Dec 17th. Bardney 11 July 18th and 12 Sept 20th; Gib Pt up to 7 July-Sept 1st, 12 south Nov 1st and 1-3 in Dec; Covenham max 14 Dec 29th; Winteringham Haven 20 Dec 20th; Horseshoe Point pit 8 July 27th; South Killingholme 8 Oct 18th; Baston fen up to 6 Oct-Nov and Kirkby 5 Nov 9th and 17 Dec 21st.

**Red-crested Pochard; *Netta rufina*.**

Rare; local releases and escapes confound status.

A possibly local released female at Langtoft pits Jan-March 1st and a male at Whisby from 1991 to Jan 18th. The status of birds seen at Kirkby pits and Kirkstead Bridge seems highly dubious due to the nearby waterfowl park which keeps a considerable number of this species. Up to 2 males were at Kirkby and 2 pairs at Kirkstead Sept-Dec; Two males and a female at Langtoft Dec 17th seem also to be of dubious origin. Elsewhere one was at Messingham Aug 13-15th.

Hybrid aythya;

A hybrid male Red-crested Pochard/Pochard was at Barton pits on Feb 15th with part of the Humber Pochard flock and on the Humber at New Holland, presumably the same bird, on Dec 3rd.

**Common Pochard; *Aythya ferina*.**

Rare breeder; common Sept-March; max flock 1,650 1991 [LBR 1991]

Key localities recorded lower numbers overall than in recent winters with a max of 450 New Holland/Barton Jan-Feb and 350 March, 140 Tattershall Jan 4th, 129 March, 150 Kirkby pits Feb 9th, 110 Langtoft Jan and 79 Cleethorpes CP Feb 12th. The only breeding records received were of 4 broods and 6 other females in June at Messingham with 4 broods of 5,5,4 and 3 at Barton/Barrow Haven. The largest late winter flock was again on the Humber off New Holland with birds flying to various pits Barton/Barrow Haven at high tide. The flock increased from 25 Oct 18th to 200+ Nov 15th, 315 26th, 450 Dec 12th and 470 24th. Elsewhere 94 were at Tattershall in November and 64 Langtoft December.

**Tufted Duck; *Aythya fuligula*.**

Common breeder 100+ pairs? common Sept-March.

Highest counts again came from the Humber flock off New Holland/Barton with up to 450 Jan, 300 Feb and 250 March and 51 at Barton pits Aug 11th. Elsewhere 220 at Covenham/Fulstow Jan 12th and up to 250 Kirkby pits, 114 Tattershall March, 112 Deeping High Bank and 192 Deeping St James with 75 Langtoft all Feb. No meaningful summary of breeding numbers is possible. A good flock frequented Covenham through the autumn-late winter with up to 300 birds present. At Barton pits/New Holland up to 60 in August-October then 250 Nov 15th increasing to 310 Dec 6th and 416 24th; other notable flocks were 103 Tattershall Nov, 234 Kirkby pits, 100 Deeping St James and 200 Toft Newton all in December.

Hybrid Pochard/Tufted Duck type drakes were again at Langtoft Jan-March 1st and Deeping St James Feb 8th and March 1st.

**Greater Scaup; *Aythya marila*.**

Variable winter numbers Sept-April, rare May-Aug; brood found 1944.

A very poor early winter for this duck in the mild weather conditions. Off New Holland 4 Jan 7-21st with 6 Feb 11th and 4 March 3rd, 5 Barton Feb 15th and elsewhere 13 in the Wash Feb 22nd, 2 Tetney Jan 11-12th, 3 March 8th, male Cadney Jan 10-13th, fem Messingham 19th, male south Gib Pt Feb 20th, 7 April 4th and female 19th and also in April fem Toft Newton and 2 fems Apex pit all 5th. A poor autumn/late winter; At Gib Pt 2 males July 25- 30th, male north Oct 9th and 2 south Dec 31st, at Huttoft 2 north Oct 11th, Anderby 5 north Oct 4th. Up the Humber 1-5 Barton-New Holland on several dates Sept 15-Dec 31st with 7 Nov 15th-early December in the duck flock. Inland male Messingham Sept 17- 20th and one Toft Newton Oct 4-8th.

**Common Eider; *Somateria mollissima*.**

Common in Wash, scarce on coast/Humber; variable passage; 900 Freiston March 8th 1986.

Wash counts in the early winter totalled 692 Jan 25th with 652 off Wrangle, 381 Feb 22nd with 320 off Leverton and 686 March 22nd with 601 off Friskney-Wrangle then 188 April 19th. An exceptional southerly movement off Gib Pt with 433 on Feb 16th dominated an otherwise mundane set of coastal records. At Gib Pt occasional records of up to 25 Jan-June with 7 north Saltfleetby Jan 10th, 3-4 off Pywipe in Jan, imm male Trusthorpe 4th, a max of 26 off Humberston/North Cotes Jan, male Grainthorpe Feb 23rd, male Tetney March 8th, North Cotes May 3rd and a male Read's Island June 8th. An immature male summered at Donna Nook. The significant Wash flock was poorly documented late in the year with just odd reports of up to 50 in the south-west area of the Wash Sept-Dec. On the coast sporadic records of up to 10 off Gib Pt with 14 north Nov 14th followed by 14 (the same?) north at Saltfleetby 15th and 3 there Dec 15th with 22 flying north off Skidbrooke Dec 21st and 3 up the Humber at Barton 2nd.

**Long-tailed Duck; *Clangula hyemalis*.**

Scarce/regular Sept-April; very rare May-July.

On Covenham Res up to 6 birds were noted daily to April 24th with one to May 5th. The only other early year records were 2 at Tetney Jan 12th 1 Witham Mouth Feb 22nd with 5 there March 22nd and 1 April 19th, and a summer record of one in Saltfleet Haven on June 7th (KDD). Another dismal late winter and the first time since the winter of 1984-5 that none have arrived on Covenham Res for the ensuing winter. The only records were in October and November; at Huttoft Oct 6-8th with 3 31st then on November 15th one Tetney, 2 Witham Mouth and 8 up the Humber at Barrow Haven.

**Common Scoter; *Melanitta nigra*.**

Common passage July-Nov; lesser numbers Dec-May; max 1500 Nov 1976, The wintering flock on the Humber off Pywipe held up to 150 birds to March 3rd with 100 to April 19th and 80 28th-May 2nd; only small numbers elsewhere with a max of 29 Gib Pt Jan-March, 4 Trusthorpe Jan 4th one New Holland 7th and in the Wash 17 Leverton Jan 25th. Spring passage brought several birds inland with 6 at Barton March 17th and a pair Cadney 29th, 6 Barton April 21st, 7 Apex pit 20th and

females at Covenham 29-May 3rd and Toft Newton May 3rd with 25 Barton May 5th, 2 Barrow Haven 14th and 8 18th and exceptionally 15 Cadney 27th. On the coast 7 at Tetney May 24th, 21 flew south off Gib Pt May 9th and there were up to 25 in June with 50 N 23rd, 25 N 24th and 120 N 30th while 48 flew north at Saltfleetby 21st. During July-December up to 30 were off Gib Pt on several dates with higher totals of 60 north July 3rd, 55 9th and 77 30th, 65 Aug 7th, 80 north Oct 4th and 40 17th. Also on the coast 63 flew north off Anderby July 5th, 40 at Huttoft Aug 1st, 15 there Oct 5th and 20 north 27th, 79 north and 7 south Anderby Oct 10th, 46 north Huttoft Nov 15th and up to 34 Saltfleetby Nov 2nd-Dec 3rd. On the Humber up to 5 on odd dates at Barton with exceptional to this 80 west there July 30th, 26 East Halton Aug 8th and at New Holland 76+ Nov 15th with 60 26th decreasing to 14 by Dec 14th. Inland a female at North Kelsey Moor Sept 22nd and at Cadney one 21st with 3 on 23rd.

**Velvet Scoter; *Melanitta fusca*.**

Scarce July-March; 100 Nov 1976. [LBR 1991].

The flock of 15 on the Humber were noted off Pywipe on Jan 17th with at least 2 there 21st. The only other records were at Gib Pt with 1 S Jan 1st, 3 S 7th, 2 23rd, 4 24th, 1 Feb 5th, 2 6th and 2 19th. A small arrival occurred in Oct-Nov the first 4 north Huttoft/Anderby Oct 4th with 4 there 5th and 6 on 27th; one Pywipe 7th, Tetney 27th, inland one at Covenham 7-20th and at Gib Pt one south 20th, 2 south 28th with 3 Nov 8th and 2 south 13th. Also in November 2 Barton 12th and 1-3 Barton-New Holland 15- 26th, one Tetney 15th and 4 there 22nd and 5 Witham Mouth Nov 15th.

**Common Goldeneye; *Bucephala clangula*.**

Common Oct-April; very rare May-Aug/Sept. max flock 400 Feb 1991.

A poor early winter for this species with the only count of 100+ being the Wash total on Feb 22nd when 116 were counted. Off New Holland a peak of 90 Jan 21st declined quickly to 76 Feb 11th and then only 6 by March 3rd. Inland 77 were on Covenham Res Jan 12th and 20 Bardney pits 5th, 17 Whisby pits March 22nd, with 28 Langtoft Jan 19th and in the Wash 35 off Holbeach Marsh Feb 22nd. Late spring birds included 2 Covenham to May 5th and a female Barrow Haven May 14th. The first autumn birds arrived in October with 4 north off Mablethorpe 15th and up to 5 at Barton pits. The only sizeable flock again gathered off New Holland/Goxhill with a sudden arrival on November 15th in south-easterly gales when at least 119 were present increasing to 165 17th, 210 Dec 3rd and 255 12th then falling to 212 24th. The number of birds wintering at Covenham appears to be falling annually and only 50 were counted there in December. Inland up to 13 were at Deeping St James Nov 29th and up to 10 at several other sites.

**Smew; *Mergus albellus*.**

Scarce/rare with occasional hard weather influxes eg; 1956 (100+), 1963, 1979, 1985, 1986, 1987. [LBR 1986].

At the regular Langtoft pits site up to 7 (3 males) were present Jan-Feb with a pair to March 15th. The only other record was of a male seen intermittently at Toft Newton Res Feb 2nd-April 22nd with presumably the same bird at Swanholme lakes May 1st. The only late winter record concerned the presumed returning male at Toft Newton first seen on December 5th and intermittently there to 1993. This is



presumed to be the same bird which wintered in 1991-2 and was present as a redhead in April 1991.

**Red-breasted Merganser; *Mergus serrator*.**

Scarce Sept-April, rare May-July.

As usual most regular in the Wash with 17 Jan 25th, 31 Feb 22nd of which 24 were at Gedney, 23 March 22nd, 23 April 19th and up to 7 Gib Pt Jan-April, 4 May 4th, 1 June 24th. Off Tetney/North Cotes 3 March 8th, 2 15th, 1 April 5th and 2 May 3rd; at Donna Nook one May 23rd. The usual mid summer records occurred on the coast with 5 at Tetney July 5th and at Gib Pt one 30th and 3 31st with one Aug 2nd. Few recorded during Sept-Dec with a max of 7 at Gib Pt Nov 30th and otherwise 1-4 there and 1-3 on odd dates at Tetney, North Cotes, Grainthorpe and Donna Nook. At Huttoft 2 Oct 4th, 1 7th and 5 Nov 15th and in the Humber singles Barton-New Holland Sept 23-Oct 10th with 3 26th and inland birds at Boultham Mere Sept 22-26th and Covenham Oct 11th.

**Goosander; *Mergus merganser*.**

Fairly common Nov-March; very rare April-Oct.

As with most species of wildfowl the generally mild winter meant that numbers remained low during the early year with January providing the only high counts at key sites as follows; Thurlby pits 20 Jan 27th, Bardney pits 24 on 26th, Deeping High Bank 30 12th, Apex/Swanholme 9 Feb 9th. Elsewhere mainly singles; Hobhole mouth fem 1st, Gib Pt Feb 2nd, Toft Newton 9th, Barton March 17th, Fiskerton April 1st, a max of 4 Langtoft Feb 6th, 6 Southrey April 1-4th, 3 Bardney 4th with late birds a female Deeping High Bank May 23rd and a male with a broken wing off Barrow Haven 16th. A coastal influx occurred in October with presumably the same flock involved in records of 13 north at Mablethorpe 15th and 12 south at Donna Nook 17th and possibly 7 south at Gib Pt 18th. Two flew south at North Cleethorpes 15th and a female was at Goxhill 16th and Barton 20th with 3 there Nov 15th and one New Holland 2nd. Inland wintering sites received their birds from Oct 23rd Thurlby pits, with a max there of 48 Dec 12th, R.Welland at Spalding 5 Nov 15th, 11 Dec 19th and 28 Deeping High Bank Dec 14th, Apex pit a max of 36 Dec 20th possible same as Thurlby birds, Bardney 14 Dec 6th, Burton 4 16th, Toft Newton male 12th, Covenham fem 5th and Gib Pt one south Nov 23rd and 3 Dec 19th.

**Ruddy Duck; *Oxyura jamaicensis*.**

First 1964, first bred 1984; [LBR 1984]. scarce outside breeding areas.

The Humber Bank pits remain the core area with most birds at Barton/Barrow Haven pits; 1-2 in Jan, 6 by Feb 16th and 8 by March 3rd. Five pairs bred and at least 3-4 other males were present in April-August. Breeding success was poor with 2 pairs rearing no young, one hatched a brood of 6 and two other pairs only reared young from second broods of 4 and 2 in August. A pair layed eggs at North Killingholme possibly the same birds as two males and a female at East Halton pit June-August and a male held territory at the New Holland breeding site. Information from other localities was very patchy. At Kirkby pits a male in Feb with 4 by 9th and 6 March 2nd 2 male 4 fem April 12th; Grimsthorpe 2 males and a fem April 25th (at least); Whisby pair May 6-20th; Messingham pair April 6th and 5 including 3 males 13th, 3 on 23rd with a pair June 24th; Boultham Mere Feb 2-3rd; Anton's Gowt a male June 12th. Up to 5 at Kirkby pits Aug-Dec and a max of 13 Barrow Haven-Barton

Nov 1-15th with only one there after the December freeze up. Other sites; Deeping St James 1-2 Aug-Sept, Tattershall fem Oct-Dec, Sutton Ings pit male Aug 1st, Toft Newton fem Oct 23rd and Cadney Aug 27th and Sept 21st.

**Honey-buzzard; *Pernis apivorus*. \***

Vagrant May & Aug-Oct; 48+ records to end 1991.

An individual flew south at Gib Pt on July 11th (PMT).

**Red Kite; *Milvus milvus*. \***

Vagrant; recent increase in winter/early spring records; [LBR 1991]

A long staying bird was present in the area around Aubourn and Bassingham Fen from January 20th-Feb 16th at least. It was not seen daily and may have been the bird seen at Immingham Tip and Roxton on February 10th and reported from Rothwell on March 17th. Presumably another bird was seen at Trent Falls on April 11th (ND).

**Marsh Harrier; *Circus aeruginosus*.**

Rare breeder; 1962 then from 1983 with 5 pair 1987 & 1988; Increasing passage bird April-June, Aug-Oct.

Spring passage was more pronounced than usual with a minimum of 53 birds noted from April 14th-June 21st additional to the breeding and summering birds located in three broad areas of the county. All the following refer to cream-crowns unless stated; An adult male Barrow Haven April 14th, East Halton 18th, Winteringham males 26th and 30th, Boultham Mere 28th, a total of 28 at Gib Pt April 23rd-June 7th with males May 19th, 27th, 28th and 2 31st, Witham Mouth 2 April 19th, Barton May 4th, 7th and 21st, Deeping St Nicholas 10th, Donna Nook sec summ male 6th, 16th, Saltfleetby sec summ male 13th, Tetney 10th, 2 males 17th, June 9th & 21st, Chapel Pit, Wolla Bank male and cc and Covenham Res all May 24th, Messingham 4th, 14th, 2 on 16th, Pyes Hall male and cc 14th, male 24th, cc 31st, Immingham 28th, Wellingore Heath 27th. In the area of Nocton, Metherringham, Martin Fens at least 4 different birds including an adult male and a sec summ male May 17-July. One Deeping High Bank June 6th, Broughton Woods 25th and a male Alkborough flats July 17th with cc's there Aug 6th, 11th and 16th. During August-September single birds were noted on 12 dates at Gib Pt with 2 Tetney Aug 16th and one Saltfleetby 23rd, North Cotes Aug 2nd, 16th, Sept 2nd and Roxby Wood 14th. At Read's Island Winteringham maximum numbers occurred Sept 6-9th with 2 ad males, 2 sec summ fems and a juv. In the upper Witham Valley at Nocton/Martin Fen the roost at Nocton peaked at 8 on August 25th with 5 males but only 2 males were there amongst the 8 birds on Aug 28th so a total in excess of 8 birds were involved although some observers do not age birds sufficiently well to avoid confusion in numbers submitted. At least 4 were still there Sept 26th but the latest birds were 2 on October 8th in the Wash.

It was an incredible breeding season in the south of the county with 8 pairs nesting and 6 nests being successful rearing 22 juvs. Of the other 2 nests one failed due to the attentions of a licensed photographer and the other was robbed. In the north of the county a pair consisting of a second summer male and second summer female bred but failed probably during incubation due possibly to high spring tides flooding the nest. A second sec summ female was also at this site June 9th onwards

and started nest building but ceased soon after. At a third locality a second summer male, adult male, and 1-2 females were noted intermittently May-July.

**Hen Harrier; *Circus cyaneus*.**

Bred to 1872; 26 killed one day in 1820 Market Rasen breeding area; Now scarce winter visitor and passage Sept-Dec & March-May; rare summer.

The most accurate reflection of the wintering population in a large area like the Wash is provided by the results from roost counts as birds disperse widely over the saltings and inland fields during the day. Survey counts totalled 3m 12rt Jan 26th, 5m 6rt Feb 16th, 6m 7rt March 15th and 1rt April 19th at the largest roost with at least 1m and 1rt at a secondary roost Jan 18th and 3 there 2rt 1 sec w male April 1st. Another roost is in the at Gib Pt area and maxima there were; 1m 1rt Jan, 1m 2rt Feb-March and rt to April 21st. On the North-east coast Tetney- Saltfleetby peak numbers were 2m 2rt Feb 15th with a male March 8-15th and rt March 2nd. Elsewhere on the coast 2rt at Huttoft Jan 4th. Inland a roost in Bonby Carrs held a sec win male Jan 1- 4th, ad male 4th-Feb 11th, ad fem Jan 11-Feb 11th and a sec win male again on Barrow Wold March 19th. A male was at Rothwell Jan 11th, rt Nocton Fen 18th, rt Laughton 27th, rt Baston/Thurlby Fen Feb 2nd, rt Read's Island Feb 23rd, male Baumber March 20th, male Winteringham 29th and rt Tun Vatts April 2nd. Two unusually late birds were a male Holbeach Marsh May 16th and rt Gib Pt 15th. The difficulty of assessing the passage and wintering populations of this species, where sightings of birds and counts of roosts are rather sporadic, is clearly demonstrated by records from the north-east coast Humberston-Saltfleetby in the second winter period; A sec winter male arrived at Tetney Sept 3rd and was seen to at least Oct 8th, an adult male was there Oct 17th with a ringtail Oct 1st and 8th; a sec win male was at Saltfleetby Oct 15th and a rt 8th but no reports of more than one male were received during Nov-Dec; However, a ringtail roosted at Tetney in mid December and 4 males roosted at Donna Nook on Nov 26th so at least 5 birds were in the area at that time despite sightings relating to only 3 birds. At Gib Pt/Wainfleet the first rt was seen Oct 11th with a max of 3rt 15th and up to 3 to Nov 1st (one a wing-tagged first-winter male from Nov 5th had been ringed as a juv on Islay see note). A male and 1-2 rt were there in December. In the Wash one roost held 4rt and 1 male Nov 28th and at least 6 birds in December and another roost had 2 males and 5rt Dec 15th at least although movements between these roost was noted by some observers very late in the evening. Inland a rt at Barrow Wold Oct 11th, rt Nocton Fen Oct 23-1993, rt New Holland Dec 3rd, rt Crowle Dec 6th, adult fem Worlaby Carrs Dec 27th, male Bonby and Horkstow Carrs 26-31st and rt Winteringham Haven Dec 20-1993.

**Montagu's Harrier; *Circus pygargus*.**

Very rare breeder; 1951, 1956, 2 pair 1965, 1979, 1980, 1-2 pair 1987-1989; Scarce passage migrant April-Sept.

A pair bred in the south of the county rearing 3 young. There were also a series of spring records at Gib Pt female April 24th, male May 2nd, male south 8th, first-summer male 15-16th, first- summer female 20th, female 29-30th and female June 12-13th. A female was seen at Messingham May 14th, a female flew south at Saltfleetby June 10th and a male was at Leverton July 3rd.

**Northern Goshawk; *Accipiter gentilis*. \***

Attempted to breed 1864; Very rare vagrant of late.

Winter reports of a male at Gib Pt Jan 3rd (KMW), 27th (PMT) and Feb 7th (PAT). Another claim of a female at Messingham March 23rd (RNH).

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk; *Accipiter nisus*.**

Widespread breeding resident with passage March-May & Aug-Nov [LBR 1984]

It would be interesting to know if the breeding population of this species is yet at saturation point? Breeding reports received go no way towards reflecting the true status. Of note were 5 in display at Rothwell March 19-22nd and the white bird present around Boston to April. One attacked a Cuckoo at Donington-on-Bain May 18th and there were two reports of birds killing Woodpigeons in flight.

**Common Buzzard; *Buteo buteo*.**

Nested to 1888; Increasing passage and winter visitor; [LBR 1991]

Following the high totals in late 1991 many birds stayed to overwinter. Persistent rumours of the release of birds in the county however, may account for some of the records of which one at Pode Hole on May 11th had possibly been released near Spalding 2-3 weeks previously. During January 2 birds frequented the Rothwell valleys to at least March 8th with one to May, 2 were at Ancaster on at least Jan 4th, 2 Twigmoor to Greetwell 6th, 4 North Rauceby to at least 3rd, one Aubourn Jan-Feb 16th, 1 Appleby Jan 9th was probably one of 2 on Risby Warren 9th-Feb 10th when 3 were present but all had gone by 11th, a new bird arriving Feb 17-March 1st when 2 were there and a third was in display March 19th. Others in February were one north-west over Thornton Abbey 6th, Skellingthorpe 21st with 1 Rowston Scopwick March 1st. Singles in April at Metheringham 22nd, Wellingore Heath 23rd; with probably the same bird south at Donna Nook June 27th and Gib Pt 28th. One at Branston Booths July 12th and Brant Broughton Aug 19th with another Kirkby 16th and possibly the original Branston bird in Nocton Fen Sept 19-26th. One Stickney Sept 9th and a single bird on Risby Warren Sept 14-16th. Other birds at Bulby Oct 1st, Twigmoor and Manton 15th, Welton-le-Wold Nov 20th, Deeping St Nicholas Dec 24th and Loughton 30th.

**Rough-legged Buzzard; *Buteo lagopus*. \***

Rare winter visitor Oct-April; best recent years 1974-75 with 20+ birds. 105+ 1960-1988.

The overwintering first-winter individual at Rothwell remained until at least March 19th often being seen with 1-2 Common Buzzard. Another was seen at Cawkwell Hill near Cadwell on January 13th (MC) and possibly the same bird at South Elkington 25th (PH et al). A first winter bird with a number of displaced primaries in the right wing was found in Bonby Carrs on November 29th (GPC,DHu) and then moved to Appleby/Worlaby and Broughton Carrs staying into 1993 (RNH,WG et al).

**Osprey; *Pandion haliaetus*.**

Increasing passage migrant March-October; some immatures in summer.

A reasonable spring with two presumably immature birds staying for extensive periods at two localities. The first at Whisby April 12th with one flying south at Gib Pt 27th, followed by one fishing regularly at Toft Newton from 30th-May 10th and

another was seen at Boultham Mere May 4-15th. One flew south-west at Covenham May 3rd, one Gib Pt 4th, one north at Theddlethorpe 10th then presumably the same bird at Kirton Quarries May 14th and South Ferriby 15th with one North Cotes/Tetney 28th and 31st and one south at Saltfleetby June 9th. Wandering autumn individuals may have accounted for singles Tetney Aug 18th, Covenham 24th, Gib Pt 25th and 31st and Biscathorpe 25th. In September one Asgarby 1st, one Boultham Mere 2nd, one south at Donna Nook 7th and one October 1st on a roadside telegraph pole near Swineshead.

**Common Kestrel; *Falco tinnunculus*.**

Common and widespread breeding resident; autumn/winter dispersal and coastal passage.

A total of 8 together over saltmarsh at Holbeach St Matthew Aug 2-17th.

**Merlin; *Falco columbarius*.**

Bred 1860, 1862, 1875; Scarce winter visitor Sept-May with passage Aug-Nov and March-May; odd summer records.

It is always difficult to get a true picture of the wintering population of this sometimes elusive and erratic little falcon as reports are seldom complete even from favoured areas. During the Jan-March period on the coast; a minimum of 3 including an adult male Tetney-Grainthorpe, 2+ Donna Nook-Saltfleetby, 1-3 Gib Pt, one Huttoft Feb 8th. On the Humber 2 including a male Pywripe- Cleethorpes; In the Wash 2+ Kirton-Witham Mouth, 1-2 Holbeach Marsh but 8 in total on the Wash counts Jan 25th and Feb 22nd with 9 March 22nd and 4 April 19th. Inland in the south one Deeping and Langtoft Fens Jan-March, Castle Carlton Feb 26th; In the east Covenham Jan 18th & April 10th, Manby iw fem Jan 10th; In the North Immingham March 3rd, Winteringham Jan 18th, Winteringham and South Ferriby Feb 15th, Bonby Carrs Jan 4th, Messingham March 18th; On the Wolds Kelstern Feb 9th, Rothwell Jan 19th, Nettleton Feb 12th, Oxcombe valley Jan 10th, Tealby Feb 10th; In the Lincoln area 2 Bassingham Fen ,one north Lincoln and 1-2 Nocton Fen Jan-Feb, Whisby Jan 5th, March 9th, 26th; Gainsborough Jan 17th; April birds additional to the above at Gib Pt to 27th, Tetney to 26th, Pywripe 6th, male 12th, Whisby 19th, Holbeach Marsh 16th, East Butterwick 23rd, Wrangle male 25th, Horkstow Wold 29th and in May Nene Mouth 1st, North Cotes 3rd, Saltfleetby 4th, Kirmington 13th and Gib Pt 28th with one Donna Nook June 1st. Females returned in July to Tetney and Gib Pt and caused havoc with the breeding Little Terns. Further birds reached a number of sites in August; Nocton Fen 4-30th, Holbeach Marsh 21st, South Ferriby 29th, Saltfleetby 17th, Gib Pt 18th with a male 23rd. Passage and wintering birds are impossible to separate from September onwards and reports from the Wash are very patchy so no realistic estimate of the total population is possible. The only Wash reports were of 4 different birds at Frampton and Witham Mouth Oct-Dec and singles Holbeach Marsh and Range and Kirton. At Gib Pt 1-2 Sept, 1-3 in Oct with one Nov, 2 on 4th and a single on only 4 dates in Dec. On the north-east coast Humberston-Grainthorpe 1-2 Sept-Dec and 1-3 Donna Nook-Saltfleetby with an additional male at Theddlethorpe village Dec 5th, singles at Huttoft Oct 26th, Nov 3rd, Chapel pit Oct 13th, Ingoldmels 24th and Seacroft Nov 3rd. Inland from north-south; Read's Island Oct 18-19th, Winteringham Dec 6th, New Holland Nov 4th, Worlaby Carrs Dec 27th, North Kelsey Moor Nov 5th and 29th, Kelstern airfield male Dec 16th, Scampton male Oct 27th and Nov 10th, fem



Nov 17th, Whisby Sept 15th, Lincoln area male Dec 3rd, Covenham Dec 29th and Holbeach village Nov 25th.

**Hobby; *Falco subbuteo*.**

Bred nineteenth century and 1973, 1979, 2 pair 1980 then from 1988 with 6 pair; increasing to 17 pair 1991; Also passage April- Sept; [LBR 1988].

The early spring total of seven birds in late April at Saltfleetby 22nd and 28th, Blankney 2 and Martin 25th, Gib Pt 27th and Tetney 30th was quite unusual. From May onwards it becomes impossible to differentiate between breeding and prospecting birds and passage migrants although 7 birds at Gib Pt during the month were probably the latter. Of the known previous breeding sites no details were received from 3 in the south of the county, no visits were made to 2 in the north-west, one pair had moved as the 1991 nest blew out during the winter, another 2 pairs were not in traditional trees. In fact only one pair was actually proved to breed but another 6 pairs most probably did so. The table below is a rough estimate of the number of birds reported which were not tied to known breeding sites.

May--21 June--10 July--12 August--15 September--13

Please do report all sightings and do follow up all birds seen in June-August, they could well be breeding. The last birds were at Cleethorpes September 18th, Gib Pt 23rd, Scampton 25th and Burton pits 26th.

**Peregrine Falcon; *Falco peregrinus*.**

Increasing passage migrant and winter visitor; [LBR 1991]

One at Gib Pt Jan 1st with a male there March 8-30th and probably the same bird April 12th, 29th, May 16-17th and 31st. Other singles at Kirton Marsh and Gedney Jan 25th, Frampton Feb 22nd and Friskney April 19th. On the coast Grainthorpe Jan 18-19th, possibly the same bird at Tetney April 5th and 19th and Saltfleetby 8th. Inland a sub-adult in the Oxcombe valley Jan 10th and Feb 9th, a male Risby Warren Feb 7th, which stooped at a Buzzard and one South Witham Feb 8th took a Starling. In Nocton Fen 1-2 Feb-March \*; One Ancaster March 29th, with an adult at Messingham 26th and an immature female there May 20th, female Winteringham/South Ferriby April 21st. An unseasonal bird at Gib Pt July 31st was followed by one mobbing a Marsh Harrier at Tetney Aug 16th with a male Gib Pt Sept 6th, Oct 8th & 10th, fem 23-25th, imm Nov 8th and 22nd. One was occasional at Donna Nook Oct-Dec presumably the same at Saltfleetby Oct 18th, Nov 15th, Dec 3rd and 15th and possibly the bird at Tetney and North Cotes Dec 6th, 12th and 22nd. An adult Nocton Fen Sept 13th, one Messingham 25th. On the Humber a juv male was at South Ferriby 12th and there were then fairly regular sightings of an immature, at Barton-New Holland Oct 1st-January 1993 this bird being seen on the Humber Bridge on Oct 1st, 20th-21st and odd dates in early Nov. Another female was on Risby Warren Nov 8th probably the same bird at Bonby Carrs Dec 3rd and Broughton Bridge 31st. Inland Grantham Oct 26th, one Swanpool Nov 11th, Whisby 29th, Nettleton 8th probably same as Brompton Dale, Audelby Top Dec 19th. In the Wash two reports an immature at Wainfleet Sept 25th and one Shep Whites Dec 27th.

\* One bird on Nocton Fen in early 1992 was a local falconers escapee whilst another recaptured at Welton-le-Wold in spring 1992 had escaped from a falconer in Manchester (PMc pers comm).

**Red-legged Partridge; *Alectoris rufa*.**

Widespread breeding resident with additional local releases and of late many Chukar hybrids present.

**Grey Partridge; *Perdix perdix*.**

Declining or stable resident but widespread.

Single coveys of 8 Nocton Fen November with 55+ in the Nocton, Branston area Dec 20th, of local note were 8 New Holland Nov-Dec, 13 Deeping St James Oct 5th, 12 Dec 5th, 14 Bonby Carrs Nov-Dec.

**Common Quail; *Coturnix coturnix*.**

Very variable numbers April-Sept with recent good years 1947, 1958, 1964, 1970, 1972, 1987, 1988, 1989.

A total of 22 singing males noted in spring-summer. First noted in May at Gib Pt 16-17th and Nettleton mid-month to June with 2 Hackthorn 24-28th at least, Swallow 16-30th and Aug 4th. One male Deeping St Nicholas June 8th and up to 6 there later in the month with one Walesby 13th and 23rd, Digby 23rd, Branston Heath 17th, 2 on 26th, Temple Brewer 25th and July 10th, Stickford 27th and one Baston Fen July 16th then 3 Leadenham-Wellingore Heath Aug 8th, 2 on 20th and finally one Walcott 10th.

**Common Pheasant; *Phasianus colchicus***

Common introduced resident; status supplemented by local releases.

A female was seen stranded on the mud some 300m offshore from South Ferriby on May 3rd and seems likely to have flown from Read's Island 600m away. The inability of this bird to fly further clearly casts doubt on the claims of Cordeaux, repeated in BoLSH that birds crossed from the Spurn area to Lincs in the early years of this century. A total of 200 seen in Rothwell valley Dec 13th.

**Water Rail; *Rallus aquaticus*.**

Rather rare breeder also scarce winter visitor and passage bird.

Spring passage birds on the coast at North Cotes April 5th, Humberston Fitties May 31st and at Gib Pt 1-2 April-May and June 3rd. Up to 6 at Boultham Mere Jan-March. One in a Louth garden April 5th was most unusual. Only 1-2 birds calling in spring on the Humber Bank pits is the lowest total for many years but one pair at least bred at Huttoft pit juveniles being seen in July. On the coast 1-3 at Gib Pt Sept 22-Dec, Saltfleetby Dec 3-6th, North Cotes Sept 26th, Cleethorpes CP Nov 18th. A good number in the Lincoln area late in the year with up to 3 at Whisby pits, singles Hartsholme Park Dec and up to 10 Boultham Mere Sept-Oct. Singles at Baston Fen Nov-Dec with 1-2 at New Holland but still less than 10 heard at Barton-Barrow Haven pits Oct-Dec.

**Corn Crake; *Crex crex*. \***

Bred to 1920. Now very rare vagrant.

One was seen briefly at Anderby Creek on October 10th (MW).

**Moorhen; *Gallinula chloropus***

Widespread common breeding bird.

Good numbers at Deeping St James with 55 Jan, 47 Feb and 58 Dec 17th then 50 Deeping High Bank 28th. Also 68 Barton-New Holland pits Oct 18th, 92 there Nov 15th and 90+ Dec, 49 Ancaster Nov 14th and 36 Baston Fen Dec 13th.

**Common Coot; *Fulica atra*.**

Widespread breeder with large autumn/winter passage population; mid-winter census 1974 total of 3,819.

January survey counts in general reflect the peak winter numbers with a decline from then to the breeding population in March- April; Thus 716 at Langtoft Jan 19th, 222 Feb 16th, 306 Deeping St James Jan where numbers fell to 290 Feb, 151 March; 730 Tattershall Feb, 373 Mar, 84 April; 242 Whisby Jan 12th; 326 Barton-Barrow Haven Jan, 167 Feb, 95 March; 210 Covenham Feb 2nd. The first three broods hatched at Barrow Haven on April 17th and a post breeding survey at Barton-Barrow Haven found 185 Aug 11th. At Deeping St James 25 pairs bred and 230 were there July with 39 at East Halton pit Aug 10th. From autumn onwards totals at some sites were relatively low but at others up to normal thus; Tattershall 461 Sept, 878 Oct, 882 Nov, 915 Dec; Kirkby 227 Oct, 412 Dec; Barton-New Holland 102 Sept 13th, 163 Oct 18th, 217 Nov 15th, 220 Dec; Langtoft 250 Oct, 203 Nov; Deeping St James 319 Aug 10th, 259 Sept 2nd, 220 Oct 18th, 245 Nov 29th, 291 Dec 17th. Other counts of note being 239 Whisby Oct 18th, 139 Ancaster Oct 17th, 119 Nov 14th, 125 Toft Newton Nov 29th and 220 Covenham Dec 5th.

**Oystercatcher; *Haematopus ostralegus*.**

Scarce breeding bird; Large numbers on passage and winter Wash & Humber; scarce inland where odd pairs breed.

On the middle Humber the spring max at Read's Island/South Ferriby was 76 May 5th with 65 on 15th and about 20 pairs thought to be breeding on the island plus one on the adjacent shore and 3 on South Ferriby Cement works. Numbers here fell to 57 June 8th and 41 July 8th with only 3 by August 2nd but a westerly passage of 51 on August 10th and 13 west at Goxhill 15th; less than 5 on odd dates after these to December. Spring high tide roosts at Gib Pt peaked at 2000 Jan, 2000 July 31st, 8000 Aug 29th, 5000 Sept 26th, 4500 Oct 27th, 250 Nov 14th and 350 Dec 12th. At North Cotes 1400 Aug 21st with 2000 Dec 13th and at Donna Nook a peak of 982 Aug 16th in the Wash a flock of 1000 Kirton Marsh 2nd.

Inland pairs held territory or bred at New Holland-1-, North Killingholme-1-, Messingham -2-. Langtoft GP-1-, Langrick Bridge- 2- and Chapel Hill-1-. Coastal breeding was reported only from Gib Pt 2 pair, Saltfleetby 4-6 pairs and Donna Nook 8 pairs. Birds inland on passage at Kirkby pits Feb 2nd, July 2nd, Deeping pits 4 Feb 2nd, Whisby pits April 5th, 2 Aug 14th, Torksey 2 March 15th, Cadney April 26th, Baston GP up to 4 July-Oct and Bardney Aug 8th with 3 on 9th. During severe freezing weather a max of 5 were inland at Deeping High Bank Dec 28th.

**Avocet; *Recurvirostra avocetta*.**

Bred to 1837 and again 1991 ; Increasing but still scarce on passage, also winter. A pair on Read's Island in April were mobbing other birds and displaying as if nesting but spring tides in early May presumably washed them out as they left after 3rd and presumably the same pair moved to Blacktoft (Yorks) where they reared young.

The only other records during the year were at Gib Pt with one May 14th, 6 including 3 juvs July 30th and 5 Aug 1st.

**Little Ringed Plover; *Charadrius dubius*.**

Scarce and local breeder; first bred 1950; 40 pair at 20 sites 1970, 35 pair 1973, 33 pair at 24 sites 1984; Passage March-June and July-early Oct. [LBR 1985].

First arrivals were a pair at East Halton pit April 15th with 3 Whisby 19th, Gib 21st, Winteringham-South Ferriby 23rd and 2 North Hykeham tip 28th. The only passage bird in May was at Cleethorpes CP 3rd. A total of 16 breeding pairs were reported with juveniles seen at most localities. A good autumn passage from July when a max of 8 at Gib Pt and 15 Covenham 8th, 5 Alkborough Flats 17th, 18 Bardney 18th, North Cotes 25th, Donna Nook 11th. Lower numbers in August but 8 Bardney 9th, 7 Alkborough Flats 6th and 19th, 4 Messingham 21st, and more widespread singles mostly juvs at Covenham 9-10th, Cadney 3 on 10th, South Ferriby 3rd and 17th, Donna Nook 20-22nd, Goxhill 15th, Tetney 18th and North Killinghome 2 on 31st. One Bardney Sept 1st when 2 juvs were in the roost at South Ferriby, one Cadney 12-17th, one 27th and a very late bird was at North Kelsey Moor Oct 10th.

**Great Ringed Plover; *Charadrius hiaticula*.**

Breeds; Inland breeding from 1963; 190 pair 1970, 152 pair 1973 (11 inland) 242 pair 36 inland in 1984 census. Fairly common winter; marked spring passage May/June and autumn July/Sept.

Significant early winter counts of 52 Barton Jan 6th, 85 Gib Pt Feb and 99 in March but only a low spring peak there of 90 May 29th. A good spring passage on the Humber with a large proportion of tundrae type birds; At South Ferriby 46 April 26th had increased to the spring peak of 284 May 15th and then slowly declined to 200 18th, 50 by 23rd and none June 6th. A flock of 24 East Halton May 26th and a single day count of 400 at Donna Nook May 17th with 51 migrants there June 2nd. A late spring total of 90 at Gib Pt June 15th but relatively low autumn peaks there of 55 July 19th, 160 Aug 16th and 150 Sept 26th with 65 Oct 1st and a max in December of just 6. A high count of 300 Witham Mouth Sept 12th. By contrast on the middle Humber autumn passage was exceptional. At South Ferriby 38 July 17th increased to 81 21st then 124 Aug 2nd, 160 3rd with 347 by 14th and 515 on 17th normally the autumn peak. The 515 contained only 29 juveniles and obviously most of these birds then moved on as numbers fell to 232 on 26th but rose again to 590 on 29th when up to 30% were juvs and on the same day and tide a roost of 110 was at North Killingholme making a total of 700 in the area at the time and the autumn total exceeded 1000 birds. Numbers fell rapidly to 370 Sept 1st and the main wintering flock which arrives in September was relocated at Barton with 118 Sept 10th, 80 by 30th, 112 Oct 23rd and down to 78 Oct 29th-Nov 1st and 26 Dec 22nd. Inland passage included a spring peak of 12 at Bardney May 26th with 19 on 28th and 6 Aug-Sept. A flock of 12 flew south-west at Covenham Sept 2nd. The only coastal breeding reports were from Gib Pt with 40 pairs, Saltfleetby 5-7 pairs and Donna Nook 19 pairs. By contrast inland breeding pairs numbered 19 again with no reports at all from Kirkby/Tattershall. The main concentration of 10 pairs was at South Ferriby Cement works with another 2 pairs on the adjacent shore and other pairs at Bardney, Thurlby Sand pits and Langtoft GP.

**Dotterel; *Charadrius morinellus*.**

Rare but regular spring passage migrant late April-May and rare autumn passage bird Aug-Sept.

Two late April trips were found at Grainthorpe 5 from 27-29th (HB et al) and on Horkstow Wold with 13 found late on 26th still present early next morning but departing to the north at 09-00hrs (GPC et al). In May 6 (3 males 3 females) were at Donna Nook briefly on 4th (PHol) and a trip at the traditional Deeping St Nicholas area built up from 12 on 9th to 19 on 10th then declined to 7 on 13th and one 16th. During the autumn 2 adults were found on Nocton Fen Aug 21-25th with another bird on nearby Dunston Fen 22-31st occasionally with the other two (KDD et al).

**European Golden Plover; *Pluvialis apricaria*.**

Large wintering population also passage March-May and July-Nov.

Recent mild winters have led to a larger than usual number of Golden Plover wintering in the county. Traditional sites with peak counts during Jan-March were as follows; Winteringham/South Ferriby 9000 Jan 8th, Saltfleetby 1500 18th, Anderby/Huttoft 500 24th, Gib Pt 800 Feb, Thurlby/Swinderby 263 Feb, Hemswell 2000 Feb 28th and in March passage flocks at Holbeach Marsh 1200 on 22nd, Nocton Heath 2000 3rd, and 1800 between Sutton and Barnby- in-the-Willows 5th presumably the same as the nearby 2500 Fulbeck 22nd; 700 Langtoft GP 15th with 157 there April 12th. A late spring passage of 179 altifrons at Worlaby Wold 27th with 155 there May 2nd. One-two often injured birds summered at South Ferriby and Tetney. Return passage began early with 322 at Read's Island by July 17th and a record July total of 1176 there 27th. Onward passage and dispersal inland reduced numbers here to 700 Aug 18-29th but a further increase to 2000 Sept 9th was followed by another decrease to 800 Oct 19th before a massive rise to 7000 Nov 16th and the late winter peak of 10,000 Dec 7th. Further down the Humber at New Holland 120 on Sept 2nd included a colour- ringed bird from North Ronaldsay (Orkney see note); this flock increased to 800 23rd, 900 Nov 2nd, 1300 15th and 3290 Dec 3rd- 12th but fell to less than 196 in freezing weather Dec 24th. In the Wash 300 at Holbeach Marsh July 23rd increased to 1400 Aug 16th and peaked at 3000 19th settling again to about 1000-1500 Sept-Nov 28th. Inland a flock of up to 82 Nocton Fen Aug-Sept with 400 Dunston Fen Aug 31st, 220 Baston Fen Oct 11th, 1300 Baston Common Dec 13th, 514 Deeping St James Oct 30th, 450 Fulbeck Oct 15th, 4000 Dec 2nd and on the coast 150 Anderby Sept 27th, 525 North Cotes Aug 21st, 500 Sept 21st, 1000 there Oct 13th, 2000 Dec 19th, 3500 Tetney Dec 20th, 500 Saltfleet early November, 340 Gib Pt Oct 24th, 1000 Saltfleetby Nov 7th, 5000 Dec 15th. Huge numbers departed from the north of the county in a sharp spell of freezing weather in late December with very few left by the new year.

[The colour-ringed bird at New Holland on September 2nd had been ringed on North Ronaldsay on either January 27th or March 1st 1992 (a disputed colour of one ring giving rise to the alternatives).]

**Grey Plover; *Pluvialis squatarola*.**

Large passage flocks April-May & Aug-Oct; fewer winter and a few in summer.

Monthly spring tide maxima at Gib Pt were 140 Jan, 500 Feb, 1300 Mar, 565 Apr, 370 north May 28th, 65 June 4th, 380 July 5th, 150 Aug 28th, 3000 Sept 26th, 2000 Oct 1st, 750 Nov 13th, but only 45 Dec. A winter count of 600 on Holbeach Marsh



Jan 21st and a notable spring passage peak there of 1720 April 19th with 560 May 16th and 570 Frampton 17th. Only 75 were at Donna Nook May 15th. At South Ferriby a prolonged spring passage of small flocks from 8 on May 17th peaked at 19 on 27th with 12 30th and 2 June 3rd also 12 East Halton May 26th. Inland passage birds at Thurlby Sand pits 2 May 14th and Bardney May 22-23rd with 5 on 24th and 1 28th and 2 Mesingham 19th. It was evidently a poor breeding season in the Arctic as very low numbers of juveniles appeared in autumn eg a max of just 3 on odd dates South Ferriby-Goxhill. A flock of 180 Pywipe Dec 13th.

#### **Northern Lapwing; *Vanellus vanellus*.**

Still widespread but decreasing breeder; huge autumn passage Sept-Dec and winter totals;

Very few early winter records; A total of 600 Saltfleetby Jan 18th and 900 Gib Pt Jan with 660 south there Feb 13th and 3500 23rd probably making an early departure. A concentration of 24 pairs bred on set-aside fields at Bonby Carrs and breeding numbers in the South Witham area were reported to be on the increase due to the increased local acreage of spring wheat and linseed. Arrivals of large flocks began in July with further continuous influxes through October-November. In July 300 Goxhill 13th, 250 Evedon 30th, 350 Baston Fen 28th, 500 Swineshead 11th with 520 Langtoft Aug 20th. At South Ferriby/ Read's Island 400 July 17th with 700 by Aug 2nd, 1000 Sept 16th then also 1000 North Cotes-Grainthorpe 26th. October peaks of 600 Gib Pt 23rd, 874 Langtoft 30th, 1800 Stickford 3rd, 5000 North Cotes-Pyes Hall 8-13th, 661 New Holland 18th but 2000 there Nov 13th and 2800 26th. Also in Nov 1000 Saltfleet 8th, 500 Deeping High Bank 15th, 500 Holbeach Marsh, 1000 Sutterton-Sleaford 26th, 3000 Tetney 10th, 4000 Pyewipe 5th and 2500 Whitton 26th. Winter peak at Read's Island was 4000 Dec 7th and a partial albino was noted there and Barton Nov 22-Dec 7th. Also in December 4000 New Holland 12th, 3500 Grainthorpe and 3500 Donna Nook 13th, 5000 Saltfleetby 15th, 15,000 Butterwick Marsh 12th possibly some of same in 3300 Witham Mouth 13th, 6000 Frampton Fen 16th with 1000 still there 24th, 1000 Baston Common 13th, 700 Gedney Drove End and 680 Gib Pt 13th.

#### **Red Knot; *Calidris canutus*.**

Large numbers Wash and outer Humber Aug-April; some summer.

Spring tide roost counts at Gib Pt were ; 2500 Feb, 5000 Jul 30th, 16,000 Aug 29th, 35,000 Sept 27th, 28,000 Oct 1st, 3500 Nov 13th, 1000 Dec. Spring passage was mostly in April but there were still 300 at North Cotes May 3rd and a small peak of 8 South Ferriby 17-18th with 400 either coming or going at Gib Pt June 10-11th. On the coast 4000 Donna Nook Nov 15th and 7-10,000 Grainthorpe Dec 13th.

#### **Sanderling; *Calidris alba*.**

Marked spring passage April-June; fewer July-Oct; common winter outer Humber. The only early winter counts were from Gib Pt with 128 Jan, 80 Feb and 100 March. Spring passage is often not well documented but some useful counts in May 1992 show the importance of the north-east coast for this species. A late April total of 114 were at Saltfleetby 23rd, no May counts there; at Donna Nook a single day count of 700 was made on 17th and 200 were present on June 2nd. Simultaneous high tide counts at Cleethorpes 444 and Tetney 900 on May 24th and a low tide total of 1075 between Grimsby Docks and Humberston on May 31st reflect the scale of the

passage through this area. Further up the Humber birds are very irregular so 14 at Barton May 22nd and 10 East Halton on 26th were unusual. Inland passage birds were at Messingham May 6th, Toft Newton 8 on May 29th and Thurlby Sand pits 2 on May 20th, 1 24th and one July 15th. A total of 251 returning birds were between Grimsby Docks and Humberston July 31st and at Gib Pt 370 on July 19th, 780 on 30th, 600 Aug 30th but only 80 Sept 27th then again 150 Oct 27th. A party of 8 at Read's Island on Aug 2nd flew off south high inland.

**Little Stint; *Calidris minuta*.**

Scarce passage migrant May-June more regular July-Oct with periodic good autumn movements eg; 1978; one winter Dec 29th 1972.

The worst year for some time for this species with just 7 birds in spring and an exceptionally low 21 in autumn. May singles were at Gib Pt 14th and Bardney 19th with 2 Thorpe tip 24th then 3 Saltfleetby June 1st were presumably the same as 3 adults on Skidbrooke ridge June 16th. First autumn birds were adults at Donna Nook July 24th, Read's Island/ Winteringham Aug 2-7th, Alkborough Flats 6th, Humberston 16th, 2 Gib Pt 16th and 3 including 2 juvs there 30th. Two Winteringham Aug 30th were presumably the same as an adult and juv South Ferriby Sept 2nd; One Covenham Aug 31st-September 3rd, 2 Bardney Sept 6th, one Gib Pt 26th and then 2 juvs Read's Island and 2 juvs Donna Nook all on Oct 1st, Grainthorpe Haven 3rd, Bardney 16th and Covenham 16- 20th.

**Temminck's Stint; *Calidris temminckii*. \***

Rare passage migrant mainly late April-June & Aug-Oct.

Just two fairly typical spring records at Thurlby Sand pits on May 18th (ACS) and Donna Nook on June 21st (P Holmes) and one in autumn at Gib Pt August 9-10th (KMW et al)

**Pectoral Sandpiper; *Calidris melanotos*. \***

Vagrant over 75 records to 1988; most July-Oct with 2 in June.

One was seen at Saltfleetby on September 20th (AHJH). A typical date.

**Curlew Sandpiper; *Calidris ferruginea*.**

Rare spring and regular autumn passage migrant; good recent autumns 1978, 1985, 1988, 1991.

Just 3 spring adults noted; 2 South Ferriby May 18th with one 21st and one Thurlby Sand pits 22nd. In common with other arctic breeding waders it was a dismal autumn passage for this species with virtually no juveniles. One Huttoft pit July 18th preceeded 2 adults at Read's Island July 31-Aug 2nd with one 7th, one Gib Pt July 30th. Further August birds were 2 adults Alkborough Flats 6th with one 16th, singles at Holbeach Marsh 16th, Skidbrooke 16th, Little Bytham 17th, Gib Pt 1st and 6th, adult South Ferriby 22nd, Shep Whites 29th and an unusual flock of 27 north at North Cotes 30th. In September 6 at Humberston 15th and a flock of 15 south-west at Pyes Hall 17th, 2 juvs there 20th and one Bardney 20th.

**Purple Sandpiper; *Calidris maritima*.**

Rare passage and winter visitor; notable recent decline in wintering numbers.

The recent poor showing by this species continued through 1992 with 2 at Cleethorpes Jan 21-30th and one Feb 13th, one Witham Mouth Jan 26th; In autumn one Tetney July 6th and one north off Huttoft Oct 4th, Wrangle Oct 24th and 2 south at Gib Pt Nov 10th with 2 again at Cleethorpes Nov 21st to 1993.

**Dunlin; *Calidris alpina*.**

Bred 1958; All months; large spring and autumn passage and wintering population. Spring peaks at Gib Pt were of 2500 in March and 1800 April with a massive 6100 at Holbeach Marsh April 19th. Spring max at Read's Island South Ferriby was also in April with 2000 26th but later peaks of 750 May 15th and 500 18-23rd falling to 280 30th and suddenly to 7 June 6th. At Donna Nook a one day count of 1000 May 17th shows how important and underwatched many of our coastal sites are for waders. Small numbers were noted inland in all months with most during spring and autumn passage periods. Return passage was under way by mid July with 250 Read's Island/South Ferriby 17th increasing to 600 27th and 850 by Aug 1st when a sample count of 137 produced 122 adults and just 15 juvs. This population obviously moved through quickly as a count of 400 on Aug 18th contained 50% juvs but 480 on 26th had only 20% juvs. Numbers declined there through September to 50 on 16th but increased with the arrival of the wintering population to 1150 on Oct 19th and 700 Dec 20th with 400 feeding at Barton on 23rd, 1200 Dec 22nd. Autumnal spring tide counts at Gib Pt totalled 3800 July 31st, 2000 Aug 2nd, 6000 Sept 27th and 2000 Oct 27th, 600 Nov 13th.

**Broad-billed Sandpiper; *Limicola falcinellus* \***

Vagrant;

An adult was present on the afternoon of June 6th at Read's Island (GPC) being the 6th county record with 4 previous records in May and one in July.

Accepted by BBRC.

**Ruff; *Philomachus pugnax*.**

Passage migrant and rare wintering bird, most March-May & June- Nov.

The only wintering birds were up to 10 at the Witham Mouth Jan- Feb and 3 at Cleethorpes March 6th. Spring passage began in April with singles at Marston SF 24th, South Ferriby 27th, 2 Covenham 21st and 13 Gib Pt 24th. May was the peak month with about 65 birds noted; 1-3 at Donna Nook, Pyes Hall, Tetney, Whisby, Covenham, Kirton Quarries and Hykeham tip with peak counts of 8 South Ferriby 18th, 7 Messingham 16-19th, 6 Thurlby/Swinderby 14- 15th with 7 on 24th, 12 Bardney 24th and 13 Gib Pt 14th. A male at Gib Pt June 14-15th. A good autumn passage of juveniles with over 250 recorded from Aug 10-Oct 6th. 1-5 on odd dates at Holbeach Marsh, Gib Pt, Kirton quarries, Messingham, South Ferriby, Kirton Marsh, Barton, New Holland, Grainthorpe and Bardney with peaks of 24 Alkborough Flats Aug 7th and up to 16 there to 16th, 19 Saltfleetby Aug 26th, 36 Huttoft 31st, 8 Covenham 25th, 8 Marston SF 16-17th, 20 North Killinghome 31st, 7 Winteringham Haven 29th and in September 10 Nocton Fen 7-8th then 9 Grainthorpe Haven Oct 6th, 70+ Frampton Marsh 23rd with 43 still there 25th, 4 Nov 8th, 3 south at Gib Pt Oct 14th and 4 27th and one Saltfleetby 11th. In November 2 Donna Nook 10th, with one Nocton Fen Dec 29th.

**Jack Snipe; *Lymnocyptes minimus*.**

Scarce winter visitor and passage bird Oct-Nov & March-April.

Only 3-4 birds noted in the early year; Saltfleetby Feb 9th, Gib Pt March 29th and April 5th and a late bird at Saltfleetby May 2nd. Autumn arrivals were mostly in October with singles Leverton 1st, 13th, 20th, Gib Pt 7-10th, 13th, 21st and 31st but 3 on 16th, one Barton pits mid-month, a max of 5 at Saltfleetby 26th, 5 during the month at Donna Nook and a max of 10 Marston SF 13th with 5 of these trapped. Later singles at Saltfleetby Nov 8th and 15th and Gib Pt 6th.

**Common Snipe; *Gallinago gallinago*.**

Seriously reduced breeding population now rare and local; more common on passage and in winter; census 1971 216 drumming.

The only drumming birds reported were one at Messingham and a pair at Baston Fen a much reduced total at the latter site from ten years ago. A very wet autumn flooded many fields and attracted notable local concentrations of Common Snipe; At Marston SF 36 Aug 21st and 20 Sept 8th, Alkborough Flats 30 Aug 11th, Donna Nook 12 Aug 16th, Kirton Quarries 13 Aug 18th, Baston Fen 19 Aug 18th, 21 Oct 11th, Kirkby pits 30 Sept 26th, East Halton Skitter 27 Sept 28th, Bardney 15 Aug 16th, New Holland 29 Nov 26th, Winteringham Haven 12 Nov 28th. Even these numbers however, are low compared to the flocks in excess of 100 and sometimes up to 2-300 which occurred in the 1970's. A partially albinistic bird was at North Kelsey Moor Oct 17-18th.

**Woodcock; *Scolopax rusticola*.**

Widespread woodland breeding bird with coastal passage Oct-Dec and winter visitor in variable numbers.

Slightly better coverage of roding birds was obtained from woods in the north of the county, in association with the Nightjar survey, but reports received from only two woods south of Horncastle are disappointing. Maximum counts were 20+ Laughton Forest, 15 Broughton Woods May 19th, 10 Rowland Plantation (Keb Wood). A report of several Bardney Forest, 1+ Linwood Warren, 1? Kirkby Moor, 1+ Twigmoor, 6 Nocton Wood, 5 Bourne Wood and 3 Temple Wood. A small visible coastal arrival Oct-Dec with 1-2 Gib Pt and 5 there Dec 5th, singles Saltfleetby Oct 25th, Tetney 29th, Theddlethorpe 2 on 26th with 6 along 400m of dune there 30th including 3 in off the sea and one arriving from high overhead on Nov 8th when one came in off the sea at Saltfleet and another 2 Theddlethorpe 14th.

**Black-tailed Godwit; *Limosa limosa*.**

Bred 1940-42, 1951, 1974, 1979; Scarce in spring more numerous autumn July-Oct with wintering flocks in Wash and recently on Humber.

Two wintering flocks now occur in the county, the larger one at Holbeach Marsh numbered 300 Jan 25th decreasing to 145 Feb 9th and 100 22nd but only 3 March 22nd although 31 there April 19th may have been on spring passage. The other increasing flock at Pyewipe peaked at 133 Jan 17th to mid Feb with 100 Feb 17th, 120 March 3rd and 150 30th but only 6 by April 5th and one 11th. These wintering flocks are all presumed to be of the Icelandic race *L. islandica* as are the large autumn flocks at the same sites thus; 92 Hobeach Marsh Aug 2nd, 355 16th, 450 31st, 201 Sept 27th, 40 Oct 12th, 50 Nov 21st, 45 31st; At Pyewipe 57 Oct 30th, 88 by 31st, 116 Nov 5th, 105 25th and 75 Dec 15th. Elsewhere in spring 1 Baston

Fen March 15th, 6 west at Barton pits April 25th, 1 Read's Island 29th with 5 there on May 16th and 6 30th; also singles Gib Pt May 15th and Huttoft pit 24th. One Gib Pt June 13th. During July-Sept 1-6 on odd dates at Read's Island, Baston GP, Donna Nook, Covenham, North Cotes, Whisby and Bardney with 6 Tetney July 26th, 5 south Gib Pt 26th and a good passage at Huttoft pit/GC/fields with up to 8 Aug 13-Sept 13th and a max at Gib Pt of 15 Aug 29th, 17 Read's Island Sept 16th and October singles at North Cotes 1st, Huttoft pit 13th, 22nd, 28th and south at Gib Pt 27th. A flock of 15 Frampton Oct 23rd.

**Bar-tailed Godwit; *Limosa lapponica*.**

Highest numbers Aug-Oct; common in winter outer Humber & Wash; a few immatures summer.

Spring tide high totals at Gib Pt as follows; 1000 Feb, 260 March, 6500 by Aug 29th with 5500 Sept 26th and 2500 Oct 27th, 250 Nov 12th and 629 Dec 13th when 1274 were at Gedney Drove End. On the middle Humber up to 67 late April and a good May passage at South Ferriby with 24 on 15th, 35 27th and a late peak of 82 on 30th. Singles occurred inland at Swinderby May 23rd and Bardney 24th. Up to 36 summered at Read's Island and 40 Gib Pt June 24th. Low autumn totals of juveniles: with a max of just 30 South Ferriby Aug 2nd all being adults

**Whimbrel; *Numenius phaeopus*.**

Scarce to common passage migrant April-June and July-Oct; odd winter records; rare inland.

Simultaneous first arrivals at Tetney, Moulton Marsh and Gib Pt on April 17th, 5 noted on the Wash count of 19th and one East Halton 20th. An obvious movement late in the month when 18 Saltfleetby 23rd, 31 Gib Pt 25th and 43 south there 27th, 19 Tetney 26th, 20 North Killingholme 28th and 28 Grainthorpe 29th. May produced some good passage counts on odd dates at Gib Pt but the only notable numbers elsewhere being 7 Wainfleet 11th and 26 Tetney 10th. At Gib Pt 42 south 3rd, 90 north 10th, 25 18th and 19 north 19th with birds lingering there into early June, 5 on 2nd and one to 7th. By the month end 2 returning birds were at Tetney 29th. Passage accelerated in July; 3 near Mablethorpe and 50 Witham Mouth 5th with a fresh juvenile at New Holland 14th, 10 Tetney, 57 Holbeach Range all 19th, 50 south Theddlethorpe 26th and a total of 105 south Gib Pt 25-31st. Highest single flocks passed in August with 80 Holbeach Range 15th, 73 north Saltfleetby 23rd, 50 Tetney 2nd, 70 on 18th and daily max at Gib Pt of 31 on 3rd, 51 15th, 22 North Cotes 9th, 23 south 21st. A good number of birds were heard or seen inland during the autumn with 4 south-west at South Witham July 24th, 1 Cadeby 25th, 2 Barton Aug 1st and 5 on 9th with 9 Winteringham Haven 5th, 1 north at Louth 16th and 19 south at Nocton Fen 25th. Passage was mostly over by September with 8 Gib Pt 14th and the last few Gib Pt 28th, East Halton Skitter 26-28th and Grainthorpe Oct 9th.

**Eurasian Curlew; *Numenius arquata*.**

Rare breeder, declined; Common on coasts all year with passage March-April and July-Oct; fewer inland.

See Humber and Wash counts for early winter totals. A total of 87 departed high to the east at Barton with much calling on April 21st in half an hour, a regular period for departing winter visitors. The flock at Read's Island/South Ferriby numbered 56



June 16th but increased to 140 by 26th peaking at 352 July 19th then falling to 180 Aug 2-18th before a later rise to 370 21st then levelling out to 100-135 Sept-Dec. The Goxhill Marsh flock were feeding on inland stubbles Oct-Nov with 110-150 birds present but up to 250 in Dec. By December many birds were feeding inland on stubbles and wet fields; The Read's Island flock mostly flighted down the Ancholme Valley and at Marston SF there were 19 in August and up to 35 to the year end. The only reports of breeding were of a single pair at Fulbeck and 3 pairs on Read's Island.

**Spotted Redshank; *Tringa erythropus*.**

Common on passage in Wash June-Oct; variable numbers elsewhere April-Nov with signs of recent decline; rare in winter.

Another poor showing during the first six months of the year but some improvement during the autumn. The regular wintering bird was again noted at Cleethorpes-Humberston Feb 7-8th and probably the same bird at Tetney 23-24th with March singles at Gib Pt 16th and Wrangle 22nd. There were only six spring migrants; in April at Grainthorpe 10th, Moulton Marsh 19th and in May North Cotes 3rd, Saltfleetby 8th, Tetney 9th and Kirkby pits 24th. Returning non-breeders in June at Gib Pt 11th and 25-28th with 12 Holbeach Marsh by 22nd but only two birds noted in July at Tetney 5th and Gib Pt 25th. Autumn migrants were regular at Gib Pt with 1-2 from Aug 9th-Sept 29th and 3 Aug 18th, 4 31st and singles Oct 11-25th. There were a series of records from Grainthorpe Haven with 1-2 Aug 29-Sept 25th and 4 26th with 6 on 29th. Elsewhere 4 singles at Tetney/North Cotes Aug 18th, 30th, Sept 2nd and 18th, at Huttoft pit 2 Aug 10th-13th, 2 Sept 1st, 2 10th, 1 25th, Howdens Pullover Sept 13th, Frampton Sept 20th, Holbeach Marsh 3 27th, Witham Mouth Aug 16th and inland Little Bytham Aug 18-19th with 2 juvs 21st, Messingham Aug 31-Sept 7th, Covenham 24th, Whisby Sept 6th, a juv South Ferriby 16th, Alkborough Flats Sept 8th, juv Barton pits Oct 2nd and other October birds at Tetney 11th and Humberston 24th and one winter bird at North Cotes Dec 19th.

**Common Redshank; *Tringa totanus*.**

Coastal breeder with a few pairs inland; good numbers in winter and on passage. Up to 100 at Gib Pt Jan-March, 100 in one flock Holbeach Marsh Feb 22nd and 474 there July 19th. The well documented population at South Ferriby/Read's Island remained around 100-130 July-mid Aug with a sample count of 60 birds on Aug 10th revealing 59 adults and just one juv. There were 176 there by Aug 26th and 117 Sept 9th but only 78 Oct 19th, 129 Dec 20th. Further down the Humber in Oct 40 at Barton, 100 Dec 22nd, and 110 South Killingholme Oct. A high count of 305 Donna Nook Oct 18th, 214 Saltfleetby 26th and 700 at Pyewipe Dec 13th. Inland up to 17 were at Cadney Res in January, 8 Dec 3rd and a max of 6 at Bardney May 30th with 10 Langtoft common/pits Jan-March. Breeding birds were poorly documented with the only reports received from the coast being 3 pairs at Pyes Hall and none reported from the Wash! In the South Ferriby/Read's Island area 3 pairs bred on the cement works, 6 pairs on adjacent shore and an estimated 20 pairs on the Island with 3-4 pairs at east Halton Skitter. The only other report was from Marston SF where one pair reared 3 young.

**Marsh Sandpiper; *Tringa stagnatilis*. \***

A superb summer plumaged bird found at Bardney pits on May 18th (KDD) flew off but had returned by early on 19th and was seen by a large number of observers. Only the 3rd county record. Accepted by BBRC.

**Common Greenshank; *Tringa nebularia*.**

Scarce to common passage migrant April-June and July-Nov; rare in winter. Not noted until April 20th at Covenham Res followed by 2 at Gib Pt 21st, Tetney 22nd, North Killingholme 25th and South Ferriby 26th. The main spring passage as usual was in May with a peak around 14-24th when there were day totals of 8 Pyes Hall 17th with 9 on 24th, 6 Thurlby Sand pits 14th, 5 Gib Pt 16th and 9 on 17th. Other inland birds were at Barton 13-14th, Kirton quarries 15th, Bardney 1-3 23rd-June 2nd, Whisby May 19th and 31st and Little Bytham 2 on 26th. Already returning by June 24th, Tetney, with a large concentration on Holbeach Marsh on July 19th when 86 were counted. That apart it was a fairly mediocre autumn although 46 south at Gib Pt Aug 30th was a good count and up to 15 were regular there Aug 1st-Sept 29th with 3 Oct 8th and the last 11th. Other peak autumn site counts were 8 Donna Nook July 14th, 7 Tetney and 19 Grainthorpe Aug 31st, 4 Covenham 10th and 23-24th, 4 Alkborough Flats 14th, 6 Saltfleetby 19th, 8 Marston SF 27th and in September 27 Horseshoe Point pit 2nd, 6 Tetney 18th, 4 Covenham 2nd, a flock of 5 south at New Holland 23rd, and the only other October record was 3 Grainthorpe 9th.

**Green Sandpiper; *Tringa ochropus*.**

Recorded all months with peak passage in March-May and June-Sept. Noted in every month with 1-2 wintering birds at Swanpool, Croxby pond, Langtoft, Covenham, Little Bytham, Baston Fen, Risby Warren, Witham sand pit, North Hykeham, Witham Mouth, Bourne South Fen, Thurlby pits, Tetney Blow Wells and Bardney in the Jan-March period and Thurlby pits, the Hobhole, Bardney, North Hykeham, Marston SF up to 4, Langtoft and Apex pit during Nov- Dec. Less than 20 birds on spring passage April-May mostly coastal with the usual early autumn build up under way in late June; early peaks in late June of 8 Bardney 27th, 8 Gib Pt 28- 29th, 7 Kirkby pits 28th. Key sites during July-Sept/October were Bardney 10 July 24th, 19 Aug 12th, 8 Sept 6th, North Hykeham tip 10 July 18th, 12 Aug 5th, 1-2 Oct-Dec and at Gib Pt 8 July 15- 19th, 16 Aug 22nd, 8 Sept 23rd, Kirkby pits 7 Aug 10th, Horseshoe Point slurry pit 5 Aug 14th, 5 Sept 28th, Messingham 9 Aug 24th, 6 on 31st, Somercotes Haven 7 Aug 9th, Little Bytham 6 Aug 12th, 4 on 14th and a further 27 records Aug 15-Sept 20th, Goxhill Marsh 5 juvs Aug 15th. Additionally 1-3 on odd dates at 16 other localities Aug-Sept and in October singles at Gib Pt, Pyewipe 10th, Tetney 21-23rd, Deeping St James 1-4 feeding on flooded fields 4-26th, North Kelsey Moor 1-2 throughout Oct-Nov.

**Wood Sandpiper; *Tringa glareola*.**

Scarce on passage late April-June and July-Oct; large numbers 1956 & 1963. Just 6 spring migrants and 14 in autumn. The first at Gib Pt May 4th then one south there 14th followed by a simultaneous arrival on 19th at Bardney to 24th, and Kirton quarries with possibly the latter bird at Messingham 20th and one North Hykeham tip 19th. All autumn birds were in August; 3 at Huttoft pit 10th with 2 Gib Pt 8-10th

and one 17th, Bardney 15-31st, Little Bytham 2 on 19th and a 'mass arrival' on 23rd at Saltfleetby, Skidbrooke, Donna Nook and Marston SF the latter staying until 30th with a final juv at South Ferriby 26th.

**Common Sandpiper; *Actitis hypoleucos*.**

Bred 1979; Scarce to fairly common on passage April-June and July-Oct; odd winter records.

Following the joint firsts, 3 at Frampton, singles at Toft Newton and Covenham April 19th there were a further 17 in April including 8 at Covenham 23rd and at least 50 birds were seen in May but a max of only 5 at Covenham 3rd and 15-16th and 8 Tetney 24th with 3 Cadney 7th. A late spring bird at Deeping St James June 6th only just preceded the first returning birds at Cadney 22nd and Gib Pt 2 on 26th. Notable gatherings in July were 9 Covenham 19th-Aug 26th, 5 Tetney 26th, 4 Cadney 27th, 10 Winteringham-South Ferriby 22nd, with most passing in August; a peak of only 15 at Covenham 10th, 4 Barton 6th, 5 Winteringham 2- 10th, 14 Donna Nook and 5 Tetney 16th, 11 Bardney 12th, 9 North Hykeham tip 6th, 4 Cadney 27th, 15 Holbeach Raze 28th, 8 Gib Pt 24th. Fewer in September with 6 Bardney 2nd, one North Kelsey Moor 27th-Oct 8th and others in October at Gib Pt 1st, South Ferriby 1st, Covenham 8th with 2 on 11th and the last there 20th.

**Turnstone; *Arenaria interpres*.**

Fairly common on coasts July-April/May with notable spring and autumn passage flocks.

Wash counts totalled 288 Jan 25th, 202 Feb 22nd, 333 March 22nd and 631 April 19th reflecting the important spring passage of this species through the county. The yearly maxima at Gib Pt was only 15 however, on July 15th. The large population in the Grimsby Docks-Humberston area was not counted regularly. Two other areas on the middle Humber at Barton and New Holland held regular flocks. At Barton a peak of 56 Jan 6th, 54 Feb 9th with 25 May 9th and at New Holland 56 Jan 7th, 41 March 4th. Autumn passage at Barton increased the flock to 30 Aug 1st, 77 on 2nd, 72 18th numbers then falling to a wintering population of around 32 with 24-31 at New Holland often feeding on flooded fields with Golden Plovers in Nov-Dec. Inland birds were noted at Toft Newton May 10th, Covenham 13th, Kirton quarries 14th, Bardney 22nd with 2 on 24th and Covenham again Aug 10th.

**Red-necked Phalarope; *Phalaropus lobatus* \***

Rare May-Nov mostly juvs Aug-Oct; [LBR 1984]

Four birds in one year is a good county total. A summer plumaged female stayed at Kirkby-on-Bain pits from June 22-25th (PT et al) and three autumn birds occurred; at Gib Pt August 30th (RKW,KMW), a juvenile there October 7-11th (KMW et al) and inland a juvenile on slurry ponds at North Kelsey Moor September 20-23rd(RHarvey, JTH).

**Pomarine Skua; *Stercorarius pomarinus*.**

Scarce to fairly common Sept-Nov, rare Dec-Jan & May; 300+ 1985 & 1988; highest day counts 74 24/9/1988, 92 29/9/1988.

A generally poor autumn for all seabirds resulted in low numbers of all four skuas. Single adults were off Huttoft Aug 8th and Gib Pt 22nd with a juv at Gib Pt Sept 27th and all the remaining records in October-November. Off Huttoft/Anderby at least 7

south on 4th, 1 5th, 2 north 19 south 10th, 2 11th, 3 south 31st, one north off Winthorpe 10th, 2 North Cotes 11th and off Gib Pt 2 north 4th, 1 7th, 6 north 9th, 7 on 11th and 1 18th with 2 adults on the beach between there and Skegness 23-31st, one adult and 1 juv Nov 1st and 1 adult to 6th. In the Wash 3 imms Witham Mouth Oct 4th.

**Arctic Skua; *Stercorarius parasiticus*.**

Regular/common July-Oct, rare Nov-Jan & April-June; Highest day counts 423 4/9/1984, 386 29/9/1991.

The only spring birds were seen off Gib Pt with 2 April 16th and 5 north 19th and Huttoft May 16th. First of the autumn was at Humberston July 4th and Tetney 5th. No more than 12 recorded on any one day in August and the only September record of note 37 south at Gib Pt 23rd. More numerous in October and on the 4th at least 40 off Huttoft/Anderby and 55 south at Gib Pt where later totals of 20 north 9th and 10th. Late birds in November were 2 off Saltfleetby 8th and 2 Huttoft 15th with singles at Gib Pt Nov 6th, 12th, 13th. Up the Humber singles at Barton Sept 12th, Read's Island Oct 1st, 6 south-west high inland at Barton Oct 3rd and 4 there on 25th.

**Long-tailed Skua; *Stercorarius longicaudus*. \***

Rare to scarce July-Oct; exceptional recent years 1976, 1985 (67), 1988 (66), 1991; highest day count 26 29/9/1991; [LBR 1988].

Just 5 singles all during a two day spell in early October; one north at Gib Pt 4th (GWA) and single juvs off Huttoft (GPC) and Anderby Creek (SR) and Witham Mouth (SK) all 4th and Huttoft 5th (KEW).

**Great Skua; *Stercorarius skua*.**

Scarce-fairly common July-Nov, rare Dec-March; highest day count 216 29/9/1991. Surprisingly recorded in higher numbers than Arctic Skua on some autumn days. Up to 4 in late August-September to 23rd when 39 moved south at Gib Pt. The peak day was October 4th with 45 south at Gib Pt but a total of at least 126 south off Huttoft/Anderby during the day and 101 at the Witham Mouth with 21 there 6th and 1 Holbeach Range 14th. Up to 5 off Gib Pt to Oct 25th and 2 Nov 13th. Up the Humber 5 flew off high inland to the south-west at Barton on Oct 3rd and one was at New Holland Nov 15th. One inland at Covenham Res Aug 30th.

**Mediterranean Gull; *Larus melanocephalus*.**

First recorded 1950; hybrid pair 1991; all months with up to 20 per year

A series of records in the Birchwood, Thorpe, Apex area of Lincoln early in the year involved at least 2 first winter birds with one from Jan 8-15th then 2 on 13th and one to Feb 29th followed in April by a second winter 5-8th and first summer 17th. Further first winter birds were at Thurlby pits Feb 21-23rd and Toft Newton 9th. An adult was at Pyewipe Jan 19th and the adult male had returned to Messingham on March 15th; it again paired with a Black-headed Gull and a juv hybrid was seen to approach it for food on June 23rd but no further sign was seen of any juvs and the adult was last reported there on July 13th. A first- summer at Barton pits April 4th, adults at Ludborough and North Cleethorpes July 5th and North Cotes 31st. In the Wash a first summer was at Holbeach Marsh May 15th and there were a series of records from Gib Pt; first summer May 30th, June 13th, 17th, 22nd, 23rd, with 3,

two first summer and a second summer 27th, and 2 is 28-29th with one 30th. Following this series of birds there were further reports in Aug-Oct at Gib Pt, Anderby and Huttoft which presumably refer to some of the same individuals. At Gib Pt a sec summer moulting to adult winter Aug 22nd and 31st, a first summer moulting to sec winter Huttoft Aug 9th and then an adult there 19th and 23rd. In September a second winter at Gib Pt 7th, another sec win with extensive black in the primaries at Skegness 13th and then at Gib Pt 14th and 18th and in October a sec win north on 7th and adult south 15th while at Huttoft/Anderby adult Oct 2nd, a sec win and adult on Oct 4th with the sec win to 25th, also at Chapel pit 22nd and a new first winter Huttoft pit 18th. Further birds occurred at Deeping St James (the first for this site) adult on Oct 4th, and a sec win in the Apex roost Nov 29th to late December.

**Little Gull; *Larus minutus*.**

Very variable numbers April-June, July-Nov, rare but regular Dec- March.

No early winter records. Spring passage was weak starting in April with an adult east at Barton 12th, adult and first summer Covenham 15-17th with 3-4 first summer birds May 17-June 25th and probably the same 4 at Pyes Hall May 31st. A party of 7 first summer birds at Barton pits and one Kirkby pits May 16th with one Barrow Haven 27th, South Ferriby 30th, Kirton Quarries 11th and adult and first summer Messingham 14th. Single first summer birds at Gib Pt June 2nd and Kirkby pits 13th. Up the Humber 2 ads at Barton July 10th and a first-summ/sec win 16th with the same Read's Island 27th and Barton Aug 1st with a juv east there 9th and sec win Oct 8th. A series of records came from Covenham July 29-September; adult & sec win increasing to a max of 6 Aug 24th. On the coast, 1 North Cotes July 30th, off Huttoft-Anderby adult Aug 8th, singles there Sept 11th & 13th and 36 north Oct 4th, 8 south Nov 15th. At Tetney 2 Oct 11th and 2 Nov 15th, and an adult Donna Nook Oct 25th. A juv Gib Pt Aug 29th then a series there in Sept-Oct with 11 south Sept 14-24th and a peak of 6 on 24th then in October 28 during 4-25th with 14 on 25th, 2 north Nov 29th and 1 Dec 31st. A first-summ at Whisby Aug 7th, a juv Holbeach Range Aug 28th and one Burton Stather Sept 7th.

**Sabine's Gull; *Larus sabini*. \***

Rare July-Oct; About 50 records to 1991.

An adult moved south at Gib Pt on July 19th (PMT).

**Black-headed Gull; *Larus ridibundus*.**

Abundant all year; 5-10,000 pair Twigmoor 1840's; 5000 pair 1909; County census 1938 6000 pair, 2000 pair 1958, 6,100 pair 1973; Kirton/Frampton 22,000 pair 1974. The usual notable concentration of birds at Pyewipe/Cleethorpes in January with 10,000+ 19th and 15,000+ 21st. Of the breeding colonies 90 pairs bred at Bardney, 30+ pair Whisby and at Messingham young fledged 7-10 days earlier than in 1990 and at least 170 fledged juveniles were on the wing June 26th with another 20-30 unfledged. No figures came from Frampton/Kirton but there were reported to have been few fledged young due to fox predation. There were two high autumn counts reported at Winteringham Haven where 10,000 gathered late evening Aug 29th and Gib Pt with 7000 in September. The usual build up at Pyewipe late in the year totalled 10,000+ Dec 13th.



**Ring-billed Gull; *Larus delawarensis*. \***

A first-summer bird at Whisby pits from April 17-19th (KDD,DJJ,SPB et al) was only the third County record but the second at this locality.

**Common Gull; *Larus canus*.**

Very large wintering population and passage totals.

Despite the tens of thousands of birds which are present in the county in the autumn and winter periods the only reported counts of note were of 2500 at Gib Pt Sept 24th and 2000 Pyes Hall Dec 20th.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull; *Larus fuscus*.**

Rare Dec-Feb; Passage March-May; summering non-breeders June- July; passage Aug-Nov; *L.f.intermedius/fuscus* occur summer/autumn.

The regular scatter of early winter birds mostly singles with up to 4 in the Apex roost, an adult and 2 iw at Hatcliffe/Croxby Jan 6th, adult Winteringham 18th, one south at Gib Pt Feb 9th and 2 Thurlby sand pit 13th. Spring passage peaked at Apex pit with 30 March 14th and 50 April 7th, 32 on Swinderby airfield May 15th. The build up of summering non-breeders was under way by June with 65 North Hykeham tip 11th, 110 there 29th, 50 Gib Pt 29th and 200 off Read's Island 30th. Numbers peaked in July and early August with North Hykeham tip 160 July 18th, 150 Aug 10th, Thorpe tip 60 July 26th and 400 Aug 5th, Kirkby-on-Bain tip 54 Aug 28th, Boston tip 100 Aug 8th. At Gib Pt 50 Aug 18th with 90 Sept 24th and up to 20 to Oct 31st. Many birds of the races *intermedius/fuscus* passed through in August with 3 adults and a juv at Barton 19th and of 43 at Huttoft pit Sept 11th 15 were adult *fuscus/intermedius* while another 50 birds flew south offshore the same day. A late high total of 100 were in the Apex roost Oct 25th and 15 still there Dec 2nd but only up to 9 thereafter.

**Herring Gull; *Larus argentatus*.**

Bred 1947; Common in winter most Jan-March;

The main winter sites continue to be Pyewipe/Cleethorpes, the coast and inland rubbish tips. At the former site 1000 birds at Pyewipe on Jan 19th was made up of 95% adults and an obvious increase then occurred with 4000 Cleethorpes 21st. At Gib Pt 400 present Jan 13th and 450 flew south Feb 16th with 250-400 March 29-30th. Inland an early maximum of 600 Winterton tip Jan 4th declined rapidly and few large gulls were noted there later in the winter possibly due to control methods adopted by the local council. A summer count of 157 at Covenham on July 29th was note worthy and 20,000 roosted at Frampton Marsh Aug 17th and up to 3000 were at Boston tip in October.

[ A gull with yellow legs at North Hykeham tip on Feb 16th (SPB) was outside the normal pattern of occurrence for *L.cachinnans* and was possibly *L.a.omissus* as was an adult at South Killingholme Sept 18th. This race is still regarded as a race of Herring Gull even by the authorities which split Yellow-legged Gull as *L.cachinnans*.]

**Yellow-legged Gull; *Larus cachinnans***

*L.c.michahellis* 2 ringing recoveries; most occur in July-Aug.

There were an exceptional number of records of *L.c.michahellis* during the summer/autumn all birds identified being adult or fourth summer and most being

found with summering flocks of Lesser Black-backed Gulls. One Gib Pt Aug 8-9th; At Thorpe/Hykeham tips Lincoln 2-3 adults July 7-Aug 5th; One Gainsborough tip July 16-23rd, adult Messingham July 1st and 4th, Kirkby-on-Bain tip July 19th, Aug 5-16th, 21st and Sept 5th (2+ birds in total), Boston tip 2 Aug 8th, Whisby Oct 10th and Tattershall Nov 9th.

**Iceland Gull; *Larus glaucoides*. \***

Rare/scarce Dec-early May, most on passage March-April.

A first winter bird feeding on Winterton tip Jan 14-19th roosted at Winteringham Haven on at least 18th (GPC,JTH). A first winter in the Apex roost on Feb 16th (DJJ,KDD,ACS) was found feeding on North Hykeham tip on 17th. A second winter on Winterton tip Feb 23rd (JTH) and 29th (CN) and a first winter at Apex pit April 4th and North Hykeham tip 5th (KDD,ACS et al).

L.g.kumlieni An adult in the Apex roost on the evening of December 18th (KDD) was the first county occurrence. [see article in this report.

**Glaucous Gull; *Larus hyperboreus*.**

Regular winter Nov-April, most March-April; rare summer; 38 in 1988

An unaged bird at Gib Pt Jan 3rd and adult at Pyewipe Jan 19th and same bird Cleethorpes 21st with possibly same Tetney Feb 9th. Inland a first winter feeding at Hykeham and Thorpe tips and roosting at Apex pit from Feb 11th-April 5th with a third winter Thorpe tip Feb 5th and third winter Winterton tip 17th where a first/second winter was present Feb 29th and first winter March 21st. A first-winter at Moulton tip Feb 18th and a first winter at Barton pits Feb 9th with another north off Gib Pt March 18th and adult west at North Killingholme April 19th. The 10-11 birds recorded is well down on the average for the late 1970-80's.

**Great Black-backed Gull; *Larus marinus*.**

Common winter Sept-April; immatures summer.

The only notable counts submitted were of 300 at Winterton tip Jan 4th but few there later in the first winter period and 450 at Pywipie on Jan 7th of which 95% were adult. Two high autumn counts of 500 Gib Pt Sept 24th, 250 there Oct 13th, 150 Nov with 105 Donna Nook Sept 20th.

**Kittiwake; *Rissa tridactyla*.**

Variable numbers offshore all months, most July-Dec; day max 6000 south 29/10/1974.

Odd birds noted on the coast but the only notable early winter record was of 20 south at Gib Pt March 6th; An inland movement with 6 at Whisby May 10th and 28 west at Read's Island May 16th. Only small numbers offshore in the early autumn but 6 at East Halton Skitter Aug 8th and 80 south at Gib Pt Sept 23rd. Some large numbers were brought down by the gales in October thus off Gib Pt; 60 north Oct 4th, 253 north 9th, 70 10th and 155 south 25th; Off Huttoft/Anderby 75 on 4th, 120 11th, 260 north in one and a half hours am on 12th and at Donna Nook 200 south in one hour 25th. In the Wash 37 Witham Mouth Oct 4th and 400 there Nov 29th. A small influx up the Humber in a strong south-easterly on Nov 15th with 15+ at Barton and 8 east at New Holland, and later 29 Barton 29th.

**Caspian Tern; *Sterna caspia*. \***

Vagrant; 7 birds May - July and Sept.

An adult was present at Messingham from at least 18-35hrs to 18-40hrs on June 23rd (JTH) being the third record from this inland locality.

Accepted by BBRC.

**Sandwich Tern; *Sterna sandvicensis*.**

Bred 1950 6 pairs; Scarce March-May, common June-Oct; March 26th-Nov 12th First spring migrant was one north at Gib Pt April 15th with up to 5 there in May. Inland an exceptional record at Messingham May 14th. The coastal build up of post breeding and failed breeders began in June with 2 North Cotes 7th, 15 Saltfleetby 21st and a max of 35 Gib Pt from 14th. A good autumn for numbers of terns in general on the coast with some good sized feeding flocks and some high roost counts. At Tetney/North Cotes 250 max July 19th with 200+ Aug 18th, at Donna Nook 151 Aug 16th. At Gib Pt a max of 235 July 30th, 280 Aug 22nd but 120 south 30th and 80 south Sept 23rd, 55 24th and 200 27th being late for such large numbers. At Saltfleetby a flock of 300 July 19th, 140 Aug 1st and 120 21st and off Huttoft/Truethorpe a feeding flock of 150 Aug 23rd at least. Up the Humber 3 were at Barton Sept 6th and one South Ferriby 12th. A few lingered to early October on the coast with the last off Anderby 18th.

Two colour-ringed birds were located on the coast with one seen North Cotes on July 19th and again on Aug 21st having been ringed as a pullus on the Farne Island in 1985 and the other seen at Saltfleetby on Aug 21st again rung on the Farnes as a pullus in 1975. An old colour ringing recovery concerns an adult seen at Saltfleetby on August 28th 1975 which had most probably been rung on Coquet Island in 1968. The presence of birds from the Farne Islands gives hope that 'elsie' the Lesser Crested Tern may pay us a visit soon!

**Common Tern; *Sterna hirundo*.**

Census 1973 120 pairs with 45 inland; coastal decline since; common on passage April-May, July-Oct; 700 7/8/1971; 500 26/8/1991; April 6th-Nov 1st.

Apparently few noted in April following the first at Whisby 19th but a party of 16 Surfleet May 24th and 6 Bardney 18th. At Deeping St James 6 present on May 3rd but none bred due to high water levels in summer. At Barton pits a pair reared three young, on a floating raft, which fledged on July 13th but remained in the area until Aug 13th with an adult to Sept 8th. At Grainthorpe a pair present May 20th but did not breed and a pair at Donna Nook attempted but were unsuccessful. At other sites 12 pairs reared 14+ young at Tattershall, one pair were at Kirkby-on-Bain pits, 50 pairs on the outer trail bank (mouth of river Nene), 30-40 pairs at Baston/Langtoft rearing 40+ young and at Whisby 20 pairs reared 50 young there being 75 there July 19th with 35 juvs and a pair with small juvs still there Aug 16th. Dispersing inland breeders gathered at Thurlby pits 21 July 28th. On the Humber at Barton in addition to the breeding birds another 10 were present Aug 16th and 14 flew west 31st with a further 36 west at East Halton Aug 8th inland 8 Grimsthorpe 30th, 15 Deeping St James 28th with 7 to Sept 2nd. There were also good numbers on the

coast in the autumn with 230 North Cotes July 30th, 250 roosting there Aug 18th when 76 roosted at Humberston, and 150 North Cotes 31st. Off Gib Pt 114 flew south Aug 6-10th with 46 15th and 301 south 28-31st followed in September by 320 7th, 275 8th, 100 9th, 190 11th and 45 23rd. In the Wash 200 were at the Witham Mouth Aug 30th. At least 34 were off Huttoft Sept 11th and late birds in October were at Barton 3rd, Baston Fen 11-12th and Mablethorpe 15th.

#### **Arctic Tern; *Sterna paradisaea*.**

Bred 1954 & 1956; Variable spring passage April-June; scarce but some large flocks June-Oct; 3,500 20/8/1982; April 17th-Nov 4th.

An early bird at Whisby pits April 17-19th then 2 at Gib Pt 27th before a small May passage the exception being 45 north at Thurlby/Swinderby May 24th; At Gib Pt 8 north May 2nd, 1 N 8th, 3 E 27th, 2 at Shep Whites 1st, Boultham Mere 5th, 5 E Barton 14th, Covenham 13th and 18th with 2 Grainthorpe 15th. Very few were reported during the autumn period with just odd birds in July and August apart from 8 west at East Halton Aug 8th, a max of 6 Gib Pt Aug and 10 Sept 12th, 5 Witham Mouth Aug 30th. Single juvs were at Covenham Aug 25th and North Killingholme 26th, Donna Nook Sept 20th and one west at Barton Oct 8th was the last of the year.

#### **Little Tern; *Sterna albibrons*.**

Census 1971 130 pairs, 1974 96, 1976 150, 1977 205, 1979 150, 1980 140, 1989 109; also passage April-June & July-Aug; April 12th-Oct 19th.

First at breeding sites were at Tetney April 19th and Gib Pt 22nd with maxima at the latter of 8 April, 40 May 29th and 80 June 15-18th. A total of 44 pairs bred at Gib Pt but many young died in July due to bad weather although at least 10 fledged from first broods. At Tetney 12 present by May 10th with 80 27th and 42 nests containing 92 eggs by 31st; 40-45 pairs were present in July and 20 juvs fledged mid July; 12 adults and 2 juvs still present July 30th and the last 2 juvs seen Aug 14th. A further 2 pairs bred without success at Saltfleetby and 4 pairs at Skidbrooke again without success, 12-15 pairs at Frampton Marsh and 11 pairs on the outer trail bank (Nene Mouth). At both Tetney and Gibraltar Point Merlins were involved in chick predation in early July while bad weather at this time also accounted for more chick deaths at most sites. In the Wash 2 at Shep Whites May 13th, 6 Witham Mouth Aug 28th. At Gib Pt 50 were present to July 15th with 33 on 29th and the last Aug 16th when 4 including 3 juvs were at Humberston. The last of the year after a long gap was at Gib Pt on Sept 12th.

#### **Black Tern; *Chlidonias niger*.**

Very variable numbers April-June & July-Oct; 390 on 2/5/1990; April 12th-Nov 10th. About 74 birds were noted on spring passage in 2-3 obvious waves. On May 14th one Baston Fen, 2 Kirton Quarries, 17 Messingham, 16 Barton pits, 5 Covenham, 6 there 17th with another arrival on 18th when 10 Tattershall, 5 Kirkby-on-Bain, 2 Thorpe Lake, 2 Covenham, 2 Messingham to 19th when 6 present, 6 east at South Ferriby and 4 Barrow Haven; 4 West Ashby 19th, 3 Ashbeyville 23rd, singles Bardney and Covenham with 5 Kirkby all 24th. First autumn birds were one Gib Pt, a juv Covenham both July 29th and a juv Barton pits 30th. A reasonable autumn passage with over 250 birds recorded. Principal sites were Covenham Res up to 12 Aug 18-Sept 8th with an additional 15 in briefly Aug 31st, Holbeach Marsh up to

26 Aug 1st-Sept 16th, Witham Mouth a min of 69 Aug 9th, 10 16th, 11 28th, 11 Sept 27th; At Gib Pt 1-3 Aug-Sept 16th, singles at North Cotes Aug 12th and 17th, Anderby 5 south 22nd, Humberston, Donna Nook and Winterton tip 16th, Cadney Res 17- 18th, Bardney 8th, Deeping St James and Grimsthorpe 30th, Barton 2nd with 3 on 31st and 7 Whisby 8th. In September one Messingham 11th, 20th, Cadney 12th, Thurlby pits 13th, 33 south off Huttoft 11th, 1 24th, 5 south Donna Nook 27th with the last at Barton pits and Huttoft both Oct 3rd.

**White-winged Black Tern; *Chlidonias leucopterus*. \***

Vagrant 22 birds May-June and Aug-Oct.

A juvenile found at Covenham Res on Aug 23rd stayed until September 3rd (GPC,ACS,DJJ et al). It was the 23rd county record but the first since a similarly aged bird also at Covenham in 1977. Of the birds aged to date 15 have been juveniles and 6 adults.

Accepted by BBRC.

**Common Guillemot; *Uria aalge*.**

Variable numbers offshore all year, most July-Nov; wreck Feb 1983 [LBR 1983]  
At Donna Nook 31 flew north on May 29th an unusual date. Some large numbers were present offshore during Oct-Nov leading to good counts at Gib Pt 23 north Oct 4th and 53 south Nov 1st. A total of 50 off Huttoft October 11th when 200 moved north off Saltfleetby in one and a half hours. A total of 53 south off Gib Pt Nov 1st. A localised movement, associated with heavy rain and strong east-north-east winds on the coast, brought a total of at least 170 up the Humber to Barton-Barrow Haven from 11-00 to 15- 00 hrs on Nov 15th; On the same date 74 were off New Holland 12- 45hrs to 14-20hrs.

**Razorbill; *Alca torda*.**

Scarce offshore all months, most Sept-Dec; [LBR 1983]

In October the most obvious movement was of 7 north at Gib Pt 4th with 2 Anderby Creek the same day and 2 Huttoft 4th & 6th and later one Gib Pt Nov 1st and 2 off New Holland 15th.

**Little Auk; *Alle alle*.**

Scarce to common Oct-Nov with day max count of 1,000+ 2/11/1986. Rare winter/spring.

A very poor autumn for this species with just 9 birds recorded. The first a summer plumaged bird north off Anderby Creek Oct 12th with one south Gib Pt 18th and 2 there 24th then 2 south off Mablethorpe 25th. In November 2 flew north at Saltfleetby 8th and one picked up inland at Market Rasen on 14th was released the same day at Immingham. Two were at the Witham Mouth Dec 13th.

**Puffin; *Fratercula arctica*.**

Scarce offshore.

Just three records all in October; one north Gib Pt 4th an immature at Barton on 6th and one south Mablethorpe 15th.



**Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon; *Columba livia*.**

Common and widespread.

Mostly ignored by the birding public! A flock of 500 Barton to New Holland area Oct-Dec.

**Stock Dove; *Columba oenas*.**

Common resident and winter visitor.

Winter flocks of 50 at Winterton Jan 4th, 100 North Cotes 2nd with 20 Leadenham Feb 16th and 35 Brocklesby 14th. In the later year a roost of 100 Deeping St James Sept 28th-November with 300 there Dec 28th, 49 at Whisby Dec 12th and a roost count of 172 at Thornton Abbey wood 14th.

**Wood Pigeon; *Columba palumbus*.**

Common resident with huge winter flocks.

Reports received are no real reflection of the huge wintering population in the county. At Gib Pt there were 935 in Jan and 1000 at South Rauceby 5th with 2000+ Oxcombe valley 10th, 1000 Alkborough Flats Feb 8th. The Deeping St James roost held from 1- 2000 Sept-Dec. Birds arriving during the autumn included 379 north-west at Gib Pt Oct 10th, 800 there 16th with 550 Nov 12th, and 830 moving west at New Holland Nov 3rd. A flock of 1500 South Witham Nov 12th and 650 on rape fields at Roxton Dec 15th and a roost count of 1630 at Thornton Abbey wood 14th.

**Collared Dove; *Streptopelia decaocto*.**

Common and widespread with flocks up to 520 birds.

Most observers seem to ignore the presence of large flocks of this species which often occur in urban areas. The largest flock was again at New Holland grain terminal where 520 were counted in January and in the later part of the year 360+ Oct 1st, 450 Nov 3-6th and 400+ Dec 24th with 100 at Barton Nov 6th. An albino type at Read's Island July 11th and 45 at Haverholme Park Oct 5th.

**Turtle Dove; *Streptopelia turtur*.**

Declining summer visitor; spring and autumn passage; wintered 1966-67; April 11th-Nov 26th.

An obvious influx occurred in late April following the first at Winteringham-South Ferriby 21st with 2 Gib Pt 24th, Grimsthorpe 25th, 3 Tetney, 3 Deeping St Nicholas and one Frampton Marsh all 26th, Barton Deepdale 27th, 4 Saltfleetby 28th and 4 Grainthorpe 29th. The main visible passage in May was again poor with Gib Pt recording the only notable flocks of 65 12th, 100 22nd and 25 north at Theddlethorpe 15th. A pre-emigration concentration of mainly juveniles occurred at South Ferriby where the maximum count was 156 on Aug 26th. The only other autumn reports were of the last birds of the year in September with 4 Donna Nook 20th and singles Pyewipe and Saltfleetby 27th.

**Rose-ringed Parakeet; *Psittacula krameri* \***

One at Barton during November.

**Common Cuckoo; *Cuculus canorus*.**

Declining breeding summer visitor; April 4th-October 25th.

Very few April birds were found; Two at Gib Pt and 1 Whisby 21st being the first followed by Weelsby Woods 22nd, Messingham 23rd, Barton 25th and Spalding

NR and Saltfleetby 28th. Rufous females were seen on Nocton Fen May 17th (TK) and at East Halton Skitter on 26th (GPC) with one at Donna Nook in summer. Less than 10 juveniles were reported in July-August with the last at Marston SF and Tetney on 16th and one September bird at Billingborough 7th.

**Barn Owl; *Tyto alba*.**

Widespread but declining or stable breeder; estimate of 400 pair 1932 [LBR 1987]. Birds were noted at 35 localities during Jan-March and 13 April- June although proved breeding was reported from only 10 localities a pathetic reflection of a population of 300+ pairs noted in 1987. Reports from a mere 12 sites in Aug-December but 3 along 2km of roadside at Goxhill November 25th and 2-3 at Theddlethorpe December.

**Little Owl; *Athene noctua*.**

Declining and very local resident.

Breeding season records were received from 22 localities and records during Jan-April from a further 12. In the latter part of the year further records from Gib Pt Oct 24-29th, Coleby a pair Nov-Dec, one Flixborough Dec 13th and Branston Booths Dec 20th (a bird with only one eye).

**Tawny Owl; *Strix aluco*.**

Widespread and increasing resident.

On the coast one Winthorpe Oct 10th with the same? Skegness Oct 18th, one Chapel pit 13th and up to 3 in Theddlethorpe village December.

**Long-eared Owl; *Asio otus*.**

Local breeding resident; more widespread and numerous winter visitor and on passage March-April and Sept-Nov, numbers vary per year.

Early winter roosts of 1-2 birds were found at Gib Pt Jan-March with singles there on four days in April; the Hobhole roost held up to 10 in Jan, 7-8 in Feb with 4 in March; Brant-Witham 3-4 Jan-Feb; Whisby 2-3 Feb 17-March 19th; Bonby Carrs 1 to Jan 4th; Winteringham Haven 1-2 Jan 18-Feb 6th; Deeping St James 1 in Jan. In April one in Grimoldby lngs 30th. The only breeding records received being of 2 broods in Keb Wood and 2 broods Laughton Forest, one Brant Broughton June 22nd and a juvenile Nocton Delph and one Bilinghay both in July. [Again an incredibly poor reflection of what must be a widespread and extensive breeding species]. One in Blankney Fen Aug 4th and birds at late winter roosts 1-2 Winteringham Haven Oct 22-Nov 14th, 1-2 on the Hobhole Nov-Dec and the only other reports at Gib Pt Nov 6th and 12th, Immingham Dock 28th and Messingham Dec 22nd.

Two ringing recoveries were of note; One ringed at Ranskill Notts on May 8th 1990 was found with a broken wing at Scunthorpe on March 19th 1991 (Notts Bird Report 1991) and a female ringed at Theddlethorpe on Oct 27th 1991 was retrapped on the German Island of Heligoland on May 2nd 1992.

**Short-eared Owl; *Asio flammeus*.**

Rare breeder, 12 nests on Read's Island 1973; very variable numbers in winter.

An average early winter with about 36 birds during Jan-Feb, followed by an obvious passage of departing winter visitors in mid-late April along the coast. On the coast Jan-March up to 3 Tetney/North Cotes to Pyes Hall, 2 Saltfleet, 4 Gib Pt. In the

Wash mostly singles but 4 Gedney Feb 23rd, 4 Holbeach Range March 15th and 3 Frampton Jan-Feb. Inland during Jan-March singles Rothwell, Ewerby, Swineshead and North Killingholme with exceptionally up to 7 Timberland Fen and 5 Bonby Carrs, 2 Read's Island. Several April singles along the coast with 4 at Tetney/North Cotes 1st and 2-3 Gib Pt; in the Wash 4 Moulton Marsh 17th. Inland Deeping St Nicholas 7th, Holland Fen 22nd, Billingham Fen 8th and 22nd and South Cockerington 30th. May birds at East Halton 2 on 2nd, Grainthorpe 3rd, Cleethorpes CP 3 on 5th, Tetney 2 on 10th, Cadney 10th, Donna Nook 13th, Gib Pt to 15th, Pyes Hall 15th, with 1-2 displaying on Read's Island May-July. On Frampton Marsh 1-3 birds in summer and a pair proved to breed on Kirton Marsh. Birds at Gib Pt July 22nd and 30th and up to 2 Holbeach in August. A good autumn arrival from September when 1-2 up the Humber at Goxhill-East Halton and Winteringham, on the coast 1-2 North Cotes, Gib Pt 2 in off sea 20th, Theddlethorpe and inland at Billingham and Chapel Hill. The main influx occurred in October with 5 in off the sea at Mablethorpe am on 15th, 1-3 at Leverton to Dec, 1-4 Gib Pt with 1-3 to Nov and 1 Dec, Read's Island 2 18th with 4 21st-Dec 31st, Whitton 16th, Anderby and Huttoft in off sea 4th, Ancaster 1st, Huttoft pit 24th. Wintering birds in November-December included 1-2 at Chapel pit, Marston SF, Baston Fen, Eleven Greens, Holbeach Range, Chapel Hill, North Cleethorpes, Moulton Marsh, Sutton Bridge, and Deeping High Bank with 3 at Frampton, Pode Hole and Winteringham, 4 Holbeach Marsh and Tetney, and the largest concentration up to 9 at Bonby and Worlaby Carrs.

**European Nightjar; *Caprimulgus europaeus*.**

Very localised summer breeder; May 16th-October 1st.

A survey of churring males in May-June located a total of 59 birds of which the bulk 39 were at Laughton Forest with 8 at Crowle Waste and others in Broughton Woods 3, Keb Wood area 6 where first noted May 19th, Twigmoor 1 with further singles on single dates at Linwood Warren May 22nd and Bardney Forest in June. Up to 3 were in Laughton Forest still calling to August 16th. Negative returns were received from Bourne Woods, Kirkby Moor, Stapleford, Norton Disney and Willingham Forest.

**Common Swift; *Apus apus*.**

Common summer visitor and passage bird; April 18th-November 10th

Only three birds noted in April at Thurlby Fen 23rd, Gib Pt 26th and Donna Nook 29th followed by 2 Barrow Haven/Barton May 2nd and then a major arrival from 9th at South Witham, 20 at Covenham Res also 9th, on 10th at Barton, Burton pits and Whisby when 53 at Deeping St James and 200 north at Tetney am, at Spalding 12th when 180 flew south at Gib Pt with 260 south there 14th and 250 Covenham 17th. In June a total of 400 Barrow Haven and Barton pits 1st with 200 Gib Pt 2nd and later 200 Winterton 21st, 200 north at Theddlethorpe 27th. July totals were in general down on recent years with 300 Bonby Carrs 21st, 1260 south at Gib Pt 9-26th. Many local breeding birds left their nesting sites in late July-early August, Aug 3-4th at South Witham while at Barton 400 on July 31st were down to 180 Aug 1st, 647 moved south at Gib Pt Aug 13-17th. There were then a series of arrivals of new birds from late August with 100 Covenham Res 28th, 50 Deeping St James 30th and at Barton pits only 14 September 1st but 24 on 6th then 68 10th and 78 12th falling to 12 on 14th and 3 by 20th. Also on the 8th 6 at Whisby and on 10th 9 at East Halton pit, 36 at Gib Pt and 50 Covenham both on 8th and 10 south Gib Pt

14th with 2 Huttoft 13th. Last birds at Letheringham 20th, 2 Barrow Haven 25th and 2 Grimsby 30th.

**Common Kingfisher; *Alcedo atthis*.**

Breeding numbers affected by severity of winters; passage April- May & Aug-Nov. A further decline in this species fortunes, in the north of the county at least, became apparent during 1992. Birds were reported from only 13 localities during Jan-March and 12 in April-June with the only reported breeding at Whisby pits (2 pairs, one double brooded) and Deeping St James. A pair at Barrow Haven displayed in April but then disappeared. Just 14 birds noted July-August but a better showing during Sept-Oct with at least 27 many at coastal localities and then just 15 again in Nov-Dec.

**Hoopoe; *Upupa epops*.**

Vagrant, most April-June.

One at North Cotes September 24-25th (DJB et al) and another or the same at Bardney pits October 12th (PH).

**Wryneck; *Jynx torquilla*.**

Scarce to rare passage migrant April-May and Aug-Oct; 25 in autumn 1976 and 26 autumn 1977.

Just five autumn birds with one inland at Whisby pits Sept 16- 19th and the rest on the coast at Theddlethorpe trapped Sept 5th, Gib Pt trapped 6th and 19th and Skegness 27th.

**Green Woodpecker; *Picus viridis*.**

Localised breeding resident and rare migrant.

Away from the usual breeding areas were singles at Covenham Jan- April 17th and North Thoresby March 22nd. A pair again at Barton pits all year and 4-6 on Risby Warren all year.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker; *Dendrocopos major*.**

Widespread breeding resident; movements July-April;

An unusual coastal record of one at Tetney on the reclamation fencing on June 29th. On the coast singles at Gib Pt Sept 12th, Oct 1st and 3rd, Donna Nook Oct 24-31st. One trapped at Theddlethorpe in November 1990 was found dead at Authorpe 12km south-west on April 4th 1992.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker; *Dendrocopos minor*.**

Localised breeding resident.

This inconspicuous species seems to have again retracted its range to the areas occupied pre the Dutch Elm disease spread into the north of the county. The only pair proven as breeding were at Deeping St James but other pairs were present and probably bred at Burton pits, Bradley Woods and Boultham Park; A pair at Linwood Warren were excavating a nest hole in May. Records from other localities were mainly on odd dates as follows; Weelsby Woods Jan 5th, North Thoresby Jan, Sweeting Thorns 12th, Nocton Wood 1st, Kirkby Moor Feb 2nd, 3 Belton Park March 1st with one Haverholme 16th, 2 Brumby Woods March 28th, one Moor Farm April 10th, Immingham 9th, Muckton Wood May 10th and Swanpool 4th. Later in the year singles at Bourne Aug 26th and Swallow 19th, Whisby 12th and Oct 8th, Rippingale

Nov 4th, South Witham 13th, Bradley Woods 28th, Willingham woods 29th and Woodall Spa Dec 19th.

**Wood Lark; *Lullula arborea*. \***

Rare breeding bird to 1959 and since 1984 [LBR 1988]

At the main breeding site at least 2 males and a female were back by Feb 29th the male being a bird colour ringed there as a nestling in 1989. A total of 7 singing males were noted there in March-April and a singing male was noted on March 29th at the second site. Other records of passage birds were more numerous than usual with one between Edenthorpe and Grimsthorpe Jan 15th (CJJ), and a good series at Gib Pt Feb 16th, 19th, March 5-6th, 2 from 7-8th, 1 on 9th, 4 12th, 1 from 13-14th then 3 on 16th and one 26th. Another interesting record was of a single on a recently cleared area of scrub at Whisby pits March 8th (DRB,DJJ).

**Sky Lark; *Alauda arvensis*.**

Widespread breeding bird; common passage migrant and winter visitor

Birds flocked at some sites in January; up to 230 at Gib Pt with 150 in Feb, 600 Saltfleetby in Jan, 70 Holbeach Range Jan 25th, 75 North Cotes 11th and 350 there Feb 23rd with 85 in one field at Aubourn Jan 26th. An estimated 75 pairs bred at Donna Nook. It was a very impressive autumn/late winter period for this species with regular movements during October and November on most days and some large wintering flocks building up on suitable set aside stubbles and the coastal saltings. Movements at Gib Pt began in September with 203 south 19-28th, 120 south Oct 1st, 250 south 8th, 71 north-west 10th, 300 there on 13th, 40 south 15th, 297 south 17th, 120 on 18th and 100 present 23-24th with a later count of 200 south Nov 24th. Up the Humber at Barton 10 south on Sept 30th were followed by 21 north Oct 9th, 49 north-west 10th, 23 west 18th, 26 west 23rd and 11 west Nov 10th whilst 84 flew north-west at East Halton Skitter in one hour on Oct 7th and much of the passage in the north of the county was oriented north- north west into the prevailing winds during October. Inland 150 on one field at Risby Warren Oct 10th and on the coast 200 Pyes Hall 17th and 170 Saltfleet Haven 25th with 50 Holbeach Marsh 2nd. There was a notable visible arrival of birds from over the sea on Nov 8th with 120 in at Theddlethorpe and 92 in one and a half hours at Saltfleetby and a total of 400+ at Saltfleet Haven am. In December at least 450 Saltfleetby 29th and 250 Tetney 6th with 500+ Saltfleet-Skidbrooke 21st-1993. On inland stubbles odd counts show the importance of this type of habitat to the species in the winter; At Claxby top 70 Nov 29th, Barton Wold 70 Dec 10th, Goxhill 100 in one field 3rd, Alkborough Flats 55 24th, 75 Ancaster 30th and Worlaby Carrs 380 27th.

**Horned Lark; *Eremophila alpestris*.**

Greatly decreased winter visitor [LBR 1984]

A single wintering bird at Saltfleetby from 1991 remained in the same area to May 13th. The autumn late winter period saw a marked upturn in the species fortunes with the most birds recorded since 1982. The first arrival a single at North Cotes from October 8th was however not so lucky, it stayed until 12th but plucked feathers found on 13th showed it had been taken by a predator! There were then a series of records at Gib Pt with one Oct 27- 28th then 3 Nov 20-24th and one 29th. On Nov 8th one came in off the saltings and flew inland before returning out over Saltfleet Haven in the morning and this may have been the bird recorded at



Saltfleetby the same day. The largest flock for some years was then found at Saltfleetby on December 19th with 8 birds staying through to 1993.

**Sand Martin; *Riparia riparia*.**

Summer breeder; huge decline 1984-recovery since; census 4077 pair 1968; March 12th-November 20th.

First arrivals were at Covenham March 19th, 8 Kirkby pits and 5 Deeping St James 21st, Whisby 22nd, Toft Newton 25th. A more widespread arrival from early April with 10 Barton pits, 12 Toft Newton and 40 Langtoft all 12th then 70 Messingham 22nd. A total of 132 flew west at Barton in one and a half hours May 6th. Breeding surveys revealed 286 holes at Langtoft Common and 279 at Barholm (Tallington) with 15 Deeping St James. A good autumn passage was noted especially at Gib Pt where a total of 13,850 birds flew south between July 17-27th with peaks of 5000 19th and 3000 25th. In the same month 250 were at Tetney 19th, 280 Messingham 1st, 500 Alkborough Flats 24th and in August 2000 were feeding at South Ferriby-Winteringham over the Humber on a high spring tide 2nd and 2000 roosted at Barton pits 31st. The last obvious movements were of 500 south at Whisby Sept 13th and 200 south at Gib Pt 14th with the last of the year at Messingham Oct 14th.

**Barn Swallow; *Hirundo rustica*.**

Summer breeder & passage migrant; max roost 250,000 16/9/1982; March 7th-December 8th.

One March bird at Rippingale Fen on 31st with most arriving in late April following 2 at Gib Pt on 10th with 3 Barton pits and 2 Toft Newton 12th. Passage continued through May with 136 west in one and a half hours at Barton 6th, 1000 south Gib Pt 12-14th and 300 south Theddlethorpe 15th. Not such a good autumn for this species with the only major movements occurring with southerly passage at Gib Pt; 550 July 18-19th, 3000 Aug 16th, 3000 22nd, 680 Sept 12-14th and 480 Sept 23-25th. An albino/leucistic juvenile was seen at Theddlethorpe Aug 15th. Most birds had departed by late September and there were few October records in contrast to recent years the peak only 26 south at Gib Pt 1st, 36 south 8th with 25 there on 13th. There were only 6 November records; at Gib Pt 1st with 2 on 3-4th, 2 south at Huttoft and 1 Seacroft 3rd, one New Holland on 6th and the last south at Grantham 9th.

**House Martin; *Delichon urbica*.**

Declining breeder; passage migrant; March 28th-December 20th.

One at Ashbeyville April 15th preceeded 3 Gib Pt and 2 Holbeach Marsh 18th, Cleethorpes 19th, Tetney 22nd, Marston 24th and a larger influx of 10 Barton pits and 45 Grimsthorpe Park 25th with 42 Deeping St James 29th. Passage in May included 50 south at Theddlethorpe 15th and 40 north 25th, 50 south 30th and 31st and 700 south at Gib Pt 14th. A dramatic decrease was noted in TF39 with two colonies abandoned in 1992. At the Witham Mouth southward passage was noted at 300 per hour on July 24th. A flock of 90 was feeding at North Killingholme Haven Aug 20th, and at Gib Pt 110 flew south 22-23rd with most passing there in September; 200 on 14th, 350 19-20th, 550 23rd with 100 Theddlethorpe 12th and 20th. Inland 100 were at South Ferriby 9th, 300 Ancaster 13th and 250 Haverholme Park 10th. As with Swallow there was a relatively early departure with few in October

although birds still using a nest at Deeping St James 6th, 7 at Marshchapel 7th and a max of only 12 at Gib Pt 11th. The only November birds were 2 west at New Holland 1st, one south at Keb Wood 4th and the last Seacroft 14th.

**Richard's Pipit; *Anthus noveaseelandiae*. \***

Rare September-December; One 9/5/1985.

A good autumn with about 7 birds found. The first were associated with a small fall of Scandinavian migrants in mid September with singles at Donna Nook (RLo) and Horseshoe Point (GPC) both September 19th followed by one up the Humber at East Halton Skitter 26th (GPC) and one south at Gib Pt 27th (SML). The East Halton bird being the third recorded at this inland locality since 1975. One flew north at the Witham Mouth Oct 11th (SK). Two were found on the sea bank at Skidbrooke/Donna Nook on October 28th-at least 30th (SCPW et al) and what may have been one of the same birds was found in the same area on December 19th (JRW et al) staying into 1993 and making the first January record for the county. There is one previous December record at Donna Nook on December 7th 1984 and one spring bird there on May 9th 1985.

**Olive-backed Pipit; *Anthus hogsoni*. \***

The fourth county record concerned a well marked bird found at Gibraltar Point on October 12th (GPC) which unfortunately quickly flew off south-west and was not seen again.

Accepted by BBRC.

**Tree Pipit; *Anthus trivialis*.**

Breeding summer visitor; passage April-May, Aug-Sept. April 4th- November 9th. An early bird in Bourne Woods April 5th with the next at Gib Pt 9th where there were a further 5 singles in April, 3 in May and 4 in June. Other spring migrants were at North Cotes April 25th with 3 at Barton pits and 1 Frampton Marsh all 21st and one Barton May 14th, one Scrivelsby April 19th, one Whisby 26th; The only breeding area records were of 40+ males at Laughton Forest, 10+ Keb Wood, 3 Walesby, 2+ Crowle, 2 Bourne Wood and 1 Linwood Warren. Some notable coastal passage occurred at Gib Pt with singles July 21st and 23rd, 9 south Aug 29th and 1 31st with 8 Sept 8-26th and 10 south 27-30th. One at Winteringham Haven July 17th was another early migrant and other coastal birds were at Saltfleetby Sept 20th and Oct 6th and 2 Saltfleet Haven Oct 4th with one Anderby Creek 6th.

**Meadow Pipit; *Anthus pratensis*.**

Common breeder and passage migrant March-April & Sept-Oct.

Few records of note were received. A flock of 60 at Nettleton on Feb 12th, 80+ Risby Warren March 22nd & 30 on spring passage at Whisby April 4th with 50 counted at Gib Pt May 22nd. Autumn passage began after post breeding concentrations of 50 Winteringham Aug 2nd and 40 at North Killingholme Haven 20th with 100 at Tetney Sept 13th and 150 North Cotes 24th, southerly passage at Theddlethorpe of 200 12th, 150 16th and 150 20th and at Gib Pt 215 10th, 1660 12-13th, 1805 19-20th and 140 Oct 1st, 150 3rd with 100 present 31st.

**Red-throated Pipit; *Anthus cervinus*. \***

A male occasionally in song at Gibraltar Point from May 26-28th (KMW, PMT et al) was only the second county record and the first in spring. The species is recorded

much more frequently in Yorkshire and Norfolk.

Accepted by BBRC

**Rock Pipit; *Anthus petrosus*.**

Common on coast Sept-March with heavy passage October;

*A.p.littoralis* rare March-April & Nov

Moving down the coast; at Humberston foreshore 2-3 Jan-Feb, a max of 24 at Tetney and 12 North Cotes-Grainthorpe Feb 23rd, with peaks at Gib Pt of 55 Jan 12th, 20 in Feb, 19 March with the last April 3rd. The only record from the Wash being of 23 at the Witham Mouth Feb 23rd. First autumn birds were at Gib Pt Sept 21st, 4 Grainthorpe Haven 22nd, 2 East Halton Skitter 28th. During October, on the Humber, up to 9 were at East Halton Skitter and 1-2 at Barrow Haven Barton to the year end with 2-3 at Winteringham Haven and a passage of up to 5 birds moving west in late October early November. Also in October a max of 15 at Gib Pt 17th with 24 on 27th and 25 Nov 14th with 30 Dec 21-29th. Further north on the coast 50 were in one area of saltmarsh at Skidbrooke Dec 21-31st, at Tetney 18 Nov 22nd, 28 Dec 6th and 33 20th and at Saltfleetby 21 through December. As usual no reports from the Wash where maybe 100's winter ? Inland birds appeared at Toft Newton and Covenham (2) Oct 8th with one at the latter 20th.

**Water Pipit; *Anthus spinoletta*. \***

Rare October-April.

Two spring migrants at Covenham Res on April 10th & 17th (KEW). An autumn bird was photographed at North Kelsey Moor from November 3-4th.(RH)

**Yellow Wagtail; *Motacilla flava*.**

Common breeder & passage April-May, Aug-Sept; March 20th-Dec 1st.

M.f.flava regular April-June; M.f.thunbergi rare May-June; \*

M.f.cinerocephala 4/5/83, 31/5/84. \*

The first of the year at Metheringham April 4th was followed by 9 at Covenham Res 9-10th & 30 by 22nd with the spring peak there of 70 on 23rd, passage numbers noted as being 50% decreased there. Elsewhere one at Bagmoor on 14th & 4 Toft Newton and 3 Deeping High Bank 12th but as in 1991 another generally poor spring passage with eg; an April/May peak of only 10 at Gib Pt. but 25 over Frampton Fen April 25th and an incredible 100 Marston SF 29th with 20 Witham Mouth May 2nd. Evidently a good breeding season with some high autumn concentrations occurring; On the Humber bank birds gathered to feed on an abundance of small insects in August with 30+ South Ferriby-Winteringham 2nd and 17th, 60+ Goxhill-New Holland 15th and 10+ North Killingholme 29th. At Gib Pt 10 flew south Aug 29th and in Sept 26 on 1st, 9 23rd, 5 24th and the last there 28th. Other good September flocks were 12 Marston SF 8th, 10 Winteringham Haven 12th, 30 Stamford 15th, 10 Huttoft 11th, 21 Barton pits 10th and 4 Cadney 23rd with 2 on 25th and Donna Nook 3 26th. Other joint latest birds were at North Cotes and Barton Sept 28th and 5 Wilsford Heath Quarry 30th.

M.f.flava: Blue-headed Wagtail: At Grainthorpe Haven 4 on April 5th with one May 2nd and 2 Gib Pt May 11th. One autumn male at Huttoft Bank Sept 11th.

M.f.thunbergi: Grey-headed Wagtail: A male at Gib Pt on June 14th (KMW) was surprisingly the only record in what was a very easterly spring.

**Grey Wagtail; *Motacilla cinerea*.**

Sporadic breeder 7 nests 1974-88; fairly common passage Sept-Nov; regular Dec-July/Aug

The reduced numbers seen during late 1991 continued through the early part of the year with only 18 birds seen during Jan-April; Probably wintering birds were in Lincoln, Louth, Deeping St James 1-2, Grimsby Docks, Nocton village, Marston SF and Haverholme in Jan-March with migrants at Gib Pt Feb 7th, March 16th and April 5th, Hobhole Feb 2nd, Witham Mouth 2 March 22nd Whisby Feb 17 & 24th, Covenham March 28th and Toilethorpe April 29th. The only breeding records reported were from the Brayford in Lincoln where a pair with juvs were seen, the same birds at Boultham Mere later, the River Sleas and Kirkby pits where 2 juvs seen July 4th. A moderate autumn; At Gib Pt singles July 13th & 25th, 7 singles Sept 12-30th with 2 on 23rd and 3 27th and 6 28th with 7 singles Oct 1-22nd. Elsewhere August birds at Messingham 26th, Tetney 31st and Marston SF 21st, Haverholme 5th and in September Barton 2 south 20th, Bourne Woods 25th, Holbeach Marsh 27th in October Louth Halls Mill 13th, Deeping St James 18th, Boston 23rd, Ruskington 1-30th, Haverholme 5th, Whisby 24th, North Hykeham 24th, Barton pits 15th-Nov 1st and a juv North Kelsey Moor Nov 21- 29th, with one Ashbeyville 26th, Whisby 7th and in Dec Grimsby 5th, Marston SF 13th, South Witham 2 14th, Louth 11th, Lincoln Birchwood and Covenham 20th the latter to 29th.

**Pied Wagtail; *Motacilla alba*.**

Common breeder and passage migrant; M.a.alba regular passage March-June. Winter roosts are not well known or documented in the county so records of 100+ at a roost at Boultham Mere in Feb, 60 on a school playing field at Holbeach on Feb 25th and 68 at Baston, Langtoft on March 14th were welcome and notable. Also of note were 22 Covenham April 26th. The species seemed to have a very successful breeding season in 1992 with some notable autumn gatherings and one new roost discovered. There must however, be many more roosts in urban areas in the county which are not counted. The large roost at Scunthorpe Steelworks presumably still exists as flock of up to 60 were feeding on grassy areas there during the autumn-winter. Small numbers of birds moved north-west up the Humber at Barton Sept-Oct and at Gib Pt 39 flew south Sept 19-30th with a further 26 Oct 8th and 9 on 9th. A single flock of 19 at Barton pits Aug 31st, 21 Holbeach Range 16th, 20 Winteringham 2nd, 36 South Ferriby 22nd and inland 45 Bardney July 18th with 150 Whisby Sept 22nd, 36 Marston SF Aug 16-23rd and 20 Oct 15th, 59 Dec 19th, 30 Skegness cricket ground Nov 9th. A roost at South Ferriby Cement Works held 137 Dec 7th and 125 on 22nd.

M.a.alba; White Wagtail: The usual scatter of birds on spring passage from March 19th at Gib Pt with a max of 4 there April 23rd and others at Toft Newton max 6 April 12th, Covenham Res, Saltfleetby, Witham Mouth 1-2, Theddlethorpe, Whisby, Cleethorpes, Cleethorpes CP max 4 May 1st, Deeping St James, Grainthorpe and Donna Nook max 5 May 3rd.

**Bohemian Waxwing; *Bombycilla garrulus*.**

Very variable numbers Oct-April; recent good winters 1961/2, 62/3, 63/4, 65/6(largest), 70/71, 88/89.

Allowing for some duplication there were a minimum of 65 birds during the early

winter. In January 6 left over from 1991 at Gainsborough with 3-4 to 27th; One flew into a window at Caistor 9th, a flock of 17 Market Rasen 25th, with 15 Lincoln 26th (possibly same?), with 7 there 27th, 2 28-29th then 9 Feb 25th and 1 March 14th. In the north of the county 17 at Appleby Jan 8- 9th with 16 in Scunthorpe 20th (at least), then one Loughton March 14-15th and 2 Immingham March 31st. In the south 4 in Bourne Wood Jan 19th with probably the same 4 there for the latter part of February. One Boston Feb 5th.

**Wren; *Troglodytes troglodytes*.**

Widespread and very common.

As usual a rather arbitrary set of reports. A recovery to 1990 levels at Theddlethorpe where 174 ringed during the year. High autumn estimates of 40 Gib Pt Sept 19th, 50 Oct 16th and 33 in November, 30 December. An obvious coastal movement was apparent on Oct 17th when 10 were between Pyes Hall and Stonebridge and in December 10+ were in reedbeds at Barton pits.

**Hedge Accentor; *Prunella modularis*.**

Widespread and very common; coastal passage Sept-Nov.

As with Wren just odd records received. At Gib Pt an obvious arrival in September with 125 19th and 78 ringed at Theddlethorpe 16-30th then later peaks of 100 Gib Pt Oct 13th and 21st and 40 there in November, 44 December. A juv at Roxton on Oct 11th had a clear white orbital ring on both eyes as did one at Willingham in late December.

**Robin; *Erithacus rubecula*.**

Widespread resident with coastal passage Sept-Nov and March-April [LBR 1990]. The first coastal fall of the autumn occurred during September 18-30th when 55 were at Gib Pt 18-19th, 50 on 26th, 65 ringed at Theddlethorpe 16-30th with 13 continental birds on 30th. Another arrival Oct 4-5th produced counts of 11 Anderby Creek 4th, 22 Gib Pt and 44 Saltfleet Haven 4th with 38 North Cotes 5th then 50 at Gib Pt and 10 Stonebridge-Pyes Hall both 7th with later totals of 34 Gib Pt 13th, 75 on 16th, 35 27th and 40 Nov 14th.

**Rufous Nightingale; *Luscinia megarhynchos*.**

Local breeder; 57 males 1970, 79 pair 1973, 100 males 1980; April 10th-September 23rd.

As in recent years the first males appeared at Whisby pits with 3 on April 23rd, 4 by 29th and 5 holding territories there in May. Away from the SW stronghold a male at Saltfleetby from May 4th was reported to have bred (JRW) and possibly another male was nearby June 7th. A male was at Humberston May 31st and one Swallow 30th. Two males sang at South Witham along 3km of road verge and bank on May 14th and another out of range male sang at Flixborough May 7-10th.

One ringed at Ollerton Notts on June 16th 1989 was trapped at Ancaster on May 12th 1991 [Notts Bird Report 1991]

**Bluethroat; *Luscinia svecica*. \***

Scarce migrant spring most May and autumn Aug-Oct.

A male of the red-spotted race *L s svecica* was reported at North Cleethorpes on Sept 18th (TS)



**Black Redstart; *Phoenicurus ochruros*.**

Rare breeder with max of 5 pair 1981, 86 & 87. Scarce-common passage March-May and Sept-Nov; rare winter.

Another relatively weak spring passage with only 20 birds. Main passage was at Gib Pt with 1 March 30-31st then 7 singles during April and in June one 14th and a male 26th. Others in March at north Cleethorpes 21st, Humberston 16th & 22-23rd and 2 Skidbrooke 25th then in April Saltfleetby 4-5th, Anderby Creek 9th (male), North Cleethorpes 17th, Pywipe 6th and Cleethorpes CP 1-5th.

Two pairs and an additional male were found on Grimsby Docks May- June but there was no proven successful breeding. Another dismal autumn passage with just 7 birds found at Gib Pt Sept 18th, 29th, Nov 8th and 15th, Donna Nook Oct 24th, Saltfleetby Nov 16th and Seacroft 20th.

**Common Redstart; *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*.**

Rare breeder max 6-7 pairs; passage April-May & Aug-Oct; April 2nd-November 22nd.

An almost non-existent spring passage with just singles at Gib Pt April 21-22nd, 2 on 24th, one 25th & 29th a male Billingham 22nd and 2 Saltfleetby May 2nd, fem Donna Nook May 14th, fem North Cotes 5th and male 31st. At local breeding sites 2 males in song at Twigmoor by April 26th and 3+ there in May with a male Neville Wood May 12-16th. A iw male in Bourne Woods Aug 29th and at Gib Pt 2 on Aug 11th and 1 13th. The major passage was during Sept with 1-2 on 7 dates at Gib Pt 3-14th before a moderate fall from 18th with coastal maxima as follows; North Cleethorpes 1 on 18th, Humberston 2 on 19th, Tetney 3 19th, North Cotes 4 18th, 7 19th and 9 24th, Horseshoe Point-Pyes Hall 12 on 19th, 4 22nd, Pyes Hall-Stonebridge 16 on 18th, 10 19th-21st and 4 22nd, Donna Nook 13 19th, 7 21st, Saltfleet 4 19th, Saltfleetby 7 20th, Theddlethorpe 6 ringed 19th, 9 ringed 20th, Anderby Creek 27th and Gib Pt 8 20-22nd, 4 on 29th. Inland singles occurred at Whisby 5-6th and Barrow Haven 25th. Another small fall in early October with singles at North Cotes 1st and 4th, Donna Nook 5 on 4th, 1 13th, Anderby Creek 4th, Saltfleet 3 on 4th, Pyes Hall 11th and at Gib Pt 3 on 1st, 2 4th, 5 on 8th and 1-2 to 16th.

**Whinchat; *Saxicola rubetra*.**

No recent proven breeding; Fairly common passage April-June & July-Oct; April 2nd-November 22nd.

A total of 26 birds noted in spring the first at Cleethorpes CP & Gib Pt May 1st with 2 Gib Pt 4th, 1 11th, 5 13th, 2 14th, 1 17th & 1 28th and others on the coast at North Cleethorpes 2 on 4th, Saltfleetby 4-5th & 10th, Donna Nook 2nd, Tetney 2 on 4th, in the Wash Moulton Marsh 1st, Holbeach 16th and inland Barton 3rd, Whisby 14th, Deeping High Bank 8th and Ashbeyville 6-7th, 2 Risby Warren 7th. Passage of presumably British birds in August peaked in the last week with one Cadney 24th, 5 Skidbrooke 23rd, 5 Winteringham 29th, 3 Crowland 26th, 4 Saltfleet 19th, 4 Martin Moor GC 29-Sept 3rd and 20 Gib Pt 26th. A large coastal fall occurred in mid September. Maxima at coastal sites as follows; 7 North Cleethorpes 11th, 6 Humberston 19th, 2 Tetney 19th, 7 North Cotes 18th, 14 on 19th with 8 on 24th, 26 Stonebridge-Pyes Hall 18th, 25 Horseshoe Point-Pyes Hall 19th, 7 Pyes Hall-Stonebridge 22nd, 10 Donna Nook 19th, 11 Saltfleetby 20th, 8 on 28th, 3 Seacroft 13th and at Gib Pt 15 on 14th. Inland a scatter of birds 6 Winteringham 12th, Barton

20th, Messingham 21st, Bardney 26th, Whisby 17th and 2 East Halton Skitter 28th. Very few in October; at North Cotes 1st, Huttoft pit 3rd, Gib Pt 13-14th and 2 Saltfleet 13th.

**Common Stonechat; *Saxicola torquata*.**

Bred 1947, 1961, 1980; Variable numbers Sept-April, rare May-July with recent decline; S.t.maura \* 6 records 1978-1991, one May rest Oct-Nov  
None seen in the early winter period with a small passage of 6 in March and 2 April. In March a male Barton pits 17th, one Scamblesby to April, pair Saltfleetby 25th with male 29-30th, male Pywipe 30th, male Gib Pt 31st then female there April 9th and 11th and pair 12th with a later bird there May 13th. During the autumn one at North Cleethorpes Sept 21st was the first with one Messingham 27th before a moderate passage in October; On the coast one Huttoft pit 3rd, Tetney 13th, Grainthorpe 8th, Saltfleet Haven 4th with a male 13th and fem 24th, Wolla Bank 2 30th, Donna Nook 30th and at Anderby Creek 2 fems 24th one to 26th, Seacroft pair 30th-Dec 8th and at Gib Pt fem Oct 1st, male 11-12th, pair 21st, imm male 24th and pair 31st, one Witham Mouth Nov 8th. Inland a pair at Barton pits 20th to 1993 and another fem Nov 1-20th the only other winter bird at Deeping High Bank Dec 19th.

**Northern Wheatear; *Oenanthe oenanthe*.**

Common on passage March-June and July-Oct; March 9th-December 30th. Earliest birds were at the Witham Mouth March 8th, Pyes Hall 17th, Pywipe 18th and north Cleethorpes 19th. The weekend of 21- 22nd produced records from another 8 localities including 4 Ashbeyville 21st, 5 Risby Warren 22nd and 2 Fulbeck 22nd with 6 at Grimsby Docks 24th. Spring passage was notable in April/May at many localities especially on the northern Wolds with April peaks of 6 Saltfleetby 21st, 7 Gib Pt 23rd, 15 Humberston 21st and 16 27th, 12 North Cleethorpes 18th and 12 26th, 5 Horkstow Wold and 8 Bonby Carrs 27th with 13 at the latter 28th, 12 Pyewipe 27th, 12 Grainthorpe Haven 29th, 10 Tetney 26th, 10 Risby Warren 26th where there was a particularly notable total of 39 on May 7th and other May peaks of 28 Cleethorpes CP 1st, 20 3rd, 8 North Cleethorpes 1st with 19 4th, 10+ Ashbeyville 8th, and 8 Deeping St Nicholas 10th. The contrast between the abnormally good spring passage and the very poor autumn was rather evident. The only site to record a day maximum of over 7 birds during the whole autumn was Kirton Marsh with 13 Aug 29th. First fluffy juveniles appeared as usual in mid July at Holbeach Marsh 14th, Gib Pt 17th, North Cleethorpes and North Cotes 19th. August peaks were 5 Huttoft and Donna Nook 23rd, 7 there 24th with a small passage in mid September-early October but only singles at Gib Pt on 10 dates September and 2 in October the 3rd and 7-8th. Sept peaks were 4 Horseshoe Point-Pyes Hall 19-22nd, 4 North Cotes 19th, 3 Stonebridge-Pyes Hall 22nd and 3 Pywipe 26th. Other October birds were at Saltfleet 4th, Risby Warren 10th and Rauceby GC 17th.

**Ring Ouzel; *Turdus torquatus*.**

Variable passage numbers March-May Sept-Nov; very rare winter  
A very poor spring with a maximum of only 18 birds noted. At Gib Pt a male April 15th then 1 18th, 2 21st, 1 22nd, 3 23rd, 1 24th; one Langrick bridge 10th, 4 Cleethorpes CP 25th and a male 26th, 4 Saltfleetby 23rd with 3 to 25th and just two

in May at Donna Nook 2nd and Grainthorpe Haven 4th. An exceptionally poor autumn with only about 16 birds in total. One Pyes Hall Sept 19th then 3 at Gib Pt 28th and a series there in October from 2-17th peaking at 6 on 4th, 4 on 8th, at Saltfleetby 1 on 3rd and 3 on 6th, a first-winter bird noted at Saltfleet and one Butterwick both Oct 4th and a single November bird at Saltfleetby 16th.

**Blackbird; *Turdus merula*.**

Very common breeder; passage March-April & Sept-Dec

One of the major events of the autumn was the large arrival on the coast and inland of Blackbirds from mid-October through November. Large numbers fed on the abundant Hawthorn berry crop inland with small concentrations where food was abundant eg; 30 in 200m of hedge at Goxhill Oct 31st and 100 Barton pits Nov 10-11th with 50 still there Dec 10th. On the coast incoming birds are not often observed in many autumns but 12 battled in against a strong north-west wind at Mablethorpe on Oct 15th, 100 were at Gib Pt 17th and 30 flew south 22nd, with 100 again 27th and 85 30th. At Saltfleet village 30 on Oct 17th had increased to 85 on 25th. November 8th was a particularly good day; several hundred arrived at Theddlethorpe; at Saltfleet 100 were present in the morning and a further 40 arrived from high overhead at midday whilst a single flock of 170 was seen coming in off the sea very high and flying on inland at Saltfleetby mid afternoon and the following day 800 were estimated there. Numbers remained high at Theddlethorpe with further large arrivals and 123 ringed 14th, 500 present 15th, 139 ringed 16th and 100 more ringed 21st. At Gib Pt numbers were high through November with 150 on 3rd, 500 15th, 100 25th and 65 29th with still 95 Dec 3rd and up to 65 to the month end. Inland in December 50 were at Barton pits to 25th with 80+ on 28th, 100 were feeding on fallen apples in an orchard at Pinchbeck 30th, 45 on fallen apples at Branston fen 26th and 200 Deeping St James 17th most of which had left by 24th.

**Fieldfare; *Turdus pilaris*.**

Common Sept-April; rare May-Aug.

A few notable flocks were still present in January; 250 Bonby Carrs 4th, 300 Ancaster 5th, 225 Skidbrooke 7th, 300 Saltfleetby 11th, 500 Thoresway/Croxby 18th, 500 Theddlethorpe 25th, 200 Swallow 28th & 250 Gib Pt to Feb 3rd with 130 Thornton Abbey then few until 100 north-west at Kirkby Underwood March 22nd and 100 Laughton around 26th. A late pre-departure flock of 150 Covenham April 5th when 34 flew south at Gib Pt where there were singles May 1st and 5th. A flock of 22 Goxhill April 22nd and 2 Theddlethorpe and one Cleethorpes CP May 4th. Two unusual August birds at Gib Pt 9th and 20th preceeded the first autumn birds there on Sept 23rd with 4 on 26th. In contrast to the numbers of Blackbird and Redwing the numbers of Fieldfare were very low until December. The only notable influx brought 197 to Gib Pt Oct 20th and the following day three flocks totalling 248 flew west at Barton. A flock of 50 at Thurlby Fen on Nov 9th, 400 at Gib Pt 15th. In December few large flocks but 80 Gib Pt 29th and a pronounced westerly movement into Barton pits where 65 on 26th increased to 600+ 28th and a further 700 flew west 30th, a single flock of 170 was in Bonby/Worlaby Carrs 27-28th associated with the same movement.

**Song Thrush; *Turdus philomelos*.**

Very common but declining breeder; passage Sept-Nov.

It is usual for the numbers of coastal passage birds to be difficult to estimate amongst the larger flocks of Redwing but even so there appeared to be better than usual numbers of birds on the coast during the late autumn. At Gib Pt 17 on Sept 20th with 64 29th and 10 ringed at Theddlethorpe 30th. Another arrival brought 50 to Gib Pt Oct 5th but this was dwarfed by a massive 510 there on 15th. Small flocks of 1-10 flew west on many days in October at Barton pits with 15 there Nov 15th.

**Redwing; *Turdus iliacus*.**

Common Sept-April; rare June-Aug; 4 records T.i.coburni 1935-45 all shot.

Very few present in the early winter period. A flock of 110 at Thornton Abbey Feb 7th and 30+ Burton pits March 28-April 4th were notable as were 250 south at Gib Pt March 19th, 200 there April 5th, 40 south 10th, 95 south 12th and the last 2 22nd. First of the autumn were 4 at South Witham Sept 17th followed by one Gib Pt and 3 Pyes Hall 19th and up to 18 at Gib Pt 25-27th. A moderate arrival occurred on October 4th with 600 south at Gib Pt, 22 Anderby, 50 Trusville and 110 Saltfleet then on following days birds moved inland with 100 north at Atkinsons Warren 8th. Further large arrivals at Gib Pt brought 2700 on 15th, 350 south 22nd and 200 Nov 15th with 250 Saltfleetby 9th. Inland 60 at Barton pits Oct 18th and another 80 there Nov 14th with up to 100 in late December to 28th then an obvious westerly passage on 30th when 880+ passed in 3 hours. Also 50 Spalding NR Nov 2nd, 100+ Bagmoor Dec 19th..

**Mistle Thrush; *Turdus viscivorus*.**

Common breeder; local movements June-Sept.

A flock of 20 Hatcliffe May 26th and 7 Barton pits Oct 16th were a poor reflection of the status of this increasing species.

**Grasshopper Warbler; *Locustella naevia*.**

Declining summer breeder & passage bird April-June; April 6th-Oct 13th.

None noted until April 21-22nd when one Pyewipe with another 27th and other males in April Barrow Haven 23rd, Barton 2+ 26th to May another May 11th and 2 more June 1st, male Roxton, 3 males Bourne Woods 22nd with 5 males June 29th and Skidbrooke April 30th. Further May birds at Greyfleet Drain 1st, Burton Hills 3rd and June 14th, Theddlethorpe 3-4th, Chapel Pit 16-17th, Saltfleetby 3 on 2nd, Gib Pt 12th and June 10th, Swanpool May 10-11th and Donnington-on-Bain 18th. Pairs bred South Witham and Pyewipe. July singing males at Thornton Abbey 7th, Wolla Bank 18th, 2 Barton pits 20th and Theddlethorpe 22-25th. No autumn records.

**Savi's Warbler; *Locustella luscinioides*. \***

Vagrant;

A singing male at Chapel pit May 16-17th (KMW,ACS et al) was only the 6th County record.

**Sedge Warbler; *Acrocephalus shoenobaenus*.**

Widespread summer visitor & passage bird; April 1st-October 13th.

No really early migrants the first at Gib Pt April 19th followed by Barton pits 21st with 10 there by 28th, Thurlby Fen 23rd, Grimsthorpe 25th, Whisby 26th and 2 Pyewipe 27th. There was obviously an early autumn departure as the only September birds of note were at Gib Pt 13th and the last at Barton pits 30th.

**Marsh Warbler; *Acrocephalus palustris*. \***

Vagrant mostly late spring;

A singing male in the MOD bushes at North Cotes on June 7th (HB, TH, IGS, TS) was followed by another in song at the Barton-on-Humber bridge viewing area pit from June 8-10th (GPC et al). It was not heard after early morning on 10th despite careful searching and the appearance of a singing male at another location in the pits on 16th (GPC) may well have been a second individual. The 12th-14th county records.

**Reed Warbler; *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*.**

Localised but fairly common summer visitor; scarce on passage;

April 9th-November 13th.

The first spring male arrived at Barton pits on April 21st with 5 males there on 28th when 2 were at Gib Pt with 4 Thurlby Fen Slipes on 26th. There were a few coastal records in September with the last birds noted at Barton pits 2 on 30th and on the coast one at Saltfleet Haven October 4th was possibly the bird trapped there on the 8th while another was in Boston also 4th.

**Icterine Warbler; *Hippolais icterina*. \***

Rare May & July-October with annual max of 20 1977.

A moderate autumn with 4 birds located; 2 at Gib Pt August 16th (PAL) with possibly another there 19-22nd (KMW et al) and an adult trapped at Donna Nook on September 18-19th (KC, PHo).

**Barred Warbler; *Sylvia nisoria*. \***

Declining rare coastal passage migrant August-November.

Just two juvenile birds occurred during the autumn at Gib Pt from August 16-25th (PAL, SPB et al) and one trapped at Saltfleet Haven on September 19th (JMaw)

**Lesser Whitethroat; *Sylvia curruca*.**

Widespread breeder & passage bird; April 13-November 14th.

An early male at Barrow Haven was in the same territory as the first male heard there in 1991 from April 17th; the next arrivals were not noted until 2 Gib Pt and 1 Pyewipe 22nd with one Whisby and one Barton pits 26th. A spring peak of 12 were at Gib Pt May 22nd and 6-8 pair bred at Saltfleetby. Some exceptional numbers were noted at Gib Pt during the autumn with 47 on Aug 11th, possibly 100+ on 16th, 55 on 20th, 30 29th, 60 Sept 5th and 45 on 19th. At Theddlethorpe 150 were ringed during 1992 but the best autumn day was only 12 on Aug 19th. Inland one at Barrow Haven Sept 25th and October coastal birds were at Anderby Creek 3rd, Donna Nook 2 on 4th, Saltfleet Haven, Pyes Hall and Gib Pt on 8th with the latter bird still there on 9th.



**Common Whitethroat; *Sylvia communis*.**

Common summer visitor & passage; April 4th-October 24th.

April 21st heralded the first male at North Cleethorpes with one Gib Pt 22nd, Burton Hills 23rd and an obvious arrival on 28th when 6 at Barton pits and 20 Gib Pt with several noted at Donna Nook 29th and 35 pairs breeding there. A total of 40 were counted at Gib Pt on May 15th and 70 pairs bred at Saltfleetby. By far the highest autumn estimates were again from Gib Pt with 150 Aug 16th, 40 on 29th and 50 Sept 12th. The August maximum at Tetney/North Cotes was only 2 on 14th! A small fall during Sept 18-22nd brought 4 Stonebridge-Pyes Hall 18th, 4 Horseshoe Point-Pyes Hall 19th with 3 22nd, and the last birds Gib Pt 29th and Anderby Creek October 10th.

**Garden Warbler; *Sylvia borin***

Localised breeder and scarce passage migrant; April 16th-November 27th

A fairly widespread arrival on May 2-3rd inland with eg; 5+ Walesby 3rd. A later total of 20+ presumably breeding birds at Temple Wood 24th and 7 pairs noted on 3km of roadside verges at South Witham. No more than 5 per day anywhere on the coast apart from a claim of 56 at Gib Pt on Aug 16th which does not appear to be supported by observations elsewhere. The maximum at Theddlethorpe was 3 ringed on Aug 11th and Sept 20th, at Donna Nook 8 Sept 19th with 4 at Gib Pt Sept 13th and the last there Oct 12th.

**Blackcap; *Sylvia atricapilla*.**

Increasing breeding bird; also passage; rare winter December- March

A total of 13 birds noted in the early winter with 3 at Gib Pt in Jan & 1-2 in Feb, one Grantham Jan 4th and Feb 1-2nd, a pair Lincoln Jan 6th, pair Louth Jan 3rd and fem 4th, Theddlethorpe fems ringed Jan 11th & 18th and a male and 2 fems Feb 23rd, male Barton Jan 30th. First singing male at Stamford March 17th with a general late April arrival of summering birds including 7 at Barton pits 21st and 8 25th, 5 Gib Pt 22nd and 25 noted in Temple Wood May 24th. There was a moderate coastal fall September 18-20th with 14 at Gib Pt 19th, 4 Saltfleetby 20th and 71 ringed at Theddlethorpe 16-30th. Passage continued through October and early November with a max of 8 at Gib Pt Oct 5th, 15 on 8th up to 3 in Nov and 6 in Dec, 6 Saltfleet Oct 4th but the number of birds present is best demonstrated by the totals trapped at Theddlethorpe with 28 in the first half of November and 5 in the second half. Also in November 2 North Somercotes Warren 8th, pair Barton pits 10th and a male ringed at Immingham 14th. An unusual number of wintering birds appeared in December, a pair at Barton pits 22nd and up to 6 in the town to 1993, male North Cleethorpes 12th, male Deeping St James 6th, male Grantham 16th, fem Blankney 20th, male Pinchbeck 31st, a male feeding on peanuts at Swanpool 24-31st and one feeding on apples at Metheringham 22nd.

**Pallas's Leaf Warbler; *Phylloscopus proregulus*. \***

Vagrant

One found at Carey House Skegness on October 10th (KMW et al) shows just how many rare birds are probably missed in the little watched areas of our coastline. The 24th County record its arrival equalled the previous earliest record at Saltfleetby on October 10th 1982.

**Yellow-browed Warbler; *Phylloscopus inornatus*.**

Rare/scarce coastal passage migrant Sept-Nov; max 21 1985, 22 1986, 25 1988. A very poor autumn for this species with the predominantly northerly winds during the autumn; One Saltfleetby September 27- 29th (GPC,KDD), and 3 at Gib Pt October 8-9th, 12-19th and 13th with one trapped at Seacroft Oct 22nd (AB).

**Wood Warbler; *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*.**

Bred to 1920 4-5 pair; Odd nest records since; rare/scarce on passage late April-June, Aug-Sept.

One April male at Gib Pt 28th with another there May 14th and a small early May arrival with males in song at Hartsholme Park 3rd, Swanpool, Linwood Warren and Louth on 4th, with one Swanpool 12th and 2 birds at Walesby 18th-June 11th. Two autumn birds both at Gib Pt August 20th and a late bird October 10th.

**Chiffchaff; *Phylloscopus collybita*.**

Common breeder and passage March-May, Aug-Nov; rare winter Dec- Feb; P.c.tristis rare Oct-March.

No early winter reports. The first of the year from mid March at Deeping St James and Messingham 15th, 2 Gib Pt 19-20th and Theddlethorpe 22nd, 3 Kirkby Moor 28th. A total of 13 territorial males in 30% of Laughton Forest April 26th. A particularly good autumn passage starting in September with 10 Gib Pt 19th and 18 ringed Theddlethorpe 16-30th. An eastern bird closest to abietinus at Barton pits Sept 30th and one Saltfleet Oct 8th. Many birds were noted in October with 1-2 at many inland sites and on the coast, 3 Stonebridge-Pyes Hall 7th, 4 Saltfleet 13th, 10 Gib Pt 7th, 16 on 8th and 10 13th, 5 Anderby Creek 3rd, 4 North Somercotes Warren 17th included one tristis and one closer to abietinus. Indeed the late autumn was marked by the number of birds showing characteristics of eastern races which was unusual considering the poor showing of other eastern phylloscops. Tristis type birds were reported as follows; Saltfleetby Oct 19th, Gib Pt 29th, Theddlethorpe 3 ringed 18th, one 28th and one Nov 16th, Skegness 30th and Thurlby Sand pits a presumably wintering bird December 8th. Other late nominate birds were at Messingham Nov 4th, 2 North Somercotes Warren 8th, Donna Nook 21st, Gib Pt 4-5th, 29th, Dec 4th and 28th, Saltfleetby Nov 28th, Dec 28th, Barton pits Dec 10th and 11th, Winteringham Haven 12th and Louth 14th.

**Willow Warbler; *Phylloscopus trochilus*.**

Very common breeder and passage March 22nd-November 10th  
Humberston claimed the first bird on April 5th with 12 there on 21st, one Barton 9th and 15 there 25th but a good total of 83 males in song in 30% of Laughton Forest on 26th. On the coast 30 pairs bred at Saltfleetby. Some strange autumn passage distributions were apparent with a day max of just 5 at Tetney/North Cotes Aug 16th, 12 Sept 24th but 80 Gib Pt Aug 18- 19th and a claim of 230 on 16th with 50 there Sept 5th and 20 13th. Late birds in October were at Saltfleet 13-17th, North Somercotes Warren 17th and Gib Pt 19th and 22nd.

**Goldcrest; *Regulus regulus*.**

Variable numbers breeding and on passage [LBR 1990]

The autumn was characterised by a series of moderate coastal falls with birds quickly filtering inland where numbers increased from September onwards. First

arrivals in late September were 45 North Cotes, 120 Gib Pt on 24th, 35 Anderby Creek 27th and 28 ringed at Theddlethorpe 26-30th. Another fall in early October with 50 Anderby Creek 3rd and on 4th 50 Saltfleet, 150 Donna Nook, and 50 North Cotes obviously further swelled on 5th when 160 North Cotes and 200 Gib Pt. Thereafter up to 50 at Gib Pt and 30 at other coastal localities to November.

**Firecrest; *Regulus ingicapillus*.**

Scarce on passage March-May and Sept-Nov; rare winter Dec-Feb  
Gib Pt held a virtual monopoly on this species with singles March 22nd, April 1st, 24-25th and 2 28th with one in song there June 1st. One was trapped at Digby May 4th. In the autumn just two birds at Theddlethorpe October 17th and Gib Pt on 18th; The decline continues.

**Spotted Flycatcher; *Muscicapa striata*.**

Local but fairly common breeder and on passage May-June Sept-Oct  
April 26th-December 5th.

A mid May arrival for the first birds at Gib Pt 2 on 14th with 6 on 15th and 6 31st, 3 ringed Theddlethorpe and one Bradley Woods 15th, others Barton and Skellingthorpe 16th, Chapel pit 17th, 8 Weelsby Woods 23rd and a total of 10 Linwood Warren June 28th. Most of the regular territories in Covenham were not occupied in 1992. In autumn birds often linger as late at inland breeding sites as on the coast thus 8 Haverholme Park Sept 10-16th and 2 Boultham Mere 30th the latter post dating the last coastal bird. A small coastal fall during mid September turned up 7 at Stonebridge-Pyes Hall 18th only 2 19th, 3 North Cotes 16th, 8 Gib Pt 10th with 4 18-19th and one 26th, 3 Horseshoe Point-Pyes Hall 19th and a single Donna Nook 27th.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher; *Ficedula parva*. \***

Very rare spring May and rare autumn Sept-Nov.

An average year with 4 autumn birds but the first at Holbeach Marsh on September 27th (SG) was rather out of the usual range. More usual were singles at Donna Nook Sept 22nd (PHolmes), Oct 7th (JTH) and Theddlethorpe Oct 12th (KDD,DJJ).

**Pied Flycatcher; *Ficedula hypoleuca*.**

Bred 1871, 1891, 1896, 1901; Scarce-fairly common April-May and Aug-Oct; April 11th-November 4th.

The only spring migrants were a female Gib Pt May 17th, one Tetney/North Cotes 28th and 2 Donna Nook 30th and a female at Gib Pt May 17th. In August 1-3 on 6 dates at Gib Pt 16-29th, 1 Theddlethorpe 23rd and Pyes Hall 9th and 24th with an inland bird at Boultham Mere 30th. Peak coastal numbers occurred in a mid September fall 18-22nd; 12 Gib Pt 18th, 11 Horseshoe Point-Pyes Hall 19th, 18 Stonebridge-Pyes Hall 18th, 6 Saltfleet 19th, 12 Donna Nook 19th, 7 Theddlethorpe 19th, 3 Saltfleetby 20th, 6 Humberston 19th and 3 North Cotes and 1 Tetney 19th. One North Cleethorpes 11th, Huttoft 26th, Seacroft 13th and 2 Anderby Creek 27th with the last of the year at Saltfleet October 4th.

**Bearded Tit; *Panurus biarmicus*.**

Rare and very local breeder; first record 3 pair 1968 max 30-40 pair 1983; autumn-winter movements.

Some recovery from the extreme low of 1991 in the Humber Bank pits where 5 pairs

bred all rearing two broods. Two females were at Barton February 11th and occasionally in the early winter. At the second breeding site at least one pair bred at one locality and 1-2 pairs at the second. Good numbers were present in Barton pits in October with a flock of 22 on 18th and up to 30 present. An irrupting flock of 8 there on November 10th and up to 10 birds to the end of the year. Elsewhere 4 at Cleethorpes CP Oct 24th, 2 Gib Pt Oct 13-27th, pair Donna Nook Oct 29th possibly same as several? Saltfleetby Oct 31st and pair there Nov 1st additionally 6 Winteringham Haven Nov 14th.

**Long-tailed Tit; *Aegithalos caudatus*.**

Common breeding resident; local movements; A.c.caudatus Nov 1872

Notable parties of 20 at Haverholme Park Jan 5th and Kirkby Moor Feb 2nd. It was obviously a successful breeding season for many tits with some large roaming flocks widely reported during the late summer and autumn. At Barton 3 flocks totalling 21 seen on Sept 30th with another 10 Oct 13th, at Deeping St James 10 pairs bred and 46 possibly 60 were seen Aug 28th; At N Rauceby 18 on Sept 13th, Wilsford Heath Quarry 15 Sept 30th, Risby Warren 35 Sept 16th, Bradley Woods 40 July 28th, 30 Aug 8th. On the coast 8 Saltfleetby Sept 26th, 20 Gib Pt Aug 19th and in Sept 16-20 noted 19-30th, two flocks of 10 and 13 ringed at Theddlethorpe Oct 17th & 18th and a flock of 19 (one tail-less bird) at Saltfleet on October 25th flew high out towards the sea before returning and later moving inland to the village gardens. A total of 25 at Messingham Dec 22nd.

**Marsh Tit; *Parus palustris*.**

Localised breeding resident in south-west

Reported only from Haverholme, Rauceby High Wood, Holywell, Wilsford Heath Quarry where a max of 5 Aug 18th, Nocton village 2 Feb 9th, Neville Wood and Potterhanworth Wood where 5 on Jan 5th. A report from a new site at Sutton Beckingham Nov 6th.

**Willow Tit; *Parus montanus*.**

Widespread breeding resident

One at Gib Pt Sept 26th was unusual; In the Barton, Barrow Haven Clay pits 4 pairs were present Oct-Dec. A widespread but nowhere numerous species which may be showing signs of a decline?

**Coal Tit; *Parus ater*.**

Widespread breeder and passage migrant March-April and Sept-Nov

A coastal bird at Gib Pt on March 29th. Unlike Blue, Great and Long-tailed Tits this species did not appear in good numbers during the autumn and the only passage birds noted were at Gib Pt Sept 29-30th and singles in October with one Theddlethorpe Oct 31st and singles west at Barton pits Oct 19th and 21st.

**Blue Tit; *Parus caeruleus*.**

Very common resident

Large numbers were on the move during Aug-October often in mixed flocks with Great and Long-tailed Tits; Inland 47 in three flocks at Barton pits Sept 30th, 80 Deeping St James Aug 28th and on the coast 45 Gib Pt Aug 20th, 100 Sept 26th and 40 Oct 21st. On Sept 27th there were also 15 Stonebridge Donna Nook, 30 Saltfleet and 60 Saltfleetby.

**Great Tit; *Parus major*.**

Common resident

The best year since 1987 with 87 ringed at Theddlethorpe was also reflected in high autumn counts at several other localities. At Saltfleetby 30 on Sept 27th with 25 Gib Pt 25-27th and 40 on Oct 13th, 40 Deeping St James Aug 28th and 12 Barton pits Sept 30th.

**Wood Nuthatch; *Sitta europaea*.**

Localised breeder in south-west with odd records elsewhere

The usual south-west sites with birds noted at Bourne Wood, Tortoiseshell Wood, Holywell and Haverholme, Kirkby Underwood, Temple Wood and Belton Park where there were at least 10 March 1st and 12 Nov 8th. A pair were proved to breed in Neville Wood and one was in Nocton village Feb 9th. In the north of the county 2 pair bred in Bradley Woods with 2 juvs seen at one site and up to 4 there in November, and other extralimital records came from Lea near Gainsborough Feb 6th, Muckton Wood Sept 5th. [There was a vague report of a pair in Normanby Park in summer]. Another newly reported locality was at Woodall Spa where there were 1-2 Dec 19-30th.

**Eurasian Treecreeper; *Certhia familiaris*.**

Common woodland breeder; rare on passage; C.f. *familiaris* 13/3/1947, Oct 1990.

Away from the usual breeding woodlands one was feeding in Hawthorn scrub at Barton pits Jan 30th. On the coast singles were trapped at Theddlethorpe June 28th, Aug 11th and Sept 27th. A total of 8 at Deeping St James Aug 28th was notable and coastal records came from Saltfleet Sept 27th with 2 on Oct 17th, Gib Pt Sept 25-27th, Oct 8th, 31st, Dec 20th and North Somercotes Warren Oct 25th.

**Red-backed Shrike; *Lanius collurio*.**

Bred to 1880, 1907 & 1908, 1945, 2 pair 1977, 1978; Scarce May- June July-Oct; max 40 autumn 1977

Three spring males at Donna Nook May 27-28th, North Cleethorpes June 7-8th and Gib Pt on 9th. A male at North Cleethorpes in the same site as the spring bird on August 13th was followed by single juvs at Horseshoe Point Sept 9th and Donna Nook 20-26th.

**Great-Grey Shrike; *Lanius excubitor*.**

Declining and now rare winter visitor and passage bird Sept-April [LBR 1982]

The wintering bird at Bagmoor/Winterton Beck area remained to at least March 9th and became more co-operative during February. One other early winter bird was found at Rothwell Jan 26-27th. A total of 4 or 5 autumn passage birds occurred but no wintering birds were noted before the year end. Singles at Saltfleet Haven Sept 29-Oct 8th, Gib Pt Oct 4th and 9th, Donna Nook Oct 5th and Saltfleet Haven flying south on November 8th.

**Woodchat Shrike; *Lanius senator*. \***

Vagrant;

The first record since 1978 concerned a female at Gibraltar Point on May 16th (ARC, KMW, PMT et al). It was also the first spring bird since one there in 1968 and only the 6th County record (cf 3 county records of Isabelline Shrike).



**Eurasian Jay; *Garrulus glandarius*.**

Common woodland breeder; periodic invasions: eight to 1935 & most recent [LBR 1983].

Extralimital records at Gib Pt Jan 23rd, Oct 13th and 31st, Deeping St James Feb 23rd and Oct 18th, Barton Park mid December. Kirkby Moor a noted locality for this species had 15 together on Feb 2nd.

**Magpie; *Pica pica*.**

Increasing and very common breeder; large winter roosts

Widespread large flocks of 20+ birds with up to 50 at Gib Pt Jan- April and up to 60 Aug-Dec, 62 Saltfleetby Feb 29th at least and 120 there in December, 30 New Holland Jan 27th, 70 Scotterthorpe Feb 29th and 37 Trusthorpe Jan 7th, up to 40 at Whisby pits Jan- Feb. One roost in Goxhill Marsh held 21 Dec 16th with a single roost of 19 at Barton pits. Numbers at the once large Fulstow roost were noted as reduced due to persecution.

**Eurasian Jackdaw; *Corvus monedula*.**

Decreasing breeder; winter immigration and some passage; C.m.monedula 20/1/1919, 4/3/1920, 14/2/1926, 1/4/1979, 6/11/1983

Some signs of local population increases noted but high winter numbers could well apply to wintering continental birds. At Winterton 100 Jan 4th, 310 Tetford and 230 Market Stainton both 6th. A roost of 250+ Risby Warren Feb 11th and 90 Barton quarry March 17th. A flock of 120 Winterton Aug 1st. A pre roost count of 300 at Deeping St James Oct 5th and a party of 16 moved west at New Holland in a heavy diurnal passage early on Nov 3rd. The only large roost monitored in the late year was at Thornton Abbey where there were 3500 on Dec 14th.

**Rook; *Corvus frugilegus*.**

Census 35,000 nests in 720 colonies 1929-30, 45,000 in 977 colonies 1944-5, 17,600 in 731 colonies 1970, 12,500 in 588 colonies 1975, 4838, 1980; Large winter roosts.

Winter flocks of 450 Market Stainton Jan 6th and 400 Fulletby 11th. None of the large winter roosts were counted early in the year but a flock of 1500 at Deeping St James Oct 5th were pre - roost and at Thornton Abbey 3500 roosted Dec 14th. A census of rookeries between Barton and Thornton Abbey in March located 218 nests.

**Carrion Crow; *Corvus corone*.**

Widespread breeder some coastal passage and large winter flocks;

On the coast up to 27 at Gib Pt Jan-March with a massive 190 at Theddlethorpe Jan 25th. Autumn max at Gib Pt was 27 on Oct 12th. On the Humber bank a max of 28 Goxhill-New Holland Oct and 33 Nov 4th. Roost counts revealed 67 at Deeping St James Aug 16th, 65 Sept 13th and up to 60 Oct-Nov with a total of 157 roosting at Donna Nook Dec 13th and 158 at Saltfleetby 10th possibly the same flock.

**Hooded Crow *C.c.corone*.**

Severely decreased winter visitor Sept-May; flocks of 100's occasionally 1000's to 1930's.

The decline continues with just two records during the year; one south at Gib Pt

March 29th and one at Messingham Nov 2nd. It seems hardly credible now that flocks of 100's and even 1000's occurred in the 1800's and early 1900's.

**Common Starling; *Sturnus vulgaris*.**

Very common breeder and passage plus winter visitor.

The usual post breeding northerly movement of juveniles in June occurred with 500 Theddlethorpe 13th and 2000 14th and 700 Gib Pt 15th. A mid-summer roost of 3000 Barton pits July and 6000 Gib Pt 22nd with 1500 Marston SF Aug 30th. There were exceptional numbers on the coast in October with eg; on 17th 5000 Stonebridge Donna Nook, 5000 Grainthorpe village, 2000 Saltfleet then 1000 Theddlethorpe 24th, 2000 Skidbrooke 28th and 5000 Gib Pt 28th with 3000 31st. Several small flocks arrived off the sea during the day on Nov 8th.

**House Sparrow; *Passer domesticus*.**

Declining but widespread breeder.

Post breeding flocks of 100 Immingham June 24th and 120 New Holland in July were the only ones reported. An aberrant silver coloured bird with normal marked primaries and tail was seen at Stickford May 6th. A flock of 300 New Holland Oct-Dec.

**Tree Sparrow; *Passer montanus*.**

Declining and local breeding and passage bird.

An increase in the number of records received may reflect a slight upturn in the fortunes of this species. Flocks gathered at many set-aside and rough grassland areas like New Holland 30 Jan 27-Feb, Market Rasen 20 Jan 26th, North Cotes 25-30 in Jan and other flocks at bird & Pheasant feeding sites at Moulton Marsh 50 Jan, Aubourn max 60 Jan 25th, Deeping St Nicholas 40 Feb 27th and also at Kirkby Moor 20 Feb 2nd, 40 nr Thurlby 12th, 15 Chapel Hill Feb-March, 40 Bourne South Fen March 29th, 20 Langtoft 1st and 50 Billingham 2nd. In April 10 Humberston 3rd and 50 Kirkby-on-Bain 5th. During November 15 were at Saltfleet 8th, 30 Spalding NR 19th, 75 Winterton 24th, but the largest flocks were found in December feeding on fields of fat hen with 30 Barton 15- 27th, 200 in Goxhill Marsh and 85 in Branston Booths 20th.

**Chaffinch; *Fringilla coelebs*.**

Increasingly common and widespread; large autumn/spring and winter flocks; passage;

A minimum of 50 Rothwell Jan 9th and a total of 360 in two flocks at Laughton Forest on Feb 2nd. An emigration of 150 south-east at Gib Pt March 23rd with 110 feeding in Bourne South Fen March 29th. Not a good autumn passage; At Theddlethorpe a peak of 50 Sept 12th and regular small westerly movements at Barton pits in October with a max of 37 in 2 hours 19th. At Gib Pt 110 Nov 4th, a flock of 50 at North Kelsey Moor 29th and 40-50 on Beech mast in Barton Park mid December to 1993.

**Brambling; *Fringilla montifringilla*.**

Very variable numbers Sept-May

A generally poor early winter with few reported; Up to 5 in Jan- March at Bourne, Kirkby Underwood, Blyton, Gib Pt, Winteringham Haven, Laughton Forest and Kirkby-on-Bain with 25 Bardney Jan- Feb, 30 Willingham Jan 21st, 25 east at Gib

Pt March 23rd, 60 Bourne South Fen 29th and 10 Culverthorpe 22nd. Some obvious pre- emigration birds in April with 20 still in Bourne South Fen 1st, 1-3 at Gib Pt with 6 on 28th, male Theddlethorpe 4th, 13 Boultham Park 20th, 9 Bourne Wood 20th last 25th, 20 Walesby 12th with 15 20th. A prominent arrival of birds was noted on the coast and inland from mid September but most birds passed quickly inland or west and few large flocks were noted in the late winter. In September one Gib Pt 17th then a peak there of 255 south on 27th with 60 29th-Oct 4th, 116 north west Oct 10th, 50 on 16th and 15 south 26th. At Seacroft one 17th with 100 20th and up to 50 at Saltfleetby Sept 28th, 27+ at Saltfleet 27th. A total of 20 Theddlethorpe Oct 17th, 20 Nov 8th and 9 north-west at Barton pits Oct 10th with 9+ North Somercotes Warren 25th. A max of 44 at Gib Pt Nov 4th with 20 Theddlethorpe 8th and finally a flock of up to 150 in Barton park late Nov-mid Dec.

**Greenfinch; *Carduelis chloris*.**

Common breeder, passage and winter visitor

The large flock feeding on a field of oil seed rape at Cawkwell still numbered 400 Jan 10th and 150 were at Rothwell 18th with a flock of 90 South Thoresby 25th. Notable late winter flocks included 200 on linseed stubble at Skidbrooke November 8th, 80 Worlaby Carrs Dec 4th and 40 Coleby Dec 22nd.

**Goldfinch; *Carduelis carduelis*.**

Common breeder; passage April-May and Sept-Oct

Autumn 'charms' of note included 137 (50-60% juvs) at Deeping St James Aug 16th, 50 Spalding 13th, 100 South Killingholme Sept 18th and 32 nearby at East Halton Skitter Oct 16th, 150 Billingham Sept 29th. At Gib Pt 155 flew south Oct 8th and 32 north-west Nov 10th. At Thurlby Fen there were 30 Nov 9th.

**Siskin; *Carduelis spinus*.**

Very rare and occasional breeder; variable numbers July-May

A reasonable early winter period with good concentrations at Boultham Park up to 40 Jan-March, Louth 50-60 Jan-March 4th, up to 65 at Barton pits Feb, up to 150 Bourne Wood in March, 30 Walesby March with 50 Belton Park 1st. Several during April the most 60 Walesby 19th and 4 in early May at Bourne Wood 3rd, singles Linwood 4th, Kirkby Moor 5th and Barton pits 6th. A widespread coastal arrival and subsequent onward passage from mid September, earliest Gib Pt 14th with 30 south 27th and then up to 20 per day at many localities. October maximum at Gib Pt was 120 south on 8th with 34 on 16th and 25 were at Messingham 13th. Later 40 flew south at Theddlethorpe Nov 21st. Inland up to 30 at a few localities Nov-Dec with 50 Willingham 17th, 80 Boultham Park Dec 26th, 40 Atkinsons Warren 27th, 100 Bracebridge 31st.

**Linnet; *Carduelis cannabina*.**

Widespread but declining breeder; passage flocks April and Sept- Nov

The most notable event was a very large north-westerly passage along the north-east coast and up the Humber during April with thousands of birds probably involved over a three week passage. Notable counts were 50 at Tetney 5th, 100 per hour there 19th with 286 in 40mins at North Cleethorpes 18th and 200 23rd; 100's at Barton/Barrow Haven 14-21st and 100 noted at Gib Pt 24-25th and a flock of 500 at Cadney 13th. An early flock of 100 at Gib Pt July 10th and then 220 there

Sept 10th and up to 150 in October, 80 November. A flock of 200 New Holland Sept 23rd and at Saltfleet 100 Oct 25th-Nov 8th, 100 North Kelsey Moor Nov 7th and 140 Alkborough Hills Dec 31st.

**Twite; *Carduelis flavirostris*.**

Common coastal winter visitor; rare inland; Sept-April

Incomplete winter coverage especially from the Wash again hampers a full summary of the wintering population. From north-south; 60 at Humberston Fitties on at least Jan 5th, a max of 65 Tetney, North Cotes Feb 24th, 55 March 16th, 40 22nd and 35 April 1st; 50 Pyes Hall March 17th, 50 Skidbrooke Feb 15th, 20 Saltfleetby Feb 9th and at Gib Pt 30 Jan 5th then less than 20 to Feb 29th when 60 and up to 68 in March, 40 April 2-3rd and 14 12th. In the Wash 536 Terrington Jan 25th, 110 Moulton Marsh Feb 25th, 150 Holbeach Marsh 28th and 80 Holbeach Range April 19th. Inland a small flock again wintered at Winterton Tip with 8 Jan 5-18th and at least 6 to 29th. Another single bird was reported from Kirkby-on-Bain Jan 21st. First autumn birds were at North Cotes Oct 1st with 30 by 6th and 55 8th, 16 Tetney 10th, 70 there Dec, and 47 Humberston Fitties Oct 24th, 3 at Gib Pt Oct 1st, 75 by 10th and 160 13th but then 90 15th and only a max of 46 to 31st, 33 Nov 1st falling to 6 by 25th. In the Wash only small numbers were noted in the late winter period with maxima of 50 Kirton Marsh, 50 Holbeach Marsh and 50 Holbeach Range all Oct 15th, 50 Fosdyke Bridge Nov 14th, up to 40 Gedney, 85 at Witham Mouth and 85 Frampton Marsh Dec 13th. Also on the coast 185 Howdens pullover Nov 18th, up to 80 Saltfleetby Dec. Birds were again in the Winterton tip/Bagmoor/Coleby area with 6 Nov 26th and at least 8 Dec 5th to 1993.

**Common Redpoll; *Carduelis flammea*.**

Local breeder; variable winter numbers with occasional influxes

Scarce during the latter part of the year the exceptions being 58 south at Gib Pt Sept 23-27th, 42 there Oct 8th and up to 100 in Willingham Forest late Nov-Dec and 100 Burton pits Nov 23rd.

**Mealy Redpoll; *C.f.flammea***

Rare winter and passage Sept-Nov

At Humberston/Tetney reports of 3 March 14-15th with 15 on 16th and 4 April 6th.

**Common Crossbill; *Loxia curvirostra*.**

Very rare and occasional breeder; highly variable numbers with most recent invasion years 1966, 1972, 1985 (270), 1990 & 1991; [LBR 1991]

In marked contrast to the previous two years only low winter numbers and no summer influx was noted although surprisingly breeding was proven at one site. The only January record was of 5 in Bourne Wood 5th with 5 there April 4th. A flock of 10 Twigmoor Feb 7th and in March 2 flew south at Gib Pt 6th and up to 10 were at Walesby where a pair bred rearing at least one juvenile. In April up to 7 in Laughton Forest 1-7th with 2 Linwood 19th then a minor movement on the coast in June with one south Theddlethorpe 13th and at Gib Pt 1 8th, 1 13th, 4 14-16th, male 22nd and 1 25th and 3 July 25th with at least one at North Somercotes Warren July 5th. The only late year records were 5 in Muckton Wood Sept 5th and one flying west over Barton pits Nov 11th.

**Common Rosefinch; *Carpodacus erythrinus*. \***

Vagrant;

In a year with so many east coast spring records only one female/immature male was found at Gibraltar Point on June 24th (KMW,PMT). Only the 8th county record.

**Bullfinch; *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*.**

Fairly common and widespread breeder

A widespread but nowhere really common species. A gathering of 10 at Wilsford Heath Quarry Aug 18th, 9 together in Willingham Forest Dec 5th, and 8 Bagmoor Dec 19th were exceptional. The annual total ringed at Theddelthorpe was just 37 less than half the previous lowest annual total ringed.

**Hawfinch; *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*.**

Very local presumed resident with very rare passage records

Recorded from just two-three regular sites with 3-4 at Brumby Crematorium Feb 21-29th (a report of 10 nearby all February) with 2 March 28th, one Twigmoor May 24th and in the late winter up to 12 in Broughton Woods December 5th intermitently to 1993.

**White-throated Sparrow; *Zonotrichia albicollis*. \***

The first county record concerned a very well watched bird at Chapel Hill clearing in Willingham Forest from December 5th, when trapped to late March 1993 (SBritton, JRM, MLRG et al), see article.

Accepted by BBRC.

**Lapland Longspur; *Calcarius lapponicus*.**

Variable coastal numbers Sept-March; very rare inland

The only flock of note was of 12 in fields at the Witham Mouth Jan 25th with 100 there Feb 22nd, 50 23rd and 65 March 1-2nd. The only other birds noted were up to 4 at Saltfleetby Jan-Feb 29th, one Humberston Feb 24th and 2 Gib Pt March 8th. An exceptionally poor autumn to late winter; The only October reports were from Pyes Hall 12th, North Cotes 3 31st, Donna Nook on three dates Oct/Nov and Gib Pt Oct 7th, 5 south on 10th, 14th, 2 on 15th, 16th and 5 south 29th, in November singles 1st, 3-4th, 8th with 21 9th, Dec 9th and 12th. Also 2 Skidbrooke Nov 3rd and 1 8th- 1993, 2 Dec 3rd and 3 over Stonebridge Donna Nook Nov 8th. In the Wash one Witham Mouth Nov 8th and 5 there 29th.

**Snow Bunting; *Plectrophenax nivalis*.**

Variable numbers Sept-April on coast; recent signs of decrease; rare inland.

Along the Humber Bank 1-3 at Stallingborough Feb 13-23rd with 6 March 6th and 2 North Cleethorpes Jan 30-Feb 15th. At Humberston 5 Jan 5th and 6 Feb 8th could all refer to the same groups. Only one was noted at Tetney all winter on Feb 9th. The main flock frequented the foreshore at Saltfleetby where there were 50-70 Jan-Feb 13th and 20 to March 13th. Further south up to 10 at Trusthorpe Jan 8-16th and 6 Feb 13th and at Gib Pt a Jan/Feb max of 28 with 6 March 1-2nd and 28-29th and one April 20th. In the Wash 3 at the Witham Mouth Jan 25th and 1 Dawsmere Feb 22nd. Inland one was at Cadney Res Jan 10th. First autumn birds were at North Cotes and Gib Pt Oct 8th with singles at Gib Pt 16th, 25th and 28-29th, 3 on 30th and 8 by 31st, up to 30 in November but only one in December 29-30th; at Tetney/North Cotes Oct 8th, 14th, 21st and 23rd, 9 Nov 1st, 2 10-15th and 1 Dec



6th with an inland bird at Covenham Res. Oct 11-16th. Two at Huttoft Nov 20th at least. At Saltfleet Haven one Nov 8th with a max of 25 there and Donna Nook Oct 10-Nov 20th possibly some of the main flock which was at Saltfleetby with 7+ on Nov 8th increasing to 145 26th then declining to around 74 through December to 6th, 66 to 20th and 58 into 1993. One inland at New Holland December 3rd and another on the Humber bank at Pyewipe 4th.

**Yellowhammer; *Emberiza citrinella*.**

Widespread and common breeder; some large winter flocks

The largest winter flocks were 100 at Gainsborough in February with 40 New Holland Jan-Feb, 70 Dunston Fen Feb 8th, 55 Tongue End 1st and 80 Bourne South Fen March 29th. In the autumn a flock of 100 Toft Newton Oct 26th and a roost of 60+ Goxhill Marsh Nov 25th.

**Ortolan Bunting; *Emberiza hortulana*. \***

Vagrant; 30 birds April-June and Aug-Sept.

An immature was seen and heard near Donna Nook on September 19th (RLo).

**Rustic Bunting; *Emberiza rustica*. \***

Vagrant;

A bird of uncertain age/sex was present at Saltfleetby on March 22nd (ACS,AHJH et al) but had gone the next day. Its arrival coincided with an influx of Northern Wheatears and it seems most likely that it had wintered either in southern Britain or Europe following westward vagrancy in autumn 1991 and then moved north under the same conditions as the early wave of Wheatears. One was seen in Belgium the previous day. Only the fourth county record.

Accepted by BBRC.

**Reed Bunting; *Emberiza schoeniclus*.**

Localised breeder and passage bird Sept-Nov

A notable flock of 103 feeding on rough fields at New Holland Jan 27-Feb 11th. A total of 25 Tetney Sept 19th, 25+ Pyes Hall Sept 22nd and a record of 6 feeding in a Swanpool garden December.

One ringed at Vest Agder Norway on September 11th 1990 was controlled at Saltfleet Haven on October 12th 1991 proving that some of our autumn coastal birds are of Scandinavian origin (MLRG). This was only the fourth British recovery of a Norwegian ringed bird.

**Corn Bunting; *Miliaria calandra*.**

Declining breeding resident; larger winter flocks/roosts.

At Gib Pt up to 56 in Jan, 23 Feb, 31 March and 66 April. Other winter feeding flocks included in January 35 Cawkwell 10th, 20 Holbeach Marsh 11th, 25 26th, 22 Walesby Jan 19th, 18 Rothwell 26th and in February 40-50 Bourne South Fen with 60 there March 29th and 70 April 1st then 21 to 19th. A total of 19 Deeping High Bank May 10th and singing males were noted in good numbers at Wellingore Heath 10 June 11th and in 2sq km south of Pinchbeck where there were 7-8. Two pairs were on Nocton Fen and 1-2 in Goxhill both serious reductions from previous years. A pair Blankney Heath. In the late winter up to 45 at Gib Pt Dec 3-27th, and a flock of 50 on the Hobhole Nov 8th with 35 still there Dec 29th. Some flocks gathered on set aside stubbles with up to 40 Walesby Top December, 18 Rothwell, 100 in three flocks at Pelhams Pillar 21st, and a large flock of 82 on a silage field at Barton Dec 10-15th while a flock of 100 were at Ashby de la Launde in December.

### **Additions and Corrections to previous reports.**

- 1982; Arctic Redpoll; Saltfleetby February-April now Accepted by BBRC
- 1989; White-tailed Eagle; Humberstone April 26th (J.B.Baranowski, C.Gorman et al) Accepted by BBRC  
Messingham/Scawby/Brigg May 21-22nd (W.Gillat et al) Accepted by BBRC  
Both considered to refer to the individual already accepted at Revesby Reservoir in May 1989
- Wood Warbler; Deeping St James August 10th Withdrawn by observer
- 1990; Razorbill; Gibraltar Point 56 October 21st
- 1991; Montagu's Harrier Gibraltar Point female April 16th  
Willow Warbler Deeping St James January 21st (PJP)

### **An additional historical Little Bustard record for Lincolnshire and South Humberside.**

A further record of Little Bustard; *Tetrax tetrax*, not included in The Birds of Lincolnshire and South Humberside has been brought to our attention by Keith Atkin one of the authors of that publication. The details are as follows;

A bird shot at Charity Farm (GR SE 729011) near Westwoodside in the Isle of Axholme, prior to 1890 was presented to the Doncaster Museum in 1942. It was thought to be a Black Grouse/Pheasant hybrid. The specimen was recognised in 1977 and described and photographed (Limbert 1985). The remains are on display in Doncaster Museum;

Refs: Howes C A 1977 Early Birds Lapwing 10:24:31  
Limbert M 1985 Historical specimens in the Doncaster Museum  
3: Little Bustard Lapwing 16:17:21

### **Escapes etc; 1992;**

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Emperor Goose;              | One Messingham Feb 14-17th  |
| Snow Goose;                 | Gib Point one north April 20th.<br>Tattershall and South Kyme Dec 7th-1993  |
| Lesser White-fronted Goose; | Read's Island an adult at least May 7-<br>October 10th when shot. It was unringed but<br>had a pure white outermost primary in the<br>right wing. (GPC et al)<br>Saltfleetby another very tame adult October<br>31st- (KA,PH) |
| Wood Duck;                  | Deeping St James female November 15th (PJP)   |
| Marbled Teal;               | Huttoft pit August 30th (GPC)   |
| Barrow's Goldeneye;         | Langtoft pits two males in summer (AHJH)  |
| Alexandrine Parakeet;       | Gib Point April 21st.   |

S Abbott	K Collet	A H J Harrop	S Lorand	I Saville
M Ackerman	P G Collins	R. Harvey	R Lord	J Sharpe
D Addison.	J E Cook	J Hayes	N Lound	T Shearsmith
G W Allison	M Cousins	P Haywood	K Louth	I G Shepherd
K. Armstrong	P Croft.	R N Hebb	K A Marshall	E Simms
J Ashburner	N Crossman	K Heath	J Mawer	A C Sims
G Atkin.	D Cullum	R Heath	W J Meek	J Smith
K Atkin	J Daisley	B Hedley	S J Meek	M Smith
M Atkinson	A Daws	I Hildred	W R Meek	S Spalding
A Baldwin	N Drinkall	S Hinsley	Mid-Lincs	J Spring
A Ball	K D Durose	R Hirst	Ringling Group	G C Steele
S Banks	T Eadson	P Holmes	J & B Mighell	W Sterling
N Barker	I Edwards	T Housman	B K Morrish	M Sizer
N Beasley	G J Fenwick	Mrs M	Tony Morris	P Todd
G Beeley	R J Foster	Humberstone	J D Mortemore	D Townsend
P Bellamy	S Foster	D Hursthouse	A J Murphy	P M Troake
F Beresford	A Frost	P Hyde	J Nelson	J R Walker
FE Boddy	A R Frost	Mr & Mrs Inman	R Newton	M Warren
M Boddy	A J Gardiner	D J Jenkins	C Nimmick	R K Watson
S P Botham	N Gardiner	J C & S	T Nuttall	P N Watts
D Bradbeer	Gibraltar	Jennings	G Orton	J Wheldon
N Bray	Point NNR	R Jones	B Pierce	C Weightman
S Britton	W Gillatt	S Keightley	P J Precey	J Whitehead
D R Bromwich	S Gillings	D A Kelham	S Radcliffe	S C P Williams
W P Brooking	B Glover	Dr T Kerry	C Rankine	R B Wilkinson
A F Brown	P T Gymer	R Labbett	E J Redshaw	D Wilson
H Bunn	M C Hall	R Lamin	R Riddington	K E Wilson
R Burgin	B Hancock	J & R Laundon	I J Riley	K M Wilson
P Burnett	G Hardy	T Lee	G W Roberts	T de Winton
R J F Carr	J T Harriman	S Lehièvre	D A Robinson	D J Wood
C Casey	A Harris	S M Lister	S Routledge	P Wood
G P Catley	M E Harrison	R Lorand	I D Russel	D Wright



## WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

at Willingham Woods December 5th-late March 1993

Situated in primarily coniferous woodland, Chapel Hill Farm includes a small field of about two acres in extent. This is sown annually with Kale and Beans for Pheasant cover and there is a large amount of Fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*) and Dock (*Rumex* sp) amongst the crop. These weed seeds have proved to be a magnet for large numbers of finches and the site has been regularly mist-netted in the winter months by the Mid-Lincs Ringing Group for the past ten years. The field is surrounded on two sides by old thorn hedges and bushes which are used as roosts.

At 8am on Saturday December 5th 1992 five members of the Group erected about 300 feet of mist net in and around the field. Several Lesser Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea cabaret*) were netted during the morning. At 09-45hrs Nigel Bray extracted a sparrow like passerine which could not be immediately identified by the observers present. With the aid of suitable North American Field Guides it was quickly identified as a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). In view of its status other Group members and the County Recorder were contacted and attended shortly after. Graham Catley confirmed the identification from experience with the species in Canada.

The weather was bright and sunny with a light south-westerly wind although the earlier part of the week had been dominated by strong westerly winds. After ringing, processing and being photographed, the bird was released at 10-45hrs and promptly settled in a nearby alder calling loudly for several minutes before flying off. It was seen by about thirty observers the same afternoon and by several hundred the following day!!

Description of bird made from notes taken in the hand on December 5th from 10-35-1045hrs and in the field the same day at 13-45hrs and the following day between 12-00-13-00hrs, and on 8th 10-00 to 11-45.

Bunting like bird with stout conical bill, relatively long tail, plain rump and striking head, back and underpart patterns;

Bill; Conical, pointed and dull horn coloured with slightly darker culmen and cutting edges.

Eye pupil black and iris typical "first-winter Dunnock" brown ie; a slightly ruddy mid-brown

Lores and fore-supercilium a pale lemon yellow and very obvious and bright in the hand but invisible in the field from 50m range even with a telescope 30X but more visible later in its stay in sunlight at close range. Supercilia narrow over eye then broadened to a wide deep patch at the rear and all a pale buff with fine darker streaking visible in the hand. Dark lateral crown stripes began adjacent to centre of base of upper mandible and curved over supercilia to rear crown towards nape sides; Mostly blackish but with odd rich rufous feather tips in amongst the black. Median crown stripe again pale buff and narrow but reaching from culmen to rear crown, best seen in the field when bird perched head-on. Dark blackish eye-stripe from rear of eye underlined the pale supercilia and curved down slightly at the rear round onto rear upper edge of ear coverts; a thin and inobvious blackish mousa-

chial streak from below eye down to bottom front corner of ear-coverts; Ear-coverts a uniform grey with a slight buff tinge in the hand.

Sub-moustachial stripe creamy separated from white chin/throat by a narrow broken grey-black malar streak which ended at the lower throat; Chin/ throat clear white; upper breast washed grey with fine darker streaking forming a gorget; grey streaking then continued onto breast sides; lower breast and belly white; flanks washed with buffy grey-brown and marked with thin darker brown streaks; under-tail-coverts pale buffy; fine dark streaks along sides of vent and undertail coverts.

Nape grey-buff with fine dark streaking; back/mantle ruddy brown with lines of heavy black streaking ending level with upper tertial where lower back rump were a pale almost ochre tinged buffy brown colour and unmarked; Tail a neutral mid-brown on upper side but pale under; In hand outer two tail feathers showed a slightly paler creamy distal third to the outer web.

Lesser coverts and scapulars mostly rich ruddy brown with black central streak to all scapulars, forming obvious rich colour at bend of wing; median coverts black with distal third clean white forming obvious wing bar in the field; greater coverts black centred with rusty fringes and whitish tip; formed clear cut white but broken wing bar caused by thin shaft streak extending to tip of each feather. Tertials similarly black centred with clear cut rich rufous edges and faded to whitish tips; again black of feather centre extended right to tip of feather and broke the paler buff-rufous fringe. Secondaries brown with buffy outer webs; greater primary coverts rich brown; primaries dark brown outer webs paler; Whole effect on closed wing was of a rich chestnut/rufous forewing patch and wing panel, tertial edges, with dark centred medians and greater, obvious thin white wing bars and uniform paler edged flight feathers.

Lemon yellow feathers on underwing at bend of wing in hand.

Legs and feet dull flesh;

Call given on release 4 times was a metallic " chink tchink " loud and clear. During several visits over the next three months GPC also noted other calls namely a loud hard chink, a high pitched seeep, a quieter sip, seep, a tsit and an upward inflected tseee-eeet. At least one call was likened to turning a cork on the neck of a bottle (J.O'Sullivan pers comm).

The tarsus width was measured and it was found that a BTO 2.8mm (size B) fitted best and this was placed on the right tarsus. The following measurements were taken by S.A.Britton and J.R.Mawer;

Biometrics/wing formula;

Wing length 74mm

Emargination 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th primaries; depth of emargination on 3rd was 26mm

Wing point 5th primary

**Wing formula;**

Primary 1	2	3E	4E	5E	6E	7	8	9	10	ss
+/- wing point	-15	-8	-1	wp	-1	-4	-9	-10	-10.5	-11



Hind claw length	7mm	Tarsus length	26mm
Bill to feathering	9mm	Bill width	6.2mm
Bill depth	8mm	Tail length	71mm
Weight	24.6g		

Persons present at time of ringing;

S.A.Britton	J R Mawer	N Bray	D Cullum
P G Chapman	S Carter	G P Catley	

The following day the bird was seen by over 500 observers and was still at the site at the time of this report feeding on the ground in the weedy field and occasionally flying up into the surrounding bushes. From 8th it was spending more time loafing and feeding in a brash pile and associating loosely with 1-2 Dunnocks and calling more regularly from 7th onwards which may suggest that it was fairly newly arrived when first caught.

Later in its stay it developed a pattern of feeding on grain and seeds put down by the side of its favoured hawthorn/blackthorn hedge and reverting to the depths of the hedge to rest and digest. It was also regularly seen scratching rather in the manner of a chicken, both feet together, in the leaf litter and eating odd invertebrates. It associated loosely with the 3- 4 Dunnocks present in the same area and became aggressive to them on odd occasions and also to Chaffinches which at times ventured too close . It could be easily located by the thin high pitched, shrill call usually given singly but heard on at least one occasion on 23rd to be tripled when in aggressive attack on a Chaffinch.

Thanks are due to the Forestry Commission, Mr Baxter (shooting tenent) and the many observers for their excellent co-operation.

Mid-Lincs Ringing Group with further notes from G.P.Catley.



## KUMLIEN'S GULL AT APEX GULL ROOST; Kevin DuRose.

On December 18th 1992 I visited the Apex pit gull roost at North Hykeham, Lincoln, where I have been studying gulls for the last ten years. As I drove through the gates at the southern end of the pits at 15-05 hrs several hundred gulls were already assembled on the water. At the front of the flock at about 100m distance I noticed a very pale gull, instantly recognisable as an adult Iceland Gull. On closer inspection however, with binoculars I noticed the bird had charcoal grey markings on the first three or four primaries. I quickly turned my car around and set up my telescope inside the car as a heavy shower set in. After about five minutes the shower cleared and I had very good views of the Kumlien's Gull sitting on the water with a Herring Gull for direct comparison. Several times the bird rose in the water with its wings held out almost hanging in the wind, which facilitated good views of the upper wing pattern. I watched the bird from 15-05 hrs to 16-05 hrs when it flew towards the northern end of the pits and was not seen subsequent to this. The weather was windy and fairly dull but generally good for observation of gulls not being too bright and glaring.

### Description;

Bill; Short and thin based, green at the base merging to yellow-horn on the tip with a red spot on the gonys.

Eye; Darkish, appeared dark yellow or brown with white crescents above and below; an adjacent Herring Gull clearly showed a very obvious pale iris.

Head, neck, breast; White with grey/brown streaks, spots and blotches, heaviest on breast

Mantle, scapulars, back; all pale grey, slightly paler than adjacent Herring of race *argenteus*

Underparts; all pure white

Legs; Only seen when bird hanging in the wind appeared dark pink

Wings; As Iceland Gull except that four outermost primaries had charcoal-grey subterminal band extending along the outer web of the feather with white on the extreme tip.

Despite many observers searching over the ensuing two evenings the Kumlien's Gull did not reappear at the Apex roost and a second winter Mediterranean Gull was small compensation.

Regular searching of this gull roost and the adjacent tips and pits over the last ten years has located two Ring-billed Gulls, Iceland, Glaucous and regular Mediterranean Gulls, a Laughing Gull in 1984 and Caspian Tern. This Kumlien's Gull, the race of Iceland Gull breeding in north-western Canada, is the first such record for Lincolnshire and followed a Ring-billed Gull at the same site in April 1992.

Kevin D DuRose.

The essential reference for the identification of Kumlien's Gull is the North American journal *Birding*, published by the American Birding Association; *Birding* XXXIII Number 5 October 1991 254-268 complete with several colour photographs. GPC

## **GIBRALTAR POINT OBSERVATORY REPORT 1992**

by P M Troake & K M Wilson

The total of 208 species represented a fairly typical year and included a fair selection of rarities/semi-rarities, with one being a first for the reserve. The following account summarises the year's highlights season by season. A more detailed analysis is available in the Gibraltar Point NNR Annual Report 1992.

### **January-March**

Regular raptors throughout this period included up to four Hen Harriers, three Merlins and four Short-eared Owls. Less regular were Barn Owl, Long-eared Owl once, Peregrine on five dates and a Goshawk in January/early February. Red-throated Divers were the most prolific species offshore, peaking at 126 in number on 8 February. More notable was the unprecedented 483 Eider south on 16 February. Up to four Velvet Scoter were noted and a Scaup on 20 February was the only sighting. A Goosander on 2 February headed south just offshore as did a Slavonian Grebe on 10 March. Glaucous gulls flew over on 3 January and 18 March. Irregular Pink-footed Goose flocks peaked at 170 on 21 January. Whooper Swans were noted on a few occasions until 8 March (max 11, 12 February) and 15 Tundra Swans headed east on 2 March. The estuary attracted good numbers of Eurasian Wigeon - up to 2500 in January, also up to 2160 Brent Geese, but most had departed by mid March. Low mere water levels kept waterfowl numbers low again. High tide wader counts were largely unexceptional but the estuary and fields attracted up to 3500 Northern Lapwing and 800 European Golden Plover. Passerine, highlights included up to 60 Twite, 28 Snow Buntings, two Lapland Longspurs (8 March) and five Wood Larks. A Eurasian Jay on 23 January was also a notable reserve bird. Late March of course produced the first trickle of incoming migrants with Spotted Redshank on 16th, Chiffchaff and White Wagtail from 19th, Black Redstart and Northern Wheatear from 30th and a Common Stonechat on 31st.

### **April-June**

Quality rarities featured well from late April. The spring produced seven records of Montagu's Harrier and two Ospreys. A Eurasian Spoonbill made a brief appearance on 27 April. May yielded the reserve's second Woodchat Shrike on 16th, with a Common Quail heard on that date and the next day. A first for Gib came in the form of a Red-throated Pipit, from 26 to 28 May. June's highlights were a male Red-backed Shrike (9th), a Common Rosefinch (24th) and a Bee-eater sp. overhead (27th). Further raptor interest was provided by occasional Peregrine Falcon until 31 May, regular Hobbies from 27 April, one Hen Harrier throughout April, then a ringtail on 15 May, a late Merlin on 28 May, a good Marsh Harrier passage from 23 April and a Common Buzzard on 28 June. Notable records from the sea concerned seven Greater Scaup (4 April), Arctic Skuas, two Manx Shearwaters and two Little Gulls. In an unprecedented year for the species at Gib, Mediterranean Gull records came from 13-14 April, 30 May, then regularly from mid June (max. 3, 27th). Wildfowl were a minor feature in the spring, although a late Whooper Swan was on the mere on 2 May. A good selection of passage waders were evident from mid April. Whimbrel were amongst the first to arrive and hit a peak of 90 north on 10 May. Thirteen Ruff appeared on 20 April and again on 14 May. The latter date also produced Wood Sandpiper, Little Stint and an Avocet. Winter visitors lingered

in to April, with Twite until 12th and a late Snow Bunting on 20th. Summer migrants featured heavily, notably six Firecrests, two Wood Warblers, six Black Redstarts, Ring Ouzels, a further Wood Lark, Pied Flycatcher and Grey-headed Wagtail.

### **July-September**

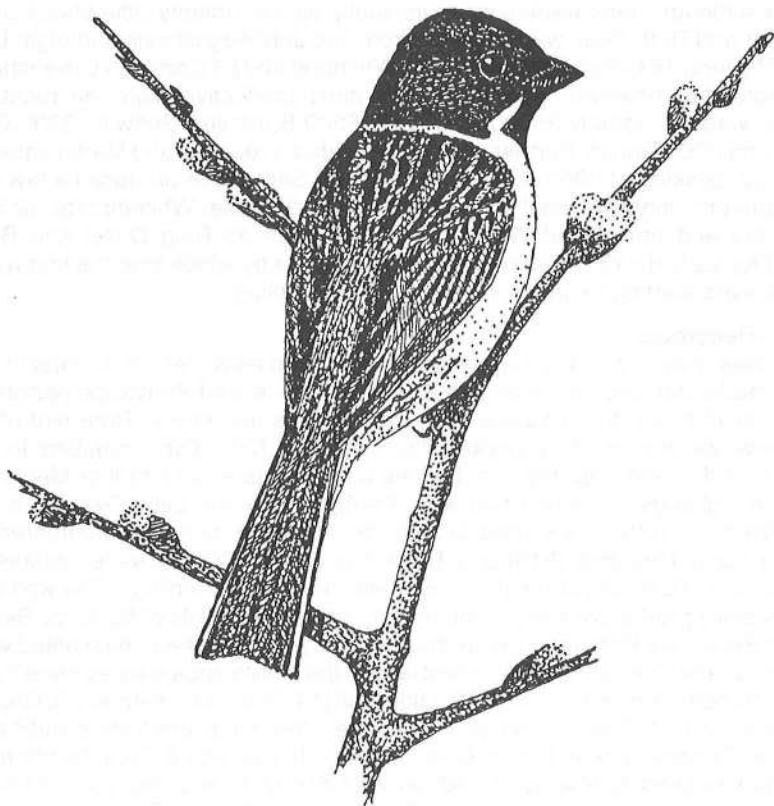
On the rarity front, July witnessed a Honey Buzzard heading south-west on 11th and a Sabine's Gull joined the gull roost on 19th. Six Avocets appeared on 31st, prior to a more productive August, during which the highlights were a Eurasian Spoonbill (4th), a Temminck's Stint on the mere, Pomarine Skua, Barred Warbler and two or three Icterine Warblers. September also provided a good selection, with Wryneck on 6th, Leach's Storm-petrel and Pomarine Skua on 17th, Roseate Tern, Osprey, Eurasian Spoonbill and another Wryneck on 19th and an overflying Richard's Pipit on 27th. Manx Shearwaters and Black Terns featured occasionally, mainly in August, but the best sea-watching day was 23 September when observations included 80 Northern Gannets, 37 Arctic Skuas, 39 Great Skuas and a Sooty Shearwater. Raptor sightings included early Peregrine Falcon and Merlin in July, occasional Hobby and frequent Marsh Harrier. Passage migrants were much in evidence although some waders were unusually scarce, notably Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper and Ruff. Peak wader counts from late July/August included eight Little Ringed Plovers, 16 Green Sandpipers, 51 Whimbrel and 51 Common Greenshank. Late September however, saw the year's most productive high tide roosts of shoreline waders, notably 35000 Red Knot, 5500 Bar-tailed Godwits, 3000 Grey Plovers and 6000 Dunlin. Further migrants included a record Sand Martin passage in mid July, peaking at 5000 on 19th. August and September produced a few falls of warblers etc., highlights including peaks of 100+? Lesser Whitethroats, 12 Pied Flycatchers and one Wood Warbler. Migrants such as Ring Ouzel and Black Redstart typically did not appear until late September by which time the first winter migrants were starting to arrive, including 255 Brambling.

### **October-December**

October was fairly productive before activity lessened as winter set in. Great Grey Shrikes made brief appearances (4th & 9th), a Red-necked Phalarope performed from 7th to 11th and three Yellow-browed Warblers appeared. Rare bird of the month however was an Olive-backed Pipit briefly on 12th. Other notables for the reserve included two Bearded Tits, Horned Lark, Eurasian Jay, further Mediterranean Gull sightings, Common Crossbill, Peregrine Falcon, Little Owl and a late Wood Warbler (10th). Six Ring Ouzels on 4th were rather outnumbered by incoming Song Thrushes (510) and Redwings (2700+). Other winter visitors included up to five Lapland Longspurs, 160 Twite and 116 Bramblings. Sea watching was especially productive early in the month, with peak counts of 55 Arctic Skuas, 45 Great Skuas, six Pomarine Skuas and ten Sooty Shearwaters. Also noted were single Long-tailed Skua and Puffin whilst later in the month appearances were made by Black-throated Diver, Little Auk (2), Little Gull (14, 25th), Goosander (7), Greater Scaup and Velvet Scoter. The sea was often the most productive habitat in November/December, with further Black-throated Divers and a Great Northern on 12th. Black-necked Grebe appeared on 20 December and sea duck included occasional Common Goldeneye, Velvet Scoter and two Greater Scaup. Goosander was also noted twice. Two Great Skuas passed by on 13 November on which date the last Arctic Skua was also noted. Two Pomarine Skuas frequented the beach

until 6 November. Little Gull was observed twice and auk movements peaked at 92 south on 1 November. Also on the beach were two Purple Sandpipers (10 Nov), three Horned Larks and up to 28 Snow Buntings. Last of the summer migrants were two Barn Swallows on 4 November and a Black Redstart on 15 November. An influx of Blackcaps in early December yielded at least ten birds.

The **GIBRALTAR POINT ANNUAL REPORT 1992** includes systematic list of all bird species recorded, ringing reports and surveys and detailed accounts of the reserve. Butterflies/moths/dragonflies and flowering plants plus a paper on re-introduction of the Natterjack Toad and wild bird pathology. It is available from the reserve Visitor Centre priced £3.00 or by mail order at £3.50 from Gibraltar Point Field Station, Skegness, PE24 4SU, tel: 0754 762677.





## COUNTY RINGING REPORT - 1992

Compiled by Mike Boddy

At 27,480, the ringing total for 1992 was more than 7% down on 1991, and 3% lower than in 1990. This seemed rather surprising, as the coastal catches were quite good and CES totals were up, both on the coast and inland. Comparisons of the seven totals that were over 2000 birds each in 1991, with the corresponding figures for 1992, indicated little overall change in the latter year - a reduction of just 1%. The major decline - almost 24% - was in the remaining 19 totals reported, and is perhaps more attributable to reduced effort than lack of birds: some ringers may, of course, disagree with that interpretation for particular species, or areas of the county. A further cause for the lower reported totals in 1992 was the lack of information from two ringers, in spite of their promise to supply the data; their figures accounted for 1.7% of the total in 1991. Gibraltar Point suffered a further decline in ringing total (no BTO ringing course in 1992), and only just cleared the 2000 mark. It really is a sign of changing times when a famous national Bird Observatory is only ranked sixth in the county ringing totals! There was a modest increase in the 'pullus' total; up by 7%. The total included some good birds: 13 Marsh and 3 Montagu's Harriers, 14 Eurasian Sparrowhawks, 47 common Kestrels, 8 Little Ringed and 74 Great Ringed Plovers, 54 Common and 16 Little Terns, an amazing 129 Barn Owls, 21 Tawny Owls, 100 Common Swifts, 32 Spotted Flycatchers, and 78 Eurasian Jackdaws.

Only one new species (the White-throated Sparrow - see separate account) was added during the year, and then not until December. The coast failed to produce any rarities in 1992, in spite of widespread effort and a reasonable early autumn passage. However, most - but not all - sites had at least one semi-rarity: overall, 3 Wrynecks, single Icterine, Barred and Yellow-browed Warblers. Other unusual birds ringed included Little Grebe, European Storm Petrel (2), Gannet, Whimbrel (2), Arctic Tern, Little Auk, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Rock Pipit (4), Bohemian Waxwing, Wood Warbler, and Snow Bunting.

The Club has been collating County ringing totals for 14 years now. As most ringers handle passerines - even if they specialise on other birds - I thought it would be of interest to everyone for me to review changes during the period, for 21 commonly caught species. The overall trend continues to be downwards, only 8 of the species showing increased totals, the remainder declining from 1991 to 1992. Scanning the totals back to 1979 suggested that numbers ringed fell rapidly in the mid 1980s. So I split the 14 years of records into two equal periods (1979-85 and 1986-92) and calculated the average annual totals ringed per species for each period. Only two species show substantial increases - Blue Tit (+34%) and Great Tit (+51%) - and these may well be due to increased ringing at garden or woodland feeders, or even of pulli from nestbox schemes. Seven species are virtually constant - Wren (+10%), Robin (+4%), Lesser Whitethroat (no change), Common Whitethroat (-9%), Black-cap (+5%), Chaffinch (+5%), and Greenfinch (-1%). However, 12 species have declined considerably - Dunnock (-21%), Blackbird (-27%), Song Thrush (-48%), Sedge Warbler (-47%), Reed Warbler (-46%), Willow Warbler (-27%), Tree Sparrow (-82%), Linnet (-68%), Common Redpoll (-70%), Bullfinch (-44%), Yellowhammer (-79%), and Reed Bunting (-59%). Some of these latter species have been noted at the national level as showing recent and sharp declines, and various explanations

have been offered. For example, either colder winters or the increased use of molluscides for the Song Thrush, and a variety of changes in farming practice for Tree Sparrows and Linnets. The reduction in Sedge and Reed Warbler totals is probably caused by more local effects, with the drought over the last few years adding perhaps to habitat loss. The other species have shown some losses nationally, but not to the extent reported here for eg Common Redpoll, Yellowhammer, and Reed Bunting. Even though ringing totals collected in this way, on a county-wide basis, are not ideal for comparisons of this nature - because of variations of ringing effort for particular species from year to year - I think we should be very concerned indeed about the status of the populations of several passerines in Lincolnshire!

It was another good year for recoveries and, inevitably, some interesting ones could not be included, for lack of space. The Common Kestrel found dead at Waltham in early August, only two months after ringing as a nestling in Belgium, showed both long distance and rapid dispersal from its natal site. Three of the four Oystercatchers reported from Norway were breeding there, and the fourth was reported as "taken by a Goshawk". Another Oystercatcher was killed in September, by hailstones "the size of golfballs", at Foulness in Essex: at least 3000 birds, mainly gulls, were killed there during a thunderstorm! The Great Ringed Plover from Portugal was the Wash Wader R.G.'s first from south of the U.K., though 9 Wash-ringed birds have been recovered in France, Spain and North Africa. This Group also controlled a 20-year old Knot, and an 18-year old Bar-tailed Godwit, both only 3 years short of the national longevity records. The two Dunlin recoveries involving Denmark were both handled at the Tipperne nature reserve, where a colour-ringing scheme is being used as part of a study of breeding biology; the Wash-ringed female was incubating 4 eggs when trapped. The Turnstone recovery from France was the first on the Wash from that country. It is not often that a bird is reported from two different countries after ringing in the U.K., as was the Common Gull ringed at Boston, and later reported from both Denmark and then Finland.

Just two birds ringed in our county were reported as having been trapped by the expedition to Senegal during 1992. One was a Sand Martin ringed at Spalding, and the other a Chiffchaff ringed during a constant-effort netting session at Market Rasen. For the second successive year, House Martin ringing produced a control of a bird ringed in an earlier autumn on the English south coast. The Bohemian Waxwing recovered in January 1991 near Boston, after ringing one month earlier in North Yorkshire, may be a first for Lincolnshire. Though there have been occasional Dunnock recoveries abroad - almost certainly involving birds of Continental origin - the rapid movement from Theddlethorpe to Llangorse Lake in Wales was remarkable. Adult female Dunnocks ringed during the breeding season do not normally move at all, but this bird had flown 285 km SW in only 5 weeks, and was then apparently involved in breeding there (it was trapped several times, so there can be no doubt as to its authenticity). Another unusual movement was of a juvenile Sedge Warbler ringed in Cork, Eire which was at Theddlethorpe just 8 days later - when it should have flown to France via the south coast. A Reed Warbler ringed in late September 1992 at Skegness was found dead one month later in Casablanca, Morocco. Siskins came in to peanut feeders in late March and early April 1992: just 94 were ringed, but two of these have already been recovered (in Scotland and Finland), and two others were controlled after being ringed in Northumberland and Derbyshire. Finally,

there was an excellent control of a Reed Bunting at Saltfleet - the bird had been ringed in Norway.

Thanks very much to everyone for their support and for sending in totals and recoveries so promptly. I have been requested by one ringer to list all members of his 'group', and have done so. However, space limitations prevent me from listing all other active county ringers, except those who actually sent in totals and recoveries. My appreciation is, though, extended to each ringer in the County. Also, my apologies go to those contributors who were inadvertently left off the 1991 Report during printing.

#### Contributors to the Ringing Report for 1992

AG Ball	C du Feu	JR Marshal	F Stewart
Birklands RG	DN Fogg	Mid Lincs RG	N Taylor
AC Blackburn	Gibraltar Point	AG Parker	N Vessey
M Boddy	B Hancock	R Pearson	R J Wakeling
P Childs	J Huddleston	G Priestley	Wash Wader RG
K Collett	S Keightley	GP Shaw	PN Watts
M Davies	CC Larkman	P Snow	Winfield & Paul
C Dobson			

### COUNTY RINGING TOTALS FOR 1992

Species	1992			GRAND TOTAL 1979-92	Species	1992			GRAND TOTAL 1979-92
	FG	PULL	TOTAL			FG	PULL	TOTAL	
Little Grebe	1	0	1	7	Ruff	7	0	7	90
European Storm Petrel	2	0	2	3	Jack Snipe	10	0	10	44
Northern Gannet	1	0	1	2	Common Snipe	31	0	31	332
Grey Heron	0	10	10	511	Woodcock	8	0	8	125
Mute Swan	11	3	14	183	Bar-tailed Godwit	50	0	50	1505
Greylag Goose	1	3	4	24	Whimbrel	2	0	2	16
Canada Goose	23	15	38	216	Eurasian Curlew	24	0	24	246
Brent Goose	1	0	1	19	Common Redshank	36	0	36	1490
Common Teal	6	0	6	68	Common Greenshank	3	0	3	25
Mallard	3	3	6	2057	Green Sandpiper	1	0	1	25
Marsh Harrier	0	13	13	53	Common Sandpiper	1	0	1	51
Montagu's Harrier	0	3	3	16	Turnstone	39	0	39	637
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	40	14	54	263	Black-headed Gull	21	64	85	5316
Common Kestrel	8	47	55	488	Common Gull	3	0	3	369
Moorhen	14	0	14	147	Herring Gull	269	0	269	1287
Common Coot	1	0	1	465	Great Black-backed Gull	24	0	24	220
Oystercatcher	721	2	723	6047	Common Tern	0	54	54	516
Little Ringed Plover	1	8	9	87	Arctic Tern	1	0	1	2
Great Ringed Plover	9	74	83	852	Little Tern	0	16	16	450
Grey Plover	139	0	139	1407	Little Auk	1	0	1	10
Northern Lapwing	4	17	21	192	Stock Dove	0	4	4	394
Red Knot	305	0	305	5245	Wood Pigeon	9	0	9	458
Sanderling	1	0	1	28	Collared Dove	28	4	32	333
*Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	4	Turtle Dove	11	0	11	307
Dunlin	2827	0	2827	22433	Common Cuckoo	1	0	1	133

Species	1992			GRAND TOTAL 1979-92	Species	1992			GRAND TOTAL 1979-92
	FG	PULL	TOTAL			FG	PULL	TOTAL	
Barn Owl	12	129	141	596	Blackcap	754	0	754	7010
Little Owl	2	0	2	57	Yellow-browed Warbler	1	0	1	20
Tawny Owl	2	21	23	222	Wood Warbler	1	0	1	33
Common Swift	14	100	114	694	Chiffchaff	190	0	190	2070
Common Kingfisher	6	0	6	141	Willow Warbler	1019	3	1022	19515
Wryneck	3	0	3	16	Goldcrest	726	0	726	11192
Green Woodpecker	1	0	1	19	Firecrest	2	0	2	96
Great Spotted Woodpecker	8	0	8	96	Spotted Flycatcher	22	32	54	946
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	1	0	1	14	Pied Flycatcher	34	0	34	560
Sky Lark	22	5	27	2127	Long-tailed Tit	295	0	295	3604
Sand Martin	628	0	628	5378	Marsh Tit	21	0	21	178
Barn Swallow	91	159	250	16528	Willow Tit	51	0	51	917
House Martin	507	11	518	2505	Coal Tit	143	0	143	1489
Meadow Pipit	143	5	148	1593	Blue Tit	1641	352	1993	25446
Rock Pipit	4	0	4	13	Great Tit	818	157	975	11946
Yellow Wagtail	9	0	9	140	Eurasian Treecreeper	61	0	61	689
Grey Wagtail	1	0	1	11	Eurasian Jay	7	0	7	157
Pied Wagtail	29	0	29	625	Maggie	7	0	7	150
Bohemian Waxwing	1	0	1	2	Eurasian Jackdaw	4	78	82	198
Wren	610	0	610	8236	Rook	7	15	22	922
Hedge Accentor	1071	8	1079	18364	Carrión Crow	1	0	1	27
Robin	852	4	856	10960	Common Starling	3287	9	3296	29274
Rufous Nightingale	9	0	9	103	House Sparrow	419	0	419	5555
Common Redstart	51	0	51	685	Tree Sparrow	57	16	73	4786
Whinchat	10	0	10	263	Chaffinch	815	0	815	6998
Ring Ouzel	2	0	2	43	Brambling	50	0	50	1022
Blackbird	2258	19	2277	33228	Greenfinch	1787	0	1787	20899
Fieldfare	29	0	29	990	Goldfinch	94	0	94	2533
Song Thrush	323	24	347	9761	Siskin	94	0	94	370
Redwing	168	0	168	3446	Linnet	127	0	127	5947
Mistle Thrush	8	0	8	298	Twite	6	0	6	733
Grasshopper Warbler	3	0	3	151	Common Redpoll	185	0	185	5815
Sedge Warbler	79	0	79	2755	Common Crossbill	3	0	3	72
Reed Warbler	158	9	167	4822	Bullfinch	222	0	222	4622
Icterine Warbler	1	0	1	18	White-throated Sparrow	1	0	1	1
Barred Warbler	1	0	1	33	Snow Bunting	1	0	1	60
Lesser Whitethroat	296	0	296	4028	Yellowhammer	48	0	48	3491
Common Whitethroat	589	0	589	9366	Reed Bunting	132	0	132	4656
Garden Warbler	135	0	135	2249	Corn Bunting	1	0	1	264

TOTALS

25970 1510 27480

\*Omitted from 1979-91 totals.

Overall total ringed 1979-92 = 381587 birds of 194 species

# SELECTED RINGING RECOVERIES RECEIVED DURING 1992

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 = juvenile plumage when ringed. Sex: M = male; F = female. Manner of recovery: v = 'controlled', ie trapped and released by a ringer; vB = breeding when 'controlled'; vv = ring number read in field; + = shot or killed by man; x = found dead or dying.

<b>GREY HERON</b>				3F 07.12.79	Leverton, Boston		
1	27.04.91	Laughton Forest		vv	30.05.92	Finnmark, NORWAY	2175km NE
x	07.02.92	Langholm, Dumfries & Galloway	232km NW	<b>EURASIAN CURLEW</b>			
<b>MUTE SWAN</b>				4	10.08.83	Wainfleet	
5	19.07.89	Brayford Pool, Lincoln		x	29.04.92	Vaasa, FINLAND	1662km NE
x	02.02.92	Great Postland, Lincs	67km SSE	<b>TURNSTONE</b>			
<b>EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK</b>				6M	18.05.85	Vendee, FRANCE	
1F	06.07.92	Edenham		v	23.07.90	Butterwick	737km N
v	19.08.92	Brandon Marsh, Warwickshire	83km WSW	<b>BLACK-HEADED GULL</b>			
<b>COMMON KESTREL</b>				5	27.04.85	Seaforth, Merseyside	
1	02.06.91	Ruien, Oost-Vlaanderen, BELGIUM		x	12.06.92	Epworth, Humberside	148km E
x	01.08.91	Watham, Grimsby	390km NW	4	01.12.90	Wyberton, Boston	
<b>OYSTERCATCHER</b>				x	10.07.92	Sodankyla, Lappi, FINLAND	2713km NE
8	21.08.74	Friskney		An inland recovery, and the longest movement recorded during			
x	01.05.92	Nordragota, FAEROES	1099km NNW	1992, are shown: another bird from Boston was recovered in			
Four birds from Friskney were recovered in NORWAY; one				FINLAND, 4 in DENMARK, and one in the NETHERLANDS;			
from Leverton was reported from the NETHERLANDS.				birds from Wales, DENMARK (2), and FINLAND were recovered in the Boston area.			
<b>GREAT RINGED PLOVER</b>				<b>COMMON GULL</b>			
3F	18.09.89	R. Alvor, Faro, Algarve, PORTUGAL		8	17.02.91	Manby, Lincs	
v	14.08.91	Freiston	1884km NNE	x	15.02.92	Ringkobling, Jylland, DENMARK	621km NE
<b>GREY PLOVER</b>				5	23.01.88	Boston	
4	10.09.87	Leverton		vv	20.11.89	Copenhagen, DENMARK	870km ENE
xl	10.06.92	Tarfaya, MOROCCO	2984km SSW	x	13.09.92	Jappila, FINLAND	1930km ENE
<b>NORTHERN LAPWING</b>				6	01.12.90	Wyberton	
4	10.08.88	Marston SF, Grantham		?	17.05.92	Askersund, Orebro, SWEDEN	1131km NE
x	29.04.92	Swaffam, Norfolk	96km ESE	<b>GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL</b>			
<b>RED KNOT</b>				8	01.12.90	Wyberton	
6	22.04.86	Nordfriesische Inseln, GERMANY		+	22.06.91	Malsjorda, Lenvik, NORWAY	2062km NNE
v	19.01.91	Friskney	565km WSW	<b>COMMON TERN</b>			
<b>SANDERLING</b>				1	08.07.87	West Deeping	
3	29.08.86	Farsund, Vest-Adger, NORWAY		vv	09.06.92	Seaforth, Liverpool	202km WNW
v	23.07.90	Butterwick	699km SW	<b>BARN OWL</b>			
<b>DUNLIN</b>				1	01.08.91	Langton, Spilsby	
Birds ringed on The Wash were recovered in FINLAND (2),				x	07.01.92	Hemel Hempstead, Bucks	163km SSW
SWEDEN, DENMARK, GERMANY, Wales and MOROCCO (2);				1	04.08.91	Westwoodside, Epworth	
birds ringed in FINLAND, DENMARK, GERMANY, the Western				x	04.01.92	Wrangle, Boston	83km SE
Isles (2), and MOROCCO were controlled on The Wash.				<b>LONG-EARED OWL</b>			
<b>BAR-TAILED GODWIT</b>				2F	27.10.91	Theddlethorpe Dunes	
4M	30.08.88	Holbeach		v	02.05.92	Heligoland Is, GERMANY	513km E
v	18.03.92	Sylt, GERMANY	594km NE				



<b>SAND MARTIN</b>			
4M 02.08.89	Splading		
v 13.02.92	Djoudj National Park, SENEGAL	4289km SSW	
Birds ringed at Icklesham, Sussex were controlled at Nettleton Top (5), Calceby (4), Westwoodside (4), Baston Fen and Spalding (2); one bird ringed at West Ashby was controlled at Icklesham. There were also movements from Essex, Suffolk, Shropshire and the West Midlands to Westwoodside, and from West Ashby to the West Midlands.			
<b>HOUSE MARTIN</b>			
3 21.09.91	St Alban's Head, Dorset		
v 10.08.92	Grantham	277km NNE	
<b>MEADOW PIPIT</b>			
2 18.09.91	Spurn Point, Humberside		
v 24.09.91	Gibraltar Point	56km SSE	
<b>BOHEMIAN WAXWING</b>			
4M 16.12.90	Pickering, North Yorkshire		
x 14.01.91	Old Leake, Boston	104km SSE	
<b>HEDGE ACCENTOR</b>			
4F 12.05.91	Theddlethorpe Dunes		
v 16.06.91	LLangorse Lake, Powys, Wales	285km SW	
<b>BLACKBIRD</b>			
3F 26.10.91	Skegness		
x 01.03.92	Drewsteignton, Exeter, Devon	391km SW	
Two birds from Theddlethorpe Dunes were recovered in DENMARK, and one from NORWAY was controlled in Boston.			
<b>SONG THRUSH</b>			
3 11.10.91	Theddlethorpe Dunes		
xf 08.04.92	Friesland, NETHERLANDS	370km E	
3 06.10.91	Saltfleet		
+ 14.11.91	Alto Alentejo, PORTUGAL	1737km SSW	
<b>REDWING</b>			
4 14.10.90	Theddlethorpe Dunes		
+f 15.01.92	St-Bres, Hérault, FRANCE	1115km SSE	
3 27.10.90	Theddlethorpe Dunes		
+f 19.11.91	Poggibonsi, Siena, ITALY	1361km SE	
3 12.10.91	Saltfleet		
v 28.03.92	Wilsford Stone Quarry	71km SW	
<b>SEDGE WARBLER</b>			
3 19.08.92	Theddlethorpe Dunes		
v 31.08.92	Icklesham, Sussex	276km S	
3J 21.08.92	Youghal, Cork, EIRE		
v 29.08.92	Theddlethorpe Dunes	571km ENE	
<b>REED WARBLER</b>			
3J 25.08.91	Theddlethorpe Dunes		
v 07.09.91	Icklesham, Sussex	274km S	
3 20.09.92	Seacroft, Skegness		
x 21.10.92	Casablanca, MOROCCO	2255km SSW	
<b>BLACKCAP</b>			
3J 21.06.92	Theddlethorpe Dunes		
xf 15.07.92	Waitwood, West Yorkshire	113km WNW	
3J 10.08.87	West Burton, Nottinghamshire		
x 23.06.92	Grimsby	54km ENE	
3M 27.10.91	Harlaxton, Grantham		
x 22.01.92	Malvern Link, Hereford & Worcs	139km SW	
<b>CHIFFCHAFF</b>			
3 08.07.91	Market Rasen		
v 22.11.91	Djoudj National Park, SENEGAL	4341km SSW	
<b>WILLOW WARBLER</b>			
4 12.09.89	Skegness		
x 10.05.92	Pickhill, Thirsk, North Yorkshire	171km NW	
3J 04.08.91	Ancaster, Sleaford		
v 06.08.91	Scots Hill, Hertfordshire	139km S	
<b>GOLDCREST</b>			
3M 12.10.91	Donna Nook		
v 27.10.91	Benington, Hertfordshire	177km S	
<b>BLUE TIT</b>			
3 03.11.90	Renishaw, Derbyshire		
v 12.10.91	Market Rasen	66km E	
<b>COMMON STARLING</b>			
3F 26.10.91	Donna Nook		
v 29.12.91	Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire	190km W	
3M 21.11.90	Immingham		
x 11.05.92	Vaharaura, Turku-Pori, FINLAND	1568km NE	
Other birds from Immingham were recovered in the NETHERLANDS (2), DENMARK, Lancashire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.			
<b>CHAFFINCH</b>			
5M 24.02.90	Theddlethorpe Dunes		
v 02.12.90	Little Wittenham, Oxfordshire	216km SSW	
<b>GREENFINCH</b>			
6 06.01.92	Immingham		
x 13.08.92	RAF Upwood, Cambridgeshire	134km S	
5M 28.02.91	Langworth, Lincoln		
x 21.01.92	Little Thetford, Cambridgeshire	111km SSE	
3F 11.07.91	Landguard Point, Suffolk		
v 26.01.92	Ewerby, Sleaford	164km NW	
<b>SISKIN</b>			
4M 24.03.90	Hexham, Northumberland		
v 30.03.92	Market Rasen	209km SSE	
5M 30.03.92	Market Rasen		
x 27.04.92	Loppi, Hame, FINLAND	1699km NE	
6M 22.03.92	North Somercotes		
x 20.05.92	Clynder, Strathclyde, Scotland	428km NW	
5F 29.03.92	Matlock Bath, Derbyshire		
v 04.04.92	Skegness	126km E	
<b>COMMON REDPOLL</b>			
4F 17.02.90	Marley Common, Sussex		
v 10.05.92	Theddlethorpe Dunes	264km NNE	
4F 08.05.90	Immingham Docks		
v 22.11.91	Finningley Park, Doncaster	63km W	
5M 02.11.91	Boston		
v 28.06.92	Norwich, Norfolk	101km ESE	
<b>BULLFINCH</b>			
3F 22.10.88	Gibraltar Point		
v 11.07.92	Donington on Bain	41km NW	
<b>REED BUNTING</b>			
3M 11.09.90	Farsund, Vest-Agder, NORWAY		
v 12.10.91	Saltfleet	657km SW	

## INTERESTING SIGHTINGS OF COLOUR RINGED BIRDS IN THE COUNTY IN 1992

Hen Harrier; Gib Pt/Wainfleet a ringtail roosting Nov-Feb 93  
green wing tag left wing and blue right wing green indicated area of origin in this case  
Islay and blue the sex in this case a male and thus first-winter male

European Golden Plover; New Holland one seen in a flock of 120 on September 2nd  
(reported as yellow above knee, yellow over BTO below knee right leg and yellow  
over white left leg) had been ringed on North Ronaldsay Orkney Isles on either  
January 27th (light green above knee yellow over BTO left, yellow over white  
right) or March 1st 1992 (light green above knee, yellow over BTO below left, light  
green over white right) [the difference caused by the fact that all the above knee rings  
are light green and not yellow, as reported, so the possibility that the other yellow  
reported could also have been light green also exists].

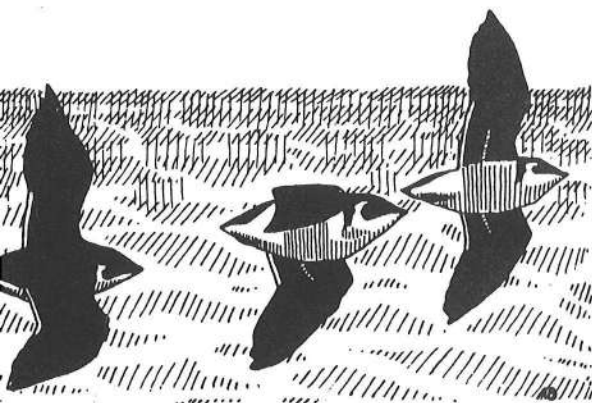
Cormorants; Deeping St James see article;  
Read's Island a first or second winter with a long orange colour ring seen on October  
19th had been ringed at Abberton Res in Essex in 1991 or 1992 probably 1991.

Wood Lark; County breeding site; A male ringed as a pullus there on May 14th 1989  
(red over green left, yellow over BTO right) was seen with a mate on another territory  
on March 20th-at least June 1990 and then at another territory again on February  
29th 1992.

Sandwich Terns; Three birds seen on the north-east coast in autumn 1992;  
One at North Cotes on July 19th and August 21st (pale blue over green left and BTO  
right) was ringed as a pullus on the Farne Islands in 1985; One at Saltfleetby on  
August 21st (pale green over blue left, BTO right), was ringed as a pullus on the  
Farne Islands in 1975 (per A.J.M.Smith)  
A belated report of one at Saltfleetby on August 28th 1975 with a yellow ring on the  
left leg was probably one ringed on Coquet Island in 1968 (per A.J.M.Smith)

## RARITIES LIST

White-billed Diver;.....	One dead 1976	Bonaparte's Gull;.....	One 1979
Cory's Shearwater;.....	Two 1985, 1988	Gull-billed Tern;.....	5 last 1987
Great Shearwater;.....	9 last 1977	Roseate Tern.....	43 last 1991
Mediterranean Shearwater;.....	7 last 1989	Whiskered Tern;.....	One 1987
Little Bittern;.....	9 last 1978	Black Guillemot;.....	11 last 1985
Night Heron;.....	9 last 1990	Pallas's Sandgrouse;.....	None since 1899
Squacco Heron;.....	Two 1861 & 1910	Rufous Turtle Dove;.....	One 1975
Great White Egret;.....	One 1979	Great Spotted Cuckoo;.....	Two 1971 and 1974
Purple Heron;.....	21 last 1991	Yellow-billed Cuckoo;.....	Two 1978 and 1987
Black Stork;.....	One 1984	Scops Owl;.....	One 1977
White Stork;.....	10 last 1986	Eagle Owl;.....	One 1879
Glossy Ibis;.....	6 last 1976	Snowy Owl;.....	One 1990-1991
Bean Goose;.....	last 1991	Tengmalm's Owl;.....	One 1880
White-fronted Goose;.....	last 1991	Alpine Swift;.....	9 last 1990
Lesser White-fronted Goose;.....	One 1943	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater;.....	One 1989
Red-breasted Goose;.....	3 or 4 last 1985	Bee-eater;.....	21 last 1988
Ruddy Shelduck;.....	1991	Roller;.....	6 last 1983
American Wigeon;.....	3 last 1991	Short-toed Lark;.....	2 (3) last 1991
Blue-winged Teal;.....	5 last 1982	Red-rumped Swallow.....	7 last 1988
Ring-necked Duck;.....	3 last 1989	Tawny Pipit;.....	6 last 1990
Ferruginous Duck;.....	12 last 1981	Citrine Wagtail;.....	One 1983
Black Kite;.....	3 last 1989	Dipper;.....	last 1991
White-tailed Eagle;.....	20 last 1990	Rufous Bush Robin;.....	One 1963
Golden Eagle;.....	5 last 1927-28	Thrush Nightingale;.....	3 last 1984
Red-footed Falcon;.....	21 last 1990	Red-flanked Bluetail;.....	3 last 1988
Gyr Falcon;.....	Two 1826 and 1900	Desert Wheatear;.....	Two 1970 & 1991
Black Grouse;.....	last 1935	Cetti's Warbler;.....	Two 1977 & 1983
Spotted Crane;.....	last 1989	Lanceolated Warbler;.....	One 1909
Little Crane;.....	Two 1869 and 1910	Aquatic Warbler;.....	Two 1971 & 1979
Common Crane;.....	about 24 last 1990	Blyth's Reed Warbler;.....	One 1991
Little Bustard;.....	5 last 1955	Great Reed Warbler;.....	6 last 1990
Houbara Bustard;.....	One 1847	Booted Warbler;.....	One 1980
Great Bustard;.....	bred 1800's last 1902	Dartford Warbler;.....	One 1984
Black-winged Stilt;.....	6 last 1991	Subalpine Warbler;.....	5 last 1985
Stone-curlew;.....	last 1990	Sardinian Warbler;.....	Two 1979 & 1986
Cream-coloured Courser;.....	One about 1840	Greenish Warbler;.....	10 last 1984
Collared Pratincole;.....	4 last 1981	Arctic Warbler;.....	6 last 1986
Kentish Plover;.....	last 1990	Radde's Warbler;.....	4 last 1990
Greater Sand Plover;.....	One 1981	Dusky Warbler;.....	5 last 1990
Pacific Golden Plover;.....	One 1986	Penduline Tit;.....	Two in 1991
American Golden Plover;.....	3 last 1986	Golden Oriole;.....	last 1990
Semi-palmated Sandpiper;.....	One 1966	Isabelline Shrike;.....	3 last 1990
White-rumped Sandpiper;.....	8 last 1985	Lesser Grey Shrike;.....	4 last 1990
Baird's Sandpiper;.....	3 last 1979	Nutcracker;.....	7 last 1976
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper;.....	Two 1982 and 1985	Common Raven;.....	last 1980
Stilt Sandpiper;.....	Two 1963 and 1965	Rosy Starling;.....	10 last 1987
Buff-breasted Sandpiper;.....	5 last 1989	Serin;.....	12 last 1988
Great Snipe;.....	7 recent last 1984	Arctic Redpoll;.....	15 last 1991
Long-billed Dowitcher;.....	3 last 1986	Two-barred Crossbill;.....	One 1889
Hudsonian Godwit;.....	One 1981	Parrot Crossbill;.....	67+ last 1991
Lesser Yellowlegs;.....	8 last 1990	American Redstart;.....	One 1982
Solitary Sandpiper;.....	One 1963	Northern Waterthrush;.....	One 1988
Spotted Sandpiper;.....	Two 1970 and 1971	Cirl Bunting;.....	4 last 1977
Wilson's Phalarope;.....	9 last 1987	Little Bunting;.....	3 last 1980
Grey Phalarope;.....	last 1990	Yellow-breasted Bunting;.....	One 1977
Laughing Gull;.....	4 last 1984	Black-headed Bunting;.....	Two 1974 & 1980



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Cattle Egret - Messingham

*J. Harriman*



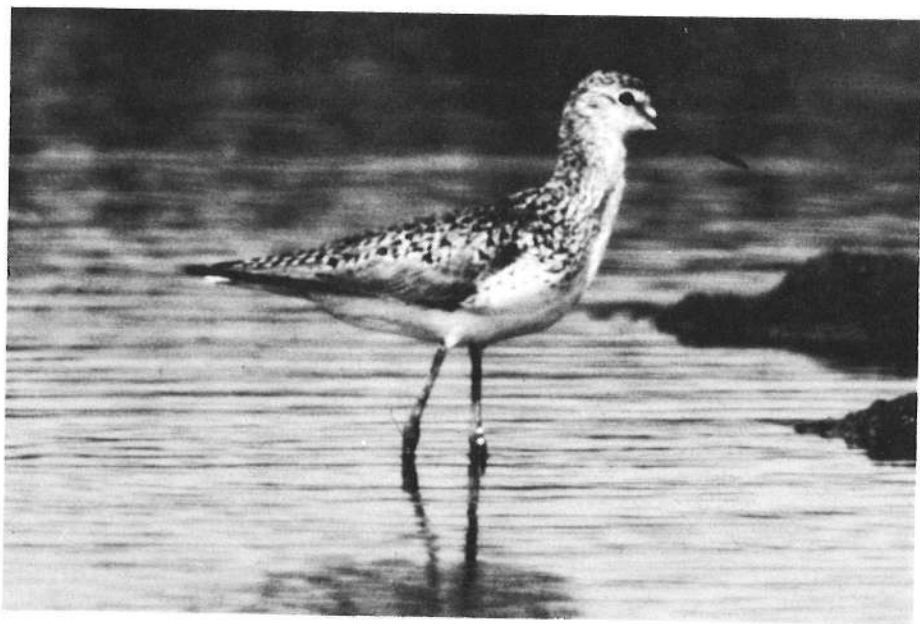
Red-necked Grebe - Toft Newton

*J. Harriman*



Red-necked Phalarope - Kirkby Pits

*J. Harriman*



Marsh Sandpiper - Bardney

*J. Harriman*



Rustic Bunting - Saltfleetby

*A. Daws*



Stonechat - Barton

*G. P. Catley*



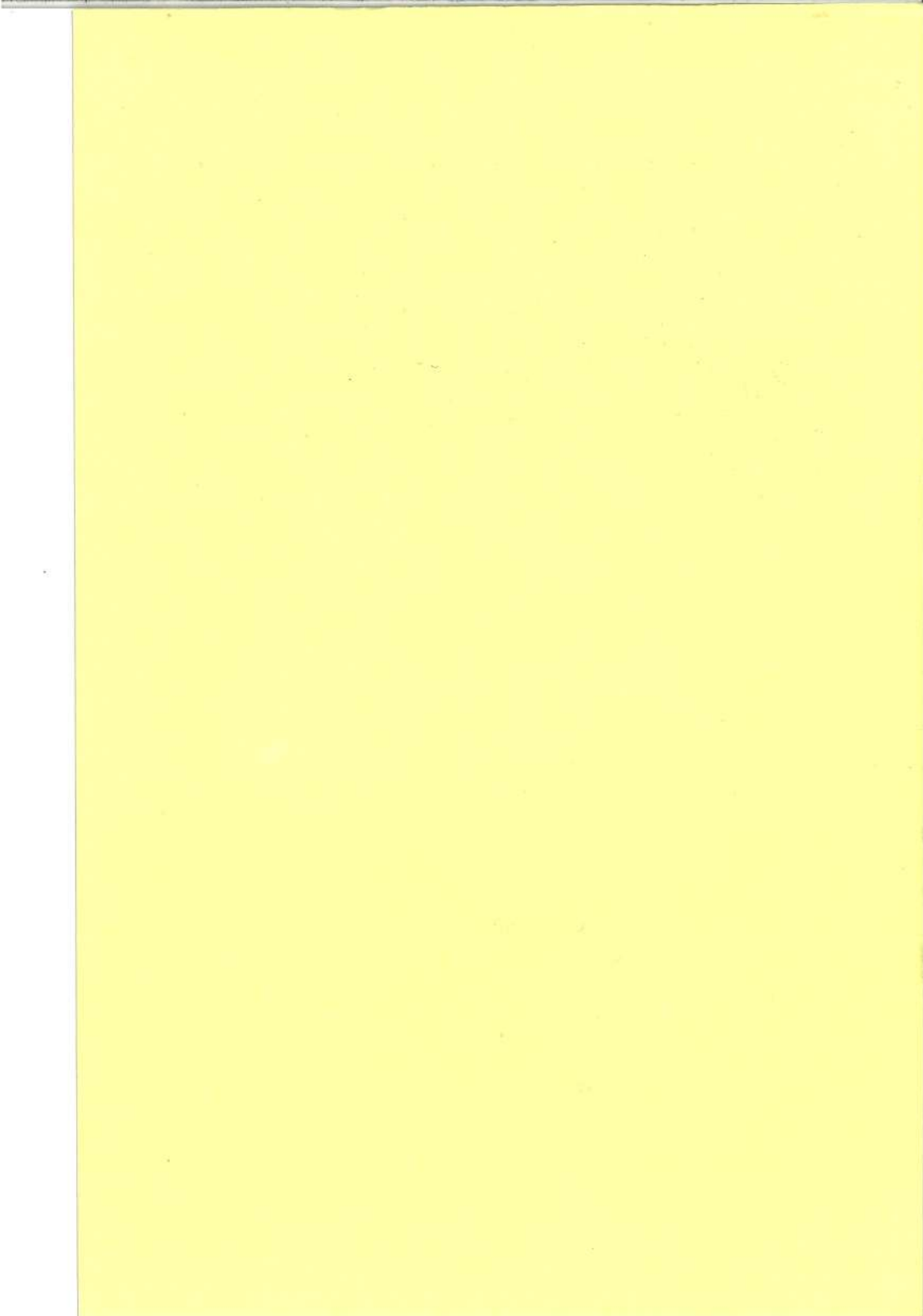
White-throated Sparrow - Willingham

*G. P. Catley*

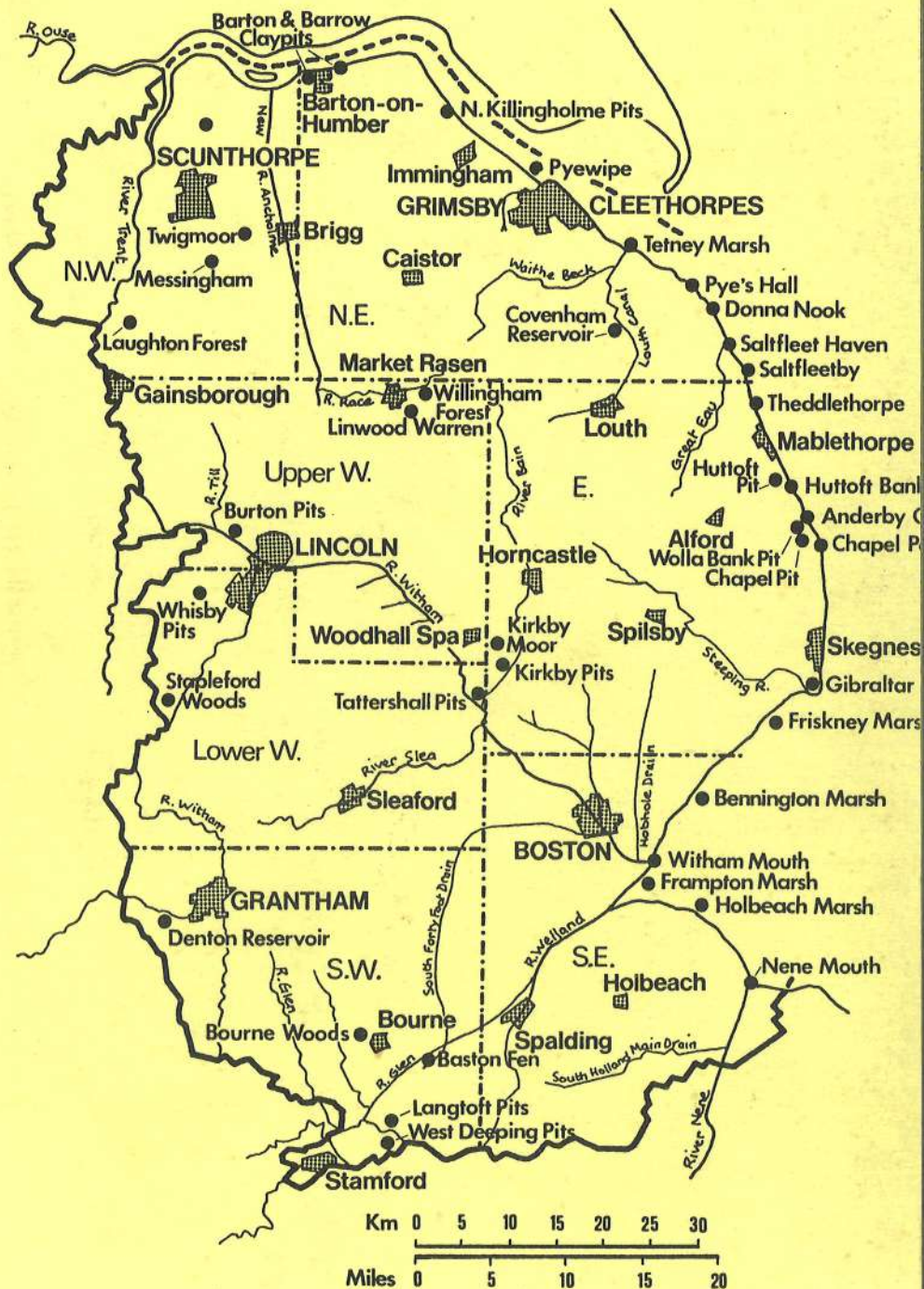


Great Grey Shrike - Bagmoor

*G. P. Catley*







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