

Lincolnshire Bird Report 1995

Gibraltar Point
Observatory Report

Wetland Bird Survey
The Wash and Humber

Breeding Bird Survey

Kittiwakes over
Lincolnshire

Systematic List

County Ringing Report

Rarities Account
Lesser Scaup
Pine Bunting

Update on Inland
Skua Movements
from The Wash



Lincolnshire Bird Club

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GIBRALTAR POINT OBSERVATORY REPORT 1995

Review of the Year

January-March

Repeating the pattern of the previous winter, the year again started quietly; the **little egret** and **common buzzard** from 1994 remained around throughout, and at least one **woodlark** made occasional appearances, but other winter passerines were scarce. Cold snaps did bring good numbers of **yellowhammers**, **greenfinch** and **corn bunting** off the local fields, but most of the interest was at sea; NW winds in early January brought 147 **red-throated divers**, and more than a thousand **kittiwake** past the reserve, together with 2-3 each of **Slavonian grebe**, **great skua**, **little gull** and **black-throated divers**.

Raptors provided continuing interest, with **hen harrier**, **merlin**, and **peregrine** all present during the period, and **short-eared owls** regularly quartering the Old Saltmarsh. An early sign of spring came with the first **greenshank** on Feb 2nd, together with the first of a string of records of **grey partridge**. The reserve's second Estonian-ringed **black-headed gull** was found dead in buckthorn on the 10th, and an adult **Mediterranean gull** along the beach on 12th was the first of many Meds in 1995. The last week of February brought a wildfowl bonanza, with 157 **pink-footed geese** and 3 **whooper swans** west on 25th, 8 **Bewick's** on the Mere on 26th, and up to 2800 **brent geese** on the estuary over this period.

Telescoping of the seasons continues however, witnessed by the arrival of a late evening **sand martin** on Mar 15th - second earliest record for the reserve - and next morning saw a male **wheatear** around the Heligolands. Observers on the beach on 18th found two superb summer-plumaged Scandinavian **rock pipits**, ssp *littoralis*, one still present next day. Movement of species such as **snipe** and **grey wagtail** were now under way and by 22nd we were seeing our first **black redstart** and **yellow wagtail**, the latter our earliest by 13 days. Next day another Estonian black-headed gull found dead in Lagoon, ringed at Parnu in April 1993, and on 25th a **house martin** over the new Saltmarsh equalled our earliest record. The highlight of the year came on the 29th however, with the discovery of first-winter male **pine bunting** at the Plantation feeding station. The arrival of this bird kept people in the field, resulting in records of **tree sparrow**, **white wagtail** and **bramblings**.

April-June

The **bramblings** were still in evidence at the beginning of April, together with southward-moving **redwing**, but the 6th saw the first **willow warblers** and following days saw migrants appearing in earnest. A calling **whimbrel** on the 8th was followed the next day by two **firecrests**; the 11th saw 7 **ruff** drop onto the Mere for a few minutes before heading south and singing **whitethroat** and **sedge warbler** appeared on 12th, the latter being our second earliest record. By the 17th a fly-over **tree pipit** was logged, but all was then quiet until the wind turned east from the 25th, bringing with it the first **arctic** and **little terns**, a **Kentish plover**, good numbers of **swallows**, **house martins** and **yellow wagtails**, a pair of **ring ouzel** and unexpectedly a southward **green woodpecker** in the east dunes. Our first **grasshopper warbler** was reeling on 27th and on 28th a brief **little ringed plover** at the Lagoon was followed by two very brief **avocets**. The month went out not with a bang but a soft trill, courtesy of a fine singing **serin** in the warden's garden, our 5th record, staying into early May. To compliment its appearance were a **honey buzzard** south over the farmland and our first **common sandpiper** and **turtle dove**.

New firsts continued through early May, with **swift**, **reed warbler** and **garden warbler** on 3rd but **spotted flycatcher** was a late arrival on 14th. Movement was visible on the shore also, with roost counts of 2200 **dunlin** and 1100 **sanderling**, high-arctic breeders, on 15-16th, and 95 **whimbrel** heading north on 18th. Two adult summer-plumaged **Med gulls** were displaying on 16th in the **black-headed gull** colony but nothing came of the pairing. The evening of 20th brought our 9th **nightjar**, with **golden oriole** on 23rd matching last year's record. A **black tern** appeared briefly on 24th and 28th saw a movement of 31 **turtle doves** heading south. Ending the month in style, a 20-minute period at the Wash Viewpoint on 30th produced **osprey**, **honey buzzard** and **hobby** over the estuary and a singing **scarlet rosefinch** in the bushes at the Point.

As usual June was a quiet month, though a dark morph **Montagu's harrier** was seen on 13th. Northerly winds over this period resulted in the tide making well over the predicted 7.0m, flooding out two of the three **little tern** nests. Counter-balancing this, the breeding highlight of the year came from a sighting of **grey partridge** with two chicks on the outer ridge on 25th, our first confirmed breeding since 1974. The 28th produced an early morning **avocet** on the lagoon with a first-summer med there and our first **green sandpiper** of the year

on the Mere. Due to a high pressure system over the coast the 29th witnessed a huge passage of **swifts**, upto 10000 moving south during the day in a constant stream, accompanied by 400 **sand martins** and a hobby.

July-September

The first half of July remained quiet, though mid-month produced the first **Arctic skua**, more sightings of the dark morph **Montagu's harrier**, and an unseasonal female **white wagtail** on 16th. By the end of the month wader numbers were building up: 26th saw **green sandpiper**, **wood sandpiper**, **little ringed plover** and **black-tailed godwit** on the mere, with 20 **greenshank**, 127 **redshank**, the years first **spotted redshank** and 5 **common sandpipers** on the lagoon.

August produced our 6th ever **red kite** on 10th and on the passerine front 19th saw a small arrival of migrants, with **pied flycatcher**, **grasshopper warbler**, **yellow wagtail**, **whinchat** and **wheatear** in the dunes or around the field station. Two **wood warblers** arrived on 22nd and a **grey wagtail** headed north on 28th. The year's long string of **Med gulls** continued with winter adults on 10th and 12th and **little gulls** passed at sea on 10th and 28th with an adult **long-tailed skua** on the latter date, surpassed by **Arctic skua**, **bonxie**, a **pomarine skua** and **Sabine's gull** next day.

September got off to a good start with **red-backed shrike** and **curlew sandpiper** in the first week, then the biggest passage of the autumn on 9th, including 30,000 **swallow**, 3000 **sand martins**, 380 **meadow pipits**, 58 **tree pipits** and 20 **whinchat**. All was then quiet until mid-month when the wind swung east bringing our first **garganey** of the year on 15th, and a huge arrival of chats on 18th, seemingly in every bush and on every bit of lawn. Counts totalled some 481 **redstarts** (a new reserve record) and 70 **wheatear**. Accompanying these chats were pipits, warblers and flycatchers, including 66 **pied flycatchers**. Rarities in the period including 2 **honey buzzards**, a **red-breasted flycatcher** and two **Richard's pipits**.

October-December

The quarter started with south-westerly winds, producing one of the poorest years for scarcer autumn migrants for a long time; however prolonged warm weather did delay departure of many summer migrants, giving us late records of **willow warbler** 7th, **arctic tern** 19th (a new 'latest for Gib), **yellow wagtail** 25th and **sandwich tern** 29th. The 21st produced our only record of **great grey shrike**, a 1st-winter briefly around the Lagoon, and at sea on 29th there were 73 **little auks**, the first of the large passage of displaced little auks witnessed all along the North Sea coast over the next week.

November winds remaining westerly, keeping temperatures up, but despite this the first week saw a fall of c3400 **blackbirds**, mostly in the East Dunes, accompanied by a record 47 **woodcock**, and 7 **short-eared owls** were seen coming in off the sea. Out at sea 327 little auks went north in 4 hours on 2nd, and also seen were a **black-throated diver**, 18 **bonxies** and 275 **common scoter**. A party of **mealy redpoll** remained in the east dunes for some days in mid-month, a south-bound **peregrine** crossed the reserve on 16th and at least 15 **woodcock** were dazzled on the night of 18th. Yet another reserve record was broken when 101 **cormorants** were on the estuary 26th.

Due to somewhat mild weather in early December the majority of finches and thrushes crossed the coast and headed straight inland, producing a dearth of winter passerines. There were only single records of **siskin** 1st and **snow bunting** 17th, although a male **ring ouzel** was in the West Dunes on 3rd, with presumably the same bird 17th, our 4th December record. On the mere, 6 **shovelers** were present from 10-16th, a rare sight in recent years, and rarer still was a flock of 34 **white-fronted geese** over the West Dunes on 11th, with an immature female **peregrine** not far behind. Exceptionally cold weather over the last week of December brought some thrushes onto the reserve at last, including 28th 200 **blackbirds** and 600 **fieldfares** on 28th, with at least 14 **woodcock**.

Mark Grantham

Ringling Report.

The total of 2694 birds of 56 species (plus one hybrid) ringed in 1995 is a distinct improvement on previous years, with ringing in progress on 123 days during the year. For the first time in some years the Obs was manned every weekend from August through November, with 'public' ringing every Sunday from the main ringing hut, and often in other areas also. This will be repeated in 1996 and hopefully extended; the aim is to have a really active Ringing Group again at Gib.

The highlights of the year were four Bearded Tits (our 3rd-6th ringed) and a Shore Lark, while the Little Auk wreck in the autumn also gave the opportunity to ring this rarely handled species; three birds were ringed on release after recuperating at Natureland in Skegness. Gib also shared in the mid-September coastal fall which added good numbers of Wheatears, Whinchats, Redstarts and Pied Flycatchers to that month's total, while November brought an odd *Streptopelia* dove, eventually identified as Turtle x Barbary, to confuse us all. There were also a number of interesting recoveries (details included in the county Ringing Report), of which the best has to be the only Golden Oriole ever ringed at Gib, which was photographed on a nest as an adult male at a secret location in 1995, the ring being read in the field.



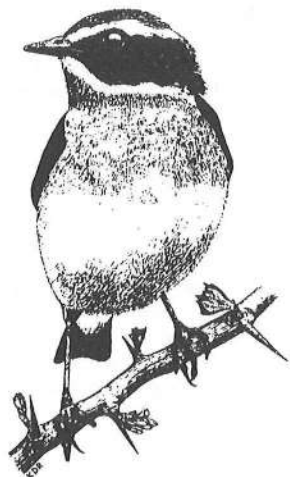
The top five species ringed in the year were Blackbird (410), Goldcrest (399), Dunnock (231), Willow Warbler (218) and Whitethroat (187), but only one day, November 2nd, produced a century with 192 birds ringed, 167 of them Blackbirds. It is no coincidence that the top five species ringed in total 1949-95 (Blackbird, Willow Warbler, Dunnock, Whitethroat and House Sparrow) share four of the same birds. Many fewer House Sparrows are handled these days, as the total list shows; in common with many other seed-eating species, the large autumn-winter flocks no longer appear.

The Constant Effort Site in the West Dunes completed another full year. The importance of this effort for national and local population monitoring fortunately keeps us going when the returns (in terms of birds handled) sometimes hardly seem to justify the effort! To sum up, 1995 has been a fair year, and long may this continue. As in past years I thank the permanent staff and volunteers at the Field Station for all the help given. The table shows the total number of birds ringed in 1995; full totals for all birds ringed since 1949 were last given in the 1994 Report.

A W Paul, Ringing Secretary

Gibraltar Point Ringing Totals 1995

Species	FG	Pull	Total	Species	FG	Pull	Total
Sparrowhawk	6	2	8	Grasshopper Warbler	1	-	1
Kestrel	1	5	6	Sedge Warbler	10	-	10
Water Rail	2	-	2	Reed Warbler	59	-	59
Ringed Plover	-	10	10	Lesser Whitethroat	121	-	121
Dunlin	4	-	4	Whitethroat	187	-	187
Woodcock	5	-	5	Garden Warbler	19	-	19
Guillemot	1	-	1	Blackcap	108	-	108
Little Auk	3	-	3	Chiffchaff	25	-	25
Stock Dove	-	2	2	Willow Warbler	218	-	218
Woodpigeon	3	-	3	Goldcrest	399	-	399
Collared Dove	1	-	1	Spotted Flycatcher	2	-	2
(Hybrid Dove)	1	-	1	Pied Flycatcher	22	-	22
Cuckoo	2	-	2	Bearded Tit	4	-	4
Long-eared Owl	1	-	1	Long-tailed Tit	13	-	13
Gt Spotted Woodpecker	1	-	1	Blue Tit	119	7	126
Shorelark	1	-	1	Great Tit	39	-	39
Swallow	10	5	15	Jay	1	-	1
House Martin	1	-	1	Starling	2	-	2
Tree Pipit	3	-	3	House Sparrow	6	-	6
Meadow Pipit	22	-	22	Chaffinch	40	-	40
White Wagtail	1	-	1	Brambling	4	-	4
Wren	156	-	156	Greenfinch	61	-	61
Dunnock	231	-	231	Goldfinch	10	-	10
Robin	129	-	129	Linnet	4	-	4
Redstart	28	-	28	Redpoll	19	-	19
Whinchat	16	-	16	Yellowhammer	2	-	2
Wheatear	18	-	18	Reed Bunting	12	-	12
Blackbird	410	-	410				
Song Thrush	67	-	67	Totals	2663	31	2694
Redwing	32	-	32				



KITTIWAKES OVER LINCOLNSHIRE

Kittiwake movements off our shores in the winter months are usually associated with northerly gales. Although it is mainly from mid October to the end of March that peak movements occur, on occasion large numbers also appear with the skua passage August-mid October. Generally the skua arrivals are associated with tern movements and few Kittiwakes have been noted heading off inland from the South Wash during this autumn period. Kittiwake inland movements had been thought to be gale driven, but observations at Nene Mouth during 1995 seem to indicate something rather different: that departure was being instigated by a migratory urge.

As early as January 4th 1981 I had the first hint of this. Whilst ploughing near Cambridge, with a thousand or more gulls attracted to the freshly turned soil, I was surprised to note that during a two and a half hour period four flocks of Kittiwakes, totalling almost 200 birds, passed directly overhead. Each group was compact, 26-70 in number, occasionally spiralled above the conspicuous gathering below but significantly continued on their southerly heading. Despite being bitterly cold the wind was only a fresh north-westerly and the birds had obviously arrived here from the Wash.

Following some evidence of Kittiwake gatherings and a few inland departures at Nenemouth in 1993-94, visits were made there in 1995 on most of the days with easterly, northerly or north-westerly winds of fresh to gale strength between January-March and November-December to assess Kittiwake departures. Some 45 hours were thus spent during the year, in which time over 6000 birds made off inland (see table below). This is well over half the total number observed and there is reason to suppose that many others present coasting would have flown inland further along the shore. Only on one occasion to date have the bulk of the birds offshore turned northward to deep water for their departure. This was on November 16th when 2500 took this path and only 250 flew inland.

Winter Kittiwake counts for 1995

Heading:	WSW/SSW	S	SE	Total Inland	Total for day
Jan 11th	-	1722	50	1772	3072
Jan 26th	105	-	-	105	500
Mar 27th	504	536	75	1115	1315
Nov 1st	225	-	-	225	225
Nov 3rd	1666	-	-	1666	1666
Nov 16th	250	-	-	250	2750
Nov 17th	375	425	-	800	1600
Dec 5th	45	24	-	69	100
Dec 20th	20	40	-	60	60

The pre-migratory ritual has much in common with skua departures (see 1993 Report). Arriving birds mass in a group on the mud at low tide or on the sea until a good number are assembled. Then in a burst of excitement a large group leaves the band or the whole concourse rises up to spiral about madly. Eventually they either rise to a great height before turning inland or just stream off inland at low or moderate height. Flocks of 250-300 birds moving off have not been uncommon while one group of more than 500 rose together and made off on a SW heading on November 3rd. As these disappeared inland they formed a main flock with two straggling small bands at the rear.

The SW heading of the majority of the Kittiwake flocks, like the skuas, waders and terns, might seem a little surprising. The obvious route ought to be southward following the course of the River Nene and possibly the Nene Washes, which would be visible once a suitable height has been attained. Approximately 3200 made off SW or WSW in 1995 against 2700 following the river system south. As with the skua movements the conclusion must be that the SW heading is a cross-country route to the River Severn. Langtoft and Tallington Pits lie southwest of the Wash exit point, but since the birds tend to move off into great palls of cloud this must hamper views of distant landmarks. The impression from the ground is that the heading is pre-determined rather than the result of birds searching for distant features to steer towards.

Despite the numbers involved there seems little chance of picking out these flocks further inland in the county for while some of the birds on the southerly heading often do not rise to a great height above the Nene, those

on the SW route invariably rise steadily higher as they cross Lincolnshire. A further disadvantage is that a group of high-flying gulls is unlikely to merit a second glance, despite the characteristically tight flock formation and unusual heading of these Kittiwakes. As far as I am aware only one report exists of inland movements of Kittiwakes from Nenemouth prior to the recent observations, that for 1970. It is difficult to see how this volume of movement has been overlooked in the past. Departures have been noted at other South Wash river mouths; at the Welland in the 1950s and 1960s and from Ousemouth in Norfolk in the 1970s and 1980, but in total less than 2000 individuals have been involved in all the pre-1990 South Wash observations. The March 27th figures are difficult to explain. Surely by this time Kittiwakes should be returning to breeding ledges, not moving off south? A high-flying Great Skua seen migrating SW on the same date would appear to have been equally confused.

G M S Easy

Update on Inland Skua Movements from the Wash

The article in the 1993 Report contained a table that was unfortunately printed with one line misplaced. The table below corrects this minor error and updates the details of inland departures for 1994.

	Great Skua		Arctic Skua		Pomarine Skua		Long-tailed Skua	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
1993	218	151	357	144	105	59	-	-
1994	396	248	158	89	59	46	14	14

A = Total number of birds seen heading off inland

B = Number of birds leaving on SW heading

G M S Easy

Reference

Easy, G M S Overland Autumn Skua Passage from The Wash. Lincolnshire Bird Report 1993.

WETLAND BIRD SURVEY 1994-95

The Wash

The table shows the summed totals of waterfowl counts for each of the 17 WeBS sectors in the Lincolnshire Wash. This was my first full year as organiser and I must pay tribute to the counters, who achieved 94% coverage in 1994/95. This means that only 13 of a possible 204 counts were missed, a marvellous achievement resulting in comprehensive cover for Britain's most important estuary. James Cadbury, the Norfolk organiser, and I would wish to thank all of the counters, listed below.

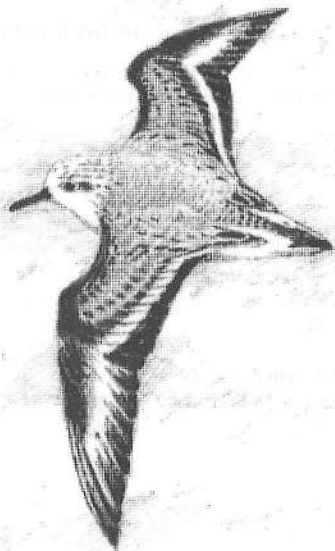
Following a good breeding season in 1993, young Brent Geese were again hard to find. The figure in 1994 of 5% young in flocks was slightly below the national average of 5.9%, and this was reflected in the numbers of geese present in mid-winter. A peak of 13973 compares to 20395 in the previous winter. Two other species faring poorly continued their recent trends and were to all intents and purposes absent this winter - Pink-footed Goose and Pintail. Pink-feet continue to increase in the Wash, but are concentrated on the Norfolk side where they roost at Snettisham RSPB Reserve. In the mid-1980s, Pintail occurred in their thousands and were particularly abundant in Lincolnshire. Apparent failures of their food supply - tellins and cockles - in the Wash seem to be implicated and, interestingly, Pintail numbers at the Ouse and Nene Washes are at a record high. On a more positive note, Mallard and Wigeon numbers were better this year.

Oystercatcher numbers recovered reasonably well, following the high mortality of 1992 but were still at only 50% of the 1990-91 peak. Knot continued at high population levels, presumably as a result of poor food supply in the Wadden Sea. Golden Plover and Lapwing were present again in very high, in fact record, numbers and an American Golden Plover at the Witham was an excellent reward for that counter! Black-tailed Godwits are on the increase and are seen now not only on passage but also as a wintering species in fair numbers. Some of these are colour-ringed, so please keep an eye open for those.

We have a first class team of counters, but there can never be too many. If anyone is interested in counting birds in the Wash, I would be keen to hear from them.

Paul Fisher

Senior Warden, The Wash



The Humber

Figure 1 shows the coverage of Humber south shore count sectors. No complete coverage of the south shore was achieved, but both November and February counts lack data from only singles sectors which usually hold few birds. Significant numbers of birds probably remained unrecorded due to lack of coverage at five sectors in September and October, three sectors in December and May and two sectors in January, March and April.

The data collected over the entire estuary (ie including Yorks north shore) over the five seasons 1990-91 to 1994-95 identifies nine species whose average maxima exceed the 1% population criterion for international importance: dark-bellied Brent Goose, Shelduck, Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Knot, Sanderling, Bar-tailed Godwit and Redshank.

Once again inner south shore organiser Keith Parker, outer south shore organiser John Walker and myself all send many thanks to those involved in this season's counts. As the coverage record shows, help is always welcome in all parts of the estuary.

Ian Shepherd

Lincolnshire Wash Totals 1994-95

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
Red-throated Diver	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	-	6	1	-	-	RH
Little Grebe	-	2	-	2	5	5	5	-	2	-	-	-	LG
Great Crested Grebe	3	49	75	20	1	2	-	5	11	40	20	4	GG
Cormorant	86	160	273	161	95	104	103	97	48	65	34	18	CA
Little Egret	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	—
Grey Heron	39	29	33	40	28	14	13	7	7	17	31	16	H
Mute Swan	-	-	-	5	1	-	2	-	-	8	-	1	MS
Bewick's Swan	-	-	-	-	1	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	BS
Whooper Swan	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	WS
Pink-footed Goose	-	-	-	-	17	-	22	3	-	-	-	-	PG
Greylag Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	7	1	-	GJ
Canada Goose	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	40	5	2	-	CG
Brent Goose	4	7	7	2340	7148	12149	13973	11642	12704	12320	10216	7	BG
Shelduck	82	67	135	1631	4338	6036	5298	4373	3833	1155	444	497	SU
Wigeon	-	2	47	157	3134	937	2373	227	91	3	-	-	WN
Gadwall	-	3	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	GA
Teal	2	208	93	223	146	133	56	101	46	9	-	-	T
Mallard	38	430	769	1129	623	776	2220	1520	464	262	129	184	MA
Pintail	-	6	20	16	16	64	30	1	6	-	-	-	PT
Pochard	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	PO
Tufted Duck	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	-	TU
Scaup	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	6	-	-	-	SP
Eider	150	115	143	76	11	65	82	44	37	175	101	87	E
Common Scoter	19	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CX
Goldeneye	2	-	-	-	12	6	19	10	8	1	1	-	GN
R-b Merganser	-	1	-	19	16	6	9	7	24	41	3	-	RM
Oystercatcher	5854	16535	7674	14920	8987	6762	15307	14428	15337	3603	4163	1204	OC
Avocet	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	AV
L R Plover	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	LP
Ringed Plover	268	909	841	628	61	98	208	253	80	75	815	52	RP
American G Plover	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	—
Golden Plover	781	966	2742	5456	3965	9950	4850	4572	426	140	3	4	GP
Grey Plover	2036	6431	7013	6581	2324	3671	1119	5694	15080	8419	10233	283	GV
Lapwing	434	1154	925	4620	11098	15094	4717	19467	165	5	13	144	L
Knot	5452	16439	14576	42624	44042	20150	21707	18460	21446	16167	5328	1670	KN
Sanderling	590	170	13	4	11	14	16	45	12	40	90	-	SS
Little Stint	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	LX
Curlew Sandpiper	10	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CV
Dunlin	15033	7800	12706	18591	9480	7453	11000	21404	22016	30077	13919	29	DN
Ruff	-	11	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	RU
Snipe	2	26	2	19	29	6	-	12	5	1	-	-	SN
Black-tailed Godwit	174	501	1203	931	149	705	402	15	23	-	21	-	BW
Bar-tailed Godwit	2658	3787	5888	3475	2820	2626	3156	4298	3605	542	339	1252	BA
Whimbrel	306	97	50	7	-	-	3	-	75	76	65	-	WM
Curlew	3386	2982	3852	4007	607	1435	905	1877	2969	2061	172	317	CU
Spotted Redshank	2	4	20	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	DR
Redshank	2434	1571	4613	2049	651	994	1443	1747	2098	2607	451	408	RK
Greenshank	92	74	176	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	GK
Green Sandpiper	-	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	GE
Common Sandpiper	22	17	6	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	CS
Turnstone	314	679	324	446	290	58	126	316	323	288	30	11	TT

Lincolnshire Humber Totals 1994-95

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Red-throated Diver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	RH
Little Grebe	-	3	7	21	2	12	11	5	-	-	LG
Great Crested Grebe	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	GG
Cormorant	16	104	16	95	44	54	118	51	6	11	CA
Grey Heron	-	-	9	18	7	2	3	2	1	7	H
Mute Swan	-	47	100	108	114	78	101	87	-	55	MS
Whooper Swan	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	WS
Pink-footed Goose	-	-	650	556	42	72	500	-	-	-	PG
Greylag Goose	-	-	7	26	15	37	44	-	22	1	GJ
Canada Goose	68	-	-	37	42	-	151	89	52	65	CG
Brent Goose	-	1	77	2622	2443	917	852	13	1	1	BG
Shelduck	76	5	697	684	825	1324	1324	833	311	522	SU
Wigeon	-	5	364	1589	3382	971	1428	588	119	-	WN
Teal	256	69	99	315	102	595	212	138	-	1	T
Mallard	344	150	373	749	437	922	823	199	49	116	MA
Pintail	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	PT
Shoveler	1	-	-	20	-	-	10	1	-	-	SV
Pochard	-	-	8	340	620	606	700	218	-	-	PO
Tufted Duck	-	-	1	184	249	338	275	105	2	-	TU
Scaup	-	-	1	5	10	12	3	2	-	-	SP
Eider	-	15	-	6	-	3	-	-	-	-	E
Common Scoter	8	-	5	2	-	8	-	25	-	-	CX
Goldeneye	-	-	-	240	265	359	130	38	-	-	GN
R-b Merganser	-	-	-	-	4	11	-	-	-	-	RM
Oystercatcher	1071	2082	1567	1018	1132	561	874	453	429	421	OC
L R Plover	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	LP
Ringed Plover	494	540	110	172	264	175	85	100	51	410	RP
Golden Plover	2206	1014	3727	30739	7300	10500	6606	65	-	-	GP
Grey Plover	326	1060	711	418	461	810	431	644	360	46	GV
Lapwing	810	1097	1051	58716	17268	10465	15447	144	3	1	L
Knot	505	222	4157	11678	10240	6021	7560	2894	483	-	KN
Sanderling	375	623	177	257	385	567	206	414	340	756	SS
Little Stint	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	LX
Dunlin	2715	3122	7503	5323	6254	5885	7896	6229	1175	1195	DN
Ruff	11	5	18	18	-	1	-	-	-	-	RU
Jack Snipe	-	-	-	13	5	-	-	-	-	-	JS
Snipe	-	7	29	88	21	16	11	20	2	-	SN
Black-tailed Godwit	-	-	107	83	40	-	-	-	-	-	BW
Bar-tailed Godwit	27	693	84	393	382	361	1022	185	26	-	BA
Whimbrel	18	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	WM
Curlew	788	351	382	448	418	549	630	372	124	12	CU
Redshank	834	1026	734	1502	1441	1232	2187	1500	290	124	RK
Greenshank	13	23	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	GK
Common Sandpiper	10	36	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	CS
Turnstone	244	124	233	204	239	249	196	195	91	21	TT

Contributors to the Wetland Bird Surveys 1994-95

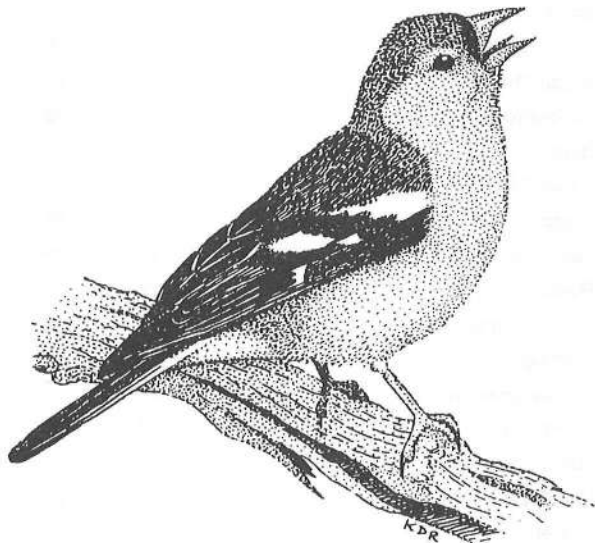
M Ackerman	P Cox	B Hancock	O Marks	B Redman	P Troake
A Ball	N Crockford	K Heath	B Martin	S Routledge	J R Walker
D Bingham	A Daws	R Heath	G Martin	I G Shepherd	T Walker
A Borrows	I Dennis	A Housman	J Mawer	C Smith	P Walker
D Bradbeer	R Dobson	C Howard	E Morley	N Smith	R Watson
H Bunn	A L Goodall	P Hyde	R Nowicki	J Spring	N Watts
C Cadbury	N Drinkall	S Keightley	K A Parker	W Stirling	A White
G P Catley	R Garner	L James	M Parkinson	B Sutherland	R Woodall
P Clement	W Gillat	M Marks	I Paterson	P Todd	D Wright

BREEDING BIRD SURVEY 1994-95

Following a pilot survey in which observers from Lincs played a very important part, the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) started in 1994, so there are now records from two summers to compare. The BBS is not a replacement for mapping surveys such as the Common Bird Census, which can both determine the number of breeding territories in a particular site for many species and link these territories to habitat, and will therefore continue to be used for these purposes. Mainly because it is very labour-intensive, both to carry out and to analyse, CBC is not ideal as a national monitoring method; the number of plots covered is comparatively small and largely confined to the south-east of Britain where there are most volunteer observers. This also means that many important habitats, and the birds using them, have never been covered by it. The BBS aims to measure changes in population levels of common and widespread birds in all habitats and regions across the United Kingdom. The methods used are simple (basically a line transect through a defined 1km square, walked twice in the season, after an initial visit to arrange access and ensure there are no rivers, security fences, impenetrable forests etc across the line) but the survey works by having a very large number of sample plots, and by having them randomly distributed throughout the UK, so that every habitat is sampled. In Lincolnshire 35 squares were surveyed in 1994 and observers recorded 93 species in them, including Quail, Whimbrel, Black Redstart, Ring Ouzel and Golden Oriole! In 1995 39 squares were covered and 100 species were recorded, including Ruddy Duck, Water Rail, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Nightingale. Only squares surveyed in both years are usable in producing the population index however, and only 31 squares (ie about 0.4% of the county) were covered in both years. The monitoring potential is obvious though, with the 84 species recorded in these 31 squares including Turtle Dove, Skylark, Tree Sparrow, Linnet and Corn Bunting, all species of current conservation concern. The table shows both the number of plots occupied and the total number recorded on them in both years for all species recorded in at least 15 squares (ie half the sample) in at least one of the two years. Since this is a very rural county it should come as no surprise to find that Woodpigeon was the most widespread species, recorded in every square in both years, with Pheasant, Skylark, Blackbird and Starling all found in more than 90% of squares in both years. The table also shows percentage change between the two years, but note that none of these changes is statistically significant; the sample size is very small, and many of the largest changes are in flocking species which means that the range of counts over all the squares can be very great.

While there is not much that can be done about the latter fact, the simplest and most important way to improve the survey, both nationally and on a county/regional basis is to increase the number of plots surveyed each year. In Lincolnshire we should be aiming for a minimum of one plot in each 10km square (about 80, not counting all the little bits around he edges!) and ideally for about 100 plots. This new survey gives all bird-watchers a chance to take part in important survey work. If you have a few hours to spare each year and wish to take part in the BBS (or would just like to know more about it) please contact your BTO Rep (addresses inside the front cover of this Report) or Richard Bashford at the BTO, National Centre for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 3NR (tel 01842 750050).

Anne Goodall



Comparison of Results for Plots Surveyed in Both Years

Species	No of Plots		Total counted		percent change
	1994	1995	1994	1995	
Mallard	25	23	186	181	-2.7
Red-legged Partridge	21	26	86	108	+25.6
Pheasant	28	29	179	177	-1.1
Moorhen	17	19	48	53	+10.4
Lapwing	10	15	34	86	+152.9
Black-headed Gull	11	17	27	70	+159.2
Stock Dove	18	19	79	94	+19.0
Woodpigeon	31	31	899	742	-17.5
Collared Dove	24	22	66	86	+30.3
Cuckoo	14	18	16	26	+73.7
Swift	20	14	174	219	+25.9
Skylark	29	30	315	319	+1.3
Swallow	29	27	170	127	-25.3
Meadow Pipit	16	17	70	85	+21.4
Pied Wagtail	14	19	27	32	+18.5
Wren	27	29	134	167	+24.6
Dunnoek	27	26	131	123	-6.1
Robin	22	21	74	73	-1.4
Blackbird	30	30	350	341	-2.6
Song Thrush	18	16	47	27	-42.6
Mistle Thrush	17	14	30	30	0
Whitethroat	22	22	68	92	+35.3
Blue Tit	23	25	102	113	+10.3
Great Tit	17	20	48	50	+4.2
Magpie	14	18	40	53	+32.5
Jackdaw	15	16	160	265	+65.6
Rook	17	18	361	483	+33.8
Carrion Crow	21	23	108	137	+23.1
Starling	29	30	815	1094	+34.2
House Sparrow	26	29	353	520	+47.3
Chaffinch	29	26	211	208	-1.4
Greenfinch	23	20	81	117	+44.4
Goldfinch	18	22	76	99	+30.3
Linnet	25	27	180	279	+55.0
Yellowhammer	25	24	146	140	-4.1

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1995

Species Accounts written by: K Atkin, Howard Bunn, J R Clarkson, A J Harrop, P A Hyde, D M Jenkins, S Keightley, P J Precey, K D Robertson

Key to symbols:

*B - National Rarity; description required for submission to British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC).

Submitted records with decision still pending will indicate this in the entry.

*L - Rare or scarce in Lincs; full description required by LBRC

*(L) - Rare or scarce in Lincs; supporting details of sighting required by LBRC

Records in these categories may not be published without the required supporting information.

*b - Nationally rare breeding species monitored by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP); all breeding season sightings in suitable habitat should be reported to the County Recorder asap

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Fairly common offshore passage migrant and winter visitor Aug-May with peaks in mid-winter; rare inland and in summer.

Widespread and recorded all along the coast from January to May and again from August to December, Gib Point consistently recording the highest numbers but few in the Humber or Wash.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	-	-	3	-	-	nc	nc	-	-	-	4	4
Wash	8	-	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-
MAIN SITES												
Donna Nook	5	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	3	5
Saltfleetby	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Huttoft	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Gib Point	147	79	27	18	-	-	-	-	28	20	25	9

The only inland record was of a single at Revesby Res Dec 26th.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

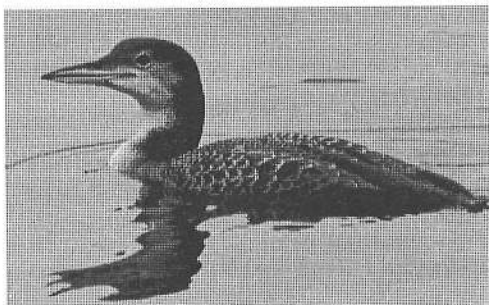
Rare/very scarce winter visitor mainly Sep-Apr.

An above average year with at least 12 individuals recorded. Two were seen off Gib Point Jan 14th, 1 there 17th and 1 at the Witham Mouth 18th. Inland one was at Covenham Res Jan 22nd-Mar 11th. Return passage began with one south at Huttoft Sep 18th, then singles at Gib Point between Oct 29th and Nov 5th, up to 3 at Huttoft Nov 2-4th and singles at North Cleethorpes 8th, Witham Mouth 18th and Covenham Res Dec 18th.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* *(L)

Rare winter visitor Aug-May.

A good year with 5 individuals reported, the first being 1 south at Mablethorpe Jan 1st. Inland a 1st-winter bird was present at Whisby Pits from Jan 11-28th, then no further records until a juv at Witham Mouth Nov 12th. A 1st-winter was at Covenham Res Nov 18-Dec 27th, and finally one at Alexandra Dock Grimsby Dec 21-24th.



Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Fairly common resident, partial migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	12	11	5	-	-	nc	nc	-	-	7	14	25
Wash	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	12	1
MAIN SITES												
Barton Pits	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	25	30	48
Whisby NP	11	18	-	-	-	-	-	29	39	31	-	-
Kirkby Pits	20	16	21	21	16	18	46	73	69	64	36	35

Other peak counts reported included 14 Bagmoor Farm and 10 Holywell Lake in January, 10 Gib Point April. Breeding records include 27 young raised by 11 pairs at Barton Pits, and autumn/winter peaks 25 Tetney Haven Nov 5th, 20 Dec 9th, 35 Tattershall Pits Dec 8th and 14 Holbeach Marsh 24th.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Fairly common resident, partial migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	-	2	-	-	-	nc	nc	-	-	-	-	-
Wash	-	5	9	33	20	2	11	31	13	76	17	3
MAIN SITES												
Covenham Res	14	5	14	-	15	5	16	-	10	9	20	19
Toft Newton	39	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	17	19	19
Whisby Pits	-	-	-	-	-	12	15	18	18	-	-	-
Kirkby Pits	2	12	12	12	15	13	12	15	8	5	1	-

Breeding season records included 26 on the River Witham Kirkstead Bridge-Chapel Hill Mar 19th, 25 Spalding-Borough Fen Apr 15th. Up to 10 pairs were present at Barton Pits, 6 pairs rearing 11 juvs, numbers considered down on the previous 6 years. On the coast 22 at Witham Mouth Apr 16th were assumed to be failed or non-breeding birds. In August there were 30 birds between Spalding-Borough Fen on 11th, 28 at Witham Mouth 13th and 32 there Oct 29th with 27 Nov 18th. Thurlby Pits recorded 34 birds Nov 22nd to Dec 3rd and 42 Dec 10th.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* *b

Rare/scarse passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-Mar.

The first record was 1 at Black Bank Jan 1st, followed by a 1st-winter bird at Witham Mouth Mar 19th. An unseasonal set of records concerned a bird present at Cleethorpes CP from May 25th to mid June and again Jul 1st into August, last seen 8th. At Covenham Res there were singles Sep 12th and Nov 15th, with another at Witham Mouth Nov 18th. In December single birds were recorded on the River Welland near Crowland on 8th and beneath the A16 roadbridge at Spalding on 16th.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* *b

Rare/very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Aug-May.

An above average year. In January a bird present at Tetney Lock from 1994 remained until 8th, and other singles were at Gib Point 11th and 16th and Toft Newton Res 22nd. There were no further records until early September when 1-2 birds were at Covenham Res from 2nd to the month's end, then 1 to Dec 2nd. Further singles were at Grimsthorpe Lake Oct 8th, Tetney 14th, Gib Point Nov 3rd, Brigg Island Carr Lake Dec 10th and finally at Tetney RSPB Reserve 16th.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* *b

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Apr-Jun and Aug-Nov.

A well-spread set of records, with the first at Thurlby Pits Jan 1st, then 1 at Barton Pits Mar 26th-Apr 2nd. In June there were singles at Covenham Res 14th and Toft Newton Res 28th. A juv was present at Cleethorpes

CP Jul 1-21st and an adult there Aug 4th. Another single was at Covenham Res Sep 28-30th and finally 2 were on the Humber off Barton on Nov 26th.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Fairly common offshore visitor, mainly Mar-Nov. Rare in winter and very infrequent inland. The first bird of the year was noted off Gib Point Mar 18th. In April there were 7 at Gedney Drove End and 1 past Tetney on 16th, numbers increasing from mid-month with 21 at Witham Mouth 16th and 20 at Gib Point 25th. May produced the highest counts, with 73 Donna Nook and 46 past Gib Point 16th. In June 1 flew west at Barton on 4th and 3 were noted heading inland at Nene Mouth 8th. Also in June there were 16 at Donna Nook 10th, 24 past Gib Point 11th, 10 there Jul 23rd and 11 on 26th. Small numbers were widely reported along the coast in August, max being 12 Donna Nook 13th, 15 Chapel Point 28th and 19 Gib Point 31st, with 39 north there Sep 17th. Finally 1 was at Grimsby Pyewipe Dec 30th.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* *L

Vagrant.

One flew north off Skegness Aug 22nd (NAL). The only previous records were in 1985 and 1988.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Scarce offshore passage migrant Jul-Nov.

A typical year's records with passage confined to the last half of September: 1 N at Huttoft on 18th, 2 Nene Mouth 19th, 3 N at Gib Point 19th and 3 N at Mablethorpe on 28th.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Scarce/fairly common offshore visitor/passage migrant, Apr-Nov with most Sep. Occasional inland after gales.

A poor year with very few records. In spring there were singles at Donna Nook May 9th and at Gib Point 16th. The majority of records received were from mid-late July: 2 Donna Nook and Skidbrooke North End 19th, 3 Gib Point 25th, 5 N past Skegness 26th, 1 Gib Point and Skegness 30th. Singles were also seen off Gib Point Sep 2nd and 19th, Donna Nook Sep 24th and Nov 11th.

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Regular offshore visitor/passage migrant; fairly common/common Jul-Nov, scarce at other times and rare inland.

Small numbers were recorded in January, the max being 6 S at Mablethorpe 1st, 9 Huttoft 2nd and 5 Rimac 8th. There were no February records and only a handful of sightings in March, max being 3 on 27th at Donna Nook. Passage continued in April, though only 1-2 birds involved, but in May there were 11 at Gib Point and 18 N at Huttoft on 13th. During June there were 12 at Donna Nook 10th, 19 25th, and 17 N at Gib Point 23rd, 21 N Jul 26th. Autumn passage steadily increased in August with 21 at Gib Point on 8th, 50 Huttoft 27th and 21 off Shep White's, Holbeach Marsh, 28th. Peak passage occurred in September, reported from most coastal sites: 63 Huttoft 16th, 39 Barton 17th, 95 N at Gib Point 19th, 70 S Mogs Eye 24th and 66 N at Mablethorpe 28th. The only inland record received was of a single bird over Cranwell on Sep 26th. Late autumn birds were scarcer, max being 18 Gib Point Oct 19th, 31 N Nov 2nd and 29 Huttoft Oct 29th. Last of the year was 1 at Donna Nook Nov 17th.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Fairly common winter visitor, mainly coastal but increasing inland and in summer. Has bred inland since 1992.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	54	118	51	6	11	nc	nc	27	23	44	50	52
Wash	92	95	46	54	15	12	148	178	91	118	156	98
MAIN SITES												
Gib Point	61	51	15	7	2	8	6	7	60	40	101	85
Witham Mouth	30	23	18	18	5	-	18	10	15	70	-	15

Terrington	10	10	8	11	3	-	99	99	11	11	8	9
Covenham Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	44	73
Kirkby Pits	15	-	17	34	1	-	2	6	21	35	15	18

Other max counts received were 46 Barton, 15 Whisby Pits in January, 28 Toft Newton Res, 55 Saltfleet Haven and 40 Rimac in February, 54 at Donna Nook March and 57 Tetney in December. The breeding colony at Deeping St James continued to increase from 71 nests in 1994 to 120 nests, but access is no longer allowed to this site.

Birds showing characteristics of the race *P c sinensis* were recorded at Gib Point Mar 9th and Apr 29th, Whisby Pits Mar 25th, Barton Pits 29th, Thurlby Pit Apr 2nd and 2 at Dogdyke Pumping Station Dec 11th.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Usually rare/scarse winter visitor Aug-May, very rare in summer. Larger influxes in some winters.

This species can be affected by severe weather, resulting in substantial wrecks, but with no such occurrence in 1995, numbers recorded were much smaller: at Covenham Res 7 Jan 15th, 1 Nov 11th and 2 19th, 2 Dec 3rd and 4 24th; otherwise singles at Horseshoe Point Sep 13th and Huttoft Nov 19th.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* *b

Mainly rare winter visitor with occasional summer records.

Compared to the last few years an encouraging increase in reports over the winter period, with records from 7 sites. In the early months there were singles at Wolla Bank Jan 2nd, Killingholme Haven Feb 19th, Barton Mar 19th and 28th and Messingham SQ Mar 21st. In autumn, singles were at Gib Point Oct 5th (8th Reserve record) and Boultham Mere Nov 19th and Dec 13th, 2 at Barrow Haven Nov 22-26th, 1 at Barton Dec 9th and 1 at Killingholme Haven Dec 31st.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* *b

Rare visitor in all months with some birds apparently wintering.

The increase in sightings continues as this species' range spreads, and it is therefore difficult to determine the number of individual birds involved. In the first half of the year there were sightings of one or more single birds on the NE coast as follows: Saltfleet Haven Feb 14th and Mar 11th, Tetney/Grainthorpe 12th, Saltfleetby NNR 13-14th, 21-26th and Apr 1st, North Cotes May 1-7th. At Gib Point a single bird was seen on 4 dates in January from 8th, 11 dates in February and 6 in March to 19th, then June 1st and 30th. In the autumn single birds were seen at Tetney RSPB Reserve Nov 12th and Saltfleetby Dec 29th, and at Frampton Marsh Nov 21-26th and Dec 9th.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Fairly common resident, partial migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	2	3	2	1	7	nc	nc	6	5	14	10	7
Wash	6	4	3	7	21	11	6	14	17	25	13	10
REGULAR SITES												
Nocton Fen	8	8	2	2	4	5	13	10	16	nc	nc	nc
Gib Point	3	1	3	2	1	6	3	12	9	2	2	3

Other max counts received were 19 Dunston Fen February, 25 Toft Newton June, 10 Messingham SQ and 11 Toft Newton August, 11 Grimsby Pyewipe October. A total of 370 pairs were recorded from the known colonies as follows:

Evedon/Haverholme	20
Gatecliff Wood, Newball	12
Holbeach Hospital Wood	25
Howsham Wood	8
Kingerby Wood	9

Laughton, Peacock Wood	3
Laughton, Tuetoes Hills	5
Laughton, Village Wood	2
Legbourne Wood	43
Nocton Wood	6
Old Hag Wood, Doddington	26
The Mere, Deeping St James	95
Thornton Abbey	14
Troy Wood, Tumby	66
Warren Wood, Gainsborough	3
Willoughby Wood	33

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* *L

Vagrant.

An adult was at Messingham Sand Quarry Jun 8-10th (JH) and Ashbyville Lake 11-12th (JTH, DJ).

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* *(L)

Vagrant.

A single bird was seen over Burwell Wood on Apr 19th (AR). There have been ten previous records, the last in 1986.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Rare visitor, mainly coastal in Apr-May with a few summer/autumn and exceptionally in winter.

Two birds at Gib Point on Jun 5th. Nationally the range and frequency of records for this species continues to expand.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	78	101	87	-	55	nc	nc	23	48	148	19	83
MAIN SITES												
New Holland	90	90	85	-	-	-	-	130	-	50	53	
Kirkby Pits	48	39	29	27	42	56	-	73	82	27	27	26
Deeping High Bank	127	110	-	-	90	-	200	116	236	-	283	165

For the first time since 1988/89 the Deeping High Bank herd surpassed the nationally important figure of 180. Other double-figure flocks were at Messingham SQ, 28 Jan 15th, North Drove Drain, Deeping Fen, 52 Mar 18th, Martin Fen, 37 19th, Brayford Pool Lincoln, 45 Apr 18th and Branston Fen, 30 May 2nd. Only 22 breeding pairs were reported, including 6 at Barton Pits and 3 at Messingham SQ; clearly only a fraction of the true figures. Non- and post-breeding flocks included 84 at Barton Pits, May 29th, 43 at Deeping St James, July 9th, 36 at Fairfield Pit, 11th and 33 at Kirton Quarries, Nov 19th.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor, mainly Oct-Mar and exceptional in summer.

1995: to Mar 15th, from Oct 25th.

Quite scarce early in the year, with records received from just 9 sites. One at Baston-Langtoft Pits on Jan 1st was followed by 14 at Nocton Fen on 9th, 6 W at Barton on 14th, a 1st-winter at Kirkby Pits on 14-30th and 7 at Branston Fen Jan 31st-Feb 16th; there were also 14 on Friskney Marsh in the Wash WeBS count. A party of 6 was at Holbeach Marsh on Feb 4th and 7 at Kirkby Pits 14th increased to 10 23rd. At Gib Point 8 on 26th had fallen to 5 there next day. A family party of 5 was at Toft Newton Res on March 6th, with the last bird of the spring a single at Kirkby Pits on 15th. Late year records were more respectable, with small parties quite widespread and two or three herds established for the winter. The first returning bird was one W at Barton Pits Oct 25th, followed by one at Toft Newton Res 26-28th and 2 at Pyes Hall 28th. Six flew

south at Donna Nook on 31st, and at Marston STW 34 present from 31st remained into 1996. In November, 11 flew SE over Holbeach Bank on 5th, there were 3 at Donna Nook 7th, 4 on Dawsmere Marsh for the WeBS count, 2 at Scotter Bottom 21-29th, 3 came in from the north at Kirkby Pits on 23rd and 3 flew over Metheringham next day. At Dunston Fen a herd of 8 from 19th stayed into 1996, rising to 13 by Nov 25th and 20 Dec 17th, while on Nocton Fen a herd from Dec 9th increased to 17 birds by the year end; possibly the same birds involved in both these areas, accounting also for occasional sightings at nearby Branston Fen. Other December records came from Scotter Bottom, 3 on 2-5th and 1 on 17th; Messingham, 3 3rd, 6 9th; Barton, 3 4th; Deeping High Bank, 2 16th; New Holland 1 21st; Barrow Wold 1 23rd; Skellingthorpe 3 25-27th, and 7 at Reads Island/South Ferriby on 30th. Finally, 2 flew east at Barton and 7 were at Baston-Langtoft Pits on 31st.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor, mainly Oct-Apr and exceptional in summer.
1995: present in all months.

A poor early winter period, although the brief spring passage involved quite impressive numbers and led to a good number of summer records. In the early year there was 1 at New Holland from 1994, 2 at Baston Fen Jan 21st, 2 over Swanholme 29th, 2 at Whisby Feb 24th and 3 E at Gib Point 25th. Spring passage started at the end of March with 13 NW over Gib Point and 16 on the Humber at Barton, both on 23rd, then 75 N at Witham Mouth, 60 N at Humberston and 18 at North Cotes, all Apr 2nd and 5 at Horseshoe Point 3rd. Single stragglers in late spring/summer were at Barton Pits Apr 17th, Fillingham Lake May 2nd, Brayford Pool 5th and Scotter Bottom Jun 4th. Two birds summered, at Messingham SQ and New Holland, the latter remaining here from 1994 into 1996. As with Bewick's, much more numerous and widespread at the year end. After a single at Gib Point from Oct 6th the main arrival started in mid-month with 24 on the Wash WeBS count, including 7 at Dawsmere and 6 each at Friskney and Witham Mouth, then 2 at Holbeach Marsh 22nd followed by 1 at Huttoft Pits, 2 at Kirton Holme and 7 at Gib Point 23rd and 13 SW over Wyberton 24th. The party of 6 were still at Witham Mouth on 29th with 3 at Holbeach Marsh the same day and 9 at Theddlethorpe on 30th. November started with 4 S at Gib Point on both 2nd and 5th, parties of 5 over Tetney and Marston and 9 at Nocton Fen, all also on 5th, 4 at Cleethorpes CP on 6th and 6 at Gib Point on 9th. At Covenham Res 8 flew SW on 14th with a single there next day, 1 was at Barton Pits on 18th and 11 at Nocton Fen on 19th, 1 was at Scotter Bottom on 21-22nd, 4 were at Whitton 26th-27th and 2 joined the resident bird at New Holland from 26th-Dec 21st. Elsewhere in December there were singles at Frampton Marsh 4th, Scotter Bottom 5th, Deeping High Bank and Messingham SQ 9th and Bardney Pits 24th; pairs at Gib Point 28th, Toft Newton Res 29th and Barton Pits 31st and more sizeable groups of 15 at Dunston Fen 7th and 13 at Holbeach Range 10th.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Rare/scarcely winter visitor, mainly coastal, Oct-Apr.

Only one record during the year, of a party of 3 with Greylags at Kirkby Pits, Dec 3rd.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Common winter visitor Sep-Apr, mainly to the Humber and Wash, but many inland movements.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	72	500	-	-	-	nc	nc	-	-	3	3	-
Wash	16	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	128	48	28

The Humber flock included a colour-ringed female from Loch Leven, Tayside, on Jan 20th. Most apparently departed towards the end of Feb with only 180 left on 25th. A total of 300 flew west past New Holland on Jan 15th and 200 NW over Tetney on 19th; the last birds were 145 NW over Barton Apr 23rd. There was no real pattern of sightings from the Wash with birds dispersing over a wide area to feed, often some distance inland. Maximum counts in January included 1000 over Boston on 12th, 1100 W at Gib Point 15th and 1200 W over Pinchbeck 25th. The vast majority had moved on by February with the highest movement only 157 W at Gib Point 25th. Inland, several large flocks moved through the county from the start of the year, presumably from the Wash up to Lancashire and thence back to Iceland: 140 W over Roughton Jan 3rd, 400

W over Kirkby Pits 15th, 200 NW over Nocton Fen 22nd, 400 NW over Metherringham on 25th and 70 NW over Lincoln on Feb 11th. Passage birds in March included 150 NW over Bardney on 12th, 391 heading NW over Frampton on 20th with presumably the same flock, reported as c400, seen going NW over Metherringham an hour later, 200 over Whisby on 21st and 359 at Saltfleet 22nd. The last movement reported was of 130 E at Gib Apr 23rd.

The first returning birds on the Humber were 31 at Barton on Sep 29th with 232 at Winteringham next day. There was a steady movement west past Barton from Oct 18th, including 433 on 24th and 500 on 25th. In the south of the county the first returning birds were 45 at Gib Point Sep 26th, with 75 SE at Holbeach Marsh on 28th and a skein heard flying over Metherringham on 29th. Passage numbers at Gib included 300 Oct 5th and 325 Nov 2nd, with other movements through the county of 250 over Grantham Nov 1st, 100 E at Metherringham 14th and 18th, 80 E over Stickford 15th, 87 over RAF Cranwell 25th, 100 SE over Nocton Fen, 200 over Kirkby Pits and 175 E over Whisby, all on Dec 10th and 100 E over Whisby again on 23rd. The only big flocks in the Wash were at Holbeach Marsh, where 2-300 were present in December. Single feral birds were at Revesby Res, Bardney Pits and Deeping High Bank, with up to 10 at Kirkby Pits.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Rare/scarse winter visitor Sep-Apr, occasionally fairly common. Most *A a albifrons* with only a few Greenland race *flavirostris* recorded.

A very poor showing early in the year, just two records of singles of perhaps dubious origin, at Holywell Jan 3-27th and Kirkby Pits on 14th. The end of the year produced a more respectable number of records, starting with 9 at South Somercotes Nov 28-29th; in December 7 were at Skidbrooke North End on 5th, 5 at Covenham Res on 9th, 13 flew W at Tetney next day and 34 E at Gib Point on 11th. Finally 24 were at Donna Nook on 21st and 10 at Thurlby, Lincoln on 31st.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Common feral resident; wild birds scarce in winter Sep-Apr but difficult to detect.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	37	44	-	22	1	nc	nc	62	-	126	50	115
MAIN SITES												
Kirkby Pits	450	420	200	45	80	105	235	300	80	100	460	245
Bardney Pits	57	-	-	-	-	-	82	-	133	250	98	100
Grimsthorpe Lake	125	116	-	57	-	-	-	100	-	178	152	151
Baston-Langtoft Pits	123	-	130	-	-	-	-	-	285	26	15	-
Langtoft W End Pits	430	136	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Also regularly recorded at Ancaster, Whisby and Barton Pits. Breeding was reported at Kirkby, Baston-Langtoft, Whisby and Barton, but with no counts at any of these sites. Other large flocks reported were 107 at Revesby Jan 1st, 250 over RAF Scampton on 31st, 44 at Fillingham Lake Feb 12th, 60 at Nocton Fen Aug 13th, 265 at Messingham SQ 29th, 150 at Revesby Res Dec 2nd, 60 at Alkborough Flats Dec 25th and 64 Deeping High Bank 26th. On the coast there were 7 with Brents at Tetney on Jan 1st and 10 at Donna Nook Dec 9th. Smaller numbers were reported from 7 other sites during the year.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Rare vagrant/escape, most birds probably the latter.

A white-phase adult flew south over Marston STW Jan 29th together with 35 Pink-footed Geese.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Common feral resident/partial migrant.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	-	151	89	52	65	nc	nc	12	-	-	-	-
Wash	-	4	40	5	2	-	-	14	56	-	-	-
MAIN SITES												

Barton/S Ferriby	-	140	150	-	-	102	132	206	284	200	100	100
Kirkby Pits	170	13	20	10	26	-	12	59	35	80	100	190
Whisby NP	116	-	-	-	-	57	46	-	167	30	-	-
Grimsthorpe/												
Holywell	375	-	80	-	-	-	-	135	119	102	187	222
Tallington Lakes	191	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	198	139

Other high counts came from Ancaster, 240 Jan-Mar, Kirton, 65 S on Feb 2nd, Donna Nook, 159 Aug 31st, Gib Point, 135 Sep 28th, Hartsholme Lake, 102 Nov 12th and Riseholme Lakes, 105 Dec 10th. Breeding was only reported from four sites: Barton, Kirkby, Whisby and Gib Point; no numerical information from any of these sites.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Scarce/fairly common winter visitor, mainly to coast Oct-May. Small feral population breeds irregularly. No wild birds were seen early in the year, but 7 presumed wild birds were at North Cotes Oct 1st, 2 NW over Tetney and 12 at Donna Nook Dec 17th and one with Brents at Holbeach Marsh on 30th. Presumed feral/escaped birds were present during the year: 1 at Kirkby Pits Jan 2-28th, 2 at Blankney Fen Feb 4th, 1 at Messingham SQ on May 4th with 3 there next day, singles at Covenham Res Sep 30th and Deeping High Bank Dec 22nd, 13 known escaped birds at Alkborough Flats 25th and a single at Killingholme 31st.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

B b bernicla very common winter visitor Sep-May, mainly to Humber and Wash. *B b hrota* rare/scarce visitor Oct-Mar. *B b nigricans* vagrant, 3 records last 1991 *B

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	917	852	13	1	1	nc	nc	-	-	139	937	1727
Wash	13973	11262	12704	12320	10210	6	16	22	3	6935	13515	17558

On the inner Humber there were singles at South Ferriby Jan 6th and Barton May 4th and 10th. Up to 7 remained in the Wash during the summer, 2 at Gib Point until Jun 29th and one at Donna Nook on Jul 15th. Percentage young among returning birds indicated that they had had a disastrous breeding season, with only 4 juvs in a flock of 1697 at Frampton Marsh Oct 30th. Two flew W at Barton on Oct 22nd, with odd singles reported on the inner Humber until the end of the year and 11 at Barton on Dec 5th. There were two inland records, singles at Kirkby Pits, Nov 13th and Bardney Pits/Nocton Fen, Dec 24th.

Pale-bellied Brent Goose *B b hrota*: Four flew N past Huttoft Oct 29th and a single was at Cleethorpes Nov 12th.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Rare/scarce feral resident or visitor from the Norfolk population. Some local releases also involved and has bred occasionally.

One at Tattershall Pits on Jan 15th. In autumn singles were at Kirkby Pits Aug 8th and Deeping St James 8th-Sep 2nd, and 7 flew S past Huttoft Aug 12th: possibly a late-summer dispersal from the breeding populations in north Norfolk or the East Midlands?

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Rare vagrant, but most recent records have probably involved escaped birds.

Four records during the year, all following the recent mid-summer pattern. A female flew W at Barton Pits July 2nd, 3 were at Grimsby Pyewipe and 1 at South Ferriby on 13th, with presumably the latter at Winteringham 15th.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Very common resident/partial migrant; mainly Humber/NE coast and Wash but breeds regularly inland.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	1324	1324	833	311	522	nc	nc	203	121	404	858	913
Wash	5298	4343	3613	1065	428	480	166	56	197	4543	7709	9534

Inland, small numbers were present throughout the year, with reports of 1-30 birds from 18 sites. Successful breeding was reported from North Kelsey Moor (2 pairs), Bardney Pits, Kirkby Pits (3 pairs) and Baston-Langtoft Pits, on the Humber coast at Barton and Donna Nook and the Wash, including 19 pairs at Frampton Marsh.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Rare/scarse feral resident/visitor. Increased numbers in recent years aided by local releases.

Probably the only record of truly feral birds during the year was a pair at Tallington from Apr 15th which bred successfully, rearing 9 young. This is the third breeding record for the county, and the second at Tallington; the species is probably regular in this area, involving birds from the nearby Cambs/Northants population, but the elusiveness and crepuscular habits of 'wild' birds makes their true status very hard to determine. All other records relate to presumed local escapes/releases. A male was on the River Bain at Horncastle throughout the year. Another male was present at Barton from Mar 24th until Sep 9th, with 2 there Aug 15-20th. On the coast, a pair was at Tetney on Apr 3rd, a male at Cleethorpes June 4th and 2 at Huttoft Pit Aug 12th. Finally, a male was on Boultham Drain, Lincoln on Nov 22nd and Dec 16th.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Rare but regular in summer and breeds sporadically.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	971	1428	588	119	-	nc	nc	2	72	549	1120	1597
Wash	2373	227	88	3	-	-	2	-	403	810	1317	1982

MAIN SITES

Gib Point	1300	900	200	-	3	2	-	3	400	566	450	700
Wainfleet Marsh	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	10	529	25
Freiston Marsh	220	20	67	3	-	-	2	-	-	74	164	306
Welland Marsh	250	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	26	140	130
Holbeach Marsh	516	17	10	-	-	-	-	-	4	89	50	300
Bardney Pits	1500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	200	173
Kirkby Pits	120	26	40	22	-	-	-	-	400	400	600	85
Baston Fen	30	380	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250
Baston-Langtoft Pits	375	-	136	-	-	-	-	-	6	164	222	-

Other early year maxima were 785 at South Ferriby and 340 Marston STW both Jan-Feb, and 516 at Holbeach Marsh Jan 22nd. May birds were at Tattershall, Whisby, Saltfleet and Goxhill, with one summering at Kirkby Pits and 2 males summering at Barton Far Ings. A pair was at Gib Point Jul 1-2nd. On the inner Humber large numbers flew W during Sep-Nov, with a total of at least 3350 past the Humber Bridge, the max count being 1574 on Oct 1st. Other Humber maxima were 3-400 at Tetney Oct-Nov, 250 N past Donna Nook Nov 2nd, up to 390 at South Ferriby during December and 400 at Alkborough Flats on Dec 25th. On the coast there were 342 at Huttoft Bank Pit Sep 10th, while in the Wash the highest counts were 335 at Witham Mouth on Dec 10th and 500 Holbeach Marsh on 30th. Inland records came from 16 sites, with max of 250 at Tattershall Thorpe Oct 22nd, 637 Revesby Res Nov 15th, 250 there Dec 2nd, and 400 at Marston STW in late December.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Scarce resident and fairly common winter visitor.

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	13	43	38	48
Swanholme Lake	54	47	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	54	60

Kirkby Pits	70	80	28	40	9	17	4	55	45	60	80	75
Langtoft W End Pits	115	68	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tallington Lakes	36	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	61
Deeping St James	53	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	40	-

In the first half of the year, other larger counts were 39 Holywell in January, 30 Covenham Reservoir Jan 22nd, 20 Tattershall Pits 15th and 20 Whisby NP 22nd. 1-19 were recorded at a further 15 sites. Only 2 breeding records were received, of 4 broods at Barton and one at Nocton Delph. In the second half of the year there were 35 at Whisby NP Sep 17th, 58 at Boultham Mere Nov 22nd with about 50 to the end of the year, 22 at Covenham Res Dec 10th and 41 Deeping High Bank 23rd, with 1-20 again at a further 15 sites.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Scarce resident and common passage migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	595	212	138	-	-	nc	nc	19	391	701	774	642
Wash	56	94	37	9	-	-	4	54	113	252	681	407
MAIN SITES												
Gib Point	520	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	180	1200	450	300
Bardney Pits	500	100	58	-	2	-	-	-	-	100	212	480
Kirkby Pits	100	7	15	-	-	1	-	-	325	220	250	460
Marston STW	300	300	100	-	2	3	-	-	80	80	250	260

In the first half of the year, other large counts were 250 Saltfleet Jan 1st, 888 South Ferriby in January, 179 Cadney Res Feb 4th and 170 Baston Fen in February. Breeding was suspected at Toft Newton Res, and summering birds were also present at Whisby, Gib Point and Baston-Langtoft Pits. On the inner Humber there were 200 on Reads Island Aug 20th, 300 W at the Humber Bridge Sep 8th, 350 W there Oct 1st and 265 W Nov 22nd; 400 were on Reads Island on Nov 23rd and a max of 510 at South Ferriby during December. Elsewhere, large counts came from Huttoft Bank Pit, 450 Sep 9th, Somercotes Haven, 200 Nov 13th and Whisby, where 116 on 12th was eclipsed by a record count of 412 on Dec 10th.

Green-winged Teal *A c carolinensis*: A male was at Wolla Bank Pits on Jan 2-3rd and again on 27th (PMT et al). The fourth county record.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	922	823	199	49	116	nc	nc	464	185	264	635	608
Wash	2220	1518	458	234	78	166	54	92	348	2318	1979	2559

Other large early year flocks reported were 790 at Holbeach Range Jan 22nd, 485 South Ferriby in Feb and 420 at Witham Mouth Feb 19th. The first ducklings of the year were seen at Sleaford on Feb 13th, although none survived more than a week.

Pintail *Anas acuta* *b

Fairly common/common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare in summer with sporadic breeding records.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	-	-	3	-	-	nc	nc	1	6	2	8	2
Wash	27	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	33	40	51	149

Very scarce early in the year, with 12 at Witham Mouth, Jan 8th, 10 at Saltfleet Haven Feb 14th and 1-4 at Donna Nook, Gib Point, Toft Newton Res, Kirkby Pits, Marston STW and Baston Fen. An injured female remained at Kirkby Pits from April until October, singles were at Gib Point Jun 7th and Jul 9th and 2 were

at North Killingholme Aug 28th. There were better numbers with birds were more widespread later in the year, although the Wash flock remained rather small; 53 at Frampton, Sep 3rd and 120 Witham Mouth, Oct 8th. On the Humber small numbers passed west during Sep-Oct, with high counts past Barton of 20 Sep 16th and 58 Oct 1st. On the east coast 47 flew N past Huttoft on Sep 16th with 13 next day and 16 at Gib Point Oct 12th, while peak counts inland were 25 at Messingham SQ, Nov 12th and 31 Covenham Res, Dec 10th. Otherwise, only 1-10 recorded Sep-Dec from Toft Newton Res, North Hykeham Apex Pits, Whisby, Bardney, Revesby Res, Marston STW and Baston Fen.

Garganey *Anas querquedula* *b

Scarce passage migrant and rare summer visitor, breeding only occasionally. Has occurred in winter (rarely). 1995: Apr 1st-Sep 20th.

The first record of the year was of 2 males and a female at Messingham SQ, Apr 1st with at least 2 staying there until 9th. The main arrival was in late April however, with pairs at Chapel Pit on 21st and Tetney Lock on 25th and single males at Whisby NP, 22nd and Barton Pits 30th. Further single males were at Barrow Haven May 7th, Barton Pits on 13th and 27th, Baston-Langtoft Pits 21st, Whisby NP 22nd, Messingham SQ on 26th, Tetney on 31st and finally at Kirkby Pits on June 4th and 14th. There were no summering records. The first autumn bird was again a single male, at Barton on Aug 31st. Thereafter, singles were at Messingham SQ Sep 1st, Toft Newton Res 2nd, at Gib Point on 8 days during September with 2 there on 16th, and females at Marston STW 7th-14th and Whisby NP 20th.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Scarce/fairly common resident and passage migrant.

MAIN SITES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	-	-	-	6	6	-	-	43	15	24	-	25
Kirkby Pits	6	29	22	15	2	2	-	13	40	45	45	110
Gib Point	12	9	10	2	1	1	-	20	15	23	5	5

Other than the above, 10 at Cadney Res on Feb 4th and 6 at Saltfleet Haven on Mar 22nd were the only groups of more than 4 reported during the first quarter, with lesser numbers at 8 other sites. Late spring pairs were seen at Barton Pits (3), Cadney Res, Chapel Pit, Keb Wood, Metheringham Delph, Bardney Pits (2), Baston Fen (2) and Baston-Langtoft Pits, with breeding proven at Marston STW and Nocton Fen. From August numbers built up again, with late year counts of 20 at South Ferriby, Aug 20th, 23 Messingham SQ Sep 1st, 14 at South Ferriby Oct 18th, up to 20 at Barrow Haven and 9 at Deeping St James during November and 14 at Baston-Langtoft Pits Nov 25th. Up to 7 were reported from 10 other sites.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; occasionally in summer, but increasing numbers of escaped birds present in the county.

The usual two areas produced the vast majority of records over the year. On the River Witham between Kirkstead and Chapel Hill, a male was present on and off from at least Jan 12th to Oct 9th, being joined by a second individual on at least March 19th and June 19th. Around Langtoft a male and 3 females were at Langtoft West End Pits Jan 1-19th, with a pair and an extra female there until at least Feb 14th. These 3 then moved to Baston-Langtoft Pits from Mar 25th until at least May 22nd. The pair was still here until June 19th and the male until July 2nd. A female reappeared from July 15-20th. At the end of the year a male was at Baston-Langtoft Pits on Nov 11th and 2 pairs back at Langtoft West End Pits on Dec 31st. The only other record was of one at Covenham Res Nov 20th.

Pochard *Aythya ferina* *b

Scarce resident with recent decline in breeding range, but a common winter visitor.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	606	700	218	-	-	nc	nc	-	-	-	-	1000

MAIN SITES

New Holland	660	700	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	108	1500
Barton Pits	-	570	-	103	-	-	-	-	-	254	-	-
Toft Newton Res	152	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	91	143
Kirkby Pits	3	100	115	15	3	11	17	13	70	100	180	145
Baston-Langtoft Pits	318	-	59	-	-	-	34	-	13	507	389	324
Tallington Lakes	231	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	181	368

Elsewhere there were 77 at Thurlby Pits Jan 10th and 79 at Langtoft West End Pits Feb 19th, with 107 there on March 12th. Otherwise, up to 70 were recorded from 18 sites Jan-Apr and from 11 sites, Jul-Dec. It was another record breeding season on the Humber Bank Pits, with at least 60 juveniles fledged from 21 broods. Four broods were reared at Messingham Pits, with other breeding successes at Burton Pits, Kirkby Pits and Boultham Mere. Also present during the summer at Whisby NP.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Common resident and winter visitor.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	338	275	105	2	-	nc	nc	-	-	-	7	400
MAIN SITES												
Barton Pits	-	104	-	103	-	-	-	238	-	-	-	-
New Holland	300	200	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	218	400
Toft Newton Res	105	150	68	61	-	-	-	124	95	64	92	-
Kirkby Pits	210	220	190	140	100	100	150	180	420	200	180	245
Baston-Langtoft Pits	241	-	145	-	-	-	-	-	58	66	104	-
Tallington Lakes	230	-	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	121	184

Other notable early year counts were 141 at Deeping St James Jan, 135 Tattershall Pits Jan 15th, 166 Deeping High Bank 21st, 110 Ancaster 22nd and 100 on Deeping Fen Mar 18th. Breeding was reported from 11 sites, totalling 46 broods. High counts towards the end of the year included 176 Whisby NP and 366 Deeping High Bank Dec 8th with 301 23rd and 220 26th, and 137 Brigg Island Carr Lake on Dec 10th. No other counts in excess of 100 reported, but up to 93 through the year at a further 27 sites.

Aythya hybrids.

Pochard/Tufted Duck: Males at Baston-Langtoft Pits from 1994 until Feb 19th, a second bird at nearby Langtoft West End Pits on Feb 19th and one at Toft Newton Res April 29th.

Scaup/Tufted Duck: A male at Nocton Farm Res Mar 5-8th.

Scaup/Pochard: A male was at Barton Oct 20th-Nov 2nd.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* *B

Vagrant.

A first winter male was found at Barton Pits on Feb 13th and was seen there and at nearby New Holland until 16th (GPC et al). This is the first county record. Accepted by BBRC.

Scaup *Aythya marila* *b

Scarce/fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Occasional in summer.

Early in the year, virtually confined to New Holland/Barton where 7 remained from 1994, rising to 12 on Jan 15th; at least 5 remaining to Mar 25th, 2 to May 26th and a female still here on June 3rd. Also 40 flew N here on Apr 30th. Away from the inner Humber, a single was at Witham Mouth on Jan 8th, a female inland at Holywell on Feb 16th, 3 at Huttoft Bank Pits on 19th and a female at Chapel Pits Mar 4-5th. A single at Grimsby Pyewipe May 22nd was a late record. Birds were rather more widespread later in the year. The first male returned to Barton on Oct 1st with 7 there by 31st, 9 on Dec 16th and 45 there on 30th. Other end of

year records were singles at Chapel Pits Oct 21st and Nov 4th, 4 S off Huttoft and 4 at Gib Point Oct 29th, further singles at Nenemouth Nov 2nd and Gedney Drove End Dec 10th and a female at Humberston Fitties 26th-27th. A small influx inland produced records of a female at Kirkby Pits Nov 12th-Dec 24th, a female at Toft Newton Res Nov 18th, 3 at Boultham Mere 22nd, another female at Covenham Res Dec 10th and a single at Tattershall Bridge 11th.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

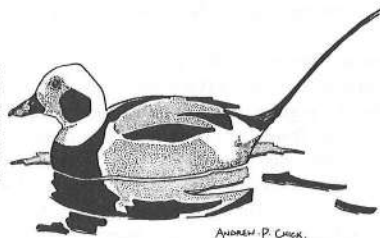
Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor, but present in all months. Mainly in the Wash, and very rare inland.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wash	82	44	34	175	101	87	152	140	38	22	80	171

An rather poor year with counts in the Wash very low. Early year max in the Witham Mouth/Frampton Marsh area was only 33 on Feb 9th, rising to a summering flock of 75 from Apr 16th. The only other sightings reported Jan-Mar were 5 at Tetney Jan 1st, 2 at Grimsby Docks 15th, a max of 5 at Gib Point on 16th and 3 at Cleethorpes 22nd. During the summer singles flew past Gib Point on May 1st and June 27th, 2 N past Rimac July 8th and 4 at Horseshoe Point 12th. Returning birds arrived from August, with late year peaks of 25 N at Gib Point and Chapel Six Marshes Nov 4th, 39 N Gib Point and 90 N at Rimac 12th, 71 N past Huttoft on Dec 6th and 55 N past Cleethorpes on 14th. In Grimsby Docks 42 were present Dec 27-29th. Other reports of up to 15 birds, Aug-Dec came from Donna Nook Saltfleet and Mablethorpe. In the Wash the Witham Mouth/Frampton flock stood at 60 Dec 10th. On the inner Humber one was at Barton Sep 12th, 20 there on Nov 12th, 28 Dec 2nd, 37 on 3rd and 26 on 16th, with 12 at New Holland on Nov 6th.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, rare in summer. An extremely poor year, with only 14 records. The only early year record was of a female at Covenham Res from 1994 until Apr 9th. In the late autumn, 1-2 were at Saltfleet Haven on Nov 1-6th, a male at Barton on 3rd, one at Witham Mouth and 7 at Huttoft Bank on 19th, one inland at Toft Newton Res on Dec 5th and a first winter male at New Holland 21st-29th.



Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Fairly common/common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce in summer and inland.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	8	-	25	-	-	nc	nc	-	-	-	45	15

Very few early winter records were received, the only large groups being 100 at Donna Nook Jan 8th, 90 there on 22nd and 110 S past Gib Point 14th. One was inland at Covenham Res Feb 1st. Spring passage was noted at Barton, with 2 on Mar 4th and 10 19th, and at Gib Point, where 34 passed on Apr 4th and 15 on 23rd; inland singles were at Toft Newton Res on Apr 11th and at Covenham Res June 14th. Movements continued through the summer, with 36 S past Gib Point on June 11th, 73 N 13th, 80 N 23rd, 35 N 29th; 45 remained off the coast there through July, with 70 on 17-18th. Other summer/autumn records came from Barton Pits, where a female remained from July 23rd-Aug 9th; Winteringham, with 16 W July 24th and 66 W 28th; Witham Mouth/Frampton Marsh, where another female stayed from Aug 6th until October, and Huttoft, where there were 8 on Aug 27th and 12 next day. Other than these, there was an inland female at Toft Newton Res Sep 2nd. From mid-September onwards birds were reasonably regular at Barton/New Holland, with a maximum count of 70 Nov 18th, at Huttoft, where the max was 145 S Nov 16th and Gib Point, a max 275 N Nov 2nd. Otherwise autumn/winter records from a further 5 coastal sites, including 225 N at Donna Nook Nov 2nd, and one further inland record, at Kirkby Pits on Oct 13th.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare inland and summer.

None recorded early in the year. The first of the autumn were 3 past Gib Point on Sep 30th, followed by October records of a female at Barton and males at Huttoft 1st, Chapel Point 22nd and 4 Gib Point 29th. At Donna Nook 4 flew S Nov 2nd, 2 more S 3rd and another pair on 12th. Four flew past Huttoft Bank on 4th and 5 on 19th, with singles at Barton on 4th and 18th. Finally, 2 were at New Holland, Dec 21-24th.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Fairly common winter visitor, rare in summer.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	359	130	38	-	-	nc	nc	1	-	-	24	331
Wash	18	5	8	1	1	-	-	-	-	6	20	13
MAIN SITES												
Covenham Res	130	22	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	56	28

Other early year counts were 32 Barton Pits Mar 4th, 24 at Baston-Langtoft Pits and max 27 Langtoft West End Pits Jan-Mar, with up to 20 recorded from 15 other sites. In the north an imm stayed at Barton Pits from Jul 28th until at least Oct 1st, with presumably the same bird North Killingholme Haven Pits on July 31st, while in the south a male was resident at Baston-Langtoft Pits throughout May-August at least. Autumn passage provided counts of 87 W past the Humber Bridge on Oct 30th, 74 N at Huttoft Bank and 95 N past Donna Nook on Nov 2nd and 50 W past the Humber Bridge again on 4th. Birds were more widespread, or at least, more were reported later in the year, with up to 20 at a further 21 sites, including site firsts for Culverthorpe Lake (5 Nov 14th) and Marston STW (up to 3 Nov 25th-Dec 9th).

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Scarce winter visitor (Oct-Apr) with occasional larger influxes in hard weather.

The two regular sites again provided most of the year's records. At Langtoft West End Pits a male and 2 red-heads from 1994 were joined by a third red-head from Jan 5th, with all four staying until Mar 12th. In December only a single red-head returned to the traditional pit, on 22nd, but 3 red-heads were at nearby Tallington Lakes on 31st. At Toft Newton Res a pair were present from Jan 1-23rd, with the male remaining until Mar 13th. He had returned by Dec 6th and remained into 1996, being joined by a red-head from 9-23rd. Elsewhere a red-head was at Barton Far Ings, Mar 26th-Apr 9th, with presumably the same bird at nearby Barrow Haven on Apr 8th; a male was at Kirkby Pits Apr 13th-20th and a red-head at the end of the year at Tetney Canal Nov 23rd.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly coastal. Rare in summer.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	11	-	-	-	-	nc	nc	-	-	1	-	3
Wash	9	7	22	41	3	-	-	-	-	14	27	1

Early in the year there was only one report away from the Wash, a single at Tetney Jan 6th. Only 1-2 were recorded from the Wash, with the exception of 4 S past Gib Point Jan 4th, 8 there Feb 8th and 7 at Gedney Drove End Jan 22nd. There were 2 spring/summer records, 6 birds at Donna Nook on May 23rd and 3 N past Gib Point Jun 13th. Small numbers were reported from the Humber from autumn; Barton had an exceptional year, with at least 19 passing between Oct 21st-Dec 13th, including 4 Oct 30th. There were 2 at Tetney Oct 1st, a female at Horseshoe Point on 21st, singles at Humberston Fitties Nov 6th and 12th, 2 at Saltfleet Haven Dec 10th and finally 3 Donna Nook 16th. In the Wash very small numbers were again reported, only 1-5 from Sep 17th until the year end except for a count of 16 at Gedney Drove End Nov 26th. The only other record was a single at Huttoft Oct 29th.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly inland. Rare in summer.

There were 2 main population centres in both winter periods: the Witham valley, Lincoln-Bardney, and the Welland, Deepings-Spalding. Early year maxima at each of these were 44 Hartsholme/Swanholme Lakes Jan 22nd and 10 Coronation Channel Jan 2nd, with 16 Whaplode Fen Mar 6th. Elsewhere up to 5 were reported from Cadney Res, Covenham Res, North Somercotes Lido, Toft Newton Res, Tattershall Pits and Boston. There were 3 spring/summer records, involving a male at Thurlby Pits May 3-12th, an individual in heavy moult at Nocton Fen July 1st and a male past Barton next day. The first returning bird was a female W past Barton on Oct 22nd, with all other records in Nov-Dec. On the inner Humber, 9 at Barton Pits on Nov 18th and 5 at New Holland Dec 24th were the only notable counts, but the main populations had max of 52 Thurlby Pits Dec 10th and 25 Deeping High Bank Dec 16th. Elsewhere 4 flew over Covenham on Nov 20th and 1-3 were at Cadney Res, North Somercotes Lido, Messingham SQ, Gib Point and Ancaster Pits.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Scarce feral resident/winter visitor, breeding regularly since 1984. First recorded in 1964.

As usual, most numerous on the Humber Bank Pits, where 12 pairs bred and a new record count of 50 was made on Aug 20th. By October, and through to the end of the year, numbers were back down to a more usual 10. It was also a good year elsewhere, with breeding pairs at Kirkby Pits and Whisby NP (2 pairs), a pair present throughout the breeding season at Grimsthorpe Lake, small numbers regular at Covenham Res and records of 1-7 coming from 17 widespread sites. During the freezing weather in late December, one was on the sea off Grimsby on 29th and 8 on the Humber off Barton on 30th.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* *(L) b

Rare/scarce passage migrant. Occasional in summer.

Extreme dates: Apr 27th-Oct 27th. 1995: Apr 30th-Sep 19th.

Another good year both on spring and autumn passage, with the first from Gib Point on Apr 30th (KMW). This represents the second earliest ever county record. May saw an additional 5-6 records, with 1 over Ingoldmells on the 3rd (PC), 2 south at North Cotes on 9th (DB), 1 Wild Moor, near Coningsby on the 20th (PH) and another over Boston on the 30th (PH), with perhaps the same bird at Gib Point later that day (MLE,AR,DA). All the autumn records came from Gib Point, with 1 on Aug 12th (KMW,CJE), 2 on 23rd (KMW,LM) with Sept rounding the year off with singles on the 17th (RW) and 19th (KMW).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* *b

Vagrant, occurring in most months though mainly winter to spring; recent increase partly due to introduced birds.

A better than average year, with 5 records involving 4 birds. Firstly, in Apr a single bird was seen twice in the Bain Valley, south of Horncastle, at Dalderby on the 16th (BH) and low over Kirkby on Bain 5 days later on the 21st (GH). Then in Aug one was seen over Gib Point (RW,NL) on the 10th. Another was then found at Deeping Fen on Sept 30th (PW). Finally, 1 of the reintroduced birds was found poisoned in Grantham in Nov (TL).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* *b

Scarce passage migrant and summer visitor, rare in winter. Has bred regularly since 1983; increasing steadily. Early spring returning birds from Mar onwards, with the first at Carrington on the 12th and a female south-east at Barton on 24th, then 1 at Holbeach Marsh on Apr 1st, building up to 6 by the 14th. Mid-April also saw up to 3 on Nocton Fen. However, the majority of records were from May, with a large proportion around the Wash including up to 4 at Gib Point and others at Wainfleet, Shep Whites, Gedney Drove End and up to 3 at Frampton Marsh, but the fens south east of Lincoln also attracting good numbers. A minimum of 50 young fledged in Lincs this year, 10 of these inland, with 2-3 pairs also in the north of the county. The autumn passage was under way by mid-August, with the roost on Nocton Fen having 9 birds on the 21st, and at least 15 in September. Late migrants were at Frampton on Oct 22nd and Gib Point on the 26th, with another on Nov 5th. Wintering birds throughout December were one at Frampton/Holbeach Marsh and 2 at Read's Island.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-May; occasional in summer.

Good numbers were wintering up to mid Apr, from mainly coastal areas, including Saltfleetby, Gib Point, Tetney, Goxhill, Humberston and North Killingholme. There were up to 8 in the south Wash region including Holbeach and up to 5 birds in the Frampton Marsh roost during February; the other regular roost at Donna Nook held up to 4 birds, peaking in mid March. Inland birds include records from Elsham, New York, Bennington, and Nocton Fen up to Feb 12th, with the latter bird also seen in Dunston Fen. The last birds of winter were noted from Tetney on Apr 30th and Shep Whites on May 4th. Mid summer records from Saltfleet of a female on Jun 22-23rd and a male at Harmston Low Fields on Aug 6th probably relate to wandering non-breeding birds. September saw the first returning bird at Donna Nook on 17th and Gib Point also played host to at least 2 individuals during this period, with up to 3 in December. Other reports of wintering birds came from many of the sites used in the first quarter, but also Grainthorpe and Gedney Drove End, with 2 ringtails at Holbeach. A ringtail male at Frampton Marsh on Oct 10th had been tagged as a nestling in Dumfries. The roost at Frampton held 3 birds intermittently during November and 3-4 December, with a max of 5 at the Donna Nook roost on Nov 25th. Inland records in December came from Nocton Fen on 10th, Dunston Fen 12th and Coleby Heath 29th, all probably relating to the same bird.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* *b

Scarce passage migrant and regular summer visitor, though breeding irregularly.

Extreme dates: Apr 24th-Oct 19th. 1995: May 14th-Sep 22nd.

A good year, with the first spring migrants noted from May 14th onwards when there was a 2nd-summer male through Nocton Fen, then adult males through North Cotes on 16th, Thornton Abbey 18th and near Caenby Corner on the 20th. An adult female was seen at both Tetney and North Cotes on 20th, with an immature bird at Holbeach Marsh on the 28th and 2 adult males at Gedney Drove End 29th. A pair again bred in the south of the county this year, keeping up with tradition. June saw wandering individuals from Holbeach Marsh, with a ringtail on the 4th and another around Gib Point between the 14th-18th. July came with a scattering of records from Grasley on the 6th, Gib Point 16th, a female at Frampton Marsh from 16-20th and a male there the next day and finally a ringtail at Horseshoe Point on the 26th. August saw birds around Donna Nook 7-11th, Gib Point 8-11th and a male through Nocton Fen on 21st. In September a 2nd calendar-year bird at Gib Point 19-22nd concluded a better-than-average year for this species.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* *(L)b

Vagrant, mainly autumn to spring; has increased in recent years.

The only accepted record was a male at Gib Point on Sep 18-19th (KMW,JB,MRB,RAFOS).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Fairly common resident and passage migrant.

A species that appears to go from strength to strength, being recorded throughout the county. Still no real data as to the population increase/size. One notable record was of a male at North Cotes carrying its prey: a Merlin! Peak counts at Gib Point were 6 in September and October.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; recent increase with some birds summering and perhaps breeding. In the early winter period Jan-Mar, 1-2 were recorded at about 15 sites, with up to 3 at Sutterby in February and 3 south-east at Donna Nook 18th. A wintering bird remained at Gib Point to mid-Feb, with about 8 different passage birds recorded there between mid-March and mid-May. Other spring coastal birds were at Saltfleetby Apr 16th, North Cotes 21st and Grimsby May 2nd. There were a few other records April-June, mainly from sites recording birds earlier in the year, but none reported in July. Returning birds were very widespread from mid-August to December with several multiple records including 5 at Risby Warren Aug 30th-Sep 3rd, 3 Marston STW in September, 3 Tealby 3rd, 4 Messingham SQ 9th, 3 Sutterby 23rd, 3-4 Redhill/Asterby Sep-Oct and 3 Grantham Oct 3rd. Some of these appeared to be family parties suggesting local breeding, although the number of records indicates a possible influx with some birds returning to previous wintering areas. However coastal passage was light, comprising only singles in September at North

Cotes 6th, Donna Nook 10th and Nenemouth 28th, so that dispersal from elsewhere in Britain is more likely than a Continental origin. Away from areas listed above there were records of 1-2 from at least 10 other sites.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus* *(L)

Rare/scarse passage migrant and winter visitor.

A good winter continued, with about 10 birds in the Jan-Mar period. January started off with some of last years wintering birds still present. Nocton Fen held a single from Jan 1st-Feb 19th at least, (ACS, DMJ *et al*), with a second bird on the 9th (MMP). This individual was also seen on Blankney Fen on the 11th (JSM). Feb saw a regular 2 birds at Sutterby from the 2nd (GPC) and Belchford also held a single on the 18th (RN). Further south, 1 found at Ancaster on 20th was present into March, with a second on the 28th until the months end (TL). March continued the trend with 1 at Dunston Heath on the 19th (TK) and 2 at Gib Point from the 22nd, one apparently with jesses! (GP). Sadly, one was found shot on the Osbournby roundabout near Sleaford in Mar (JSM).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* *b

Scarce passage migrant with occasional summer records.

Extreme dates: Mar 10th-Dec 4th. 1995: Apr 25th-Sep 17th.

Spring passage occurred between the end of April and the end of May, with the first recorded over Sleaford on Apr 25th and Donna Nook 30th. Toft Newton Res was the single best site this year, with 3 spring records, on May 1st, 17th and 27th. The remainder of the May records came from Barton on 20th, Twiggmoor 28th and Gib Point 30th. A spate of late summer-early autumn records could well have come from a single bird, seen over Swallow Jul 18th, Covenham Res 19th and at Cadney Res Aug 8-14th at least. September saw the brief return passage, with singles Covenham Res 13th, over the Humber Bridge 17th and Kirton Holme on the same date.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Recorded throughout the county, with Gib Point having a regular 4-6 during the second half of the year. A notable ringing recovery was of a female picked up dead on Martin Fen in January, ringed as a nestling on Jun 24th 1994 at Feldon Ranges, in North Yorkshire.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; rare in summer.

In the Jan-Mar period coastal records, all singles, came from South Ferriby, Barton, Goxhill, Humberston, Tetney, North Cotes, Donna Nook, Skidbrooke, Saltfleetby, Witham Mouth, Frampton, Sutton Bridge and Nene mouth, with 2 at Gib Point on Jan 12th. Inland wintering birds were at Messingham SQ, Scothern, Nocton Fen, Thurlby Fen, Kirkby Moor, East Heckington and Pinchbeck. Spring records were widespread but mainly coastal with most records from Tetney, Saltfleetby and Gib Point, with the last at Donna Nook May 10-16; inland birds were also noted at RAF Scampton, Thurlby Fen, Kirkby Pits and Wyberton Fen. An immature female at Gib Point on Jul 9th was possibly the start of the return to winter quarters, but most of the autumn passage occurred after Aug 12th, when there were birds at South Ferriby, Stallingborough and Saltfleetby, with regular sightings from Donna Nook and Gib Point (up to 3) from this date onwards. There were mainly coastal records in October, including up to 3 at Frampton Marsh-Witham Mouth, and inland singles from Louth, Tealby and Deeping Fen. By the year's end wintering birds were mainly back in the same areas as at the beginning of the year, with inland birds at Pinchbeck Nov 23rd, Toft Newton Dec 10th, Messingham SQ 17th and a female at Marston STW on 29th.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* *b

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in winter. 1995: Apr 23rd-Oct 15th.

The first returning bird was seen to fly in off the sea at North Cotes on Apr 23rd, with the next at Frampton Marsh 25th and Barton 30th. May saw the bulk of the arrival with several noted throughout the month at Gib Point and the Kirkby Pits also seemed to attract this species, with many records from the 5th onwards. Breeding was confirmed this year from 2 sites, both in the Lincoln area, and another 8 sites held regular birds but without confirmation of breeding. The true breeding population is possibly underestimated by these

figures, and total monthly sightings away from these areas were: May 10, Jun 15, Jul 14, Aug 20, Sep 18, with the latter two figures possibly including newly-fledged birds. October saw the last of the year from Grantham and Redhill on 5th and Aisby on 15th.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; recent increase in records.

Early in the year coastal records came from Donna Nook Jan 1st, Grimsby Pyewipe Jan 4th-Feb 9th, Rimac area Jan 8th-Mar 8th and Tetney Jan 22nd-25th, probably 2 birds involved. Other first quarter records came from Nocton Fen Jan 1st-29th, Nenemouth Jan 9th, Baston Fen Jan 14th-Feb 20th, Gib Point Feb 14th, Barton Feb 20th, and Lincoln Cathedral hosted an individual from Jan 14th to the end of June, courtesy of the local pigeon population! Late spring birds were at Gib Point from Apr 17th-May 5th and Belton House Apr 29th. The second half of the year saw returning birds from August onwards, singles at Barnetby 8th, Tetney 12th, Nocton Fen 20th and Nenemouth 25th until the year's end, then in September at Messingham SQ 1st, Risby Warren 3rd, Gib Point 22-27th and a wintering juv from Sept 11th to the year's end on the south Humber shore, ranging between Read's Island and Goxhill, but favouring the Humber Bridge, where it was often seen to perch. In the last quarter birds were at Moulton, Holbeach, 2 at Asterby Oct 5th, Gib Point 7th-mid Nov, Frampton Marsh, a juv from Oct 8th onwards, Scamblesby 11th, the Humberston-Donna Nook area from 28th-year end and a pair at Baston Fen Dec 25-31st.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Very common feral resident

The largest covey reported was 27 at Alkborough in October, with a good number also at Haverholme Park. Chukar/Red-legged hybrids were also not uncommon, including several on Nocton Fen.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Common resident with recent decline, especially in the southern half of the county.

Recorded throughout the county, with notable covies of 39 near Far Ings in October and 40 in the Dry Doddington/Stubton area during December. Otherwise a fairly unremarkable year for this species.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix* *b

Scarce summer visitor Apr-Sep, occasional in winter.

Another good year with 29 calling males and 2 pairs proven to have bred in the south of the county. Calling males in May were at Gib Point and Welbourn Heath 13th, Swallow 19th, Ewerby Common 20th, Spridlington 23rd, Toft Newton 24th and Hallington 27th with up to 3 calling birds through most of May-July at Donna Nook. Mid-summer records came from Deeping Fen with up to 8 calling males, and broods of 5 and 6 young seen, and 4 calling birds on Thurlby Fen. Other July birds were calling on Nocton Fen 16th, Frampton Marsh 27th and up to 3 at Branston Booths. A most unusual record came in mid-winter, when a very nervous Quail was found around a Nocton Fen Pheasant feeding station on Dec 30th; the bird appeared to be of wild origin.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Very common feral resident.

The largest count of the year came from Leasingham Mill, where there were 110 on Nov 10th. Otherwise, numbers reflect locations of the main shooting estates.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

An estimated 20 were in the Barton Pits area up to March, with 8-10 calling males present in the breeding season. The first of 2 confirmed breeding was here at Far Ings, with the second at North Killingholme. Calling males in spring were also heard at Whisby NP and Boultham Mere. In the second half of the year regular records came from Messingham, Marston STW and Huttoft Pits and Gib Point had max 7 in Oct and regular 4-5 in Nov-Dec. Finally 1 was killed by a Herring Gull at North Cleethorpes on Nov 18th.

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana* (L)

Vagrant.

The only record was of one at Marston STW on Sept 10th (TL,AL).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

Higher than average counts were recorded during the winter months, with Barton peaking at 200 birds Sep-Dec, and around 100 at Marston STW also in December.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The first part of the year saw concentrations in the Kirkby/Tattershall area, with counts of 580 and 850 respectively during Jan-Feb, reducing slowly towards spring with around 200 birds still present at Kirkby Pits in March. Other good early year counts were 420 at Langtoft Pits and 342 at Messingham SQ in January. Post-breeding counts peaked in September, with 1010 at Kirkby Pits decreasing towards the year end with only around 600 by mid December.

Crane *Grus grus* *(L)

Vagrant.

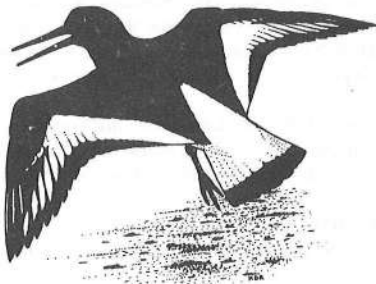
A good year with 5 records, but possibly involving fewer individuals. The first was seen at Gib Point on Mar 12th (JB,RW,KMW) and on the same date one arrived from the east at Saltfleetby (PMT). In June one was present at North Rauceby on 26th (CJ, GH). On Jul 2nd one was seen at Gib Point (KMW) and another at Anderby Creek (JW), which could well have been the same bird.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Very common coastal passage migrant/winter visitor and fairly common resident. Scarce inland.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	561	874	453	429	421	nc	nc	989	1301	1472	402	885
Wash	15254	14425	15187	3603	4047	1187	3041	13455	18196	9311	7433	10718
MAIN SITES												
Tetney Hvn-Grainthorpe	121	495	59	150	183	-	-	-	-	2000	67	516
Donna Nook-Saltfleet	31	16	31	36	30	-	-	950	980	237	76	64
Gib Point	50	1100	4500	2500	100	12	270	5800	5000	5000	300	30
Friskney Marsh	300	nc	1000	167	2500	180	500	2000	1500	3000	800	630
Wrangle Marsh	4000	4750	1440	255	22	25	12	nc	-	2200	2600	1100
Frampton Marsh	-	250	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	1080	1000	-
Welland Marsh	80	740	290	430	116	nc	700	2000	1220	690	924	70
Holbeach Range	1500	-	150	22	91	10	550	1050	575	525	300	1500
Dawsmere Marsh	3626	6330	4560	450	310	127	675	3031	3500	527	45	4086
Terrington Marsh	4520	812	2526	512	265	-	371	2517	5500	900	622	1265

Other records included 112 west at Winteringham Jul 23rd and 370 at Huttoft Aug 8th. Few breeding reports were received but there were 26 pairs at Frampton marsh and the only inner Humber pair was at Winteringham. Single pairs also bred inland at Kirton Lindsey Quarries and Whisby pits. Birds were present for much of the year at Kirkby Pits with 4-5 Mar-Jun. Others inland were Covenham Res Feb 18th, Messingham SQ Mar 5th, 4 6th, Thurlby SP 2 Apr 2nd, 1 Aug 9th, Risby Warren Jun 16th, Boston Jul 5-6th and Oct 23rd, Quarrington 2 Jul 15th, RAF Scampton Oct 4th, RAF Cranwell Nov 25th, Kirton Holme Dec 17th and Deeping High Bank 23rd.



Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* *b

Scarce passage migrant, rare in winter and inland. Bred in 1991 and perhaps 1992.

First of the spring was at Grimsby Pyewipe Apr 12th, with others at Tetney Lock 24th and Gib Point 28th. In May there were 1-2 at Tetney/North Cotes 6-12th and 2 south at Pye's Hall 24th. A mid-summer bird was at Gib Point Jun 28th and there were singles at South Ferriby Jul 13th and 27th. An adult and 4 juvs were at the latter site Aug 13th and 11 flew west at Read's Island 21st. The only winter record was of 1 at North Killingholme Pits Dec 7-13th.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant.

MAIN SITES	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
North Kelsey Moor	2	5	3	2	2	-	-
Whisby NP	1	2	-	2	5	-	-
Bardney Pits	-	2	6	2	2	2	2
Marston STW	2	2	8	6	5	-	-
Kirkby Pits	-	3	7	2	4	-	-

Monthly max at main sites are given above. First was at Whisby NP Mar 18th and last at Donna Nook Sep 23rd. The only breeding reports were from Whisby NP, West Ashby Pits and Marston STW (2 broods). Others in the period Mar-Jun were at Messingham SQ, Cadney Res, Toft Newton Res (2), Great Carlton, Thurlby SP (2), Tattershall Thorpe Pits (2), South Ferriby, Barton Pits, North Killingholme Pits (2), Donna Nook, Saltfleetby and Gib Point. In Jul-Sep there were records from Messingham SQ (5), Cadney Res (2), Toft Newton Res (4) Covenham Res (3), Boultham Mere, Thurlby SP (3), New Holland, North Killingholme Pits, Cleethorpes CP, Donna Nook (5), Skidbrooke North End (3), Gib Point (2) and Butterwick Marsh.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Fairly common resident and common passage migrant, mainly coastal.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	175	85	100	51	410	nc	nc	678	102	216	233	233
Wash	208	253	80	74	810	51	147	393	985	82	9	55
MAIN SITES												
Whitton-S Ferriby	10	-	6	-	157	50	30	440	400	43	-	-
Cleethorpes-Tetney Hvn	154	5	50	23	26	-	-	-	-	129	151	142
Tetney Hvn-Donna Nook	-	21	-	-	128	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gib Point	5	90	120	70	65	54	86	270	210	200	15	19
Witham Mouth	200	137	5	18	5	nc	2	200	573	250	200	36
Frampton Marsh	22	7	15	nc	230	37	19	120	35	200	5	6

No significant breeding records were received. Birds were fairly widespread inland from Feb-Oct, both on passage and summering/breeding, as follows: Ashbyville Apr; Messingham SQ Mar (8); North Kelsey Moor May, Sep (2); Toft Newton Res May, Aug (3), Sep (2); Whisby NP Mar (2), Jun (3), Jul, Aug, Oct; Thurlby SP Feb (14), Mar (17), Aug (3), RAF Waddington Jul (2); Bardney Pits May-Sep (2-3); Nocton Fen Apr; Kirkby Pits Feb-Jul (1-10); Marston STW Apr, May (7).

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* *L

Vagrant; mainly spring and summer, occasionally autumn and winter.

A female was at Gib Point Apr 25th. (MG,KMW)

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare/scarce passage migrant, mainly spring.

There was a well co-ordinated influx in May with 2 at North Cotes 10-14th, up to 13 Wainfleet St Mary 10-13th, up to 9 Worlaby Top (Elsham) 11-19th and 6 Burnham 13-14th. In autumn there were 3 on Nocton Fen Aug 13th and singles in September at Donna Nook 7-8th and Moggs Eye (Anderby) 11th.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* *B

Vagrant.

A first summer bird was at Frampton Marsh Sep 3rd (SK,LJ). The 7th county record; accepted by BBRC.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, occasional in summer. Very marked increase in recent years.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	10500	6606	65	-	-	nc	nc	1425	1231	10467	9262	6020
Wash	4850	4172	426	140	3	4	849	1198	2930	1385	5895	2782
MAIN SITES												
Whitton-S Ferriby	3500	5050	-	-	-	-	-	-	2500	8000	11000	-
Barton-Goxhill	4000	836	-	-	-	-	-	250	2500	2000	4000	70
Goxhill-Killingholme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1100	700
Cleethorpes-Tetney	2000	5000	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	1170	3160	2500
Tetney-Grainthorpe	2500	1250	-	-	-	-	300	-	500	2300	240	4500
Donna-Saltfleet Hvn	-	2000	-	-	-	-	-	300	-	660	1600	650
Gibraltar Point	2000	3300	7	-	-	-	20	350	250	800	500	300
Wrangle Marsh	-	1200	320	-	3	4	-	nc	100	400	620	340
Witham Mouth	2300	200	-	-	-	-	570	100	120	1000	100	480
Frampton Marsh	1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	124	-	-
Holbeach Range	-	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1300	-	-
Terrington Marsh	1260	-	1	-	-	-	-	108	1400	81	2080	1035

Large inland flocks included 800 Welton, 1000 North Hykeham, 600 Thurlby SP, 800 Heckington Fen, 500 Long Sutton, all January; 1500 Branston Fen and 1420 Freiston in February; 500 Gautby, 1300 Dunston, 1000 Langtoft and 700 Baston Fen, all in March. Later in the year there were 1250 at Kelstern airfield in September, 500 Ludford airfield, 850 Bluestone Heath and 760 Susworth in October, 500 Hallington Top and 600 Ruskington in November.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Very common passage migrant and common winter visitor. Rare inland.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	810	431	644	360	46	nc	nc	115	146	303	237	339
Wash	919	5694	10080	8419	9833	281	1089	6752	7990	5190	3268	3700
MAIN SITES												
Gib Point	155	68	5000	5000	2000	300	530	840	3600	4000	150	500
Wainfleet Marsh	-	-	nc	196	400	30	100	792	3	-	10	-
Friskney Marsh	10	-	5000	135	3000	1	-	500	150	450	300	-
Wrangle Marsh	150	600	840	590	575	4	-	nc	100	400	620	340
Benington Marsh	80	500	28	1002	785	-	-	100	-	2000	376	350
Witham Mouth	7	300	83	350	630	-	4	450	120	200	-	32
Frampton Marsh	24	259	4	37	250	-	16	220	880	18	190	60
Welland Marsh	200	1460	2120	800	2160	nc	55	2300	540	1150	350	780
Dawsmere Marsh	188	624	730	-	447	-	-	565	425	-	354	226
Terrington Marsh	40	150	475	2853	790	nc	223	498	1874	481	376	363

The only inland record was of 3 at Branston Fen Jan 31st.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Common resident and very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Breeding numbers have decreased in recent years.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	10465	15447	144	3	1	nc	nc	1078	839	5047	8283	2500
Wash	4717	18517	162	3	11	136	1353	1018	1038	1296	13478	5506
MAIN SITES												
Whitton-S Ferriby	4480	6270	106	-	-	-	-	-	2000	2130	4100	770
Barton-Goxhill	2000	1257	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1500	3080	2000
Immingham-Grimby	326	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	2000	2200
Cleethorpes-Tetney	2000	710	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	275	1500	298
Donna-Saltfleet	-	5000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	680	3000	151
Gib Point	10000	6000	280	-	-	-	-	-	-	400	2600	2500
Wrangle Marsh	500	200	3200	-	-	2	2	nc	40	210	220	466
Butterwick Marsh	nc	500	nc	2	-	16	2	35	137	82	2441	747
Freiston	160	1904	-	-	-	-	2	-	36	-	1700	700
Witham Mouth	454	4800	155	-	-	-	1080	800	350	600	500	600
Frampton Marsh	900	7500	-	-	1	103	112	81	103	31	2000	340
Welland Marsh	14	2000	-	1	-	nc	88	-	175	12	1130	8
Terrington Marsh	600	745	-	-	1	nc	3	1	44	53	2250	1500

Large inland flocks included 1500 at Wragby in January, 1000 Branston Fen Jan-Feb, 2000 Short Ferry, 1000 Waddington and 2000 Langtoft, all in February. In July there were 1500 on Fulbeck airfield and in December 1000 each at RAF Scampton and Waddington.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare inland.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	6021	7560	2894	483	-	nc	nc	282	239	2035	9220	8915
Wash	21707	18460	21046	16167	5328	1670	4853	40060	41114	37126	30260	12510
MAIN SITES												
Cleethorpes-Tetney	4150	2800	2015	473	-	-	-	-	-	1500	7552	7200
Tetney-Grainthorpe	1225	3820	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	55	519
Gib Point	1000	70	4500	5000	150	2000	3700	11000	20000	10000	1500	1
Wainfleet Marsh	1000	1150	1200	-	-	20	2700	3000	3000	700	1550	1200
Friskney Marsh	3000	nc	400	-	200	-	-	15000	4000	1000	2000	500
Benington Marsh	4500	820	6	-	7	-	-	-	-	400	600	-
Butterwick Marsh	nc	-	nc	600	-	-	-	-	-	90	2980	890
Freiston Marsh	1400	1000	50	1041	-	-	-	-	200	13000	5500	900
Witham Mouth	500	3100	400	150	120	-	-	1100	200	3500	750	10300
Welland Marsh	3800	2000	2040	-	1	nc	-	9400	1000	15000	6620	100
Dawsmere Marsh	6200	6950	10300	6500	1100	-	-	43	2670	1200	5210	5550
Terrington Marsh	300	1850	30	870	3000	nc	3	31	114	3700	4000	600

In the inner Humber there were 103 at Killingholme Dec 23rd. A few were noted inland in autumn, including singles at Thurlby SP Jul 19th, Bardney Pits Sep 10th and Toft Newton Res 28th. There was also 1 at Kirkby Pits Dec 20-31st

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce inland.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	567	206	414	340	756	nc	nc	229	12	346	237	272
Wash	16	45	12	40	90	-	75	300	5	22	66	15
MAIN SITES												
Cleethorpes-Tetney	159	10	350	260	310	-	-	-	-	21	154	100
Tetney-Grainthorpe	131	28	2	6	32	-	-	-	-	35	25	72
Donna-Saltfleet Haven	164	38	5	32	283	-	-	56	-	33	18	54
Theddlethorpe	35	73	27	38	88	-	-	-	-	231	30	12
Gib Point	28	40	60	200	1112	140	800	550	90	200	66	22

Other records included 240 roosting at Mablethorpe Sep 28th and 50 at Huttoft Nov 4th. The only inland report was of 2 at Toft Newton Res Sep 2nd.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Passage migrant, rare/scarce in spring and scarce/fairly common in autumn with occasional winter records. The only spring records were singles at Gib Point and Holbeach Marsh Jun 14th. After the first returning adult at North Killingholme Pits Jul 27-31st, there was the usual widespread autumn influx of mainly juveniles, with a scattering of records in August, the main passage in September, but no large flocks and a few remaining in October, with the last at Messingham SQ 26th. Aug: Gib Point 3rd, Thurlby SP 8th, South Ferriby 18-26th, North Kelsey Moor 30th. Sep: regular at North Killingholme Pits, max 8 10th, Toft Newton Res 1-3, Gib Point up to 5. Occasional records of 1-4 at South Ferriby, Barton, Fairfield Pit (New Holland), Tetney RSPB, Huttoft CT, Frampton Marsh, Holbeach Marsh, Terrington Marsh, Messingham SQ, North Kelsey Moor, Covenham Res, Bardney Pits, Kirkby Pits. Oct: South Ferriby 12th, 10 18th, Bardney Pits 2 8th, Messingham SQ 7th, 25-26th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* *(L)

Rare passage migrant.

Just 2 records, both in May; singles on 7th at Baston Pits (DJ,KD) and at Covenham Res 12-13th (PMT et al).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* *(L)

Vagrant.

One was seen at Kirkby Pits Sep 6th (SC).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Passage migrant, rare in spring and scarce/fairly common in autumn; occasional in winter.

As usual, scarce in spring, with just 2 at Barton May 4th. After a few returning adults in July, there was a scattering of mainly juveniles in August and September, but only small numbers, with stragglers to early October. Jul: Holbeach Marsh ad 12th, 3 30th. Donna Nook 18th, South Ferriby 30th, North Killingholme Pits 3 ads 31st-Aug 1st. Aug-Sep, occasional records (singles unless given): South Ferriby 1-2, Barton 1-3, New Holland, North Killingholme Pits max 7 Sep 9th, Donna Nook, Gib Point, Frampton Marsh 4, Kirtton Marsh 3, Welland Marsh 4, Holbeach Marsh 2, Toft Newton Res 1-2, Bardney Pits 1-2. Oct: Bardney Pits 1 7-8th.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly coastal.

Again very rare with the only early winter bird at North Cleethorpes Jan-Feb 26th. One was at Huttoft CT Nov 2nd and another wintering bird at North Cleethorpes Nov 12th to the year end.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly coastal.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	5885	7896	6229	1175	1195	nc	nc	2226	1340	3323	4978	6556
Wash	8600	20404	19016	30077	13919	29	12174	13376	20449	9695	25082	14302
MAIN SITES												
Cleethorpes-Tetney	1064	1860	2800	750	590	-	-	-	-	400	3700	1800
Gib Point	80	190	3000	3500	2200	2000	3400	3000	4900	400	500	75
Friskney Marsh	1000	nc	2000	752	3000	-	800	1000	4000	500	400	200
Freiston Marsh	1000	2580	870	130	1711	-	356	1	300	500	3470	200
Witham Mouth	1800	2000	1300	1850	920	-	100	3000	850	2800	nc	750
Welland Marsh	1100	3500	3000	3400	2500	nc	320	200	-	3000	3540	530
Holbeach Range	400	2700	1700	1600	1200	10	1800	1600	500	750	500	600
Dawsmere Marsh	2350	2500	3800	1100	260	-	1145	1550	5800	530	1000	1815
Gedney Marsh	700	2000	310	1610	568	-	720	1500	1000	1430	2650	1020
Terrington Marsh	650	2740	2666	11450	1370	nc	1336	1193	1100	645	8590	7060

Generally only small numbers were recorded inland with max 15 Baston Pits May 8th, 10 Brigg and 12 Cadney Res Dec 10th.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* *B

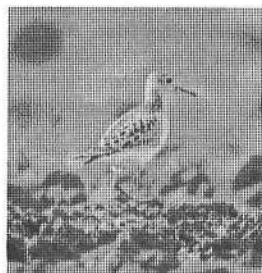
Vagrant.

An adult was present at Skidbrooke North End Jul 15-19th (PMT et al). Accepted by BBRC; the 7th county record.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* *L

Vagrant.

One was with a flock of Golden Plover at Moggs Eye (Anderby) Sep 11-13th (BMC, MJT et al) and another at Donna Nook 26-27th (PMT). The 6th and 7th county records.



Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* *b

Fairly common passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.

The only early winter bird was at New Holland Jan 21st, but 5 north at Saltfleetby Mar 12th probably involved wintering birds. In spring there were up to 5 at Baston Pits Apr 15-17th, 7 at Gib Point 11th, then 1-2 there May 18-24th. Also in May there were 8 at Marston STW 12th and 1 Donna Nook 8th. Autumn passage took place from late June to the end of October; main sites tabulated below and occasional records of 1-6 also at South Ferriby, Read's Island, New Holland, Cleethorpes, Horseshoe Point, Theddlethorpe, Huttoft, Anderby, Witham Mouth, Frampton Marsh, Moulton Marsh, Gedney Drove End, Terrington Marsh, Messingham SQ, Cadney Res, Covenham Res, Toft Newton Res, Whisby NP, Thurlby SP and Marston STW.

	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Barton	-	1	1	-	12 (west on 1st)
North Killingholme Pits	-	1	6	6	2
Grainthorpe	-	-	-	21	2
Donna Nook	-	-	2	5	1
Saltfleetby	-	-	-	12	-
Huttoft CT	-	-	-	12	-
Gib Point	-	-	3	10	1
Holbeach Range	-	-	-	15	3
Bardney Pits	-	-	3	8	-
Kirkby Pits	1	3	6	4	-

There was a wintering flock of up to 27 at Holbeach Marsh from Nov 26th into December, with other singles in December at Immingham 17th, Winterton 27th and Kirkby Pits 31st.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, probably much under-recorded.

In the period January-May there were 1-5 occasionally at 12 sites, involving at least 20 birds: Barton Jan 3-4th, Mar 20th; Messingham SQ 2 Jan 18th, 5 Feb 28th, 2 Mar 19th, 2 Apr 1st; Greetwell Hollow, Lincoln, Mar 11th; Whisby NP Jan 14th; Thurlby SP 1-2 Feb-Mar 18th; Marston STW Apr 10th; Saltfleetby Feb 5th, Mar 26th; Huttoft Pits Jan 15th, 2 Feb 18th, 3 24th; Gib Point singles Apr 6th, 12th and 21st; and Frampton Marsh May 1st. Records of returning birds from early September to the year end came from 14 sites, involving at least 40 birds: Humberston Fitties Sep 9th and Oct 7th; Barton 1-3 Oct; Messingham SQ 2 Oct 11th, 3 Dec 2nd; Greetwell Hollow, Lincoln 1-2 Dec; Whisby NP Oct 25th; Bardney Pits Oct 8th; Kirkby Pits 3 Sep 17th, 2 Oct 5th; Marston STW 10 Oct, 1-2 Dec 28-29th; Horseshoe Point Oct 23rd; Donna Nook Oct 15th, 2 Dec 17th; Saltfleetby 2 Oct 15th, 1-2 Nov 12-28th, Dec 17-23rd; Huttoft Pits 10 Oct 8th, 1 15th; Gib Point 1-2 Sep, 1 Oct 14-29th, Dec 5th and 18th; and Frampton Marsh Nov 7th.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Scarce/fairly common resident, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Drumming birds reported: Barton (Far Ings) 1-2 in June, with an ad plus 2 juvs seen Jul 8th; Alkborough Flats 3 May 3rd; Snipe Dales 1; Marston STW several in May; Baston Fen 3. The table shows reported monthly max at all sites with double figure counts.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	16	11	20	2	nc	-	17	39	49	32
Wash	-	11	5	1	-	13	29	7	29	10
MAIN SITES										
Alkborough	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	18	12
Barton (Far Ings)	-	-	-	-	11	-	23	25	-	-
New Holland	-	-	-	-	-	24	-	31	-	-
North Cotes	4	-	-	-	-	15	-	2	1	2
Donna Nook	2	-	8	1	-	22	-	17	20	6
Saltfleetby	2	5	12	-	-	-	-	17	8	10
Huttoft Pits	-	31	12	3	-	-	7	36	-	-
Gib Point	11	4	21	15	2	9	26	17	12	8
Kirton-Frampton	-	-	-	1	-	6	12	5	7	5
Holbeach Range	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	2	-
Messingham SQ	-	25	-	-	4	-	24	-	-	-
N Kelsey Moor	5	3	7	-	1	9	11	10	5	2
Greetwell Hollow	-	-	3	1	-	-	6	6	9	12
Boultham Mere	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	12	-
Whisby NP	-	-	4	-	2	5	5	2	-	11
Bardney Pits	7	6	3	4	-	15	3	12	-	4
Ewerby Common	15	-	17	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marston STW	600	-	150	-	-	200	60	10	-	400
Baston Fen NR	-	10	14	7	-	5	-	-	9	-

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Monthly max	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	3	4	6	2	2	1	47	14

In Jan-Mar single birds were reported from Barton, Tetney, Theddlethorpe, RAF Cranwell and Boston, with 2 at Tallington in Feb and 3 Mavis Enderby in March. Roding birds reported: Laughton Forest 6, Laughton Wood 1, Keb Wood 4, Nocton Wood 2 (1 juv May 25th), Bourne Wood 2, Temple Wood 1.

The large autumn influx which occurred at Gib Point with max 47 Nov 2nd, was not noticed elsewhere. Other reports of autumn/winter birds were: Donna Nook 1-2 Oct-Dec; Theddlethorpe up to 4 early Nov; singles

Nov-Dec Barton, Grimsby, Cleethorpes CP, Grainthorpe, Saltfleetby, Moulton Marsh, Greetwell Hollow, Welton-le-Wold, Asterby, Sleaford, Baston Fen NR, Thurlby Fen NR, and Gosberton; 2 Chapel Six Marshes and 2-3 RAF Cranwell.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* *b

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor, usually scarce in spring and summer but sometimes common in autumn. Mostly coastal.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	-	-	-	-	-	nc	nc	12	115	8	27	38
Wash	402	15	23	-	21	-	90	1669	3192	2287	1523	40
MAIN SITES												
N Killingholme Pits	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	178	110	130	9	-
Immingham-Pyewipe	130	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	122	102	6
Witham Mouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	2	200	200	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	550	6	-	-
Welland Marsh	350	-	-	-	-	-	9	660	2530	1300	810	-
Holbeach Range	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	222	960	700	-
Dawsmere Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	631	420	-	-	-
Nene Mouth	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

All sites with 3-figure counts tabulated. Inland records were of singles at Whisby NP Mar 18-27th, Kirkby Pits May 3rd and Messingham SQ 4 Jul 13th, 1 30th.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce inland.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	361	1022	185	26	-	nc	nc	23	34	116	298	308
Wash	3156	4289	3605	542	339	1252	2923	14611	13191	1898	5511	1550
MAIN SITES												
Cleethorpes-Tetney	135	990	180	22	-	-	-	-	200	92	262	246
Gib Point	200	350	450	400	30	1	12	3000	4000	8000	55	230
Wainfleet Marsh	1150	10	nc	75	-	-	920	4765	540	1000	-	550
Friskney Marsh	350	nc	200	-	25	227	500	2000	300	75	500	-
Leverton Marsh	195	1600	314	240	46	1000	1	44	930	152	2500	420
Benington Marsh	-	120	-	-	-	24	3	7	-	30	600	200
Welland Marsh	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	800	1	-	-	-
Holbeach Range	120	-	-	-	-	-	675	1000	900	-	-	-
Dawsmere Marsh	-	2550	2600	226	-	-	650	2675	6250	-	1500	-
Gedney Drove End	1000	1	-	1	-	-	20	80	-	-	4	-

Other records included 200 Tetney-Grainthorpe in Jan. Only small numbers were recorded in the upper Humber, max 19 E at Witheringham Feb 19th, 16 at Read's Island Aug 13th. Inland there were singles at Marston STW Apr 23-24th and Barton Pits May 7-8th.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Fairly common/common passage migrant, mainly coastal. Occasional in winter.

Recorded between Apr 8th (Gib Point) and Oct 22nd (Shep White's). Monthly max from all coastal sites recording double figures tabulated.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Tetney	11	-	-	25	25	-	-
North Cotes	-	-	-	-	-	14	-

Horseshoe Point	-	6	-	19	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	2	5	1	12	-	-
Saltfleetby	12	21	-	-	-	-	-
Gib Point	38	95	17	32	9	5	-
Friskney	-	1	1	30	-	-	3
Benington Marsh	-	-	-	2	32	1	-
Butterwick Marsh	-	4	-	25	-	2	-
Freiston Marsh	57	-	-	220	40	-	-
Witham Mouth	15	12	-	3	-	15	-
Frampton Marsh	47	23	-	55	48	-	-
Welland Marsh	-	4	-	43	5	1	-
Gedney Drove End	-	7	-	34	27	3	-
Terrington Marsh	4	4	-	28	13	4	-

There were also singles Apr-May at Alkborough, South Ferriby, Barton and Cleethorpes; 2-6 Jul-Aug at Winteringham, South Ferriby, Barton, North Killingholme, Skidbrooke and Huttoft. Inland records: Messingham SQ May 7th; Covenham Res 11 Jul 19th; Thurlby SP Aug 1st; Bardney Pits 2 Apr 27th; Roughton 6 Jul 28th; Kirkby-on-Bain 14 Sep 22nd, 1 Oct 21st; Kirkby Pits Jul 15th, 2 Sep 7th; Marston STW 2 Apr 17th, 3 29th; Baston Fen May 8th.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce and local breeder.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	549	630	372	124	12	nc	nc	419	252	472	284	415
Wash	845	1877	2789	2061	158	290	6807	9675	5809	2385	1733	1576
MAIN SITES												
Wainfleet Marsh	25	90	nc	211	4	14	763	1027	193	60	81	155
Witham Mouth	35	271	120	155	7	nc	650	250	180	175	-	70
Welland Marsh	12	430	500	182	5	nc	1000	3950	1510	400	190	101
Holbeach Range	220	120	470	145	17	95	1300	1200	800	450	130	350
Dawsmere	103	335	410	65	12	7	295	1886	1475	139	263	70
Terrington	79	210	769	336	1	nc	1359	40	595	613	242	137

Pairs bred at Cranwell Airfield and Fulbeck Airfield. Inland records: at Marston STW there were 28 Jan-Feb and 25 Nov. Notable autumn flocks included 120 E at Legsby Sep 2nd and 100 Holbeach Hurn Nov 12th. There were 30 between Roughton and Kirkby Oct 14th and 29 Kirkby Pits Sep 12th, 31 E Oct 5th, then up to 133 in Nov and 115 in Dec.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Passage migrant, scarce in spring but fairly common in autumn. Rare but regular in winter.

A poor year with only three spring records and site max of up to 6 in autumn. Early in the year there were singles at Frampton Marsh Jan 19-22nd, Tetney 31st and Terrington in mid-Feb. Single spring passage birds were reported from Messingham May 7th and Grainthorpe 10th. The first autumn passage birds were at Donna Nook Jun 20th and Whisby 23rd, then 1-2 in autumn at Barton, New Holland, Killingholme, Grainthorpe, Donna Nook, Gib Point, Frampton Marsh, Wainfleet Marsh, Wrangle Marsh, Welland Marsh, Holbeach Marsh, Terrington Marsh, Messingham SQ, Fosdyke, Whisby, Bardney, Kirkby Pits and Marston STW, with 6 Welland Marsh Aug 12th, 5 Gib Point Sep 10th, 3 at Killingholme 24th, 4 Oct 11th, 3 Holbeach Oct 10th. Late birds were at Tetney Nov 5th, New Holland 24th, Donna Nook 25th; singles at Tetney Dec 17th and Alkborough Flats 25th were presumably wintering.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Summed peaks all sites	2	1	-	-	2	2	7	7	29	11	3	2

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Relatively small numbers occur inland where it is a scarce breeder.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	1232	2187	1500	290	124	nc	nc	459	526	1006	739	932
Wash	1443	1747	2014	2607	398	329	2312	4591	2170	1688	2021	1384
MAIN SITES												
Gib Point	110	195	145	110	7	5	60	600	75	45	50	100
Butterwick Marsh	nc	50	nc	500	8	20	28	63	138	202	246	129
Frampton Marsh	233	166	nc	72	52	21	122	840	420	205	253	204
Terrington	134	7	497	354	65	nc	962	1162	246	299	113	164

Inland records: 18 RAF Scampton Jan 17th, 13 Spalding-Borough Fen 21st, 12 Pinchbeck (on floods) Feb 12th, 22 Kirkby Pits 14th, 14 Cadney Res Sep 10th, 13 Kirkby Pits Dec 20th and 33 Deeping High Bank 23rd. Coastal breeding was poorly documented, the only records being of 166 pairs at Frampton Marsh, where fledging was poor, and 17 pairs on Read's Island, which all failed. Inland breeding was proved at Marston STW (1 pair) and up to 4 birds were present at Kirkby Pits in May and June. In autumn 9 birds possibly of the Icelandic race *T. t. robusta* were at Barton Jul 15th (GPC), and marked westerly passage there Aug-Oct peaked at 75 Aug 20th and 62 Oct 31st.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Passage migrant, scarce in spring, fairly common in autumn; occasional in winter.

MAIN SITES	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Gib Point	1	12	2	20	29	30	13
Frampton-Kirton	-	3	-	25	8	83	19
Welland Marsh	-	2	-	9	6	3	-
Holbeach Range	-	1	-	65	25	12	-
Dawsmere Marsh	-	-	-	57	17	36	-
Gedney Marsh	-	-	-	1	12	1	-
Terrington Marsh	-	7	-	34	20	8	-

The only early year record was of a single south at Gib Point Feb 2nd. The first spring passage bird was at Gib Point Apr 23rd; passage there peaked May 18th, with other peak counts of 8 Horseshoe Point May 17th, 4 Skegness 21st. A presumed early returning bird was at Donna Nook Jun 12th, followed by 1 Marston STW 25-30th. Main autumn passage took place late Aug-mid Oct, with peaks additional to those tabled of 6 Read's Island and 12 Gedney Drove End Aug 13th. The Frampton Marsh peak occurred on Sep 10th. Inland: Messingham SQ 1 May 19th, 3 Aug 8th; Covenham Res 1 May 13th; Toft Newton Res 3 Sep 11-14th; Kirkby Pits 3 May 6th and Sep 17-19th. A late bird was at Gib Point Nov 2nd and 12-13th, and one at Killingholme Dec 10th remained into 1996.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Fairly common autumn passage migrant, scarce in spring and also as a regular winter visitor.

In Jan-Feb 1-2 birds were reported from North Kelsey Moor, Kirton Quarries, Covenham Res, Whisby NP, Nocton Fen (3 Feb 19th), Bardney Pits, Kirkby Pits and Marston STW. Monthly peaks from main passage sites are tabled.

MAIN SITES	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
North Kelsey Moor	4	2	-	-	5	7	3	3	2
Bardney Pits	1	1	-	-	16	6	7	2	5
Kirkby Pits	1	2	-	9	2	11	6	4	-
Marston STW	-	1	-	1	5	4	5	1	1
Gib Point	-	-	-	1	14	17	4	-	-

The main spring passage extended from mid March to May 21st, but may have involved some of the wintering birds. Numbers were low with the peak of 4 at North Kelsey Moor on Mar 18th. As usual there were very few in May, the only records being singles at Donna Nook, Saltfleet, Saltfleetby and Frampton Marsh. Autumn passage began on Jun 19th and by 29th there were 9 at Kirkby Pits. Good numbers continued to be recorded until mid September, with highest non-tabled counts of 8 at North Cotes Aug 3rd and 9 Horseshoe Point 23rd. From mid November 1-2 wintering birds were widespread, with 9 birds reported in December.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Passage migrant, usually rare in spring and scarce in autumn.

Extreme dates: Apr 17th-Oct 23rd. 1995: Apr 24th-Sep 16th.

The first spring bird was at Killingholme Pits Apr 24th, followed by singles at Gib Point May 18-19th, Kirkby Pits 27th and 30th, Tattershall Thorpe 29th. Late birds were at Kirkby Pits Jun 7th and Marston STW 11th. Autumn passage began with 3 at Marston STW Jul 17th, remaining until Aug 13th, and there were 3 at Terrington Marsh Sep 10th, but all other records were of singles, at Gib Point Jul 30th, Aug 10th and 13th; Bardney 10th and 14-22nd, Messingham 17-21st, Hogsthorpe 21st, Marston STW Sep 4th, Donna Nook 14th and the last at Bardney 16th.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Total reported	1	4	2	4	5	6

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Fairly common passage migrant, occasional in winter. Bred in 1979.

After an early birds at Kirkby Pits Mar 19th, the next was a single at Tetney Apr 14th, followed by a more widespread arrival from 21st. Peak spring counts were 6 at Tetney May 10th, 5 Covenham Res 13th, 7 Gib Point 13th. The main passage was over by the end of May, a single at Gib Point Jun 8th and 18th presumably being a non-breeder. Autumn passage began with 2 Read's Island Jun 29th and continued until Oct 22nd when the last was a single at Whisby NP. The only double-figure counts were 15 Cleethorpes CP and 24 Covenham Res, both Jul 12th. No wintering birds were recorded.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Fairly common/common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce inland.

WeBS TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber	249	196	195	91	21	nc	nc	64	10	118	119	166
Wash	126	315	323	286	24	9	366	469	559	258	146	264
MAIN SITES												
Barton	-	65	-	65	69	-	5	58	73	88	-	-
New Holland	84	28	85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	180
Wainfleet Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	220	-	-	-	6	-
Friskney Marsh	-	-	5	1	-	-	25	-	50	11	-	100
Wrangle Marsh	-	-	3	2	5	2	-	-	98	12	18	-
Freiston Marsh	15	41	2	62	-	-	-	7	98	-	3	1
Witham Mouth	100	110	200	97	12	-	28	220	200	220	-	52
Welland Marsh	3	2	48	2	2	-	32	90	90	40	8	2

Other notable early year counts were 202 at Horseshoe Point Jan 22nd and 21 Read's Island Mar 11th. No other spring counts of 10+ were received. In later autumn there were 16 Read's Island Nov 18th, and the 180 at New Holland in December was a site record count. Inland: singles at Thurlby Apr 29th, Cadney May 4th and 2 at Whisby NP 19-21st.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* *(L)

Rare migrant.

A female was at Messingham SQ Jun 19-21st (RH, LH et al) and a juv was at Huttoft CT Sep 16th (JS, ACS). The first records since 3 in 1993.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* *(L)

Rare migrant/winter visitor.

A late autumn influx brought 5 birds in November, the first recorded since 1990. The first was at Saltfleet Haven on 1st (TM), followed by singles at Theddlethorpe 3rd (MB), Skidbrooke North End 4th (AHJH) Huttoft CT 5th (PH) and a 1st-winter at Covenham Res 14-20th (KA,JH,GAM,ACS et al).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Scarce/fairly common autumn passage migrant. Rare in winter and spring. Exceptional inland, although sometimes seen heading inland from the Wash.

The year started well with 2 at Nenemouth Jan 11th and again 26th, but there were no further early records and a poor autumn passage, with only 20 recorded from 7 coastal watchpoints. The first flew north past Skegness Aug 7th, followed by an adult at Saltfleetby 18th. During an obvious skua movement in late August there was 1 at Huttoft 27th with 4 there and a single at Holbeach Marsh next day. Most later records came from Gib Point, where there were 2 on Sep 19th and singles on 22nd, 23rd, Oct 29th and 31st. Also in October 1 flew east at Holbeach Marsh and a juv was at Frampton Marsh 14th, then 1 flew north at Donna Nook Nov 2nd, 1 flew over the saltmarsh at Saltfleetby 16th and the last again at Gib Point Nov 30th.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Fairly common/common autumn passage migrant. Rare in winter and spring and inland, although sometimes seen heading inland, especially from the Wash.

There were 4 June records, singles at Gib Point 15th and 26th, 2 past Donna Nook 27th. Autumn figures were low; after 21 at Butterwick Marsh Aug 8th, the next double figure counts occurred during an obvious movement Aug 27-29th, with 38 past Saltfleetby and 12 past Huttoft 27th, 40 past Huttoft, 35 at Chapel Point, 24 at Skegness and 19 at Holbeach Marsh 28th and 18 past Gib Point 29th. September-October continued low, the only exceptions being 15 north at Huttoft Sep 16th and 25 past Gib Point 23rd. Up the Humber 1 south-west over Barton Sep 15th was followed by 11 west over the Humber Bridge 17th, while inland 1 flew east over Kirtan Holme Oct 22nd. Last of a somewhat disappointing year were 3 at Gib Point Nov 22nd and a juv at Saltfleetby on 12th.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Rare/scarce passage migrant, Jul-Nov. Occasional inland.

A rather poor autumn passage was only noted on 2 days during August; on 18th a juv was at Saltfleetby and 2 juvs at Mablethorpe, while 28th produced 2 each past Huttoft and Skegness, 1 past Gib Point and 6 juvs at Holbeach Marsh. An unusual record involved a bird inland on Morton Fen Sep 4-7th (PNW), becoming extremely tame by the end of its stay.

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*

Fairly common autumn passage migrant, but rare in winter and spring. Occasionally seen heading inland from the coast.

Several January records, of a single south at Mablethorpe on 1st, 3 south at Gib Point 11th and 2 heading inland at Nenemouth on 26th, were followed by a single spring bird at Nenemouth on Mar 27th. As with other skuas autumn passage, Aug 10th-Nov 17th, was poor, with the only noticeable peak Aug 27-28th, when 5 flew south at Saltfleetby 27th and 3 were at Huttoft, 2 at Chapel Point and 36 at Holbeach Marsh 28th. Otherwise 1-2 were reported from coastal sites, with the only exceptions being 8 at Gib Point Sep 19th, 4 Mablethorpe 28th, 3 Huttoft Oct 1st and 18 north at Gib Point on Nov 2nd.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* *b

Scarce visitor throughout the year, but most in autumn. Hybrid breeding with Black-headed gulls has occurred during current period.

A record-breaking year with about 50 records well-distributed throughout the county. No breeding occurred although there were 2 adults at Messingham SQ early in the year, one remaining for most of the summer. A pair at Gib Point displayed in May but were chased off by Black-headed Gulls. Sites with birds in 2 months are tabulated with immes and adults shown separately.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton/New Holland	-	-	-	li	-	-	li	-	-	li	-	la
Donna Nook/Skidbrooke	-	-	li	-	li	-	li	-	-	-	-	-
Huttoft/Mogg's Eye	li	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	li	-
Skegness	-	-	-	-	-	-	la	la,li	-	-	-	-
Gib Point	-	la	la,li	-	2a,2i	la,li	-	la	-	li	li	-
Frampton/Holbeach	li	-	-	-	li	-	la	-	-	-	-	-
Messingham SQ	-	2a	2a	la	la	la	la	-	-	-	-	-
Covenham Res	-	li	2a,3i	-	-	-	la	-	-	-	-	-
N.Hykeham/Whisby/Thurlby	3i	2i	la,4i	li	li	-	-	-	-	-	li	li
Kirkby Pits	-	li	la	2i	li	-	-	-	la	-	-	-
Marston STW	li	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	la	-	-

Also single imms at Leadenham Tip Jan, Winteringham/Read's Island Jul, single adults/birds at Bardney Pits and Toft Newton Res Jan, Holbeach Bank Feb, Nenemouth Aug and Deeping High Bank Dec.

Mediterranean/Black-headed Gull hybrids were seen at Kirkby pits Feb 21st, Mar 19th and a 1st-s May 17th-June, and at Messingham SQ Mar 8th, Apr 1st and 2 Jul 2nd.

Little Gull *Larus minutus* *b

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor, occurring in all months.

A good selection of January records started the year well: a 1st-winter at Frampton Marsh 4-6th, 2 at Gib Point and 3 flying inland at Nenemouth on 11th and an adult north at Skegness on 26th. However this was followed by a very weak spring passage with only 11 birds reported: 3 adults at Apex Pits on Apr 28th, followed by singles at Baston-Langtoft Pits May 3-8th, Barton on May 4th, 25th and Jun 3rd, Covenham Res May 7th, Gib Point 20th, Messingham SQ 23rd and Donna Nook Jun 7th. The return passage started on Jul 31st with an adult at Gib Point but birds were again rather thin on the ground during August, with 6 at Gib Point 10th, 2 at Huttoft 12th and a juv at Rimac 27th. September produced a more respectable crop of records: 17 passed Gib Point during the month, the max count being 10 on 23rd; a juv was at Huttoft Bank 12th and 3 north there 16th; 5 flew north past Mablethorpe on 17th with another single on 28th; and there were 4 adults and 2 juvs at Chapel St Leonards on 23rd. Inland an adult flew over South Witham on Oct 10th. In early November 2 flew inland at Nenemouth on 1st, one was at Barton on 2nd and 6 flew inland at Nenemouth on 3rd. Finally, December birds were at Barton on 2nd and Huttoft Pit on 6th.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini* *L

Rare autumn passage migrant mainly coastal Jul-Oct.

A juvenile was seen at Gib Point on Aug 29th (MRB).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	2800	2000	3500	680	200	200	2000	250	8000	1100	1000	200
Wash WeBS totals	1577	1328	3497	1138	2517	1364	4592	7071	5766	2146	1918	2467

No other regular roost site counts received. The only breeding records were of 100-200 pairs at Baston-Langtoft Pits and c30 pairs at Whisby, although 10,000 birds were at Frampton Marsh Jul 27th. Other high counts received were 1800 at Kirkby Pits Feb 25th, 2000 at Leadenham Tip Mar 4th, 6000 at Witham Mouth Oct 8th and 1200 at Kirkby Pits 27th, with 'many thousands' using the North Hykeham Apex Pits roost during the winter. An albino bird was at Kirkby Pits on Jan 25th and the leucistic bird again at Apex Pits Feb 19th.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wash WeBS totals	481	148	62	78	23	93	681	1734	308	396	74	637

The only high counts received were from Gib Point, where there were 1100 Jan 13th, 2000 Sep 26th and 3000 Oct 19th, and at Horkstow, 1000 Nov 23rd.

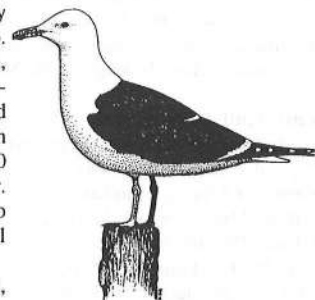
Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Present all year: scarce but increasing Dec-Feb, common passage Mar-May and Aug-Nov. Many immatures summer Jun-Jul. Bred 1993.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wash WeBS totals	1	-	1	316	94	237	136	277	169	37	41	60

The usual scattering of Jan-Feb records, including up to 15 at Kirkby Pits and in the North Hykeham Apex Pits roost and 6 at Leadenham Tip. Notable spring counts were 50 at Kirkby Mar 12th, 35 there Apr 17th, 40 at Leadenham Tip May 17th, 150 Gib Point 26th and 73 at Messingham SQ Jun 18th. The post-breeding build-up from mid-July produced some impressive flocks around the county, with max of 150 at South Ferriby, 400 at Apex Pits, 340 at Leadenham Tip, 200 at Gib Point, 120 at Witham Mouth and 143 at Deeping High Bank during July-October. Again the usual scatter of 1-2 birds was present around the county to the year end, with 20 at Kirkby Pits Nov 23rd and 11 at RAF Cranwell during December.

Not all birds showing characters of the Scandinavian races are reported, but birds claimed as *L.f.fuscus* were 2 Winteringham Jul 27th, 1 Gedney Drove End Aug 13th and 4 Marston STW Nov 20th.



Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	2500	500	900	600	480	150	180	200	1500	500	250	100
Wash WeBS totals	923	525	1131	656	1522	595	1513	2102	2641	1695	1206	4890

Other high counts during the year were of 4500 south at Saltfleetby Jan 1st, 800 at Winterton Tip 5th, 4000 at Frampton Marsh Jul 27th, 2000 at Witham Mouth and 500 at Winterton Tip, both on Dec 22nd. The only count received from Grimsby Pyewipe was 430 on Dec 30th.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans* *b

Scarce visitor, mainly in autumn.

Early in the year an adult was at Saltfleet Haven Jan 16th and records from Leadenham Tip involved 3 on 14th and singles 22nd and Mar 13th. More expected was the now regular late-summer build-up of birds, often associated with the post-breeding Lesser Black-backed Gull flocks. At Kirton Quarries a single on Jul 14-27th was joined by 2 more on 30th and 1-2 were seen here at intervals until Sep 4th. One was at Winteringham Jul 24th and 27th, while at Deeping High Bank a 4th-winter from Aug 4-20th was joined by an adult from 12-20th. A 4th-winter was again here on Sep 24th, and other September singles were at Theddlethorpe 9th, Gib Point 10th and Kirkby Pits 14th, while 2 were in the roost at North Hykeham Apex Pits on 19th, 3 there 20th and 1 until 26th. Finally a late bird was at Leadenham Tip on Oct 22nd.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides* *(L)

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor Aug-May.

Only 4 records for the year, all of single 1st-year birds, at Leadenham Tip Jan 7th (TL), Humberston Mar 29-30th (SM,WRM), Winterton Tip Apr 27th (JHH) and a 1st-summer at Kirkby Pits 25-27th (KD).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Rare/scarcely passage migrant and winter visitor, occasional in summer.

A quiet year with only 6 birds reported. At Winterton Tip a 2nd-winter present from Jan 2nd was joined by a 1st-winter and an adult on 16th, the 2nd-winter remaining until Feb 4th, the adult until 16th and the 1st-winter until Apr 14th. An unseasonal 1st-summer was at Boston Tip Jun 4th, a 1st-winter at Frampton Marsh Sep 7th and finally an adult back at Winterton Tip Dec 22-27th.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor with some immatures remaining in summer.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wash WeBS totals	109	66	55	194	93	67	206	733	642	823	787	548

Notable counts were of 2500 south past Saltfleetby Jan 1st, 330 at Grimsby Pyewipe on 5th and 800 at Winterton Tip next day. In the second half of the year there were 300 at Frampton Marsh Jul 27th, 500 at Gib Point Nov 3rd and 600 at Pyewipe Dec 30th.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor with smaller numbers in summer. Scarce inland.

Three large movements were noted during the year, all following the same pattern of birds moving south down to the Wash and then heading inland at Nenemouth. The first occurred during the first fortnight in January, with 142 past Mablethorpe on 1st, 200 past Huttoft and 126 past Gib Point on 2nd, 135 past Huttoft in 1 hour on 10th, 600 past Gib Point on 11th and 475 next day. At Nenemouth 3000 had gathered on 11th with 1772 flying off up-river. Numbers returned to the normal more modest figures during the rest of Jan-Feb, with a dead 1st-winter at North Hykeham Apex Pits on Feb 18th the only notable record, but a further movement in late March produced 2 inland adults, flying west over Marston and at Toft Newton Res on 26th, and counts of 100 south past Donna Nook and 1100 flying inland at Nenemouth the next day. Inland a 1st-summer was at Kirkby Pits on Apr 25th and 2 adults flew west past New Holland on May 21st. Small numbers were seen throughout the summer and autumn, with 103 past Gib Point on Aug 10th, but a further large movement occurred on Nov 16th, with 230 past Huttoft, 150 past Gib Point and 2750 moving inland at Nenemouth.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Passage migrant, scarce in spring but common in autumn, occasional pairs in summer; rare inland.

Extreme dates: Mar 12th-Dec 8th. 1995: Apr 20th-Oct 29th.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Wash WeBS	-	-	5	58	82	432	1

First of the year were 2 at Gib Point Apr 20th, 52 there by May 4th. An unusual series of records came from Kirkstead Bridge, where there were singles on May 15th and Jun 19th, 2 on Jul 18th. The post-breeding build up on the coast started with 10 at Huttoft on Jun 18th, but numbers stayed low until July, when 200 were at Skidbrooke on 16th and 900 at Gib Point on 23rd. The only other notable counts on the coast were 250 at Gib Point on Aug 8th and 85 at Huttoft Sep 16th; otherwise numbers were quite low during the autumn. Up the Humber there were singles at Barton Jul 12th and Aug 11th and 2 there on Sep 7th, while inland a party of 8 were at Deeping High Bank on Sep 8th. Several birds lingered through October, with the last of the year at Gib Point on 29th.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Fairly common summer visitor and common passage migrant. Most breeding colonies are now inland.
 Extreme dates: Mar 19th-Nov 4th. 1995: Apr 23rd-Oct 16th.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Wash WeBS	-	24	16	126	115	179	-

The first birds of the year were 2 at Baston-Langtoft Pits Apr 23rd, with widespread reports from 25th. Away from breeding sites, no large numbers were reported during the spring. Single pairs bred at Barton and Boultham Mere and 2 pairs at Bardney Pits and Frampton Marsh. At Whisby 23 pairs raised at least 40 juvs, while 110 juvs were ringed from the (uncounted) largest colony in the county, at Baston-Langtoft Pits. A reasonable autumn passage really started to pick up from mid-August, with counts of 30 Witham Mouth 15th, 50 north past Saltfleetby on 18th, 35 at Gib Point 20th and 50 at Huttoft 29th. In September 76 were at Witham Mouth 10th, 45 at Gib Point and 20 past the Humber Bridge on 17th. Late records were 55 at Witham Mouth Oct 8th and finally 2 at Frampton Marsh Oct 16th.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Fairly common/common passage migrant and sporadic breeder. Mainly coastal but there is a regular inland passage in spring.
 Extreme dates: Apr 11th-Nov 4th. 1995: Apr 25th-Oct 1st.

The first of the year were 1 at Kirkby Pits and 2 at Gib Point Apr 25th, with 67 east past Barton on 30th. Eight at Gib Point May 2nd, 2 at Witham Mouth 14th, 2 east at Barton 16th and a single at Gib Point 24-25th were the only other spring birds reported. Although more widespread on autumn passage, numbers were still low. July records of singles came from Bardney Pits on 14th and Donna Nook 31st, with up to 14 reported from Gib Point on 3 days in the month. Only 10 were reported during August: 4 at Gib Point 8th, 1 at Shep White's 9th, 2 at Witham Mouth 13th and 2 past Huttoft 29th, with a single there on 31st. Pairs were at Gib Point and Frampton Marsh on Sep 1st, Donna Nook on 10th, Gib Point again 19th and Mablethorpe 28th, with a single at Huttoft on 17th. Up the Humber, a juv was at Barton 7th and 2 on 17th. The only real numbers of the autumn were in October, with 11 south at Gib Point 4th, plus a single there next day and on 19th, and 25 at Nenemouth on 8th. Last birds of the year flew inland at Nenemouth on Nov 1st.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Occasional inland.
 Extreme dates: Apr 11th-Oct 19th. 1995: Apr 23rd-Sep 10th.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Wash WeBS	-	13	15	13	13	16	-

The first returning birds of the year were 2 at Humberston Apr 23rd and 3 at Gib Point 25th, with one inland at Kirkby Pits on 28th. Other inland birds were at Barton Pits May 19th and 5 at Covenham Res Jun 14th. From records received, a disastrous breeding season with 4 pairs at Saltfleetby and Skidbrooke and up to 6 pairs at Gib Point the only reports. Coastal maxima were 30 at Tetney May 19th, c90 at Donna Nook Jul 16th, 17 at Gib Point Jun 14th and 36 at Shep Whites on Jul 30th. Six flew upriver at Nenemouth on Aug 24th and other autumn numbers were also very low, with the highest count of 10 at Frampton Marsh on Sep 1st and the last birds of the year seen on Sep 10th, when 5 were at Shep Whites and 2 at Witham Mouth.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* *b

Fairly common passage migrant from spring to autumn.
 Extreme dates: Apr 1st-Nov 10th. 1995: May 4th-Oct 5th.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Wash WeBS	-	-	-	-	34	30	-

Only 16 birds were reported during a very poor spring passage, all in May. The first were 2 at Baston-Langtoft Pits on 4th and 2 at Kirkby Pits on 6th, followed by 1 at Apex Pits, 15-16th, 1 at Whisby 17th and 2 at Covenham Res 18th, 5 again at Baston-Langtoft Pits 22nd and singles on 24th at Tetney, Gib Point and Whisby. Singles in summer were at Toft Newton Res and Messingham SQ Jun 28th and also on Jul 11th at the latter site. Autumn passage was better, involving over 100 birds from 1 at Barton Aug 2nd to 5 at Butterwick Marsh Oct 13th. Inland a juv was at Whisby Aug 26-28th and 2 were at Toft Newton Res on Oct 5th. Up the Humber a juv was at Barton on Aug 19th and 8 juvs west there on Oct 1st. Apart from a few singles on the coast between Donna Nook and Gib Point all records came from the Wash, with up to 4 regularly at Shep Whites, Aug 11-Sep 13th, 20 at Witham Mouth, Aug 13th, 7 there Sep 3rd and 27 on 10th, and 36 at Holbeach Range Sep 10th.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor but can occur in any month. Rare inland.

Three at Huttoft Jan 2nd, 3 at Gib Point 11th and a single there Feb 5th were the only records in the first winter period, while 3 north past Gib Point on May 16th were the only spring birds. First of the autumn were 2 at Gib Point Aug 2nd and there was a series of records from Barton through the autumn, with 1 Sep 5th, 2 17th, 3 Nov 2nd and a single 4-5th. At Gib Point 1 flew north Sep 22nd followed by 2 next day, 1 on Oct 19th, 4 north on Nov 2nd and 2 north on 4th. Otherwise, singles at Chapel St Leonards on Sep 23rd (oiled) and Shep Whites Oct 11th, and 4 at Donna Nook Nov 2nd were the only birds reported.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, but can occur in any month. Exceptional inland.

Most of the records came from Gib Point as follows: 2 flew south on Jan 16th, 2 were seen from a boat Feb 5th, 2 there on Jun 16th, 2 north on Jul 13th and singles on Sep 16-17th and 22nd. Elsewhere there were singles at Mablethorpe Sep 1st, Donna Nook Nov 6th and flying upriver at Cleethorpes on 18th.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Scarce/common passage migrant and winter visitor. Occasional inland and exceptional in summer.

Early in the year 4 flew over the saltings at Nenemouth Jan 2nd and 1 flew north past Huttoft on 22nd. Two north at Chapel Point and 1 at Barton Oct 22nd preceded a major influx all down the east coast Oct 29th-Nov 4th. At least 2000 birds were counted from coastal watchpoints with the actual number involved therefore much higher. Peak counts included 73 north past Gib Point and 128 past Huttoft on 29th, 147 up the Humber at Barton 30th and 730 north past Huttoft, 327 north past Gib Point and 565 north past Donna Nook, all on Nov 2nd. Several turned up away from the usual coastal sites; Barton recorded a total of 282 during the influx and birds seen flying inland, often up rivers, included 1 on 29th at Witham Mouth, 2 at Frampton Marsh on 30th, 1 at Grimsby Pyewipe 31st, singles at Nenemouth 1st and 3rd and 40 at Cleethorpes also on 3rd. Singles well inland were at Whisby 2nd and Roughton 3rd. The majority had returned north by 4th, stragglers hanging about at North Cotes, 1 feeding on biscuits 5th, 1 at New Holland 6th, singles at Donna Nook 12th and 18th, 3 on 16th and 4 17th, 2 inland at Covenham Res on 16th and finally 1 at Cleethorpes 18-19th. A number of those which came ashore were ringed before being released back onto the sea.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, but can occur in any month. Exceptional inland.

Only 2 records during the year; 1 stayed for a few hours on Toft Newton Res, Jun 30th, and 1 flew past Gib Point Sep 23rd.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common and widespread resident.

A close contender for most neglected bird; just 4 records from 2 observers with the highest c1000 at New Holland throughout and c300 at Barton in the autumn. More records are required in order to monitor status for this species.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Common resident.

Most records were of winter flocks, with numbers suggesting little change in status, though as with the previous species more information is needed. The Jan max at Gib Point was 33 and there were 30 at Metheringham 25th. Ewerby Waithe Common, near Sleaford, held c110 Mar 10th, with 40 still there May 20th. Late year flocks included 40 at Barton Oct 23rd, 80 East Halton Skitter Nov 20th, 50 Bransthorpe Fen 26th, up to 40 at Donna Nook in Dec, 67 Holbeach Marsh 10th and 150 Dry Doddington late in the month.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

Most records were of winter gatherings as usual with some autumn passage, though numbers were not impressive. Largest flocks reported early in the year were 1000 each at Woodhall Spa Jan 29th, Metheringham Feb 7th and Dunston Fen 12th, c2500 West Deeping Mar 4th and 1500 Horsington 18th. Between April and September only Gib Point reported high numbers (200-450), then in autumn there were c1000 at Kirkby Pits Oct 22nd and the year's max of 3000 at Gib Point 25th, but no further large flocks in Nov-Dec, though a passage of 100-450, mainly west and south, was noted most days in the first half of Nov at Gib Point and South Witham.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Very common resident.

A few small flocks were noted in the early months, with 52 at Metheringham Fen Jan 25th. From late July to the year end up to 60 were reported from several sites, with 70 at Grimsby Town Holt Aug 23rd, up to 150 at Barton in September and up to 70 roosting at Normanby Park in October and November. As with the other pigeons, much under-recorded.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in winter. 1995: Apr 23rd-Oct 8th.

Widespread records as usual this year, but with the population at low ebb, numbers were generally low. The first were singles Apr 23rd at Holbeach Bank and Barton Pits. More birds appeared at other sites over the following week and became widespread during May, when 6 pairs were noted at RAF Cranwell, almost daily passage continued at Gib Point with max 31 on 30th and there were 32 at Sandholme Lane, Frampton, the same day. Gib Point had the highest mid-summer counts, max 19 on Jul 2nd, but numbers then dwindled surprisingly with no more than 5 reported in early September. Late sightings were 1 Barton Sep 29th, 2 juvs there Oct 1st and 1 Deeping Fen 8th. A probable hybrid was found at Gib Point from Oct 27th through November (see Gib Report, this issue).

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Common summer visitor.

Extreme dates: Apr 4th-Oct 25th. 1995: Apr 13th-Sep 22nd.

Reported from all parts of the county but at low density. The first of the spring were at Theddlethorpe Dunes Apr 13th and Witham Mouth 14th, with many other sites reporting their first birds between 18th and 30th. Records were widespread during May and June, with max 5 at Barton Pits May 7th and Marston STW 13th. Rufous females were noted at Market Rasen May 1st, Chapel Pit 21st and Barton Jun 3rd. In July the Gib Point max was just 3 on 21st. There were 10 well-scattered sightings of 1-2 in August, and the last of a rather poor year was at Saltfleetby on Sep 22nd.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Around 200 records were received from c80 localities with 45% of these in Jan-Feb, when the birds often hunt in daylight, and very few Aug-Oct. The distribution shows few records from the western edge of the county or the coastal fringe except for Grimsby-Saltfleet. Inland records are concentrated in 3 areas - around Market Rasen-Caistor, a large area centred on Spalding, and especially the fens stretching south-east from Lincoln towards Stickney and Sleaford. Most reports involved 1-2 birds with 3 roosting at Dorrington Dyke Jul 13th, 6 Digby Fen 30th and 3 Gib Point Nov 17th. At South Witham 1 on Nov 24th was the first for 15

years. Breeding records came from Barton, Humberston, Fulstow, Winceby and Stickney (both with 3 pairs in boxes), and Deeping Fen (10 pairs), but breeding is clearly under-recorded.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Fairly common feral resident.

A good year, with records from around 50 localities, evenly spread across the whole county. Breeding noted at Dunsby Fen, Freiston Shore, Tetney and Stainby, with sightings at about 25 other sites Apr-June, most of which must have involved at least attempted breeding. All records were of 1-2 birds except for 3 together at Roughton on Sep 21st.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Common resident.

Under-recorded as usual, but reports came from about 30 widely scattered localities with no evidence of a change in status. Most records were of 1-2 birds though more in September with 4 Gib Point 9th and c7 at RAF Cranwell 24th.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Scarce/fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Generally low numbers this year, with records mainly from traditional winter roosts, coastal sites and a few breeding sites inland. The Hobhole Bank roost near Fishtoft held up to 7 Jan-Mar, the only other record in this period being 2 at the Brant/Witham confluence roost Jan 1st. Singles were noted on the coast from Tetney to Gib Point on 13 dates early April-early June; most were probably migrants but one ringed at Theddlethorpe Apr 4th and retrapped May 31st was presumably resident. Breeding was confirmed at North Killingholme, Broughton Keb Wood, Branton Booths and Jericho Wood, near Marston. In autumn there were 1-2 at Gib Point on 7 dates from Sep 9th into Nov, with similar small numbers elsewhere from late Oct to the year end. The Hobhole roost was used again in December, max 4 on 20th.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Rare/scarce resident and scarce/fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Reasonable numbers in winter and passage months, mainly on the coast, but no reported evidence of breeding. Singles were seen at a few inland sites Jan-Mar, while on the coast (including Humber and Wash) records were fairly regular from Jan-May; mostly 1-2 birds with 3 Tetney Jan 6th and up to 3 at Gib Point on many dates in March. Both Frampton Marsh and Gib Point had occasional birds in the first half of June and there was 1 at the latter site Jul 30th, then no further records until 1 Frampton Sep 10th and 1 in off the sea at Theddlethorpe Oct 21st. An influx through Nov-Dec saw 7 in off the sea at Gib Point Nov 2nd and widespread records of upto 4 elsewhere on the coast with just a few inland, all singles except 2 on Nocton Fen Nov 22nd.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Scarce summer visitor and rare passage migrant.

Extreme dates: May 8th-Nov 28th. 1995: May 8th-Sep 11th.

One heard at Laughton May 8th (JHH) was a new county earliest record by a week. At Gib Point 1 on May 20th was only the 9th for that site and the only record of the year away from the main sites in the north-west. In June-July there were 1-2 at Broughton Keb Wood and up to 6 noted on Laughton Common/Forest, with an estimate of 8 pairs there and 1 still calling Sep 11th. A rather poor showing, with no reports at all from other traditional areas.

Swift *Apus apus*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Extreme dates: Apr 18th-Nov 10th. 1995: Apr 30th-Oct 13th.

A typical year's records for this familiar bird whose population size and trend remains unknown. The first just managed to arrive in April, at Barton Pits on 30th. The next were 2 at Metheringham and 3 Boston May 2nd, then increasingly widespread with peaks of c500 at Barton May 19th, a 'vast movement' at Skegness on the morning of 25th following strong SE winds, 200 W/hour at Grainthorpe 26th and c300 Kirkby Pits 29th. Cool weather in early June brought large numbers to feed at Toft Newton Res, 800 on 10th, and Marston

STW, 2000 on 11th. A weather movement brought a massive 10,000 S at Gib Point Jun 30th, and July peaks were 600 there 14th and 300 Barton Pits 23rd. A mass departure was noted from South Witham on the night of Aug 3rd, after which low numbers were seen at many sites to mid-Sep with 30 S at Grimsby Sep 7th, 100 S at Gib Point 9th. Final stragglers were at RAF Cranwell Sep 20th, Grantham 22nd and Skegness Oct 13th.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

The mild 1994-95 winter should have favoured this species, and indeed there were records from about 55 localities in 1995. Noted at Gib Point in all months, but records at other coastal sites were mostly outside the breeding season. Inland, sightings came from all parts of the county, with evidence of breeding at Barton (2 broods), Healing, Boultham Mere, Whisby Pits (at least two pairs) Metherringham, Ruskington, Ancaster and Deeping St James. All records of 1-2 birds except for 7 at Whisby Pits Aug 28th. Despite the effect of the summer drought on many rivers and streams, numbers of records remained relatively high Sep-Dec, suggesting a successful year.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops* *b

Rare passage migrant, mainly Apr-Oct but occasionally to Dec.

One was at Theddlethorpe Dunes near the gas terminal Apr 23rd, then 1 at Trusthorpe 30th, possibly the same bird.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* *b

Rare/scarce passage migrant Apr-May and Aug-Oct, mainly coastal.

A poor year for this species with no records in spring and rare in autumn: 1 Donna Nook Sep 9th and singles at Gib Point 10-11th and 18-19th.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Reported throughout the year in small numbers, particularly in April when proclaiming territory. Records came from c40 localities, generally scattered in the north but otherwise concentrated around Lincoln, Woodhall Spa and the Sleaford-Grantham area. The most regular sites were Barton, Hartsholme Park, Denton Res and especially Kirkby Moor/Pits, with the year max of 6 at Kirkby Moor Aug 8th. Breeding was reported only at Whisby Pits and Frinckley Wood, Marston. Wandering birds were at Gib Point Apr 25th and Sep 22nd, and Donna Nook Aug 12th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Small numbers all year round, as for the previous species, though this species is certainly less well-recorded, with records from about 50 localities. Breeding reported at Metherringham, Thorpe Tilney, Doddington Hall and birds were noted at Gib Point in most months, max 3 in March and Nov 6th, so no significant influx this year. Elsewhere on the coast migrating or dispersing single birds were at Frampton Marsh Oct 5th, SW at Donna Nook 11th and Holbeach St Matthew 29th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Scarce resident.

Typically for this species, recorded mainly at traditional sites with sporadic occurrences elsewhere. Most records were in the winter or spring when courtship behaviour was seen, as at Kingsway Wood Scunthorpe Apr 10th. Found at 17 localities, all in the north or centre of the county except for an unusual record of 1 at Witham Mouth Feb 19th and 1 Little Bytham Aug 23rd.



Woodlark *Lullula arborea* *b

Scarce resident and passage migrant.

At Gib Point one on Jan 4th, presumably present from Dec 1994, represents the reserve's first Jan record. A male was in song there Feb 14th, while March produced 9 bird-days including 2 on 26th, followed by 2 April records, the last on 11th. A minimum of 11 males were in song at 4 breeding sites in the north and centre of the county, with at least 3 females present. However this almost certainly represents an under-estimate of the true population as the main breeding site was not fully surveyed in 1995. Two of the males had been colour-ringed in the Norfolk Brecks in 1994. The only autumn record was of 2 south-west at South Witham Oct 10th.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Records in the early months were mainly coastal, with 150 Saltfleet Jan 1st, a NW passage at Barton Feb 14th and 845 Donna Nook 19th, while inland there were 105 at RAF Scampton Feb 6th but all other counts were of 100 or fewer. Few records Apr-Sep, the only breeding information being 58 pairs at Frampton Marsh. Highlights of a strong autumn passage were 250 S at Gib Point Oct 8th, 450 Donna Nook 15th, 300 W Gib Point and c255 in off the sea at Huttoft 29th, 240 in off the sea Gib Point Nov 4th, a massive 1800 Donna Nook 12th, and birds still arriving in late Dec; 55 W at Gib Point 5th. Flocks of up to 300 built up at many sites, both at the coast and inland, with 400 Grimsby Pyewipe and 600 Covenham Res both Dec 29th.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Scarce winter visitor. Exceptional inland. 1995: to Apr 20th, from Nov 12th.

Small numbers again this year, with favoured site changing between the two winters. Saltfleet Haven was the preferred area in the early months: 2 through Jan, 3 in Feb with 6 on 26th, 3 through Mar-Apr 1st, and the last there on 20th. Elsewhere there were 3 at Saltfleetby Mar 12th and 21st and 4 at Skidbrooke North End Apr 20th. Late in the year Donna Nook produced most records: 1-2 Nov 12th and 19th, up to 10 Dec 11-24th. Gib Point also had a mid-Dec influx with 6 from 10-16th, and the only other record was of 2 at Humberston on 26th.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Extreme dates: Mar 12th-Nov 20th. 1995: Mar 15th-Oct 8th.

First spring bird was at Gib Point Mar 15th, then 2 Witham Mouth 19th. From Mar 24th onwards arrivals were widespread and numbers increased: eg 30 Whisby 30th, 100 Messingham SQ Apr 7th, c300 Kirkby Pits 15th and c500 Barton 26th, with smaller numbers elsewhere. A strong passage was observed at Skegness on May 25th. Breeding colonies reported were those at Bardney Pits (no count), quarries around Whisby (300 pairs), West Ashby (200 holes), Kirkby Pits (850 holes) and Deeping St James (45 nests). Very high numbers in late summer/autumn suggested a successful breeding season; peak counts were 400 S Jun 30th and 5630 S Jul 19th at Gib Point, c1000 Aug 9th and 3000 24th at Barton and 3000 Gib Point Sep 9th. Numbers then decreased through the rest of Sep and there were only a few stragglers in October: 6 Frampton Marsh 5th, 1 Kirkby Pits 7th and finally 7 at Gib Point and 4 Witham Mouth 8th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in winter.

Extreme dates: recorded in most months. 1995: Mar 24th-Oct 29th.

A strong autumn passage, otherwise an average year. Early arrivals were 6 Gib Point Mar 24th, with singles there 27th and 30th, and Whisby also 30th. Many sites reported small numbers in the first half of April; the second half produced peaks of 100 Toft Newton Res 19th, 200 Marston STW 24th. Noteworthy counts in May-June were c300 at Barton May 11th, 250 S Gib Point 25th and 370 Toft Newton Jun 13th. The only comment on breeding was 'low numbers' at Barton, but good data are missing; good counts in autumn may indicate a better season elsewhere: max were 440 Gib Point Jul 19th, 500 New Holland Aug 22nd, 500 Gib Point 24th, an impressive 30,000 S there Sep 9th, 3000 roosting Chapel Pit also 9th, 1000 W in 4 hrs at Tetney 12th and c500 NE at Barton 16th. Surprisingly low figures in the rest of September, apart from 1850 S on 21st and 1000 S on 22nd at Gib Point, with birds still feeding young near Spalding on 26th, but then another

surge in October, with up to 35 at several sites and 4800 S Gib Point 9th. Then stragglers at many localities, the last at Scotterthorpe Oct 29th.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant, sometimes remaining to early winter.

Extreme dates: Mar 25th-Dec 20th. 1995: Mar 25th-Oct 31st.

A few good counts this year, otherwise average numbers. Gib Point had a monopoly on the very early arrivals in March - singles on 25th, 26th and 30th, equalling the county 'earliest'. The next site to report any was Whisby NP with 3 Apr 3rd, then small numbers widespread for the rest of the month. An exceptionally high count at this time was c200 at Whisby NP Apr 13th. There were also 74 at Marston STW Apr 24th, but the main passage occurred in mid-late May, with 200 Barton 11th and 19th, 200 Covenham Res 13th, a large movement at Skegness 25th and 200 Gib Point 27th. The south-west study area held just 312 nests in 1995, a decrease of 34 from 1994, but no other breeding records were received. Peak counts in August were 110 Gib Point 24th and 100 Whisby 28th, followed by 500 S at North Cotes Sep 3rd, 400 S Gib Point 9th and 100 Witham Mouth 10th, but then no more significant records until an excellent 4500 S at Gib Point Oct 1st with 250 Tetney the same day. There were 150 Nocton 3rd, 1700 S at Gib Point 9th, then smaller numbers there to 31st.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* *(L)

Rare passage migrant, mainly Sep-Nov, occasionally Dec-Jan and May; once inland. Over 100 records, nearly all recent.

The second spring record for the county was 1 at Witham Mouth on Apr 14th (SK), with all the remainder in autumn: singles Gib Point Sep 20th and 23rd (PJF,IS), Donna Nook Oct 22nd (SL), another at Witham Mouth 29th (SK) and 1 south at Gib Point Nov 1st (MG).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Breeds locally, mainly in the western half of the county.

Extreme dates: Apr 4th-Nov 9th. 1995: Apr 9th-Oct 8th.

Generally small numbers this year. The first were at South Witham Apr 9th and Gib Point 17th, followed by about 20 records of 1-2 passage birds at 6 sites (mainly coastal) from Apr 23rd to the end of May. Reported during the breeding season from Keb Wood Broughton, Laughton Forest, Kirkby Moor and Bourne Woods, but only singles at the latter sites; a noticeable decline at Kirkby Moor. Autumn passage from mid-Aug to early Oct generally involved 1-2 along the coast with 3 Saltfleetby Sep 8th, but exceptional numbers at Gib Point. Peak numbers there were 58 S 9th, 20 S 10th, 30 S 18th, with 18 present next day and the last on Oct 8th.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Mostly *A p pratensis* but migrants include *A p theresae* from Iceland.

A light spring passage, better numbers in the autumn, but information on breeding almost non-existent as usual. Larger flocks in the early months were: 50 Barton Jan 25th, 55 Nocton Feb 2nd, 200 Marston STW through Feb, 71 Frampton Marsh mid Mar, 50 Rauceby 28th, and up to 40 at Gib Point on several dates Feb-Apr. The only noteworthy May-Aug records were at Gib Point, peaks of 25 May 14th and 45 Jul 31st, and the only breeding estimate was 60-100 pairs at Frampton Marsh. A marked passage occurred at the coast from early Sep to early Nov, with peaks of 700 Gib Point Sep 19th, 300 there and 700 south at Witham Mouth Oct 8th, and 70 south at Gib Point Nov 1st. Inland there were c90 at Bardney Pits Sep 24th and up to 120 Marston STW Oct-Dec, with up to 60 at several other sites.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor Sep-Apr; scarce inland. Mostly *A p petrosus*, but Scandinavian race *A.p.littoralis* sometimes identified, especially in spring. 1995: to Apr 5th and from Sep 30th.

Quite high numbers this year, though most records came from just 2 sites: Frampton Marsh and Gib Point. Early year max were 129 Frampton in Jan, 45 there in Feb, and up to 35 at Gib Point Jan-Mar with the last there on Apr 5th. Elsewhere there were up to 5 at coastal sites and 1 inland at Marston STW on Mar 19th. Autumn passage started with 3 Gib Point Sep 30th and the Oct peak was 60 there on 29th. There were inland October records at traditional sites: singles at Kirkby Pits 14th, Toft Newton Res 15th, Covenham Res 22nd and Cadney Res 25th. Large flocks in November were at North Cotes, 50 on 4th, Frampton 200 6-8th, Donna Nook 225 and Gib Point 40 both on 12th. December peaks were 50 Gib Point 10th and 108 Frampton 18-21st. Small numbers elsewhere around the coast, especially in October.
Scandinavian Rock Pipit *A p littoralis*: 2 Gib Point Mar 18th.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* *(L)

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor Oct-Apr. Mainly coastal.

A good year with records in all winter months. Singles at Skidbrooke North End Jan 6th and 20th (PMT), Saltfleetby Feb 12th (RHa) and 26th (ACS). Higher numbers were around at the end of the year, but at only 2 sites. At Donna Nook there were 2 Nov 12th (PMT), 3 25th (PH), and upto 7 throughout Dec (PMT,ACS), while inland at Marston STW there were 2 from Nov 26th onwards and another on Dec 21st, all 3 remaining to the year end (TL AL).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

M.f.flavissima: common summer visitor and passage migrant, mostly Apr-Sep; exceptional in winter. Breeds mainly in lowland areas. *M.f.flava*: scarce passage migrant, mainly spring. Has bred sporadically. *M.f.thunbergi*: rare and irregular spring migrant. *M.f.cinerocephala*: two spring records.
Recorded in all months. 1995: Mar 15th-Oct 25th.

Reasonable numbers this year with an early arrival: 1 near Crowland Mar 15th, 1 Cleethorpes 19th and 1 Gib Point 22nd, the earliest ever for the Reserve. Then arrivals were increasingly widespread through April: monthly max for sites with regular records are tabled below.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Barton Pits	13	6	-	-	17	20	1
Toft Newton Res	85	30	-	35	-	29	5
Gib Point	12	31	2	13	21	45	3
Marston STW	4	150	10	20	100	120	5

Elsewhere, noteworthy records were 45 at North Cotes Apr 24th, c50 Bardney Pits May 15th, 40 Kirkby Pits Aug 30th and 30 Covenham Res Sep 13th. Breeding was reported at RAF Waddington and Cranwell, part of the small population in the drier parts of the county. Last October birds were at Witham Mouth, 6 Oct 8th, 1 Marston STW 15th and the last 1 at Gib Point 25th.

Blue-headed wagtail *M.f.flava*: A good series of sightings, mainly in spring, with singles at Toft Newton on 7 days Apr 14th-May 23rd, 2 on Apr 18th and 20th; single males at Donna Nook May 2-9th and Jul 23rd; up to 3 at Marston STW May 28th-Jun 12th with a pair displaying in early June.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Scarce/fairly common passage migrant (most marked on the coast) and winter visitor (mostly inland). Rare breeder, formerly sporadic but has become regular in the last few years.

A bumper year with many records, mostly 1-3 birds, from over 70 localities spread over the whole county and including urban habitats such as town centres. The approximate number of 'bird-site' records each month tabled below:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
31	42	54	34	16	4	12	8	69	91	44	28

Early year highlights were 4 at Marston STW Jan-May and 4 Greetwell Hollow Mar 25th. Breeding was reported at Tealby (a pair feeding young Apr 5th), Haverholme Park (2 adults with 2 juvs May 12th), Colsterworth and North Witham. Almost an invasion in autumn, with site max of 5 Gib Point Sep 15th, 4 Barton 21st and 5 Greetwell Hollow, Lincoln, Oct 11th.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

M. a. yarelli: common resident and passage migrant. *M. a. alba*: scarce passage migrant, mainly Mar-Jun. Peak gatherings in the early months were 250 Marston STW during Jan, 80 roosting at South Ferriby Cement Works Jan 28th, 150 roosting in the centre of Sleaford Feb 8th and 100 Marston STW 26th. Probable passage flocks in spring included 40 Kirkby Pits Mar 29th and 45 Toft Newton Res Apr 11th. No meaningful breeding information available, but numbers built up again from July: 78 Toft Newton Res 27th, 170 there on Aug 17th, and 150 North Kelsey Moor Aug 12th and Sep 16th and 23rd. The October max was just 55 at Toft Newton Res 14th, then winter flocks reassembled, with c150 in the South Ferriby roost Nov 25th and 100 Marston STW 26th, increasing to 200 through Dec.

White Wagtail *M. a. alba*: An excellent spring began with 1 North Hykeham Apex Pit Mar 23rd. Birds were regular at Toft Newton and Gib Point through Apr-early May, max 4 at the former Apr 11th and 8 at the latter 22nd, a Reserve record. Up to 9 were at Frampton Marsh Apr 23-25th and 1-3 at 5 other sites, the last of the spring at Covenham Res May 13th. An unusual record was 1 Gib Point Jul 16th, then autumn passage was noted at several sites including 3 Toft Newton Res Sep 13th, 1 Gib Point Sep 18th with 1-2 Oct 10-11th, max 8 at Marston in Oct, and 2 late birds in the Sleaford area Nov 7th.

Waxwing *Bombus garrulus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor, Oct-Apr, with one Jun record. Rare/scarce most winters but fairly common/common during large-scale irruptions.

The only record was of one at Nettleton Dec 31st.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

There were up to 14 at Gib Point in Jan, 11 in Feb, 26 in Mar and a spring peak of 62 on Apr 25th. Over 30 were recorded regularly there throughout the breeding season with up to 30 Sep-Dec. Elsewhere 7 were noted at Haverholme Park Dec 9th.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

As usual the only significant early year records came from Gib Point where there were 60+ March 11th and 63 on Apr 25th. In the autumn there was clear evidence of migration with 135 on Sep 3rd at Gib Point and 60 at Barton Pits 10th, with many moving west. There were still 50 at Gib Point Oct 7th and thereafter numbers declined with month max of 20 Nov and 11 Dec.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Five 'continental' birds ringed at Theddlethorpe Dunes Apr 28-30th were the only notable records early in the year. In the autumn there were at least 6 orange birds at Saltfleetby Sep 18th and an arrival was noted at Donna Nook and Theddlethorpe 19-20th. At Gib Point over 20 were recorded on 9 days in September with 94 on 18th, an influx also observed at Frampton Marsh where there were 3 next day. In October there were 59 at Gib Point on 7th, then 45 on Nov 2nd, with smaller numbers noted until the year end.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Scarce/fairly common local summer visitor and scarce passage migrant away from breeding areas. Has declined recently.

Extreme dates: Apr 10th-Sep 23rd.

The first of the spring was at Whisby NP on Apr 24th, 4 there on 25th, followed by 4 at Bourne Wood on 30th. Two birds trapped at Theddlethorpe Dunes in April and May had been ringed there in the previous year. During May and June records of 1-2 singing males came from Donna Nook, Laughton, Southrey Wood, North Rauceby, Roughton Moor, Woodhall and Newell Wood, with 5 at both Whisby NP and Kirkby Moor. One was at Theddlethorpe Dunes on Jul 2nd and 24th, and the last record of the year came from Swallow Aug 3rd.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* *b

Scarce passage migrant and rare and irregular winter visitor. Bred fairly regularly in recent period but currently in decline.

An exceptional record was of a female at Branston Booths Feb 24th. In March there were singles at Gib Point 22nd and South Witham 27th. A thin passage continued through April with just three birds recorded: at Greetwell Hollow 8th, Donna Nook 14th and Theddlethorpe 23rd. The bulk of the movement occurred in May with singles at Donna Nook 3rd and 10th, two at Laughton 4th, one at Humberston 8th, a male in Lincoln 10th, singles at Gib Point 16-18th, 27th and 30th. Another male was on Tritton Rd, Lincoln 25th and the final spring bird was at Laughton June 6th. Autumn passage was unusually light with only two birds noted, one at Gib Point Oct 16th and a juv at Barrowby 21st-23rd.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Rare/very scarce summer visitor and scarce passage migrant in spring, fairly common/common in autumn.

Extreme dates: Mar 26th-Nov 10th.

A modest spring passage started with one at Gib Point Apr 15th followed by singles at Baston Fen 21st, Gib Point again 24th and 27th, 2 30th, and single birds there on six dates in May. Elsewhere one was noted at Horseshoe Point May 30th and another was ringed at Theddlethorpe Dunes on the same day. Possible breeding birds were as follows: 2 at Laughton Forest May 4th and another on June 11th; 2 singing males Twigmoor May 14th, and one at Scotton Common Aug 11th. Autumn coastal passage began with one at Gib Point Aug 6th, with small numbers in September followed by a large movement beginning on 18th. The table shows summed September day max at sites between Tetney and Nenemouth:

Date:	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd
Total	708	656	240	68	120	126

These totals do not include over 100 ringed at Theddlethorpe during the period. Also of note in September was one at Greetwell Hollow 30th. In October there were occasional records from Gib Point with 1-3 until 7th. Finally one was seen at Donna Nook Oct 21st and 24th.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Fairly common passage migrant and rare summer visitor.

Extreme dates: Apr 2nd-Nov 22nd.

Once again spring passage was very thin with only 12 birds recorded. The first were 2 at Donna Nook May 5th followed by a single at Gib Point 4th, 2 there on 5th. Single birds were also noted in May at Rimac 7th, Cranwell Airfield 9th, North Kelsey Moor 10th, Gib Point 16th, Witham Mouth 17th and 2 at Donna Nook 18th. There was a lone June record of one on North Kelsey Moor on 10th. Autumn passage began at Marston STW with daily records from Jul 27th until early September, 5 there Aug 22nd and 9 at Gib Point 23rd. Elsewhere singles were noted in August at Deeping Fen 17th, North Kelsey Moor 22nd and Saltfleetby Dunes 27th. The great bulk of the passage occurred, typically, in September when 1-3 were recorded widely, with peaks of 4 Leasingham Mill 8th, 10 at Saltfleetby 9th, 20 at Gib Point 9th and 19th and 6 Frampton Marsh 10th. In October one was at Pinchbeck 9th and 2 at Gib Point 16th. A late bird was at Tetney STW Nov 12th.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-Apr.

Records in the first quarter of the year were mostly of single birds, typically widespread. On the Humber Bank lone birds were noted at East Halton Jan 1st, South Ferriby Jan 8th, a female at Barton jetty from Jan 28th-Feb 14th and a male at Far Ings Feb 24th. Also in January singles were at Deeping High Bank 1st, Wolla Bank 7th and on Nocton Fen throughout the month. Two stayed at Marston STW until the end of February and a pair were in residence at Moulton Marsh NR until Feb 20th. A female was at Gib Point Feb 11th, a male there 13th, and another male at North Cotes 23rd. In March a male was present at Donna Nook from 1st-9th and 20th and another male was at Cleethorpes 8th. The final birds of the spring were a female at Humberston April 5th and a male at North Cotes 12th. Autumn birds began to arrive in late September with widespread records to the end of the year of 1-2 birds at about 20 coastal and inland sites and a max of 4 at Holbeach Marsh Oct 29th.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Fairly common/common passage migrant.

The first spring record was of a male at Humberston Fitties on Mar 11th followed by one at Kelstern on 13th. Thereafter 1-2 were widespread during March with max of 5 at Rimac 26th, 7 Marston STW 29th and 11 Risby Warren 29th. Spring migration peaked in the first week of April with 6 at Saltfleetby on 1st, 3 at North Cleethorpes the same day rising to 14 by 4th, 12 at Gib Point, 16 Pyewipe, 36 Cleethorpes CP and 6 at Grasby all on 5th and 8 at Greetwell Hollow on 6th. There was a smaller influx at the end of April with a bird of the Greenland race at Gib Point 23rd-25th, peaks of 11 at RAF Waddington and 7 Frampton Marsh 25th, 8 Gib Point 28th and 8 at Rimac on 30th, with small numbers widespread. A trickle of records continued through May, with birds recorded on 21 days at Gib Point and a max of 6 on 4th with another bird of the Greenland race on 15th. Autumn birds appeared in July with singles juvs at Gib Point 13-14th and 22-23rd, 1 at RAF Waddington 24th and a juv at North Cotes 25th, then small numbers to mid-September and the main autumn passage occurring from 18th with 70 at Gib Point, 60 on 19th and 31 on 20th. Autumn max at other sites included at least 37 Saltfleetby 18th reducing to 28 on 19th, and on the latter date 30 at Pye's Hall, 9 at Tetney, 23 from Moggs Eye to Chapel Pit and 4 at Frampton Marsh. Small numbers remained into early October, the last birds being 1-2 at Gib Point 15-16th, 1 at Holbeach Marsh 15th and a juv at Hallington Top on 16th.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Scarce passage migrant Mar-May & Sep-Nov; rare and irregular in winter.

The first bird of another poor spring was at Broadholme, Saxilby April 1st with no further records until the end of the month when there were two at Barton Pits with a male still there on 23rd, 1 at Frampton 23rd, 2 at Saltfleetby Dunes 24th with one remaining until 27th, 2 at Gib Point 25th increasing to 4 on 27th with one remaining until 29th and a female at Saltfleetby Dunes 30th. There was one at Barton on the first two days of May and the last few records of the spring came from Gib Point: 1 on 6th, 3 on 14th and another 16th staying until 19th. Autumn passage was even lighter with singles at Gib Point Sep 20th, Barton Oct 16-18th and 3 at Gib Point 29th. There was an unusually late male at Gib Point Dec 3rd-17th.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were few notable early year records: 130 at Gib Point Jan 9th, 40 there through Feb increasing to 52 on Mar 11th, and more than 80 at Barton on Jan 25th. Small numbers of migrants were present from September, including up to 20 at Gib Point, with up to 50 there in Oct, but no significant movements were noted until the beginning of November when there were 3400 at Gib Point 2nd reducing to 70 by 11th. Elsewhere there were c30 at Barton Nov 5th with more than 40 there 26th, remaining until the end of the year. At least 30 were noted at Burton Pits Nov 30th and at Gib Point numbers in Dec increased to 200 on 28th.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* *b

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-Apr; rare in summer.

At the start of the year flocks were widely recorded with the most notable being 450 at Gib Point and 200 Marston STW in Jan, 400 Gib Point Feb 2nd reducing to 100 by the month end, 300 at Potterhanworth 17th, 250 North Thoresby 19th and 200 at Ancaster 23rd. From March numbers began to decline with the largest flocks 100 Martin Moor Mar 19th, 120 Barton 28th and 100 Gib Point 31st, then 50 Barton Pits Apr 8th, 100 Metherringham 9th, 250 Tortoiseshell Wood 13th, 120 Nettleton 23rd, 50 Worlaby 25th and 50 at Great Carlton 29th. The only May records were singles at Denton Res 2nd and Kirkby Moor 7th, with 7 at Barton Pits also 7th, 2 remaining until 13th. An early autumn bird was at Donna Nook on Aug 6th followed by 3 at South Witham Sep 5th and one at Barton 7th. Small numbers continued to arrive through Sep-Oct but the first significant influx was noted in early November when there were 50 Gib Point, 40 South Witham and 23 Kirton Holme, all on 2nd and 100 in off the sea at Frampton 3rd. Thereafter flocks of 100+ were seen widely with larger flocks in December at Alkborough, more than 200 for most of the month, 300 at Gib Point with 600 on 28th, 288 Frampton Marsh and an impressive 1000 at Ancaster on 21st, 350 Ludborough Vale 24th, 200 Metherringham 26th, 400 Barton 26th, 200 Great Tows and 500 Winteringham 30th and 200 at Killingholme 31st.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor; considerable decline in last 10 years.

The decline of this species does not seem to have been arrested although it may be under-recorded as most significant records came from just two parts of the county. Early year counts continued in single figures at Gib Point and Barton through the first quarter. In the spring counts increased with 11 at Gib Point April 25th rising to 15 by 28th and 2 grey "continental" birds were ringed at Theddlethorpe 30th. There was a small influx in September with 11 "continental" birds at Barton 18th and 21 at Gib Point 19th. The main arrival came in October with 40 at Barton Pits 8th and 35 at Gib Point 29th increasing to 80 by Nov 1st and 55 on 2nd, when there were 15 at Barton. Numbers on the coast then declined towards the end of the year with 15 on Dec 27th at Gib Point being the only significant record.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus* *b

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-Apr; rare in summer.

In the early part of the year small flocks of 20-100 were widespread, with no significant counts. Return passage was reported at Gib Point from late March, including 550 on 25th, 390 31st and 87 Apr 1st but thereafter only small numbers seen mainly on the coast. Stragglers in May were also at Gib Point, 6 on 3rd and singles 7th and 15th, and at Donna Nook 27th with a very late bird there on Jun 1st. The first returning birds were 3 at South Witham on Sep 5th but these were isolated and it was not until the end of the month that others began to trickle in. The main influx was in late October with 200 at Weelsby Woods and another 500 flying over on 29th, 450 at Gib Point on the same day and 150 at Grasby on 30th. Large numbers continued to arrive in early November with 500 at Theddlethorpe and 800 west at Gib Point on 1st and 750 there on 2nd. Notable flocks remained in the county until the year end with up to 300 at Greetwell Hollow and Gib Point in late December, over 200 at Barton on 28th and 200 at Grantham on 30th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Small numbers were widely noted in the first quarter with the highest counts being 5 at Gib Point in January and 14 at Whisby NP Apr 14th. Post breeding flocks included 11 at Kirkby Moor May 25th, 10 Ewerby Thorpe June 6th, 8 Gib Point 22nd, 11 North Kelsey Moor 30th and 15 at Nocton Jul 8th. In September numbers at Barton increased from 12 on 15th to 27 by 26th; at Gib Point 11 flew in off the sea 25th and there were 25 there 26th. In October there were 17 at RAF Cranwell 2nd, 19 at Gib Point 7th, 16 south at Donna Nook 8th, 15 at Holywell 10th and 14 at Kirton Holme 20th-22nd. Finally, there were 24 at Swallow on Dec 15th.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Vagrant.

A male in song was at Langtoft Pits from June 10th (AHJH) and remained there into July being finally noted on 8th. This is only the fourth county record.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Scarce/fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Considerable decline in the last 20 years.

Extreme dates: Apr 6th-Oct 21st.

A fairly typical showing with the first of the spring at Saltfleetby Dunes Apr 16th, followed by one at Bourne Wood 20th and 2 there 24th. There was a notable influx at the end of the month with 3 singing at Donna Nook 30th, singles at Gib Point and North Cotes, 2 at Barton Pits and 4 at Saltfleetby where the spring max eventually rose to 8. In early May single birds were also noted at Barrow Haven, Great Carlton, Holbeach Marsh and South Witham NR with 2 at Alkborough hillside on 3rd. One was in Loughton Forest May 30th but June records came from only three sites: Barton Pits, South Witham NR and Saltfleetby. There were only two autumn records, singles at Gib Point Sep 19th and a new latest county record, at Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth on Oct 21st (TL).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Currently lower numbers than in most of recent period.

Extreme dates: Apr 1st-Oct 13th.

An unremarkable year with the first bird at Ancaster SQ Apr 9th followed by one at Gib Point 12th. Thereafter there was a steady trickle with peaks being 35 at Barton 30th rising to 60 by May 14th, and 15 at Humberston Fitties May 4th; 30 breeding pairs were counted at Whisby NP. The paucity of autumn records suggests an early departure though a handful of birds were noted at breeding sites in September and the last coastal birds were singles at Mogg's Eye and Saltfleetby 18th and at Gib Point 20th.



Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant in relatively low numbers.

Extreme dates: Apr 9th-Nov 13th.

The earliest bird was at Spalding NR April 23rd followed by ones and twos at breeding sites into early May. The main arrival was the second week of May when there were 28 males at Messingham SQ 7th and over 30 birds at Barton 12th. Significant post breeding counts were few and the maximum at Barton was only 20 on Sep 5th falling to 7 by 29th; in the same period last year more than 100 were counted. Late passage records were of singles at Barton Oct 4th and 8th, Gib Point 4th-6th and the last of the year there on 10th.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* *b

Rare passage migrant May-Oct, though mainly Aug-Sep; exceptional inland.

There were just two records, both on Sep 3rd at Chapel St Leonard's outfall, an area which has produced several recent records (KD, DJ).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Rare coastal passage migrant Aug-Dec, though mainly Aug-Sep.

A worse than average showing for this species with just two records. One was at North Cotes Sep 19th (IGS) and the second was trapped at Theddlethorpe 22nd (Birklands RG).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant with noticeable increase in recent years.

Extreme dates: Apr 4th-Nov 14th.

A remarkable early year record was of one in a garden at Skellingthorpe, Lincoln, from Jan 2nd until April 6th (ACS). Normal passage began in April with the first bird at Gib Point 23rd, then a steady, widespread arrival over the next week. Few breeding season records were submitted but peak counts were 20 at Gib Point July 5th, 38 Aug 19th, 46 Sep 9th, and 40-50 at Barton Pits from Aug 12th-22nd. There was a clear movement towards the end of September with at least 14 at Saltfleetby 19th and 31 at Gib Point on the same day. There were 10 at Pye's Hall 23rd and the last at Gib Point Oct 8th.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Very common summer visitor & passage migrant. Exceptional in winter. Has recovered from a marked decline in late 1960s and early 1970s.

Extreme dates: Feb 26th-Nov 12th.

The first bird of the year was at Gib Point April 12th followed by one at Whisby 14th. The main arrival was in late April-early May, including 65 at Gib Point Apr 29th, a huge count of 200+ at Donna Nook May 4th, with 92 at Gib Point 6th and 120 Jun 6th. Breeding records included 15 pairs at Marston STW and 47 territories at Barton. Almost 500 birds were ringed at Theddlethorpe during the year. Apart from more than 100 at Gib Point Sep 3rd, autumn passage was light with only 1-2 being noted at coastal sites and the last bird at Barton Pits Oct 1st.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in winter.

Extreme dates: Jan 1st-Nov 27th.

Two early birds were at Haverholme Park on Apr 10th (GH). More typical were singles at Whisby NP Apr 26th and at Barton, Kirkby Pits and South Witham at the end of the month. During May coastal passage was light with the only reports being 2 at Gib Point 3rd, one singing Donna Nook 4th, 2 ringed at Theddlethorpe 5th and 1 at Gib Point 19th. During the breeding season 8 pairs were recorded at South Witham NR. There was a significant passage movement in September, including 2 at Anderby Creek and 9 at Saltfleetby on 18th with 20 there on 19th; also on the 19th there were 6 at Donna Nook, 12 at Saltfleet Haven, 3 between Moggs Eye and Chapel Point and 10 at Gib Point. On 22nd there were 2 at Saltfleetby Dunes, then 3 Donna Nook, 3 Chapel St Leonard's and 2 at Gib Point on 23rd. The last bird of the year was at Gib Point on Oct 13th-14th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Scarce but increasing winter visitor Dec-Mar.

Overwintering birds noted were one in Stamford, 2 at Gib Point throughout Jan, increasing to 3 by Feb 2nd, one at Broadholme on Jan 7th, a male at Market Rasen from 15th, staying into March and one at Sleaford Jan 28th. Other records of probable overwintering birds came from seven other sites during March. Spring arrivals were noted widely from the middle of April with the highest count at Whisby where 8 were singing on 29th. Autumn passage was very light in September with 1-3 birds being noted at eight coastal sites and up to 8 at Gib Point. All October records were coastal and referred to 1-3 birds except at Gib Point where there were 12 on 8th and 11 on 29th. The only December birds were at Gib Point, 2 males on 7th and single females 8th and 13th.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* *B

Vagrant.

A remarkable year for this rarity with two records. The first was at Donna Nook Sep 3rd (PMT,NAL) and the second at Saltfleetby Sep 18th (GPC). Both accepted by BBRC

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Rare/scarce passage migrant Sep-Nov; exceptional inland.

A poor showing for this attractive migrant with the only records a bird trapped at Theddlethorpe Sep 19th (Birklands RG) and another seen there on Oct 10th (MB).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare/scarce passage migrant. A scarce breeder to the early 20th century but no recent breeding records, despite some territorial males in recent years.

One at Kingsway Woods, Scunthorpe, Apr 15th (JH) is a particularly early record. There were more typical spring records at North Cotes on May 3rd and at Barton Pits on 9th. In the autumn one was ringed at Theddlethorpe Dunes on Aug 22nd, with 2 at Gib Point on the same date and 1 on 27th. A juv at Bardney Pits Sep 4th was a new species for the site. Finally, one was at Skegness Sep 19th and another at Chapel Point on 21st.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Rare/scarce in winter. Mostly *P c collybita*. Migrants include some *P c abietinus* and the Siberian race *P c tristis* which is a rare autumn vagrant and occasional winter visitor.

Two birds overwintered in the Skegness area, one was seen at Gib Point on five dates in Jan and one was at Hagnaby on Jan 4th. One at Marston STW Feb 27th may also have wintered locally. Passage birds began to arrive from mid-March into April in small numbers with the only double figure counts of 12 at Snipe Dales on 1st and 10 at Hartsholme Park on 16th. Autumn passage was light with a coastal max of 15 at Gib Point Sep 18th-20th and only 1-2 noted at other sites. A bird showing characteristics of the race *P c abietinus* was at Barton Pits Oct 8th. October birds included a month peak of 7 at Gib Point on 7th, one in Boston 17th and 2 at Donna Nook 28th and 29th. At Gib Point birds were recorded on 4 days in Nov with 2 on 5th and the last of the year was one there on Dec 21st.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in winter. Mostly *P t trochilus*. Migrants include some *P t acredula*, with one Oct record of a bird considered to be of the Siberian race *P t yakutensis*. Extreme dates: Feb 9th-Nov 10th.

A record of one at Marston STW on Feb 26th is the second earliest county record; two were noted at the same site on March 4th, perhaps suggesting that they overwintered? Another early bird was holding territory at Welbourn Heath on March 14th. There was a widespread arrival from the beginning of April with small numbers noted in every corner of the county. Peak counts included 14 Barton Pits on 8th, 30 at Gib Point 14th rising to 40 on 16th and 89 on 25th, 10 at Hartsholme Park 16th, 20 Denton Res 17th, 32 in song along 3km of South Witham NR on 21st, with 63 at Barton Pits on the same day. Breeding season counts suggest that 28 pairs bred at South Witham and over 40 pairs at Gib Point. Autumn passage was noted through September when there were 72 at Gib Point on 9th, 34 at Saltfleetby on 18th, 62 Gib Point 19th and 30 Chapel St Leonard's on 23rd. The only October birds were one at Haverholme Park 5th and 2 at Gib Point on 7th.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Single figure counts were widespread throughout the year with the only significant spring total being 31 at Gib Point March 31st. In September 10+ were recorded on 20 days at Gib Point with a peak of 64 on 18th. During October there were 12 at Haverholme Park 12th and 18 at Frampton Marsh on 16th, the latter on the same date as the peak of 400 at Gib Point.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus* *b

Scarce passage migrant and rare winter visitor. Occasional summer records and territorial behaviour, but no proof of breeding.

A typical spring for this delightful migrant with the first at North Cotes Mar 23rd remaining until 31st followed by 2 at Gib Point April 9th with 1 there 10th. Also in April, 1 was at Kirkby-on-Bain 13th, a female was at Donna Nook 17th and 1 was ringed at Theddlethorpe Dunes on 20th. A bird from Essex was controlled at Theddlethorpe on May 2nd, and other singles were at Gib Point and Holbeach Marsh 3rd, Donna Nook 10th and the last of the spring at Grainthorpe on 26th. The only autumn records were singles at Gib Point Oct 7th and Barton Nov 4th.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Extreme dates: Apr 26th-Dec 5th.

The first record of the spring was of two early birds at Whisby NP on April 29th. Thereafter arrivals were more typical with singles at North Cotes, Burton Pits, Gib Point and Holbeach May 14th and a widespread influx of 1-2 birds from May 21st until the month end. Breeding season records were few but suggested healthy populations with 10 birds at Whisby, 8 at Haverholme Park and 4 at Snipe Dales. The first autumn migrant was at Gib Point Aug 11th, but no notable passage was reported until Sep 18th when there were at least 5 at Saltfleetby and 24 at Gib Point. On Sep 19th there were 7 at Donna Nook, 3 at Saltfleet Haven, 6 at Saltfleetby, 8 between Moggs Eye and Chapel Pit and a max count of 37 at Gib Point. After this very few were noted, the last of the year being at Holbeach Oct 8th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Rare passage migrant in May and Sep-Nov. Exceptional inland and very irregular in spring.

There were 3 records, all in September, of this most attractive vagrant. One was at Gib Point with another ringed at Theddlethorpe on 18th, and one was at Chapel Pit on 19th.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Passage migrant, mainly coastal; rare/scarce in spring and scarce/fairly common in autumn.

Extreme dates: Apr 11th-Nov 4th.

There was a moderate spring showing of this species with the first at Gib Point Apr 23-26th (2 different males), a female at Donna Nook April 30th and a male there May 10th. Also in May there were single females at Gib Point 13-14th and one RAF Cranwell 22nd. Autumn passage began in August with 2 at Gib Point 6th

when Gib Point had 48 and Donna Nook 40 south 29th and 17 flew west at South Witham 31st. Numbers then declined, with 5-20 at 12 other sites to the year's end.

Serín *Serinus serinus* *(L)b

Vagrant.

A singing male was at Gib Point from Apr 30th to May 3rd (KMW), with probably the same bird on 8th (KMW), and another bird was at Tetney on 14th (DJB,TH,PC). These form the 16th and 17th county records, the first being in 1961. There have been about twice as many in spring (11) as in autumn (6).

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Large feeding flocks were reported from several localities in the first quarter. In January there were 300 at Metheringham Fen, 250 Temple Bruer, 200 Dunston Heath and 130 Gib Point. Kirkby-on-Bain held 150, Woodhall Spa 90 and North Kelsey Moor 100 in February, with 200 at the latter site in March. Up to 85 were seen at Leasingham Mill during Aug-Oct and North Kelsey Moor again had c100 in September. Larger numbers were seen in October, when there was some evidence of coastal passage with up to 108 at Gib Point and 50 at Donna Nook; 91 flew west at Barton on 19th. Metheringham Fen again held over 300 in November and c100 on Welbourn Heath was virtually the only record received for December.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common resident and passage migrant.

The largest early winter flocks reported were 150-200 at North Kelsey Moor, c100 Laughton and 20-90 at Barton, New Holland, Gib Point, Frampton Marsh, Kirtton and Bourne South Fen. Few records were received for the spring, but Gib Point had 63 in April and 37 in May, when Bardney had 40. Flocks were recorded in localities countywide from September, including 300 feeding on burdocks at Baston Fen into October, c150 at Dawson City clay pits, Goxhill, and 30-70 at other sites. In October a flock of 300 fed on linseed at Deeping St Nicholas, and southerly movements at Gib Point included 406 on 9th and 100 on 24th.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor, has bred sporadically in recent years.

In the first quarter of the year there were records from 16 sites, with up to 6 birds coming to garden peanut feeders in Grimsby, Woodhall Spa and Metheringham. Most records were of 1-10 birds but larger flocks occurred at Louth and North Kelsey Moor where there were up to 120, up to 40 through Jan-Feb at Barton, 30 at Laughton and 20 at both Normanby and Messingham SQ. Up to 15 were noted at Gib Point at this time, with 8 in April and 3 on the relatively late date of May 31st. There was a single June record at Barton on 18th. Small numbers were noted in the autumn: 12 at Barton in Oct; 14 at Gib Point in Oct, 24 in Nov; and 25 at Cadwell in Nov.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

During January there were reports of good-sized feeding flocks across the county, with monthly max as follows: 250 Thoresway, c150 New Bolingbroke, 120 Alkborough, 100 New Holland, 80 Barton Pits and Scartho Top, 70 Ravendale Drive (Lincoln), 60 Normanby and 45 Gib Point. Records for Feb-Mar included c100 Pyewipe and Ewerby Pond, 80 at Sutterby and Metheringham Fen, c60 Barton Pits. In April numbers increased to 125 at Gib Point, while there were still 60 at Barton Pits and 50 North Kelsey Moor. During May numbers at Gib Point fell to 80, but at North Kelsey Moor they rose to 160, with 100 still there in June; RAF Scampton had c150 throughout this period. The only breeding reports were from Marston STW where there were 10 pairs, and from South Witham NR, where there were 8. Numbers increased post-breeding in many areas, with max of 150 at Greetwell Hollow in Jul-Aug; other significant numbers at this time were c100 at Potterhanworth Fen, 60 at Gib Point and flocks of c50 at each of North Kelsey Moor, Haverholme Park and Huttoft CT. Flock sizes increased through the autumn, with 100-200 during Sep-Oct at Barton Far Ings, Buslingthorpe, Great Sturton, Nocton Fen, Welbourn Heath, Gib Point, Frampton Marsh and Witham Mouth. In December there were still 150 at the Witham Mouth, 120 at Cleethorpes-Humberston and up to 90 at Leasingham Mill. Finally, 235 were counted at Marston STW on Dec 31st.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly Sep-Apr. Scarce inland.

1995: to Apr 1st and from Oct 18th.

Records were received from 16 sites during Jan-Mar, with the last on Apr 1st at Gib Point. Most birds were coastal as expected, with Jan max as follows: 20 Cleethorpes/Humberston, 65 Tetney, 60 Saltfleet, c50 Rimac, 20 Witham Mouth, 188 Frampton Marsh and 25 Nene Mouth. Fewer records were received for Feb, with the largest count being just 35 at Frampton Marsh; there were also 30 at Tetney, 18 Donna Nook and 12 Saltfleet Haven. There were 60 at Holbeach Range in March and a return passage record of 9 inland at North Kelsey Moor on 29th after a period of snow. The first of the autumn was again at Gib Point, on 18th Oct, with records to the year end from another 14 sites also. The only other significant October counts were of c100 at Holbeach Marsh, 56 at Frampton Marsh and c30 at Moulton Marsh. November numbers increased to a max of 104 at Frampton Marsh, and there were also 150 at Holbeach Marsh, 100 at Witham Mouth and a sprinkling elsewhere along the coast. December max were c200 at Holbeach Marsh, 88 Frampton Marsh, and 41 Holbeach Range, and there were also 20 at Cleethorpes/Humberston, 18 at Witham Mouth and a single at Grimsby Docks on 29th.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Fairly common/common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. *C.f. flammea* normally scarce winter visitor, probably overlooked.

As in 1994, records seemed to be in short supply with counts from only 20 sites throughout the year. In the first quarter all records came from just 5 sites. Gib Point (4), North Kelsey Moor (1) and Snipe Dales provided the Jan records; there were slightly more in Feb with 41 at Black Bank, 32 Scotter Bottom, 24 North Kelsey Moor and 7 Gib Point, and the latter 2 sites provided all the March records, just 6 and 3 respectively. Gib Point had up to 20 in April and 30 in May. In the summer 25 were at Gib Point on Jul 18th and an adult with 3 young at Holbeach on Aug 12th, then in early autumn there were c20 at Gib Point in September and smaller numbers here and at 2 other sites in October. The November redpoll movement (see below) brought 26 at Gib Point 12th, 9 Rimac 12-14th and 23 at Burton GP 19th. During December the main influx brought max as follows: c360 Laughton Forest, c150 Linwood Warren, c150 Boultham Park, c65 Hartsholme CP and c50 Doddington Park, all in Lincoln, and up 30 at Whisby NR.

Mealy Redpoll *C.f. flammea*: Apart from 10 at Scotter Bottom Feb 5th, all records Sep-Dec. Small numbers began trickling in from early autumn with 4 at Saltfleetby on Sep 18th, but no further records until November when there were 1-10 at Humberston Fitties, Saltfleetby, Gib Point and Covenham Res 12th-14th with c35 in the Stonebridge/Ponderosa area at Donna Nook, also on 12th. In December the trickle turned to a flood with c20 at Boultham Park, Lincoln on 6th, and c250 at Laughton Forest and 15 Linwood Warren on 17th. Numbers increased further at Laughton with an estimated 400-450 on 27th, unprecedented numbers for the county. Elsewhere there were 2-3 all month at Gib Point, 3-4 Donna Nook, 3 Saltfleet 6th, 2 Witham Mouth 8th, 3 Linwood Warren 18th and 5 Lincoln 28th.

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*

Vagrant.

More than 180 were recorded nationwide in an exceptional influx during Nov-Dec. On the east coast our immediate neighbours in Norfolk and Yorkshire recorded 14 and 18 respectively, comparing well with the 12 records accepted by BBRC in Lincs. These were as follows: a 1st-w at Donna Nook Nov 12th (GPC, ACS, JRC); 7 Laughton Forest Dec 27th (GPC, ND, JTH); 2 females or 1st-w Swanholme Park, Lincoln, 28th, with at least 1 to 30th, joined by 2 males on 31st (KD, DJ). Some of the latter birds remained into 1996.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Scarce/fairly common irruptive passage migrant and visitor mainly Jun-Apr, occasionally all year.

A poor year for this species with records from just 3 sites: 7 Laughton Forest on Feb 5th with 2 on Mar 11th, 2 pairs and a male on 22nd and 2 on Apr 9-11th; 3 adults and 5 juvs in Ostler's Plantation, Woodhall Spa, on Apr 5th, and 3 in Kenwick Park, Louth on Aug 14th.

Underwing coverts mostly white. Legs and feet a fairly bright steely blue-grey, similar to Coot, with no sign of rings.

Tail: Dark brown, undertail coverts buff with obvious darker blotches which seemed at times to form bars and paler tips.

Behaviour: When on the pit the bird was often near to a 1st-winter male Scaup and tended to gravitate to the small group of Scaup within the flock. Dive was typical *Aythya*, a forward flip. It was very active early on 14th, feeding continually from first light to when it left. On the Humber it again fed continually and in the evening it was one of the few duck to keep feeding for an hour before settling to roost. On the morning of 15th it was restless and swam with head and neck extended, constantly making a snapping movement with its head, like a much less obvious male Goldeneye display.

From the extensive areas of brown feathering in the plumage I aged the bird as a 1st-winter male. This forms the first record for Lincolnshire and the tenth for Britain, unless it is deemed to be the same 1st-winter bird which was in Lancashire at the end of 1994. Whether it was newly arrived in the area on 13th is debatable as it would have been extremely difficult to pick out on the Humber, but I do check the flock there quite regularly and in good weather most birds are identifiable. The pit in question was checked twice on 11th and late afternoon on 12th but the Lesser Scaup was not picked up until 13th.

Graham P Catley

Pine Bunting at Gibraltar Point, March 29-31st 1995

Having had a quiet day in the field seeing nothing of note, I went into the hide overlooking Lambert's Pond on the Gib Point Reserve at 12.15 pm on March 29th. This area has a regular feeding station for birds and it was my intention to see if any 'new' birds had been attracted due to the cold weather over the past 3-4 days, as there had been a covering of snow and sub-zero temperatures at night.

After 20 minutes or so, seeing plenty of birds but nothing out of the ordinary, I saw a bird drop from a nearby tree onto the ground beneath the nearest feeding table about 10 metres away. With this brief glance my immediate reaction was **Reed Bunting**, which is not a common visitor to the feeding station. However once I looked at the bird through bins I immediately dismissed both Reed and Rustic Buntings and my spinning head eventually settled on male **Pine Bunting**; a bird I had read about but never expected to find. The bird remained on the ground for about 20 seconds, then flew into the same tree from which it had dropped, giving an excellent view from the rear, for about a minute. It then flew off into the plantation and out of sight. I hurriedly wrote down the following brief note:

'On deck below feeding table, white line below eye, broad white median crown stripe, rusty rump (cf Y), rusty throat patch, chestnut red streaks on flanks. Flight call as it flew into tree identical to Y. Appeared stockier than RB - almost 'crested' appearance when on ground due to 'fluffed up' median crown stripe?'

As the bird was no longer showing, I immediately went to the Field Station to grab the first Field Guide I could find. This left me in no doubt and shortly afterwards I found K M Wilson and conveyed the unbelievable news. We returned to the Lambert's Pond area and were soon joined by Juan Brown. The bird was relocated about 1400 the same day when it showed for about 20 minutes, enabling better views and description to be obtained. I also saw the bird from 0650-0715 on March 31st. It was not seen again after about 1800 hrs on this date. The following description was compiled by myself, KMW and Mark Grantham.

General appearance: A solid, well marked bunting, similar in size and shape to nearby Yellowhammers.

Head pattern: Broad, white, central crown area extending from forehead backwards, merging into nape. Black lateral crown stripe, with black streaks merging into central crown area (causing the slight 'crested' appearance noted by NAL?). Supercilium, loreal area, rear of ear coverts and inner side of neck all reddish brown, surrounding conspicuous whiter cheek patch extending from bill to ear coverts, where bordered black at rear of ear coverts. Yellowish eye ring (KMW). Bill dark grey (KMW) to yellow grey with upper mandible noticeably darker than lower.

Upperparts: Greyish nape and shawl merging into mantle. Mantle feathers black centres with pale buff/brown edges giving streaked appearance. Primaries dark brown/grey, edged

	off-white (NAL), steely grey/whitish (KMW) or silvery-white (MG). Wing length equal to extent of longest uppertail coverts (KMW). Tertiaries black centred, broadly edged buffish brown. Median coverts, black arrow-shaped centres (MG), edged buff/brown (NAL/MG), broadly tipped off-white (KMW). Lesser coverts greyish. Underwing coverts white (MG). Buffish tips to greater and median coverts formed inconspicuous wing bars (NAL/MG).
Underparts:	Chin and throat dark reddish brown (darker than face surround, NAL), sharply demarcated from upper breast by white crescent. Upper breast heavily streaked rufous/chestnut, extending in broad band to rear of flanks and rump. Clean white belly. Legs pink/orange (NAL/KMW), dull orange (MG).
Tail:	Central tail feathers blackish with buff/brown streaking, similar to mantle. Outer tail feathers white. Tail separated from mantle by extensive rusty rump, clearly visible when at rest and in flight (cf Yellowhammer).
Voice:	Flight call a dry 'tillit' indistinguishable from Yellowhammer (NAL); a short 'tzik' very similar to Yellowhammer, perhaps slightly higher-pitched and more metallic (KMW).
Behaviour:	During its brief stay the bird remained very elusive, showing well on only a few occasions, always in the the area of the feeding station. When located the bird often preferred the inner sanctuary of numerous hawthorn bushes, only rarely venturing out to give good views perched on outer branches. The bird came to the bird tables to feed on grain but often preferred to forage for spilt grain on the ground, where it was often dominant.

Pine Bunting is a vagrant to Western Europe from Siberia, with previously fewer than 25 records in Britain and none in Lincolnshire. Throughout its range it fills the niche of Yellowhammer, with which it hybridises where their ranges meet. The possibility of the Gib bird being a hybrid was considered and eliminated with the help of an article in *Birding World* (Vol 8 No 1). Particular attention was paid to the primary and secondary feather edgings, where there was no trace of any yellow. The bird was tentatively aged as a first winter due to the streaking on the crown and face.

Nigel Lound

COUNTY RINGING REPORT 1995

Compiled by John Mawer

In 1995 22,372 birds of 118 species were ringed within the county boundaries and three new species, Fulmar, Stone-curlew and Shore Lark, were added to the totals which have been collated by the LBC since its foundation in 1979. Note that the table this year shows 1995 totals only; full totals to date were last given in the 1994 Report. Four Constant Effort Sites were in operation again this year, at Gibraltar Point, Market Rasen, Appleby Carr and Theddlethorpe, each contributing breeding season data to the national monitoring project. Pulli totals consisted of 2060 birds ringed, of particular note among which are the good figures of Barn Owl, Common Tern, and Corn Bunting.

On most fronts this was a good and steady ringing year. For a period in mid-September the autumn looked quite promising, producing a large fall of mainly Redstarts with smaller numbers of Whinchats, Wheatears and Pied Flycatchers, but the following weeks never quite lived up to this promise. However in late December a large thrush movement took place, carrying on into 1996 and perhaps presaging the magnificent influx of Waxwings into Britain in which (for once) we actually shared. Other species of note this year included four Little Auks, two Firecrests and single Red-breasted Flycatcher, and Barred, Yellow-browed and Wood Warblers, together with double figure numbers of Nightjars. Among the commoner species it is of interest that while Robin, Dunnock and Blackbird totals were all close to last year's, Blue and Great Tit totals were each down by a third but the number of Lesser Whitethroat, Whitethroat and Goldcrest ringed this year was approximate double that for 1994, and Sand Martin numbers more than quadrupled. Again, totals of both Spotted and Pied Flycatchers ringed this year were approximately double those for 1994, but the latter still outnumbered the former two or three to one.

The recoveries section highlights some interesting movements again this year, including a Golden Oriole photographed at its breeding site having been ringed at Gibraltar Point in 1986, a 5000 +km movement by a Bar-tailed Godwit and the Storm Petrel controlled at Huttoft last year, which was again retrapped on the north-east coast. Steady ringing of Siskins, particularly at Market Rasen, is building up a pattern of onward movements to the south in winter and north to the highlands in spring, and in complete contrast a Chiffchaff ringed at Gib Point in spring was recovered locally the next winter. National and local longevity records for Curlew and Oystercatcher respectively were both broken during 1995 and the new records are also noted in this section.

I would like to end by thanking all ringers, Club members and other members of the public who took time to submit details for this report and to apologize for any accidental omissions. Special thanks go to Bill Brooking of Cleethorpes; a non-ringer, Bill has recorded field sightings of gulls at Cleethorpes over the last eleven years, contributing a lot of information on movements of several species, and some of these results have been included in this report.

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County Ringing Totals for 1995 - Including Gibraltar Point Totals.

Species	FG	Pulli	Total	Species	FG	Pulli	Total
Fulmar	1	0	1	Yellow Wagtail	55	0	55
Grey Heron	0	18	18	Grey Wagtail	1	0	1
Greylag Goose	4	0	4	Pied Wagtail	95	25	120
Canada Goose	38	0	38	Wren	698	6	704
Brent Goose	1	0	1	Duncock	1092	7	1099
Teal	13	0	13	Robin	749	9	758
Mallard	12	0	12	Nightingale	9	0	9
Sparrowhawk	31	11	42	Redstart	197	0	197
Kestrel	2	40	42	Whinchat	17	0	17
Water Rail	2	0	2	Wheatear	25	0	25
Moorhen	18	0	18	Blackbird	1320	66	1386
Oystercatcher	519	0	519	Fieldfare	2	0	2
Stone-curlew	1	0	1	Song Thrush	203	5	208
Little Ringed Plover	4	6	10	Redwing	72	0	72
Ringed Plover	10	10	20	Mistle Thrush	7	8	15
Golden Plover	20	0	20	Grasshopper Warbler	6	0	6
Grey Plover	40	0	40	Sedge Warbler	90	5	95
Lapwing	14	48	62	Reed Warbler	153	3	156
Knot	99	0	99	Barred Warbler	1	0	1
Sanderling	2	0	2	Lesser Whitethroat	401	0	401
Dunlin	481	0	481	Whitethroat	900	0	900
Ruff	1	0	1	Garden Warbler	116	0	116
Jack Snipe	8	0	8	Blackcap	431	0	431
Snipe	125	0	125	Yellow-browed Warbler	1	0	1
Woodcock	8	0	8	Wood Warbler	1	0	1
Black-tailed Godwit	9	0	9	Chiffchaff	132	0	132
Bar-tailed Godwit	87	0	87	Willow Warbler	745	25	770
Whimbrel	1	0	1	Goldcrest	816	0	816
Curlew	123	0	123	Firecrest	2	0	2
Spotted Redshank	1	0	1	Spotted Flycatcher	20	11	31
Redshank	69	4	73	Red-breasted Flycatcher	1	0	1
Green Sandpiper	4	0	4	Pied Flycatcher	50	0	50
Wood Sandpiper	3	0	3	Bearded Tit	4	0	4
Common Sandpiper	6	0	6	Long-tailed Tit	345	0	345
Turnstone	31	0	31	Marsh Tit	27	7	34
Black-headed Gull	13	185	198	Willow Tit	51	0	51
Common Gull	3	0	3	Coal Tit	109	17	126
Common Tern	0	136	136	Blue Tit	1495	546	2041
Guillemot	1	0	1	Great Tit	767	314	1081
Little Auk	4	0	4	Treecreeper	46	0	46
Stock Dove	1	9	10	Jay	7	0	7
Woodpigeon	18	4	22	Magpie	20	9	29
Collared Dove	22	2	24	Jackdaw	8	24	32
Turtle Dove	1	0	1	Rook	5	54	59
Cuckoo	4	0	4	Starling	935	0	935
Barn Owl	10	101	111	House Sparrow	203	0	203
Little Owl	2	9	11	Tree Sparrow	68	5	73
Tawny Owl	3	23	26	Chaffinch	704	14	718
Long-eared Owl	5	0	5	Brambling	19	0	19
Nightjar	7	6	13	Greenfinch	1933	0	1933
Swift	403	65	468	Goldfinch	100	0	100
Kingfisher	3	0	3	Siskin	288	0	288
Great Spotted Woodpecker	13	0	13	Linnet	70	7	77
Skylark	12	5	17	Redpoll	54	0	54
Shore Lark	1	0	1	Bullfinch	173	0	173
Sand Martin	1267	0	1267	Yellowhammer	98	0	98
Swallow	92	145	237	Reed Bunting	122	3	125
House Martin	499	14	513	Corn Bunting	0	36	36
Tree Pipit	4	0	4				
Meadow Pipit	77	13	90	Totals	20312	2060	22372

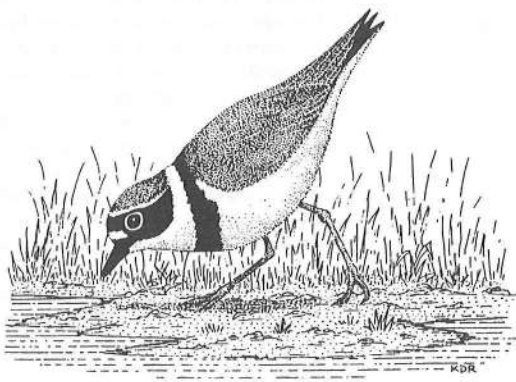
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ACCOUNTS OF LINCOLNSHIRE RARITIES 1995

Lesser Scaup at Barton/New Holland, February 13-16th

Monday February 13th dawned wet and windy, a good day for arguing with a computer, but by 1600 I had cracked and as the weather was brightening a quick walk around the pits seemed a good idea. As the shooting season had drawn to a close most of the Humber duck flock were fighting onto one of the east side pits to bathe and roost in the late afternoons. A quick check of the new diggings pit revealed 270 Pochard and a couple of drake Scaup. Passing to the other pit, Barrow Mere, turned up another 300 Pochard, a few Goldeneye and Ruddy Ducks, another couple of Scaup and an odd-looking, Tufted-sized duck, fast asleep, which was sure to be a hybrid! It looked somewhat like a Lesser Scaup but at 200 yards I was very cautious of jumping to a conclusion.

When it eventually put its head up I was sure the bill was narrower than that of a Scaup and it looked as if only the nail was black. The flanks were not white and the mantle was darker grey than that of a 1st-winter Scaup next to it. The head had a small bump at the rear and it looked high-crowned, but as it came a bit closer I was still struggling to convince myself that it was a real bird rather than some very subtle hybrid. Eventually I decided I needed to get closer, and at the risk of putting everything up, I crept down the railway line and into the hawthorns by the side of the pit. From 100yds in reasonable light with a 30x 'scope I could now see the bill pattern clearly, the exact shape of the black bars on the mantle and scapulars and vermiculation on the flanks. I was convinced that it was a Lesser Scaup but though I watched until it grew dark, the bird refused to show its wing pattern. The following morning I was back before the sun came up; the duck was still present and eventually flapped its wings and preened, confirming its identification beyond doubt. I watched until it flew off with a small flock of Tufted Duck to feed on the Humber, then put the word out. The bird was seen both at Barton and New Holland until 16th.

- General appearance:** Overall an obvious scaup due to the pale flanks and grey mantle/back, but very different to Scaup in shape, size and jizz. Obviously smaller than Scaup alongside and more compact, with a squatter body and much more angular head, with peaked crown. Usually held head and neck hunched rather like Tufted Duck, but when alert would stretch neck up to give a long thin-necked profile.
- Head pattern:** Steep forecrown, crown flattened to an obvious bump at the rear, nape curved down evenly to mantle. Face-on the high central crown and bulbous cheeks were obvious. Head all glossy black with a distinct purple gloss in sunlight; eye yellow, duller than 1st-winter male Scaup and male Tufted and looked smaller than Scaup. Bill had similar shape, side-on, to Tufted with sharp pointed nail. Face-on, obviously less expanded than Scaup and more even in width throughout length. Steely blue-grey with black nostril and small black tip confined to nail; black less extensive than in Scaup and did not curve out at the tip as in Scaup when seen face-on.
- Upperparts:** Extreme front edge of mantle marked with dirty brown patch which when preening was seen to extend all the way to the rump, but when sitting normally was concealed by mantle and scapulars. Back, mantle and fore-scapulars all mid-grey with clear-cut black barring on each feather, forming concentric patterns at close range. Rear scapulars all dirty dark brown; one central scapular on one side also brown, often visible as a dark spot on flank. Upper wing coverts and flight feathers all dark brown, secondaries had a sharply defined white bar washed with buffy brown on the outermost two, primaries had paler buffy centre, forming a pale wing bar but contrasting with the bright white secondary bar.
- Underparts:** Neck and breast blackish as head but fore breast dark brown, mottled paler brown. Flanks off-white to very pale pearly grey with fine darker vermiculation; rear flanks and vent, seen when roll preening, all dirty brown which with the dark brown flight feathers gave the bird an extensive dark rear end which nipped in on the upper scapulars. This effect was quite distinct and appears on several photos of the species. Lower flanks and white belly separated by a blotchy line of brown feathers at the water line.

SELECTED RINGING RECOVERIES RECEIVED DURING 1995

Key to the symbols and terms used in the list of recoveries:

Recoveries are arranged by species. The ringing details are given on the first line and the recovery data on the second. Age at ringing is given according to the "EURING" code. These figures DO NOT represent age in years.

1 = Pullus, nestling or chick.

2 = Full grown, year of hatching unknown.

3 = Hatched during the calendar year of ringing.

4 = Hatched before current year, exact age unknown.

5 = Hatched during previous calendar year.

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

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

J = Still in juvenile plumage when ringed.

M = Male

F = Female

Manner of recovery:

v = caught or trapped by ringer & released

vb = breeding when controlled

vv = ring number read in field

+ = shot or killed by man

x = found dead or dying

? = manner of recovery unknown

Where given, distances and directions are approximate.

Storm Petrel

4	14.07.94	Tynemouth, Tyne & Wear		
v	15.07.94	Huttoft Bank, Mablethorpe	225km	SSE
v	16.07.94	Snook Point, Northumberland	285km	NNW
v	24.07.95	Long Nanny, Northumberland	59km	NNW

Mute Swan

1	25.07.81	Market Deeping		
vv	24.08.95	Paddock Wood, Kent	164km	SSE

Brent Goose

3	29.10.85	Butterwick Marsh		
+	15.11.95	Barholmene, Lolland, Denmark	798km	ENE

Oystercatcher

5	10.08.87	Friskney		
x	28.05.95	Senja, Troms, Norway	2037km	NNE
8	11.09.87	Friskney		
xF	13.06.95	Hvalvik, Stremoy, Faeroes	1103km	NNW
2	04.09.67	Snettisham, Norfolk		
v	20.08.82	Wrangle	27km	NNW
v	09.10.94	Friskney		

At 27 years 1 month since ringing, a new longevity record for the species on the Wash.
The national record for this species remains at 31 years 6 months.

Grey Plover

6	20.08.93	Wrangle		
v	30.01.95	North Gare Sands, Teesmouth	198km	NNW

Knot

4	31.07.88	Wainfleet		
v	30.01.95	North Gare Sands, Teesmouth	197km	NNW
6	31.07.88	Wainfleet		
v	30.01.95	North Gare Sands, Teesmouth	197km	NNW

An example of Knot caught together at two different sites. Also in this Teesmouth catch were two other Wash-ringed Knot, a Redshank and the Grey Plover reported above.

6	22.04.86	Witsum auf Foehr, Nordfriesische Inseln, Germany		
v	10.08.94	Wainfleet	563km	WSW

Dunlin

3M	30.09.92	Butterwick		
v	24.07.95	Tipperene, Denmark	616km	ENE

Bar-tailed Godwit

6	20.08.85	Wainfleet		
+F	??.04.94	Lake Essey, Krasnoyarsk, Russia	5664km	ENE

This bird is the most easterly recovered British Bar-tailed Godwit to date, Lake Essey having the same longitude as eastern Thailand!

Curlew

2	30.09.65	Walcott, Wellington, Shropshire		
v	29.08.84	Marston	134km	ENE
v	07.07.95	Marston		

This is the oldest ever British-ringed Curlew. The original ring was well worn when caught in 1984 and was replaced.

3M	18.09.93	Marston		
x	10.06.95	Moscow, Russia	2541km	ENE

Spotted Redshank

3	09.09.95	Marston		
x	20.09.95	Pas de Calais, France	286km	SSE

Black-headed Gull

4	04.04.93	Parnu, Estonia		
x	23.03.95	Gibraltar Point	1620km	WSW
5	23.01.88	Wyberton		
x	13.05.95	Kylasaari, Pori, Finland	1607km	NE
1	07.06.92	Kietaviskes, Kaisiadorys, Lithuania		
vv	10.10.93	Cleethorpes	1611km	W
vv	01.10.95	Cleethorpes		

Other records involved birds to **Finland**, **Sweden** and **Denmark**.

Common Gull

8	13.03.93	Wyberton		
x	10.07.94	Norrskar, Gravelborg, Sweden	1446km	NE
1	24.06.87	Illumo, Fyn, Denmark		
vv	25.01.92	Cleethorpes	681km	WSW
vv	18.11.92	Cleethorpes		
vv	02.01.95	Cleethorpes		

Herring Gull

3	03.12.88	Wyberton		
x	01.06.95	Murmansk, Russia	2490km	NE
7	31.08.89	Wyberton		
v	20.06.94	Berendrecht, Antwerpen, Belgium	346km	ESE
3	28.11.92	Wyberton		
x	02.01.95	Vrango, Goteborg, Sweden	905km	NE
7	06.11.93	Wyberton		
w	02.11.94	Wieringermeer, Noord-Holl, The Netherlands	341km	E

Great Black-backed Gull

3	28.11.92	Wyberton		
x	20.08.95	Rottumeroog, The Netherlands	433km	E

Common Tern

1	13.06.92	Tattershall		
v	17.03.95	off Dakar, Senegal	4542km	SSW

Swift

4	26.05.84	Harrold Gravel Pits, Beds		
+	14.06.95	Marston	85km	N

Sand Martin

Recoveries included 6 birds from the county to Sussex & one to Cambs, and singles into Lincs from Surrey, Avon, Kent, Powys, South Yorkshire and North Humberside.

Blackbird

3	25.08.86	Gibraltar Point		
x	25.09.95	Gibraltar Point		

At over nine years a good age for this species.

Song Thrush

3	30.09.92	Theddlethorpe Dunes		
+	04.10.93	Cocumont-lot-et-Garonne, France	991km	S

Sedge Warbler

4F	20.07.95	Appleby Carrs		
v	14.08.95	Icklesham, Sussex	311km	SSE

Lesser Whitethroat

3F	14.08.94	Theddlethorpe Dunes		
vbF	23.05.95	Lista Fyr, Farsund, Norway	653km	NE

Blackcap

4M	13.07.91	Digby		
x	11.02.95	Kabylye, Algeria	1846km	S

Chiffchaff

4	09.08.93	Appleby Carrs		
x	15.12.94	Sidi Mohktar, Morocco	2539km	SSW
3M	27.08.95	Market Rasen		
v	22.10.95	Portland Bill, Dorset	352km	SSW
4	22.05.94	Gibraltar Point		
x	06.01.95	Skegness	4km	N

Presumably a bird of Gib Point origin which went on to winter, rather than a bird from a northern population as expected.

Golden Oriole

3	24.05.86	Gibraltar Point		
w	10.07.95	Secret Location, East Anglia		

Chaffinch

5F	08.02.94	Temple Wood, Bourne		
x	11.06.95	Koppang, Hedmark, Norway	1190km	NE
3F	19.12.92	Grantham		
x	12.01.95	Redruth, Cornwall	431km	SW

Siskin

5M	06.04.92	Market Rasen		
v	23.04.95	Aberdeen	428km	NNW
5M	05.02.94	Warsop, Notts		
v	02.03.95	Market Rasen	59km	ENE
6F	01.03.94	Market Rasen		
v	05.04.94	Loch Eye, Highland Region	540km	NNW
5F	22.03.94	Market Rasen		
v	13.02.95	Abingdon, Oxfordshire	198km	SSW
5F	01.04.94	Kielder, Northumberland		
v	03.03.95	Market Rasen	253km	SE
6M	21.02.95	Market Rasen		
v	22.05.95	Golspie, Highland Region	565km	NNW

Other movements included another 3 Lincs birds to Northumberland and singles to Cumbria and Clwyd.

REMAINING LINCOLNSHIRE SPECIES LIST

(All species which have been recorded in Lincolnshire but not in 1995)

Compiled by Keith Atkin

Species	Previous records	Status	Species	Previous records	Status
White-billed Diver	1 record, found dead 1976	B	White-winged Black Tern	26 records, last 1994	B
Great Shearwater	10 records, last 1977	L	Black Guillemot	11 records, last 1985	L
Mediterranean Shearwater	7 records, last 1989	L	Pallas's Sandgrouse	last 1899	B
Storm Petrel	last 1994	L	Ring-necked Parakeet	last 1994	
Leach's Petrel	last 1994		Great Spotted Cuckoo	2 records, 1971 and 1974	B
Little Bittern	9+ records, last 1978	Bb	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2 records, 1978 and 1987	B
Night Heron	10 records, last 1990	B	Scops Owl	1 record in 1977	B
Squacco Heron	2 records, 1861 and 1910	B	Snowy Owl	1 record in 1990-1991	Bb
Cattle Egret	6 records, last 1992	B	Tengmalm's Owl	1 record in 1880	B
Great White Egret	2 records, 1979 and 1993	B	Alpine Swift	10 records, last 1993	B
Black Stork	1 record in 1984	B	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	1 record in 1989	B
Glossy Ibis	6 records, last 1976	B	Bee-eater	21 records, last 1988	(L)b
Lesser White-fronted Goose	1 record in 1943	B	Roller	6 records, last 1983	B
Red-breasted Goose	3-4 records, last 1985	B	Short-toed Lark	3 records, last 1991	B
American Wigeon	3 records, last 1991	B	Red-rumped Swallow	9 records, last 1994	B
Blue-winged Teal	5 records, last 1982	Bb	Tawny Pipit	7 records, last 1993	L
Ring-necked Duck	4 records, last 1993	B	Olive-backed Pipit	4 records, last 1992	B
Ferruginous Duck	11 records, last 1981	L	Red-throated Pipit	2 records, 1977 and 1992	B
Black Kite	5 records, last 1993 *	B	Citrine Wagtail	1 record in 1983	Bb
White-tailed Eagle	19 records, last 1990	Bb	Dipper	last 1994	(L)
Golden Eagle	5 records, last 1927-28	L	Alpine Accentor	1 record in 1994	B
Red-footed Falcon	23 records, last 1994	B	Rufous Bush Robin	1 record in 1963	B
Gyr Falcon	2 records, 1826 and 1900	B	Thrush Nightingale	5 records, last 1994	B
Black Grouse	last 1935	L	Bluethroat	last 1994	b
Little Crane	2 records, 1869 and 1910	B	Red-flanked Bluetail	3 records, last 1988	B
Corncrake	last 1992	Lb	Desert Wheatear	2 records, 1970 and 1991	B
Little Bustard	6 records, last 1955	B	Lanceolated Warbler	1 record in 1909	B
Houbara Bustard	1 record in 1847	B	Savi's Warbler	6 records, last 1992	Lb
Great Bustard	last 1902	B	Aquatic Warbler	2 records, 1971 and 1979	L
Black-winged Stilt	7 records, last 1993	Bb	Blyth's Reed Warbler	1 record in 1991	B
Stone-curlew	last 1994	(L)b	Marsh Warbler	16 records, last 1994	Lb
Cream-coloured Courser	1 record in about 1840	B	Great Reed Warbler	6 records, last 1990	Bb
Collared Pratincole	4 records, last 1981	B	Booted Warbler	1 record in 1980	Bb
Greater Sand Plover	1 record in 1981	B	Dartford Warbler	1 record in 1984	Lb
Pacific Golden Plover	3 records, last 1994	B	Subalpine Warbler	6 records, last 1994	B
Sociable Plover	1 record in 1993	B	Sardinian Warbler	2 records, 1979 and 1986	B
Semi-palmated Sandpiper	1 record in 1966	B	Greenish Warbler	10 records, last 1984	B
White-rumped Sandpiper	9 records, last 1993	B	Pallas's Warbler	33 records, last 1994	L
Baird's Sandpiper	3 records, last 1979	B	Radde's Warbler	4 records, last 1990	B
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	2 records, 1982 and 1985	B	Dusky Warbler	5 records, last 1990	B
Stilt Sandpiper	2 records, 1963 and 1965	B	Penduline Tit	3 records, last 1994	B
Great Snipe	4 recent records, last 1984	B	Isabelline Shrike	3 records, last 1990	B
Long-billed Dowitcher	3 records, last 1986	B	Lesser Grey Shrike	4 records, last 1990	B
Hudsonian Godwit	1 record in 1981	B	Nutcracker	7 records, last 1976	B
Marsh Sandpiper	3 records, last 1992	B	Raven	last 1980	L
Lesser Yellowlegs	8 records, last 1990	B	Two-barred Crossbill	1 record in 1889	B
Solitary Sandpiper	1 record in 1963	B	American Redstart	1 record in 1982	B
Spotted Sandpiper	2 records, 1970 and 1971	B	Northern Waterthrush	1 record in 1988	B
Wilson's Phalarope	9 records, last 1987	B	White-throated Sparrow	1 record in 1992-93	B
Laughing Gull	4 records, last 1984	B	Cirl Bunting	4 records, last 1977	Lb
Bonaparte's Gull	1 record in 1979	B	Ortolan Bunting	31 records, last 1992	(L)
Ring-billed Gull	3 records, last 1992	L	Rustic Bunting	6 records, last 1994	B
Gull-billed Tern	5 records, last 1978	B	Little Bunting	3 records, last 1980	B
Caspian Tern	9 records, last 1992	B	Yellow-breasted Bunting	1 record in 1977	Bb
Lesser Crested Tern	1 record in 1993	Bb	Black-headed Bunting	2 records, 1974 and 1980	B
Roseate Tern	last 1993	Lb			
Whiskered Tern	1 record in 1987	B			

* Black Kite: 4 records from 1994 still pending (BBRC)

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0891 NUMBERS CHARGED AT 50p PER MINUTE AT ALL TIMES

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus* *B

Vagrant.

Two females in Laughton Forest on Mar 8th (GPC) were the only UK records in 1995 (accepted by BBRC). This species irrupts irregularly from Scandinavia eastwards, most recently in 1990/91, when there were about 90 in the county.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* *Lb

Vagrant.

There were 2 males in spring, at Gib Point on May 30th (KMW,MLE,AR,DJA) and at Theddlethorpe Dunes May 31st-Jun 1st (MB,FEB,JRW). These were the 10th and 11th county records, 5 of these being at Gib Point. The rather elusive bird at Theddlethorpe Dunes with patches of red on the chest was thought to be a 1st-s male, with a brown 1st-s male at Gib Point. Both birds were heard singing and familiarity with the distinctive song might result in more spring birds being detected.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common resident. *P p pyrrhula* rare autumn vagrant.

Many records of 1-3 birds were received from across the county but with no notable numbers. Breeding was noted at Whisby NR, where there were up to 10 during the winter months and 7 at Barton Pits on Oct 28th.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Scarce local resident and rare passage migrant.

Early in the year there were 7 at Chambers Wood, Bardney on Jan 8th. There were up to 7 at the regular site in Scawby Woods in March, with at least 3 singing males on 22nd, and a single bird seen there on Apr 1st. Away from the north of the county, a migrant was at Gib Point on 11th Mar, the 15th reserve record.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Scarce/fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Very rare inland.

1995: to Apr 1st and from Oct 14th.

Another thin year for this species with records from the usual coastal sites on the Wash and north-east coast. In the first quarter, the Wash had a virtual monopoly, with 15 max at Frampton Marsh in Jan, 2 remaining in March, and 4 Kirton Marsh. The only other records in this period were of singles at Saltfleet Haven in Jan, south at Gib Point Mar 26th and Donna Nook Apr 1st, the last of the spring. Even fewer were seen in autumn, the first being a single at Donna Nook Oct 14th then further singles at Donna Nook, Frampton Marsh and Huttoft 29th. The maximum count was of 9 at Frampton Marsh during Nov-Dec and there were up to 4 in the Holbeach Marsh area but elsewhere just single records from Donna Nook, Rimac, Huttoft and Gib Point.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Fairly common/common winter visitor and passage migrant on coast. Scarce but fairly regular inland.

1995: to Apr 5th and from Oct

During the early winter the main concentration of birds was along the north-east coast, including a single at Grimsby Docks, 43 Tetney, and up to 50 in the Huttoft area. There were also 14 at Gib Point but the sole record from the inner Wash was of 8 at Frampton Marsh on 16th. Last of the spring was one at North Cotes Apr 5th. There were no autumn records until late Oct, when there were up to 40 at Humberston/Cleethorpes but just singles elsewhere. During Nov there were 39 at Tetney, up to 33 all month at Donna Nook, 15 Saltfleet Haven-Rimac, and 2-6 at Huttoft, Gib Point and Holbeach Marsh. The only substantial Dec counts were again from the north-east: still c40 Humberston/Cleethorpes, 27 max Donna Nook, 25 max Saltfleet Haven and 31 Huttoft. Gib Point had just 2 and there were no records from elsewhere around the Wash.

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos* *B

Vagrant.

An elusive male visiting the feeding station in Syke's Farm at Gib Point Mar 29-31st was the first county record (accepted by BBRC). See account in this issue.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Common resident.

Notable feeding flocks in Jan were 200 Toft Newton, 100 Leadenham Tip and Roxton Woods, and 20-50 at Cuxwold, Grasby, North Kelsey Moor, Scartho Top, Sutterby, Temple Bruer, Gib Point and Frampton Marsh. In Feb there were 140 at Kirton Quarries, 82 Blyton, still c80 at Toft Newton, 50 Tealby, 40 Bourne South End and smaller flocks at many other sites. Autumn and winter flocks were smaller with max 20 at Gib Point and Gedney Drove End in Oct, then in Nov the largest flocks were c100 at East Halton Skitter, c75 Redhill and c60 Barton Foreshore. By the year end numbers had increased to c70 at Barton with c100 each at Boothby Pagnell, Grimsby Pyewipe and Swallow. Elsewhere there were 55 at Cleethorpes CP, 40 South Witham and 20-30 at Swallow, North Somercotes, Gib Point, Frampton Marsh and Baston Fen.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Only small flocks were recorded Jan-Feb with the Jan max being 30 at Barton and 27 Frampton Marsh; in Feb c10 each were at Toft Newton and Gib Point, then in March numbers rose to 21 at Gib, 26 remained at Frampton Marsh, 12 were at Blyton and 5 males were in song at Whisby NR. Some 10 pairs bred at Marston STW. The largest count in autumn was of 127 at Witham Mouth on Oct 8th, when 40 flew west at Barton; c30 there on 15th. Elsewhere in Oct there were 25 max at Gib Point, Humberston and Greetwell Hollow and 20 Frampton Marsh. Flocks of 10-50 were noted during Dec at Alkborough Flats, Barton, North Kelsey Moor, Hagnaby Lock, Marston STW, Witham Mouth and Frampton Marsh.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Apparently fewer records than in the past 2-3 years but no detailed census figures were received for the breeding season. During Jan-Mar Gib Point had over 70, with a max count of 140 on Feb 5th; up to 50 were at Frampton Marsh in the same period. Elsewhere Jan flocks included 28 New Holland, 25 Barton Wold, 20 Holbeach Bank and 16 Bucknall. In Feb there were c60 Branston Island, 41 Kirton Marsh and 17 Saltfleet Haven, where numbers rose to 45 during Mar, and a flock of 47 remained at Kirton Quarries Feb-Mar. A notable April flock was of 42 at Holbeach Bank. Fewer counts were received for the autumn, Sep maxima being 20 Nocton Fen and c30 Donna Nook, this flock remaining until the end of the year. Gib Point had 30 in Nov and Frampton Marsh 20. At the year end numbers peaked at 59 Gib Point and 40 Frampton Marsh, and the only other double figure count received was of 20 at Holbeach Bank.

Escapes, Feral and Category D Species**Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

Sleaford Ballast Pits, 1 Sep 25th; Whisby NP, 1 Mar 18th-May 2nd and again Sep 19th-Oct 18th.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

East Bank, Sleaford, a female Jan-Feb.

Falcated Duck *Anas falcata*

An adult male with a party of c20 Wigeon at Kirkby Pits, Feb 19-21st (DJ et al) forms the first county record, although the origins of this bird are debatable. Accepted as Category D by BBRC

Saker *Falco cherrug*

An interesting record was of an adult bird at Kirkby on Bain GP briefly on Apr 22nd (PH), apparently having no rings or jesses and arriving after a period of easterly winds. Submitted to BBRC. All British records are currently placed in Category D, since the escape likelihood is thought to be high.

Long-tailed Rosefinch *Uragus sibiricus*

A presumed escape from captivity was at North Cotes on Apr 30th (HB).

followed by 12 at Saltfleetby Dunes on 18th and 26 at Gib Point 19th. Small numbers were widespread on the coast in early September, including 21 at Gib Point on 9th, with the main passage from 18th when there were 66 at Gib Point and at least 15 at Saltfleetby. On 19th there were 6 at Donna Nook, 4 at Saltfleet Haven, 8 at Saltfleetby, 6 trapped at Seacroft and 46 still at Gib Point, with 7 at Chapel St Leonards 23rd, when there were also 25 at Gib Point. In October records were scarce and all from Gib Point: 2 12th and a single bird remaining until 18th.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Only 2 individuals were recorded during the first quarter of the year at the main breeding site at Barton Far Ings on the Humber Bank. However 7 pairs were noted during late spring and 6 of these bred, with 12 juvs counted at Barton on Jul 16th. There were no other records away from this site in the first half of the year. During the autumn max 30 were counted at Barton in mid-October. The only other sites to record them were Gib Point, with 1-4 birds present Oct-Nov, and Winteringham which had 5 on Oct 10th. Numbers again declined into the winter months, with Barton having a max of 8 on Dec 9th and Gib Point 5 on 12th.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Few substantial records were received during the early part of the year. Swanholme Lakes and Whisby NR noted between 6 and 15, rising to a maximum of 24 at Whisby during March. Similarly few records were received during late spring and summer. Confirmed breeding was reported only at Whisby, South Witham NR and Bourne Woods, undoubtedly a poor representation of the county picture. Flocks were conspicuous across the county during autumn-winter however, with 15-30 at Barton, North Kelsey Moors, Burton Pits, Greetwell Hollow, Kirkby-on-Bain, Nocton, Gib Point, RAF Cranwell, Culverthorpe, Haverholme Park, Marston STW and South Witham during Sep-Nov and a flock of 43 at RAF Cranwell during December.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Fairly common but local resident, mainly in the south-west.

Breeding records were received from Haverholme Park, Metheringham, Bourne Woods and Ancaster. Elsewhere there were records of 1-2 birds seen at 7 other sites, mainly in the centre and west of the county.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Common and widespread resident.

As with all but the scarcest passerines, this species was under-recorded as a breeding bird, with proven breeding reported only from Haverholme Park, Ancaster and Colsterworth. In contrast there were many records of 1-2 birds scattered across the county, and late summer and autumn records of groups of 6-10 birds in several areas.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Common resident and partial migrant.

No notable records were received of this familiar species, 10 at Kirkby Moor on Jan 29th being the only double-figure count reported. This is another common species being under-recorded.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Very common resident.

Gib Point was the only site to report numbers throughout the year. Here 30-40 birds were present in winter, rising to 50-60 in early spring and falling away to 20-30 in the breeding season. Post-breeding flocks were probably supplemented by immigrants; the year max of 80 occurred in September with around 30 remaining until the end of the year. Elsewhere Barton Far Ings recorded 45 on Oct 4th and 30 were at Donington-on-Bain on Nov 29th.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Very common resident.

Gib Point records showed a similar pattern to those of Blue Tits. Some 15-20 were present throughout Jan-Feb with an influx in March pushing the total to a maximum of 51. There were 35 in April but just 12-16 remained during the breeding season. Smaller maxima were recorded in autumn: 35 in September, decreasing slightly towards the end of the year with 28 in December. No other relevant records were received.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Scarce/fairly common local resident, mainly in the south-west with occasional records elsewhere.

Records were received from 17 sites, mostly relating to 1-2 individuals except for Bradley Woods where 4 were seen in Jan and the Belton House estate where a maximum of 7 were seen in April and 3 pairs subsequently bred. The only other confirmed breeding record was from Weelsby Wood, where a pair were seen feeding young in June. An interesting winter record concerned an individual visiting a Metheringham garden feeder in February.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Common resident and partial migrant. *C.f.familiaris* recorded 1947 and 1990.

No unusual records were received, birds being reported from 16 sites across the county. Singles ringed at Theddlethorpe in Jul and Nov were the only reports received from the coast. Confirmed breeding was reported from only 2 sites - Barton Hoe Hill and North Kelsey Moor. Four were seen at Haverholme Park in July, otherwise records referred to 1 or 2 individuals. Whisby had its only record of 1995 on Mar 12th.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* *b

Rare migrant, mainly spring/early summer, but recorded Apr-Aug.

This continues to be a much sought after species in Lincolnshire with a typical showing of just 3 records. Males were found at Gib Point on May 23rd and North Kelsey Moor on 30th, while a female was seen flying north at Skidbrooke North End on 31st.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* *b

Rare/scarce passage migrant, May-June & July-Oct; last bred 1978.

A poor spring for this species with only one noted, a male at North Kelsey Moor on May 24th. Autumn records typically came mainly in September and all referred to juvs. Gib Point reported one on 1st, but the majority were at the month's end. On the 19th there were 2 at Rimac and singles at Donna Nook and Saltfleet Haven, the latter individual staying on until the 21st. The same bird or another was at Sea Lane, Saltfleet on 22-23rd and finally one was at Tetney 29th-Oct 1st.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

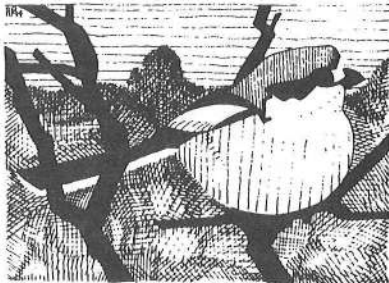
Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor Oct-Apr. Exceptional in summer.

In the period 1985-1994 the average number recorded was 4-5 birds per year, and over-wintering birds were noted in each of the years 1986-1992, with 2 in each of 1991 and 1992. On this showing 1995 was a below average year with none over-wintering and only 3 other records: at Roughton near Woodhall Spa on Jan 31st, Donna Nook on Apr 23rd and at Gib Point on Oct 21st.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* *(L)

Vagrant.

There was a male at Donna Nook on May 2-3rd (PMT et al), the 9th county record. Four of these occurred prior to 1979, but there were none in the years 1979-91. The 5 records since 1992 represent a pleasing upturn in this species occurrence in Lincolnshire.



Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Common resident, irregular migrant and winter visitor.

Fewer records than usual were received in 1995, with no notable inland numbers apart from 7 at Kirkby Moor on Apr 2nd. On the coast 1 was at Frampton Marsh on Apr 25th and 1-2 were noted at Gib Point from Apr 30th to May 24th. Later in the year 2 were seen collecting peanuts from a Pinchbeck garden in Nov and Dec.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Very common resident.

Countywide, this species was reported everywhere in small numbers, but there were no reports of roosts or flocks into 3 figures. Figures received don't allow an assessment of population changes. Only Gib Point provided counts for all months, shown below:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
50	50	60	40	28	24	17	20	43	50	55	75

Elsewhere counts of more than 20 were received from Greetwell Hollow, 23 Jan 28th, 25 Nov 23rd; Barton Far Ings, 20 roosting Oct 21st; Cleethorpes CP, 31 Dec 8th; Whisby NP, max of 40 during the year; Scotterthorpe, c40 Oct 29th.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Very common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor. *C m monedula* rare vagrant.

In Jan there were max of 150 at Toft Newton Res and 350 at Kirkby GP. Roughton had c300 in Feb but there were no significant records for the spring. In summer, 135 were counted at both Toft Newton and Sleaford in July and in August there were c1750 in the Wolds at Salmonby and 350 in Market Rasen Cemetery. Leasingham Mill had 175 in August, rising to 250 in September. No significant autumn coastal passage movements were recorded. Inland c600 were at Roughton in Nov, when 200 also roosted at Whisby NP. The largest total of the year was at the Thornton Abbey roost, estimated at 2200 in December, including 3 birds considered to be of the Scandinavian race *C m monedula*.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Very common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

Early in the year, c400 were at Scothern, 700 on Boothby Heath and 600 at Roughton. Fulbeck airfield had 350 in April, but no other counts were received for the first 6 months of the year and there were no reports of significant spring or autumn passage movements. Post-breeding flocks noted included 270 in Sleaford and 200 Ruskington in July, 750 at Salmonby, 300 at Marston STW and 350 Leasingham Mill in August, increasing to 600 in September. There were also 400 at Coleby in October and 500 at Roughton in November. December concentrations included c1000 at Dunston Heath, 800 Marston STW, 300 North Kelsey Moor and c4500 at the Thornton Abbey roost.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor. *C c cornix* rare winter visitor and passage migrant.

In January 150 were counted on the salt-marsh at Saltfleetby, the only significant record in the early part of the year. There were 30-50 at New Holland and 18 at Gib Point throughout the year, with 30 moving south at the latter site on Sep 22nd. The only other coastal movement reported was 20 west at Barton on Oct 26th. Inland small numbers were recorded across the county, including 20 at Branston Fen in February, 20 Toft Newton in July and 40 at Marston STW in August.

Hooded Crow *C c cornix*: Just two records, singles at Winterton Tip Feb 2-5th and Gib Point May 2-3rd.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were no reports of roost figures in the early part of the year. Gib Point had a Jan max of 700, with spring passage including 3000 in March. Also in March there were 500 at both North Kelsey Moor and Barton Far Ings. Post-breeding flocks built up during July, with the largest numbers being 5200 at Gib Point and over 2000 at Swineshead Fenhouses. In August numbers remained at c5000 at Gib Point, c6000 at New Holland

22nd, c500 at Marston STW and c600 roosting at South Witham church for most of the month. More than 1800 were at Kirton Holme in September. On Oct 29th 1200 came in off the sea at Huttoft and Gib Point recorded 8000 south. Also at this time, a roost of c5000 was recorded at Barton, 1500 were at Greetwell Hollow and 360 at Leasingham Mill. Large November flocks at Gib Point were 2000 on 3rd and 1600 south on 12th, when Donna Nook had 500. Finally c1000 were noted at West Kelsey Carrs on 23rd.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*

Vagrant.

An adult was at Chapel St Leonard's Jun 18-20th (JM,KMW et al), the 10th county record. Eight of these have been this century, the most recent ones being in 1973, 1983, 1984 and 1987.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Very common resident.

The few records received make it very difficult to make any objective assessment of this widespread species. Up to 38 were recorded at one garden in South Witham in January and February and at the other end of the year another garden count was of a maximum of 86 in Pinchbeck. All other



records received related to post-breeding flocks, with the largest being 200 at Barton Far Ings on 28th Aug, and 200 on stubble at Barton in September. On Oct 9th 156 went south through Gib Point and 130 were at Anwick STW on 23rd.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Common resident.

During Jan-Mar 29 sites recorded a summed peak total of 709 birds, about 30% fewer than in 1994, but similar to numbers recorded by the same method in 1993. Site max during January were 80 Barton, 60 Toft Newton, 38 RAF Cranwell, 70 Marston STW and 25 Tallington; in February there were 46 Goxhill, 25 Greetwell Hollow, 30 Welbourn Heath, 35 Witham Mouth and 50 Kirton Marsh; in March 20 Kirkby Pits, 25 Holbeach Bank, 60 Bourne South Fen and 40 at Black Bank. Collective counts dwindled during the spring as birds dispersed into breeding areas. Breeding was confirmed only at Metheringham, Welbourn Heath and Whisby NP. Fewer were recorded in the last quarter of the year, with the summed peak total being 337 birds at 19 sites. Notable flocks were 30 at Welbourn Heath, 30 Dry Doddington, 40 at Marston STW, 55 at Sandholme Lane, Frampton, 35 Holbeach Range and 40 Bourne South Fen. These totals are similar to those of 1994.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

During Jan-Mar flocks of 100-200 were recorded at Laughton, Whisby NR, Metheringham, Gib Point and Ewerby Pond. Numbers passing through Gib Point in March increased from 55 on 11th to 125 on 26th, with 150 on Apr 1st. There were no significant records during the spring and summer and smaller flocks were seen later in the year with no evidence of significant autumn migration. In September there were up to 55 at Gib Point and 53 at Welbourn Heath; 74 at the latter site in October. Movements recorded at Barton included 59 west on Oct 8th and 187 west on 15th. Flocks of 100 were seen in December at North Kelsey Moor and Welbourn Heath, and the largest December flock, 130, was at Normanby Park.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* *b

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in summer.

1995: to May 3rd and from Jul 8th.

Records came from 25 sites but numbers didn't reach the heights of the previous year. In the first quarter the only significant count was of 200 in the Messingham area. Small numbers lingered in spring, with 18 at Mavis Enderby on Apr 14th, 2 until 29th when there were still 11 at Gib Point. Singles were recorded at the latter site on May 1st and at Donna Nook on 3rd. There was an unusual record of a male at Saltfleet Paradise car-park on Jul 8th, but autumn immigration only began in earnest during October when Holbeach St Matthew had up to 20 and birds were recorded daily at Gib Point. Largest numbers were recorded at the months end

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