

Welcome to the 2010 Bird Report



Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* Gibraltar Point NNR. Oct 4th 2010 © Russell Hayes



**The
Lincolnshire
Bird Club**
www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk

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THE LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD CLUB 2010 REPORT

Welcome to the 2010 Lincolnshire Bird Report

On behalf of the Lincolnshire Bird Club it gives me great pleasure in presenting the annual report on the birds of Lincolnshire.

This year for the first time we have been able to incorporate BBS data into the Lincolnshire Bird Report. The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and is jointly funded by BTO, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). The BBS was launched in 1994, to provide more representative habitat coverage than the Common Bird Census (CBC) that was running at that time. The CBC ended in 2000, and the overlap period between 1994 and 2000 allowed the BTO to develop methods for calculating long term trends (from the 1960s to the present) using information from both schemes. For an article describes the background to this innovative change, please see page 7 at the end of the introduction section.

It is my personal opinion that the most important role of the Lincolnshire Bird Club is to produce a county bird report. The 2010 bird report builds on the success of the 2009 and 2008 bird reports, which were the first annual bird reports to be produced by the Lincolnshire Bird Club since 1996. This report would not be possible without submitted bird records, and although we can't promise to print every single record received we will acknowledge all contributors. I appeal to everyone to continue submitting records to ensure the future production of the county report.

English Names used in the 2010 Lincolnshire Bird Club Report

As the Lincolnshire Bird Club is affiliated to the monthly journal *British Birds*, all vernacular or common names used in the Lincolnshire Bird Report 2010 follow 'The *British Birds* list of Western Palearctic Birds' which may be downloaded from www.britishbirds.co.uk.

Use of Tables in the 2010 Lincolnshire Bird Club Report

Where possible, tables have been used to represent data for certain species. Data shown in the tables has have been gathered from different data sources, and therefore the way some tables have been constructed will change. For waders and wildfowl, where possible, Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) data has been used. The WeBS scheme produces accurate, comparable and long-term data across wetland sites in Lincolnshire, the UK and through partner schemes in Europe. WeBS is the main data source used to report on waterbird population trends on a site, country and international level. Where only WeBS data is used, the tables are labelled "WeBS counts". When, for reasons of interest, WeBS and LBC data have been amalgamated, the tables are labelled "Peak counts". If for some reason WeBS data has been excluded (e.g. presented earlier in the table), then "Non-WeBS peak counts" may be used. All data in the table are the highest count for that species in the month specified.

WeBS 2010 Note.

Please note that for all of the WeBS figures for wildfowl and waders there are very few counts for Dec. This is mainly due to the Wash WeBS count date falling on Boxing Day and an understandably very low turnout of volunteer counters. However, there was also a prolonged and serious spell of cold weather in Dec that resulted in many birds undertaking cold-weather movements out of the county. It is unfortunate that the lack of data means we cannot see the full affects of the cold weather.

Species Authors

The bird club would like to thank all the authors who volunteered their time to complete species write-ups for the 2010 report. There simply wouldn't be a report without this group of people, and I must apologise to them for the number of 'nagging' emails and requests for 'just one more species, please' that I have made over the last year. Inevitably, using such a pool of authors will lead to difference in writing styles throughout the report. Personally, I feel this is a small price to pay in order to achieve a published final report.

Notes for Contributors.

The Lincolnshire Bird Report is an annual publication of records, articles and photographs relating to all aspects of Lincolnshire Ornithology. Please contact chairman@lincsbirdclub.co.uk for more information.

Submissions of Records

All observers are encouraged to submit records on a monthly basis as this helps considerably with managing the workload and speeding up production of the annual report. If it isn't possible to submit records until the end of the year, the deadline is **by the end of February of the following year**. Late records cause serious problems in drafting the systematic list and may be omitted. The names of all contributors will be published.

How to submit records

You can submit records in one of two ways. For casual sightings please use our Online Sightings Form at http://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk/contact_report.htm. This is an ideal way to let us know quickly of interesting bird sightings from within the LBC recording area. Information on interesting birds, once received, can be easily distributed to our members and others using the internet as well as being added to the LBC database. This method can also be used for the submission of confidential records.

Submitting records electronically

The Club is moving rapidly towards the electronic submission and processing of records so that we can produce our Annual Reports more efficiently. To assist you we have produced our own spreadsheet (in Excel format) for anyone to use and there is free software you can download if you do not have Excel itself. We now prefer all records for the year, wherever possible, to be submitted using the Club spreadsheet. You can download the spreadsheet and read more about how you can use it at http://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk/lbc_recordgathering.htm.

Non-electronic submission of records

We will continue to accept records submitted manually but this does cause our editorial team additional work in converting your records to a digital format so we would encourage all observers to submit records electronically, preferably using the Club spreadsheet where possible.

Records can also be submitted via the LBC Forum, by using the casual record form on the LBC website and via the recorders email address (see below). For further detail please contact Mr Colin Jennings – thejennings@colin97.freemove.co.uk

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National Rarities.

National rare birds are dealt with by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). A full and up to date list of species considered BBRC can be downloaded from the BBRC website www.bbrc.org.uk. All BBRC rarities should be submitted to the BBRC, and the LBC report will only publish records submitted and accepted by BBRC.

The submission of descriptions of national rarities is important. Bird news providers do not assess records passed to them and without full submission to BBRC such records cannot be published and will be lost. Finder details will be published, but where there are not known records will be attributed to *per LBC*.

County Rarities.

Species or forms considered rare at county level are dealt with by the Lincolnshire Bird Record Committee. The committee currently comprises John Clarkson, Paul French, Graham Catley, Andy Sims, Wayne Gillatt., Phil Hyde and John Badley. The chairman of the 2011-12 LBRC is John Clarkson and Roy Harvey is secretary.

Please send all details and descriptions of any LRBC species to Roy Harvey - roy.harvey100@btinternet.com.

All records of LRBC species should be submitted as soon as possible after the sighting and not left until the end of each year. County rarities accepted by the LBRC will be published in the report together with the initials of the finder/identifier.

The submission of description of county rarities is important. The verification of the data that appears in the annual report is essential to the production of an accurate and meaningful report. A systematic approach to the verification of ALL rare bird records, no matter who has reported them, prior to the production of the annual report is required before they are published.

From time to time the LBRC will reserve the right to seek additional details of other records deemed exceptional by virtue of, for example, date, location, or number.

Data Sources used in the 2010 Bird Report

The Lincolnshire Bird Club is grateful to the following individuals and organizations for supplying and letting us use their data in the 2010 bird report. Apologies for anyone we have missed off the list.

Heronry Data. The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to Barrie Wilkinson for supplying data on breeding Grey Heron and Little Egret in Lincolnshire. This long running dataset is extremely important for the monitoring of herons in Lincolnshire, and we would encourage all bird club members to submit data to this survey.

WeBS Data. Data were supplied by the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), a joint scheme of the British Trust for Ornithology, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (the last on behalf of the Countryside Council for Wales, Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency) in association with The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust. Although WeBS data are presented within this report, in some cases the figures may not have been fully checked and validated. Therefore, for any detailed analyses of WeBS data, enquiries should be directed to the WeBS team at the British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, IP24 2PU (webs@bto.org).

BirdTrack Data. Data supplied by BirdTrack has been used in the production of the 2010 bird report. BirdTrack provides free online bird recording software for Britain and Ireland and is being developed in a partnership between the BTO, RSPB and Birdwatch Ireland. All Lincolnshire records are available for download by the bird club. Further details can be found at <http://www.birdtrack.net>.

BirdGuides Data. Data supplied by BirdGuides Ltd has been used in the production of the 2010 bird report. Further details can be found at <http://www.birdguides.com/>.

Deeping Lakes Site bird recorder. The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to David Griffith for supplying data from Deeping Lakes.

Mediterranean Gull Data. The Lincolnshire Bird Club is grateful to Camille Duponcheel (cduponcheel@nordnet.fr) and Renaud Flamant (Renaud.Flamant@skynet.be) from the Mediterranean Gull colour-ring programme for supplying data for 2010 report. <http://medgull.free.fr/>

Gibraltar Point Dataset. The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to Kev Wilson and Timothy Bagworth for supplying data from Gibraltar Point NNR.

Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory. Thanks to the ringer in charge - Mick Briggs for submitting data from GPBO.

Far Ings NNR Dataset. The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to Andy Sharp and the Far Ings Bird Group for supplying data from Far Ings NNR.

Forest Enterprise. The LBC is grateful for permission to use data collected on the heathland recreation project in Laughton Forest by Graham Catley on behalf of Forest Enterprise.

Scunthorpe Ornithological Society. The birdclub is grateful to Wayne Gillatt and the Ornithological section of the Scunthorpe Museum Society for submitting their dataset. The society covers the Scunthorpe area from the Humber Estuary in the north to Gainsborough in the South and follows the Lincolnshire county boundary in the west to the edge of the old Ordnance Survey Map number 112 in the east.

Whisby Nature Park Dataset. The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to Grahame Hopwood for supplying data from Whisby Nature Park.

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. The bird club is grateful to comments and suggestion from the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, including Dave Bromwich, Grahame Hopwood and Barrie Wilkinson.

Ringling Report Data. We would like to thank the Boston Ringling Association, the Mid-Lincs Ringling Group, Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory, Wash Wader Group and the Birkland Ringling Group for submitting their annual ringling reports and especially Mark Grantham from the British Trust for Ornithology for help compiling the 2010 ringling report.

Grimsby Areas Members Group. Thanks to Bill Sterling for submitting data from the Grimsby Areas Members Group.

Barn Owl and Little Owl Data. The LBC is grateful to Alan Ball and Bob Sheppard for supplying data from their extensive ringing project in Lincolnshire.

North Lincolnshire Marsh Harrier Monitoring. The LBC is grateful to Graham Catley for access to his marsh harrier monitoring data. For more details contact Graham Catley at graham.catley@btopenworld.com or via his website at <http://pewit.blogspot.com/>

Alkborough Flats Partnership. The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to the Alkborough Flats Partnership for supplying data from Alkborough Flats.

Weather Data. The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to RAF Waddington for supplying weather data for the 2010 bird report. With particular thanks to Matthew Strahan.

We are also grateful to all individual members and non-members who have submitted data via the Lincolnshire Bird Club forum or direct to the county bird recorder. For a complete list of individual record contributors with reference to their initials used in the text, please refer to the list on page 217.

LBC Database Team

All records that are submitted on the LBC Forum and via the online records system are collated by Colin and Sheila Jennings. The amount of work that Colin and Sheila do in gathering these records is outstanding, and should not be underestimated. At the end of each month they produce a spreadsheet that contains all the bird records for that month. The spreadsheet is entered into the LBC database, which is maintained and administered by Janet Eastmead.

Wildlife Recorder. Thanks to Jack Levene who is very generous with his time while sorting out bird club database issues.

Contributing Authors for the 2010 report

The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to the following contributing authors for the 2010 Lincolnshire Bird Club report. We are very keen to hear from anyone who is interested in volunteering to help produce future bird reports, please contact chairman@lincsbirdclub.co.uk.

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Wagtails, Woodpeckers and Cuckoo

Photographers

The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to the following photographers for supplying images for the 2010 Lincolnshire Bird Club report. All images included in the report have been taken in Lincolnshire during 2010 and many are referred to in the text. All images are labelled with the photographer's name, their contact details are listed below.

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The LBC Database and Gathering Records in General

We aim to have a complete and workable database for each year by the end of February the following year. This means that all description birds are verified by that date.

Proof Reading the Lincolnshire Bird Club 2010 report

The bird club is very grateful to Grahame Hopwood, Andrew Henderson, Paul French, John Badley, John Clarkson and Graham Catley for proof reading the 2010 bird report. I would particularly like to thank Graham Catley, Andrew Henderson, Grahame Hopwood, Paul French and John Badley for their valued input and comments at the final stage of its production.

*Andrew Chick
December 2010*

The BBS in Lincolnshire

This year for the first time we have been able to incorporate BBS data into the Lincolnshire Bird Report and this article describes the background to this innovative change.

The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and is jointly funded by BTO, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). The BBS was launched in 1994, to provide more representative habitat coverage than the Common Bird Census (CBC) that was running at that time. The CBC ended in 2000, and the overlap period between 1994 and 2000 allowed the BTO to develop methods for calculating long term trends (from the 1960s to the present) using information from both schemes.

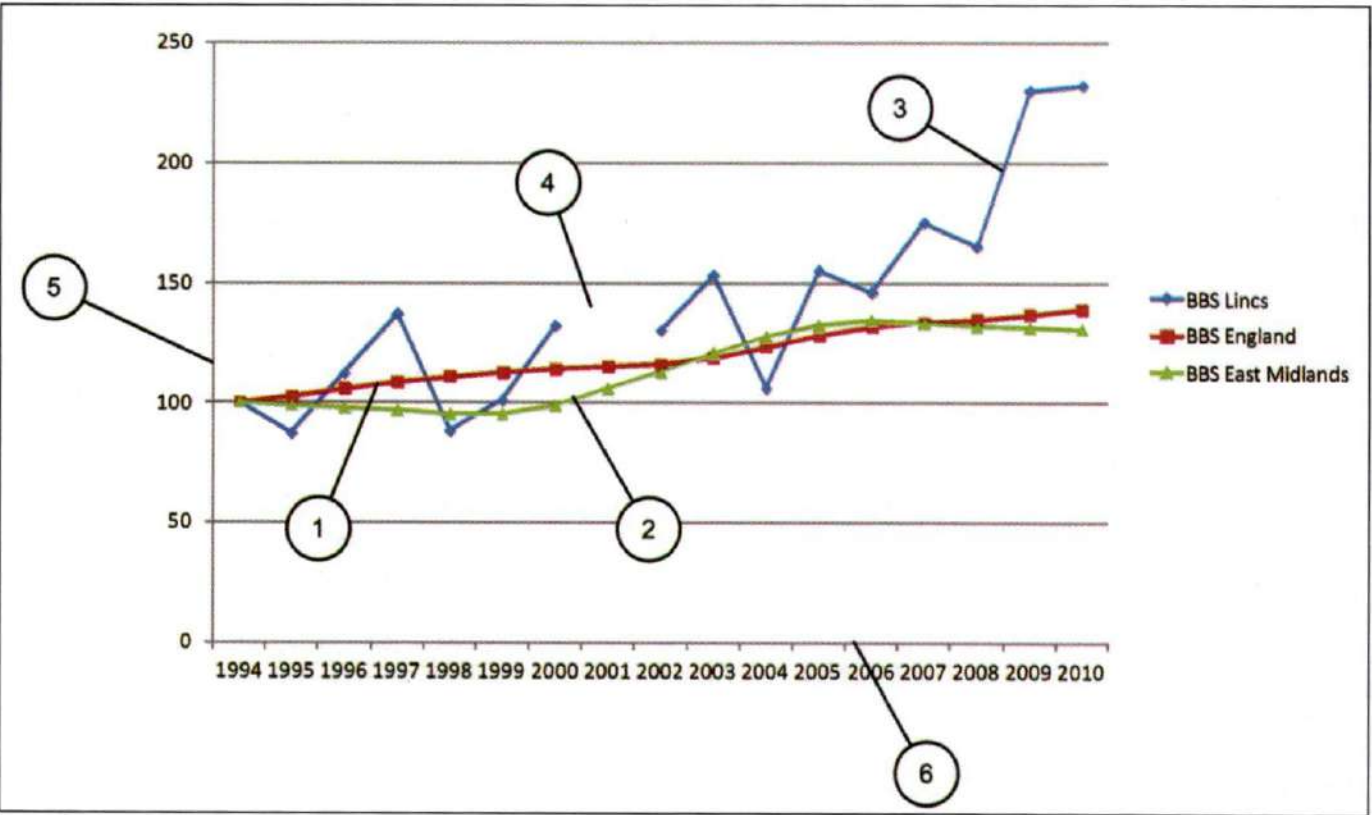
The BBS is a line transect survey based on randomly located 1-km squares. Squares are chosen through stratified random sampling, with more squares in areas with more potential volunteers. Figure 1 shows the distribution of the randomly selected squares in Lincolnshire. It should be noted that not all squares are currently surveyed and in 2010, 64 squares were surveyed.

BBS volunteers make two early morning visits to their square during the April-June survey period, recording all birds encountered while walking two 1-km transects across their square, each visit generally taking a maximum of two hours. Each transect is divided into five 200-m sections, for ease of recording. Birds are recorded in three distance categories, or “in flight” in order to assess detectability and work out species density. Observers also record the habitat along the transects in an initial visit, and record any mammals seen during the survey. Surveying a BBS square thus takes about six hours per year, and the aim is for each volunteer to survey the same square (or squares) every year.

The BBS National Organiser, currently Kate Risely, is based at BTO in Thetford and is responsible for the overall running of the scheme and is the main point of contact for the network of voluntary Regional Organisers (ROs). ROs are responsible for finding new volunteers and allocating squares to observers in their region. Observers submit data via BTO online or paper forms. At the end of the season ROs collect paper submissions and return them to BTO and validate submissions made online.

The BBS provides reliable populations trends for a large proportion of UK breeding species. Trends can be produced for specific countries, regions or habitats as long as the species occurs in 30 or more squares per year on average. For these analyses we take the higher count from the two visits for each species, summed over all four distance categories and ten transect sections. Only squares that have been surveyed in at least two years are included in the analyses. Population changes are estimated using a log-linear model with Poisson error terms. Counts are modelled as a function of of year and site effects, weighted to account for differences in sampling effort across the UK, with standard errors adjusted for overdispersion.

An annual report is published of BBS trends, which can be downloaded from www.bto.org and annual data by county from 1990 is available there too. Unfortunately the published historical data for Lincolnshire is split with Humberside. Philip Espin and Andrew Chick contacted Kate Risely at BTO in spring 2011 to see if it would be possible to obtain a single BBS data set for the whole of Lincolnshire including what is now North Lincs and North East Lincs. After clarifying the precise boundaries Kate was happy to oblige and provided a full data set for Lincolnshire from 1990 to 2010. Furthermore for the commonest 29 species in Lincolnshire occurring in more than 30 squares, she provided analyses that allowed graphs to be prepared showing the smoothed population trends of each species in Lincolnshire compared to the existing published trends for these species in the East Midland and Lincolnshire. These maps are incorporated into the species accounts for twelve species in the 2010 Bird Report.



BBS Map Key - 1. BBS Trend England (smoothed - RED) 2. BBS Trend East Midlands (smoothed - GREEN) 3. BBS Trend Lincolnshire (unsmoothed - BLUE) 4. Foot and Mouth 2001 5. Y-axis BBS Indices 6. X-axis Years 1994-2010.

Table 1 below shows all species thought to breed in Lincolnshire during the last 5 years and the percentage of BBS squares in which that species was recorded in both Lincolnshire and UK. This provides a useful measure of the relative dispersion of species in Lincolnshire compared to the rest of the UK. Scarcer breeding species in Lincolnshire do not feature in our local BBS because our sample size is too small. We are looking for volunteers to cover more squares and anyone who would like to take part can do so through the BTO website at www.bto.org/bbs or by contacting Philip Espin, the RO for East Lincolnshire.

Table 1 also identifies those rarer UK species which breed in Lincolnshire and are considered by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP). LBC requires all reports of these species. Anyone wishing to keep their report confidential should make that clear to the County Recorder.

BBS data provides one of the most important sources of data for identifying species of conservation concern in the UK. The table on the **back inside cover** of this report shows all “red data” species currently breeding in Lincolnshire and ranks them in order of their frequency of occurrence with Skylark being the most widespread and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker the scarcest. Where the BBS Lincolnshire data set is sufficient the % change of each species in Lincolnshire compared to the East Midlands and England is also shown. This shows that for our 6 commonest red data birds, Skylarks and Song Thrush seem to be suffering worse declines than other parts of England while Yellowhammer, Linnet, House Sparrow and Starling are all doing better. It is intended to make this table a regular feature of the Bird Report in order to focus attention on these red data species.

The table suggests that 5 other species, Yellow Wagtail, Tree Sparrow, Corn Bunting, Grey Partridge and Turtle Dove are more widespread in Lincolnshire than other parts of the UK. Any birder interested in advancing the cause of farmland bird conservation in Lincolnshire might consider these species worthy of further study.

Phil Espin
December 2010

Table 1 BBS Species Recorded on 64 Squares in Lincolnshire in 2010 compared to 3239 in UK

<i>BBS Species Recorded 2010</i>	<i>Squares in Lincs</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Squares in UK</i>	<i>%</i>
Mute Swan	10	15.6	303	9.4
Greylag Goose	19	29.7	303	9.4
Greater Canada Goose	11	17.2	613	18.9
Barnacle Goose	0	0.0	5	0.2
Egyptian Goose	*	0.0	44	1.4
Common Shelduck	6	9.4	165	5.1
Eurasian Wigeon	0	0.0	18	0.6
Gadwall	0	0.0	47	1.5
Eurasian Teal	0	0.0	36	1.1
Mallard	46	71.9	1596	49.3
Garganey	*	0.0	3	0.1
Shoveler	*	0.0	22	0.7
Common Pochard	*	1.6	27	0.8
Tufted Duck	13	20.3	181	5.6
Ruddy Duck	1	1.6	4	0.1
Red-legged Partridge	38	59.4	671	20.7
Grey Partridge	12	18.8	187	5.8
Common Quail	*	1.6	8	0.2
Common Pheasant	60	93.8	2282	70.5
Little Grebe	3	4.7	86	2.7
Great Crested Grebe	1	1.6	75	2.3
Black-necked Grebe	*	0.0	1	0.0
Cormorant	4	6.3	298	9.2
Bittern	*	0.0	2	0.1
Little Egret	*	1.6	60	1.9
Grey Heron	18	28.1	746	23.0
Red Kite	*	1.6	227	7.0
Marsh Harrier	*	6.3	29	0.9
Montagu's Harrier	0	0.0	1	0.0
Northern Goshawk	*	0.0	12	0.4
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	8	12.5	391	12.1
Common Buzzard	20	31.3	1411	43.6
Common Kestrel	25	39.1	709	21.9

<i>BBS Species Recorded 2010</i>		<i>Squares in Lincs</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Squares in UK</i>	<i>%</i>
Eurasian Hobby	*	1	1.6	55	1.7
Peregrine Falcon	*	0	0.0	48	1.5
Water Rail	*	0	0.0	4	0.1
Moorhen		30	46.9	760	23.5
Common Coot		9	14.1	334	10.3
Oystercatcher		6	9.4	358	11.1
Avocet	*	0	0.0	5	0.2
Little Ringed Plover	*	0	0.0	14	0.4
Ringed Plover		0	0.0	28	0.9
Northern Lapwing		30	46.9	777	24.0
Common Snipe		2	3.1	174	5.4
Woodcock		0	0.0	8	0.2
Eurasian Curlew		3	4.7	516	15.9
Common Redshank		1	1.6	80	2.5
Black-headed Gull		20	31.3	647	20.0
Mediterranean Gull	*	0	0.0	12	0.4
Lesser Black-backed Gull		14	21.9	782	24.1
Herring Gull		5	7.8	882	27.2
Great Black-backed Gull		3	4.7	128	4.0
Common Tern		1	1.6	85	2.6
Little Tern	*	0	0.0	5	0.2
Feral Pigeon		15	23.4	772	23.8
Stock Dove		27	42.2	958	29.6
Wood Pigeon		63	98.4	3019	93.2
Collared Dove		36	56.3	1671	51.6
Turtle Dove		6	9.4	95	2.9
Common Cuckoo		13	20.3	616	19.0
Barn Owl		11	17.2	86	2.7
Little Owl		3	4.7	99	3.1
Tawny Owl		2	3.1	99	3.1
Long-eared Owl	*	0	0.0	3	0.1
Short-eared Owl	*	0	0.0	9	0.3
European Nightjar		0	0.0	3	0.1
Common Swift		24	37.5	1061	32.8
Common Kingfisher		0	0.0	42	1.3
Green Woodpecker		17	26.6	1057	32.6
Great Spotted Woodpecker		19	29.7	1549	47.8
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	*	0	0.0	33	1.0
Sky Lark		60	93.8	1929	59.6
Woodlark	*	0	0.0	21	0.6
Sand Martin		2	3.1	138	4.3
Barn Swallow		51	79.7	2383	73.6
House Martin		23	35.9	967	29.9
Tree Pipit		1	1.6	144	4.4
Meadow Pipit		13	20.3	846	26.1
Yellow Wagtail		18	28.1	146	4.5
Grey Wagtail		0	0.0	199	6.1
Pied/White Wagtail		30	46.9	1276	39.4
Wren		60	93.8	2843	87.8
Duncock		54	84.4	2528	78.0
Robin		54	84.4	2848	87.9
Common Nightingale		0	0.0	26	0.8
Black Redstart	*	0	0.0	1	0.0
Common Redstart		0	0.0	185	5.7
Common Stonechat		1	1.6	106	3.3
Northern Wheatear		3	4.7	424	13.1
Blackbird		63	98.4	2984	92.1
Song Thrush		36	56.3	2417	74.6
Mistle Thrush		26	40.6	1228	37.9
Cetti's Warbler	*	0	0.0	47	1.5
Grasshopper Warbler		1	1.6	116	3.6
Sedge Warbler		17	26.6	325	10.0

<i>BBS Species Recorded 2010</i>	<i>Squares in Lincs</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Squares in UK</i>	<i>%</i>
Reed Warbler	13	20.3	164	5.1
Blackcap	35	54.7	2121	65.5
Garden Warbler	8	12.5	534	16.5
Lesser Whitethroat	16	25.0	334	10.3
Common Whitethroat	54	84.4	1711	52.8
Common Chiffchaff	29	45.3	2030	62.7
Willow Warbler	24	37.5	1549	47.8
Goldcrest	7	10.9	780	24.1
Spotted Flycatcher	1	1.6	157	4.8
Bearded Tit	*	0.0	4	0.1
Long-tailed Tit	23	35.9	1452	44.8
Marsh Tit	1	1.6	154	4.8
Willow Tit	*	1.6	46	1.4
Coal Tit	9	14.1	1125	34.7
Blue Tit	52	81.3	2828	87.3
Great Tit	50	78.1	2722	84.0
Eurasian Nuthatch	2	3.1	715	22.1
Eurasian Treecreeper	2	3.1	408	12.6
Eurasian Jay	7	10.9	987	30.5
Magpie	43	67.2	2292	70.8
Western Jackdaw	42	65.6	2167	66.9
Rook	39	60.9	1559	48.1
Carrion Crow	58	90.6	2890	89.2
Common Raven	0	0.0	405	12.5
Common Starling	38	59.4	1839	56.8
House Sparrow	43	67.2	1885	58.2
Tree Sparrow	17	26.6	211	6.5
Common Chaffinch	60	93.8	3019	93.2
Greenfinch	44	68.8	2141	66.1
Goldfinch	49	76.6	2234	69.0
Siskin	0	0.0	217	6.7
Linnet	47	73.4	1273	39.3
Lesser Redpoll	0	0.0	182	5.6
Common Crossbill	0	0.0	79	2.4
Bullfinch	9	14.1	756	23.3
Hawfinch	*	0.0	2	0.1
Yellowhammer	55	85.9	1344	41.5
Reed Bunting	42	65.6	611	18.9
Corn Bunting	10	15.6	133	4.1

Species included in the list are all category A and C species confirmed as breeding in Lincs since 1994

*species for which breeding information is collected by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP)

WEATHER REPORT 2010

All temperature, rainfall and sunshine hour measurements are taken from the meteorological station at RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire. National Grid Reference SK 985 649. Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to RAF Waddington for supplying these weather data for the 2010 bird report, with particular thanks to Matthew Strahan.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mean Daily Max. (°C)	3.2	4.6	10.0	13.7	15.3	20.2	22.2	19.7	17.9	13.7	7.4	1.3
Mean Night Min. (°C)	-0.4	0.3	3.0	4.8	6.8	10.7	13.8	11.9	10.7	7.7	3.1	-2.9
Total Rainfall (mm)	51.4	66.2	38.4	30.8	21.0	58.2	50.0	113.8	74.8	45.9	62.8	25.9
Total Sunshine (hours)	58.6	46.9	121.5	187.0	213.5	224.1	162.0	148.4	122.8	109.0	72.7	52.3

January

Average daily max. temperatures were down 2.3 Deg C. on the norm, with average daily night min. temperatures also down almost two degrees. In association with this, many locations experienced numerous night-time air and ground frosts, both of which often extended well into the daylight hours each morning. The month also had almost twice the usual amount of snow, with brief spells of freezing rain and mornings of freezing fog.

February

Cold, snowy, frosty, icy, damp and dull nicely sums up February. daily average max. and min. temperatures were well down on the norm, with most mornings and evenings giving ground frosted and icy conditions. There were 13 days of snow - well above the average and this helped, along with the sleet and rain (only two dry days all month long), to give us a monthly rainfall total of over 50% above the recorded average. In association with all the bad weather, the sunshine total was well down on the average, in this already dullest of winter months. Of note, countrywide, this has been the coldest winter in England for 31 years.

March

Temperatures were a little bit warmer than usual, with a little more sunshine and a little less rain. We had a cold start to the first half of the month, but it turned much milder during the latter half with 18 days giving us double figure maximum temperatures resulting in daily average max. and min. temperatures for the month being up around a degree on the recorded average. A snow day on the 2nd was the only occurrence of the white stuff which was a welcome down turn on the average expected in March.

April.

A cool start to the month, but it warmed up quickly, being particularly warm, with lots of sunshine, during the last week of the month. Daily average max. and min. temperatures were up a degree or so on the norm, with no air frosts and only half the usual number of ground frosts expected. The monthly rainfall total was down some 25% on the average, with indeed, 17 days being bone dry. In association with this, our sunshine total was a pleasant 37 hours above the norm with the 20th to 24th giving us double figure hours of sunshine each day.

May

Daily average max. and min. temperatures were just about spot on the norm, but the month was varied. A cool start, positively cold during the 2nd week, but then temperatures rising into the mid to high 20's from the 19th to 24th. May was a dry month, with less than half the usual rainfall expected, with 14 days bone dry and another seven only giving us a trace. River levels were low. 15.0 hours of sunshine on the 22nd just missed our all time record May daily high for sunshine which was 15.6 hours in 1985.

June

Daily average max. and min. temperatures were up a degree or so on the monthly average. Also the sunshine total was pleasantly up 10% or so on the average. The rainfall total was actually slightly higher than the average for June, but almost all fell in the first half of the month with the vast majority occurring on the 5th in association with heavy thunderstorms. The second half of the month was virtually bone dry.

July

A very warm month and humid at times, July surprisingly gave us average rainfall amounts whilst many areas of the country suffered from drought conditions, water shortages and a hose pipe ban in the North West of England. Warm, dry and sunny conditions prevailed at the beginning but by the middle of the month a succession of slow moving decaying fronts brought cloudier conditions and several days of showery precipitation culminating in nearly an inch of rainfall on the 22nd.

August

A very wet month with total rainfall nearly twice the August average, being close to the 1951 highest August total of 131.3 mm. With rain cometh cloud and total sunshine amounts were considerably depressed compared with the mean. Temperatures were close to average however – the month starting warm, cloudy and humid. As the end of the month approached however, August 2010 assumed the more conventional Autumnal norms of early evening clearing skies, dipping overnight temperatures and misty mornings.

September

No Indian Summer this year unfortunately. Daily average max. and min. temps were around the expected, but with an increase in rainfall and a lack of sunshine this made for a fairly disappointing month. Rainfall totals were up almost 50% on the norm with a very wet day on the 23rd. The sunniest day on the 1st eclipsed all others, six days having less than an hour's worth and three of those with no sunshine at all.

October

A very average month. The daily average max. temperature was spot on the 50 Year Average while the daily average min. temperature, total rainfall and total sunshine were all very close to the long-term average. The only noteworthy comments regarding the rainfall was that half the total for the whole month fell within the first two days and only four days were dry.

November

VERY cold and snowy sums up November! The month actually started off very mild, with the first days giving us a max. temperature that almost doubled the average, but from then on it became gradually colder and colder. By the last week in the month the daily max. temperatures were at best +2 Deg C, and at worst -2 deg C! Indeed, the lowest ever recorded November min. temperature was recorded on 28th. In association with the cold weather it snowed on four of the last five days of the month leading us into December.

December

December had two main significant features; it was very cold for nearly half the month with temperatures struggling to reach zero; and above-average amounts of snowfall occurred, resulting in substantial snow depths for much of the month. Daily average max. and min. temperatures were down by five degrees on the normal, resulting in a much higher number of air frosts than usual. Although the very cold, occasionally snowy conditions occurred as several spells over the month. It mainly gave way to drizzly, foggy days from the 27th onwards. Sunshine values were very close to average, although rainfall was only half what you would expect from the long-term figures.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2010

by James Siddle

January

The New Year began with sub-zero temperatures across the county and an influx of several species particularly thrushes and **Woodcock**. In the north-east of the county Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe yielded c1400 **Fieldfare** and c530 **Redwing** while just up the coast at Donna Nook there were 1050 **Fieldfare** and 525 **Redwing**. With coastal fields often frozen most of the 280 **Skylarks** at Donna Nook at this time were feeding on the saltmarsh; at Digby Fen **Skylark** numbers reached the 1000 mark. **Fieldfare** numbers were lower further south in the county at the start of the month but then 500 were at Gib Point on 16th building up to impressive 3000 towards the end of the month. Also at Gib Point a juvenile **Iceland Gull**, showing some characteristics of **Kumlien's**, was seen on 1st where a huge influx of c6000 **Herring Gulls** was noted the next day. During this cold period **Woodcocks** were very widespread both at coastal sites and inland, for example there were 70 at Gib Point on 9th with 50 at North Somercotes Warren at this time.

Covenham was a popular birding destination with a female **Velvet Scoter** and two **Great Northern Divers**. A **Red-necked Grebe** was reported from Thurlby with another at Witham Mouth on 3rd. Two **Black Brants** remained at Frampton/Freiston from 2009 and were two of five reported during the year. There were also a dozen **Lapland Buntings** and 19 **Snow Buntings** in the Frampton area. Up to six **Bitterns** were at Far Ings at this time. Six **Shore Larks** entertained many visitors at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe.

North-easterlies on the 6th produced 2-4 **Great Skuas**, several **Great Northern Divers** and singles of both **Puffin** and **Little Auk** off the Witham Mouth. On the 11th a **Black-necked Grebe** was a first record for Frampton. Winter ducks were in good evidence with counts of 386 **Goldeneye** at New Holland on 14th and 128 at Covenham where there were also 20 **Goosander**. Several **Smew** were noted and c2000 **Common Scoter** were off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 27th. An **Iceland Gull** was at Bagmoor on 16th. Six **Shore Larks** were at Saltfleet on 27th where there were also c100 **Snow Buntings** and c100 **Twite**. **Long-tailed Ducks** were off Gib Point and Grainthorpe. A **Grey Phalarope** was found at Gib Point on the 20th where the wintering **Dartford Warbler** remained; this bird was seen intermittently into February.

February

Several large skeins of **Pink-footed Geese** were noted heading northwards in the first half of the month. A **Waxwing** was at Frampton on 7th with small numbers reported at Gib Point and two at Boston. There were still around 3990 **Fieldfare** at Gib Point in the first part of the month, but numbers then dropped when all the berries had been stripped. A **Green-winged Teal** was at Alkborough Flats on 7th.

A **Red-necked Grebe** was at Cleethorpes on 12th where there was also a **Black Brant** on 20th. Single **Purple Sandpipers** were at Gib Point and Cleethorpes. An adult **Caspian Gull** at North Hykeham Pits on 22nd was the first of a dozen reported during the year. **Iceland Gulls** were noted at Bagmoor and Gainsborough. A **Great Grey Shrike** remained at Welbourn from the 22nd into March.

March

In Lincoln a pair of **Black Redstarts** had taken up residency at the cathedral, the red-bellied male sparking a lot of debate. A female and two drake **Garganey** were early at Rimax on 3rd whilst 28 **Waxwings** flying over Grantham next day retained a more wintry feel. A **Smew** showed well at Kirkby from the 5th and was joined by a second individual during its stay. Up to 80 **Whooper Swans** were noted at Sandtoft on the 6th, part of a good spring passage through the county. Three **Little Ringed Plovers** paused briefly at Frampton on 8th. An **Osprey** over Greetwell on 12th was a welcome early record. At Frampton 25 **Barnacle Geese** arrived on the 17th. A **Great Northern Diver** on the 11th on Apex Pit was only the second record for the area and the first for 15 years. A **Barn Swallow** was at Wroot on the 12th.

A **Common Crane** was at Alkborough on the 13th and another flew over Donna Nook on 20th. Welcome signs of the spring were three **Sand Martins** flying through Frampton on the 19th, where there was also the first **Northern Wheatear**.

Single **Firecrests** were at Humberston Fitties on 21st and Cleethorpes on 27th with up to four at Gib Point and a single at Skegness on 26th. Up to 150 **Twite** lingered at Frampton during the month where there were also still half a dozen **Lapland Buntings**. An **Arctic Redpoll** was at Owlet

Plantation on 21st. The first **Ring Ouzel** was at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on 27th and a **Great White Egret** was noted at Alkborough on 30th.

April

Both **Ring Ouzel** and two **Woodlarks** were at Gib Point on 2nd although 60 **Whooper Swans** at Frampton the same day were a reminder that winter was not completely over. Summer migrants trickled in during the first week of the month including a singing **Common Nightingale** at Gib Point on 3rd. A **Firecrest** was at Saltfleet on 6th with two at Gib Point next day where there was also a **Spoonbill**. Up to 13 **Black Redstarts** passed through Gib Point during the month and more unusually one was also reported at Covenham. In the north of the county a **White-tailed Eagle**, a recently introduced Scottish bird, was at Alkborough Flats. Seven **Shore Larks** were lingering at Theddlethorpe at this time. Two **Common Cranes** flew over Nettleton on the morning of the 12th. At this time **Garganey** were at Fiskerton, Boultham Mere and Freiston. An inland **Wryneck** reported Hagworthingham was a rare spring record. The county's second **White-throated Sparrow** at Fulbeck on 18th-19th was far less obliging than the first. A **Great Grey Shrike** was at Tetney Marshes on the 20th and there was a good passage of **Northern Wheatears** through the county during this period.

The first returning **Common Tern** was at Tattershall on the 21st. At Freiston the reserve had two **Channel Wagtails** on 22nd at least. A **Pied Flycatcher**, two **Ring Ouzels**, **Osprey** and **Red Kite** were at Donna Nook on the 24th; there were also good numbers of migrants warblers through Donna Nook at this time and, more unusually, a **Ring-necked Parakeet**. Three **Common Cranes** over Grainthorpe and Donna Nook next day had made their way south from Spurn and carried on through to Norfolk. The 25th produced a **Montagu's Harrier** at Gib Point where there were also six **Grasshopper Warblers**. A **Black Tern** and 15 **Arctic Terns** were at Covenham the same day. The highlight of the 26th was a **Red-rumped Swallow** which came in off the sea at Gib Point with another there on the 30th. Also on the 26th, with fresh westerlies prevailing, there were 39 **Common Whitethroats**, 18 **Willow Warblers** and six **Grasshopper Warblers** singing between Rimac and Churchill Lane where there also two **Common Redstarts**.

A flock of 21 **Common Crossbills** was at Market Rasen on 28th with a **Curlew Sandpiper** at Freiston the same day, with two also at Gib Point where a **Temminck's Stint** and three **Common Cranes** were noted. Another wader highlight was the nine **Dotterel** at Tetney Lock on the 26th which were the start of a good spring passage. On the 28th an early **Golden Oriole** was at Humberston Fitties.

May

A **Common Nightingale** was singing at Donna Nook from dawn on 1st. On the 3rd a **Dotterel** was at Bonby and four were between Friskney and Wainfleet on the 5th with two at North Cotes. A **Montagu's Harrier** was also at North Cotes on 4th. On the 5th a **Lesser Yellowlegs** made an evening appearance at Frampton. A good selection of birds at Manby at this time included **Common Crane**, **Wood Sandpiper** and **Garganey**. Perhaps the highlight of the year came on the 9th when the county's first **Oriental Pratincole** was found at Frampton. The bird performed superbly until the 18th. The first **Quail** was noted on the 9th.

On the 15th both **Red-necked Grebe** and **Garganey** showed well at Kirkby along with a **Temminck's Stint**. Following a **Honey Buzzard** over Donna Nook on the 17th a male **Common Rosefinch** was singing at Gib Point next day. Continuing Frampton's purple patch, with the **Pratincole** still in residence on the 16th, there were also the likes of **Honey Buzzard**, **Red Kite**, **Temminck's Stint**, **Garganey**, **Wood** and **Curlew Sandpipers** on the reserve.

An **Icterine Warbler** was at Gib Point on the 19th. Up to seven **Wood Sandpipers** were at Fiskerton from the 22nd. **Temminck's Stints** included peak counts of four at Gib Point, three at Frampton and two Fiskerton. Three **European Bee-eaters** flew south over Rimac on the 23rd. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at Bardney on the 26th. Gib Point continued to produce good birds with a **Golden Oriole** from the 27th and a **European Bee-eater** on the 29th. Also brought in on light south-easterly winds that day were two **Black-winged Stilts** at Frampton during the morning. Finally, a **Common Rosefinch** was noted at Gib Point on 30th.

June

An elusive **Golden Oriole** lingered at Howden's Pullover for a few days early in the month. Following a single **Golden Oriole** on the 5th the next day three birds were at Gib Point. A **Honey Buzzard** also flew south at Gib Point on the 5th when a **Pectoral Sandpiper** was found at Frampton. A **Red-necked Phalarope** was at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 6th. Two inland **Sandwich Terns** were at Kirkby on the 16th when a female **Red-necked Phalarope** was at Frampton. This

was followed by a second bird there five days later. There were several records of **Spoonbill** at this time including a flock of eight at Gib Point. One of only two reports of **Roseate Tern** during the year was at Freiston on 26th.

An amazing *Laridae* double of **Bonaparte's** and **Ring-billed Gulls** side by side occurred at Far Ings on the 28th. The Bonaparte's was only the second county record and the Ring-billed the fourth. The first returning **Ospreys** were noted at South Thoresby and Gib Point towards the end of the month. At Barton there were 13 **Mediterranean Gulls** and two **Caspian Gulls** on the 30th.

July

Up to seven **Eurasian Spoonbills** were still at Gib Point at the start of the month where a count of 15 **Little Ringed Plovers** was a site record. A **Common Crane** was also at Gib Point on the 2nd. Returning **Green Sandpipers** were noted in good numbers from early in the month. Numbers of breeding **Turtle Doves** were again down across the county. At Gib Point large numbers of **Swifts** and **Sand Martins** were already moving south, including impressive counts of 9500 **Swifts** on 15th and 3750 **Sand Martins** on 19th. Also at Gib Point up to 800 **Sandwich Terns** were offshore.

Up to 1000 **Avocets** had gathered at Read's Island from mid-month. There were several reports of **Common Crossbills** including 19 at Gib Point on the 18th and c15 over Swanpool on the 20th. At least 45 **Common Sandpipers** were at Cut End on the 24th with 21 **Greenshank** at Frampton on 28th. Three **Caspian** and four **Yellow-legged Gulls** were at Kirkby the same day. An early **Red-breasted Merganser** was at Humberston on the 25th. Breeding raptors included increasing numbers of **Red Kites** and a single pair of **Montagu's Harriers**.

August

The month started quietly with a few returning waders and warblers noted. Both **Montagu's Harrier** and **Osprey** were at Frampton early in the month and an early **Red-backed Shrike** was reported from Gib Point on 3rd. Two **Wood Warblers** were also noted there on the 5th with two also at Donna Nook on the 11th. Also at Gib Point on 5th were 34 **Black Terns** and 223 **Little Terns**. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was a nice find at Gib Point on 8th. The **Eurasian Spoonbill** count also rose to 15 at Gib Point whilst four were noted at Huttoft on 13th. On the 10th a **Montagu's Harrier** was at Tetney and the tern roost at Horseshoe Point held an adult **Roseate**, 4000 **Common**, 3 **Arctic** and at least 3 **Black Terns**. Eight **Puffins** were off Donna Nook on 11th.

The first **Sooty Shearwater**, off Skegness, was noted on the 16th. Also on the 16th a female **Red-backed Shrike** was found on the evening of the 16th at Gib Point with another reported at Rimac the same day and yet another two days later at Donna Nook. Two **Honey Buzzards** over Donna Nook on 18th were followed by another there on 22nd. A **Dotterel** at Winterringham on 21st was only one of the autumn. Next day a **Spotted Crake** was photographed at Marston.

A real Lincolnshire rarity, a **Semi-palmated Sandpiper**, was found at Alkborough Flats from the 18th. This was only the second county record, the first being 45 years ago! Overcast conditions and continual south-westerly winds produced some good counts of migrant birds at Gib Point on 22nd with 295 **Willow Warblers**, 113 **Whitethroats**, 52 **Lesser Whitethroats**, 25 **Blackcaps** and 12 **Spotted Flycatchers** noted.

A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Read's Island on 25th continued the good recent run of records in the county. A **Wryneck** was a good find at Market Deeping on 27th. In a good autumn for **Barred Warblers** one was at Gib Point on the 28th followed by another on 31st when one was also trapped and ringed at Donna Nook. All four **skuas** were noted at Gib Point on 30th along with ten **Eurasian Spoonbills** and two **Common Cranes**. A party of five juvenile **Long-tailed Skuas** flew south past Sandilands the same day. The first **Lapland Bunting**, part of an early and large influx to the county and indeed nationwide, was also reported on the 30th.

September

The month started with a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at North Cotes on 1st. On the 3rd at least 48 **Common Buzzards** passed south at Gib Point along with a single **Honey Buzzard** and a **Wryneck** was in the East Dunes. A **Common Rosefinch** was at Cleethorpes the same day. Strengthening south-easterly winds started to bring in more migrants with 11 **Pied** and 10 **Spotted Flycatchers** at Donna Nook on the 5th along with a **Wood Warbler** reported there. Also on the 5th a **Common Rosefinch** was at Humberston Fitties. A juvenile **Sabine's Gull** passed Freiston on the 6th when the first **Firecrest** of the autumn was at Pye's Hall. Also on the 6th a **Greenish Warbler** was at Saltfleet Haven. There was also a good record of a **Stone-curlew** at Dunsby Fen the same day. At Gib Point 14 **Pied Flycatchers** and 14 **Common Redstarts** were noted on the 7th and 21 **Spotted Flycatchers** were now at Donna Nook. A **Barred Warbler** was at North Cotes on the 8th with another **Barred**

Warbler at Gib Point along with a new **Wryneck** and a **Firecrest**. Southward passage at Gib Point next day included 10,500 **Barn Swallows**.

On the 12th records from Freiston and Frampton included **Pectoral Sandpiper** and **Honey Buzzard**. On 13th a **Wilson's Phalarope** was an excellent find in the evening at Gib Point. Also at this time good numbers of **Lapland Buntings** were arriving; by the 19th there were 22 at Donna Nook with a **Pectoral Sandpiper** there the same day. There were now also perhaps as many as three **Pectoral Sandpipers** in the Freiston/Frampton area during this period. A **European Nightjar** in a garden at Welton le Marsh on 18th was unexpected. On the 21st a **Red-backed Shrike** was at Humberston Fitties when a **Honey Buzzard** passed through Grainthorpe along with 18 **Common Buzzards**.

Near gale force northerlies with regular showers then produced a rich period of seawatching. The 24th produced superb counts of 210+ **Great Skuas**, 80+ **Arctic** and 35+ **Pomarine Skuas** off Chapel Point plus 20+ **Skua** sp and six **Sooty Shearwaters**. Further south at Gib Point two **Long-tailed Skuas** flew north with another also noted off Mablethorpe. A **Leach's Petrel** was off Chapel Point next day when a **Long-tailed Skua** was off Gib Point with yet another on the 26th. With such blustery conditions it was amazing that a **Yellow-browed Warbler** was located at Seacroft.

Three **Cetti's Warblers** were at Far Ings on the 25th and an **Icterine Warbler** was at Donna Nook the same day. Following the mainly southerly movement of seabirds there was then a good northerly movement with 18 **Sooty Shearwaters** off Gib Point and 15 off Donna Nook on the 26th. The first **Redwings** were also noted at this time.

Following all the seabirds the wind dropped to a light easterly with drizzle and passerine migrants began to arrive with a spectacular fall of migrants on the 27th-28th. This started with a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** at Donna Nook on the 27th, with two each of **Barred** and **Yellow-browed Warblers** at Gib Point, coinciding with the first sizable influx of thrushes there, including 42 **Ring Ouzels**, 160 **Redwing** and 200 **Song Thrush**. Also at Gib Point were 45 **Brambling**, 250 **Robins**, 12 **Common Redstarts** and 30 **Goldcrests**. Just to the south a **Great Grey Shrike** was at Wainfleet.

On the 28th there were 900 **Robins** at Gib Point along the year's only **Bluethroat** plus 58 **Common Redstarts** and 74 **Blackcaps**. At Donna Nook there were 600+ **Robins** and the previous day's **Red-breasted Flycatcher** had been joined by **Great Grey Shrike**, a **Richard's Pipit**, **Common Rosefinch** and **Yellow-browed Warblers**. There were also 20 **Common Redstarts** at Donna Nook and 35 at Saltfleet. The wind had almost completely dropped as dusk fell at sites such as Donna Nook and Gib Point that day and in the calm evening every patch of cover seemed to shelter a 'ticking' **Robin**. Also on the 28th 50+ **Lapland Buntings** were noted both at North Cotes and in the Horseshoe Point area and a **Grey Phalarope** was found at Covenham.

Another **Great Grey Shrike** was seen on the 29th, this time at Cleethorpes, when a **Yellow-browed Warbler** was at Pye's Hall. Yet another **Great Grey Shrike**, this time inland near Spalding, was noted on the 30th when an elusive **Wryneck** was found near Pye's Hall and three **Richard's Pipits** were on the saltmarsh nearby.

October

The month began where September had finished – with migrants arriving from the east. A confiding **Barred Warbler** began a lengthy, popular stay at Stonebridge, Donna Nook where a new **Great Grey Shrike** was also noted. **Yellow-browed Warblers** were at Anderby, two at Saltfleetby and a single at Gib Point on 2nd when **Barred Warblers** were noted at Skegness and Mablethorpe. With two **Barred Warblers** at Donna Nook there was also a **Richard's Pipit** along with **Great Grey Shrike** and **Yellow-browed Warbler**. Further **Richard's Pipits** flew up the Humber near Goxhill Skitter on 5th and at North Cotes on 7th. There were a few days to catch breath after this exciting period, although a **Ring-necked Duck** began a long stay at Kirkby from 5th, 1500 **Goldfinches** moved south in 90 minutes at Gib Point on 7th and a **Goshawk** was over Bourne on the 9th.

With a fresh easterly wind blowing a new arrival of migrants became obvious on the afternoon of the 8th when a **Yellow-browed Warbler**, 2 **Firecrests** and 2 **Hawfinches** were at Gib Point along with 120 **Brambling** with another 120 at Donna Nook and 150 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe. Another **Yellow-browed Warbler** was also at the latter site. The 9th-10th, a weekend, produced the hoped for fall of migrants on the coast. On the 9th a **Red-backed Shrike** was at North Cotes and a **Great Grey Shrike** was nearby at Horseshoe Point with another at Gib Point. A superb male **Red-breasted Flycatcher** was found near Pye's Hall. Two **Yellow-browed Warblers** were at Donna Nook where there were also 400 **Robins** and 250 **Goldcrests**. Next day two-three new **Yellow-browed Warblers** arrived at Donna Nook and there was a further obvious pulse of migrants, particularly warblers, from early afternoon. This included lots of greyish, long-winged **Chiffchaffs**, with 95 at Donna Nook, and an early **Pallas's Warbler** at the same site. There were also 300+ **Goldcrests** at Donna Nook and 500 at Crook Bank with 300 **Robins** at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe and 400 at Donna Nook. Also at Donna Nook there was a new **Wryneck** (as well as the long-staying bird)

and, slightly incongruously, the first **Cattle Egret** for the reserve. The county's 5th **Isabelline Shrike** was a very good find at Gib Point the same day where common migrants included 680 **Goldcrests**, 1250 **Redwing** and 715 **Song Thrushes**. **Black Redstarts** on the 10th included 7 at Donna Nook and five at Gib Point.

Both **Pallas's** and **Yellow-browed Warblers** were at Gib Point on 12th. A **Rough-legged Buzzard** at Crook Bank on the 13th began a notable influx. Yet another **Pallas's Warbler** was found at Gib Point on 14th but was eclipsed by the reserve's 4th **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**!

On the 16th a **Sabine's Gull**, two **Long-tailed**, at least 25 **Pomarine** and 50 **Arctic Skuas** were seen from Freiston along with two **Little Auks**. Two more **Little Auks** were off Barton the same day. Although fewer passerine migrants were noted on the coast compared to the previous week a Norwegian ringed **Redwing** and a Swedish **Blackbird** were trapped at Donna Nook on the 17th when **Great Grey Shrike** and **Pectoral Sandpiper** were both at Gib Point. A **Rough-legged Buzzard** hunted the east Dunes at Gib Point on the 18th and a **Black Brant** was at Freiston the same day. Of the several reports of **Rough-legged Buzzards** from this time, birds in the North Cotes/Grainthorpe area and Worlaby showed particularly well. Also at Grainthorpe were 80+ **Lapland Buntings**.

On 20th **Fieldfare** numbers inland included c250 over Navenby and 200 over Skellingthorpe. The first **Waxwing** of the autumn was noted over Skegness on 23rd. By this time there were 2,500 **Brent Geese** at Frampton along with a **Spoonbill**. On the 24th at Worlaby there were 31 **Waxwings** with 30 at Wainfleet next day and several other smaller groups around the county. Two **Shore Larks** were at Donna Nook on 27th. A **Barred Warbler** was at Gib Point, the site's seventh of the autumn, the same day. A brief spell of easterly winds at the end of the month produced a **Pallas's Warbler** at Donna Nook on 31st. As a counterpoint, from the west came an **American Golden Plover** at Freiston the same day.

November

A **Rough-legged Buzzard** was in the Wolds at Farforth on 1st and 50 **Waxwings** flew over the same site on the 6th when a **Raven** was also noted. Other **Waxwings** at this time included 20 at Tetney Lock, 31 at Gib Point and seven in Lincoln. Ten **Shore Larks** were at Gib Point on 5th which had increased to 15 by the 14th. Up to three **Firecrests** were also noted at Gib. A **Grey Phalarope** was at Boston on 7th and a late **Willow Warbler** was at Pye's Hall the same day. A **Glaucous Gull** and **Little Stint** were at Freiston Shore the same day. An inland **Black Redstart** at South Ormsby next day was noteworthy. Up to a dozen **Short-eared Owls** were at Worlaby in the first half of the month.

With north-easterlies reaching near gale force seabirds off Chapel Point on 9th included **Leach's Petrel**, four **Sooty Shearwaters**, 13 **Pomarine Skuas**, and **Red-necked Grebe**. Whilst at Freiston a **Grey Phalarope**, **Sooty Shearwater** and **Red-necked Grebe** were noted the same day. A **Firecrest** was near Hogsthorpe on 10th. Further **Rough-legged Buzzard** reports at this time came from Gib Point, Saltfleetby and between Tealby and North Willingham. By the 13th up to 30 **Snow Buntings** had gathered at Cleethorpes. A **Black Brant** was at Frampton from the 13th. Good numbers of finches were being noted moving over Gib Point at this time including 200 **Siskin** also on the 13th. A **Pallas's Warbler** was at Syke's farm, Gib Point on 17th-18th.

A **Woodlark** showed well at Donna Nook on 21st when a **Tundra Bean Goose** and 4 **White-fronted Geese** were at Gib Point. Heavy snowfall hit the county towards the end of the month. An **Iceland Gull** was at Gib Point on 28th. An inland **Yellow-browed Warbler** was a surprise find at Deeping Lakes on 30th.

December

Up to 20 **Shore Larks** were at Gib Point during the month where at least two **Firecrests** were noted with another apparently wintering at Whisby NP. Also at Gib Point on the 3rd 800 **Skylarks** were recorded, the vast majority of which headed south. Reports of small flocks of **Waxwings** were again widespread. A juvenile **Pomarine Skua** was on the Humber for several days. In the south of the county 650+ **Fieldfares** were at Frampton on the 11th and c700 were at Freiston on the 18th.

A large mixed goose flock at Gib Point from the 19th included at least 40 **White-fronted Geese**. In the harsh winter conditions further White-front reports included 47 at Alkborough and 94 over Stainby, where 17 **Red Kites** were also noted. Reports of **Barnacle Geese** also increased with the cold weather, peaking at 102 at Gib Point. A first-winter **Caspian Gull** was at Kirkby on 22nd. A total of 83 **Lapland Buntings** braved the freezing conditions at Frampton on the 26th.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 2010

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See introduction for full details.

Key to abbreviations;

LBRC - Rare or scarce in Lincs: Description and/or photograph required for consideration by the Lincolnshire Bird Club Records Committee.

BBRC - National rarity: Description and/or photograph required for submission to British Birds Rarities Committee. Records in this category are not published in the annual report or input to the database if they have not been accepted by BBRC.

RBBP - Nationally scarce breeding species monitored by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel: Any breeding season sighting in suitable habitat should be reported to the Rare Breeding Bird Panel representative as soon as possible.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Non WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	2	2	2	3	9	14	11	9	13	9	11	-
Barton Pits	8	12	7	9	8	8	24	8	6	18	14	6
Messingham SQ	38	39	36	32	27	15	26	36	24	27	22	-
Anwick Fen	38	42	59	8	7	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brayford Pool (Lincoln)	64	42	47	54	56	48	72	68	-	48	41	54
Kirkby on Bain	3	3	13	12	9	20	11	39	7	11	-	6
Tattershall	50	14	8	13	34	30	45	57	38	23	42	-
Metheringham Delph	9	27	26	9	27	5	5	15	15	27	17	12
Nocton/Dunston/Bardney	38	67	42	65	5	11	2	2	3	22	-	-
R Welland - Spalding to												
Borough Fen	249	185	162	102	182	-	20	21	137	133	131	248
River Welland - Four Mile												
Bar to Borough Fen	211	165	160	82	175	-	18	20	101	80	115	245
Frampton Marsh	28	17	35	25	49	34	25	10	9	9	13	25
North Hykeham Pits	12	7	8	10	3	12	1	1	32	12	1	2
Whisby NP	12	12	7	7	4	8	5	14	13	14	13	3

This species is inconsistently recorded as illustrated by gaps in the table. Tabulated areas differ from last years. Other counts in excess of 35 birds were; 67 between Barrow Haven and New Holland on Jan 24th and 48 on Mar 13th, 37 at Baston Fen on Mar 7th, 43 on Mar 13th and 40 on Mar 28th, 87 at Blackmoor Bridge on Feb 8th, 90 at Blankney Fen on Jan 26th, c100 on Feb 7th, c50 on Feb 9th, 89 on Feb 24th, 43 at Coronation Channel, Spalding on Nov 13th, 50 at Deeping High Bank on Mar 11th and c40 on Apr 8th, 129 at Martin Fen on Mar 26th, 68 at Potterhanworth Fen on Jan 17th, c70 at Tunnel Pits, Wroot on Jan 24th and 47 at Worlaby Carrs on Feb 22nd and 35 on Mar 11th.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

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

Non WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec
Baston - Langtoft Pits	-	-	-	-	8
Blackmoor Bridge	-	2	-	-	-
Blankney Fen	-	11	-	-	-
Deeping High Bank	-	-	-	-	11
Frampton Marsh	21	2	7	3	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	-	2
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	-	12
Huttoft Bank Pit	3	7	4	-	-
Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR	-	-	-	7	14

Sandilands Pit	4	-	-	-	-
Tunnel Pits, Wroot	42	42	28	-	3
Worlaby Carrs	-	8	1	-	-

In the first winter period, records not tabulated included seven at Far Ings, Barton on Jan 10th, three at Great Cotes from Jan 16th-19th, five at Covenham Res on Jan 17th, four on the River Welland at Spalding on Jan 17th, two at Blackmoor Bridge on Jan 8th and two at Martin Fen on Mar 26th. In the second winter period a single bird was at Alkborough Flats on Oct 27th, five birds flew over Whisby NP on Nov 20th, five birds were at Nocton Fen on Dec 22nd and two birds were at New Holland on Dec 27th.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

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

Non WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tunnel Pits, Wroot	60	57	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	32	60
Huttoft Bank Pit	50	79	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	58
Frampton Marsh	36	23	34	72	-	1	1	-	3	24	5	16

The above table show the three sites that consistently held Whooper Swans throughout the first and second winter periods. Elsewhere in the first winter period notable counts included 41 at Sandilands Pits Jan 17th, 14 on the Humber at Goxhill Haven on Jan 24th, up to eight at Potterhanworth/Nocton Fen from Jan 17th-30th. Throughout Jan there were numerous movements involving small parties, mainly travelling south or southeast, including 11 at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR on Jan 3rd, 14 at Goxhill Haven on Jan 14th and three at Covenham Res on Jan 23rd. The main spring passage north appeared earlier than 2009 with peak movements from Mar 26th-Apr 1st, including 71 Hemswell, 17 Bishop Norton, 19 Messingham SQ and five at Donna Nook all on Mar 26th and 33 Boston, 10 Kirton Marsh and 30 Freiston Shore on Apr 3rd. The last significant movement of this period was 11 at Boultham Mere on Apr 18th. A single bird appeared at Frampton Marsh on Jun 24th and remained until at least Jul 10th. In the second winter period there were 90 at Wroot on Oct 17th and 30 on Nov 22nd until at least Dec 26th. Elsewhere the first birds arrived at Frampton Marsh with three on Sept 18th, seven on Oct 22nd, 24 on Oct 30th and 16 on Dec 11th. Huttoft Bank Pits held three birds on Nov 11th and 58 birds on Dec 12th.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Winter visitor, mainly coastal, Oct-Apr. Two races. *A f fabalis* ('Taiga' Bean Goose) is rare. *A f rossicus* ('Tundra' Bean Goose) is scarce. LBRC

A poor year with just a single accepted record of a Tundra Bean Goose found on Nov 21st (PRF) and still present on 22nd when it associated with a small party of White-fronted Geese on Croft Marsh, Gib Point. It is thought that this bird was responsible for further reports of single birds seen in the same area on Nov 11th, Nov 29th, Dec 23rd and finally Dec 26th.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Common winter visitor Sep-Apr, mainly to the Humber and Wash, but many coastal and inland movements. A few injured/escaped birds occasional in summer.

Non WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
The Humber												
Alkborough Flats	18	1	14	3	-	-	-	-	80	14	500	-
Reads Island area	2500	793	800	26	1	-	-	-	128	3174	3520	300
Barton area	120	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	1200	250	60
Goxhill Marsh	582	478	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-
The Wash												
Gib Point	2000	1253	775	24	3	5	-	-	523	828	1200	1600
Wainfleet	380	818	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	246	610	-
Freiston Shore	1000	112	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	5	24	48
Frampton Marsh	800	500	1	2	1	-	-	-	150	12000	800	220
Other sites												
Worlaby Carrs	-	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	300	1492	-
Donna Nook	147	-	90	1	-	-	-	-	50	400	500	-
Saltfleetby	302	250	90	-	-	-	-	-	650	850	600	1400

High counts in the first winter period included c2500 at Read's Island on Jan 24th, c2000 at Gib Point on Jan 18th, c3500 at Wingland Marsh on Feb 11th and 1525 north over Louth on Mar 5th.

Spring passage was widely recorded across Lincolnshire with peak north-west movement recorded in early Mar. Late birds included singles at Frampton Marsh on May 3rd, at Messingham SQ on May 3rd, at Read's Island on May 16th and five birds at Gib Point on Jun 5th. Returning birds were recorded from early Sep, with peak counts in mid-Oct onwards. There were counts of 3520 birds out of the roost on Read's Island on Nov 7th and c3500 at Whitton Sands from Nov 11th-13th with birds feeding in Yorkshire and returning to roost in the Humber Estuary.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10
Humber Estuary WeBS	6562	5638	3909	4151	3703	7108	3944

WeBS data for this species have shown a long-term increase of birds wintering in the UK, with the figures for the whole of the Humber Estuary 2003-10 reproduced above. The survey shows the fluctuating annual totals using the estuary in Oct-Nov.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Rare/scarce winter visitor Sep-Apr, occasionally fairly common. Two races *A a albifrons* (European White-fronted Goose) is scarce but regular, *A f flavirostris* (Greenland White-fronted Goose) is rare. LBRC

All 2010 records referred to *albifrons* except for a single *flavirostris* in late Dec. In the first winter period the majority of records came from long staying birds at Frampton Marsh, with a single from Jan 16th-24th, then two birds from Feb 4th-Mar 18th when four birds were recorded until the 27th and then reducing to two birds until Apr 9th. The only other records were two at Freiston Shore on Jan 23rd, 18 at Wingland Marsh on Feb 9th and a single bird at Fiskerton Fen on Apr 9th. In the second winter period, the first bird of the autumn was a single at Frampton Marsh on Sep 18th. During Oct there were three at Gib Point on the 4th, a single with Pink-footed Geese at Donna Nook on the 17th and three at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR on the 19th. There were two inland records with two adults and one juvenile at Marston STW on Oct 19th and a single adult bird at North Hykeham Pits on Oct 29th. A small party of three adults and two juveniles were recorded at Croft Marsh, Gib Point from Nov 21st-25th and were briefly in the company of a Bean Goose on the 22nd. At the beginning of Dec six birds were on Croft Marsh, Gib Point from Dec 3rd-13th. A species noted for its cold weather movements, the freezing conditions at the end of Dec caused a significant influx of birds into the county with a peak movement, presumably involving arrivals from the continent from Dec 19th until the end of the year. At Seacroft there were 17 on Dec 19th, 14 on 20th, 13 on 22nd reducing to just three birds on 26th. Elsewhere on the coast there were 18 at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR on Dec 24th, 30 over Frampton Marsh Dec 29th and 8 at Freiston Shore on Dec 31st. A flock of 47 adults and juveniles was at Alkborough Flats from Dec 22nd-27th and 14 flew over South Ferriby on Dec 29th. Inland two birds were at Baston Fen from Dec 23rd-28th and a skein of 94 flew over Stainby Tip on Dec 24th.



White-fronted Geese *Anser albifrons* Alkborough Flats Dec 24th 2010 © Graham Catley

A single juvenile *flavirostris* was at Seacroft on Dec 19th-22nd (KMW,JPS), being the only record of this race in the county during 2010.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Formerly a common resident in the Fens up to about 1800. Feral population established in the 1950s with rapid expansion and now common. Wild birds may occur (scarce) Sep-Apr, but difficult to detect.

Non WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	677	290	210	58	102	170	300	900	16	150	400	301
Bagmoor/Winterton	240	-	210	-	180	277	-	-	169	527	-	-
Barton Pits	200	80	160	45	40	200	100	13	173	160	100	3
Gib Point	3	19	20	19	35	40	40	180	210	230	215	55
Freiston Shore	200	1	1	4	1	3	12	1	-	150	118	200
Frampton Marsh	13	10	11	17	24	10	31	70	98	11	2	2
Kirkby on Bain GP	90	8	195	67	69	340	360	180	250	145	210	200
Messingham SQ	670	96	-	42	1	-	200	150	210	300	68	-
Marston STW	200	-	120	40	42	20	2	357	130	210	290	330
North Hykeham Pits	-	2	9	39	12	126	97	-	6	-	69	8
Tattershall Lakes CP	451	280	205	117	118	450	328	255	340	195	490	635
Whisby NP	57	157	78	18	37	129	100	23	-	-	27	-

Other counts in excess of 100 birds were; 242 at Bardney Pits Feb 23rd, 110 at Cove Farm Quarry, Westwoodside on Feb 20th and 152 on Dec 19th, 122 at East Halton Pits on Aug 30th and 284 on Sep 9th, 302 at Fillingham Lake on Aug 8th, c200 Fiskerton Fen on Aug 8th, 250 on Nov 6th, 150 at Hagnaby Lock on Sep 8th, 195 at Hartsholme on Jan 19th, 120 at Langtoft West End GP on Jan 18th and 300 there on Nov 14th, c400 at Manby Flashes on Jan 18th, 529 at RAF Woodhall on Dec 17th, 250 at Short Ferry on Dec 9th, 127 at Stantons Pit on Sep 19th, 186 at Swanpool on Feb 4th, 504 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Oct 15th and 640 at Winteringham on Aug 28th.

Greater Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Common resident, introduced from North America in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The taxonomic status of the Canada geese has recently changed with Greater Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* (comprising subspecies *canadensis*, *fulva*, *interior*, *maxima*, *moffitti*, *occidentalis* and *parvipes*) and Lesser Canada Goose *B. hutchinsii* (comprising subspecies *hutchinsii*, *leucopareia*, *minima* and *taurneri*) now being recognised as two distinct species. BBRC Only Greater Canada Goose occurs as a feral resident in Britain.

Non WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Read's Island	1	22	146	-	-	-	-	296	-	18	20	88
Barton Pits	14	12	27	20	12	20	20	6	300	96	60	-
Gib Point	57	11	52	19	10	43	43	-	120	20	82	7
Freiston Shore	400	40	47	20	39	78	33	174	6	300	400	500
Frampton Marsh	3	41	39	8	12	8	55	130	101	-	-	3
Kirkby on Bain GP	3	11	10	4	13	-	12	-	7	16	-	8
North Hykeham Pits	-	13	4	5	-	27	30	-	83	-	-	-
Whisby NP	9	18	10	14	16	22	21	79	3	17	-	-

Counts of over 50 at non-tabulated sites were; 150 at Boston Deepes in Oct, c100 at Donna Nook in Aug, 270 in Oct and 60 in Dec, 55 at Fillingham Lake in Jan and c100 in Mar, 120 at Fiskerton Fen Scrapes in Aug, 65 at Hagnaby Lock in Aug, 129 at Manby Flashes in Jan and 111 in Feb, 56 at Marston STW in Aug, c100 at Raithby in Oct, 156 at Stantons Pits in Sep and c250 at the Witham Mouth in Jan.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Scarce/fairly common winter visitor, mainly to the coast, Oct-May. An increasing feral population has bred irregularly since the late 1980s. RBBP

Non WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Whitton Sands area 2010	280	-	218	424	-	-	210	340	400	400	280	-
Whitton Sands area 2009	425	400	300	-	19	150	-	300	634	556	596	474

The feral flock on the Humber, centred around Whitton Sands continues to prosper, and is probably responsible for the majority of records along the Humber and possibly further afield.

Analysis of birds in Lincolnshire is difficult when trying to eliminate feral birds, as highlighted by a colour-ringed bird recorded at Frampton Marsh on Apr 24th. This feral bird had been ringed near Roxton, Beds in Jul 2005, and then proceeded to tour central England being seen in Wilts in 2007, Oxon in 2007, at Slimbridge WWT in 2007, Staffs in 2009, Cheshire in 2009, Powys in 2009, South Yorks in 2009, Leicestershire in 2009 and Gloucestershire in 2010 before arriving at Frampton Marsh on Apr 24th.

Birds away from Whitton Sands included in Jan a flock of 80 on the Wolds, South Ferriby on the 6th, 20 at Donna Nook on the 20th and single birds at Messingham SQ on the 29th, Frampton Marsh from Jan 25th-Feb 12th, and one with Pink-footed Geese at Goxhill Haven on the 24th. A flock of 25 appeared at Frampton Marsh from Mar 18th-20th, increasing to 27 on 21st with seven birds on Apr 28th. Elsewhere counts included 24 at Donna Nook from Feb 24th-Mar 1st, 20 at Goxhill Marsh on Mar 14th and up to 55 at Cleethorpes Boating Pool, being present all year, but wandering widely. During Nov 94 birds were over Far Ings, Barton Pits on 27th, 32 were with Pink-footed Geese on Wainfleet Marsh between 29th-30th, two were with Canada Geese on Croftmarsh, Gib Point between Nov 28th-30th and 29 were on mudflats off Gib Point from Nov 29th- Dec 2nd. In Dec, 46 birds were at Frampton Marsh on the 2nd, 102 at Gib Point on 3rd, 54 at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR on the 4th, 65 over Sloothby on 8th and 16 at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR from the 20th-28th.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

(Dark-bellied Brent Goose) *B b bernicla*: very common coastal winter visitor Sep-May, mainly to The Wash. Scarce but regular in summer, especially on the Wash. Occasional inland.

Non WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	1250	45	150	-	50	-	-	-	-	730	622	150
The Wash												
Gib Point	500	300	300	71	-	1	1	-	2	185	500	1200
Wainfleet	2000	1604	33	68	489	2	-	-	-	781	1021	-
Wrangle	1110	1942	577	211	14	-	-	-	-	1300	1103	1873
Leverton	1110	1825	977	538	250	1	-	1	1	959	724	-
Bennington	-	280	350	230	180	-	-	-	-	420	410	-
Butterwick	545	420	410	442	822	-	-	-	1	1825	496	-
Freiston Shore	2400	1000	1077	2000	2000	8	4	5	400	2200	79	1850
Witham Mouth	2500	2605	2300	1100	300	-	6	-	3	1800	1200	-
Frampton Marsh	1580	5000	1414	2000	1800	1	1	-	10	2500	1500	4000
Welland	1680	870	224	649	327	-	-	-	-	750	1020	-

Most large counts came from The Wash as usual. The only counts of 1000 or more elsewhere were 1250 at Donna Nook and up to 1170 at Grainthorpe Haven in Jan and 1000 at Saltfleet in Feb. There were two inland records this year; one was at Messingham SQ from Jan 26th-30th and there were 37 at Covenham Res. on Nov 1st.

(Pale-bellied Brent Goose) *B b brota*: rare/scarce coastal visitor, generally Oct-Apr.

Non WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
South Ferriby/ Read's Island	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Tetney Marsh	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook area	8	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	2
Chapel Pit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Gib Point	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Wainfleet	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	11
Witham Mouth	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	6	4	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Nene Mouth/ Terrington Marsh	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

A good year with three double figure counts and records from 10 locations. The double figure counts indicated there was a small influx at the end of the year, with 11 at Freiston Shore on Dec 18th, 13 at Gib Point on Dec 21st and 14 at South Ferriby/Read's Island on Dec 26th subsequently seen at Barton in 2011. There was one summer record, of one at Freiston Shore on Jun 20th.

(Black Brant) *B b nigricans*: Former vagrant first 1982 with just three records to 1991. Now annual in small numbers, with Dark-bellied flocks. LBRC

A good year with at least five individuals recorded. At Frampton Marsh/Freiston Shore at least two birds were seen occasionally, although never together, among the Dark-bellied Brent Geese flocks from (Nov 13th) 2009 to Apr 25th (JB, PRF, SK et al). A male seen at Humberston -Tetney Lock on Mar 17th (GPC) had probably been in the area for a while. In the second winter period one was at Freiston Shore on Oct 18th (PRF) and a different individual was at Frampton Marsh on Oct 31st and Nov 13th (JB, JSa)



Black Brant *B b nigricans* Freiston Shore Apr 24th 2010 © Steve Keightley

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Rare/scarce feral visitor. Some local releases also involved and breeds occasionally. RBBP

Non WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Boultham Park Lake	-	1	-	-	1	1	2	4	4	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain	2	2	8	6	4	4	18	10	11	5	5	2
Fiskerton Fen	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	3	-	-	-	-
RAF Woodhall	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	19	19	2	4
Tattershall Lakes CP	3	1	4	4	10	3	9	10	12	10	4	1
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	3	2	-	-	-
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	5	5	5	5	6	5	7	6	6	4	4	4
Min. No of Birds	8	7	19	13	20	14	37	32	50	35	12	8

All counts of over four birds are shown in the above table. This species was recorded at 19 locations in Lincolnshire throughout 2010. Non-tabulated sites were; Ancaster Pits/Woodland Waters with two birds from Aug 17th-Sep 25th, Black Bank, Messingham with two birds on May 14th, Fillingham Lake with four birds on Mar 5th, Freiston Shore with three birds from Jun 5th-8th, Fulbeck with one bird on Dec 9th, Gibraltar Point with singles on Apr 20th and Oct 12th, Hartsholme CP with a single bird between Jan 3rd and Feb 15th, Nocton Fen with two on Feb 23rd, Revesby Res with one on Apr 18th, Short Ferry with one on Apr 21st and Nov 6th and Willoughby Heath with two on Jul 17th. Breeding was reported from Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits, Tattershall Lakes CP and Fiskerton Fen.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Rare. Vagrant/feral birds are recorded in most years. Small flocks are regular and form an occurrence pattern unique to this species amongst escaped or vagrant wildfowl. RBBP

Two birds were at Alkborough Flats/Whitton Sand from Jun 30th (ND, GPC et al), increasing to four on Jul 1st and a maximum count of nine on Jul 23rd (ND), then reducing to seven from Aug 8th-22nd, with six until Sep 1st. These birds were also recorded at other sites on the upper

Humber with seven at Read's Island on Jul 15th and two on Sep 10th. An adult female was at Cut End from Sep 3rd-13th (PS), occasionally visiting Freiston Shore during its stay.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

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

Non WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
The Humber												
Alkborough Flats	181	207	261	72	138	184	190	260	440	428	400	0
Read's Island	217	239	458	-	-	-	1150	1000	-	886	1100	52
Barton Pits	11	40	68	16	30	30	3	8	6	40	57	-
Donna Nook	184	124	-	-	-	6	6	3	120	309	117	180
Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe	130	-	2	6	20	13	8	11	55	-	-	-
The Wash												
Gib Point	122	142	110	74	70	148	40	67	106	67	97	220
Wainfleet	486	99	-	7	52	49	-	17	86	143	175	486
Leverton	5	20	10	3	7	7	-	-	-	68	18	-
Butterwick	85	20	10	2	6	4	1	-	-	-	109	-
Freiston Shore	400	28	689	250	10	-	7	18	120	100	353	45
Witham Mouth	490	-	295	175	-	-	-	50	1	100	38	-
Frampton Marsh	4	200	53	80	48	34	90	9	10	4	2	52
Kirton Marsh	12	30	18	16	4	18	-	-	-	68	18	-
Welland	200	90	95	34	20	-	7	8	-	9	14	-
Holbeach	67	65	43	6	6	4	2	12	2	25	16	-
Gedney	190	-	227	15	-	26	16	10	6	4	9	81
Terrington	276	-	342	-	43	-	22	20	4	10	-	361
Inland												
Manby Flashes	4	6	9	7	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bardney Pits	-	-	1	6	66	17	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain	4	1	13	19	16	2	-	3	2	-	2	-
Messingham SQ	4	12	24	16	11	-	2	3	-	3	2	-
Toft Newton Res	-	-	20	5	9	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
Lincoln Area	1	3	5	8	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Other counts in excess of 50 birds were; c250 at Boston Deepes on Oct 9th, 216 at Grainthorpe Haven on Jan 17th and 82 on Mar 14th, 60 at Killingholme Haven Pits on Mar 3rd and 120 on Aug 24th, 160 at Pyewipe on Jan 26th and 361 at Tetney Haven on Nov 26th. Breeding was confirmed at Alkborough Flats, Bardney Pits, Barton Pits, Butterwick, Covenham Res, Donna Nook, Frampton Marsh, Gib Point, Goxhill, Killingholme Haven Pits, Kirkby on Bain, North Kelsey Moor, Tetney Marsh, Toft Newton Res and Trent Port.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Rare/scarce feral resident/visitor and local escapee.

Recorded from nine sites during the year. A female was at Covenham Res on Jan 8th and Oct 4th, a pair was at Belton Park from at least Apr 8th-May 13th, a single bird was on Coronation Channel, Spalding on Apr 8th, three birds were at Londonthorpe Wood on Jun 6th, a drake was at Hagnaby Lock on Aug 12th, a pair was at Deeping Lakes on Oct 3rd, and single drakes were seen at Gib Point on Oct 7th, on Thorpe Lake, Whisby NP from Nov 26th-28th and at Rosper Road Pool on Dec 13th.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

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

Non-WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	488	960	618	79	10	4	4	2	140	214	302	320
Bagmoor/Winterton Floods	59	82	40	2	2	-	-	-	6	82	72	35
Barton Pits	198	98	4	-	1	-	-	9	130	164	100	60
Winteringham	260	77	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	120	60
Read's Island	1160	800	320	-	-	-	-	12	10	520	1000	1000

South Ferriby	428	133	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	50	40
Gib Point	594	700	220	48	-	2	3	24	103	205	270	1206
Freiston Shore	1503	2700	270	6	-	2	1	-	2000	2409	2000	900
Witham Mouth	2000	-	275	-	-	-	-	-	1	1800	1700	-
Frampton Marsh	356	500	350	30	9	6	6	80	200	606	1800	700
Marston STW	66	43	35	6	-	-	-	-	6	20	27	83
North Hykeham Pits	234	198	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	45

Other counts in excess of 200 birds were; 220 at Anwick Fen on Dec 12th, 370 at Chapel Point on Nov 8th, 210 at Holbeach Marsh on Sep 12th and 400 on Nov 7th, 450 at Horseshoe Point on Sep 26th, 215 at Huttoft Bank Pit on Feb 28th, 200 on Mar 11th and 300 on Dec 12th, c600 at Nocton on Feb 11th, c1300 at Terrington on Jan 3rd and 304 on Oct 10th, 480 at Tetney Haven on Nov 26th, 411 at Wainfleet on Nov 7th, 900 at Welland Jan 3rd and 500 on Nov 7th and 229 on Whitton Sand on Mar 14th.



Eurasian Wigeon *Anas Penelope* Freiston Shore Nov 13th 2010 © Neil Smith

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Scarce resident and fairly common winter visitor. Increased numbers since 1970s with breeding now regular mainly on Fenland rivers and drains and gravel and clay pit complexes. RBBP to end of 2010.

Non-WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	4	-	38	44	49	83	26	4	6	26	29	-
Barton Pits	37	40	22	11	11	8	7	15	14	32	80	26
Gib Point	36	52	36	14	11	17	30	10	28	13	13	18
Frampton Marsh	21	41	41	28	30	40	13	20	26	9	20	4
Boultham Mere	29	51	46	12		19	-	-	86	270	-	-
Kirkby on Bain	63	34	50	28	18	17	7	45	200	140	40	-
Marston STW	-	-	22	8	4	2	-	7	4	3	2	-
Messingham SQ	30	33	40	24	8	-	-	3	34	13	48	-
Metheringham Delph	29	60	70	8	5	5	-	-	-	30	30	-
Tattershall Lakes CP	80	110	35	2	3	-	-	-	8	26	5	-
Whisby NP	90	61	41	24	3	7	30	74	66	115	245	37

Breeding was recorded at Alkborough Flats one brood, Barton one brood and Frampton Marsh. Non-Tabulated counts in excess of 10 birds were; 109 at Barrow Haven on Nov 23rd, 61 at Burton Gravel Pits on Feb 21st and 18 on Mar 14th, 107 at North Hykeham Pits on Jan 16th, 38 on Feb 20th, 16 on Mar 13th and 84 on Dec 19th and 84 at Tattershall Bridge on Dec 9th.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

Common migrant and winter visitor. Scarce in summer, with localised breeding.

Non-WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	498	770	551	56	30	57	50	900	750	2067	1057	1
Read's Island	850	280	45	-	-	-	-	100	150	3448	900	80
Barton Pits	57	66	57	27	1	3	10	300	18	64	100	12
Donna Nook	180	220	250	-	-	-	3	57	50	-	-	-
Gib Point	1000	400	92	16	2	20	26	310	360	400	476	260
Freiston Shore	500	50	10	10	-	-	-	200	157	705	121	75
Witham Mouth	600	150	200	-	-	-	-	100	1	750	85	-
Frampton Marsh	142	1000	44	24	4	40	8	750	600	400	700	110
Kirkby on Bain	165	50	3	10	4	3	12	110	330	450	240	16
Manby Flashes	100	150	100	100	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marston STW	100	150	100	100	3	-	11	-	16	59	6	11
Messingham SQ	136	113	11	17	-	-	-	-	93	3	16	-
Whisby NP	142	10	19	18	2	2	3	8	27	85	117	131

Other counts in excess of 200 birds included: c320 at Bonby Carrs on Oct 30th, c1200 at Boston Deepes on Oct 9th, 610 at Butterwick on Jan 3rd, c250 at Horseshoe Point on Sep 26th, c300 on the Humber at the bridge on Aug 31st, 710 at Mablethorpe on Nov 17th, 220 at South Ferriby on Jan 24th, 674 at Terrington on Jan 3rd, 320 at Welland on Jan 3rd, 380 at Winteringham on Jan 24th and c600 at Worlaby Carrs on Jan 2nd with 320 on Oct 30th.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

Vagrant. LBRC

A drake was seen at Alkborough Flats from Feb 7th-Mar 14th (ND et al). It is assumed that this bird was the same elusive drake which was found at Alkborough Flats in Nov 2009 and possibly the same bird seen in previous years.



Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* Alkborough Flats Mar 21st 2010 © Roy Harvey

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	64	44	50	26	95	88	78	220	180	105	68	68
Read's Island Flats	35	20	6	14	8	-	-	-	-	82	110	75
Barton Pits	35	25	18	20	14	26	72	70	20	33	43	140

Gib Point	170	45	25	10	9	70	90	110	180	31	166	86
Freiston Shore	100	50	25	85	33	91	41	25	263	277	181	130
Frampton Marsh	50	45	37	35	60	28	100	38	130	67	108	57
Covenham Res	450	140	4	27	40	50	94	68	50	130	115	-
Kirkby on Bain	36	18	16	11	56	50	110	130	73	38	85	24
Nocton Fen	90	55	70	70	69	29	28	4	30	205	-	-
Coronation Channel and Welland	288	136	101	55	43	51	224	224	189	74	137	204
R Welland-Spalding to Four Mile Bar	112	15	20	16	20	-	6	31	4	1	56	162
Brayford Pools	16	14	11	7	8	15	22	17	-	46	17	75
Boultham Park	37	32	49	26	29	41	89	77	54	19	64	-
North Hykeham Pits	92	29	31	23	25	16	20	13	27	43	43	170
Whisby NP	49	17	13	21	25	50	75	40	57	67	64	140

This most familiar and widespread of the county's wildfowl was recorded at over 100 sites and at 45 of these there was a count of 100 or more in at least one month.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Fairly common/common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare in summer. RBBP

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	5	7	1	1	-
Read's Island	11	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	12	11	1
Goxhill	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	3	-	-
Gib Point	10	13	6	4	-	-	-	7	10	5	4	1
Freiston Shore	25	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
Frampton Marsh	10	11	6	3	2	2	1	1	6	8	15	4
Welland	30	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Terrington	98	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-

Counts from the first winter period not included in the above table include a single bird at Grainthorpe Marsh from Jan 1st-17th, six at Witham Mouth on Jan 3rd, three at Butterwick on Jan 3rd, one at Saltfleetby on Jan 17th, two at Winteringham on Jan 24th, three at Wainfleet on Feb 28th, and six at Goxhill on Mar 1st. Inland, a female was at Covenham Res from Jan 3rd-8th, a pair was at Thurlby Sand Pit from Feb 8th-26th, a drake was at Apex Pit North Hykeham from Feb 25th-Mar 4th and a single drake was at Boultham Mere on Mar 7th. Up to two drakes were present at Frampton Marsh throughout May, Jun and Jul while a single drake was at Messingham SQ on Jun 15th. Significant counts in the second winter period included 11 birds north at Mablethorpe on Aug 8th, 10 at Goxhill Sep 6th, 48 at Whitton Sands on Sep 22nd, eight at Horseshoe Point on Sep 26th, 26 at Chapel Point on Nov 8th and 17 Gedney on Dec 27th. Inland an immature bird was at Covenham Res from Sep 2nd-22nd and a single bird from Oct 2nd-4th, four were at Bardney Pits on Sep 12th and two on Nov 20th.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Scarce passage migrant, rare summer visitor, breeding occasionally. Exceptional in winter. RBBP

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
No. Lincs Sites	2	6	8	4	3	5	3
Min. Lincs Total	5	8	12	7	5	9	3

The first birds of the year were two drakes and a female at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR from Mar 2nd - 4th, followed by a pair at Huttoft Bank Pits on Mar 27th. The main arrival occurred from mid Apr with a drake at Freiston Shore from Apr 8th to at least May 20th, a drake at Boultham Mere on Apr 15th, a pair at Fiskerton Fen from Apr 15th-16th and a drake on Jackson's Marsh, Gib Point on Apr 30th. In May drakes were at Manby Flashes from May 4th-8th and from Jun 13th- Jul 7th, at Alkborough Flats between May 9th -Jun 6th and at Boultham Mere on May 11th. At Frampton Marsh the first birds were seen from Apr 26th, with a peak count of five birds on May 22nd and with two pairs confirmed breeding on the reserve, the last bird being seen on Sept 19th. The secretive breeding nature of this species makes proving breeding difficult, but three other sites were thought to have held breeding pairs. Elsewhere single drakes were at Freiston Shore on Jun 8th and at Kirkby on Bain from Jul 28th -Aug 8th. A juvenile was at Alkborough Flats from Aug 2nd-8th, a female at Boultham Mere from Sep 7th-24th, at North Somercotes Gravel Pits on Aug 30th and a juvenile was on Tennyson Sands, Gib Point from Sep 15th-25th.



Garganey *Anas querquedula* Kirkby on Bain May 15th 2010 © Russell Hayes

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Scarce/fairly common resident and passage migrant. RBBP.

Non WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	9	4	8	2	8	32	26	109	58	82	23	-
Barton Pits	15	32	27	4	3	4	4	25	22	16	40	7
Gib Point	49	53	49	45	8	4	7	19	33	63	53	36
Frampton Marsh	8	22	40	17	22	30	26	17	9	16	32	1
Boultham Mere	8	7	20	2	4	2	-	9	22	36	58	-
Kirkby on Bain	8	12	6	10	3	-	5	11	20	20	16	-
Marston STW	-	-	9	8	3	-	-	8	20	9	1	2
Messingham SQ	6	5	21	9	4	-	-	-	1	2	2	-
Whisby NP	5	8	12	12	2	2	1	6	4	59	16	-

Breeding was confirmed at Messingham SQ where two pairs bred with broods of two and three seen and at Alkborough Flats where a single brood of ten was seen on Jun 17th. Non-tabulated counts in excess of 10 birds were; 16 at Bardney Pits on Jun 20th, 11 on Aug 19th and 19 on Nov 21st, 19 at Barrow Haven on Nov 23rd, 16 at Birchwood Lakes, Skellingthorpe Feb 21st, 40 at Freiston Shore on Feb 28th, 31 on Apr 17th and 75 on Oct 16th, 54 at Killingholme Haven Pits on Oct 19th and 56 on Nov 5th, 17 at Manby Flashes on Feb 22nd and 11 on Apr 15th, 11 at North Hykeham Pits on Dec 19th, 97 at Rosper Road Pools Sep 27th and 108 on Oct 5th and 21 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Dec 30th. The paucity of birds during Dec was due to displacement when severe weather caused waterbodies to freeze.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; rare in summer. Increasing numbers of feral birds present in the county. RBBP

Reported from 11 widespread locations, representing a slight decrease in distribution on last year. Once again Baston-Langtoft GP held the largest concentration with 45 birds reported on Feb 15th, 26 on Mar 26th, 19 on Mar 30th and 59 on Nov 6th. Elsewhere a long staying drake was present at Covenham Res from the beginning of the year until at least Nov 26th and at Hartsholme Lake a pair was reported throughout the year with three birds present on Mar 15th. Elsewhere at drake was at Kirkby on Bain on Mar 21st, a female was at Deeping Lakes on Apr 10th, singles were at Messingham SQ on Jan 24th and Bardney Pits on Aug 27th and up to four birds were at Thurlby Sand Pit in October. At Whisby NP there were four records involving six birds, a drake was on Butterley's Pit on Mar 22nd with presumably the same drake and a female on Mar 25th, a female/imm was on Teal Lake on Sep 9th and one drake and two females were on Willow Lake on Oct 28th.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Scarce breeder and a common winter visitor. RBBP

Non WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bagmoor/Winterton												
Floods	-	7	12	11	2	14	-	-	27	-	-	-
Barton Pits	117	42	150	20	16	15	42	24	11	23	25	2
Bardney Pits	-	229	46	9	1	13	-	-	-	-	106	-
Kirkby on Bain/ Tattershall Thorpe Pits	29	81	31	15	13	18	2	14	20	17	18	-
Messingham SQ	28	10	31	7	3	-	1	-	-	12	32	-
North Hykeham Pits	72	30	10	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	30	9
Tattershall Lakes CP	159	97	10	-	-	-	6	-	5	-	23	68
Thurlby Sand Pit	-	-	72	-	-	-	-	-	-	61	65	10
Boultham Mere	11	20	6	1	2	-	-	-	4	23	12	-
Whisby NP	17	7	8	2	2	3	5	5	-	26	22	8

Breeding was confirmed along the Humber at Far Ings, Barton with three broods, at Pit 25, Barton with two broods and at Dawson City Pits with a single brood. Significant counts not tabulated included c30 at Covenham Res on Jan 3rd and c50 on Jan 17th, 25 at New Holland Jan 14th, 27 on the River Welland, Spalding on Dec 13th and 32 at Toft Newton on Jan 17th and 76 on Jan 21st.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Vagrant. LBRC

A drake was at Kirkby on Bain from Oct 4th-26th (KDR et al) and then at Bardney Pits from Oct 31st-Nov 28th (HK, ABa). It is presumed that these records refer to the same bird, with the sites being just 9 miles apart and no overlap of dates recorded.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Common resident and winter visitor.

Non WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bagmoor/Winterton												
Floods	51	113	122	23	35	26	-	118	-	62	55	8
Barton Pits	100	20	32	20	10	30	112	81	20	30	20	4
Gib Point	40	25	26	30	47	45	49	12	36	37	24	11
Boultham Mere	33	32	26	13	13	4	-	-	1	9	25	-
Coronation Channel	125	110	62	11	-	6	3	2	8	14	171	132
Covenham Res	300	246	13	51	8	20	7	50	4	30	100	-
Frampton Marsh	26	22	55	22	22	45	30	20	18	6	-	-
Freiston Shore	4	25	32	32	22	8	19	-	5	-	-	25
Kirkby on Bain	118	39	53	84	22	63	151	120	190	80	19	7
Messingham SQ	27	26	57	80	36	-	16	10	-	-	16	-
North Hykeham Pits	48	93	49	85	41	6	16	101	296	221	137	38
R Welland (Spalding- Borough Fen)	59	345	180	-	66	-	9	55	122	151	388	520
River Welland - Four Mile Bar to Borough Fen	54	250	90	88	-	-	9	23	65	125	352	516
Tattershall Lakes CP	118	63	82	104	15	29	35	57	51	77	100	14
Whisby NP	94	76	102	61	3	27	56	177	58	109	112	17

The table show sites with consistent high counts, but locations differ slightly from those shown in the 2009 report. Breeding was recorded at Whisby NP, Fiskerton Fen, Frampton Marsh, Manby Flashes, Barton Pits, East Halton Pits, Rosper Road pools, Sleaford, Baston Fen, North Kelsey Moor and Messingham SQ. Non-tabulated counts in excess of 30 birds were; 48 at Bardney Pits on Mar 14th and 162 on Apr 18th, c70 at Barrow Haven on Dec 12th, 33 at Boultham Mere on Jan 29th and 32 on Feb 9th, 60 at Deeping Lakes on Apr 6th, 36 at Ealand on Dec 19th, 52 at East Halton Pits on Jul 30th, 66 at Gedney on Mar 8th and 48 on Apr 27th, 70 at Goxhill on Dec 12th, 33 at LNER Ballast Pits Lincoln on Mar 21st, 35 at Manby Flashes on Feb 6th, 44 at Metherringham Delph on Feb 25th, 410 at New Holland on Jan 14th, 30 at Nocton Fen on Feb

23rd and 45 on Mar 20th, 32 at Swanholme Lakes on Jan 21st, 35 on Mar 15th and 36 on Nov 16th, 265 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Oct 15th and 159 on Nov 28th, 34 at Toft Newton Res on Jan 17th, 39 on Mar 5th, 43 on Mar 26th, 44 on Apr 26th and 32 on Apr 18th and 70 at Willow Tree Fen on Jan 3rd and 55 on Oct 12th.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

Scarce/fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare in summer; bred in 1944.

A scarce bird during 2010 with far fewer records than in 2009. Assessing the true status of this sea duck in Lincolnshire is difficult and it is likely that the records shown give an accurate assessment of the inland occurrences, whereas birds offshore are probably under recorded. At the beginning of the year three birds were at Covenham Res on Jan 1st, reducing to two until at least Feb 3rd, nine were at the Witham Mouth on Jan 6th, at least 15 birds were off Freiston Shore on Jan 9th and two were at Donna Nook on Feb 2nd. In March two were at Boultham Mere on the 1st, and single females were at Messingham SQ from 6th-21st and at Goxhill Haven on the 13th. There were just two records over the summer, with a drake at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods from May 8th-10th and two birds at Covenham Res on Jul 18th. In the second half of the year two females were at Barton Pits on Sep 29th and single birds were recorded on Oct 6th, Nov 28th and Dec 13th. At Frampton Marsh a single bird was present from Oct 10th, with two present until at least Nov 26th, whilst at Freiston Shore there were three on Nov 9th, five on Nov 10th and a single on Nov 21st. At Gib Point four were offshore on Nov 7th, two on Nov 8th and singles on Nov 20th, Dec 11th-12th and Dec 26th. Elsewhere there was a drake at Bardney Pits on Nov 27th, a single bird at Boston Deepes on Oct 9th, four at Chapel Point on Nov 8th, a female at Goxhill Haven on Dec 19th, a drake at North Hykeham Pits from Nov 15th-23rd, a female at North Kelsey Moor on Dec 18th, a female at Pyewipe on Oct 18th, three at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR on Dec 5th and 14 off Skegness on Dec 2nd. The highest count of the year was of 20, 15 of them drakes, at Covenham Res on Nov 22nd.

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor, present in all months. Under-recorded because most of the population stays well offshore. Mainly found in the Wash. Very rare inland.

WeBS counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	160	170	299	400	140	93	87	70	60	12	58	43
Wainfleet	48	-	-	-	61	164	-	73	-	-	-	-
Leverton	321	637	65	280	167	209	193	298	205	2	-	-
Butterwick	22	3	15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	100	30	15	12	-	-	-	9	6	12	15	16
Witham Mouth	14	10	3	4	13	-	-	11	2	2	4	-
Frampton Marsh	2	3	13	14	14	9	8	11	-	3	-	-

Away from The Wash, records were thinly spread along the coast with counts mainly reflecting passage rather than flocks feeding on the sea. Other counts in excess of 10 birds were; in the Wash c150 at Friskney on Jan 3rd, 14 at Benington on Jun 14th, 12 at Boston Deepes on Oct 9th, 22 at Butterwick on Jan 3rd and 15 on Mar 20th, 10 at Wrangle on Mar 21st, 13 at Terrington from Jul 17th-Sep 11th and 20 at Holbeach on Sep 12th; on the coast and inland 10 at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR on Jan 3rd, 28 Feb 21st, 19 at Grainthorpe Haven on May 15th, 12 at the Humber Bridge on Oct 9th, 11 at Mablethorpe – Trusthorpe Oct 25th, 34 at Chapel Point on Nov 8th and 41 at Skegness on Nov 9th.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, rare in summer.

During the first winter single birds were off Gib Point on Jan 10th and 20th and at Grainthorpe Haven on Jan 17th. Long staying autumn birds included a drake at Gib Point from Oct 17th-29th and inland at Covenham Res a single immature female was present from Oct 6th, with two females from Oct 24th-Dec 14th, being briefly joined by a drake on Nov 9th. Up to three were off Freiston Shore from Nov 7th-14th, three were off Chapel Point on Nov 8th and immature birds were at Tattershall Lakes on Nov 13th and South Ferriby on Dec 14th.



Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* Gib Point Oct 23rd 2010 © Russell Hayes

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare inland.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	-	-	70	1	-	-	-	240	720	-	-	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe												
NNR	2000	-	200	200	-	-	240	200	-	26	7	-
Gib Point	800	2500	500	450	35	80	200	110	385	75	400	600
Freiston Shore	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	53	-	50	141	50
Leverton	18	170	19	711	2	-	-	257	-	-	-	-

Offshore counts rely on birds being near enough to the coast for accurate identification in good viewing conditions. The above tables show recorded peak counts in the first winter period, particularly off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe and Gib Point. Elsewhere in the first winter period significant offshore counts not tabulated include 26 at Grainthorpe Haven on Jan 17th, up to four birds at Witham Mouth from Jan 6th-9th, c800 off Mablethorpe North End on Jan 18th, c800 off Seacroft on Jan 28th, five at Trusthorpe on Mar 7th, five at Grimsby Docks on May 6th, 25 at Horseshoe Point on May 18th, 15 at Tetney Outfall Sluice on May 20th, and 23 at Wainfleet on May 16th. Small parties were recorded off shore throughout Jun-Jul, with numbers increasing in Aug, including 240 off Donna Nook and c200 off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Aug 12th, 110 off Gib Point and 257 off Leverton on Aug 14th, and 150 at Witham Mouth Aug 14th. In the second winter periods counts of over 100 birds not tabulated included c100 off Chapel Six Marshes on Sep 27th, c100 at Seacroft on Sep 27th, c150 at Boston Deepes on Oct 9th, c140 at Chapel Point on Nov 9th and c400 off Skegness on Nov 30th. Birds recorded on inland water bodies included a drake on Killingholme Haven Pits on Jan 26th, one on Cleethorpes Boating Pool on Feb 2nd, two birds at Covenham Res on Apr 8th and one there on Jun 25th.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10
The Wash WeBS	15	372	100	1810	207	641	711

The above table shows WeBS annual maxima for the whole of The Wash and clearly shows the variation in peak counts over the years.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

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

In the first winter period, an over wintering female which had been present since Dec 18th 2009 remained inland at Covenham Res until at least Jan 8th. A single bird was at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR on Jan 1st and three on 17th, and one at Witham Mouth on Jan 6th. At Gib

Point singles were seen offshore on Jan 23rd, Feb 1st and Apr 29th. The first birds of the autumn were two birds south past Gib Point on Aug 6th with a long gap until the next record of a single off Donna Nook on Sep 26th and just a single record in Oct of three north past Gib Point on the 14th. A number of sightings off Gib Point from Nov 2nd-Dec 24th probably related to the same few individuals, with seven birds recorded from Dec 5th-10th and 13 from Dec 12th-21st. Elsewhere there were two off Freiston Shore on Nov 7th, two off Chapel Point on Nov 8th and a single female near the Humber Bridge on Nov 9th.



Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* Covenham Res Jan 3rd 2010 © Russell Hayes

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Fairly common winter visitor, rare in summer.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Freiston Shore	35	42	15	16	-	-	30	40	19
Bagmoor/Winterton									
Floods	10	25	26	7	1	-	2	3	1
Barton Pits	11	7	52	4	1	1	8	4	2
New Holland	386	240	-	-	-	-	-	96	461
Covenham Res	128	85	70	2	1	-	15	54	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	12	8	11	12	-	2	1	10	-
North Hykeham Pits	7	3	14	2	-	-	2	7	8
Tattershall Lakes CP	17	15	5	1	1	-	-	3	8
Whisby NP	29	26	24	14	-	-	4	10	4
Min. Number of Lincs Sites	19	19	22	13	4	2	13	26	19

In the first winter period there were counts of 386 birds including 216 drakes at New Holland on Jan 14th, while other high counts were 128 at Covenham Res on Jan 21st and 186 between Barrow Haven and New Holland on Jan 24th. During Feb there were 240 at New Holland on Feb 22nd after which numbers dropped off with no double figure counts recorded after Feb 27th. Only four sites held birds during May, but a long staying female with a damaged wing was still at Tattershall Pits on Jul 21st. The first returning bird of the autumn was a single bird at Barton Pits on Sept 27th, two were at Boston Deepes on Oct 9th, two at North Hykeham Pits Oct 14th and a single south at Gib Point on Oct 14th. The first double figure count was 24 at the Humber Bridge on Oct 16th after which birds were recorded at numerous locations across the county. Peak numbers in Nov were 40 at Freiston Shore on Nov 9th, 54 at Covenham Res on Nov 12th and 96 between New Holland - Goxhill Haven on Nov 13th. Freezing conditions in Nov-Dec reduced numbers at inland sites, but there were impressive counts of 461 at Barrow Haven - New Holland on Dec 12th and 220 (part of the New Holland flock) Goxhill Haven on Dec 13th.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Scarce winter visitor Oct-Apr.

A long staying drake from 2009 was at Far Ings, Barton Pits from Jan 1st-Feb 6th, with perhaps the same bird on the River Ancholme at South Ferriby from Mar 11th-13th and at Far Ings again from Mar 21st-23rd. Possibly the same drake returned to Far Ings, Barton Pits from Nov 10th until at least Nov 30th. All other reports were of redheads (female/immature birds). Two were at New Holland Jan 14th, one at Killingholme Haven Pits NR on Jan 17th, one at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Jan 29th and a mobile bird was at Gib Point from Jan 24th-Feb 23rd being occasionally observed in the company of Goldeneye. Inland there was one at Deeping Lakes NR on Feb 5th and one at Kirkby on Bain from Feb 23rd-Mar 7th. Two were at Barrow Haven Nov 23rd, one at East Halton Pits Dec 1st, one on Teal Lake, Whisby NP from Dec 5th-6th, two flew over Gib Point Dec 12th and the final bird of the year was at Covenham Res on Dec 20th.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Scarce coastal passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce inland and in summer.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	7	15	7	5	-	3	1	-	5	4	9	4
Freiston Shore	10	8	29	20	8	-	-	1	2	8	25	1
Leverton	-	5	39	10	-	-	-	-	-	4	16	-
No. of sites	10	4	10	10	2	5	4	2	8	8	11	6
Min. No. of birds	39	43	143	85	16	10	4	2	23	34	114	13

A poor year with the recorded numbers from the Wash down on the 2009 totals. Counts exceeding four at non-tabulated sites were six at Benington Apr 18th, six at Butterwick on Apr 18th and Mar 20th, nine at Chapel Point on Nov 9th, four at Cleethorpes on Oct 9th, five at Donna Nook on Sep 26th, eight north at Grainthorpe Haven on Apr 18th, 16 at Mablethorpe on Nov 17th, six at Wainfleet on Nov 7th, four at Witham Mouth on Mar 21st and 12 on Mar 19th and four at Wrangle Marsh on Apr 16th.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	2	1	1	-	2	75	-
Covenham Res	20	12	11	-	2	1	12
Riseholme Park	21	4	1	-	-	-	-
Boultham Mere	2	8	5	1	-	-	-
Swanholme Lakes	24	22	12	-	-	13	-
Birchwood Lakes Skellingthorpe	-	2	-	-	-	14	-
Messingham SQ	1	11	3	-	-	-	-

Counts of five or over at non-tabulated sites were; five at Fillingham Lake on Feb 21st, 25 on the River Witham, Lincoln on Dec 20th, 10 at Mablethorpe on Nov 25th, 11 at New Holland on Feb 27th, 13 at River Welland, Spalding on Dec 13th and 21 on Dec 29th, 10 at Trusthorpe on Nov 25th and 23 at Tydd St Mary's Marsh on Jan 14th. The only record from the summer period was at Winteringham Haven with three females west on Jul 11th. The impressive count of 74 at Gib Point on Nov 28th consisted of a flock of 26 and 4 south, and a flock of 44 in off the sea.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Former scarce feral breeder, declining migrant and winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bagmoor/Winterton Floods	3	9	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Barton Pits	15	34	12	9	4	7	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cove Farm Quarry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Boultham Mere	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Covenham Reservoir	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
East Halton Pits	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	9	4	3	-	-
Kirkby on Bain	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Hykeham Pits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	7	5
Thurlby Sand Pit	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Whisby NP	4	5	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-

Recorded from just 10 sites in Lincolnshire during 2010, the above table shows the site max of all the records received. The decline in this species is due to the cull of the UK's population of Ruddy Duck being undertaken by the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA), initially for five years but now extended into 2011/12. The table below allows comparison between minimum monthly totals in 2009 and 2010.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Min. Lincs Total 2010	38	49	14	15	4	9	3	9	6	5	9	7
No. of Sites 2010	6	4	2	3	1	3	1	1	3	3	3	4
Min. Lincs Total 2009	67	126	4	23	18	10	8	6	12	22	47	65
No. of Sites 2009	6	6	3	8	6	3	2	2	4	4	4	5

A single pair raised five young in the north of the county. The status of this introduced American duck returns to that of a predominantly uncommon winter visitor.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Very common feral resident huge numbers released for shooting annually

A bird of open country, so population distribution within the county may well reflect this when atlas results become available. Single covey counts of over 60 at Anwick Fen and Welbourn Heath during the winter months almost certainly reflect on release sites. Typical reported counts are of single figures and normally encountered as pairs or threes during the breeding season. Not a species of conservation concern in Lincolnshire.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

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

High counts of 32 in Nov at Welbourn Heath, 30 at Elsham Hall in Aug, 36 at Holme in Nov and 49 at Atterby Carr in Dec. It is now thought that this species is increasing again in Lincolnshire following some lean years. 2010 was a particularly successful breeding season. Habitat management and especially ground-predator control are key to maintaining populations on shooting estates, but note that releases of captive-bred stock also occurs. A dry warm early summer is also crucial and early reports suggest that 2011 may also prove to be a successful year for the species. Whilst this species is nationally of conservation concern, the eastern counties from Yorkshire to Suffolk remain a stronghold and close monitoring of Lincolnshire would be valuable in any future county atlas work.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Scarce summer visitor Apr-Sep; rare in winter. Probably much under-recorded. RBBP

There were records of 18 birds at 15 sites in 2010 compared with 12 birds at 11 sites in 2008 and 23 birds at 16 sites in 2009, all three years being poor Quail years. In 2010 the first was at Friskney on May 9th with a small arrival seeing birds at Grainthorpe Marsh on the 12th, Frampton Marsh on the 13th, Tetney village on the 19th and Edlington on the 23rd-27th. Typical late spring and summer records were singles at Hemswell during May 28th-Jun 9th, at Wroot on Jun 4th, Alkborough Flats on Jun 13th-15th, Brauncewell on Jul 8th, Elsham on Jul 26th, Wainfleet on the 28th, with 2 at Welbourn Heath on Aug 7th. A little later there were singles at Gib Point on Aug 14th and 17th, Conisholme on Sept 7th and Swanpool on Sep 11th.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Very common feral resident.

Records are widespread from all parts of the county and in all months of the year. Reporting rates are understandably low but high counts came from Anwick Fen and Normanby (165 in Sep). Since this species is captive bred and released by the thousands on major shooting estates across the county and individual shoot days may account for up to 500 on any one estate, this is not a species of conservation concern. Because of the effect of potentially maintaining predator populations at a high level, it is possible that the population may be too high for the health of other species in some areas. Largely absent from built up areas. Dykes are suitable habitat in the fens as well as wooded areas. More open farmland habitat holds a much lower density.

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.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook- Theddlethorpe	21	10	15	-	-	2	9	-	5	12
Mablethorpe- Chapel Point	-	-	3	2	4	4	10	3	2	-
Gib Point	15	5	49	-	-	-	8	5	2	11
Witham Mouth	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	1

Up to ten were noted at coastal sites with notable movements at Gib Point of 94 north on Feb 12th, 76 south on Feb 13th, an annual peak of 137 south on Feb 15th, 47 south on Feb 16th, 85 south on Feb 17th, 39 north on Feb 22nd, 49 south on Mar 2nd, 38 north on Mar 4th, 42 north on Dec 23rd. The last of the spring was off Gib Point on Apr 18th with a summer plumaged bird there Jul 23rd and up to two on Aug 29th.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Scarce winter visitor to coastal and inland waters. Mainly Sep-Apr, rare in summer. LBRC from 2011.

A fairly typical showing of six birds throughout 2010. In the early part of the year the only record was from Donna Nook where there were two Mar 6th. What was presumably the same bird was reported at Mablethorpe and Sandilands on Sept 25th and on 26th a single was noted at Donna Nook and Horseshoe Point. One was at Gibraltar Point on Oct 16th and the final bird of the year was at Freiston Shore on Dec 23rd.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Rare/scarce winter visitor Aug-May. Mainly coastal and exceptional in summer. LBRC from 2011.

There were 14 birds recorded. In Jan there were two at Covenham Res from Jan 2nd – 17th, a surprising total of 5 at Freiston Shore/Witham Mouth from 6th–7th, one at Grainthorpe Marsh on 17th and one at Swanholme Lakes on 31st. One stayed on Apex Pit, North Hykeham from Mar 11th – 18th and another spring bird was at Covenham Res from Mar 30th until Apr 9th. An unusual record was on June 13th when a bird in full summer plumage flew east over Alkborough Flats. Singles at Donna Nook on Oct 23rd and at Gibraltar Point on Nov 26th were the final birds of the year.

Fulmar *Fulmaris glacialis*

Fairly common offshore visitor, mainly Mar-Nov. Rare in winter and very infrequent inland.

A very poor year for records of this species with no double figure counts from any location. One was off Freiston on Jan 7th with two at Witham Mouth Jan 9th. The only spring sightings were of one at Gib. Point on Apr 2nd and four at Freiston Shore on Apr 6th. A few single birds were reported from the usual locations in the south of the county during Aug with the highest total being four at Freiston on the 30th. The final records were in Sep with a single at Chapel Point on 24th, three at Gib Point on the 26th, and the highest count of the year from Donna Nook on the 26th when eight were seen flying north (JS).

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Scarce offshore passage migrant Jul-Nov, mostly Sep. A few winter records; Dec-Jan.

Single birds flew north past Gib Point and Skegness on Aug 16th and north past Skegness and Mablethorpe on the 26th with one off Freiston Shore and one north at Mablethorpe 30th; in Sept one north at Gib Point 5th was followed by two north 24th when six moved north of Chapel Point with two past Gib Point 25th and the year's peak count of 18 north there 26th when one flew north at Huttoft and 15 at Donna Nook; in Oct two north at Gib Point and one at Freiston 16th were followed by one off Freiston and four off Chapel Point Nov 9th.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

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

The first sighting was on Jul 27th with three flying north at Gib Point. There were two reports from the same site in early Aug with two birds on the 3rd and 5th. Four flew south past Donna Nook on Aug 7th and two were seen from Freiston Shore on Aug 26th. A Mablethorpe sea watch reported three flying by on Aug 30th. Sep produced a total of 13 sightings late in the month - four

at Chapel Point and three at Gib Point on the 24th, two at Gib Point on the 25th, and two north at Donna Nook and two north at Gib Point on the 26th. Oct had just one record of a single bird past Freiston on the 16th. The last sightings of the year were on Nov 9th with one at Gib Point and another the same day at Chapel Point.

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Regular offshore visitor/passage migrant most of the year. Fairly common/common Jul-Nov, but scarce at other times and rare inland.

There were few sightings in the early part of the year with six past Donna Nook on May 4th being the first significant count. Ten flew north at Saltfleet Haven on Jul 15th with eight past Gib Point on Jul 24th. Numbers increased substantially in Aug with high counts from several locations including 52 at Gib Point on 6th, 48 at Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe on the 7th, 72 Donna Nook on the 14th, 43 at Mablethorpe on the 26th, and 100 at Freiston Shore on each of the 26th and 30th. However, these totals were to be eclipsed the next month with Sep producing the following - Anderby Creek 150 on the 25th, Chapel Point 350 on the 25th with Sandilands, Mablethorpe and Freiston Shore each recording c500 on the same date. Gib Point reported 300 and Donna Nook 350 on the 26th. After this the numbers dropped off considerably with 50 at Boston Deepes on Oct 9th and 100 at Freiston on Oct 16th being the highest totals for that month. There were some good counts on Nov 9th with 45 off Chapel Point, 52 at Freiston Shore and 61 past Skegness that day. The final record of the year was of a single bird off Freiston Shore on Nov 28th.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Fairly common winter visitor, mainly coastal but increasing numbers inland and in summer. Inland breeding colony established 1992.



Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* Whisby NP Jul 12th 2010 © Steve Nesbitt

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Coastal												
Saltfleetby -												
Theddlethorpe	234	146	87	13	2	-	3	9	2	3	84	2
Donna Nook	-	3	5	2	-	-	-	54	29	1	-	-
Gib Point	153	125	114	24	10	21	23	53	112	130	202	318
Freiston Shore	3	2	2	-	3	1	3	5	11	8	1	-
Frampton Marsh	3	1	-	2	2	6	17	4	4	2	1	8
Inland												
Barton Pits	10	7	4	5	6	6	8	22	8	8	7	1
Boultham Mere	5	7	2	1	-	-	-	-	6	10	12	-

Covenham Res	17	1	-	1	-	2	-	14	20	85	89	-
Kirkby on Bain	2	7	-	8	9	22	24	30	65	42	3	6
Messingham SQ	7	8	10	9	2	1	3	5	-	5	6	-
North Hykeham Pits	63	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	8	75	15
Whisby NP	19	6	10	2	1	5	14	22	7	15	6	3

There were no breeding reports for the year. The cold weather at the end of the year saw numbers on the coast increase, with a count of 318 birds at Gib Point on Dec 10th being possibly the highest count ever for the site, whilst inland numbers dropped as waterbodies froze over. WeBS counts for this species have shown a steady increase in numbers until the mid-2000's thought mainly due to the expansion of *sinensis* supplementing the UK population. The Humber Estuary figures shown in parentheses indicate incomplete counts.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10
Humber Estuary WeBS	-	-	(93)	(108)	(156)	(219)	(408)
Wash WeBS	449	538	371	467	453	495	370

European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Usually rare/scarse winter visitor Aug-May to coast and inland but with occasional larger influxes. Exceptional in summer.

The majority of records came from the Wash with a single bird at the Nene Mouth on Jan 4th, two at the Welland Mouth on Feb 11th with a single bird at this site on Apr 18th. An immature bird was seen on Bargate Drain, Boston on Sep 27th, and a single bird at Tab's Head, Witham Mouth on Oct 2nd. There was just a single record away from the Wash with two birds recorded at Grimsby on Oct 14th. A bird found dead at Chapel Point on Jan 5th had been ringed on the Isle of May, Fife, as a nestling in Jun 2009.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Rare breeder, rare winter visitor. Bred to early 19th century, from 1940s-1979 and in recent years. RBBP

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	6	5	3	1	3	2	1	1	1	3	2	6
Max. Lincs total	11	7	4	2	4	2	1	2	2	4	4	8

With the year opening with a freeze up birds were easy to locate hunting around the edges of iced up reed beds and up to 5 were recorded in the Barton Pits area during January. There was a maximum of 11 birds seen during the month suggesting a hard weather influx occurred. A bird was at Messingham SQ on Jan 2nd and there were two there on Jan 4th. Singles were at Alkborough Flats on Jan 4th, Huttoft Bank Pit on Jan 17th - 18th, Boultham Mere on Jan 30th and Gibraltar Point on 31st. In Feb the monthly maximum at Barton dropped to three birds. The Boultham Mere bird was seen on 1st, 2nd and 15th. As the freeze-up continued a bird was picked up starving and taken into care near Burgh le Marsh on Feb 22nd and a bird was at Killingholme Haven Pits NR on Feb 24th staying to at least Mar 3rd. Up to two birds were seen in the Barton Pits area throughout Mar and one was at Messingham SQ on Mar 3rd and 6th. Throughout spring and summer sightings were generally confined to the Humber clay pits region where three separate booming males were heard but as in 2009 there was no evidence of confirmed breeding. During this period single birds were reported at Deeping Lakes on May 28th and Alkborough Flats on Jul 8th. During autumn there up to two birds reported at Barton Pits increasing to three birds in Nov and Dec. A bird potentially returning to winter was seen at Boultham Mere on nine occasions between Oct 22nd and Nov 15th and one was at Messingham SQ on Oct 25th. As the weather hardened in Dec there an increase in sightings with single birds reported at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 5th, 24th and 31st, Messingham SQ on Dec 13th, Cleethorpes Country Park on Dec 21st, Alkborough Flats on Dec 22nd and Deeping Lakes NR on Dec 28th.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Vagrant; LBRC

A juvenile bird was found at Donna Nook on Oct 10th (per LBC), and remained in the general area until Nov 18th. This is the first record since the well watched individual at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, Little Cawthorpe and Legbourne between Jan 30th- Feb 18th 2008. Given the influx of birds into southern Britain in the autumn of 2007 this species was dropped from the BBRC list of species considered from Jan 1st 2009, although it still remains a rare species in Lincolnshire.



Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Donna Nook Oct 23rd 2010 © Russell Hayes

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Formerly a rare/scarse visitor in all months, a few wintering since 1993/94. Now a scarce breeding bird and increasingly common resident. RBBP

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
The Humber												
Alkborough Flats	1	2	2	3	3	5	15	23	25	4	1	-
Donna Nook	1	1	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	18	5	-
Grainthorpe Marsh	9	5	4	11	7	7	6	24	15	30	20	-
Horseshoe Point	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	10	5	-
Tetney Marsh	4	1	-	7	6	-	18	32	-	21	1	1
The Wash												
Gib Point	2	2	12	3	3	12	22	54	11	15	5	-
Butterwick	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	-	58	1	48	-
Freiston Shore	1	1	-	6	7	9	26	40	9	80	3	-
Witham Mouth	6	-	3	1	-	5	3	75	30	10	37	1
Frampton Marsh	4	4	8	8	20	10	90	70	17	42	14	-

Kirton Marsh	5	3	2	1	1	1	1	4	13	11	6	-
Welland	-	1	-	2	4	-	4	15	15	2	22	-
Dawsmere	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	8	7	39	4	-
Terrington	1	-	7	-	2	12	9	15	29	6	-	-
Other coastal												
Saltfleetby NNR	1	-	1	1	2	-	1	11	16	12	2	-
Inland												
Kirkby on Bain	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Manby Flashes	1	1	2	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whisby NP	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	6	1	4	-	2
Lincs peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites 2009	35	40	30	22	21	20	16	19	22	22	22	32
No. of sites 2010	42	44	31	28	36	24	36	32	34	29	31	18
High count 2009	149	126	116	101	97	81	172	492	592	602	229	328
High count 2010	96	72	78	80	122	98	330	518	479	411	250	20

These tables indicate that Little Egret numbers continue at a historically high level though the autumn peak was lower than in 2009. This species is clearly sensitive to cold snaps with large numbers moving out in the freeze up of January and fewer hanging on through late winter, perhaps our core breeding population? There was another marked hard weather movement out of the county in late Nov, and the Dec “peak” was the lowest monthly count for three years.

A spectacular roost in the Witham Mouth area had peak counts as follows: 215 on Mar 19th, 319 on Aug 7th and 275 on Oct 31st. To avoid double counting these roost counts are not included in the peak totals above.

Breeding was recorded at four sites; the numbers of pairs at each is shown in the table below:

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Site A	1	-	5	7	6	6
Site B	-	1	11	14	11	27
Site C	-	-	-	1	4	5
Site D	-	-	-	-	-	2
County total	1	1	16	22	21	40

With a new breeding site (“D”) establishing in the north of the county the breeding population goes from strength to strength. The recorders at site B suspect that the number of breeding pairs may have been underestimated there in earlier years. This was discovered by ringing activity which resulted in 27 juveniles ringed at that site. Overall the forty breeding pairs raised at least 44 young.



Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Frampton Marsh Jun 21st 2010 © Neil Smith

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

Vagrant. LBRC

The 2009/10 WeBS survey shows a continued slow expansion of this species, principally in southern England. However, after the excellent 2009 totals, the number of birds recorded in 2010 was significantly down with just two accepted records in Lincolnshire. The first bird of the year was at Alkborough Flats. First reported at Blacktoft Sands in neighbouring Yorkshire, it arrived on site at Alkborough on Mar 29th (ND) and it was seen for differing lengths of time over the next two days but never stayed on site for long. The second bird of the year was at Grainthorpe Haven on Oct 19th (ACS).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Fairly common resident, partial migrant and winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	4	4	4	3	3	4	6	8	7	5	5	1
Anwick Fen	9	5	5	5	1	5	1	-	-	-	-	-
Barton Pits	2	1	2	2	1	5	4	2	3	4	2	1
Frampton Marsh	1	1	1	1	1	6	11	7	5	4	2	0
Gibraltar Point	1	1	-	2	1	3	4	3	5	4	2	2
Kirkby on Bain	1	1	-	3	1	7	7	-	3	3	-	7
Whisby NP	1	3	1	1	1	2	4	3	3	3	2	1
WeBS monthly totals	31	26	28	27	17	33	24	30	27	40	24	15

The total number of occupied nests in Lincolnshire counted as part of the BTO Heronries Census during 2010 was as follows:

Abbey Wood (Thornton Curtis)	36
Air Ministry Plantation (Twigmoor Hall)	0
Appletree ness (Haverholme Park)	13
Baston Sand & Gravel Pits	6
Belton Park	not counted
Frampton Hall	0
Hartsholme Country Park	10
Hospital Cottage Spinney	12
Howsham Wood	4
Kingerby Wood	21
Kirkby Pits (West)	5
Legbourne Wood	9
Lea Marsh (new site)	5
Long Wood (Fiskerton)	8
Lower Barff Wood	4
Nocton Wood	4
Patterson's Pit	20
Stainfield Wood	0
The Mere, Deeping St James	13
Troy Wood	17
Tuetoos Wood	6
Warren Plantation (North Somercotes)	9
Warren Wood (Gainsborough)	0
Welland Farm	4
Willoughby Wood	24

The total number of occupied nests in 2010 was 237 compared with 252 in 2009. Thirteen sites declined in numbers, six increased, one was the same as 2009 and there is one new site. Belton Park was possibly occupied and will continue to be monitored as will Frampton Hall & Stainfield Wood. Sites are checked for three years after the last confirmed occupation. Lea Marsh is a new site which is approximately 2km SW of Warren Wood (now deserted). The herons from Warren Wood may have moved to the Lea Marsh site.



Spoonbills *Platalea leucorodia* Gibraltar Point NNR Aug 14th 2010 © S & K Spavin



Spoonbills *Platalea leucorodia* Gibraltar Point NNR Jun 14th 2010 © Russell Hayes



Spoonbills *Platalea leucorodia* Gibraltar Point NNR Aug 15th 2010 (top) © John Clarkson
(bottom) © Russell Hayes



Spoonbills *Platalea leucorodia* North Killingholme Jun 11th 2010 © Graham Catley

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Scarce visitor, mainly coastal in Apr-Sept, and exceptionally in winter. RBBP

After several years in which about 20 birds have occurred, 2010 saw a further step up in Spoonbill's frequency in Lincolnshire, associated with even larger numbers in Norfolk and the establishment of a breeding colony there. With individuals and groups moving across and in and out of the county, it is difficult to be sure how many were involved in total, but it is estimated that a minimum of 38 birds were involved. An article on the changing status of Spoonbills is included later in this report, see page 176.

One present at Gib Point during Apr 7th-20th was the only April record, and there were only a few in May, beginning with one flying S at Gib Point on the 14th, then one at Kirkby on Bain GP on the 25th, one at Alkborough Flats on the 28th, one regularly at Gib Point during May 26th-Jun 9th (reported as adult on one occasion but otherwise as immature, and assumed to be just one individual), and two flying E past Barton Pits on May 31st. On Jun 11th, a group of six including a Dutch colour-ringed bird arrived at Gib Point, forming the basis of a flock that was there, off and on, until the end of Aug. Also on the 11th, two were at Killingholme Haven Pits, with one there on the 14th, and there was one near Cleethorpes on the 12th. On the 14th, the Gib Point flock increased to eight, with the newcomers including another Dutch colour-ringed bird. At Alkborough Flats, one was present during Jun 18th-Jul 4th, and there was one at Frampton Marsh on Jun 21st-22nd. During July, the Gib Point flock fluctuated in size up to seven birds and included both Dutch-ringed birds on some dates, though one of them spent much of the month at Cley in Norfolk. Also in July, there were three at Alkborough Flats on the 7th and one at Frampton Marsh on the 14th-16th, these treated as new arrivals, plus seven at Frampton on the 26th-27th, assumed to be the Gib Point flock. During Jul 29th-Aug 2nd, a French colour-ringed bird was at Blacktoft Sands in Yorkshire, and a colour-ringed bird – presumed to be the same – at Alkborough Flats on Aug 1st and 3rd, before it turned up at Gib Point on Aug 9th. The total there was still no more than seven (the two Dutch-marked birds spent some of early Aug at Cley though both were back by the 9th), but it progressively rose to reach a maximum of 15 on Aug 13th, remaining at this level until the 27th then falling to ten by the 30th (including one of the two Dutch birds though both were seen at Cley on the same day) and eight on the 31st. Four at Huttoft Bank Pit on Aug 13th are assumed to have been some of the Gib Point birds. September saw far smaller numbers. There were two at or near Gib Point during the 1st-18th, with the French-ringed bird last seen on the 15th, two at Alkborough Flats on the 6th-8th and seen at Read's Island on the 11th, and one at Cleethorpes on the 19th. The last of the year were one flying west at Gib Point on Oct 9th and one, assumed to be different, at Frampton Marsh on Oct 17th and 24th.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Fairly common resident, partial migrant and winter visitor, the latter especially noticeable in coastal regions.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Apex Pit, N Hykeham	9	10	11	12	9	6	8	19	7	10	17	6
Barton Pits	13	4	6	2	2	12	-	1	-	4	5	3
Gib Point	-	-	2	9	2	2	1	4	4	3	-	-
Freiston Shore	29	5	5	-	-	-	8	3	10	15	5	2
Frampton Marsh	1	1	1	4	2	2	5	7	12	10	7	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	6	6	8	8	4	4	3	12	16	6	4	3
Covenham Reservoir	7	10	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	12	-
Whisby NP	16	10	6	22	9	6	8	19	7	6	9	6

Other significant counts included 13 at Donna Nook in Aug, 30 at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods in Sept, 12 at Alkborough Flats in Sept and 10 at Cove Farm Quarry, Westwoodside in Dec. Proof of breeding is difficult to obtain owing to the species secretive habits but young were noted at the following sites: Alkborough Flats (two pairs reared 3 broods), Waters' Edge, Barton Pits (6 pairs with 3 fledged young on June 20th), Belton Park, Cove Farm Quarry Westwoodside, Boultham Mere, St Peters' Pool Bourne, Dawson City Pits, Donna Nook, Huttoft Bank Pit, Rosper Road Pools NR (3 pairs with young), Cogglesford Mill Sleaford and Whisby NP where six pairs reared seven broods.



Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Frampton Marsh Apr 26th 2010 © Neil Smith

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Common resident, partial migrant and winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	8	3	5	4	2	4	5	6	6	5	5	1
Freiston Shore	5	1	-	2	6	1	-	7	14	20	10	1
Witham Mouth	10	-	6	9	1	1	1	7	6	-	6	-
Covenham Reservoir	72	2	1	-	1	8	2	53	20	81	102	119
Kirkby on Bain GP		1	17	15	6	12	10	14	6	3	1	1
North Hykeham Pits	7	34	22	9	7	7	8	15	33	17	12	-
R Welland	8	12	28	46	52	-	78	88	108	64	44	-
Tattershall Lakes CP	11	17	34	27	19	17	16	15	14	11	19	4
Toft Newton Reservoir	1	11	7	2	-	1	-	15	13	-	-	-
Whisby NP	2	2	11	18	11	10	19	19	11	10	6	-

Other notable counts included: 43 at Leverton in Apr and 32 there in May, 21 at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods in Aug and 20 at Freiston Shore in Oct. Breeding was proved at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods, Barton Pits where a brood of five two-week old young in May was exceptional, Belton Park, Frampton Marsh, Helpringham Fen, on the Hobhole at Fishtoft, North Hykeham Pits, Tydd St Mary's Marsh and Whisby NP.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, Sep-Apr; rare in summer.

A good year for this species with 14 birds recorded. At the beginning of the year there were singles at Thurlby Sand Pit on Jan 2nd, Witham Mouth/Freiston Shore on Jan 3rd, on the river near Sleaford Leisure Centre on Feb 10th and Cleethorpes Country Park on Feb 12th. An adult in full summer plumage was at Kirkby on Bain GP on May 15th. Singles in autumn and winter were from RAF Woodhall on Sept 12th-19th, Kirkby on Bain GP on Sept 19th, Barton Pits juv from Sep 27th-30th, Covenham Res from Sep 28th-Dec 14th, Humberston Yacht Club pools on Sept 29th, Frampton Marsh on Oct 4th, Freiston Shore from Nov 9th-21st, Chapel Point on Nov 9th and Boston on Dec 24th.



Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* Barton Pits Sep 29th 2010 © Graham Catley

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

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

A fairly typical showing with seven birds recorded. Early winter records came from Gib Point on Jan 3rd, Freiston Shore on Feb 21st and Leverton on Feb 22nd. In autumn a summer plumage bird was at Covenham Reservoir on Sept 2nd, one was at Freiston Shore on Sept 26th and another was at Covenham Reservoir from Sept 30th until Nov 7th and the final bird of the year was also there from Dec 9th – 14th.



Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* Covenham Res Oct 2nd 2010 © Russell Hayes

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare breeder, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. RBBP

The first of the year was at Frampton Marsh on Jan 11th and presumably the same bird was at Freiston Shore from Jan 12th until Mar 2nd followed by one at North Hykeham Pits from Jan 27th – 29th. In the breeding season a pair was at site A from Mar 21st -Jun 16th at least and three were there on Sep 19th. One was at site B from Mar 25th until July 16th and another was nearby from May 24th – Jun 1st. One was at Covenham Res from Aug 10th – Sep 2nd, another at North Hykeham Pits Sept 5th – 9th and three were at RAF Woodhall from Sep 12th – 18th. One was at Tattershall Lakes Oct 7th until Nov 10th and the final bird of the year was at Bardney Pits on Nov 21st.



Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* Freiston Shore Mar 2nd 2010 © Steve Keightley

European Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

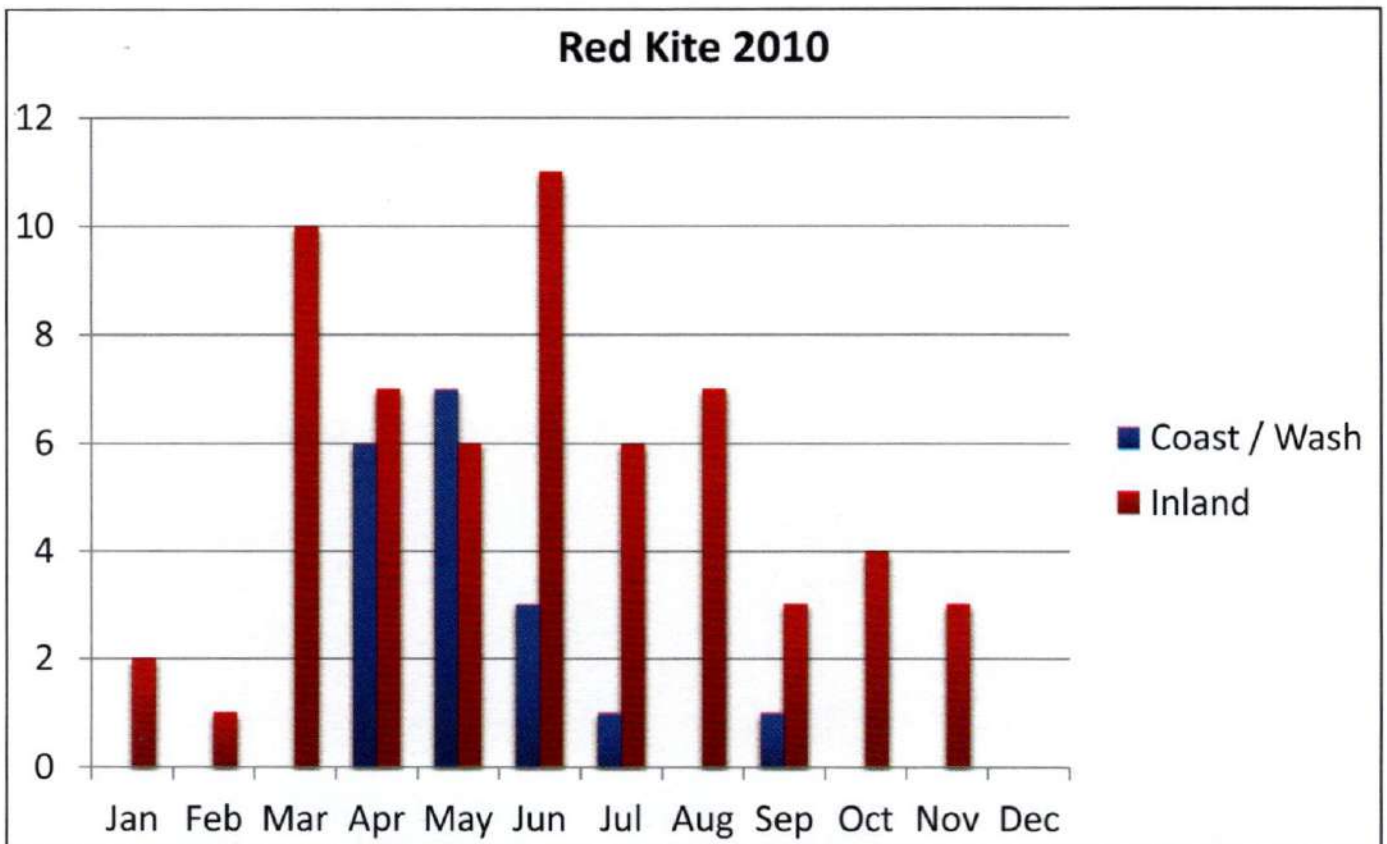
Rare/scarce passage migrant. LBRC RBBP

In spring a single bird moved south at Donna Nook on May 17th (SL) and one was at Gib Point on Jun 5th (EJM). Autumn saw two moving south at Donna Nook on Aug 18th (SL) and one on the 22nd (SL) with a pale juv south at Gib Point on Sep 3rd (JCN) one Freiston Shore on Sep 8th (PS) and one Grainthorpe Marsh on 21st (AJH, TWh, SJM)

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Scarce, occurring in most months though mainly winter to spring; increasing due to re-introduced birds. Bred to 19th century. RBBP Now breeding again.

There was an increase in proven breeding pairs in the county to five in 2010 with one brood of three, two broods of two and two of one fledging; of these eight were ringed and wing-tagged. In addition to the proven records pairs were reported from nine more potential nest sites with breeding behaviour observed at all locations. Four of the proven nests had a wing-tagged adult in the pair. Birds wing-tagged and ringed in Lincolnshire as juveniles were seen up to 31kms from their natal area at winter roost sites but one moved 71kms to Welton, near Skegness. One tagged in Buckinghamshire bred at a Lincolnshire nest. Excluding records of birds from the core breeding area there appeared to be a distinct decline in coastal sightings in 2010 with birds only occurring in Apr-Jul and Sep. An obvious rise in wandering birds at inland sites hopefully bodes well for an expansion of the breeding range in the county. Up to 17 birds were seen at Colsterworth landfill site during Nov-Dec; these included tagged birds ringed in Rutland and Northants.



White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Rare/scarcely passage migrant. LBRC

A satellite tracked bird released in Eastern Scotland as part of the latest reintroduction project moved south through Northumberland and Yorkshire in early Apr 2010 before arriving on the Humber where it toured the upper estuary being seen at Alkborough Flats and Whitton as well as Blacktoft Sands RSPB in adjacent Yorkshire. On Apr 7th it was found eating a goose on the eastern end of Whitton Sand before flying to roost in Yorkshire. The following morning it flew back to the Humber and over Alkborough Flats before departing back north. As a recently released bird it is not included in the county statistics but formed a stunning sight in an area where the species could easily survive if left to its own devices.

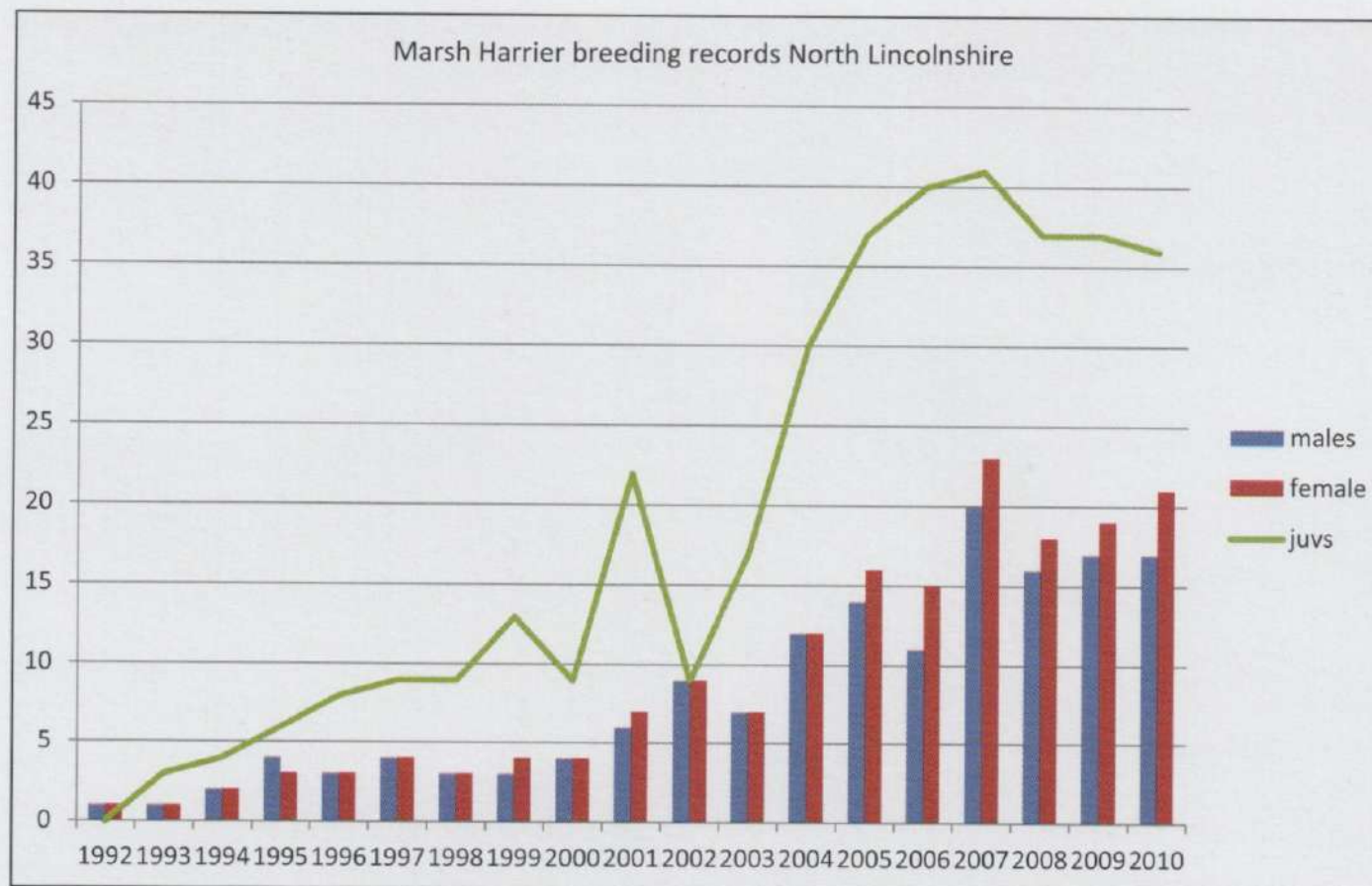
Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Fairly common passage migrant and summer visitor, rare in winter. RBBP

In Jan – Feb between 12 and 15 birds roosted on the Humber and spread out from these roost areas to hunt during the day travelling up to 15kms from roosts. Three pairs roosted at breeding sites away from the main roost. Elsewhere in the Wash 1-2 were seen at Frampton Marsh, 2-3 at Holbeach Marsh and one at the Nene Mouth; inland the only records came from Blankney and Nocton Fen where 1-2 were occasional, Boultham Mere Jan 7th and Feb 5th, Covenham and Fulstow on Jan 1st and 23rd, Trent Port and Wroot on Jan 1st and Feb 23rd and Marston SF on Feb 18th; on the coast one at Grainthorpe Marsh on Jan 3rd and at Saltfleet on the 17th. Numbers increased through Mar as migrants returned to breeding sites with a peak passage in late Apr and early May though this is becoming harder to detect with the abundance of breeding birds accounting for most reports.

Breeding information was available only from the North Lincolnshire census area where detailed surveys have been carried out by GPC since 1992; here the population seems to have stabilised with 17 males and 21 females fledging 36 young in 2010.

Autumn roosts were again poorly reflected in the reports submitted with one just inland from the coast holding 12 birds in late Aug while the historical fenland roost had 12 birds on Sep 2nd, 10 on the 5th and a peak of 29 on the 14th with 35 on the 28th; other notable counts were nine at Baston Fen on Sep 3rd and eight Freiston Shore October 11th. In Nov- Dec up to 12 birds roosted on the Humber with 4 different sites being used; birds were again recorded up to 15kms inland from the roost sites during the day. On the coast singles were at Donna Nook on Nov 4th and one at Gib Point on Dec 26th and in the Wash 1-2 were at Kirton Marsh, Nene Mouth, Frampton Marsh and Freiston Shore; inland one at Nocton Fen on Nov 12 – 13th was the only report.



Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

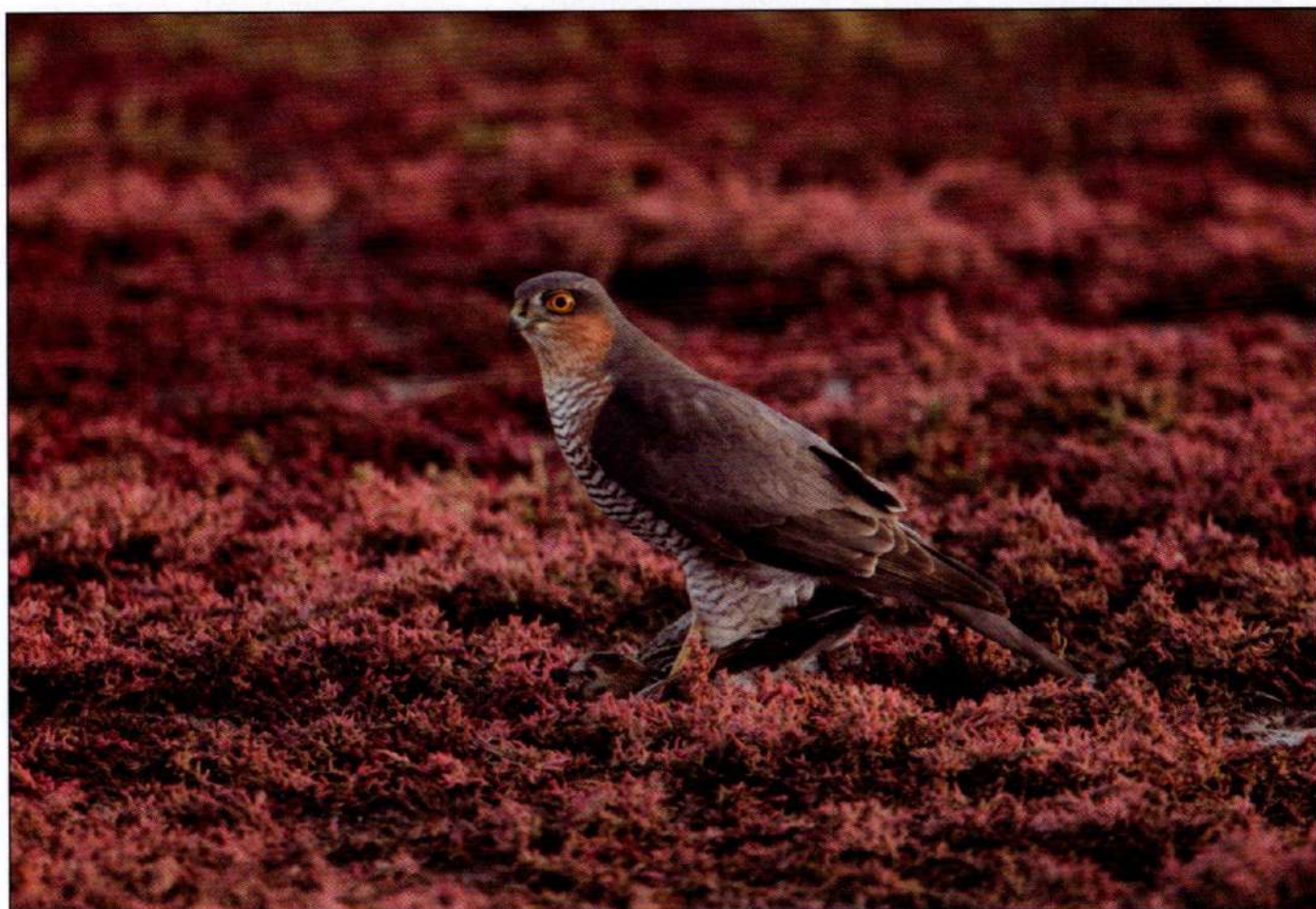
Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-May; rare in summer. Bred to 1872. This species has become less numerous in the last 10 years. Former roosting sites on the Wash used to hold double figures throughout the winter periods. RBBP

In Jan-Mar along the north-east coast up to two ringtail and two males were between Tetney and Theddlethorpe from Jan-Mar 24th; on the Humber at Alkborough Flats a male on Jan 23rd and ringtail on 31st, an adult female on Feb 23rd, male Mar 3rd, at Goxhill Haven a ringtail on Jan 11th and male on Mar 4th; at Worlabby Carrs a ringtail was present from Jan 1st – Feb 11th and on Mar 6th with a male from Feb 21st – Mar 7th; at Gib Point up to two males and a ringtail were present in Jan with a ringtail to Feb 9th, then one on Mar 5th and a male on the 18th with singles not sexed on Apr 8th and 17th. In the Wash two males and four ringtail were at the major roost in Jan but only two ringtails on Feb 21st; a male and ringtail were seen frequently at Frampton and Freiston from Jan-Mar 30th as well as occasionally at Butterwick, two males were at the Nene Mouth Jan 4th.

Inland a male was recorded from Wroot from Jan – Mar 6th, a ringtail at Little Bytham on Jan 17th, a male Crowle Moor on Feb 13th, a male Witham Fens from Feb 9th until late Apr with a ringtail on Mar 6th on Martin Fen, a male Baston Fen on Mar 2nd, a male at Pinchbeck South Fen on Mar 4th and a male at Burwell on Apr 4th. A male held a breeding territory in the county and displayed during Apr – Jun. The first autumn birds were seen at Worlabby Carrs on Sep 25th, Gib Point on the 27th and Theddlethorpe on the 28th; at Worlabby Carrs there were then up to three ringtails, a juv male and two juv females on Nov 13th with one to the 28th but none thereafter; on the Humber a male was at Alkborough Flats Oct 17th and a female on the 30th, at Barton pits a ringtail was present on Oct 14th, Dec 11th and 13th, a ringtail at Read's Island on Nov 13th, an adult female was at Goxhill Haven on Nov 29th and Dec 5th with an adult male also on Dec 5th; on the coast between Tetney and Theddlethorpe at least one ringtail from Oct 2nd – Dec with a male on Dec 5th – 6th, at Gib Point 1-2 ringtails from Oct 2nd – Dec 21st with five (male, two fem and two ringtails) on the 26th and three on 27th; in the Wash up to three including a male were seen frequently at Freiston – Frampton during Oct – Dec with singles at Kirton and Wrangle in Dec presumably three different birds at the Nene Mouth from Nov 7th – 30th; in the southern fens a ringtail was at Baston Fen from Nov 21st – Dec 21st, a ringtail at Digby Fen on Dec 8th, male at Dorrington Fen on Dec 10th, a ringtail at Rippingale Fen on Dec 12th and on the Witham Fens at least one ringtail at Dunston – Nocton – Metherringham from Oct 16th – Nov 23rd with a male at Nocton on Nov 10th.



Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* Butterwick Nov 9th 2010 © Steve Keightley



Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* North Killingholme Sep 20th 2010 © Graham Catley

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

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

A pair bred in the county with four chicks being ringed on Jul 6th but the nest was predated on or after 16th and only one chick fledged; none had bred in 2009 but a pair fledged one young in 2008. Most of the remaining records came from the vicinity of the Wash. Females were at Frampton Marsh on May 10th, Jun 13th and from Aug 4th – 16th with one again 30th; presumably two of the same birds were at Holbeach Marsh on May 11th and Aug 13th and at Freiston Shore Aug 11th and 13th; a male was at Sutton Bridge on May 14th and at Gib Point there were females on Apr 25th and May 30th with a male on Aug 9th – 10th; in the north of the county a female was in the Tetney – North Cotes area from Apr 30th – May 4th with a juv there Aug 10th; one was at North Cockerington on May 23rd and a male at East Heckington on Jul 18th; the most interesting record however came from a site near Hemswell where 2 females, an adult and a 3rd calendar year bird were seen on May 28th with one on Jun 10th; the 3cy female was wing-tagged yellow right and green left and performed a fantastic tour of Britain in 2010 – after having been ringed and tagged as a nestling on Jul 18th 2008 in Villeneuve, France it turned up at Dunwich, Suffolk, on Apr 27th then moved to the Horsey area of northeast Norfolk on Apr 28th; she was at Minsmere on May 3rd; she then tracked inland being seen in Cambridgeshire 21st before turning up at Hemswell on 28th; by Jun 22nd she was in Scotland at Collieston, Aberdeenshire and then moved to southern Ireland where she took up residence at Tacumshin from Jul 26th – Aug 5th. This is only the third foreign-ringed Montagu's Harrier to be found in the UK. The sequence demonstrates how a single bird can generate connected records in various areas of the country whereas non wing-tagged birds may have been all noted as separate birds.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Rare, mainly autumn to spring; LBRC RBBP

One was seen over Bourne Wood on Oct 9th (AGB)

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Common resident and passage migrant. After extinction as a breeder in 1950s, due to pesticides and persecution, recolonised rapidly from the early 1980s.

Now a common breeding species throughout the county, submitted records fail to reflect the distribution or population of the species; autumn passage produces coastal peaks with southerly movements recorded at Gib Point where at least 40 flew south between Aug 31st and Nov 3rd and a total of nine was noted at Donna Nook on Sep 4th; prey items noted included a Swallow at Gib Point on May 8th and a Black-tailed Godwit on Croft Marsh Aug 26th while an adult male at North Killingholme pits took several Dunlin during the autumn.



Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* Worlab Carrs Dec 21st 2010 © Graham Catley

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Bred to 19th century before local extinction. Now common breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Incredibly only six breeding records were submitted for the report in spite of the fact that 200+ pairs must now breed in the county extrapolating coverage from breeding densities in North Lincolnshire. We will have to wait for the publication of the BTO Atlas in 2013 to get a more complete picture. Aggregations of up to 15 birds are not uncommon in Mar–Apr and Jul–Oct when immatures and territory holding pairs and juveniles may soar together over closely connected breeding sites where nests may be within 400m of each other. An obvious autumn passage movement occurred in Sep with 48 passing south over Gib Point on the 3rd and 12 on the 4th, 10 moved south at Alkborough on the 12th and 18 south at Grainthorpe Haven 21st.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

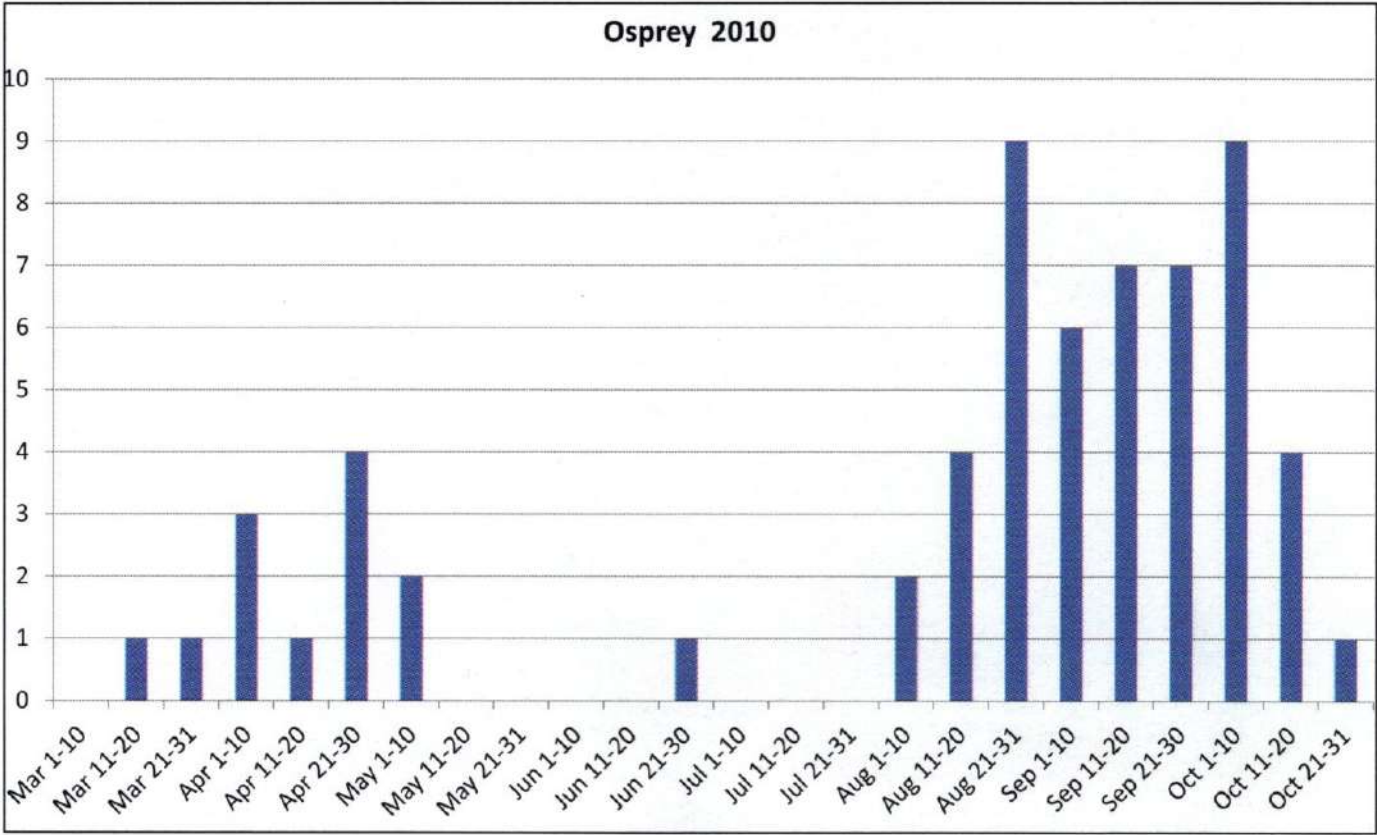
Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. LBRC

A notable small arrival in the late autumn saw single juveniles south at Crook Bank Theddlethorpe on Oct 13th and 24th (BRG), in the Grainthorpe Marsh – Donna Nook – Horseshoe Point - Tetney Lock area from Oct 17th – Nov 2nd (RHR, GPC, ND, ACS et al) with possibly the same bird Donna Nook on Nov 20th (SL) and Tetney Lock on the 29th (DJB), Gib Point on Oct 18th (PRF), 24th (ARo), Freiston Shore on Oct 31st (PS), Worlaby Carrs on Oct 21st (SRo, GPC), Appleby Carrs on Oct 28th (GPC), Saltfleetby NNR on Nov 15th (JRW), Tealby on Nov 11th – 13th (SAB) one was in the Farforth – Ruckland area on Nov 3rd (AJH, SJM, et al) and 21st (PMA, PBH) and Langholme Wood on Dec 19th (LBCF); a long staying juv was at South Ferriby – Read’s Island area from Nov 13th – Dec 31st (GPC et al). A juv found with a slightly lame leg at Blankney Drove on Nov 22nd was taken into care and rehabilitated being released in the same area on Jan 7th 2011; it was ringed while in care being only the 5th Rough-legged Buzzard to have been ringed in the UK, for a full account see page 192.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

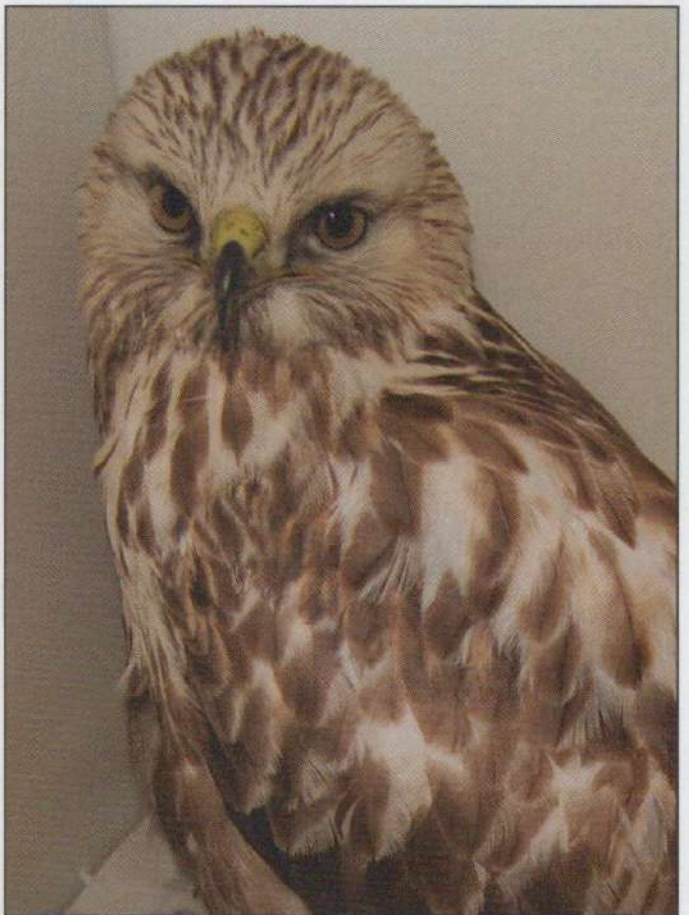
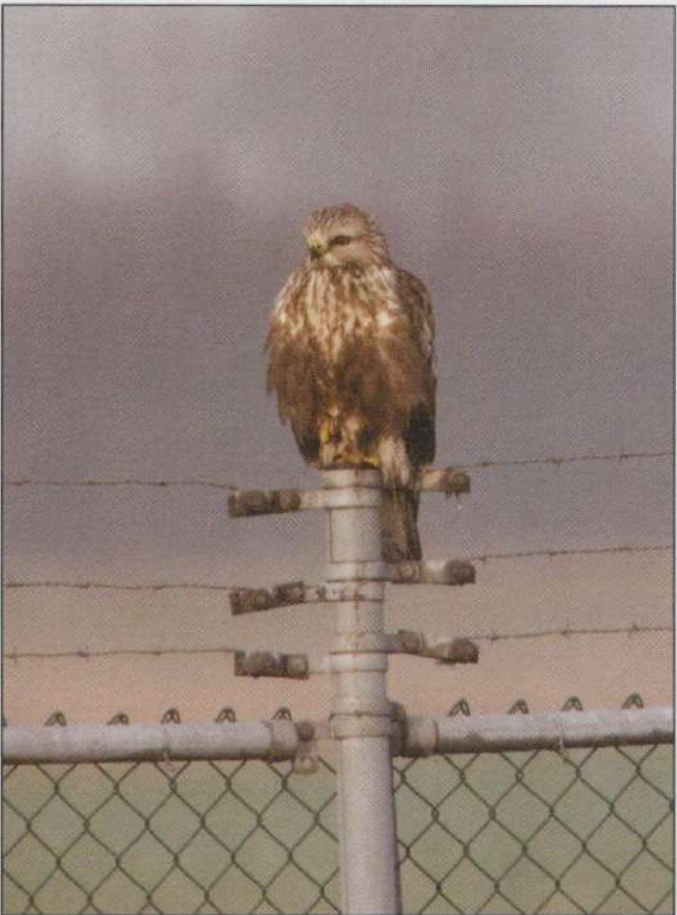
Scarce passage migrant, rare in summer. RBBP

The chart shows the seasonal occurrence of Ospreys in Lincolnshire in 2010; the number occurring in each ten-day period is shown and it should be noted that long staying birds have where appropriate been recorded in more than one period. The spring passage was poor but autumn produced more passage birds and some long staying individuals that remained in favoured areas for several days and sometimes weeks; typically the birds that remained for the longest periods were juveniles.





Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus* South Ferriby Nov 16th, Dec 8th 2010 © Graham Catley



Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus* (left) South Ferriby Nov 14th 2010 © Graham Catley
(right) **Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*** (taken into care) Nov 22nd © Nige Lound

A very early bird was over Greetwell, near Scunthorpe, on Mar 12th was probably the earliest ever Lincolnshire record; the next at Nettleton on Mar 28th was more typical and was followed by singles west at Far Ings, Barton on Apr 3rd, over Boultham Mere on the 5th, north at Gib Point on the 9th with one there on the 17th, one at Barton on the 21st, probably the same bird at Donna Nook and Tetney on the 24th, then a colour-ringed bird 2cy bird (white CW) over Waters' Edge Barton on the 27th (which later was caught on a fish farm in Dumfries in June), one at Donna Nook on May 1st and one at Kirkby/Tattershall the same day. The remaining spring records were one north at Gib Point on May 28th and singles south on Jun 30th at Gib Point with one at South Thoresby also 30th.

Autumn records fell into five main areas. The first was seen at Frampton Marsh on Aug 6th after which there were regular records there and at Freiston Shore, Holbeach Marsh and the Witham Mouth through to the 14th possibly relating to the same individual. A returning adult female was in the Susworth-Black Bank area from Aug 23rd-Sep 2nd; singles were at Messingham SQ on Sep 9th and 11th with possibly the same bird from Sep 16th to Oct 2nd when two were present until the 7th, one remaining to the 10th; in the Kirkby Pits/Tattershall area one on Sep 8th was followed by one present from Sep 18th to Oct 16th; at Gib Point one on Aug 11th was followed by one south on the 21st, and then on the 28th a colour-ringed bird was photographed as it flew south into the Wash; this bird proved to be Blue with AK in white and had been ringed as a female chick at a nest near Kincaig, Highland on Jul 6th 2010 – remarkably this bird then returned north and was seen at Barton pits on Sep 10th remaining there to Oct 7th. Further records at Gib Point involved singles south on Sep 3rd, Oct 10th and one on 21st-22nd previously recorded at Spurn Point. Elsewhere a juv male flew south at Alkborough Flats on Aug 19th, one was at Cleethorpes Boating Lake and Country Park on Aug 28th with one there on Sep 7th-8th. On the coast there were singles over Horseshoe Point and Chapel St Leonards on Aug 28th, at Donna Nook on Sep 13th, at Saltfleet on Sep 15th, south at Theddlethorpe, Mablethorpe and west at Croft Marsh all on Oct 2nd, while inland singles were at Wroot on Aug 25th, Caistor-Nettleton on Sep 17th and Oct 16th- 17th, Market Rasen on Sep 18th, Kirton Lindsey on Sep 23rd, East Halton Skitter on Sep 27th, Louth on Sep 30th, Snarford on Oct 4th, Toft Newton on Oct 12th with presumably the same at Willingham Woods on Oct 13th, and a juv at Cherry Willingham on Oct 2nd and 19th. In addition there were two at Tallington/West Deeping on Oct 10th.

Incredibly in 21st century Britain a Swedish ringed juvenile fledged in 2010 was found shot in Lincolnshire at Hundon Manor, near Caistor on Oct 2nd . It had been ringed in a brood of three at Spjutholmen, Nora Uppland, Sweden 60 13N 51E on Jul 8th 2010 and had travelled 1277km WSW.



Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (Colour-ringed Blue with AK in white) Barton Pits
Sep 24th 2010 © Graham Catley

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Common resident and passage migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sites	22	15	28	30	26	21	26	41	33	30	26	30
Birds	27	30	45	57	39	37	63	110	79	68	55	47

Clearly the number of birds reported and the sites they were noted at is not an accurate reflection of the status of this common and widespread, but declining, species in the county. Densities of breeding Kestrels vary with latitude and habitat with areas rich in voles holding much higher densities than intensive arable farmland. Average densities in England vary from 10–30 pairs, averaging 20 pairs, per 100km². Thus with 7000km² of available habitat Lincolnshire should hold an average of 1400 breeding pairs of Kestrels far removed from the maximum of 46 reported sites in the table above.

Alan Ball and Bob Sheppard have kindly supplied data from their nest box monitoring scheme detailing the breeding results from 70 nests in the county in 2010.

Number of young	failed	1	2	3	4	5	total
Broods 2009	3	5	6	19	22	10	65
Broods 2010	7	4	8	19	22	10	70
Fledged 2009	-	5	12	57	88	50	212
Fledged 2010	-	4	16	57	88	50	215

In good vole years high concentrations can occur in small areas and this was the case in the late winter period when up to 14 birds were using the 130 hectares of rough grassland and adjacent rough field edges in Worlaby Carrs. The only other area in the county with noted concentrations was Metherringham Delph where there were up to 11 in Aug–Oct. Coastal passage was unremarkable with peaks of 10 Gib Point on Sep 29th and 7 on Aug 6th and 18th.

Two notable ringing recoveries are shown below:

EW97969	Nestling	23-06-2010	Leake Ings, Old Leake: 53°2'N 0°3'E (Lincolnshire)
	Dead	12-11-2010	near Stockers Head, Charing: 51°12'N 0°49'E (Kent) 209km SSE 0y 4m 20d
EW86238	Nestling	26-06-2009	Old Decoy Wood, near Friskney: 53°5'N 0°9'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (injury)	23-01-2010	Heath and Reach: 51°56'N 0°40'W (Bedfordshire) 140km SSW 0y 6m 28d

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Scarce/fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant; scarce in summer. Bred sporadically in the 19th century.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
sites	22	16	20	11	4	0	7	12	13	21	20	18
birds	31	19	22	12	4	0	7	23	18	30	23	21

In Jan-Mar, on the coast, there were two at Tetney, 2-3 at Horseshoe Point-Grainthorpe Marsh, 1-2 at Donna Nook, one at Saltfleet, one at Rimac and 1-2 at Gib Point; in the Wash, 1-2 at Freiston Shore and Frampton Marsh, 1-2 at Holbeach Marsh, 1-2 at Butterwick and one at Leverton Marsh; inland, there were singles at Wroot, 1-2 at Alkborough Flats, one at Fulbeck, one at Potterhanworth, one at East Halton Skitter, one at Worlaby Carrs, one at Crowland, one at Guthram Gowt, one at Read's Island, and also singles at Old Woodall on Mar 8th, Bonby Top in Mar, Muckton and Marston STW both on Mar 12th, Nocton Fen on Mar 20th, Garthorpe on Mar 21st, Stenigot on Mar 22nd. In Apr, there were singles at Gib Point to the 21st, with two on the 20th, Rippingale and Dunsby on the 1st, Nene Mouth on the 2nd, Saltfleetby on the 3rd and 9th, Grantham on the 4th, Binbrook on the 13th, Freiston Shore on the 17th, North Cotes on the 29th and late birds in May at Leverton Marsh on the 15th, Huttoft Bank on the 16th and Fulbeck on the 28th. The first autumn birds returned in Jul with singles at Frampton Marsh on the 9th, Gib Point on the 22nd, Winteringham Haven (juv) on the 28th, North Cotes on the 28th and Frampton Marsh on the 31st. Birds were more frequent in Aug with 1-2 at East Butterwick, Alkborough Flats, Cleethorpes, Horseshoe Point, Grainthorpe Marsh, Donna Nook, Gib Point, Freiston Shore, and Fulbeck. From Sep-Dec, on the coast, there were 1-3 at Tetney Marsh, Horseshoe Point, Grainthorpe Marsh, Donna Nook, Saltfleet, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe, Gib Point; in the Wash, 1-3 at Leverton, Freiston Shore, Witham Mouth, Frampton Marsh, Holbeach, Gedney Drove End;

and inland, 1-2 at Alkborough Flats, Read's Island-South Ferriby, Worlaby Carrs, Wroot, Marston STW, and Howdales, 1-3 at Nocton Fen, and singles at Baston Fen and Farforth, with further singles at Elsham on Nov 10th, Goxhill on Nov 14th and Dec 27th, Holme on Nov 28th, Barton on Dec 3rd and Heckington Fen on Dec 15th.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Bred to early 1900s and sporadically in the 1970s, regularly from the mid-1980s. RBBP

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
sites	-	7	25	26	31	40	38	4	-
birds	-	8	34	30	39	46	46	4	-

A very early bird was reported at Frampton Fen on Apr 5th (SK) before the first obvious influx after one at Whisby NP on the 21st with further records between the 25th and 30th at Gib Point, Messingham, Whisby, Belton Park and Riseholme. Only two confirmed breeding records were submitted in 2010 with one pair fledging three young and one pair two young; there were also records suggesting breeding occurred at a further seven localities; however, given an average density of even 2-4 pairs per 10km square in Lincs would produce a total of 140-280 pairs so clearly the data submitted is seriously inadequate with the 31 sites in Jul providing a slightly better suggestion of status but still being only a fraction of the number of birds present. In 2011 fieldwork by two observers in 180km2 of typical arable farmland in North Lincs located seven active nests and 3 additional territories emphasising that the Lincs population is indeed seriously under-recorded at present. At one of the confirmed nests 3 juveniles fledged on Aug 11th but 2 were still in the nest area on Sep 15th; many of the records submitted in the second half of Aug and early Sep probably refer to breeding birds/families. Late birds occurred in early Oct at Gib Point on the 1st, 2nd and 6th, Saltfleetby and Woodall Spa on the 7th and Frampton Marsh on the 15th.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; recent increase in records. Has summered since 1998 and now several pairs breeding annually. RBBP

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
sites	34	16	29	18	18	13	12	22	32	35	34	28
birds	48	24	34	22	42	21	19	27	42	40	50	36



Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrines* juvenile at Saltfleet Sep 7th 2010 © Graham Catley

A total of 7 pairs were known to have bred with 6 being successful rearing one brood of 3, four broods of 2 and one of one; in addition four other pairs were present at potential nest sites through the breeding season. As shown in the table the Peregrine is now a resident bird in the county with

the number of birds and sites recorded in Jun and Jul being unimaginable only 10 years ago and the species looks set to increase further as it exploits new nest sites in the wider habitats of the county outside the urban areas where the first pairs were located. Details of the prey items found at the nest at Grantham church are available on the Lincolnshire Bird Club website.

Birds are still frequent on the coast and in the Wash during the autumn and winter periods and it is possible that some of these are Scandinavian or continental birds as well as British stock a suggestion supported by the second ringing recovery detailed below;

A colour ringed nestling female from Mytholmroyd Crag, near Halifax: 53°43'N 1°59'W (West Yorkshire) ringed 1 Jun 2006 was seen at Grantham Parish Church from Apr 22nd 2007.

The following birds ringed abroad were found here and reported in 2010 (countries with 20 or fewer such records):

Nestling Male ringed Jul 12th 2009 at Enontekio: 68°23'N 23°38'E (Lappi) Finland was found Freshly dead on Jan 18th 2010 at Tetney, near Grimsby: 53°29'N 0°1'W (Lincolnshire) 2,074km SW 0y 6m 6d.



Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrines* Louth Mar 21st 2010 © S & K Spavin

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Scarce resident fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Much under recorded. RBBP

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-
Barton Pits	3	1	6	2	1	-	2	2	3	2	1	1
Baston Fen NR	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2
Boultham Mere	2	2	2	1	1	3	-	2	4	4	2	-
Frampton Marsh	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
Gib Point	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	1
Marston STW	12	3	2	3	2	-	-	3	4	6	6	9
Messingham SQ	1	1	3	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Lincs peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites 2010	15	11	12	7	4	2	3	8	5	12	15	14
High count 2010	32	15	23	11	5	4	4	15	14	26	32	32

Birds were reported from 39 different sites in the year with the 8 sites listed above contributing almost 60% of all records. The summary peak counts suggest that Water Rail in Lincolnshire is primarily a winter visitor though the secretive nature of this species makes under recording always an issue. Marston STW continues to hold the most birds throughout the year with a peak of 12 there on the Jan 9th, down from a peak of c20 in January 2009. Confirmed breeding records were received from 5 sites: Barton Pits, Boultham Mere, Goxhill Marsh, Killingholme Haven Pits and Messingham SQ. Early results from BTO Breeding Atlas fieldwork indicate that breeding was confirmed in seven 10km squares in Lincolnshire during the four breeding seasons 2008 to 2011 with a further 13 squares where breeding was probable or possible.

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*

Rare passage migrant. LBRC RBBP

A single record of a secretive bird found and photographed at Marston STW on Aug 22nd (DRob).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Anwick Fen	18	7	4	7	2	8	5	-	-	-	-	-
North Hykeham Pits	4	3	6	-	-	2	2	4	1	5	4	5
Barton Pits	30	46	26	11	10	11	8	10	12	16	20	20
Baston Fen NR												
Coronation Channel and Welland (Spalding)	19	23	21	6	3	1	-	3	17	19	17	9
Frampton Marsh	10		5	3	6	2	6	4	4	2	2	5
Freiston Shore	6	3	8	5	5	2	6	2		2	1	5
Gib Point	6	13	11	16	8	10	11	21	25	21	18	17
Kirkby on Bain	7	4	1	16	8	10	11	9	15	10	8	5
R Welland (Spalding-Borough Fen)	32		18	18	4		2	5	4	24	16	10
Tattershall Lakes CP	34	28	43	24	15	2	40	47	67	65	60	30
Whisby NP	6	3	8	6	4	9	14	14	9	16	20	21

A widespread species throughout the county which remains under recorded. This is well illustrated when the highest count anywhere in the county in Jun was 11 at Barton Pits. From Jul to the end of the year all the highest monthly totals were from Tattershall Lakes CP, peaking at 67 in Sep. The cold spell in Dec reduced the total at that location to 30 compared to 43 in Dec 2009.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak Counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	213	194	124	49	100	100	200	100	330	138	162	120
Covenham Res	200	19	2	10	13	15	5	42	300	300	180	-
Kirkby on Bain	230	175	10	38	43	64	126	63	42	55	46	16
Tattershall Lakes CP	342	180	111	63	56	95	187	195	253	305	395	294

North Hykeham Pits	395	220	162	56	45	49	158	202	378	204	290	251
Boultham Park Lake	25	24	49	11	9	36	29	24	34	32	21	-
Whisby NP	362	235	174	98	92	121	208	189	206	301	380	290
Frampton Marsh	5	23	112	95	48	70	20	18	12	5	3	5
Coronation Channel	302	105	93	78	48	50	60	114	207	265	427	369

A count of 450 at Bagmoor Floods in Jan was the highest in the first part of the year but there were good concentrations at Kirkby/Tattershall area. The prolonged cold spell at the end of 2010 had a dramatic effect. In December 2009, 1005 was the peak count at Kirkby on Bain compared with 16 this year! The highest count was 369 at Coronation Channel in the south of the county.

Common Crane *Grus grus*

Rare migrant, recorded most months. Former breeding species and a common migrant to 16/17th centuries. **LBRC**

Nine records involving up to 15 birds, although there may be some duplication of individuals. The first of the year was an adult bird seen early morning at Alkborough Flats on Mar 13th (ND et al) before flying off south east towards Whitton Sands; later in the month another/or possibly the same adult was seen in the Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR on Mar 20th (JRW) and the following day at Donna Nook (SL). In Apr two birds flew north over the beach at Gib Point on the 12th (GPBO), and then three birds flew south at Grainthorpe Marsh on the 24th (TWh) at 1240hrs and nearby at North Somercotes Warren, these birds had been recorded leaving Spurn Point at 1215hrs and later arrived at Gib Point (KMW et al) at 1405hrs, presumably the same birds were then seen over Gib Point again on the 28th. An adult was at Manby Flashes from May 4th-6th (GW et al) and a probable first-summer bird was at Gib Point on May 30th-31st (GPBO). A single bird roosted on Tennyson Sands, Gib Point on Jul 2nd and was seen again early morning on Jul 9th (GPBO). Three birds were over Gib Point on Aug 15th (GPBO) and two birds were recorded circling over Sykes Farm, Gib Point on Aug 30th (GPBO) before roosting on Wainfleet Marsh and leaving early on Aug 31st, being reported later the same day at Holme, North Norfolk.

WeBS 2010 Note.

Please note that for all of the WeBS figures for waders there are very few counts for Dec. This is mainly due to the Wash WeBS count date falling on Boxing Day and an understandably very low turnout of volunteer counters. However, there was also a prolonged and serious spell of cold weather in Dec that resulted in many birds undertaking cold-weather movements out of the county. It is unfortunate that the lack of data means we cannot see the full affects of the cold weather. In a more worrying trend, there were very few WeBS data from the outer Humber after the summer. There are plenty of casual records from this area so these have been included in italics to differentiate them from the true WeBS data. Likewise, if a total includes a non-WeBS count this has been italicised. This lack of information is regrettable considering the importance of the Humber for shorebirds, and hopefully the situation will soon be rectified. Similarly there was no WeBS data for Witham in The Wash from Jul onwards, so if there was a count on or near the WeBS core count date it has been included as if it was a WeBS count.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Very common coastal passage migrant/winter visitor and fairly common resident. Less common inland but a few breeding records in the last 10 years.

WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
The Humber												
Read's Island	-	6	18	25	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleethorpes	-	70	-	200	120	130	250	250	-	-	-	-
Tetney Haven -												
Humberston Fitties	-	-	150	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	60	-
Horseshoe Point -												
Tetney Haven	-	-	2450	960	1020	-	-	-	-	-	1600	-
Grainthorpe Haven	1980	883	22	775	221	330	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grainthorpe -												
Somercotes	3	502	207	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somercotes -												
Donna Nook	21	-	-	93	89	2	-	-	50	-	2300	-
Saltfleet	29	53	240	-	6	-	135	1600	144	330	36	65
Saltfleetby-												
Theddlethorpe	180	-	14	6	6	4	97	10	73	45	-	20

Humber totals	2213	1438	483	874	324	336	482	1860	267	375	3996	85
The Wash												
Gibraltar Point	430	643	449	279	147	170	132	1220	3080	3550	136	-
Wainfleet	2183	2265	-	121	310	44	34	2300	2100	1900	1700	-
Friskney	630	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrangle	2	122	404	166	19	42	386	1540	1150	732	154	500
Leverton	670	870	642	289	282	87	47	395	1351	1	697	-
Benington	-	-	230	25	12	4	45	-	-	-	55	-
Butterwick	165	15	8	18	13	-	8	-	1	2	4	-
Freiston Shore	2000	3320	1267	702	1022	751	1141	1200	1208	601	1800	800
Witham	2	661	50	111	-	10	250	510	-	1100	800	-
Frampton Marsh	28	119	41	185	238	25	31	80	3	101	580	4600
Kirton	-	12	14	10	7	8	7	-	-	4	-	-
Welland	600	610	902	216	17	-	18	1052	1500	1200	700	-
Holbeach	120	259	304	2	200	16	-	300	280	13	-	-
Dawsmere	2570	3000	9300	504	800	152	518	2	-	850	2000	-
Gedney	-	252	32	11	-	26	163	12	-	-	21	-
Terrington	1400	-	810	-	285	-	349	1670	2000	1850	-	-
Wash totals	10800	12148	14453	2639	3352	1385	3129	10281	12673	11904	8647	5900

As expected, the Wash held the lion's share of records, with the peak month being Mar. Numbers dropped off rapidly into Apr-May as birds departed for breeding grounds further north and the autumn passage began as usual in Jul. The lack of data from Dec is worrying, but likely indicates a WeBS date coinciding with Christmas rather than a lack of birds. On the Humber, there were casual records that eclipsed the WeBS data, most notably 2300 at Donna Nook on Nov 14th. Inland records were received from many areas encompassing the whole county, with the highest inland counts being 10 at Whisby NP on Mar 31st, nine at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Mar 27th and at Deeping Lakes NR on Apr 27th indicating a small overland spring passage. Breeding records were received from several sites. At the RSPB Lincolnshire Wash Reserves numbers continued to rise overall, with a slight decline to 16 pairs at Freiston Shore countered by the more than doubling at Frampton Marsh to 15 pairs this year. Elsewhere, there were four pairs at Alkborough Flats, two pairs at Donna Nook, single pairs at Blackmoor Bridge and at Barton Pits where at least one juv was fledged successfully, and three pairs attempted to breed at Whisby NP but all were unsuccessful. A pair was in suitable habitat at Goxhill in late May and may have attempted to breed.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Vagrant. BBRC



Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Frampton Marsh May 29th 2010 © Steve Keightley

A pair was present for an hour in front of the visitor centre at Frampton Marsh on the morning of May 29th (JB et al). They formed the 10th county record since the first modern record of two at Gib Point in 1965. Accepted by BBRC.

Records previous to 1965 are listed in Lorand & Atkin (1989) but all lack substantiation. In addition, the species may have been present historically in the Fens, but records and details are lacking.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Increasing coastal breeder, has colonised inland localities in the past few years. Fairly common passage migrant, rare in winter and scarce inland. **RBBP**

WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Read's Island Flats	-	9	146	147	352	-	700	1000	1000	909	52	-
Gib Point	-	-	15	22	34	46	36	10	4	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	16	8	17	15	69	81	4	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	36	75	49	27	6	1	-	-	-	-
Non-WeBS counts												
Alkborough Flats	-	-	2	55	12	96	48	100	90	1	2	-
Killingholme	-	-	6	22	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain	-	3	5	7	7	5	6	6	5	1	1	-
Messingham SQ	-	2	10	14	4	5	5	-	-	-	-	-

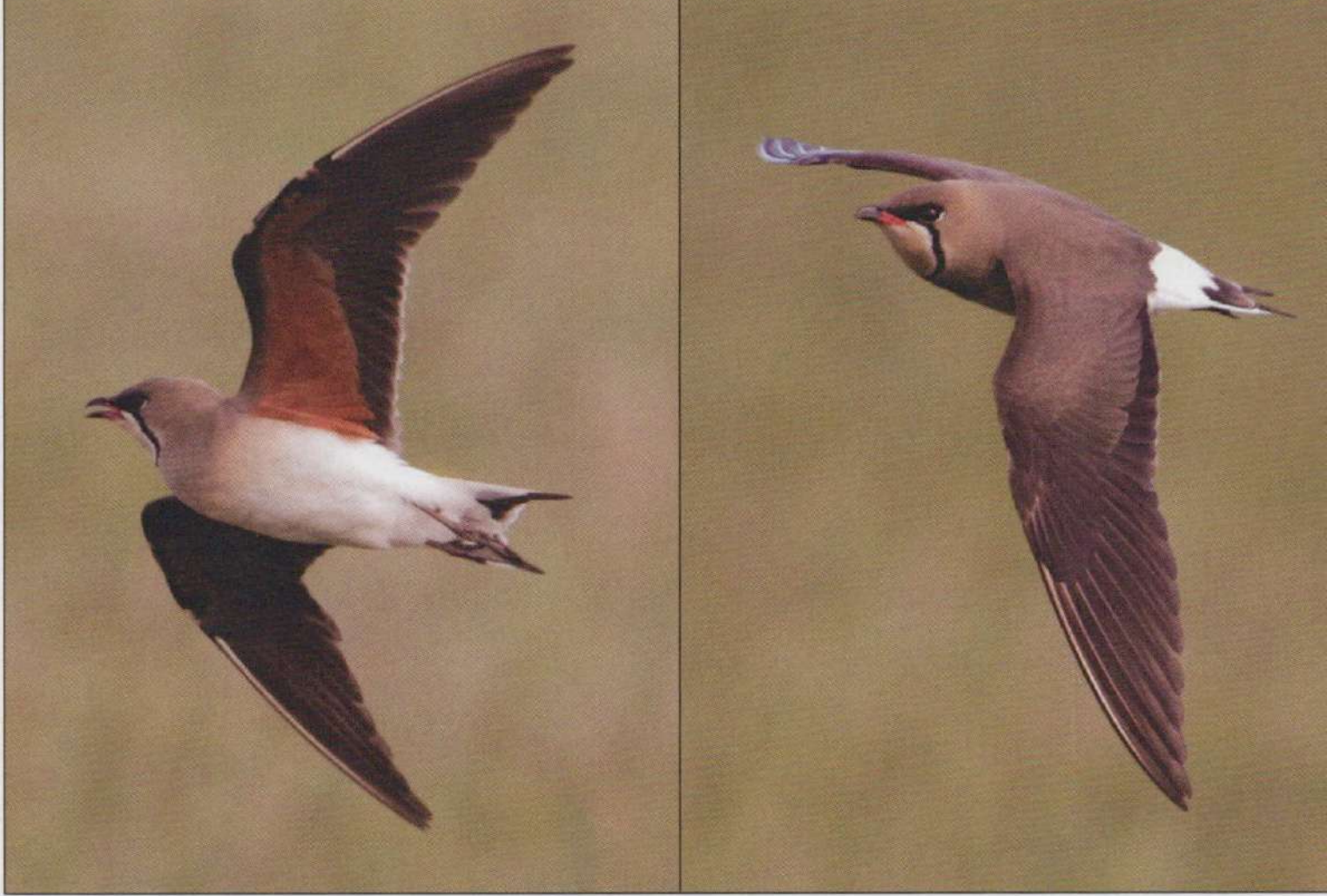


Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* Freiston Shore Jun 23rd 2010 © Neil Smith

Birds began to return from late Feb with 9 at Read's Island on the 20th, 2 at Messingham SQ on the 25th, and one at Barton Pits on 28th and nine at Frampton Marsh on the 28th. From the second week of March numbers began to build up rapidly with 146 at Read's Island on 13th and 27 at Frampton Marsh on the 16th. Breeding was reported at up to 16 sites across the county and with nearly 400 breeding pairs reported this was probably the best year for Avocet in Lincolnshire for at least 200 years. The RSPB habitat improvements at Read's Island attracted an estimated 250 pairs to breed there. They were successful too, raising at least 340-400 fledged young. This contrasted with other sites on the Humber and the Wash where breeding success was much poorer. Five pairs at Alkborough Flats raised no young while 4 pairs at Barton Pursuit Pit raised 7 young. No breeding at all was reported at Whitton Sands and Killingholme Pits. At Frampton Marsh 44 pairs had poor success whilst at Freiston Shore 39 pairs were described as having very poor success. Things were a little better at Gibraltar Point where 17 pairs raised 8 young. Inland breeding was confirmed at a number of other sites including Kirkby on Bain and Messingham SQ. In the north-east and east of the county between Immingham and Skegness Avocet reports were surprisingly scarce with four at Covenham Reservoir on Apr 10th, two at Manby Flashes from May 23rd to



Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* RSPB Frampton Marsh May 12th 2010 © Neil Smith



Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* RSPB Frampton Marsh May 11th 2010 © Graham Catley



Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* RSPB Frampton Marsh May 9th 2010 © John Clarkson

Jun 4th, two at Tetney Marsh on May 26th and six at Cleethorpes on Jul 28th. The relatively unsuccessful breeding birds at the Wash sites did not hang around with only 15 birds reported at the three main breeding sites in Aug. Meanwhile on the Humber at Read's Island a post breeding flock of around 1000 birds gathered from mid Jul, with 909 birds staying until at least Oct 10th falling to 262 by Oct 31st. The last records of the year were singles at Frampton Marsh on Nov 21st and 15 at Read's Island on Nov 24th.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Vagrant. Bred to early 1900s and again in 1989. LBRC, RBBP

One found on Dunsby Fen (NHD et al) during farming operations on Sep 6th was typically the only record.

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*

Vagrant. BBRC

One was well watched and admired during its stay at Frampton Marsh from May 9th-18th (JB, PAH, W Lawrance, PS et al). This is the rarest of the three pratincoles on the British list and was unsurprisingly a first for Lincolnshire. It is such a rare visitor to Europe that it was conceivably the same bird that was seen in 2009 in Kent and Sussex. This particular individual graced the same scrapes that last year's Collared Pratincole enjoyed, proving the attraction of newly created wetlands to rare waders. Accepted by BBRC. See finders report on page 171.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant since 1950.

The first bird of the year was an early individual at Marston STW on Mar 1st, followed by three at Frampton Marsh on Mar 7th. The main spring passage began on Mar 21st with a single at Normanby, and this was soon followed by records from 24 sites around the county. Peak spring counts were 20 at Frampton Marsh on May 2nd-5th, 10 at Freiston Shore on May 2nd, and seven at Marston STW on May 18th. Breeding was confirmed at Frampton Marsh (eight pairs), Blackmoor Bridge, Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits, Whisby NP (two pairs) and Gib Point (one pair fledged two), while pairs were noted in suitable habitat at Alkborough Flats (two), Normanby Business Park, Conesby Quarry (two) and Killingholme Haven Pits NR. Autumn passage was protracted and numbers are confused by locally bred birds, but high counts included 15 at Gib Point on Jul 3rd, 10 at Frampton Marsh on Jul 5th increasing to 14 on Jul 8th and 15 at Gib Point on Aug 16th. Elsewhere, single figure counts were reported from 16 widely distributed sites, with the final record of the year coming from Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Oct 4th.



Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* Frampton March Apr 28th 2010 © Neil Smith

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Fairly common passage migrant, mainly coastal. Breeding has spread to inland sites in last 40 years.

WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Read's Island Flats	-	-	-	21	209	-	-	-	-	40	-	-
Immingham Docks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	1	-
Cleethorpes North Promenade	-	10	-	90	40	-	-	15	-	-	-	-
-Anthony's Bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horseshoe Point-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetney Haven	-	-	-	19	778	-	-	-	-	-	46	-
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	-	-	-	-	244	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somercotes-Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	383	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saltfleet	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theddlethorpe-Saltfleetby	-	-	-	10	37	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theddlethorpe-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mablethorpe North End	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	1	56	29	66	55	18	38	4	-	32	-
Wainfleet	-	-	-	3	1233	3	-	3	-	-	-	-
Wrangle	-	-	-	-	133	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
Leverton	-	-	-	-	430	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benington	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Butterwick	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Freiston	14	20	40	3	7	1	6	60	106	95	-	-
Witham	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	3	-	3	200	4	4	16	89	132	-	3
Welland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	-
Gedney	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Terrington	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	1	167	5	-	-
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Non-WeBS counts												
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	36	3	1	33	55	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	398	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Goxhill Haven	-	-	2	8	-	-	-	133	-	35	10	-
Saltfleetby-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theddlethorpe NNR	15	-	-	-	49	-	-	250	15	45	-	-
Witham Mouth	60	-	100	-	-	-	-	150	-	-	40	-

As is usual with this species, over wintering records were scarce, with small numbers wintering in The Wash. It was not until spring passage that numbers increased dramatically, and the table details the major counts. The majority of these birds are on passage to breeding grounds in the Arctic and are of the slightly smaller and darker race *tundrae*. Breeding reports were received from just five sites, with five pairs at Donna Nook and single pairs at Blackmoor Bridge and Normanby Business Park, a slight decline in breeding figures at Freiston Shore to four pairs was in contrast to an increase at Frampton Marsh to two pairs, compared to five and zero respectively in 2009. Autumn records were more widespread, and larger counts included 161 at Cleethorpes on Aug 12th, 65 at Howden's Pullover on Aug 14th, 230 at Killingholme Haven and 340 at Pyewipe on Aug 21st, 200 at Read's Islands on Aug 28th, 500 at Frampton Marsh on Sep 12th and 150 on the Boston Deeps on Oct 9th. Inland records occurred at just 12 sites, with the largest count being 10 at Toft Newton Res on Sep 7th. An almost completely white leucistic individual was at Read's Island on Aug 28th.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare/scarce passage migrant, mainly spring.

The first of the spring were nine at Tetney Lock on Apr 26th, quickly followed by a good run of records. Five at West Butterwick on Apr 28th were an unusual inland record and proof of the Trent Valley as an inland fly-way for waders. Five at North Cotes on Apr 28th decreased to four the following day. One at Bonby Top on May 3rd was on the regular Wolds flyway, with four at Friskney on May 4th. Back at North Cotes, two were found along the road to the airfield on May 5th, increasing to four by May 7th and then five on May 13th. Further south, five flew low north over Frampton Marsh on May 9th. The only autumn record was a moulting adult with Golden Plovers at Winterringham Haven on Aug 21st-22nd.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

Vagrant. LBRC

A juvenile found at Freiston Shore on Oct 31st-Nov 1st (PS et al) was the only record submitted to the county committee.



American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* Freiston Shore Nov 1st 2010 © Roy Harvey

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, occasional in summer.

WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
The Wash										
Wainfleet	95	776	215	-	-	67	817	341	2356	6070
Friskney	25	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrangle	6200	-	1150	300	-	448	436	18	-	64
Leverton	35	20	1161	-	-	151	595	1074	-	-
Benington	-	350	-	-	-	240	435	-	250	-
Butterwick	-	-	1350	18	-	-	-	-	625	-
Freiston	620	100	-	18	-	49	-	1	800	276
Witham	1750	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	21	3020	-	-	1	2	-	-	44	440
Kirton Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150
Welland	3	-	-	-	-	6	18	950	750	2
Holbeach	70	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	72	17
Dawsmere	11	3000	-	-	-	-	1	2860	1350	4400
Gedney	2	-	-	-	-	381	-	500	-	-
Terrington	27	-	-	-	-	66	75	1527	1790	-
Wash totals	8859	7298	3876	336	1	1910	2377	7271	8037	11419
Non-WeBS counts										
Alkborough Flats	50	450	95	50	-	-	1	800	3440	4000
Read's Island Flats	5	11	55	-	-	-	-	-	3000	3000
Barton Chowder Ness	-	20	70	-	5	261	112	136	480	2000
East Halton Skitter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3090	5000
North Cotes	-	-	-	-	60	-	-	10000	500	-
Grainthorpe Marsh area	620	-	-	-	-	-	2000	2000	450	1000
Donna Nook	-	-	300	-	-	12	-	450	2100	2400
Howden's Pullover	118	-	-	-	-	165	200	-	900	630
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	-	-	36	-	600	-	1000

Freiston Shore	2000	500	100	18	1	49	400	1000	5000	8000
Witham	1750	-	1000	-	-	-	50	-	300	2150
Frampton Marsh	30	3020	1800	-	1	20	130	250	1800	2200

This species remains common and widespread, although large counts away from the coast are less frequently reported and were limited to 1000 at Fillingham on Apr 4th, 800 at West Ashby on Apr 18th, 500 at Digby Fen on Oct 22nd, 1000 at Potterhanworth Fen on Oct 28th, 700 at Messingham SQ on Oct 30th, 3000 at Nocton Fen on Oct 30th-Nov 3rd, 1000 at Upton on Nov 2nd and 565 at Marston STW on Nov 7th. For some reason, large counts along the inner Humber in the autumn did not translate into WeBS counts, but these counts are detailed in the table above. Overwintering birds had largely gone by the end of Mar with just a few stragglers remaining beyond then. The autumn arrival began in Jul when the first small flocks were 50 at Barton and 12 at Donna Nook on Jul 1st. Small numbers continued to arrive all month, but the first large aggregation was not until Aug 19th when 1000 were at Humberston Fitties. Larger numbers continued to arrive throughout the autumn but numbers did not reach the large flocks noted last winter, although a lack of data from Dec precludes a full assessment.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Common passage migrant and common winter visitor. Rare inland.

WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Read's Island Flats	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	36	-
Horseshoe Point-Tetney Haven	-	-	850	-	83	-	-	-	-	-	156	-
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	10	34	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somercotes-Donna Nook	-	18	30	8	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	3	30	-	20	-	-	85	118	-	-	-
Saltfleet	5	16	-	-	-	-	-	48	7	22	43	18
Theddlethorpe-Saltfleetby	19	48	14	3	17	-	3	2	-	8	-	8
Gibraltar Point	10	11	-	80	650	1	1	602	2650	1600	441	-
Wainfleet	67	932	-	170	1750	-	-	529	534	227	705	-
Friskney	-	4000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrangle	630	20	1715	4894	712	-	-	129	231	437	231	441
Leverton	220	447	712	3150	1197	-	33	530	804	445	600	-
Benington	-	55	-	190	145	-	-	-	-	-	150	-
Butterwick	190	-	-	3	146	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Freiston	10	46	-	-	600	-	-	10	1	7	40	20
Witham	125	150	150	47	-	-	-	-	-	350	57	-
Frampton Marsh	161	30	9	10	759	-	-	158	315	115	12	12
Welland	-	-	70	150	110	-	1	30	-	350	140	-
Holbeach	85	220	-	-	-	-	12	150	645	35	-	-
Dawsmere	1350	-	500	1940	-	-	-	250	1050	4400	4	-
Gedney	21	200	2780	2700	-	101	10	650	420	147	1900	8020
Terrington	272	-	2	-	52	-	-	57	433	377	-	-
Wash totals	3141	6111	5938	13334	6121	102	57	3095	7083	8491	4280	8493

The Wash remains the most important site in Britain for this species, and as the table shows it is of great importance for migrating as well as over-wintering birds, with numbers more than doubling between Mar-Apr. A count of 15411 made in Apr for the entire Wash has only been surpassed three times previously and demonstrates the importance of the Lincs side of The Wash for this species. Indeed, approximately half of all Britain's Grey Plovers now occur on just two major sites, the Wash and the Dengie Flats in Essex. Away from The Wash, small numbers could be found along the entire coastline between Skegness and Alkborough Flats, although it is surprisingly scarce in the Inner Humber. Notable counts from this area not in the table were 118 at Donna Nook on Sep 26th and 500 at Humberston Fitties on Nov 9th. Just two inland records comprised eight at Covenham Res on Sep 29th declining to six there by Oct 1st and one very briefly at Bagmoor/ Winterton Floods on Dec 19th.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Fairly common resident and very common passage migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	522	-	42	9	-	13	102	-	30	-	373	-
Read's Island Flats	380	1058	260	4	4	-	-	-	-	330	400	21
Goxhill Marsh	120	345	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	60	150	1
Gib Point	38	139	62	14	18	4	24	8	29	-	18	-

Wainfleet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	132	483	-
Friskney												
Wrangle	129	4	-	-	-	-	11	-	1	-	125	-
Leverton	4	161	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Benington												
Butterwick	10	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	550	87	-
Freiston	771	2650	50	40	11	27	42	-	10	400	970	-
Witham	430	-	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	59	4468	81	45	62	53	136	594	97	188	706	8
Kirton Marsh	5	50	3	2	2	-	-	1	3	153	550	100
Welland	2	305	-	2	1	-	6	-	-	315	102	-
Holbeach	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	115	130	-
Dawsmere	-	76	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	530	-
Gedney	-	251	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	145	1
Terrington	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	255	-	-
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Non-WeBS counts												
Alkborough Flats	600	560	392	44	46	40	49	52	220	1600	1513	1
Anwick Fen	18	1100	2	8	9	13	1	-	-	-	-	-
Barton Pits	40	82	6	2	6	15	100	144	400	150	220	8
Blackmoor Bridge	-	800	1100	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook	140	300	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	460	450	-
Dorrington Fen	100	250	250	2	2	5	-	100	-	-	70	-
Fiskerton Fen Scrapes	-	-	-	-	13	14	150	30	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain/												
Tattershall Thorpe Pits	-	-	12	4	10	50	160	650	400	80	40	17
Manby Flashes	300	300	250	7	5	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marston STW	-	-	7	1	11	8	11	200	80	120	18	4
Messingham SQ	6	37	-	56	5	-	250	700	170	8	50	-
Metheringham Delph	-	160	240	-	-	20	160	140	76	500	180	-
Nocton Fen	-	-	350	-	-	-	-	-	200	115	2000	-
Skitter Ness	420	770	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1700	16
Whisby NP	130	-	6	7	8	8	74	96	71	36	49	15

This species occurs over a very wide area, so any attempt at a wintering population estimate must bear that in mind. Breeding Lapwings continued to increase on the RSPB Lincolnshire Wash Reserves, with record highs of 15 pairs at Freiston Shore and 45 pairs at Frampton Marsh. Elsewhere, breeding was confirmed or suspected at Blackmoor Bridge (6 pairs), Bonby Carrs (20+ pairs), Digby Fen (3 pairs), Dorrington Fen (2 pairs), Fiskerton Fen, Normanby (7 pairs), Risby Warren (4 pairs), Scotton Common NR (12 fledglings), Swanpool (2 pairs), Swayfield (3 pairs), Tattershall Lakes CP and Whisby NP (1 pair). Traditionally an early migrant, failed breeders can start to gather by the end of May at favoured sites, and the largest such gathering was 150 at Chambers Farm Wood on Jun 20th. Counts in the second winter period were well down on the previous year, and this may be at least partly attributable to the cold weather forcing birds to move west or south out of the county.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare inland.

WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
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Cleethorpes North Promenade-										
Anthony's Bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	4000	-	-	-
Tetney Haven-Humberston Fitties	-	-	460	-	-	-	-	-	-	7000
Horseshoe Point-Tetney Haven	-	-	3100	-	4	-	-	-	-	5000
Grainthorpe Haven	3150	2450	1140	30	-	-	-	4	-	-
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	32	386	164	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somercotes-Donna Nook	-	26	205	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	20	680	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Saltfleet	800	550	230	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theddlethorpe-Saltfleetby	850	520	430	18	-	70	2	63	400	-
Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe										
North End	650	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	3000	12500	5000	6000	5000	47	62000	80000	80000	2200
Wainfleet	3420	12040	-	764	4000	770	25390	9360	14000	17000
Friskney	50	1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Wrangle	-	-	1902	500	360	2558	1002	13050	4410	2500
Leverton	2280	5100	7360	7800	1890	4670	133	125	2080	1950
Benington	-	350	-	-	-	3700	-	-	-	120
Butterwick	660	20	-	-	-	450	-	-	-	-
Freiston	800	5700	600	-	-	1243	700	1500	5200	3200
Witham	-	1200	450	-	-	-	1250	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	1500	-	500	-	-	72	1550	-	-	-
Welland	5000	1200	3000	200	-	-	3	-	5000	5000
Holbeach	1300	2300	1100	800	700	-	-	300	417	300
Dawsmere	2000	7000	500	3500	300	300	2000	500	4000	3000
Gedney	250	-	3000	-	-	-	600	250	-	-
Terrington	-	-	-	-	-	52	-	304	-	-
Wash totals	20260	48410	23412	19564	12250	13862	94628	105389	115107	35270

The Dec counts have been omitted as only three sites in The Wash registered counts and the total was only 3690, including a count of 2000 at Frampton Marsh. There were no Dec WeBS counts from The Humber although there were casual counts of 800 from Donna Nook on Dec 16th and 90 from Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Dec 4th. Similarly, there were no records in Jun from any site. In the first winter period, there was probably much movement around The Wash and even into North Norfolk, with perhaps an influx from Norfolk in Feb accounting for the total more than doubling in that month. It is interesting to note that over 12000 birds were still present in The Wash in May, while on The Humber there was almost a total lack of birds, although it must be borne in mind that birds roost on the Yorkshire side in large numbers. The first significant autumn arrivals were 400 at Freiston Shore on Jul 13th, quickly increasing to 1380 on Jul 15th. These were soon augmented by daily arrivals, building to astonishing numbers in Aug-Nov, especially at Gib Point, and these counts all surpassed last years high totals. The only two inland records for the year were both at Covenham Res, with five there on Jan 25th and one on Nov 19th.



Red Knot *Calidris canutus* Freiston Shore Oct 10th 2010 © Steve Keightley

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
Tetney Haven- Humberston Fitties	-	-	95	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horseshoe Point- Tetney Haven	-	-	96	40	158	-	-	-	-	-	28	-
Grainthorpe Haven	29	13	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	6	75	-	172	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Somercotes-Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	305	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theddlethorpe-Saltfleetby	-	21	-	-	93	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe												
North End	37	29	15	-	237	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gib Point	-	3	3	-	171	137	289	800	1172	5	4	-
Wainfleet	-	2	-	-	1450	315	-	-	-	30	21	-
Leverton	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-
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Non-WeBS peak counts												
Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	312	60	-	280	-	85	40	-
Howden's Pullover	-	4	-	-	-	-	17	80	9	12	6	3
Saltfleetby-												
Theddlethorpe NNR	150	-	66	70	330	2	250	250	10	30	28	190

The distribution of WeBS records reveals the importance of the outer Humber and the northern reaches of The Wash for this species at different times of year. It is also interesting to note the lack of records further inland than Humberston Fitties along the Humber, due to a change from sand to mud on the inter-tidal areas, and further south than Leverton in The Wash. The outer Humber is clearly of importance during spring migration, but was almost completely shunned during the autumn. Conversely, The Wash is of approximately equal importance at both seasons, although much higher counts are made on the Norfolk side. The open sandy coastline between Skegness and Cleethorpes attract good numbers, but these tend to be well spread out. Decent counts along this stretch not in the table were 20 at Saltfleet Haven on Jul 15th, 12 at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on Aug 30th, 13 at Chapel Point on Sep 25th, 45 at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on Sep 26th, 50 at Mablethorpe on Oct 2nd, 85 at Trusthorpe and 90 at Mablethorpe on Oct 25th, 25 at Skegness on Nov 9th, 95 at Cleethorpes on Nov 22nd. The largest count of the year was 2400 at Gib Point on Aug 13th. There were only three inland records this year, all at Covenham Res, with one on Apr 28th, three on May 14th and six on Sep 2nd.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*

Vagrant. BBRC

An adult was an excellent find at Alkborough Flats on Aug 18th-24th (ND et al). It had previously been seen just over the border in Yorkshire at Blacktoft Sands. This is only the second county record of this Nearctic peep, coming 44 years after the first at Wisbech Sewage Farm in Nov-Dec 1966. Accepted by BBRC. To read the finders report, please see page 173.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Passage migrant, rare/scarce in spring and scarce/fairly common in autumn with rare winter records



Little Stint *Calidris minuta* Covenham Res Sep 5th 2010 © John Clarkson



Left: **Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla* with **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* and **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* Alkborough Flats Aug 19th 2010 © Graham Catley.
Right: **Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla* © Roy Harvey



Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* and **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* Alkborough Flats Aug 18th 2010 © Neil Drinkall

Recorded from just 18 sites but involving perhaps up to 90 birds. In contrast to last year, there were no over-wintering birds, and the first spring record was of two at Freiston Shore on May 22nd, closely followed by one at Frampton Marsh on May 25th-26th. In Jun, one was at Gib Point on the 7th and another was at Frampton Marsh from 13th-22nd. The first of the autumn passage was at Gib Point on Jul 18th and it was nearly a month before the next at Witham Mouth on Aug 11th. The first of only six inland records was a single at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Aug 13th. There were near daily records of birds from Frampton Marsh throughout the autumn, with at least one bird present there from Aug 18th-Nov 9th, and multiple records of two on Aug 27th rising to three on Aug 29th and then five on Sep 1st. There were then up to five present until seven on Sep 21st and nine on Sep 25th. Up to four were then present throughout Oct. Over the river at Freiston Shore, the first of the autumn was a single on Sep 4th. Up to three were present until Sep 9th, and then a major arrival of 11 occurred on Sep 12th, increasing to 13 on Sep 13th. These quickly moved on, and up to five were then present for the remainder of Sep. In Oct, up to three were present until 11th, then two remained until 31st. Finally, a late single remained until Nov 8th. Elsewhere, there were singles at Gib Point on Aug 22nd, Paradise Pool at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Sep 1st-20th, Gib Point on Sep 3rd, two from the *Boston Belle* RSPB trip into The Wash on Sep 4th, at Alkborough Flats 2 Sept 1st, 6 on Sep 4th increasing to seven the following day and one 21st, singles at Bardney Pits on Sep 5th and Covenham Res on Sep 5th-7th, Donna Nook on Sep 5th-11th, N Killingholme Haven Pits NR on Sep 9th, Messingham SQ on Sep 9th-11th, Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Sep 10th-12th, Nene Mouth on Sep 12th, four at Gib Point on Sep 14th decreasing to one by the 16th, singles at Covenham Res on Sep 30th-Oct 1st, Barton Pits on Oct 1st, Pye's Hall on Oct 8th-10th, Donna Nook on Oct 10th and two there on Oct 12th and finally one at Huttoft Bank Pit on Oct 19th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Rare passage migrant. LBRC

The first of nine records this year was one at Gib Point on the slightly early date of Apr 28th (KMW). This was followed by a run of records in the second half of May starting with a single at Kirkby on Bain GP on May 15th (GH, JHr, RHa et al). One at Frampton Marsh on May 15th-18th (ATD, WBS, PS) increased to two on May 18th-22nd (JB, PS et al) before decreasing to one again on May 24th. An impressive four were together at Gib Point on May 23rd-24th (RKW et al). Two together at Fiskerton Fen Scrapes on May 24th-27th (with one remaining until May 28th) were a good inland record (ACS et al). Back at Frampton Marsh, three were found on May 27th decreasing to two the following day (JB et al) with the last bird of the spring and the year being a single at Frampton Marsh on Jun 6th (PS).

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

Vagrant. LBRC

One was seen on the mudflats and saltmarsh of Gib Point on Aug 8th (KMW et al).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Rare autumn migrant, vagrant in spring. LBRC

An excellent year, with ten records. The first of the year was one at Bardney Pits on May 26th (RBe, DN, ACS), followed by one at Frampton Marsh on Jun 6th-8th (PS et al). The first of the autumn was one at North Cotes Point on Sep 1st (DJB). A juv at Frampton Marsh briefly on Sep 12th (JB, GTh, IDi) was seen to fly north and was presumably the bird then located on the reservoir at Freiston Shore later that day where it stayed until Sep 22nd (AW et al) being joined by a second juv on Sep 20th-21st (SK, PS et al). A juv was at Gib Point on Sep 13th-14th (PNe et al). The second of the autumn for Frampton Marsh was present during Sep 20th-Oct 1st (AJB, SWI), and was followed by another that flew over the reedbed on Oct 12th (JB, GFi, J Boatwright). A juv was at Kirkby Pits on Sept 30th (TGu) and the final record of the year was a juv at Gib Point on Oct 16th-19th (B Herriot et al).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Passage migrant, scarce in spring and scarce/fairly common in autumn. Rare in winter.

A decent spring passage limited to The Wash began on Apr 27th with one at Witham Mouth and then Freiston Shore until May 5th. Elsewhere, one was at Gib Point on Apr 28th and one at Frampton Marsh on May 8th increased to three on the 9th, four on the 10th, five on the 11th and then six on the 14th. There was then 1-3 present until the months end, with four on May 31st and Jun 6th. The overlap of spring and autumn migration was evident in Jun-Jul, with near daily records of 1-2 from Frampton Marsh, two at Gib Point on Jun 7th, two at Alkborough Flats on



Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* Freiston Shore Sep 19th 2010 © Roy Harvey



Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* Saltfleet Sep 7th 2010 © Graham Catley

Jun 27th, one at Gib Point on Jul 18th and one at Freiston Shore on Jul 30th. August began with one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, followed by two at Freiston Shore on the 10th decreasing to one there on the 11th-16th, one at Cleethorpes LNR on 12th, one at Donna Nook on 14th, one at Frampton Marsh on the 20th-30th and finally one at Gib Point and three at Killingholme Haven Pits NR on 30th. As the autumn progressed, numbers at favoured sites increased and there was no doubt a large turnover of birds making the task of assessing absolute numbers a fruitless one. On a site-by-site basis, the rest of the autumn panned out thus: at Alkborough Flats there were 15 on Sep 4th, increasing to 21 on Sep 7th and then 1-2 to Oct 4th and nine on Oct 17th. At Frampton Marsh, one on Sep 3rd increased to seven on Sep 4th. Numbers then fluctuated between 1-6 for the remainder of the month, while into Oct there was just one from the 11th-26th. At Freiston Shore two were present on Sep 8th-9th, then five arrived on Sep 12th increasing to 9 on Sep 13th. Three

were left on Sep 16th, but the next sighting wasn't until one on Oct 14th. Just two birds were seen at Gib Point, singles on Sep 19th and Oct 9th. At Saltfleet, three were present from Sep 7th-8th, then two on Sep 10th and 20th. Further records came from Goxhill Haven one on Sep 6th, four at Cleethorpes on Sep 8th, three at Read's Island on Sep 11th, one at North Killingholme Haven Pits NR on Sep 23rd, one at Barton Pits on Sep 27th, one at Donna Nook on Oct 2nd, three out on Boston Deepes on Oct 10th and one at Donna Nook on Oct 28th. The only inland record of the year was of one at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Sep 6th-14th.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

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

In the first winter period, one was at Cleethorpes intermittently from Feb 5th-Mar 9th and another was at Gib Point on Feb 13th. There were no further records until singles at Donna Nook on Aug 28th, Goxhill Haven on Aug 30th and then presumably the same bird seen at both Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace and Sandilands on Aug 30th. Similarly, two flying north at Anderby Creek on Sep 25th could have accounted for singles off Mablethorpe and Sandilands the same day. Further south, what may have been the same bird was seen at Gib Point on Oct 24th, Winthorpe on Nov 2nd and Gib Point Nov 3rd while elsewhere there was a single at Freiston Shore on Oct 31st.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly coastal. Bred to early 20th century and in 1958.

WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	1080	330	228	3	70	10	32	200	83	138	-
Read's Island Flats	800	1300	600	100	250	-	-	-	3500	5600	6295
South Ferriby	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Barrow-Barton	250	13	31	-	3	562	10	140	250	22	1000
Goxhill Marsh	270	330	900	-	-	-	73	68	149	750	900
North Killingholme Haven Pits	-	-	-	-	-	44	140	10	55	1200	1000
Killingholme Marshes	-	55	-	-	-	-	-	70	53	609	-
Immingham Docks	-	10	85	-	-	-	3	-	94	53	-
Cleethorpes North Promenade-Anthony's Bank	-	-	-	300	30	-	3000	-	-	-	-
Tetney Haven-Humberston Fitties	-	-	1950	-	10	-	-	-	-	60	-
Horseshoe Point-Tetney Haven	-	-	1530	5	-	-	-	-	-	1270	-
Grainthorpe Haven	137	62	940	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	48	155	86	25	327	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somercotes-Donna Nook	-	2	210	-	820	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	200	-	820	-	350	500	420	30	500
Saltfleet	82	18	12	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theddlethorpe-Saltfleetby	187	475	310	11	33	300	100	30	60	760	800
Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe North End	380	208	-	3	28	-	-	-	-	-	-
Humber totals	2121	2729	5884	447	2323	916	3697	807	4414	9635	9827
Gibraltar Point	700	90	300	2000	57	1417	3447	6300	2500	531	-
Wainfleet	1800	840	-	670	7900	1195	1636	1121	1600	4060	1505
Friskney	200	1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrangle	100	300	2600	725	1516	604	472	178	374	700	421
Leverton	1570	2700	1277	4300	2480	1400	686	971	2080	1950	-
Benington	-	165	-	110	-	350	-	-	-	915	-
Butterwick	310	280	-	54	30	210	-	-	105	225	-
Freiston	425	2167	800	-	5	3380	1500	1210	705	756	250
Witham	1200	2300	100	500	-	1300	3250	-	-	1800	-
Frampton Marsh	350	88	645	11	360	580	69	386	793	127	202
Kirton Marsh	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	1	-
Welland	850	-	-	202	36	-	18	-	400	35	-
Holbeach	100	430	120	400	300	360	-	200	-	540	-
Dawsmere	700	-	45	1500	-	1250	200	20	3700	1500	-
Gedney	1287	5	2600	420	-	1	50	300	109	330	490

Terrington	226	-	-	-	77	-	1	39	540	-	-
The Wash totals	9818	10383	8487	10892	12761	12047	11329	10725	12946	13470	2868

The Wash remains of international importance and is the 4th most important site in Britain for Dunlin, with nearly half of The Wash’s population counted on the Lincs side. After a lull in Jun with few records, the high count in Jul comprises newly arrived migrants of both the local breeding race *schinzii* and the Scandanavian and Arctic race *alpina*. Most, if not all of the shorter-billed and duller *schinzii* pass through on their way to wintering grounds in West Africa, while the longer-billed and slightly larger *alpina* stay to winter. The drop off in numbers from Nov-Dec was most likely real and due to the cold weather as well as a lack of WeBS counters. In the Humber, peak counts are in the winter and suggest that it is not as important for migrating Dunlin as is The Wash. However, there are some high counts from the Humber not repeated in the WeBS counts, including peak counts at Barton Pits of 250 in Jan, 562 in Jul, 300 in Oct and 1000 in Nov-Dec, at Killingholme Haven Pits NR there were 270 in Sep, 3050 in Oct, 1200 in Nov and 1000 in Dec, at Donna Nook there were peaks of 200 in Mar, 820 in May, 350 in Aug, 500 in Sep, 420 in Oct and 500 in Dec, at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR there were 600 in Jan, 300 in Jul, 760 in Nov and 800 in Dec and finally at Witham Mouth there were 4000 in Jan and 1800 in Nov. Very much a coastal species, there were records from just 15 non-tidal sites with all records of single figure counts except for 12 at Toft Newton Res on Apr 19th.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

Vagrant. LBRC

An adult was found on the mud at Read’s Island on Aug 28th before flying of to the south that evening in company with Ringed Plover and Dunlin (WG, ND, GPC).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Fairly common passage migrant and scarce winter visitor. Bred to 19th century. RBBP



Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* Frampton Marsh May 4th 2010 © Neil Smith

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	9	-	1	-	-	5	8	40	70	43	2	-
Freiston Shore	1	2	-	-	6	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	2	-	5	15	15	4	8	18	30	56	53	-

In the first winter period, single figure counts were reported from several sites within the Humber and Wash complexes, with four at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods being the only inland record until a light spring passage began with one at Messingham SQ and five at Gib Point on Apr 10th. Spring passage was light, with birds reported from just nine sites. Not detailed above were singles at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Apr 18th, Covenham Res on Apr 29th and Donna

Nook on Apr 30th, two at Manby Flashes on Apr 30th and singles at Gib Point on Jun 26th-30th. Autumn passage was typically protracted, with small numbers present throughout Jul, then peaking in late Aug through to mid Nov. Reported from 27 sites between Jul-Nov with the most notable occurrences being nine at Bardney Pits on Aug 14th, 25 at Rimac on Sep 10th, 13 at Goxhill Marsh on Oct 5th and an impressive 70 along The Haven between Boston and The Wash on Oct 11th increasing to 71 on Oct 14th. Late records were limited to two at Goxhill Marsh on Dec 13th and one at Tetney Marshes on Dec 31st.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocryptes minimus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Probably much under-recorded. **RBBP**

Reported from 26 sites around the county, mostly in singles. During Jan-Mar, 1-2 were reported from Stallingborough, Freiston Shore, Far Ings NNR, Frampton Marsh, Howden's Pullover, Gib Point, Grainthorpe Marsh, Saltfleet, Laughton Forest, Tetney Marsh, Anton's Gowt, Trent Port and Donna Nook, with four at Whisby Quarry, Jobs Lane on Feb 28th, three at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Mar 7th, six at Whisby Quarry, Jobs Lane on Mar 21st and six at Tetney Marsh on Mar 22nd. Just three records were received for the period Apr-Jun, with singles at Wrangle Bank on Apr 8th, Gib Point on Apr 17th and Frampton Marsh on May 11th. The first records of the autumn were of singles at Wainfleet Common on Sep 25th and Gib Point on Sep 27th, and this was followed by reports of 1-2 in Oct-Dec from Belton Park, Boultham Mere, Donna Nook, Edlington, Frampton Marsh, Freiston Shore Gib Point, Huttoft Bank Pit, Market Deeping, North Cotes, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, Thimbleby, Toynton St Peter, Wainfleet Common and Whisby NP with peak counts of three at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 10th and four at Market Deeping on Dec 25th.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Rare breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor.



Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* Marston STW Sep 14th 2010 © Steve Nesbitt

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	5	4	15	22	-	3	3	13	45	28	18	-
Donna Nook	6	32	13	10	-	1	-	-	18	5	-	-
Howden's Pullover	8	22	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	6	1
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	13	11	37	3	-	-	-	-	3	1	24	-
Mablethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	14	2	3	-
Gibraltar Point	2	-	2	2	-	3	3	2	8	2	15	20
Wainfleet	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	9	3	15	-

Freiston Shore	121	100	56	1	-	-	-	1	4	28	15	4
Frampton Marsh	22	60	18	15	1	4	9	14	13	22	17	2
Kirton Marsh	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	4	8	6
Manby Flashes	-	-	1	4	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Kirkby GP	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	2
Whisby NP	5	8	10	4	-	-	-	2	5	16	15	5
Messingham SQ	22	20	17	14	-	2	-	7	30	20	9	-
Marston STW	-	1	3	1	-	-	4	13	10	30	20	15
Trent Port	-	38	56	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-

High counts and WeBS counts are included in the table above as this secretive species is unlikely to suffer from double counting. The highest counts come from Freiston Shore where most birds are counted on the island in the saline lagoon, an open situation not really mirrored elsewhere. The big freeze in Dec would have affected this species severely, and it is no surprise to see a large drop in numbers in Dec, although the slight increase at Gib Point may suggest that we were receiving incoming birds from the Continent trying to escape conditions there. Interestingly, small numbers persist in spending the summer here, with at least one breeding pair at Frampton Marsh being the first formal breeding record for the site in modern times. A pair was also engaged in drumming and display at Binbrook. These were the only two breeding records reported this year and the breeding at Frampton Marsh represents a rare ray of hope that this species will retain a toehold as a breeding species in the county.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

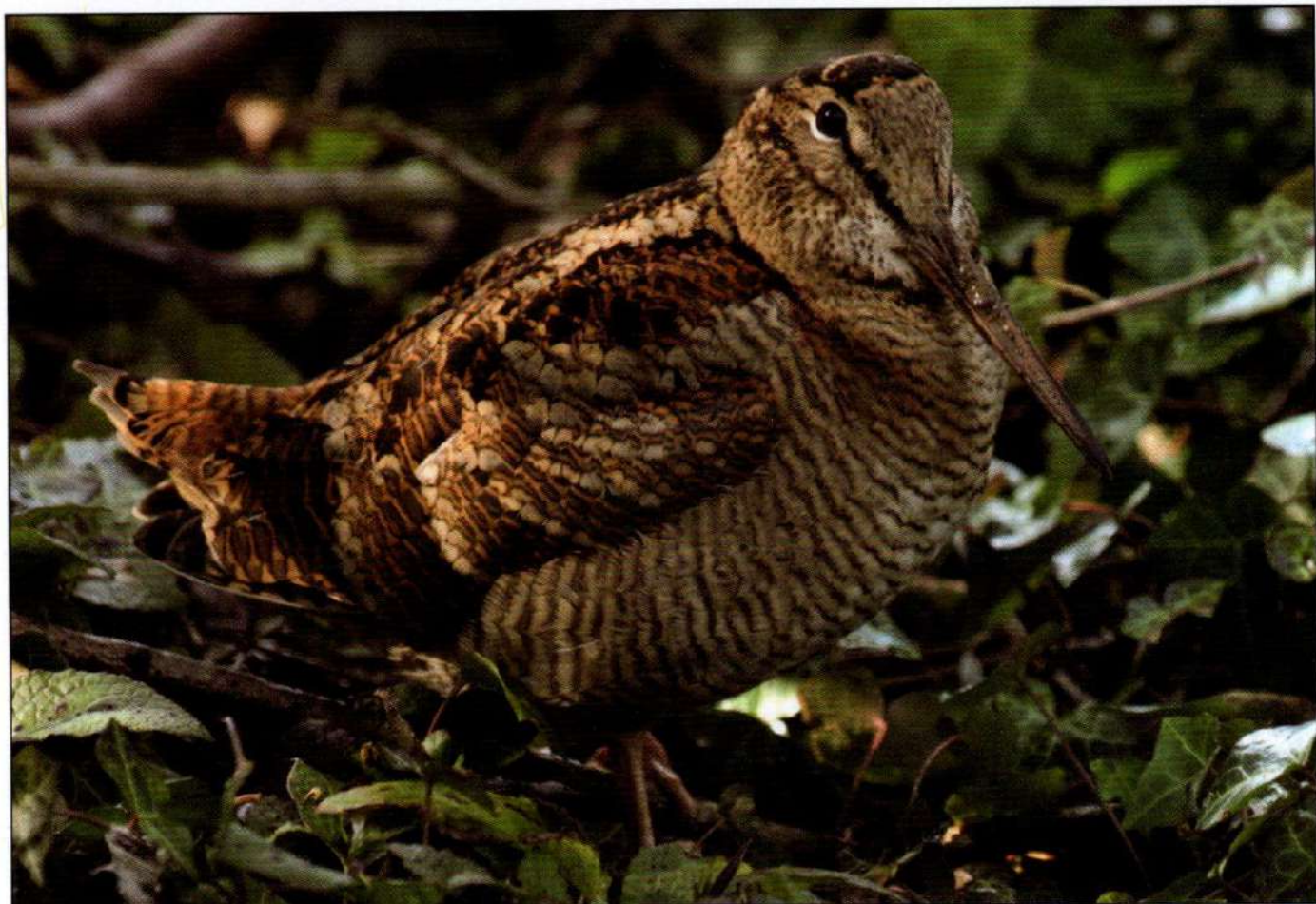
Fairly common resident in restricted habitat, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Being secretive and crepuscular, this is another under-recorded species. Breeding birds are augmented in the autumn by migrants from as far away as European Russia, but any attempt at assessing the wintering population depends on counting the bag returns of the various shooting estates that make up the county's woodlands. Left over from 2009, large numbers reported in the first winter period included 11 at Donna Nook on Jan 1st, 70 at Gib Point on Jan 9th and up to 10 at Whisby NP and 50 at North Somercotes Warren (with a further 17 reported shot on a nearby shoot) in Jan. The only roding birds were reported from Laughton Forest, Skellingthorpe Old Wood and Temple Wood, although there were reports from a further 5 sites during the period Apr-Jul. The first autumn arrivals were two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Sep 28th, and these were followed from Oct 8th by near daily records of at least one from the coastal areas. Migrants continued to arrive well into the winter, and the largest count of the year was 80 at Gib Point on Dec 3rd. Just one site recorded Woodcock in Sep, followed by four sites in Oct, 17 sites in Nov and an impressive 37 sites in Dec when several were found dead in the freeze.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

L l islandica Common passage migrant and winter visitor *L l limosa* rare migrant and has bred last in 1974. RBBP

WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	30	36	54	104	119	104	283	220	70	32	44	-
Read's Island Flats	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Goxhill Marsh	11	11	9	-	-	-	-	-	360	-	-	2
North Killingholme Haven Pits	-	8	544	427	1	1	2800	4000	4000	4150	-	-
Killingholme Marshes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	-	-	-
Immingham Docks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-
Pyewipe	971	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	4500	2250	2100
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	-	-	-	73	177	169	3	11	-
Wrangle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
Leverton	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Freiston	680	44	10	-	2	-	34	10	3108	3810	4828	20
Witham	10	-	100	-	-	-	12	150	-	-	125	-
Frampton Marsh	16	-	54	47	13	22	800	1444	2811	13	15	3508
Welland	1400	-	14	-	-	-	147	382	-	-	-	-
Holbeach	-	-	-	-	-	-	1000	50	5	-	-	-
Dawsmere	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	47	-	1
Gedney	380	180	-	-	-	1	208	2270	1951	21	300	15
Terrington	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	-	266	27	-	-
The Wash totals	2494	224	178	47	15	23	2242	4306	8141	3918	5267	3544



Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* Whaplode Feb 20th 2010 © Neil Smith



Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* Gibraltar Point NNR Dec 26th 2010 © Russell Hayes

The British passage and wintering population of Black-tailed Godwits has undergone a long-term increase, and numbers in Lincs reflect this. All birds are of the Icelandic breeding population *islandica*, while the nominate *limosa* from Europe has become rather rare in the county, and the only report of *limosa* this year was of a probable juvenile at Killingholme Haven Pits NR on Aug 20th in company with up to 4000 *islandica*. The distribution of birds within the estuaries is interesting, and they clearly favour the more muddy sediments found in the inner Humber and the southern half of The Wash, in contrast to the next species. Both The Wash and the Humber are internationally important for this species. In The Wash, the high count in Sep is only around a 1000 less than the than the 5 yr mean for the entire Wash, emphasising the importance of the wider Witham/Welland Mouth and Nene Mouth areas. Similarly in the Humber, the five year mean is 4180, of which a large proportion is found at North Killingholme Haven Pits NR. Away from these two estuarine complexes, records were scattered and thin on the ground. The most important site away from the estuaries is Manby Flashes, with one there on Apr 16th-May 8th with an influx of 14 on May 6th only. A flock of 11 arrived on Jun 21st, and built up steadily to a peak of 133 on Jul 7th. The last report there was of 37 on Jul 31st. Elsewhere, there was one at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Feb 27th, 10 at Messingham SQ on Apr 19th, one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Jun 28th then six there on Jul 4th, two at Messingham SQ on Jun 30th, one at Fiskerton Fen scrapes on Jul 6th, one at Messingham SQ on Jul 20th, one at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Jul 30th, nine at Messingham SQ on Aug 7th, 23 past Mablethorpe and one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Aug 13th, one at Messingham SQ on Aug 14th, one at Covenham Res on Oct 2nd and finally another there on Dec 14th.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce inland.

WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Reads Island	1	2	-	26	16	-	-	-	106	143	15
Goxhill Marsh	34	18	240	-	-	-	17	15	27	23	26
Cleethorpes North Promenade-											
Anthony's Bank	-	15	-	15	-	-	2000	-	-	-	-
Humberston Fitties	-	-	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	800	-
Tetney Haven-											
Humberston Fitties	-	-	400	180	1	-	-	-	-	200	-
Horseshoe Point-											
Tetney Haven	-	-	400	180	1	-	-	-	-	200	-
Grainthorpe Haven	38	31	8	34	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somercotes-											
Donna Nook	95	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook	94	-	10	-	-	-	-	35	-	49	-
Saltfleet	56	122	125	-	-	24	17	24	18	56	-
Theddlethorpe-Saltfleetby	17	18	4	-	-	17	1	2	4	-	18
Mablethorpe North	83	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
The Humber totals	324	212	1710	435	19	41	2035	76	155	1471	59
Gibraltar Point	6	2354	1	1000	70	-	1550	2540	2650	-	-
Wainfleet	3981	10227	-	-	5	673	4916	1367	1597	3650	-
Friskney	500	2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrangle	1500	400	1410	1340	1	277	3190	1165	1760	800	720
Leverton	2700	4100	4445	82	298	1670	2463	6825	2929	2550	-
Benington	-	-	-	-	-	540	-	42	35	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	1
Witham	6	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	68	-
Frampton Marsh	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	7	6	3	4
Welland	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holbeach	-	-	-	-	-	300	-	75	36	-	-
Dawsmere	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	-	-	-	-
Terrington	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	8	-	-
The Wash totals	8758	19084	5856	2422	374	3460	12384	12071	9022	7077	725

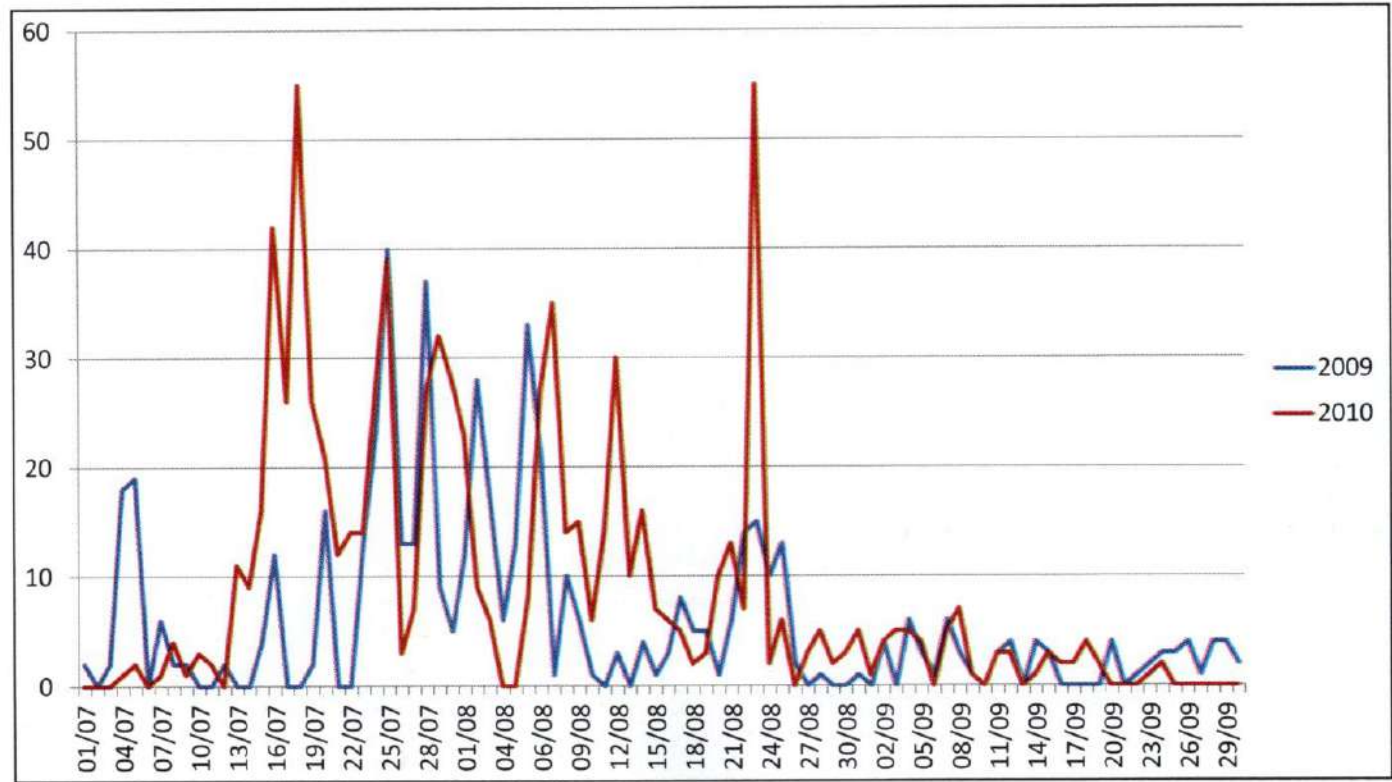
Both the Humber and The Wash are internationally important for Bar-tailed Godwit. The Lincs side of The Wash holds most of that estuary's population, while the Lincs side of the Humber holds about a third of the total for that estuary. Bar-tailed Godwits prefer the sandier sediments found at the northern end of The Wash and on the outer reaches of the Humber, in contrast to Black-tailed Godwit. The only inland records were both at Covenham Res: 14 on Apr 29th and three on Sep 8th.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

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

WeBS totals	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Gibraltar Point	-	2	-	3	10	3	-
Wainfleet	-	-	1	-	-	3	-
Wrangle	-	3	-	18	4	7	-
Leverton	2	1	-	-	33	5	-
Bennington	-	-	-	5	47	-	-
Butterwick	-	7	-	7	4	-	-
Freiston	-	1	-	1	24	-	-
Witham	2	-	-	47	8	-	-
Frampton Marsh	5	6	2	18	17	4	1
Kirton	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Welland	-	1	-	6	4	2	-
Holbeach	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Dawsmere	-	-	-	-	4	3	-
Gedney	-	-	-	2	25	1	-
Terrington	-	1	-	2	39	10	2
The Wash totals	9	19	2	88	205	28	3
Non-WeBS peak counts							
Alkborough Flats	3	3	-	-	3	1	-
Barton Pits	7	1	1	3	-	-	2
Grainthorpe Marsh	1	-	-	2	25	2	1
Donna Nook	7	2	-	14	-	-	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	30	-	-	27	11	30	-
Covenham Res	33	8	-	-	3	-	-
Gibraltar Point	9	4	-	12	30	3	-
Freiston Shore	2	10	-	6	45	-	-
Frampton Marsh	70	35	1	5	20	2	1

The table clearly shows that the spring passage of Whimbrel is largely missed by WeBS counts, and this has been attributed to the fact that the short passage generally occurs in late Apr-early May, often outside of the WeBS count date. During the autumn passage, birds generally loiter for longer and are therefore counted by WeBS. There were no really significant WeBS counts from the Humber at all. The majority of the birds in The Wash are found on the Lincs side, and The Wash remains of vital importance for migration during both seasons. At Gib Point migration has been monitored for many years.



As can be seen from the graph, autumn passage at Gib Point over the last two years followed the same broad pattern, with pulses of arrivals throughout the period. However, 2010 clearly featured larger arrivals in mid-Jul and mid-Aug. Inland records were 10 at Fillingham Lake on Apr 19th, one at Riseholme Park on Apr 22nd, nine at Covenham Res on Apr 22nd, then eight there on Apr 25th and an impressive 33 there on Apr 28th, three at Normanby Hall CP on Apr 23rd, one at Lea Marsh on May 1st, two at Messingham SQ on May 20th, two at Fiskerton Fen scrapes on Jul 2nd, one at Tunnel Pits, Wroot on Jul 22nd, six at Marton on Jul 26th, 12 at Midville on Aug 14th, one at Elsham Hall CP on Aug 21st and finally 10 at Midville on Sep 7th.

Eurasian 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
Alkborough Flats	219	278	247	60	1	30	50	110	141	215	204	14
Winteringham Haven	45	23	54	19	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Read's Island Flats	85	471	496	193	120	-	-	300	-	592	250	25
South Ferriby	7	5	21	1	5	-	-	-	-	3	23	2
Barrow-Barton	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Goxhill Marsh	360	355	493	17	2	20	-	4	365	220	374	220
North Killingholme												
Haven Pits	-	4	85	3	1	-	-	45	-	1	1	78
Killingholme Marshes	-	41	12	34	15	-	-	3	36	12	18	-
Immingham Docks	-	5	5	2	3	-	-	42	19	5	8	-
Cleethorpes North Promenade-												
Anthony's Bank	-	-	-	25	24	25	30	30	-	-	-	-
Tetney Haven-												
Humberston Fitties	-	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horseshoe Point-												
Tetney Haven	-	-	21	22	1	-	-	-	-	-	30	-
Grainthorpe Haven	75	115	210	22	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	7	87	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somercotes-Donna Nook	56	21	25	20	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook	1	72	-	8	-	-	-	191	20	6	-	-
Saltfleet	47	180	94	-	14	-	20	37	75	60	28	75
Theddlethorpe-												
Saltfleetby	43	93	83	19	8	9	8	52	60	60	328	270
Theddlethorpe-												
Mablethorpe North End	274	232	81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
The Humber totals	892	1698	1288	427	210	92	61	776	332	1026	803	461
Gibraltar Point	63	37	152	15	13	-	38	83	256	231	75	-
Wainfleet	268	478	330	376	108	92	564	858	1308	2617	941	-
Friskney	225	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrangle	501	36	258	202	10	20	338	605	567	717	402	45
Leverton	67	130	223	531	13	14	492	1621	1432	189	129	-
Benington	-	20	66	45	8	6	8	4	150	6	30	-
Butterwick	18	126	28	154	26	-	398	-	9	79	36	-
Freiston	140	40	248	39	-	4	245	952	389	454	347	70
Witham	45	62	78	-	-	1	138	12	-	50	18	-
Frampton Marsh	49	54	53	38	1	5	5	160	470	278	73	41
Kirton Marsh	13	12	14	5	-	1	2	3	4	37	48	2
Welland	94	62	23	31	10	-	63	592	415	600	121	-
Holbeach	50	25	1	2	-	-	500	828	1700	900	111	-
Dawsmere	71	2	3	-	-	5	5	34	50	565	5	6
Gedney	72	65	58	62	-	70	161	848	56	76	31	39
Terrington	303	-	36	-	1	-	19	347	586	747	-	-
The Wash totals	1979	1349	1571	1500	190	218	2976	6947	7392	7546	2367	203

After the second highest ever count on The Wash in 2009/10, this site regained its status as being of international importance for this species. Widely distributed along the entire coastline, the highest numbers are found in The Wash, and within this estuary they are well distributed. The main arrival of birds was in Jul-Aug, and the highest count of the year was 1800 at Nene Mouth on Jul 31st. Numbers dropped off significantly in Nov here, probably due to the onset of the cold weather. There were some large counts from the Humber complex not featured in the WeBS totals above, with the most significant being from Goxhill Marsh: 360 on Jan 24th, 355 on Feb 22nd,

493 on Mar 1st, 365 on Jan 25th and 374 on Nov 20th. Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR also recorded high counts, including 278 on Jan 17th, 328 on Nov 22nd and 270 on Dec 6th. Recorded from approx 23 inland sites as well, there were only five of these that recorded double figure counts: Marston STW (regular monthly counts between 10-20), Worlaby Carrs (up to 56 in Jan), Messingham SQ (30 in Mar), Toynton St Peter (16 in Apr) and Tunnel Pits, Wroot (66 in Aug). At least one pair bred at Hawthorpe and breeding behaviour was recorded at Hibaldstow Bridge.



Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* and **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* Jun 25th 2010 © Roy Harvey

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

Peak counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Alkborough Flats	1	1	-	1	2	1	1
Barton Pits	-	2	2	1	1	-	-
Killingolme Haven Pits NR	-	-	-	16	3	-	-
Tetney Marsh	2	2	-	11	-	-	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	-	2	1	1	-	1	-
Gibraltar Point	1	1	1	5	4	1	-
Freiston Shore	1	-	-	6	3	-	-
The Haven (R. Witham)	2	-	-	45	-	-	10
Witham Mouth	-	-	-	6	7	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	1	1	7	10	2	-
River Welland	-	-	-	-	-	15	-
Nene Mouth	-	-	-	23	25	2	-
Messingham SQ	1	-	3	3	3	1	-
Toft Newton Res	2	1	-	-	5	1	-
Covenham Res	5	-	3	10	12	4	-
Whisby NP	1	2	-	1	1	2	2
Boultham Mere	1	1	-	-	1	-	2
Bardney Pits	-	2	-	-	4	-	-
Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits	1	2	-	2	6	2	1

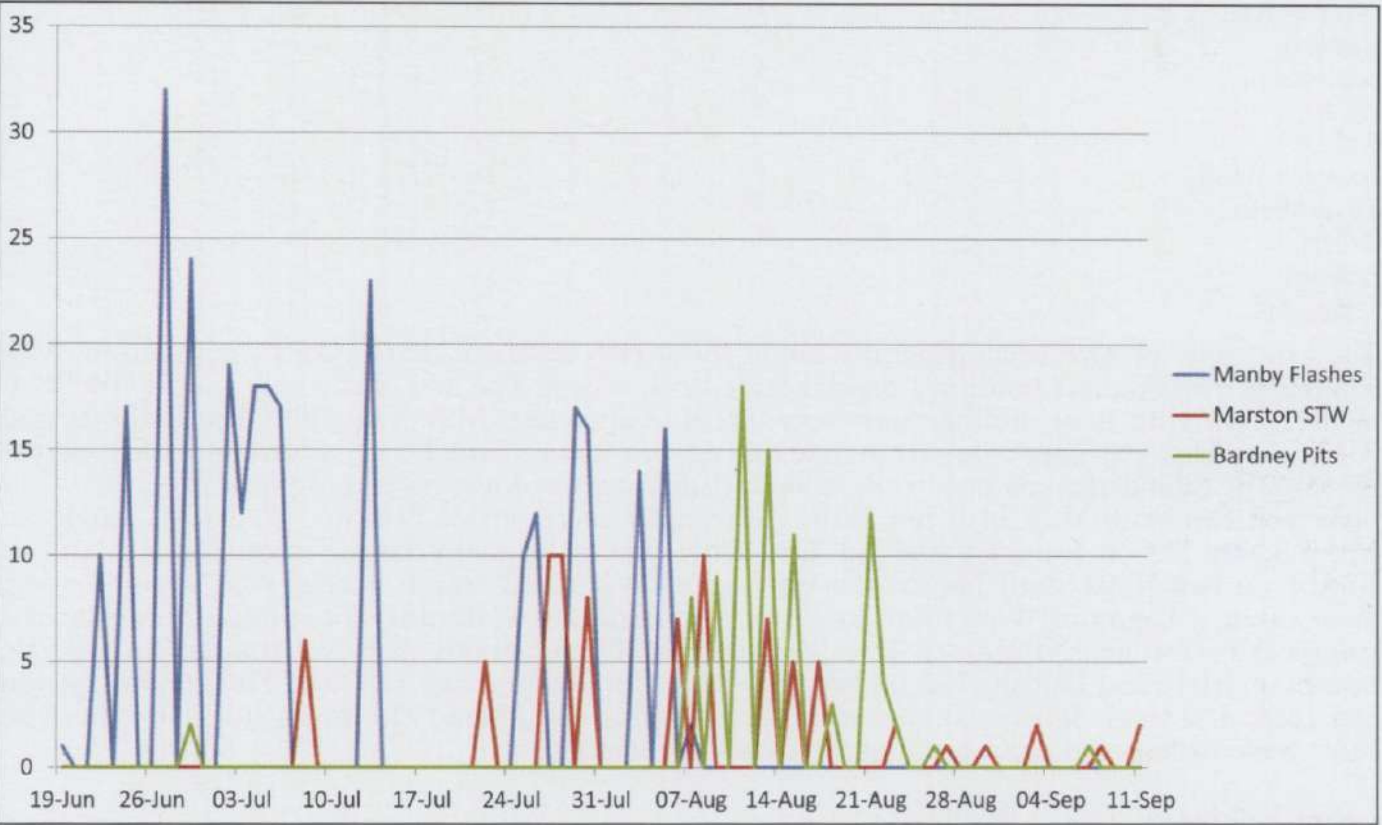
The first of the year was at Frampton Marsh on Apr 2nd, and this was followed by single figure counts from 32 sites until May 28th. There was then a lull until probably the first of the autumn passage at Frampton Marsh on Jun 19th. An influx at the end of Jul included possibly (one of) the largest flocks recorded in Lincs, when 45 were together on The Haven near the Cut End LBC hide on Jul 23rd. The rivers of the Wash are clearly of great importance for this species during the autumn passage period, with large numbers counted on The Haven (Witham), Welland and Nene. Normal WeBS counts will most likely miss this species due to low density roosting in the saltmarsh,

so targeted walks of these rivers on the lower tides in late Jul-Aug may yield important results. The final birds of the main passage were 10 out on the Boston Deeps in The Wash on Oct 9th, with one at Gib Point on Nov 20th being notably late.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Fairly common autumn passage migrant, scarce in spring and also as a regular winter visitor. In the period Jan-Mar four were noted at Tunnel Pits, Wroot on Jan 1st with further singles at Anwick Fen, Whisby NP, Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits, Stallingborough, Nocton Fen, Branston Fen, Messingham SQ, Toynton St Peter, Baston Fen NR, Manby Flashes, Wrangle Bank, Gib Point and Normanby, and two at Wildmore Fen, Worlaby Carrs and Marston STW. Spring passage was quite short, and single figure counts were recorded from just 11 sites until the last of the spring at Covenham Res on May 14th. Multiple records in the spring were two at Marston STW on Apr 10th and three at Blackmoor Bridge on Apr 12th. Autumn passage began early with one at Fiskerton Fen scrapes on Jun 15th, rising to three there on Jun 18th-19th. From then on there were regular single figure counts throughout Jun-Oct from at least 45 widely spread sites.

	Week number between Jun 19th and Sep 10th 2010											
Peak counts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Manby Flashes	17	32	18	23	0	17	16	2	0	0	0	0
Marston STW	0	0	6	0	5	10	7	10	5	2	2	1
Bardney Pits	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	18	11	12	0	1



The table and graph shows the occurrence at three of the major inland sites, and shows how localised some influxes can be, with the 32 at Manby Flashes on Jun 27th is not mirrored elsewhere. Other double figure counts in the autumn were 12 at Levee Doors, Little Carlton on Jun 25th, 18 at Frampton Marsh on Jul 5th with 11 there on Jul 14th and 28th and 13 on Aug 7th, 10 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Aug 10th and 10 at Frampton Marsh on Aug 19th, 10 at Donna Nook on Aug 28th, 17 at Frampton Marsh on Aug 28th and 15 there on Sep 12th. In the period Nov-Dec, 15 sites recorded 1-3 birds, with the latest records being two at Market Deeping on Dec 25th-26th and one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Dec 29th.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Passage migrant, rare/scarce in spring but fairly common in autumn. Scarce but regular in winter. Recorded from 21 sites throughout the year. In the first winter period singles were at Freiston Shore on Jan 17th and Frampton Marsh on Feb 7th-10th and there were four at Alkborough Flats on Feb 23rd. There were then fairly regular records of 1-2 at Frampton Marsh and Alkborough Flats throughout Apr-Jun, with peaks of six at Alkborough Flats on Apr 20th and five at Frampton

Marsh on Jun 22nd-26th. One summered with breeding Redshanks at Alkborough Flats. The first record away from these two sites and potentially the first of the autumn passage was one at Gib Point on Jun 30th. The highest counts of the autumn came from Alkborough Flats with birds present well into Nov and with monthly peaks of 17 in Aug, 10 in Sep, 18 in Oct and nine in Nov. Elsewhere, there were singles present at Frampton Marsh throughout the autumn until the last record there of two together on Nov 24th. The only other multiple counts were two at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Aug 3rd, two at Freiston Shore on Aug 10th, two at Gib Point on Aug 22nd and two at Nene Mouth on Aug 27th. Going into the winter, singles were present at Pyewipe on Dec 1st and Freiston Shore on Dec 14th. Just 11 birds were recorded on WeBS counts within The Wash all year. The five-year mean for The Wash is 48 which illustrates that most of the birds are to be found on the Norfolk side, and it is interesting that this is the only wader species to have such a significantly high proportion of The Wash population on the Norfolk side.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

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

Non-WeBS peak count	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	1	5	1	6	12	17	7	1	-
Grainthorpe Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	18	5	1	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	11	-	-	1	-
Covenham Res	-	-	-	5	3	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Manby Flashes	-	-	-	3	4	6	2	-	-	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	1	-	1	9	-	1	14	34	20	11	-	-
Wainfleet	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	6	2	-	-
Leverton	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	2	1	-	-
Freiston	-	1	-	9	1	1	3	22	29	5	-	-
Witham	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	9	-	1	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	1	5	13	6	25	23	65	5	2	-
Kirton Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	-	-	-
Welland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	18	2	-	-
Holbeach	-	-	-	-	-	1	15	8	10	9	-	-
Terrington	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	2	3	6	-	-

The Lincs side of The Wash generally holds about two thirds of that estuary's population, with Frampton Marsh alone holding a regular large flock in Sep. The first of the year was at Gib Point on Jan 2nd, with it or another seen very intermittently into Mar. The table details the largest counts and best sites, but away from here this species was recorded from a further 30 sites across the county. Inland records not in the table included two at Messingham SQ on May 3rd, 1-2 at Fiskerton Fen from May 24th-Jun 19th, with singles there on Jul 11th and Aug 17th, singles at Messingham SQ on Jun 23rd and Jul 23rd-24th, one at Hagnaby Lock/Fen on Aug 6th, 1-3 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Aug 13th-Sep 7th, four at Tunnel Pits, Wroot on Aug 16th, three at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Aug 23rd, 1-3 at Bardney Pits during May-Aug and singles at Baston Fen NR on Sep 2nd, Messingham SQ on Sep 6th, Toft Newton Res on Sep 7th, Boultham Mere and Dunsby Fen on Sep 9th, RAF Woodhall on Sep 11th and Fillingham Lake on Sep 13th. The single largest count not in the table was 45 at Nene Mouth on Jul 31st, otherwise there were widespread records along the coastline marshes.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

Vagrant. BBRC

One showed well on the scrapes at Frampton Marsh on the evening of May 5th (PS et al). Accepted by BBRC.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

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

It was a rather poor year for this species, with all sites hosting single figure counts. Spring passage began with one at Messingham SQ on Apr 24th-30th and was followed by widespread singles around the county. On a site-by-site basis, there was one at Covenham Res on Apr 29th, one at Manby Flashes on Apr 29th-May 11th, one at Frampton Marsh on Apr 30th-May 13th when there were two, then 1-2 again to Jun 25th when a single remained on site all summer until Sep 24th, one at Freiston Shore on May 2nd, two at Alkborough Flats on May 12th-17th, one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on May 13th, singles at Blackmoor Bridge and East Butterwick Common on May 18th, seven at Fiskerton Fen on May 22nd declined to one there on Jun 3rd, one at Gib Point on May 24th, one at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on May 31st, one at Manby Flashes

on Jun 23rd-25th. Autumn passage was protracted as normal with no clear beginning, but one at Alkborough Flats on Jul 3rd may have been the first southbound bird. This was followed by 1-2 at 10 sites, and four at Alkborough Flats on Aug 23rd-24th, involving up to 31 birds across the county, until the last of the year at Frampton Marsh on Oct 21st.



Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Frampton Marsh May 5th 2010 © Paul Sullivan



Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Alkborough Flats May 12th 2010 © S & K Spavin

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

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



Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* Frampton Marsh Apr 22nd 2010 © Neil Smith

WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	18	8	78	58	14	19	16	18	82	44	61	2
Read's Island Flats	32	59	60	6	2	-	-	-	-	450	400	60
Barrow-Barton	-	29	25	8	-	-	-	1	128	127	54	80
Goxhill Marsh	2	21	13	1	-	-	-	3	3	-	3	8
North Killingholme												
Haven & pits	-	4	77	-	-	-	-	94	142	15	6	-
Killingholme Marshes	-	71	7	11	-	-	-	2	82	101	60	-
Immingham Docks	-	30	27	51	-	-	-	56	-	19	33	-
Cleethorpes North Promenade-												
Anthony's Bank	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Horseshoe Point-												
Tetney Haven	-	-	18	15	13	-	-	-	-	-	30	-
Grainthorpe Haven	162	81	82	38	30	38	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	19	91	22	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somercotes-												
Donna Nook	155	25	400	50	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	5	3	46	-	-	-	-	10	26	210	-
Saltfleet	220	173	210	-	3	-	20	45	55	190	220	170
Theddlethorpe-												
Saltfleetby	86	117	180	44	-	12	15	35	30	2	270	120
Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe												
North End	13	9	-	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
The Humber totals	696	755	1124	313	55	53	38	255	507	972	1301	438
Gibraltar Point	143	254	149	204	16	19	29	119	723	311	242	-
Wainfleet	141	450	-	82	56	66	49	306	60	7	200	-
Friskney	33	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrangle	94	114	748	239	73	34	40	269	98	439	35	34
Leverton	50	66	81	293	41	31	70	298	496	171	75	-
Benington	-	25	-	8	2	7	3	50	80	75	-	-
Butterwick	172	273	12	86	62	-	47	17	25	15	78	-
Freiston	80	440	152	23	75	6	163	1655	805	623	297	1
Witham	155	60	55	35	-	4	35	14	-	450	150	-



Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolour* Gibraltar Point NNR Sep 13th 2010 © Paul Neale



Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolour* and Dunlin *Calidris alpina* Gibraltar Point NNR
Sep 13th 2010 © Paul Neale

Frampton Marsh	157	125	179	151	146	110	310	815	624	667	101	56
Kirton Marsh	24	16	32	6	4	12	2	5	1	6	13	-
Welland	127	23	115	28	32	-	389	803	1850	1050	148	-
Holbeach	12	28	5	2	6	4	115	240	324	205	13	-
Dawsmere	10	3	10	9	-	18	81	116	54	575	36	1
Gedney	95	24	102	75	-	41	30	284	423	763	71	56
Terrington	80	-	13	-	10	-	109	959	929	565	-	-
The Wash totals	1373	1941	1653	1241	523	352	1472	5950	6492	5922	1459	148

The Wash is of international importance for this species and with a five-year mean of 6490 (in Sep); most birds seem to be found on the Lincs side. They are quite widely distributed along the whole of the Lincs side, with the area from Freiston-Holbeach being particularly productive. In contrast, on the Humber there was a definite shift away from the more exposed coastline south of Cleethorpes in the second half of the year, although considering there were good numbers there in the first half of the year, this is somewhat hard to explain and seems more likely to be due to a lack of WeBS count data which is slightly worrying. Non-WeBS high counts from North Killingholme Haven foreshore and pits were impressive, with peaks of 210 in Jan, 150 in Feb, 280 in Jul, 300 in Aug, 455 in Sep and 140 in Oct. Inland mostly single figure counts were reported from approx 26 sites, with 15 at Tattershall Lakes CP on Jan 23rd, 19 at Worlaby Carrs on Feb 11th, 29 at Tattershall Lakes CP on Feb 27th and 11 at Stallingborough on Nov 30th being the exceptions. Overall breeding figures at RSPB Lincolnshire Wash Reserves were slightly up, with a record 29 pairs at Freiston Shore and a stable 246 pairs at Frampton Marsh. Breeding was also reported from Alkborough Flats (10 pairs), Worlaby Carrs (two pairs), Fiskerton Fen (one pair) and Blackmoor Bridge (one pair), although breeding is likely to be under-reported from the coastal saltmarshes.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

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

WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	180	1	1	-
Barrow Haven	108	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Holland	120	400	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	350	-
Goxhill Marsh	-	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	1	7
Cleethorpes North Promenade- Anthony's Bank	89	15	36	22	19	-	26	68	67	66	117	91
Horseshoe Point- Tetney Haven	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	-
Grainthorpe Haven	-	6	24	-	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	48	18	2	-	15	-	4	10	4	-	3	-
Wainfleet	-	9	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	11	19	-
Wrangle	2	-	-	70	6	-	-	1	-	73	-	41
Leverton	12	12	-	3	3	-	-	3	11	10	-	-
Butterwick	1	1	-	-	9	-	-	-	1	-	4	-
Freiston	10	51	154	-	35	-	8	120	55	300	120	25
Witham	12	-	-	8	-	6	-	60	-	150	25	-
Frampton Marsh	2	16	2	-	17	-	14	2	6	6	-	9
Welland	10	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	15	-
Gedney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	10	1	-
Terrington	2	-	28	-	1	-	-	-	7	5	-	-

Turnstone is one of the few common waders for which The Wash is not internationally important, and considering the species preference for rocky shores, this is unsurprising. The only inland record was of one at Covenham Res on Sep 2nd-6th.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

Vagrant. BBRC

A first-winter bird graced Tennyson's Sands scrape at Gib Point on Sep 13th-15th (RKW, KMW). This was only the 10th record for Lincs, but the second in the last three years. See page 174 for finders report. Accepted by BBRC.



Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* Covenham Reservoir Sep 29th 2010 © Roy Harvey



Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* Covenham Reservoir Oct 17th 2010 © John Clarkson

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Rare passage migrant, mainly autumn. LBRC

One was at the Brickyard Lane End of Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Jun 6th (CMo). Two autumn records both came from Frampton Marsh with a female on Jun 16th-17th (PS et al) and then a male on Jun 21st (PAH et al).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Rare passage migrant, mainly autumn, exceptional in winter. LBRC

The first of the year was rather unseasonal, and appeared at Gib Point on Jan 20th-24th (KMW et al). All subsequent records came in the expected autumn period and comprised a first-winter at Covenham Res on Sep 28th-Oct 17th (GPL et al), and sightings at both Boston West Golf Club, Cowbridge and in Boston town centre (B Herriott, SK) of what was presumably the same bird on Nov 7th, and an unusual record of one feeding with Knot on the shoreline at Freiston Shore on Nov 9th (JB).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Generally scarce but exceptionally fairly common autumn passage migrant. Rare in winter and spring. Exceptional inland.

With a few exceptions, it was a less productive year than 2009. Only one was seen in spring, flying high N then W at Gib Point on May 13th. The first of the autumn was a juvenile flying out to sea from inland at Grainthorpe Haven on Aug 26th, with it or another nearby on the 27th when there was also one at Freiston Shore. One at Rimac on Aug 28th was followed by three S at Gib Point on both 29th and 30th where two more flew S on Sep 5th and singles were seen on Sep 15th and 17th. There was one at Donna Nook on Sep 20th before the major coastal movement of the year in a strong northerly wind on Sep 24th, when counts included 17 at Mablethorpe, 35 at Chapel Point and five at Gib Point. There were a few singles over the next three days at various places between Donna Nook and Freiston Shore. Two flew S at Gib Point on Oct 9th, and eight S there on Oct 16th. On the latter date, groups of about 25 passed Freiston Shore on five occasions, moving both N and S; possibly just one group was involved but there may have been 100 or more. On Nov 9th, 13 juveniles were seen off Chapel Point and 11 juveniles S off Gib Point, perhaps the same birds. A juvenile flew N at Gib Point on Nov 30th, and on Dec 1st there was one at North Killingholme Haven with the same bird eating a Common Gull at Pyewipe on the 6th. The last was a juvenile moving S at Gib Point on Dec 9th. The year's bird-day total was 142-217 (depending on how many are counted for Freiston Shore on Oct 16th) but as for Arctic Skua, some duplication seems very likely.



Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* Pyewipe Dec 1st 2010 © Graham Catley

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Fairly common/common autumn passage migrant. Rare in winter and spring and inland.

There were only autumn records this year, from Jul to early Nov. Two early singles were at Gib Point on Jul 1st and 12th, before more regular records began with four at Horseshoe Point on Jul 21st, and there were a further 18 bird-days spread over six dates during Jul 23rd-Aug 1st. On Aug 3rd-5th, there were larger numbers at Gib Point, with 23 on the 3rd, 20 on the 4th and 29 on the 5th, but only one or two at other places. On most dates during the rest of August and through to mid Sep, counts of mostly one-six but occasionally as many as eight were made, predominantly at Gib Point but with some along the coast or on the Wash. This pattern was interspersed by a few larger movements, mostly in a southerly direction. The first occurred on Aug 26th, in a moderate north-east wind, including 22 at Mablethorpe, 13 at Huttoft Car Terrace, 18 at Gib Point and six at Freiston Shore. At Gib Point, in a north-west wind, 44 flew S on Aug 29th, and 28 S on the 30th when there were also counts of 15 at Mablethorpe and 14 at Freiston Shore. Double-figure counts in early September were 11 at Gib Point on the 4th, 18 S there on the 5th, and 28 at Freiston Shore on the 6th. Also on the 6th, in the Humber, two flew W at Goxhill Haven and there were six at Barton. During the middle part of September, sightings became more intermittent but then came the most pronounced skua movement of the year, in the strong northerlies of Sep 24th, involving 40 at Mablethorpe, 85 at Chapel Point and 55 S including one flock of 17 at Gib Point. In the difficult conditions, many skuas were not specifically identified this day, including about 120 off Mablethorpe. Numbers fell back to usual levels after this, although there were 12 at both Mablethorpe and Sandilands on the 25th, and 18 flew N at Donna Nook on the 26th. On Sep 29th, another record in the Humber was of an adult at Barton. During the first half of Oct, a total of 35 bird-days with site-counts of up to seven, spread over five days, was concentrated in the Wash. An isolated large count of 50 was made at Freiston Shore on Oct 16th, in a north wind but with not a particularly high tide, followed by four there on the 20th and one at Gib Point on the 29th. In Nov, there was one at Gib Point on the 1st and then, on the 9th, 12 at Skegness, five at Gib Point assumed to be some of the same birds, and three at Freiston Shore. The bird-day total for the whole year was 804, but note that this includes a significant amount of duplication from nearby watch points on the same dates and from birds remaining from day to day, for which it is impossible to correct.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Rare/scarce passage migrant, Jul-Nov. Exceptional inland. LBRC

With about 13 individuals, this was a better year than 2009 but by no means a good one. On Aug 30th, a party of five was seen moving S at Sandilands (CA), with two at Huttoft Car Terrace (CJJ, SJ) and two at Gib Point (EJM, GPBO) perhaps involving the same birds. Two were seen flying N at Gib Point (NAL, GPBO) and one at Mablethorpe (JRW) on Sep 24th, with singles (or the same bird) N at Gib Point on both the 25th and 26th (KMW). One was seen at Freiston Shore on Oct 7th (PS) and two there on Oct 16th (PS). With the exception of one adult at Gib Point on Aug 30th, all those for which ages were reported were juveniles.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Fairly common autumn passage migrant, but rare in winter and spring. Rare inland.

Including duplicates as for Arctic Skua, there were around 450 bird-days this year, strongly affected by the totals of Sep 24th. Early in the year, following a sequence of records late in 2009, there was one at Gib Point on Jan 2nd and 3rd, one at Wainfleet on the 3rd and three at Witham Mouth/Freiston Shore on the 6th. Autumn occurrences began on Aug 14th with eight N at Gib Point, two at Freiston Shore and two near the Norfolk border in the Wash. Throughout the rest of the autumn, sightings of up to eight along the coast and in the Wash were regular though less frequent than for Arctic Skua, with occasional larger counts. On Aug 26th, a day of significant skua passage, the maximum was eight at Sandilands/Huttoft Car Terrace. On Sep 16th, 18 flew S at Gib Point: this was not a day of marked skua movement and it included a single flock of 16 flying at great height. In the northerlies of Sep 24th, by far the largest totals of the year were recorded, including 14 at Gib Point, 40 at Mablethorpe and no less than 210 at Chapel Point. Subsequent days also saw elevated numbers, with 15 at Sandilands on the 25th and 17 at Freiston Shore on the 26th. Occasional counts of one-four continued through Oct, with more on Oct 16th including four at Donna Nook, three at Gib Point and eight at Freiston Shore. In Nov, there were seven at Chapel Point, two at Skegness and four at Freiston Shore on the 9th and the last one of the year flying N at Gib Point on Nov 21st.

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Rare autumn passage migrant from Jul-Oct. Exceptional inland. **LBRC**

Just one accepted record this year, a distant juvenile was observed off Freiston Shore on Sep 6th (JB, AP, PS).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Common but declining passage migrant and winter visitor with small numbers in summer. Scarce inland.

The number of records of this species continues to decline, with birds being recorded from just eleven coastal sites. In the first half of the year up to 14 birds were off Freiston Shore from Jan 6th-9th, six at Donna Nook on Mar 6th, two at Freiston Shore on May 3rd and one at Gib Point on May 30th. Autumn passage was recorded from the beginning of Aug with singles off Gib Point on Aug 12th and Huttoft Bank on Aug 15th, followed by the first significant movement of the year was 19 Chapel Six Marshes on Aug 27th and eight at Mablethorpe on Aug 30th. During Sep peak counts included 22 at Gib Point on the 24th, 40 at Chapel Point on 24th, 30 at Gib Point on 26th and 45 at Donna Nook on 26th. The only significant count during Oct was 75 off Freiston Shore on Oct 16th. During Nov a strong passage was recorded on the 9th with c850 at Chapel Point, 220 at Skegness and 28 at Freiston Shore. The final record of the year was 24 at Gib Point on Dec 11th.

There were two inland records: a first-winter at Covenham Res on Feb 24th-25 (GPL) and a juvenile at Messingham SQ on Oct 15th (RHew).



Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* Gib Point May 30th 2010 © Russell Hayes

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Coastal sites												
Alkborough Flats	4	29	100	20	120	100	130	350	2000	2000	1500	300
Barton Pits	100	80	180	112	40	300	560	515	500	800	50	50
Saltfleetby NNR	225	-	55	15	4	-	140	1500	1500	500	1000	-
Gib Point	3555	1500	350	250	50	130	1000	4000	6260	6300	3800	4000
Wainfleet	832	2580	76	-	113	89	637	287	1014	980	3500	-
Wrangle	20	3	-	2	3	7	374	4	113	144	240	1

Leverton	774	4200	31	13	59	685	682	971	438	1595	1491	0
Freiston Shore	100	170	921	800	677	300	400	1190	27	200	400	40
Witham Mouth	1250	-	1050	250	-	54	307	-	-	-	1275	-
Frampton Marsh	20	3	21	100	110	50	200	1500	100	400	450	4
Kirton	6	92	20	5	10	28	67	90	50	745	270	0
Welland	-	125	500	786	1092	-	799	860	900	1700	1480	-
Gedney	730	890	273	48	-	76	878	661	2475	2210	720	5
Inland sites												
Messingham SQ	42	123	60	80	75	-	100	150	300	-	130	-
Gainsborough LFS	2100	1500	-	-	-	-	-	-	140	440	1800	2600
North Hykeham Pits	250	3000	300	-	-	3	-	-	-	1100	3000	2900
Tattershall Lakes	5600	9000	2400	-	-	-	-	-	480	2100	4800	-
Whisby NP	-	100	204	150	500	450	350	33	-	-	-	-

In the first winter period large roost reports peaked with 3555 at Gib Point on Jan 1st, 5600 Tattershall Lakes on Jan 23rd, 8500 at North Hykeham Pits on Feb 21st and c3000 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Feb25th. The expected exodus occurred during Mar as birds left for breeding grounds. The gull colony at Whisby NP had another productive season with the following totals from the various waterbodies: Grebe Lake had 279 nests; Thorpe Lake 40 nests; Willow Lake six nests and Coot Lake one nest, giving a total of 326 nesting pairs. Fledging success was also good, and like previous years, productivity was measured at around two young per pair which would put the total number of young fledged at around 652, a slightly higher figure to that obtained last year, which in itself was a record at this site. Elsewhere breeding was under recorded, with 9 pairs at Boultham Mere, a max count of 132 pairs at Gib Point, 25 pairs Wigtoft and two pairs recorded at Pursuits Pit, Barton in early May, being the first recorded breeding at this site. In the second winter period, recorded roosts were down on previous years, with monthly peaks of 1500 at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR in Sept, c2000 at Alkborough Flats in Oct and 3500 North Hykeham Pits on Nov 7th. A nestling ringed at Frampton March in 1989 was found dead in Portugal on 5th Mar 2010, making it over 20 years old (see ringing report for full details).

Bonaparte’s Gull *Chroicocephalus Philadelphia*

Vagrant BBRC

A first summer bird was at Chowder Ness, Barton Pits on the evening of Jun 28th (GPC) accepted by BBRC. For a full finders report, see page 172. This is the second record for Lincolnshire, the first being a first-summer at Grimsby Docks on Mar 17th 1979 (M Mellor). M. J. Rogers and the Rarities Committee, British Birds 73: 512 M. J. Rogers and the Rarities Committee1979 Lincolnshire.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Fairly common passage migrant in spring and autumn, scarce in summer, rare in winter, occurring in all months. **RBBP**

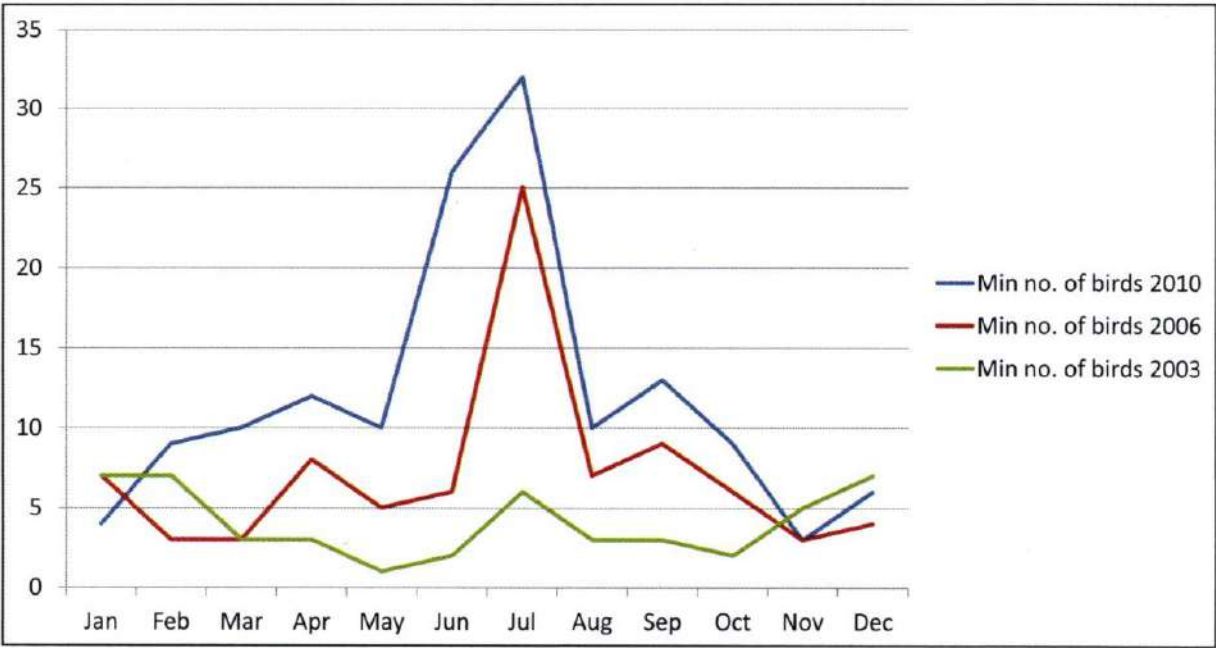
Approx no. of birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lincs Sites 2010	4	1	1	8	10	11	5	6	8	2	6	1
Min no. of birds 2010	6	1	1	14	51	60	20	6	9	2	8	1

In the first winter period a series of records from Gib Point included 5 north on Jan 3rd and individuals on Jan 10th and 17th. An adult bird was present at the Witham Mouth on Jan 9th and a single bird was present at Cleethorpes on Feb 21st. Inland an adult was record at Boultham Mere on Mar 30th. Peak spring migration occurred through Apr and May with maximum counts of five at Covenham Res on Apr 25th and up to 10 birds at Frampton Marsh from May 19th-22nd, increasing to 12 birds on May 23rd. Inland spring birds included singles at Messingham SQ on May 4th, two at Alkborough Flats on May 26th, four at Baston-Langtoft Pits on Jun 7th and one at Manby Flashes on Jun 30th. The only inland summer record was a single adult bird at Grebe Lake, Whisby NP on Jul 7th. Autumn coastal counts were widespread with notable peaks of 20 Huttoft Bank on Oct 24th, 17 Chapel Point on Nov 9th and the largest count of the year being 48 north and 3 south at Gib Point on Nov 9th when one was up the Humber at Barton. Inland birds were singles at Covenham Res on Sep 6th, Messingham SQ on Oct 16th and Covenham Res on Nov 9th. The final birds of the year were 2 at Gib Point on Dec 23rd.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Scarce, but increasing visitor throughout the year, most in late summer/early autumn. **RBBP**

Peak monthly count	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lincs Sites 2010	4	8	8	7	9	10	13	10	9	9	3	6
Min no. of birds 2010	4	9	10	12	10	26	32	10	13	9	3	6
Min no. of birds 2009	9	10	2	7	13	7	20	18	7	7	10	4
Min no. of birds 2008	7	11	8	5	11	10	17	15	2	8	0	3
Min no. of birds 2007	3	4	6	8	7	11	9	21	16	1	4	3
Min no. of birds 2006	7	3	3	8	5	6	25	7	9	6	3	4
Min no. of birds 2005	3	1	3	1	2	1	3	8	12	6	5	10
Min no. of birds 2004	6	5	7	4	2	1	7	11	16	6	5	2
Min no. of birds 2003	7	7	3	3	1	2	6	3	3	2	5	7



This species has shown a marked increase in the UK over the past 15 years and this trend is reflected by an increase in Lincolnshire where it continues to expand both in its range and in numbers. The above table and figure were produced by combining WeBS and LBC data; it should be noted that a small amount of duplication of individual birds may have occurred as birds move between coastal sites. The figure illustrates the increase in number of birds in the county, particularly along the northeast coast and inner Humber Estuary in late summer.

In the first winter period single adult birds were at Boston Tip on Jan 9th, Covenham Res on Jan 12th, Barton Pits from Jan 21st-24th and a 2nd cal year at Cleethorpes on Jan 30th. A pair of adults was at Saxby All Saints on Feb 23rd, an adult and 2nd sum at Elsham Wolds on Mar 13th, two birds at Frampton Marsh on Mar 30th and up to three birds at Gib Point from Apr 4th-16th. At Barton Pits six birds were recorded on Jun 26th, increasing to 13 birds, including three adults and ten 2nd cal year birds on Jun 30th. Bird were present at this site throughout Jul with a max count of 6 (3ad and 3cal year) on Jul 22nd; a minimum of 17 different birds were noted during this period with three colour ringed birds from Belgium, Netherlands and probably Poland. Inland an adult moulting into summer toured the North Hykeham Pits from Feb 20th-22nd with perhaps the same bird being seen at nearby Lincoln Tip on Mar 4th. What was quite probably the same bird then turned up in the Black-headed Gull colony at Grebe Lake, Whisby NP on Mar 9th and over summered, but despite much display and territory holding failed to attract a mate, and finally left on Jul 16th. This regular returning bird which first turned up in 2007 has now spent four summers at Whisby NP. A 2nd summer bird visited the same colony briefly on Mar 13th but unfortunately didn't stay. Later in the year adults were once again on the North Hykeham Pits with singles at Butterley's Pit on Nov 29th and at Apex Pit on Dec 11th. Dispersing juvenile birds were recorded at Messingham SQ on Aug 8th, Immingham on Aug 10th and Alkborough Flats on Aug 25th. The only notable records from the 2nd winter period included five at Gib Point on Sep 5th. A colour-ringed bird 3K45, returned to Chapel Point for its fifth winter, being seen from Oct 10th onwards. This bird was first seen at Chapel Point in Nov 2006 having been ringed as a 3rd Cal year bird in Apr 2006 at Berendrecht, Antwerpen, Belgium, a ringing site close to a breeding colony. This bird was also recorded in a breeding colony on the Island of Langli, Ho Bugt bay, Jylland, Denmark, in 2006 and at Kinseldam, Amsterdam, Holland in Mar 2009 and Apr 2011.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	11	5	40	10	6	11	12	7	6	6	12	5
Barton Pits	46	116	16	1100	200	500	100	82	220	13	66	32
Saltfleetby- Theddlethorpe NNR	2300	-	15	200	-	-	20	800	-	3000	2000	1000
Gib Point	3000	1000	-	41	58	12	120	300	900	1300	1000	900
Freiston Shore	200	4	30	-	-	120	-	-	3	4	10	7
Frampton Marsh	6	50	2	-	-	95	-	21	3	6	-	2
North Hykeham Pits	350	300	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	150	1000	1100

The table shows the majority of significant counts, with peak counts occurring in the two winter periods. Significant counts from the second winter period not shown in the table include c2000 Horseshoe Point on Aug 10th and c1600 Thurlby Sand Pit on Oct 30th. An adult colour-ringed bird seen at Cleethorpes on Jan 10th was ringed as a 1st calendar year bird in Pildammsparken, Malmo, Skane, Sweden in Oct 2003.



Common Gull *Larus canus* (showing features of *heinei*) Oct 16th 2010 Barton Pits © Graham Catley



Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* Chowder Ness, Barton Jun 30th 2010 © Barry Clarkson

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*

Vagrant LBRC

A 2nd calendar year bird was at Chowder Ness, Barton from Jun 28th-30th (GPC et al). There are three previous Lincolnshire records: a second calendar year bird at Bagmoor on Jul 24th & Aug 3rd 1988, an adult at Whisby Pits from Apr 27th-29th 1990 and a 2cy bird at Whisby Pits from Apr 17th-19th 1992.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	2	4	6	16	21	9	5	3	-	-
Gib Point	25	1	6	21	37	21	30	16	10	5	1	1
Frampton Marsh	3	-	1	8	4	3	8	20	2	1	2	-
Witham Mouth	-	-	1	66	11	65	120	42	300	480	-	-
Gainsborough LFS	6	-	-	-	-	-	900	-	310	300	20	4
Kirkby on Bain	-	-	80	200	150	-	400	-	9	-	-	-
Boultham Mere	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	40	116	21	-
Welbourn Heath	-	4	-	3	1	10	22	41	28	15	-	-
Whisby NP	-	1	66	11	65	120	120	300	480	4	1	1

Typically most common in summer and autumn with low counts in the winter months. Other than those tabulated significant counts included a maximum of 160 at Terrington on Jul 17th, 147 at Barton Pits in Jun, c800 near Tunnel Pits, Wroot on Jul 21st and c250 at Pyewipe on Aug 7th. Elsewhere, later in the year, there were c200 at North Hykeham Pits on Oct 14th and 116 at Boultham Mere on Oct 18th.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Very common passage migrant, rare breeder and common winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	40	26	100	-	22	22	16	3	10	16	30	100
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	2800	-	90	200	-	-	50	60	-	300	30	1200
Gib Point	6000	1500	680	573	340	500	950	600	450	900	2500	2500
Freiston Shore	200	491	478	450	417	288	40	14	3	20	32	302
Frampton Marsh	4	4	100	35	28	18	39	20	-	500	230	6
Holbeach	300	300	400	650	400	275	620	300	-	-	200	-
Gainsborough LFS	2500	1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	200	260	2000
Thurlby Sand Pit	143	633	23	49	485	161	69	17	179	94	330	350
Kirkby on Bain	2500	-	-	-	350	-	1000	-	-	-	-	-

Large counts at other sites included c1300 at Terrington on Jan 3rd, c700 at the Welland on Jan 3rd, c1900 at Witham Mouth on Jan 31st, c700 at Donna Nook on Feb 20th, c700 at Howden's Pullover on Feb 21st, c1000 at Terrington on Feb 20th, c1500 at Dawsmere on Apr 17th and c1100 at Terrington on May 16th. In the cold weather at the end of the year, 5000 at Winterton on Dec 23rd included a high proportion of *L. a. argentatus*. Also in Dec, a hybrid-type bird was at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods, which resembled a Herring x white-winged gull hybrid. A nestling ringed in Kotka, Finland in Jun 2009 was found dead at Skegness on Feb 2nd. One pair bred at Tennyson Sands, Gib Point. One adult bird with yellow legs was seen at Whisby NP on Dec 10th-16th (DN) and was presumed to be a yellow-legged *argentatus* or (more exceptionally) *omissus*.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Rare/scarce visitor, mainly in late summer / autumn. **RBBP**

Peak monthly count	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lincs Sites 2010	2	1	2	4	4	2	10	8	7	5	3	5
Min no. of birds 2010	2	1	2	7	4	7	32	19	17	8	5	6
Min no. of birds 2009	3	2	3	1	2	3	13	4	5	13	5	5
Min no. of birds 2008	1	3	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	2	2	2
Min no. of birds 2007	3	2	2	1	1	2	4	5	2	1	2	3
Min no. of birds 2006	3	4	1	2	2	1	41	4	3	2	-	4
Min no. of birds 2005	-	1	2	3	1	1	17	27	12	-	-	1

Min no. of birds 2004	5	-	1	-	-	-	2	5	3	-	1	2
Min no. of birds 2003	3	3	3	2	3	-	-	1	-	1	1	3

A very good year for this species with over a 100 individuals recorded. In the first winter period singles were present in the North Hykeham Pits area from Jan 6th-27th, and at Winterton Tip on Feb 23rd, Leadenham Tip on Mar 14th, Frampton Marsh from Mar 13th-14th and Gib Point on Apr 20-22nd. Between Jun-Aug birds were recorded at ten sites with peak numbers occurring in Jul, mainly involving adult birds. Notable counts including five at Barton Pits on Jun 30th, five at Gainsborough Tip on Jul 7th, six at Tunnel Pits, Wroot on Jul 21st and four at Kirkby on Bain on Jul 28th. There was a slight drop in number during Aug with peak counts of three at Immingham Tip on Aug 7th, four at Tunnel Pits, Wroot on Aug 13th and three at Bardney Pits on Aug 25th. During Sep up to three birds were at Whisby NP on Sep 5th, three at Willingham by Stow on Sep 14th and five at Lea Marsh, Gainsborough on Sep 28th. Numbers dropped off in Nov with three at North Hykeham Pits on Nov 29th, singles at Gib Point from Nov 28th-Dec 3rd, and the final bird of the year was a single adult wintering at North Hykeham Pits from Dec 5th-22nd.



Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* Barton May 15th 2010 © Graham Catley



Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* Kirkby on Bain Aug 19th 2010 © John Clarkson

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Scarce all-year visitor. **LBRC**

Clearly some birds are overlooked making it difficult to assess its true status in Lincolnshire. Birds can turn up in any month, and their distribution is closely linked to land-fill sites which are regularly watched. The total of 12 accepted records, includes a high proportion of adult birds suggesting that the actual numbers of birds present, particularly from mid-Nov is likely to be far higher. During the first winter period there was just a single accepted record of an adult bird at North Hykeham Pits on Feb 22nd (DN,GHo,WBR). During the summer period there was at least one 2nd cal year bird at Kirkby on Bain from Jul 28th-Aug 1st (GPC et al), a 3rd summer bird at Immingham from Aug 5th-11th (SMcE, GPC) and 2 adults at Kirkby on Bain on Aug 19th (JRC,RBe,RC,PEs et al). An adult bird was at Willingham by Stow on Sep 14th (DN), an adult and sub-adult bird were at Lea Marsh, Gainsborough on Sep 21st (DN) and two adults including the bird locally known as 'stumpy' were at this site from Oct 21st to at least Nov 22nd (DN) and again at North Hykeham Pits from Dec 6th-8th. For a detailed summary of this distinct Caspian Gull see the short article on page 183. Presumably the same adult bird toured the North Hykeham Pits and adjacent water bodies from Nov 25th – Dec 18th (GHo, DN WBR et al), a 1st winter bird was at Kirby on Bain on Dec 22nd (SMcE) and the final bird of the year was at Gainsborough on Dec 28th.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor Aug-May. **LBRC**. Kumlien's Gull *L. g. kumlieni* **Vagrant. LBRC**

First winter birds were at Bagmoor on Jan 16th (ND) and Gainsborough Tip on Feb 3rd (DN) with a 2nd winter bird at Bagmoor on Feb 27th (ND et al) and presumably the same individual there on Mar 6th (GPC). In the second winter period a 1st winter bird was at Gib Point on Nov 28th (EJM,RKW,JPS) and the final bird of the year was inland at Teal Lake, Whisby NP on Dec 5th (DN).

A juvenile bird showing some features of *kumlieni* was at Gib Point on Jan 1st and presumably the same bird was seen again on Jan 8th (JPS).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, rare in summer.

A juvenile bird was at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods from Jan 2nd (ND) and was periodically seen in the general area up until at least Mar 12th (ND, WG), whilst a probable 2nd winter was at the site on Mar 12th (ND). A juvenile bird flew southeast over South Ferriby Wold on Jan 10th (GPC), 2 birds (a 2nd winter and a 1st winter) were at Gainsborough Tip on Jan 12th (DN), a 1st summer bird was at Gib Point on Apr 14th (KMW) and the final bird of the first winter period was at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Apr 18th. In the 2nd winter period a juvenile bird was at Gib Point on Nov 1st (JCN) and possibly the same bird was at Freiston Shore on Nov 7th (JB, PS), whilst another juvenile was present in the Bagmoor/Winterton Floods area from Dec 13th-25th with the final bird of the year being a 1st winter at Gib Point on Dec 26th (TBg).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	70	43	100	-	29	80	80	75	70	80	70	150
Barton Pits	10	3	4	12	1	2	2	2	6	56	14	1
Saltfleetby- Theddlethorpe NNR	230	-	30	40	-	-	11	15	20	80	12	200
Howden's Pullover	12	105	-	-	-	-	2	8	9	50	22	25
Gib Point	470	60	20	45	80	100	105	360	364	250	300	160
Frampton Marsh	2	-	2	3	1	2	38	18	170	800	360	2
Gainsborough LFS	620	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	310	920	1100
Whisby NP	124	-	-	5	7	-	-	2	40	250	45	30

A large count of c2000 at Whitton on Jan 7th represented one of the largest flocks ever recorded in Lincolnshire. Elsewhere other significant counts not tabulated include 350 at North Hykeham Pits on Feb 21st, 325 at Wainfleet on Oct 10th, 450 at Chapel Point on Nov 9th and 600 at North Hykeham on Dec 19th.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Occasional inland. **RBBP**

The first of the year was at Donna Nook on Apr 17th followed by one at Saltfleetby on Apr 28th, 18 at Tetney Marshes on Apr 29th and two at Gibraltar Point on Apr 30th. Breeding was reported at two sites with the long established colony at Gibraltar Point holding 32 pairs (fledged 13), up from 15 pairs in 2009 which failed to raise any young at all. An old breeding site at Donna Nook was re-colonised by three pairs which raised four young. Other sites of past successful breeding colonies at Tetney Marshes and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR remained unoccupied by breeding birds. On this part of the coast the peak count was 28 birds at Howden's Pullover on Jul 15th. Further south the peak was 15 at Mablethorpe on Aug 30th. The Gibraltar Point area consistently held the most birds in the county throughout the summer with a peak of 79 on Jul 18th and 223 on Aug 3rd, the latter being the highest count in recent years. August peaks elsewhere were 25 at Witham Mouth on 11th, 18 at Freiston Shore on 16th and 14 at Holbeach Marsh on Aug 15th. Inland single birds were recorded at Covenham Res on May 14th and Thorpe Tilney Dales on Aug 10th. The last record of the year was 1 at Tetney Marsh from Oct 13th-16th.

Peak counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Tetney Marsh to Horseshoe Point	-	18	4	-	-	10	-	1
Donna Nook	-	1	-	-	28	3	-	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	-	1	1	-	5	8	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	2	13	14	79	223	38	-
Freiston Shore	-	1	1	-	1	18	-	-
Witham Mouth	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	-
Holbeach Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

Vagrant. **BBRC**

2009. Alkborough Flats, adult on Jun 27th (ND). Accepted by BBRC.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

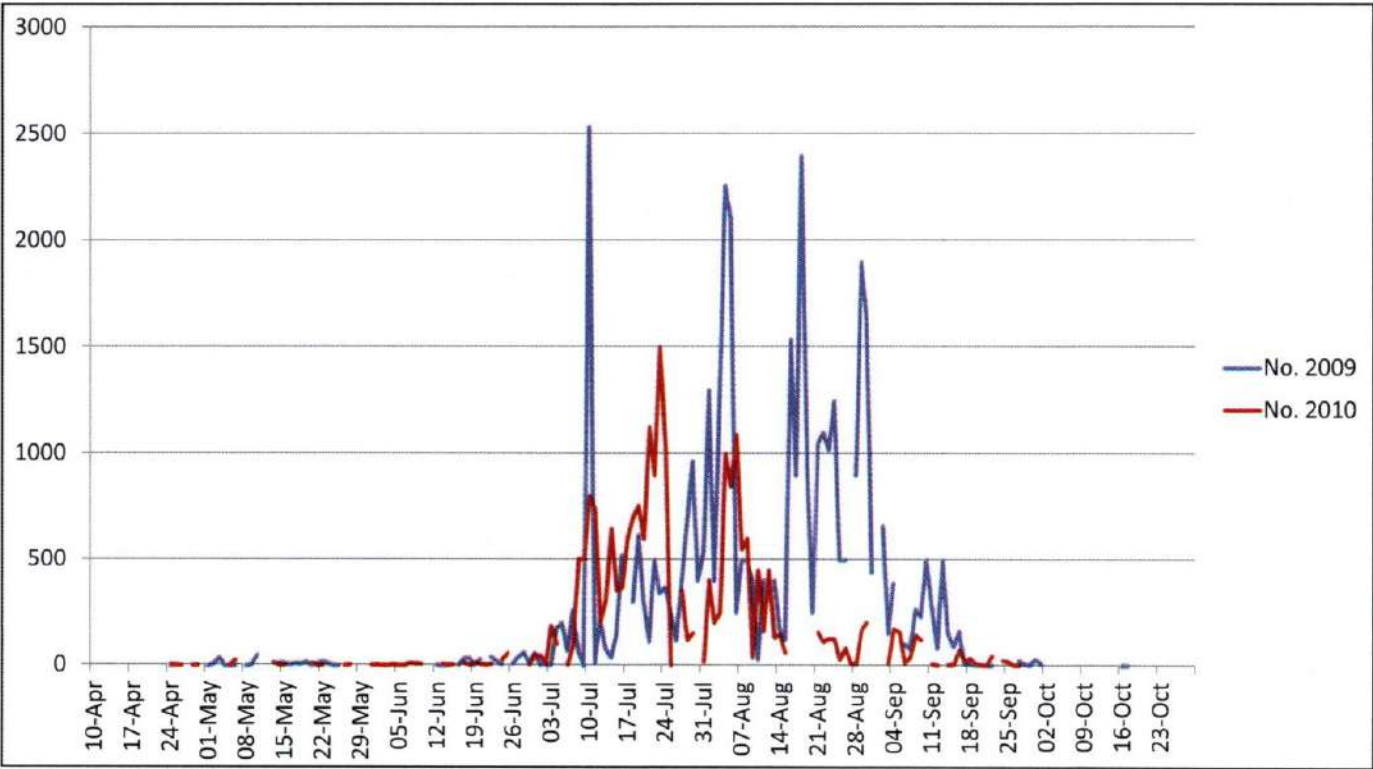
Fairly common passage migrant from spring to autumn. **RBBP**

A slow spring passage involving a below-average number of birds; the first bird of the year was inland at Covenham Res on Apr 25th with almost a whole month passing before the second record of a single bird at Messingham SQ from May 22nd-23rd, two birds at Whisby NP on May 22nd and singles at Frampton Marsh from May 25th-27th and two birds there on Jun 6th. There were just two records during Jul with a single at Gib Point on the 19th and two birds at Freiston Shore on the 27th. Autumn passage at Gib Point included 16 on Aug 3rd, one on Aug 4th, 34 on Aug 5th (including a flock of nine), one on Aug 30th, five on Sep 7th, four on Sep 15th and an immature on Oct 8th, all moving south. At Freiston Shore there were two from Aug 23rd-27th, a single on Sep 4th, up to eight from Sep 6th-8th, two on Sep 24th and a single on Oct 3rd. Inland there were singles at Covenham Res on Sep 8th and Oct 3rd, Crowland on Sep 15th, Deeping Lakes on Aug 3rd, and Fillingham Lake from Sep 13th-16th, two at Kirby on Bain on Sep 25th, one at Messingham SQ on Aug 8th, six at North Hykeham Pits on Sep 6th, and singles at Toft Newton Res on Aug 23rd and Sep 7th. Elsewhere on the coast there were five at Horseshoe Point on Aug 10th, one on Aug 12th at Donna Nook, where there were five on Aug 15th and one on Sep 4th, six at Humberston Fitties on Aug 13th, one at Howden's Pullover on Aug 14th, two at Frampton Marsh on Sep 6th, one at Chapel Six Marshes on Sep 22nd and one at Boston Deepes on Oct 9th.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Passage migrant, scarce in spring but common in autumn. Rare inland. Occasional pairs in summer.

The first record of the year was one at Donna Nook on Apr 17th, followed by one at Gib Point on Apr 18th and five there on Apr 24th. From early May there were scattered records along the coast involving up to c25 birds, with the first substantial counts occurring offshore in mid-Jun, with 57 birds off Gib Point on Jun 26th and c100 there on Jun 27th. The occurrence of offshore feeding aggregations, presumably involving birds from North Norfolk is an annual occurrence along the Lincolnshire coast. Data supplied by Gib Point Bird Observatory has been used to produce the following chart which shows the arrival of birds offshore at Gib Point from early Jul onwards. The data include both passage birds and feeding flocks, with gaps not necessarily representing an absence of birds. Numbers of birds recorded in 2010 were noticeably down on 2009, with totals dropping off significantly by mid-Aug.



Offshore counts of Sandwich Tern at Gib Point between mid-Apr and early-Oct for 2009 (n=142) and 2010 (n=123).

Peak counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	-	-	-	-	48	50	35	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	100	158	-	4	-
Howden's Pullover	-	-	-	25	20	4	-	-
Gib Point	5	25	100	1500	1090	169	4	-
Freiston Shore	-	2	-	-	12	5	-	-
Witham Mouth	-	-	-	10	95	1	-	-

The last bird of the year was a late bird at Cleethorpes on Nov 17th. There were two inland records of two birds at Kirkby on Bain on Jun 16th and two at Crowland on Sep 15th.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Fairly common summer visitor and common passage migrant. Most breeding colonies are now inland.

The first bird of the year was inland at Tattershall Pits on Apr 21st, closely followed by singles at Gib Point on Apr 22nd and Messingham SQ on Apr 23rd. Peak spring arrival was between Apr 25th and mid-May, with 17 at Gib Point on Apr 25, 12 at Deeping Lakes on Apr 27th, 16 at Freiston Shore, where there were c30 on May 14th and c75 on May 30th, 21 at Whisby NP on May 2nd, 20 at North Hykeham Pits on May 15th and 55 at Kirkby on Bain on May 28th. At Whisby NP it was another good year for nesting with the number of breeding pairs increasing by one, from 29 in 2009 to 30, of which 12 pairs were on Thorpe Lake and 18 pairs on Grebe Lake. A minimum of at least 55 chicks survived to fledging (23 from Thorpe Lake and 32 from Grebe Lake) giving a productivity of 1.83 young per pair. Breeding was also recorded at Barton-Barrow Haven Pits, where 8 pairs hatched 7 and reared 6 young, Boultham Mere, Freiston Shore, Gib Point, Kirkby on Bain, Messingham SQ and Quadring Eaudike. Peak counts of offshore feeding and passage flocks at Witham Mouth included 140 on Jul 23rd and c300 on Aug 9th, while at Gib Point there were c300 on Aug 10th, 211 on Aug 14th and 1165 on Aug 23rd and at Donna Nook c700 on Aug 11th and c2700 on Aug 12th. The huge roost and pre-roost concentration at Horseshoe Point was not closely monitored but included c1500 on Aug 4th and c3000 on Aug 10th. Number rapidly dropped off at the end of Sep, with the last birds of the year being two at Freiston Shore on Oct 16th.

Peak counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Gib Point	17	4	2	66	1165	110	2
Freiston Shore	16	75	125	220	50	3	2
Witham Mouth	-	-	10	140	300	-	1
Frampton Marsh	1	26	11	6	12	5	-

Messingham SQ	4	12	10	10	6	-	-
Whisby NP	3	26	17	40	20	4	3

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Fairly common/common passage migrant and sporadic breeder. Mainly coastal but there is a regular inland passage in spring.

The first birds of the year were three at Covenham Res on Apr 14th, increasing to 15 from Apr 25th-30th. Spring passage was scattered, including c30 on the coast at Tetney Marsh on May 2nd and inland with one at Messingham SQ on May 3rd, two at Deeping High Bank on May 4th, six at North Hykeham Pits on May 5th, three at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on May 7th, three at Whisby NP on May 8th, two at Barton Pits on May 11th and one at Covenham Res on May 11th. There was just a single record in Jun with six south at Gib Point on the 20th. At Gib Point 2-3 birds were recorded throughout Jul, with a strong passage being recorded in early Aug, with 19 south on the 4th and 72 south on the 5th. Elsewhere on the coast there were 30 at Horseshoe Point on Aug 7th, 40 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Aug 7th and 30 at Witham Mouth on Aug 7th including one feeding attendant young. Numbers dropped off by the end of Aug with eight at Donna Nook on Aug 12th, two at Kirkby on Bain on Aug 16th, three at Freiston Shore on Aug 16th and three past Chapel Point on Sep 24th. The last bird of the year was one past Gib Point on Oct 16th.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Rare passage migrant May-Sep. LBRC RBBP

A very poor year with just two records. A single was at Freiston Shore on Jun 26th (PS) and a single in the tern roost at Horseshoe Point on Aug 10th (GPC).

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

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

As in 2009 there were very few records in the first winter period, with just a single bird at the Witham Mouth from Jan 9th-10th and a sickly bird at Goxhill Skitter Ness on Jan 11th. Three birds flew north at Gib Point on May 25th and one north on Jun 8th. The bulk of records were between Aug-Nov, with mainly single birds being recorded at Donna Nook, Mablethorpe, Gibraltar Point, Freiston Shore and Witham Mouth. Noteworthy totals of over ten birds were 12 at Boston Deepes on Oct 9th, 86 north at Gib Point on Oct 16th and 13 at Freiston Shore on Oct 16th. One flew east at Barton Sep 16th.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

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

There were only eleven reports involving just 41 birds, with over half being seen on a single date. At the start of the year two birds were at Gib Point on Jan 1st, but there were no more until May 26th when one flew north at Gib Point, and another flew north there on Jun 20th. Single birds were at Mablethorpe on Sep 25th and at Gib Point on Sep 25th, with eight north at Gib Point on Sep 26th. In Oct two flew north at Freiston Shore on the 16th and then the highest count of the year, with 22 north past Gib Point on the 16th, followed by another north at Freiston Shore on the 27th and one at Gib Point on the 30th. The final record of the year was a single bird north at Gib Point on Nov 8th.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Scarce/common passage migrant and winter visitor. .

A poor year, with 14 records involving a maximum of 29 birds. The first bird of the year was found in a garden at North Thoresby in mid-Jan; it was taken into care but unfortunately died. The only other record from the first winter period was a single bird at Witham Mouth on Jan 6th. In the second half of the year there were three sightings on Oct 16th, with two off Freiston Shore, two seen landing on the water off the Humber Bridge Viewing Area before heading back to sea later the same day and four at Gib Point, including one flying down the West Dunes. The final birds of the year were six individuals flying north at Mablethorpe on Oct 25th, one at Tennyson's Sands, Gib Point also on Oct 25th, one flying north at Trusthorpe on Oct 26th, three north at Chapel Point on Nov 8th, one at Cleethorpes on Nov 10th and three at Skegness on Dec 2nd.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Rare passage migrant, but can occur in any month. Exceptional inland. LBRC

A very poor year, with just a single bird seen at Witham Mouth from Jan 6th-9th (JB, PS) and eight birds seen off Donna Nook on Aug 11th (SL).

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common and widespread resident.

Submissions from 24 sites with 141 records was a substantial increase from the 3 people who submitted records in 2009. Freiston Shore held up to 150 on Jan 3rd with Holme recording monthly peaks between 100 and 400 from Jan to Aug. Counts of over 100 were recorded at North Hykeham on Jan 30th and Thornton Abbey on Feb 11th. Greater numbers are likely to be a reflection of previous under-recording.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Common resident and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	19	15	24	25	26	13	19	18	12	8	14	5

Records came from 82 sites and 198 sightings, an increase from the 66 sites and 171 sightings in 2009. The largest counts were at Grainthorpe Marsh, which had 500 on Jan 26th, and Frampton Marsh where 200 were recorded on Feb 4th. Grainthorpe Marsh had 180 remaining on Feb 3rd whilst Goxhill Marsh held 115 in Jan and 160 on Feb 22nd. Maximum individual counts were much reduced to under 10 between the end of Mar and the end of Aug. Numbers again increased towards the end of the year with 70 at Donna Nook on Oct 1st, 90 at East Halton on Oct 5th, 42 at Howden's Pullover on Nov 13th, and 40 at Worlaby Carrs on Nov 27th.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	-	-	30	20	-	40	4	24	153	10	800	-
Freiston Shore	25	-	5	-	7	-	5	-	4	10	18	17
Anwick Fen	3100	1800	300	34	40	65	35	-	-	-	-	-
R Welland (Spalding)	343	301	72	20	25	-	52	33	55	62	256	75
Welbourn Heath	-	-	103	-	73	54	32	47	67	92	358	-
Whisby NP	4	159	79	57	62	47	41	53	42	33	48	30

The table shows monthly maxima at selected localities with counts in seven or more months. Anwick Fen holding greater numbers than Gib. Point compared to 2009, and Tetney Marsh not figuring this year. Numbers peaked during Jan, rather than Nov, as recorded in 2009.

In addition to the table Donna Nook held 4000 on Jan 1st, 4500 on Feb 10th, and 1500 on Mar 10th. There were 2000 at East Halton on Jan 11th, 3000 at Fulbeck Low Fields on Jan 15th, and 1100 at Risby Warren on Mar 9th. Numbers built up again towards the end of the year with 1100 at both Grasby and North Kelsey Moor on Nov 30th and, finally, 1200 at Donna Nook on Dec 10th. Severely under-recorded with 10's of 1000's occurring on arable areas inland in winter.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Very common resident.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Freiston Shore	5	2	6	4	6	3	5	6	4	3	10	5
Holme (Scunthorpe)	6	-	2	4	3	5	3	3	14	8	12	-
R Welland (Spalding)	19	8	19	8	3	-	17	12	12	20	25	6
Whisby NP	5	2	2	2	3	5	1	4	5	1	5	4

Another under-recorded species with several large concentrations not being counted.

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Widespread but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

A very disappointing year with no confirmed breeding reported and the decline in numbers appears to be gaining pace. The first were at Theddlethorpe St Helens/Mablethorpe North End on Apr 24th, Sutton St Edmonds on the Apr 25th and Welton near Lincoln on Apr 26th. Singles were widespread throughout May and the year as a whole. The highest count was 18 at Gib Point on Jun 15th, with 8 on May 28th. There were only two other counts of five or more with five at Seacroft on May 14th and six at Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe NNR throughout May and into Jun. The last records were at Barton Wolds on Oct 4th and a moulting juv at Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 10th.



European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* Frampton Marsh Jul 15th 2010 © Phil Hyde



European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* Rimac Oct 10th 2010 © Graham Catley

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Rare. Vagrant from feral populations and occasional local escapes.

Up to two birds were present at Weelsby Woods between Jan 28th and Feb 23rd. Individuals were seen over Donna Nook on Apr 24th and regularly reported at Grimsby Hospital during Jul and Sep. Up to two birds were seen at Humberston Fitties between Jul 22nd and Aug 22nd and two birds were again reported from Weelsby Woods on Sep 27th and at Humberston Fitties on Sep 28th. The last recorded sighting was an individual at Sloothby on Nov 20th.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Fairly common but declining summer visitor.

Peak counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Donna Nook	4	6	4	3	-	-	-
Saltfleetby Theddlethorpe NNR	2	3	-	-	-	-	-
Gib Point	1	7	4	3	1	1	1
No. of sites	43	46	24	6	4	4	1

The first sightings were on Nocton Fen on Apr 8th and Humberston Fitties on Apr 10th. Records then continued on a regular basis from across the county throughout the rest of Apr, with the first multiple sighting coming from Donna Nook with two birds on the 20th. There were further reports of between two to five birds during Apr from several locations including, North Cotes Point, Theddlethorpe St Helen-Mablethorpe North End, Messingham SQ, Callan's Lane Wood, Marston STW and Whisby NP. During May there were reports of between two to six birds from several locations including the highest day counts of the year with seven at Donna Nook on May 15th and seven at Gib Point on May 18th. Reasonable numbers were still being seen in Jun including up to four at Gib Point on the 1st and again on the 5th. As expected, sightings fell away in Jul with reports from just six locations, including the only multiple count of the month of three at Gib Point on the 6th, and of interest a hepatic female also at this location on the 21st. Aug reports were all of singles at Freiston Shore on 1st, Gib Point on 8th and Donna Nook on 11th, whilst the final sighting of the year was from Gib Point on Sep 28th.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Widespread common resident with good breeding years coinciding with peaks in the vole population.

Dark-breasted Barn Owl *T. a. guttata* is a rare vagrant. BBRC



Barn Owl *Tyto alba* Frampton Marsh Mar 5th 2010 © Neil Smith

There were over 500 records submitted during 2010, the vast majority of single birds, from which it is difficult to get an assessment of this species status in the county. The best way of assessing success is to analyse the breeding records submitted by contributors to the national BOMP (Barn Owl Monitoring programme). The prolonged cold weather in early 2010 resulted with many Barn Owls being out of condition at the start of the breeding season. The largest study involved 215 nesting attempts with an average of 3.3 eggs and 2.3 chicks which is about average for a non peak vole year. Owls that started breeding early (fens) fared better than those that nested later (Wolds), as a spell of wet weather in early July probably caused 33% of chicks to starve. Ringing recoveries suggest that the exceptionally cold weather did not cause as much mortality in Lincolnshire compared with areas of Britain at higher elevations.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Locally common resident and very sedentary.

Reported from around 100 sites throughout the year, often coinciding with regularly visited birding spots such as Frampton Marsh where there are probably only one or two pairs, and Nocton Fen where there are at least five pairs. A record 50 pairs used Bob Sheppard's Little Owl nest-boxes in 2010, of which nine pairs failed at either egg or chick stage, but the remaining 41 pairs raised 120 chicks, which is a much higher success rate than normal.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

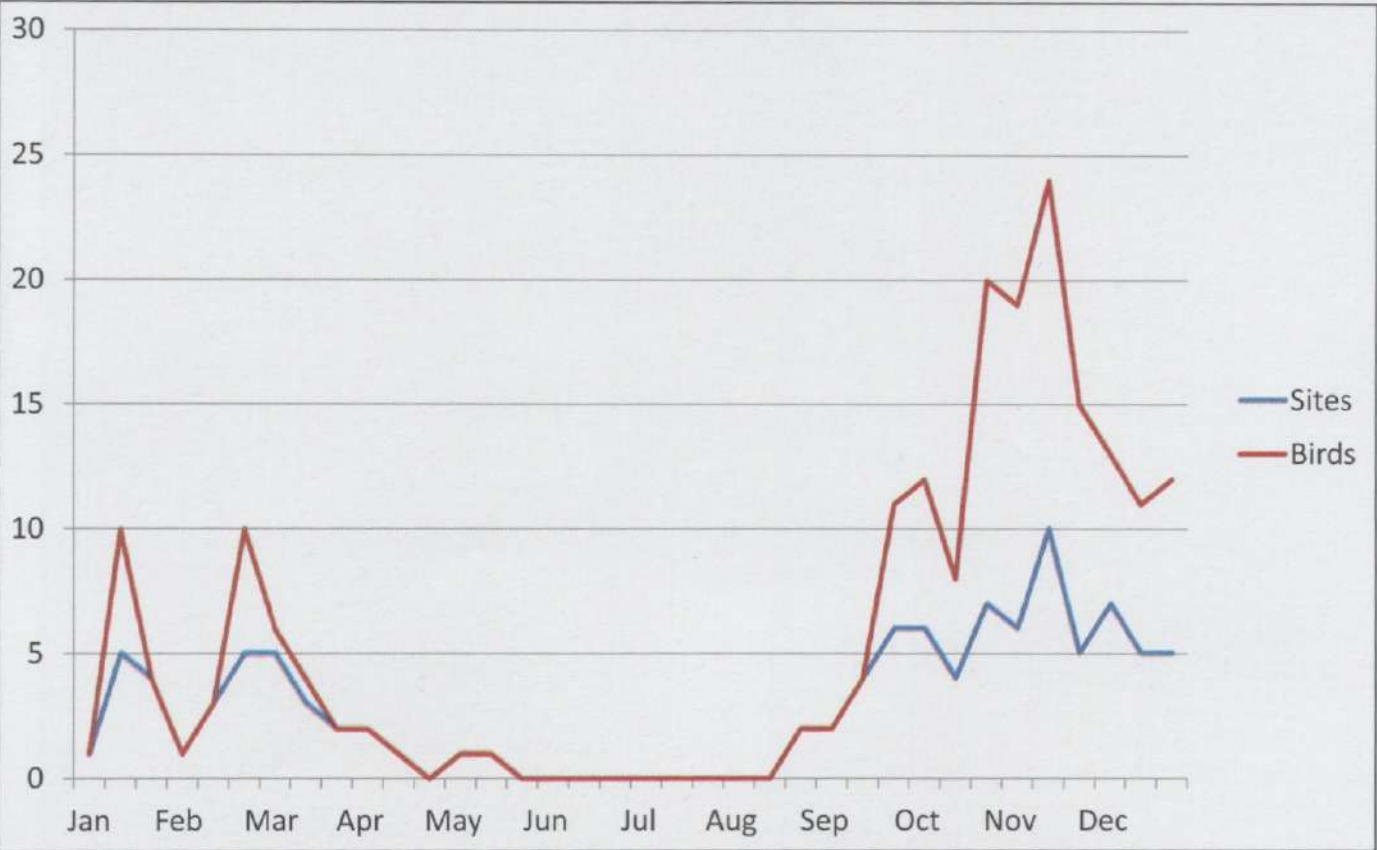
Localised widespread resident.

A difficult species to gauge success or variations in populations from year to year just from casual sightings and records. Up to four birds were reported from over 100 sites throughout the year.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Scarce and declining breeding bird in county and winter visitor.

There were very few records received during 2010 and all reports are included. There was just one record in the first half of the year with an individual at Goxhill on Jan 11th, before individuals, possibly juveniles, at Keb Wood and Saltfleet in Jul. The only other reports were of singles at Witham Mouth on Aug 15th, Tunnel Pits, Wroot on Aug 17th, Messingham SQ on Sep 17th-Oct 8th, Gib Point on Oct 22nd and Ingoldmells on Dec 9th. It would appear that this owl may no longer breed in the county.



Short-eared Owl peak numbers and sites in Lincolnshire 2010



Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* Worlabby Carrs Nov 28th 2010 © Graham Catley

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Winter visitor and occasional breeder.

In the first winter period most records were from coastal locations with one or two birds at many locations up to Apr with maxima of three Frampton Marsh in Jan and four at Donna Nook and Howdens Pullover in Feb. The only inland records were two at Crowland Common Jan 19th and singles at Tunnel Pits, Wroot on Feb 24th, RAF Waddington Apr 8th and at Potterhanworth Fen from Apr into May. There were also one to two birds regularly at Worlaby Carrs until Apr. There were no records between the last early year record at Donna Nook on May 16th and the first returning bird at Gib Point Aug 30th, suggesting that there were no breeding pairs in the county in 2010. In the latter part of the year birds were more widespread than the early part of the year with exceptional numbers at Worlaby Carrs, seemingly the most reliable place in the county for Short-eared Owls, where numbers peaked at a minimum of nine in October and 12 during early Nov see chart below which shows the large increase in numbers in Nov; the lack of sightings at Worlaby Carrs in Dec was probably as a result of the deep snow preventing access and also producing less owl activity in the hours of daylight; the lower numbers were eclipsed early in 2011 when up to 12 birds were again noted at this site.

European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Scarce summer visitor and rare passage migrant.

Laughton Forest was again the primary site in the county with a survey of one part of the forest producing counts of three males on May 15th seven males on May 23rd-24th, and seven males and a nest found on Jun 22nd. The female was still sitting on Jul 6th and was observed with a large juvenile on Jul 16th. The only other records were of singles at Willingham Woods on Aug 6th and a passage bird photographed roosting in a private garden at Welton le Marsh on Sep 18th.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first record of the year were two at Barton Pits 19th Apr followed by singles at Messingham on 22nd and Louth and Goxhill Haven on 23rd. Towards the end of the month a widespread arrival took place, with 30 at Barton on 28th, 20 at Belton Park and 30 at Boultham Mere both on 29th and 150 at Covenham Reservoir on 30th. However, the majority of birds arrived in the first few days of May, with counts of 150 at Freiston Shore on 2nd, 200 at Frampton Marsh 9th, and 200 at Barton Pits on 10th where subsequent counts included 300 on 16th, 400 on 27th and 500 on 31st. Counts during Jun included 500 at North Hykeham Pits on 10th, 2500 south at Gibraltar Point on 27th and 230 at Anderby on 28th. During Jul some exceptional numbers moved through Gib Point during the first half of the month including an estimated peak count of 9500 south on 15th. Elsewhere counts included 1200 at Humberston Village and 190 Donna Nook both on the 4th. Breeding numbers at the Helpringham colony remained constant with approximately 200 pairs present, otherwise there were no other breeding records received, and observers are asked to submit any records of breeding colonies with estimated number of pairs, so that any trends in this declining summer visitor can be monitored. During Aug counts included 300 Pyewipe and 300 Stallingborough both on 4th, ten at Alkborough on 24th and 15 at Fiskerton Fen on 28th. Sep counts included ten in The Wash on 4th, 22 at Boultham Mere on 7th with 13 there on 14th, and six at Donna Nook on 11th. In Oct two were at Covenham Res between 1st-2nd, one at North Cotes on 4th, one at RAF Coningsby on 5th and the last record of the year with two at Freiston Shore on 11th.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Peak Count	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	1	-	2	1	-	1	3	3	2	2	1	1
Gib Point	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	-
Whisby NP	3	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	3	1	1

Encouragingly, Kingfishers were reported from over 80 different locations throughout the county during the year, a significant increase on 2009, which was despite some very cold weather both at the start and end of the year. Monthly figures for sites with regular counts are tabulated above with elsewhere the majority of reports referring to singles, although other notable counts included three at Messingham SQ on Jun 27th, three at Barton Pits on Jul 1st and Aug 1st, four at Pinchbeck on Jul 28th, and three at Frampton Marsh on Sep 22nd. Disappointingly, there were very few reports received regarding nesting attempts, with only Messingham SQ, Tydd St Marys Marsh and Cogglesford Mill in Sleaford recording any confirmed breeding evidence.



Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* Skegness Sep 18th 2010 © Monica Mackrill



Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* Laughton Forest Jul 16th 2010 © Graham Catley



Common Swift *Apus apus* Frampton Marsh May 11th 2010 © Neil Smith



Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Far Ings, Barton Nov 6th 2010 © Graham Catley

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Vagrant. LBRC, RBBP

There were two records of this over-shooting European migrant. One lucky observer had three fly north over Rimac on May 23rd (KMW), with probably the same birds over Flamborough Head in Yorkshire later in the day. Six days later a single spent an hour in poor weather at Gib Point, before being flushed by Jackdaws and flying off south on May 29th. (DMa KMW NAL et al).

European Roller *Coracias garrulus*

Vagrant. BBRC

2008. Donna Nook, May 28th 2008 (JS), accepted by BBRC (*Hudson and the Rarities Committee, British Birds Vol. 104 pp555-634*).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Rare/scarce passage migrant Apr-May and Aug-Oct, mainly coastal. Bred to early 20th century. LBRC, RBBP

In contrast to 2009, the only spring record was a single bird at Hagworthingham from Apr 18th-19th (Stuart Crooks). The first of the autumn was at Market Deeping from Aug 27th-28th (Richard Jones, Chris Brown). This bird was independently reported and photographed feeding in two different gardens, and is presumed to refer to the same individual. A good autumn passage with two birds trapped and ringed at Gib Point on Sep 3rd and Sep 8th (MRB, EJM, KMW), and a well watched and mobile bird between Donna Nook and Grainthorpe Marsh from Sep 30th-Oct 10th (GPC et al).



Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* Pyes Hall Oct 8th 2010 © Russell Hayes

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Kirkby on Bain	1	-	4	2	3	3	4	4	4	1	1	-
Whisby NP	1	2	2	4	3	5	1	7	2	2	3	-
No. of sites	16	15	30	33	15	13	18	20	12	14	10	8

This species was widespread especially in the wooded parts of the county. Maximum counts included seven at Whisby NP during Aug, five at Elsea/Math Wood on Apr 6th, five at Kirkby Moor NR on Jul 24th, four at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Mar 7th, four at Nocton Wood on Apr 8th and four at Whisby NP on Apr 22nd.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	1	1	2	3	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	-
Chambers Farm Wood	2	3	3	2	-	2	1	2		4	-	-
Holme	1	2	3	2	3	4	1	1	1	2	-	1
Whisby NP	1	3	4	2	1	2	1	3	1	1	2	2

This species was again widespread and was reported from around 101 locations throughout the county. The maximum counts of five birds were all from Elsea/Math Wood during Apr and early May. The next highest counts were all of four birds from Whisby NP on Mar 3rd, Belton Park on Apr 4th, Holme on Jun 2nd, Gibraltar Point on Aug 22nd, Messingham SQ on Sep 22nd, and Chambers Farm Wood on Oct 5th. Small numbers of migrants pass through coastal locations from the end of Aug to mid Nov, with peak counts of eight at Gib Point on Sep 12th and four at Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 20th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Rare resident.

Encouragingly recorded from 14 locations, the second highest count over a ten-year period. In the first half of the year, a maximum of three birds were seen at Owlet Plantation on Mar 23rd – Apr 8th and two birds were heard at Elsea/Math Wood on Apr 5th. Singles were recorded at Marston STW on Jan 25th, Tattershall on Jan 29th, Blankey Wood on Feb 25th, Chambers Farm Wood on Mar 9th, Apr 9th and Jun 4th, and Swanpool on Apr 5th. In the second half of the year, singles were recorded at Candlesby on Aug 26th, Gibraltar Point on Oct 14th, Londonthorpe Wood on Oct 18th, Nettleton on Oct 23rd, Deeping Lakes NR on Nov 7th and Boultham Park on Dec 5th.



Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor* Candlesby Aug 29th 2010 © Neil Smith

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor* Owlet Plantation Mar 27th 2010 © S & K Spavin

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

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

The following were the only records submitted and accepted by the LBRC, although it is known that there were other records for which no supporting information was received. An imm male or female bird was at Humberston Fitties on April 28th (JN), a first summer or female was at Gib Point on May 27th-30th (JC et al) and a first year or female was at Howden's Pullover on Jun 2nd-4th (GM, BC).

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

Vagrant. BBRC

An excellent record for Gib Point with an obliging individual believed to have been of the form *isabellinus*, otherwise known as Daurian Shrike on Oct 10th (A Burgess, RHay, KMW et al). This appears to be the most frequent form recorded in Britain. Complications surround the variation found in females and first-winters, the predominant plumage types to be recorded in Britain, between the forms *isabellinus* and *phoenicuroides* which is known as Turkestan Shrike. In addition there is also ongoing debate about where the lines should be drawn between the various taxa. In any case the record fits in well with the mean arrival time for first winter birds being mid to late Oct. Accepted by BBRC this becomes the fifth county record following singles in 1978, Donna Nook first-winter Oct 28th – 30th, 1982 Anderby Creek adult male Nov 7th – 8th and Gib Point Nov 15th, 1990 Pyes Hall Oct 14th – 15th and 2003 Donna Nook first-winter Oct 13th. Also see finders report on page 174.



Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* Gib Point Oct 10th 2010 © Russell Hayes

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Rare passage migrant and occasional summer visitor. Former rare breeder: LBRC, RBBP

A better year for records of this species with an adult male reported from Donna Nook on Jun 6th (TWh), an adult female photographed, at Gib Point on Aug 16th (KMW) and two days later

an adult male at Donna Nook on Aug 18th (JRN). A juvenile was photographed at Humberston Fitties on Sep 21st (DEv).



Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* Tetney Marsh Sep 21st 2010 © Roy Harvey

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Rare passage migrant and rare winter visitor Oct-Apr. Exceptional in summer. LBRC

An excellent year for this species one was present in Welbourn from Feb 22nd to Mar 13th (ABo) and may well have been present in the area all winter as one was in the same location during Dec 2009. The only record of the spring was a single at Tetney Lock from Apr 20th-30th (RL, DB, RH). However, there were several autumn reports with the first at Wainfleet St. Mary on Sep 27th (DH, KMW), followed by a second bird at Donna Nook on Sep 28th (RH). Cleethorpes then



Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* Welbourn Mar 2nd 2010 © Russell Hayes

hosted one for two days from Sep 29th-30th (JRN, DJB,), the bird favouring waste ground behind the Blundell Park football ground. During Oct, up to three individuals were in the Donna Nook area, the first on Oct 2nd (RH), although other observers reported two together the same day. Another frequented the Pyes Hall area from Oct 9th-13th (DE, RH, GPC et al) with a second bird on Oct 9th at Horseshoe Point - North Cotes airfield (RL, RH, LH). Finally, at Gib Point a single was reported on Oct 9th (NAL).

Magpie *Pica pica*

Very common resident.

With counts from about 90 localities, Magpie was slightly better reported than last year, and there were more records of aggregations of 10 or more. The largest counts tended to come from better-watched areas, such as Barton Pits where there were up to 33 in Jan, 35 in Mar and 20 in Apr, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR where there were 20 in Mar and 30 in Jan and Dec, and Whisby NP where there were 25 in Jun and 22 in Oct. At Gib Point, there were at least 15 and usually 20 or more throughout the year, and up to 40 in Mar, 37 in Apr and 29 in Oct. A further 14 localities recorded maxima of between 10 and 18, including Holme and Alkborough Flats each with up to 18, Swanpool with up to 17, Burton Stather with 16 and Worlaby Carrs with 15. There were no great seasonal variations but, as last year, slightly more high counts in autumn and winter than in spring and summer.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Common resident, irregular migrant and winter visitor.

Over 200 reports were received, coming from about 70 localities. The largest count was 13 in Nov at Whisby NP, where there were also counts of seven in Oct and six in Dec. Elsewhere, there were maxima of five or more in four places: five at Twyford Wood in Apr and seven there in Dec, seven at Laughton Forest in Feb, five at Messingham SQ in Oct and five including fledged young at Londonthorpe Wood in Jul. There was no suggestion of significant autumn movement, but there were six autumn records at Gib Point including two south on both Oct 13th and 16th.

Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Very common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

Nordic Jackdaw *C.m.monedula*. Rare or overlooked winter visitor.

The largest counts by far were 1300 on Oct 30th and 2500 on Dec 23rd over Millennium Green, North Hykeham, with birds flying to the corvid roost in the Hartsholme/Swanholme area of Lincoln. At Gib Point, there were over 100 in most months and maxima of 312 in Mar and 300 in Jul, and roost counts of 210 on Sep 28th and 245 on Oct 2nd. Seven further localities recorded maxima in the range 100-500, mostly in Jan-Feb or Oct-Dec but including 500 at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Jul 5th. The others were 100 at Manby Flashes on Jan 3rd, 500 at Tunnel Pits, near Wroot, on Jan 23rd, 500 at Leadenham Tip on Jan 25th with 150 there on Dec 26th, 170 at South Willingham on Feb 23rd, up to 200 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR during Oct-Dec, and 150 at Colsterworth landfill on Nov 28th. Small southerly movements were noted at Gib Point, totalling 359 during Mar 2nd-May 22nd, with peaks of on 40 on Mar 13th and 30 on May 15th, and 210 during Sep 18th-Nov 13th, with a peak of 57 on Oct 18th.

Five birds at Baston-Langtoft Pits on Nov 6th showed characters suggestive of the Scandinavian race *C m monedula* also known as Nordic Jackdaws.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Very common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

Generally under-recorded, there were even fewer high counts than last year. About 30 records involved more than 100 birds, with the highest being 1000 over Millennium Green, North Hykeham, on Dec 23rd (500 were at the same place on Oct 30th), with birds flying over late afternoon to the corvid roost at nearby Hartsholme/Swanholme in Lincoln. There were 600-700 at Tunnel Pits, near Wroot, on Jan 10th and 23rd, 500 at Swanpool on Jan 7th, 500 at Kirton Holme on Nov 18th, 462 along the R Welland near Spalding on Jul 18th and up to 400 at Manby Flashes in Jan. Other places recording counts of 200 or more were Elsham Hall CP, Dorrington Fen and Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits. Counts of Rook nests were made in several areas. In the 10km square TA01, a total of 715 nests was found including 169 at Worlaby, 111 at Bonby and 108 at Melton High Wood. Nearby, there were at least 100 nests at Thornton Abbey. Elsewhere, the highest counts were from the Tattershall area, with 115 nests by the Castle, 42 at Butts Bridge and 65 around Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits. Small southerly movements were noted at

Gib Point, totalling 205 in Mar-May, with peaks of 21 on Mar 16th and 18 on Apr 17th, and 61 during Sep-Nov.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

As in 2009, over two-thirds of reports involved fewer than 10 birds, but this year there were several counts of 200 or more. Towards the end of the year, counts of 200 came from Leadenham Tip on Dec 26th and Stainby on Dec 31st. Regular counts at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR revealed up to 150 in Jan and up to 170 in Oct-Dec. Other counts of 100 or more were 100 at Covenham Res on Feb 14th, 105 at Ropsley on Jul 28th, 120 at Donna Nook on Oct 1st, and 159 to roost at Normanby Hall CP on Nov 7th. Small southerly movements were noted at Gib Point, totalling 241 in Mar-May, with peaks of 29-33 on three dates during Apr 26th-May 1st, and 97 during Sep-Nov, with a peak of 12 on Oct 2nd.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Very scarce migrant and winter visitor formerly much more common in winter. LBRC

After two blank years, there was one in spring and at least two in the last quarter this year. The spring individual was seen at Seacroft on Apr 29th and May 11th (NL, GPBO). In autumn, one appeared at Humberston Fitties on Oct 6th, with two there on the 10th (DJB *et al.*). In the Donna Nook area, there were frequent records of one between Oct 17th and Nov 20th (SL *et al.*), with two on at least one date in Oct, and one remained, though less assiduously reported, throughout Dec and into 2011. The most likely interpretation of these records is that there were two birds in the Tetney-Donna Nook area, usually well-separated but occasionally together.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*

Resident to 18th century but now a rare breeder and rare/scarce, but increasing visitor. LBRC

Two pairs bred this year in the south-west of the county, one in a tree nest, the other on a telecommunications tower. The pair at Belton Park reared three young: they were out of the nest by mid May and were noted nearby in early Jul. At Temple Wood, all five young were ringed and had fledged by May 4th. There were frequent reports of the pairs in the vicinity of breeding sites early in the year, and three at Belton Park on Jan 4th and Feb 19th, but fewer later on. In the second half of the year, most reports in the Grantham-Sleaford-Bourne area came from other localities, mostly of one-two but four at Newton near Sleaford on Aug 17th. There were also records in the Wolds south of Louth, involving singles, perhaps the same, at Farforth on Nov 6th and Stenigot on Nov 20th, and one at Bicker Fen near Boston on Nov 21st.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Rather few Goldcrests were reported except during a heavy autumn passage. Despite being widespread and locally numerous in the county, the only double-figure count before Sep was ten at Belton Park on Jan 17th, and there were no significant breeding reports and no count exceeding seven during Apr-Jul. Numbers in England have shown a gently increasing trend since 1995, and BBS data indicated a 37% increase between 2009 and 2010. There were moderate numbers at Gib Point from Sep 18th, but the first big fall of autumn included 20 at Donna Nook and 64 at Gib Point on Sep 27th, with similar numbers on subsequent days, including 108 at Gib Point on the 28th and 114 there on Oct 4th, until much larger arrivals from Oct 8th onwards. After 50 at Donna Nook on the 8th, there were estimates of 160 between there and Pye's Hall and 250 between Crook Bank and Sea View on the 9th, 270 at Donna Nook and 500 at Crook Bank on the 10th (with 228 of the latter trapped and ringed), and slightly smaller numbers at the same sites on the 11th when there were also 55 at Wrangle Marsh and 50 at Freiston Shore. Meanwhile, at Gib Point, there were counts of 134 on the 8th then over 250 daily during the 9th-13th peaking at 680 on the 10th. At Crook Bank, totals gradually decreased, though there were 100 on the 12th and 120 on the 16th, and a similar pattern was followed at Gib Point where there were 'only' 80-140 during Oct 14th-20th. There were still over 54 on Oct 31st at Gib Point, where moderate numbers were maintained until mid Nov but the Dec maximum was only six. Elsewhere, there were no more than eight at any coastal site after Oct 18th. The only double-figure count in Nov-Dec was 12 at Bourne Wood on Nov 22nd.

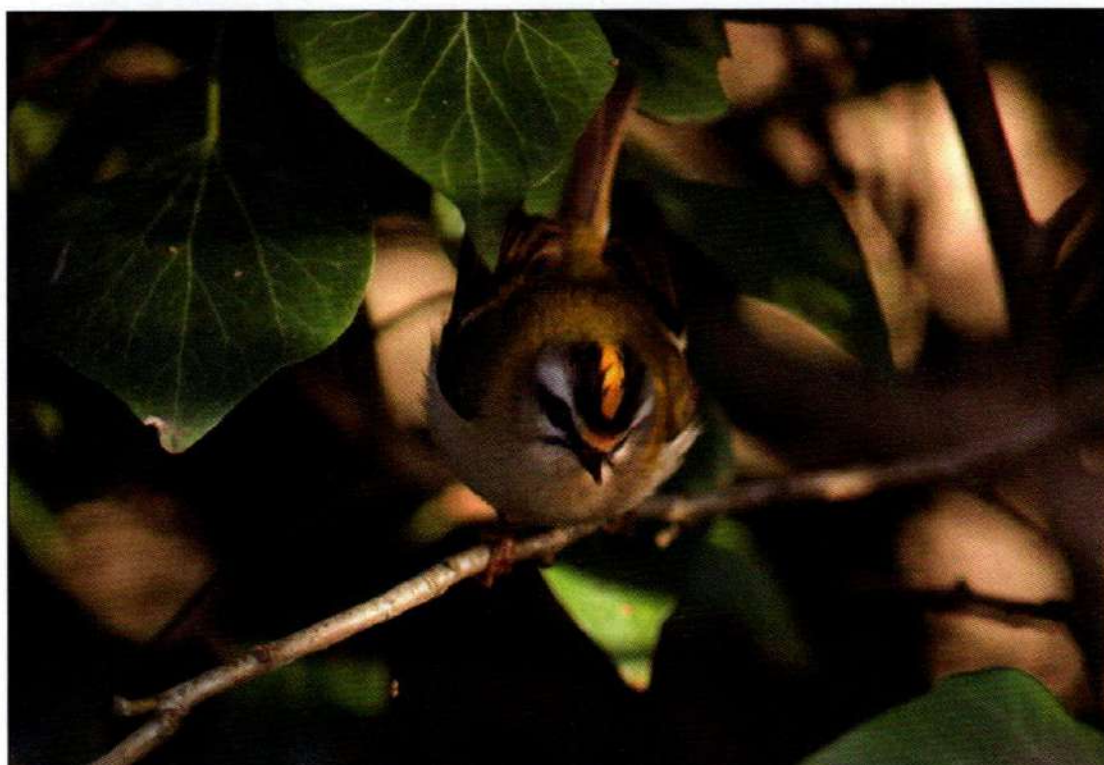


Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* Donna Nook Oct 10th 2010 © Graham Catley

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Scarce passage migrant and rare winter visitor. Rare summer records and territorial behaviour. RBBP

Two at Belton Park on Feb 6th were presumably the same as those seen there on Dec 20th 2009. The bulk of spring passage fell during Mar 18th-Apr 9th, with a total of 39 bird-days. The majority of these were at Gib Point, where the peak was five on Mar 24th, with four on the 23rd, and three on the 25th-27th and Apr 3rd. Elsewhere on the coast and Humber, one was at Humberston Fitties on Mar 21st, one in Skegness on Mar 26th, one at Far Ings and one at Cleethorpes on Mar 27th,



Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla* Barton Pits Nov 25th 2010 © Barry Warrington

and one at Saltfleet Haven on Apr 6th. Inland, single birds were trapped and ringed near Anwick on Apr 3rd and near Stoke Rochford on Apr 15th. There were also five late spring migrants: three were at Gib Point, on Apr 21st, May 15th (showing a brood patch) and May 23rd, and the others at Freiston Shore on Apr 29th and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Jun 6th. A juvenile bird was reported near Stamford on Jun 29th which raises the interesting possibility that Firecrest may have bred in this part of the county though at present there is no other evidence. Autumn passage began with one at Pye's Hall on Sep 6th increasing to two on the 7th-8th, with one at Gib Point on the latter date. Small numbers continued to be seen on the coast intermittently, mostly 1 - 2 but with three at Gib Point on Oct 12th and Nov 2nd. There was a total of 60 bird-days on the coast during Sep-Nov, and also one seen a short way inland at Hogsthorpe on Nov 11th, one at Water's Edge, Barton, on Nov 25th and one trapped at Boston on Nov 29th. In addition, one appeared at Whisby NP on Oct 29th with presumably the same bird there during Dec 6th-11th. Also in Dec, there were 12 bird-days at Gib Point including two on the 4th and 15th.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Very common resident.

Peaks counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	42	38	29	40	18	31	23	68	55	47	42	47
Whisby NP	70	77	64	51	21	88	108	131	135	83	107	66

A very common resident with records throughout the year from 95 sites. 81% of BBS squares monitored around the county contained Blue Tits. The number of birds recorded has increased significantly from previous years when very few records exceeded 15 individuals. In 2010, one third of the records were for greater than 15 individuals. The table above shows the highest monthly totals for the two sites where the species is recorded on a regular basis. Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR (40), Welbourn Heath (30) and Chambers Farm Wood (28) gave the next highest totals. At Newball 168 individuals were ringed or re-trapped during 2010. This compares to 190 in 2009, 193 in 2008 and 217 in 2007. The ringing totals from Mid Lincs RG totalled 1560 individuals, 54% of which were ringed in the nest. This gives a better representation of the species abundance on an individual site but even this is under-recorded.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Very common resident.

Peaks counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	48	40	37	33	24	22	21	62	36	51	39	30
Whisby NP	38	87	66	54	31	53	67	55	77	49	67	17

Sightings were reported from 86 sites around the county and birds were recorded in 75% of the BBS squares monitored. The numbers at Whisby NP were significantly higher than those recorded in the previous two years. The rise in the summer totals reflects the successful breeding season for the species. Of the 454 sightings submitted during the year, only 12% were for more than ten birds. At Newball Wood 170 different individuals were ringed or re-trapped (excluding nestlings) throughout the year compared to 105 in 2009, 198 in 2008 and 240 in 2007. This compares to the new bird annual total for Mid Lincs RG of 1146 individuals, 38% of which were ringed in the nest.

Lincs BTO																	
Data BBS	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Total No.																	
Squares Surveyed	35	42	45	49	52	51	48	23	49	48	49	53	65	66	52	51	54
Blue Tit	27	33	33	40	37	34	30	16	35	37	37	40	52	50	42	36	44
Great Tit	20	24	27	29	27	28	28	11	28	27	33	42	52	49	39	37	41

Lincolnshire BTO Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data for the period 1994-2010

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Widespread resident and passage migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	8	7	9	11	6	4	8	8	12	14	10	8
Minimum count	19	19	1	45	15	13	27	26	32	37	33	25
Mid Lincs RG												
birds handled	18	38	8	8	17	1	3	10	49	35	52	19

A total of 138 sightings from 52 sites were received for this species. All sightings were in single figures with the peak of nine at Owlet Plantation on Feb 27th and eight at Chambers Farm Wood on Apr 11th. The table above reflects the minimum number of individuals sighted by month with a peak of 45 in April. The increase in numbers from Jul onwards reflects addition of youngsters from this years breeding season and some passage birds. In terms of ringing, Mid Lincs RG ringed 160 adult birds and 15 nestlings throughout the year and handled 258 birds. The table shows the breakdown for the number of birds handled with the autumn and winter months showing the highest figures. This is likely to be as a result of birds coming together to feed as opposed to being in territories throughout the spring. The May total includes the 15 nestlings ringed.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

Once common and widespread, now seriously declining with nearly all records from the northern half of the county.

The 1992 LBC Annual Report described “a widespread breeding resident which may be showing signs of a decline”. This has been proved correct as the latest information from the BTO reveals that Willow Tits in the East Midlands have declined by 76% since 1994. They have now been added to the Rare Breeding Panel List. The vast majority of the reports in 2010 were from the Barton, Scunthorpe, Lincoln and Market Rasen areas. There were a few sightings in the Anwick, Nocton, Grantham and Bourne areas comprising of no more than two birds but no reports in May, Jun, Sep, Oct, Nov and Dec. There were five birds reported at Messingham on Mar 8th, and a further six birds reported at Chambers Farm Wood on Mar 21st. Barton Pits held good numbers throughout the year with a maximum of 11 birds at Far Ings on Sep 18th. There were monthly reports throughout the year at Whisby NP with a maximum of five in Sep. Two pairs bred at Barton pits and there was one report of a juvenile at Boultham Mere on Jun 3rd. Only nine individuals were ringed in the Market Rasen area with only one first year bird. The importance of appropriate management of suitable breeding habitat in areas such as the Barton Pits, Messingham SQ and Whisby NP cannot be over emphasised if this alarming decline is to be halted.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

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

Marsh and Willow Tits don't generally overlap in distribution within Lincolnshire, although both species can still be found around the Nocton and Anwick areas. There were only 25 reports from 11 locations during the course of the year, with the majority of sightings coming from a relatively small area in the south west of the county bordered by Belton Park in the north, and Twyford Wood and Colsterworth in the south. Records from this area included four at Belton Park on Jan 17th, ten at Temple Wood, Aslackby on Apr 3rd, and ten at Callans Lane Wood, Kirkby Underwood on Apr 25th. There were no breeding records submitted. Later in the year notable counts included ten at Bourne Wood on Nov 22nd, four at Twyford Wood on Dec 24th and six at Temple Wood on Dec 25th. In view of their decline, care should be taken to accurately identify both Marsh and Willow Tits and observers are encouraged to report all sightings of both species so that any trends in their populations can be monitored.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Rare extremely local resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. RBBP

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	3	1	9	6	2
Max. Lincs total	8	4	5	4	2	10	20	9	15	44	19	3

Birds were recorded from 13 sites in the county up from six last year, primarily due to a good autumn passage. Breeding was reported from two sites the Humber Bank Pits and Huttoft Bank Pit. Three pairs fledged young at Barton Pits, the only location to hold birds in every month of the year where the highest monthly count was 15 birds in Jul and Sep, falling to ten in Oct, six in Nov and two in Dec. Elsewhere on the Humber Bank there were nine at Alkborough on Oct 27th, eight at Goxhill on Oct 12th, singles at Winteringham on Mar 13th, North Killingholme Haven on Nov 27th and Cleethorpes Country Park on four dates between Nov 24th and Dec 6th. Along the coast a single bird was at North Cotes Point on Oct 17th, with others at Donna Nook on Oct 9th and 27th. Huttoft Bank Pit held birds in Feb (2), Mar (2) and a pair raised three young, with five last reported on Oct 14th. Gibraltar Point had up to three birds between Oct 7th and Nov 20th and there were two at Wrangle Bank on Oct 31st and three at Frampton Marsh on Nov 15th. The only inland records were from Marston STW where there were between one and five birds from Oct 24th to Nov 15th.

Wood Lark *Lullula arborea*

Scarce semi-resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Bred to 1959 and again from 1984 with numbers peaking around the year 2000, although now steadily declining. RBBP

Although this species can occasionally be heard singing on territory on fine days from mid Feb, the earliest record for 2010 was on Mar 7th at Kirkby Moor with four birds present later in the month. Birds were present at six sites during Mar and Apr with eight birds recorded at one of these. Passage birds were few in number in spring, with just singles at Gib Point on Apr 2nd and 7th. In the autumn, singles were seen in Nov at Nettleton on 14th and Donna Nook on 21st. After several years of dramatic population increase within the UK, from around 600 pairs in 1993 to c.3000 pairs in recent years, this trend appears to have levelled off or even declined. The species is known to be badly affected by harsh winters. During the four year BTO atlas survey period, confirmed breeding was only recorded in five tetrads, and in Lincolnshire a concentrated survey is overdue.

Sky Lark *Alauda arvensis*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Breeding numbers have declined in recent years.

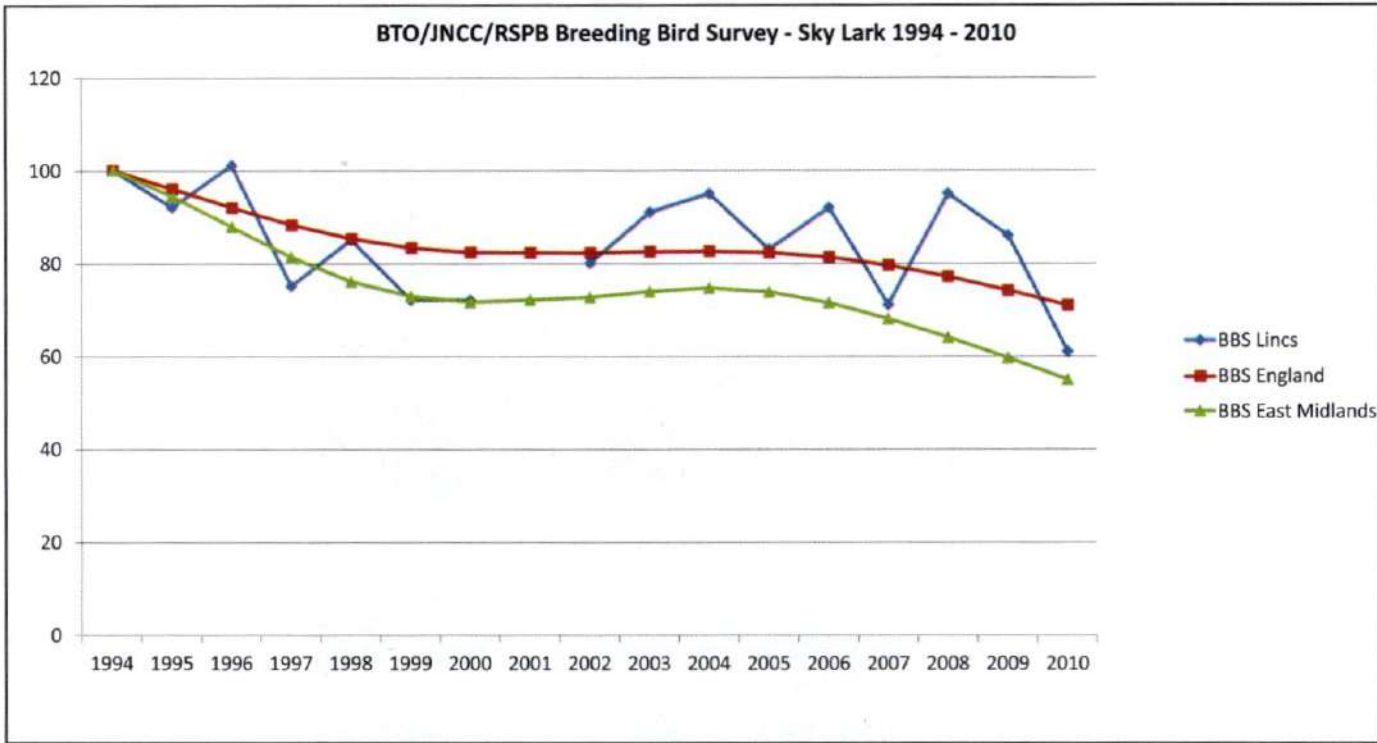


Sky Lark *Alauda arvensis* Frampton Marsh Apr 18th 2010 © Neil Smith

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe NNR	25	60	35	12	8	-	-	-	-	200	-	10
Gib Point	150	-	4	6	-	6	4	1	-	20	55	800
Freiston Shore	60	33	47	5	21	12	25	15	-	55	17	17
Frampton Marsh	113	40	10	15	22	19	25	1	2	60	50	25
Anwick Fen	671	34	14	26	31	19	11	-	-	-	-	-
Welbourn Heath	-	-	64	-	76	70	73	26	65	189	265	-

Howden's Pullover	550	210	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	40	150	200
All sites	5165	1178	407	299	267	211	242	54	191	1105	1403	3764

Counts were received from 120 sites across the county and these reflect both post-breeding dispersal and immigration into the county during the autumn and winter. Breeding season totals undoubtedly under-represent numbers present as birds are dispersed more widely and are less recordable, on the whole. A detailed survey at Alkborough Flats recorded 80 occupied territories in 2010 on compared with 110 in 2007, 109 in 2008 and 101 in 2009. British and Irish birds are mainly resident, whereas the populations in northern and central Europe largely vacate these areas in winter. Autumn migration essentially is west to southwest across Europe, and birds reaching the western seaboard include many from northern and central European USSR. The highest totals were recorded in Jan (5165) and numbers tailed off through Feb and Mar when return passage is heaviest. The importance of the fens as a wintering habitat was emphasised with some very large flocks reported during Jan at Digby Fen (1000), Anwick Fen (671), and later at Dunsby Fen in Dec (1000). Autumn immigration begins in Sep and Oct, augmenting the local post-breeding flocks in the fens and along the coast.



The BTO conservation status code for Skylark is “red” because of a recent decline in the breeding population. The Breeding Bird Survey index illustrates this trend, and shows that the un-smoothed trend in the county mirrors that for both England and the East Midlands. The species decline therefore continues to be of national concern.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Scarce winter visitor. Currently low numbers compared to the 1960’s and 1970’s. Exceptional inland. LBRC away from Donna Nook and Gib Point.

Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR held the only regular wintering flock with six birds present from Jan 1st, increasing to seven during Apr. A single bird noted at Mablethorpe on 11th Jan was the only other record during the first winter period. The Saltfleetby flock were last recorded on Apr 24th, although the return movement to breeding areas generally begins in Mar, with territories reoccupied from late Apr in Finnmark to the second half of May in Russia, often while the ground is still snow-covered. The first autumn bird was seen on Oct 9th at Howden’s Pullover, where there were three during Dec. The only major wintering flock at this time was centred on Gib Point, which held a maximum of 15 on Nov 13th increasing to 21 by Dec 19th. Apart from these two sites, there were two at Donna Nook on Oct 27th and three there on Nov 1st and one or two birds at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR during Nov and Dec.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Peak counts	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Alkborough Flats	-	-	6	3	6	70	200	5	-
Barton Pits	-	50	100	80	2	150	60	12	-
Messingham SQ	-	100	60	300	80	-	20	-	-
Gibraltar Pt	-	2	51	18	30	3750	38	120	-
Frampton Marsh	-	3	15	100	100	125	100	10	-
Kirkby on Bain	-	2	250	300	50	2	20	-	-
Whisby NP	-	20	6	100	23	12	100	12	-

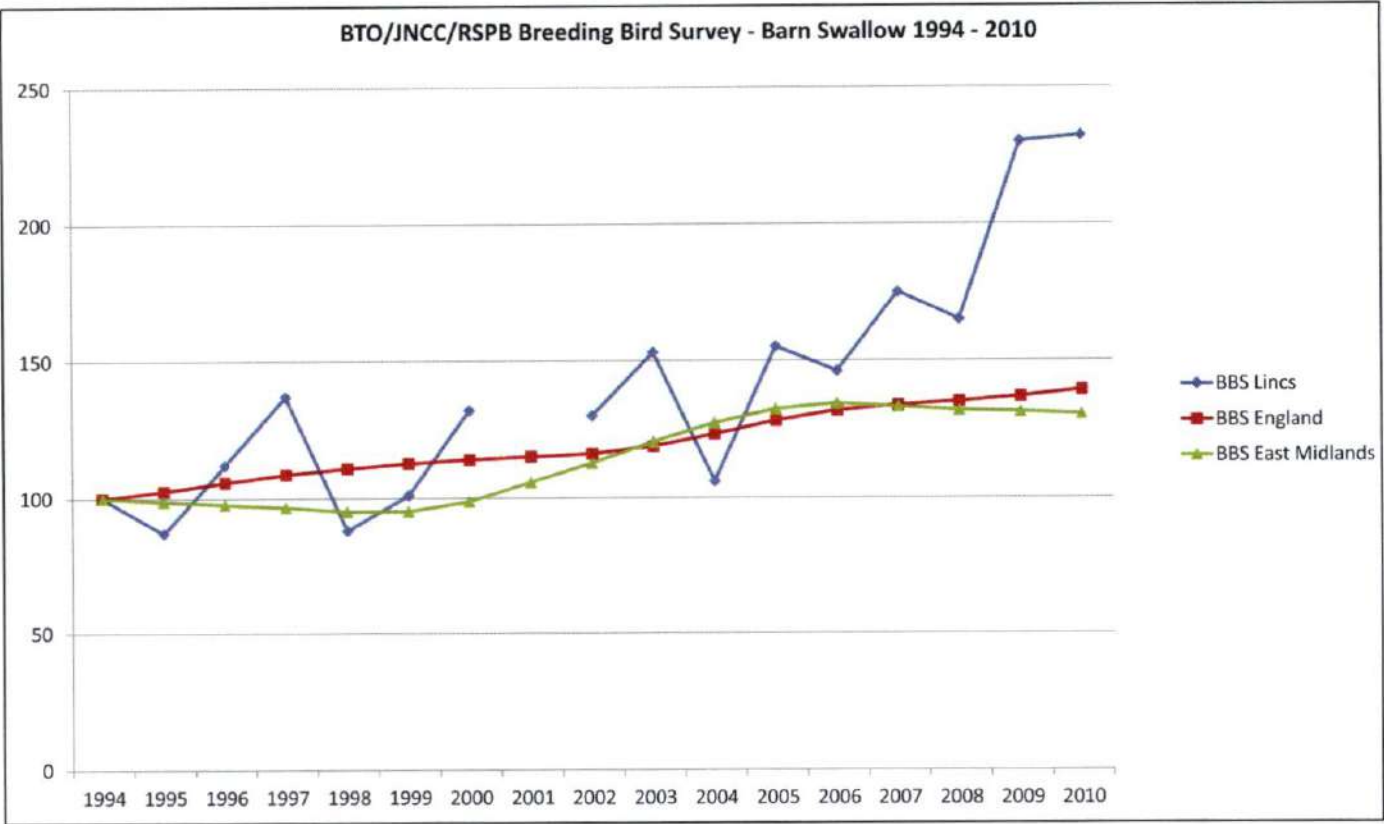
One of the traditionally early migrants, the first report for 2010 was a single at Messingham SQ on Mar 17th with birds at several other sites on 18th. Numbers continued to increase through Mar, mostly at inland sites, and into Apr and May. Reported counts typically involved small flocks of less than 30 except at breeding sites. Exceptions were 130 at North Hykeham Pits on Apr 2nd, 50 Barton Pits Apr 8th, 50 at Boultham Mere on Apr 29th and 150 at Covenham Reservoir on May 2nd. Peak counts at the main sites are tabulated. Breeding colonies were reported at Messingham SQ (90 pairs), Thorpe Lake Whisby NP (14 pairs rearing 17 broods), Westwoodside (60 pairs at Birds Wood Quarry and 35 at Cove Farm Pit), Kirkby on Bain (25 pairs) and at Frampton Marsh, where the newly established colony was very late settling in but numbered 50 pairs by late Jul. Four juvenile birds ringed in the county provided good evidence of the route southward bound birds take in the autumn. Three birds ringed in 2009 (two at Blankney SQ, one at Marston SF) were controlled at the same roost site in Loire Atlantique at Tour Aux Moutons in Aug 2009. Exceptionally, one year later another Blankney-ringed juvenile was controlled on Jul 17th 2010 at a site in Charente-Maritime. This latter bird had travelled 847km SW in just 18 days. The main return movement is from mid Jul to Sep and counts of 100 or more were reported from across the county during this period. However, these were dwarfed by the large Jul counts from Gib Point where there were 1800 south on 17th and 3750 south on 19th. Aug numbers were more modest and most birds had left by mid Sep. The last birds reported were of four at Donna Nook on Oct 5th.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in winter but recorded in most months.

Peak counts	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Alkborough Flats	-	-	11	36	8	22	100	300	-	-
Barton Pits	-	12	30	80	23	25	43	100	52	-
Donna Nook	-	1	65	60	80	-	1300	190	110	-
Gib Point	-	4	332	168	35	850	2100	10500	397	4
Freiston Shore	-	-	29	35	12	20	300	80	4	-
Frampton Marsh	-	2	20	50	5	30	100	200	8	-
Whisby NP	-	2	8	26	4	4	6	11	5	-

A very early bird was at Tunnel pits Wroot on Mar 12th with the next two at Boultham Mere on the 21st, two at Whisby NP and two at Marston STW on the 22nd with one at Messingham SQ on the 23rd. One or two birds were then seen at 27 locations across the county, in the last week of March with 12 at Toft Newton Res 30th and 6 Kirby Pits 31st. Usually the main passage period is from the second week of Apr until mid Jun and 2010 followed this pattern. Gib Point had the highest totals at the end of the month with more than 300 recorded on both the 25th and 30th. Although the May peak counts are less impressive, good numbers continued to pass through with Gib Point having more than 100 on ten days in the month. Although a widespread breeding bird in the county, there were very few reports of documented breeding success. The BTO population data shows a continuous slight upward trend for the East Midlands and England as a whole, but county data shown for comparison indicates a substantial increase in Lincolnshire since 1994, a welcome trend.



Return passage spans early Aug to mid Sep with stragglers into Oct and Nov and occasionally Dec. This proved to be the case in 2010 with some very large totals recorded during Aug and Sep, but southward movement started in late Jul when Gib Point recorded 850 south on the 30th. This continued through Aug with maxima of 2100 at Gib Point on 21st, 1200 at Donna Nook on 22nd and an estimated 1200 per hour past Witham Mouth on 28th. Sep provided the highest counts, peaking at Gib Point with 10500 on the 9th. Of this total, 8000 went south and 2500 were counted going to roost. The other main sites are listed in the peak counts table. The bulk of the birds moved on during the first half of Oct with the largest counts recorded being 52 south at Barton Pits on 1st, 110 at Donna Nook on 5th and 387 at Gib Point on 6th. The last three figure count of the autumn was 122 south at Gib Point on Oct 12th and most birds had departed by the last week of the month. There were two late records of stragglers in Nov, four south at Gib Point on 2nd and four at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 4th.



Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Goxhill Jun 10th 2010 © Graham Catley

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Peak counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Barton Pits	3	40	15	9	25	50	-	-
Donna Nook	8	14	3	-	45	85	24	-
Gib Point	24	243	90	50	800	955	212	1
Frampton Marsh	2	18	10	14	4	-	-	-
Marston STW	1	20	30	5	50	70	24	-
Messingham SQ	15	100	-	-	-	11	-	-

A bird recorded at Manby Flashes on Mar 21st was the first of the spring, and was followed by one at North Hykeham Pits on Mar 25th. Birds continued to arrive in small numbers throughout Apr but it wasn't until 20th that double figure flocks were seen, when there were 20 at Humberston Fitties and 22 at Covenham Reservoir both on 20th, and 30 at Sleaford on 29th. Spring passage peaked in May with a significant arrival on 2nd, when notable counts were made at Gib Point (25), Freiston Shore (75), Covenham Res (75) and Boultham Mere (80), followed by 100 at Messingham SQ on 3rd. The peak May count was at Gib Point when 243 were counted, including 213 going south. Return passage begins in late Jul peaking in Aug and Sep, a pattern similar to Barn Swallow. At Gib Point 50 were recorded on Jul 17th but significant numbers were not seen until the second week of Aug when there were 87 south on Aug 11th. Numbers continued to build with 100 in Lincoln on Aug 20th, a maximum of 800 at Gib Point on Aug 21st and 200 at Witham Mouth on Aug 28th. Sep saw numbers increase with Gib Point recording 955 on Sep 15th and 100+ on seven other dates. Inland, Marston SW had a notable flock of 70 on Sep 16th. Birds quickly cleared the county during the first two weeks of Oct, with a maximum of 212 south at Gib Point on 6th. The last record of the autumn was one south at Gib Point on 2nd November.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Rare passage migrant. LBRC

There were two or three records of this attractive Mediterranean rarity. The first was observed coming in off the sea at Gib Point on Apr 26th (KMW, TBg) with either the same bird or another recorded south over the East Dunes on Apr 30th (KMW). There was a single autumn record with one at Donna Nook on Oct 5th (SL).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor with some birds now resident. First proved breeding in 2008. LBRC, RBBP



Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* Far Ings Jan 27th 2010 © Graham Catley

After the expansion summarised in last year's report and a cold beginning to the year which might have been expected to knock this species back, 2010 again saw confirmed breeding of Cetti's Warbler in Lincolnshire at two different sites. Birds were reported from Jan to Nov at Barton Pits with a maximum of six singing males through Apr and May, and a brood of at least two juveniles observed on Jun 11th. A maximum of ten birds were reported on Oct 31st but as severe weather set in numbers fell dramatically to a single bird from Nov 7th to 28th. Given that eight birds were present during Nov and Dec 2009, although only two remained during Jan 2010, the hard winter that started during Nov clearly had an impact on this species in Lincolnshire as can be seen from the following summary:

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	1	2	1	5	3	2	2	1	2	4	4	0
Max. Lincs total	2	3	4	10	5	7	2	4	5	13	7	0

It appears that the small resident Lincolnshire population is being continually augmented by migrants from further south and there may be under reporting of some long staying individuals to protect potential breeding birds from disturbance. A pair of birds at a site on the Lincolnshire coast were seen with fledged young in Jun. Long stayers were reported from Marston STW from Feb 25th to Nov 15th, and Tetney Blow Wells from Apr 22nd through to late Jun. Other records were singles at Langtoft Pits, Baston on Apr 20th, Chapel Pit on May 21st, Benniworth Haven on May 28th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Jul 23rd, Anderby Creek on Oct 2nd, Boultham Mere from Oct 11th to Nov 15th and Goxhill Marsh on Nov 6th – 7th.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	20	9	11	7	2	11	11	20	14	20	15	15
Gib Point	12	10	9	8	13	17	20	23	32	59	31	21
Whisby NP	35	42	23	7	10	98	63	30	68	52	29	20

A widespread species found in suitable areas of deciduous woodland, scrub, gardens and from the coast, with records received from 72 locations throughout the county. The only regularly counts are shown in the above table. Counts of over twenty birds were received from 13 sites, including 30 at Swanpool on Jan 7th, 25 Ingoldsby Wood on Feb 19th, 98 Whisby NP during Jun, 20 Wainfleet Common on Aug 25th, 30 at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 2nd, 20 Worlaby Carrs on Oct 2nd, 21 Donna Nook on Oct 5th, 20 Welbourne Heath on Oct 16th. 59 Gib Point on Oct 25th, 20 Marston STW during Nov and 20 in Grantham on Dec 12th. There were two interesting ringing recoveries: a bird ringed at North Somercotes in Nov 2008 was controlled at Whisby NP on Aug 27th having travelled inland 60km and a juvenile ringed at Gib Point in Jun 2009 was controlled in Theddlethorpe St Helen's on Oct 16th having travelled 31km.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Vagrant. LBRC

2009. One was seen at Gib Point during Sep 13th-17th 2009 (MKB, JPS, KMW). It was first located at Aylmer Avenue on the 13th and re-found at the Plantation on the 15th-17th. This was the thirteenth record for Lincolnshire. The first at North Cotes on Sep 5th 1896 was also the first for Britain. There were nine during 1958-1984, including three in 1976 and two in both 1977 and 1981, then singles in 2002 and 2005. All have been on the coast between Donna Nook and Gib Point, and the extreme dates are 14th Aug in 1976 and 22nd Sep in 1984.

Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Vagrant. LBRC

Five individuals occurred, spread across the full range of typical Pallas's passage dates. The first was trapped and ringed on Oct 10th at Donna Nook, where it remained until the 12th (JS *et al.*). On the latter date, one was seen moving south through the East Dunes at Gib Point, and another was seen at Gib Point in the saltings sycamores on Oct 14th (both KMW). On Oct 31st, one was at Pye's Hall (JS). The fifth bird was one at Gib Point on Nov 17th-18th (JRS). Apart from the one at Freiston Shore in May 2007, the one Lincolnshire record earlier than this year's was one at Gib Point on Oct 9th 2005 but there have been two previous Oct 10th records, in 1982 and 1992. The previous latest record was one at Donna Nook on Nov 17th 1996.



Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* Donna Nook Oct 10th 2010 © James Siddle



Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* Donna Nook Oct 11th 2010 © Graham Catley

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Rare/scarce passage migrant Sep-Nov, exceptional inland. Has increased and become regular in recent years.

About 28 individuals occurred this year, though it is difficult to distinguish new arrivals in some cases. The first was one at Seacroft on Sep 25th, followed by one further south at Gib Point on the 26th. Two, one of which was trapped and ringed, at Gib Point on Sep 27th are assumed to have been new arrivals, and on the same date there was one at Rimac. On the 28th, there were singles at Donna Nook and Gib Point, with probably the same birds present on the 29th, joined by another at Gib Point, which remained to the 30th, and one at Pye's Hall. Two at Donna Nook on the 30th are assumed to have been the same as previous ones in that area, though they could have been different. On Oct 2nd, two were seen at Brickyard Lane End, one was at Anderby and one at Gib Point. Two at Donna Nook (one trapped and ringed) and one at Gib Point on Oct 4th are assumed to have been new arrivals. Additional birds in the Donna Nook area were one at the Stonebridge car park at Donna Nook on Oct 7th, one near Pye's Hall on Oct 8th-9th, two east of Stonebridge on Oct 9th with two-three there (two of them new) on the 10th. Meanwhile, further south, there was one on Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 8th-10th, and one at Gib Point on Oct 8th. Next came one at Gib Point on Oct 12th with another there on Oct 14th-16th, and also one at Crook Bank on Oct 14th. All of the previous records were typical of autumn passage but one more unusual record was of one inland at Deeping Lakes NR on Nov 30th (DGr).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare/scarce passage migrant. LBRC

The total of eleven individuals was higher than in most recent years. The first of the year, and the only acceptable spring record, was one singing at Temple Wood on May 1st (TBa). Autumn records began with one trapped and ringed at Gib Point on Jul 4th and another, a first-year, there on Jul 25th (GPBO) and two seen there on Aug 3rd-6th (GPBO, PS, PSc). Next, there were two at Donna Nook on Aug 11th (JS) before another first-year bird was ringed at Gib Point on Aug 18th (GPBO) and at the end of the month one was seen at the Humber Bridge Viewing Area, Barton on Aug 31st (GPC). The only later records were of one at Pye's Hall on Sep 8th-9th (GW, JRC, ACS) and one at Donna Nook on the late date of Oct 7th (SL). Most last dates for Wood Warbler in Lincolnshire are before the end of Sep but there have been at least two later than Oct 7th, including one at North Cotes on Oct 23rd 1988.



Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Humber Bridge Viewing Area, Barton Aug 31st 2010
© Graham Catley

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Rare/scarse in winter.

Siberian Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis*. LBRC

The only reports in Jan-early Mar were singles on two or more dates at each of Whisby NP, Swanpool and Sleaford. One at Messingham SQ on Mar 12th was the first elsewhere, with two at Swanpool the following day and more thereafter. There were 12 at Whisby NP by Mar 27th, and the maximum count there was 44 in Apr. Few other areas were counted systematically, and only three other breeding sites had peaks of 10 or more: Messingham SQ, Nocton Wood and Temple Wood. There was a count of 20 at Gib Point on Apr 8th but generally coastal spring passage was not very strong. The huge recent increase in breeding populations is not obvious from LBC records, and there are insufficient data for a county index but the BBS indicates a massive 187% increase during 1995-2009 in the East Midlands region, which includes most of Lincolnshire. Autumn passage was apparent by late Aug but the largest counts were made during late Sep-mid Oct. The majority of totals exceeding 50 were at Gib Point, where there were 54 on Sep 28th and 62 on the 30th, while elsewhere (prior to passage peaking on Oct 9th-10th) the maximum was 25 at Mablethorpe North End on Oct 2nd. On the 9th, there were 94 (26 trapped) at Gib Point and 70 counted in the Pye's Hall-Donna Nook area, with 95 in the latter area on the following day as well as smaller but less well counted accumulations elsewhere along the coast. Counts at Gib Point during Oct 10th-15th were in the range 32-54. Numbers diminished rapidly over the next few days, and though there were still 10 at Gib Point on Oct 19th, passage effectively then ended. Nov reports came from four coastal localities, including up to three at Gib Point, while in Dec there were singles at Stallingborough, Pinchbeck and Sleaford STW and one-two at Gib Point.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant.



Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* Donna-Nook Sep 7th 2010 © John Clarkson

The first of four late Mar records at widely spread locations was one at Baston-Langtoft Pits on Mar 26th, followed by one at Whisby Quarry on Mar 28th. There were double-figure counts at Gib Point on Apr 8th-9th and regularly during Apr 16th-May 1st, peaking at 25 on Apr 18th, and large numbers were present elsewhere by the end of Apr, including up to 39 at Whisby NP, 80 at Barton Pits on the 24th and 40 at Donna Nook on the 25th. Few breeding reports were received but they included 25 pairs at Water's Edge, Barton, and three pairs at the Crook Bank breeding survey area. There were also up to 36 at Gib Point in mid May, presumably mainly local breeding birds. Willow Warbler has been declining sharply in England, with the BBS index for the East

Midlands (including most of Lincolnshire) down 46% during 1995-2009. Autumn movement was evident from late Jul but numbers were mostly unexceptional. However, high counts at Gib Point included 96 on Aug 8th, 172 on the 11th and 114 on the 12th, then a large fall estimated at 295 on Aug 22nd, and 106 on Aug 25th. An arrival of migrants on Sep 7th included 20 at Donna Nook, 20 at Saltfleet Haven and 41 at Gib Point. Numbers fell and records became intermittent soon after this, with only a handful of counts exceeding five. The only double-figure count after mid month was 11 at Gib Point on Sep 28th. None was seen after Oct 16th apart from one resembling the race *acredula*, with a greyish cast to its plumage, at Donna Nook on Nov 7th (JS).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

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

After records at only two places in Dec 2009, birds were more widespread in Jan-Feb this year, with reports from thirteen widespread locations. Most were single birds but there were three at Donna Nook on Jan 17th-25th and separate records of both males and females at Cleethorpes and Legbourne in Feb. Evidence that counts under-estimate the numbers present came from Gib Point, where during Jan-Feb the day maximum was four on Jan 17th but nine were ringed, with a Dutch-ringed bird trapped on Feb 13th. Presumed spring migrants were not recorded until one was at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Mar 21st, and they became more widespread, somewhat later than usual, in the first week of Apr. Coastal numbers were mostly small, the maxima being 20 at Gib Point on Apr 24th and 22 at Donna Nook on Apr 25th. Breeding populations are currently at a high level. Insufficient BBS data are available to produce a county index but in the East Midlands region (including most of Lincolnshire) numbers increased by 54% during 1995-2009. Counts included up to 56 at Whisby NP and 16 territories at Water's Edge, Barton. Continuing high productivity was indicated by the trapping of five adults and 37 juveniles at Market Stainton on Jul 30th-31st. Autumn passage was most evident from late Aug to mid Oct. All double-figure counts came from the coast, beginning with 26 at Gib Point on Aug 22nd and 21-32 there on three dates during Aug 31st-Sep 8th, before larger totals were recorded at the end of Sep. There were more than 20 at Gib Point on seven dates during Sep 27th-Oct 13th, peaking at 74 on Sep 28th, while at Donna Nook there were 40 on both Sep 28th and Oct 10th. Reports in Nov-Dec came from four locations, mostly of singles but with three at Gib Point on Nov 13th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first records were one at Callan's Lane Wood and three at Whisby NP on Apr 25th, swiftly followed by others over the next few days. There were no significant coastal arrivals in spring, and birds quickly established breeding territories. Few systematic counts were reported, but the most notable was of about 36 singing males at Whisby NP during May, well up on the total of 23 in 2009. Other relatively high counts were ten at Temple Wood on May 5th, eight at Messingham SQ on Apr 27th, six in Laughton Forest on May 6th and five at Chambers Farm Wood on May 15th. In total, birds were reported from 33 localities during Apr-Jul but this understates the wide distribution that the species still has in the county, albeit at lower densities than some other warblers and despite a declining trend (BBS for England as a whole during 1995-2009 showed a 17% decrease). Autumn passage was evident from early Aug, but in the main only single-figure counts were recorded. The highest were six at Gib Point on Aug 27th with 11 there on the 28th, eight at Gib Point on Sep 12th, and then at the end of the month, six at Saltfleet and ten at Gib Point on Sep 28th, and eight at Donna Nook and six at Gib Point on Sep 30th. There were eight at Gib Point on Oct 2nd but otherwise in early Oct reports of just one-three on several dates, mainly on the coast but including one at Witham Mouth, until the last two at Donna Nook on Oct 15th.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

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

Spread across a range of typical autumn dates, the total of 15 individuals represents a good year. The first was trapped and ringed at Gib Point on Aug 28th (MRB), and was followed by another there on Aug 31st-Sep 1st (KMW). Also on Aug 31st, one was ringed at Donna Nook (JS), and this was followed by another seen there on Sep 2nd (SL). On Sep 8th, one was at Gib Point (EJM)



Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* Donna Nook Oct 2nd 2010 © Dean Eades



Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* Donna Nook Oct 2nd 2010 © S & K Spavin

and another at North Cotes Point (DJB) but there was then a gap before two were found, again at Gib Point, on Sep 27th (JRS). One of these two was ringed on the 27th, and another, presumed to be the second bird, on the 28th (TB). Yet another was seen at Gib Point on Sep 30th, while on the same day the bird ringed on the 28th was re-trapped (KMW, TB). Also on Sep 30th, one was found beside the Stonebridge car park at Donna Nook, remaining there until Oct 5th (CA, AJH *et al.*). A different bird was found at Donna Nook, between the car park and the RAF base, on Oct 2nd (JS), on which date another was found at Mablethorpe North End (BHe). One was at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 10th with presumably the same bird trapped and ringed in the Crook Bank area on 14th (BRG). The fifth of the year at Donna Nook was seen there on Oct 12th (SL). Finally, there was a late record at Gib Point (the seventh of the year there) on Oct 27th (PNe, SNe).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

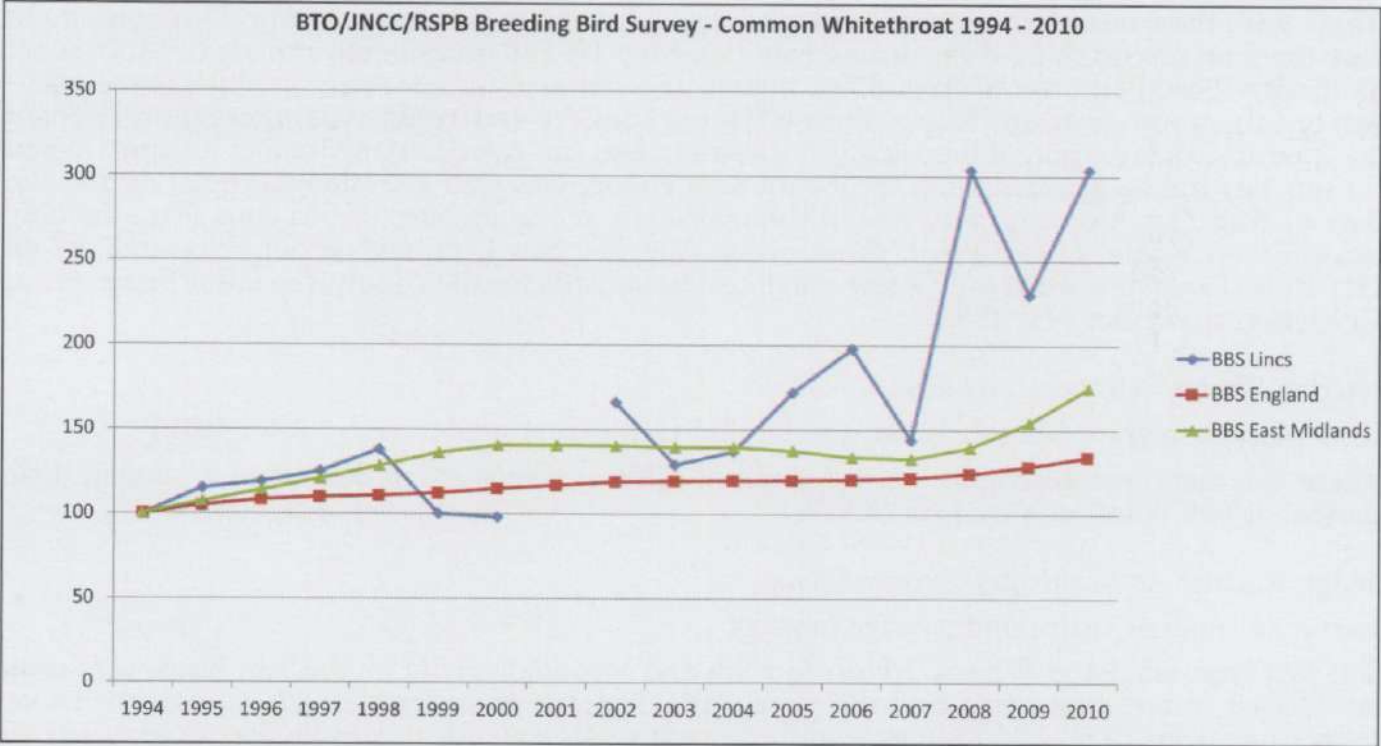
Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first were single birds at Humberston and Gib Point on Apr 17th, followed by widespread reports over the next few days, including three at Water's Edge, Barton, on Apr 18th. Larger arrivals took place towards the end of the month, with relatively high counts of eight at Donna Nook and eight between Theddlethorpe St Helen and Mablethorpe on Apr 25th. Similar or higher counts were frequent at Gib Point during May 1st-21st, including 11 on May 9th, 10 on the 15th and 14 on the 18th. Lesser Whitethroat breeds widely throughout Lincolnshire but at low densities, and few breeding reports are received. There were five-six singing males at Donna Nook by the end of Apr, five pairs at Crook Bank during May-Jun, around 14 singing males at Whisby NP and five territories on census plots at Gib Point. Autumn passage was scarcely detected away from Gib Point, where there were some double-figure counts during Jul and an early peak of 43 on Aug 2nd, before intensifying over a three-week period from mid Aug. The highest total was 52 on Aug 22nd, with frequent counts of 15 or more including 31 on Aug 25th and 21 on both Aug 27th and Sep 8th. Elsewhere, the maximum was six at Donna Nook on Aug 27th. Far fewer were noted after mid Sep though there were up to ten at Gib Point during Sep 27th-30th and three at Donna Nook on Sep 29th. There were three Oct records at Donna Nook, to the 16th, but more at Gib Point, including five on the 2nd and ending with one showing characters of an eastern subspecies on the 15th-30th.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The earliest records were singles at Belton Park on Apr 8th, Gib Point on Apr 9th and Frampton Marsh on Apr 10th-11th, but there was then a pause before more arrivals began on Apr 16th. Substantial numbers were present in the last ten days of Apr including 15 at Frampton Marsh on the 22nd, 39 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 26th and 25 at Donna Nook on the 27th, plus bigger numbers at Gib Point including five counts of 52-65. During May at Gib Point, there were five counts exceeding 100 with a maximum of 153 on the 20th, these totals presumably comprising mainly local breeding birds. Estimates of breeding numbers were received for a few other areas, including about 40 pairs at Donna Nook, 23 pairs in Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR between Crook Bank and Sears Track, about 29 territories at Whisby NP, 20 singing males at Butterwick Common/Hale in May, 23 territories at Alkborough, but these understate the species' widespread abundance. Lincolnshire habitats are highly suitable for Whitethroats, which favour low hedgerows, scrubby dyke banks and even oil seed rape crops. Their populations here and nationally are currently at a high level, as illustrated by the BBS trends shown in the chart below. The crash of 1969 is a distant memory but the species must remain susceptible to conditions in the Sahel, and additional survey coverage especially through the BBS would be welcome. Autumn passage was unexceptional. Gib Point counts exceeded 30 on six dates during Aug 19th-Sep 2nd, and maxima after mid Aug were 113 at Gib Point on Aug 22nd, up to 20 at Donna Nook in early Sep, and 15 at Saltfleet Haven on Sep 7th. Except at Gib Point, where there were 5-13 during Sep 9th-21st, there were no counts exceeding three after Sep 9th, and only singles at four localities in Oct, including one possibly showing features of the eastern race *icterops* at Pye's Hall on Oct 9th (GPC) and the last at Donna Nook on Oct 12th.



Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Vagrant. LBRC, RBBP

The individual, believed to be a female, found at Gib Point on Nov 28th 2009, remained in the northernmost part of the reserve until Feb 17th although it could be very elusive.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Decline in late 20th century but recent trend uncertain because of small population size and fluctuations.



Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* Gib Point May 1st 2010 © Russell Hayes

The first arrivals were singles at Gib Point on Apr 12th and 16th, and two on Apr 17th, followed by singles at South Ferriby and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR the following day. Reports came from about 35 localities throughout the county but especially along the coast and near the Humber.

There were three near Tetney outfall sluice on Apr 23rd, six at Gib Point on Apr 25th (with up to four there on several other dates during Apr 21st-May 1st and occasionally during Jun-Jul), six at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and five singing at Garthorpe (at least two of which remained to Jun or Jul) on Apr 26th, and four at Barton Pits on Apr 27th and in May. All other reports were of 1 – 2 birds. Confirmation of breeding is difficult but one was seen carrying food at Twyford Wood on Jun 1st, and an agitated adult, probably with young, was seen at Stallingborough on the late date of Aug 21st. After one was seen in the same area at Stallingborough on Aug 27th, the only records were singles at Gib Point: three during Aug 31st-Sep 11th, one on Sep 29th and one on Oct 10th. There have been only a few previous Oct records for the county, the latest being one at Colsterworth on Oct 21st 1995.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Rare passage migrant May-early Jun and late Jul-Oct, exceptional inland. LBRC, RBBP

There was only one acceptable record received with any supporting details, of a singing male present at Gib Point on May 19th (KMW).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

The first were singles at Whisby NP on Apr 8th and Messingham SQ on the 9th. Birds were soon established in breeding areas, and there was little evidence of spring passage. Counts of five or more came from about 20 localities, and the highest totals were 26 at Anwick Fen on May 1st, 16 at Alkborough Flats in Jun and 30 at Frampton Marsh on Jul 8th. The BBS shows a non-significant 5% decrease in England during 1995-2009 and no change between 2009 and 2010. Only single-figure counts were reported in Aug, apart from ten at Gib Point on the 11th, but there were still seven at Marston STW on Sep 4th, after which records generally became more intermittent. There was one at Donna Nook on Sep 28th but the last reports were from Marston STW, where there were two on both Sep 28th and Oct 2nd.



Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Frampton Marsh Apr 22nd 2010 © Neil Smith

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant, has increased in the last 10 years.

The earliest was one at Whisby NP from Apr 13th, preceding one at New Holland on the 17th and birds at more widespread localities from the 21st. Breeding season counts of ten or more came from about a dozen localities, but this greatly understates the abundance of this species in suitable habitat. The largest totals were 43 territories at Alkborough Flats up from 15 in 2009, 60 territories at Water's Edge, Barton, and 31 at Wyberton Marsh on Jul 31st. The BBS indicates

a significant 26% increase in England as a whole during 1995-2009 and a further rise between 2009 and 2010, but insufficient data are available to produce indices for Lincolnshire alone. The only double-figure counts after the end of Jul were ten at Gib Point on Aug 10th, 11 at Wainfleet Common on Aug 17th, 19 at Gib Point on Aug 31st, ten there on Sep 2nd and 16 on the 3rd, but reports were widespread until Sep 9th, becoming more intermittent thereafter. Oct records involved, inland, two at Marston STW on the 2nd and one near Wroot on the 5th, and on the coast, one at Donna Nook on the 4th, 1 – 2 at Gib Point on four dates to the 10th, and the last trapped and ringed at Crook Bank on Oct 14th.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor, most in Oct-Apr. Rare/scarce most winters but fairly common during large scale irruptions as in the winter 2010/11.

Reports from the first winter period were scarce; the first report of the year was of a lone bird in Horncastle on Jan 11th, with no further reports for the rest of the month. Up to three were reported in Feb mainly in the east of the county with two regular birds in the Boston area. The last records for the spring were of 28 in Grantham and five in Spalding on Mar 4th. Autumn records began in mid Oct with two reported in Tetney on Oct 17th, followed by reports from up to 30 locations throughout the rest of the month with peaks of 31 at Worlaby Carrs on Oct 24th and 30 at Wainfleet St. Mary on Oct 25th. Higher numbers were recorded throughout Nov with up to 50 at Farforth on Nov 6th and 60 at Covenham St. Bartholomew on Nov 22nd and with nine other sites recording 20 or more birds. With a Waxwing irruption in full swing in Dec, birds were more widespread, being reported from no less than 48 locations with peaks of 30 at Immingham Docks on Dec 3rd, a well-watched flock of 62 in Lincoln on Dec 9th and 80 in Bourne on Dec 28th.

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Scarce local resident.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	5	10	9	11	4	4	4	4	5	2	5	2
Minimum count	10	15	18	24	5	12	8	7	6	2	7	4

Noteworthy counts included four at Anwick Fen on Jan 10th, four at Scawby Park on Mar 21st, five at Revesby Res on Apr 18th, four at Belton Park on Jun 6th and five at Belton Park on Jul 2nd. Evidence of birds breeding came from Scawby Park, Kirmington, Owlet Plantation, Normanby Hall, Belton Park, Alkborough and Kirton Wood. However the sedentary nature of this species would suggest that birds recorded in suitable habitat during the nesting season are likely to represent a clearer picture regarding breeding distribution. A single bird recorded at Barton which flew east at the west end of Blow Wells ponds on Sep 12th was only the second record for Barton, whilst a bird trapped and ringed at Gib Point on Oct 2nd was only the fifth record at this well watched site, and caused much excitement amongst local patch watchers.

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Common resident and partial migrant.

A common woodland species recorded from around 49 locations widely across the county, with most sites recording between one to three birds. Suitable areas can hold noteworthy numbers, with 12 birds being recorded at Owlet Plantation on Mar 23rd. At Gib Point passage birds were recorded on May 15th and from mid-Jul onwards with several birds being trapped although the peak count was never more than two birds. One interesting breeding record came from Fulbeck, where a pair built a nest in a wooden framed outbuilding, behind corrugated fibre cement boarding. Four chicks were observed to successfully fledge on May 29th.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	7	4	5	5	4	5	5	7	5	6	4	-
Gib Point	15	11	16	36	24	13	16	37	31	33	23	22
Whisby NP	10	4	21	49	48	56	46	20	16	16	23	10

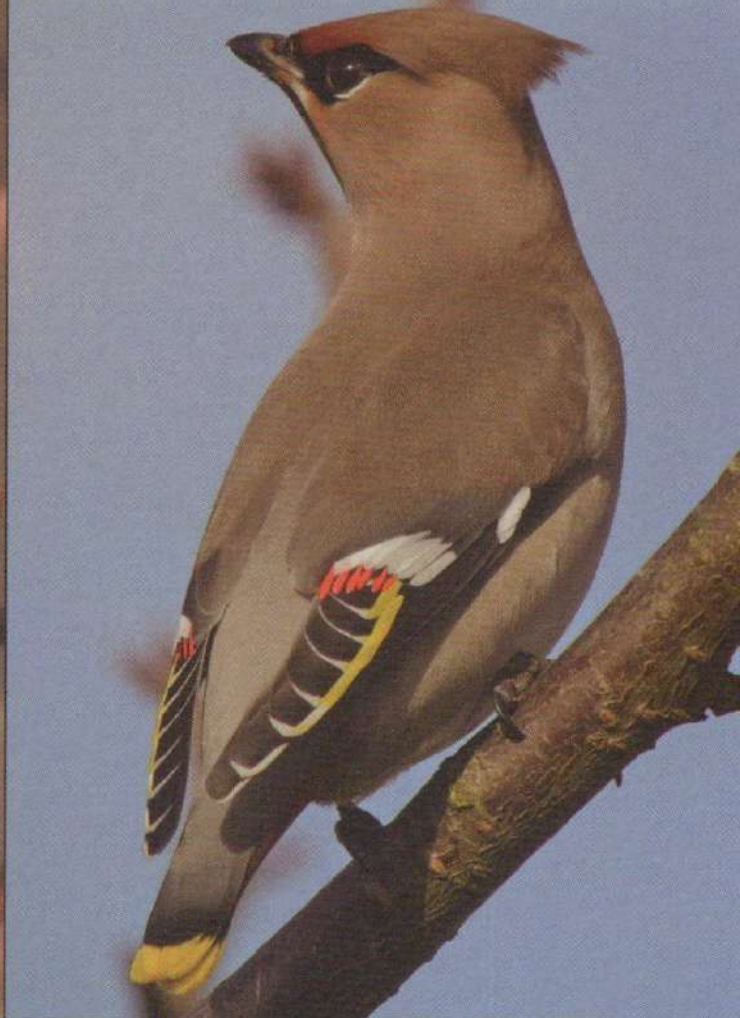
A very common, and outside the breeding season, inconspicuous species which was reported from 87 locations across Lincolnshire. For those sites where monthly counts are maintained, these are shown in the table above. BBS data from 1995-2009 shows a 12% increase nationally, although



Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* Grantham Dec 10th 2010 © Steve Nesbitt



Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* Lincoln Dec 10th 2010 © S & K Spavin

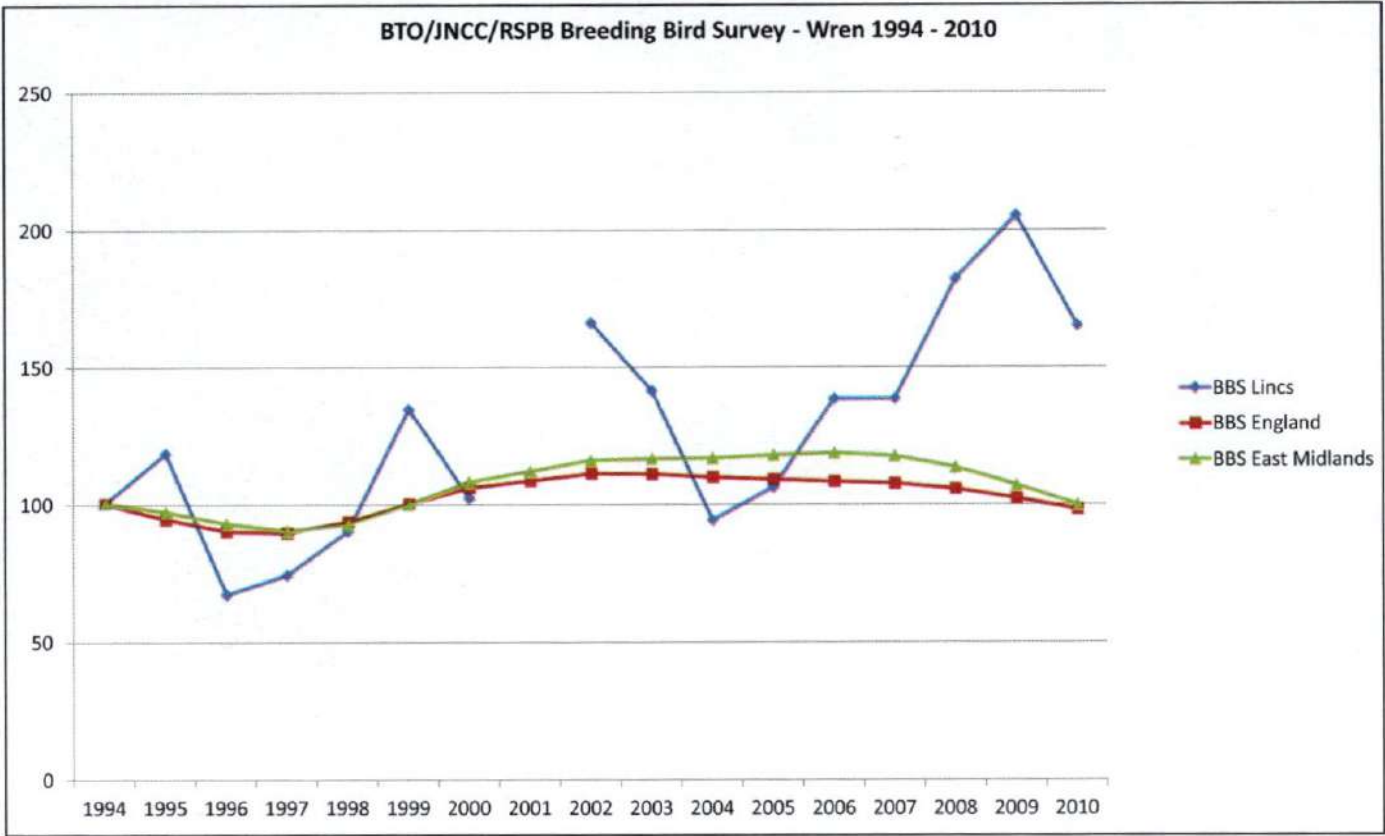


Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* (left) Lincoln Dec 10th 2010 © S & K Spavin, (right) Boston Feb 13th 2010 © Russell Hayes

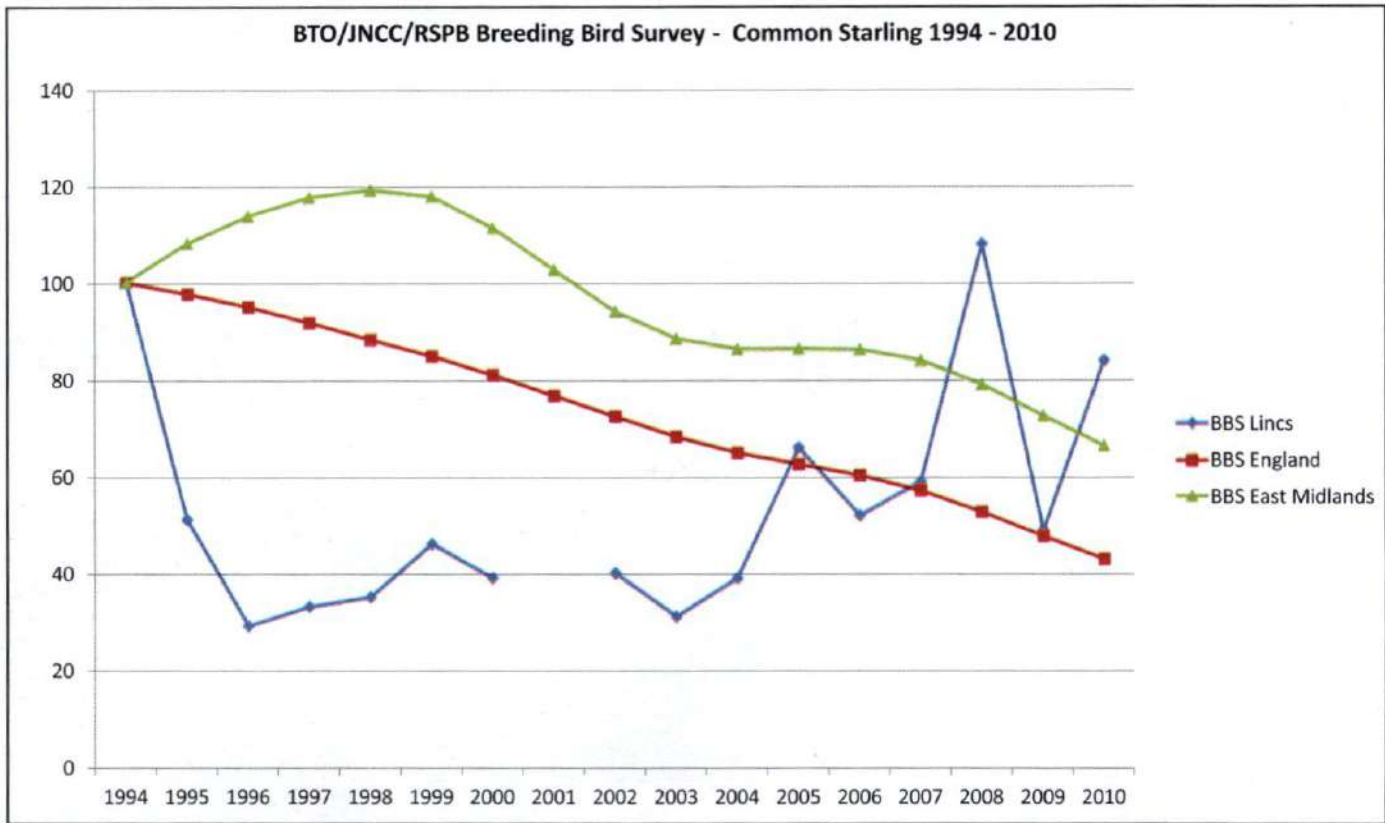


Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* Boston Feb 12th 2010 © Neil Smith

this figure reduces to 8% taking the figures just for England. The figures for the East Midlands closely follow that of the English trend, whilst in Lincolnshire the un-smoothed line suggests the population grew above the national and English average to peak around 2009, with a possible decline detectable during 2010. It therefore remains to be seen what effect the harsh weather during Dec may have had on subsequent local breeding populations.



Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*
Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.



Common and widespread throughout the county during the first quarter with flocks ranging anywhere between 1 to 500 birds, although cold weather movements may have been responsible

for the increased numbers recorded at Gib Point which peaked with 1400 on Jan 24th. There was evidence of passage during Mar when peak counts included 1920 at Gib Point on 16th, 1575 at Witham Mouth on 21st, and 1000 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 25th.

Breeding data from BBS surveys confirm the long term decline in an English and East Midlands context, although in Lincolnshire there appears to have been a slight reversal with an increasing population, from a low point during 1996 to 2003. Post breeding flocks start to build up during Jul and included 2000 at Fiskerton Fen on 14th, and 1600 at Alkborough Flats on 30th. It was the last three months of the year which produced the largest numbers, when resident birds are supplemented by migrants from the continent. Peak counts at various locations during this time included 2500 Barton Pits on Oct 1st, 2000 Coningsby on Oct 12th, 1300 Donna Nook on Oct 14th, a monthly peak count of 2000 at Alkborough Flats during Nov, an impressive 6160 at Gib Point on Nov 7th, 1500 at Humberston Fitties on Nov 9th and 3500 at Frampton Marsh on Dec 11th. All of these counts are particularly low compared to some of the roost counts in the period 1960 – 2000 and presumably reflect the decline in wintering numbers in Lincolnshire unless major winter roosts are being overlooked.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

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



Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* Donna Nook Oct 2nd 2010 © Russell Hayes

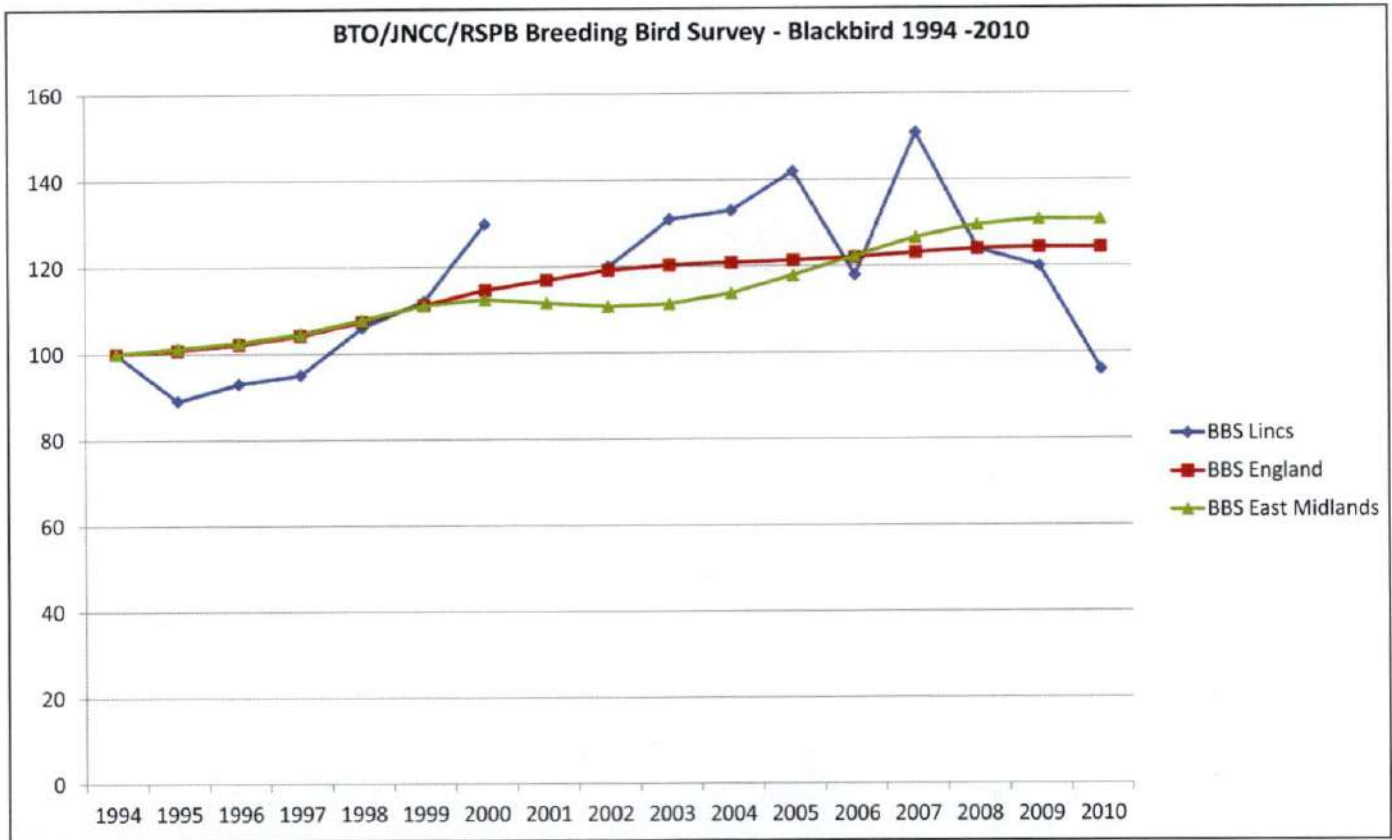
Recorded from late March with the first bird at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 27th, with perhaps the same bird on 30th and a single at Gib Point, also on 30th. During Apr, passage was light but constant throughout the month with nine coastal and two inland sites recording mostly single birds, although peak counts included four at Gib Point on 19th, two at Tetney Lock on 22nd, three at Normanby Hall on 23rd and two Donna Nook 24th-25th. May was typically quieter with singles at Hallington and Donna Nook both on 1st, Butterwick Common on 5th and Gib Point on 14th. It was a very good autumn for this species which started with a single in off the sea at Gib Point on Sep 24th. Throughout the rest of Sep and all of Oct Ring Ouzels were recorded from around ten coastal and two inland sites, with some exceptional counts made particularly at coastal locations. Here peak counts included 42 at Gib Point on Sep 28th with another notable count of 31 on Oct 9th, 16 at Donna Nook on Sep 28th, five at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 9th and seven at Donna Nook on Oct 7th, with all other sites recording between one to four birds. The three inland records were singles in Lincoln on Sep 29th, Goxhill Haven Oct 12th and Nocton Fen on Oct 22nd. Perhaps not surprisingly after such a productive autumn there were two Nov records, with singles at Gib Point in the trapping area on 2nd and perhaps a different bird in an area known as Bean's Hole between the 3rd-10th.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	280	160	60	23	26	17	12	10	44	540	230	165
Whisby NP	80	62	47	32	83	18	42	24	24	38	100	86

The table above gives a comparison of monthly counts with some additional sites now included where regular counts are being undertaken. The spike during the autumn and winter months refers to immigration by continental birds. Elsewhere there was only one other coastal site, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, which recorded any notable counts over 100 birds with a peak of 300, of which 100 were trapped and ringed, on Oct 25th. A fall of 100 birds was noted at Goxhill Haven Nov 7th.



The latest BBS report shows that Blackbirds are currently doing well, with overall a 26% increase in population nationally between 1995-2009. This is mirrored very much in the graph above at all three levels depicted (English, East Midlands and Lincolnshire).

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

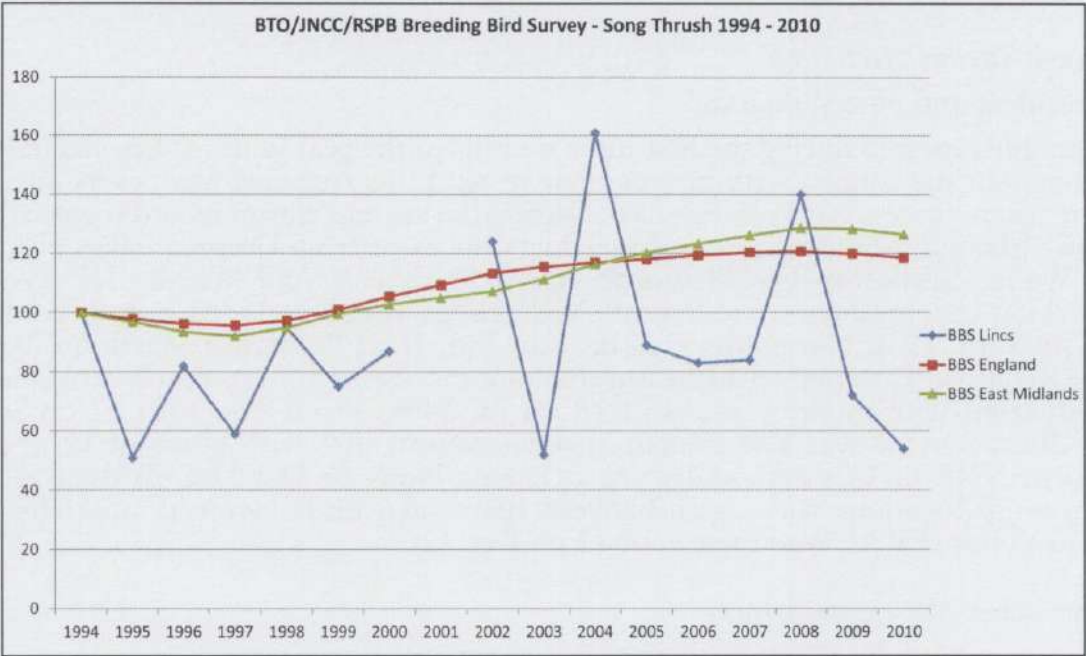
Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-Apr; rare in summer. RBBP

Common and widespread throughout the county during the first half of winter, with some very noticeable coastal movements perhaps brought about by cold weather. Gib Point could not be beaten with a Jan peak count of 3000 on 30th and a Feb peak count of 3990 on 7th, whilst elsewhere counts included 1400 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and 1050 at Donna Nook both on Jan 1st. As to be expected records declined during Mar, and most birds had left by the third week in Apr with late birds including, one at Riseholme Park and two Saltfleetby both on Apr 27th. There was one May record with a single at Normanby on 14th. The first returning birds were five at Raithby (Louth) on Sep 25th followed by one at Gib Point on Sep 30th. There was then a gap until Oct 8th when three were at Grainthorpe Marsh and three at Gib Point. Arrival was widespread thereafter and continued through Nov and Dec although numbers were lower than at the beginning of the year. During this time notable counts of 500 or over included, 550 at Willingham-by-Stow on Oct 20th, 600 at Worlaby Carrs on Nov 23rd, 650 at Frampton Marsh on Dec 11th, 700 at Freiston Shore on Dec 18th, 500 at Goxhill Marsh on Dec 19th and 500 at Alkborough Flats on Dec 31st.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Common and widespread during the first quarter although, apart from Gib Point, nowhere numerous with peak counts of only six at Anwick Fen on Feb 20th and six at Swanpool on Mar 5th. Peak counts for Gib Point during the period included 45 on Jan 31st, 26 on Feb 14th and 20 on Mar 2nd. BBS figures indicate that Song Thrushes have increased in the UK by 24% between 1995-2009. The figures for England show the population increased by 22%, with the results for the East Midlands following a similar trend. At a local level the un-smoothed trend for Lincolnshire appears to show a fluctuating pattern, but when ‘smoothed’ out a similar pattern to both the English and East Midlands trends is revealed. A marked autumn passage was evident during the last week of Sep and into Oct which included some impressive counts at Gib Point with 633 on Sep 28th and 715 on Oct 10th. Elsewhere other counts of note included 200 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Sep 27th, 200 at Saltfleet on 28th, 150 Grainthorpe Marsh, 100 Donna Nook and 300 Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR all on Oct 9th and 220 Donna Nook on Oct 10th. For the last two months of the year peak counts included 11 at Barton Pits on Nov 1st and eight at Tunnel Pits (Wroot) both Dec 1st, and at Gib Point 20 on Nov 5th and 28 on Dec 24th.



Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* Grantham Jun 6th 2010 © Steve Nesbitt

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

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

Common and widespread throughout the county during the winter period with typically flocks numbering between 1 and 100 birds. There were some noticeable coastal movements during early Jan including 525 at Donna Nook and 530 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR both on 1st, although Gib Point only recorded a peak count of 200 on four dates during the month. Numbers typically declined during Mar and most birds had departed by the third week of Apr, with late birds including singles at Normanby Hall on 22nd-23rd and Donna Nook and Willoughby both on 24th. There were three May records with single birds at Donna Nook on 22nd and Gib Point on 21st and 29th. The first birds of autumn were three at Gib Point on Sep 11th, followed by 20 at Gib Point and four at West Ashby Pits on Sep 26th, with further daily arrivals for the rest of the month. The main arrival period was during Oct with a peak count for Gib Point of 1250 on 10th and elsewhere, 500 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on four Oct dates, 300 at Witham Mouth on 9th and 430 at Donna Nook on 10th. Birds moved inland during Nov and Dec and again became common and widespread. Peak counts during this period included 154 at Willingham-by-Stow on Nov 7th, 133 at Gib Point on Nov 18th, 200 at Stallingborough on Dec 8th and good numbers at Barton Pits during Dec with a max count of 500 on 18th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Fairly commonly reported during the first three months of the year with records from 34 locations spread throughout the county, with between one to ten birds recorded from every site other than South Kyme where there were 31 in Feb 21st. During the nesting season records came from around 42 locations although submitted proof of breeding only came from Deeping Lakes NR, Gib Point, Ingoldsby Wood, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, Pinchbeck, and Whisby NP. Post breeding autumn flocking can produce some decent sized groups which included a peak count of 36 at Holme on Jul 17th, 19 at Normanby Hall on Aug 2nd, 28 at Wyberton Marsh on Aug 31st and 30 at Stoke Rochford Park on Sep 13th. Autumn months also saw a noticeable movement of birds through Gib Point with monthly peaks of 18 on Jul 24th, 39 on Aug 15th 12 on Sep 6th and 12 on Oct 30th. Passage was also evident at other coastal sites with peaks of 12 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 12th and seven at Donna Nook on Oct 31st. At the end of the year reported from 25 locations with again between one to ten birds involved, apart from just one double figure count at RAF Waddington of 12 on Dec 12th.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Formerly common, now very local summer visitor and passage migrant.



Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* Linwood Warren Jun 21st 2010 © Russell Hayes

The first returning bird was at Billingborough on May 9th, followed by singles at Belton Park on May 13th and Holdingham and Barton-upon-Humber both on May 14th. The rest of the month and into early Jun saw a widespread arrival, although at best records were thinly distributed within the county. Coastal records were once again lacking, with the only notable day counts being at Gib Point with three on both May 17th and 30th and Donna Nook (Pye's Hall) with two on Jun 1st. Summer records came from 15 sites during Jun and an additional six in Jul, an increase from the previous year, with most of these sites referring to likely breeding areas. Encouragingly more confirmed breeding information was submitted this year, with at least 11 of these sites recording nesting pairs and/or the presence of juv birds, although this must still under represent the true breeding status of the species in the county. During Aug birds were recorded from 15 sites, with at least one of these sites referring to a late nesting pair, although the majority were migrants with high counts of three at Rippingale on 10th, 12 (inc two trapped and ringed) at Gib Point on 22nd, three at Swanpool on 27th and three at Dunsby Fen on 28th. Just nine sites accounted for all the records during Sep with a notable passage at coastal sites. Here typical day counts were between one to five birds with higher counts including ten at Donna Nook on 5th increasing to 21 on 7th, eight Grainthorpe Marsh 6th-8th, and nine at Gib Point on 8th. Inland counts included nine at Linwood Warren on 4th and four at Dunsby on 15th. There were several records during the first half of Oct all but one of them coastal, with a high count of three at Donna Nook (Stonebridge to Pye's Hall) on 10th, with presumably one of these birds still present on 11th, this being the last record for the year.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	18	11	9	10	8	7	2	4	13	32	11	6
Gib Point	24	32	25	47	21	24	9	27	901	360	75	24
Whisby NP	18	27	29	38	28	29	29	34	62	39	37	13

A common bird throughout the county, which has seen just a modest 19% increase in its population during the BBS period 1995-2009. The table above gives a comparison of monthly counts, and it is encouraging to see some additional sites where regular counts are now being undertaken. As in previous years large numbers from Scandinavia cross the North Sea in the autumn to join our resident birds, and this can be detected in at least three of the tabulated sites during Sep and Oct. It appears the autumn produced greater numbers than normal with several coastal sites producing day counts of between 100 and 200. However nowhere beat the 901 (including 157 trapped and ringed) recorded at Gib Point on Sep 28th when there were also 600+ at Donna Nook, 200 at Saltfleet and 30 between Stonebridge and Pyes Hall. Other notable counts over 200 included 400 at Donna Nook (including 103 which were trapped and ringed), and 300 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR both on Oct 10th.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*

Vagrant. BBRC

2009. Details of a second bird for the year were received too late for inclusion in the 2009 Lincolnshire Bird Report. A first year was caught and ringed at Gib Point on Sep 19th during a good fall of common migrants, and re-trapped in the same location on 26th Sep (MRB et al). Accepted by BBRC, this is the eighth record for the county.

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Scarce and local summer visitor and scarce passage migrant.

Gib Point had the honour of the first bird for the year with a very early singing individual on Apr 3rd, followed by the next singing male at Whisby NP on Apr 9th. Another bird turned up at Gib Point on Apr 29th and stayed to May 28th at least, and a third more typical migrant was present May 17th-18th. The only other migrant reported during the spring was a single at Donna Nook on May 1st. Very few breeding season records came from the south of the county with one at Callan's Lane Wood on Apr 25th and three in private woodlands in the Bourne area on Apr 26th. In mid Lincs the annual census at Whisby NP located 12 singing males, a small increase on the year before, and once again nesting was confirmed with a pair observed feeding young in the nest on Jun 4th, and an adult feeding a fledged juvenile nearby on Jul 10th. In the Bardney Limewoods complex dusk surveys by one observer revealed some interesting results, and hint that there may be more Nightingales in this area in recent years than previously thought. Three were in Rand Wood on Apr 27th, one Hatton Plantation and four Minting Park (part of Chambers Farm Wood)

on May 6th, and three in Thistle Starr/College Woods on May 8th. Nearby for the second year running a single was recorded from Willingham Woods on Jun 4th. In the north of the county there was just a single record from Swallow on May 27th. There were no autumn records for this species for this year.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

L s svecica Red-spotted Bluethroat a rare passage migrant in spring and autumn,

L s cyanecula White-spotted Bluethroat very rare early spring migrant that has summered

Both races LBRC, RBBP

Just a single record for the year with a first year male of the Red-spotted race *svecica*, trapped and ringed at Gib Point on Sep 28th (MRB et al).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce passage migrant, rare and irregular breeder and rare winter visitor. RBBP

The year started off with two wintering birds at Lincoln Cathedral from Jan 21st to at least Mar 3rd. One was a typical all grey first year bird known as *cairii*, but the second was a first year male of a much rarer colour form called *paradoxus* distinguished by having more adult like first-winter plumage with black on the face and breast. and rufous feathering on the underparts recalling that of males found in the eastern forms. However male Black Redstarts belonging to the western form can sometimes show varying degrees of rufous within the grey underparts, and this bird eventually turned out to be a western 'red-bellied' Black Redstart (M Garner in litt). Spring passage was in evidence from Mar 22nd with two birds at Gib Point, followed by singles on Mar 23rd at Baumber and Lincoln (perhaps one of the Cathedral birds). There were further Mar records from Gib Point (three birds) and single birds at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and Covenham Res. During Apr passage involved around 14 birds at Gib Point, with singles at Covenham Res between 4th-9th and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 26th. There was one nesting attempt this year in the north of the county, with a pair observed during Jul and seen carrying food on the 19th. Autumn records commenced during late Aug with single birds at Gib Point on 29th and RAF Waddington on 31st, followed by three records in Sep with singles at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 9th, Saltfleetby St Clement on 13th – 14th and inland at Willingham-on-Stow on 22nd. Typically Oct brought a better passage of birds between the 2nd and 31st, with up to five at Gib Point, seven at Donna Nook, two each at Grainthorpe Marsh and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and a single at Freiston Shore. Nov records included a single in Skegness on 12th and perhaps just two birds at Gib Point from the 7th-15th.



Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* Pye's Hall Oct 11th 2010 © Graham Catley

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

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

A light spring passage started off with the first bird of the year at Gib Point on Apr 1st, followed by singles at Deeping Lakes NR on Apr 6th, Frampton Marsh on Apr 23rd, two birds at Theddlethorpe-Saltfleetby NNR on Apr 26th and a single at Freiston Shore on Apr 29th. There were fewer records for May and Jun with one at Humberston Fitties on May 4th, and at Gib Point two on May 9th-10th, singles on May 15th and 18th and five on the unusually late date of Jun 2nd. Sadly, there were no records received of birds in potential nesting habitat this year. Autumn was far more productive with an early bird at Frampton Marsh on Jul 7th, although it wasn't until Aug 13th before the next bird at Dunby Fen. During the rest of Aug another seven sites recorded between one to two birds, with a peak count of four at Donna Nook on 27th. Recorded virtually every day during Sep with very good passage at coastal sites, and some impressive day counts being recorded. On just Sep 28th alone there were three at North Coates, ten at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, 20 at Donna Nook, 35 at Saltfleet and 58 at Gib Point. The beginning of Oct was equally productive with records from around eight coastal sites involving typically one to eight birds, but with noticeably higher counts at Gib Point which peaked with 16 on Oct 9th. By the middle of the month most birds had passed through, and the last bird of the year was at North Cotes Point on Oct 17th.



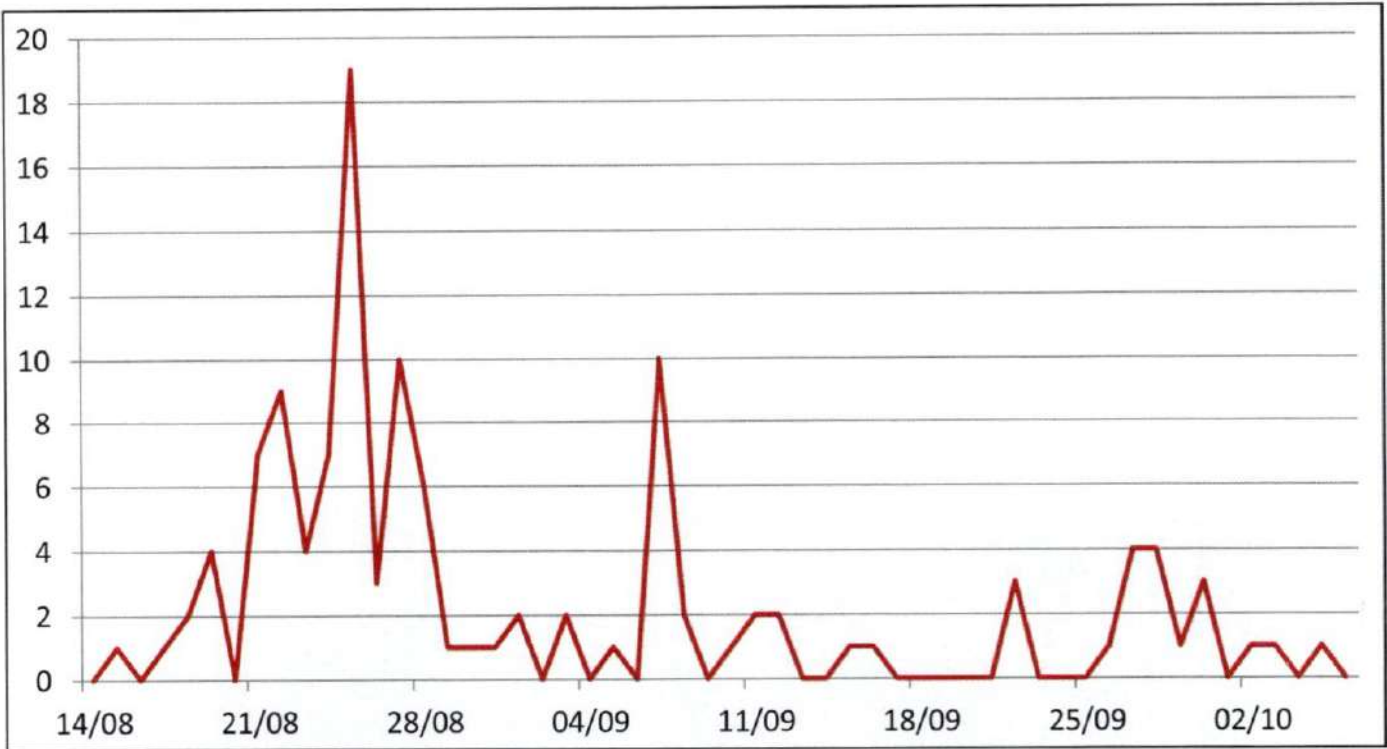
Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Donna Nook Oct 10th 2010 © Graham Catley

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Fairly common passage migrant. Formerly bred.

There was a better than average spring passage with the first bird of the year at Donna Nook on Apr 24th-25th, followed by another seven birds all at coastal locations to the month's end. May produced ten birds at eight sites, all coastal, apart from inland records of singles at Saxby all Saints on 14th and nearby Messingham SQ on 16th, whilst Jun produced just a single record at Gib Point on the 1st. Two early autumn records were singles at Fiskerton Fen on Jul 6th and Gib Point on Jul 19th, whilst Aug birds were recorded from one inland and ten coastal locations with typically one to four birds involved. Numbers were noticeably higher at Gib Point and peaked towards the end of the month with 19 on Aug 25th. There was a marked passage throughout Sep with records from three inland and ten coastal locations, with typical day counts of between one to five birds. Day counts of six or over included nine at Donna Nook on 5th with six on 8th, ten at Gib Point on 7th, and seven at Saltfleet Haven on 8th. Oct records included three at Gib Point, two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and up to four at Donna Nook, with the last record for the year at this latter site with a single on the 13th.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
No of sites	7	8	1	2	11	18	6
Peak count: Gib Point	1	1	1	1	19	10	1
Peak count: all other sites	7	8	-	1	21	45	6



Whinchat passage at Gib Point between Aug 14th and Oct 6th 2010



Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* Risby Warren Sep 11th 2010 © S & K Spavin

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

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

Siberian Stonechat *S. t. maurus/stejnegeri*. Vagrant. BBRC

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No of sites	12	5	7	3	1	1	1	2	7	12	7	2
Peak count: Gib Point	9	11	14	2	2	3	4	3	7	5	6	6
Peak count: all other sites	22	7	7	1	-	-	-	1	11	13	17	2

Harsh weather at the beginning of the year had an impact both in terms of the number of locations and in the number of birds recorded. Only Gib Point held onto reasonable numbers during Jan and Feb with a peak count of 14 on Mar 2nd during early spring passage. Elsewhere between one to three birds were seen with the only higher counts being four at Worlaby Carrs on Jan 1st, and five at Scunthorpe on Jan 4th. Gib Point was the only site in Lincolnshire this year to record breeding where two pairs fledged 13 young in dunes just to the north of the Reserve. Away from Gib Point, the first bird to be seen in the autumn was a female at Wolla Bank Pit on Aug 27th, followed by a gradual return of wintering birds with numbers peaking in Nov, although other than Gib Point nowhere recorded more than two birds. The atrocious Dec weather conditions produced records from Gib Point with a peak count of 6 on the 11th, and only one other site in the county with two birds at Marston STW between the 5th-18th.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Fairly common/common passage migrant. Former local breeder but no recent proof, although pairs are regular in late spring.



Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* Frampton Marsh Aug 16th 2010 © Steve Keightley

Greenland Wheatear *O. o. leucorrhoa* Scarce migrant in spring / autumn

The first bird of the year was at Frampton Marsh on Mar 19th followed the next day by a single at North Kelsey Moor and two at Grimsby Docks. From Mar 21st between one to three were recorded from a wide variety of locations, with a widespread passage occurring throughout Apr



Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* Pyes Hall Oct 9th 2010 © Graham Catley



Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* Pyes Hall Sep 28th 2010 © John Clarkson

and May. There were some impressive day counts during this period which included 42 at Gib Point on Apr 20th, 19 at Risby Warren on Apr 25th, 35 at Tetney Marsh on Apr 30th, 33 on Saxby Wold on May 1st, and 39 at RAF Waddington on May 2nd. Jun was generally quiet with around five records involving 14 birds, all between the 1st-10th. Juvenile birds at Gib Point on Jul 1st and RAF Waddington on Jul 5th were very early autumn passage birds, followed by singles at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and Donna Nook both on Jul 28th. During Aug and Sep a widespread passage occurred with an emphasis on coastal sites and involved typically between 1-15 birds. Peak counts were lower than in the spring, with the most notable being 21 at Saltfleet Haven on Sep 7th, and 25 at Saltfleet with 29 at Gib Point on Sep 28th. Passage continued well into Oct and although most locations recorded single figures, some notable high counts included 12 at Donna Nook and 12 at Skegness both on 2nd and 14 at Donna Nook on 10th. By the middle of Oct most birds had passed through with individuals at Grainthorpe Marsh and Gib Point both on 17th the last records for the year.

The only reports of birds showing characteristics of the Greenland race *O.o leucorrhoa* were two males at RAF Waddington between May 2nd-5th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

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

Details of two autumn records were received and accepted by LBRC, with a first winter at Donna Nook at Stonebridge on Sep 27th-28th (GW et al), and an adult male also at Donna Nook at Pye's Hall on Oct 9th (GPC, ND et al).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

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

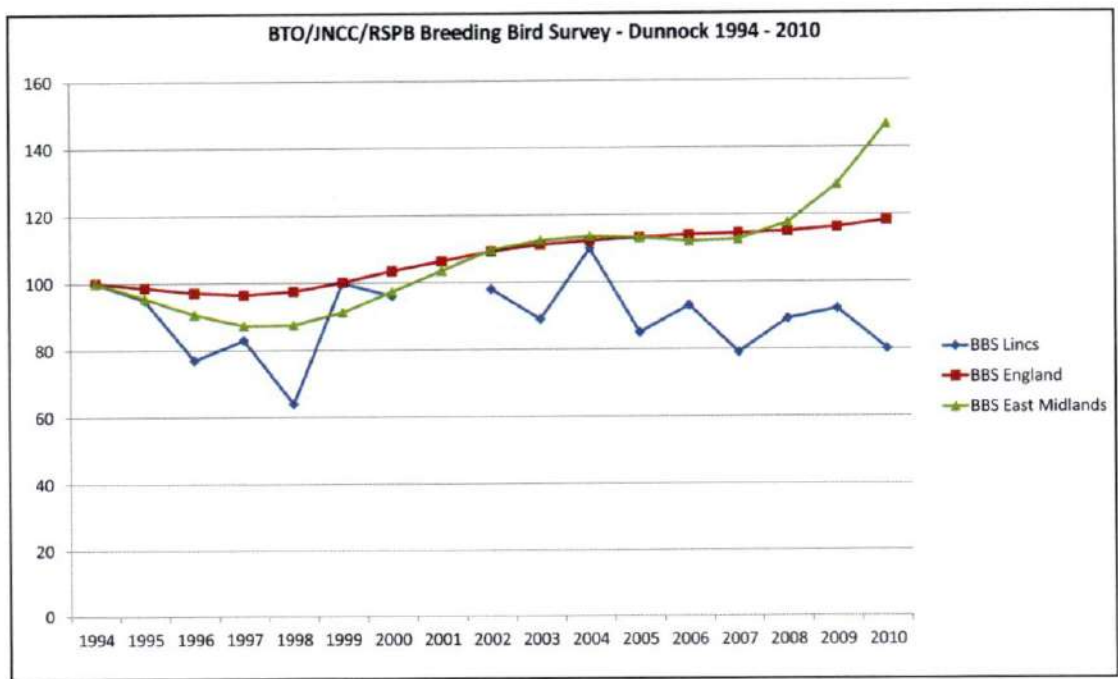
Spring passage was poor with only single birds at Donna Nook on Apr 24th, Gib Point on May 19th and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Jun 6th. Autumn was far more productive with the first returning bird at Gib Point on Aug 1st followed by several records from another three coastal sites. Peak counts included eight at Gib Point on Aug 27th and three at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Aug 28th. Recorded almost daily during Sep from around 11 locations; all of them coastal. Typically single figures were involved, although double figure counts included 11 at Donna Nook on 5th and at Gib Point, 14 on 7th and 10 on 28th. There were a good number of Oct records this year with single birds at Donna Nook on 2nd and 8th and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 10th. However at Gib Point up to seven were still present on the 2nd with the last bird for the year trapped and ringed on the 14th.

Dunnoek *Prunella modularis*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	11	10	10	10	6	6	3	5	8	14	14	10
Gib Point	16	40	56	62	45	18	28	55	109	91	13	21
Whisby NP	11	17	23	22	14	19	17	14	12	27	39	14

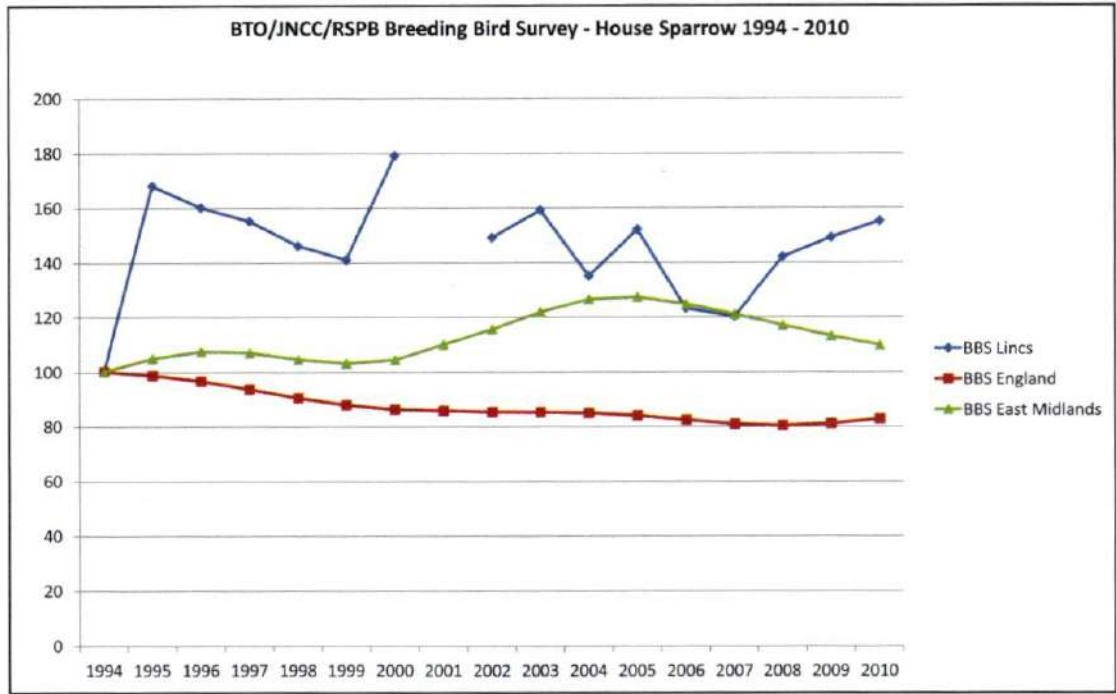
A common but often inconspicuous resident, records were received from around 71 locations with the table above giving a comparison of monthly counts. Dunnocks are partly migratory and the peaks at Gib Point during Mar-Apr and Sep-Oct help to illustrate this, but in addition there were also notable counts of 60 at Donna Nook on both Sep 28th and 30th which would also have involved passage birds. The latest BBS figures show a national increase in the population of 24% between 1995-2009, with this increase also apparent for the East Midlands. However on a more local level, the un-smoothed trend for Lincolnshire appears to show either a stable or perhaps a slightly decreasing trend for the same time period.



House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

Generally speaking the records suggest that this species continues to be distributed widely across the county, although there appears to be rather fewer records from the Fens. Amongst the various modern day challenges faced by this species, the potential loss of future nesting sites continues to loom ever larger, given the on going trend towards pre-fabricated steel clad farm buildings in the place of more traditional ones made of brick or stone, with the resultant decline of niche nesting opportunities around farmyards. Similarly, recent changes to building regulations demand newly built housing to meet with energy conservation requirements that includes pressure testing of roof voids. This in turn leads to more tightly fitting roofs with reduced opportunities for House Sparrows to seek out nesting places at eaves level. Despite these concerns, as can be seen from the latest BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Birds Survey graph for this species, currently the situation in this county remains an encouraging one, and clearly demonstrates Lincolnshire's importance for the House Sparrow. The larger gatherings outside the breeding season generally peaked at around 80 birds, with only 132 at Thornton Abbey in Feb, 100 at East Halton Skitter in Aug 29th – 30th, 90 at Goxhill on Sep 14th, and 136 at New Holland in Nov (notably all sites in the far north of the county) exceeding this total. Interestingly there were also some relatively high counts made in the summer months - these included 87 at Pyewipe in May, and no less than 250 at Humberston Fitties during Jul.



Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Based on all the data submitted, the overall total counts per month throughout the county compared well with the previous year. The availability of various agri-environment schemes, as taken up by farmers over the last 15-20 years, along with an increase in the number of outdoor pig units, supplementary farm feeding stations in winter plus sustained feeding during the summer period by garden owner's have all clearly played a role in helping to stem the previously serious tide of decline in this enigmatic granivorous species. At the same time the ever increasing threat posed by the loss of suitable cavity nesting sites as more and more mature trees with suitable features are felled for both health and safety and disease reasons and stone barns in particular are re-pointed and converted to alternative uses, continue to underline the need to ensure that sufficient nest boxes are made available to offer suitable breeding sites for this species. Double figure counts were widely reported during the first winter period and continued into spring, with a highest count of 65 at Trent Port in Feb, closely followed by 60 at Holme in Mar, with this latter site notably returning good counts throughout the year, including the summer months. Post-breeding flocking in modest numbers began to occur from mid Jul onwards and then steadily increased at the approach of autumn, with 60 at Welby in Aug, 160 West Rasen in Sep, 116 at Welbourn Heath in Oct, and finally 124 at Knaith in Nov proving to be the month's maximums. In contrast there was a marked reduction in flock size counts during Dec which coincided with the extremely cold and snowy conditions that prevailed for the much of that month, with just 26 birds at Frampton Marsh providing the highest count. Very few actual nesting records were submitted again, making it impossible to determine whether or not there are any more potentially favoured areas within the county where this species gathers to breed at times when a greater source of insect food is required to feed the young. An overall total of 125 birds were trapped and ringed at two sites - Kirkmond le Mire and Stenigot in the high Wolds, between Jan and Mar.



Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* Frampton Marsh Nov 25th 2010 © Steve Nesbitt

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant mostly Apr-Sep;

Blue-headed Wagtail *M.f.flava* Scarce passage migrant, mainly spring. Has bred sporadically. LBRC, RBBP

Grey-headed Wagtail *M.f.thunbergi* Rare and irregular spring migrant. LBRC

Ashy-headed Wagtail *M.f.cinerocephala* Two spring records. BBRC

Males resembling other races have occurred, but are most likely to be hybrids.

The first birds of spring were early with a single at Alkborough Flats on Mar 26th, closely followed by three at Toft Newton Reservoir from Mar 30th-31st. Spring high counts included 47 at Frampton Marsh on Apr 12th, 40 at Toft Newton Res on Apr 19th, 40 at Theddlethorpe St Helen-Mablethorpe North End on Apr 24th and 60 at Covenham Res on Apr 26th, where birds were recorded until late Aug. The highest count of the year was a monthly maximum count of 100 at Alkborough Flats during Aug, whilst Gib Point recorded a maximum daily total of 85 birds on Sep 9th. There were very few breeding records of any note, but three pairs bred at Alkborough Flats, two pairs bred at Donna Nook, and juveniles from presumably locally nesting pairs came from Elsham Village, Black Bank (Messingham), Fiskerton Fen, Midville, Torksey, and RAF Waddington. The last bird for the year was a single at Fulbeck on Oct 22nd. On the near continent Yellow Wagtail and the nominate form Blue-headed Wagtail meet to form a narrow hybrid zone. Birds in this zone vary in appearance, but can resemble male Blue-headed Wagtail except that the blue tones to the head are noticeably paler and the white of the head is more extensive, particularly on the throat, ear coverts and supercilium. These birds have been fairly well studied and this distinct intermediate population has been given the name Channel Wagtail. During 2010 the following male birds were observed which showed characteristics of Channel Wagtail. One at Alkborough Flats May 15th, one at Fiskerton Fen summered between May 27th and Jul 14th at least, one at Frampton Marsh Apr 13th-14th and two at Freiston Shore Apr 22nd at least.

Observers are reminded that any claims of typical Blue-headed Wagtail should be supported by either photographs or a good field description (ideally both), and submitted to LBRC for verification. Much confusion has arisen with the intermediate form, Channel Wagtail, with some of the records listed above initially thought to be Blue-headed Wagtails. For these reasons all other claims of Blue-headed Wagtail recorded during the year have been deemed not proven.



Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* Frampton Marsh May 4th 2010 © Neil Smith

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Scarce/fairly common passage migrant (mainly coastal) and winter visitor (mostly inland). Rare breeder, formerly sporadic, but has become regular in recent years.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. Sites	10	11	14	7	9	9	6	4	12	25	15	9
Minimum Count	13	14	18	14	18	14	8	21	24	34	17	14

Birds were seen during every month of the year and were recorded from 65 sites, which had a similar coastal bias to that recorded in 2009. Breeding was recorded at Cogglesford Mill, Sleaford, where the first brood had fledged two nestlings by May 11th, and a second brood was observed being fed in the nest on Jun 15th. At Barton Pits a freshly plumaged juv bird was recorded at Waters

Edge Jun 20th. The main movement on the coast was recorded from Aug onwards, increasing at the end of the month with eight at Gib Point on Aug 28th. Between one to three birds were recorded at 25 sites in Oct, including a single recorded feeding in gardens near to Cogglesford Mill, Sleaford on Oct 15th. The prolonged period of cold weather in Dec saw birds turning up at unusual places, including a bird in a supermarket car park at Boston on Dec 12th and two in Tritton Rd, Lincoln on Dec 17th.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Common resident and passage migrant.

White Wagtail *M.a.alba* Scarce passage migrant, mainly Mar-Jun. RBBP

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	2	2	5	13	10	8	8	80	30	25	10	1
Barton Pits	1	-	3	5	3	4	6	10	19	10	1	1
Gib Point	1	-	7	14	6	7	31	72	18	6	3	-
Marston STW	-	-	100	4	2	4	-	-	-	5	60	6

Commonly recorded throughout the county, with large counts of c200 birds at North Kelsey Moor on Nov 27th and 100 at Marston STW on Mar 9th. Counts of between 50-80 birds were reported from six sites including 60 Kirkby on Bain Feb 27th, a max count of 80 Alkborough Flats in Aug, 70 Fiskerton Fen Aug 8th, 72 Gib Point Aug 28th, 51 Boultham Mere Oct 8th, 60 Marston STW Nov 24th and 80 Holbeach Dec 13th. Similar to 2009, Dec saw good numbers of birds reported with 80 at Holbeach on 13th and 57 at Colsterworth on 9th. Gib Point reported good numbers at different times, with between 25-31 birds in Jul and 72 in Aug. In addition there were ten sites that reported numbers varying from 20-49 throughout the year.

White Wagtail *M a alba*

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
No Sites	5	19	12	2	1	4	3	4
Minimum Count	15	75	28	2	3	80	5	12

The bulk of birds arrived in Mar-Apr. Four sites recording up to six birds from Mar 23rd-31st and 19 sites reporting up to a max of 25 birds on multiple dates from Apr 1st-28th. During May nine sites reported up to 13 birds from 1st-28th. There were autumn records from three sites in Sep involving one to two birds and from four sites in Oct involving one to five birds.



White Wagtail *M a alba* Apr 12th 2010 © Steve Keightley

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Rare passage migrant, mainly Sep-Nov, rarely Dec-Jan and Apr-May. LBRC

A poor autumn with five records all on the north-east coast; the first was found between Pye's Hall and Stonebridge car park at Donna Nook on Sep 28th (ND); on the 30th a party of three birds was found on the developing dunes north of Pye's Hall (GPC, ND) one of these may have been the bird seen two days previously; what appeared to be a different bird was found on the foreshore by Stonebridge Car Park on Oct 2nd (GPC et al) and finally a calling bird flew north-west up the Humber between Goxhill Skitter and East Halton Skitter on Oct 5th (GPC).



Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* Donna Nook Oct 2nd 2010 © Graham Catley

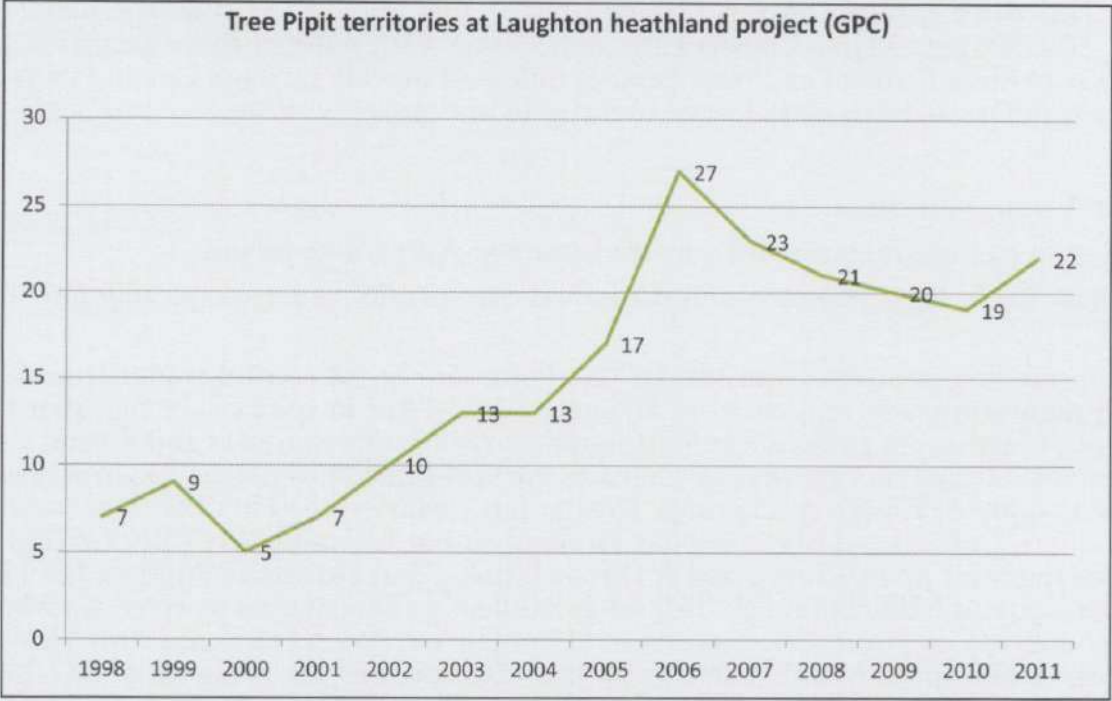
Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

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



Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* Laughton Forest Apr 22nd 2010 © Graham Catley

The first records of the year were two at Donna Nook and a total of 18 males already on territory at Laughton Forest on Apr 22nd. During the breeding season records came from just three locations, Linwood Warren a single bird, Crowle Waste single May 15th but not surveyed in 2010 and Laughton Forest – Scotton Common. An ambitious heathland recreation project within Laughton Forest managed by Forest Enterprise from 1997 onwards has produced an increasing important population centre for Tree Pipits in the county with 22 occupied territories in 2010 (see chart below produced with permission of Forest Enterprise). Elsewhere in the forest complex at least five other territories were occupied but no full survey was undertaken; in addition three territories were occupied on Scotton Common. In 2003 when 10 territories were found on the project area a full forest survey located 52 Tree Pipit territories; this was probably the highest total in the county in the past 20 years and seems unlikely to be repeated given the declines of the species in eastern England and loss of habitat due to the growth of timber on re-stocked clear-fells.



There was a protracted autumn coastal passage of Tree Pipits in 2010 as shown in the chart below with the bulk of the records coming from Gib Point Aug 10th – Oct 12th with a very late bird reported moving south calling on Nov 2nd (notes indicate that Olive-backed Pipit was not excluded). Away from the coast singles in autumn were at Alkborough Flats Aug 21st and Sep 1st, RAF Waddington Sep 8th and Goxhill Haven Oct 12th.



Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

In the first five months of the year sites with 30 or more birds on any date were; Alkborough Flats 30 on Jan 4th and 30 in Mar, Donna Nook 30 in Mar, Frampton Marsh 40 on Jan 3rd, Freiston Shore 50 on Jan 6th, 43 on Mar 19th, Gib Point 70 on Mar 23rd, 114 on Apr 8th, 39 on May 17th and RAF Waddington 40 on Apr 8th. Following the hard winter breeding territories at Alkborough Flats were down to 68 from 108 in 2009. At Frampton Marsh 126 pairs were found with 120 on the saltmarsh while 11 pairs were located at Freiston Shore. At Gib Point between Aug 31st and Oct 16th a total of 17,324 Meadow Pipit flew south with 15,045 between Sep 7th and 30th and notable day peaks of 3000 on Sep 9th, 4100 on 12th, 3200 on 16th and 1310 on 22nd; elsewhere high autumn counts included 80 at Anderby Creek on Sep 21st, 116 sw at Donna Nook on Sep 12th, 120 on Oct 10th and 130 on 13th, 150 Boston Deeps on Oct 9th, 134 Freiston Shore on Sep 13th, 120 Howden's Pullover on Sep 18th with 80 on Oct 9th, 130 Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on Oct 12th, 500 Wrangle Marsh on Sep 12th and 370 on 13th most of these occurring during the peak passage period noted at Gib Point. Passage tailed off quickly through Oct and there were very low numbers in Dec as birds were forced to move by the severe weather.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor Sep-Apr; scarce inland.

Scandinavian Rock Pipit *A.p.littoralis* Common but overlooked passage migrant and winter visitor.

Recorded in the first winter to Apr 20th at Gib Point and in the second winter from Sep 11th at Gib Point; there were only reports from 10 sites in Jan – Apr in spite of the fact that the coastal saltings from Cleethorpes to Skegness hold significant wintering numbers and several sites had no reports; birds wintering on extensive saltmarshes are very difficult to census due to access problems and are best counted on high spring tides. During Jan – Mar on the Humber there were singles at Barton from Jan 2nd-8th and Mar 1st, New Holland on Jan 14th and Mar 13th, Goxhill Haven on Mar 8th; on the coast up to 15 reported at Donna Nook, 55 at Howden's Pullover Jan 17th and 40 Feb 21st with five at Saltfleet on Feb 3rd, 60 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Mar 7th, and excellent counts at Gib Point with maxima of 80 on Jan 1st, 35 on Feb 3rd, 22 on Mar 1st and 13 on the 18th; at Frampton Marsh a census on Jan 12th revealed the presence of 132 birds with a max of 34 in Feb while at Freiston Shore there were up to 12 in Jan – Feb. Most of our wintering birds are likely to be of the Scandinavian race *A p littoralis* but birds are only certainly identifiable in early spring when they attain a distinctive summer plumage; in 2010 the only reports were from Gib Point with a maximum of six on Mar 29th and up to three to Apr 18th.

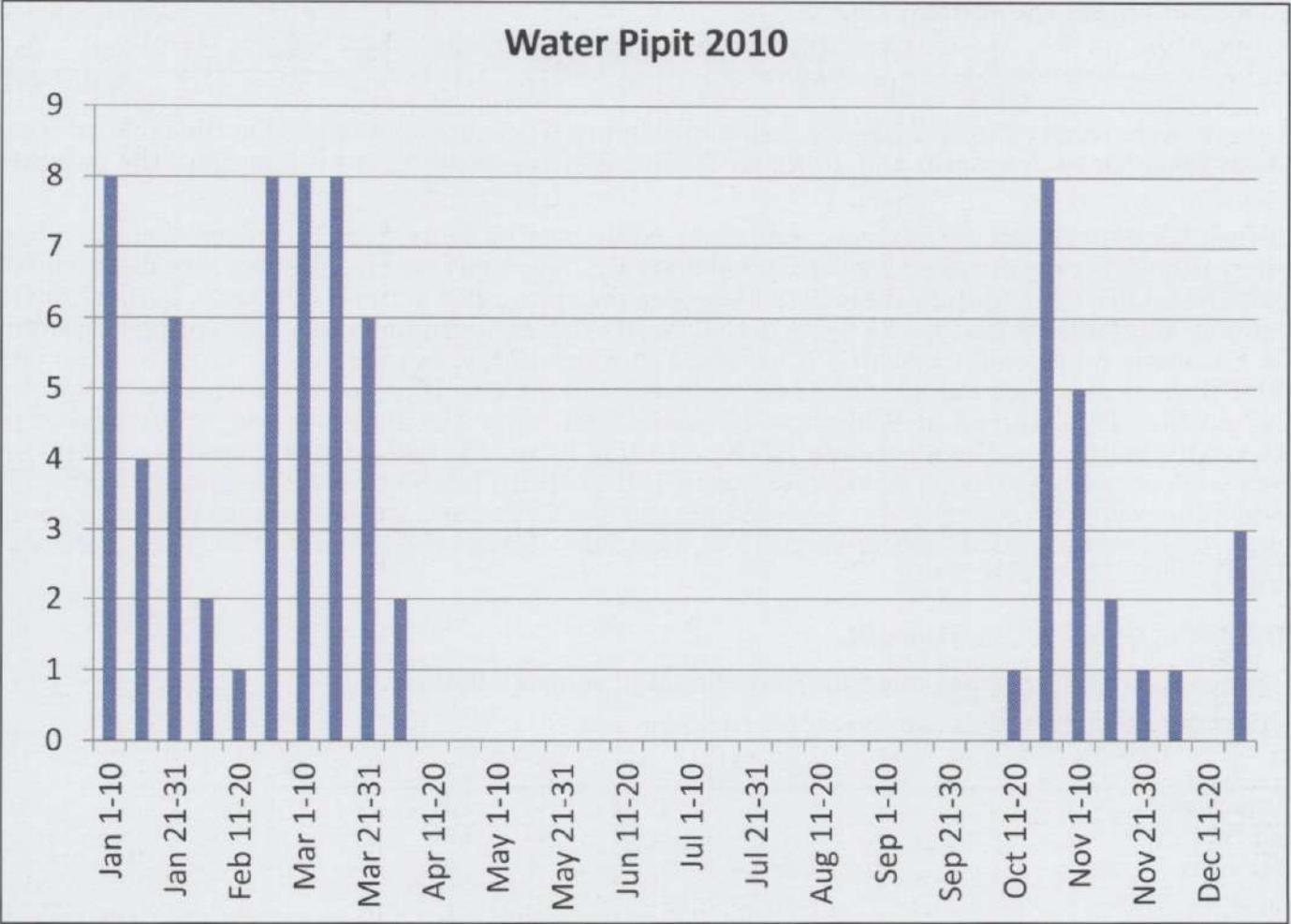
In the second winter period reported from just 14 locations with the only inland birds of the year at Covenham Res 1-2 Sep 30th – Oct 31st with one on Nov 26th and Toft Newton Res with six on Oct 12th; Elsewhere on the Humber up to three at Barton, singles Alkborough Flats Oct 4th and 17th, a max of four Goxhill Haven Nov 15th and Dec 4th, two at Read's Island Oct 10th and Nov 7th, on the coast up to six at Donna Nook with 30 on Oct 2nd, 25 Howden's Pullover on Nov 13th and 15 on Dec 9th, 10 North Cotes Oct 2nd, eight at Skegness on Nov 11th, then at Gib Point 16 south Sept 30th, a total of 755 south between Oct 8th and Nov 20th with day peaks of 57 on Oct 10th, 82 on the 18th, 52 on the 25th, 58 on Nov 2nd, 94 on the 7th, 81 on the 13th, 50 on the 26th and 21 on Dec 3rd with 33 on the 26th; high counts at Frampton Marsh were 69 on Nov 16th with 104 on the 17th but only 10 on Dec 26th while at Freiston Shore there were never more than seven during Oct – Dec.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare/scarcely passage migrant and winter visitor Oct-Apr. Mainly coastal, possibly increasing. LBRC

In the first winter period recorded from eight locations with site maxima; Alkborough Flats with four in Jan, Baston-Langtoft Pits with one in Apr, Donna Nook with eight in Mar, Frampton Marsh with one between Jan-Mar, Freiston Shore with two in Jan, Gib Point with one, Saltfleet with two in Feb and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR with six in Mar. The last of the spring was at Gib Point Apr 10th. The first of the late winter arrived at Gib Point on Oct 20th and there were records from 13 sites from then to the year-end with site maxima as follows; Baston Fen one in Dec, Donna Nook with two in Oct, Frampton Marsh with one in Nov, Freiston Shore with one in Oct, Gainsborough Landfill site with one in Dec, Gib Point with two in Oct, Grainthorpe Marsh with one in Oct, Pywipe with one in Oct, Rosper Road pools with one in Nov, Saltfleetby

St Clement with one in Oct, Tetney Marsh with one in Dec, Witham Mouth with one in Oct and Wolla Bank with two in Nov; the lack of birds in Dec was a result of the deep snow cover and severe weather.



Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* Alkborough Flats Jan 4th 2010 © Graham Catley

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Count data for all county sites is summarised as total bird days to facilitate comparison between months, they are not absolute totals:

Total Bird Days	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
All sites	576	610	1389	618	420	231	219	404	431	1711	964	639

Counts were received from 120 sites across the county. These are summarised in the table as Total Birds Days for each month, and although this is not a complete record it illustrates the monthly trends.

British Chaffinches are mostly very sedentary, rarely moving more than 5km from their breeding sites, although some northern Scottish woodlands are completely vacated. Immigrants are chiefly of Scandinavian origin, and the table here illustrates the spring and autumn influxes. Chaffinches are familiar migrants by day, flocks being active mostly during morning hours. The spring migration in Europe is protracted, occurring from mid-Feb to mid-May, but the county records show late Mar is the peak spring month. Gib Point recorded 350 on Mar 18th and there were 79 at Whisby NP on Mar 19th, and 48 at Welbourne Heath on Mar 20th. The autumn immigration peaked in Oct, with Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR recording by far the highest totals, peaking at 600 on 9th while nearby, at Donna Nook there were 150 on 10th. Inland sites at Welbourn Heath (53) and Tunnel Pits, Wroot (50) also recorded notable flocks during Oct. Inland sites recording more than 100 birds included Colsterworth (150, Dec 9th), Tunnel Pits, Wroot (120, Aug) 24th and Ludborough (119, Feb 17th).

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in summer. RBBP

Peak monthly day counts are shown for the main sites.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	-	-	-	2	18	120	2	6
Gib Point	4	-	6	2	45	130	15	1
Grainthorpe Marsh	1	-	-	-	3	36	-	-
Greetwell Hollow	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Howden's Pullover	-	-	-	-	1	8	-	-
North Cotes Marsh	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
Saltfleet	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	3	-	1	-	13	150	5	3
County totals	10	5	18	6	113	595	62	64

The year started off with very few Bramblings anywhere in the county, with a peak count of six at Gib Point on Mar 18th and the last birds of the spring being two at Donna Nook on Apr 17th. By contrast autumn saw a significant influx of Bramblings into Britain from late Sep onwards. On Sep 27th Gib Point recorded 45, Donna Nook 18 and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR 13, with for interest, Spurn Point BO recording 565 on the same date. Ten sites reported Bramblings in Sep, but as the influx continued into Oct this rose to 25. Summing the monthly peak counts per site gives a minimum of 595 birds for Oct. Apart from the sites in the table other sites recording significant flocks during Oct included Frampton Marsh (30) and Baumber (25), whilst Alkborough Flats, Skegness and Witham Mouth each had 20. Overall the total is a conservative one, as coastal sites particularly will have had a continual flux as birds arrived and departed. Birds dispersed after the Oct influx with similar counts for Nov and Dec, but with more inland sites involved. For example in Dec there were ten at Dunsby, 20 at Kirkby-on-Bain, and between one to four at Anton's Gowt, Burton Stather, Pinchbeck, Rippingale, Stainton le Vale, Tunnel Pits and Whisby NP.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Count data for all county sites is summarised as total bird days to facilitate comparison between months, they are not absolute totals:

Total Bird Days	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
All sites	810	318	419	158	93	84	124	104	119	1099	287	431

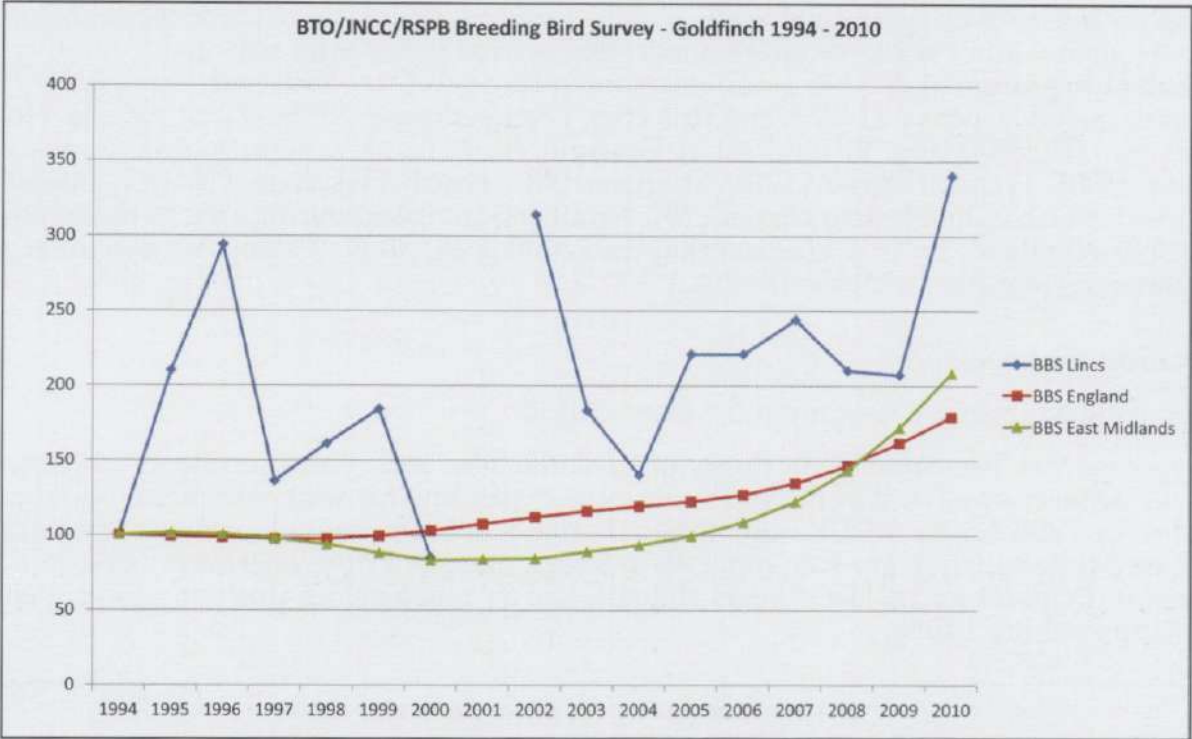
British Greenfinches are partially migratory and their distribution in winter tends to be more concentrated in lowland and coastal areas than in summer. Small movements also occur between Britain and Ireland and some birds from northwest Europe pass through or winter in Britain. The

Total Birds Days for each month for all sites show a similar pattern to that for Chaffinch with peaks in the autumn and late winter. Oct flocks built up slowly, with 62 in South Kyme on 1st followed by some large flocks on the coast at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR (200) and Howden's Pullover (60), and inland at Tunnel Pits Wroot (95). Welbourne Heath held 100 in Nov and Gib Pt had 80. Significant wintering flocks during the period Dec – early Mar were recorded (maxima) at Normanby Hall (130), Whisby NP (124), Dorrington (85), Anwick Fen (80) and Freiston Shore (60). After Mar, numbers quickly fell as wintering flocks dispersed. There were no significant counts during Apr through to Aug as presumably birds took up breeding territories and were more thinly spread and less noticeable.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Some British Goldfinches remain to winter but most depart, apparently more females than males. Hard weather southerly movements also occur within Britain and passage on the coast may include continental birds. British ringing recoveries mostly involve movements to or from Spain, France, and Belgium. Data (see graph) from the BTO Breeding Bird Survey Report (2010) shows that the Goldfinch population increase in the UK between 1995-2009 is about 73%. This is reflected in Lincolnshire where the increase over the same period has been even more impressive (although the county data here is “un-smoothed”).



Count data for all county sites is summarised as total bird days to facilitate comparison between months, they are not absolute totals:

Total Bird Days	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
All sites	1191	436	411	257	168	112	327	1257	1351	3398	576	613

At the start of the year, Total Birds Day counts were highest in Jan, with Scunthorpe (100), Kirkstead (80), Freiston Shore (75), Donna Nook (50), Anwick Fen (48), Barton Pits (41) and Pinchbeck (35) holding decent flocks. Numbers fell month by month as birds dispersed to breed, the yearly minimum occurring in Jun. Post-breeding and early autumn numbers picked up from Aug onwards, with Frampton Marsh (170), Worlaby Carrs (90), Midville (55), Welbourne Heath (55) and Messingham SQ (52) recording notable flocks. Totals remained roughly the same into Sep, but increased sharply during Oct as some notable coastal immigration occurred – 500 were at Skegness North Shore on 2nd, 100 at Goxhill Marsh on 5th, 1500 were at Gib Point on 6th, 140 at Donna Nook on 7th and 250 at Witham Mouth on 9th. In Nov and Dec many fewer were reported, but with some sites still having sizeable wintering flocks – Pinchbeck (100), Holme (90), Skegness (65), Gib Point (60), Grimsby (60) and North Hykeham Pits (50) being the most notable site counts.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce in summer but may breed in some years.

In Britain many Siskins stay in or close to their breeding areas when plenty of natural food is available. Long distance recoveries for British ringed birds include (west-east) SW England-Rostov, Russia, 3140 km and (north-south) Scotland to Algeria, 2450 km. Generally, most British ringed birds are from Scotland, Fenno-Scandia, and Russian breeding areas.

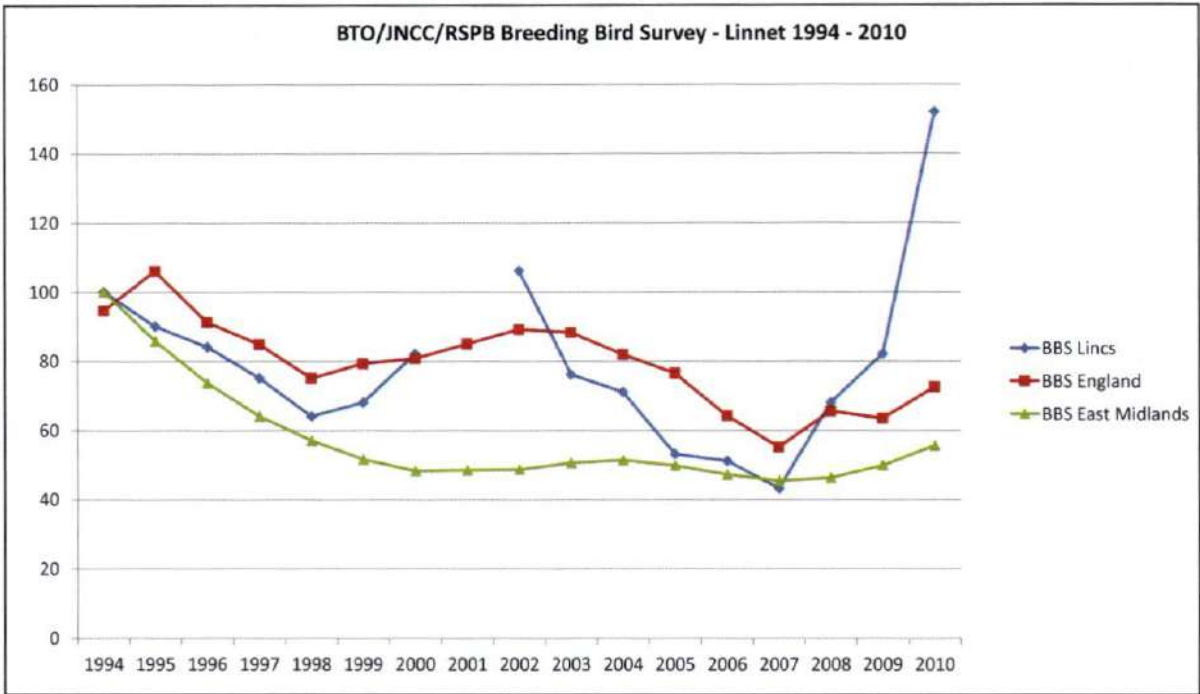
Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	22	20	1	12
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	50	40	120	4
Gib Point	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	30	30	60	200	1
Messingham SQ	40	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	60	30
Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65	170	3	5
All sites	135	68	52	32	0	1	3	40	305	590	771	234

In Jan there was a modest wintering population with 40 at Messingham SQ, 25 at Hartsholme CP, Swanpool and North Hykeham Pits, and 15 at Whisby NP. Numbers dwindled thereafter with just 32 recorded during Apr, mostly at coastal sites. There was an odd record of a single bird at Saltfleet on Jun 30th. During Jul and Aug Chambers Farm Wood provided a small series of records including juveniles, once again suggesting a small breeding population. There were no records at this time from any other sites. Autumn immigration started in Sep with reasonable numbers at the usual coastal migration sites (305 total) continuing through Oct (590) and Nov (771). Notable Oct counts included peaks of 170 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, 70 at Donna Nook, 60 at Gib Point, 50 at Whisby NP, and 40 at Freiston Shore. In Nov, highest peak counts were at Gib Point (200), Freiston Shore (120), Skegness (90), North Hykeham Pits (65), Messingham SQ (60) and North Killingholme Haven (50). Numbers decreased during Dec as these immigrant flocks dispersed inland, up to 60 frequenting the Louth area, 50 at Whisby NP and 30 at each of Messingham SQ and North Hykeham Pits.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Linnet movements are similar to those of Goldfinches, with some residents departing and movement between the UK and the near continent depending on winter weather. Numbers have declined since 1994 across the UK, and although numbers have been relatively steady since 2000, in the East Midlands they are still some 40% lower than in 1994. There has been evidence of an upturn in England in the last 3 years though, and in Lincolnshire this has seen a spectacular increase approaching 120%.



Peak monthly counts for some of the main county sites are tabulated below, together with the total monthly counts for all sites submitting data:

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	14	21	10	34	15	3	50	30	18	58	41	-
Frampton Marsh	1	200	-	20	24	5	25	33	20	4	18	50
Freiston Shore	300	1	105	78	3	2	15	7	3	30	260	67
Holme	50	50	60	30	14	42	10	10	16	3	-	
Saltfleetby-												
Theddlethorpe NNR	15	60	6	80	15	18	-	5	7	60	40	-
Whisby NP	80	30	-	6	10	22	6	3	6	-	-	5
Worlaby Carrs	-	147	25	-	1	-	1	130	120	60	20	-
County totals	1320	943	441	928	314	203	293	929	1106	1209	712	362

A large Jan total was largely due to counts from three sites – Garthorpe (350), Freiston Shore (300), and Witham Mouth (250). Whisby NP (80), Melton Gallows (79) and Howden’s Pullover (70) also had significant wintering flocks. Monthly minima were recorded during the breeding season with numbers building from Aug onwards as post-breeding flocks assembled doubtless supplemented in Sep and Oct by some coastal immigration. Notable Oct flocks included 400 at Black Walk Nook, 220 at Goxhill Haven, 140 at Covenham Res and 130 at Tunnel Pits, Wroot. Counts throughout the year fluctuated considerably and it is likely that this may be due as much to variation in sites counted as in actual numbers. For example, significant counts for just a single month were received for Garforth (350) and Saltfleet Haven (100) in Jan, North Kelsey Moor (200 in Apr), Goxhill Haven (240 in Aug) and Black Walk Nook (400 in Oct).

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	40	330	12	-	-	105	90	50
Frampton Marsh	130	120	150	70	1	10	90	20
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	-	3	40	4	-
Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR	90	-	50	-	-	35	65	1
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	73
All sites	341	720	255	70	4	192	334	168

Twite wintering in Lincolnshire come mainly from the breeding population in the southern Pennines, leaving this breeding area from late Aug, birds reaching the east coast between Sep–Nov. Return movements begin in late Jan, with the main departure in the first two weeks of Mar. Numbers in the first half of the year reflected this and peaked in Feb with more than 700 birds counted. Some of the Pennine population winters further south down the east coast so presumably these returning birds swell numbers in the county as they stage here before continuing north west. Numbers fell during Mar, with just a few in Apr (all at Frampton Marsh) and four remaining into May. The first autumn records were in Oct with just four coastal sites accounting for virtually all of the 192 birds reported. Immigration continued into Nov with a minimum of 334 birds, all at five coastal sites. Some of these birds clearly moved through with about half of that total remaining in Dec. Three were at New Holland on Jan 14th effectively an inland record.

Redpoll reminder...

All Redpolls can be variable and confident identification in the field can be difficult. For this reason observers are reminded that **all** field records of **Common (Mealy) Redpolls** in Lincolnshire should be supplemented by supporting details such as a written description, ringing report and/or photographic evidence. It was apparent when compiling the data here that some observers were apparently confusing Lesser and Common Redpolls. This may have been a problem as much with terminology as with identification. As a result, only the following records below met these criteria and were deemed acceptable.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Rare breeding bird, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Laughton Forest	-	-	-	1	-	110	-	-
Market Rasen area	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	-
Messingham SQ	12	11	5	-	-	100	38	-
North Hykeham Pits	30	7	2	-	-	-	20	-



Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* RSPB Frampton Marsh Apr 3rd 2010 © Paul Sullivan



Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* RSPB Frampton Marsh Apr 3rd 2010 © Neil Smith

Owlet Plantation	-	56	41	-	-	-	-	-
Tunnel Pits, Wroot	1	-	-	-	-	3	12	12
Swanpool	-	1	-	-	-	1	30	80
Whisby NP	12	10	2	2	2	7	83	100+
All sites	55	106	101	6	8	278	204	233

The scarcity of Lesser Redpoll in the county in the current decade is underlined by the peak counts tabulated here, with reports from just 36 sites across the county. Its status as a passage migrant and winter visitor is also confirmed. It was virtually absent from the county from late Mar to early Oct.

The first quarter of the year saw a small wintering population increase to over 100 birds during Feb and Mar. Feeders at Owlet Plantation held a decent flock during Feb and Mar, which included an Arctic Redpoll for a few days (see below). Sites recording double figure counts not tabulated above included Skellingthorpe with 16 on Feb 17th, Bourne with 17 on Mar 21st and the Market Rasen area with 24 on Mar 22nd. The last birds of the first half of the year were singles on Apr 21st at Frampton Marsh and at Laughton Forest on Apr 22nd. Given their rarity as a breeding bird, a notable find was of a nest in the Market Rasen area in Jun. Returning birds first appeared in late Sep with two big flocks in Oct at Laughton Forest and Messingham SQ accounting for much of the total for the month. Numbers remained steady through until the end of the year with Swanpool and Whisby NP both having notable flocks.

Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Scarce/rare winter visitor, but probably overlooked. LBRC, RBBP

These are a longer winged and heavier species compared with Lesser Redpolls, a size difference that is obvious in mixed feeding flocks. 2010 was not a classic year for Common Redpoll and the following records were received with acceptable descriptions and/ or photographs. Records for the first half of the year included one at Owlet Plantation Feb 14th (SR), one trapped and ringed Bourne Mar 21st and a flock of 14 at Donna Nook Apr 3rd (SL). The first bird of the autumn was on Sep 28th at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR (CMo) followed by one on Oct 2nd at Gib Point (CG), and up to five at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR from Oct 11th till at least Nov 3rd. (CMo). Two were at Gib Point on Nov 21st (PRF), one was in Pinchbeck Dec 3rd – 12th (GO), up to three were at Barton Pits Dec 4th – 8th (ND, GPC), and up to three were present at Whisby NP from Dec 12th – 28th (GHo, RHay, DMJ).

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*

Rare/scarce irruptive winter visitor. LBRC

There was one record of this delightful redpoll at Owlet Plantation from Mar 21st-27th (WG). Frequenting the feeder area on the edge of the wood, it was in the company of 12 Lesser Redpolls for comparison.

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Scarce/fairly common irruptive passage migrant and visitor, mainly Jun-Apr, occasionally all year. Proved to breed on a few occasions.

Common Crossbills were recorded between Feb and Oct at 23 locations all of which were inland with the exception of Gib Point where 11 flew south or west between Mar 8th and 22nd with four on the 28th then singles Apr 1st and 15th – 21st with one May 29th then singles Jun 5th to Jul 13th with a small influx from then producing 24 on the 14th, 11 on the 15th, 19 on the 18th and up to three on five dates to Sep 7th and Saltfleetby – Theddlethorpe where there were four on Apr 6th; inland woods held a few birds in the early year with five at Ostlers Pltn Feb 2nd, nine at Broughton Common on 14th, two at Laughton Forest on 18th, two at Nettleton Moor 27th, 13 at Market Rasen Golf Course in Mar, six at Keb Wood on the 3rd, ten west at Barton Pits on the 14th, one at Broughton Woods on 21st, 13 at Linwood Warren on Apr 5th, 32 north-east at Alkborough Flats on Apr 11th, two at Haugham Wood and four at Messingham SQ on 17th, with one Normanby Park 22nd, 20 Kirkby Moor on 24th and 21 at Market Rasen Golf Course on 27th; there was then a gap in records before another influx during July when 12 flew east at Kirkby Pits on the 4th, two at Kirton village and nine flew over Normanby both on the 11th, two at Messingham SQ on 17th, one at Kirkby Pits on the 18th then on the 20th 15 flew west at Boutham Mere and one at Whisby NP with one Boston town centre and two at Messingham SQ on the 24th; another gap in record ensued until Oct produced another flurry with three at Saltfleetby – Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 14th, one on 20th and one on 22nd, one at Caistor on the 27th and one west at Alkborough Flats on the 31st.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Vagrant May – Jun and Aug – Oct. LBRC, RBBP

A good year for this unobtrusive species with two spring records and five in the autumn although only four birds are thought to have been involved. In May there were singles at Gib Point on the 18th (NAL) and on the 30th (RKW). In Sep there were single birds at Cleethorpes on 3rd (SHa) with presumably the same bird at Humberston Fitties on 5th, Donna Nook on 9th (SL), a third bird of the year for Gib Point on 16th (JCN) and lastly Donna Nook on 28th (RHb).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common resident.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	9	4	4	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	18	6
Boultham Mere	6	1	2	2	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	10
Marton	14	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nettleton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-
Saltfleetby-												
Theddlethorpe NNR	2	-	1	2	-	4	-	-	2	17	1	-
Twyford Wood	-	-	-	1	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	8
Whisby NP	16	21	20	12	8	7	8	20	15	35	38	30
Willingham Forest	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

For the most part, a common breeding bird and resident spread across most of the county with many sites reporting between two to six birds in most months of the year. Those sites reporting at least one double figure count are tabulated. Breeding records were received from Snipe Dales and Twyford Wood, an undoubted under reporting of the true picture. There was little evidence of any significant immigration, but autumn numbers built up as local birds gathered in flocks at a few sites, and a notable record was of at least two birds of the nominate race *pyrrhula* present at Waters' Edge Barton on Nov 27th (GPC).



Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Waters' Edge, Barton Dec 6th 2010 © Graham Catley

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare local resident and rare passage migrant. RBBP

An exceptionally poor year for this the rarest of finches, with just four reports all in Oct. These were Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR one on 2nd, Gib Point two on 8th and one on the 24th and one at Laceby one on 18th.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant on coast, mainly Sep-Apr; exceptional in summer. Scarce but fairly regular inland.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	70	60	-	2	4	40	100
Saltfleet/Saltfleet Haven / Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	100	120	-	1	16	34	23
Cleethorpes LNR	-	-	-	-	-	40	80
Frampton Marsh	50	30	20	-	1	-	-
Gib Point	1	-	1	1	1	35	34
Grainthorpe Marsh	60	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	60
Mablethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	45	-
Min. no. of birds	284	218	21	8	40	305	310

Three races of Snow Bunting are recognised, two of which occur regularly in Europe. These are the Scandinavian/Greenland race *P. n. nivalis* and the Icelandic race *P. n. insulae*. The Siberian race *P.n. vlasowae* is a vagrant to Western Europe. The majority of foreign ringing recoveries of British-ringed Snow Buntings are from Iceland, the source of most British winter visitors, although small numbers also come from Greenland and Scandinavia. Snow Buntings were recorded at 28 sites in the county, and the main counts summarised in the table reflect the species preference for coastal salt marshes and dunes. The last report from the first winter period was ten birds at Frampton Marsh on Mar 17th. The autumn arrival is typically protracted, occurring during Sep – Dec, which these counts reflect. Records from the inner Humber included singles at North Killingholme pits on Feb 25th and a male on Sep 20th, being the first of the autumn and at Barton on Nov 27th.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Scarce local passage migrant and winter visitor Sep-Apr. Rare inland.



Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus* Frampton Marsh Mar 19th 2010 © Paul Sullivan

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Frampton Marsh	12	10	15	1	-	1	7	8	83
North Cotes	-	-	-	-	1	50	80	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	-	52	55	10	-
Howden's Pullover	3	1	-	-	-	22	2	2	17
Grainthorpe Marsh	2	-	-	-	-	40	2	-	-
Gib Point	-	-	-	-	-	12	8	16	1



White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* Fulbeck Apr 18th 2010 © Dick High



White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* Fulbeck Apr 18th 2010 © Dick High

Saltfleetby- Theddlethorpe NNR	5	2	-	-	-	11	11	2	1
Saltfleet	3	-	-	-	-	22	4	-	-
Tetney Marsh	1	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	-
Horseshoe Point	12	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
Nene Mouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	20
Gedney Drove End (Shore)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-
No. of sites	9	4	1	1	2	15	18	15	8
Min. no. of birds	40	14	15	1	2	229	219	76	127

In the first half of the year numbers were unremarkable and small flocks were seen at up to nine sites along the coast and the last bird was seen at Frampton Marsh on Apr 2nd. However, in the second half of 2010, an unprecedented arrival of Lapland Buntings occurred in the UK during late Aug and early Sep. Huge numbers also arrived in Iceland and there was an astonishing flock of 184 on Fair Isle on the unusually early date of Aug 31st. The arrival of these birds followed a very deep Atlantic depression that tracked over Greenland, their likely origin. The UK influx seems likely to have involved several thousands of birds and the county totals reflect this event. One or two birds were seen at several coastal sites between Aug 30th and Sep 2nd with a minimum of 229 birds recorded during Sep as a whole. Birds were recorded at 18 coastal sites and almost as many were seen during Oct, when they were also seen inland at Butterwick Low (5), Wroot (2) and Dorrington Fen (1) Goxhill Skitter singles west Sep 21st and Oct 18th. There was some onward dispersal during Nov and Dec, when a minimum of 127 were reported of which 83 were at Frampton Marsh.

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*

Vagrant. BBRC

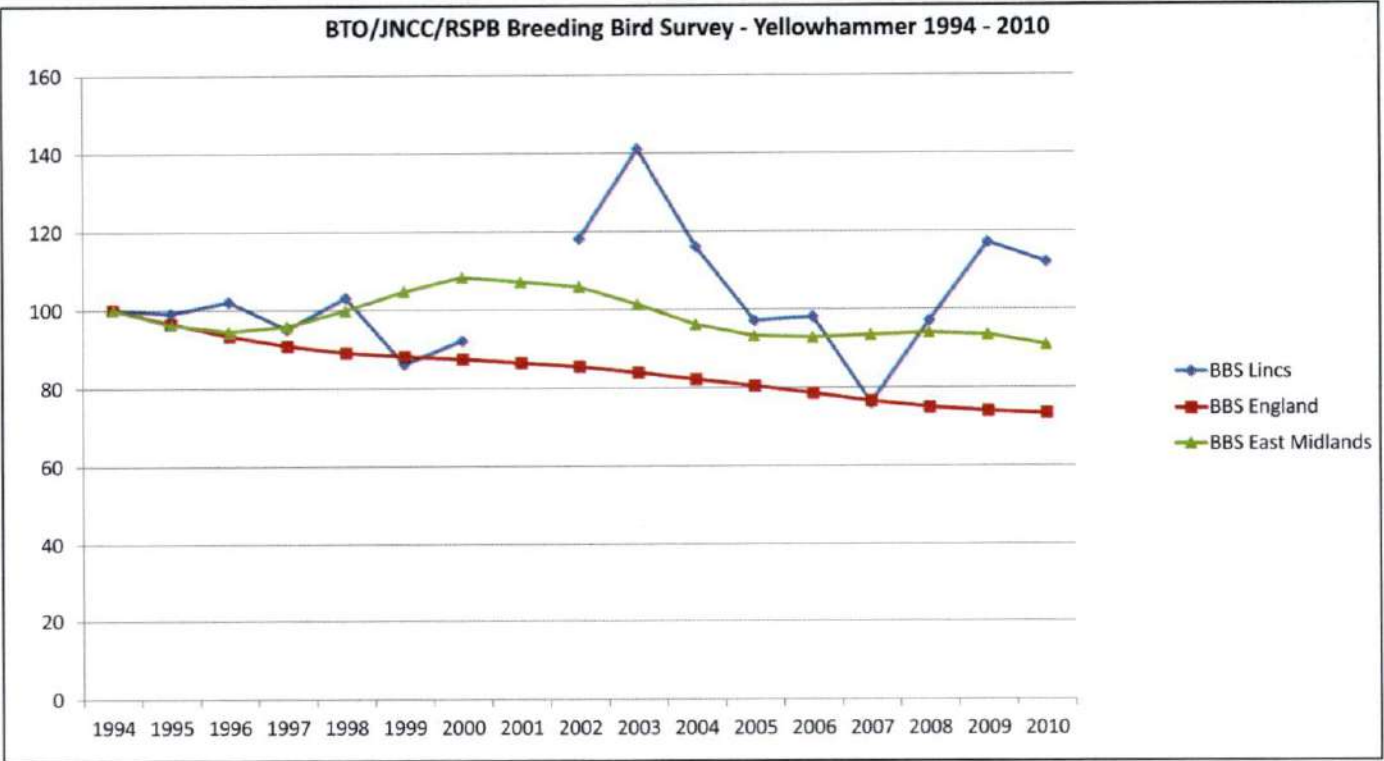
An unexpected record, an adult was present in a garden in Fulbeck near Sleaford on Apr 18th-19th (R M High). Fortunately it was photographed by the property owners during its brief stay and the bird's identify confirmed from these images at a later date. In what was something of an exceptional year, for this Nearctic bunting, the Fulbeck bird was one of seven records to be recorded in Great Britain during spring 2010. Accepted by BBRC, this is the second county record after the famous wintering individual at Market Rasen, which was trapped and ringed in Dec 1992 and stayed until Mar 1993. See finders account on page 175.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Very common resident. Numbers decreased through the 1980s.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Frampton Marsh	22	85	8	5	2	2	2	1	25	4	4	26
Worlaby Carrs	6	78	35	10	4	-	3	-	-	47	-	-
Welbourne Heath	-	-	26	-	10	18	21	11	9	30	40	-
Tunnel Pits, Wroot	40	45	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	31	38
Holme	12	-	6	4	3	2	4	6	6	5	31	38
Stenigot	-	91	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Min. no. of birds (All sites)	327	432	225	164	126	91	177	57	71	210	325	282

British Yellowhammer's are sedentary, except for a tendency to withdraw from upland areas. Ringing in Britain shows that c.70% of adults winter within 5km of breeding territories. Passage birds probably from Scandinavia, appear in small numbers on the east coast of Britain in autumn north to Shetland, and occasionally winter. Records were received from 118 sites, and the table above shows those recording more than 100 bird days throughout the year. However, coverage at some of the other sites was patchy and Melton Gallows, Kirton Marsh, Elsham CP, Branston Fen, Fulbeck, Thornton Curtis, Farforth, Goxhill, Gunby (Spilsby) and Louth all recorded at least one monthly count of between 30 and 78 birds. The totals here reflect the minimum number of birds per month and show an autumn build up as birds form post-breeding flocks, with peak counts occurring during Nov to Feb. The BTO Breeding Bird Survey shows similar regional and national trends overall, but the regional trend reflects a smaller decrease than the national one and that for Lincolnshire better than average increase by comparison.



Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*
Common resident and passage migrant.



Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* Frampton Marsh Aug 21st 2010 © Neil Smith

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	220	60	60	-	-	-	-	30	30	20	20	2
Frampton Marsh	35	12	7	6	5	5	8	2	4	5	10	40
Marston SW	-	-	7	7	2	5	2	3	2	30	40	14
Donna Nook	40	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	20	40	-	-
Tunnel Pits, Wroot	20	40	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	17	11	3
Min no. of birds (all sites)	563	398	269	138	104	130	100	55	112	239	148	140

Similar to British Yellowhammer's, Reed Buntings are sedentary, except for a tendency to withdraw from upland areas. Ringing data show that c. 40% of females and c. 80% of males move no more than 5km between summer and winter. A few winter visitors arrive, largely from western Scandinavia, with a few from Low Countries and northwest Germany. Some of the west Scandinavian migrants move along the east coast to wintering grounds further south in Europe. The minimum numbers recorded were from 98 sites across the county, but coverage was patchy and the monthly minima are probably inaccurate indicators of true monthly trends. The largest total was for Jan, and as in 2009 Alkborough Flats had by far the largest total with 220 birds present. Other notable counts were at Bonby Carrs (80, Feb), Worlaby Carrs (65, Feb), and Goxhill Marsh (50, Feb). Sixteen other sites had between 20-40 birds in at least one month. A total of 58 breeding territories were occupied at Alkborough Flats compared to 71 in 2009 following the hard winter.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Scarce and local resident and partial migrant.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worlaby Carrs	26	107	70	60	16	-	7	-	-	22	30	-
Gib Point	50	65	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Frampton Marsh	12	-	25	8	8	12	24	3	1	1	2	1
Saracen's Head	-	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baston Fen	15	50	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Min. no. of birds (all sites)	150	349	133	95	60	49	40	15	1	29	42	174

British Corn Buntings are resident with few wandering more than 15 km or more and only one recovery outside Britain of a bird ringed in Kent in Feb and recovered in May in Pas de Calais in north east France. Records were received from 50 sites across the county, with the main ones tabulated here. As with the some of the other common buntings, coverage on a monthly basis was patchy. Was the Saracen's Head flock a one off for instance, or present all winter. Worlaby Carrs recorded the largest flock, an impressive 107 in Feb, which was the peak month overall. Just 12 sites recorded counts in double figures in any month.

Appendix 1 – Records of species not currently accepted onto the full British list

Category E – Escape

This list includes those species that may have non self-sustaining wild populations and any individuals from species that are on the British list, but which are known are strongly believed to have been of captive origin. The Lincolnshire Bird Club request all records of category E species recorded in Lincolnshire. However, we are aware that the species on this list are under recorded.

Greater Rhea *Rhea Americana*

Dorrington Fen between May – Sep 2010

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bourne	2	3	-	3	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Fillingham Lake	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	4	-	-	-	-
Gosberton Brick Pits	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Halton Fenside	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Messingham SQ	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Hykeham Pits	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Ormsby	-	-	3	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Stickford	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Wainfleet Common	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Breeding was recorded at South Ormsby.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Covenham Reservoir on Mar 5th

Frampton Marsh from Jun 7th – Sep 10th and at Freiston Shore from Jun 7th – Sep 4th

Humberston Fitties on Apr 28th

Huttoft Bank Pit on Feb 28th

Marston STW from Nov 7th-10th

North Hykeham Pits on Jan 26th

Tetney Marsh on Apr 28th

Wingland Marsh four birds on Dec 29th

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

Messingham SQ on Jan 28th and Feb 11th

Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*

Whitton Sands on May 2nd

Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on Sep 19th

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

Deeping Lakes NR on Jan 10th

Whisby NP on Dec 5th

Cape Teal *Anas capensis*

Freiston Shore two bird on Aug 11th and Sep 30th

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

North Hykeham Pits throughout 2010

New Zealand Scaup *Aythya novaeseelandiae*

Gibraltar Point on Jan 1st, Mar 21st, Apr 5th, Jun 20th and Oct 8th.

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Frampton Marsh from May 23rd – Aug 1st

Alkborough Flats from Aug 19th -24th

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

North Somercotes Warren on Feb 13th and Mar 13th

Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*

East Ravendale on Jan 12th

Red Siskin *Carduelis cucullata*

Messingham (village) Jul 4th-5th

Appendix 2 – Records without any supporting details

The following records are on either the list of species considered by BBRC or LBRC, and do not have any supporting details or descriptions. They have therefore not been admitted to the county records. If descriptions are submitted by the finder or anyone else who saw the bird and are accepted by the relevant committee, they will be admitted to the records and published in the next report.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Wingland Marsh two Feb 11th

Gibraltar Point two 'Taiga' Nov 29th

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Spalding, two birds Apr 3rd

Four mile Bar, two birds May 6th

Cleethorpes, two birds Jun 13th

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Skegness Nov 9th

Leach's Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Trusthorpe Sep 24th

Chapel Point Nov 8th

Chapel Point Nov 9th

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

Alkborough Apr 7th

Witham Mouth Apr 11th

Tattershall May 31st

Osbornby Dec 19th

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Southrey Apr 21st

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Gib Point Oct 22nd

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

Baston - Langtoft Pits Jun 20th

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Marshchapel May 23rd

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Swallow Apr 28th

Gib Point Aug 24th

Common Crane *Grus grus*

Nettleton, two birds Apr 12th

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

RAF Cranwell Mar 1st-3rd

Nene Mouth Aug 7th

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Butterwick Common/Hale two May 21st

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Gibraltar Point Aug 18th

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Saltfleetby Aug 29th

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*
Chapel Point two Sep 26th
Freiston Shore Oct 16th

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*
Leadenham Tip Mar 14th
Welland Mouth Apr 13th
Donna Nook Oct 14th
Humberston Fitties Dec 20th

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*
Freiston Shore Aug 26th

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*
Wrawby May 8th

Blue-headed Wagtail *M.f.flava*
Toft Newton Res May 14th
Freiston Shore Apr 23rd
Sleaford Pit Three Apr 25th
Freiston Shore Apr 28th
Freiston Shore Two Apr 29th
Donna Nook May 7th

Grey-headed Wagtail *M.f.thunbergi*
One Tetney Lock May 1st.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*
Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR Aug 28th

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*
Skegness Oct 2nd
Gib Point Nov 27th
Gib Point Nov 30th

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
Lincoln, three on May 10th
Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR Aug 8th
Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR May 2nd

European Serin *Serinus serinus*
Gib Point Jun 21st
Gib Point Jul 3rd

Finders Reports 2010

Oriental Pratincole, *Glareola maldivarum*, at RSPB Frampton Marsh nature reserve
May 9th 2010

Phil Hyde, Paul Sullivan and John Badley

Introduction

On Sunday May 9th, Wayne Lawrance, a Grimsby birder, found a Pratincole hawking insects distantly over the scrapes near the East hide at RSPB Frampton Marsh nature reserve, noting the reddish-brown under wing coverts (thus ruling out Black-winged Pratincole). As he only had binoculars with him, he could not get further details and reported his sighting as a probable Collared Pratincole to the visitor centre.

Alerted by RSPB staff Paul Sullivan had brief, distant flight views but the bird appeared to land out of view near to the East Hide. Paul Sullivan, now joined by Phil Hyde hastened there, and within minutes the Pratincole reappeared. It flew back and forth very quickly before dropping down out of sight again on to one of the many grassy islands on the scrape. The reddish-brown under wing was again noted...but there was no sign of a clear, white trailing edge to the secondaries that should have been shown by Collared Pratincole and furthermore the tail was short and stubby. The dawning realization that it might be an Oriental Pratincole was confirmed a short while later when, having been joined by John Badley (with whom PH/PS had been discussing the bird's identification on the phone), the bird re-appeared. It flew close past confirming the lack of a broad white trailing edge to the secondaries and a very short tail. The rare bird news services were duly alerted and a steady stream of birders began to arrive. This constitutes the 7th record of Oriental Pratincole for the UK and the first for Lincolnshire.

Description

Size and overall appearance. Similar in size to Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea*. Showed long, pointed wings and a short, stubby forked tail. Dark brown above with white rump & upper tail. The under wing showed reddish-brown coverts with dark brown primaries. Under body showed whitish belly, peachy-brown breast and throat with black necklace outlining ochre-yellow throat.

The swift, agile & twisting flight over water recalled some of the smaller gulls, *Larus* sp, and even the smaller skuas, *Stercorarius* sp. When at rest, the bird appeared particularly long legged and the tail fell several millimetres short of the length of the primaries.

Detailed description.

Head. Fawn-brown crown, but with nape slightly warmer, yellower-brown than mantle. The neck was colder brown, similar in colour to the mantle. The throat was pale yellow and outlined in black; a thin white line could be seen inside the inner part of this black "necklace". Loes blackish.

Upperparts. Evenly coloured medium to dark brown mantle (depth of colour varied according to angle and light) and upper wing coverts, with darker, contrasting blackish primaries. Pure white upper tail coverts and rump, with black-tipped white rectrices. The black tips of the outer tail feathers was more restricted than would be expected for Collared Pratincole.

There were no clearly defined white tips to the secondaries, so the upper wing did not have an obvious white trailing edge that is characteristic of Collared Pratincole, *G. pratincola*. However, at close range and in good light it was clear that the secondaries were very finely tipped white. There was no contrast between the inner and outer secondaries as is typical for Oriental but not in Collared.

Underparts. Cold brown throat band below the black necklace line, with a warmer, peachy wash separating this from the all-white lower breast and belly. Undertail coverts pure white.

Bare parts colouration

Bill. Upper mandible all black but with bright red base. Lower mandible black with a red base. The oval-shaped nostril, diagnostic for this species was observed when on the ground at close range and can be seen in several photos.

Legs and feet. A uniform brownish grey.

Discussion.

Thanks to the co-operation of the bird and the many excellent photographs taken it is possible to see almost



all of the identification features of Oriental Pratincole highlighted in the authoritative paper 'Identification of Collared Pratincole and Oriental Pratincole – a critical review of characters' by Gerald Driessens and Lars Svensson, Dutch Birding 27: 40-41 2005.

Pratincoles are birds of open country, often seen near water, hawking for insects. Oriental Pratincoles breed from Northern Pakistan and the Kashmir region across into China and south west. They are migratory, wintering in Pakistan, India, Indonesia and Australasia. Although still an extreme rarity in the Western Palearctic (WP), flocks numbering into the millions have been recorded in coastal Australia on the wintering grounds.

The first record for the Western Palearctic was in Suffolk/Essex in June 1981. There have been subsequent UK records in Kent (1988), Norfolk (1993), East Sussex (1993), Suffolk (1993) with one record under consideration, West Sussex/Kent/Oxfordshire (2009). If accepted, this constitutes, the 7th record for the UK.

Although only just a year old, the new large freshwater scrapes at RSPB Frampton Marsh have now attracted two of the three species of Pratincoles recorded in the UK. The first was a Collared Pratincole (August 2009) and the first in Lincolnshire since 1975. Over 4000 people visited RSPB Frampton Marsh in the first eight days of the bird's stay.

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* at Chowder Ness Barton-on-Humber

June 28th 2010

Graham Catley

During mid to late June 2010 organic waste was being spread on fields inland from Barton-on-Humber where I live and 1000's of gulls were passing over my garden every morning and evening en route to and from their Humber roost. On suitable tides large numbers were loafing on Chowder Ness, a managed realignment site west of Far Ings, before flying off to roost and in the two weeks prior to June 28th I had located up to 10 different Mediterranean Gulls plus several colour ringed Lesser Black-backed Gulls amongst the 2000 birds present. Keen to look for a Caspian Gull or something better I was spending most days at Chowder checking the resting gull flocks in late June. On June 28th I arrived in the early evening to find several hundred small gulls roosting on the eastern side of the mudflats so I set up the scope and started to go through them looking for different Mediterranean Gulls (some of which were colour ringed). As I scanned through the gulls, most of which were asleep and facing head-on to my position, I passed a bird that momentarily lifted its head and appeared to show a short all black bill. As quickly as its bill had appeared the bird went back to sleep but as I stalled on the bird in question I noticed that it also appeared to show an obvious mid grey shawl around its nape spreading onto the neck sides and a restricted pattern of black markings on the head. At this stage from the angle I was looking I could not see its legs as it was sat down and the size did not seem vastly different to the surrounding Black-headed Gulls as it was head-on. I was more than a little intrigued but tried not to jump to any silly conclusions. After 30 minutes it had not moved! It was getting later in the evening and I was worried that if it was a Bonaparte's, as I suspected, and I left it too late then no-one else would be able to get there before dark so I tentatively rang Neil Drinkall and Roy Harvey and suggested they be ready to move! Ten minutes later it stood up showing the very short and pallid fleshy legs and feet and its all black, fine-tipped, bill with the restricted black smudge over the eye and blackish crescent on the head sides confirming my initial suspicion that this was a first-summer Bonaparte's Gull on my local patch! Further phone calls encouraged some speedy driving and



ND and RH arrived within 15 minutes followed over the next hour by a few other local observers who all enjoyed views of the bird before it eventually flew off to Redcliffe Middle Sand to roost with the Black-headed and Common Gulls.

Once the bird stood up and started to walk about it was surprising how small it was compared to the Black-headed Gulls being about 70% of their size. In flight it showed the white underside to the primaries with no darkening on the outer feathers but a narrow black trailing edge typical of the species a pattern replicated on the upperside of the primaries.

Amazingly as we all sat watching this bird I glanced to one side of it and was staggered to find a 2cy Ring-billed Gull sitting within 3m of the Bonaparte's; both were first records for my local patch and the Bonaparte's only the second record for Lincolnshire.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* at Alkborough Flats

August 18th 2010

Neil Drinkall

On the evening of August 18th 2010 like most other nights I set off from my home in Alkborough village to visit the managed realignment site half a mile away on Alkborough Flats in order to check the waders and wildfowl on what has become one of the best rarity producing spots in Lincolnshire since its development in late 2006. On the first muddy area west of the car park a flock of small waders attracted my attention and I set about scanning through the Dunlin and Ringed Plovers in the hope of a rarer wader. I quickly came across a stint-sized wader with the Dunlin and from its general lack of rufous tones in the plumage, producing a black, white and grey colouration I started to suspect that it might be an adult Semi-palmated Sandpiper. There had though been no Little Stints at Alkborough in the autumn to date and this was a big bird to claim. After extensive looks at the plumage noting the old adult scapulars and flight feathers and the extensive grey wash across the upper breast I was trying hard to get a good look at the feet to confirm whether there were palmations. At this point I rang Graham Catley to try and get a second opinion but he was doing a survey at Tetney and was at least an hour away and as I was still not 100% certain of the identification I did not want to cause a mass panic over what may be a commoner bird. After the phone call the flock of waders flew closer and I was now able to take some digi-scoped images of the bird and to view its feet which I was convinced now showed the confirmatory semi-palmations after which the species is named. I rang Graham Catley again with the news and then phoned other local observers including Wayne and Clare Gillatt, Roy Harvey and Craig Nimick all of whom arrived within the next 30 – 50 minutes. Unfortunately by the time other observers arrived the flock of waders had flown further away and in the rapidly fading light no further details were obtained. Over the next six days the Semi-palmated Sandpiper proved to be generally difficult to observe well as if fed in various parts of the Alkborough Flats site but was usually 100m to 700m from the nearest footpaths. Plumage and structural details seen on the 18th were confirmed on ensuing days and Roy Harvey obtained some video footage that showed the palmations just as a final confirmation of the correct identification.

This was only the second record of Semi-palmated Sandpiper in Lincolnshire following a bird present at Wisbech Sewage Farm on the Lincolnshire / Norfolk / Cambridgeshire border from Nov 12th to the end of Dec 1966, being trapped and ringed on Nov 13th.

Description:

Size smaller than Dunlin and Ringed Plover seen alongside the Semi-p and judged to be similar to a Little Stint although none present but with a more stocky and thickset profile; Bill deep based and with a slightly expanded tip particularly visible when head on. Palmations visible when foot spread as feeding towards observer – in photos can be seen to be wider between outer and middle toes than inner and middle. Legs and toes black. Looked hunched and short legged at times and at others held posture higher and was more active when with other waders – when alone meticulous slow picking from surface. Scapulars black with pale inner centre and buff fringes – upper scapulars black with very little fringing forming a black V across the upper back. Nape heavily streaked greyish-brown, median and greater coverts all dull brown – grey coloured, greater coverts black with pale creamy-buff fringes. Crown dark grey brown streaked more blackish on forehead and appeared quite capped in dull flat light, supercilia started before eye and flared out behind eye over ear coverts. Dark blackish ear covert patch and loreal area contrasting sharply with white chin and throat and extended collar that runs round under ear coverts. Upper breast and lower throat marked with broad and very obvious gorget of dark grey-brown streaks as deep in the middle as at the sides – a few streaks extending down onto the sides of the upper breast near the flanks. Tertiaries black with creamy fringes but no sign of any rufous colour in the tertial fringes. Tertiaries almost totally cloaking primaries at rest with just 1-2 primary tips visible.

The bird was never heard to call. When seen alone it was very lethargic and fed with steady probing and long static periods but when with other waders was often more energetic and ran around even at times probing more frequently.



Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* at Gibraltar Point N.N.R.
September 13th 2010.
Rob Watson.



After a particularly frustrating day at work I decided to spend the last couple of daylight hours at Gib Point. Normally as a keen 'Green Lister' I would have biked the three miles to the reserve but today I couldn't be bothered. Picking up my bins and scope I arrived at Beach Car Park at 18:15 and decided to check the Fenland lagoon where a Pectoral Sandpiper had been seen earlier before flying off mid morning. On entering the East Hide there were two waders feeding along the edge of the right hand island, the first was a Redshank, the second, with its unusual structure and needle thin bill could only be a Wilson's Phalarope! In my haste to leave work, I now realised I had failed to pick up my phone, camera or notebook. Panic ensued, soaking up as much detail to memory as I could I legged it back to my van and drove to the farm where I found contract warden Tim Bagworth processing moths. He contacted the warden Kev Wilson and I sped back to the hide, relieved to find the phalarope still there and as an added bonus now accompanied by

the Pectoral Sandpiper! Kev managed to get some video footage of the bird, so with identification confirmed I decided to attempt to 'Green List' it. Dumping the van at home I biked back to Gib in record time. On the way Nige Lound pulled alongside and with window down hurled abuse at me for trying to get one up on him with a green tick! I subsequently overtook him as he ran along the path to the hide and just managed to get my bins on the bird before it flipped over the bank, lost in the gloom seconds before Nige burst into the hide. Fortunately he was able to catch up with it the following day. It was last seen on the Sep 15th.

Description;

Slightly smaller than a Redshank. Unusual and unmistakeable proportions, small head, needle fine, black bill about equal to head length. Neck looked long when stretched upwards when alarmed. Medium length yellow-green legs.

Plumage;

Crown dark, hint of an eyestripe behind eye, otherwise ear coverts, chin, breast & underparts all white. Upperparts pale grey, wing coverts & tertials brown with pale fringes indicating a first winter bird. In flight, upperwings dark, mantle and back grey, white rump.

Fed on insects around the waters edge with a stabbing motion, not seen to swim. The third record of this American wader for Gib and the 10th for Lincs.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* at Gibraltar Point

October 10th 2010

Russell Hayes

The 10th of the 10th of 2010, this was always going to be a day to remember, not just for the special date but for the special find that day.

I had not long left the North car park, heading towards the Mere, when I was beckoned over by Tony Burgess as he walked from the West dunes towards me. "I have just photographed a Shrike but I do not know what sort it is, can you help?" he said. Wanting to see if I could identify the bird from his photographs I agreed to have a look. The pictures showed a pale reddish bird that was obviously a shrike but my limited knowledge of red-tailed shrike was not enough for me to say whether he had found a Red-backed Shrike or something rarer. I jokingly said at the time it may be an Isabelline Shrike but I was being more hopeful than anything as I presumed it more likely to be a more common Red-backed Shrike, possibly a juvenile. I suggested we try to relocate the bird and have a better look at it, as it was not possible to see all angles of the bird from the photographs. Ten minutes later we had re-found the bird on the West dunes in an Elder tree and we set about taking photographs to help with any identity queries that may arise should the bird fly off.

The bird stayed in the general area and allowed us to take plenty of pictures but we still didn't know what we had found. I rang Paul & Sandra Neale as they were usually on the reserve and thought they may be able to help with the identity and told them I thought we had found a Red-backed Shrike. I also phoned Kevin Wilson, the reserve manager to let him know. Kevin somehow asked all the right questions about the bird's colour and size etc. and got very excited when our answers seemed to fit with an Isabelline Shrike. "I'm on my way" he said, "keep it there until I get there."

Twenty minutes later and the word had got around about a Shrike and people started to turn up to see it. Kevin Wilson arrived and quite quickly confirmed his thoughts that it was indeed an Isabelline Shrike. I wasn't at all bothered that I thought this was some form of Red-backed Shrike as I could now add a new bird to my list and I had photographs as well which was a bonus.

The news was put out once the identity was confirmed but some confusion about an earlier reported Great Grey Shrike at Gibraltar Point led to it being reported as a Great Grey Shrike, this mistake was not corrected until later in the day. A lot of people were at Gibraltar Point that day on an organised visit and were lucky enough to see the bird and others that made the journey once the news finally got out were also still able to enjoy the bird's brief one day stay at the reserve.

The 10th of the 10th 2010 a special day to remember.

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* in Fulbeck

Dick High

"What on earth is that?" We keep our selection of bird feeders six feet outside our kitchen window. To get the best view in the house one needs to be doing the washing up and that is just what I was doing when I first spotted the "what on earth's that" bird. Having decided that it wasn't one of the usual visitors and that anything with a head striped like a badger and a bib looking like a white T shirt under a grey v-neck sweater deserved better than being dismissed as yet another LBJ, I rushed off to get my camera. Photos duly taken I then unleashed a couple of e-mails. The reply

from my BTO brother told me that it was a White-throated sparrow and that it was a "mega". The reply from RSPB told me that they were busy and they would get back to me. After a few days waiting for a proper response, I searched the internet and found that the chairman of the local bird club happened to live in our village. He was then able to sort out the required reporting and verification. So, even for a rarity virgin like myself, it was then a very simple job to let the bird watching community know what was going on in the area.

I am not a "twitcher" or a "birder" but I do like watching nature and I really enjoy keeping my eyes open. Although I can get equally interested in a bumble bee, a bee orchid or a bee-eater, I have to admit that hosting the white throated sparrow for a couple of days gave me a ridiculous amount of pleasure even though I didn't have to do a thing. It's almost enough to make me want to start a tick list!



THE CHANGING STATUS OF THE SPOONBILL IN LINCOLNSHIRE

Andrew Henderson

The last twenty years or so have seen a remarkable growth in the frequency of occurrence and numbers of various heron and related species in Britain. Little Egret is the most obvious example: now a well-established breeding species in Lincolnshire, yet as recently as 1991 there was not a single record in the county in the course of the year. Spoonbill seems to be following suit, although – because of its more specialised feeding requirements – it is unlikely to increase to the extent of Little Egret.

Historical records

There is surprisingly little firm or contemporary evidence, but it is assumed that Spoonbills once bred in Britain. There are many vague references to it including, for Lincolnshire, a seventeenth century map showing a wood near Crowland “where many white herons do breed” (at this time, the white egrets bred no nearer than the Mediterranean). The drainage of the Fens no doubt was responsible for the loss of such colonies, together with many other marshland birds. By the nineteenth century, Spoonbills were evidently scarce: Lorand & Atkin (1989) could trace records of only eight, six of them shot. Seven more birds were recorded early in the twentieth century but then none until 1945 when a party of five was seen at North Cotes in January; this is noteworthy not just for the size of the group but for the date – it seems to be the only January record for Lincolnshire apart from one that wintered at Gibraltar Point in 1984/85 (until another wintered in 2011/12). Between 1949 and 1988, about 80 individuals were observed, mainly in the Humber and Wash (Lorand & Atkin 1989). Most occurred between late April and early July, with a few between August and early November, plus the one wintering bird. A sign of things to come was the presence of a Dutch colour-ringed bird at North Killingholme in summer 1975, and another seen at Grainthorpe in April 1987.

Recent records

The estimated annual totals in Lincolnshire during 1989-2011 are shown in Figure 1. To begin with, there wasn't much change from the period up to 1988, with between one and five each year predominantly at Gibraltar Point, but in 1996 there were 11 individuals spread widely around the estuaries and coast from Whitton to Holbeach Marsh between late April and late August. There were nine in 1998 but the next marked increase came in 2002, when about 19 individuals occurred. They included the first recent group of more than three, when five were seen at Tetney Marsh on 30th June and four – presumed to belong to the same group – at Gibraltar Point during 1st-14th July. In the next few years, there were between 10 and 21, apart from 2005 when there were only two, and several flocks of four or five were seen. They included a group of four at Deeping Lakes on 13th May 2006, the first such occurrence inland.

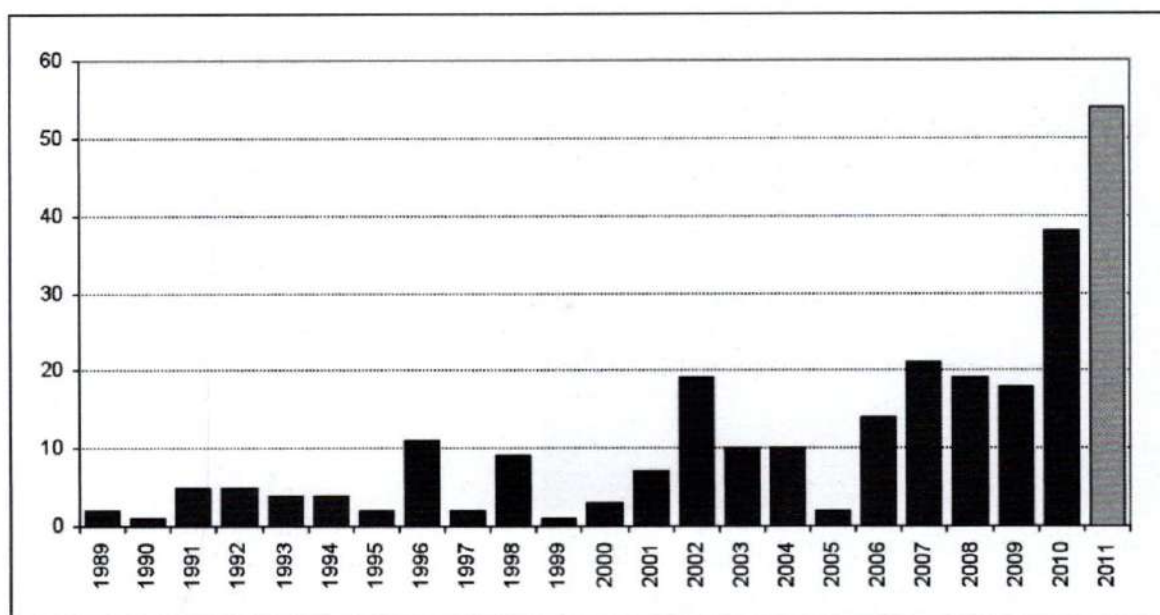


Figure 1. Annual Spoonbill totals in Lincolnshire, 1989-2011.
Data for 2011 are provisional

The record total of about 38 in 2010 was dominated by the numbers at Gibraltar Point, where the flock increased from six on 11th June to 15 during 14th-27th August. See the text in the 2010 Systematic List for more details of this year's sightings. The number of birds increased the difficulty of deciding which were new arrivals and which had already been seen, but the inclusion of three colour-ringed birds amongst those occurring at Gibraltar Point helped clarify just how much birds can move around.

Preliminary assessment of records for 2011 has been possible, though this information should be regarded as provisional. The total number occurring in the county may have been as high as 54 individuals. The majority were at either Gibraltar Point or Alkborough Flats where the maxima were, respectively, 14 and 17. The first was at Gibraltar Point on 4th March, with another there on 16th April, and then more or less continuous presence in the county from 9th May to 19th September. At least two colour-ringed birds were seen but to date the details for only one are known. One over-wintered, commuting between Gibraltar Point where it appeared on 27th October and Frampton Marsh where it was last seen on 1st February 2012.

No attempt has been made to determine the number present of each age category. Birds' ages have not adequately been reported, and may be difficult to judge in some circumstances. The flock at Gibraltar Point in August 2010 included adults, second-calendar-year or later immature birds and juveniles.

Colour-ring information

In 2010, the first colour-ringed bird (YRG for short) turned up at Gibraltar Point on 11th June; this had been ringed as a nestling in the Netherlands in 2008 and, apart from late summer sightings in the same area in 2008 and 2009, had not been reported until it appeared in Lincolnshire just short of its second birthday. It stayed at Gibraltar Point until the 18th but was at Cley in Norfolk by the 19th, back at Gibraltar Point from 24th June to 24th July, at Cley again on 1st-8th August, Gibraltar Point again on 9th-30th August, and finally Cley on the same date, 30th August. At that point it vanished, presumably migrating to the usual wintering grounds of West Africa. Spoonbills first breed at three or four years, and it's possible that it bred in the Netherlands in 2011, as there was a July sighting there before one in mid September in northern Spain.

It should be pointed out that the periods during which a bird is described as being present at one site are simply those when it was reported there but nowhere else. It does not necessarily mean that the bird didn't wander off briefly, without being reported from another site.

The second colour-ringed bird (YGY) of 2010 was also Dutch-ringed, being ringed there as a nestling in 2007. It remained in the natal area until late September but was not seen thereafter until it appeared in eastern Spain for a couple of days in the following June. In November 2009, it was in western France. When it arrived at Gibraltar Point on 14th June 2010, three days after YRG, it was already three years old. Like YRG, it then alternated between Gibraltar Point and Cley as follows: Gibraltar Point to the 16th June, Cley 19th-26th June, Gibraltar Point, with YRG, 1st-7th July, Cley 10th July-5th August, Gibraltar Point 9th-26th August, and Cley 30th August-15th September. Then no more until it was seen at its natal colony in May 2011.

A third colour-ringed bird (ORB) in 2010 had been ringed as a nestling on 5th May, earlier the same year, in western France. This quickly moved north, being reported first on the Ouse Washes in Cambridgeshire, on 26th June then on 15th July a little further along the Washes at Welney in Norfolk, before turning up at Titchwell on the 17th. During 29th July-2nd August it was at Blacktoft Sands in Yorkshire, and it seems likely that a colour-ringed Spoonbill for which we don't have details that was at Alkborough Flats on 1st & 3rd August was the same individual. On 9th August, this bird was at Gibraltar Point, where it remained until 15th September, first as part of the flock of 15 including YRG and YGY and then in the diminishing group.

Some details of one colour-ring sighting from 2011 are already available. This was a bird ringed as a nestling on 11th May 2010 in the Netherlands, where it remained until 21st August. After that it was first seen at Hickling Broad in Norfolk on 9th June 2011, four days before appearing at Alkborough Flats on 13th June.

Table 1 summarises the movements of these four Spoonbills together with those of two from earlier years, one seen at Barton in May 2002 and the other at Alkborough Flats in July 2007.

Table 1. Summaries of recent colour-ringed Spoonbill sightings

The table shows the locations of sightings for six birds, by the season and year, dated from their ringing as nestlings. Thus for the bird ringed in 2004, a sighting in Lincolnshire in July 2007 is recorded as being in Summer of year 4. Summer = June-August; Autumn = September-November; Winter = December-February, Spring = March-May.

Ring number	NLA 8042287	NLA 8046497	NLA 8048708	NLA 8049817	CA 70104	?
Colour-ring	aB[SU]/B[SU]	O[C6]/B[C6]a	LYfa/YGY	aYfL/YRG	Oa/ORB	?
Ringing location	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	W France	Netherlands
Ringing date	26/06/2001	19/05/2004	21/05/2007	24/06/2008	03/05/2010	11/05/2010
Year & Season						
1 Sum	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	Cambs Norfolk Yorkshire Lincs	Netherlands
Aut		Netherlands	Netherlands		Lincs	
Win						
Spr	W France Lincs Yorkshire					
2 Sum	Yorkshire		E Spain	Netherlands		Norfolk Lincs
Aut		Portugal	E Spain			
Win						
Spr	W France					
3 Sum		Netherlands		Lincs Norfolk		
Aut			W France			
Win						
Spr		N France Suffolk				
4 Sum		Suffolk Lincs	Lincs Norfolk	Netherlands		
Aut	W France	W France	Norfolk	N Spain		
Win						
Spr		Yorkshire Lincs Suffolk Cheshire	Netherlands			
5 Sum		Norfolk				
Aut						
Win						
Spr	N France					
6 Sum						
Aut	Netherlands W France	Portugal				
Win	W France					
Spr						
7 Sum	W France					
Aut	W France	Portugal				
Win	W France					
Spr		W France				
8 Sum						
Aut	W France					
Win						
Spr	N France					
9 Sum						
Aut	W France					
Win						
Spr						

Information on other marked birds, including those prior to 2000, is less complete (it's not been possible to track down all the details before going to press) and, in some cases, we know only that

a marked bird was seen, as outlined in Table 2. There is uncertainty, too, over whether the last two birds in this list are really different.

Table 2. Summaries of other ringed Spoonbill sightings

NLA *****22 R/GR	15/07/1972	Netherlands	20/06/1975 to 12/07/1975	North Killingholme
?	1984	Netherlands	April 1987	Grainthorpe
?	?	?	19/09/1992	Gibraltar Point
?	?	?	29/04/1996	North Killingholme
?	?	Netherlands	18/05/1998 to 20/05/1998	Gibraltar Point
?	10/06/2006	Netherlands	08/06/2008	Gibraltar Point
DEW 259289	10/06/2006	Germany	08/06/2008	Gibraltar Point

One striking point about the appearance of colour-ringed birds in Lincolnshire, and Britain in general, is that it doesn't occur at a fixed point in the birds' life-histories. Among the six birds included in Table 1, one arrived during post-breeding dispersal, two in the spring/summer following fledging, one in the second summer after fledging and two in the third summer after fledging, one of these also touring England in its fourth year. However, given that the species first breeds at around four years, much of this wandering can be interpreted as exploration of potential new breeding sites.

Spoonbills from the Dutch colonies and elsewhere in western Europe typically migrate south, via French, Iberian and Moroccan estuaries, to wintering grounds centred on the Banc d'Arguin, Mauretania (Wernham *et al.* 2002, Cramp & Simmons 1977). With mostly milder winters in recent years, some birds remain further north, in Spain or Morocco or even in north-west Europe. Most, but clearly not all young birds oversummer in the 'wintering' areas at one to two years of age. As demonstrated by Table 1, though, there is evidently a good deal of flexibility in their migrations, when they start to breed and perhaps also whether individuals breed every year.

Breeding in Britain

From the ringing data, it appears that the majority of Spoonbills seen in Britain are from the Dutch colonies. There are small populations in Belgium, northern and western France but other more substantial ones are more distant in southern and especially south-eastern Europe. In contrast to the wider European population much of which is declining or stable, the Dutch colonies have been increasing steadily since the 1970s (www.werkgroeplepelaar.nl) and by 2011 reached about 2300 pairs (www.ecomare.nl). However, some individuals not bred in the Netherlands do occur, including for example the French bird in Lincolnshire in 2010, and birds from Germany and Spain in Norfolk in 2011 (Pitches 2011).

The increasing numbers reaching Britain have for a long time given rise to expectation that breeding would occur here. The majority of migrants are seen in East Anglia and south-east England, and there were breeding attempts there in the late 1990s, so it was something of a surprise that the first two instances of successful breeding were in Lancashire in 1998 and south-west Scotland in 2008 (Holling *et al.* 2010). But in 2010 the anticipated at last happened, and six pairs reared ten young at Holkham NNR in Norfolk, with the colony expanding to eight pairs, rearing 14 young, in 2011 (Pitches 2010, 2011). The breeding birds in Norfolk in 2011 formed part of a group of about 40 adults and immatures in the county.

It is interesting to wonder whether breeding might take place in Lincolnshire. Spoonbills prefer extensive shallow wetlands, and nest on the ground or low trees on islands or in dense emergent vegetation in lakes where they are reasonably secure from ground predators and disturbance. It is not certain that these conditions can be met in Lincolnshire at present, although the species clearly finds much that is suitable at Gibraltar Point, and one can just about imagine them at one or two other areas. But speculation often seems to miss the eventual outcome: the unexpected often happens!



Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* 'YGY' at Gib Point on Jun 14th 2010 © Roy Harvey



Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* 'ORB' at Gib Point on Sep 15th 2010 © Les Davidson

Distribution in Lincolnshire

The vast majority of Spoonbills in Lincolnshire have been in coastal areas or the Humber or Wash. Analysis of all records for 1989-2010, taking just the first location of birds that were thought to move around, revealed that no fewer than 41% were seen at Gibraltar Point (the figure falls only to 39% if 2010 is excluded). The next highest numbers were at Alkborough Flats, with 9%, Tetney Marsh-Donna Nook with 8%, and Frampton Marsh, with 7%.

A little way behind were North Killingholme, with 4.9%, and Barton Pits, with 3.9%. About 8% of birds were first seen at inland locations, with the Deeping area, attracting just under 3%, most important in this respect. Table 3 summarises the locations of 'new arrivals', with the coast treated as Cleethorpes to Gibraltar Point inclusive.

Table 3. Locations of Spoonbills in Lincolnshire, 1989-2010

	Number	%
Humber	45	21.8
Coast	120	58.7
Wash	23	11.2
Inland	17	8.3

Seasonal pattern of occurrence

Figure 2 illustrates the occurrence of Spoonbills in Lincolnshire by week, and separates birds considered to be new arrivals (in black) from those remaining from previous weeks (in grey).

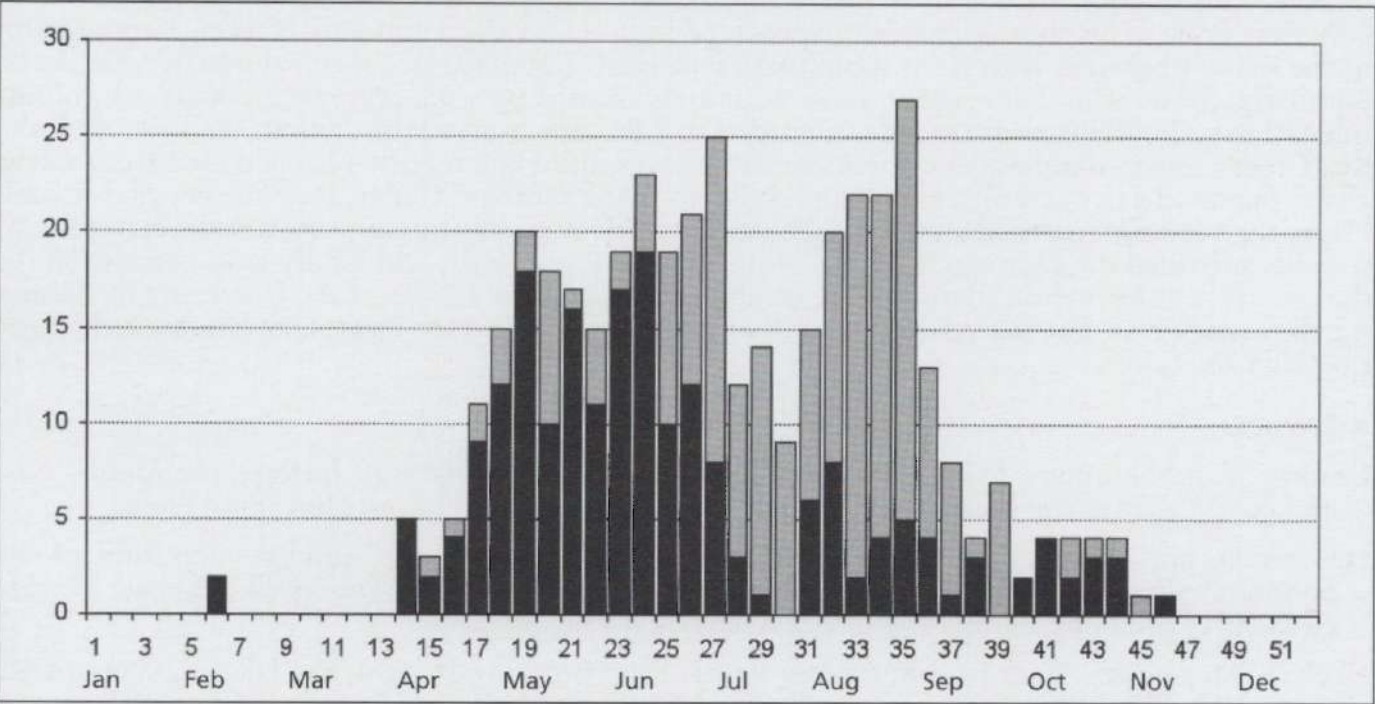


Figure 2. Weekly pattern of Spoonbill occurrence in Lincolnshire, 1989-2010.

Black = birds arriving in that week. Grey = birds present in that week, having arrived earlier.

The underlying pattern, with the bulk of arrivals in spring and early summer, between late April and early July, and smaller numbers during August-October, is similar to that in earlier years. The tendency of birds to remain for longer periods, however, has resulted in a more even occurrence pattern which now shows peak totals more or less spanning early May to late August. Not surprisingly, given the increase in numbers and the long-staying groups at Gibraltar Point in 2010, it was that year that most transformed the pattern from a spring-dominated one to that shown in Figure 2.

The earliest record during 1989-2010, and the only one before 3rd April, was of two at Moulton Marsh on 6th February 1993. Note though that there was one at Gibraltar Point on 4th March 2011. The latest was one at Rimac on 18th November 2008 (but there was a wintering bird in 2011/12).

Conclusions

Over the ten years beginning in 2001, Spoonbills have become more regular and more numerous in Lincolnshire, with about 38 individuals seen in 2010 and an average of almost 16, contrasting with

an average of just over four during the previous 12 years. The species remains primarily a spring migrant, most birds arriving during late April-early July, but increasingly and especially in 2010 birds stayed for prolonged periods. This has resulted in good opportunities for seeing Spoonbills throughout the period from April to September. The majority occur on the coast or in the Humber or Wash, and far more have been recorded at Gibraltar Point than anywhere else, notably in 2010 when there were up to 15 there. It remains scarce inland. The increase is clearly associated with the growth in numbers in Norfolk and the presence of a breeding colony there since 2010; and the increase in eastern England as a whole is associated with the steady rise in numbers breeding in the Netherlands. At least eight Dutch colour-ringed birds have been seen in the county, most or all at ages when they would be prospecting potential breeding sites – but it is questionable whether there is suitable habitat in Lincolnshire. While Dutch-bred birds are assumed to comprise the majority of those occurring here, one colour-ringed bird from western France has also been seen, during its post-breeding dispersal, and possibly also one from Germany.

Even more were seen in Lincolnshire in 2011 than in 2010 but, before we get too excited about the numbers now occurring here, it is worth noting that totals on their more direct migration routes are somewhat higher. For example, on the estuary of the R Seine in northern France, the average number using the area on spring passage during 1997-2007 was 745, while in autumn during 2004-2007 the average was 329 (Hémery and Aulert 2008). They don't even breed there – though a few do on the Somme estuary about 80 miles to the north-east.

Acknowledgements

Andrew Chick suggested this article and did much of the background work, including pulling together information of colour-ringed birds, much of it provided by one diligent observer at Gibraltar Point. The photographs were provided by Les Davidson and Roy Harvey. I am grateful to the many observers who have submitted records of spoonbills in Lincolnshire over the years, especially those who have spent time accurately recording and reporting details of colour-ringed birds. In addition to records submitted to LBC direct or via BirdTrack, we have used the BirdGuides online database and the monthly Alkborough Flats reports (downloaded from www.alkboroughandwalcot.co.uk), and I should like to thank Graham Catley, Roy Harvey and Russell Hayes for advice on particular sightings. Otto Overdijk of Natuurmonumenten in the Netherlands speedily provided the sightings histories of the Dutch-ringed birds, and kindly gave permission for the use of the information in this article, as did Loic Marion of CNRS at the University of Rennes for the French bird. Lee Barber at the BTO successfully searched for information on more historic ringed birds.

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Caspian Gulls: The story of Stumpy.....

Dean Nicholson and Kevin Du Rose, Jan 2012

On Oct 28th 2004 Kevin Du Rose found and photographed an adult Caspian Gull at Kirkby on Bain landfill site, he nicknamed this bird 'Stumpy' on account of it missing approximately half the tarsus and the foot from its right leg. This distinctive disability (potentially as good as a colour ring on such a scarce bird as Caspian Gull) would hopefully enable the bird to be seen again so he made mention of it on his blog.



Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* at Kirkby on Bain landfill site on Oct 28th 2004 - © Kevin Du Rose

Just over 2 months later, KDR re-located the same bird once again, only this time it was c30 miles to the NW of Kirkby on Bain at Gainsborough landfill site.

Remarkably, 5 years later on 29th Dec 2009 whilst scanning the gulls at Gainsborough landfill site, Dean Nicholson found a 'one legged' Caspian Gull and bells immediately started ringing in his head. He managed to take some poor record shots which luckily showed the distinctive right leg well. When he got home he sent the pictures to KDR, photographs were compared and it was decided that there was little doubt that the birds were in fact one and the same. The chances of another Caspian Gull with precise matching limb-loss would be highly unlikely. DN and KDR then wrote a small article for Birdguides entitled 'Have you seen Stumpy' with the hopes that others in neighbouring counties (or further afield) might pick the bird up.

The following October, 2010, DN once again found Stumpy on Gainsborough landfill site, the bird remained here for over a month and was seen on 8 other occasions before last being seen on Nov 22nd.

Out of the blue, heavy snowfall hit the County on the last day of November which resulted in Gainsborough Tip being closed for a week. Although no visits were made during this time DN was told by the site manager, whom he knows, that since the closure all the gulls had disappeared from the Tip.

On Dec 6th 2010 DN was searching through the gulls at Whisby Nature Park when he came across a familiar figure stood out on the ice at Teal Lake. Stumpy was now obviously feeding on

Lincoln Tip (18 miles to the south of Gainsborough) and using the adjacent waterbodies to bathe and preen. Despite the extreme wintery weather Lincoln Tip had managed to remain in operation, a sure lifeline for many gulls.

Stumpy was also seen nearby in North Hykeham on Apex Pit 2 days later where the bird was seen to fly to and from the Tip and at dusk seen to fly towards Thurlby to roost.

A few weeks later and Stumpy was once again back at Gainsborough on Jan 13th 2011 although this was a short visit and there were no other sightings over the remaining winter period.

Numerous visits to Gainsborough in autumn and early winter failed to find the bird but this was probably explained away by the fact that Stumpy was seen once again at Lincoln Tip on the afternoon of Nov 11th 2011.

The latest sighting of Stumpy was on Jan 3rd 2012 where 'he' was seen bathing at Teal Lake at Whisby NP. It would seem highly probable that Gainsborough Tip has been totally ignored this winter in favour of Lincoln Tip and the surrounding waterbodies...one can only ask where next?!

The longevity and site faithfulness of gulls is nothing new and is well documented. Some of the more well-known individuals include the returning American Herring Gull which visits Galway in Ireland each winter and at least three different Ring-billed Gulls returning to Gosport in Hants, Isle of Dogs in London and Westcliffe-on-Sea in Essex respectively. All have been returning to the same sites for many years now. There are also several well documented returning and long-lived Iceland and Glaucous Gulls.

Site-faithful Caspian Gulls are certainly scarce but not unknown in Britain. A returning Polish colour-ringed individual has been recorded every year since 2008 in Norfolk, Essex and Suffolk. Another, un-ringed adult bird seen in several recent winters in the West Midlands at Stubbers Green is strongly believed to be a returning bird. There are currently no proven records of any returning Caspian Gulls in Lincolnshire so the fact that Stumpy has been tracked returning to the County for the last seven years is a unique first. Where Stumpy spends the summer months can only be guessed at but it can be assumed that it is somewhere well to the south and east of the UK. It will then disperse north and west after the breeding season along with many Yellow-legged and Mediterranean Gulls to winter in Britain.

The fact that Stumpy was already fully adult when first found would mean that 'he' must be now at least 11 years of age. The large overall size and relatively sturdy bill (for a Caspian Gull) would suggest that Stumpy is more than likely to be a male although this is merely conjecture. It is proven that the bird frequents various landfill sites in a 'triangle' between Kirkby, Gainsborough and Lincoln but has never been recorded anywhere else. Gull interest in Lincolnshire is frustratingly low so it's perfectly feasible that the bird occasionally visits other Tips around the County and is just not getting picked up.



Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* 'Stumpy' at Gainsborough landfill site on Nov 20th 2010 -
© Dean Nicholson

Where does the bird roost whilst wintering in the County ? A total of three potential roost sites have been identified. On three different occasions Stumpy has been seen to fly off high to the North from Gainsborough to roost with large numbers of gulls along the Humber. On two occasions the bird has also been seen to head SW at dusk in the general direction of Lincoln where the roost at Thurlby is surely the destination. On another occasion the bird was seen to fly due South at dusk following the Trent and probably heading towards well known gull roosts at either Cottam Power Station or Hoveringham GP's over the border in Nottinghamshire. Unfortunately, the fact that the bird's legs would not be seen whilst on water would make picking Stumpy out at a roost almost impossible.

If anybody does happen to find an adult Caspian Gull anytime, do try and see its right leg and if it is Stumpy we'd love to hear about it.

Timeline

28/10/04 – KDR first finds and photographs Stumpy at Kirkby on Bain landfill site alerting other birders to this distinctive bird via his blog.

09/01/06 – KDR re-locates Stumpy c30 miles to the NW of Kirkby at Gainsborough landfill site.

29/12/09 – DN finds stumpy at Gainsborough LS and contacts KDR, photographs were compared and a joint article is written for Birguides detailing proceedings.

21/10/10 – DN once again finds Stumpy at Gainsborough LS and is seen another 8 occasions at the site until 22/11/10.

30/11/10 – heavy snowfall hits Lincolnshire resulting in Gainsborough LS closing down for a week.

06/12/10 – DN re-locates Stumpy roosting and preening at Whisby Nature Park after feeding on Lincoln landfill site, an 18 mile movement to the S.

08/12/10 – DN finds Stumpy at North Hykeham stood on the ice at Apex Pit where the bird was seen commuting to and from Lincoln LS.

13/01/11 – DN once again finds Stumpy feeding on Gainsborough LS.

11/11/11 – DN finds Stumpy at North Hykeham again roosting on waste ground adjacent to Lincoln LS.

03/01/12 – DN finds Stumpy bathing on Teal Lake at Whisby NP which would suggest that he has wintered around Lincoln LS in the absence of any sightings at Gainsborough LS throughout the winter.

Breeding Hobbies *Falco subbuteo* in Willingham by Stow 2009

Dean Nicholson

Between the Jun 14th and Sep 1st 2009 I monitored the progress of a pair of nesting Hobbies close to my home in Willingham by Stow. I visited the nest site daily (sometimes up to 3 times a day) and meticulously noted all observations. It was a rare and privileged insight into the daily goings on of these charismatic little falcons.

Although far from being a comprehensive survey, the following account is a neatly packaged snapshot of what I observed during that period.

Nest site and surrounding Habitat

The nest itself was in an old Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*, nest c40 ft up a mature Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, tree on private land; the surrounding area was flat open farmland with a scattering of mature Ash and Oak *Quercus sp* trees and an intricate weaving of hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, hedges patching the landscape together. In the immediate vicinity of the nest the surrounding fields contained barley, wheat and oilseed rape. Within a mile radius of the nest there is a substantial stand of mixed deciduous and pine *Pinus sp*, woodland and a small avenue of mature poplars *Populus sp*.

The Hobby is certainly under-recorded as a breeding bird in Lincolnshire due in part to the vast areas of unwatched open farmland and the elusive nature of the species during the breeding season.

Timing of breeding

The nest site was first discovered on Jun 14th when a Hobby was seen noisily driving a Carrion Crow away from a mature ash tree; I knew that this particular tree contained an old Crow's nest from my mapping of likely Hobby nest sites during the previous winter months when old nests can easily be seen in a leafless canopy.

The next day I returned with a telescope and was surprised to find the female Hobby sitting tight on the nest presumably incubating eggs. The female was first seen feeding young on Jul 12th and the first two (of three) youngsters fledged on Aug 10th with the last and considerably smaller chick fledging three days later on the 13th.

The last youngster to fledge was last seen on Aug 19th and is presumed to have perished but the first two fledglings stayed in the vicinity of the nest until being last seen on Sep 1st. The last observation of the female was on Sep 1st indicating that they departed together, but the male remained in the area until Sep 18th.

These timings are largely consistent with other studies that have produced average incubation periods for Hobbies between 28-32 days, depending on the size of the clutch: one egg/28 days, two eggs/30 days, three eggs/31 days and four eggs/32 days (Bijlsma 1980, Bijlsma 1997).

Interaction with other species

Probably the most curious relationship that existed was between the Hobbies and Woodpigeons *Columba palumbus*. At the study nest site two pairs of Woodpigeons were nesting in the same tree, the nearest nest being only c15 ft away from the Hobby nest. It was very much a love/hate relationship with both ends of the social spectrum witnessed in either the female's extreme tolerance of Woodpigeons or the male's persistent aggression to them. The male Hobby would constantly hassle and harry any Woodpigeons in the nest tree almost every time he returned to the nest, often just chasing them briefly before giving up but on a couple of occasions actually connecting and causing the Woodpigeon to lose feathers. This was purely an act of aggression to push the birds from the nest rather than attempting to kill the birds for food, despite constantly witnessing this act of 'bullying' from the male I never once got the impression he wanted to kill a Woodpigeon. The female on the other hand was totally indifferent to the close presence of Woodpigeons; on Jun 22nd I was very surprised to witness two Woodpigeons perched about a foot above the Hobby nest peering down in a curious manner whilst the female Hobby sat incubating the eggs; I was then amazed when one of the pigeons actually dropped onto the edge of the Hobby nest; I knew the female Hobby was on the nest as I could see her primaries sticking up over the edge of the nest bowl and after about a minute she stood up briefly to give herself a shake and only then did the nosey Woodpigeon move off and land up about a foot above the nest again where the

two birds continued to peer into the nest. The female Hobby totally ignored the close presence of the birds and the Woodpigeons only flew off when the male Hobby arrived at the nest with food. Another amusing incident occurred on Jul 6th when, after driving a Carrion Crow away from the area, the female on her return to the nest had to literally barge past a pair of Woodpigeons which were copulating on the nest side to settle back down to incubate! A pair of Stock Doves *Columba oenas* also nested in the same tree as the Hobbies and although they also pushed their luck at times the female Hobby once again showed no aggression towards them.

The act of Woodpigeons nesting in close proximity to breeding Hobbies for security is not a new phenomenon and is covered in more depth in the excellent monograph 'The Hobby' by Anthony Chapman 1999 (p58-59)

Throughout the incubation period and also after the chicks had fledged most potential predators were mobbed aggressively when in the vicinity of the nest.

The female was usually first to react and would shoot off the nest to noisily dive at any intruder while emitting a ringing, high pitched 'kikikikikiki' call which more often than not would alert the male who would also suddenly appear from nowhere to join in the attack. Nest defence was a noisy affair with the female especially vocal during any mobbing but there was seldom any actual contact, the constant stoops and general harrying was usually enough to quickly move the potential predator on. The only actual contact I saw was when a 'rogue' female Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* made a sustained and concerted attempt to predate young from the nest (see British Birds notes section April 2010. Vol 103. P 244), the female Hobby eventually locked talons with the Kestrel in mid-air, causing both birds to plummet to the ground before the Kestrel finally got the message and left the area.

Carrion Crows constantly elicited the most hostile response and were instantly chased away from the nest as soon as any came close. On a few occasions they would still be harassed and mobbed when up to 100m or so away from the nest.

Other birds seen to be mobbed by the pair in the vicinity of the nest included Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* (two occasions), Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* (one occasion), Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (frequently) and Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* (one occasion) although rather bizarrely, a female Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* which sat within 5ft of the female Hobby in the nest tree for 12 minutes one day was totally ignored. Perhaps also surprising was the lack of hostility shown towards a Magpie *Pica pica* which had worked its way along a hawthorn hedge passing right beneath the nest at one stage; both Hobbies peered down intently at that the Magpie but took no other action. Barn Owls *Tyto alba* and Little Owls *Athene noctua* were quite regularly seen in the vicinity of the nest but neither species' presence prompted any hostility from the Hobbies at any time.

There was also a curious relationship between the Hobbies and a pair of Kestrels which were nesting about 50m away in an old haystack. Although any other 'outside' Kestrels which passed through the area were mobbed, the nesting Kestrels were always ignored. Often on warm sunny afternoons the male Hobby and the male Kestrel would soar high together on thermals for long periods and on one occasion the female Kestrel and female Hobby were both seen to mob a Common Buzzard together and force it away from the area.

On the flip side, the only birds I ever saw mob the Hobbies on a regular basis were a pair of Lapwings *Vanellus vanellus* that were breeding in the adjacent barley field; although the mobbing was noisy and aggressive the Hobbies paid little or no attention to the Lapwings.

Interaction with man

Although there was a public bridleway which passed within a 100m of the nest the Hobbies never once seemed to pay any attention to the occasional dog walkers or horse riders that passed along it. One day when the female was incubating, a farmer walked out into the neighbouring field to check on a flooded area; as he passed right below the nest the female just quietly stared down from the edge of the nest watching his progress until he had passed.

On the Aug 3rd to my horror, several cars, two tractors and a combine harvester were parked in the field whilst harvesting was taking place which created quite a bit of disturbance and noise close to the nest; at this stage the chicks were only a week from fledging and were spending a lot of time stood on the edge of the nest wing flapping. Surprisingly this disturbance didn't appear to bother the Hobbies at all with the chicks continuing as they had been done before all the noise and machinery arrived and I was further amazed to witness a food-pass over the half harvested field amongst the noise and mayhem; the only difference in behaviour being that female took the prey item up into a small tree to feed rather feeding on the ground like she usually did.

On another occasion I approached the nest tree to search for pellets and to try and find the Hobby's food cache; when I was right beneath the tree I peered up at the nest to see the female, who was on eggs at the time, staring intensely straight back down at me! The male circled quietly overhead until I moved away then he came and settled near the nest once again.

Although some studies have found that Hobbies will often noisily defend the nest from human interference, at no stage at all did I witness either Hobby react noisily or aggressively to any human or vehicle that strayed near the nest.



Breeding Hobbies *Falco Subbuteo* in Willingham by Stow 2009 © Roy Harvey

Food, prey and hunting

During my observations I was fortunate to witness pretty much all aspects of the Hobby's hunting behaviour, from the actual hunting itself to the plucking and eating of the prey and also being able to accurately recognise several of the prey species.

The overwhelming majority of hunting was carried out by the male; he would provision the female at the nest throughout the incubation period as well as providing the vast majority of food to the fledged young. Apart from sallying for high-flying insects on a couple of occasions to feed herself I never witnessed the female do any hunting at all.

When hunting the male was always seen to use the same strategy; he would leave the nest site and would immediately start to gain height, before flying fast and purposefully with constant steady wing beats; then at a height he was happy with (I estimated this to be often around 400m) he would stop flapping and start to soar whilst presumably scanning the area below. Whilst soaring he would often not flap his wings at all for long spells; it is worth mentioning that when doing this he was so high up that he was more or less invisible to the naked eye, indeed he was only a speck in my binoculars most of the time. Without so much of a wing beat he would cover a lot of ground in a very small space of time, one minute he would be directly over my head and within a couple of minutes he would be right off to the north, probably a couple of miles away. He would then go into a shallow dive with his wings partly tucked in and start to gather speed; this descent is speedy but not carried out at a steep angle proving that he must spot his intended target a very long way off and way before his potential prey spots him; from this shallow dive he would then close his wings totally and like a bullet, enter into a fully fledged stoop (this final stoop is thought to average 153kmh/102mph: Bijlsma 1980). By this stage the prey will have made a move and if not caught immediately a fast and frenetic chase would ensue with the Hobby locked onto a specific victim. I found that if the Hobby wasn't successful after about 10 seconds of chasing he would usually give up but on one occasion I watched him lock onto a Swift *Apus apus* and in a concerted effort chase it skywards at an almost vertical angle for what was probably about half a minute or more, just as he was closing in and seemingly only inches behind the Swift somehow dropped a shoulder and gave him the slip, flying almost vertically straight back down again to safety. In all I witnessed 6 of these hunting forays but surprisingly only 2 were successful, on both occasions the victims were Swifts.

On the evening of Jul 27th I witnessed what appeared to be 'mutual hunting' between the male and female. According to the literature, this is not unheard of but does appear to be quite uncommon. It might have been a due to the chicks (now 16 days old) being hungry and the fact that of the previous two days had seen heavy rain which that may well have hampered hunting somewhat.

In this incident the male was seen to leave the nest tree where he had been roosting for about half an hour; he then flew south and immediately started to gain height; the female then followed in exactly the same path but kept much lower; as the male soared high above her the female started half heartedly flying at a small group of Swifts whilst calling persistently. After a minute or so she had attracted a group of about 10 Swifts that were mobbing her, making sure they always stayed above and behind her. All of a sudden out of nowhere the male came crashing through the group and took a Swift out easy as you like! The now silent female then followed the male back to the nest and took the prey from him in an aerial food-pass. It certainly seemed to me that the female's persistent calling and clumsy lunges were deliberately designed to act as a distraction to the Swifts that, whilst mobbing her, did not realise that her mate was circling high above waiting to pounce. If this was indeed a deliberate hunting method then it seemed to be very efficient and one can only wonder why it is not deployed more often. This was the only instance where I witnessed this 'mutual hunting' behaviour. [In extensive studies of Hobbies in Lincolnshire since 1988 G P Catley has observed mutual hunting behaviour on a number of occasions typically when the young are close to fledging or have already fledged].

Throughout the nesting period the male would bring in food and immediately call the female off the nest as he approached; she would then come and take the food from him either in an aerial food-pass or by simply taking it from him on the ground after he had fed on it. The majority of food was plucked and eaten on the ground, usually on a raised bit of earth in a bare, dried up area of the barley field about 20m from the nest; unfortunately and rather surprisingly the same plucking post was not used every time so it made my job of searching for remains more difficult! Very occasionally the female would take the prey into a small ash tree right next to the nest tree to feed but this was exceptional.

The plucking of a Swift would usually take about three minutes and the subsequent eating could take anything from two minutes to 20 minutes, depending on how much was eaten. Sometimes I would find the remains of a Swift when just the head had been eaten whilst on other occasions the only thing that remained were the wings, spine and feet. Surprisingly, I never once noticed the male or female 'mantle' the prey during the plucking or eating.

After every feed, both birds were seen vigorously wiping their bill and talons on branches to clean away any blood or sinew that was stuck to them. The female especially would take great care to clean herself before returning to the nest to incubate, presumably to keep flies and parasites away from the nest/eggs?

Pre-hatching the male would always feed himself first and the female would take what was left but after the chicks were born, more aerial food-passes took place when the female would take the prey straight up to the nest to feed the young.

The food-passes would usually take place within 20-30m of the nest, although one food-pass on Jul 20th was carried out over the next field some 300m away, and would see the female almost turn herself upside down to take the prey from the male's talons; on approaching the food-carrying male she would be calling vigorously but would immediately fall quiet as soon as she took the food. In all 16 aerial food-passes were witnessed and only once did I see the prey item dropped and then it was immediately retrieved by the female no sooner than it had hit the ground.

Prey species were overwhelmingly birds and the most common prey by far was Swifts. Dragonflies are fairly scarce in the general area but even so, a few were seen to be caught although the species couldn't be determined it seemed likely they were Migrant Hawkers *Aeshna mixta*. At least three Bumble-Bees *Bombus* sp and a Large-White butterfly were also observed being eaten on the wing as were several other high flying unidentified insects, but *probably* Cockchafers?, that were sallied for during mild evenings after the young had fledged.

The following list is the prey totals recorded throughout my observations.

Unidentified – 16 (all these were bird prey and most were thought to be Swifts)

Swift *Apus apus* – 8

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* – 2

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (juvenile) – 1

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba* (juvenile) – 1

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* – 1

Partridge sp (juvenile) – 1

Despite witnessing the female coughing up several pellets below the nest tree, subsequent searches for them frustratingly drew a blank due to the dense area of hawthorns, bramble and nettles.

Influence of weather on brooding and hunting

A bewildering mix of weather was experienced by the Hobbies (and myself!) during the three months of observation, from dry sweltering heat-waves to torrential downpours and thunder storms, but happily the birds proved far more resilient than I initially gave them credit for.

Whilst incubating the eggs in heavy rain or strong wind the female would hunker right down into the nest bowl often being out of sight and this caused a few moments of panic in the early days. Usually her tail/primary feathers could be seen sticking out over the nest bowl and I was always amazed at how she could lose herself in the nest bowl and totally disappear from view during inclement weather.

The male would sit out any bad weather in either the nest tree or the small ash tree next to it; he would sit forlornly and frequently flick the rain from his sodden feathers but would also sit with his head tucked in his back for quite long periods during particularly heavy rain.

Hot spells also seemed to have a troubling effect upon the birds; during a one week heat-wave I remember the female constantly getting up and turning on the nest which I believed at the time may have been a clue that something was going on underneath her but it wasn't to be as the eggs did not hatch for another two weeks and it seemed that it was just the heat making her fidgety though she could have been turning the eggs to avoid them overheating. She was also seen to be panting quite heavily on one particularly hot afternoon.

The male didn't seem at all fazed by the heat and judging by the amount of prey he would bring in seemed to have quite a high success rate whilst hunting during hot weather.

On the evening of Jul 13th we suffered three solid hours of torrential rain with thunder and lightning and flash flooding, needless to say I didn't visit the nest during this particular spell but I did sit at home worrying about the birds; I can remember thinking if they can survive this weather then they can survive anything". It was also on my mind that the first chick/s had only hatched the previous day. The next morning when I visited in much finer weather I was greeted with the sight of the female feeding the youngster(s) on the nest apparently none the worse for the experience!

The male's reluctance to hunt in heavy rain was often demonstrated by the fact that whenever a long period of rain stopped he could be seen to fly off almost immediately to hunt, sometimes only a minute or so after the last raindrops had fallen, shaking himself dry as he went.

Even when the chicks were 16 days old and were no longer being continuously brooded by the female I noticed that she did still brood them in heavy rain. On Jul 29th I watched her awkwardly brood the young during an horrendous 10 minute long hail storm (the second one that day) in which I could just about make out the first bits of hail bouncing off her wings as she tried to settle over them.

It wasn't until the chicks were nearly three weeks old (20 days) that the female no longer attempted to brood the chicks in any rain, then the youngsters would just huddle down together low in the nest instead.

Provisioning the young

The male provided all the food throughout the nesting period; the female would take food from him, sometimes feeding herself briefly before taking the prey to the nest to feed the youngsters. Prey was seen to be ripped up and carefully fed to the youngsters in an orderly fashion with the female sharing the food out evenly. One chick was noticeably smaller than its two siblings and would often be the last to be fed. The older the chicks got more food was brought to the nest and the male would simply bring some food in and immediately head straight back out hunting again. The most feeds I recorded were on the evening of Jul 21st when I witnessed three prey items brought to the nest in just over an hour; this was at a time when very good numbers of Swifts were passing through the area.

Contrary to the literature I never witnessed any insect prey being fed to the young at all whilst they were in the nest with prey consisting exclusively of birds, although not long after fledging a juvenile was seen to take a dragonfly from the male in a clumsy, fumbling attempt at an aerial food-pass.

Insects, especially dragonflies, form a large percentage of the diet of Hobbies but this is certainly down to availability. With no substantial waterbodies nearby most farmland nesting Hobbies will not encounter as many dragonflies as birds that nest nearer water but this is of no detriment to the chicks which still get all the nourishment and protein they need from bird prey. By the time chicks fledge in Aug-Sep Common Darters and Migrant Hawkers are usually much more plentiful in arable farmland.

On two separate occasions I noticed the female drop onto the top of the same bit of hawthorn hedge that runs below the nest with prey in her bill; on both occasions she hovered briefly about 2ft above the hedge before dropping awkwardly into the top of it and then flying up to the nest minus the prey item; this gave me the impression that she was 'caching' excess food in the hedge in anticipation of hard times? Interestingly both of these observations came at a time just after a spell of prolonged rain when hunting would have been hampered. I never witnessed either bird attempt to retrieve any stashed food from the hedge at any time and a subsequent search of the hedge didn't produce any evidence of this either.

Behaviour of fledged juveniles

Two of the chicks finally fledged on Aug 10th and the smaller chick three days later on the 13th. In the days following fledging the chicks would spend much of the time sitting around on branches in the immediate vicinity of the nest; they would sit quietly until the male came in with food and then would all call in unison often clumsily chasing the female as she went to retrieve the food. For the next week the chicks all roosted together on the nest but after that they would roost individually around the nest tree. The youngsters spent a surprising amount of time sitting on the bare area of the barley field with the adult female. When the male brought in food there would be a bit of a free-for-all until the food was eaten and calm restored.

The first flights were clumsy and rather comical; the flight action was floppy and weak with the birds showing noticeably rounder wing tips and shorter tails than the adults. When landing on branches after these maiden flights the birds would often over balance and on more than one occasion I witnessed a bird clung upside down for up to a minute! Another amusing incident saw a chick land on the adult females back whilst she tried to eat a prey item. By Aug 15th the two remaining chicks were in full juvenile plumage lacking any down and flying a lot more confidently, even being seen to chase insects on calm evenings. The begging calls from the youngsters sounded just like the call of the adults but slightly higher pitched.

Rough-legged Buzzard taken into care

Nigel Lound

On the morning of Monday 22nd November 2010, two Tree Surgeons were travelling along Blankney North Drove in Lincolnshire when they saw a Buzzard sized bird of prey a short distance away, on the ground in a field. They stopped to observe the bird, which flapped its wings and began to walk away from them. Believing the bird was injured, possibly having a broken wing, they approached and were able to catch it quite easily as all it did was attempt to run away!

They took the bird to the nearest house where the owner, Mary Johnson, put the bird in a large hamper and then rang a local Vet. The Vet referred her to the Weirfield Wildlife Hospital in Lincoln and the bird was collected a short time later by RSPCA and taken to Weirfield.

The owner of Weirfield, Ally Townsend was unsure of the bird's identity and rang me, saying the RSPCA Inspector was unsure as well, but suspected that it may be a Rough-legged Buzzard. Ally sent me some photographs of the bird, from which I was able to identify it as a juvenile Rough-legged Buzzard due, mainly to the diffuse tail band and the grey iris. When I told Ally, she always referred to the bird as the "Posh Buzzard!" due to the fact of having a Common Buzzard in the hospital at the same time.

A Vet examined the bird and the only injury found was lameness in one leg! There seemed to be no explanation as to why it couldn't fly unless it needed both legs to push off maybe? As is apparently usual with birds of prey taken into care the bird was only offered food during its first 24 hours but usually don't eat within that time. After this Ally fed the bird with small pieces of chick with a pair of tweezers and on the 3rd attempt it really went for it, there was nothing wrong with its appetite! For 3 days the bird was given Metacam, which is a pain killing, and anti-inflammatory drug and was forced to rest, which basically entailed no perching up, bearing in mind the leg injury. During this time the bird was examined by an Osteopath who checked the bird's legs, shoulders and wings, also confirming the bird appeared to have slight lameness in one leg.



Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus* (taken into care) Nov 22nd © Nige Lound

The bird was then placed in a large aviary containing both low and high perches. It still seemed reticent to fly preferring to run around on the floor and occasionally hopped onto the lower perch. As the UK was in the middle of a very cold spell with a lot of snow, Ally didn't want to release the bird until she was sure it could fly and would be able to hunt successfully. Although Rough-legged Buzzard are used to extremes of cold, releasing a young bird, into very cold (down to minus 12°C) conditions with deep snow might not have been a good idea? The bird continued to feed well, eating up to 5 or 6 chicks a day for the last 2 or 3 weeks of its care. Eventually, on Friday 5th January 2011, the Rough-legged Buzzard managed to fly up to the higher perch in the aviary and Ally decided it was now fit enough for release.

On 7th January 2011 I met with Ally on Blankney North Drove where the bird was released. This was the same location as where the bird was found. We both feared that it would maybe fly a short distance and go to ground again and we would have to chase round and collect it up again but, happily, this was not the case. As soon as the sliding door on the box was released the Rough-legged Buzzard hopped out and flew, low and strong for about 200metres towards Metherringham Delph where it was lost from view. A job well done by Ally I think!!

The bird was fitted with a BTO ring prior to release, just in case the bird is subsequently refound. A future recovery in summer would give an indication of the origins of Rough-legged Buzzard reaching Britain in winter. The ringer Alan Ball confirmed Nigel's original identification as a juvenile based upon pale tail band, pale trailing edge to underside of flight feathers, and patterning on the coverts. In addition it was sexed as a male with a wing length of 410mm (BWP gives males as 403-430mm, females 430-454mm).

The bird was last seen in the area on 11th January 2011 where it appeared to be fit and well.

Managing the Humber Estuary

Tania Davey

The Humber Estuary is internationally important for wildlife and is renowned as one of the most important estuaries in Europe for wintering and migratory birds, supporting on average over 140,000 birds a year. The Estuary supports internationally important populations of seven waterfowl species that are listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive. These include the marsh harrier, avocet, little tern, bittern, hen harrier, golden plover and bar tailed godwit. These species are rare or vulnerable and their habitat is subject to special conservation measures to ensure their survival and reproduction. The Estuary also supports internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory bird species and nationally important bird populations which are within internationally important assemblages of waterfowl.

Under UK, European law and international conventions the Humber Estuary is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Ramsar Site. Together these form the Humber Estuary European Marine Site. These designations provide protection for a number of Humber Estuary habitats and species including:

- the estuary itself
- mudflats and sandflats
- saltmarsh
- saline lagoons
- tidal reedbeds
- numerous bird species
- river and sea lamprey
- the breeding colony of grey seals at Donna Nook.

The Humber Management Scheme is a partnership of statutory and non-statutory groups for the sustainable management of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site (EMS). It provides a complementary and coordinated approach to the management of the Humber Estuary allowing those organisations with statutory duties in relation to the Humber Estuary EMS to demonstrate the discharge of their duties.

The Humber Management Scheme began its development in 2002. Over 100 different activities which take place on or around the estuary were analysed to understand their impact on the European Marine Site. In 2005 a joint management plan was produced. In addition a number of special projects have been delivered such as signage around the whole of the estuary to educate people on the wildlife importance of the site, a voluntary code of conduct to engage with users on best practice when undertaking recreational activities and a website with numerous resources on the Humber Estuary.

More recently the Humber Management Scheme has been working on research to understand the effect of recreation on the Estuary's designated birds. In 2010 a desk based study was undertaken to define existing data on recreation and to recommend the best approach to understanding disturbance to birds. It concluded that there are numerous recreational activities which take place around the estuary but there is no systematic way to record this, and that recreation is 'seen' to cause a disturbance to birds.

During 2011 and 2012, the Humber Management Scheme is undertaking work to collect information on the number of people using the estuary and the types of recreational activities people are undertaking. For the first time this will provide a picture of what people are using the estuary for and provide further information to help the partnership understand the impact of recreation on the designated bird species.

2011 also has seen the update of the Humber Management Scheme aim, objectives and action plans. Future priorities will centre around:

- habitat and species management
- recreation and tourism
- communication
- monitoring, information and research
- integrated management and forward planning

The Humber Management Scheme involves statutory organisations through the Humber Estuary Relevant Authorities Group. This group includes over 30 organisations including 6 local authorities, five harbour authorities, numerous drainage boards and other organisation such as Natural England and the Environment Agency.

Non-statutory groups are involved through the voluntary open membership Humber Advisory Group. Membership of this group is varied and ranges from NGOs such as RSPB and Lincolnshire and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, industry representatives, recreational users, academics and individuals with an interest in the Humber Estuary.

If you would like further information on the Humber Management Scheme, would like to become involved or have any information on recreational use of the estuary which you would like to share, please contact the Humber Management Scheme Project Manager on 01652 631520 or info@humberems.co.uk or visit the website www.humberems.co.uk

Compiled by Alan Ball, Stuart Britton, Andrew Chick, Mark Grantham and James Siddle.

The number of birds ringed in the county in 2010 was 43,596, a 44% increase on the average for the last five years.

Table 1. Top five species ringed in 2010 (fully-grown)

Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	3909
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	3070
Greenfinch <i>Carduelis chloris</i>	2895
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	2864
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	2694

Table 2. Top ten species ringed in 2010 (pulli)

Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	1743
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	894
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	696
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	442
Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>	330
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	322
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	308
Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>	146
Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	70
Tawny Owl <i>Strix aluco</i>	66

Increases in the number of pulli Barn Owl, Kestrel, Tawny Owl and Little Owl were mainly down to the exceptional time and effort put in by Alan Ball and Bob Sheppard. The increase in the number of pulli Tree Sparrows in 2010 was a result of a colour ringing scheme co-ordinated by Anne Goodall, with the majority being ringed by the Mid-Lincs Ringing Group.

Table 3. 2010 ringing totals for the historical County of Lincolnshire. These are presumed complete, but only include data submitted electronically to the BTO and are available online at www.bto.org/ringing/ringinfo/recovery_summaries.htm. 1979-2008 data provided by Anne Goodall.

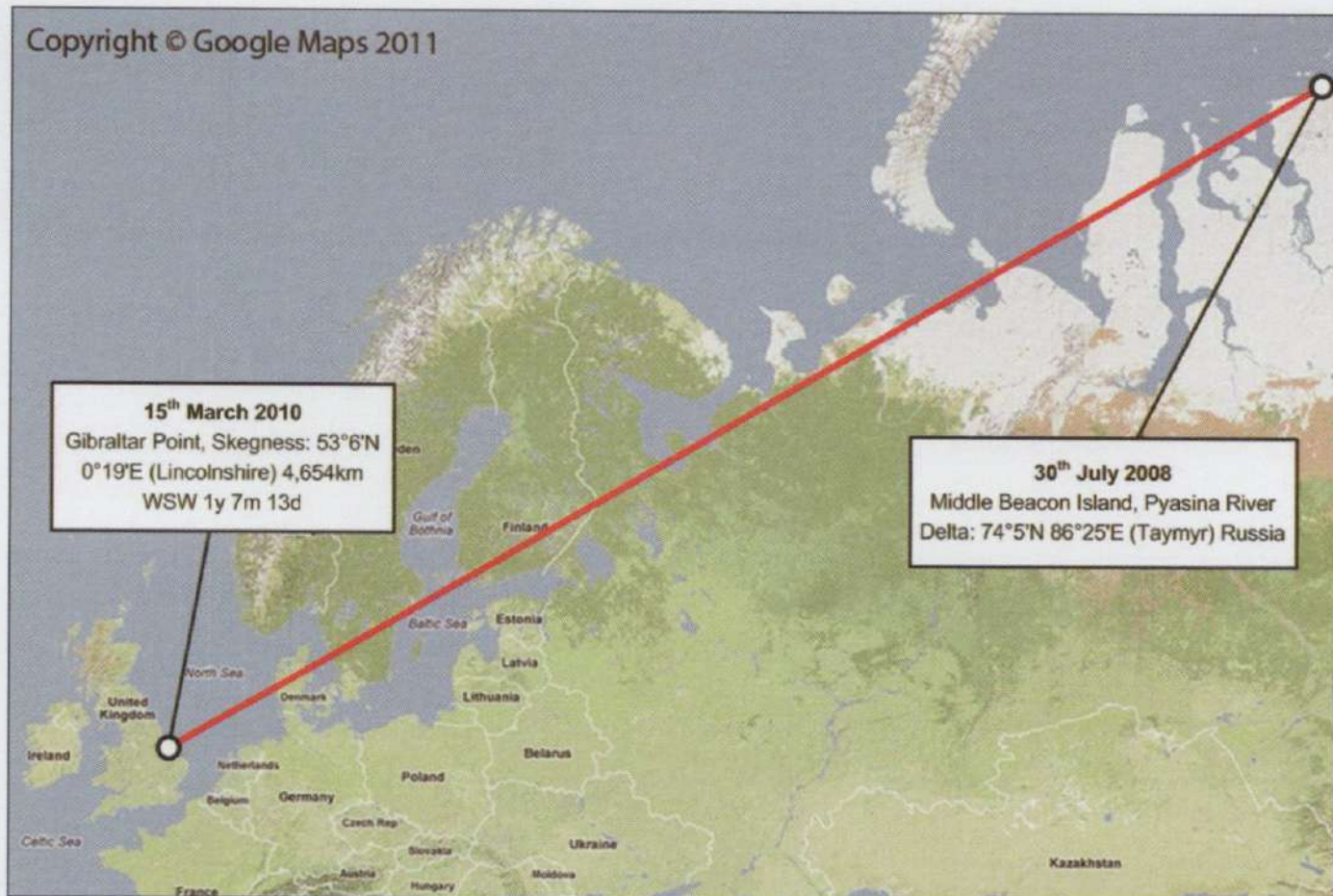
Species	2010 Pulli	2010 Total	2009 Total	1979-2009 Total
Mute Swan	0	35	40	364
Greylag Goose	0	0	71	422
Canada Goose	0	0	10	535
Shelduck	0	0	3	34
Teal	0	0	1	106
Mallard	6	15	7	2163
Tufted Duck	0	1	0	488
Grey Partridge	0	2	0	12
Bittern	0	1	0	0
Little Egret	27	27	0	2
Grey Heron	44	44	30	735
Red Kite	7	7	8	8
Marsh Harrier	11	11	3	310
Montagu's Harrier	4	4	0	51
Sparrowhawk	7	57	38	888
Buzzard	2	2	11	47
Kestrel	308	324	258	2659
Hobby	0	0	2	22
Peregrine	5	6	2	3
Water Rail	0	1	1	45
Moorhen	1	6	16	289
Coot	4	5	2	506
Oystercatcher	5	439	7	11486
Avocet	4	4	2	13
Little Ringed Plover	16	18	17	232
Ringed Plover	70	71	31	1162
Grey Plover	0	2	4	1822
Lapwing	35	36	25	872
Knot	0	22	5	9091

Dunlin	0	769	1104	31105
Jack Snipe	0	2	2	83
Snipe	0	11	16	770
Woodcock	0	15	5	216
Black-tailed Godwit	0	190	0	1019
Bar-tailed Godwit	0	312	16	1025
Whimbrel	0	1	0	96
Curlew	2	11	5	1796
Green Sandpiper	0	1	4	70
Greenshank	0	0	2	47
Redshank	2	42	23	2347
Turnstone	0	1	1	1244
Black-headed Gull	62	122	103	8478
Common Gull	0	20	12	491
Little Tern	31	31	0	510
Common Tern	19	19	30	2057
Stock Dove	57	90	107	1077
Woodpigeon	7	79	76	1001
Collared Dove	2	64	52	980
Turtle Dove	0	3	2	496
Cuckoo	0	2	3	197
Barn Owl	696	805	668	7336
Little Owl	146	168	116	736
Tawny Owl	66	80	99	1197
Long-eared Owl	0	0	1	77
Swift	33	295	208	4455
Kingfisher	0	9	8	283
Wryneck	0	2	0	25
Green Woodpecker	0	4	7	76
Great Spotted Woodpecker	0	61	46	703
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	0	1	1	18
Skylark	5	6	0	2349
Sand Martin	0	322	413	15812
Swallow	322	2613	726	25482
House Martin	0	1141	811	10636
Tree Pipit	0	0	2	122
Meadow Pipit	8	170	161	3453
Yellow Wagtail	0	34	8	806
Grey Wagtail	0	4	12	217
Pied/White Wagtail	15	87	95	1963
Waxwing	0	2	0	53
Wren	19	546	656	17108
Dunnock	21	1292	1264	34139
Robin	43	1794	916	24253
Thrush Nightingale	0	0	2	5
Nightingale	0	2	2	182
Bluethroat	0	1	1	5
Black Redstart	0	0	3	27
Redstart	0	38	17	1524
Whinchat	0	3	1	316
Stonechat	0	2	1	47
Wheatear	0	5	1	253
Ring Ouzel	0	3	1	67
Blackbird	55	3070	2352	62883
Fieldfare	0	85	43	1381
Song Thrush	12	685	349	14828
Redwing	0	587	245	6999
Mistle Thrush	13	26	17	607
Cetti's Warbler	0	1	6	15
Grasshopper Warbler	0	5	4	210
Sedge Warbler	2	273	255	4398
Reed Warbler	10	497	433	8391
Blackcap	0	674	490	13933
Garden Warbler	0	67	46	3570

Barred Warbler	0	5	0	48
Lesser Whitethroat	1	155	121	6680
Whitethroat	10	566	491	16660
Pallas's Warbler	0	1	1	7
Yellow-browed Warbler	0	2	4	54
Wood Warbler	0	2	1	52
Chiffchaff	0	490	418	5292
Willow Warbler	3	795	584	29168
Goldcrest	0	1612	112	27794
Firecrest	0	15	4	204
Spotted Flycatcher	5	17	35	1283
Pied Flycatcher	0	21	9	962
Bearded Tit	0	5	0	23
Long-tailed Tit	9	721	498	10449
Blue Tit	1743	3909	2625	68130
Great Tit	894	2864	2084	38680
Coal Tit	15	304	212	4757
Willow Tit	0	25	16	1391
Marsh Tit	0	11	24	501
Nuthatch	0	4	5	278
Treecreeper	0	75	43	1371
Red-backed Shrike	0	0	1	9
Jay	0	7	17	312
Magpie	0	18	14	386
Jackdaw	330	343	266	2209
Rook	1	6	9	1309
Carrion Crow	0	5	3	97
Raven	5	5	0	0
Starling	19	749	604	41205
House Sparrow	29	944	655	12216
Tree Sparrow	442	1593	817	9942
Chaffinch	0	1742	1665	22331
Brambling	0	259	29	1703
Greenfinch	0	2895	2535	55558
Goldfinch	2	2694	1963	11670
Siskin	0	115	413	6071
Linnet	0	83	110	7642
Twite	0	2	0	747
Common Redpoll	0	12	7	11
Lesser Redpoll	0	206	201	530
Redpoll (Common/Lesser)	0	4	2	6273
Common Crossbill	0	1	0	83
Bullfinch	0	248	255	7250
Snow Bunting	0	0	2	106
Yellowhammer	1	859	595	6289
Reed Bunting	0	808	473	7232
Corn Bunting	0	15	7	438
Grand Total	5713	43596	30575	770309

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

RUM	Adult Male	30-07-2008	Middle Beacon Island, Pyasina River Delta: 74°5'N 86°25'E (Taymyr) Russia
DS009418	Caught by ringer	15-03-2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 4,654km WSW 1y 7m 13d



Map 1. With a round trip of over 9,000kms, this adult Brent Goose shows just how far our wintering birds travel on their annual migrations. This bird is the fourth Russian-ringed Brent Goose to be found in the county, following the publication of the third in last year's report, which had been ringed in the same area of Russia as the above bird.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

FH11000	First-year Male	09-01-2009	Slimbridge: 51°44'N 2°24'W (Gloucestershire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	09-01-2010	Gedney Drove End: 52°51'N 0°11'E (Lincolnshire) 215km NE 1y 0m 0d

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

5248404	Nestling	26-06-2010	Puffin Island: 53°19'N 4°2'W (Anglesey)
	Freshly dead	24-08-2010	Asterby, Louth: 53°17'N 0°7'W (Lincolnshire) 261km E 0y 1m 29d
DKC	Nestling	27-05-2010	Tyreholm, Mon: 55°2'N 12°14'E (Sjaelland) Denmark
2H9668	Freshly dead	01-12-2010	Goulceby: 53°17'N 0°7'W (Lincolnshire) 827km WSW 0y 6m 4d

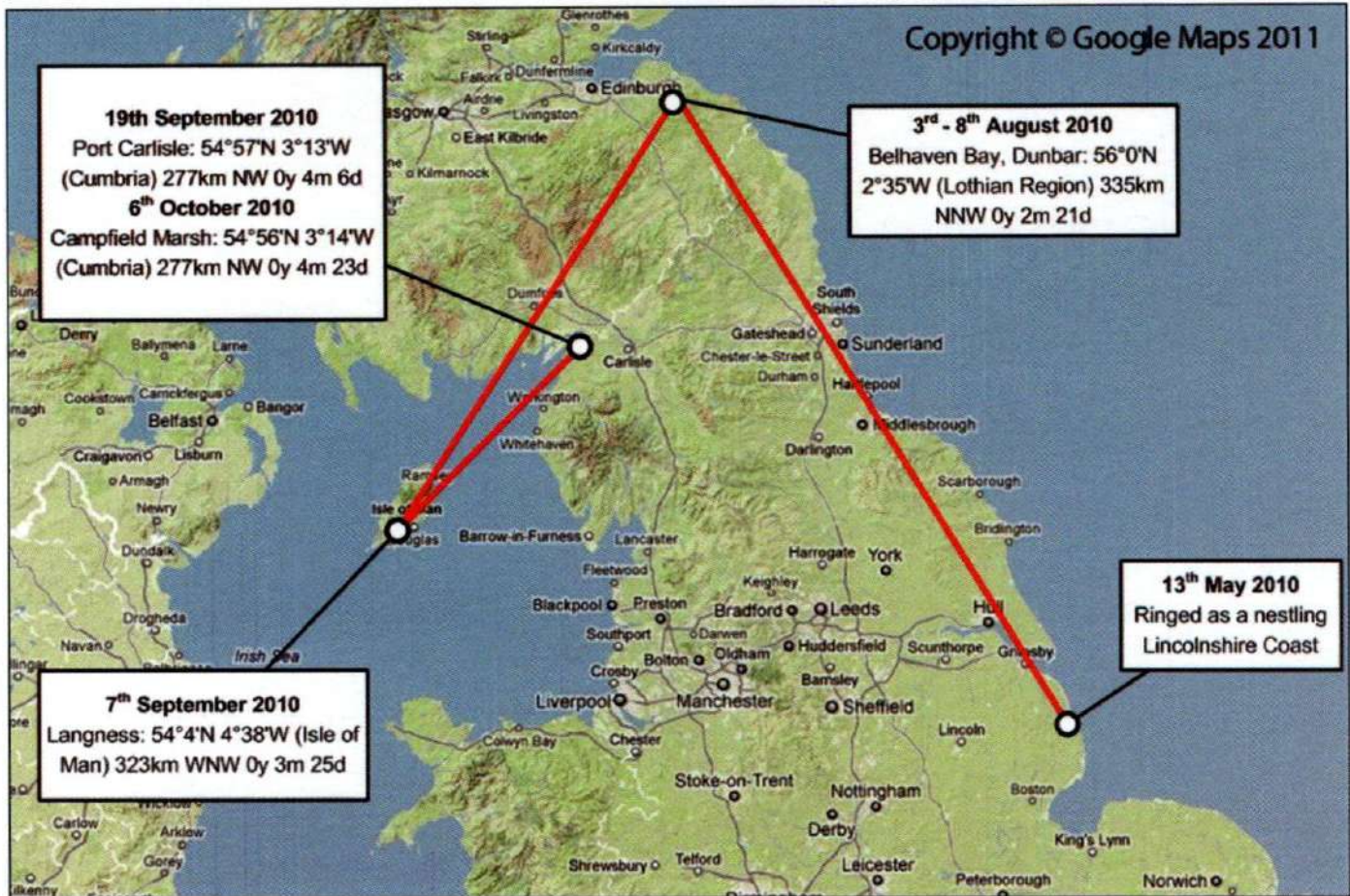
Pulli Cormorants ringed on Puffin Island, Anglesey, in 2009 have been reported from Sussex, Norfolk, Northants, Merseyside, Hereford, Worcester and Wexford. In 2010 birds were recorded in Lincs, Notts, Beds, North Yorks, Avon and Wexford. Apart from the two movements to Wexford it would seem that the majority move east.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

1443984	Nestling	10-06-2009	Isle of May: 56°11'N 2°34'W (Fife Region)
	Freshly dead (pollution)	05-01-2010	Chapel Point, Chapel St Leonards: 53°14'N 0°20'E (Lincolnshire) 377km SSE 0y 6m 26d

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

GC55852	Nestling	13-05-2010	Site Confidential (Lincolnshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	03-08-2010	Belhaven Bay, Dunbar: 56°0'N 2°35'W (Lothian Region) 335km NNW 0y 2m 21d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	07-09-2010	Langness: 54°4'N 4°38'W (Isle of Man) 323km WNW 0y 3m 25d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	19-09-2010	Port Carlisle: 54°57'N 3°13'W (Cumbria) 277km NW 0y 4m 6d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	06-10-2010	Campfield Marsh: 54°56'N 3°14'W (Cumbria) 277km NW 0y 4m 23d



Map 2. The post-juvenile movements of this bird included an initial northward push away from the breeding site. This was followed, with onset of autumn migration, by a more expected south-westerly movement. However, this bird then retraced its path back north-eastwards, ending up in coastal Cumbria in October. Perhaps this bird had passed through Cumbria on its way to the Isle of Man? Would this bird then move southward as the winter approached or winter in the area? Six other colour-ringed birds were also seen at Alkborough Flats, Lincs, all originating from Terrington St Clement, Norfolk, highlighting the value of colour ringing.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

GC10188	Nestling	13-06-2006	Site Confidential, near Stokenchurch: 51°39'N 0°54'W (Buckinghamshire)
	Alive (wing-tag seen)	17-06-2010	Braceborough Wood, near Bourne: 52°42'N 0°26'W (Lincolnshire) 121km NNE 4y 0m 4d

An interesting movement from the Chilterns release scheme to the population in the Northamptonshire area.



Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* at confidential site (Lincolnshire) photographed at the nest whilst being ringed under licence in Jul 2010 © Andy Chappell



Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* at confidential site (Lincolnshire) ringed under licence by the Mid Lincs Ringing Group in Jun 2010 (left) and May 2010 (right) © Donna Staples

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

FP84993	Nestling	15-06-2010	Little Bells Farm, Isle of Sheppey: 51°22'N 0°52'E (Kent)
	Alive (wing-tag seen)	15-08-2010	Brading: 50°40'N 1°9'W (Isle of Wight) 161km WSW 0y 2m 0d
	Alive (wing-tag seen)	14-09-2010	Frampton Marsh: 52°55'N 0°0'W (Lincolnshire) 183km NNW 0y 2m 30d

Interesting juvenile dispersal and not a direct route into Lincolnshire.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

SVS	Nestling	08-07-2010	Spjutholmen, Nora: 60°13'N 16°51'E (Uppsala) Sweden
92A02714	Freshly dead (shot)	02-10-2010	Hundon Manor: 53°30'N 0°19'W (Lincolnshire) 1,280km SW 0y 2m 24d

Many Scandinavian Ospreys pass through eastern Britain in autumn and this is the third Swedish-ringed Osprey to be found in the county, following one that hit wires in 1965 and one that was found entangled in netting in 1977. It is quite disgraceful that this most recent bird was shot.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

EW86238	Nestling	26-06-2009	Old Decoy Wood, near Friskney: 53°5'N 0°9'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (injury)	23-01-2010	Heath and Reach: 51°56'N 0°40'W (Bedfordshire) 140km SSW 0y 6m 28d

Long-distance movements of Kestrels are rather unusual, and these are the third to Kent and the second to Bedfordshire from the county.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

GC29056	Nestling Female	01-06-2006	Mytholmroyd Crag, near Halifax: 53°43'N 1°59'W (West Yorkshire)
	Alive (colour marks seen)	22-04-2007	Grantham: 52°55'N 0°39'W (Lincolnshire) 126km SE 0y 10m 21d
	Alive (colour marks seen)	26-05-2010	St Wulfram's Church, Grantham: 52°55'N 0°39'W (Lincolnshire) 126km SE 3y 11m 25d
SFH	Nestling Male	12-07-2009	Enontekio: 68°23'N 23°38'E (Lappi) Finland
D104858	Freshly dead	18-01-2010	Tetney, near Grimsby: 53°29'N 0°1'W (Lincolnshire) 2,074km SW 0y 6m 6d

GC29056 is the star in the Lincolnshire Bird Club's webcam at St Wulfram's Church. D104858 is proof that many wintering birds in Lincolnshire are of Scandinavian origin, whereas British birds are fairly sedentary. It is the second Finnish-ringed Peregrine to be found in the county; the only other foreign movements are three Norwegian-ringed birds found here.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

EG25230	Nestling	17-05-2010	Seal Sands, Teesmouth: 54°37'N 1°12'W (Cleveland)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	19-08-2010	Alkborough Flats: 53°41'N 0°42'W (Lincolnshire) 109km SSE 0y 3m 2d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	14-10-2010	Samouco Salt Pan, Alcochete: 38°44'N 9°0'W (Estremadura) Portugal 1,861km SSW 0y 4m 27d



Map 3. Up to 50% of the European population of Avocets regularly winter on the Tagus estuary in Portugal. This bird, after initially moving south-east to Lincolnshire, headed south-west to winter on the salt pans at Samouco where wader numbers of many species are under threat. With a new airport earmarked for the Tagus this bird illustrates how some bird species nesting in the UK may be under threat abroad. There are just four reports of British-ringed Avocets in Portugal, with the other three being birds ringed in Suffolk.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

FA03538	Adult	20/08/1982	Wrangle Tofts: 53°2'N 0°10'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	01/02/2010	Heysham: 54°2'N 2°55'W (Lancashire) 232km WNW 27y 5m 12d
FR33630	Second-year	15/12/1985	Friskney: 53°2'N 0°14'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	11/08/2010	Wainfleet Marsh: 53°5'N 0°18'E (Lincolnshire) 6km NE 24y 7m 27d
FR81439	Adult	26/01/1986	Friskney: 53°2'N 0°14'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	11/08/2010	Wainfleet Marsh: 53°5'N 0°18'E (Lincolnshire) 6km NE 24y 6m 16d
FA04029	Adult	07/09/1986	Friskney, near Wainfleet: 53°3'N 0°15'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	16/03/2010	Seal Sands, Teesmouth: 54°37'N 1°12'W (Cleveland) 199km NNW 23y 6m 9d
SS12632	Second-year	15/12/1977	Place name unknown: 53°0'N 0°12'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	25/03/1978	Place name unknown: 52°54'N 0°30'E (Norfolk) 23km ESE 0y 3m 10d
	Dead	01/01/1997	Toulouse: 43°36'N 1°26'E (Haute- Garonne) France 1,049km S 19y 0m 17d

Knot *Calidris canutus*

XS92339	Adult	31/07/1988	Wainfleet: 53°4'N 0°15'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	26/05/2007	Hlidsnes, Alftanes, Kjos: 64°5'N 22°2'W Iceland 1,770km NW 18y 9m 25d
SV05003	Adult	07/01/2000	North Sea Camp, Boston: 52°56'N 0°3'E (Lincolnshire)
	Alive (ring read in field)	29/03/2005	Strekdam Thv Kustwachttoren, Den Helder: 52°57'N 4°44'E (Noord- Holland) The Netherlands 314km E 5y 2m 22d
	Caught by ringer	25/05/2006	Hlidsnes, Alftanes, Kjos: 64°5'N 22°2'W Iceland 1,774km NW 6y 4m 18d
SX37149	Adult	23/08/2001	Wainfleet Marsh: 53°5'N 0°18'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	25/05/2006	Hlidsnes, Alftanes, Kjos: 64°5'N 22°2'W Iceland 1,771km NW 4y 9m 2d
	Caught by ringer	26/05/2007	Hlidsnes, Alftanes, Kjos: 64°5'N 22°2'W Iceland 1,771km NW 5y 9m 3d
XS92339	Adult	31/07/1988	Wainfleet: 53°4'N 0°15'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	26/05/2007	Hlidsnes, Alftanes, Kjos: 64°5'N 22°2'W Iceland 1,770km NW 18y 9m 25d

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

ESI	First-year	04/09/2004	Dena, Meano: 42°27'N 8°46'W (Pontevedra) Spain
T064567	Caught by ringer	24/07/2009	Butterwick: 52°58'N 0°6'E (Lincolnshire) 1,342km NNE 4y 10m 20d

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

RUM	Adult	22-10-2006	Kamenka, Primorskiy District: 60°2'N 30°11'E (Leningrad) Russia
PS000973	Freshly dead (shot)	02-01-2010	Harmston: 53°8'N 0°33'W (Lincolnshire) 2,025km WSW 3y 2m 11d

With increased interest generated by the Woodcock Network, recoveries of this enigmatic species are on the increase. This is the third Russian-ringed bird to be found in the county, following birds in 2002 and 2009.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

DK73504	Adult	31/08/2003	Leverton Outgate: 53°0'N 0°8'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (in net or cage)	01/05/2010	Alro, Horsens Fjord: 55°50'N 10°6'E (Jylland) Denmark 717km ENE 6y 8m 0d
NOO	Adult Male	14/05/2010	Igalas, Porsanger: 70°13'N 24°56'E (Finnmark) Norway
KA03258	Caught by ringer	12/08/2010	Friskney New Marsh: 53°4'N 0°14'E (Lincolnshire) 2,287km SW 0y 2m 29d

These recoveries are just the second Lincolnshire-ringed bird to be found in Denmark and only the third from Norway to be found here.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

FA32821 (Lincolnshire)	Full-grown	10/04/1991	Freiston, near Boston: 52°57'N 0°4'E
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FP08519	Freshly dead (accidental)	25/05/2010	Morup: 56°51'N 12°33'E (Halland) Sweden 907km ENE 19y 1m 15d
	Adult	01/09/2000	Wainfleet Marsh: 53°5'N 0°17'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead	30/05/2010	Storsien, Kalix: 66°3'N 23°3'E (Norrbotten) Sweden 1,916km NE 9y 8m 29d

Shown are just the fourth and fifth Curlews ringed in Lincolnshire to be found in Sweden.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

SX36818	Adult	26/02/2000	Port Sutton Bridge: 52°46'N 0°12'E (Lincolnshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	21/05/2009	Husavik, Sudur-Thingeyjar: 66°3'N 17°21'W Iceland 1,770km NNW 9y 2m 25d

This colour-ringed bird was the first from the county to be found in Iceland.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

EP99994	Nestling	02/07/1989	Frampton Marsh: 52°56'N 0°2'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead	05/03/2010	Esposende: 41°32'N 8°47'W (Douro Litoral) Portugal 1,429km SSW 20y 8m 3d
ER29388	Nestling	13/06/1990	Hamford Water, near Little Oakley: 51°53'N 1°13'E (Essex)
	Freshly dead	21/06/2010	near Holbeach Hurn: 52°49'N 0°4'E (Lincolnshire) 130km NW 20y 0m 8d
DEW	Nestling	21/06/2010	Baltrum - Ostdorf: 53°43'N 7°23'E (Ostfriesische Inseln) Germany
5401319	Freshly dead	30/07/2010	South Killingholme: 53°38'N 0°16'W (Lincolnshire) 504km W 0y 1m 9d
PLG	Adult	12/05/2008	Zb Przykona, Radyczyny, Przykona: 52°0'N 18°39'E (Konin) Poland
FN61991	Alive (colour rings seen)	12/12/2010	Cleethorpes: 53°34'N 0°2'W (Lincolnshire) 1,268km W 2y 7m 0d
SFH	Nestling	24/06/2009	Outokumpu: 62°46'N 29°4'E (Kuopio) Finland
ST217727	Caught by ringer	21/12/2010	Butterwick, Boston: 52°58'N 0°3'E (Lincolnshire) 2,021km WSW 1y 5m 27d

This is just the third Lincolnshire-ringed Black-headed Gull to be found in Portugal, following records from 1958 and 1982, and was a notable 21 years old when found.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

SVS	First-year	14-10-2003	Pildammsparken, Malmo, Skane: 55°35'N 13°0'E (Malmohus) Sweden
7177668	Alive (ring read in field)	10-01-2010	Cleethorpes: 53°33'N 0°1'W (Lincolnshire) 869km WSW 6y 2m 27d

This is the third Swedish-ringed Common Gull to be found here. The previous birds were found dead in 1981 and 2006.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

GG76771	Second-year	13/03/1993	Slippery Gowt Landfill, near Wyberton: 52°57'N 0°0'W (Lincolnshire)
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	Alive (ring read in field)	30/12/2003	Blaringhem: 50°41'N 2°24'E (Nord) France 301km SSE 10y 9m 17d
	Freshly dead	01/01/2010	de Panne: 51°6'N 2°35'E (West-Vlaanderen) Belgium 271km SE 16y 9m 19d
GC85528	First-year	15/11/2008	Pitsea Landfill Site: 51°32'N 0°30'E (Essex)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	16/09/2009	Boulogne-Sur-Mer: 50°44'N 1°36'E (Pas-de-Calais) France 118km SE 0y 10m 1d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	09/09/2010	Immingham: 53°36'N 0°13'W (Lincolnshire) 235km N 1y 9m 25d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	12/12/2010	Mablethorpe: 53°19'N 0°16'E (Lincolnshire) 199km N 2y 0m 27d
GC84201	First-year	11/10/2008	Pitsea Landfill Site: 51°32'N 0°30'E (Essex)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	10/01/2009	Villers Sire Nicole, Mabeuge: 50°20'N 4°0'E (Pas-de-Calais) France 279km ESE 0y 2m 30d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	31/01/2009	Nazareth, East Flanders: 50°59'N 3°39'E (Oost-Vlaanderen) Belgium 228km ESE 0y 3m 20d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	19/03/2009	Obourg: 50°28'N 4°0'E (Hainaut) Belgium 272km ESE 0y 5m 8d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	30/05/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 175km N 1y 7m 19d
SFH	Nestling	25/06/2009	Kotka: 60°11'N 27°15'E (Kymi) Finland
HT277021	Freshly dead	10/02/2010	Skegness: 53°9'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 1,816km WSW 0y 7m 16d
GC85528	First-year	15/11/2008	Pitsea Landfill Site: 51°32'N 0°30'E (Essex)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	16/09/2009	Boulogne-Sur-Mer: 50°44'N 1°36'E (Pas-de-Calais) France 118km SE 0y 10m 1d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	09/09/2010	Immingham: 53°36'N 0°13'W (Lincolnshire) 235km N 1y 9m 25d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	12/12/2010	Mablethorpe: 53°19'N 0°16'E (Lincolnshire) 199km N 2y 0m 27d

There were several interesting Herring Gull recoveries, but the ones included above are of multiple sightings. Only one previous Herring Gull ringed in the county has been found in France, but this sequence of sightings again proves the increased value of colour ringing. Also shown is the first Finnish-ringed bird to be found in the county.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

SX77663	Nestling	01-07-1996	Baston Fen: 52°43'N 0°21'W (Lincolnshire)
	Long dead	08-08-2010	Hunstanton: 52°56'N 0°29'E (Norfolk) 61km ENE 14y 1m 7d

This bird was ringed by Nicholas Watts at Baston Fen in 1996, it was found dead by his wife on the beach in Hunstanton 14 years later!



Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* nestlings ringed at a site near Quadring Eaudike, Lincolnshire on 4th July 2010 © Andrew P. Chick

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

GF76472	Nestling Female	10/07/1998	near Brotherhouse Bar, near Crowland: 52°42'N 0°10'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught in nestbox	20/09/2000	near Newborough, near Peterborough: 52°39'N 0°14'W (Cambridgeshire) 7km SW 2y 2m 10d
	Caught in nestbox	29/08/2006	near Newborough: 52°39'N 0°14'W (Cambridgeshire) 8km SW 8y 1m 19d
	Freshly dead (injury)	29/03/2010	Peterborough: 52°34'N 0°15'W (Cambridgeshire) 16km SSW 11y 8m 19d
GC68139	Nestling	07/07/2009	near Holbeach St Matthew: 52°52'N 0°7'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (hit by car)	19/01/2010	near Ashburton: 50°31'N 3°44'W (Devon) 373km SW 0y 6m 12d
FH16280	Nestling	30/06/2009	Site Confidential, near Saughall: 53°14'N 2°55'W (Cheshire)
	Freshly dead	23/05/2010	Castle Farm, Fillingham: 53°22'N 0°34'W (Lincolnshire) 157km E 0y 10m 23d
GC81059	Nestling	04/07/2010	Carlton: 52°11'N 0°36'W (Bedfordshire)
	Freshly dead (cold weather)	11/12/2010	Bishop Norton: 53°25'N 0°32'W (Lincolnshire) 138km N 0y 5m 7d
GM55345	Nestling	26/07/2004	near Farforth, Louth: 53°17'N 0°3'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (natural causes)	07/04/2010	Bedingham: 52°28'N 1°21'E (Norfolk) 131km SE 5y 8m 12d

GC90953	Nestling	27/06/2009	Maltby Le Marsh, near Alford: 53°18'N 0°11'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (hit by car)	(18-02-2010)	near Huntington: 53°59'N 1°2'W (North Yorkshire) 111km NW 0y 7m 22d
GR18058	Nestling	12-07-2010	Neat's Ling: 52°55'N 0°33'E (Norfolk)
	Long dead (natural causes)	23-12-2010	Winterton Carrs: 53°39'N 0°33'W (Lincolnshire) 111km NW 0y 5m 11d
BLB	Nestling	10-07-2009	Wommersom, Vlaams: 50°49'N 5°0'E (Brabant) Belgium
L122724	Freshly dead	20-11-2009	Goxhill: 53°40'N 0°20'W (Lincolnshire) 482km NW 0y 4m 10d

A very small percentage of Barn Owls move more than 100km, there were several in reported in 2010. The bird to Devon is the first to the far southwest of the UK and also shown is the first foreign-ringed bird to be found in the county.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

EW30255	Nestling	30/05/2007	Nocton Fen: 53°11'N 0°21'W (Lincolnshire)
	Dead	12/07/2010	Pickerings Meadow Nature Reserve, Dunholme: 53°18'N 0°26'W (Lincolnshire) 15km NNW 3y 1m 12d

This is a long distance movement for a Little Owl.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

GH29058	Full-grown	31/10/1990	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Dead	25/02/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 0km 19y 3m 25d

This Tawny Owl was almost 20 years old when found, just two years short of the national longevity record.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

L188586	Juvenile	30/06/2010	Blankney Sand Quarry: 53°7'N 0°25'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	17/07/2010	Roseliere, Chenac-Saint-Seurin-D'uzet: 45°30'N 0°49'W (Charente-Maritime) France 847km S 0y 0m 17d
X686599	Juvenile	07/07/2009	Blankney Sand Quarry: 53°7'N 0°25'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	11/08/2009	Tour Aux Moutons, Donges: 47°19'N 2°4'W (Loire-Atlantique) France 655km SSW 0y 1m 4d
X687097	Juvenile	07/07/2009	Blankney Sand Quarry: 53°7'N 0°25'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	12/08/2009	Tour Aux Moutons, Donges: 47°19'N 2°4'W (Loire-Atlantique) France 655km SSW 0y 1m 5d
X687220	Juvenile	04/08/2009	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	14/08/2009	Tour Aux Moutons, Donges: 47°19'N 2°4'W (Loire-Atlantique) France 636km S 0y 0m 10d



Map 4. With just 15 previous movements to France, it is noteworthy that four Lincolnshire-ringed Sand Martins were reported there recently, including three re-caught within four days of each other at the same locality on the French Atlantic coast.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

BLB	Full-grown	27-10-2008	Verlaine: 50°36'N 5°18'E (Liege) Belgium
10980683	Caught by ringer	01-11-2010	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire) 488km WNW 2y 0m 5d

A small number of Dunnocks are of continental origin, although this is the first foreign-ringed Dunnock to be found in the county. Birds ringed here have been found in The Netherlands (3), Belgium and Denmark.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

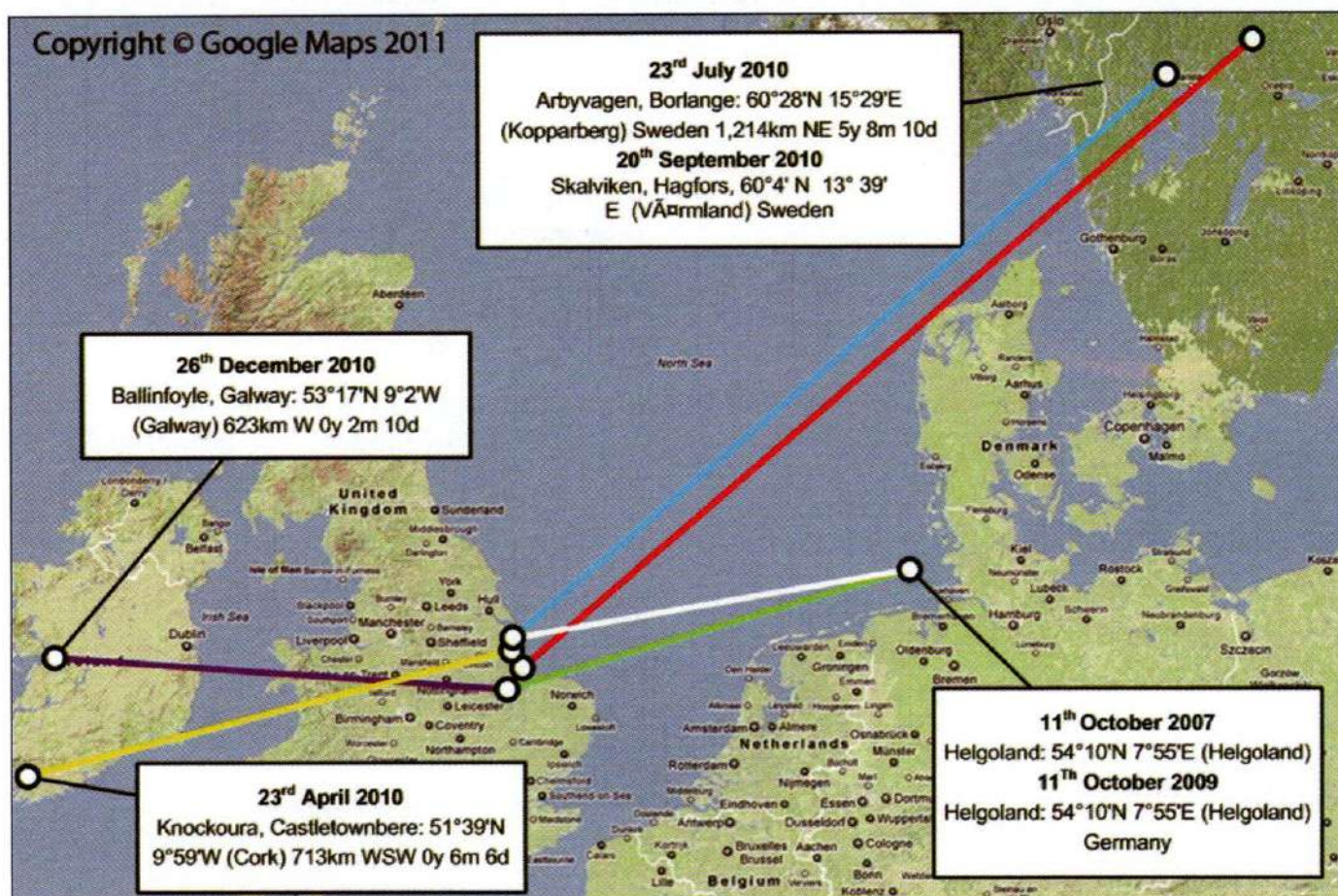
BLB	First-year	15/08/2009	Drongen: 51°3'N 3°40'E (Oost-Vlaanderen) Belgium
10868736	Caught by ringer	10/10/2010	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E (Lincolnshire) 349km NW 1y 1m 25d

Just the second Belgian-ringed Robin to be found here, following one re-caught in 1993.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

CT16440	First-year Male	13/11/2004	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E (Lincolnshire)
	Dead	23/07/2010	Arbyvagen, Borlange: 60°28'N 15°29'E (Kopparberg) Sweden 1,214km NE 5y 8m 10d

RA97755	Adult Female	17/10/2009	Stonebridge, Donna Nook: 53°28'N 0°8'E (Lincolnshire)
	Dead	23/04/2010	Knockoura, Castletownbere: 51°39'N 9°59'W (Cork) 713km WSW 0y 6m 6d
LC11079	First-year Male	16/10/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (cat)	26/12/2010	Ballinfoyle, Galway: 53°17'N 9°2'W (Galway) 623km W 0y 2m 10d
DEW	First-year Male	11/10/2007	Helgoland: 54°10'N 7°55'E (Helgoland) Germany
7845695	Caught by ringer	13/10/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 515km WSW 3y 0m 2d
DEW	First-year Female	11/10/2009	Helgoland: 54°10'N 7°55'E (Helgoland) Germany
7864685	Caught by ringer	22/10/2009	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E (Lincolnshire) 514km W 0y 0m 11d



Map 5. It is well known that British and Scandinavian Blackbirds move south-west in autumn, often wintering in Ireland. These most recent recoveries nicely illustrate this; birds moving from Scandinavia into eastern England and then onto Ireland. Perhaps the most interesting record is the Theddlethorpe bird originally ringed in November 2004 and recovered nearly six years later in July in Sweden.



Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* ringed at Donna Nook, May 1st 2010, this bird's wing length was 91mm, 4mm above the maximum length quoted. © James Siddle



Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* ringed at Donna Nook on Sep 7th 2010 © James Siddle



Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* ringed at Donna Nook on Aug 31st 2010 © James Siddle

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

RT21684	First-year	16/10/2008	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	31/01/2010	Sabrosa, Vila Real: 41°15'N 7°34'W (Tras os Montes) Portugal 1,467km SSW 1y 3m 15d
RT91743	First-year	11/10/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	20/11/2010	Arnedo: 42°13'N 2°5'W (Logrono) Spain 1,223km S 0y 1m 9d

In contrast to Blackbird, most recoveries of Song Thrush are from the south, with these being the 15th to Portugal and 32nd to Spain.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

FRP	First-year Male	19/08/2008	Reserve de Chasse du Massereau, Frossay: 47°15'N 1°54'W (Loire-Atlantique) France
6050028	Caught by ringer	03/07/2010	near North Somercotes: 53°27'N 0°9'E (Lincolnshire) 704km NNE 1y 10m 14d

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

CVP324	First-year Male	27-09-2010	near North Somercotes: 53°27'N 0°9'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	19-10-2010	Queen Mary Reservoir: 51°25'N 0°29'W (Surrey) 230km SSW 0y 0m 22d
NOS	First-year Female	26-09-2010	Log, Ana Sira, Sokndal: 58°17'N 6°26'E (Rogaland) Norway

LE5877 Caught by ringer 28-09-2010 near North Somercotes: 53°27'N 0°9'E
(Lincolnshire) 665km SW 0y 0m 2d

Note the rapid movement of LE5877, moving between Norway and Lincolnshire in just two days. This is also just the fourth Norwegian-ringed Goldcrest to be found in the county.

Great Tit *Parus major*

X794069 First-year Female 30-03-2010 Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N
0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
Caught by ringer 08-04-2010 Birchwood, Warrington: 53°26'N
2°31'W (Cheshire) 192km WNW
0y 0m 9d

An unusually long distance for a Great Tit, and a fairly quick movement.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

SFH Nestling 31/05/2004 Jurva: 62°43'N 21°54'E (Vaasa) Finland
A641871 Dead c. 15-05-2010 Tallington, Stamford: 52°39'N 0°23'W
(Lincolnshire) 1,725km SW 5y 11m 14d

The only foreign-ringed Starling reported during the year was the first from Finland shown here.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

T548655 First-year Male 21/10/2007 Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe:
53°22'N 0°13'E (Lincolnshire)
Freshly dead 20/03/2008 Gilleleje: 56°7'N 12°19'E (Sjaelland)
(hit glass) Denmark 834km ENE 0y 4m 28d

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

NOS First-year Female 28-10-2008 Dybo, Mandal: 58°2'N 7°33'E (Vest-
Agder) Norway
5E24327 Caught by ringer 06-01-2009 Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N
0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 712km SW
0y 2m 9d

This is just the second Norwegian-ringed Brambling to be found in the county, with others from Finland, Sweden and Belgium.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

TJ83873 First-year Female 06/04/2008 Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N
0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
Caught by ringer 13/11/2010 Embley Wood: 50°58'N 1°33'W
(Hampshire) 270km SSW 2y 7m 7d
TK76271 Full-grown 13/10/2010 Filey Brigg Country Park: 54°13'N
Female 0°18'W (North Yorkshire)
Caught by ringer 30/12/2010 Long Sutton: 52°46'N 0°7'E
(Lincolnshire) 164km S 0y 2m 17d
TJ47985 First-year Male 14/10/2009 Ash Grove, Gainsborough: 53°24'N
0°47'W (Lincolnshire)
Freshly dead 08/10/2010 Thetford: 52°25'N 0°45'E (Norfolk)
150km SE 0y 11m 24d
TC97863 Juvenile Female 28/08/2010 Filey Brigg Country Park: 54°13'N
0°18'W (North Yorkshire)
Caught by ringer 14/10/2010 Fishtoft Sewage Works: 52°57'N 0°1'E
(Lincolnshire) 143km S 0y 1m 16d
TL98043 First-year Female 12/12/2008 Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N
0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
Freshly dead 15/08/2010 Benhall, Saxmundham: 52°12'N 1°28'E
(injury) (Suffolk) 127km SE 1y 8m 3d

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

X886302	Adult Female	11/11/2009	College Farm, Frampton: 52°54'N 0°0'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	22/04/2010	Swarland, near Alnwick: 55°19'N 1°45'W (Northumberland) 292km NNW 0y 5m 11d
P780487	First-year Male	26/12/2008	Hertford: 51°47'N 0°6'W (Hertfordshire)
	Caught by ringer	29/04/2010	near Nettleton: 53°29'N 0°20'W (Lincolnshire) 190km N 1y 4m 3d
V589308	Full-grown Male	08/10/2009	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	08/11/2009	Iken Marsh, near Iken: 52°9'N 1°34'E (Suffolk) 163km SSE 0y 1m 0d
	Caught by ringer	03/01/2010	Iken Marsh, near Iken: 52°9'N 1°34'E (Suffolk) 163km SSE 0y 2m 26d
X201297	First-year Male	06/12/2008	Dunwich: 52°16'N 1°37'E (Suffolk)
	Caught by ringer	11/03/2010	Fishtoft Sewage Works: 52°57'N 0°1'E (Lincolnshire) 132km NW 1y 3m 5d
L264814	Full-grown Male	09/10/2010	Buckton: 54°9'N 0°12'W (Humberside)
	Caught by ringer	20/11/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 122km SSE 0y 1m 11d

All Goldfinch movements exceeding 100km are shown.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

L283066	Juvenile Male	09/07/2010	Clunel Cottage, near Lairg: 58°0'N 4°26'W (Highland Region)
	Caught by ringer	01/11/2010	College Farm, Frampton: 52°54'N 0°0'W (Lincolnshire) 632km SSE 0y 3m 23d
V598457	First-year Male	08/02/2008	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	28/02/2010	Townhill, Dunfermline: 56°5'N 3°27'W (Fife Region) 418km NNW 2y 0m 20d
X229087	Full-grown Male	22/04/2008	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (cat)	22/02/2010	Ascot: 51°24'N 0°41'W (Berkshire) 201km SSW 1y 10m 0d
X773068	Juvenile Female	08/06/2009	Muckton Bottom: 53°19'N 0°2'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	05/09/2010	Fire Tower, Birklands, Warsop: 53°12'N 1°7'W (Nottinghamshire) 78km W 1y 2m 28d

Siskin's are a highly mobile species, and most birds in winter/spring originate from northern England and Scotland.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

T627994	Nestling	11/06/2009	Rishworth Moor: 53°38'N 2°0'W (West Yorkshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	06/03/2010	Donna Nook: 53°28'N 0°8'E (Lincolnshire) 143km E 0y 8m 23d
X648179	Nestling	20/07/2010	Slaithwaite Moor: 53°37'N 1°56'W (West Yorkshire)

Alive (colour rings seen)	17/10/2010	Titchwell: 52°58'N 0°36'E (Norfolk) 184km ESE 0y 2m 27d
Alive (colour rings seen)	10/11/2010	Donna Nook: 53°28'N 0°8'E (Lincolnshire) 138km E 0y 3m 21d
Alive (colour rings seen)	12/11/2010	Titchwell: 52°58'N 0°36'E (Norfolk) 184km ESE 0y 3m 23d
Alive (colour rings seen)	14/11/2010	Humberston: 53°31'N 0°0'W (Lincolnshire) 129km E 0y 3m 25d

The above sightings are the result of a recently established colour-ringing project on the Pennines breeding population.

Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

X514288	Adult Male	18-04-2009	Gosforth: 54°25'N 3°26'W (Cumbria)
	Caught by ringer	21-03-2010	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire) 272km SE 0y 11m 3d
L656174	Full-grown	16-10-2010	Kilnsea: 53°37'N 0°8'E (Humberside)
	Caught by ringer	17-10-2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 59km S 0y 0m 1d
	Female		

Common (Mealy) Redpolls are a scarce winter visitor to Lincolnshire. Note the rapid movement of L656174, presumably freshly arrived from Scandinavia.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

L283206	Juvenile Male	08/08/2010	Dalchork: 58°3'N 4°25'W (Highland Region)
	Caught by ringer	31/10/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 625km SSE 0y 2m 23d
X678889	First-year	21/03/2010	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	19/10/2010	Greystoke Forest: 54°41'N 2°57'W (Cumbria) 271km NW 0y 6m 28d
X793611	Full-grown	29/10/2009	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Female		
	Caught by ringer	25/02/2010	Chilworth: 51°13'N 0°32'W (Surrey) 218km SSW 0y 3m 27d
X972723	First-year Male	27/10/2009	Queen Mary Reservoir: 51°25'N 0°29'W (Surrey)
	Caught by ringer	14/11/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 195km NNE 1y 0m 18d
X793509	First-year Female	18/10/2009	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	13/11/2010	Alton Water Reservoir, near Tattingsstone: 51°59'N 1°7'E (Suffolk) 136km SSE 1y 0m 26d

This interesting mixture of recoveries illustrates the southward movement of British Lesser Redpolls in winter and that most birds in Lincolnshire in winter are of northerly British origin.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

X903886	Full-grown	22-12-2009	near Wimbotsham, Downham Market: 52°38'N 0°23'E (Norfolk)
	Caught by ringer	30-04-2010	Fishtoft Sewage Works: 52°57'N 0°1'E (Lincolnshire) 43km NNW 0y 4m 8d

Yellowhammers are fairly sedentary; X903886 was the longest movement involving Lincolnshire in 2010.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

X665671	First-year Female	27/09/2009	Leighton Moss, near Silverdale: 54°10'N 2°48'W (Lancashire)
	Caught by ringer	11/03/2010	Northorpe Fen: 52°45'N 0°20'W (Lincolnshire) 227km SE 0y 5m 12d
L003628	First-year Female	23/10/2009	Nightingale Wood, near South Marston: 51°35'N 1°43'W (Wiltshire)
	Freshly dead (hit glass)	17/12/2010	Middle Farm, Long Bennington: 53°0'N 0°47'W (Lincolnshire) 170km NNE 1y 1m 24d
L429018	First-year Male	21/09/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	05/12/2010	Lackford Bridge: 52°18'N 0°37'E (Suffolk) 92km SSE 0y 2m 14d

These three recoveries were the furthest reported in 2010. The dispersal of juvenile Reed Buntings is not fully understood and these may be cold-weather movements as a result of the severe weather in December.

Contributors to the county records for 2010, with initials for reference

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