

# **THE Lincolnshire BIRD REPORT 2011**



**The  
Lincolnshire  
Bird Club**  
[www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk](http://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk)

# OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2012-13

**CHAIRMAN:** Andrew Chick

c/o The Old Farmhouse, Washdyke Lane Fulbeck, Grantham, Lincs NG32 3LB  
e-mail: chairman@lincsbirdclub.co.uk

**SECRETARY:** Robert Carr (rjfcarr@btopenworld.com) **TREASURER:** John Watt

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:** Michael Harrison

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** John Badley, John Clarkson, Janet Eastmead, Phil Espin,  
Roy Harvey, Grahame Hopwood, Phil Hyde, Colin and Sheila Jennings, Bill Sterling

**BIODIVERSITY OFFICER:** Anne Goodall

**COUNTY RECORDERS:**

**North Lincolnshire:** John Clarkson

37 Lee Street, Louth, Lincs LN11 9HJ – recorder\_north@lincsbirdclub.co.uk

**South Lincolnshire:** John Badley

c/o RSPB, Roads Farmhouse, Frampton Roads, Frampton,  
Boston, Lincs PE20 1AY – recorder\_south@lincsbirdclub.co.uk

**GIBRALTAR POINT BO REPRESENTATIVE:** Kevin Wilson

**LINCOLNSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVE:** Ian Macalpine-Leny

**RSPB REPRESENTATIVE:** John Badley

**LINCOLNSHIRE RARITIES COMMITTEE:** John Badley, Graham Catley, John Clarkson,  
Paul French, Wayne Gillatt, Phil Hyde and Andy Sims. Chairman: John Clarkson

**LINCOLNSHIRE RARITIES COMMITTEE SECRETARY:**

Roy Harvey - roy.harvey100@btinternet.com

**LINCOLNSHIRE RARE BREEDING BIRD REPRESENTATIVE:**

Phil Espin - pmjespin@gmail.com

**SALES:** Bill Sterling

“Newlyn”, 5 Carlton Avenue, Healing, N.E.Lincs, DN41 7PW e-mail: wbsterling@hotmail.com

**THE WEBS LOCAL ORGANISERS 2012-13**

WeBS Office, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU Tel: 01842 750050  
email: WeBS@bto.org

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE (INLAND)**

(Ms) Chris Gunn - donandchris@hotmail.co.uk

**SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE/PETERBOROUGH (INLAND)**

Bob Titman Please contact via the WeBS Office

**THE WASH**

Jim Scott email: jim.scott@rspb.org.uk

**HUMBER ESTUARY INNER SOUTH**

Keith Parker Please contact via the WeBS Office

**HUMBER ESTUARY MID SOUTH**

Please contact via the WeBS Office

**HUMBER ESTUARY OUTER SOUTH**

John Walker contact via the WeBS Office

**BTO REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES 2011-12**

**North:** (Ms) Chris Gunn - donandchris@hotmail.co.uk

**East:** Phil Espin - pmjespin@gmail.com

**South:** Hugh Dorrington - hdorrington@btconnect.com

**West:** Peter Overton - bto@hilltopfarmholidays.co.uk

**FRONT COVER:** White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* Ruckland Apr 13th 2011

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ISSN NUMBER: 0261-5525

## *Welcome to the 2011 Bird Report*



Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*  
RSPB Frampton Marsh Jan 2nd 2011 © Neil Smith



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# THE LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD CLUB 2011 REPORT

## Welcome to the 2011 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. The publication of the Bird Report inevitably involved a huge amount of work, with many individuals involved in its publication. Thanks are due to the large amount of observers who submit records to the Bird Club. This year we have succeeded in verifying more reports and gathering more records than in any previous years and thanks must go to the two County bird recorders, the Lincolnshire Bird Records Committee, Roy Harvey and to Colin and Sheila Jennings for all the hard work undertaken.

## Species Authors

The Bird Club would like to thank all the authors who volunteered their time to complete species write-ups for the 2011 report. Inevitably, using such a pool of authors will lead to differences 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](mailto: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 many ways, one being casual sightings. Please use our Online Sightings Form on the Bird Club website <http://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk>. 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.

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](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 Colin Jennings – [thejennings@colin97.freemove.co.uk](mailto:thejennings@colin97.freemove.co.uk)

**North Lincolnshire**  
**John Clarkson**  
37 Lee Street  
Louth  
Lincs  
LN11 9HJ  
Email: [recorder\\_north@lincsbirdclub.co.uk](mailto:recorder_north@lincsbirdclub.co.uk)

**South Lincolnshire**  
**John Badley**  
c/o RSPB Lincolnshire Wash Reserves  
Roads Farm House  
Frampton Roads  
Frampton, Boston, Lincs  
PE20 1AY  
Email: [recorder\\_south@lincsbirdclub.co.uk](mailto:recorder_south@lincsbirdclub.co.uk)

## **National Rarities.**

The British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) deals with nationally rare birds. A full and up to date list of species considered by BBRC can be downloaded from the BBRC website [www.bbrc.org.uk](http://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 these are not known records will be attributed to *per LBC*.

## **County Rarities.**

The Lincolnshire Bird Records Committee deals with species or forms considered rare at county level. 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](mailto: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 descriptions 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 2011 Bird Report**

The Lincolnshire Bird Club is grateful to the following individuals and organizations for supplying and letting us use their data in the 2011 bird report. Apologies to anyone we have missed off the list.

**RSPB.** The Lincolnshire Bird Club would like to thank the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds for supplying data from their reserves at Frampton Marsh, Freiston Shore and Tetney Marsh.

**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](mailto:webs@bto.org)).

**BirdTrack Data.** Data supplied by BirdTrack has been used in the production of the 2011 bird report. BirdTrack provides free online bird recording software for Britain and Ireland and is being developed in partnership with 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 2011 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.

**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 Bird Club 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 for 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 Ringing Association, the Mid-Lincs Ringing Group, Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory, Wash Wader Group and the Birklands Ringing Group for submitting their annual ringing reports and especially Mark Grantham from the British Trust for Ornithology for help compiling the 2011 ringing 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](mailto: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 2011 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 recorders. For a complete list of individual record contributors with reference to their initials used in the text, please refer to the list on page 237.

### **LBC Database Team**

Colin and Sheila Jennings collate all records that are submitted on the LBC Forum and via the online records system. 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 and patience while sorting out Bird Club database issues.

### **Contributing Authors for the 2011 report**

The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to the following contributing authors for the 2011 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](mailto:chairman@lincsbirdclub.co.uk).

**Contributing Authors:** Alan Ball, John Badley, Stuart Britton, Graham Catley, Andrew Chick, John Clarkson, Alan Daws, Phil Espin, Chris Grimshaw, Roy Harvey, Andrew Henderson, Grahame Hopwood, Phil Hyde, Freddy Johnson, Steve Lorand, Peter Overton, Garry Steele, Bill Sterling and Daniel Wade.

### **Photo Editor and Layout Design**

The Lincolnshire Bird Club would like to thank Neil Smith for collating and selecting the photographs used in all the bird report 2008-11. This is a difficult job but Neil always seems to get superb results.



## Photographers

The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to the following photographers for supplying images for the 2011 Lincolnshire Bird Club report. All images included in the report have been taken in Lincolnshire during 2011 and many are referred to in the text. All images are labelled with the photographers' names; their contact details are listed below.

Graham Catley (graham.catley@btopenworld.com), Andrew Chick (andrew@forktail.co.uk), John Clarkson (johnrclarkson@btinternet.com), Nick Clayton (nsclayton@tiscali.co.uk), John Carter (jpac@johnpacarter.co.uk), Alex Parker, Neil Drinkall, Roy Harvey (roy.harvey100@btinternet.com), Russell Hayes (Russ@birdman.co.uk), Steve Keightley (steve.keightley@btinternet.com), Dave Morison (d.morison@hotmail.co.uk), Paul Neale (paulneale10@yahoo.co.uk), Steve Nesbitt (s.nesbitt2@ntlworld.com), Colin Neve (evenniloc@aol.com), Neil Smith (n.smith22@btinternet.com), S & K Spavin (kareenspavin@hotmail.co.uk), Paul Sullivan (paulsullivan444@btinternet.com)

## 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 2011 report

The bird club is very grateful to Grahame Hopwood, Andrew Henderson, John Badley, John Clarkson, Robert Carr and Graham Catley for proof reading the 2011 bird report. I would particularly like to thank them for their valued input and comments at the final stage of its production.

*Andrew Chick February 2013*

## Obituary - Gordon Priestley 11th Dec 1938 - 24th Sep 2011

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the untimely death of Gordon Priestley in September 2011. Gordon was a member of the Lincolnshire Bird Club from its inception, as well as being a very active Lincolnshire birder and bird ringer for a great number of years.

The church in Ewerby was packed for his funeral – with standing room only. Clearly, Gordon had touched the lives of many people and for those of us who attended, we were reminded, of his passion for birds, wildlife and the local countryside. He will be very sadly missed.

## The BBS in Lincolnshire

This is the second year 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 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. It should be noted that not all squares are currently surveyed and in 2011, 60 squares were surveyed. This was 4 less than 2010 but in 2012 the number rose to 70.

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 may 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 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 various statistical techniques.



Kate Risely, BBS National Organiser at BTO, has once more provided a full data set for Lincolnshire from 1990 to 2011. For the commonest 29 species in Lincolnshire (those 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 graphs are incorporated into the species accounts for selected species in the Bird Report.

All species thought to have bred in Lincolnshire during the last 5 years are compared with the % 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 continue to need 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](http://www.bto.org/bbs) or by contacting Philip Espin, the RO for East Lincolnshire.

LBC would like all reports of those rarer UK species which breed in Lincolnshire and are considered by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP). 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 Tree Pipit and Willow Tit 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, Starling and Song Thrush seem to be suffering worse declines than other parts of England while Skylark and Linnets are doing the same and Yellowhammer and House Sparrow are 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.

## WEATHER REPORT 2011

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 this weather data for the 2011 Bird Report, with particular thanks to Matthew Strahan.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mean Daily Max (°C)	6.0	8.8	10.7	17.0	17.2	19.3	20.4	20.5	20.0	16.4	11.4	7.6
Mean Night Min (°C)	1.9	3.9	3.2	7.1	8.1	9.9	11.3	11.9	11.5	9.1	6.7	3.5
Total Rainfall (mm)	29.5	49.2	5.8	13.2	25.7	46.8	54.0	59.2	21.2	36.6	20.6	62.4
Total Sunshine (hours)	48.1	48.0	118.6	214.0	200.8	200.6	156.6	128.2	146.9	111.2	45.2	52.4

### January

The wintry weather did not appear to lose its grip into the New Year and although January 2011 will be remembered for being cold and frosty the statistics surprisingly show that daily maximum temperatures were slightly above average as were overnight minima. January started cold but became increasingly mild towards the middle of the month before sliding back into cooler air. Rainfall amounts were nearly half the average – the bulk of the precipitation falling in the first half of the month and snow fell on only 5 days. On most days between the 5th and the 16th winds reached strengths of 25 knots or more with a maximum gust strength of 38 knots on the 16th - the highest of the month.

### February

A very mild but rather wet and cloudy month. The daily maximum and minimum temperatures were about 3 °C above the average, while the days of frost and snow/sleet were correspondingly below average. Rainfall amounts were 25% over the average and sunshine amounts 25% under.

### March

Warm, settled and very dry sums up March this year at Waddington. Daily average max and min temps were up a degree or so on the normal resulting in fewer occasions of air or ground frosts occurring and no snow! However, the month started off on the cool side but from the 19th onwards it became mild or very mild with several days having max temps of 16-17 °C. The month was extremely dry giving us a new record minimum rainfall total for March (at Waddington)... since records began! We just beat the old record of only 5.9mm in the March of 1961.

### April

Well, what an absolute corker April was this year at Waddington...and indeed, countrywide! Daily average max temps were up over 5 °C on the normal giving us our warmest April ever here at Waddington. We only just missed our actual highest ever max temp recorded by just 0.6 °C! Daily average min temps were also up over 3° and in association with this we experienced no air frosts and only 1 ground frost. Another very dry month with our rainfall total being less than a 1/3 of the average. And with a spectacular 60 plus hours of extra sunshine over and above the norm, we have another record this month, beating our previous highest April sunshine record total of 211.9 hours in 1984.

### May

May started off dry and very sunny, but also windy. The windy theme - SW to WSW - continuing throughout the month with many days having max gusts into the mid to high 30s, with a month max gust of 42 knots on the 23rd. The month continued this spring's warm start with daily average max and min temps up by approx 1.5°C. Also, continuing the spring's dry theme, the month was quite dry with rainfall totals down by almost half. However, the sunshine total for the month was remarkably average!

### June

Quite an average or somewhat better than average June, with both average max and min temps within just a degree warmer than their 50 year averages. On 26th and 27th, temperatures were significantly higher than the rest of the month. Total sunshine was just 3 hours higher than the long term average with the 'number of days' readings again fairly close to average. The total rainfall was lower than average but only by about 10%.

## July

Coolish, cloudy and thundery at times sums up July this year. Average daily max and min temps were around the norm, perhaps on the cool side. Rainfall totals were also around the norm although we achieved our accumulation in short sharp bursts, in association with thunderstorms and indeed, 15 days of July were actually bone dry! Sunshine totals were disappointing with over 30 hours less sunshine than we normally enjoy in July. Indeed, we only had 2 days where the daily total went into double figures; 11.6 hours on the 1st and 11.7 hours on the 3rd.

## August

A very average month for most elements apart from the sunshine total which was markedly low at over 52 hours down on the average. Average daily max and min temperatures were just slightly above the norm and total rainfall slightly below the norm. 'Days of' actual data was again very close to average values. One extreme value which was noteworthy was the maximum temperature of 13.0°C on the 26th. This was the lowest August maximum recorded since 1987.

## September

A warm and dry month but very windy on some days. The mean daily maximum and minimum temperatures were about 2 degrees above the average and during the last few days of the month temperatures became very warm with max temps reaching up to 8 degrees over the average. Total rainfall only reached less than half the average. Sunshine total was the only figure fairly close to the average.

## October

What a cracking month October was this year at Waddington! The month started off very hot with the first 3 days having max temps into the high 20s°C. Indeed, the max temp of 29.2°C on the 2nd was a new record high for October. The average daily max temp of 16.4°C, although up almost 3 degrees on the average, missed our all time highest monthly mean of 17.2°C in 1959 (notably our October sunshine record year also). The average daily min temperature was also up over 2°C on the norm. Rainfall totals were down 25% or soon the norm and the sunshine total surprising only up slightly on the average expected. The month was also certainly a breezy one with no less than 10 days giving us daily max gusts into the mid to high 30 knots, with a max gust of 40 knots on the 10th, on warm SW winds.

## November

Dull, but mild, windy in the last week sums November up nicely for us here at Waddington. Daily average max and min temps were up almost 3°C on the norm, with 23 days giving a max temperature into double figures. In association with this we only experienced 1 air/ground frost during the whole month! The last week of the month was windy, with mild SW winds. The month's sunshine total was very low with 20 hours less rays than even the usual low figure average for this time of year. Dull and oppressive.

## December

A succession of deep lows crossing the Atlantic from the west characterized much of the weather during December. Very strong to gale force winds, culminating in gusts of up to 47knots on the 7th, were prevalent during the beginning and end of the month. Gusts of 25 knots and over were recorded on 21 days, mean gust strength being 34 knots. December was also a very mild and wet month with mean daily max and min temperatures at least one degree over the average and over 10mm more rainfall than the 50 year average. Snow fell on only two days, as did sleet. Unusually mild weather predominated as December slid into the New Year, contrasting markedly with December 2010's above average snow amounts and low day time max temperatures.

# Review of the Year 2011

## January

The New Year started with parties of Waxwings widely dispersed across the county, with over a thousand individuals involved. These included up to 72 in Immingham, 100 in Grimsby, 120 at Witham St Hugh's and 142 reported in Lincoln. A Common Sandpiper was in Boston on New Year's day and a Rough-legged Buzzard remained at South Ferriby from 2010, whilst another was in the Donna Nook/Rimac area from 4th and two were at the River Nene mouth from mid-month. A first winter Iceland Gull was at Thealby Lake on the 1st with a second winter at Gainsborough on 9th. Good numbers of thrushes moved through coastal sites early in the month, particularly Fieldfare, with counts of 522 at Gib Point on 9th and 550 at Freiston Shore on 4th. Good numbers of White-fronted Geese were around the county including 47 at Alkborough Flats and 60 at Donna Nook.

Following the previous autumn's national record numbers of Lapland Buntings, wintering birds were widely noted at coastal sites including an excellent 85 at Frampton Marsh. As an indication of the origin of some of Lincolnshire's wintering finch population a Norwegian-ringed Common Redpoll, Dutch Siskin and Lesser Redpoll from Belgium and were all trapped in Bourne Wood during the month. In amongst the good numbers of redpolls was an Arctic Redpoll in Lincoln from 21st. Up to 23 Shore larks were often elusive at Gib Point during the month and up to 65 Snow Buntings were at North Cotes. A single 'Taiga' Bean Goose on the Humber from 14th was the first of a dozen of this form during the first winter period.

A Firecrest at Helpringham Fen on the 22nd was an unusual record. A Green-winged Teal was noted at Covenham Res on 25th. Frustratingly for many, a Great White Egret at Kirby on Bain from the 5th was often extremely elusive; this increasing species was noted far and wide across the county during the year.

## February

Single Great White Egrets were recorded at Deeping Lakes and Manby Flashes early in the month. A second winter Iceland Gull was at Gib Point on 3rd. Frampton Marsh was graced with 24 Whooper and 11 Bewick's Swans along with 18 White-fronted Geese and a first-winter Glaucous gull on 7th. A Rough-legged Buzzard at Broughton Common on 2nd was the first of three reports during the month.

Both male and a female Long-tailed Ducks were noted at Barton, while a male and two redhead Smew spent several days at Kirkby Pits and several more were noted around the county during the first three months of the year. An Arctic Redpoll was at Barton from 26th with another at Gib Point the same day although neither were widely appreciated.

## March

An early Spoonbill was at Gib Point on 4th where the first Barn Swallow was noted next day. Chiffchaff reports in the first week were perhaps new incomers and there was a widespread arrival across the county from 10th. A Hooded Crow was with other corvids at Sutterby on 6th, the only inland record during 2011. A Cetti's Warbler was singing at Water's Edge early in the month, this species having suffered from the recent harsh winters in the county. A Common Crane was reported over Kirkby Moor on 6th whilst nearby the Great White Egret remained extremely elusive in the Kirkby/Woodhall Spa areas. A Raven flying west over Lincoln on the 8th was unusual. A Rough-legged Buzzard flew south at Freiston Shore on 8th and a Great White Egret was nearby at Frampton Marsh on the same day. At Gib Point a Black Brant was noted along with a Woodlark on the 11th when 230 Chaffinches moved through in the first couple of hours after dawn.

The first Sand Martin was at Frampton Marsh on 12th where the first Barn Swallow in the county since the 4th was noted on 19th. Up to 10 Shore Larks remained at Gib Point until mid-month. A Black Redstart was at Water's Edge CP on 17th when an Iceland Gull was at Bagmoor. A flock of 60 Waxwings was still in Lincoln on 26th and 70+ were still in Grantham during the month. A total of 260 Whooper Swans at Frampton Marsh on 19th was the highest count of the year.

A juvenile White-tailed Eagle was noted at Burwell mid-afternoon on the 20th, after wandering far and wide, including to Norfolk, this was the start of a lengthy and hugely popular stay in the Wolds, principally in the Ruckland area. A Rough-legged Buzzard was at Dorington Fen on 26th. A Common Crane was noted over Short Ferry on 27th; also on the 27th a Great Grey Shrike at Worlaby Carrs was the first of an excellent series of records during the year. A male Ring Ouzel was at Chapel Pit on 28th with a Black Redstart at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe the same day with

another the following day at Mablethorpe. Another sign of spring the same day were two-three Garganey at Frampton Marsh (easily the most favoured site in the county for this species in 2011). A Firecrest was at Gib Point on 29th. Several Willow Warblers were noted around the county by the month's end and two early Yellow Wagtails were noted at Frampton Marsh on the last day of the month.

## April

Good numbers of Sand Martins had arrived by the first week of April, for example 300 at Far Ings on 2nd. Lingering winter visitors included up to 16 Shore Larks still at Gib Point. The juvenile White-tailed Eagle was finally pinned down in the Wolds early in the month and was the start of an extremely rewarding early spring period. The first Osprey was over Frampton Marsh on 3rd when a Western Subalpine Warbler, only the eighth Subalpine (of any form) to be found in the county, was a superb discovery at Humberstone Fitties. Two Common Cranes and an Osprey were at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on 6th. Also on the 6th the Marsh Tit ringed at Gib Point was only the sixth for the site and the first to be trapped there for 46 years!

The same two Common Cranes were noted flying south over Freiston Shore and Frampton Marsh on 7th. An exceptionally early female Red-footed Falcon was reported at Willingham by Stow on 6th. A Serin was at Gib Point on 7th. The first returning Common Nightingale was singing at Whisby on 8th. Eleven singing Tree Pipits were already at Laughton by the 9th. Three Shore larks were at Brickyard Lane on 10th.

Good numbers of Grasshopper Warblers were noted in the county mid-month. Two Bee-eaters took up temporary residence on farmland at Grebby from 14th. A Spoonbill was at Gib Point on 16th when 45 Northern Wheatears were at Donna Nook, with 62 at Waddington on 20th. An early Montagu's Harrier at Dowsby Fen on 18th began a poor year for this species.

A Dotterel was at Horseshoe Point on the early morning of 19th. A Common Crane flew over Gib Point on 20th where a Hoopoe was noted in the East Dunes; another Hoopoe was at Claxby on 22nd. Star bird of the 20th was a Purple Heron which stayed several days in the Huttoft Pit area. A Common Nightingale was at Donna Nook the same day. Six Dotterel then appeared at Tetney next day (and peaked at seven birds by the end of the month). On the 23rd lucky birders were treated to the extraordinary sight of a Black Kite mobbing the White-tailed Eagle in the Wolds. The kite was noted next day circling over the valley at Oxcombe.

A Pectoral Sandpiper was an unusual spring find at Frampton Marsh on 24th. The first Quail of the year was at Ruckland the same day. The next day a Tawny Pipit was found near the trip of Dotterel at Tetney; initially elusive the bird remained on show for four days. Single Dotterel were at Appleby Carrs and Donna Nook on 25th and four were at Grasby Top from 30th. This exciting period reached a climax on the 27th with an obliging Collared Pratincole discovered at Rosper Road Pools, Immingham. It had been a month to remember.

## May

Six Wood Sandpipers were at Frampton Marsh on 1st with a good scattering elsewhere in the county. The second Black Kite of the year was at Gib Point on 3rd (found by the finder of the first record!). South-easterly winds brought a good scattering of coastal migrants from the 5th included Black Redstarts at Saltfleet and Anderby. A Red-necked Phalarope was at Frampton Marsh and a Stone Curlew was at Gib Point. Next day a Temminck's Stint showed well at Manby and a Red-rumped Swallow was briefly at Gib Point. Two Temminck's Stints were at Bonby Carrs on 7th and another two at Alkborough Flats on 11th, with singles at Gib Point and Toft Newton from 14th and the first of the spring for Frampton Marsh was also noted. A Honey Buzzard over Gib Point on 9th was the first of three at this site during the month. Up to 15 Wood Sandpipers were noted in the north of the county on 7th. Visible migration at Gib Point on 9th produced 3400 Barn Swallows moving south as well as 60 Common Crossbills.

At Frampton Marsh the lingering Red-necked Phalarope had been joined by an incredible six Temminck's Stints on 10th which then increased to seven next day and rose still further to eight by 18th! The second Serin of the year was noted at Gib point on 10th. Another Black Kite was noted on 12th, again at Gib Point, moving south over the East Dunes. The rarest passerine of the year was confirmed at Gib Point next day in the form of a very elusive Calandra Lark, a county first, which only showed well for its finders.

A Golden Oriole at Greatford on 14th was the first of five spring sightings. An arrival of 55 Little Terns at Gib Point on 21st hinted at a good year for this species, something which was ultimately unfulfilled. A quieter period ensued although yet another Temminck's Stint appeared, this time inland at Kirkby on 22nd, and following strong winds, an inland Pomarine Skua was at Messingham Sand Quarry next day. A Honey Buzzard flew low over Seacroft on 25th. A new

Red-necked Phalarope, a bright female, appeared at Frampton Marsh on 24th. A Purple Heron was at Bicker on the 26th. The month ended with yet another, or perhaps the same, Black Kite at Gib Point on 31st where a Golden Oriole was heard singing briefly.

## June

A Puffin off Gib Point on 1st was the first of three reports from this site during the month. Also on the 1st a party of seven Ravens was noted at Colsterworth. A Marsh Warbler was trapped at Gib Point on 2nd and a Long-tailed Duck at the same site on 5th was unseasonal. Next day a male Red-backed Shrike was at Howden's Pullover; the only record this year of an increasingly rare migrant. The last Golden Oriole of the spring was singing at Alkborough Flats on 6th.

A Common Rosefinch was singing at Gib Point early on the 10th. Reports from Gib Point on 14th included the Common Rosefinch again, a Caspian Gull and also six Spoonbills arrived there that evening. The only Pied Flycatcher of the spring was at Gib Point the same day. Returning Green and Wood Sandpipers were noted in the last third of the month. A superb Spotted Sandpiper was an excellent find at Whisby on 17th but had departed by the next day. There were several reports of Common Cranes during the month including two at Brampton on 23rd. The month ended with a Red-necked Phalarope at Kirkby Pits on 30th.

## July

An Alpine Swift moved south in the morning of the 6th at Gib Point. Seven Mediterranean Gulls were at Horseshoe Point on 13th and were part of the continuing rise in reports in the county. Five Wood sandpipers and a Little Stint were at Frampton Marsh on 9th. A Marsh Sandpiper was an exciting find at Alkborough Flats on the 11th. An American Wigeon began a lengthy stay at Freiston Shore from 13th. Early Black Terns were off Gib Point on 14th and Freiston Shore next day.

The first returning Curlew Sandpiper was at Gib Point on 15th, this began a good autumn passage for this species. Also by mid-month good numbers of Sandwich terns had gathered at Gib Point. A Honey Buzzard flew over New Holland on 17th. Returning Temminck's Stints were at Gib Point on 18th and Freiston Shore on 22nd. The first of ten Pectoral Sandpipers noted during the autumn was at Freiston Shore on 20th. A summer plumaged Red-necked Grebe was at Covenham Res from 24th. At least 200 Arctic Terns were noted off Theddlethorpe in the last few days of the month where at least two Pomarine Skuas were seen along with several Arctic Skuas. Similar numbers of Arctic Terns were counted of Gib Point at this time. On the 30th yet another Red-necked Phalarope was seen at Frampton Marsh and a typically elusive Spotted Crake was found there on 31st.

## August

Following a Temminck's Stint on 1st two Pectoral Sandpipers were at Frampton Marsh on the 3rd when the only Roseate Tern of the year was at Gib Point. At Freiston Shore 70+ Greenshanks were noted at the start of the month. Following the autumn's first coastal Common Redstart at Gib Point on 3rd, this species and the first Spotted Flycatcher of the autumn for Donna Nook were noted on 6th. Five Spoonbills were at Alkborough Flats at this time and up to 14 were at Gib Point. A Marsh Sandpiper at Boultham Mere on 4th was presumed to be the same individual as at Alkborough Flats. The 7th was the last day the superb White-tailed Eagle was noted in the Wolds.

Another Pectoral Sandpiper, this time at Freiston Shore, was found on the 14th. Gib Point's first Pied Flycatcher of the autumn was noted the same day when 5000 Barn Swallows moved south. In the north of the county two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found at North Cotes. Inland, 32 Ruff were seen at Manby on 15th. A Temminck's Stint was at Gib Point from 18th and the next day two Common Cranes headed south over the reserve. A Montagu's Harrier flew over the A15 at Welton on 21st.

One of the highlights of the month was the discovery of the first Kentish Plover in Lincolnshire for 15 years, a juvenile, at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on 22nd. A day of north-easterly winds produced an Icterine Warbler, an increasingly scarce bird in the county, at Gib Point on 24th. Three Temminck's Stints were at Frampton Marsh the same day. Several Ospreys were noted during this period. A Wryneck was found in the East Dunes at Gib Point early morning of the 28th, where a juvenile Long-tailed Skua, the first of 13 during the autumn, flew south next day. Another juvenile Long-tailed Skua was noted during high tide at Freiston Shore on the 31st when 27 Curlew Sandpipers were seen nearby at Frampton Marsh.

## September

Good numbers of Arctic Skuas were reported along the coast during the month, particularly at Gib Point where 77 were noted on the 1st. A Wryneck was at Rimac on 2nd when the only Wood Warbler of the year was at Donna Nook. At Frampton Marsh Curlew Sandpipers had increased to 30 and 10 Little Stints were also seen. Other good counts of Curlew sandpiper included up to 33 at Donna Nook and 31 at Read's Island. A Honey Buzzard was over Donna Nook on 2nd. A juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper was at Marston STW from 3rd. A Barred Warbler was at Saltfleet on 3rd with another at Donna Nook next day when one was also trapped at Gib Point. Another Pectoral Sandpiper, this one at Gib Point, dropped in to the Mere on 8th and the Barred Warbler was re-trapped at the observatory. A total of 19 Little Stints was a good record at Read's Island on 10th. Continuing the good wader counts of many species across the county a site record count of 142 Ruff were at Frampton Marsh on 11th. Good numbers of Siskins were noted at this time with numbers noted at both coastal sites and inland.

A Buff-breasted sandpiper was found at Donna Nook on 13th. A Honey Buzzard flew over Frampton Marsh on 14th. A Grey Phalarope was typically confiding at Covenham Res the same day. Off Skegness on 16th were 17 Manx and seven Sooty Shearwaters along with two Long-tailed Skuas, all noted in a fresh easterly wind. The same day an inland Sabine's Gull was an excellent and popular find at Leadenham Tip. The rarest bird of the year, Britain's fourth American Black Tern, was discovered at Covenham Res on 17th often giving superb views. A summer-plumaged Sabine's Gull was at Gib Point on 21st.

A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker flew over the East Dunes at Gib Point on 22nd. Two Buff-breasted Sandpiper were found at Saltfleet on 14th (including the earlier Donna Nook bird) and then appeared at Rimac on 22nd. A juvenile Montagu's Harrier was at West Ashby on 27th. The autumn's first Ring Ouzel was at Cleethorpes next day. Two more Nearctic waders were discovered late in the month with an adult White-rumped Sandpiper at Alkborough Flats on 26th and the same day a juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher began an extended stay at Freiston Shore.

## October

Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at Alkborough Flats on 2nd. The first Yellow-browed Warbler of the autumn was at Pye's Hall on 2nd. Yet another Pectoral Sandpiper was noted on 6th, this one at Horseshoe Point, followed by another at Gib Point next day. On the 8th some 1260 Redwings arrived at Gib point including a single flock of 450 birds; good numbers were also noted inland with ca.200 over Bardney and ca.1100 over Sloothby. A Pectoral Sandpiper was at Frampton Marsh on 9th, when a Grey Phalarope was found at Alkborough Flats. A boat trip out on The Wash produced a juvenile Puffin, a dozen Pomarine Skuas and 45 Red-breasted Mergansers the same day. Also on 9th a juvenile Dotterel was in a Golden Plover flock at Horseshoe Point, the only record during the autumn. A drake Ring-necked Duck was at Kirkby on 5th, presumably the same individual for the third year in this area.

A total of 35 Pomarine Skuas was noted at Roaring Middle in The Wash on 9th. A Cory's Shearwater was a surprise off Trusthorpe on the morning of the 11th. Light easterlies on the 13th produced a small arrival of thrushes including 200+ Fieldfares at Messingham SQ. A Yellow-browed Warbler was at Cleethorpes the same day with another at Pye's Hall. At Gib Point a Red-breasted Flycatcher and two Yellow-browed Warblers were found. A Barred Warbler was also at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on 13th. A Great Grey Shrike was there next day with another at Chapel Six Marshes the following day when the first Rough-legged Buzzard of the autumn was noted at Paradise/Saltfleet; another was noted at Worlaby Carrs from the 16th. Three Yellow-browed Warblers were at Donna Nook on 15th and another two Yellow-browed Warblers were at Saltfleetby on 17th; these were followed by several more over the next few days. The first Little Auk of the autumn was also off Gib Point on 17th, this was first of only a small numbers of scattered reports during the rest of year. A Green-winged Teal was at Alkborough Flats on 18th. The first returning Shore Lark was at Donna Nook on 20th.

Two Common Cranes were reported at Frampton Marsh on 22nd. A Black Brant arrived at Donna Nook on 24th when a Yellow-browed Warbler was at North Somercotes. A Sabine's Gull flew close inshore past Gib Point in the strong easterly winds on 24th with the same or another off Anderby Creek next day. The final Pectoral Sandpiper of the year was seen at Pye's Hall on 25th. Following a Rough-legged Buzzard over Grainthorpe and Donna Nook on 25th, one drifted south over Huttoft Bank the next day before passing over Anderby Creek, where a juvenile Sabine's Gull was also noted, before ending up at Gib point.

Following two Yellow-browed Warblers on 25th, a Pallas's Warbler was at Gib Point on 26th. The same day a Richard's Pipit flew over Donna Nook calling and two Yellow-browed Warblers were noted. A Hawfinch flew south over Gib Point on 30th. Following a Great Grey Shrike at Pye's Hall



on 25th, the 28th produced another individual, which put in an extended stay at Witham Mouth, these birds were followed by an inland record at Haverholme Park. Yet another Nearctic wader appeared at Alkborough Flats at the end of the month, in the form of a Lesser Yellowlegs; this bird remained into 2012.

## November

A Yellow-browed Warbler arrived at Saltfleetby on 4th. Good numbers of Bullfinches were noted, both inland and passing at coastal sites early in the month including 22 ringed at Market Stainton on 5th. Also on 5th a total of 2290 Pink-footed Geese passed over Gib Point in two hours. An excellent arrival of 5000 Blackbirds was noted at Gib Point on 7th, when 170 Robins were also recorded. Hundreds of thrushes were at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe next day when over 500 Fieldfares were noted at Gib Point. Waxwings were first noted back on the 8th when six were at Sea View and three at Rimac. A putative Central Asian lesser Whitethroat at Donna Nook from the 9th was an interesting find. From the 9th a Pallas's Warbler showed well at Donna Nook.

An influx of geese included an arrival of Bean Geese from the 10th with a peak count of 100 'Tundra' Bean Geese at Wainfleet on 27th; over 150 were noted in this influx. A Great White Egret was at Frampton Marsh on the morning of the 11th with another at Kirkby at the end of the month. Good numbers of White-fronted Geese were noted around the county at this time and counts built up as the month progressed. At Gib Point the 408 Little Gulls noted on the 13th was a record site count whilst a Bittern at Frampton Marsh on 14th was a reserve first. Also on the 13th two juvenile Long-tailed Skuas flew west over the Humber bridge and a Siberian Chiffchaff was at Gib Point the same day. A Rough-legged Buzzard was at Donna Nook from 16th. A Quail at Freiston Shore on 17th was the final record of the year.

Five Great Grey Shrikes were noted during the month including a bird at Wroot from 20th which had been ringed at Spurn earlier in the month. Yet another Rough-legged Buzzard was at Donna Nook on 18th when 22 Lapland Buntings were also noted. A Grey Phalarope flew south at Gib Point on 19th. On 22nd a Ring-necked Duck was found at Whisby.

## December

A late Sandwich Tern was off Witham Mouth on 2nd and a Spoonbill was at nearby Frampton Marsh. A good scattering of Snow Buntings was noted around the county with ca.200 at Cleethorpes and 80 at Donna Nook the best counts. A late Barn Swallow was over Gib Point on 3rd. A Great Northern Diver arrived for an extended stay at Thurlby from 3rd whilst another was seen off Gib Point where a mobile Richard's Pipit was noted on the saltmarsh.

A Rough-legged Buzzard was at Stainby on 10th where 11 Red Kites were also noted. Between Grainthorpe and Donna Nook 28 Lapland Buntings were seen on 11th with up to 10 also in the Saltfleetby area. Five Little Auks were off Freiston Shore on 13th with another off Gib Point on 18th. A Rough-legged Buzzard began an extended stay at Withern from 15th. A redhead Smew at Frampton Marsh the same day was yet another reserve first. Two Common Scoters were noted inland at Whisby on 15th. Good numbers of Fieldfare were on the move mid-month including 700 at Witham Mouth and 650 at Pinchbeck. A Great White Egret was at Messingham on 23rd with presumably the same bird at Scotterthorpe from 29th until the end of the year.

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 2011

**Collated by:** John Badley, Graham Catley, Andrew Chick, Andrew Henderson and Grahame Hopwood.

**Contributing Authors:** Alan Ball, John Badley, Stuart Britton, Graham Catley, Andrew Chick, John Clarkson, Alan Daws, Phil Espin, Chris Grimshaw, Roy Harvey, Andrew Henderson, Grahame Hopwood, Phil Hyde, Freddy Johnson, Steve Lorand, Peter Overton, Garry Steele, Bill Sterling, Daniel Wade.

## Key to acronyms:

**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.

**BBBP** - 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
Anwick Fen	19	7	12	23	9	10	9	19	2	20	30	18
Apex Pit, North Hykeham	2	2	-	7	1	3	24	25	27	24	11	5
Brayford Pool Lincoln	40	44	36	53	62	-	91	-	-	38	34	26
Burton Gravel Pits	2	2	4	4	2	2	2	2	6	6	6	8
Frampton Marsh	11	6	12	21	20	27	30	15	16	12	11	9
Freiston Shore	2	2	10	12	8	19	-	-	-	-	1	6
Goxhill to New Holland	51	26	5	15	5	16	98	-	-	-	-	-
Gib Point	2	2	4	9	7	9	2	4	2	4	5	10
Kirkby on Bain/ Tattershall Thorpe Pits	10	-	6	21	11	8	8	4	4	11	12	24
Messingham SQ	-	-	6	16	12	24	16	26	37	14	22	32
Metheringham Delph	42	13	85	82	10	12	18	17	22	25	11	22
New Holland to Barrow	-	45	35	-	12	26	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nocton Fen	82	48	39	16	9	8	8	4	4	57	91	112
Tattershall Lakes CP	16	18	18	16	19	13	13	22	22	28	20	74
Welland -Four Mile Bar to Borough Fen	345	190	50	93	89	106	30	2	135	140	272	190
Welland -Spalding to Four Mile Bar	13	16	6	18	15	4	4	2	7	10	5	18
Witham-Chapel Hill to Kirkstead	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	12	23	39	69	23
Whisby NP	4	9	3	5	5	8	8	6	7	7	5	8

Other counts not tabulated and exceeding 25 birds in the first winter period were: 163 at Deeping High Bank on Jan 2nd, 54 at Martin Dales on Jan 6th increasing to 99 on Jan 14th, 123 at Dunston Fen on Jan 8th, 81 at Baston Fen on Jan 10th, 54 at Bourne North Fen on Jan 10th, 51 at New Holland on Jan 23rd and 56 at Tunnel Pits, Wroot on Jan 31st. There were 35 at Pinchbeck Slippe on Feb 14th, 76 at Baston Fen on Mar 13th and 120 at Deeping Lake on May 10th. The high count of 345 feeding on adjacent fields to the River Welland between Four Mile Bar and Borough Fen highlights the importance of arable crops (particularly oil seed rape) for diurnal foraging, with larger herds often attracting small number of 'wild' swans. Confirmed breeding was reported from 29 sites, with an average brood size of 5.2 birds reported. On the inner Humber between Barton Haven and Barrow Haven six pair reared 31 young and at Whisby NP three pairs nested and hatched nine cygnets but only four fledged. In the second winter period notable counts included 48 at Deeping Lakes on Oct 19th, 55 at Tunnel Pits, Wroot on Nov 21st, 36 at River Glen on Nov 22nd, 59 at Pinchbeck Slippe on Dec 20th and 64 at Tunnel Pits, Wroot on Dec 20th.

### Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*: Fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor, mainly Oct-Mar and exceptional in summer.

Non WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	2	2
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	2	-	-	-	18	9
Frampton Marsh	9	11	-	5	8	-
Huttoft Bank Pit	3	1	-	-	-	7
Martin Fen	2	2	-	-	-	-
Nocton Fen	1	4	-	-	6	12
RAF Woodhall	18	-	-	-	-	1
Tunnel Pits, Wroot	9	8	7	-	2	-

In the first winter period, records not tabulated included nine at New Holland on Jan 1st and 23rd, up to eight at Baston Fen from Jan 1st-8th, 13 at Deeping High Bank on Jan 10th, six at Deeping St Nicholas on Jan 18th, nine at Black Bank, Messingham from Jan 23rd-31st and nine at East Butterwick on Jan 24th. Single birds were at Croft Marsh on Jan 17th, at Sandilands on Jan 26th, at Middlemarsh, Skegness on Feb 14th, at Kirkstead Bridge on Feb 21st, at Baston-Langtoft Pits on Mar 18th and the last birds were two at Willow Tree Fen on Apr 6th. A bird wearing a yellow neck collar was with two other Bewick's Swans at Nocton in Feb, being ringed in The Netherlands on Dec 17th 2008. It had been seen many times in winter 2008 commuting between The Netherlands and Denmark and was also seen in Poland in spring 2010. On Dec 21st and 28th 2010 it was in Denmark, then at Nene Washes, Cambridgeshire from Dec 3rd to Jan 27th before turning up at Nocton Fen on Feb 14th and staying until at least Feb 24th. The same bird then reappeared with four adults and two juveniles, with the Mute Swan herd, at Nocton Fen on Nov 24th and at Bardney on Nov 27th. The first returning birds of the second winter period were four at Frampton Marsh on Oct 17th. Five groups were seen at Gib Point, all flying south, during early Nov-early Dec, involving three on Nov 6th, five on the 16th, nine on the 18th, five on Nov 27th and 12 on Dec 4th. Additional non-tabulated records in the second winter period included a single bird at Honington on Nov 11th, five at Barton Pits on Nov 13th, three at Tetney Marsh from Nov 16th-20th, four at Bardney Pits on Nov 28th, one at Thurlby Sand Pit from Dec 15th-27th and two at Thoresby Bridge from Dec 24th-31st.



Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus* Thurlby Pit Dec 15th 2011 © David Morison

## 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		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	13	-	-	-	-		-	17	29	3
Barton Pits	2	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	14	17	2
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	29	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	62	21	32
Huttoft Bank Pit	50	40	-	-	-	-	-		-	7	10	58
Gib Point	2	-	2	14	-	-	-		2	65	153	43
Covenham Res	2	2	32	-	-	-	-		-	-	7	32
Frampton Marsh	21	50	260	1	-	-	-		-	26	45	14
Freiston Shore	-	-	35	1	-	1	1		-	15	5	8
Kirkby on Bain Pits	3	-	77	-	1	-	-		-	7	-	-
Nocton Fen	3	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	16	37	14
Thurlby Sand Pit	3	3	3	-	-	-	-		-	7	9	1
Toft Newton Res	-	-	60	1	1	-	-		-	1	22	-
Tunnel Pits, Wroot	55	10	72	-	-	-	-		-	-	11	43
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lincs sites 2011	31	14	36	11	2	1	2	2	-	28	33	28
Min. no. of birds	443	236	1282	11	2	1	2	4	-	405	610	469



**Whooper Swans** *Cygnus cygnus* Frampton Marsh Feb 8th 2011 © David Morison

The majority of records were of passage birds in late Mar and from mid Oct, but several areas now support wintering herds. Peaks in the first winter period included 50 at Huttoft Bank Pits on Jan 15th, 72 at Tunnel Pits, Wroot and 52 at Frampton Marsh both on Mar 11th. The high count of 260 at Frampton Marsh on Mar 19th derived from flocks of 85, 78 and 97 birds moving north/



**Taiga Bean Geese** *Anser fabalis fabalis* Worlaby Carrs Mar 13th 2011 © Graham Catley



**Tundra Bean Geese** *Anser fabalis rossicus* Bonby Top Dec 5th 2011 © Graham Catley

east. On the same date there were 85 at Theddlethorpe All Saints, 77 at Grainthorpe Marsh, 60 at Toft Newton and 78 at Worlaby Carrs, and smaller numbers elsewhere, mostly moving north, some perhaps being the same as at Frampton. A summering adult, assumed sick, was at Toft Newton Res from Apr 23rd to at least May 24th. It had been colour-ringed (yellow B47) at WWT Martin Mere Lancashire in 2004, and sighted at Caerlaverock in Jan 2005, Cambridgeshire in Feb 2006, 07 and 09 and at Welney, Norfolk in Feb 2011 before arriving at Toft Newton. It was on the River Ancholme at Snitterby during at least Jul 10th-Aug 19th, but back at Toft Newton on Oct 11th. Another summering bird was at Freiston Shore during Jun-Jul. Other than lingering or summering individuals, the last of spring were 14 at Gib Point on Apr 7th, and the first of autumn was one south there on Sep 15th. Peak autumn passage was recorded during Oct 10th-31st when most well watched sites on the east coast and a number of inland locations recorded movement. The largest counts were 65 south at Gib Point on Oct 19th and 153 south there on Oct 29th. Wintering herds at the end of the year included up to 43 at Tunnel Pits, Wroot, 14 at Nocton Fen, 14 at Frampton Marsh and a maximum of 58 at Huttoft Bank Pit on Dec 20th.

### 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**

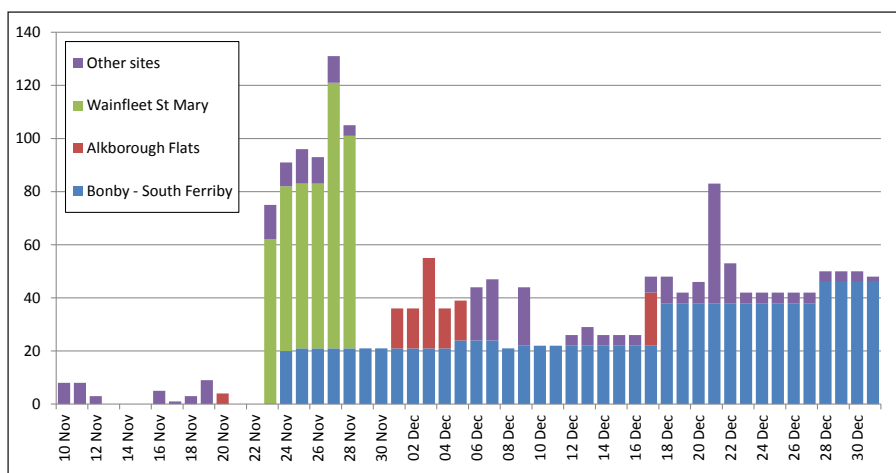
2011 saw record-breaking numbers of both Bean Goose taxa recorded but in the different winter periods.

#### *A f fabalis* ('Taiga' Bean Goose):

A record breaking start to the year with 12 birds recorded from the north of the county. A single bird was present in the Humber Pink-footed Goose flock from Jan 14th-18th (GPC, WG, ND et al) with three at Donna Nook on the 27th (SL). A flock of eight was then found in Worlaby Carrs from Mar 13th-20th (GPC, TCL et al), also being seen at Appleby Carrs and Bonby Carrs. This was the largest flock of this distinctive taxon ever recorded in Lincolnshire. One was also seen at Donna Nook on Mar 19th (SL).

#### *A f rossicus* ('Tundra' Bean Goose):

The early winter period produced only four records of six birds but the late winter saw an unprecedented influx of birds into the county. Between Jan 28th and Feb 13th two birds accompanied the Humber Pink-feet between Read's Island and Winteringham/Winterton (GPC, ND, WG et al) with a different bird at South Ferriby-Read's Island on Mar 19th-26th (ND et al) and possibly the same on Apr 17th (WG). Elsewhere two were north of Chapel Pit on Jan 25th (PEs). From Nov 10th there was a record breaking arrival of Tundra Bean Geese in the county with a maximum day total of 131 birds recorded on Nov 27th. The first eight were seen at North Killingholme pits on Nov 10th with six at Saltfleetby NNR and two Donna Nook the following day. Coastal records were then exceeded by a large flock of 62 that was discovered at Wainfleet St Mary on Nov 23rd, but which may have already been present for 10 days. It increased to a maximum of 100 on the 27th with 80 on the 28th. In the north of the county a number of parties were found with Pink-footed and White-fronted Geese between Alkborough Flats, Winteringham, Winterton, Broughton, Read's Island and Bonby. The peak count in this broad area was 55 on Dec 3rd after which it seemed that some of the flocks amalgamated into one of 46 birds that commuted between their roost on Read's Island, South Ferriby and feeding areas on fields on the Wolds between Bonby and Worlaby Tops. A flock of 20-23 birds had frequented the same areas during Nov 24th-Dec 17th. The flock of 46, accompanied by a single juvenile White-fronted Goose, reducing to 45, continued to use feeding areas on the Wolds between Barton and Bonby, and roosting and loafing at Read's Island and South Ferriby, through to Feb 25th 2012. Elsewhere notable later arrivals included 38 at Donna Nook on Dec 21st, four at North Thoresby from Dec 12th-30th, up to nine at Westwoodside on Nov 24th-27th and six-eight at Huttoft from Dec 18th-22nd. In total it seemed that in excess of 150 birds were recorded in the county between Nov 10th and Dec 31st 2011 but the true total could have been somewhat higher.



### 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
<i>The Humber</i>												
Alkborough Flats	241	7	106	6	-	-	-	-	-	60	-	1
Read's Island area	1100	1906	100	36	-	-	-	-	454	2300	3520	1632
Winteringham	1100	2200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	1400
West Halton	2000	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2200	-
South Ferriby	250	400	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	3500	-
Barton Pits	115	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	500	1200	-	53
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gib Point	2000	520	350	90	280	2	-	-	610	670	2290	800
Wainfleet	1700	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	350	-	8	7	1	2	1	-	1	1	35	-
Frampton Marsh	400	-	32	129	4	2	2	2	9	400	200	200
<i>Other sites</i>												
Donna Nook	700	56	80	1	-	-	-	-	247	540	970	137
Saltfleetby	55	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	200	580	1570	55
Kirkby on Bain Pits	4	4	5	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	75	-

High counts in the first winter period in the Inner Humber included peaks of c2200 at West Halton from Jan 12th-15th, 2200 at Winteringham on Feb 21st and 1906 at Read's Island on Feb 13th. A colour-ringed bird (CGLCV) was at Read's Island on Jan 28th: originally ringed in Central Iceland as an adult male in Jul 2000, this bird has been recorded in Lincolnshire in 2001, 02, 04 and 06 as well as being regularly recorded in Lancashire, Norfolk and Aberdeenshire. Passage was widely recorded across Lincolnshire with most counts relating to birds moving north-west between Jan-Mar, though some continued after this and into May, with 10 late birds NW from Norfolk to Gib Point on May 31st. Summering birds were recorded as follows: two at Bagmoor from May 2nd-10th, one at Barton Pits on May 26th, one at Bonby Carrs on May 8th, two at Cleethorpes from May 13th-Jul 20th and one at Cove Farm Quarry on May 31st. One was seen at Fiskerton Fen on Jul 28th, two at Frampton Marsh from May 27th-Aug 31st, a single at Freiston Shore from May 17th-Jul 30th, two at Gib Point from May 27th-Jun 2nd and another single at Hagnaby Lock on Jul 30th. There were 10 at Wainfleet on May 22nd, two at Kirkby on Bain Pits on May 4th and a single there on Aug 22nd. The first eight returning birds were at Gib Point on Sep 14th, with widespread groups of 200-300 on the 15th, but peak passage fell in the first two weeks of Oct. Counts included c2200 at Horkstow on Sep 28th, 2006 at Read's Island on Oct 1st and 2300 there on Oct 16th and c1200 at Chowder Ness on Oct 15th.



	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11
Humber Estuary WeBS	6562	5638	3909	4151	3703	7108	3944	4180

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 2003-11 reproduced above.

### White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

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



European White-fronted Geese *Anser albifrons* Gib Point Nov 13th 2011 © Paul Neale

### *A a albifrons* (European White-fronted Goose):

A species noted for its cold weather movements, the freezing conditions in Dec 2010 saw birds remaining into Jan, but there were also impressive numbers at the end of the year. The more notable records are detailed but there were also many smaller groups. Up to 47 were at Alkborough Flats on Jan 1st with at least 18 remaining until Jan 13th, and 18 were seen at nearby Thealby on Jan 8th. Inland a single bird was at Thurlby Sand Pit on Jan 3rd. The largest flock on the coast was 60 at Donna Nook on Jan 6th. In The Wash, eight at Frampton Marsh on Jan 4th increased to 18 from Jan 6th to Feb 23rd. Only a handful were seen for three weeks, and then 10 flew south at Gib Point on Mar 18th, when probably the same 10 arrived at Freiston Shore, increasing to 11 on the 20th and staying to the 24th with eight last seen on Mar 29th. The first autumn birds appeared on Nov 11th with 16 at Donna Nook and 10 at Frampton Marsh, and 50 at Donna Nook on the 12th. The Frampton Marsh flock increased to 17 on the 12th and peaked at 36 on Nov 27th, with at least 20 still present on Dec 31st. Smaller numbers at nearby Freiston Shore peaked at seven on Dec 12th. At Gib Point there were 43 on Nov 13th, followed by frequent records through to Dec 24th of birds feeding in the area or on passage, peaking at 74 on Dec 10th. A flock of 39 was in fields north of Huttoft Bank Pits on Nov 18th, increasing to 57 on Dec 6th and remaining until the end of the year. At Donna Nook and nearby, three-seven were seen regularly during Nov 14th-Dec 17th, with a peak of 17 at Saltfleet on Nov 15th. In the Inner Humber one was at Alkborough Flats on Nov 12th, increasing from 21 to 50 during the 14th-20th, but these figures were eclipsed by a flock of at least 117 there from Dec 1st, reaching 122 on Dec 18th. It is likely that these birds were responsible for some of the other records in this area including 21 at Read's Island on Nov 21st, 13 at West Halton from Nov 17th-23rd, 25 at Winteringham Ings on Nov 17th and a single bird at Worlaby Carrs on Nov 24th. A flock of nine was present near Wroot from Nov 23rd-Dec 2nd. Other inland birds included seven at Marston STW on Nov 12th and 15 on Dec 4th, seven at Messingham SQ from Nov 15th-27th and 17 on Dec 4th, six at Nocton Fen on Nov 22nd and 48 on Dec 30th-31st, 15 at Tattershall Lakes CP from Nov 18th-25th, eight at Covenham Res

from Nov 23rd-28th, four at Langtoft West End Pits on Nov 28th and two on Dec 14th, four at Dunsby on Dec 17th-18th and three on the River Witham between Chapel Hill and Kirkstead on Dec 17th.

*A a flavirostris* (Greenland White-fronted Goose):

A single first winter bird was found associated with Pink-footed Geese between Winteringham and South Ferriby on Jan 9th (WG), before being photographed at West Halton on Jan 13th (GPC), being last reported at Read's Island on Feb 27th.

### 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	-	-	-	-	70	-	-	738	1020	200	-	90
Read's Island	52	7	42	50	-	-	-	231	400	160	52	44
Barton Pits	58	72	80	100	67	81	42	220	200	292	9	121
Gib Point	45	11	17	23	17	7	72	182	105	300	113	130
Freiston Shore	200	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	75	100	60
Frampton Marsh	20	23	3	22	10	2	21	28	50	59	-	45
Anwick Fen	210	4	24	34	8	16	63	113	31	17	35	4
Cove Farm Quarry	-	-	-	2	150	-	246	-	-	151	-	-
Fiskerton Fen	-	-	-	27	28	6	7	250	-	-	200	250
Hagnaby Lock	-	30	14	-	-	-	37	294	310	364	20	34
Kirkby on Bain Pits	180	300	135	47	180	395	255	400	250	520	520	350
Langtoft West End GPs	4	101	98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	165	750
Manby Flashes	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	460	800	-	-	-
Marston STW	320	160	95	27	27	32	14	190	280	275	180	250
Messingham SQ	-	-	-	8	1	18	44	42	8	-	52	600
North Hykeham Pits	129	29	21	11	9	106	81	38	13	-	138	191
Tattershall Lakes CP	150	280	138	214	260	426	330	170	273	258	700	305
Whisby NP	131	95	36	29	13	105	70	52	110	52	3	66

Peaks at other sites where counts exceeded 150 birds were as follows. Early in the year, there were 150 at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Jan 3rd, 630 at Thurlby Sand Pit also on Jan 3rd, 176 at Stenigot on Jan 30th, and 160 at Nocton Fen on Feb 5th. In summer, there were c600 at Cleethorpes Boating Pool on Jun 22nd, and later in the year c290 were seen at Bardney Pits on Sep 3rd, 324 at Norton Gravel Pits on Oct 16th, 310 at Barlings Gravel Pits on Nov 16th, c300 at Tunnel Pits, Wroot on Nov 21st, 175 on the River Witham at Chapel Hill on Dec 17th, and 150 at Dunsby on Dec 18th. Breeding was recorded at a number of sites, with 30 adults and 40 juveniles at Alkborough Flats on May 5th, and eight broods at Barton Pits produced 49 juveniles. A single bird with a neck collar in a flock of c600 birds at Messingham SQ on Dec 18th had been ringed in Jul 2011 on the north coast of Norway close to the Russian border at Nesseby, Finnmark, proving wild birds do at least occasionally occur

### 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 Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* (comprising subspecies *canadensis*, *fulva*, *interior*, *maxima*, *moffitti*, *occidentalis* and *parvipes*) and Cackling Goose *B. hutchinsii* (comprising subspecies *hutchinsii*, *leucopareia*, *minima* and *taverneri*) now being recognised as two distinct species. Only 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/South Ferriby	42	201	148	65	76	-	-	150	154	9	11	-
Barton Pits	85	-	22	9	9	7	24	11	165	35	-	-
Gib Point	138	70	58	41	56	30	84	64	128	117	131	118
Freiston Shore	300	55	32	28	8	107	62	85	3	450	600	500
Frampton Marsh	300	150	2	12	5	15	81	77	350	33	127	72
Fiskerton Fen	-	-	-	6	1	3	20	14	-	-	300	130

Hagnaby Lock	-	2	4	2	4	-	11	124	188	8	-	-
Kirkby on Bain Pits	6	9	17	8	6	-	14	16	5	5	-	7
North Hylkeham Pits	15	6	2	1	1	23	25	104	14	-	-	-
Whisby NP	57	51	16	21	16	14	52	64	100	9	8	48

A common county bird which is under-recorded; very few breeding details were reported. Other counts in excess of 100 birds were: 160 at Stanton's Pit, Witham on the Hill on Jan 16th and 101 on Aug 19th, 113 at Holywell Lake on Feb 12th and on Oct 14th, 404 at Alkborough Flats on Aug 30th, 180 at Theddlethorpe on Sep 11th, 306 at Covenham Res on Oct 27th, c100 on Croft Marsh on Nov 15th and c150 at Wroot on Dec 20th.

### 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 2011	-	178	714	-	-	-	220	360	578	1000	710	527
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
Cleethorpes/Humberston	40	37	13	9	9	15	15	14	65	-	43	2
Gib Point	-	-	4	-	3	2	-	2	2	-	2	5
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	4	10	6
Frampton Marsh	-	36	27	7	13	1	-	-	-	-	40	-

The Whitton Sands Barnacle Geese are the largest naturalised Barnacle Geese population in the UK, and the majority of Lincolnshire records relate to such birds. Cold weather movements probably include some wild birds, but distinguishing them is always open to debate. Records in the first winter period but not tabulated included singles at Huttoft Bank Pit on Feb 24th, at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Apr 1st, Wroot on Apr 15th and 22nd, and at Covenham Res on Apr 19th. In the second half of the year, singles were at Hagnaby Fen from Aug 13th-Oct 10th, at Dunsby on Sep 24th-25th, at Friskney Fen from Nov 23rd-28th, at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Sep 9th, at Tattershall Pits from Nov 18th-25th, at North Killingholme Haven on Nov 21st and two at Manby Flashes from Aug 18th-Sep 1st. There were six at Tetney Marsh on Nov 15th, five at Rimac from Nov 15th-20th, seven at Wingland Marsh on Nov 22nd, six at Huttoft Bank from Dec 4th-24th, five at Donna Nook on Dec 12th, and four at Thoresby Bridge on Dec 18th with two there on the 21st.



Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* Freiston Shore Jan 14th 2011 © Neil Smith

## Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Three races occur. *B. bernicla bernicla* (Dark-bellied Brent Goose): very common coastal winter visitor Sep-May, mainly to The Wash. Scarce but regular in summer, especially on The Wash. Occasional inland. *B. b. brota* (Pale-bellied Brent Goose): rare/scarce coastal visitor, generally Oct-Apr. *B. b. nigricans* (Black Brant): Former vagrant, first recorded in 1982 with just three records to 1991. Now annual in small numbers, with Dark-bellied flocks. LBRC

### *B. bernicla bernicla* (Dark-bellied Brent Goose):

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	18	-
Donna Nook	175	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	7	1000	1320	1000
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gib Point	1200	1056	815	76	107	2	4	8	148	429	450	809
Wainfleet	638	780	209	230	88	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrangle	1496	1048	837	-	-	-	-	-	-	1114	-	1478
Leverton	582	660	1098	548	87	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bennington	-	340	310	245	135	-	1	-	-	300	-	150
Butterwick	744	1003	487	552	135	-	8	3	-	-	1167	851
Freiston Shore	2300	1000	1350	1800	1207	1	2	3	100	1300	700	1000
Witham Mouth	200	1000	300	50	57	-	-	2	5	1350	1100	4000
Frampton Marsh	1500	2000	2000	2100	700	2	4	4	60	1200	1800	3000
Welland	1460	1900	685	750	220	-	-	-	-	-	870	-

Most significant counts came from The Wash, with the only counts of over 1000 birds elsewhere coming from the Donna Nook area. In the inner Humber, there were two at Read's Island in Jan, and at Alkborough Flats singles on a few dates in Feb-Mar and Nov-Dec plus three on Nov 14th. Inland birds were singles at Deeping High Bank on Mar 19th and at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Mar 30th. The last and first dates of clearly wintering birds were May 22nd and Sep 25th. In addition, there were a few summering birds as tabulated, plus a maximum of 15 in the Cleethorpes area on Jun 30th, and eight south at Gib Point on Aug 13th and 12 at Frampton and Freiston on Sep 1st and 10th.



Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla* Freiston Shore Nov 20th 2011 © Neil Smith

*B b hrota* (Pale-bellied Brent Goose):

Non WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
South Ferriby-Barton	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
Donna Nook area	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	3
Huttoft Bank Pit	11	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gib Point	105	5	3	-	1	1	2	3	2
Freiston Shore	1	-	2	2	-	-	1	-	-
Frampton Marsh	5	2	4	2	-	-	-	1	1
Nene Mouth	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1

Other records not tabulated include one in the first winter period at Wingland Marsh on Jan 29th, and in the second winter period two were at North Cotes on Oct 13th and singles at Saltfleet on Nov 9th, at Friskney on Nov 27th-28th and at Terrington on Dec 14th. An exceptional count of 105, of which 33 were juveniles, was recorded at Gib Point from Jan 5th-14th (GPBO, EJM).



**Pale-bellied Brent Geese** *Branta bernicla hrota* Barton Jan 15th 2011 © Graham Catley

*B b nigricans* (Black Brant):

An overwintering adult was seen on at least nine dates in the first winter period at Frampton Marsh until at least Mar 14th (JB, PS et al). At Gib Point another adult was seen on several dates from Feb 13th-Mar 12th (TB, KMW, NPT) with an intergrade type present on Feb 21st and Mar 17th. An adult, perhaps returning from the previous winter, was at Frampton Marsh from Nov 5th to at least Dec 5th (JB, IE, AP, PS et al). One was at the Nene Mouth on Dec 11th-14th (PC). A long-staying adult was recorded on 16 dates at Donna Nook from Oct 23rd (CA et al) until the end of the year.

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

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

During the year birds were recorded at 26 different locations, up from 19 in the previous year. The main centre for this species in Lincolnshire is in a five mile radius from Kirkby on Bain Pits from which 78% of the records listed in the table below arise. It was the only area to hold birds throughout the year and six of eight breeding pairs reported came from this location which includes Woodhall Spa and Tattershall Pits and five other sites. Confirmed breeding was also noted near Ancaster and a pair present at Hagnaby Lock during Apr were probable breeders. The largest

single flock noted was 27 at Ostler's Plantation on Sep 14th, a presumed post breeding flock from the Kirkby on Bain area. The second most frequent area occupied was around Lincoln which generated 10% of the records, mainly from Boultham Park Lake, Hartsholme Lake and Hykeham Pits, but as far as Thurlby Sand Pit. Breeding has been confirmed from this area in the past.

Non WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Boultham-Thurlby	-	2	2	2	1	-	1	2	-	2	2	2
Kirby on Bain/Tattershall Pits	6	17	14	4	8	4	11	11	27	23	9	9
No. of sites	3	6	7	4	7	4	4	6	5	7	7	5
Min. Lincs total	6	22	22	8	10	6	12	13	27	27	15	19

Away from the main areas, there was one at Gib Point on Feb 16th, three were at Fulbeck Low Fields on Feb 24th, six at Gib Point on Feb 25th, five at Deeping Lakes on Mar 11th, one at Frampton Marsh on Mar 21st and two there on Jun 3rd and on Oct 12th, one at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on May 28th, two at Wrangle on Oct 15th, three at West Rasen on Nov 14th, two at Gib Point on Nov 15th and eight at Fillingham Lakes on Dec 2nd.

### **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**

The arrival of small parties that turn up on our estuaries in late summer/early autumn are likely to be the result of feral birds that are developing a post-breeding migration from central Europe, making the demarcation from pure wild birds all the more difficult. A female was present at Gib Point from Jun 3rd-Jul 3rd (JPS et al). In the Alkborough Flats-Whitton Sands area there were two (along with two hybrids, most likely Shelduck x Ruddy Shelduck) from Jul 21st, which increased to three with two hybrids from Jul 22nd-Aug 13th to a maximum of eight adults and three hybrids from Sep 1st-7th and two adults until Sep 11th (GPC et al), and two adults plus three hybrids stayed into Oct. The same 11 were also feeding across the Trent at Garthorpe from Sep 9th-14th, and two of the hybrids were there on Oct 13th. A single bird was at Donna Nook on Oct 13th (SL) and three birds were there from Oct 28th-Nov 5th (SL, CA), with five birds at Saltfleet Haven from Nov 12th-15th (DEv) and a single bird at Huttoft Bank Pits on Dec 12th (JRW).



**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea* Gib Point Jun 12th 2011 © Russell Hayes

## 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
<i>The Humber</i>												
Alkborough Flats	-	284	318	427	562	432	192	456	300	567	347	692
Read's Island	23	204	389	650	920	-	1520	1924	1316	1016	850	503
Immingham Docks	14	40	41	9	-	-	-	2	12	41	-	-
Donna Nook	85	26	18	25	25	14	14	75	-	140	161	-
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gib Point	238	62	85	140	97	154	40	86	71	113	138	72
Wainfleet	101	95	-	47	16	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Butterwick	482	198	16	39	5	8	-	-	-	-	95	74
Freiston Shore	400	208	162	40	20	7	5	5	10	300	90	200
Witham Mouth	250	-	22	10	12	-	5	3	14	400	35	550
Frampton Marsh	165	118	91	52	70	50	2	4	22	11	44	27
Kirton Marsh	10	86	45	28	22	6	-	-	-	-	27	-
Welland	130	230	50	98	48	-	11	-	-	-	145	-
Holbeach	55	110	16	16	8	5	-	-	-	-	46	-
Gedney	309	221	155	47	35	25	31	41	1	114	-	66
Terrington	-	105	382	83	20	-	14	18	-	1	-	3
<i>Inland</i>												
Bardney Pits	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	19	15	10	-	2
Covenham Res	8	1	18	14	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Pits	-	2	11	10	17	11	17	14	3	-	-	-
Nocton Fen	-	1	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blackmoor Bridge	-	4	6	18	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

According to WeBS, The Wash and the Humber remained the 4th and 5th ranked sites of international importance for this species in the UK in 2010/11. Particularly notable counts this year were the sum of peak counts for Jan on the Lincs side of The Wash, totalling 2140, and a single count of 1924 at Read's Island on Aug 21st. In the first winter period, counts in excess of 50 birds not tabulated included 155 at Horseshoe Point and 354 at Howden's Pullover on Jan 1st, 220 at Pyewipe, Grimsby on Jan 16th increasing to 530 on Jan 25th, 200 at Dawsmere on Jan 23rd, 55 at Benington on Feb 20th, 52 at Goxhill Haven on Mar 14th and 85 at Tetney Marshes on Mar 24th. In the second winter period 413 were at Winteringham on Aug 21st with 541 there on Nov 5th, 80 at North Killingholme Haven on Aug 31st, 50 at Howden's Pullover on Oct 9th, 129 at South Ferriby Cliff on Oct 9th and 188 on Nov 5th, 100 at Grimsby Docks on Oct 10th, 94 at Theddlethorpe-Saltfleetby NNR on Nov 19th, 52 at Tetney Marshes on Dec 12th and c80 at Benington on Dec 16th. Breeding reports were far from comprehensive but included, on the Humber, three broods fledging 20 young at Alkborough Flats, a crèche of at least 20 young at Read's Island, and single broods at Barton Pits, New Holland and North Killingholme Haven. In The Wash, single broods were noted at Terrington, there were three pairs at Frampton Marsh, and a minimum of 34 ducklings were seen at Gib Point. Inland, a minimum of five broods was recorded at Kirkby on Bain Pits, a brood of 10 ducklings at Fiskerton Fen scrapes, confirmed breeding at Toft Newton Res, six broods at North Kelsey Moor, and at least nine young at Messingham SQ.

## Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Rare/scarcely feral resident/visitor and local escapee.

Under-recorded with none noted at several traditional sites in 2011. A drake was present at Cove Farm Quarry on Feb 21st and Mar 1st, one was at Manby Flashes on Mar 21st, a drake was at Donna Nook on May 11th, and a drake at Frampton Marsh on May 21st with possibly the same at Sluice Bridge, Boston on May 28th. An eclipse drake was at Barrow Haven on Jul 14th and there were singles at Stoke Rochford Park on Sep 16th and Thurlby Sand Pit on Oct 29th.



### 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	420	558	412	40	1	-	6	17	90	250	531	740
Winteringham Haven	80	150	110	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	200	85
South Ferriby	450	250	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	574	135	170
Read's Island	200	300	150	8	-	-	-	2	14	800	556	425
Gib Point	365	400	110	4	-	1	9	4	165	252	365	147
Butterwick	262	128	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	195	127
Freiston Shore	2500	1140	326	35	24	-	1	-	200	660	600	278
Frampton Marsh	800	1050	450	220	9	8	12	150	350	812	1000	1000
<i>Inland</i>												
Anwick Fen	47	95	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	30	21
Bardney Pits	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	48	83	-	158
Boultham Mere	23	2	-	-	-	-	6	1	10	35	12	-
Hagnaby Lock/Fen	-	68	68	8	-	-	-	-	-	8	20	17
Kirkby on Bain/												
Tattershall Pits	30	25	27	4	2	2	2	2	10	6	110	35
Marston STW	100	110	40	2	-	-	-	-	9	4	3	35
River Welland (Spalding -												
Borough Fen)	560	35	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	60	50
River Glen - Pinchbeck	52	110	160	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	25	106
Tattershall Lakes CP	42	115	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	27	11
Whisby NP	117	248	64	4	-	-	3	8	24	12	36	54
Willow Tree Fen	485	35	120	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	165

Highest counts were in Jan-Feb with The Wash holding the largest, most notably from Freiston Shore where there were 2500 on Jan 1st, and Frampton Marsh with 1050 on Feb 4th. Within the Inner Humber birds were less concentrated with Alkborough Flats, South Ferriby and Read's Island supporting significant wintering populations. Summering birds were recorded at Gib Point, Frampton Marsh, Bardney Pits and Kirkby on Bain Pits, but with no evidence of breeding. During Sep southerly passage was recorded at most coastal locations, with notable counts including c250 at Boston Deepes on Sep 10th, c150 at Gib Point on Sep 16th, with 165 there on Sep 17th and 101 on Sep 28th. Significant counts in the second winter period were recorded from Oct onwards with around 1000 birds within the Frampton Marsh area until the end of the year.

### American Wigeon *Anas americana*

Vagrant. **LBRC**

A drake bird moulting into eclipse plumage was at Freiston Shore from Jul 13th-18th (PS et al).



**American Wigeon *Anas americana*** (drake moulting into eclipse plumage) Freiston Shore Jul 15th 2011  
© Russell Hayes

### 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	-	10	19	26	-	75	35	39	-	18	20	-
Gib Point	42	26	23	9	6	12	11	7	16	3	4	5
Frampton Marsh	82	97	57	26	42	11	5	14	7	-	19	-
Bardney Pits	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	7	73	-	30
Barton Pits	38	56	45	24	19	26	12	17	60	43	82	60
Boultham Mere	25	29	8	-	-	51	26	32	91	44	22	-
Kirkby on Bain Pits	40	60	120	85	11	25	45	91	110	180	120	137
Marston STW	20	23	23	12	4	2	-	-	6	2	-	4
Messingham SQ	48	-	57	20	4	4	7	-	11	32	24	102
Tattershall Lakes CP	44	81	56	11	5	-	11	16	-	86	127	67
Whisby NP	101	84	25	13	2	24	149	56	28	77	151	195

Breeding was confirmed at Alkborough Flats, Anwick Fen, Barton Pits, Frampton Marsh, Gib Point, Kirkby on Bain Pits Metherringham Delph, Tattershall Lakes, and Whisby NP. A female with a brood of 10 observed during Jun at Whisby constituted only the third nesting attempt for the site. Other counts greater than 30 birds not tabulated included 38 on the River Welland on Jan 16th, 32 at East Halton Pits on Feb 16th, 53 on the River Witham at Chapel Hill on Nov 21st and 68 there on Dec 17th, 31 at Nocton Fen on Nov 24th, 42 at Langtoft West End GP on Nov 27th, up to 40 at Swanholme Lakes in Dec, and c50 at Metherringham Delph on Dec 27th.



**Gadwall *Anas strepera*** Frampton Marsh May 25th 2011 © Neil Smith

### 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	968	310	178	90	75	-	110	1800	1480	1602	3031	1790
Winteringham	-	170	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	380	600	300
Read's Island/South Ferriby	90	100	120	45	-	-	-	110	150	901	2200	230

Gib Point	420	180	60	25	8	19	86	120	1250	380	414	491
Freiston Shore	321	400	62	45	16	1	12	8	120	150	350	250
Witham Mouth	-	65	50	65	-	-	-	-	120	200	350	500
Frampton Marsh	500	300	180	41	1	21	27	96	115	250	1500	1090
Bardney/Nocton	7	-	2	-	-	-	10	19	85	400	-	418
Kirkby on Bain Pits	20	19	27	22	16	4	115	130	230	329	100	267
Manby Flashes	2	92	36	14	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-
Marston STW	85	120	91	15	2	2	3	23	50	50	140	100
Whisby NP	153	11	1	5	1	1	1	11	24	42	187	100

Other counts in excess of 200 birds include: c220 at Barton Pits on Sep 16th, c250 at Boultham Mere on Oct 16th, c500 at Broughton Common on Dec 7th, 230 at Donna Nook on Jan 14th, c300 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Jan 16th and c280 there on Dec 10th, 254 at Skegness on Sep 16th, c300 at Stenigot on Jan 2nd, 315 at Welland on Nov 27th, and c380 at Winteringham on Oct 9th and c600 on Nov 27th. The only breeding report was from Frampton Marsh, where there were four pairs.

### Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

#### Vagrant. LBRC

An adult drake was with Eurasian Teal at Covenham Res on Jan 25th (GPL) and a moulting drake (nearly in full plumage) was at Alkborough Flats Oct 18th (ND) and probably the same bird there Dec 10th-11th (ND, GPC, WG et al).

### Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Coastal</i>												
Alkborough Flats	242	112	-	-	-	-	100	230	150	116	-	-
Read's Island Flats	52	35	25	7	8	-	-	50	50	43	66	222
Barton Pits	345	48	147	161	87	26	254	289	62	149	50	92
Gib Point	294	221	114	43	83	136	141	255	408	250	250	209
Freiston Shore	279	355	30	97	30	17	30	44	42	23	18	150
Frampton Marsh	187	120	141	44	35	26	13	47	100	62	59	40
<i>Inland</i>												
Anwick Fen	280	19	22	67	128	70	120	122	9	260	130	175
Boultham Mere	81	38	-	27	-	45	70	78	-	75	79	46
Brayford Pools, Lincoln	-	8	17	13	17	-	14	-	-	58	42	36
Coronation Channel and Welland	253	142	59	48	53	79	143	-	178	134	101	-
Covenham Res	367	-	-	-	-	40	33	-	125	113	245	270
Hagnaby Lock Fen	-	42	24	11	27	47	48	171	125	89	36	36
Kirkby on Bain Pits	54	57	22	37	45	80	180	233	187	304	50	176
Marston STW	33	34	48	22	30	25	19	35	80	50	34	27
Messingham SQ	-	-	11	27	30	27	26	26	22	42	26	32
Nocton Fen	-	21	71	75	80	29	46	11	6	27	19	8
North Hykeham Pits	18	38	19	7	21	22	12	60	25	36	33	47
River Welland-Spalding to Four Mile Bar	176	54	32	44	42	29	10	74	14	10	14	90
Tattershall Lakes CP	196	247	187	112	153	121	269	293	256	217	311	204
Whisby NP	79	25	16	38	30	58	61	32	27	22	56	66

Lincolnshire's commonest wildfowl, Mallard are found throughout the county, with records at over 100 sites and counts of over 100 birds recorded at 51 sites during 2011. In addition to those in the table, the following site maxima of 200 or more: 333 at Goxhill/New Holland, 300 at Stenigot and 280 at Thurlby Sand Pit in Jan, 375 at Ewerby Waithe Common, 210 at Huttoft Bank Pits and 210 at Garthorpe in Sep, 374 at River Witham (Chapel Hill-Kirkstead) in Oct, 200 at Culverthorpe Lakes in Nov and 400 at Cadney Res in Dec.

## Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	3	9	23	20	5
Read's Island	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	35	11	33
Gib Point	1	1	4	4	1	-	2	1	5	31	53	13
Freiston Shore	30	15	-	2	-	-	-	-	6	-	3	10
Frampton Marsh	16	20	24	4	3	-	2	5	9	18	44	282
Terrington	-	18	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	17
Bardney Pits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4	7	7
Covenham Res	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

The largest numbers were found at Frampton Marsh in the second half of Dec, peaking at 282 on the 25th. Counts of 23 on Nov 12th and 31 on Dec 12th at Whitton Sands were associated with the Alkborough Flats population. Additional counts from the first winter period included eleven at Butterwick and four at Gedney on Jan 23rd, three at Welland on Feb 21st, one at Barton Pits on Feb 27th, and two at Leverton on Mar 19th. Inland, five were at Thurlby Sand Pit on Jan 18th, a drake at Whisby NP on Jan 25th, and one at Messingham SQ on Feb 25th. A few birds were seen in summer, as shown in the table plus five at Shep Whites, Holbeach Marsh Jun 29th and one at Kirkby on Bain Pits from Jul 17th-Aug 12th. In the second winter period four were at Trusthorpe on Sep 6th, three at Barton on Sep 15th, five at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Sep 24th, four at Grainthorpe on Oct 1st, five at North Cotes on Oct 2nd, one at Donna Nook on Oct 8th, one at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Oct 10th, 10 at Benington on Oct 14th, five at Barton Pits on Oct 24th, seven at Donna Nook on Oct 24th, and a female at Broughton Common on Oct 27th. In Nov, there was one at Donna Nook on the 6th, 10 at Gedney Drove End on the 6th, one at Holywell Lake on the 18th, three at Broughton Common on the 23rd, and one at Huttoft Bank Pits on the 30th. In Dec, there were five inland at Baston-Langtoft Pits on the 14th.

## Garganey *Anas querquedula*

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

Non WeBS peak counts	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
No. of sites	-	2	8	9	5	1	3	-
Min. Lincs total	-	3	13	12	6	1	3	-

The first birds of the year were a pair at Frampton Marsh on Mar 28th and a female at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Mar 31st. The table is based on records from 15 sites. Frampton Marsh is currently the best place to see Garganey in Lincolnshire with 65% of reports coming from there. There were birds present almost daily through spring until Jun 6th, with a peak of four males there on Apr 25th. Although there may have been two pairs at Frampton Marsh, breeding was not confirmed there or anywhere else. Pairs were also reported at Covenham Res on Apr 1st, Kirkby on Bain Pits for seven days from Apr 27th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR for three days from May 7th and Gib Point on Jun 8th. All other reports were of single birds, including a male at Willow Tree Fen on Apr 8th and, in the north, another male at Alkborough Flats on Apr 11th and May 13th with a female there on Jun 16th and an eclipse male on Jul 24th. Nearby, at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods there was a female on Apr 18th and 25th and on Jun 9th, and a male at Barton Pits on Apr 24th and May 10th. Further drakes were at Messingham SQ from Apr 26th-May 2nd and Manby Flashes from May 1st-3rd, and there was one at Freiston Shore on May 6th, a drake at Whisby NP from May 9th-15th and one at Gib Point on May 9th. In Jun, there was one at Fiskerton Fen scrapes on 20th. The last birds of the year were a juvenile at Gib Point from Aug 6th-13th and a female at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Aug 30th.



**Garganey** *Anas querquedula* Barton Pits May 10th 2011 © Graham Catley

### **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
<i>The Humber</i>												
Alkborough Flats	1	3	5	7	8	13	5	117	123	103	106	108
Barton Pits	11	11	8	6	2	-	1	9	9	31	34	23
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gib Point	49	45	44	20	10	7	5	6	36	32	36	42
Freiston Shore	18	20	48	4	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	26	30	42	28	7	9	7	8	4	6	35	4
<i>Inland</i>												
Bardney Pits	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	11	118	-	34
Boultham Mere	2	4	5	4	-	2	4	19	41	-	43	23
Kirkby on Bain Pits	7	5	9	8	3	5	4	15	27	51	14	25
Marston STW	1	8	9	5	2	-	-	-	5	8	3	5
Whisby NP	15	19	9	3	1	2	3	2	20	131	14	4
Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of Sites	19	15	24	29	21	7	13	20	19	24	33	28
Min No. Birds	273	206	315	179	65	36	47	212	220	587	531	463

Summering birds during May-Jul birds were recorded at 24 sites, although breeding was not suspected at the majority, with probable breeding recorded only at Kirton in Lindsey and confirmed breeding at Frampton Marsh, with 14 pairs and Alkborough Flats, where two pairs fledged 16 young. Counts greater than 10 and not tabulated in the first winter period included 20 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Jan 3rd and 19 there on Mar 24th, 11 at Rosper Road Pools on Jan 16th and 23 there on Jan 24th, 20 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Jan 16th and 10 there on Mar 5th, 15 at Killingholme Haven Pits on Feb 27th, 19-22 at Blackmoor Bridge from Mar 24th-30th and 10 there in Apr, 10 at Willow Tree Fen on Mar 30th and 10 at Manby Flashes on Apr 2nd and 10th. In the second winter period there were 10 at North Cotes Point on Oct 2nd, Huttoft Bank Pits on Oct 17th and Holywell Lake on Nov 18th, while at Thurlby Sand Pit there was a peak of 20 on Nov 12th, and later there were 16 at Langtoft West End GP on Dec 18th and 39 at Metheringham Delph on Dec 27th.

### Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

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

Records were received from 15 sites. The largest count for the year was 67 from Baston/Langtoft Pits on Oct 26th, but this was the only record submitted from this location. Within the Lincoln area a long-staying pair was noted on Swanholme/Hartsholme Lakes during Jan-Mar, with one on May 31st and Oct 10th, and the pair throughout Nov-Dec; the female may have been a hybrid Red-crested Pochard x Mallard. These two could also have been involved in other records in the general area. At North Hykeham Pits, there was a male and female on Aug 3rd, three males on Oct 27th and a male on Dec 20th. A little further away, there were up to eight (four drakes) at Thurlby Sand Pit during Sep 13th-Dec 6th, and two at Norton Disney Quarry from Oct 6th-12th. Elsewhere, a drake was on Covenham Res from Jan 10th-18th and probably the same from Mar 30th-May 4th, and also a female there on Sep 24th and a drake again on Oct 14th-15th. A female was at Holywell Lake on Feb 12th, a drake at Langholme Wood Lake on Mar 8th, a drake on Barton Pits from Mar 11th-19th, and a drake at Messingham on Mar 24th-25th. At Bagmoor/Winterton floods there were two from May 20th-23rd, four on Jul 1st and 11 on Oct 16th. At Tattershall Lake, there were two drakes and a female on Oct 14th.



Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* Covenham Res Apr 28th 2011 © Nick Clayton

### Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Scarce breeder and a common winter visitor. **RBBP**

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	2	12	20	5	-	1	4	3	-	1	-
Barton Pits	72	205	155	43	63	43	42	57	70	87	110	78
Gib Point	10	12	10	1	5	-	-	-	1	2	21	4
Boultham Mere	4	23	26	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	2
Kirkby on Bain Pits	84	50	3	7	7	44	36	22	50	-	16	30
Messingham SQ	-	-	106	10	4	-	-	-	-	6	4	-
North Hykeham Pits	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	6	29	30
Norton Disney Quarry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	122	125	91	118
Tattershall Lakes CP	55	58	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	172
Thurlby Sand Pit	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93	87	30	120
Whisby NP	6	22	6	3	1	6	5	2	24	67	72	50



**Ferruginous Duck** *Aytha nyroca* Barton Oct 23rd 2011 © Graham Catley



**Ferruginous Duck** *Aytha nyroca* Barton Oct 9th 2011 © Graham Catley  
Concerns over the potential hybrid status of this bird were raised, see main text for details.

The table includes all locations attracting 20 or more. Breeding was confirmed at Barton Pits where eight broods hatched 23 young on Jun 4th and at Alkborough Flats where a female was observed with a brood of three late juveniles in Aug.

### Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Scarce. LBRC

A returning drake, now in its third year, was at Kirkby on Bain Pits from Oct 5th-9th (KDR et al) and what was presumed to be the same bird spent an afternoon on Teal Lake, Whisby NP, on Nov 22nd (DN, GHO).

### [Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*]

Rare. LBRC

A first-winter drake bird resembling this species was present at Barton Pits from Oct 8th-Nov 4th (GPC et al). Concerns over potential hybrid status of this bird were raised and although being very similar to a true Ferruginous Duck, the bird's head colour, crown and bill shape were cause for concern and have since proven the bird to be a hybrid.

### Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Common resident and winter visitor

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Coastal</i>												
Barton Pits	111	85	148	145	44	15	142	167	160	160	150	100
Gib Point	48	48	54	51	39	29	32	12	27	58	24	12
Freiston Shore	28	27	91	16	7	6	1	-	2	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	50	42	39	42	25	30	21	6	1	-	5	54
<i>Inland</i>												
Bardney Pits	-	-	-	-	-	-	57	28	81	24	-	-
Coronation Channel	225	96	50	-	4	4	-	-	3	21	72	-
Covenham Res	7	10	-	-	-	7	10	10	34	52	122	160
Hartsholme/Swanholme	60	34	4	6	-	-	-	3	-	-	10	74
Kirkby on Bain Pits	28	41	34	53	40	90	158	135	130	70	33	65
Langtoft West End Pits	65	112	84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56	45
Messingham SQ	-	-	40	61	17	4	4	4	-	10	18	-
North Hykeham Pits	80	84	96	58	5	60	61	90	225	155	75	137
Norton Disney Quarry	-	-	-	-	20	28	84	59	247	320	25	134
River Glen/Pinchbeck	36	35	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	8
River Welland (Spalding-Borough Fen)	186	167	114	138	19	29	42	5	55	27	128	266
Tattershall Lakes CP	119	110	119	69	34	15	23	58	148	168	229	257
Thurlby Sand Pit	54	102	-	-	-	-	-	-	253	-	203	150
Whisby NP	140	140	153	90	14	36	73	124	81	83	169	176

Breeding was noted in May at Kirkby on Bain Pits with three broods, while at Whisby NP there were six broods totalling 28 ducklings and, in addition, one nest containing an impressive 13 eggs. Three broods with nine juveniles were seen at Barton on Jun 6th. Juvenile birds were also seen at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Jun 26th and at Alkborough Flats on Jul 3rd. At Frampton Marsh 13 pairs nested, with one pair at Freiston Shore. Counts of 25 or over elsewhere included up to 300 at New Holland in Jan, 35 at Willow Tree Fen on Jan 10th, 35-36 at Pinchbeck Slippe in Jan-Feb, up to 38 at Boultham Mere in Feb and 32 in Mar, 25 at Holywell Lake on Mar 11th and again on Nov 18th, 32 at Toft Newton Res on Mar 18th, 27 at Cove Farm Quarry on Apr 3rd, 25 at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Apr 25th, 35 at Gedney on Jun 29th, and 71 on the River Witham at Kirkstead Bridge on Dec 17th.

### Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Gib Point	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1
Frampton Marsh	2	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-



A first winter male at New Holland on Jan 8th was the first of the year but two were found at Frampton Marsh on Jan 23rd and seen regularly there until Mar 19th, with one until Apr 23rd. One was at Freiston Shore on Mar 20th-21st. There was also a WeBS count of eight at nearby Witham Mouth on Jan 23rd. Two were at Barton Pits from Feb 13th-23rd, and there was one between Barton and Barrow on Mar 12th. A male was at Barton pits on Sep 16th, with a female reported there on Oct 2nd. A drake was found out in The Wash at Roaring Middle on Oct 9th, and another drake flew south at Gib Point on Oct 13th. A first-winter bird was at Barton pits from Oct 15th-31st, and a female at Covenham Res on Oct 27th. In the wildfowl movement of Nov 6th, there were three north at Gib Point, perhaps the same three at Mablethorpe and four at Donna Nook. A female arrived at Frampton Marsh on Nov 13th, staying to 18th. Later in Nov, there was a first year male at Broughton Common on the 23rd and a female at Deeping High Bank on 28th. Finally an immature male was at Gib Point on Dec 23rd-24th, a female on the sea on Dec 25th and perhaps the same flew south on Dec 31st.



**Greater Scaup** *Aythya marila* Barton Pits Feb 13th 2011 © Graham Catley

### **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.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	30	-	-	8	-	-	-	5	9	9	9	10
Gib Point	430	350	169	46	60	76	75	75	94	31	50	46
Wainfleet	265	70	73	-	-	37	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leverton	89	1	60	400	203	209	210	-	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	30	10	17	35	-	-	9	8	25	18	-	10
Witham Mouth	2	7	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	20	35

The highest counts were made off Gib Point, where there was a peak of 430 on Jan 25th, and the Leverton sector of The Wash, where there were 200 or more during the whole of Apr-Jul, and a maximum of 400 on Apr 7th. The peak of 265 in the Wainfleet area was made on Jan 23rd, two days prior to the high Gib Point count. In addition to those in the table, records were received from 14 locations, amounting to about 370 bird-days. The highest of these was 151 from the Wrangle sector of The Wash on Jan 24th, with 90 there on Dec 17th. Smaller counts were made elsewhere in The Wash and along the coast, but no reports came from the Humber or inland.

### Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, rare in summer.

Records were received from just four sites, involving five or six individuals. Throughout Feb-May, a male and a female, thought to be first-year birds, were in the Barton Pits area, favouring the sailing pit but also using other water bodies; first seen on Feb 12th, they remained usually together until at least Mar 19th, with the drake observed also on Apr 9th. There was also a female there on May 8th, which could have been the same as that present earlier. A long staying female was on the Mere at Gib Point from Jun 5th-20th, one was observed at Witham Mouth on Nov 6th and two were seen at Donna Nook on Dec 27th.



Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* Barton Pits May 8th 2011 © Graham Catley

### Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare inland.

Records came from about 30 sites and throughout the year. For two-three weeks in Mar, there were exceptional numbers in The Wash off Leverton/Friskney, with around 15,000 birds. It was believed that these belonged to the flocks usually residing off the North Norfolk Coast, but even there the historical peak is 'only' 8008 in Jan 2002. Their distance from shore precluded accurate counting, and a boat was chartered to attempt an accurate count. This resulted in a count on Apr 9th of 1750 (including a wholly white individual) off Friskney and 3000 further out to sea in the Leverton/Boston Deep area, but the birds were difficult to approach without flushing. A week later, 2800 were still at Leverton on the 16th and 1000 at Witham Mouth the following day. By May the flock had diminished considerably, with 180 off Leverton on Jun 4th. To put these numbers in a historical context, WeBS reports the highest count recorded in The Wash as 4089 in Dec 1985. The highest count in that year's Lincolnshire Bird Report was of 500 birds off Witham Mouth on Nov 16th 1985. Other notable counts from The Wash were recorded from Freiston Shore with 75 on Jan 23rd, 100 on Sep 1st and 50 two days later; Witham Mouth held 300 on Jan 23rd and 50 on Nov 6th; Leverton Marsh held 120 on Jul 31st; and there were 350 birds in the Roaring Middle on Oct 9th. At Gib Point, the highest counts were in Jan, with a peak of 560 on the 2nd, and in May, with a peak of 460 flying out of The Wash on the 7th. There were intermittent high counts along the coast between Horseshoe Point and Mablethorpe, but it was not often clear how flocks related to one another. Among the larger counts in Jul were flocks of 320 on the 27th at Horseshoe Point and 350 on the 29th at Theddlethorpe St Helen, where there was a particularly high count of 750 on Aug 12th. On Sep 17th, 240 birds were recorded at Donna Nook and 200 on Oct 1st, while there were 236 between Theddlethorpe and Mablethorpe on Oct 8th and 270 at Saltfleetby on Oct 9th. There were only a few records from the Humber, including six at New Holland Pits on Jan 16th, and later in the year three flocks flying west past Alkborough Flats, of 150 on Jul 31st, 75 on Aug 3rd and 64 on Aug 10th, and sightings by the Humber Bridge of 40

on Nov 3rd and two on Nov 6th. The only inland records were two females at North Hykeham Pits on Jul 13th, single females at Covenham Res on Oct 14th and Nov 28th-30th, and a pair at Whisby NP on Dec 15th.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	-	-	-	26	-	30	29	65	240	200	90	32
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	17	350	750	64	270	51	-
Gib Point	560	20	29	9	460	170	130	105	191	130	230	55
Friskney	-	-	-	1750	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leverton	38	-	-	2800	-	180	120	-	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	6	-	8
Witham Mouth	300	-	-	1000	-	-	-	-	4	-	50	-

### Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

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

Records were received from several areas in The Wash from Gib Point to Witham Mouth, and less frequently along the coast. During Jan, birds were recorded at Gib Point on nine dates with a peak of four on both the 3rd and the 25th, and there was one at Freiston Shore on the 28th. One was seen on several dates at the Witham/Welland mouths from Mar 12th-Apr 9th, and then the discovery of the large Common Scoter flock revealed some associating Velvets. Nine were seen off Leverton on Mar 19th, and the boat trip to investigate the scoters on Apr 9th located about 65-70, in the area off Friskney/Leverton and in Boston Deepes. Later counts from land were 25 off Leverton on Apr 16th, 67 there on May 21st and, on Jun 4th-5th, nine off Wainfleet and six off Leverton. Meanwhile, 10 had been seen off Tetney Marshes on Mar 24th. The first of autumn was one at Theddlethorpe St Helen on Jul 29th, followed by singles at Donna Nook on Aug 19th and Sep 17th, at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Sep 22nd, and Freiston Shore on Sep 28th. A series of sightings at Gib Point in Oct involved two on the 8th, four on the 13th and four on the 24th. On Oct 25th, one was at Freiston Shore and two were seen at Huttoft Car Terrace, with one at Anderby Creek on Oct 27th, and one at Theddlethorpe St Helen on Nov 2nd. On Nov 6th, there were three at Donna Nook and one at Gib Point, with three at Gib Point on the 7th and three at Trusthorpe on the 9th. Later that month, there was one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 15th, one at Gib Point on the 17th and two there on the 29th. In Dec, there were three on both the 8th and 9th, and one on the 18th, all at Gib Point.



Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* Witham Mouth Apr 9th 2011 © Steve Keightley

### Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Fairly common winter visitor, rare in summer.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bagmoor/Winterton Floods	1	16	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barton Pits	16	156	127	6	-	2	1	5	15	8
New Holland/Goxhill	530	47	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gib Point	11	7	6	-	1	-	-	1	5	2
Freiston Shore	30	12	32	8	-	-	-	3	20	22
Frampton Marsh	4	12	6	2	-	1	-	5	3	8
Covenham Res	41	80	40	5	-	-	-	6	28	50
Kirkby on Bain Pits	11	34	39	10	-	-	-	1	8	10
Langtoft West End GP	11	21	22	-	-	-	-	-	2	8
North Hykeham Pits	22	19	18	9	-	-	-	-	11	5
Tattershall Lakes CP	15	4	4	-	-	-	-	1	4	15
Thurlby Sand Pit	25	55	93	-	-	-	-	7	17	22
Toft Newton Res	8	-	13	1	-	-	-	2	7	-
Whisby NP	15	16	18	4	-	-	-	3	6	18
Min. no. of Lincs sites	37	25	31	12	-	2	1	13	22	29

The table includes all sites attracting 10 or more, but many other sites held smaller numbers. Birds were recorded in the county in every month of the year except Jul and from around 40 different sites. The largest counts came from the Humber and in particular around Barton, New Holland and Goxhill. The largest total was an impressive 530 on New Year's Day at New Holland, with 260 on Jan 7th and 247 on Jan 23rd between there and Goxhill, and 200 in New Holland Pit on Jan 16th. Barton Pits provided counts of 140 on Feb 20th, 156 on Feb 25th, 100 on Mar 4th, and 127 on Mar 11th. The peak at Covenham Res was 80 on Feb 26th. In spring, the last was one at Gib Point on May 2nd, but there was also a drake at Frampton Marsh from Jun 6th-28th and two immature drakes were at Barton Pits on Jun 28th, arriving with a flock of Tufted Ducks. At the end of the year, the highest site total was 50 at Covenham Res on Dec 18th.

### Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Scarce winter visitor Oct-Apr.



Smew *Mergellus albellus* and Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* Barton Pits Jan 6th 2011  
© Graham Catley

All records relate to redheads unless stated otherwise. In the north of the county early in the year, one was on Covenham Res on Jan 3rd, a drake at Barton Pits on Jan 6th-9th, one on Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Jan 14th replaced by two drakes there on the 16th-19th, and later a drake on Feb 12th-13th and again on the 20th with two redheads on the 13th, one at Killingholme Haven Pits on Jan 15th and 25th and on Feb 27th, two drakes on Winterton Ings on Jan 20th, one at New Holland on Jan 23rd, and two at East Halton Pits on Jan 31st with one there on Feb 7th and two again on the 20th. Further south, three (one drake) were at Tattershall Lakes CP on Jan 19th, with a drake on Jan 29th and a redhead on Feb 8th. At Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits, there was one on Feb 6th, then a drake on Feb 20th, increasing to one drake and two redheads on 23rd; these three remained until Mar 7th, declining first to two and then just the drake from Mar 13th-18th. Probably the Kirkby on Bain birds were the same as those seen earlier at Tattershall Lakes. In the south-west, one was at Deeping Lakes on Jan 11th and Feb 2nd. During Mar 18th-23rd, one-three were at Baston-Langtoft Pits; a drake was always present but varying numbers of redheads were seen. The only records at the end of the year were a drake at Far Ings on Dec 10th and a redhead at Frampton Marsh from Dec 13th-31st, with two there on 18th.

### Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Wash</i>										
Gib Point	16	29	11	4	1	-	1	7	30	24
Leverton	2	-	17	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	22	3	41	4	-	-	-	12	18	6
No. of sites	20	10	17	9	1	1	4	15	14	6
Min. no. of birds	64	15	179	24	1	1	4	91	49	39



Red-breasted Mergansers *Mergus serrator* Barton Pits Nov 13th 2011 © Graham Catley

Another poor year with counts being similar or down on last year. Birds were recorded at 33 sites and totalled 416 birds. Most sightings were, as usual, adjacent to the coast or in The Wash. Notable counts in these areas in the first quarter included 18 at Freiston Shore on Jan 23rd, 29 at Gib Point on Feb 4th and 20 there on Feb 26th, 17 at Leverton on Mar 19th, and 31 at Freiston Shore and 26 at Wainfleet on Mar 20th. On the Humber, there were two on East Halton Pits on Mar 16th. The last of spring was one south at Gib Point on May 27th, and the first of autumn one at Donna Nook on Aug 14th, though there was then a gap until the next at Gib Point on Sep 14th. Later in the year, there were 45 at Roaring Middle (in The Wash) on Oct 9th, 30 south at Gib Point on Nov 12th, 18 at Freiston Shore on Nov 27th and 24 at Gib Point on Dec 11th. On the Humber, there were seven records of one-three, plus six near Read's Island on Nov 6th and

four at Water's Edge, Barton on Nov 13th. Five records came from inland sites: a long-staying female at Apex Pits from Jan 19th-Feb 18th, a pair at Scawby Park on Feb 20th, one at Cove Farm Quarry, Westwoodside on Feb 27th, a female at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Apr 29th, and one at Baston-Langtoft Pits on Nov 5th.

### Goosander *Mergus merganser*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Lincoln area</i>												
Boultham Mere	3	4	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Boultham Park	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	5
Swanholme/Hartsholme	39	22	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	32
<i>Elsewhere inland</i>												
Covenham Res	18	15	8	5	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	6
Fillingham Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
River Welland (Spalding Area)	10	12	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
Tunnel Pits, Wroot	4	5	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
No. of sites	30	29	29	7	2	-	-	-	1	7	14	36

The table shows monthly peaks at most sites where 20 or more were recorded, and other well-reported sites. The maxima in the Lincoln area were 39 at Swanholme Lakes on Jan 18th and 32 there on Dec 13th. Due to the proximity of the Lincoln sites, it is difficult to know how much duplication there is between totals there; smaller numbers also occurred on other lakes in this area, including 11 at Birchwood Lake, Skellingthorpe in Feb. At Covenham Res, the peak was 18 on Jan 13th. At Fillingham Lake, there were 25 on Dec 2nd, and on the River Welland, there were 29 between Spalding and Borough Fen on Dec 18th. Other concentrations of 10 or more early in the year were 20 at Deeping High Bank, 13 on the River Witham at Kirkstead Bridge, 12 at Metheringham Delph and 12 at Tydd St Mary's Marsh in Jan, and 11 at Donington in Feb. 10 at Donna Nook on Nov 6th was noteworthy, and other high counts at the end of the year were 11 on the River Witham near Short Ferry and 10 on Cadney Res in Dec.

### Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Former scarce feral breeder, declining migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	2	2	3	2	2	1	1	-	1	1	1	3
Min. Lincs total	7	9	14	14	6	1	1	-	1	4	1	6
Barton Pits area	6	8	5	7	5	-	1	-	1	4	-	-

As a result of the five year cull of the UK's population undertaken by the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA), this species has become scarce in Lincolnshire, with birds recorded regularly only in the Barton area this year. In the first winter period a female was on North Hykeham Pits from Jan 6th-14th, one was at Halton Marshes on Feb 13th, a peak count of eight at Barton Pits on Feb 26th, two were at Sand Pit on Mar 12th, seven were at a private inland site from Mar 18th-Apr 17th, five were at Barrow Haven on May 2nd and a single long staying drake was at Frampton Marsh from May 26th-Jun 7th. A single female was at Bagmoor on Nov 17th, a female in Lincoln on Dec 12th, four birds were at Thurlby Sand Pit on Dec 18th and a drake was at Whisby NP on Dec 20th.

### Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Very common feral resident huge numbers released for shooting annually

The highest counts of Red Legs in 2011 must surely be related to nearby release pens: 90 at Blackmoor Bridge, 75 at Broughton Carrs and 55 at Anwick Fen were all Oct/Nov records but there were further covey counts even in Apr showing that some of the birds did not pair up until quite late in the spring in 2011. However, counts of three or fewer birds represent around half of all records. The Red-legged Partridge may well be more vulnerable to wet conditions than Greys which have adapted to temperate conditions over millennia. It will be interesting to see whether 2012 shows evidence for this.

### Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

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

There were slightly more reported sightings of Grey than Red-legged Partridges in 2011 and covey sizes were broadly similar though with fewer greater than 20 for Grey. The highest counts were of 56 at Gunness, Scunthorpe in Jan, and 50 at Holme, near Scunthorpe, in Sep and Dec. Coveys of 10-20 were widely reported during the winter months, and there were a few similar breeding season counts in areas with dense populations, such as 19 at Kirton in Lindsey in May. This year was anecdotally a good year for breeding by this species and substantial conservation measures within the county, including some releases, are being undertaken by larger shooting estates.

### Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

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

Peak monthly counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
No. of sites	1	5	16	10	13	1	-	2
Min. no. of birds	1	9	29	17	21	1	-	3

There were 64 reports of Quail between the first at Ruckland on Apr 24th and the last at Freiston Shore on Nov 17th. Most of these were of one-two but there were six at Friskney in late Aug, four at Grimoldby in May and four at Donna Nook on three dates in Jun, plus counts of three at Binbrook, Elsham, Frampton, Fullerby and Luddington. Without some form of constant effort or systematic recording it is difficult to assess whether 2011 represented a particularly good year for Quail or otherwise.

### Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Very common feral resident.

In 2011 the highest counts have naturally been in the autumn, when young birds have been released to the woodlands and start to spread out. Peak counts were of 95 in Anwick Fen and 90 in Haverholme Park. However nearly half of the records submitted are for just one or two birds and three quarters for numbers of less than 10. Those submitted records appearing to represent direct releases are few in number. There is no certainty that large parts of the county can maintain wild Pheasant populations without support and it could yet prove to be a valuable indicator species in the future, but many observers do not submit records – almost half of the records this year came from just four people.

### 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.

During Jan-Feb, one-four were noted at coastal sites from Donna Nook to Freiston Shore but many much higher counts at Gib Point. At the latter site, numbers of birds moving into The Wash during early morning were especially notable during Jan 4th-8th, when day totals were in the range 104-337 with the maximum on 8th, but there were also relatively high counts of 238 on Jan 11th, 150 on 21st and 158 on 29th. There were frequent counts at Gib Point of 25-150 on other days in Jan, and of up to 40 in Feb. In Mar, there were mostly only one-seven, but 44 on 18th, and three on Apr 1st was the only sighting that month, though there were two at Donna Nook on Apr 30th. Between late May and mid Aug, there were eight singles at Gib Point plus three there on Jun 2nd, two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Jul 2nd and three at the latter site on Aug 1st. From Aug 25th until the end of the year, small numbers were seen regularly with early peaks of 12 at Sandilands on Sep 16th, 15 at Donna Nook on Sep 17th and 10 there on Oct 8th, and 20 in The Wash on Oct 9th. Daily totals of 10-20 were frequent at Gib Point where the early autumn peak was 26 on Sep 23rd, but occasional larger counts were made later, including 52 on Nov 13th and 56 on Dec 28th. Other relatively high counts came from Donna Nook where there were 12 on Nov 6th, 37 on Dec 27th and 11 on Dec 31st. Once again, records away from the coast and Wash were rare, with one flying east high at Barton on Nov 6th, four at Winteringham Haven on Nov 8th and one found stranded at Scunthorpe steelworks on Nov 14th.

### Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

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

Several were seen at Gib Point in Jan-Mar, associated with large numbers of Red-throated Divers, including two (one an adult) on Jan 8th, two on Jan 11th, one on Jan 30th, a first-winter on Feb



14th, and singles on Mar 18th, 20th and 21st. Some of these records may have involved the same birds, as divers moved in and out of The Wash daily. Singles in early autumn were at Skegness on Sep 16th, at Gib Point on Sep 17th, 21st, 22nd and 26th, and at Gib Point on Oct 7th and 8th; again some of these may have been the same but both summer and winter plumaged birds were seen. A little later, there was one at Chapel Point on Oct 16th, two at Trusthorpe on Oct 20th, and singles at Donna Nook on Oct 22nd, Huttoft Car Terrace on Oct 24th, Gib Point on Nov 6th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Nov 15th, Donna Nook on Nov 26th and finally one was at Freiston Shore on Dec 16th-17th.

### **Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

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

The only record early in the year was one at Gib Point on Jan 5th and perhaps the same there on 6th. On Oct 20th, there was one at Trusthorpe, followed by singles at both Donna Nook and Gib Point on Nov 6th, with possibly the same bird at Donna Nook on Nov 19th and Dec 3rd, and singles – perhaps the same – at Gib Point on Nov 29th and 30th. The only inland record came from Thurlby Sand Pit from Dec 3rd-6th. One was on five dates at Gib Point from Dec 8th-20th and another was at Freiston Shore on Dec 13th and possibly the same bird again there on Dec 27th and 29th. With perhaps only eight-eleven individuals, this remains a rare county species.

### **Fulmar** *Fulmaris glacialis*

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

In the first winter period there were singles off Gib Point on Jan 7th and Jan 25th, and two on Feb 24th. In spring at Gib Point, there were two on Apr 23rd, and then records on 10 dates in May and six dates in Jun, mostly one-two but four on May 26th. Elsewhere, there were four at Freiston Shore on Apr 29th, and single birds at Donna Nook on Apr 30th (with a second found dead) and May 2nd, and Leverton Marsh on May 16th. The only Jul report was one at Gib Point on 20th but five flew south there on Aug 1st, with four further sightings of singles during the month and three north on Aug 29th. On Sep 1st, 17 flew north at Gib Point, and there were singles at Trusthorpe on Sep 6th and Freiston Shore/Witham Mouth on Sep 10th, when two were seen in Boston Deepes. Two off Gib Point on Sep 15th were followed by the year's high count of 109 (106 north, two south) there on Sep 16th. There were three at Gib Point on Sep 17th, but the only later records were singles at Gib Point on Nov 6th and Dec 12th.

### **Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

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

During Aug-Sep, there were eight records involving 13-15 birds, with one more in Oct. One was seen at Nene Mouth on Aug 13th, followed by sightings at Terrington Deepes, Witham Mouth and Freiston Shore on Aug 14th. The last two almost certainly were the same, and all could have referred to one individual. Nine flew north off Skegness/Gib Point on Sep 16th, with another one north there on Sep 19th and one south then north on Oct 6th. The last sighting was on Oct 8th at Donna Nook.

### **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

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

Two birds at Donna Nook on May 2nd were the earliest sighting, followed by Gib Point with eight on May 31st, 20 on Jun 1st, 15 on Jun 4th and six on Jun 5th, when there were also 10 at Huttoft Bank. There were smaller numbers at Gib Point during the rest of Jun, but with eight on 18th and six on 27th. After a month's gap, one was at Gib Point on Jul 29th, followed by three at Donna Nook and seven at Gib Point on Aug 7th. Through Aug-Sep, there were scattered records of one-three on the coast and Wash plus occasional higher numbers. There were six at Gib Point on Aug 28th, with 11 there and five at Freiston Shore on 29th. On Sep 10th, 12 were seen out in the Boston Deepes, and six at Witham Mouth on 11th. On Sep 15th, 19 at Gib Point preceded the largest count of the year, involving 46 at Gib Point and 17 at Skegness (no doubt the same birds) on Sep 16th. One by the Humber Bridge on the same day was the only Humber record of the year. In Oct, sightings of one-two continued at Gib Point to 8th, and there was also one at Chapel Six Marshes on 7th. The last records of the year were of nine at Donna Nook on Oct 18th and one at Gib Point on the same date.





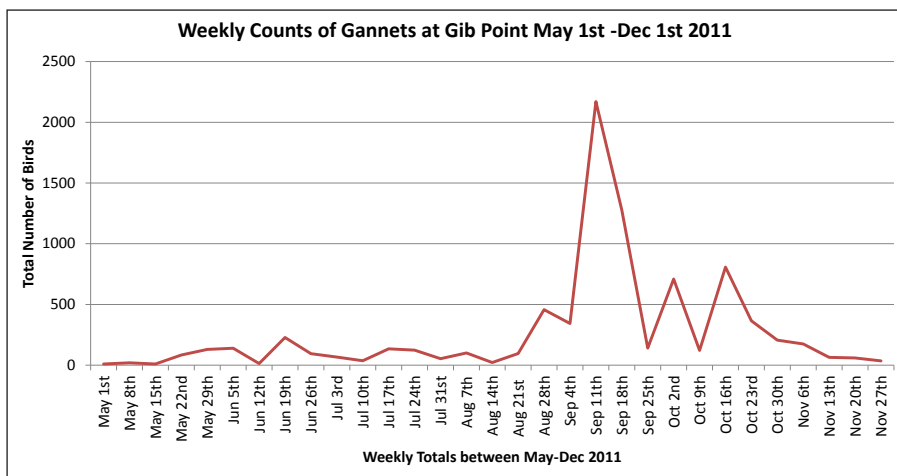
**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus* The Wash Sep 10th 2011 © Neil Smith

### **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.

Monthly peaks at the best-reported sites are shown below, and only the largest counts are detailed here. The only record in the first quarter was one at Gib Point on Mar 12th. Counts of up to 10 and occasionally more were made from late Apr and through May, with larger totals towards the end of that month. On Jun 5th, 50 were seen at Donna Nook, 54 at Gib Point and 50 at Freiston Shore. There were also 47 at Gib Point on 6th but then fewer until Jun 23rd, when there were 73 at Gib Point, with 107 on 24th. After that, smaller totals were typical, though there were 14 in The Wash at Shep Whites, Holbeach Marsh on Jun 29th, until counts of 85 at Gib Point on Jul 23rd and 68 there on Jul 27th. Most counts in Aug were under 30 but there were 83 at Gib Point on 28th and 59 on 31st, preceding a large movement including 248 at Gib Point and 100 at Freiston Shore on Sep 1st. Counts of 50 or more were frequent, especially on the coast, in Sep-Oct, with occasional larger movements. There were 150 at Boston Deepes on Sep 10th, then 150 off Freiston Shore and 300 at Gib Point on Sep 15th, before the big seabird movement of Sep 16th, when 108, all juveniles, were at the Humber Bridge, and 1487 at Gib Point with 625 of these also noted at Skegness. The next counts at Gib Point of more than 250 were 424 on Sep 21st, 261 on Sep 23rd, and then 277 there plus 150 at Chapel Point and 192 at Donna Nook on Oct 8th. There were 250 at Roaring Middle in The Wash on Oct 9th and 100 at Freiston Shore on Oct 15th. The next big counts at Gib Point were 387 on Oct 21st and 275 on Oct 24th, when there were also 155 at Huttoft Car Terrace and 43 over the Humber near Barton. No further three-figure counts were made apart from 145 at Gib Point on Nov 6th. Inland records were one at Covenham Res on Sep 19th and one at Gonerby Moor, north of Grantham, on Oct 9th, both first-year birds.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	-	-	-	16	-	50	46	50	50	192	7	1
Gib Point	-	-	1	5	38	107	85	83	1487	387	145	2
Freiston Shore/ Witham Mouth	-	-	-	12	-	50	-	15	150	100	30	-



**Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* Freiston Shore Mar 7th 2011 © Paul Sullivan**

### **Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo***

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Coastal</i>												
Read's Island Flats	11	6	4	6	9	-	-	9	5	9	5	9
Cleethorpes North Prom.	7	9	6	8	7	5	7	11	7	-	-	-
Humberston-Tetney	-	-	17	-	13	5	-	15	4	21	15	6
Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	2	5	5	15	10	23	23	409
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	87	-	-	1	-	1	17	5	11	9	18	86
Gib Point	180	40	12	8	9	18	138	24	26	52	173	230
Freiston Shore	1	-	4	1	1	-	4	-	4	7	2	1

Witham Mouth	-	-	1	2	2	-	12	9	-	18	1	6
Frampton Marsh	1	2	1	1	2	1	3	8	7	1	2	2
Terrington	-	1	3	2	-	-	6	94	40	22	-	63

#### *Inland*

Boultham Mere	2	11	10	2	-	-	-	3	2	6	3	-
Covenham Res	161	35	3	-	3	-	3	10	7	13	114	93
Kirkby on Bain Pits	4	6	3	6	10	15	8	3	3	10	6	-
North Hykeham Pits	76	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	2	31
Whisby NP	28	20	26	3	2	6	15	10	24	28	28	20

The count of 161 at Covenham Res on Jan 3rd was significant, while elsewhere early in the year there were 160 at Gib Point on Jan 8th, 76 at North Hykeham Pits on Jan 16th and 87 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Jan 16th before numbers dropped off in Feb with no further counts exceeding 50 until mid Jul. After no breeding reports in 2010, the establishment of a new breeding colony in the centre of the county was recorded with at least four chicks fledging. A count of 138 birds at Gib Point on Jul 19th included 136 flying west over the site, and another noteworthy late summer count was 94 at Terrington on Aug 14th. In the second winter period, significant counts came from Gib Point, including 173 on Nov 15th, 158 on Nov 28th, 230 on Dec 10th and 217 on Dec 15th, while at Donna Nook there were 188 on Dec 27th and a peak count of 409 on Dec 31st. Other areas with counts of 10 or more were Read's Island Flats, Barton Pits and Halton Marshes on the Humber, Boston Haven, Roaring Middle, and the Welland and Wrangle sectors of The Wash, and Baston Fen, Fiskerton Fen, Langtoft West End GP, Norton Disney Quarry, RAF Woodhall, the River Glen at Pinchbeck, and Tattershall Lakes CP inland. A colour-ringed bird observed at Whisby NP on Nov 21st was ringed as a nestling at Rutland Water, Leicestershire on May 15th 2011; it was subsequently seen at Boultham Mere on Aug 23rd and Besthorpe, Nottinghamshire on Oct 15th before arriving at Whisby NP.

#### **European Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

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



**European Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Anderby Creek Oct 26th 2011 © Andrew Chick

The first bird of the year was an adult at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Mar 17th with singles at Freiston Shore on Mar 22nd, a dead bird at Gib Point on Apr 12th, one at Wainfleet on Apr 17th and possibly the same bird found in poor condition at Gib Point on Apr 24th being the last record from the first half of the year. An immature bird was at Freiston Shore on Jul 6th and again at Witham Mouth on Jul 17th, two birds were at Donna Nook on Aug 2nd one on Aug 9th. One was at Freiston Shore on Sep 3rd and five on 9th. In Oct, six birds were at Alexander Docks, Grimsby

on 9th, one was at Donna Nook on 22nd, an immature bird was on the beach at Anderby Creek on 26th-27th with in addition two adults flying south on 27th, and one flew south at Gib Point on 28th. The only bird recorded in Nov was one at Gedney Drove End on 6th, but at the end of the year there was one on the sea at Gib Point on Dec 12th, one at Grimsby on Dec 20th, three at Donna Nook on Dec 27th and five there on Dec 31st.

### **Bittern *Botaurus stellaris***

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

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

As usual, most birds in the early part of the year were in the north of the county. One-two were at Barton Pits from Jan-Jun. A minimum of two booming birds were heard, but breeding was unconfirmed. At least one was evident again there during Aug-Dec. In addition, one was heard booming at Messingham SQ, where there were also two on Feb 1st and one from Sep 26th-Dec 31st, with two reported on Oct 9th. Elsewhere early in the year, single birds were at Alkborough Flats on Jan 1st-3rd, New Holland Ski Pit on Jan 1st, Deeping Lakes on Jan 2nd and Barrow Haven Pits on Jan 16th. In spring, there were singles at Huttoft Pit on Apr 22nd, Barrow Haven on May 3rd and Alkborough Flats on May 22nd and 29th. Autumn birds were more widely distributed but still in low numbers away from the north, including one at Mogg's Eye on Sep 2nd, one at Walcott Fen on Sep 14th, and one at Frampton Marsh on Nov 14th.



**Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*** Far Ings Mar 10th 2011 © John Clarkson

### **Little Egret *Egretta garzetta***

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

Over 800 records were received from a hundred sites of this popular and obvious species which is now regularly recorded the length and breadth of the county. The summary table below shows the minimum counts for distinct districts. In addition, there were large roost counts at Witham Mouth in Aug of 204 and in Sep of 240, both exceeding the individual site totals for The Wash area and suggesting that numbers are considerably in excess of the totals below.

District min. counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
The Humber	10	3	33	59	34	68	48	95	96	126	58	13
East coast	11	4	-	-	6	6	1	6	20	24	15	4
Gib Point/The Wash	11	16	40	39	55	48	133	168	170	109	92	46
All inland sites	19	20	26	19	25	46	19	22	24	14	15	38
Min. Lincs total	51	43	79	117	120	168	181	291	310	273	180	101

Breeding records came from seven sites and indicate continued expansion in range though possibly slowed by cold weather during Dec 2010. There were three new sites, 'E' is thought to have held breeding birds prior to discovery in 2011, 'F' in the south east where a pair reared two young and 'G' in the south where a pair was seen nest building. No fledging data for sites A to D was received this year.

Breeding sites	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Site A	1	-	5	7	6	6	8
Site B	-	1	11	14	11	27	17
Site C	-	-	-	1	4	5	7
Site D	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
Site E	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Site F	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Site G	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
County total	1	1	16	22	21	40	45



**Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Killingholme NNR Jun 16th 2011 © Roy Harvey**

### **Great White Egret *Ardea alba***

#### **Vagrant. LBRC**

Another excellent year for this species with records coming from eleven sites. It is probable that wandering birds accounted for several of these sightings. The first of the year was in Kirkby on Bain area from Jan 5th, remaining in the area until the end of Mar, although it was only seen infrequently (DRB, SPB, TGu et al) and also noted at RAF Woodhall (RHaY, RT). One was at Deeping Lakes on Feb 1st-2nd (DGr, RWa) and another at Manby Flashes also on 2nd (JRW) and what might have been the same bird at North Thoresby on Feb 14th (SL, KRo), Gosberton on Feb 20th (J Jordan), Frampton Marsh on Mar 8th (JB, IE), and Manby Flashes again on Mar 14th, 19th and 21st (JRC, GMu); and presumably another was at Gib Point on Mar 14th and 17th (GPBO, RDn et al). One flew over Bonby Carrs on Apr 25th (TCL). There was a late spring record of one at Frampton Marsh Jun 27th (G Wilson). Wintering birds were at Frampton Marsh on Nov

11th (M Thorn), Kirkby on Bain Pits from Nov 28th to the end of Dec (DRB, RTf et al). One at Messingham SQ on Dec 23rd and 28th (G Bowes) was presumably the bird seen at Scotterthorpe Dec 29th-31st (ND, GPC).



**Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*  
Kirkby on Bain Dec 7th 2011  
© Russell Hayes



**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*  
Marston STW Nov 21st 2011  
© Dave Morison

### **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Fairly common resident, partial migrant and winter visitor.

The total number of occupied nests in Lincolnshire counted as part of the BTO Heronries Census during 2011 was as follows:

Abbey Wood, Thornton Curtis	33
Appletree ness, Haverholme Park	12
Baston Sand & Gravel Pits	6
Belton Park	nil
Bottom (formerly Lower) Barff Wood	1
Dowsby Fen	4
Frampton Hall	nil
Hartsholme Country Park	9
Hospital Cottage Spinney	5
Howsham Barff Wood	1
Kingerby Wood	13
Kirkby on Bain Pits (West)	2
Legbourne Wood	5
Lea Marsh	6
Long Wood, Fiskerton	7
Nocton Wood	9
North Cotes Spinney	2
Patterson's Pit	18
Stainfield Wood	nil
The Deepes	4
The Mere, Deeping St James	13
Troy Wood	15



Tuetoës Wood	5
Warren Plantation, North Somercotes	9
Welland Farm	5
Willoughby Wood	17

Away from heronries there were few significant counts with one-five being reported from some 100 sites and peaks of 12 at Donna Nook during Mar, 16 at Alkborough Flats on Jul 3rd, 12 at Hagnaby Fen/Lock on Aug 12th, 11 at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Jul 23rd, and 21 at Haverholme Park on Dec 4th. The total number of occupied nests in 2011 was 201 compared with 237 in 2010, 252 in 2009, an incomplete count of 237 in 2008 and 265 in 2007. The BTO Heronries census which began in 1928 shows that heron numbers were higher in the early 2000s than at any time in the last 80 years. This recent downward trend in Lincs is probably a result of a two harsh winters.

### Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

#### Vagrant. LBRC

A first summer bird was well watched at Huttoft Pits from Apr 20th-24th (GW et al), during its stay it was often absent from the site and was seen at Mogg's Eye on Apr 21st. Another, or possibly the same first summer bird was found during a breeding bird survey at Bicker Fen on May 26th (TCL).

### Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

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

Monthly peak counts would suggest that at least 30, and perhaps more than 50, individuals were seen in 2011. Birds' ages, which may be difficult to judge at times, have not been adequately recorded although five immatures were at Alkborough on Aug 1st and the wandering South Lincs bird at the end of the year was an immature. A Dutch colour-ringed bird at Alkborough Flats on Jun 13th was probably the one seen at Gib Point and Huttoft Bank on the 15th-16th – such mobility makes accurate counting difficult – and a ringed bird was photographed at Frampton Marsh on Jul 23rd.

An early bird was at Gib Point on Mar 4th followed by another there on Apr 16th. A more general influx began on May 8th with one at Frampton Marsh, two at Gib Point on May 9th-11th, one at Alkborough Flats on May 19th and two at Frampton from May 28th-Jun 8th. There were widespread records throughout Jun with one-two at Frampton Marsh for much of the month and three there on 20th, one at Killingholme Haven on 9th, one at Alkborough Flats on five days through the month with two there on 16th, three on 17th and 23rd and three again on 24th, and one was at Humberston Yacht Club on 17th. There were six at Gib Point on Jun 14th and three the following day when there were also three at Huttoft Bank Pits until 16th; it is possible that these three were the same as those seen at Alkborough from 17th. Six were again at Gib Point on Jul 3rd with seven there by 29th and eight on 31st. Elsewhere in Jul there two at Alkborough Flats on 19th and three there on 24th, one was at Frampton Marsh from 21st until the end of the month and two were noted at Hagnaby Lock/Fen on 31st. Numbers increased significantly in Aug, presumably complemented by post-breeding dispersal from the Norfolk heronry: at Gib Point after six on 2nd there were 13 on 4th and smaller counts until the end of the month but six-ten were seen regularly. At Alkborough Flats there were five on 1st rising to a peak of 17 – a new site record – on 18th. Frampton Marsh hosted a singleton for the first two weeks of Aug but there were six there on 12th and 10 were at Whitton Sands on Aug 30th, doubtless part of the Alkborough Flats flock. From 11 at the start of Sep, the group at Alkborough Flats, and occasionally at Whitton Sands, dwindled with the final two being seen on 18th with the only other records for the month coming from Gib Point where up to nine were seen for the first two weeks of the month. None were seen in the second half of Sep and thereafter until the end of the years singles were recorded at Frampton Marsh, Gib Point and on the Haven at Boston; these almost certainly refer to one wandering bird.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	17	11	-	-	-
Gib Point	-	-	1	1	2	6	8	14	12	1	1	1
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	6	-	1	1	1





Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* Huttoft Pits Apr 22nd 2011 © Graham Catley



Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* Huttoft Pits Apr 22nd 2011 © Graham Catley



**Eurasian Spoonbills** *Platalea leucorodia* Gib Point Aug 7th 2011 © Paul Neale

### **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	-	2	2	5	2	-	9	9	-	9	-	1
Humberston-Tetney	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	7	9
Freiston Shore	6	1	-	2	1	-	2	-	2	3	9	9
Gib Point	3	6	10	6	4	5	1	1	7	4	4	5
Frampton Marsh	-	-	2	2	2	4	4	11	20	5	4	3
Covenham Res	7	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	5	2	5	1
Holywell Lake	4	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	11	9	10	-
Kirkby on Bain Pits	-	5	3	1	11	2	14	30	29	7	5	1
Norton Disney Quarry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	9	3
Stoke Rochford & Park	6	6	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
Thurlby Sand Pit	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	9	10
Whisby NP	-	1	4	3	7	4	9	8	3	5	5	3

Additional sites holding 10 or more were Donna Nook with 11 on Dec 2nd, and the River Witham (Chapel Hill-Kirkstead) with 11 on Dec 17th. Sites with five-nine were Alkborough Flats, Anwick Fen and STW, Gedney, Hobhole, Marston STW, Nocton Fen, River Welland (Spalding-Borough Fen), South Forty Foot Drain near Hubbert's Bridge, and Theddlethorpe-Saltfleetby. As expected after severe cold, numbers were very low early in the year and remained relatively low all year. Population levels in the north of the county in particular had clearly been affected by the period of freezing weather in Dec 2010. Juveniles were reported from the following sites: Kirkby on Bain Pits (the May count of 11 was of juveniles), Whisby NP, Frampton Marsh, Croxby Ponds, Barton Pits, Grainthorpe Marsh, Belton Park and possible and probable breeding was reported from a number of other sites including Alkborough Flats where four pairs attempted to breed. There is little doubt, however, that this secretive bird is under-reported in the breeding season.

### **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

Common resident, partial migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	5	2	12	14	11	7	26	22	23	23	34	16
Gib Point	12	8	9	1	3	3	2	4	3	11	16	16

Freiston Shore	2	1	14	10	8	1	-	6	6	14	3	2
Witham Mouth	1	1	3	3	2	-	-	-	-	6	3	-
Covenham Res	72	50	6	6	3	2	23	9	50	35	44	60
Kirkby on Bain Pits	1	4	8	6	9	13	15	14	8	7	3	1
Langtoft West End GP	1	6	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
North Hykeham Pits	1	4	12	4	3	8	4	18	18	14	28	30
Norton Disney Quarry	-	-	-	-	8	15	5	13	8	5	3	1
R Welland, Spalding	9	17	40	50	50	34	58	31	38	40	11	2
Tattershall Lakes CP	9	18	31	19	17	21	27	19	23	20	10	12
Whisby NP	2	3	10	18	18	18	17	12	6	8	7	4

The freezing weather of Dec 2010 lead to the low counts in many areas early in the year. An exception was Covenham Res where the peaks were 72 on Jan 2nd and 60 on Dec 28th. The other area holding 50 or more was around and upstream of Spalding, where WeBS counts along the River Welland and Coronation Channel reached a maximum of 58 in Jul. There were also counts of 10 or more at the following sites not in the table: 18 at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods in Mar and 20 there in Apr, 19 in The Wash off Leverton in Apr, 10 at Hartsholme CP in Aug, 10 at Denton Res in Sep, 10 at Cove Farm Quarry, Westwoodside in Oct, 19 at Toft Newton Res in Nov and 14 at Cadney Res in Dec. Breeding records came from Barrow Haven Pits, Barton Pits, Belton Park, Fiskerton Fen, Frampton Marsh, Hartsholme CP, Kirkby on Bain Pits, and Whisby NP.



**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* Frampton Marsh Apr 25th 2011 © Neil Smith

### **Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

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

A good showing of this species with 13 birds being seen at six sites. The first of the year was at Dogdyke on Jan 2nd followed by singles at Gib Point on Jan 21st, Donna Nook on Jan 29th, then a long staying bird at Cove Farm Quarry, Westwoodside from Feb 3rd until Mar 1st and the last of the winter at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Mar 2nd. A summer-plumaged bird appeared at Covenham Res on Jul 24th and stayed until Aug 6th, with another there on Sep 7th and then an adult and a juvenile together from Sep 17th-30th. One moved south at Gib Point on Oct 9th and another was on the sea there on Nov 30th. In Dec there was one at Gib Point on 8th-9th and one at Covenham Res from 12th-29th with two there on 18th.



**Red-necked Grebe** (juv.) *Podiceps grisena* Covenham Res Sep 17th 2011 © Graham Catley



**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisena* Covenham Res July 26th 2011 © John Clarkson



Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* Waters' Edge Barton Pits Apr 6th 2011 © Graham Catley



Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* Waters' Edge Barton Pits Apr 6th 2011 © Graham Catley

### Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

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

There were 12 records involving a total of 16 birds, a better than average showing. Early in the year, there were singles at Gib Point on Jan 5th and 11th, with two there on Feb 3rd, one at Wainfleet on Mar 20th and another at Water's Edge, Barton from Apr 6th-8th. An early autumn individual was at Gib Point on Sep 16th-17th. There were three at Trusthorpe on Oct 21st. The next was south at Gib Point on Nov 7th, with two offshore there on Nov 9th, then singles at Covenham Res on Nov 10th, Gib Point on Nov 18th-19th and the final bird of the year resident at Freiston Shore from Nov 27th-Dec 27th.

### Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare breeder, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. **RBBP**

In a poor year for this species, an exceptionally early bird appeared at breeding site A on Feb 13th where the next sightings were of a pair from Mar 11th until Jul 17th but there was no evidence of successful breeding. One was present at Site B from Mar 18th until Aug 3rd with two birds present from Jul 11th-22nd but again there was no proof of breeding. Singles were at Bagmoor on Apr 24th-25th, Barton Pits on Oct 14th and finally at Thurlby Sand Pit from Oct 25th-Dec 2nd.

### European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Rare/scarse passage migrant. **LBRC RBBP**

In spring singles were seen at Gib Point on May 9th (TB), 11th (KMW) with an adult male there on 25th (NAL); a wandering adult flew inland from New Holland then over Barrow-on-Humber, later being seen in Appleby Carrs on Jul 17th (SRO, ND). There were just two autumn records; a dark phase juvenile flew south at Donna Nook on Sep 2nd (SL) and another dark juvenile was photographed at Frampton Marsh on 14th (NS).

### Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Vagrant. **LBRC**

One was in the Ruckland-Farthorth-Oxcombe area from Apr 23rd-24th (KMW, JS, CA, PS et al) with singles at Gib Point on May 3rd (KMW), 12th-13th (NAL, TB) and 31st (KMW). It is just possible that all of these spring records relate to a long staying wandering individual.

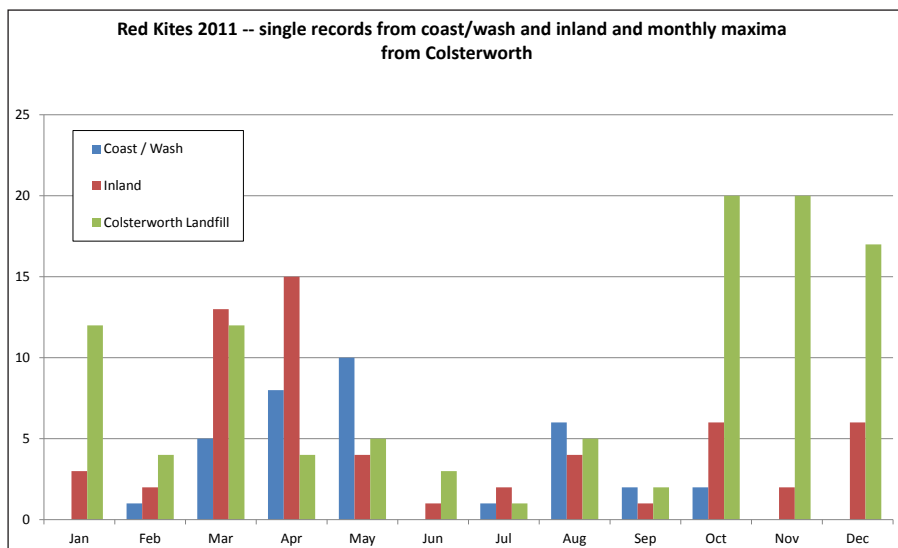
### Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Scarce, occurring in most months though mainly winter to spring; increasing due to re-introduced birds. Bred to 19th century and since 2008. **RBBP**

As shown in the chart below, after a steady start Red Kites are starting to increase as a breeding bird in the county with new areas being occupied each year, although they are still most numerous in the south-west of the county. In the 2010 report it appears the totals were underestimated and have been amended in the table below. In 2011 there were reports of birds breeding at two new localities with two pairs at each site rearing at least five young. There were again a number of observations of wing-tagged birds in the county, these birds typically originating from nests in the East Midlands.

Breeding totals	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Pairs	1	1	1	1	5	10	14
Proven nests	1	1	1	1	5	5	14
Young fledged				1	9+	9+	13+

Away from the core breeding area in the south-west there were the usual scatter of records throughout the year as shown in the chart below; the chart also includes the monthly maxima from the favoured feeding area at Colsterworth landfill site.



The spring passage in Mar-May was replicated on the coast and inland with fewest birds occurring in all three locations during Jun-Jul, when birds are breeding, before another rise in records in Aug as juveniles disperse from natal sites. Note the lack of coastal records in Nov-Dec and Jan when birds are concentrated at inland feeding sites like Colsterworth.



**Red Kite *Milvus milvus* Stainby Nov 15th 2011 © Russell Hayes**





**White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* Ruckland Jun 26th 2011 © John Carter



**White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* Ruckland Jun 9th 2011 © Graham Catley



**White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* Ruckland Jun 26th 2011 © John Carter  
**White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* and **Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* Ruckland Apr 24th 2011  
 © Alex Parker



**White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* Ruckland Apr 13th 2011 © John Clarkson

**White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla***

**Vagrant. LBRC**

A bird first seen in Hampshire in winter 2010/2011, where it was last recorded on Mar 24th, was seen over Burwell Wood near Louth (CHe et al) and subsequently noted in the area between there Farforth, Ruckland and Scamblesby on Apr 3rd before leaving Lincs the same day, being seen over Brancaster, Norfolk at 15:00 hrs and doing a tour of Norfolk and Suffolk returning to the Ruckland area via Gib Point on 6th where it came in off The Wash. It was back in the Ruckland area on 10th staying to 15th when it again set off on a tour which saw it recorded over Manby Airfield on 17th, Spurn Point, East Yorkshire on 18th, Grainthorpe Marsh and Horseshoe Point on 22nd. It appeared to roost near the coast and was found in a tree at Waithe on the morning of 23rd before flying east to Tetney Lock, Horseshoe Point and Grainthorpe Marsh, passing through Donna Nook, then returning to the Ruckland-Farforth area on 24th. It remained in this area through to Aug 7th when it may have met its end.

**Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus***

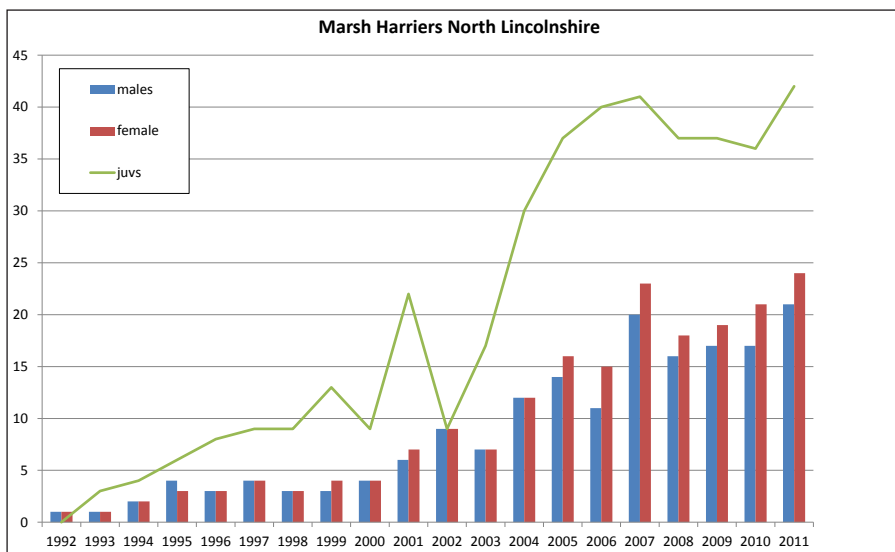
Fairly common passage migrant and summer visitor, increasing in winter. **RBBP**

Winter totals of Marsh Harriers on the Humber are shown in the table below; there was a massive increase in wintering numbers in late 2011 and it is salutary to note that the first wintering bird was only recorded seven years previously. Wintering birds can cover large distances during a day with some individuals being tracked over most compass points up to 20 kms from the winter roosts while other birds remain fairly close to the roosts throughout the day on some occasions. The differences in behaviour are presumably related to food availability and the established hierarchy amongst wintering individuals. In France tracked birds have been noted using up to eight different roosts in a single winter, all of which were in a relatively small area. On the Humber up to five different roosts are now used but the two main sites still hold the bulk of the birds. The majority of the wintering birds are still juveniles but the proportion of adults and second calendar year birds is increasing with some breeding pairs now occupying breeding territories throughout the year.

2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
1	9	12	18	18	18	23	49

Away from the Humber there were records in the early winter (Jan-Feb) at Frampton Marsh with singles throughout and two on Jan 21st, Freiston Shore one-two from Jan 25th-Feb 16th, Gib Point on Jan 1st, Feb 8th and 13th, Messingham SQ on Feb 24-25th and Nocton Fen on Feb 16th. In the late winter (Nov-Dec) there were singles at Baston Fen on Nov 13th, 19th and on Dec 26th. Frampton Marsh had up to five in early Nov with one-two to late Dec. There were singles at Freiston Shore on Dec 2nd and 16th, Holbeach St Marks on Nov 3rd-4th, Kirton Marsh on Nov 26th, Humberston Fitties on Nov 18th, Marston STW on Dec 20th, Messingham SQ on Dec 28th, Rimac on Nov 13th and Tetney on Nov 14th. Nocton Fen had up to four to mid Nov then one-two to Dec 18th.

Breeding records from North Lincolnshire are shown in the chart below; the rate of increase in breeding males and females has slowed but still continues to grow slowly through infilling of territories and there was a notable increase in juveniles fledged in 2011 following a good breeding season to a new record total. There were no significant data on breeding birds from elsewhere in the county with only odd records of possible and probable breeding reported in spite of many nests being successful. They were widely recorded during Apr-Jul and it is not possible to separate passage and breeding records with any certainty given the lack of reporting of breeding birds. From Aug-Oct there were again widespread records of one-four birds with a notable roost on the mid Wolds holding 13 birds on Aug 14th; the only report from the traditional mid Lincs roost was of 14 birds on the late date of Oct 4th; no reports came from this locality earlier in the autumn.



### 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**

Hen Harriers are known to wander widely in the autumn and less so in the winter with individual birds using different roosts on different nights through the wintering period; daily hunting flights can take birds up to 20 kms from the roost site and it is clear that the formerly simplistic treatment of Lincolnshire records by site particularly on the coastal strip has tended to exaggerate the number of birds present in winter. In contrast to this situation, recent discoveries have shown that inland sites regularly hold more wintering birds than have been recorded in the past, but whether this is due simply to increased observer coverage or a genuine increase is not clear.

Between Jan and Feb 14th an adult female was seen in the north between Alkborough Flats, Read's Island and Dragonby Quarry with a male on Jan 13th and a different ringtail from Mar 7th-10th then a ringtail at Far Ings on 17th; another ringtail was at Worlaby Carrs from Jan 3rd-Feb 12th. On the north coast from Cleethorpes-Mablethorpe, up to three birds including one grey male were present Jan 14th-Mar 25th with single ringtails to May 1st. Gib Point had an excellent early winter with four on Jan 1st then peak roost counts of six on Jan 18th and on 20th just one grey male, five on 24th and then up to three birds to Mar 27th and a single ringtail to Apr 17th. In The Wash up to two males and two ringtails were recorded on several dates from Freiston Shore, Frampton Marsh, Wrangle, Butterwick, Gedney, Wainfleet, Welland Mouth, Holbeach, Leverton and the Nene Mouth. There were single ringtails in Apr at Witham Mouth on 4th, Holbeach on 9th and 14th, Frampton Marsh on 10th, Leverton on 16th and Terrington on 20th but no summary of roost counts was submitted. Inland a ringtail was at Baston Fen on Jan 8th and 18th, probably roosting, with one at South Kyme Fen on Feb 15th, a male at Sloothby on Mar 27th, Manby Flashes on Apr 6th, a male at Wroot on Jan 18th and in the upper Witham Fens a male and female from Jan 6th-Mar 25th with a ringtail from Apr 17th-25th.

The first bird of the autumn was at Freiston Shore on Aug 22nd but there was only one record in Sep at Ruskington Fen on 28th; in Oct-Dec there were the usual spread of occurrences that can be split as follows: in the north of the county around the Humber and adjacent areas of North Lincs at least three birds: a grey male, adult female and a juvenile; at Worlaby Carrs a grey male from Oct 4th-24th and a juvenile/ringtail from Oct 23rd-Dec 22nd; a female at Crowle Moor on Oct 30th and a grey male at Wroot from Nov 15th-23rd. On the coast from Cleethorpes-Mablethorpe there were at least two birds: a grey male and a ringtail/female were present from Oct 15th-Dec 31st but clearly more birds may have been involved during the autumn passage period. At Gib Point a ringtail and grey male were seen from Oct 13th-19th and a ringtail was seen on

Dec 12th. In The Wash from Oct 10th records came from Freiston Shore, Frampton, Terrington, Welland Mouth, Witham Mouth, Holbeach Marsh, Wrangle Bank, Butterwick and Dawsmere but assessing the number of birds in the absence of roost counts is impossible. Minimum numbers involved totals of four at Frampton on Oct 31st and four at Holbeach on Nov 3rd but two grey males and three ringtails were recorded so an absolute minimum of five birds were present. Inland birds included a juvenile at Ruckland on Oct 30th-31st, a grey male at Baston Fen from Nov 11th-Dec 14th, a ringtail at Willow Tree Fen on Dec 8th and in the upper Witham Fens a grey male and female from Nov 12th increasing from Nov 26th to two grey males and a peak of three grey males and a ringtail through Dec.

### Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

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

The precarious status of this species as a breeding bird in Lincolnshire continued through 2011 with a single pair fledging three young from a nest near The Wash where the male was polygamous, but the second female soon disappeared.

Breeding totals	Males	Females	Young fledged
2008	1	1	1
2009	0	0	0
2010	1	1	1
2011	1	2	3

An early female was at Dowsby Fen on Apr 18th. The next in May, all females unless stated, were at Wingland Marsh on 1st, Manby Flashes on 3rd, Gib Point on 10th and 27th with a male at Middlemarsh, Skegness on 27th, a female at Frampton Marsh from Jun 2nd-4th, a male at Appleby Carrs on 6th, a male at Toft Hill on 6th, a female at Grainthorpe Marsh on 8th, a male at Fulsby on 10th, a male at Tetney Marshes on 23rd, and a female at Wingland Marsh on 24th. In the autumn one was seen at Frampton Marsh on Aug 2nd-3rd with a juvenile there on 15th and female on 20th and finally a male at Welton, Lincoln on 21st.

### Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Rare, mainly autumn to spring. **LBRC RBBP**

No acceptable descriptions were received in 2011.

### 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.

This common and widespread breeding species that is now probably at its highest ever density in Lincolnshire (although BBS data nationally suggests a slight recent decline), had 481 records in 2011, fewer than might be expected. Passage birds moving south were recorded at Gib Point from Aug 27th, with peak counts of five on Sep 14th, nine on Sep 18th, six on Sep 19th, four on Oct 7th, six on Oct 15th and a late bird moving south offshore on Nov 18th.

### Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

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

The comments published in 2010 could well be replicated for 2011 with virtually no indication of how common a breeding bird the Common Buzzard now is in Lincolnshire. In total there were 36 reports of breeding pairs throughout the county but, to set this in context, a detailed study in 23 1km squares in north-west Lincs in 2012 found 21 territories and large areas of the county clearly have just as high a density of breeding pairs. Large congregations during the year included 15 at Messingham SQ on Feb 24th, 13 at Muckton Wood near Louth on Mar 14th, 15 at Anwick Fen on Apr 17th, 10 at Stallingborough on Jul 26th, 14 at Saxby all Saints on Aug 9th, 13 at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Sep 21st, 15 at Manton Warren on Oct 13th and 10 at Covenham Res on Oct 28th. There appeared to be no obvious coastal autumn passage such as occurred in 2010.



**Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus* Worlabby Cars Oct 20th 2011 © Graham Catley



**Honey Buzzard (juv.)** *Pernis apivorus* Frampton Marsh Sep 14th 2011 © Neil Smith



**Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*** Freiston Shore Sep 22nd 2011 © Neil Smith

### **Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus***

Rare/scarse passage migrant and winter visitor. **LBRC**

Following the marked arrival in the late autumn of 2010, birds were seen in the first winter period of 2011 as follows: a juvenile/first-winter was at South Ferriby from 2010 to Apr 6th (GPC et al) with probably the same bird being seen at Bonby Carrs on Mar 28th (TCL); a juvenile was at Donna Nook from Jan 4th-9th (SL); up to two birds at Wingland Marsh-Nene Mouth from Jan 18th-Mar 12th (PCL); one at Broughton Common on Feb 2nd (TCL); one at Frampton Marsh on Feb 16th (JB, SWL); another at Saltfleetby St Peter on Feb 26th (PRF); one at Freiston Shore on Mar 8th (JB, GFi); one at Dorrington Fen on Mar 26th (DSP) and two late birds again at the Nene Mouth on May 1st (PCL) and at Gib Point on 10th (NAL, JPS).

In the autumn another influx produced a series of records with single birds, all juveniles, in off the sea at Paradise (Saltfleetby NNR) then inland over Saltfleet village on Oct 14th (GPC, ND, SRO), Worlabby Carrs on Oct 16th-22nd (GPC et al), Donna Nook-Grainthorpe Marsh on Oct 25th (GPC, ND, SL), and south over Huttoft Bank on Oct 26th (CJJ, SJ) then subsequently south at Anderby Creek (APC) and Gib Point (JCN, MLE et al). One lingered in the Pye's Hall-Grainthorpe Marsh-Donna Nook area from Nov 16th-18th (GPC, ND, TJ, SL) and finally one found at Withern on Dec 15th (JS et al) remained in a small area into 2012.

### **Osprey *Pandion haliaetus***

Scarce passage migrant, rare in summer. **RBBP**

An early migrant flew south-east at Frampton Marsh on Apr 3rd with possibly the same bird north at Saltfleetby -Theddlethorpe on 6th; one was at Messingham SQ from Apr 18th-22nd, then one at Tetney outfall on Apr 27th. Passage intensified in May with singles over Grantham and Pinchbeck on 3rd, Holme on 4th, Covenham Res 9th, Gib Point 10th and 11th, Newball Wood 13th, Toft Newton Res 14th, Anderby Creek 28th, Nettleton 29th, and at Manby Flashes on 31st. In Jun one was at Worlabby, Tetford on 3rd and at Theddlethorpe on 7th; a second calendar year bird first seen at Worlabby Carrs on Jun 15th remained in the Worlabby-Saxby-Horkstow-Appleby Carrs area through to Aug 17th, forming the first summering record for the county. The first returning birds were seen at Wroot on Jul 9th and 30th, with singles at Normanby on 24th, Freiston Shore 26th and Witham Mouth on 31st. Autumn passage increased through Aug with one at North Thoresby Fisheries on 6th, "Beatrice" (see below) 15th-17th, Grimsby on 20th, Kirkby on Bain Pits 22nd, an adult female at Black Bank-East Butterwick from 22nd-28th, Mablethorpe North End and Gib Point 28th, and then in Sep at Alkborough Flats a male flew south on 3rd, singles at Donna Nook on 3rd, Gib Point 5th, Rowland's Plantation and Trusthorpe on 6th, Tetney Marsh 7th, Wroot,



Gib Point and Frampton Marsh all on 9th, a juvenile at Barlings Gravel pits on 15th, Freiston Shore also on 15th, Bardney 17th and finally Fulbeck on Oct 1st.



**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*  
Toft Newton Res May 14th 2011  
© Nick Clayton



**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* (juvenile)  
North Lincs Jul 14th 2011  
© Graham Catley

One of Roy Dennis's satellite tagged Ospreys made a journey through Lincolnshire in autumn 2011 as described below on his blog.

Osprey Beatrice autumn migration 2011

*Aug 15th 2011*

*By 10 AM she was already on her way and was flying SE at 47 kms/hr over the Otterburn ranges in Northumbria. At 11am she was flying SE at 43km/hr at 359m above Ponteland Road, NW Newcastle; passing down over the towns of the NE she was just NW of Durham at midday and an hour later flying SSE at 42km/hr 1286 metres above the west side of Middlesbrough. At 3pm she was NE of York and then at 4pm was setting off over the River Humber at Brough and by 6pm had settled for the night near a wooded lake near Legsby, south of Market Rasen. A good day's migration.*

*Aug 16th 2011*

*Beatrice set off SSW but not until after 10am, and by 11am she was resting at Wicken Airfield for a couple of hours. Then at 2pm she was stopped again at a wooded lake 8 kms east of Lincoln. I had alerted Tim Mackrill earlier in the day thinking she might have dropped in at Rutland Water but he told me it was rainy and not good weather for migration, so maybe she will visit tomorrow.*

*Aug 17th 2011*

*Beatrice was migrating again by 10am today and at 11am was flying SSW at 67km/hr east of Grantham. She was over Dunstable at 2 PM and an hour later flying over Richmond Park, London, and at 4 PM was over 1000 metres above Morden Park, SW London. An hour later she had come to rest in trees near a small lake just north of South Godstone after a day's migration of 250 kms.*

### Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Common resident and passage migrant.

A summary of the year's sightings appears below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sites	52	21	24	33	24	26	28	24	25	29	25	34
Birds	100	47	55	53	31	35	77	72	62	72	51	77

Alan Ball and Bob Sheppard have kindly provided the data below relating to their Kestrel ringing programme.

Alan noted that 2011 was an excellent year for Kestrels with some good brood sizes and high average brood size of 4.02. The seven failures were all at egg stage – it is generally rare for Kestrels to fail once they get chicks. The importance of this type of study in showing the annual variations in species like the Kestrel are obvious when compared to the maximum monthly counts of submitted records shown above with a peak of just 100 birds in Jan and 77 in the autumn when there would have probably been several thousand Kestrels on the wing in Lincolnshire. The only counts of 10 or more at any locality in the year were 10 at Worlaby Carrs from Feb-Apr and Aug-Oct with 10 at Dunsby Fen on Jul 6th, 10 at Saxby all Saints on Aug 9th and 12 at Martin Fen on Dec 18th.

Number of young	failed	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Not ringed or missed
Broods 2010	7	4	8	19	22	10	0	70	0
Brood 2011	7	1	4	10	20	20	1	63	22
Fledged 2010	-	4	16	57	88	50	0	215	0
Fledged 2011	-	1	8	30	80	100	6	225	Approx 88

### Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

Vagrant. LBRC

A female flew north-east at Willingham by Stow on Apr 6th (DN). This is the earliest Lincolnshire record by 24 days and one of the earliest ever in Britain.

### Merlin *Falco columbarius*

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

A summary of the year's sightings appears below:

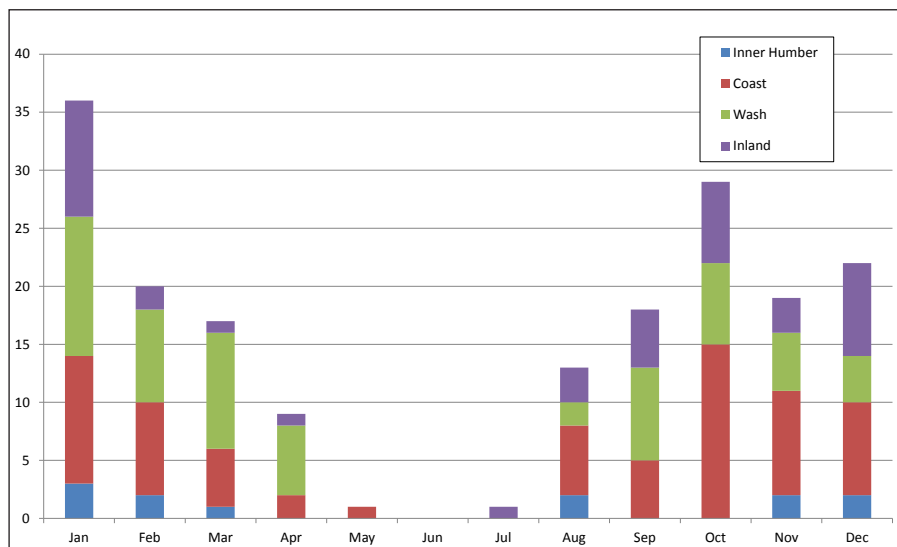
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sites	31	16	14	8	1	-	2	12	17	20	14	21
Birds	36	20	17	9	1	-	2	13	18	29	19	22

Between Jan and Mar there were records from only 13 localities away from The Wash and the coast with single birds at each site. In spite of frequent sightings at Frampton Marsh and Freiston Shore there were never more than two birds recorded on any one date; similarly on the coast most records were of singles with two-three at Grainthorpe Marsh-Horseshoe Point. Inland sites also only held single birds and there appears to have been a real decline in the number of this species occurring in Lincolnshire in recent years. In May singles were at Donna Nook on 1st and 17th with a gap in sightings until Jul 17th when one was on Nocton Fen followed by one at Frampton Marsh from 20th-23rd. Looking at the table below there appears to be a notable coastal passage in Oct but a number of questions can be asked: why is there such a peak in Jan with a rapid drop in inland numbers through the rest of the winter? Why are so few birds being reported from The Wash where they are presumably still numerous? Numbers certainly seem to have declined on the Humber in the last 20 years and this appears to show up in the low numbers recorded in 2011.



**Merlin** *Falco columbarius* (juvenile) Rimac Aug 17th 2011 © Graham Catley

District total counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Inner Humber	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	2
Coast	11	8	5	2	1	-	-	6	5	15	9	8
Wash	12	8	10	6	-	-	-	2	8	7	5	4
Inland	10	2	1	1	-	-	1	3	5	7	3	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>



### 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**

A summary of the year's sightings appears below:

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Sites	15	30	30	27	39	44	3
Birds	24	43	42	34	59	59	3

The table above representing submitted records in 2011 clearly fails to reflect the status of this charismatic species in the county but the increase in numbers through the autumn probably does fall in line with the fledging of young birds from early Aug onwards. Fledged juveniles remain near nest sites for three to four weeks after leaving the nest but gradually disperse thereafter. In 2011 five fledged juveniles from two nests in North Lincs were still within 1km of their natal sites on Sep 10th.

In the north of the county two observers located eight pairs that bred fledging seven broods; one of three, four of two and three of one juvenile; within the remainder of the county there were only reports of three pairs breeding and no details of any young fledged. There is no reason to suspect that the density of birds in the northern study area that compromises arable farmland mixed with scattered woods and copses is any different from the remainder of the county and clearly the species is hugely under-recorded in Lincolnshire where it is calculated there are probably in excess of 80-100 pairs breeding. With the general lack of information relating to breeding birds it is impossible to assess whether the species is still increasing in Lincolnshire or to establish annual changes in abundance. At least 20 breeding sites that held birds between 1988 and 1995 have not been surveyed in recent years but presumably still hold breeding birds. Three Oct records concerned singles at Boultham Mere and Nocton Fen on 3rd with the last at Irnham on 10th.

### 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**

A summary of the year's sightings appears below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sites	40	27	32	34	23	16	19	26	27	35	30	29
Birds	51	33	41	44	35	35	29	39	32	40	37	39

The increase in abundance of Peregrines in Lincolnshire continues with breeding pairs recorded at 15 localities in 2011. Fledging of young in 2011 averaged 2.1 per breeding pair. The pairs at Lincoln Cathedral fledged four young and those at St Wulfram's church, Grantham, three in 2011 ([www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk/pegcam.html](http://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk/pegcam.html)). A wide variety of prey items has been recorded from the above project. Opportunistic feeding is a feature of many raptor species and two Peregrines perching on the beach at Saltfleet on Oct 19th were taking incoming Blackbirds battling over the beach and one was chasing incoming Starlings there on Nov 9th. Typically most records concerned single birds or two together outside the breeding season.

### Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Barton Pits	-	1	4	-	-	4	-	2	-	2	-	1
Baston Fen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Boultham Mere	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	1
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1
Gib Point	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	3	7	4
Marston STW	7	5	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	10	7
Messingham SQ	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Lincs peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	2	2	8	2	2	4	2	5	7	11	10	12
Min. Lincs total	8	6	13	2	2	7	3	10	7	16	25	27

Records were received from 28 sites, down from 39 in 2010. The second hard winter in succession was obviously tough for Water Rail with numbers down some 70% from Jan/Feb in the previous year. There were however some encouraging signs from Nov/Dec, when numbers were only 20% down on 2010, that some recovery had taken place. Breeding was also well down at Barton Pits, the county stronghold, which held only four territories compared to more than 20 in previous years. There was no evidence of fledglings. The only confirmed report of breeding came from Killingholme Haven Pits where a brood was noted on Jun 26th. Only three other sites reported birds during the Apr-Jun breeding period: Barrow Haven, Messingham SQ and Marston STW, so 2011 was a poor breeding season. The only significant reports other than those in the table were three at Tydd St Mary's Marsh on Dec 3rd and six at Huttoft Bank Pit on Dec 6th.



**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus* Hibaldstow Dec 1st 2011 © Russell Hayes

#### **Spotted Crake** *Porzana porzana*

Rare passage migrant. LBRC RBBP

One was at Frampton Marsh from Jul 31st until at least Aug 7th (IE et al).

#### **Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Coastal</i>												
Barton Pits	23	6	24	20	8	-	16	31	22	35	11	9
Humberston-Tetney	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	9	9	17	22	25
Gib Point	35	19	43	22	24	16	15	32	32	43	40	28
Freiston Shore	2	2	8	10	8	1	3	2	2	16	18	5
Frampton Marsh	9	3	6	2	2	2	5	7	24	3	-	2
<i>Inland</i>												
Anwick Fen	5	3	7	9	9	3	7	20	1	18	14	1
Haverholme Park	-	8	3	13	10	12	7	32	18	21	13	18
Holywell Lake	18	14	9	-	-	-	-	-	16	14	28	-

Kirkby on Bain Pits	5	-	5	1	4	5	12	17	15	11	4	9
Marston STW	19	7	27	5	8	7	12	9	6	6	19	30
R Welland, Spalding	68	29	41	13	42	7	9	2	29	41	43	29
R Witham (Chapel Hill-Kirkstead)	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	12	15	16	23	52
Tattershall Lakes CP	44	29	36	28	17	22	33	34	43	51	41	36
Whisby NP	15	7	7	14	3	10	18	30	20	11	25	27

A widespread and common breeding bird. In addition to the tabulated sites, the following locations were reported to hold more than 20 birds in at least one month: Boultham Mere, Ewerby Waithe Common and Swanpool. The River Welland counts include the main river between Spalding and Borough Fen, and the Coronation Channel.



**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* Frampton Marsh Mar 8th 2011 © Paul Sullivan

### Common Coot *Fulica atra*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Coastal</i>												
Barton Pits	254	79	257	249	197	235	627	556	880	800	827	909
Gib Point	56	62	53	30	32	28	16	16	12	8	11	10
Frampton Marsh	6	65	61	110	25	27	20	17	17	25	-	8
<i>Inland</i>												
Boultham Mere	7	-	-	27	-	35	57	79	53	34	36	32
Boultham Park Lake	29	21	-	17	-	16	20	16	-	14	13	23
Coronation Channel	355	223	123	101	63	65	105	-	181	221	219	-
Covenham Res	22	65	45	35	45	32	41	28	37	200	131	54
Kirkby on Bain Pits	91	62	51	33	36	51	165	106	130	76	89	123
North Hykeham Pits	157	86	50	38	17	46	102	259	236	437	462	616
Norton Disney Quarry	-	-	-	-	14	43	67	175	163	58	40	44

Swanholme Lakes	42	20	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62	110
Tattershall Lakes CP359	293	157	75	60	108	186	227	268	299	319	408	
Thurlby Sand Pit	324	46	-	-	-	-	-	357	177	173	198	
Whisby NP	165	223	186	80	95	135	241	204	156	145	180	161

Present within the county throughout the year and a common breeding bird. After low numbers in the cold weather of Dec 2010, a return to normal with a typical set of monthly counts. All major sites are tabulated, including those with counts of over 200 birds except for Bagmoor/Winterton Floods, which had 250 on Jan 3rd, and two other sites with counts of over 100: Messingham SQ and the River Witham (Chapel Hill-Kirkstead).

### Common Crane *Grus grus*

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

A very good year for this species with reports from about 32 different sites involving perhaps 18 or even as many as 30 birds. The propensity of Cranes to cover large distances daily makes accurate assessment difficult. Two birds, presumed to be a Yorkshire-breeding pair, were seen fairly frequently in the north-west of the county between Mar 1st and Aug 31st. Possibly associated with these were various sequences of records of pairs or individuals wandering widely. Two birds seen over North Somercotes Warren on Apr 4th (SL) moved south down the coast and were seen at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, Gib Point and Frampton Marsh on Apr 6th. They were then seen at Freiston Shore on Apr 7th (JB) and Gib Point on Apr 8th and back at Frampton Marsh on Apr 10th (JB). There were singles at Owston Ferry on Apr 16th and Westwoodside on Apr 17th. Two were at Middlemarsh, Skegness on May 13th (RWf), with two at Appleby and Roxby Carrs on May 24th, then between West Butterwick and Laughton from May 24th-Jun 4th. There were also two at Brampton on Jun 23rd (IB), two at Haxey on Jul 17th (A Brown) and one near Bottesford on Sep 14th; these also seem likely to be connected with the breeding birds. Elsewhere, singles – perhaps the same – were at Kirkby Moor (RT) and flying south at Theddlethorpe All Saints on Mar 6th. Another bird flew west towards Lincoln from Short Ferry on Mar 27th (MLa). A different bird was at Gib Point on Apr 21st-22nd (GW). One was at Alkborough Flats on May 31st (ND) and what was likely the same bird, possibly in its second calendar year, turned up at Saxby All Saints on Jun 7th (TCL, GPC), staying in the Ancholme valley all summer until Sep 6th and then usually feeding in fields near Garthorpe from Sep 18th-Oct 14th and near Blacktoft Sands, Yorkshire from Oct 16th-Nov 5th, but roosting to Nov 3rd at least, at Alkborough Flats where it sometimes was present during the day (GPC, ND, ACBH et al). It was also seen at nearby West Halton on Oct 10th, and back at Worlaby Carrs and Bonby Carrs on Sep 22nd (GPC). Other records in the autumn were two at Gib Point on Aug 19th (RTf) and two in the Kirkby on Bain area on Sep 11th-12th (DRB) .



Common Cranes *Grus grus*  
West Butterwick May 26th 2011  
© Roy Harvey



Common Crane *Grus grus*  
Saxby Jun 28th 2011  
© Russell Hayes



## Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Very common coastal passage migrant/winter visitor and fairly common resident. Less common inland, but now breeds in small numbers

WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
Read's Island	-	-	11	30	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleethorpes	-	-	450	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetney Haven - Humberston Fitties	-	-	120	-	300	-	-	700	-	-	180	-
Horseshoe Point - Tetney Haven	-	-	713	-	665	750	-	1600	-	-	1800	-
Saltfleet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	179	123	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	108	27	131	123	70
<i>Humber totals</i>	-	-	1294	30	987	750	-	2408	27	310	2226	70
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gib Point	7200	674	205	462	344	45	308	2093	155	231	551	236
Wainfleet	2270	1802	1260	652	4	72	-	-	-	-	-	-
Friskney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrangle	200	60	44	-	277	270	512	875	305	3780	-	2400
Leverton	450	513	261	645	682	861	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benington	-	-	-	13	4	8	8	1	-	-	-	60
Butterwick	-	-	12	8	16	10	13	-	-	-	78	640
Freiston Shore	1100	1508	609	632	6	405	2210	1209	1700	2000	1600	1801
Wirham	-	80	9	8	19	2	150	331	-	200	-	-
Frampton Marsh	2500	122	92	176	247	245	154	73	77	800	574	850
Kirton	-	6	16	16	15	6	2	16	-	-	-	-
Welland	1700	1715	860	645	28	-	310	-	-	-	45	-
Holbeach	500	280	130	20	9	101	450	3	400	15	1000	-
Dawsmere	3600	4000	3000	833	500	55	-	659	2500	-	2000	-
Gedney	-	4	21	47	13	15	20	16	1	-	-	3
Terrington	-	9	26	26	296	-	659	44	1	-	-	-
<i>Wash totals</i>	19520	10773	6545	4183	2460	2095	4796	5320	5139	7026	5848	5990

The national WeBS count of oystercatchers in the UK has shown a slow decline for the last five years, with numbers on Scottish sites showing the quickest rates of decline. Birds are present in The Wash in all months of the year but occur in the greatest numbers from Aug-Mar. However, the freezing conditions at the end of Dec 2010 produced the highest counts from all Lincolnshire coastal sites in Jan 2011 with a total of 26028 for the entire The Wash, with the Lincolnshire sectors holding 19520 birds. This contrasts with recent low counts thought to be associated with human over-exploitation of shellfish in the region. Counts in the Humber mirror those in The Wash with peaks also in Jan 2011. The table below shows the WeBS count data for the last eight years.

WeBS totals for district	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11
The Wash	28795	16395	18677	22963	19626	17788	19232	26028
The Humber	3305	(4582)	(3468)	2942	(3121)	(2746)	4503	(6104)

Breeding was confirmed at the following sites with the number of pairs where known afterwards: Frampton Marsh 19, Freiston Shore 21, Tetney Marsh 10, Donna Nook 3, Whisby NP 2, Nornaby 1, Bardney Dairies 1, Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits 2, Kirton in Lindsey 1, Howden's Pullover, Wrangle Bank, Middlemarsh Farm, Skegness 1, Benington Marsh, Wroot 1, Marston STW 1 and Gib Point 3.



Oystercatchers *Haematopus ostralegus* Marston STW Mar 23rd 2011 © David Morison

### *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	-	1	486	160	61	140	872	1271	1458	984	285	19
Gib Point	-	-	30	65	29	56	53	40	9	5	1	1
Freiston Shore	-	-	27	50	45	51	50	-	2	-	1	-
Frampton Marsh	-	3	41	62	24	14	20	3	5	-	-	-
Non WeBS peak counts												
Alkborough Flats	-	-	13	26	275	12	-	30	114	-	-	1
Killingholme	-	-	38	5	12	6	10	10	-	-	-	-
Gib Point	2	32	67	152	73	59	32	40	9	6	1	2
Kirkby on Bain Pits	-	-	4	9	16	7	5	-	-	-	-	-
Messingham SQ	-	-	7	10	3	6	2	-	-	-	-	-

Despite the relatively hard weather at the beginning of the year, 85 wintering birds were at South Ferriby on Feb 13th. The first three arrived at Frampton Marsh on Feb 25th and by Mar 6th there were 402 on Read's Island. Birds started to come in more widely with two at Freiston Shore on Mar 9th, four at Gib Point on Mar 11th and 18 at Killingholme Pits on Mar 12th. Inland there were two at Kirkby on Bain Pits from Mar 14th and seven at Messingham SQ on Mar 27th. Arriving birds quickly settled down to breed and early nests were reported at Barton Pits on Apr 15th. Two migrants were reported at Covenham Res on Apr 29th. The total number of breeding pairs was down from 382 pairs in 2010 to around 284 pairs in 2011 and breeding success was also poor due to the relatively dry conditions which reduced feeding opportunities. Pairs at the sites listed in the table are followed by 2010 pairs in brackets. Read's Island 70 (250) but raised no young, Alkborough Flats 85 nests (five) but all were predated. At Killingholme three pairs (none) raised six young, at Gib Point 25 pairs (17) raised 39 young. At Freiston Shore 48 (39) and Frampton Marsh nine (44) both had very poor breeding success due to predation. Inland at Kirkby on Bain Pits four pairs (one) raised eight young and at Messingham SQ no pairs bred (two). 43 pairs bred at a minimum of ten other sites with no significant success reported. There was a significant autumn flock at Read's Island with a peak of 1458 recorded there on Sep 3rd. Migration away from the usual sites was fairly thin and surprisingly the only record on the east coast between Grimsby and Skegness was two seen from a sea watch at Trusthorpe on Sep 6th. The advent of a relatively mild early winter saw birds wintering at South Ferriby in much greater numbers and later than reported in recent years. With 712 on Oct 9th, 971 on Nov 5th and 157 on Dec 4th. The latest recorded were 19 at Read's Island on Dec 18th.



Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* Rosper Road Pools May 7th 2011 © Graham Catley



Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* Rosper Road Pools May 7th 2011 © Graham Catley



Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* Rosper Road Pools May 3rd 2011 © Graham Catley



Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* Rosper Road Pools May 7th 2011 © Graham Catley

**Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus***

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

A single bird found in the company of Whimbrel was at Gib Point on May 6th, (KMW, NAL et al).

**Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola***

Vagrant. BBRC

One was at Rosper Road Pools from Apr 27th until May 7th (TCL et al). Accepted by BBRC, for a finders report please see page 188.

There are four previous accepted Lincolnshire records:

1827	Branston Hall, near Lincoln, shot, Aug 15th	(Yarrell, 1845; Cordeaux, 1872; F. L. Blathwayt, Zoologist 1912: 62; Smith & Cornwallis, 1955; Lorand & Atkin, 198)
1973	Gib Point, adult, May 21st	(F. R. Smith and the Rarities Committee, British Birds 67: 325)
1981	Donna Nook, adult, Jul 11th	(M. J. Rogers and the Rarities Committee, British Birds 75: 499)
2009	Frampton Marsh, adult, Aug 8th-9th	(Birding World 22 (8): 313, photo; N. Hudson and the Rarities Committee, British Birds 103: 580)

**Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius***

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant since 1950.

Peak monthly counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Alkborough Flats	1	2	6	-	15	33	3	1
Gib Point	1	2	2	4	5	3	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	-	5	3	2	-
Frampton Marsh	6	16	12	8	5	10	6	-
Marston STW	1	2	3	3	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain Pits	5	4	6	4	2	1	-	-
Blackmoor Bridge	4	10	14	-	1	-	-	-
Kirton in Lindsey	-	8	6	7	3	-	-	-
Lincs peak counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
No. of sites 2011	11	25	15	10	10	8	4	1
Min. Lincs total	28	79	64	40	41	55	12	1

The first birds of the year were singles at Alkborough Flats and Marston STW on Mar 13th; 12 days later than the first in 2010. The next was at Whisby Quarry silt lagoon on Mar 19th. The rush started around Mar 24th from when a more general arrival occurred. Birds were reported from 39 sites, well up on the previous year and breeding was confirmed at seven sites and probably took place at a further eleven. In all some 34 pairs attempted to breed but proven success was low with only seven juveniles reported fledged. The key breeding sites, followed by the number of pairs were: Frampton Marsh seven, Kirton in Lindsey four, Blackmoor Bridge three, Kirkby on Bain Pits three, Alkborough Flats two, Gib Point two and Killingholme Haven two. 14 other sites held a single pair. Peak spring counts were at Frampton Marsh with 16 on Apr 10th, while in autumn Alkborough Flats had 33 on Aug 4th. The latest record was one at Alkborough Flats on Oct 3rd.

**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	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	491	450	2	-	-
Cleethorpes North Promenade - Anthony's Bank	44	55	-	185	85	35	80	22	34	-	-	-
Horseshoe Point-Tetney Haven	-	-	-	-	680	148	-	230	-	-	-	-
Saltfleet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	2	-



**Dotterel** *Charadrium morinellus* Tetney Lock Apr 21st 2011 © Russell Hayes



**Dotterel** *Charadrium morinellus* Tetney Lock Apr 24th 2011 © Roy Harvey





**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus* Rimac Aug 24th 2011 © Graham Catley



**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus* Rimac Aug 22nd 2011 © Roy Harvey



Theddlethorpe-Saltfleetby NNR	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	21	67	4	7	-
Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe North End	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	298	286	-	8	-
Gib Point	-	44	66	94	24	31	31	55	4	-	-	-
Wainfleet	-	-	-	-	330	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leverton	-	-	-	2	447	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Butterwick	-	-	-	-	270	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Freiston	24	50	-	1	20	3	4	60	80	50	20	0
Witham	-	-	-	6	58	-	-	7	4	40	51	4
Frampton Marsh	2	7	10	-	210	-	-	-	35	154	113	0
Terrington	-	1	2	4	55	-	-	31	121	3	-	-
Non WeBS peak counts												
Goxhill Haven	-	41	28	89	-	-	-	13	3	-	28	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	20	18	-	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR												
Gib Point	9	44	124	233	370	50	64	220	72	30	-	12
Freiston Shore	24	50	7	20	58	3	3	60	80	50	51	12
Witham Mouth	-	-	1	6	58	-	-	7	-	250	51	4
Frampton Marsh	2	8	12	100	400	16	6	14	21	10	10	1

Records in Jan were scarce with small numbers wintering in The Wash including 21 at Freiston Shore on 1st and 24 on 23rd with nine at Gib Point on 10th. Away from The Wash there were 12 at Pyewipe, Grimsby on Jan 10th and 44 at Cleethorpes on Jan 13th. There was a slight increase in records throughout Feb with 41 at Goxhill Marsh, c50 at Freiston Shore, 37 at Gib Point on Feb 20th and 55 at Cleethorpes on Feb 28th. Spring passage involving mainly *tundrae* birds was recorded at Gib Point from mid-month with 98 on 12th, 124 on 17th, 107 on 18th and 85 on Mar 26th. Elsewhere counts were considerably lower with the only double figure counts being 28 at Goxhill on Mar 2nd and 12 at Frampton Marsh on Mar 12th. Peak spring passage occurred in Apr with peak counts of 20 at Freiston Shore on Apr 17th, 50 at Read's Island on Apr 17th, 100 at Frampton on Apr 22nd, 185 at Cleethorpes on Apr 28th and 136 at Gib Point on Apr 28th and 233 there on Apr 29th. Inland birds included up to eight at Blackmoor Bridge on Apr 18th, singles at Covenham Res on Apr 22nd, Thurlby Sand Pit on Apr 9th, Whisby NP on Apr 11th and up to two at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Apr 17th. Breeding was recorded at Freiston Shore with three pairs, Frampton Marsh with one pair, Gib Point, Howden's Pullover, three pairs at Donna Nook, one pair at Middlemarsh Skegness, one pair at Rowson's Farm, Wainfleet and Killingholme Haven Pits. Autumn records were widespread with the following notable peak counts 107 at Gib Point on Aug 14th and 220 there on Aug 28th, 380 at Cleethorpes on Aug 17th, c400 at Horseshoe Point on Aug 17th, c400 at Theddlethorpe St Helen on Aug 17th, c500 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Aug 17th, 491 at Read's Island on Aug 21st and 531 on Sep 10th, 630 at Killingholme Haven Pits on Aug 31st, 80 at Freiston Shore on Sep 11th, c250 at Witham Mouth on Oct 7th and c150 at Frampton Marsh on Oct 16th.

### Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

#### Vagrant. LBRC

A juvenile was at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR from Aug 22nd-25th (LHa, RHa et al). The last record of Kentish Plover in Lincolnshire was a female at Saltfleetby Jun 5th-6th 1996. For a finders report see page 188.

### Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare/scarc passage migrant, mainly spring.

All records but one were in the spring with the first being a single at Horseshoe Point on Apr 19th. A well watched trip of six birds was at Tetney Lock from Apr 22nd-23rd, increasing to seven birds by the 25th and remaining until at least Apr 30th. One was at Appleby Carrs and Donna Nook on Apr 25th and finally four birds, including a single female were in a large pea field near Grasby Top from Apr 30th-May 3rd. The only autumn record was a single at Horseshoe Point on Oct 9th.

## European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

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

WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gib Point	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	60	108
Wainfleet	297	-	194	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrangle	-	-	286	-	-	-	65	65	560	675	-	265
Leverton	-	-	176	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benington	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	1600	180	-
Freiston	25	35	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	600	650
Witham	145	-	400	50	-	-	18	-	200	-	1000	1250
Frampton Marsh	300	240	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	67	47
Kirton Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	450	335	-
Welland	-	201	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1865	-
Holbeach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	550	-
Dawsmere	3000	670	-	-	-	-	-	200	-	1200	-	-
Gedney	-	120	-	-	-	-	-	320	135	290	3110	2
Terrington	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	13	4	315	-	161
<i>Wash WeBS totals</i>	<i>3767</i>	<i>1271</i>	<i>1056</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>1199</i>	<i>4843</i>	<i>7767</i>	<i>2483</i>

### Non WeBS peak counts

Alkborough Flats	-	1960	90	-	11	-	11	-	-	7200	14500	10000
Read's Island Flats	250	200	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1200	1600	250
Tetney Marsh	-	-	130	-	-	-	-	90	2500	-	152	2280
Donna Nook	65	500	160	-	-	-	2	160	450	2300	1000	570
Howden's Pullover	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	78	-	650	400	260
Gib Point	240	350	105	43	30	1	23	360	180	1050	1455	4000
Nocton Fen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4000	2000	150
Freiston Shore	280	35	500	220	-	1	18	1	200	-	1000	3300
Witham Mouth	145	-	400	150	-	-	18	-	-	-	10000	1250
Frampton Marsh	2000	3000	2500	400	25	-	175	220	200	150	600	5000

Golden Plovers are present in the Humber Estuary and The Wash during autumn passage and over the winter period with peak counts between Aug-Feb. Recent national WeBS counts have shown a significant fall in this species fortunes with the national indices showing sharp declines, which has been attributed to recent colder than average winters. However, the WeBS recording system is likely to miss a large percentage of the populations over-wintering in the Lincolnshire agricultural landscape. Here there were peak counts between Oct-Nov of 1690 at Anwick Fen on Oct 18th and 3184 on Oct 29th, c2000 at Nocton Fen on Oct 26th, c4000 on Oct 28th and c2000 on Nov 6th and c2000 at Branston Fen on Oct 29th.

## 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
<i>The Humber</i>												
Read's Island Flats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	45	40	3
Horseshoe Point-												
Tetney Haven	-	-	162	-	445	30	-	35	-	-	700	-
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gib Point	1100	3045	65	75	-	3	24	176	80	43	23	84
Wainfleet	947	648	1137	1278	492	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrangle	723	100	942	-	873	20	-	750	620	796	-	1070
Leverton	411	118	122	241	1222	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benington	-	4	-	1	16	-	1	-	-	60	-	-
Butterwick	35	-	-	17	14	-	15	12	-	-	-	22
Freiston	-	26	-	12	175	80	2	23	600	18	393	45
Witham	175	13	150	25	30	-	1	8	20	50	60	125
Frampton Marsh	105	78	278	461	25	2	9	574	140	0	59	292

Welland	723	100	942	-	873	20	-	750	620	796	0	1070
Holbeach	-	120	52	68	60	-	-	20	200	235	35	-
Dawsmere	-	-	110	-	10	-	-	15	-	-	-	-
Gedney	180	362	1321	1640	325	32	-	160	25	146	-	216
Terrington	-	145	13	85	126	-	5	11	20	185	-	12
Wash totals	4399	4759	5132	3903	4241	157	57	2499	2325	2329	570	2936

Grey Plovers are present in large number in The Wash throughout most months of the year, with spring and autumn passage periods coinciding with the greatest numbers, from Mar-May and Aug-Oct. The Wash is one of the most important sites for this species in the UK with the WeBS mean counts remaining stable for the past five years. It is estimated that The Wash and Dengie Flats, Essex supports approximately half the British Grey Plover population. WeBS counts for all areas within the Lincolnshire Wash are tabulated above, with only Gib Point recording significant peak counts that differed from the WeBS data and these are shown below.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	1500	3045	3060	2130	270	83	24	1400	2900	2520	600	618

Single inland birds were recorded at RAF Waddington Apr 5th, Deeping Lakes on Apr 22nd, Blackmoor Bridge on Apr 29th and at Messingham SQ from Sep 13th-18th.

### 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
Read's Island Flats	850	650	-	10	8	-	-	6	-	275	2300	650
Gib Point	133	136	13	16	14	10	-	8	4	10	385	50
Wrangle	23	-	-	-	2	2	-	4	10	56	-	68
Benington	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120	210	27
Butterwick	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	25	-	-	86	-
Freiston	831	770	-	13	31	38	3	1	80	30	775	804
Witham	1000	650	500	-	12	-	-	-	12	400	2000	900
Frampton Marsh	831	2478	125	41	51	53	81	32	8	2	1234	127
Kirton Marsh	32	150	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	150	166	32
Welland	1170	5000	-	25	2	-	2	-	-	-	4484	-
Holbeach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	168	160	-
Dawsmere	40	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	-	-
Gedney	1270	1090	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	1230	117
Terrington	-	2050	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	-	116

#### Non WeBS peak counts

##### Coastal

Alkborough Flats	-	3600	-	48	-	-	126	-	-	1180	5500	8000
Anwick Fen	45	11	20	6	6	2	-	386	-	520	350	1
Barton Pits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	12	2000	14
Goxhill Marsh	1100	1200	680	-	-	-	-	-	-	147	2500	248
Donna Nook	220	750	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	138	2240	350
Gib Point	700	1500	250	51	18	39	95	90	120	250	839	678
Freiston Shore	831	750	-	23	18	38	18	25	125	400	1000	600
Frampton Marsh	2000	2400	1500	50	47	75	65	15	71	47	1000	2000

##### Inland

Manby Flashes	-	-	-	4	8	14	25	77	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain/												
Tattershall Thorpe Pits	250	130	12	4	4	70	270	800	500	120	100	250
Fiskerton Fen	-	-	-	12	50	131	125	7	-	2	-	-
Messingham SQ	-	-	-	-	27	18	84	320	320	64	12	127
Metheringham Delph	-	75	35	-	-	-	-	1	35	165	550	7
Nocton Fen	175	200	10	20	10	5	-	50	33	1000	1000	-
Blackmoor Bridge	-	400	93	55	18	-	8	7	-	4	-	2
Marston STW	10	-	28	12	7	2	6	220	120	250	90	27
Whisby NP	76	47	4	6	11	21	26	57	71	45	80	60
Hagnaby Lock	-	8	8	10	3	11	28	350	275	325	40	5

At the end of 2010 relatively few birds were recorded in the county with extreme cold weather forcing birds to move South and West. The first large counts of the year were at Frampton Marsh with c1000 on Jan 15th, c1200 on Jan 18th and c2000 on Jan 24th, elsewhere there were 628 at Gib Point on Jan 8th, c1100 at Goxhill on Jan 17th, 831 at Freiston Shore on Jan 23rd, c950 at Welland on Jan 23rd, c1000 at Witham Mouth on Jan 23rd and c1000 at Willow Tree Fen on Jan 28th. Numbers then increased with notable peak counts of 3600 at Alkborough Flats on Feb 12th, 1500 at Gib Point on Feb 12th, 2400 at Frampton Marsh on Feb 16th and 1750 on Feb 21st, c1200 at Goxhill on Feb 16th, c1900 at Terrington on Feb 20th and c3000 at Welland on Feb 21st. However, numbers tailed off afterwards. Possible and confirmed breeding was recorded at a total of 43 sites, with most records referring to displaying birds. The peak counts were 56 pairs at Frampton Marsh, 32 pairs at Rowson's Farm, Wainfleet, 28 pairs at Middlemarsh, Skegness and 18 pairs at Freiston Shore. Post-breeding flocks were recorded from mid-Jun with 131 at Fiskerton Fen scrapes on Jun 20th, 75 at Frampton Marsh on Jun 27th, 97 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Jul 4th, 126 at Alkborough Flats on Jul 11th, c300 at Messingham SQ on Jul 23rd, 350 at Dorrington Fen on Aug 5th and 386 at Anwick Fen on Aug 14th. Flock sizes increased towards the year's end, with peak counts in Nov of c2500 at Goxhill Marsh on 10th, 5500 at Alkborough Flats, 2240 at Donna Nook and 1500 at Dunsby Fen all on 19th, 2000 at Bardney Pits on 22nd, 1000 at Frampton Marsh on 23rd, 1000 at Freiston Shore on 26th, 1000 at Nocton Fen and 2000 at Witham Mouth on 26th and 1400 at Welland and 2300 at Read's Island on 27th. Significant Dec counts included c8000 at Alkborough Flats on 2nd, c2000 at Frampton Marsh on Dec 10th and c1200 at North Killingholme on 21st.



Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* Frampton Marsh May 4th 2011 © Neil Smith

**Red Knot *Calidris canutus***

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare inland.

WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
Tetney Haven -												
Humberston Fitties	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-
Horseshoe Point-												
Tetney Haven	-	-	1800	-	50	20	-	-	-	-	2100	-
Saltfleet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	375	136	-

### *The Wash*

Gib Point	12000	7000	3000	13400	18	60	662	10700	6041	42	127	247
Wainfleet	4500	8398	22600	21235	1857	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrangle	840	140	2936	-	-	-	15	-	15	1350	-	-
Leverton	2070	1600	2300	1269	1905	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benington	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	165
Butterwick	-	-	-	-	-	-	450	7	-	-	-	900
Freiston	900	425	500	-	-	-	700	500	1000	600	4600	600
Witham	900	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1800	-	2000
Frampton Marsh	-	80	-	-	-	-	15	349	32	15000	-	21
Welland	3000	500	3000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12000	-
Holbeach	1000	-	170	650	-	80	-	500	1500	-	7000	-
Dawsmere	7000	700	3000	-	200	-	-	10	-	1200	-	-
Terrington	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	1	96	-	-	700
<i>Wash totals</i>	<i>32210</i>	<i>18844</i>	<i>37506</i>	<i>36554</i>	<i>3995</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>1842</i>	<i>12067</i>	<i>8684</i>	<i>19992</i>	<i>23727</i>	<i>4633</i>

### Non WeBS peak counts

Donna Nook	700	400	50	3	-	-	3	20	420	420	650	800
Gib Point	12000	7000	10038	28000	6100	200	6000	107000	80000	100000	4000	2500
Freiston Shore	1300	425	500	10	-	-	1000	500	500	5000	2000	2000

The national population has been generally stable over the last 25 years. The Wash is one of the most important wintering sites in the UK for this species, with a significant percentage of the international population wintering in the region. Recent declines in The Wash population had been attributed to over exploitation of shellfish and increased nutrient input. Knot are present in greatest numbers in The Wash throughout the winter months between Aug-Mar, with smaller numbers present throughout the year. There was a single inland record of one at Covenham Res on Sep 29th.

### **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce inland.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Horseshoe Point-Tetney Haven	-	-	-	-	116	122	-	30	-	-	-	-
Tetney Marshes	-	-	-	-	136	122	-	20	150	-	-	41
Clethorpes-North Promenade to Anthony's Bank	-	48	-	-	35	-	45	150	30	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	75	24	-	19	280	85	57	-	-
Theddlethorpe-Saltfleetby	-	-	-	-	-	-	96	7	-	11	9	18
Theddlethorpe St Helen	35	-	-	60	350	20	90	170	220	8	2	8
Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe North End	-	-	-	-	-	-	83	67	87	63	31	8
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	85	-	-	-	164	-	110	400	210	-	-	-
Howden's Pullover	-	-	-	8	3	-	1	6	4	9	13	16
Gib Point	60	164	240	490	2000	675	1500	3650	3450	680	250	402

The sandy beaches between the inner Humber and Gib Point produce the majority of records for this species in Lincolnshire. At Gib Point between Jan-Apr the peak count was 164 on Feb 20th, before heavy spring passage in mid-May with 1660 on May 17th and 2000 on May 18th. The first returning birds arrived in mid-Jul and included c700 on 17th and c1500 on 19th. In Aug there were 2300 on 2nd, 3650 on 3rd, 2090 on 17th and 1400 on 30th, with the high counts in Sep of 1190 on 16th and 1620 on 30th. Numbers quickly dropped off with peak counts of 680 on Oct 26th, 250 on Nov 27th and 402 on Dec 12th. Away from Gib Point peak spring counts included c200 at Anderby Creek on Feb 27th, c120 at Sutton on Sea on Apr 8th, 164 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on May 14th, 136 at Tetney Marsh on May 17th and c350 at Theddlethorpe St Helen on May 24th. Peak autumn counts included 280 at Donna Nook on Aug 1st, c400 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Aug 17th, 150 at Clethorpes on Aug 29th, 150 at North Cotes Sep 2nd, 150 at Tetney Marsh on Sep 2nd and 220 at Theddlethorpe St Helen on Sep 2nd. There was just a single inland record with one bird at Covenham Res on Mar 13th.



**Sanderling** *Calidris alba* Wolla Bank Apr 1st 2011 © Nick Clayton

#### **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

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

Peak counts	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	1	-	2	6	-	1
Read's Island	-	-	-	1	19	5	-	-
Cleethorpes	1	-	-	5	-	2	-	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	2	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Donna Nook	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Covenham Res	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-
Gib Point	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	3	5	5	1	-	-
Frampton Marsh	3	-	1	10	11	4	1	1

There were no overwintering birds recorded in the first winter period. The first birds of the year were two at Paradise Pools, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR from May 3rd-10th and singles at Frampton Marsh from May 3rd. Frampton Marsh was then responsible for the majority of spring records, with birds present until the end of May with a peak count of three on the 8th. Elsewhere in May there were singles at Donna Nook on 17th, Cleethorpes on 19th and Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on 22nd. There were no birds recorded in Jun, with the first returning birds at Frampton Marsh on Jul 1st and Jul 8th-9th. Passage at Frampton Marsh was protracted with peak counts of three on Aug 24th, 10 from Aug 31st-Sep 10th, 11 on Sep 11th, five from Sep 25th-25th, two on Oct 21st, singles until Oct 31st and with a single over-wintering bird recorded on the reserve on Dec 6th. Nearby at Freiston Shore single birds were present from Jul 16th-19th with numbers increasing to a peak count of five on Aug 3rd and the last bird recorded on Oct 20th. Elsewhere three were at Horseshoe Point on Aug 17th, five birds were at Cleethorpes on Aug 31st, two at Covenham Res on Sep 1st and from Sep 20th-24th, four at Gib Point on Sep 1st, a single at Barton Pits on Sep 16th and 29th, singles at Donna Nook on Sep 3rd, from Sep 14th-17th and Oct 16th, two at Bardney Pits on Sep 18th, four at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Sep 21st, two at Messingham SQ on Sep 28th and six at Alkborough Flats on Oct 2nd. A noteworthy count of 19 was recorded at Read's Island on Sep 10th. The last bird of the year was a single bird at Alkborough Flats on Dec 11th.





**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos* and **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*  
Marston STW Sep 6th 2011 © Dave Morison



**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos* Gib Point Oct 10th 2011 © Paul Neale





Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* Toft-Newton Reservoir Aug 16th 2011 © Nick Clayton



Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* Toft-Newton Reservoir Aug 19th 2011 © John Clarkson



**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta* Covenham Res Jul 15th 2011 © John Clarkson

#### **Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

Rare passage migrant. **LBRC**

A record year for the county with seven spring and four autumn records, including an exceptional series of sightings at Frampton Marsh. The first of the year was at Manby Flashes on May 6th (GW), with presumably the same bird still present on 9th. On May 7th two were at Bonby Carrs (ND) and one was at Frampton Marsh (IE *et al*). Here numbers increased during May to a peak of eight on 18th (IE), possibly the highest British site total since 1980. Sightings continued daily until May 23rd. Other spring sightings were two at Alkborough Flats on May 11th (ND) and singles at Gib Point on May 14th (RDn), Toft Newton Res from May 14th-16th (CG, RHa, LHa) and at Kirkby Pits on May 22nd (M Routledge, B Bosisto). In the autumn at Frampton Marsh one was recorded on Aug 1st (PRF) with three on 24th (CG). Singles were also seen at Freiston Shore on Jul 22nd (GF) and at Gib Point on Aug 18th-19th (RDn).

#### **White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis*

Vagrant. **LBRC**

One record. An adult at Alkborough Flats on Sep 26th (ND, WG, KSp, SSp). The second in three years for this site.

#### **Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

Rare autumn migrant, vagrant in spring. **LBRC**

Sightings have considerably increased in recent years, with five individuals in 2009, 10 in 2010 and a record 12 in 2011. To put this in context there were just 10 records in the six years from 1997-2002.

The sole spring record was one at Frampton Marsh from Apr 24th-28th (per JB). The autumn run of 10 sightings (11 individuals) commenced with one at Freiston Shore on Jul 20th (JSa), followed by one at Frampton Marsh from Jul 25th-Aug 6th (IE), with two reported there on 1st and 5th. Freiston Shore held its second of the autumn, a juvenile, on Aug 14th-15th (PS). The third ever record for Marston STW, was an adult was present from Sep 3rd-7th (D Rob et al). A juvenile was at Gib Point from Sep 8th-13th (NAL), at the same time another juvenile was seen at Alkborough Flats on Sep 11th (GPC, ND, WG). The longest staying bird of the year, a juvenile, was at Frampton Marsh from Sep 24th-Oct 9th (per JB) contrasted with the briefest sighting, of one flying over Horseshoe Point on Oct 6th (DJB). What could conceivably have been the same bird, a juvenile, was seen at Gib Point on Oct 7th & 10th (NAL, KMW). The last, another juvenile, seen at Pye's Hall on Oct 25th, was seen to fly off south (GPC, ND).

### Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

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

Peak counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	22	3	1	-
Read's Island	-	-	-	-	12	31	5	-
Killingholme Haven Pit	-	-	-	-	31	16	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	2	33	14	-
Gib Point	1	1	-	2	2	5	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	1	2	9	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	2	-	-	27	30	7	1

Spring passage was light with the first bird of the year at Gib Point from Apr 28th-29th, followed by a single bird at Blackmoor Bridge on May 2nd, with single birds at Gib Point on May 6th and Frampton Marsh from May 6th-10th with two during May 8th-9th. No further sightings were reported until Jul when birds were present at Gib Point from 14th-19th and at Freiston Shore on 21st. Autumn passage began in earnest during Aug, the main sites are tabulated above. The peak counts including 22 at Alkborough Flats on Aug 29th, 27 at Frampton Marsh on Aug 31st, 31 at Killingholme Haven Pit on Aug 31st. In early Sep there were peak counts of 33 at Donna Nook on 3rd and 31 at Read's Island on 10th. Numbers quick fell away during Sep with notable counts away from tabulated sites of four at North Cotes Marsh, three at Saltfleetby Theddlethorpe and four at Tetney Marshes all on Sep 2nd, four at Horseshoe Point increasing to seven on Sep 7th, two were at Theddlethorpe St Helen on 9th and 25 birds at Witham Mouth on Sep 10th. Inland birds included four at Fiskerton Fen scrapes on Sep 10th and a single at Hagnaby Lock on Sep 29th. Six were still present at the Witham Mouth on Sep 11th, two were at Theddlethorpe from Sep 14th-15th, one was at Terrington on Sep 14th, 10 were present at Saltfleet Haven from Sep 20th-24th. The last were all recorded at Frampton Marsh, with two on Oct 23rd and singles on Nov 2nd and Nov 18th.

### Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

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

A poor year. There were no records until Oct when three birds were at the Witham Mouth on Oct 30th, with one there on Nov 3rd. Single reports at Goxhill Haven on Nov 10th and 12th were presumably the same bird. The absence of records in the first winter period may have been due to the harsh winter conditions at the beginning of the year, causing the birds to seek more suitable conditions further south than their usual range.

### 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
<i>The Humber</i>											
Read's Island Flats	-	500	1550	400	5	-	-	435	1000	2400	5200
Killingholme Marshes	-	155	202	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleethorpes North Promenade-											
Anthony's Bank	33	65	15	150	75	0	75	55	200	-	-
Tetney Haven -											
Humberston Fitties	-	-	900	-	746	106	-	350	-	-	260
Saltfleet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	220	12
Theddlethorpe-Saltfleetby	-	-	-	-	-	-	118	36	220	28	126
<i>The Wash</i>											
Gib Point	400	3050	404	340	23	200	1030	4150	101	23	20
Wainfleet	1925	630	1635	2220	3986	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrangle	970	200	2955	-	973	30	920	250	360	2090	-
Leverton	945	435	1654	802	982	-	-	-	-	-	-
Butterwick	55	80	36	10	21	-	6	-	-	-	20
Freiston	703	1204	437	-	25	50	1221	420	920	1200	1550
Witham	2250	550	2000	1250	300	-	25	12	1450	1850	4200
Frampton Marsh	15	319	1057	200	250	-	1230	900	550	550	500

Welland	1000	400	130	400	20	-	90	-	-	-	110
Holbeach	1500	700	410	110	-	16	-	-	300	200	400
Dawsmere	500	-	1000	14	-	-	800	918	-	450	-
Gedney	660	995	3020	3975	78	-	10	-	330	270	-
Terrington	-	290	81	118	31	-	-	25	172	130	-
<i>Wash totals</i>	<i>10923</i>	<i>8853</i>	<i>14819</i>	<i>9439</i>	<i>6689</i>	<i>296</i>	<i>5332</i>	<i>6675</i>	<i>4183</i>	<i>6763</i>	<i>6800</i>

#### Non WeBS peak counts

Alkborough Flats	-	258	-	-	-	-	13	1	50	536	-
Tetney Marshes	-	-	960	-	1006	106	-	420	-	6	340
Gib Point	785	3050	2800	2340	2000	290	4000	4150	7370	4000	1500
Freiston Shore	2250	1200	2000	1000	200	50	2000	4000	1450	1850	3000
Witham Mouth	-	2000	1250	300	-	1800	260	-	1850	4200	1800

The Wash is an internationally important site for both wintering birds (of the race *alpina*) and for passage birds, (including the race *schinzii*). The table above shows monthly WeBS counts for the Lincolnshire side of The Wash which supports nearly half of the birds recorded over the whole region and making it the fourth most important site for this species in Britain. The numbers recorded in the Humber were far lower with notable counts of c2200 at Pyewipe, Grimsby on Jan 7th, c500 at Read's Island on Feb 13th and 1550 on Mar 13th. Away from the coast in the first half of the year inland birds included singles at Toft Newton Res on Jan 17th, Baston-Langtoft Pits on Apr 19th, Hagnaby Lock on Apr 24th, Whisby NP on May 5th and Whisby Quarry on May 5th. Five were at Covenham Res on Jan 2nd, at Blackmoor Bridge there were two on Feb 20th and on Mar 12th, four were at Messingham SQ from Feb 24th-25th with five on May 1st, eight were at Fiskerton Fen scrapes on May 2nd with five on May 16th, 22 were at Willow Tree Fen on Mar 17th, six at Kirton in Lindsey on May 7th, and six on May 9th and finally 18 were at Toft Newton Res on May 24th. Inland birds in the second half of the year included a single at Hagnaby Lock from Jul 13th-30th and another from Aug 8th-9th, up to seven birds were at Manby Flashes on Aug 6th and two were there on Sep 17th, two were at Covenham Res on Aug 8th, with singles on Sep 18th and Oct 14th, six were at Toft Newton Res on Aug 9th, with five on Aug 15th and 13 on Sep 26th, a single was at Whisby NP from Sep 2nd-3rd and another was at Messingham SQ on Oct 9th.



Dunlin *Calidris alpina* Covenham Res Sep 18th 2011 © Nick Clayton

### **Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis***

Vagrant. LBRC

Two adults were at Horseshoe Point on Aug 14th (CCG, WG). A juvenile was at Donna Nook on Sep 13th (R Martin et al); presumably this bird then moved south to Saltfleet and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 14th, where it was joined by a second juvenile from Sep 19th-22nd, with both birds frequently commuting between Saltfleet Haven and Rimac. Finally, two juveniles were present at Alkborough Flats on Oct 2nd (WG).

### **Ruff *Philomachus pugnax***

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	2	1	1	-	2	21	72	40	22	20
Donna Nook	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	58	13	10	-
Gib Point	-	1	4	7	2	6	13	22	29	9	2	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	26	6	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	12	20	28	28	15	2	20	35	142	75	26	23
Manby Flashes	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	45	63	-	-	-



**Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* Marston STW Sep 29th 2011 © David Morison**

During the first winter period a single was present at Donna Nook on Jan 2nd and another bird was at Goxhill Marsh on Jan 4th, with two present on Jan 9th. Frampton Marsh made up the majority of sightings for the rest of Jan with three birds present on Jan 15th then up to 12 on Jan 29th, a single was present at Humberston Fitties on Jan 26th. Aside from those present at Frampton Marsh, a single bird was at Humberston Fitties again on Feb 3rd and singles were at Tetney Marsh on Feb 19th and 25th making up the sightings in Feb. During Mar the high count of 28 at Frampton came on Mar 4th. Records at other sites started to pick up, but counts were all in low single figures, the highest being five at Witham Mouth on Mar 18th and four at Blackmoor Bridge on 26th. The only birds present in Apr not tabulated were singles at Toft Newton Res on Apr 4th and at Kirton in Lindsey on Apr 18th and 21st. The only non tabulated site to have Ruff in May was Kirkby on Bain Pits, with one on 4th.

There were none anywhere in the county between May 29th-Jun 19th when two turned up at Messingham SQ. After then birds become regular once more at Frampton Marsh. Small numbers were at other sites in Jun-Jul and increased in Aug, with a peak at sites not tabulated of 21 at Barton Pits on 30th. Peak passage in 2011 occurred during Sep, with birds being widespread in the county, with highest counts at Frampton Marsh, Alkborough Flats, Manby Flashes and Donna Nook. Passage tailed off in Oct leaving fewer wintering birds from Nov onwards. Away from the



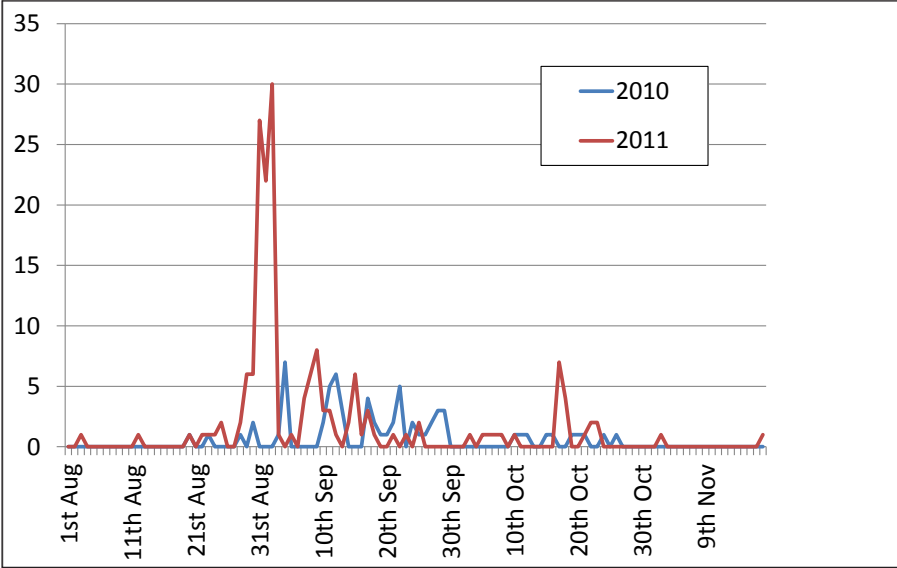


**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis* Rimac Sep 21st 2011 © Graham Catley



**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis* Rimac Sep 21st 2011 © Graham Catley

main sites Humberston Fitties recorded birds occasionally during Nov-Dec with a peak of four on Nov 28th, two were at Howden's Pullover and Saltfleet on Nov 20th and Tetney Marsh had one on Nov 12th, with four there on Dec 6th.



Graph showing Ruff passage at Frampton Marsh between Aug-Mid-Nov in 2010 and 2011

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyrtes minimus*

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

A poor year with records from just 14 sites. Particularly scarce in the first winter period with single birds from Wrangle Bank, Barton Pits and Willowtree Fen in Jan and two in Mar: at Whisby Quarry, and the last of the period at Frampton Marsh on 24th. There were no further records until Sep 27th, when one was seen at Alkborough Flats. Single birds were then reported at 11 coastal and inland sites through Oct to the end of the year, however, the only location holding more than one was Donna Nook, where there were three on Nov 15th and six on Dec 8th.

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Rare breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max no. of birds	62	50	121	72	10	4	40	83	87	197	153	103
No. Sites	18	13	25	21	5	4	10	15	22	30	26	20

Although records were widespread outside the breeding season there were no large counts this year. The favoured site was Frampton Marsh, which held up to 65, the highest count of the year, on Nov 5th. Further double figure counts here were 12 on Mar 12th with several in each month from Jul-Dec. In the first winter period double figure counts also came from, Goxhill Marsh, with 18 on Jan 17th, Laughton Forest, 24 on Feb 16th and 25 on Mar 4th, Willowtree Fen, 16 on Mar 30th and Gib Point, 30 on Apr 16th. Breeding reports came from two sites. At Messingham village a pair was reported breeding with the same or another possible pair at Messingham SQ and one pair bred at Frampton Marsh. From the autumn onwards double figure counts were more frequently reported, coming from Manby Flashes, 11 on Aug 17th, West Ashby Pits, 11 on Sep 16th, Marston STW 22 in Oct, 12 on Nov 3rd and 32 on Nov 9th, Alkborough Flats, 28 on Oct 7th, Messingham SQ, 20 on Oct 13th and 10 on Nov 15th, Whisby NP, 13 on Nov 9th, Kirkby on Bain Pits, 10 on Dec 3rd, Humberston Fitties, 10 on Dec 4th and at Hagnaby Fen with up to 27 in Dec.



## Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

Vagrant. BBRC

A juvenile was at Freiston Shore from Sep 26th–Oct 4th (KDR) where it spent the majority of its time feeding on the lagoon near the hide; it was then briefly seen at Frampton Marsh on Oct 4th (JB) the 8th county record. Accepted by BBRC, for a finders report see page 193.

## Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	21	14	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	12	6

Following on from the good numbers at the end of 2010 the year started off with the highest count of 21 at Gib Point on Jan 1st. Seven at Theddlethorpe the following day suggested further continental immigrants, however numbers quickly tailed off to generally singles at most sites from then on. During Apr–Jul there were reports from 11 sites, with breeding or roding birds reported from just three locations, at Keb Wood near Scunthorpe, Kirkby Moor and Laughton Forest. Autumn migration commenced with one at Wasp's Nest, Nocton Fen on Oct 7th, with others at Donna Nook and Saltfleet the following day. At Gib Point the first bird appeared on Oct 13th with three on Oct 27th. There was little sign of any large movements as the highest concentrations until the end of the year were six at Donna Nook, eight at Grainthorpe Marsh on Nov 11th and 12 at Gib Point on Nov 13th.

## 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
Freiston	26	25	6	-	-	-	24	26	1930	2887	303	80
Witham	10	-	-	1	-	-	55	-	18	-	-	50
Frampton Marsh	3340	977	45	2	-	-	-	250	-	-	-	-
Welland	-	-	-	-	-	-	550	-	-	-	-	-
Gedney	273	17	3	-	-	-	251	1076	2500	1600	-	1

### Non WeBS peak counts

Alkborough Flats	-	-	33	19	13	-	126	134	55	40	61	92
Read's Island	-	-	24	149	-	-	-	1	3	69	84	78
Barton Pits	-	-	-	22	1	34	23	2	7	40	-	-
Immingham Docks	37	242	160	37	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
Killingholme Haven Pits	-	-	238	80	1	1	1000	4300	4600	4300	-	-
Gib Point	-	-	-	9	4	10	100	136	164	23	2	1

### Inland

Manby Flashes	-	-	2	2	2	22	65	20	2	-	-	1
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Nationally, WeBS counts have shown a steady increase with numbers in Lincolnshire reflecting this trend. Birds of Icelandic origin arrive in Lincolnshire during Jul, with numbers increasing and peaking between Sep–Oct. Peak autumn counts included c1000 at Frampton Marsh from Aug 16th–31st, c2500 at Holbeach Range on Sep 1st, c1500 at Gedney on Sep 11th and c1600 on Oct 15th, at Freiston Shore c1100 on Sep 11th, c2000 on Oct 1st and 1887 on Oct 15th. At Killingholme Haven Pits the first big count of the year was c1000 on Jul 13th, which increased to c4300 on Aug 31st, 4600 on Sep 10th and c3600 on Oct 5th. A single colour-ringed bird at Chowder Ness, Barton Pits on Aug 8th was originally ringed in Northern Ireland and a count of c600 at Freiston Shore on Oct 2nd contained eight colour-ringed birds of Icelandic origin. Inland birds included singles at Hagnaby Lock on Feb 2nd and Jul 7th, Messingham SQ from Apr 23rd–27th, Blackmoor Bridge from Mar 24th–26th, Baston–Langtoft Pits on Apr 17th, Kirkby on Bain Pits on May 20th and from Oct 8th–10th, Fiskerton Fen scrapes on Jul 26th, Denton Res on Sep 17th, Marston STW on Sep 8th, Bardney Pits from Oct 26th–31st and on Nov 27th. Small inland parties included 10 at Willow Tree Fen on Apr 8th, four at Boultham Mere on Jul 7th, six at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Jul 7th, with two from Oct 7th–10th and 12 at Hagnaby Lock on Aug 6th. Manby Flashes held notable inland counts which have been tabulated.



Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* Freiston Shore Sep 30th 2011 © Russell Hayes



Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* Freiston Shore Oct 4th 2011 © Paul Sullivan



**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* RSPB Freiston Shore Oct 2nd 2011 © Graham Catley



**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* Freiston Shore Oct 2nd 2011  
**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* and **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*  
 Freiston Shore Oct 2nd 2011 © Graham Catley



**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa* Marston STW Sep 8th 2011 © David Morison

### Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce inland.

WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
Read's Island	-	-	2	9	-	-	-	6	100	90	40	12
Goxhill Marsh	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-
Cleethorpes North												
Promenade-Anthony's Bank	75	0	140	75	-	-	-	115	120	-	-	-
Horseshoe Point-												
Tetney Haven	-	-	542		160	-	-	30	-	-	771	-
Saltfleet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	60	-
Theddlethorpe-Saltfleetby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	12	15	7	21
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gib Point	200	5140	8	1	170	200	4	-	10	-	2	19
Wainfleet	6000	6582	2604	348	327	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrangle	1800	350	-	-	20	-	40	900	1125	2000	-	2117
Leverton	3160	3600	85	28	509	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benington	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	91
Freiston Shore	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	5	5	-	-
Witham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	55
Frampton Marsh	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Welland	35		45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holbeach	-	-	-	-	-	-	130	-	-	-	-	-
Dawsmere	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-
Terrington	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
<i>Wash totals</i>	11195	15687	2744	377	1026	200	174	905	1140	2035	2	2298
Non WeBS peak counts												
Gib Point	3800	5140	1800	720	800	400	156	1100	6380	2500	1500	200

The WeBS counts for The Wash in Feb registered a high peak of 21687, with over three quarters of these on the Lincolnshire side, the count was second only to 23751 recorded in Mar 2002. The other major sites in Britain (the Alt Estuary and the North Norfolk coast) also registered high peak counts in Feb, suggesting a good year for this species nationally. There were three inland records with two at Bicker Fen on Apr 28th, one at Blackmoor Bridge on May 8th and two at Hagnaby Lock on Sep 22nd.

### Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

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

Peak counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Donna Nook	7	3	-	-	23	2	2
Gib Point	45	23	5	24	46	16	1
Freiston Shore	8	-	-	3	40	85	3
Frampton Marsh	42	36	3	1	2	1	-

The first bird of the year was recorded at Frampton Marsh on Apr 1st followed by two at Gib Point on Apr 9th and singles at Donna Nook and Saltfleet on Apr 11th. From then frequent sightings were recorded with peak counts of eight at Gib Point on Apr 8th, eight at Terrington on Apr 20th and 18 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Apr 22nd. Peak spring passage at Frampton Marsh included 35 on Apr 25th, 42 on Apr 26th and 36 on May 3rd with similar counts at Gib Point including 45 on Apr 30th and 22 on May 3rd. Inland spring passage birds included singles at Bicker Fen on Apr 28th, two at Messingham SQ on Apr 30th, singles at Bonby Carrs on May 8th and at Hagnaby Lock from May 1st-8th, with two at this site on May 10th. Autumn passage started in Jul with significant count of 56 at Theddlethorpe St Helen on 28th, and 24 at Gib Point on 31st. Birds were recorded daily on the coast throughout Aug-Sep with peak counts of 23 at Donna Nook on Aug 1st, 40 at Freiston Shore on Aug 5th and 85 there on Sep 1st, 46 at Gib Point on Aug 31st and 16 on Sep 1st, 16 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Aug 14th and 21 at Terrington on Aug 14th. Inland autumn birds included singles at Appleby Carrs on Aug 8th, Swayfield on Sep 9th and Covenham Res on Sep 20th. The last bird of the year was at Donna Nook on Oct 26th.

### 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
<i>The Humber</i>												
Winteringham Haven	4	29	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Read's Island Flats	141	350	250	130	110	-	-	763	471	710	240	144
Goxhill Marsh	136	209	103	3	1	-	-	92	80	60	81	9
North Killingholme												
Haven Pits	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	3		4	-	-
Killingholme Marshes	15	18	105	-	-	-	-	10	2	61	-	-
Immingham Docks	6	4	5	-	1		-	11	21	3	-	-
Cleethorpes North												
Promenade-Anthony's Bank	7	13	18	9	12	15	13	13	10	-	-	-
Tetney Haven -												
Humberston Fitties	-	-	17	-	2	-	-	24	-	-	14	-
Horseshoe Point-												
Tetney Haven	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	27	-
Saltfleet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53	56	-
Theddlethorpe -Saltfleetby	-	-	-	-	-	-	78	132	73	114	95	57
Theddlethorpe -Mablethorpe												
North End	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	76	-	109	69	68
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gib Point	58	90	196	18	5	20	12	95	64	205	33	41
Wainfleet	822	188	434	961	6	39	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrangle	906	186	415	-	12	70	182	645	707	1736	-	288
Leverton	88	132	148	278	10	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benington	-	99	90	111	-	-	-	108	19	51	-	7
Butterwick	179	95	23	34	100	160	42	115	-	-	93	72
Freiston	701	750	452	36	3	22	251	253	39	8	125	32
Witham	78	80	85	15	15	-	6	55	21	150	36	67
Frampton Marsh	39	98	101	20	5	-	50	101	221	119	95	25
Kirton Marsh	15	57	7	4	-	-	4	7	10	14	28	13
Welland	18	68	330	21	3	-	155	-	-	-	11	-
Holbeach	30	145	135	3	-	2	25	-	48	29	2	-

Dawsmere	77	29	-	3	-	-	-	36	-	100	-	-
Gedney	96	129	60	70	21	46	208	51	72	253	28	31
Terrington	-	281	74	220	74	-	640	165	406	620	-	115
Wash totals	3210	2846	3208	1854	277	370	1815	1758	1907	3497	623	796

The WeBS counts from The Wash for 2010/11 were slightly up on previous years, whereas in the same period the Humber had its lowest counts for seven years. Birds are generally well distributed along the coast with highest counts in Oct when the local population was joined by birds of Scandinavian origin. In the first half of the year peak counts in The Wash included 822 at Wainfleet on Jan 23rd, 750 at Wrangle on Jan 24th, 700 at Freiston Shore on Feb 20th and 434 at Gib Point on Mar 4th. Numbers in the Humber included 400 at Goxhill Marsh on Jan 31st, 350 at Read's Island on Feb 13th and 334 at Pyewipe, Grimsby on Feb 20th. Between Apr-Jul inland birds were recorded at 18 locations with confirmed breeding at one and probable breeding recorded at four sites.

Inland sites peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hagnaby Lock/Fen	-	116	60	40	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	98
Marston STW	23	35	31	2	1	-	17	10	15	4	12	15
Messingham SQ	-	20	21	12	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	-

In the second half of the year peak counts in The Wash included 640 at Terrington on Jul 17th, 400 at Gedney Drove End on Aug 3rd, 425 at Gib Point on Aug 12th, c1000 at Holbeach Range on Sep 1st and 826 at Wrangle on Oct 15th, while in the Humber the highest counts were 763 at Read's Island on Aug 21st and 484 at Winteringham on Nov 5th.



**Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata* Freiston Shore Feb 19th 2011 © Neil Smith

### Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

An over wintering bird was recorded on the The Haven, Boston on Jan 1st and remained in the area until at least Feb 25th. The first returning migrants were at Fiskerton Fen scrapes on Mar 28th, Witham Mouth on Apr 9th and Trent Port, Marton on Apr 14th. After these singles were recorded at 25 sites during spring, with three at Tetney Marsh on Apr 28th, three at Gib Point on May 8th and three at Terrington on May 19th. Autumn passage started in mid-Jul with four birds at Boultham Mere on 13th, four at Gib Point on 18th, seven at Frampton Marsh on 24th and three at Freiston Shore on the 30th. During Aug significant counts included 11 at Killingholme Haven Pits on 6th and 13 at Gib Point on 15th. There were 26 records during Sep. A late bird was at Thurlby Sand Pits on Nov 29th.





**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* Marston STW May 3rd 2011 © David Morison

### Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*

Vagrant. BBRC

An adult was at Whisby NP on Jun 17th (KAM, GHo). Accepted by BBRC, for a finders report please see page 191.

There are four previous accepted Lincolnshire records:

- |      |  |   |
|------|--|---|
| 1970 | Wisbech Sewage-farm and River Nene, Nov 9th-Dec 19th | <i>F. R. Smith and the Rarities Committee, British Birds 65: 350</i>                                    |
| 1971 | Wisbech Sewage-farm, Jun 13th, Jul 29th and Aug 30th | <i>F. R. Smith and the Rarities Committee, British Birds 65: 332</i>                                    |
| 1999 | Holbeach Marsh, adult, Aug 15th-28th                 | <i>Birding World 12 (9): 348, photo; M. J. Rogers and the Rarities Committee, British Birds 93: 535</i> |
| 2007 | Messingham SQ, adult, May 31st May                   | <i>N. Hudson and the Rarities Committee, British Birds 101: 542</i>                                     |

### Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Coastal</i>												
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	6	3	-	-	-
Gib Point	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	6	4	1	1	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	5	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	1	-	2	-	4	13	12	3	-	-	-
<i>Inland</i>												
Manby Flashes	-	-	-	1	1	11	10	9	-	-	-	1
Messingham SQ	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	4	2	2	-	-
Covenham Res	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Fiskerton Fen	-	-	-	1	1	1	5	3	1	-	-	-
Bardney Pits	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	2	2	-	-
Kirkby on Bain Pits	-	-	1	-	2	8	3	5	4	2	-	1





**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularia* Whisby Jun 17th 2011 © Roy Harvey



**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularia* Whisby Jun 17th 2011 © Graham Catley



Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* Whisby Jun 17th 2011 © Graham Catley



Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* Whisby Jun 17th 2011 © Russell Hayes

Thurlby Sand Pit	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4
Whisby NP	1	-	1	1	-	1	4	5	1	3	-
Marston STW	-	1	3	2	-	2	9	8	4	-	-
Hagnaby Lock/Fen	-	-	-	-	-	3	9	10	4	2	-
Deeping Lakes	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

The table above shows monthly minima at selected sites. During the first winter period of Jan-Feb over wintering birds were recorded at 11 sites and during the second winter period, in Nov-Dec, there were records from 19 sites. Spring passage started in mid-Feb with singles at Kirkby on Bain Pits from Mar 11th. Records continued into Jun with no clear break before the start of the autumn passage. Peak counts included eight at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Jun 24th, 11 at Manby Flashes on Jun 28th, nine at Marston STW on Jul 11th, five at Fiskerton Fen scrapes on Jul 18th and nine at Hagnaby Lock/Fen on Jul 19th. Autumn passage at Frampton Marsh included 10 on Jul 20th, 13 on Jul 28th, 12 on Aug 1st, six on Aug 13th and five on Aug 27th. Elsewhere peak counts included five at Fiskerton Fen scrapes on Jul 18th, eight at Saltfleetby St Peter on Jul 20th, 10 at Manby Flashes on Jul 27th, five at Whisby NP on Aug 1st, six at Alkborough on Aug 13th, six at Gib Point on Aug 13th, Five at Bardney Pits on Aug 20th and 10 at Hagnaby Lock/Fen on Aug 21st.

### Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Passage migrant, rare/scarse in spring but fairly common in autumn. Scarce but regular in winter.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	1	1	2	8	13	1	1	13	18	26	15	10
Gib Point	-	-	-	1	5	1	2	5	8	2	1	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	8	5	5	2
No. of sites	3	4	3	11	5	3	5	9	9	5	6	2
Min no. of birds	3	3	4	19	22	4	5	26	39	35	25	12

The table above shows monthly minima at selected sites. In the first winter period long staying individuals were at Frampton Marsh and Alkborough Flats throughout Jan-Feb. Significant counts in the first half of the year were eight at Alkborough Flats on Apr 6th, 13 on May 3rd and four at Croft Marsh, Gib Point on Apr 22nd. Inland birds in the first half of the year were singles at Covenham Res on Feb 26th, two at Manby Flashes on Apr 10th and one on Apr 15th, singles at Fiskerton Fen scrapes on Apr 22nd, Deeping Lakes on Apr 23rd and Manby Flashes on May 5th-6th. Inland autumn birds were two at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Aug 16th and singles at Bardney Pits on Aug 20th, Messingham SQ on Aug 21st, Boultham Mere on Aug 24th, Covenham Res on Sep 7th and RAF Woodhall on Sep 13th. The first returning juvenile birds were recorded at Gib Point on Aug 15th, with others at Messingham SQ on Aug 21st, two at Gib Point on Aug 21st and one at Boultham Mere on Aug 24th. Peak autumn passage counts included 13 at Alkborough Flats on Aug 30th, 18 on Sep 7th and 26 on Oct 7th, two at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Aug 16th, two at Read's Island on Sep 4th and eight at Frampton Marsh on Sep 14th. At the end of the year 10 birds were recorded at Alkborough Flats on Dec 4th and a single bird was at Frampton Marsh until at least Dec 25th.

### Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

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

Peak monthly counts	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
<i>Coastal</i>										
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	4	1	6	5	7	3	1
Grainthorpe Marsh	-	-	1	-	-	10	10	6	8	1
Donna Nook	-	-	2	9	-	-	4	6	2	2
Gib Point	-	-	6	4	5	31	41	15	11	2
Freiston Shore	-	1	1	-	-	23	80	30	4	-
Frampton Marsh	1	1	6	9	4	6	8	12	4	1
<i>Inland</i>										
Bardney Pits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Blackmoor Bridge	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Covenham Res	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
Deeping Lakes	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



Fiskerton Fen	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	-
Hagnaby Lock/Fen	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain Pits	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	1	-	-
Kirton in Lindsey	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manby Flashes	-	-	1	11	-	4	1	2	-	-
Messingham SQ	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	5	3	-
Norton Disney Quarry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Thurlby Sand Pit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Toft Newton Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Willow Tree Fen	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

At the beginning of the year a single bird was in the Read's Island/South Ferriby area on Jan 28th, otherwise the first birds appeared at Frampton Marsh on Feb 14th, Bonby Carrs on Mar 13th, Read's Island on Mar 20th and Freiston Shore on Mar 24th. Peak counts away from tabulated areas included eight at Tetney Marsh on Apr 28th, 10 at Grainthorpe Marsh on Jul 8th, 33 at Holbeach Marsh on Jul 17th, 22 at Tetney Marsh on Aug 14th and 14 at Humberston Fitties on Sep 18th. Peak passage was recorded at Freiston Shore during Aug with 77 on 2nd, 80 on 5th, 49 from 14th-16th and 40 on 30th. The last bird of the year was recorded at South Ferriby on Dec 4th and 18th and probably the same bird was at Read's Island on Dec 11th.



**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* and **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* Alkborough Flats Jul 12th 2011  
© Graham Catley

#### **Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*

Vagrant. BBRC

A juv/first winter bird was present at Alkborough Flats and Bagmoor Floods from Oct 30th into 2012 (ND, et al) the 14th County record. Accepted by BBRC, for a finders report see page 192.

#### **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

Vagrant. BBRC

An adult was at Alkborough Flats on Jul 11th-12th and again on the 21st (ND et al). It moved to Blacktoft Sands, Yorkshire on 12th and remained there until Aug 3rd, with one return visit to Alkborough Flats during this prolonged stay. What was presumed to be the same bird was then recorded at Boultham Mere on Aug 4th (ACS, DN). Accepted as the same bird by BBRC. For finder report see page 189.



Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Alkborough Flats Nov 3rd 2011 © Graham Catley



Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Alkborough Flats Nov 3rd 2011 © Graham Catley



Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Alkborough Flats Nov 1st 2011 © Neil Drinkall



Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Alkborough Flats Nov 1st 2011 © Neil Drinkall

There are three previous accepted Lincolnshire records:

1954	Welland Mouth, Aug 8th	<i>I. C. T. Nisbet, British Birds 48: 138-139; Lorand &amp; Atkin, 1989</i>
1987	Witham Mouth, Aug 8th-15th	<i>M. J. Rogers and the Rarities Committee, British Birds 81: 559</i>
1992	Bardney Ponds, adult, May 18th-9th	<i>Birding World 5 (5): 168, photo; M. J. Rogers and the Rarities Committee, British Birds 86: 481, plate 164; Lincolnshire Bird Report 1992: photo</i>

### Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

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

Peak monthly counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Alkborough Flats	-	1	7	-	1	2	1	-
Gib Point	-	1	1	-	6	1	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Frampton Marsh	-	4	7	1	5	4	1	-
No. of sites	-	10	11	3	7	11	3	-
Min no. of birds	-	15	39	7	11	16	3	-

The table above shows the monthly minima at selected sites. The first bird of the year was a Messingham SQ on Apr 20th, followed by singles at Marston STW on Apr 21st, Gib Point and Frampton Marsh on Apr 22nd. Numbers at Frampton steadily increased to a peak of seven on May 3rd before slowly decreasing to just one bird northbound bird on May 5th. Single birds were then recorded at Frampton Marsh from Jun 16th, increasing to five on Jul 9th and then a protracted autumn passage until the last bird on Sep 27th. Other peak spring counts included two at Deeping Lakes on Apr 25th, four at Manby Flashes on May 2nd, three at Messingham SQ on May 3rd, two at Marston STW on May 5th, three at Blackmoor Bridge on May 6th, six at Bonby Carrs on May 7th, three at Kirtton in Lindsey on May 8th, two at Fiskerton Fen scrapes on May 14th and five at Gib Point on Jun 13th. Away from Frampton Marsh autumn passage was light with birds recorded at just nine sites, all of singles except two at Alkborough Flats on Aug 23rd and two at Killingholme Haven Pits on Aug 8th.



Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Freiston Shore Jul 27th 2011 © Paul Sullivan



### Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

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

WeBS totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
Read's Island Flats	7	5	33	144	-	-	-	-	50	186	95	48
Goxhill Marsh	3	2	2	62	-	-	-	-	12	-	2	8
North Killingholme Pits	47	115	27	-	-	-	-	-	21	45	-	-
Immingham Docks	34	31	14	30	-	-	-	-	65	89	-	-
Cleethorpes Promenade	2	9	11	14	9	9	10	26	11	-	-	-
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gib Point	80	190	201	245	19	26	33	244	301	262	105	98
Wainfleet	117	63	475	131	38	47	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrangle	208	49	94	-	54	52	45	190	32	185	-	145
Leverton	35	55	66	113	33	23	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benington	-	46	41	41	47	-	4	-	2	25	-	6
Butterwick	148	140	15	30	20	26	62	41	-	-	59	66
Freiston	327	414	177	156	4	5	398	995	740	261	85	34
Witham	-	56	150	22	18	-	5	2	43	19	25	-
Frampton Marsh	130	101	392	129	56	21	25	200	564	162	163	117
Kirton Marsh	1	4	18	12	6	1	-	1	2	3	8	10
Welland	307	93	44	19	4	-	1250	-	-	-	31	-
Holbeach	60	95	67	16	10	1	10	-	33	27	15	-
Dawsmere	1	27	-	30	-	11	4	7	1	-	3	-
Gedney	27	41	89	37	27	18	103	34	16	23	25	33
Terrington	-	76	39	110	55	-	450	36	12	16	-	66
<i>Wash totals</i>	<i>1441</i>	<i>1450</i>	<i>1868</i>	<i>1091</i>	<i>391</i>	<i>231</i>	<i>2389</i>	<i>1750</i>	<i>1746</i>	<i>983</i>	<i>519</i>	<i>575</i>

Peak WeBS counts for The Wash traditionally occur between Aug-Sep when the British population is joined by birds from Iceland and Northern Europe. The counts on the Lincolnshire side of The Wash for this period were considerably lower than in previous years but it is hoped that figures calculated for the whole of the region will not show similar levels of decline.



Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* Freiston Shore Nov 13th 2011 © Neil Smith



**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius* Covenham Res Sep 25th 2011 © Simon Spavin



**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius* Alkborough Flats Oct 10th 2011 © Graham Catley

Non WeBS peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	250	128	89	1	-	-	-	-	208	4	1	157
Gib Point	175	210	206	237	140	50	356	497	350	285	316	321
Freiston Shore	800	414	177	156	80	5	398	1150	740	2000	85	34
Frampton Marsh	130	101	392	129	56	21	174	200	564	162	163	117

In the first half of the year peak counts away from the strongholds of Frampton Marsh/Freiston Shore and Gib Point were c250 at Donna Nook on Jan 1st, 380 at Howden's Pullover on Jan 15th, 164 at Pyewipe, Grimsby on Jan 16th, 113 at Butterwick on Jan 23rd, 131 at Goxhill Marsh Jan 23rd, 131 at New Holland on Jan 23rd and 115 at Killingholme Marshes on Feb 13th. In the second half of the year notable counts included c100 at Wrangle on Aug 15th, 280 at Killingholme Haven Pits on Aug 31st, c200 at Gedney on Sep 11th, 186 at Read's Island on Oct 16th, 139 at South Ferriby on Nov 5th, 208 at Donna Nook on Dec 1st and 146 at Theddlethorpe on Dec 17th. RSPB reserve breeding surveys produced 62 pairs at Tetney Marshes, 217 pairs at Frampton Marsh and 22 pairs at Freiston Shore.

### Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cleethorpes Promenade	28	63	66	51	6	-	8	96	230	109	145	27
Gib Point	32	22	23	14	32	20	9	29	19	13	16	28
Freiston Shore	71	60	30	33	33	-	6	74	55	58	150	40

The table above shows sites where birds were consistently recorded. The lowest numbers were between May-Jul. National WeBS counts have shown a steady decline over the past 25 years, with the species considered to be vulnerable to the effects of changing climate. However, the WeBS results for 2010/11 represented the highest counts in The Wash since 2005/06 with numbers in the Humber remaining stable. Inland birds were at Covenham Res on Apr 10th, Baston-Langtoft Pits on Apr 19th, Kirkby on Bain Pits from Apr 29th-30th and Covenham Res from Jul 29th-Aug 1st. At least two were observed feeding on a dead seal at Gib Point from Mar 9th-14th.

### Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Rare passage migrant, mainly autumn. LBRC

One in transitional plumage from winter or first-winter to summer plumage was at Frampton Marsh from May 5th-13th (P Buxton, S Brown et al) with an adult female there from May 24th-27th (JB, SK et al). An adult female was at Kirkby Pits on Jun 30th. Finally a moulting female was at Frampton Marsh on Jul 30th (APC et al).

### Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

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

A juvenile in moult to first-winter was at Covenham Res on Sep 14th (KDR, GPL et al). A juvenile/first winter was at Alkborough Flats from Oct 9th-11th (ND et al) and one was seen on the sea then flying south at Gib Point Nov 19th (KMW).

### Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

The only spring record was of one, probably a third summer, at Messingham SQ on May 23rd, seen to predate Coot and Black-headed Gull nests. Early autumn records involved singles at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Jul 27th and 29th, with two there, one at Gib Point and one at Donna Nook on Jul 30th. An adult flew south at Gib Point on Aug 1st, and a second-summer bird north on 2nd. Single adults were south on Aug 16th and north on 18th at Gib Point, and an adult was at Freiston Shore on Aug 31st. Single juveniles flew north on Sep 1st and south on 2nd at Gib Point. On Sep 10th, one was at Freiston Shore, with singles there on Sep 15th and at Witham Mouth (an adult) on Sep 16th, when four were seen at Gib Point (two north and two south). Singles, most or all juveniles, were seen at Gib Point on four more dates during Sep 20th-28th, plus four south there on 26th. Oct saw many more records. Two flew south at Gib Point on Oct 3rd and three were seen there on 4th. There was one at Donna Nook on 5th, eight at Chapel Point and nine south at Gib Point on 8th, and one at Donna Nook on 9th, when the year's peak count of 35 was recorded at Roaring Middle far out in The Wash. On Oct 13th, there were two north at Skegness

and a juvenile at Donna Nook, then 12 at Freiston Shore on 15th. Two at Gib Point on Oct 19th, one there on 20th, and one at Donna Nook on 21st were followed by the only Humber reports of the year: a juvenile off Barton Pits on 22nd and a juvenile and six adults there on 24th, when there were also two at Donna Nook, three at Huttoft Car Terrace and two at Skegness, with one south at Skegness on 25th. Nov records comprised one south at Gib Point on 4th, two at Mablethorpe, two north at Gib Point and one at Gedney Drove End on 6th, two juveniles south at Saltfleet on 15th, and one at Gib Point on 22nd. Finally, there was a juvenile at Witham Mouth on Dec 1st and a juvenile at Gib Point on Dec 11th. See chart below for the weekly pattern of records. The total of about 139, probably including some duplicates, with 41 at Gib Point, was below those of the previous two years.



**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus* (third calendar year) Rimac Jul 29th 2011 © Graham Catley

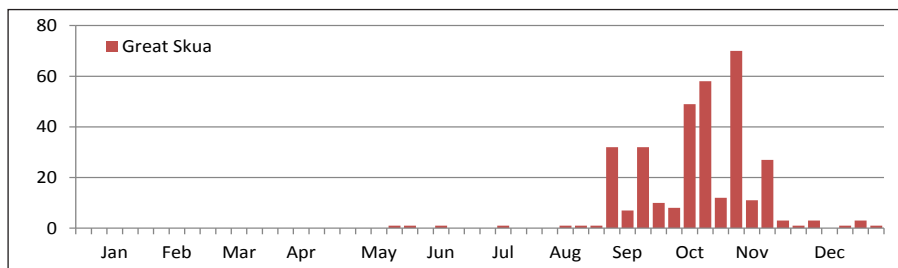
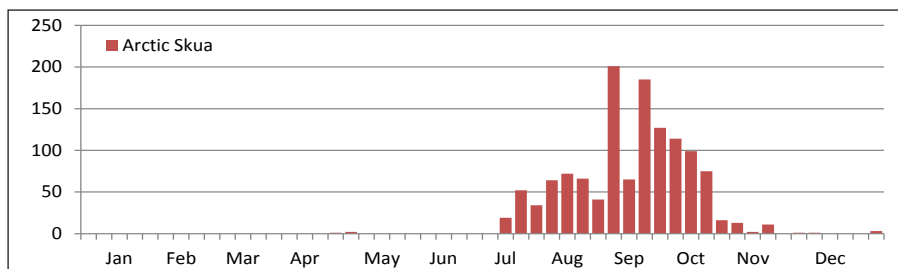
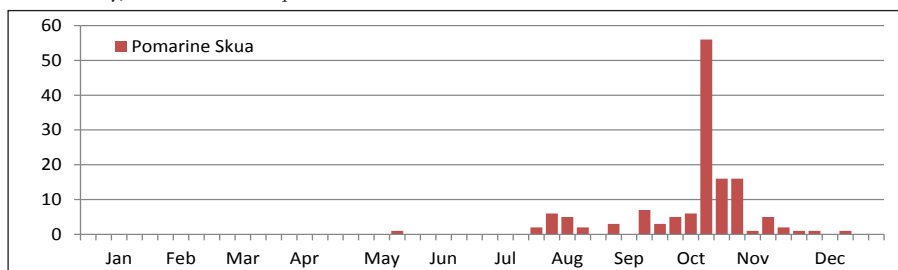
**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

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



**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus* (second calendar year) Rimac Jul 29th 2011 © Graham Catley

In spring, one was seen at Freiston Shore on Apr 29th and two at Donna Nook on Apr 30th. The first of autumn was one south at Gib Point on Jul 9th, with more there on succeeding days including five on both 12th and 16th. Three at Theddlethorpe St Helens on 15th were the first elsewhere, but Gib Point had the majority of records, peaks there included nine on Jul 17th and 14 on Jul 19th. There were five at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 21st. A larger movement at the end of the month involved 10 in the Rima-Theddlethorpe area on Jul 29th, 17 at Donna Nook on 30th and nine there on 31st, though fewer at Gib Point at that time. Frequent records of one-ten continued throughout Aug, with eight higher counts at Gib Point including 20 on 9th, 21 on 23rd and 23 on 29th, and there were frequent counts of up to 20 through Sep and into early Oct. These came especially from Gib Point, where more than 20 were seen on seven dates in Sep, including 77 on 1st, 74 on 16th and 72 on 26th. Elsewhere, relatively high counts were 20 at Trusthorpe on Sep 6th and 20 at Freiston Shore on 10th. With some gaps, records of one-four continued to the end of Oct with occasional higher counts. On Oct 7th, 13 were seen at Gib Point and 12 at Gedney Drove End, 22 at Chapel Point and 15 at Gib Point on Oct 8th, 25 at Roaring Middle in the central Wash on Oct 9th, nine at Gib Point on Oct 17th, and five at Huttoft Car Terrace on Oct 24th. Singles at several sites on the Humber between Barton and Alkborough on Oct 14th-17th, the first for the Humber in 2011, perhaps referred to one individual. On Nov 6th, there were four at Donna Nook, one at Gib Point and two-four at two sites in The Wash, but the only others that month were one at Barton Pits on Nov 19th (the only other Humber record this year) and one at Gib Point on 29th. In Dec, there were singles, perhaps the same, at Freiston Shore on 27th and 29th, and one at Gib Point on 30th. The annual total of about 1260, including some duplicates from nearby watch points on the same dates and from birds remaining from day to day, was well up from 700 in 2009 and 800 in 2010. Over 75% of the total comprised birds seen at Gib Point. The charts below shows bird-day totals for each week of 2012, derived from sums of site counts for each day, for the three frequent skuas.



### Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

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

Thirteen individuals, all juveniles bar one, were recorded between late Aug and mid Nov. The first three, assumed to be different, were seen at Gib Point flying south on Aug 29th (KMW), and at Freiston Shore on Aug 31st (PRF, PS) and Sep 2nd (SK). On Sep 16th, two flew north at Skegness (NAL) and one north at Gib Point (KMW), while on 17th one flew north at Sandilands (GPC) and, in the evening, one north at Gib Point (JPS). On the evening of Oct 1st, an adult flew south at Gib Point (KMW, MLE, ASR), and two juveniles flew south together there on Oct 3rd (EJM, P. Neale). The last record of the year was the noteworthy sighting of two flying W over the Humber bridge on Nov 13th (GPC).

### Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

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

In spring-summer, singles were reported from Frampton Marsh on May 27th, Gib Point on Jun 2nd, flying west over Barton Pits on Jun 16th, and at Gib Point on Jul 9th. Autumn passage began with one at Gib Point on Aug 9th and one at Sutton on Sea on Aug 17th and more frequent records from 25th, including seven at Gib Point on Aug 31st and seven at Freiston Shore on Sep 1st. The first large movement occurred on Sep 16th, in easterly winds, including four west up the Humber at Barton, 19 at Skegness, and two at Witham Mouth. In north-westerly winds on Oct 7th, 34 flew high south-west and inland at Gedney Drove End, while there were 36 at Gib Point and 10 at Chapel Point on Oct 8th. Two weeks of smaller counts followed, although the were eight in the central Wash on Oct 9th and six at Trusthorpe on 20th, after which a further movement took place in easterly conditions on Oct 24th, including eight at Barton Pits on the Humber, 16 at Huttoft Car Terrace and 20 at Skegness, with four at Huttoft Car Terrace and eight at Skegness the following day. A smaller but widespread movement was evident on Nov 6th, involving two at Donna Nook, five at Mablethorpe, 14 mostly flying north at Gib Point, one at Witham Mouth, and two west at Gedney Drove End. The only subsequent records were singles at Gib Point on four dates to Dec 31st plus two there on Nov 28th, and two at Freiston Shore on Dec 17th. The total of 335 bird-days was substantially less than that of 2010; in contrast to Arctic Skua under half were at Gib Point. The chart above, derived as for Arctic Skua, shows the weekly pattern of occurrence and illustrates how the main passage period starts somewhat later than that of Arctic Skua.



Great Skua *Stercorarius skua* (juvenile) Barton Oct 24th 2011 © Graham Catley

### Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

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

A first winter bird was found inland at Leadenham Rubbish Tip from Sep 16th-19th (APC), the bird frequented the flooded bottom of a former quarry and appeared out of place amongst the rubbish and large black-backed gulls. On the coast an adult summer-plumage bird was at Gib Point on Sept 21st (KMW), a first winter bird was at Gib Point on Oct 24th (NL) and what was assumed to be the same bird was seen at Anderby Creek on Oct 25th (APC).

### Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

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

Recorded in every month of the year but from just 12 sites. The first birds of the year were four at Gib Point on Jan 13th, six birds west at Barton on Jan 20th, with singles at Donna Nook on Feb 13th, Cleethorpes on Mar 17th and Donna Nook on Apr 16th. Up to 14 birds were recorded off Donna Nook during May and up to 30 birds during Jun. The only 'inland' bird was a moribund juvenile found at Alkborough Flats on Jul 24th. At least 70 birds were at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR including a colour ringed bird, ringed as a pullus at Lowestoft Harbour on Jun 28th 2010. The first Wash records for the year were c75 at Freiston Shore on Oct 15th. Other peak counts included 21 off Huttoft Bank on Oct 24th, 27 off Anderby Creek on Oct 25th and 72 off Donna Nook on Nov 6th. At Gib Point peak autumn counts included 18 on Aug 28th, 148 on Oct 19th, 135 on Nov 9th and 78 on Dec 7th.

### Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gib Point	4452	7800	4000	200	324	400	3115	8000	6800	3300	3000	4720
Freiston Shore	200	27	600	822	500	1122	1000	1310	525	1900	1500	1250
Witham Mouth	750	250	-	145	-	-	115	405	490	1900	1500	1250
Frampton Marsh	44	67	90	140	100	55	130	400	300	54	380	20
<i>Inland</i>												
Gainsborough Tip	1200	1500	100	500	500	250	300	550	100	80	100	2200
North Hykeham Pits	4500	100	600	310	200	220	290	850	1000	1000	12000	7000
Leadenham Tip	1800	800	600	-	-	-	-	-	-	450	1100	900
Kirkby on Bain Pits	2000	150	1700	50	200	22	250	130	200	900	1200	2300
Tattershall Lakes	5000	3700	4000	-	-	-	-	-	3400	2600	-	8500

A very common bird both on the coast and inland. During the winter months this species frequents a wide range of habitats, ranging from coastal, farmland, inland waterbodies and refuse tips. In the first half of the year away from tabulated sites peak counts of over 500 birds were c600 at Beltoft on Mar 11th, c800 at Colsterworth Landfill on Mar 6th, 970 at Gedney on Jan 23rd, c2000 at Holbeach St Johns on Jul 30th, c950 at Leverton on Jan 22nd, c600 at Saltfleetby on Jul 40th, c750 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Feb 27th, c900 at Wainfleet on Jan 23rd and 1200 at Welland on May 22nd. During the breeding season Whisby NP had yet another productive season with the following totals from the various waterbodies; Thorpe Lake 241 nests, Grebe Lake 287 nests, Coot Lake one nest and Willow Lake 11 nests giving a total of 540 nesting pairs, a 60.3% increase on 2010. Fledging success was also judged to be good with productivity estimated at two young per pair which would put the total number of young fledged at around 1080, yet another record for this site. There is no doubt that Whisby NP now holds the most important inland breeding Black-headed Gull colony in the county. On the coast the maxima was 803 pairs at Freiston Shore. At Gib Point 31 nests were recorded on Tennyson Sands with the first chicks recorded from May 22nd. Elsewhere breeding was reported from Barton Pits and eight pairs at Frampton Marsh. Strong autumn passage was recorded on the coast in Aug with c4600 at Donna Nook on 14th and c11000 at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR on Aug 17th. A leucistic bird was reported at Leadenham Tip on Jan 3rd.





Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini* Leadenham Tip Sep 16th 2011 © Graham Catley



Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini* Leadenham Tip Sep 17th 2011 © Russell Hayes



**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* Boultham Park Nov 27th 2011 © Nick Clayton

### **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
No. of sites	1	2	1	4	7	8	7	6	5	6	5	1
Min. no. of birds	7	3	1	15	10	76	82	12	14	60	412	4

During Jan six birds were at Gib Point on 11th and a single on 15th, with single at Gib Point on Feb 21st and 26th. The first inland bird was at Thurlby Sand Pit on Feb 27th and a first winter bird was present at Frampton Marsh from Mar 8th-25th. Spring inland records included a single bird at Covenham Res on Apr 15th, five on Apr 18th, two on Sep 7th and singles on Jun 4th, Jul 1st, Jul 25th and Sep 19th. There were six at Messingham SQ on Apr 18th and a single on Apr 24th, three were at Whisby NP on Apr 22nd and singles were at Kirkby on Bain Pits on May 2nd, Manby Flashes on Aug 2nd and Toft Newton Res on Oct 18th. Between May-Jul there were a scattering of coastal records but no large counts. In Aug juveniles were reported at Witham Mouth on Aug 14th, three at Horseshoe Point on Aug 17th, and a single bird at Sandilands Pit on Aug 22nd. On the coast peak passage occurs between Sep-Nov and is often protracted, with birds undertaking feeding and roosting movements offshore. There were 13 at Skegness on Oct 25th, five at Anderby Creek on Oct 27th and 14 at Gib Point on Nov 5th. High counts at coastal sites require onshore winds to push birds inshore, when often high numbers are recorded; a classic example was a count of 408 at Gib Point on Nov 13th which was a record count for the site. These peak counts only hint at the densities of birds that occur offshore which potentially included nationally important populations. The last record of the year was a first winter bird at Huttoft Bank Pit on Nov 22nd.



**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutes* Barrow Haven May 3rd 2011 © Graham Catley

### Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites 2011	7	4	7	5	7	6	14	9	5	6	3	3
Min no. of birds 2011	7	4	12	9	14	11	34	16	8	6	3	3
No. of 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
Barton Pits	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	3	1	-	-
Gib Point	1	1	2	-	5	2	3	3	2	1	-	-
Whisby NP	-	-	3	2	2	4	2	-	-	-	-	-

Recorded in every month, with a peak count in Jul which is presumably the result of an influx of birds from the continent. In the first winter period counts of two-three or more birds were recorded near Langholme Wood Mar 6th, Thurlby Sand Pit Mar 18th, Whisby NP from Mar 20th-21st, Gib Point on Mar 25th, Frampton Marsh from Apr 13th-23rd and Freiston Shore on Apr 4th. The majority of birds aged during this period were adults, but clearly there was a turnover of birds at some sites. At Whisby NP where birds visited the Black-headed Gull colony between Mar 5th-Jul 2nd. At least 11 different Mediterranean Gulls were noted including an adult pair that was present from Mar 12th. This pair was observed mating on May 1st, but appeared reluctant to settle and were last seen in the early afternoon of May 6th before flying away and not returning. In addition to this adult pair the other age classes for the remaining birds included two more adult birds as well as five second summers and two first summers. Away from Whisby NP spring birds were noted at seven other sites mainly on the northeast coast. The arrival of birds from the continent occurred in Jul with peaks counts (including some juvenile birds) on the coast including seven at Horseshoe Point on Jul 7th, five North Cotes Marsh on Jul 27th and three at Donna Nook on Aug 14th. Records in the second winter period involved mainly single birds, with a scattering of birds including at least three individuals at Leadenham Tip from Oct-Dec, singles at the Nene Mouth on Oct 7th, Barton Pits in Oct 8th, Sutton Bridge on Oct 9th, Burgh Marsh on Nov 3rd, Middlemarsh, Skegness on Nov 3rd, Alkborough Flats on Nov 10th and North Hykeham Pits on Dec 12th.



Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* Frampton Marsh Apr 14th 2011 © Steve Keightley

## Common Gull *Larus canus*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe												
NNR	800	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	800	-	-	-
Theddlethorpe St Helen	400	-	-	-	20	6	60	4000	80	8	1	1
Gib Point	800	980	2000	112	8	20	31	400	700	310	760	800
Freiston Shore	41	10	-	18	-	5	4	5	49	1	20	4
Kirkby on Bain Pits	500	60	300	1	-	-	-	-	12	-	150	50
Gainsborough Tip	140	150	20	2	-	-	1	2	-	3	20	150
Leadenham Tip	220	250	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	80	200
North Hykeham Pits	500	400	200	80	1	-	3	2	10	70	220	2000

This species is a familiar bird with lowest numbers occurring between Apr-Jul. Peak counts are tabulated with additional counts of over 100 birds in the first winter period including c400 at Grainsby on Jan 8th, c170 at Colsterworth Landfill on Jan 12th, c250 at Wainfleet on Jan 23rd, 420 at Witham Mouth on Jan 23rd, c200 at Stenigot on Jan 30th, c200 at Tattershall Lakes CP on Feb 8th, c200 at Covenham Res on Feb 26th, c100 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Feb 27th and 210 at Skitter Ness, Goxhill Haven on Mar 6th. Early autumn passage was recorded with c100 at Holbeach St Johns on Jul 30th, c400 at Donna Nook on Aug 1st and 110 at Barton Pits on Aug 5th. Far fewer counts were received during the second winter period, including c200 at Alkborough Flats on Nov 12th, c100 at Tattershall Lakes CP on Dec 6th and c500 at Whisby NP on Dec12th.

## 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 monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	3	4	11	12	44	200	51	24	43	15	14	3
Frampton Marsh	11	1	2	-	7	127	30	56	500	-	9	11
Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall												
Thorpe Pits	-	16	160	173	200	-	200	150	25	-	-	-
Gainsborough Tip	1	5	29	80	100	160	90	420	370	300	50	2
North Hykeham Pits	3	20	50	50	50	60	120	350	450	500	400	4
Boultham Mere	-	-	-	-	2	-	56	1100	16	12	11	-
Whisby NP	-	-	-	55	50	250	450	600	350	2	-	1

This species has a distinct seasonal pattern which determines the densities of birds found both on the coast and inland. The lower numbers of birds recorded on the coast over the winter period is consistent with movements of birds out the North Sea and south towards the Bay of Biscay. Although recent changes to this migration strategy has seen more birds inland, usually associated with refuse tips and included peak counts of c80 at Leadenham Tip on Mar 15th, c160 at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Apr 5th, c500 at Millenium Green, North Hykeham Pits on Oct 24th and c70 at Leadenham Tip on Nov 8th. Breeding was recorded at Read's Island (2 pairs) and possible breeding was recorded at Kirkby on Bain Pits. All breeding records of gulls in Lincolnshire, particularly in coastal towns should be submitted to the county recorder. Peak counts between late-Apr and Oct away from tabulated sites included 67 at Colsterworth Landfill on Jun 18th and c400 on Sep 22nd, c600 at Eastoft on Aug 15th, 256 at Tunnel Pits, Wroot on Sep 14th, 120 at Barton Pits on Jun 1st, 89 at Gedney on Jul 17th, c400 at Holbeach on Jul 17th and 95 at Wainfleet on Jun 5th.

## Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	3000	1680	1600	1330	459	550	911	1000	1750	3283	3960	2070
Freiston Shore	86	35	138	250	31	208	14	24	326	350	1200	650
Frampton Marsh	40	11	24	21	35	6	60	37	300	8	11	23
Holbeach	300	550	350	500	230	350	700	220	110	30	250	-
Kirkby on Bain Pits	700	700	800	600	900	-	200	700	1000	-	1400	1700
Gainsborough Tip	450	390	180	50	40	10	-	10	5	50	120	600
Leadenham Tip	300	300	140	-	-	-	-	-	60	70	150	350

Peak counts occur in the winter period with numbers at most sites reducing by Mar-Apr, with counts over the summer period involve mainly immature birds. Most birds recorded in Lincolnshire during the winter period from late Aug-Mar are likely to be of Scandinavian origin. In the first winter period peak counts away from tabulated sites included c1500 at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Jan 11th, 332 at Wainfleet on Jan 23rd, c2200 at Witham Mouth on Jan 23rd and c550 at Holbeach on Feb 20th. At Gib Point significant passage was recorded on Apr 1st with 1330 south and 460 on Apr 27th which were mainly immature. A single nest was found on the central saltmarsh at Tetney Marsh, being a first breeding record for the site. A breeding attempt was also reported at Gib Point. Breeding is also likely in urban coastal areas but no reports were received for the recording period. Peak counts over the summer period included 1170 at Wainfleet on Jun 5th, c700 at Holbeach on Jul 17th and c1500 at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR on Jul 29th. Significant counts at the end of the year included c600 at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 28th, c2200 at Witham Mouth on Nov 26th and 2070 at Gib Point on Dec 9th.

### Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

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

Peak monthly count	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites 2011	6	2	2	4	3	3	10	10	11	6	2	1
Min no. of birds 2011	7	2	2	4	7	19	47	32	20	21	8	1
No. of 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

The pattern and distribution of record in 2011 were similar to those reported in 2010. The post-breeding summer influx of this species is very obvious from the table, with peak count in Jul including 10 at Whisby NP on Jul 13th, six at Bagmoor on Jul 19th and eight at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Jul 27th. Counts at some sites remained high with 10 at North Hykeham Pits on Aug 30th, 15 at Gainsborough Tip on Sep 6th and 10 at Leadenham Tip on Oct 1st. Recorded in every month of the year this species is now an all year round bird in Lincolnshire.

### Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Scarce all-year visitor. **LBRC**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Whisby NP and North Hykeham Pits	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	2	1	-	4	2

There is clearly a link between this species and inland refuse tips and nearby associated waterbodies. It still remains a rare bird on the coast with very few records from well watched sites such as The Wash reserves and Gib Point. A total of 13 different birds were identified in the Lincoln area from Whisby NP, Millennium Green, Fischer's Waste Ground and Apex Pit throughout the year (DN). Out of the total recorded eight were adults, one was a third winter, three were first summer, one was a first winter and perhaps the most interesting of all was a juvenile bird. This latter individual was present on Millennium Green and then later Fischer's Waste Ground on Aug 18th and on Millennium Green again on Sep 7th and represents the first record in Lincolnshire for this age class. Finally one other bird worthy of note was an adult on Fischer's Waste Ground on Nov 11th which turned out to be 'Stumpy' the one-legged Caspian Gull a bird that has been seen around various land fill sites in Lincolnshire since Oct 2004, for full details on this bird see the article in the LBC 2010 report. Elsewhere an adult was at Leadenham Tip on Feb 2nd (TCL) and fourth calendar year bird on Sept 19th (TCL), a second summer bird was at Gib Point on Jun 14th (TBG) and a third calendar year bird was at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Aug 8th (PRF).

### Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor Aug-May. **LBRC**

Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucoides kumlieni* Vagrant. **LBRC**

Just five reports involving a maximum of four birds and all in the first winter period. A first winter bird was at Bagmoor on Jan 1st and again on Jan 16th (ND), a second winter bird was at Lea Marsh, Gainsborough on Jan 9th (DN), a second winter was at Gib Point on Feb 3rd (KMW) and finally an adult bird was at Bagmoor on Mar 17th (ND).



**Caspian Gull (Juv.)** *Larus cachinnans* North Hykeham Aug 2nd 2011 © Dean Nicholson



**Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans* North Hykeham Sep 7th 2011 © Dean Nicholson

### **Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus***

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

In the first winter period a first winter bird was at Bagmoor on Jan 3rd (WG, ND) and possibly the same bird again on Jan 23rd, a first winter bird was observed flying into Lincoln Tip from the direction of Millennium Green on Jan 6th before then flying off towards Richmond Lakes (DN), a first winter was at Frampton Marsh from Feb 7th-11th (Mick Paine) a second winter was at Gib Point on Feb 28th (KWN, AW), an immature bird was at Read's Island on Apr 9th and possibly the same bird was roosting on Whitton Sands on Apr 23rd and finally there was a first summer bird at Gib Point from May 25th-Jun 7th. The first bird of the autumn was at Donna Nook on Oct 1st (SL), a third calendar year bird was at Humberston Fitties on Dec 10th and one, possibly two first winter birds were seen at Middlesmarsh, Skegness from Dec 28th-30th (NL) with one at Gib Point on Dec 29th.

### **Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus***

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	150	110	250	56	245	215	650	1200	1348	1414	880	156
Kirkby on Bain Pits	40	30	80	50	20	-	60	50	200	120	100	200
Gainsborough Tip	250	300	110	80	20	9	20	5	10	50	150	300
Leadenham Tip	120	200	90	-	-	-	-	-	80	300	400	720
North Hykeham Pits	350	250	80	120	100	75	90	100	190	350	580	320
Whisby NP	-	-	-	60	40	35	30	62	80	40	33	400

In general the majority of birds leave the county by mid-Feb and by Mar most records refer to immature birds until returning birds start arriving back between Jul-Oct with peak counts during the winter period. In the first winter period the peak count was of c350 at Apex Pit, North Hykeham on Jan 10th, c70 at Colsterworth Landfill on Jan 12th, and c200 at Leadenham Tip on Feb 1st. During May high counts of c220 at Gib Point on 2nd and 245 on 15th involved all immature, mainly first-summers, elsewhere 426 at Alkborough Flats on Jul 3rd also involved mostly immature birds. Peak counts of the autumn at Gib Point included 1348 on Sep 5th, 1414 on Oct 13th, 880 on Nov 4th and 156 on Dec 15th. Elsewhere there were peak counts of 213 at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 28th, 580 at Millennium Green, North Hykeham on Nov 8th, c200 at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Dec 15th c150 at Witham Mouth on Dec 18th c400 at Whisby NP on Dec 20th and 720 at Leadenham Tip on Dec 21st.

### **Little Tern *Sternula albifrons***

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

Peak monthly counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Tetney Marsh-Horseshoe Point	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
Donna Nook	-	1	27	6	-	3	-	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	-	-	27	-	9	4	-	-
Gib Point	-	27	69	132	34	48	2	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Witham Mouth	-	-	-	-	7	15	6	-

The first birds of the year were singles at Donna Nook and Barton Pits on Apr 24th and there were 27 at Donna Nook on May 15th. Overall numbers across the county were down on 2010 but the initial arrival of 55 birds at Gib Point May 21st suggested a good breeding season might be in prospect. Although 16 pairs nested only two young were fledged. Donna Nook was the only other breeding site with three pairs, the same as the previous year. No birds were reported from inland sites and late summer passage was very thin. The peak Aug count at the sites listed above was 300 birds in 2010 but only 37 this year. This species is declining in Lincolnshire and is coming close to losing its 'fairly common summer visitor' status. It is to be hoped that the specially created Little Tern islands which will be a feature of The Environment Agency's Stonebridge realignment at Donna Nook will reverse the fortunes of this species in the county. The last were six migrants at Mablethorpe on Oct 4th, two weeks earlier than the latest in 2010.



**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

Fairly common passage migrant from spring to autumn. **RBBP.** *Chlidonias niger surinamensis* (American Black Tern)

Vagrant. **BBRC**

Peak counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
No. of sites	4	5	1	3	6	13	1
Min. no. of birds	22	14	2	5	17	45	1

The first bird of the year was at Messingham SQ on Apr 19th and at Barton Pits from Apr 21st-22nd, there were eight birds at Whisby NP and 12 at Messingham SQ on Apr 22nd and a single bird at Frampton Marsh on Apr 26th. In May there were singles at Frampton Marsh from May 1st-6th, three at Barrow Haven on May 3rd, five at Kirkby on Bain Pits from May 4th-7th, four at Kirton in Lindsey on May 7th and a single at Barton Pits on May 8th. The only Jun record were two birds at Barton Haven on 6th, with singles at Gib Point on Jul 14th and 31st, Freiston Shore on Jul 15th and three at Donna Nook on Jul 30th. In Aug birds were recorded at six sites including six at Donna Nook on 19th and five at Freiston Shore on 29th. Peak passage during Sep, including seven at Freiston Shore on 1st, 18 at Trusthorpe on 6th, four at Witham Mouth on 11th, two at Theddlethorpe on 11th and four at Alkborough Flats on 29th. The last bird of the year was a single at Donna Nook on Oct 8th.



**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger* Frampton Marsh May 9th 2011 © Neil Smith

*Chlidonias niger surinamensis* (American Black Tern)

A juvenile was at Covenham Res from Sep 17th-Oct 7th (GPC et al). Accepted by BBRC, this is the fourth record in the UK and constitutes the first Lincolnshire record of the North American race of Black Tern. On Oct 3rd a juvenile was also recorded just over the county border at Spurn; it was considered to be the same bird as it had been absent from Covenham Res that morning. For a finders report of this bird see page 194.

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

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

Peak counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR-	-	-	-	-	160	120	84	3	-	-
Theddlethorpe St Helen	-	-	-	7	140	200	85	50	-	-
Donna Nook	-	8	-	1	420	205	50	1	-	-



**American Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger surinamensis* Covenham Res Sept 21st 2011 © Neil Smith



**American Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger surinamensis* Covenham Res Sept 21st 2011 © Graham Catley



American Black Tern *Chlidonias niger surinamensis* Covenham Res Sept 21st 2011 © Graham Catley

Gib Point	-	43	47	564	1781	1400	510	176	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	2	-	54	30	70	40	-	1
Frampton Marsh	40	-	-	1	420	205	50	1	-	-
Witham Mouth	-	-	-	-	150	18	-	56	-	-

The first record of the year was two at Whisby NP on Apr 23rd, which were also the only inland birds of the year, they were also seen at Thorpe Lake. Small numbers were noted at coastal sites thereafter until end of Jun with higher numbers at Gib Point where there were 137 on Jun 2nd and 63 on Jun 22nd and 15 were noted at Shep Whites, Holbeach Marsh on Jun 29th. Typically larger numbers involving feeding parties appeared in Jul-Sep along the coast with Gib Point claiming the highest count of 1781 on Jul 12th. Other high counts included 250 at Cleethorpes Jul 15th, 50 at Wrangle on Jul 19th, 160 at Howden's Pullover Jul 23rd, 50 at Mablethorpe North End Aug 28th, 40 at Trusthorpe Sep 6th, 80 in The Wash at Boston Deepes on Sep 10th and 220 at Skegness on Sep 16th. Smaller numbers were also regularly recorded at other coastal sites, especially around The Wash. Numbers dropped off significantly in Oct when there were 12 at Gedney Drove End on 7th, 14 at Nene Mouth on 7th, a single at Alkborough Flats on 9th, 29 at Roaring Middle in The Wash on 9th, 10 at Wrangle on 15th and one at Anderby Creek on 27th. A late bird was seen at Witham Mouth and Freiston Shore on Dec 1st.



**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis* Rimac Aug 1st 2011 © John Clarkson

### Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

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

Peak counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Cleethorpes	-	-	-	20	1120	-	-	-
Barton Pits	20	4	7	10	2	5	-	-
Covenham Res	3	-	-	5	5	-	-	-
Donna Nook	14	-	-	89	370	3	10	-
Frampton Marsh	18	12	2	4	-	1	3	-
Freiston Shore	53	120	152	225	60	100	-	-
Gib Point	7	6	17	63	385	76	3	2
Horseshoe Point	-	-	-	885	5000	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits	20	60	73	75	19	-	-	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	-	-	-	50	20	5	-	-
Theddlethorpe St Helen	-	-	-	40	30	5	1	-
Whisby NP	4	39	18	40	9	-	-	-
Witham Mouth	-	7	-	45	55	-	-	-

An early bird was at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Apr 2nd, followed by 14 at Donna Nook on Apr 9th and thereafter a small, steady influx until the main Spring arrival from the last week of Apr until mid May. Breeding birds were noted at Boultham Mere, Alkborough Flats, where one pair bred but failed to raise young, Barton Pits, Messingham SQ, Great Fen, Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits where some 20 pairs raised about 40 young, Swineshead Bridge, Freiston Shore where there were 94 pairs, Frampton Marsh with two pairs and Whisby NP from where the following report comes: Two birds at Thorpe Lake on 17th Apr were the first birds back for the summer with regular records of new migrants thereafter, and by the end of the month there were 17 on Apex Pit on 27th Apr. The breeding colony at Whisby NP had another good year with 34 nesting pairs an increase of four on the previous year, with 18 pairs on Thorpe Lake and 16 pairs on Grebe Lake. Between them a minimum of 55 chicks fledged (21 from Thorpe Lake and 34 from Grebe Lake) giving a productivity of 1.61 young per pair, a slightly lower figure compared to the previous year. There were significant early autumn gatherings in Aug with 1120 at Cleethorpes, 5000 at Horseshoe Point and 370 at Donna Nook and numbers dwindled rapidly through Sept with the only significant high count being 100 at Freiston Shore with 10 at Donna Nook on Oct 4th and the final birds of the year were two at Gib Point on Nov 1st.



**Common Terns** *Sterna hirundo* Whisby NP May 21st 2011 © Steve Nesbitt

### **Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

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

Peak counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Alkborough Flats	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barton Pits	11	2	-	-	-	5	-	-
Covenham Res	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deeping High Bank	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Donna Nook	24	6	-	59	55	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
Gib Point	2	1	3	210	41	38	2	1
Messingham SQ	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nene Mouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
North Hykeham Pits	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rosper Road Pools	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR	-	-	-	200	4	-	-	-
Theddlethorpe St Helen	-	-	-	17	240	-	-	-

Theddlethorpe to Saltfleetby	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Whisby NP	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Witham Mouth	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-

The table shows peak monthly counts for all locations where birds were recorded in 2011. The first bird of the year was at Covenham Res on Apr 24th. Peak spring counts included 40 at Alkborough Flats on Apr 27th, 11 at Barton Pits on Apr 29th, 24 at Donna Nook on Apr 30th and six at Donna Nook on May 14th. Inland two were at Apex Pit on Apr 27th, Covenham Res on Apr 27th and Whisby NP on May 23rd. Autumn passage started at the end of Jul, with 17 at Theddlethorpe St Helen on 27th, c200 at Gib Point on 29th and c240 at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe from Jul 29th-Aug 3rd with at least 100 birds still present on Aug 29th. Recorded at just two sites in Sep, with an adult and four juveniles at Barton Pits and two birds inland at Deeping High Bank, both on 13th. The last birds of the year were two birds at Freiston Shore from Oct 24th-25th and an adult bird at Gib Point on Nov 1st.

### **Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii***

Rare passage migrant May-Oct. **LBRC RBBP**

A very poor year for this species with just a single adult confirmed at Gib Point on Aug 3rd (TB).

### **Common Guillemot *Uria aalge***

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

There were no records in the early part of the year until the first birds were recorded off Gib Point on May 24th, there were five there on May 29th, three on Jun 5th followed by six the next day and one on Jun 27th-28th. Regular records, mostly of one-six birds, were reported from Jul 9th-late Oct between Donna Nook and The Wash, although there were three records in the Humber: one at Barton Pits on Sep 1st and three at the Humber Bridge and three at Barton Pits on Sep 16th. Higher counts during this period were 10 off Saltfleetby on Jul 29th, 20 in The Wash at Boston Deepes on Sep 10th, 11 at Trusthorpe on Sep 18th and 85 on a Wash boat trip on Oct 9th. The only Nov record was of one at Donna Nook on 6th. At Freiston Shore, one-six were seen on three days in Dec, plus 35 on Dec 27th.

### **Razorbill *Alca torda***

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

The first birds of the year were three at Gib Point on May 28th-31st, with singles recorded on Jun 5th, 6th and 28th. There were no further records until single birds at Gib Point on Sep 9th and off Huttoft Bank on Sep 25th. Four birds were seen during a Wash boat trip on Oct 9th, then single birds occurred at Trusthorpe on Oct 20th and at Freiston Shore on Oct 24th. One was at Freiston Shore on Nov 27th followed by one at Gib Point on Nov 29th. Most of the year's birds were recorded off Freiston Shore in Dec from 12th onwards where one-eight birds were noted on four dates, plus 10 were seen on 16th-18th and on 27th and an excellent count of 53 was made on Dec 29th.

### **Little Auk *Alle alle***

Scarce/common passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were no significant northerly winds and subsequently no large movements recorded, but a light scattering of typical late autumn birds was still noted. The first bird was at Gib Point on Oct 17th and Huttoft Bank Car Terrace on Oct 24th followed by single birds at Skegness on Nov 1st and at the Humber Bridge and Barton Pits on Nov 6th. Two were seen at Gib Point on Nov 6th and three on Nov 15th and single birds flew past Donna Nook on Nov 26th and 29th. There were three past Donna Nook on Dec 10th and again on 11th when there were also three at Gib Point. Later in the month, five were seen at Freiston Shore on 13th with three there on 15th, then there were two birds at Gib Point on Dec 18th. At Freiston Shore there was a single bird on Dec 18th and the final record of three on Dec 27th.

### **Puffin *Fratercula arctica***

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

Singles were seen at Gib Point on Jun 1st (TB), 6th (RDn) and 8th (TB). In the second winter period singles were at Gib Point on Sep 14th-15th (JPS), 17th (KMW) and 22nd (KMW). A juvenile was photographed during a Wash boat trip well out in the Roaring Middle on Oct 9th

(SK). One was at Freiston Shore on Oct 24th (PS) and one was seen from Huttoft Bank on the following day (CMo, RL).



**Puffin *Fratercula arctica*** The Wash Oct 29th 2011 © Steve Keightley

**Feral Pigeon *Columba livia***

Common and widespread resident.

A common and familiar species in the Lincolnshire urban environment with no meaningful counts undertaken in 2011.

**Stock Dove *Columba oenas***

Common resident and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	24	13	20	32	27	28	22	18	22	16	15	9

A common bird in the Lincolnshire arable landscape and recorded at over ninety sites but generally in low numbers. Spring passage at Gib Point was slow with peak counts of 12 birds on Apr 4th and 11 on May 5th. A protracted autumn passage at Gib Point started in early Oct with 13 south on Oct 18th, 51 south on Nov 19th, 90 south on Nov 21st and 17 south on Nov 26th. At Donna Nook there were monthly maximum counts of 40 in Aug, 55 in Sep, 110 in Oct and c250 in Nov. Other counts of note included 59 at Goxhill on Jan 4th and 43 on Feb 16th, c130 at Marston STW on Feb 16th, c35 at Blackmoor Bridge in Apr, 28 at Market Deeping on Apr 26th, 28 at Gedney on Sep 30th, c50 at Nocton on Oct 16th and c250 at Pye’s Hall on Nov 23rd.

**Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus***

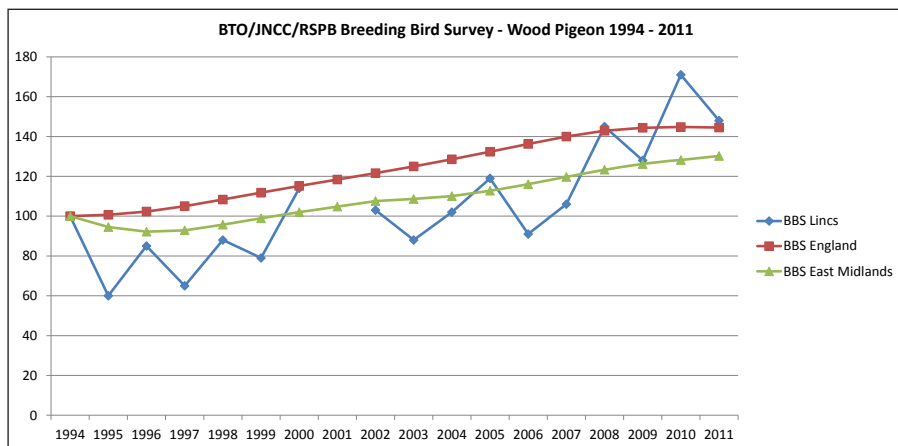
Very common resident and partial migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	100	200	600	466	240	100	70	170	223	3270	5040	270
Anwick Fen	140	560	80	160	160	45	65	200	140	1350	180	150
Whisby NP	150	40	44	34	95	53	53	73	125	63	138	15

Breeding Bird Survey data shows continued population growth both locally and nationally. However, the species is under recorded, with many thousands overwintering within Lincolnshire’s arable landscape. Peak autumn passage was recorded at Gib Point from mid-Oct with 2790 south on 15th, 2400 south on 17th, 3270 south on 18th and 2650 on 28th, with occasional moment



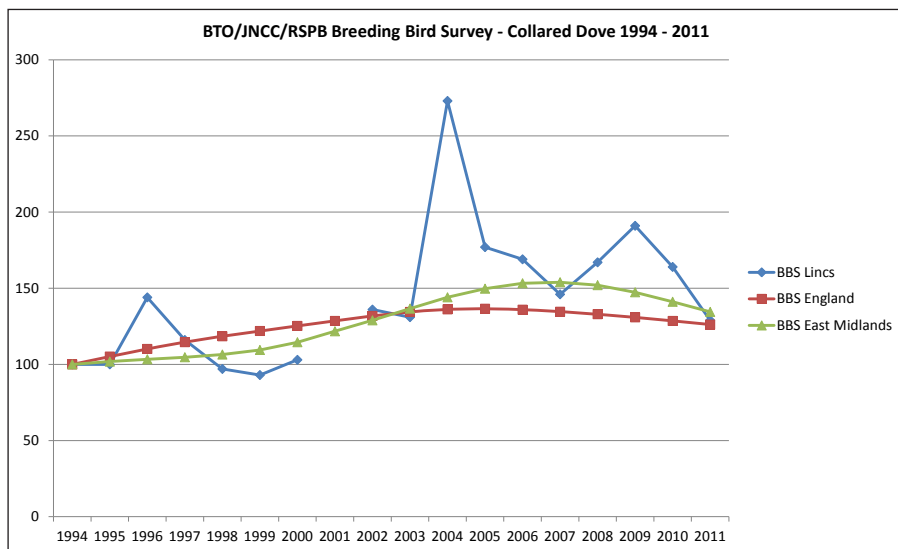
in Dec including 3000 on 1st and 2200 on 27th. Inland peak counts included c8000 at RAF Waddington on Feb 24th, 1350 at Anwick Fen on Oct 13th and c2500 at Anwick STW on Oct 29th while on the coast there were c1200 at Donna Nook on Oct 1st, c1500 on Nov 18th and c3000 on Dec 1st.



### Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Very common resident.

Common and widespread, this species is found throughout the county and during every month. Most submitted records were for fewer than 10 birds with the exception of the following noteworthy counts of 15 at Stallingborough on Jan 14th, 15 at Spalding on Jan 16th, 21 on Feb 12th and 78 on Sep 18th, 56 at Stenigot on Mar 6th, 53 at Barton Pits on Sep 20th, 61 at Kingthorpe on Oct 21st, 87 at Humberston Fitties on Nov 4th and 55 at Tanvats on Nov 19th. Of note was a bird reported incubating at Skegness on Dec 24th. Breeding Bird Survey data shows slight declines after a sustained period of population growth.



### **Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur***

Widespread but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Peak counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
No. of sites	-	12	34	29	18	14	9	1	-
Max. no. of birds	-	18	82	63	50	42	21	1	-

The first birds of the year were at Tetney Lock and at Gib Point on Apr 14th. The spectacular crash in the population of this iconic summer dove in Lincolnshire is of concern and observers are requested to submit all records of this species to help with the ongoing monitoring of this species of conservation concern. At Gib Point up to three birds were recorded on Apr 29th, with peak passage at this site from early May with 10 on 7th, 14 on 9th, 24 on 10th and 21 on 12th. They were then seen daily through the spring and summer with usually up to four birds, sometimes more with peak counts of 11 on Jul 30th and 16 on Aug 15th. At the end of Aug, 13 birds were recorded on 28th and 12 on 30th. Numbers quickly fell with the last bird recorded south on Sep 22nd. Away from Gib Point there were just 14 sites with counts of more than three birds, including four at Morton Fen from Apr-Jun, four at Ruckland during May, three at Whisby NP on May 19th, four at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR on May 20th, four at Donna Nook on Jun 5th, three at Wroot on Jun 10th, three at Walesby Moor on Jun 15th, four at Dunsby Fen on Jul 2nd, three at Frampton on Aug 6th, three at Kirkstead Bridge on Aug 14th and three at Hagnaby Fen on Aug 21st. The last bird of the year was at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 13th.



**European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*** Fulbeck May 3rd 2011 © David Morison

### **Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri***

Rare. Vagrant from feral populations and occasional local escapes.

The only records were all in the north-east of the county and it is likely that they are the results of local escapes rather than birds from a sustainable feral population. One was in Weelsby Woods on Jan 14th and there was one at Town's Holt on the outskirts of Grimsby on Jan 17th. One at the Grimsby Hospital on Mar 17th was present for at least a month and what was presumably the same bird was seen there again on May 3rd. A blue-morphed bird was found at Cleethorpes CP on Mar 18th and Apr 1st. In captivity, different colour varieties are readily interbred and can result in several plumage mutations. One was at Humberston Fitties on May 14th and the only record later in the year concerned three birds at Cleethorpes CP on Sep 9th.

### Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Fairly common but declining summer visitor.

Peak counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Donna Nook	8	6	3	1	1	-	-
Saltfleetby Theddlethorpe NNR	3	2	1	2	-	-	-
Gib Point	3	4	5	1	1	-	-
No. of sites 2010	43	46	24	6	4	4	1
No. of Sites 2011	33	43	30	10	7	-	-

The first bird was at Stanton's Pit, Witham on the Hill on Apr 9th, followed by two at Black Bank, Messingham and one nearby at Johnson's Ponds on Apr 10th. Single birds arrived at five sites in the next few days, and then more widespread arrivals became regular across the county from Apr 16th onwards. Most late Apr reports were of one-two birds although there were eight at Donna Nook and three at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Apr 22nd. One-two birds were again at widely distributed sites during May with higher counts of six regularly all month at Donna Nook and at Welton-le-Marsh on May 7th. There were four at Horseshoe Point on May 18th and records of three at Gib Point, Deeping Lakes and Whisby NP. A similar pattern continued in Jun when three-five were present at Donna Nook, Greetwell Hollow, Tattershall Thorpe Pits and Twyford Wood, but only one-two birds more thinly distributed were reported after the first week of Jul. Aug birds were seen at six sites and were all juvenile birds where specified. The last bird of the year was at Frampton Marsh on Aug 28th.



Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* Marston STW May 28th 2011 © David Morison

### 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**

In all there were 500 records from nearly 150 sites throughout the year. Most records were during Jan, Feb, Nov and Dec when birds are likely to be seen during the daytime, when they have to hunt during the day because of poor weather at night, or during Jun when adults often hunt by

day in order to find enough food for their growing chicks. All sightings, except for those including fledged young, were of generally single birds or pairs. The highest concentration was for four birds at Nocton during Dec. Results from Bob Sheppard's nestbox schemes showed it was a very good breeding year with 273 breeding attempts, which due to some pairs beginning to breed early also included 40-50 second or replacement broods. The prolonged cold and snow cover during the winter may have affected older birds more than first year birds, as these are less likely to move to new areas, being more faithful to sites that they occupied in previous years. However, first year birds are not tied to an area and are able to move to areas less affected by the extreme weather. Many breeding pairs were found to comprise first year birds and many 'faithful' older individuals were absent. The mild weather in Feb and Mar meant that Barn Owls were probably about two weeks earlier nesting than average, and high vole numbers resulted in good breeding success and some good brood sizes including a brood of seven, three of six and twelve broods of five all fledging successfully. From the 273 nesting attempts, a record 627 chicks were ringed and only 33 clutches of eggs or young failed.

#### **Little Owl *Athene noctua***

Locally common resident and very sedentary.

There were 235 casual records from 63 sites spread throughout the year with 72% of these being of single birds, and just six observations of more than two involving juveniles, so it is very difficult to determine the success or otherwise of this species from casual records alone. However a record total of 65 pairs used Bob Sheppard's nestboxes in the county during 2011 and approximately 142 chicks fledged from 47 boxes with 18 pairs failing. Two nests failed at egg stage when their box was taken over by swarms of hive bees; one incubating adult is known to have escaped but the other female was found to have been stung to death. This nestbox project has shown that the average failure rate is around 20%, but the failure rate of 29% during 2011 can be attributed to the dry weather. The cold winter did not appear to affect this species and high numbers of voles and field mice helped to make up for the lack of food due to the dry weather which resulted in there being few earthworms available which breeding Little Owls rely on. A fledging rate of three per successful nest was around average.

#### **Tawny Owl *Strix aluco***

Localised widespread resident.

There were 160 records, of which 73% were single birds, submitted for approximately 75 sites during the year. Although it was a cold winter, the mild weather in early spring coinciding with the timing of breeding Tawny Owls, which breed earlier than other owl species, as well as good numbers of voles and mice, meant that they had a very good breeding success. In Bob Sheppard's nestboxes in the south-west of the county, nine pairs bred in Bourne Wood – the highest number ever. In more recently erected nestboxes, nine pairs bred at Callan's Lane Wood and seven pairs in Twyford Wood. This nestbox scheme is being extended over the next few years in other Forestry Commission woodlands in the same area.

#### **Long-eared Owl *Asio otus***

Scarce and declining breeding bird in county and winter visitor. **RBBP**

A poor year for records with only 22 reports from only 12 sites during the year. The only early year reports were of single birds at Bonby Carrs on Jan 13th, Wrangle Bank on Feb 20th and Claypole on Mar 13th. Breeding was only confirmed at Crowle Waste where three juveniles were thought to have fledged in Jun. One was reported at Appleby Carrs on Jun 16th. In the second half of the year, one was at Haverholme Park on Aug 13th, and then none until single birds, presumably migrants, were seen in Oct at coastal sites – Cleethorpes on 13th, Gib Point on 14th, Theddlethorpe on 19th and Donna Nook on 25th. Single birds were reported in Nov at Broughton Common, Worlaby Carrs and Messingham SQ. Finally in Dec singles were reported from Wrangle Bank, Appleby and Bonby Carrs, Messingham SQ and two at Killingholme Haven. One found dead on the road at Woodnook just south-east of Grantham on Jan 20th had been ringed as a chick in Derbyshire in 2006.

#### **Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus***

Winter visitor and occasional breeder. **RBBP**

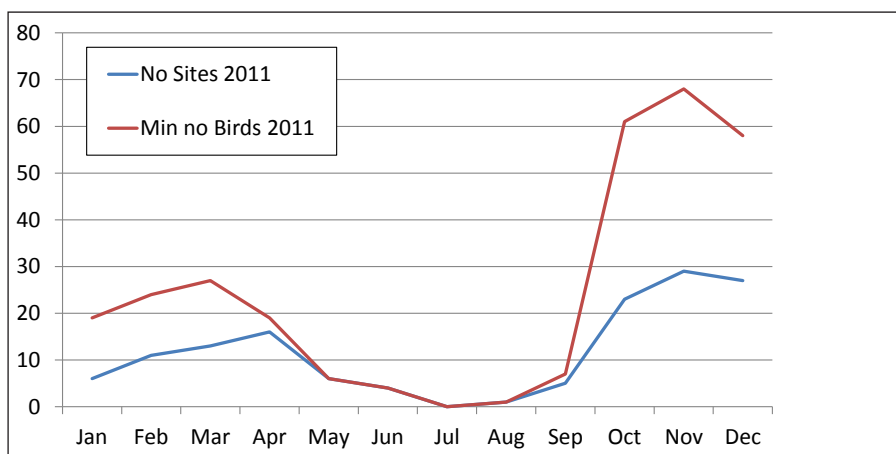
There were good numbers of Short-eared Owls compared to 2010, probably due to a combination of high vole numbers on the continent, coupled with cold weather periods which may have concentrated owls onto favoured feeding areas, as can be seen in the graph and tables below.



**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus* Dunsby Fen Nov 30th 2011 © Steve Nesbitt



**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus* Dunsby Fen Nov 30th 2011 © Steve Nesbitt



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No Sites 2011	6	11	13	16	6	4	1	1	5	23	29	27
No Sites 2010	11	7	6	5	2	-	-	2	10	11	18	15
Min no. birds 2011	19	24	27	19	6	4	1	1	9	61	68	58
Min no Birds 2010	16	15	9	6	2	-	-	2	15	23	35	25

Peak counts were at Worlaby Carrs with 12 in Jan, nine in Feb and eight in Mar, with generally 1-2 birds at many locations throughout the county. Late birds were seen throughout May at Frampton Marsh and Gib Point where the occasional birds stayed until Jun 18th and 19th. There was no evidence to suggest breeding at any site in Lincolnshire. The first autumn record was at Gib Point from Aug 5th with two birds present on 7th and with records at coastal sites of single birds increasing throughout Sep and Oct. Maximum concentrations later were three at Baston Fen on Oct 5th, three at Gib Point on Oct 19th, seven at Butterwick Marsh on Dec 8th, 11 at Wasp's Nest, Nocton Fen on Dec 10th, six at Dunsby Fen in Dec, and at Worlaby Carrs, apparently the favoured haunt of this species, up to 12 in Oct, 15 in Nov and 4 in Dec.

### European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Scarce summer visitor and rare passage migrant.

Laughton Forest remains the primary site for this species but there was no full survey in 2011 though eight males were recorded on Jul 15th in the monitored wet heath area and seven males and two females were recorded on Jun 6th. Four males and a female were at Crowle Waste/Moors on Jun 2nd and three birds were recorded at Scotton Common on Jun 27th. No other sites in the north-west were surveyed in 2011.

### Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

Vagrant. Recorded from Mar-Aug with a single record from Oct. LBRC

A single bird was recorded at Gib Point on Jul 6th (John Nicholson), during a passage of over 1300 Common Swifts which all moved south at speed.

### Common Swift *Apus apus*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first bird of the year was at Barton-upon-Humber on Apr 19th followed by four on 20th, with a peak Apr count of six birds at Wroot on Apr 26th. Frequent sightings were recorded from early May with 60 at Barton Pits on 4th, 51 at Gib Point on 6th and 35 at Messingham SQ on May 8th. The first bird recorded at Gib Point was on May 1st, followed by small visible movements with peak counts of 1410 south on May 24th, 178 on May 26th, 135 on May 27th and c300 on Jun 6th. An exceptional count of 6816 occurred on Jul 17th followed by 577 on Jul 18th and 216 on

Jul 19th after which numbers dropped off with all counts of fewer than 20 until the last bird on Sep 22nd. Elsewhere peak counts in May included c500 at Messingham SQ on May 18th, c1000 at Frampton Marsh on May 23rd and c500 at Barton Pits on May 24th. In Jun there were c300 at Barton Pits on 1st, c700 at Donna Nook on 11th, c460 at Anderby Creek on 27th, with numbers in Jul including c300 at the Helpringham ringing site on Jul 14th, c600 at Freiston Shore on Jul 17th and c150 at Nettleham on Jul 28th. The last large counts of the year were c250 at Cleethorpes CP on Aug 1st and c150 at Whisby NP on Aug 3rd, after which numbers rapidly dropped to less than double figures from Aug 28th onwards with the final bird at Frampton Marsh on Sep 25th. Regular ringing of this species at Marston STW shows how important the site is for local birds, with one bird caught there on May 30th, almost 10 years after being originally ringed.



**Common Swift** *Apus apus* Frampton Marsh Jun 8th 2011 © Neil Smith

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Although Kingfisher records were received from 78 sites during the year, on a par with 2010, the monthly counts were much lower than this as coverage was obviously not constant and only very rarely were more than two birds reported per site on any one date (see table).

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Min. no. of birds	7	8	12	6	8	16	20	31	33	24	21	16

Nationally Kingfisher numbers have fallen in recent years and another hard winter during 2010/11 will also have affected the county's breeding population. Indeed, there was just a single confirmed breeding record, at Barton Pits, surely a grossly understated position for the county. As expected there were more birds recorded from more sites during the autumn as juveniles dispersed but a peak monthly count of 33 birds was a poor total and undoubtedly represents an under estimate of the true picture.





**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis* Bardney Nov 20th 2011 © Russell Hayes

**European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*

Vagrant. LBRC RBBP

Two birds were found and videoed on farmland at Grebby, near Spilsby on Apr 14th-15th and possibly again on 16th (J Hoff).

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

Rare passage migrant mainly Apr-Oct, rarely to Dec. LBRC

A bird was photographed in private gardens at Claxby, near Market Rasen on Apr 22nd (A Lyle).

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

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

This was a poor year for this species with no sightings during the spring period and only two records on typical dates for autumn passage, with the first of the year being at Gib Point on Aug 28th (JPS, KMW) and the second at Rimac on Sep 2nd (JRW).

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Belton Park	3	1	3	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	6
Kirkby Moor	-	7	1	3	1	3	-	-	1	1	-	1
Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall												
Thorpe Pits	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	-	-
Whisby NP	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	3	3	2	4	2
No. of sites	25	19	40	47	23	26	35	37	21	21	12	16

During the year, 452 birds were recorded in 321 sightings from 86 widely spread locations. Encouragingly some evidence was noted of establishment in southern coastal areas. Maximum counts included seven at Kirkby Moor on Feb 9th, six at Belton Park on Dec 12th and five at Elsea/Math Woods and Swanpool on Apr 9th and Sep 28th respectively. Four birds were recorded at Anwick Fen on Oct 1st, Haverholme Park on Aug 13th, Kirkby on Bain Pits on Jul 23rd and another four were also noted at Whisby NP in Nov. Evidence of breeding was noted at Kirkstead

Bridge with two adults and two juveniles seen on Jul 3rd. Juveniles were also noted at Anton's Gowl and Twyford Wood in Jun and Aslackby and Laughton Forest in Jul. One observer watched a juvenile being harassed by a Hobby at Barton Deepdale in Aug. Numbers in the north and west of the county declined markedly following the previous hard winter with the species being lost totally from several former breeding sites.



**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis* Brumby Woods Aug 17th 2011 © Simon Spavin

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Theddlethorpe St Helen	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	4	2	2	1
Gib Point	3	3	4	4	4	5	2	2	5	5	3	2
Haverholme Park	-	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2
Holme	6	2	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1

Marston STW	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-
Pinchbeck	2	1	3	3	-	-	1	1	6	-	1	-
Whisby NP	3	2	4	3	4	2	1	1	2	2	1	3
No. of sites	54	30	40	53	27	26	15	21	29	38	17	19

369 records were received from 129 countywide locations and covering 549 birds. Not only were birds regularly seen in traditional areas, but also it is noticeable that there is a continuing slow steady increase in sightings in coastal areas. Notable counts included eight at Elsea/Math Wood on Apr 9th and a count of six birds at Swanpool on Jan 9th and another six in Boston town centre on Nov 19th. Two counts of five were recorded from Elsea/Math Wood on Mar 12th and Apr 3rd. Numerous counts of four were also recorded. In the period May-Jul, evidence was noted of breeding from Anton's Gowt, Anwick Fen, Brampton, Brigsley, Elsham, Epworth Turbary, Foston, Messingham SQ, Roughton and Whisby NP. Juvenile birds were also recorded twice on the coast at Theddlethorpe St Helens.

### Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Rare resident. **RBBP**

Records were submitted from 12 sites, two down on last year and three down on 2009. All were from the south of the county with none north of a line through Lincoln. In total, 22 birds were recorded with the maximum count being two. Jan was the best month of the year with six records. One fortunate observer reported a bird visiting her garden in Deeping St James throughout the month. Another observer recorded perhaps the same bird in a different area of Deeping St James on Jan 18th. One bird was seen on Jan 3rd and two on Jan 8th in Neville Wood. A possible breeding bird was noted at RAF Woodhall on Feb 20th. On Mar 19th, a female was seen and a male heard drumming at Elsea/Math Wood with the same pair again on Mar 26th in the same location. Presumably this pair were also responsible for records during Apr with single birds seen on 3rd, 9th and 24th. A single was also noted in Belton Park on Apr 15th. One bird was recorded at Syston Park on May 1st and pair noted at Woodhall Spa on May 25th. A bird was recorded on the coast at Gib Point on Sep 22nd and the final bird of the year was noted at Haconby on Oct 1st.



Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor* Fleet, Holbeach Jan 9th 2011 © Colin Neve

### Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

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

There were five spring records, with singles at Greatford on May 14th (S Armstrong), Donna Nook on May 19th (SL), at Gib Point on May 11th (D Matthews) and May 31st (GPBO) and finally a singing male was at Alkborough/Alkborough Flats on Jun 6th (GPC, CG).



Great Grey Shrike *Lanus excubitor* (Showing *homeyeri* influence, see main text).  
Wroot Dec 31st 2011 © Graham Catley



Great Grey Shrike *Lanus excubitor* Witham Mouth Oct 29th 2011 © Paul Sullivan

### Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Rare passage migrant and occasional summer visitor. Former rare breeder. **LBRC RBBP**  
Just a single record for the year of a male at Howden's Pullover on Jun 6th (CNe).



**Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*** Howden's Pullover Jun 6th 2011 © Colin Neve

### Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

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

Another excellent year for this species with the first being seen at Worlaby Carrs on Mar 27th and 28th (DNe *et al*). Another was reported at Garthorpe from Mar 29th-Apr 8th (ACBH, MP, PS). Autumn sightings began with a one-day bird at Gib Point on Oct 14th (KMW, *et al*), followed by one at Chapel Six Marshes on Oct 15th & 16th (CW, JM). A single was in the Grainthorpe Marsh/Pyes Hall area on Oct 25th (GPC, ND) while another at Witham Mouth lingered from Oct 28th-Nov 11th (PS, JWh). One at Haverholme Park on Oct 29th was a good inland record for the time of year (JP, SS). Back on the coast, single birds were at Gib Point on Nov 5th, (MK), Donna Nook on Nov 7th & 8th (SL) and Leverton Marsh on Nov 11th (AW). Tetney Lock village hosted a very obliging individual from Nov 15th-20th (SJM, RH *et al*), but perhaps the most interesting record of the year was of one on the county boundary at Wroot from Nov 20th until the year-end, at least. This bird was considered by some to show features of *homeyeri*, the more south-eastern form,. The other notable fact was that it had been trapped and ringed at Spurn Point on Nov 7th, this being confirmed after it was re-trapped at Wroot and the leg ring details were checked. There were two other records from late in the year with one at Folkingham from Dec 21st - 31st, at least, (R Hay *et al*), and another at Hemingby from Dec 21st onwards which was still present into the New Year (RTf *et al*).

### Magpie *Pica pica*

Very common resident.

Although reports came from a similar number of locations, counts tended to be a little smaller than last years, with concentrations of more than 30 only at Gib Point. As usual the largest counts were most frequent during Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec, and at Gib Point the maxima in most of these months exceeded 20. The peaks there were 40 on Jan 9th and 39 on Sep 5th, the latter including one flock of 30. The largest totals elsewhere were 27 at Holme on Feb 8th with 28 there on Mar 2nd, 28 at Humberston Fitties-Tetney Haven on Nov 28th, 26 at Gib Point on Nov 17th, and 25 roosting at Dawson City Pits on Mar 6th. There were 15 or more at Whisby NP in most months, with 24 there in May. Other locations recording 10 or more were Barton Pits, Stallingborough, Town's Holt (Grimsby), Theddlethorpe, Wrangle Bank, Freiston Shore, Frampton Marsh, Hall's Hill, Grantham, and Marston STW.



### **Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius***

Common resident, irregular migrant and winter visitor.

Reporting levels were similar to last years. Whisby NP was most consistently reported, with six or more in three months including eight on Jan 2nd. There were also eight at Haverholme Park on Oct 2nd, seven at Boultham Mere on Mar 25th, six at Hartsholme CP on Mar 20th, and a family party of five at Boston Cemetery on Jun 27th. Localities from which four were reported included Normanby Hall CP, Twigmoor Woods, Epworth Turbary, Kirkby Moor and Moor Farm NRs, Ewerby Waithe Common, Frampton Marsh, and Twyford Wood. At Gib Point, there was a series of records in spring, beginning with 1-2 on three dates during Apr 23rd-27th, then one - five on five dates during May 6th-12th, one on May 18th and singles from May 27th-29th. Some of these were moving north, others south, and some appeared indecisive. There was scarcely any sign of autumn movement, and only a handful of coastal records including singles at Gib Point on Oct 18th and Nov 6th.

### **Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula***

Very common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

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

Roost counts of 3000 at Scrivelsby Park on Jan 8th and Nov 30th, and 2000 at Ostler's Plantation on Dec 22nd were the only reports of more than 500. There are many such corvid roosts dotted around the county, they can be difficult to count accurately as mixed-species flocks arrive in half-light, but are worthy of more attention. There were 500 at Colsterworth landfill on Mar 9th, 450 at Aswarby on Dec 6th and 400 in a pre-roost gathering at Marston STW on Jan 11th. At Gib Point, there were 100 or more in most months, with maxima of 240 on Mar 21st and 261 on Apr 2nd. Southerly movements were noted there throughout late Feb-early May, totalling about 1500 bird-days, with 50 or more on nine dates including 121 on Mar 10th, 128 on Mar 21st and 158 on Apr 4th. A small amount of southerly movement was also evident in Sep-Oct, with a maximum of 23 on Sep 29th. Maxima at other sites with 100 or more were 350 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits in Jul and Dec, 300 at Croft Marsh in Feb and RAF Waddington in Mar, 250 at Crook Bank in Oct, 200 at North Hykeham in Feb and at Leadenham Tip in Oct, 183 along the River Welland at Spalding in Mar, 121 at Stenigot in Mar, 120 at Barton in Apr, and 100 at Keal Carr in Jan.

One showing characters of Nordic Jackdaw *C.m.monedula* was near North Hykeham Pits on Nov 14th, together with two others showing faint collars. There was a partial albino at Colsterworth on Mar 6th.

### **Rook *Corvus frugilegus***

Very common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

Counts of rookeries along the limestone escarpment from Belton north to Welbourn located 336 nests, including five colonies exceeding 20 nests, the largest being 52 nests at Fulbeck, but also one with just a single nest at Sudbrook near Ancaster. Further north, in the grid square SK89 extending from Gainsborough to Scotton, 527 nests were counted including rookeries of 91 nests at Blyton, 88 near Southorpe and 83 at Pilham. Other high counts associated with breeding colonies included 800 at Elsham on Mar 8th, 200 pairs on Risby Warren on Mar 27th, and a post-breeding count of 1100 around Grasby on Jul 5th. The highest roost counts were 1500 at Scrivelsby Park on Jan 8th and 1000 there on Nov 30th, 500 at Ostler's Plantation on Dec 22nd, and a pre-roost count of 900 at Marston STW on Jan 11th. Other noteworthy counts included 600 at Walesby on Oct 17th, 460 at Haverholme Park on Dec 29th, and 400 at Aswarby on Dec 6th. Other places recording counts of 200 or more were Croft Marsh, Willow Tree Fen, Anwick Fen, along the River Welland at Spalding, Whisby NP, Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and Humberston Fitties-Tetney Haven. Southerly movements at Gib Point totalled 463 during late Feb-mid May, with peaks of 55 on Mar 21st and 33 on Apr 4th, and 135 during mid Sep-mid Nov.

### **Carrion Crow *Corvus corone***

Common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

At Theddlethorpe, there were peaks of 200 on Jan 2nd and 150 on Nov 2nd, Nov 26th and Dec 2nd, while from Donna Nook came a count of 150 on Oct 29th. Elsewhere there were maxima of 75 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits, 70 at Leadenham tip, 68 at Howden's Pullover, 62 at Humberston Fitties-Tetney Haven and 30-60 at a further 12 localities, widely spread throughout the county. Southerly movement at Gib Point amounted to 310 bird-days during Feb-May, with

maxima of 33 on Apr 7th and 26 on May 6th, and 196 during Sep-Oct, with a peak of 17 on Oct 16th.



**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone* Frampton Marsh May 17th 2011 © Neil Smith

#### **Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix*

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

It is not possible to be certain, but three birds may have occurred early in the year, and three in Dec. Records from Donna Nook, where one had first been seen in Oct 2010, came intermittently through the first quarter and into early May (CA, SL, JS et al). One, believed to be the same throughout, was at the seal colony or a little to the south from Jan 1st-Mar 29th, though absent for long periods. One at Cleethorpes on Apr 1st (JRN) could have been the same. One was then present south of Stonebridge on Apr 10th and Apr 20th-29th, and one north of Stonebridge on May 1st-2nd. All of the above are treated as relating to a single individual, although two or even three could have been involved. One in the Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe area on Jan 3rd and 20th (CMo, SL) is assumed to be different from that at Donna Nook, being present in both places on the first date. There was also one inland on the Wolds at Sutterby on Mar 6th (KMW). At the end of the year, there were singles near Theddlethorpe St Helen on Dec 2nd and 7th (CMo), at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Dec 16th (JRW), Howden's Pullover on Dec 10th (CMo) and at Gib Point on Dec 22nd and 31st (JPS et al).

#### **Common Raven** *Corvus corax*

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

It seems likely that, as the species becomes more frequent, some sightings are now not being reported in the core area of occurrence in the south-west. Thus although one-two were reported in or close to Belton Park on many dates from Jan 19th-May 3rd, the only subsequent reports were three on Aug 22nd and one on Nov 1st (D Rob et al), and breeding was not confirmed. The Temple Wood site occupied in 2010 was not used this year, although 1-4 birds are known to have been present in that area off and on throughout the year (AGB et al). Just south of Grantham, singles were seen at Colsterworth tip in eight months of the year, with a family party of seven on Jun 1st, but their origin, which may have been outside Lincolnshire, is not known (VF). Other records in this general area included one-two near Sleaford in Feb-Mar (GH, RWa), one at Boothby Great Wood in Aug (VF), two near Ancaster in Sep (JWa) and two at Marston STW in Oct (DMn). A little further north, one was photographed at Leadenham tip on Sep 16th (APC). Elsewhere in the county, acceptable records were of one over Lincoln on Mar 8th (AGB), two at Nettleton on Mar 20th-23rd (KAr), and two at Donington on Bain on Apr 14th (JRC),.



### Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Widespread records were received from throughout the county, including many breeding reports from Atlas fieldwork, but numbers generally were small, with autumn passage far lighter than in 2010. The table includes key coastal locations and two well-recorded inland sites. No more than seven were reported from any other area.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	9	50	16	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	5	50	20	2
Gib Point	5	4	21	4	-		2	6	59	160	48	9
Haverholme Park		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	9	7	8	4
Whisby NP	3	2	7	1	-	3	1	2	2	1	2	9

The peak spring count at Gib Point of 21 was on Mar 29th. In autumn, there was a small flurry of passage from Sep 4th-10th with up to 26 at Gib Point, and then more there from 15th with peaks of 59 on 24th and 51 on 27th. Elsewhere, there were up to nine at Donna Nook on Sep 30th and 10 at Theddlethorpe St Helen on Oct 1st. There were 78 at Gib Point on the latter date and 90 on 3rd, but the largest numbers occurred from Oct 9th-17th, including 101 at Gib Point on 9th, 25 at Donna Nook, 50 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and 90 at Gib Point on 13th. There were 20, 30 and 120 in respectively the same areas on 14th, 50 at Donna Nook and the maximum count of 160 at Gib Point on 15th, and 110 at Gib Point on 17th. Counts at Gib Point of 40 or more continued to mid Nov, including 48 on Nov 10th, but elsewhere the only later double-figure counts were 20 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Nov 7th and 16 at Donna Nook on Nov 9th.

### Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

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

Rather scarce this year, with the majority on the coast or Humber, but a scattering of inland records suggest that the species is quite widespread in winter and, as indicated in 2010, perhaps also in the breeding season. The first of the year was one at Helpringham Fen on Jan 22nd. In Feb, two were at Donna Nook on 26th, one was near Lincoln on Mar 5th and one was at Chowder Ness on Mar 20th. Spring passage migrants began with one on Mar 18th at Gib Point, where there were further singles on Mar 21st and 29th, two on Apr 1st and three on Apr 2nd, two of which – one a singing male – remained until 4th. There were also three individuals at Far Ings from Mar 20th-22nd, on Apr 1st and on Apr 2nd. The last spring records were males trapped and ringed at Haverholme Park on Apr 3rd and Stoke Park Wood, near Stoke Rochford, on Apr 15th, and another singing male at Gib Point on May 4th. There was one at Gib Point on Sep 4th but most autumn migrants were seen during mid Oct-early Nov. Two were at Gib Point on Oct 13th, with two near Theddlethorpe on 19th, followed on Oct 25th by two seen at Sea View and one trapped at Gib Point, this last being re-trapped on 27th. A further individual was trapped at Gib Point on Oct 28th. At Donna Nook, there were two on Oct 26th, one on 27th, two on 29th, and two on Nov 1st. Later singles at Gib Point on Nov 9th, Dec 4th and Dec 25th were all in the same area and may have related to a single individual. Finally, one was reported at Sutton on Sea on Dec 31st.

### Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Very common resident.

Peaks monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	51	63	66	40	26	41	24	50	42	45	60	27
Whisby NP	90	111	67	47	28	77	82	85	104	96	92	85

Like the Great Tit, many observers reported good counts of 10-25 birds with 41 birds being trapped and ringed on Jan 25th at Osgodby. 32 birds were reported at Haverholme on Mar 6th and a further 30 at Keal Carrs on Apr 11th tends to suggest good winter survival rates.



**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus* Chambers Farm Wood Jan 22nd 2011 © Nick Clayton

### **Great Tit** *Parus major*

Very common resident.

Peaks monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	23	50	49	42	29	37	26	33	44	23	52	22
Whisby NP	67	93	59	59	16	89	45	39	51	59	63	48

Widespread reports of 10-20 birds throughout the county, particularly in the winter months. The highest counts were at Stenigot on Mar 27th and 26 at Holme on Dec 18th. A good summer count was of 35 birds trapped and ringed at Osgodby on Jun 14th, of which 29 were juveniles.

### **Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

Widespread resident and passage migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	13	12	13	13	11	5	9	8	6	11	7	6
Min. count	47	24	68	68	30	56	26	39	9	18	10	8

At Twigmoor 40 birds reported on Mar 23rd and the same number at Keb Wood on Jun 11th were the highest counts for the year. The majority of the counts were in the north of the county but 20 birds were reported from Boston on Aug 9th. The only report from the coast was one individual at Donna Nook on Oct 15th.

### **Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

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

Reports were received during the year from over 35 locations with the majority again from the Barton, Messingham SQ and Whisby NP areas with a maximum number of seven recorded at Barton Pits in Jan. Away from these, there is a small population in the Anwick and Haverholme area where one or two were recorded in seven months of the year. This is one of the few places in the county where Marsh Tits can also be found so any non-calling birds should be carefully scrutinised. Small numbers were reported in every month at Whisby NP with a peak of five in Apr. Not surprisingly, the most sightings were in Apr with records from 12 sites including a count of six at Messingham SQ. Of the 10 individuals ringed in the Market Rasen area, only one was a first year bird which is a similar result to last year. Observers are urged to submit all sightings of this rapidly declining species and proven breeding records are most important.



**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus* Messingham SQ Mar 15th 2011 © Simon Spavin

### **Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

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

Reports were received from twenty locations mostly in the south-west of the county. A notable exception was the individual trapped and ringed at Gib Point NNR on Apr 6th – a remarkable record for such a sedentary species. The maximum count of twelve was from Twyford Woods in Nov with counts of seven in Temple Wood in Jan, five in Callan's Lane Wood in Feb and at Haverholme in Aug. There was only one record in May with two recorded at Lawn Wood, Castle Bytham. There were considerably fewer records of Marsh Tit than there were of Willow Tit and it is important that all sightings are reported to help gauge whether Marsh Tits are also declining in Lincolnshire.

### **Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus*

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

The south Humber bank is the main focus for this species in the county and summaries for Alkborough and Barton are as follows. Bearded Tits had a good year at Alkborough Flats after a devastating winter that reduced their breeding populations around the country. An unknown number of birds were heard in Jan with a least one pair in Feb and Mar. An exciting discovery was a male and two females feeding young in early Jun when a brood of six young fledged on 20th. A second brood may have fledged later in the summer contributing to some excellent numbers recorded in the autumn with 14+ on Aug 27th, 32+ on Sep 24th and 50+, but probably 70, on 27th when several flocks were irrupting from the reed beds. There were up to 20 in Oct and 20 irrupting on Nov 1st with some heard again at the end of Dec. At Barton, a male was singing at Far Ings on Mar 9th and 11th; two were at Far Ings and one was at Barton reed bed on Apr 17th. A male was again at Barton reed bed on May 9th, and another heard calling at Pit 25 on Jun 3rd with six or seven juveniles at Pit 25 on Jun 10th. A male was noted at Barrow Haven ski pit on Jul 28th. Despite this breeding success, the decline in status of this species at Barton - Barrow Haven pits continues. Elsewhere there were few records, with none relating to breeding birds. In spring singles were at Boultham Mere on Mar 27th and Dawson City clay pits on Apr 1st, two were at Manby Flashes on May 5th and one was at Gib Point on Jun 6th. In the autumn, there was just a single record of a bird at Rosper Road Pools on Aug 9th.

### **Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra*

Very rare vagrant. **BBRC**

A single bird was recorded at Gib Point on May 11th (TB, KMW), having probably been originally seen on May 10th. This is the 16th accepted record for the UK and the first for Lincolnshire. Accepted by BBRC, for a finder's report of this bird see page 195.

## Woodlark *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**

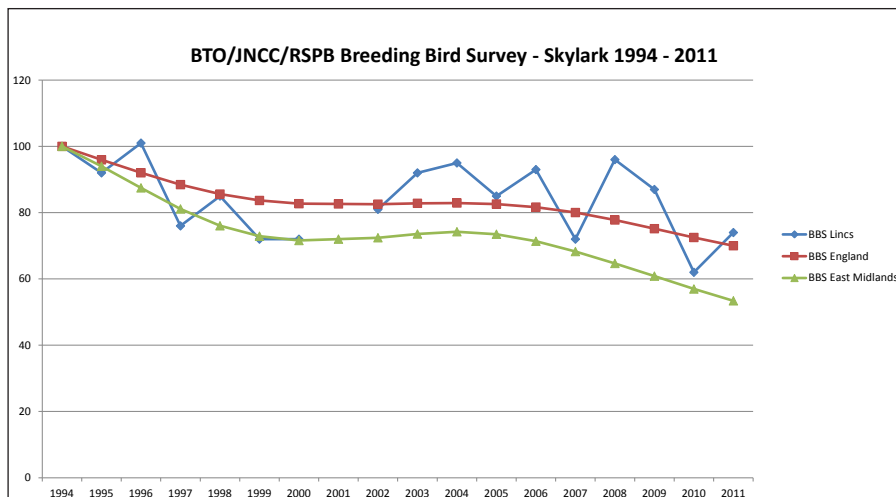
No census for this species was undertaken during the reporting period and records shown here are from casual reports only. An early singing bird was at Knaith on Feb 27th and single males were singing at Loughton Forest on Mar 4th and Twigmoor Woods on Mar 5th. The only migrant of the spring was at Gib Point on Mar 11th. During the spring, singing birds were reported from six sites in all, with eight birds at one site. Overall a minimum of 11 pairs were thought to have bred but there was no census in the north-western core area of the county and the only pair confirmed to have bred was at Kirkby Moor where an adult was seen feeding two fledglings on May 25th. Autumn passage amounted to one at Donna Nook on Oct 30th.

## Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

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

Peak monthly counts for some of the main county sites are tabulated below, along with the total monthly counts for all sites submitting data. This latter total represents a minimum number of birds present during any one month:

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Howden's Pullover	120	70	-	-	40	40	-	-	-	200	150	250
Wainfleet	705	168	22	19	17	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gib Point	86	63	60	53	50	67	42	15	92	452	296	204
Freiston Shore	115	30	17	38	22	21	35	8	-	26	22	-
Frampton Marsh	82	6	8	14	12	12	50	-	13	6	-	-
Anwick Fen	28	19	22	39	20	24	23	7	-	43	35	4
RAF Waddington	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	400	-	-
All sites	1998	751	419	708	390	492	274	73	273	2889	1317	854



About a dozen sites recorded flocks of 100 birds or more, all of these being during Jan-Feb, or later in the year during Oct-Dec. The wintering population fell away after the Jan peak although later spring and summer counts were somewhat patchy and probably unrepresentative of true numbers. A large autumn influx saw the year's peak count in Oct. However, there was little data from some previously important wintering grounds in the Fens and the Dec count looks suspiciously low. Few breeding concentrations were received with the highest being 95 pairs at Frampton Marsh and 36 at Freiston Shore. This familiar, but now less common, breeding bird has declined by some 40% in the East Midlands since 1994 according to the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey, a finding mirrored by its current status in Lincolnshire.



**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis* Frampton Marsh Jun 30th 2011 © Steve Nesbitt

### **Shorelark** *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.

The wintering flock at Gib Point which had been present from Nov 2010 numbered around 18-23 birds during Jan and Feb. There was a decline to 10 by Mar 12th and to eight by Mar 23rd. A total of 16 were seen on Apr 2nd and was followed by nine on Apr 14th, and the last record of the spring involved 26 birds on Apr 16th. The only other birds recorded during this period were three at the end of Brickyard Lane on the Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR. These were found on Jan 18th and were last seen on Apr 16th (JRW, CMO et al). There was a paucity of sightings in the autumn. The first bird was noted at Donna Nook on Oct 20th, after which one occurred at Gib Point on Nov 4th and Nov 8th. There were single birds at Donna Nook and Howden's Pullover (CMO) on Nov 26th and one was at Donna Nook on Dec 8th.

### **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Peak counts	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Barton Pits	-	100	600	-	40	-	120	550	-
Gib Point	-	5	42	28	520	379	440	166	1
Frampton Marsh	2	100	55	200	250	-	1	-	-
Whisby NP	-	50	100	100	11	26	150	100	50

The first bird of the year was at Frampton Marsh on Mar 12th followed by records at Barton Pits on Mar 13th and three at Thurlby Sand Pit on Mar 19th. Birds were then seen daily with peak counts in Mar of 13 at Whisby NP on 24th, 30 at Messingham SQ on 25th, c100 at Barton Pits on 29th and c50 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on 29th. Breeding was confirmed at Pinchbeck with c50 nest holes at Vernatt's Drain, c15 nest holes at Kirkby on Bain Pits, Cove Farm Quarry, Westwoodside and 35 pairs at Frampton Marsh. The artificial Sand Martin bank on Thorpe Lake, Whisby NP was extremely successful and out of 40 nest holes, 39 were occupied and a minimum of 58 broods were reared with at least 21 double broods recorded. It is difficult to determine when spring passage ended and autumn movements began, with Gib Point recording small numbers of passage birds from Jun onwards, including peak counts of c450 south on Jun 26th and c520 south on Jun 27th. Birds were recorded daily throughout Aug with c440 south on 14th and 166 south on Sep 9th with the last bird at Gib Point on Oct 9th. The reedbeds at Alkborough Flats attracted large roosts with estimates of c2000 birds on Jul 12th and c3000 birds on Aug 25th.



**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* Frampton Marsh Jun 8th 2011 © Neil Smith

### **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	Dec
Barton Pits	-	-	1	70	10	3	2000	2000	-	1	-
Donna Nook	-	-	39	80	40	70	200	560	10	1	-
Gib Point	-	4	60	3402	50	100	6200	5036	154	5	1
Freiston Shore	-	-	25	-	10	25	25	50	1	1	-
Frampton Marsh	-	1	14	2	50	100	15	15	1	1	-

Singles were at Gib Point on Mar 5th, at Frampton Marsh on Mar 19th, at Tetney Marsh on Mar 21st and Deeping Lakes on Mar 24th, after which records became daily. Notable spring movements at Gib Point in Apr included 28 on 11th, 48 on 21st, c60 on 24th before heavier passage in early May with c350 on 6th, 1804 on 8th, 3400 on 9th and 1400 on 10th. Autumn movements started from mid-Jul and peaked in Aug with 2140 on 5th, c5000 on 14th, 1220 on 21st and 1300 on 30th. Other notable autumn counts included c1400 at Barton Pits on Sep 4th, 560 at Donna Nook on Sep 9th, and c2000 at Barton Pits on Sep 18th before numbers reduced in late Sep with low numbers being recorded in Oct. During Nov birds were recorded at Frampton Marsh and Freiston Shore on 2nd, Barton Pits on 13th, Skegness on 18th and Donna Nook on 19th. Single birds remained into Dec, being seen at Skegness and Gib Point on 3rd.

### **House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant,

Peak counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Donna Nook	-	2	8	-	30	50	330	21	-
Gib Point	-	18	184	58	23	303	2060	1225	-
Marston STW	-	12	60	70	30	70	120	-	12

The first bird of the year was at Toft Newton on Mar 29th, followed by singles at both Barton Pits and Messingham SQ on Mar 31st. Records were then daily from the beginning of Apr, with 12 at Frampton Marsh on Apr 8th, 18 at Gib Point on Apr 24th and 17 at Fishtoft on Apr 29th. Notable movements in May were recorded on the coast at Gib Point with 115 south on 10th, 184 south on 24th and 102 south on 27th. Significant inland counts included c110 at Halverholme Park on Aug 13th, c100 at Belton Park on Aug 19th, c80 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Sep 5th, c120 at Marston STW in Sep, c150 at Bardney Pits on Sep 3rd, c100 at Whisby NP on Sep 7th,

125 at Anwick Fen on Sep 10th, 121 at Covenham Res on Sep 13th and c100 at RAF Woodhall on Sep 13th. On the coast return passage started in mid-Jul with peak counts in Aug and Sep. At Gib Point 250 were recorded south on Aug 16th, 230 south on Aug 21st, 557 south on Sep 9th, c2000 bird were counted on Sep 10th including 1128 south, 1048 south on Sep 13th, 2060 south on Sep 19th and 1200 south on Oct 4th. Elsewhere on the coast c500 were at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe NNR on Aug 24th, 330 at Donna Nook on Sep 9th, c250 were at Barton Pits on Sep 12th and c100 were at Freiston Shore on Sep 15th. Individuals were seen until the end of Oct with the last birds at Gib Point on 29th and Humberston Fitties on 31st.

### Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Rare passage migrant. **LBRC**

A single bird was at Gib Point briefly on May 6th (KMW).

### Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites 2011	1	0	3	1	0	2	1	1	2	4	3	1
Max. Lincs total 2011	1	0	3	1	0	2	1	1	2	4	3	1
No. of sites 2010	1	2	1	5	3	2	2	1	2	4	4	0
Max. Lincs total 2010	2	3	4	10	5	7	2	4	5	13	7	0

After holding up in 2010, Cetti's numbers were set back badly by two successive hard winters, falling by two thirds from 2010. This is best demonstrated by the position at Barton Pits. In 2010 birds were present in 11 months out of 12 with an average of four per month and a peak of 10 on Oct 31st. In 2011 two singing males were noted in spring and three birds were present Sep – Nov. Across the county birds were recorded at nine sites compared to 13 in 2010. The number of sites occupied dropped from 14 to 9 in 2011. Except at Barton, all records were of single birds. Only one bird at one site was a male singing through the spring period and sufficient to suggest probable breeding, compared to six in 2010. One pair bred on Water's Edge at Barton with young present in late Jul. Marston STW had single birds in Jan, Aug, Oct and Nov. There were single birds at Wroot in Oct and Dec, Tetney Outfall Sluice area on Mar 1st, Sep 26th and Nov 19th and at Boultham Mere on Oct 9th.

### Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	20	24	16	10	7	15	20	54	34	30	30	12
Whisby NP	37	40	25	10	11	33	50	57	61	51	76	40

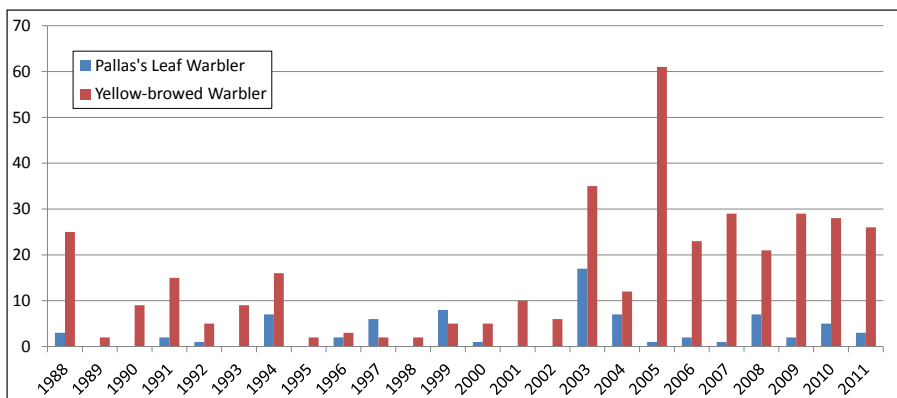
A widespread and common Lincolnshire species recorded from 89 locations throughout the county, with the two regularly monitored sites tabulated above. Counts over 20 birds were received from 16 sites, including 36 at Anwick STW on Jan 9th, c30 at Belton Park on Jan 22nd and c40 on Feb 12th. In the second half of the year there were c20 at Boston on Aug 9th, 26 at Brigsley on Aug 23rd, c20 at Donna Nook on Oct 26th, c27 at Haverholme Park on Aug 13th, 38 on Sep 15th and 38 on Nov 6th, c25 at Kirkby on Bain on Feb 6th, 20 at Marshchapel on Feb 10th, 30 at North Hykeham on Aug 30th, c50 at Stoke Richford on Oct 30th, c40 at Temple Wood on Nov 27th and 20 at Woodhall Spa on Sep 3rd.

### Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Vagrant. **LBRC**

Three individuals occurred this year, a typical number by modern standards. The first was seen at Gib Point on Oct 25th (D Fraser), the second was at Donna Nook on Oct 29th (JS), and the third also at Donna Nook from Nov 9th-13th (SL, JS). The chart below shows annual Lincolnshire totals of Pallas's and Yellow-browed Warblers since 1988.





### Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

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

One seen at Pye's Hall on Oct 2nd, and still present on 3rd, was the first of the autumn. The next was on Oct 11th near the west lighthouse at Sutton Bridge, the only bird away from the open coast this year. A small arrival on 13th included two at Gib Point, one near Sea View/Paradise, one at Donna Nook and one at Cleethorpes. On the following day there were again two at Gib Point (one thought to be new), three at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR; at Paradise, Sea View and Crook Bank, with three in the Donna Nook area and another new bird at Gib Point on 15th. It is difficult to be sure how many were involved in total, but the two at Donna Nook, one at Crook Bank and two at Gib Point on 16th all could have remained from earlier days, while singles on 17th at Churchill Lane and Brickyard Lane, and one at Toby's Hill, Saltfleet, on 18th may have been new. On 19th, one was at Donna Nook, two at Churchill Lane, one at Crook Bank and one at Gib Point, and singles were seen again at Churchill Lane and Crook Bank on 20th. After a short gap, there was one at North Somercotes on Oct 24th, two at Gib Point on 25th, with one there the following day when there were also two at Donna Nook. The last three records were one at Donna Nook on Oct 29th, one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Nov 4th, and one at Donna Nook on Nov 10th. A moderately conservative estimate of the total this year was 28, similar to the last few years. It is interesting to note in the graph above that the total of 25 in 1988 was the record annual total at the time, but this has been eclipsed in six out of the past nine years.



Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* Donna Nook Oct 13th 2011 © Graham Catley

### Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare/scarce passage migrant. LBRC

A single accepted record was of a first calendar year bird at Donna Nook on Sep 2nd (SL).

### Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

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

Siberian Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis* LBRC

The only records early in the year were one just east of Sleaford on Jan 23rd and one at Gib Point on Feb 17th. There was one at Bourne South Fen on Mar 5th, and then an influx in small numbers from Mar 10th. The highest Mar counts were nine at Grimsthorpe Park on 27th and 10 at Gib Point on 30th, but there were more from the start of Apr. Counts included 45 at Barton Pits on Apr 8th, 26 at Messingham SQ on 9th, 20 at Twigmoor Woods on 10th and 25 at Chambers Farm Wood on 17th, while the monthly peak at Whisby NP was 34 birds. Coastal counts at this time were small. There were eight counts of over 10 at Gib Point with a maximum of 17 on 4th and elsewhere eight at Donna Nook on Apr 10th and six at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Apr 13th. With birds on established territories during May-Jul, reports were less numerous. Breeding numbers remained high, although the BBS showed little change regionally between 2010 and 2011. Little passage was evident before late Aug and autumn numbers were very poor. At Gib Point, the first double-figure count was 19 on Sep 8th. The highest totals there were 40 on Sep 14th and 68 on 15th after which numbers tailed off, although there were 20 on Oct 3rd and six more double-figure counts through to 19th. Elsewhere, counts of 10 at Donna Nook on both Sep 17th and Oct 15th were the highest for those months, with others over six including seven at Whisby NP on Sep 23rd and eight at Dunsby on Sep 27th. In Nov, there were counts of one-four at eight localities plus eight at Gib Point on 9th and at Donna Nook on 13th. Records in Dec were singles at Theddlethorpe St Helen from 2nd-4th, North Hykeham Pits from 5th-8th, Spalding on 5th, and Marston STW on 17th-18th.

One showing characteristics of Siberian Chiffchaff was at Gib Point from Nov 13th-20th (KMW).

### Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first was singing at Whisby NP on Mar 30th and there were singles at Cleethorpes, Messingham SQ and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NW the next day. High early counts were 17 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Apr 6th, 12-13 at Gib Point on 7th-8th, and 33 at Barton Pits on 8th. Most areas are not counted or reported systematically enough to convey much, but the table below shows monthly peaks for a few key sites. Other areas with 15 or more during Apr-May were Chambers Farm Wood with 18 and Twyford Wood with 33. No breeding estimates were received but this species is known from BBS to have declined in Lincolnshire, although less so compared with southern England. Autumn passage was apparent from the end of Jul, with the Gib Point peak of 24 on 31st. There were 1108 bird-days at Gib Point during Jul 30th-Sep 9th, with 19 counts exceeding 20 and maxima of 60 on Aug 14th, 190 on 15th, 67 on 17th, and 52 on 21st. Peak counts elsewhere were 20 at Boston on Aug 9th, 10 at Freiston Shore on 14th, and 14 at Donna Nook on Sep 3rd. From Sep 10th, only single-figure counts were made, with late birds at Gib Point on Oct 7th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 14th, and Donna Nook on Oct 1st, 13th and 15th.

Peak counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Donna Nook	-	12	4	-	-	10	14	1
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	1	17	16	-	2	2	-	1
Gib Point	-	28	19	16	24	190	34	1
Anwick Fen	-	14	14	3	4	5	-	-
Whisby NP	1	45	50	48	21	16	1	-

### Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

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

In Jan, singles were found on two dates at Gib Point, and single dates at Market Deeping, Hundleyby, Mablethorpe, Grimsby and Healing. In Febone was at Spalding on Feb 6th. No more were recorded until one at Bradley Woods on Mar 25th with another at Elsea/Math Woods on 26th with more from 28th. Spring counts were generally low although Whisby NP recorded a

monthly peak of 33. A full count at Barton Pits on Apr 8th revealed 46, and there were 19 at Gib Point on Apr 16th, 30 at Chambers Farm Wood and 20 at Temple Wood on Apr 17th. As for other common passerines, breeding was widely reported for the Atlas with few estimates of population size but it is known that levels continue to be high, as indicated by 35 trapped in one ringing session at Market Stainton on Aug 6th. In most areas autumn counts were low, but there were 660 bird-days at Gib Point during mid Aug-mid Oct, with 10 counts of 20 or more, and maxima of 39 on Sep 4th, 53 on Sep 15th and 33 on Oct 13th. The highest count elsewhere was 20 at Crook Bank on Oct 16th. There were still seven at Donna Nook on Oct 26th, while in Nov there were one-three at four coastal locations through to 20th, with four-seven at Gib Point during Nov 7th-13th, plus singles at Cogglesford Mill, Sleaford, on 25th and at Temple Wood on 26th. The only later records were one at Grantham on Dec 10th, a male at Healing on Dec 24th, and one at Gib Point on Dec 26th-27th.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	1	-	-	19	15	14	8	15	53	33	7	1
Whisby NP	-	-	2	33	44	32	30	15	2	-	-	-

### Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

One at Chambers Farm Wood on Apr 17th was the first of spring, the next day one was at Whisby NP on 18th with more from 19th. Only at Whisby NP were there any double-figure counts, with up to 28 singing males in May-Jun. The only counts over five at other localities were six at Messingham SQ on Apr 23rd and six at Londonthorpe Wood on May 3rd. There were very few coastal reports in spring and only a few more in autumn. At Gib Point, there were only 14 bird-days from Aug 14th-Sep 18th and a peak of just four on Sep 4th. The only later reports were one singing at Dunsby on 24th, and singles, perhaps the same, at Gib Point on Oct 8th and 15th.



Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* Kirkby on Bain Apr 29th 2011 © Russell Hayes

### Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

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

Just two records (compared with 15 in 2010), with singles at Gib Point from Sep 4th-18th being trapped twice (GG et al), and at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 13th (GPC, ND).



**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca* Donna Nook Nov 9-12th 2011. This bird showed characters and produced vocalisations of the central Asian form, whose exact taxonomy and identification is currently the subject of research. Both images taken by © Graham Catley

### Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

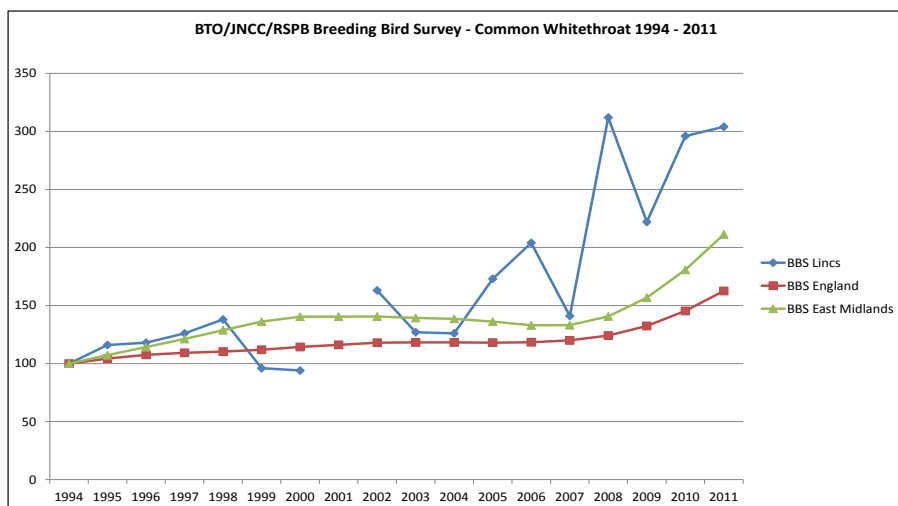
Two at Crook Bank on Apr 14th were the first, followed by singles at Grimsby, Donna Nook and Gib Point, and five at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 16th. At Gib Point there were up to eight during the rest of Apr and more in early May, with peaks of 13 on May 8th-9th. Elsewhere, there were five at Barton Pits on 17th with nine there on 22nd, eight at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on 25th, and six at Donna Nook on May 1st, but most spring counts were below five. There were four pairs at Crook Bank in late May and Jun and about 12 pairs held territory at Whisby NP. The few Jul reports did include some of confirmed breeding but passage was underway by late in the month. There were 499 bird-days at Gib Point during Aug-Sep, with maxima of 20 on Aug 5th, 22 on Aug 14th, 42 on Aug 15th, 36 on Aug 19th and 28 on Sep 4th. Most counts at other places were below four but there were 12 at Crook Bank on Aug 24th, eight in the Churchill Lane-Brickyard Lane area on Sep 3rd and six at Barton Pits on Sep 10th. Records at Gib Point extended throughout Sep, including a late peak of 18 on 15th, but elsewhere none were seen after 18th. There were two at Gib Point on Oct 1st, with two there and two at Theddlethorpe St Helen on Oct 4th, one at Churchill Lane-Brickyard Lane on 13th, and the last at Gib Point on 14th.

A bird at Donna Nook, from Nov 9th-12th showed characters of the Central Asian forms, whose exact taxonomy and identification is currently the subject of research (GPC, ND).

### Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first was singing at Swinderby on Apr 6th, with one-two at five localities on 8th and more over the next few days. The first double-figure counts came on 13th with 13 at Gib Point, and on 16th, with 11 at Donna Nook, 20 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and 25 at Gib Point. There were 20 at Donna Nook on 19th and numbers at Gib Point continued to rise reaching an Apr peak of 101 on 23rd. Other high counts in Apr were 28 at Stenigot on 23rd, 40 at Donna Nook on 29th, and 60 at there on May 1st. At Gib Point the spring peak was 112 on May 14th, some of which would have been locally breeding birds. 121 were also counted there on Jun 6th. The county breeding population continues to grow (see chart below), even though just eight sites reported counts of 20 or more during May-Jul. The highest of these, excluding Gib Point, were 46 at Kirton in Lindsey, 22 pairs at Crook Bank in May, 30 at Keal Carr in Jun and up to 100 at Donna Nook in Jul. Further such counts occurred in Aug, including 29 at Haverholme Park on 13th, 85 at Gib Point on 15th, 30 at Crook Bank on 21st and 30 at Greetwell Hollow on 30th, but large coastal passage concentrations were notably lacking. In Sep, the only counts of over six were 12 at Tunnel Pits, Wroot on 9th, seven at Donna Nook on 18th, plus up to 24 at Gib Point until 15th. Later records included one-four through to Sep 28th at Gib Point, five at Dunsby on Sep 24th with singles there on 27th and Oct 2nd, one at Gib Point on Oct 2nd, and one at Crook Bank on Oct 8th.





Western Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* Humberston Apr 3rd 2011 © Graham Catley



Western Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* Humberston Apr 3rd 2011 © Graham Catley



**Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans***

Vagrant. LBRC (BBRC until 2005)

An adult male of the western form *cantillans* was at Humberston Fitties on Apr 3rd (CA *et al*). This represents only the eighth county record and the first since 1996. The first Lincolnshire record was in May 1970 with further records in 1976, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1994 and 1996. The 1981 male showed characteristics of the eastern form *Sylvia cantillans albistriata*.

**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.

Peak counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
No. of sites	25	14	19	7	3
Max. no. of birds	79	19	30	13	3

The first arrivals were singing males at Cleethorpes CP on Apr 6th and then one-three at Gib Point, Theddlethorpe St Helen, Barton Pits and Tunnel Pits, Wroot from Apr 7th-11th, before a mass arrival of birds with 24 sites holding a minimum of 79 birds between Apr 12th and the end of the month. At Barton Pits a record count of 23 singing males was made on Apr 17th, with other maxima including four at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Apr 16th, four at Gib Point on Apr 18th and 20th, five at Tunnel Pits, Wroot on Apr 20th, six at both Twyford Wood and Rimac on Apr 22nd, and seven at Donna Nook on Apr 23rd. Four were again singing at Gib Point on Jun 6th. Breeding is always difficult to prove with this species; between May and Jul birds were recorded at 30 sites, but confirmed breeding was only recorded at Barton Pits. It was a very poor autumn with singles recorded at Alkborough Flats on Aug 1st, at Freiston Shore on Aug 23rd, and at Gib Point on Aug 2nd, 15th and 24th.



**Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*** Gib Point Jul 5th 2011 © Paul Neale

**Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina***

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

A bird was caught and ringed at Gib Point on Aug 24th (GPBO), being the first one ringed at the observatory since 1996, and the 24th ringed at the site. For a photograph of this bird please see the ringing report.



### **Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus***

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

There was one at Gib Point on Apr 4th with two there on 7th, further singles were at Churchill Lane on Apr 6th and Goxhill Marsh on 7th, with 11 at Barton Pits by the 8th, when a widespread arrival began. Counts of five or more came from 27 places, slightly more than last year. This is a widespread and locally numerous species in wetlands; the BBS index for Sedge Warbler in England has shown little change over the past 15 years, but a significant increase between 2010 and 2011. The highest counts of spring-summer in the county this year were 27 at Tunnel Pits, Wroot on Apr 20th, 70 at Barton Pits on Apr 23rd, 23 at Wolla Bank Pit on May 5th, 30 at Anwick Fen on May 21st and 22 at Great Fen on Jun 23rd. There were up to 20 at Donna Nook in Jul. However, after the end of Jul, rather small numbers were reported. In Aug, there were up to five at Marston STW, a maxima at Gib Point of 10 on 5th and 11 on 15th, nine at Haverholme Park on 13th with five there on 21st and eight at Worlaby Carrs on 14th. The only records in Sep were one-two at Gib Point on six dates, plus four on 7th, with the last there on Sep 21st.

### **Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris***

Very rare passage migrant. LBRC RBBP

A bird was trapped and ringed at Gib Point on Jun 2nd (GPBO). For photographs of this bird, please see the ringing report.

### **Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus***

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

One at Tetney on Apr 7th and four at Barton Pits on Apr 8th were the first of the year. Mostly small numbers were reported during the rest of Apr, although there were 40 at Barton Pits on 19th and 37 at Messingham SQ on 23rd. Over the whole breeding season from Apr-Jul, counts of 10 or more came from 18 localities. The largest, in addition to the Apr counts, were 25 at Wainfleet Bank on Jun 1st, 28 at Anwick Fen on Jun 4th, 23 at Haverholme Park on Jun 12th with 26 there on Jul 2nd, 20 at North Owersby on Jun 28th and 20 at Gib Point on Jul 20th. The BBS has shown the Reed Warbler to be increasing in England over recent years and there was a small but non-significant increase between 2010 and 2011. Autumn counts, as for many other warblers, were small but did include 20 trapped and ringed at Market Stainton on Aug 6th and 33 at Haverholme Park on Aug 13th. Eight at Donna Nook on Aug 12th and counts at Gib Point peaking at 12 on Aug 15th were the highest elsewhere during that month. One-five were seen at nine sites in Sep. The last of the year were much later, trapped at Gib Point on Oct 14th and seen at Frampton Marsh on Oct 17th.



Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* Frampton Marsh May 20th 2011 © Neil Smith

### **Waxwing *Bombusilla garrulus***

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

The 2010 autumn Waxwing irruption, which had been in full swing by Dec, continued into Jan 2011. The minimum number of birds involved for the month was 1066 birds with peaks of 80 being recorded in Lincoln and 150 in Bourne during the first few days of the New Year. A number of other flocks numbering from 11-40 were located around the county at the same time. As the month progressed additional large flocks were recorded, including 100 in Grimsby on 18th, 120 at Witham St Hugh's on 24th and 142 in north Lincoln on 29th. Sizeable flocks continued to be reported throughout Feb with regular birds in the north Lincoln area averaging just over 50 and a new flock of 62 being located in Scunthorpe on 23rd. On Mar 1st 45 were seen in Healing and flocks of over 50 were still being reported throughout the month including from Grantham with 70 on 20th, 54 from north Lincoln on 21st and 60 in Birchwood, Lincoln on 26th. Apr saw a dramatic decline in numbers with a total of just 38 birds being recorded. The last sightings of the spring were of a group of 15 seen feeding on ivy berries at Swayfield on 24th and a single bird noted at North Somercotes on 28th. The minimum number of birds from Jan-Apr inclusive was 1740.

It is extremely unusual to have two successive Waxwing winters, with 2010/11 and 2011/12 proving no exception. A lone Waxwing was reported from Donna Nook on Oct 31st with just single figure numbers from other locations throughout the county in Nov and Dec, except for a group of 15 in the Donna Nook/North Somercotes area on Nov 14th. The final report of the year was of five seen at Gib Point on Dec 30th.

### **Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea***

Scarce local resident.

After many years of the species' stronghold being confined to the south-west of the county, it is pleasing to note that the gradual spread and increase of records in the woodlands around Scunthorpe, Gainsborough and Market Rasen is becoming well established. There were also more regular records in several areas eastwards towards the traditional site at Bradley Woods, most notably at Barton, Roxton Woods, Brocklesby Park and Grainsby, while further reports showing a more easterly trend were at Stenigot, Oxcombe and Hoplands Wood. Throughout the year most reports were of one-two birds, but three-four were noted at 10 sites and peak counts included five at Temple Wood on Apr 17th, eight at Brocklesby Estate on Jun 10th and five at Elsea/Math Woods on Nov 19th. Sadly, one was killed when it flew into a window pane at Market Stainton on Jul 23rd.



**Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*** Bourne Woods Apr 13th 2011 © Steve Nesbitt



Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* Scunthorpe Jan 26th 2011 © Simon Spavin



Waxwings *Bombycilla garrulus* Grimsby Jan 18th 2011 © Graham Catley



**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus* Louth Jan 4th 2011 © John Clarkson



**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus* RSPB Frampton Marsh Jan 16th 2011 © Neil Smith



**Eurasian Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

Common resident and partial migrant.

A well distributed resident recorded widely except in the relatively treeless districts of the Fens. Certainly under-counted, most reports were of one-two, or sometimes three-four birds. Higher counts were of five at Twigmoor Woods on Mar 23rd, five at Morkery Wood on Jul 2nd, seven at Whisby NP on Jul 15th, six at Belton Park on Aug 19th and five at Riseholme on Sep 24th. Gib Point provided the bulk of coastal records, with a minimum of two birds recorded in every month and a peak count of two adults and three juveniles in early Jun. The only other coastal birds concerned one trapped and ringed at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 15th, one seen at Wrangle Bank on Nov 23rd and one at Humberston Fitties on Dec 2nd.



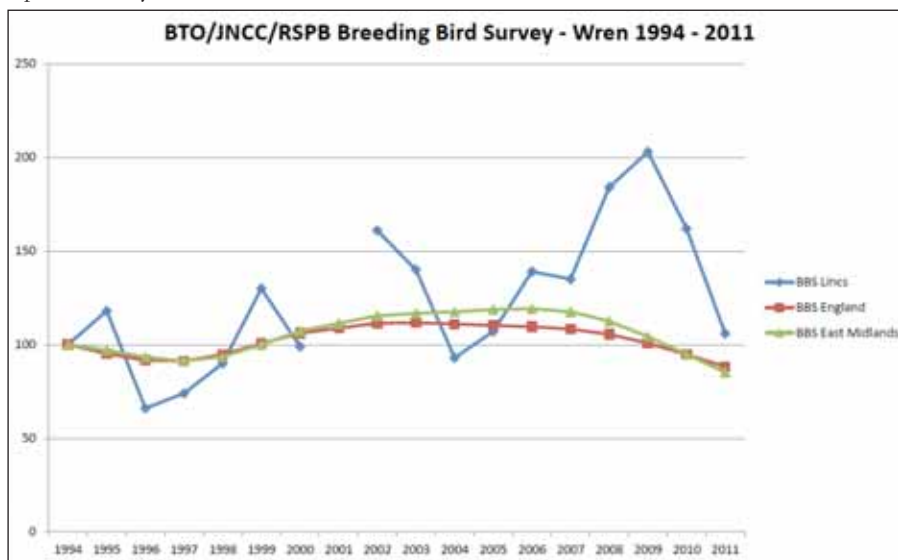
**Eurasian Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris* Tattershall Dec 6th 2011 © Russell Hayes

## Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	15	14	17	25	24	27	13	22	34	58	43	20
Whisby NP	5	6	8	34	38	34	30	19	11	13	15	20

A very common species recorded throughout Lincolnshire in all habitats. The Breeding Bird Survey data shows a recent decline in this bird's fortunes, with the very cold weather at the end of 2010 presumably being a contributing factor. The table above shows sites with continuous monitoring. Other peak counts including c25 at Stenigot on Apr 23rd, 36 at Haverholme Park on Jul 2nd and a peak monthly count of c40 at Donna Nook in Oct and 30 in Nov.



## Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Significant concentrations at the start of the year included peak counts at Frampton Marsh of c2000 on Jan 15th, c1000 at Freiston Shore on Jan 14th and 560 at Donna Nook on Mar 19th. Return passage was recorded from mid-Mar with 930 at Gib Point on Mar 19th, 1425 on Mar 20th and 1220 on Mar 21st. Large counts significantly decreased in Apr, with smaller numbers recorded at Gib Point, including 57 south on Apr 1st, 45 at Croft Marsh on May 3rd and 100 at Alkborough Flats on Jun 11th. Numbers of mainly juveniles undertaking westerly movements on the coast included counts of 3000 at Tetney Marsh on Jun 29th, 3000 at Saltfleetby St Clement on Jul 10th, 2000 at Alkborough Flats on Jul 12th and c15000 at Gib Point on Jul 14th. Large counts at the end of the year included c1600 at Alkborough Flats on Oct 7th, c2000 in the Donna Nook area from Oct 26th-Nov 9th, c1000 at Grainthorpe Marsh on Oct 26th and c1600 at Anderby Creek on Oct 28th. Autumn passage at Gib Point included daily double figure counts from mid-Sep onwards with peak numbers including 499 on Oct 15th, c1000 on Oct 24th, 660 on Nov 1st and 240 on Nov 11th before number numbers slowed in mid-Dec. A leucistic bird was recorded on the coast and was probably responsible for all the following records, including sightings at Tetney Marsh on Aug 14th, at Pye's Hall on Sep 25th, at Donna Nook on Oct 1st and Oct 29th, at Horseshoe Point from Oct 2nd-9th and finally at North Cotes on Oct 14th.

## Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

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

A male at Chapel Pit on Mar 28th was the first report for the year and this was followed by a single at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Apr 6th and two each at Barton Pits and Immingham

on Apr 9th. More arrivals followed almost daily for the rest of Apr, mostly from coastal locations involving usually one-two birds, but with peak counts of three from both Humberston Fitties on 16th and Freiston Shore on 27th. At Gib Point the first bird was recorded from Apr 15th-19th, with two from May 1st-4th. Inland there was a single at Thoresby Bridge on Apr 10th and two birds were recorded from Sleaford on Apr 18th and Alkborough village on Apr 29th. All records during May involved one-two birds from just eight coastal localities with the last spring migrant at Donna Nook on 9th. The first bird of the autumn was a single at Cleethorpes on Sep 28th. This was followed by a rather light Oct passage from just seven coastal locations involving mostly one-two birds with just one larger count of four at Gib Point on 14th. Surprisingly there were six Nov records with singles at Grainthorpe Marsh on 8th and 11th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 9th, Donna Nook on 11th, Rimac on 16th and finally Willow Tree Fen on 22nd.



**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*  
Alkborough Flats May 4th 2011  
© Simon Spavin



**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula* (juvenile)  
Boston May 21st 2011  
© Steve Keightley

### **Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A very common and widespread species which was recorded from around 130 locations throughout the county, with many reports of confirmed breeding during the nesting season. Peak counts for coastal sites during the annual autumn passage included 5000 at Gib Point on Nov 7th with 2400 there the following day, 700 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and 220 at Donna Nook both on Nov 8th, and just inland from the coast, 96 at Fosdyke village on Jan 3rd. Inland most counts were of between 1-59 birds with notable counts over this figure including 60 at North Hykeham Pits on Nov 8th, 81 at Stenigot on Jan 2nd and a peak monthly count of 89 at Whisby NP during Feb.

### **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 three months of the year, with typical flocks ranging up to 250 birds. There was a notable movement during early Jan at Gib Point with a peak of 522 on 9th. Elsewhere, counts over 250 included 550 at Freiston Shore on Jan 4th, 300 at Fulbeck Low Fields on Feb 10th, 350 at Barkston on Feb 15th, a peak of 400 at Willow Tree Fen on Mar 4th and 450 at Haverholme Park on Mar 6th. As expected, numbers



declined during Apr and most birds had left by 25th. There were more May records than usual with a single at Huttoft Bank Pit on 4th, two over Alkborough on 5th, two at Frampton Marsh on 7th and finally a late bird at Gedney Fen on 21st. The first returning birds were later than expected with five west over Barton Pits and 40 south-west over Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, both on Oct 8th, followed by 12 at Gib Point and one at Howden's Pullover the following day. A widespread but mostly light autumn passage arrival occurred during the rest of Oct and into Nov with peak counts of over 300 birds including 420 at Covenham Res on Oct 20th, 400 at Nocton Fen on Nov 6th, 516 at Gib Point on Nov 8th and 500 at Dunsby Fen on Nov 12th. Some larger flocks were recorded particularly during mid to late Dec, possibly brought about by cold weather movements, and included 700 at the Witham Mouth on 18th, 650 at Pinchbeck Slipe on 20th and 260 at Gib Point on 27th.



Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* Lincoln Feb 9th 2011 © Russell Hayes

### Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A common and often inconspicuous resident with records from 85 locations throughout the county (although this is highly unlikely to represent its real distribution) and confirmed as a breeding species from many of these sites. Records from coastal sites during the marked autumn passage appeared to be lower than in previous years and included 80 (18 trapped and ringed) at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 12th, 50 at Donna Nook on Oct 26th and at Gib Point peak monthly counts of 56 on Oct 13th and 120 on Nov 7th. Away from coastal areas, almost all inland counts were of between just one-six birds with higher figures of seven at Stenigot on Apr 23rd, and a peak monthly count of 11 at Whisby NP during Apr.

### 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 first three months of the year with flocks typically numbering between 1-150 individuals. There were no noticeable cold weather movements detected during this period. The peak counts included 400 at Freiston Shore on Jan 4th, 250 at RAF Waddington on Feb 24th and 160 at Swanpool on Feb 17th. It appears that most birds had left by the end of the first week in Apr, evidenced by a notable count of 186 north at Gib Point on 1st, with only two later records of a single at Willingham-on-Stow on 15th and four at Gib Point on 16th. There were no May records this year. There were also no Sep records this year, so the first birds of autumn were much later than expected with three at Gib Point on Oct 2nd and a single at Donna Nook on Oct 7th. There was a large and notable influx on Oct 8th which included both inland and coastal locations with 1100 at Sloothby, 1260 at Gib Point, 200 at Bardney and 140 at Swanpool. Thereafter records were regular for the rest of the month and

Redwings became once again common and widespread to the end of the year, with further influxes during Nov. Most flocks numbered up to 120 individuals with higher counts including a peak count of 800 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 13th and 1000 at Marton both on Oct 13th, and a peak count of 563 at Gib Point and 280 at Alkborough Flats both on Nov 7th.

### **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Fairly common during the first three months of the year with records received from 43 locations (34 in 2010) spread throughout the county. Most involved between one-four birds with higher counts including six at Lincoln Arboretum on Feb 17th, six at Worlaby Carrs on Feb 24th, eight at Stenigot on Mar 6th and nine at Holme on Mar 2nd. At Gib Point peak counts included six on Feb 24th and five on Mar 31st. During the breeding season records came from 52 locations (42 in 2010) with possible or probable breeding from most of these locations but confirmed breeding from Elsea/Math Woods, Kirton in Lindsey, Holme, Theddlethorpe St Helen, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, RAF Coningsby, Keb Wood and Gib Point. Post breeding flocks generally numbered up to 10 birds with higher counts including 14 at Market Rasen on Aug 30th, 12 at Woodhall Spa on Sep 1st and 20 at Moor Farm on Sep 2nd. Passage during the autumn included 15 at Theddlethorpe St Helen on Oct 1st and a peak count of 26 at Theddlethorpe-Saltfleetby NNR on Oct 20th, whilst Gib Point recorded monthly peak counts of 31 on Aug 25th, 36 on Sep 14th and 31 on Oct 3rd. Presumed late passage birds were recorded from Theddlethorpe St Helen and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR with 10 each on Nov 13th, otherwise the rest of Nov and Dec was quiet with records from 23 locations (25 in 2010) and flocks of up to eight birds.

### **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

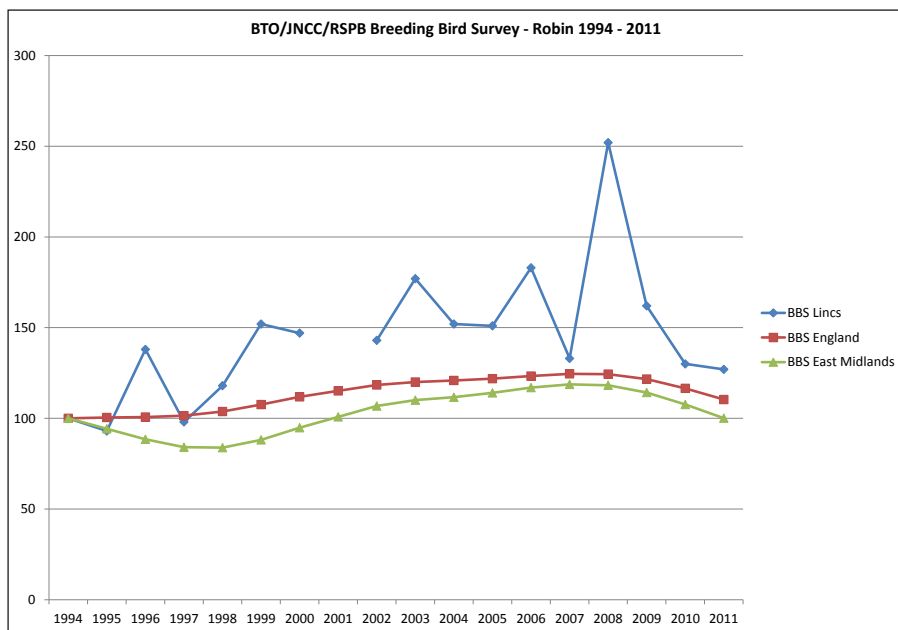
Formerly common, now very local summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first record of the year was of a bird seen at Killingholme Haven on May 10th. Only 24 birds were noted throughout the rest of the month, either singles or pairs. Coastal records were again scarce, with just single birds at Gib Point on 14th, at Freiston Shore on 19th and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on 27th. A bird was seen collecting nesting material at Doddington on May 28th but the first record of a pair at the nest wasn't until Jun 6th at a traditional site at Riseholme, Lincoln. Reports of birds feeding young in the nest trickled through in late Jun and Jul. As birds were more active around nest sites the minimum number of birds seen in Jun rose to 55 followed by a further increase to 97 in Jul, the latter figure being from 27 sites. Five breeding pairs located at RAF Waddington on Jul 17th was notable. Post-breeding groups noted include 12 at Elsham village on Jul 29th and nine at Stenigot on 31st. The Aug total was a minimum of 54 birds, with post-breeding groups of eight in Woodhall Spa on 9th, six in Hatcliffe on 13th and eight in Linwood Warren on 31st. A small number of birds reported regularly for a few days in early Sep from Swanpool were believed to be migrants, an annual occurrence at this site close to Lincoln. With many birds having already left Lincolnshire heading south to Iberia and beyond to their wintering quarters in western and southern Africa just 32 birds from 16 sites were recorded in Sep. These included two from Gib Point on 13th and 14th. The last birds of the year were noted at Gib Point with one on 24th and one at Pinchbeck on the same date.

### **Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A very common and widespread species which was recorded from 104 locations throughout the county. The autumn passage from Scandinavia appears to have been predominantly under recorded this year with migrant records only reported from Donna Nook, where there was a peak of just 50 birds on Nov 8th, and Gib Point with monthly peak counts of 145 on Oct 25th and 170 on Nov 10th. The latest Breeding Bird Survey figures show that the national population increased by 10% over the period 1995-2010, although in recent years the trend has been in slight decline. This appears to be mirrored at local levels both in terms of an East Midlands and Lincolnshire context.



### Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Scarce and declining local summer visitor and scarce passage migrant.

Whisby NP recorded the first bird for the year when an individual was briefly observed singing on Apr 8th, with subsequent arrivals earlier than normal and at least five birds were back on territory singing by Apr 14th. At the coast spring passage included singles at Donna Nook on Apr 20th and at Gib Point on Apr 14th and 23rd. Breeding season records from south of the county included singing birds at Twyford Wood on Apr 22nd, and Stamford from May 6th-28th, with disappointingly no records received from any of the other South Kesteven woodlands. In mid- Lincs detailed census work at Whisby NP located an impressive 14 singing males.. At the Chambers Farm Wood complex two singing males were at Minting Park between Apr 24th and Jun 3rd and a male sang briefly in the Picnic Scrub area on May 28th. Elsewhere singing males were recorded from Dog Kennel Wood, Market Rasen, on May 7th, Martin Moor on May 17th, and Snipe Dales from mid Apr. In north Lincs there was just a single confirmed record of a singing male at Keb Wood on May 11th. The last bird for Whisby NP was on Jun 16th and there was just one autumn record with a single at Gib Point on Aug 1st.

Sadly now in serious decline, Nightingales have become rare within the county in recent years and we urge the submission of all records.

### Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

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

There was just a single accepted record of a first winter at Gib Point on Oct 13th, a typical date for this predominantly autumn flycatcher (KMW).

### Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

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

A very poor year for records with just one spring passage record of a single at Gib Point on Jun 15th. Autumn passage was also poor, with the first returning bird at Gib Point on Aug 14th, followed by two at Theddlethorpe St Helen on 17th, a single at Holbeach St John on 21st, three at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR between 17th-23rd and about six at Gib Point from 14th -30th with a peak day count at this latter site of just four on 27th. During Sep there were about seven

birds at Gib Point from 10th-18th and single birds at Donna Nook on 16th and Grainthorpe Marsh on 17th, whilst Oct produced just two records with singles at Horseshoe Point on 2nd and finally Rimac on 14th.

### **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

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

Passage was evident during Mar with singles recorded from Mablethorpe on 14th and 29th, Alford on 28th-29th, and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on 28th-29th, whilst two birds were recorded from Barton Pits from 17th-20th and Cleethorpes CP on 30th-31st. Apr was equally quiet with singles from Frampton Marsh and Holbeach Drove both on 12th and Stenigot on 17th, whilst Gib Point recorded around 10 from 7th-24th. During May there were records from just three localities with singles at Saltfleet on 4th and Anderby Creek on 5th with three at Gib Point from 16th-23rd. There were no reported breeding attempts this year, and only one mid summer record of a single at Frampton Marsh on Jul 20th. Autumn was equally quiet for passage with no Sep records and the first Oct records didn't appear until 25th, when there was a single at Grainthorpe Marsh and two at Gib Point. There were singles at Garthorpe on 26th and Killingholme Haven on 27th, with perhaps two new birds at Gib Point on 29th. Nov was similar with singles at Skegness on 21st, two at Donna Nook on 7th and 14th, and perhaps up to six birds at Gib Point from 6th-30th. Finally just a single record was confirmed for Dec with one at Gib Point on 1st.



**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros* Barton Pits Mar 23rd 2011 © Graham Catley

### **Common Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

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

A male singing in Loughton Forest on Apr 9th was the first returning bird for the year. There was a typically light spring passage with single birds at Tunnel Pits, Wroot on Apr 11th-13th, Humberston village on Apr 19th, Frampton Marsh on May 21st, up to three at Donna Nook from Apr 19th-May 3rd and about six at Gib Point from Apr 13th-May 8th. For the second year in a row there were no records indicating any breeding attempts within the county. Autumn passage commenced with a single at Gib Point on Aug 3rd followed by a light passage at an additional four coastal and five inland sites, with a peak day count of just four birds at Gib Point on 28th. Sep was equally quiet with records from five inland and just three coastal sites involving just ones and twos with a peak day count of seven from Gib Point on 15th. There were no inland records during Oct with the emphasis all on coastal sites, where four sites (Donna Nook, Grainthorpe Marsh, Gib Point and Rimac) recorded between one-four birds all during 1st-13th. Finally a late bird was present at Grainthorpe Marsh Nov 7th-8th.

### Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Fairly common passage migrant. Formerly bred.

The first arrivals were an early female at Kirkby Moor on Apr 16th, followed by a single the following day at Alkborough Flats. A light spring passage then followed with singles at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, Frampton Marsh and Gib Point, with up to two birds at Donna Nook until the month's end. May was equally quiet with records from 1st-15th, involving singles from Frampton Marsh and Alkborough Flats with two birds from Donna Nook and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR. There was an early autumn record with a single at Howden's Pullover on Jul 23rd. Passage was more widespread during Aug with records all month from nine coastal and five inland locations, although numbers were low with between one-three birds were recorded, other than peak counts of five from Gib Point on both 21st and 30th, and four from Frampton Marsh on 26th. During Sep records came from seven coastal and eight inland sites with typical day counts of between one-four birds, other than five at Frampton Marsh on 8th and Gib Point with five on 8th and 17th with a peak count of 15 on 14th. Oct saw passage dwindle to just four records with singles at Donna Nook and Grainthorpe Marsh both on 1st, Gib Point on 2nd and Grimsby on 27th. Finally there was a very late bird at Donna Nook on Nov 14th.

### European Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	3	4	3	3	1	2	1	-	3	13	10	3
Max. no. of birds	8	10	5	4	2	3	1	-	4	21	15	6

The atrocious weather conditions of Dec 2010 appear to have severely impacted on the fortunes of this chat within the county during 2011. Certainly during the first nine months of the year, it was recorded from fewer locations and in reduced numbers compared to previous years, so it's therefore not too surprising that there was just one probable breeding record from Gib Point, although no juveniles were seen. Oct and Nov brought a moderate passage from both coastal and inland sites although at the end of the year the species was once again conspicuous by its absence. During the year the only peak counts of note were of four birds wintering at Marston STW during Jan and Feb, and five at Gib Point on Oct 19th.



Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* Frampton Marsh Oct 2nd © Steve Keightley

### Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

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

Greenland Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa* Scarce migrant in spring/autumn.

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
No. of sites	13	62	16	1	4	19	34	19	5
Min. no. of birds	19	373	42	3	7	45	93	73	5

The first records for the year were all of singles at Anderby Creek on Mar 15th, Ashby cum Fenby on Mar 18th and Great Hale on Mar 19th. Thereafter a common passage migrant with peak counts including 10 at Gib Point on Apr 18th and again on Apr 27th, 45 at Donna Nook on Apr 16th, 37 at Risby Warren on Apr 17th and 62 at RAF Waddington on Apr 20th. The last spring bird was at Gib Point on Jun 7th, and after a short lull, the first autumn birds were two juveniles at Cleethorpes on Jul 5th followed by a single at Frampton Marsh on Jul 28th. A smaller and more protracted passage occurred during Aug - Oct, involving counts of between one-ten birds with only one higher count of 15 at Frampton Marsh on Sep 8th. Recorded into late Nov with singles at Donna Nook and Grainthorpe Marsh, both on 23rd, the final birds of the year.

Individuals showing characters of the Greenland race *leucorrhoa* were recorded as follows: single at Barton-upon Humber on Apr 21st, four at Alkborough Flats on Sep 4th, one at Covenham Res on Sep 24th, two at Alkborough Flats on Oct 7th and a male found dead at Cleethorpes on Nov 2nd.



Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* Covenham Res Sep 22nd © Nick Clayton

### Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

A common resident for which records were received from 81 locations throughout the county. Known to be partially migratory, spring movements from Gib Point included monthly peak counts of 50 on Mar 23rd and 45 on Apr 7th. During the autumn, monthly peak counts from coastal sites included Donna Nook with 20 on Sep 1st, 40 on Oct 15th and 15 on Nov 1st, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR with 13 on Oct 13th, and Gib Point with 76 on Sep 26th and 113 on Oct 13th. Inland, between 1-20 birds were counted for the majority of sites with the exception of Welbourn Heath with 31 on Feb 12th, and Whisby NP where monthly peak counts included 41 during Mar and 45 during Oct.

### House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

There was a slight reduction in the total number of records submitted throughout the year compared to the previous one, with the greatest number for any one month being in Jan, a time when noisy winter flocking will more readily draw attention to the presence of this ubiquitous British bird. In general the total numbers of birds making up flocks also appeared to be down, with only six flocks recorded of 50 or more birds, and a post-breeding flock of just 85 at Borough Fen in Aug being the highest count of the year. These smaller flock numbers are possibly a reflection of the prolonged period of harsh winter weather experienced throughout Dec 2010, bringing about increased mortality. Certainly the large flocks of sparrows that occurred in the countryside in earlier times, giving rise to the establishment of 'Sparrow Clubs' to cull their numbers in an effort to reduce impacts on cereal crops, are now very much a thing of the past. Encouragingly, reports of successful breeding this year included several places in the Fens, an area of the county from where fewer records are generally received.

### Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Interestingly there were over 100 more records submitted for this species than for House Sparrow, perhaps reflecting the desire by observers to document the fortunes of this species, one of several farmland birds which have been the subject of well publicised national declines over the last 30-40 years. There were fewer peak counts in 2011 compared to the three previous years, with 100 at Horkstow/Barton Wolds being the highest count of the year. Counts involving 60 or more birds on a number of occasions during 2011 were also received from Holme. A marked increase in the number of confirmed breeding records were reported with 27 in total, widely spread throughout the county. A more detailed investigation into the types of nesting sites being selected by the county's Tree Sparrow population could be a useful exercise, and may well reveal to what extent this species is now reliant on nest boxes for breeding.

### 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.cinereocapilla* Two spring records. **BBRC**

Males resembling other races have occurred, but are most likely to be hybrids.

Two early birds were at Frampton Marsh on Mar 31st, increasing to three on Apr 1st. Spring passage then rapidly followed with nine at Frampton Marsh on Apr 2nd and 19 on Apr 3rd. Other significant counts included c50 at Toft Newton on Apr 7th, 21 at Frampton Marsh on Apr 9th, c50 at Covenham Res on Apr 18th and 17 at Gib Point on Apr 24th. Managed wet grassland by the RSPB at Frampton Marsh is clearly a draw for this species with double figure counts on 12 dates during Apr. Breeding was reported from suitable arable habitat including 27 sites throughout the county with seven pairs noted at Alkborough Flats, five pairs at Bonby Carrs, three pairs at Worlaby Carrs and single pairs at Frampton Marsh and Freiston Shore. Autumn migration at Gib Point started from early Jul with daily records until the end of Sep, including 17 on Jul 6th, 23 on Jul 19th, 43 on Aug 1st, 89 on Aug 14th, 109 on Aug 21st and 148 on Aug 29th, with numbers rapidly dropping off from Sep 15th with the last bird recorded on Sep 30th. Other notable counts included c130 at Freiston Shore on Aug 5th, 112 at Witham Mouth on Aug 14th and c100 at Alkborough Flats on Aug 18th. The last bird of the year was at Frampton Marsh on Sep 30th. Birds resembling Channel Wagtail *flava* x *flavissima* were reported at Fiskerton Fen scrapes from May 7th-13th and at Bicker Fen on May 26th.

Bird resembling *M.f.flava* were at Jackson's Marsh, Gib Point on Apr 16th, at Frampton Marsh from Apr 17th-24th, on the dunes at Gib Point on May 11th, at Alkborough Flats on Aug 18th and at Toft Newton Res on Sep 22nd.





**Yellow Wagtail hybrid** *Motacilla flava flava* x *flavissima* (Channel wagtail) Fiskerton Fen May 13th 2011  
© Russell Hayes



**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava* Frampton Marsh Apr 2nd 2011 © Steve Keightley

### 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. of sites	7	7	4	5	6	8	8	10	22	17	8	8
Min. count	11	8	5	10	8	9	11	12	37	21	10	11

Recorded mainly as single birds from 52 sites across the county. Probable breeding was recorded at Stamford, Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits, North Hykeham Pits, Lincoln City Centre and Sleaford STW. Confirmed breeding included two pairs at Haverholme (Haverholme Weir and at Leasingham Weir) and at Cogglesford Mill, Sleaford. Peak counts away from known breeding sites included three at Baston Fen on Jan 28th, four at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Jan 28th, three at Whisby NP on Sep 7th, four at Gib Point on Sep 7th, three at Tunnel Pits, Wroot on Sep 15th, three at Dunsby on Oct 2nd and four at Marston STW during Dec.

### Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Common resident and passage migrant. *M.a.alba* (White Wagtail) Scarce passage migrant, mainly Mar-Jun. RBBP

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	1	-	5	10	6	15	20	27	11	7	9	4
Marston STW	-	55	22	6	8	1	3	9	8	46	60	45

A common species throughout the county. High counts not tabulated in the first half of the year included 14 at Baston Fen on Jan 28th, c20 at RAF Coningsby on Mar 3rd, c60 at Bonby Top on Mar 14th and c70 at RAF Waddington on Jul 27th. In the second half of the year there were 13 at Humberston Fitties on Sep 4th, c25 at Covenham Res on Sep 17th, c30 at Tattershall Lakes on Sep 24th, 26 at Theddlethorpe St Helen on Oct 10th, c50 at Colsterworth Landfill on Oct 30th, c30 at Holme on Nov 6th, 15 at Baston Fen on Nov 13th, c50 at Grainthorpe Marsh on Nov 16th, c30 at Basingham on Dec 2nd and 12 at Baston Fen on Dec 20th.

*M a alba* (White Wagtail):

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
No. of sites	3	15	6	1	3	6	3	1
Min. count	4	47	7	1	22	17	4	1

The first bird of the year was at Frampton Marsh on Mar 19th with two there on Mar 31st and at Gib Point with singles on Mar 21st and 24th. The bulk of records were from Apr when birds were at 15 sites including peak counts of six at Alkborough Flats on Apr 18th, four at Donna Nook on Apr 2nd, 20 at Frampton Marsh on Apr 16th, three at Gib Point on Apr 29th, two at Toft Newton Res on Apr 28th and two at Wroot on Apr 15th. The last bird of the spring passage was at Fiskerton Fen on May 20th with possibly an early returning bird at Freiston Shore on Jul 17th. The only significant autumn count was 20 at Freiston Shore on Aug 15th, and at five sites in Sep with a peak count of four at Gib Point on 22nd and the last birds of the year at Gib Point on Nov 9th and 25th.

### Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Rare passage migrant, mainly Sep-Nov, rarely Dec-Jan and Apr-May. LBRC

Just two records of singles at Donna Nook on Oct 26th (SL) and at Gib Point from Dec 9th-22nd (GPBO).

### Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

Vagrant. LBRC

One was found early morning of Apr 25th at Tetney outfall sluice by the river back near a trip of Dotterel (JS et al). After initially being elusive the bird stayed until 28th and often showed very well. This was the tenth county record and the sixth in spring. It was also the earliest record, the previous earliest being one on May 8th 1975 at Donna Nook, and the first in the county for ten years.



**Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris* Tetney Outfall Sluice Apr 25th 2011 © Graham Catley



**Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris* Tetney Outfall Sluice Apr 25th 2011 © Russell Hayes

### Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

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

The first migrants were noted earlier than in the previous two years with eleven singing males at Laughton Forest noted on Apr 9th when a coastal migrant was also noted at Theddlethorpe. At passage sites four singles were noted at Donna Nook in Apr and May with the last on May 5th and a single was at Barton Pits on Apr 20th. In addition, Apr and May singles were also noted at Linwood Warren. By May 9th there were 25 males noted at Laughton Forest. Elsewhere during the breeding season up to four were recorded at Crowle Waste/Moors and three at Scotton Common. A single was also noted at Goulceby on Jul 10th. Autumn passage was weak starting with four at Gib Point and a single at Frampton on Aug 14th. There were only six records in Sep, apart from two at Wroot on 2nd, when a single was also noted at Gib Point, all records were from either Donna Nook or Gib Point. Three at Gib Point on 9th were followed by two at Donna Nook on 11th. The final bird of the year was at Donna Nook on Sep 19th. A very poor autumn.

### Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Although widespread this species was not reported in any significant numbers during the first two months of the year with peak counts of 10 at Freiston Shore on Jan 23rd and 46 at Holbeach Marsh on Feb 21st. The light spring passage included counts of 55 at Frampton Marsh on Mar 18th and 34 at Donna Nook on Apr 17th. Breeding records included 102 pairs at Frampton Marsh noted in Jul, this was 25% down on numbers from the previous year (with breeding numbers at Frampton Marsh in 2010 also reduced from 2009 when up to 169 pairs were noted). The only other counts above 20 in Jun-Jul were 21 at Freiston Shore on Jul 17th and up to 20 at Donna Nook. Early autumn passage was light and peaked at only 20 at Freiston Shore on 14th. A count of 5500 at Gib Point on Sep 9th was by far the largest count of the year with the 350 noted there the next day the second highest count. Other three figure counts away from Gib Point during the autumn were 292 at Tunnel Pits, Wroot on Sep 15th, 120 at Donna Nook on Oct 1st, 110 at Wrangle on 13th Sep. Inland 68 were at Covenham Res the same day. Double figure counts became rare from the second half of Oct but 50 were at Anderby on Oct 26th. Single figure counts were widespread in the last two months of the year, with only three reports of double figures and a peak of 17 at Skegness on Nov 22nd.

### 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.

In Jan-Feb by far the highest counts were at Frampton Marsh with a peak of 86 on Jan 19th. Thereafter numbers declined rapidly to only single figures in the final week of Jan but 35+ were noted on Feb 16th. Elsewhere 30 were at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on Jan 16th and 26 were at Howden's Pullover on Feb 13th and 16 were at Gib Point on Feb 20th. Only single figure counts were noted in Mar and Apr with a peak of nine at Frampton Marsh on Mar 8th. Four single figure counts were received from coastal localities in Sep with a peak of nine at Frampton Marsh on 10th. Numbers increased in Oct, for example 22 were at Saltfleet and 20 at Howden's Pullover both on 15th and followed the next day by 17 at nearby Theddlethorpe. The peak Oct count was 27 at Gib Point on 14th. Up to two were also noted inland at Covenham Res during Oct. Good numbers were then recorded through Nov and Dec including counts of 85 at Saltfleetby and 60 at Donna Nook both in Dec.



**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus* Frampton Marsh Dec 27th 2012 © Neil Smith

**Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor Oct-Apr. Mainly coastal, possibly increasing.  
LBRC

There were a few scattered singletons in Jan-Feb with the only counts of more than one being three at East Halton Skitter on Jan 17th and two at Tetney Outfall Sluice on Feb 13th. Spring passage was limited to a single at Gib Point on Mar 29th and then eight, the highest count of the year, at Wainfleet on Apr 17th. There were then no records until the second half of Oct when there were two singles at Donna Nook and a single at Alkborough, with a count of three at the latter site on 24th. A light scattering of mainly coastal ones and twos occurred in Nov with counts of three at Whitton on 12th and Rimac on 16th. Seven records of singles were then noted, again primarily at coastal localities, during Dec; the exception being one inland at Langtoft Pits on 5th. Overall this was the poorest showing for at least the last four years.

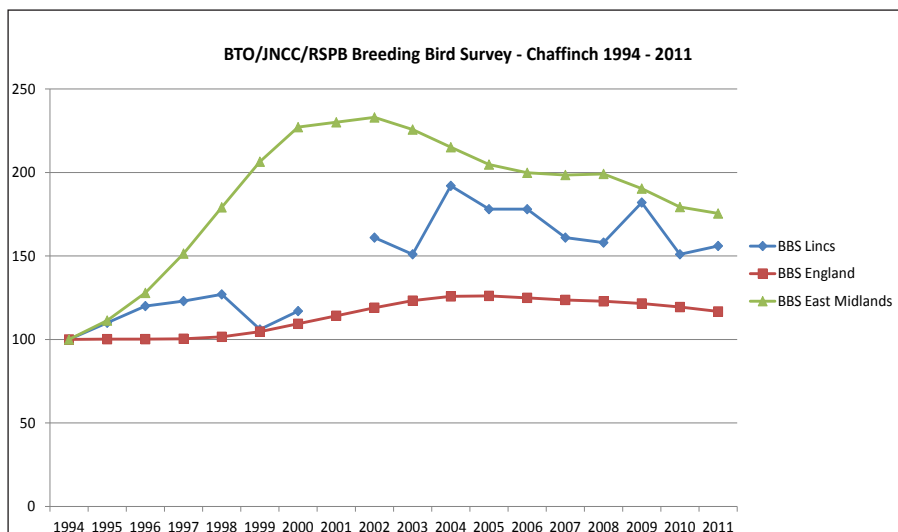
**Common Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Count data for all sites are 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	720	595	1102	1285	422	317	109	222	263	1120	432	303





Since the summer of 2005 trichomonosis, a disease caused by a microscopic parasite, has been reported in finches in gardens across England and in Lincolnshire. Since then, outbreaks have been seen in every year during the late summer and autumn, and perhaps explaining the lower than expected counts received in Sep and Oct. It is also likely that the negative population trend shown by the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey is a result of the effect of the disease on local Chaffinch populations. However, this species is still a common and familiar species in the county and well adapted to suburban and garden habitats, as well as to highly fragmented woodland and hedgerows landscape. Coastal movements were recorded at Gib Point with movements concentrated between mid Mar and early Apr including 503 south on Apr 1st and 285 south on Apr 2nd. In the autumn movements began in Aug, with peak counts in late Sep through until early Nov including 189 south on Oct 14th, 158 on Oct 16th and 160 on Nov 1st.

### **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	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worlaby Carrs	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grimsby	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	5	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	3	-
Gib Point	20	19	30	20	-	-	-	-	3	28	14	4
Kirkby on Bain Pits	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nocton Fen	20	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northorpe Fen	250	59	101	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rippingale	-	-	11	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blankney Fen	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrangle Bank	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lincs totals	377	94	141	120	-	-	-	-	3	116	25	10

A patchy year with no evidence of the Oct influx which occurred in 2010. The most noteworthy feature was the high number attracted to a heavily seeded farm at Northorpe Fen, south-east of Bourne. The Jan maximum of 250 birds included 244 that were ringed (see Ringing Report). Overall an unremarkable year elsewhere.

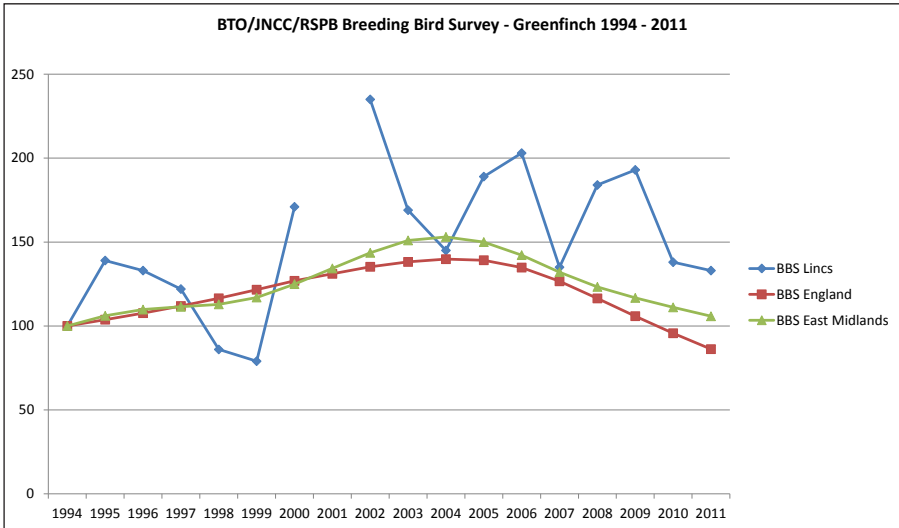
### Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Count data for all sites are summarised as monthly peak counts 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	460	464	125	77	70	38	34	106	160	1018	414	263

Large flocks were recorded in the first quarter of the year at Normanby CP where there were 100 on Jan 1st and Whisby NP with 200 on Jan 26th, increasing to 300 on Feb 3rd. The autumn influx in Oct was accounted for by flocks of 150 at Holme on Oct 7th, 200 at Saltfleetby and 420 at Gib Point, both on Oct 10th and 100 at Witham Mouth on Oct 30th. Many sites had counts of 20-70 during both of these periods. As in previous years, numbers were much lower between Apr and Jul as flocks dispersed to breed. The national Breeding Bird Survey shows little change overall in Lincolnshire between 1994 and 2011 in absolute terms, although the national picture has been of a downward trend since 2004.



### European Serin *Serinus serinus*

Rare migrant Apr-Nov. LBRC RBBP

Two spring birds, both at Gib Point on Apr 7th (KMW) and on May 10th (KMW).

### Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Count data for all sites are 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
Gib Point	16	47	114	127	31	38	17	100	96	980	479	42
All sites	562	281	350	350	235	185	210	1392	1610	2148	955	542

Goldfinch abundance fell sharply from the mid 1970s until the mid 1980s, but the decline was both preceded and followed by significant population increases. These population changes can be explained almost entirely by variations in annual survival rates, which may have resulted from a reduction in the availability of weed seeds, due to agricultural intensification, and subsequent increased use of other food sources such as garden bird tables and niger feeders. The increase in records from gardens can be seen within the county dataset, with birds being recorded from 135 locations and over 800 records received. Spring passage on the coast was recorded at Gib Point



between late Mar and mid May with peak counts of 114 on Mar 31st and 127 on Apr 14th. Autumn passage at Gib Point was noted from Aug onwards, in Oct several counts exceeded 300 with peaks of 610 on Oct 7th and 980 on Oct 18th. In Nov the highest count was 479 on 1st.



**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* Grasby Jun 2nd 2011 © Roy Harvey

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce in summer but may breed in some years.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	5	4	67	38	10	11	9	12	465	236	201	16
All sites	631	181	201	53	13	22	31	24	1114	575	277	55

The records for Siskin were widespread but with few sites reporting more than 50 birds and contrasting fortunes in Jan-Mar compared with Sep-Dec. There were very few birds reported at all between Apr-Aug. In Jan the largest flocks were 100 at Worlaby, 80 at Barnoldby le Beck, 70 at Keal Carr and 50 at Messingham SQ, with smaller numbers of 10-20 in a good number of other, mainly inland, sites. In Feb the highest counts were 60 at Kirkby on Bain and at Snipe Dales, In Mar Chambers Wood Farm held 218 and there were 60 in Lincoln. Summer records were few and far between, but breeding was confirmed from Osgodby Moor and Linwood Warren. A large immigration occurred along the coast in Sep with minima of 236 at Gib Point, 100 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe and 82 at Donna Nook during the month. Inland, 43 were at Linwood Warren on 5th and 128 were at Wroot on 14th. Oct saw fewer birds, with 100 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe, 94 at Gib Point and 50 at Witham Mouth on the coast, but only smaller numbers inland. Birds dispersed thereafter and just 41 were reported during the whole of Dec.



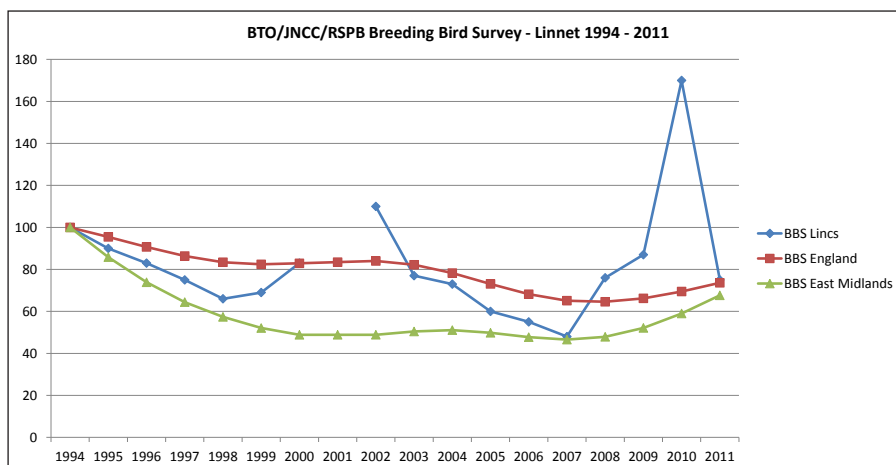
**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus* Grantham Nov 3rd 2011 © Steve Nesbitt

## Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts for some of the main county sites are tabulated below, along with the total monthly counts for all sites submitting data. This latter total represents a minimum number of birds present during any one month:

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Anwick Fen	8	1	-	33	2	4	4	23	-	215	65	19
Barholm, Bourne	-	1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	2	-	180	80	-	80	-	220	80	4	-
Freiston Shore	108	70	9	21	16	2	6	5	-	160	2	220
Gib Point	39	27	58	443	42	21	34	340	805	565	106	113
Howden's Pullover	6	-	-	40	-	20	-	-	-	24	300	160
Theddlethorpe St Helen	-	-	-	60	40	50	120	190	40	25	30	-
Worlaby Carrs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	330	-	-	-	-
All sites	749	1546	516	1800	411	349	438	2480	2696	3302	1812	1125



Almost 30 sites recorded flocks of 100 or more birds in at least one month of the year. In the first part of the year a flock of approximately 1000 was recorded at Barholm, south-west of Bourne during Feb. This was easily the largest number recorded and was the reason for the winter peak being during the first quarter. As spring approached good numbers were recorded at a large number of sites, with Gib Point having 443 on 7th. Numbers fell away as spring passage waned. The autumn influx and the products of a reasonable breeding season saw an Aug peak of at least 2480 birds, increasing through Sep to a peak of 3302 at least in Oct. The Breeding Bird Survey data show how the national picture is less variable than that of a single county, with the Lincolnshire 2010 peak apparently representing something of a blip.

## Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	50	-	-	8	-	40	70	25
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	35	14	-	11	-	-	80	108
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	16
Gib Point	-	-	10	-	-	6	3	6
Frampton Marsh	110	150	40	70	-	12	17	1
Freiston Shore	5	5	-	-	3	3	-	31
Terrington	-	34	-	-	-	-	-	107
All sites	235	274	40	93	3	55	426	395

The tabular summary here appears to have significant gaps for some sites in some months, so the All Sites totals are somewhat lower than in 2010. For example, the Feb total was just 274, but in 2010 330 were reported from Donna Nook in that month.. Frampton Marsh again featured prominently with similar counts to 2010. Numbers peaked in Feb and it was the only site for which counts were received in Mar. The last record of the spring was of eight at Donna Nook on Apr 23rd. Freiston Shore recorded the first of the autumn with three on Sep 28th. There was a small influx in Oct, but most arrived during Nov from 5th–12th. 14 coastal sites recorded flocks of between 60-90 birds. Numbers remained more or less constant through Dec, when there was clearly some onward movement between sites in The Wash. During the whole year just one inland record was received, a single bird being recorded at Ruckland on Apr 18th.



Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* Frampton Marsh Apr 1st 2011 © Steve Keightley

### 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** (formerly known as 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	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bourne	120	74	115	27	-	-	4	6	75
Gib Point	-	1	2	4	4	124	368	105	2
Messingham SQ	70	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	-	-
Whisby NP	70	40	16	2	-	4	14	-	30
Min. no. of birds	418	206	208	68	7	137	648	171	138

A nationwide influx of Redpolls occurred in the winter of 2010/11, mainly Lesser *C. cabaret*, but also containing some Common, *C. flammea*. The minimum monthly counts as summarised show a Jan peak. Good numbers were ringed in the Bourne area (see Ringing Report for details). Flocks seemed to move on during Feb and Mar, with most having departed by mid-Apr. Few birds were recorded during May-Aug and no definite breeding records were received. A large autumn passage began during Sep with day flocks of up to 37 passing through Gib Point, although there



**Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis cabaret* Thurlby Dec 6th 2011 © Dave Morison



**Common Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea* Waters' Edge Barton Pits Feb 27th 2011 © Graham Catley



**Common Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea* Waters' Edge Barton Pits Mar 10th 2011 © Graham Catley



**Common Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea* Waters' Edge Barton Pits Mar 10th 2011 © Graham Catley

were few inland. Numbers built up during Oct with the highest numbers again recorded at Gib Point but with notable numbers further up the coast at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, where a monthly peak count of 200 was recorded on 14th. However, few of these lingered and numbers were lower in Nov, with most again recorded passing through Gib Point in the first fortnight of that month. By Dec, more birds were being seen inland and good numbers were again being ringed in the Bourne area.

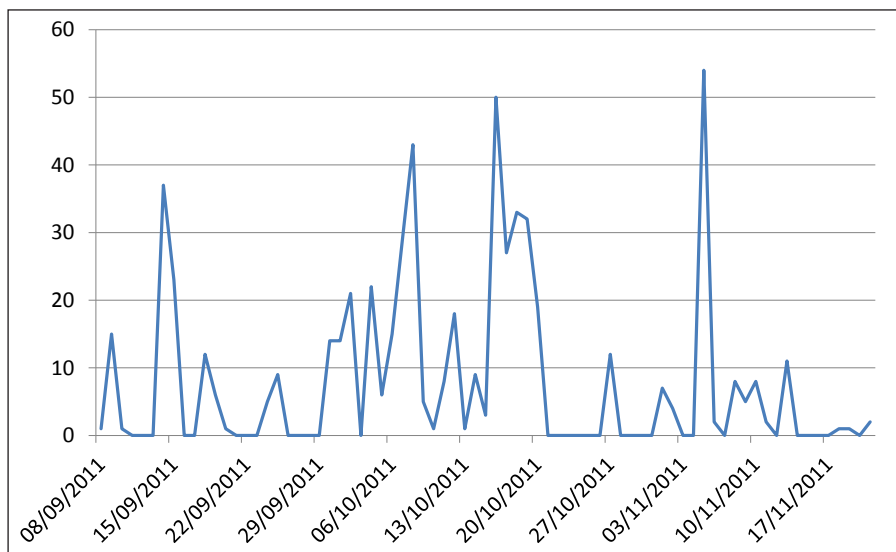


Figure showing passage Lesser Redpolls at Gib Point early Sep-mid Nov.

### Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Scarce/rare winter visitor, but probably overlooked. LBRC RBBP

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton	2	30	3	-	-	-	-
Bourne	28	19	16	1	-	-	1
Lincoln	5	7	12	-	-	-	-
Min. no. of birds	50	60	39	4	-	2	1

A very good year which gave ample opportunity for birders to familiarise themselves with this species, usually found in mixed flocks with the smaller Lesser Redpoll. A minimum of 19 sites held Common Redpolls in the first quarter of the year. Those recording at least 10 in one month are tabulated above. At Bourne there were a minimum of 28 in Jan, with 17 ringed on Jan 9th including one Norwegian ringed bird (AB, RS, APC). A single was at Witham St Hugh's on Jan 4th, seven were at Messingham SQ on Jan 9th (SRo), two at Barton-upon-Humber on Jan 14th (GPC), at least two at Whisby NP on Jan 22nd (GHO,WBR), with single birds at Thurlby Sand Pit on Jan 26th (APC) and Fulbeck on Jan 29th (APC). The Birchwood area of Lincoln attracted a maximum of nine to one observer's garden between Jan 21st-Feb 16th at least (Pma, GHO, ACS), whilst in another, birds were present from Jan 30th-Mar 18th with a peak count of 12 on Mar 15th (MHa). A peak count of 30 was recorded at Water's Edge, Barton Pits on Feb 26th (GPC, WG), a single bird was trapped and ringed at Gib Point on Mar 12th (GPBO), singles were at North Hykeham Pits on Mar 15th (DN,WBR), Swanpool, Lincoln from Mar 19th-20th (ACS) and Skellingthorpe on Mar 30th (RBe). Apr saw most of them depart, with the last record being a single at Gib Point on 20th. This influx was not repeated in the autumn and winter in the second half of the year when it again became a county rarity. The only records were two at Donna Nook on Nov 8th (SL) and one trapped and ringed at Bourne on Dec 27th (AGB).



**Arctic Redpoll** *Carduelis hornemanni*

Rare/scarse irruptive winter visitor. LBRC

Among the large flocks of Lesser and Common Redpolls, three (Coues's) Arctic Redpolls, *C. hornemanni exilipes* were found. One frequented a Lincoln garden in the Birchwood area from Jan 21st-Mar 4th (PMa, GHo *et al*). A second was at Barton Pits on Feb 26th-27th (GPC) and a third was at Gib Point, also on Feb 26th-27th (KMW).

**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.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	-	-	7	28	75	83	13	6	20	37	8	-
Min. no. of birds	0	0	21	71	273	252	62	28	21	90	13	1

Remarkably, no records were received before Mar in 2011, but to what extent this reflects true absence is unknown. In all, 43 sites recorded Crossbills at some time during 2011, although there were no reports of proven breeding. The May and Jun counts were the highest of the year with good numbers at coastal sites, largely at Gib Point, and inland in potential breeding areas such as Laughton Forest, Willingham Woods, Kirkby Moor and Market Rasen. Numbers fell away during the late summer with a small Oct influx dwindling to just a single record in Dec.



**Common Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra* Gib Point Mar 3rd 2011 © Paul Neale

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Vagrant May – Jun and Aug – Oct. LBRC RBBP

A single confirmed spring bird at Gib Point on Jun 10th (KMW) with possibly the same bird recorded in song on Jun 14th (RDn).

## Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common resident, but largely absent from the fens.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barrow/Barton Haven	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Boultham Mere	4	10	1	-	-	-	-	4	3	4	2	3
Dog Kennel Wood	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Market Stainton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-
Morton	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Walesby Moor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Washingborough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Whisby NP	45	41	28	18	8	11	1	32	16	16	50	32
Min. no. of birds	165	88	99	91	49	43	33	62	50	57	125	145

As in previous years a generally widespread resident and breeding bird, generally in small numbers with larger flocks noted in the autumn and winter months. The main sites and a monthly peak count for all sites are tabulated above. There was much variation in reports during 2011 compared with 2010. Whisby NP continues to be the best site in the county to see large numbers of this colourful finch, with other locations reporting at least one monthly peak in double figures also tabulated. Breeding pairs and nest building was reported from mid-Apr onwards and the first juveniles were seen on Jun 9th at Bradley Woods. Although a good number were ringed, both inland and on the coast, there were no reports of the larger race *P. p. pyrrhula*, an irregular immigrant from northern and eastern Europe.

## Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare local resident and rare passage migrant. RBBP

As ever, this species remains a rare bird in the county. Two-four birds reported from Scawby Park in Feb and Mar were the only records from the first half of the year. In the autumn, singles were reported at Gib Point from Oct 1st-3rd, at Trusthorpe on Oct 23rd, at Whisby NP on 27th (first Reserve record) and at Gib Point on 17th Nov.

## 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
Cleethorpes	60	23	-	-	-	100	200
Donna Nook	75	-	-	-	1	45	80
North Cotes	65	-	-	-	-	-	-
Humberston (village)	-	27	-	-	-	40	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	-	5	-	-	-	-	22
Tetney Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	34	-
Gib Point	41	9	1	-	1	30	2
Min. no. of birds	220	55	7	3	7	289	325

Counts were very similar to those of 2010. In the first winter period eight coastal sites recorded more than 200 birds in total, but numbers dwindled rapidly through Feb, with peaks of 27 on 9th at Humberston village and 23 at Cleethorpes on 24th-25th, and the final birds of the early spring being seven at Sutton on Sea on Mar 5th and a single bird at Gib Point on Mar 14th. In the autumn singles were recorded in Sep at Huttoft on 25th, Barton Pits on 30th, and inland at RAF Waddington on 30th. There were only a few birds around in Oct, all on the coast, except for one at Covenham Res on 26th. The main influx occurred during Nov when counts were received from 18 sites, all coastal sites, except for a single at Toft Newton Res on 9th and 21st and one at Covenham res on 23rd. A light passage was recorded at Gib Point during Nov with singles south on 5th, 17th and 15 south on 19th. By the end of Nov and into Dec most coastal flocks were in the north-east of the county, with the majority wintering at Cleethorpes, Donna Nook and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR with a small outpost at Freiston Shore where there were six all month.



**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis* Barton Pits Oct 30th 2011 © Simon Spavin

### Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Scarce local passage migrant and winter visitor Sep-Apr. Rare inland.

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	2	-	-	-	5	10	22	28
Gib Point	5	2	3	1	1	6	2	9
Frampton Marsh	85	8	12	4	1	1	5	8
Grainthorpe Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	4	25	2
Howden's Pullover	-	-	-	-	-	9	18	-
Min. no. of birds	100	9	19	5	7	53	103	57

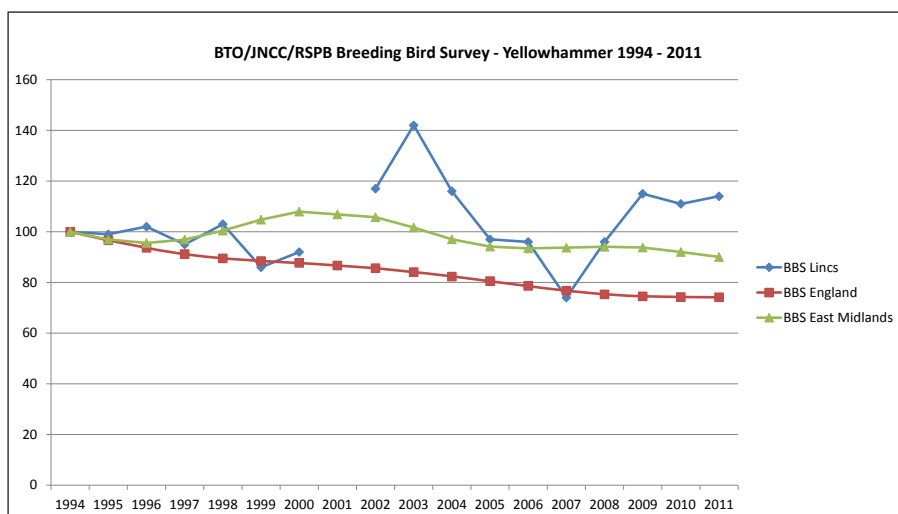
The large influx of 2010 remained into Jan 2011 with an impressive flock of 85 at Frampton Marsh. This flock dwindled throughout Feb and Mar and was down to four in Apr, the last birds being seen on 17th and the final spring record being one at Horseshoe Point on Apr 19th and one at Gib Point on Apr 27th. The first birds of the autumn arrived in Sep, with five at Donna Nook on 17th and singles at Frampton Marsh and Gib Point on 21st and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on 25th. A wider coastal influx occurred during Oct with between one-ten birds at 14 sites. Numbers increased during Nov when at least 103 were reported. These appeared to move through or dispersed. In Dec the same sites recorded small numbers, with the exception of a flock of 28 at Donna Nook on 11th and nine at Gib Point on 22nd. Overall 2011 was not as good a year as 2010, but was still much better than average.

### Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Very common resident. Numbers decreased through the 1980s.

Peak monthly counts for some of the main county sites are tabulated below, along with the total monthly counts for all sites submitting data. This latter total represents a minimum number of birds present during any one month:

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Anwick Fen	5	5	13	9	13	8	4	3	-	2	6	2
Elsham village	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	20	20	9	-	-
Gib Point	3	3	12	8	5	3	5	3	1	5	3	2
Grantham	20	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44
Holme	60	80	10	8	-	8	-	-	2	10	15	9
Stenigot	70	16	11	7	7	7	3	-	-	-	-	-
Welbourne Heath	4	20	26	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Min. no. of birds	471	340	267	163	97	164	71	83	77	133	161	226



British Yellowhammers are resident with roughly three quarters wintering within 5km of their breeding territories. Counts from the main regularly counted sites are tabulated, but there were others which held significant winter flocks but for which there was just one monthly count all year, so the tabulated totals are indicative but underestimate the county total. Peak counts in the first quarter were in Jan. Sites having significant totals in Jan not shown above included 45 at Knaith and Toft Hill, 40 at Horkstow/Barton Wolds and 31 at Gedney. Numbers generally fell thereafter but there were still significant flocks of 65 at North Ormsby in Feb and 60 at RAF Waddington in Mar. The Breeding Bird Survey shows Lincolnshire apparently bucking the national trend with a significant increase since 2007 of around 50%.

### Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	-	87	-	-	-	-	40	-
Anwick Fen	4	6	11	21	5	26	7	8	-	11	11	5
Frampton Marsh	7	6	20	4	3	5	26	-	6	4	5	8
Freiston Shore	46	13	4	7	5	3	13	1	-	-	-	3
Gib Point	52	30	26	29	17	12	5	5	53	128	30	26
Market Stainton	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marsworth STW	8	13	25	5	7	5	4	2	5	8	5	5
Witham Mouth	45	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	6	-
Min. no. of birds	196	155	267	179	175	285	141	42	90	157	194	140

The key sites tabulated all had at least one monthly peak count of 20 or more. Patchy coverage at some sites clearly affected the all sites totals. Winter peaks occurred at both ends of the year when flocks made counting easier, and a Jun peak at Alkborough Flats presumably reflects a post-breeding increase.

### Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Scarce and local resident and partial migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Frampton Marsh	29	29	7	32	4	-	3	2	6	5	1	-
Gib Point	57	20	25	23	2	1	1	-	-	-	36	47
Grasby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
Horkstow/Barton Wold	45	-	22	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
RAF Waddington	-	20	87	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Stenigot	-	-	1	1	27	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Worlabby Carrs	2	36	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Min. no. of birds	164	151	176	89	44	28	18	5	13	30	50	185

Sites recording at least 20 or more birds in at least one month are tabulated. The winter counts in the first part of the year are down compared with 2010, with very few at Worlabby Carrs for instance. After Apr, birds dispersed and were only recorded in ones and twos with the exception of the Stenigot flock. Singing males were noted at several sites, although definite breeding only reported from RAF Waddington. There was no significant build-up during the autumn, the only double figure count being of 12 at Leadenham Tip. Similarly there were only two notable flocks in Dec. There were no records from the inland fens in the south of the county.



**Corn Bunting** *Miliaria calandra* Frampton Marsh Apr 11th 2011 © Neil Smith

## Finders Reports 2011

### Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

Rosper Road Pools - Apr 27th – May 7th 2011

Tom Lowe



Apr 27th 2011 was my 33rd birthday, and the day dawned bright and cold with a light northerly breeze. I was on the somewhat less than salubrious Killingholme Marshes, sandwiched between the Lindsey oil refinery and the Humber, carrying out a breeding bird survey. Warblers had arrived in numbers now, and I recorded my first Lesser Whitethroats of the year in the extensive hedgerows, along with a plethora of Tree Sparrows.

By 9am I had reached Rosper Road Pools, an oasis of lush green wetland which had always caused me to daydream of finding a rare marsh tern or a Black-winged Stilt perhaps. I had scoured the ducks in the vain hope of a Garganey and was about to set off walking back up the road when something made me peer through a narrow gap in the hedge beside me, into one of the many horse paddocks. Maybe there would be a Yellow Wagtail feeding on the

short grass, always nice to see. Alas, no wagtails, but there in the middle of my restricted view stood a Pratincole, less than 50 yards away! It was facing away from me amongst the horse dung, but every now and then it would turn its head to reveal that unmistakable crimson-based bill and black mask. After what seem like an eternity it became a little more active, and began running around feeding amongst the horses' hooves.

The mantle was olive-brown in colour, blending into a warmer, buffier tone on the nape and crown, and the black line through the lores extended down from the eye to encircle the buff throat. Below this was an indistinct brownish breast-band and then an apricot wash covered the lower breast, contrasting with a white belly and vent. The long primaries were black, contrasting markedly with the mantle, and at rest the folded wing did not appear to extend quite as far as the tips of the tail streamers. The red on the bill covered at least the basal half. It was a fantastic bird to watch, and was even joined by that male Yellow Wagtail for a time! Whilst it surely had to be a Collared, I wanted to see it fly to make sure, and after an hour or so it was spooked by one of the horses, and went screaming over my head and onto the pool. The rich rufous underwing coverts and obvious white tips to the secondaries confirmed the identification, and as it was also now feeding right next to the road, I broadcast the news.

Three days prior to my discovery, on Apr 24th, a Collared Pratincole was seen at Spurn, East Yorkshire for a short time in the afternoon, and is highly likely to have been the same bird (Rosper Road Pools lies just 15 miles due west of Spurn). More intriguingly, it was reported again from Spurn on Apr 29th, in between morning and evening sightings at Rosper Road. Although it could go missing for long periods, the Pratincole then remained until May 7th and presumably the same bird was seen at Gibraltar Point the following day. It was relocated again at Dungeness, Kent on 10th May where it was photographed showing a small white patch on the underside of its right wing, which can also be seen in Graham Catley's superb shots from Rosper Road.

### Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR (Rimac) - Aug 22nd – 25th 2011

Linda & Roy Harvey

On the afternoon of Aug 22nd 2011 - after calling in at Manby Flashes, my wife, Linda, and I made our way to Rimac. It was a sunny and warm day so we decided to walk out from the Rimac car park to the shore line, having seen Pomarine Skua there on our previous visit. At about 3.30 p.m., as we got closer to the sea, it was soon obvious that there were no Terns and Skuas around so we scanned over the beach area. Ahead and to our right a small number of large gulls were sat and to our left, close to the haven mouth at Saltfleet, we could see a small number of waders. They were a long way off so we walked towards them.



We were both carrying binoculars and I had the Swarovski 80mm 'scope, plus a small rucksack on my back containing digiscoping kit as well as my DSLR and a Canon 35-350mm lens - just in case!



As we got within about 200 meters of the waders I checked through them with the 'scope. There were 5 Whimbrel, a few Knot and Dunlin, some Turnstones and about 100 Greater Ringed Plovers. After a while I adjusted the 'scope height down to let Linda have a look at the Knot and whilst she was scanning she commented that she had picked up a smaller and paler Plover. I took a look and was immediately interested.

The bird was indeed about 15% smaller than the nearby Ringed Plovers and was much paler on the back. I noted the dark bill and legs, the complete neck collar and the incomplete breast band. Compared with the Ringed Plovers this bird was much more active and seemingly dashing around whereas the Ringed Plovers were feeding in a much more sedate fashion.

We eased our way forward to get closer views and all birds stayed put, but the small Plover did seem more wary and although with the Ringed Plovers was not associating with them, indeed, it seemed that the Ringed Plovers chased it off on occasions.

The next task was to try to get images and I started to digiscope - the bird being too far off for the SLR; however, a combination of the stiff breeze, an active bird and undulating terrain made the task very difficult. Linda kindly volunteered to walk the 1.5 miles back to the car to fetch my big bag and the video camera and I then moved a little closer, taking care not to flush the bird before she returned.

I 'phoned Graham Catley to discuss the bird, giving him a full description of what I was seeing through the 'scope. I mentioned the possibility of juvenile Kentish and GPC said that they had very little in the way of breast band and asked if I was sure that I was not looking at a juvenile Little Ringed Plover. That species had not crossed my mind as it was clearly not Little Ringed; in any case I had seen a wing bar during a brief period of flight.

I eventually managed to get some reasonable still shots and later, when Linda returned, filmed the bird as well.

At 5.10 p.m. the whole group of waders suddenly alarm called and took to the wing when a Merlin passed overhead. The majority of them flew south and were lost in the heat-haze but a small number turned back; however, the Kentish was not amongst them.

After getting home I down-loaded my SLR pictures and then checked them against other images of juvenile Kentish and soon confirmed that this was what we had found. I quickly sent off a few shots to GPC who agreed the identification as Kentish Plover. The bird remained in the same general area for a total of four days.

It is 15 years since the last record of Kentish Plover in Lincolnshire, the last being a female at Saltfleetby on June 5th-6th 1996.

### **Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis***

Alkborough Flats - Jul 11th – 12th and 21st 2011

Neil Drinkall



Jul 11th had been a hard day at work and I decided a different strategy was in order for my evening visit the Flats which would involve a lot less leg-work than usual so I chose a vantage point high on the adjacent hillside and started to scan the extensive mudflats below. After about an hour I noticed a group of distant medium sized waders feeding in an area in the middle of the inundation area that is totally enclosed by reeds. At first all of the birds appeared to be Redshanks but then one bird came into view with a slightly different jizz. It appeared a little smaller and looked a bit longer legged but with the low setting sun to the west and with the bird at a distance of half a mile from my position I could make out no greater details. At this stage if I was a betting man my money would have been on the rarer *Tringa* group members but with no way of cutting the viewing distance it became a waiting game hoping that it would flush into a more accessible area. After

another half an hour of waiting the flock eventually flew and landed opposite the main hide; so after a quick dash to the car I sped down the hill and made my way to the hide where I arrived out of breath to find that the flock had frustratingly moved again but after a few minutes they all reappeared at 400 yards range and after a quick scan a fine adult Marsh Sandpiper was on view. A few frantic phone calls to local birders and having informed the Birdlines the hide was soon full with photographs being taken and descriptions logged. The Marsh Sandpiper remained on site to dusk and was present at first light the following morning but around 06:00 hrs it took flight with two Greenshank and disappeared across the Trent taking up residence at Blacktoft Sands

RSPB where it remained until August 3rd. It put in one further appearance at Alkborough Flats on July 21st flying around the site calling in the company of a Greenshank before returning again to Blacktoft Sands.

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*  
Boultham Mere LWT Aug 4th 2011  
Dean Nicholson and Andy Sims

On Aug 8th, Dean Nicholson and Andy Sims were sitting out frequent heavy showers in the hide at Boultham Mere when at 12:30PM DGN noticed a small *Tringa* Sandpiper flying over the tree line directly towards the hide at a height of c200 ft. ACS got on the bird immediately and in unison both shouted "Greenshank!" (a good bird for the site), as it banked round losing height over the lake looking for all the world like it was going to land – DGN mentioned the very long leg projection beyond the tail, alarm bells started ringing and we started to talk through other features. We noted the white wedge up the back which eliminated both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and also Green and Wood Sandpiper, the lack of a white trailing edge ruled out Redshank and we were left with Spotted Redshank, Greenshank or Marsh Sandpiper. Spotted Redshank was never seriously considered and was almost immediately ruled out on plumage tones and latterly call. The bird had now come right down low over the lake below the tree line on the far side of the lake and the plain, pale head and white underparts were seen well. The bill was 'insignificant' looking, all dark and very thin and straight, the bird lacked the general bulk and heavy upturned bill impression so often seen on Greenshank. The fact that the bird had been on show for a couple of minutes without calling also went against Greenshank which are nearly always very vocal here. Before it started to gain height again it was heard to call on 3 separate occasions, each time just one note was heard, it was vaguely reminiscent of a Greenshank in overall tone but was noticeably sharper and shorter (DGN) and higher pitched (ACS). The bird then gained height again and was watched flying out of sight over the trees to the West. Whilst we both now strongly favoured Marsh Sandpiper we decided to err on the side of caution and at 13:23 put news out on RBA as a 'probable' Marsh Sandpiper until we had both heard calls of Marsh Sandpiper. A couple of hours later and ACS had returned the short distance home and checked some recordings, he then phoned DGN and played various flight calls of Marsh Sandpiper down the phone which finally confirmed what we both already knew. DGN then phoned definite news out to RBA at 14:54.

From first being picked up to flying out of view the bird was on show for a total of about 3 minutes. Before flying off it had circled low over the lake straight out from the hide down to a range of 30-40 ft, DGN observed the bird through 8x42 Zeiss binoculars and ACS through 8X32 Swarovski binoculars.

DGN carries a digital camera and occasionally digiscopes but seeing as this bird never settled no photographs were obtained, all efforts went into observing, noting and commenting on features as we saw them in the field. ACS doesn't partake in any photography.

Despite several heavy showers throughout the morning, the light/visibility was actually quite good whilst watching the bird, being clear but slightly overcast.

### Size and structure

A typical small *Tringa*. Size was initially difficult to assess as it was a lone bird with nothing to compare with, flight action was fast, loose and direct and not unlike the flight action of a Turtle or Stock Dove (DGN). The closer the bird got the smaller it became appearing more like a Wood Sandpiper than a Greenshank, the base of the wings looked thinner than those on a Greenshank. The most striking feature was definitely the long leg projection beyond the tail, much longer than on a Greenshank where only the toes project (both toes as well as some tarsus could be seen beyond the tail on this bird). Such was the obvious leg protrusion DGN likened it at the time to that of a Black-tailed Godwit. DGN estimated that the leg projection beyond the tail was more than (or at least equal to) the head and bill projection, despite the long bill the bird seemed quite small headed. This gave the bird quite a distinctive 'back-heavy' jizz in profile with more bird on show behind the wings than in front- rather in the same way that a Bar-tailed Godwit differs from a Black-tailed Godwit in profile. The tail was complete and showed no signs of moult or missing retrices which could have over-emphasised the leg projection in some way. The bird was genuinely and obviously very long legged.

### Plumage

The upper wings were greyish brown lacking any wing bars and appeared slightly darker towards the outer primaries. The tail and rump was white and the white extended up the back in a long thin 'cigar' shape. There was some dark barring near the tail tip. When viewed below the tree line the

plain looking pale head was seen well, this contrasted quite markedly with the darker upperparts. The dark eye stood out in the otherwise plain looking head.

The underparts appeared whitish but there may well have been slight streaking to breast? The underwing/axillaries were quite pale and contrasted little with the whitish underparts.

### Bare parts

The leg colour was difficult to ascertain exactly but looked greenish/greyish. The all black bill was long, thin and straight and was seen well as the bird banked in front of the hide at a range of c30ft. The thicker pale-based upturned bill of Greenshank can often be seen at surprising range, this didn't come across at all on this bird.

### Voice

The clincher! The call, a single note was heard 3 times and sounded similar to Greenshank but different(!) it was more clipped/shorter than a Greenshank's 'tyyu' and never strung together like a Greenshank's tyyu tyu tyu, (DGN and ACS, despite seeing and hearing Greenshanks regularly on passage can't ever recall hearing a Greenshank utter a single note sounding like this?). ACS described the call as a 'higher pitched' Greenshank which pretty much sums it up. It was more of a 'tuw' than a 'tyyu'.

Whilst referencing the various Marsh Sandpiper recordings, we also checked several Greenshank sound recordings to see if we could find any flight call matching what we had heard but this drew a blank as regards Greenshank. Both DGN and ACS were happy, despite the considerable variability that the only good match was one of a flight call of a Marsh Sandpiper.

It was pretty distinctive and quite readily separable from Greenshank.

### Other information

After being originally found at Alkborough Flats on the evening of 11/07/11 there had been an adult Marsh Sandpiper present at Blacktoft Sands RSPB ever since, the bird was still present at Blacktoft at dusk on the evening of the 3rd but heavy overnight rain and thunderstorms may have pushed the bird down the Trent away from the worst of the weather? The bird was not seen at Blacktoft all day on the 4th so it is now tempting (but still conjecture) to suggest that this was the same bird? Both DGN and ACS were unaware that bird had departed from Blacktoft at the time of our sighting.

### Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

Whisby Nature Park, Jun 17th 2011.

Grahame Hopwood



I hadn't long started my weekly Common Tern monitoring survey at Whisby NP on Friday 17th June, when I got a phone call from Kevin Marshall one of the volunteers, to say that he had found a wader on Thorpe Lake that he couldn't identify. As luck would have it, I was only a short distance away, so was able to join him very quickly. As I walked up to Kevin the wader in question flew from one of the small islands in front of us and the quick jerky flight action immediately suggested Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*, but even with the naked eye I could see a restricted white wing bar and a very orange looking bill. Upon landing I was able to then view through bins (Swarovski EL 10x42) to see the underparts clearly which had conspicuous large spots all over! Just to be absolutely sure, a quick check through the scope (Swarovski STS 80 HD with 30x) of the tail length which extended by only a short margin beyond the wing tip, and there was no doubt in

my mind that this was a rather smart summer Spotted Sandpiper. This was a lifer for Kevin who clearly knew it was something different, but had no previous experience of the species. In contrast this is a wader with which I have seen many times over several trips to North America and the Caribbean, as well as around half a dozen birds in Britain. Other than Common Sandpiper, there were really no other confusion species to consider.

A rather frenzied five minutes then ensued phoning the news out and trying to get some record digi-scoped shots (just in case it flew off) but Andy Sims, Rick Bennett and Dave Jenkins were very soon on the scene followed by a steady stream of birders from as far as Nottingham and Barnsley as well as most of the regular Lincs birders. As it was, the bird performed very well for

the rest of the day and usually showed between a distance of between 50 and 75 yards, and was photographed by both Graham Catley and Russell Hayes. During the evening the bird became a little more flighty and started to wander a little more widely. Therefore it was perhaps not too surprising that despite searching the following morning, the bird couldn't be found.

This bird represents the fifth record for Lincolnshire and follows the last one, which was also a one day summer bird, at Messingham Sand Quarry, on 31st May 2007.

### **Description**

The following description is based on my own observations made whilst directly watching the bird. It describes the features noted and used to identify the bird as an adult summer Spotted Sandpiper viewed at a distance of around 50 yards. Additional features not seen or noted in the field can be seen in the photographs (in particular flight shots) submitted with this description.

### **Size and structure**

The bird was in essence of a similar size (perhaps ever so slightly smaller, but difficult to judge without direct comparison) and shape to a Common Sandpiper and even shared the same rapid jerky flight action and distinctive bobbing action. However, the main difference was in the length of the tail which extended just a short distance beyond the folded wings. This had the effect of making the rear end somewhat blunt looking and contributed to a slightly more dumpy looking appearance to the bird overall.

### **Head**

The forehead, crown and nape were a mid brown ground colour, with darker brown streaking noticeable on the crown. The white supercilium extended indistinctly from the base of bill to the eye, then flared slightly and became more prominent behind the eye. The lores were dark brown, forming a slight eye stripe which extended behind the eye. The ear coverts and neck sides were mid brown, being a similar tone to the rest of the head. A conspicuous feature was the presence of white eye crescents, which almost but not quite, formed complete eye rings.

### **Upperparts**

The mantle, scapulars, wing coverts and tertials all had a mid brown ground colour, with distinct darker barring overall. The primaries were perhaps just a slightly darker brown to the rest of the upperparts. The uppertail was concolorous with the rest of the upperparts but for broad white outer tail feathers with dark barring. As noted above, in flight a white wing bar was noted, but was most conspicuous on the outer wing, fading towards the inner wing.

### **Underparts**

The entire underparts from the chin to the under tail coverts were white with obvious black spotting throughout. This ranged from small dense spotting on the chin and throat to bold spotting of various sizes elsewhere, with perhaps the exception of the flanks which appeared relatively unmarked.

### **Bare parts**

The bill was quite a 'luminous' carrot orange with a small dark tip, the eye appeared black and the legs and feet were a pale pink colour.

### **Additional information**

The weather on the morning of discovery was slightly overcast, dry and warm, with a gentle breeze. Light conditions were very good to excellent.

### **Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes***

Bagmoor Floods Oct 30th 2011 – Jan 29th 2012

Neil Drinkall

Bagmoor Floods is a private site that I have watched along with a few other local birders for the past 25 years. Rare birds have been few and far between with the most notable being Ferruginous and Ring-necked Ducks, a couple of Temminck's Stints and a Grey Phalarope the only notable waders. Thus on my visit to the site on October 30th 2011 when I found myself looking at a stunning juvenile Lesser Yellowlegs it was something of a surprise! Although distant I decided a few digi-scoped images were needed before making any phone calls. By chance while taking the shots Wayne Gillatt appeared at my side and quickly confirmed the identification. The bird



stayed at Bagmoor through the afternoon although it was rather nervous and flighty in the company of a Redshank. The following day found GPC and myself in deepest Lincolnshire at first light searching for a reported Pallid Harrier at Ruckland. After confirming that the bird was a juvenile Hen Harrier we were back home by lunchtime. That afternoon I searched Bagmoor but there was no sign of the Lesser Yellowlegs so I decided to spend the last half hour of daylight at Alkborough Flats, my patch. Upon arrival the third bird I looked at was unbelievably the Lesser Yellowlegs. During the next week or so the bird adopted a pattern of behaviour where it was present on the pools at Alkborough Flats in the morning but by afternoon it would move back to Bagmoor, a distance of 5.5kms in each direction. It finally settled down at Bagmoor from November 8th and there were no further sightings at Alkborough Flats. I found favourable feeding at Bagmoor and

remarkably stayed into the New Year constantly associating with a single Redshank until the onset of a period of hard weather with heavy snowfall and freezing conditions at the end of January when it was last noted on the 29th. I can find no other references to wintering Nearctic waders in Lincolnshire making it through into the New Year; the Semi-palmated Sandpiper that arrived at Wisbech Sewage Farm on November 12th 1966 was present until December 26th and thus was the closest to making it into its second year in Lincolnshire.

### Long-billed Dowitcher, *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

RSPB Freiston Shore reserve - Sep 26th 2011

Keith and Wendy Robertson



We had walked to Freiston from Witham Mouth and bird-wise it had been a bit quiet, in fact the butterflies had been more interesting, including 3 Clouded Yellows. On arriving at Freiston Shore mid-afternoon, we noticed the car park was busy, which raised our hopes that there might be some good birds on the reserve. However, it soon became apparent that most of the visitors were dog-walkers and there was hardly a bird to be seen from the hide.

It was therefore quite a surprise when, a bit further along the track to the Wash bank, looking through a viewing gap in the hedge, a wader caught our attention as being something unusual. Initial impression was of an odd-looking Snipe, but it had no stripes on back or crown, and was larger and longer-legged. It was moving around in shallow water, feeding fervently (making it a bit difficult to get plumage details), and closely associating with a couple of Black-tailed Godwits, often getting in each other's way.

**Description:** obviously smaller than the Godwits, more Redshank size, but with a stocky Snipe-like build and long bill. The rapid jerky feeding action was also very like Snipe. Bill very long, no distinct colouring, fairly thick, straight except for slight droop at tip, and careful comparison with the adjacent godwit's bill showed it to be of equal length. Legs medium length, dirty yellowish. Back (mantle and scapulars) darkish brown, neatly scaly, with dark feather centres, recalling Ruff (and indicating juvenile plumage). Underparts paler, whitish belly, dark speckling on flanks and under tail. Chest rufous buff, more greyish on upper chest and head. Obvious whitish supercilium, dark crown. White visible on lower back when briefly preening, but not seen in flight, so no detail of tail/wing pattern. No calls heard.

The general size and build, and length of bill, eliminates all other waders except Short-billed Dowitcher. Combination of bill length, neatly scaled back, and grey tones on chest rules out the latter.

We had been watching the bird and making notes for about 20 minutes, waiting to get a decent view of its wings and tail to complete the description, when, Sods law being what it is, it abruptly flew off, with the Godwits, while we were both looking elsewhere. A search round the whole lagoon proved completely fruitless and we assumed that it had left the area.

**American Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger surinamensis*  
Covenham – Sep 17th – Oct 7th 2011  
Graham Catley



On the morning of September 17th I decided to do a seawatch off Sandilands south of Mablethorpe in the hope of a lingering shearwater or skua; after four hours of very little I headed to Covenham Reservoir with no real hope of finding anything of note but the chance of a Sabine's Gull or a nearctic wader meant it was worth a quick look. Upon arrival I was none too pleased to see windsurfers speeding into the supposed wildfowl sanctuary area in the south-east corner putting all the wildfowl and grebes to flight. A scan revealed a juvenile Red-necked Grebe on the south side and as I took some photos of it the bird began calling frequently before flying west and joining a moulting adult. Both birds had striking amounts of yellow on both mandibles so with a vague recollection of North American Holboell's Grebe having mostly yellow bills I tried to get some decent shots of the birds for future reference. While squatted down waiting for the grebes to

drift closer in out of the corner of my eye I saw a small tern flick over the west bank of the reservoir from the landward side and drop onto the concrete wall. A quick look with the scope showed that it was a black tern but the head pattern looked rather white-winged like and the upperparts were quite dark. Two days previously I had been studying a juvenile Black Tern on my local patch but its gleaming white flanks and underwing coverts combined with the obviously paler rump quickly ruled out any real thoughts of American Black Tern but to make 100% sure I went home and dug out the October 2009 copy of *Birding World* with the article on the Farmoor American Black Tern. Study of the superb plate by Ian Lewington entrenched the requisite features for identification of this bird in my mind but I had certainly not expected to have been calling on my memory banks as quickly as two days later. Back at Covenham I closed the 500m gap on the perched tern only to see it flush as two people walked by but it soon landed again and I took several photos getting slightly closer without wanting to flush the bird. It seemed tired and with a strong westerly wind blowing I did not want to cause it any further distress by flushing it. The views on the deck seemed to state that as unlikely as it may have seemed this was indeed a juvenile American Black Tern in Lincolnshire!

The head pattern was striking with small black head-phone spots joined over the crown by a fine wash of dark grey streaks the forehead, chin and throat being bright white as was the lower nape. The upperparts were quite uniform grey but with an obviously darker brown toned mantle, which, like the head pattern, resembled White-winged Tern. The dusky spot on the breast sides was more diffuse than in Black Tern and clearly spread out and extended round the carpal on the closed wing and although difficult to see it seemed to go right down the flanks. From head-on the underpart pattern was striking. By now I was pretty certain that it was an American Black Tern but I was conscious of the need to see the underwing and hopefully get some photos showing the extent of the flank wash and the underwing coverts. At this point the bird suddenly got up and was caught by the strong wind drifting high to the east across the reservoir. My attempt at quick flight shots was rudimentary but as I dared to check the camera viewfinder the undersides revealed the hoped for pattern. I rang round several Lincs birders but by this time I had lost the bird. Desperate scanning eventually revealed it perched on the bank at the opposite corner of the reservoir 1.2kms away; at this distance it looked incredibly small and head-on bore a resemblance to a Grey Phalarope. As the first birders arrived the windsurfers flushed the bird again but this time it looked more adept on the wing and seemed positively fit and healthy compared to my first views. As more people arrived the tern flew west out of the reservoir and settled on a newly ploughed field with Black-headed Gulls when its amazingly small size was stunning. There then followed a pattern of the bird resting and preening on the adjacent ploughed fields interspersed with bouts of feeding over the reservoir. On the 18th a warmer and sunny day on two occasions it flew at least 2kms high to the south-west following departing Black-headed Gulls but it eventually returned. The habit of resting on the ploughed fields was repeated on the 18th even when there were no gulls present and was something never seen on Black Terns on the reservoir in the past.

The American Black Tern remained at Covenham to the morning of October 7th and became particularly showy later in its stay as it patrolled the eastern bank of the reservoir catching insects and picking invertebrates from the surface of the water. This was the 4th British record of this distinctive bird all of which have been juveniles.



**Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra***

Gibraltar Point May 11th 2011

Tim Bagworth and Kevin M. Wilson

On May 10th 2011, I was in an area of outer ridges counting southbound migrants such as Swallows, Swifts, Finches and Corvids. At 0750 a Serin flew past me, calling as it headed low to the south. It possibly landed in the East Dunes some 250m away. I decided to follow it up. Whilst traversing the dry saltmarsh edge, a lark flew up at about 40m away and caught my attention. Skylarks breed commonly in this area but something made me look at this bird through the binoculars. Flight views were brief and in very strong sun but it did look bulky and a flash of what looked like a dark underwing brought Calandra immediately to mind. It landed further south and I went to investigate further. It had landed over a dune rise and I was not sure of how far it had gone. The bird flushed again and flew about 150m with strong sunlight behind it again, but it did seem to show a very dark underwing, before giving just back-end views. I went to try and locate it but could not see it where I thought it had landed. The morning was advancing however, my mobile phone was ringing and I needed to be attending to an extensive work list for the day.

With good weather continuing the following morning - 11th - I ventured out to the East Dunes to carry out a Common Bird Census, having taken an early detour for a Golden Oriole at the Plantation. After an hour and a half of census work, I headed north off the end of the outer ridge (Polypody Ridge) to cross the saltings and check on a pair of Wheatears that had been prospecting a rabbit burrow three days earlier.

I was about 150 m north of where I had seen 'the lark' the previous day so I was extremely fortunate that I flushed the same bird again. It took flight only about 20m from me and flew away northward. The light conditions were perfect this time; it was slightly overcast with nothing like the glare of the previous day. This lark was certainly bulky and the wings certainly were black underneath and not only that, but there was a broad white trailing edge to the secondaries that was striking.

At this point, I was in no doubt that I had found a Calandra. I really wanted to see it on the ground.

Luckily it landed to the south on a marram grass ridge – as it landed, two Skylarks flew up as if displaced by their larger cousin! I followed it up but could not see the bird due to the thick clumps of marram. Unfortunately, I got too close and it flushed again within 30 m. It did a long, looping flight as if it wanted to come and land in the same area. During this flight it called three times. In line with my previous experience of the species in flight in Iberia, the call was somewhat disappointing in terms of what one may expect from a lark of such bulk! Against a backdrop of singing Skylarks, the call could be determined as a typically lark like churring/rasping trill, perhaps slightly less abrupt and more strained, as if a prelude to song. There was a hint of Corn Bunting song quality to the call.

This view enabled the full structure to be appreciated – I had not noted how short-tailed it looked before, but now it was beginning to remind me of a giant, long-winged Woodlark as it undertook a bounding flight. The short-tailed appearance was undoubtedly accentuated by the long-looking wings. Not only were the underwings dark, but the upperwing also looked blackish across the primaries and secondaries, as with the underwing and there was a striking contrast with the broad white trailing edge. I had not noticed this darkness to the upperwing before on Calandras abroad. The bird seemed keen to associate with locally nesting Skylarks but they did not seem so keen on it! It often hovered a bit in flight – almost as if about to display. I was determined to see this bird on the ground but poor field craft was generated by general panic, impatience and lack of available time.

Unfortunately, there were no other birders in the immediate proximity (as is usually the case at Gib!). I needed someone who was calm, not prone to panicking and had previous experience of Calandras, who could corroborate the identification. Tim Bagworth was approximately 3 km away in the Shorebird Sanctuary at the extreme south end of the Reserve. I called him at 10.12 and said, "I've got a Calandra!" His response seemed calm (he didn't believe me!). "Where?" he said. He then set off on foot.

In the meantime, I had settled down on a ridge overlooking the saltings and dune edge where I was convinced the lark had landed after its last flight. Surely I would get views now. But after what seemed like 30 minutes I had not seen any movement – I ventured into the area again and the bird had disappeared. I thought it must have continued north so I started traversing up and down the saltings, probably covering about 2 km in the process – no luck. Some 10 Skylarks, five Meadow Pipits and a Wheatear were encountered and I was distracted by a southbound Honey Buzzard that was being mobbed by two Jackdaws for a while. I noted on the Skylarks in flight, how the white trailing edge was often difficult to see clearly in comparison to the Calandra. I returned back

to check to the south this time. Thankfully, the Calandra got up again at about 20m and flew to the seaward edge of the marram ridge again.

Tim arrived 5 minutes later and we both cautiously approached the ridge. Unfortunately (or fortunately) the lark took flight and did another 80m flight back onto the saltings. "Oh yes", exclaimed Tim as he got initial flight views and he then remarked how the bird had held its wings downward on occasions in accordance with his previous experience of a Calandra on the Isle of Man. Again, it hovered hesitantly a couple of times before descending to the ground, as if contemplating a song flight.

The relief that Tim had now seen it was immense. We moved slightly to get a better position to see the saltings again. Almost immediately, we saw the bird, which had moved out of some dense grass at c70m and onto an open path, where it remained for about 10 seconds. I tried to get a brief bit of video (ridiculous really at the distance!), while Tim watched it through binoculars, thus getting better views than me.

Hoping the lark was settled, I was just about to set up my scope on it when a pair of Skylarks came in and mobbed it. It quickly took flight and headed north, quite low, but this time moving for about 200m. We lost sight of it behind a dune ridge and it was our impression that it had probably continued out across the large tidal creek and over to an extensive matrix of saltmarsh, dune grassland, scrub and vegetated shingle ridges.

With news out on Birdlines etc, the first birders arrived about 20 minutes later and there followed a fairly extensive search for the remainder of the morning and the afternoon but the bird was not seen again.

**Description** - based on flight views on 11th May when seen in flight about six times at down to 20m and over varying lengths of time up to 20 seconds.

A large, chunky lark, with quite broad-based, long wings and shortish tail. Skylark in comparison probably about  $\frac{3}{4}$  size or even less, with longer tail comparatively. The Calandra clearly had quite a large chunky bill which was more obvious in flight views than adjacent skylark bills. It appeared pale at times. Legs were not seen. The upperparts were mostly mid-brown on crown, mantle and wing coverts and any streaking on these areas was not possible to determine accurately.

The face pattern appeared quite complex and bold, but typically lark-like with a broad, pale surround to the eye area and broad white supercilium above. The ear-coverts area was brownish like the upperparts.

I specifically looked for the black patches at the lower neck when I realised the bird was a Calandra. It took a couple of views to see this in flight but they were certainly apparent and particularly good views were obtained on one occasion when the bird was flying towards me. The black neck patches were clearly regular on each side and could not have been formed by the coalescence of patches of breast side streaking, nor caused by any feather ruffling that might result in showing dark bases to the feathers.

There was a noticeable white "collar" between the brown of the face sides and the clear cut upper borders of the black lower neck patches. The upper breast looked brownish or buff in a thin band below the black neck patches but it was not possible to determine any streaking here. It certainly lacked a distinct, deep 'pectoral band' of streaking that might be more expected with Skylark or Woodlark. For the most part, the underparts were clean white (whiter-looking than Skylarks) and this helped to accentuate the dark looking wings.

The tail was fairly short in respect of the bulk of the body and the length of the wings – something that I had not really appreciated on previous views of this species. It was dark brown centred with extensive white outer tail feathers which were easily seen. The tail was often spread while the bird was semi-hovering – deciding where to land etc. or even attempting a half-hearted display flight! The tail was not tipped white as in Bimaculated Lark.

Other than the black neck patches, the wings were the most remarkable feature of the bird. The underwings were almost solidly black with the exception of a striking, broad and pure white band along the trailing edge due to the secondaries and inner primaries being white-tipped. Both wings were intact, very smart and pristine. The upperside of the secondaries and primaries was also very dark – almost blackish and this was a feature that I had not really noted before on Calandras. There was a hint of pale patches on the carpals (slightly reminiscent of Woodlark), that seemed to be a feature rather than caused by feather displacement when it was seen head on during one flight.

# REPORT ON THE GARDEN BIRD FEEDING SURVEY, 2009-2012

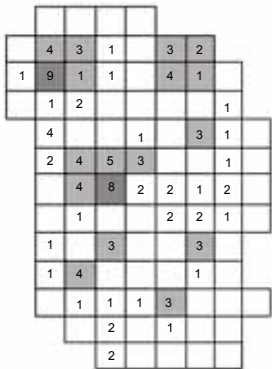
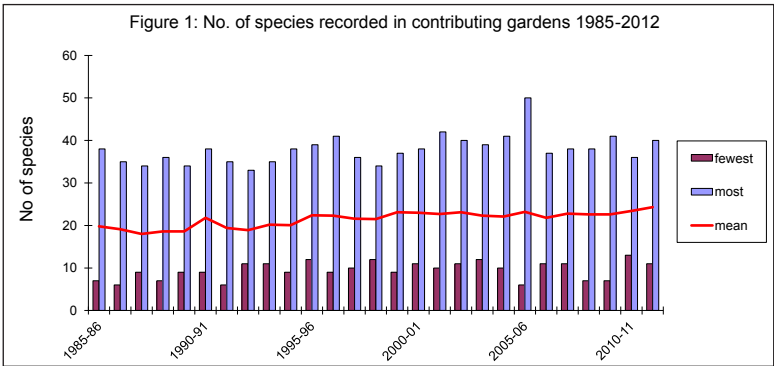
This report covers the period April 2009 to September 2012, ie the Lincolnshire surveys for Summer 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, and for Winter 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12. Most of the data are therefore provided as tables, with comments on particularly interesting findings and trends.

## Background

The Lincolnshire Garden Bird Survey started over the winter of 1985/86, and winter surveys have run every year since that time. Summer surveys were first attempted in 1996 and 1997, but then lapsed. They began again in 2003, and have run every year since. The basic requirement, to report the maximum number of birds of each species seen during the week has not changed, but for the first ten years, surveyors were required to report the species and maximum number feeding each week; from 1995/96 this was relaxed to the number using the garden. In practice this change made very little difference to the numbers of birds recorded, but clarified the position over birds not actually seen to take food while being watched.

## Contributors Statistics

Table 1 shows the number of gardens contributing to each summer survey, the total number of species recorded over all gardens, the lowest and highest number recorded in individual gardens, the mean over all gardens, and the mean number of weeks for which the gardens were watched (out of 26). The averages for each parameter over the decade 2003-2012 are also shown. Table 2 gives the same information for the winter surveys, with the average figures for winters 2002/03 to 2011/12. Figure 1 summarises the numbers of species identified in each winter since the start of the survey. As this shows, the mean number of species recorded has remained very steady, particularly since the instructions were clarified in 1995.



In total, 108 gardens, located in 92 1km OS grid squares, were surveyed over the period of this report. Their distribution is shown, by 10km square, in Figure 2; the shading indicates that the distribution of contributors reasonably mirrors the distribution of population.

Figure 2. Distribution of gardens included in the surveys 2009-2012

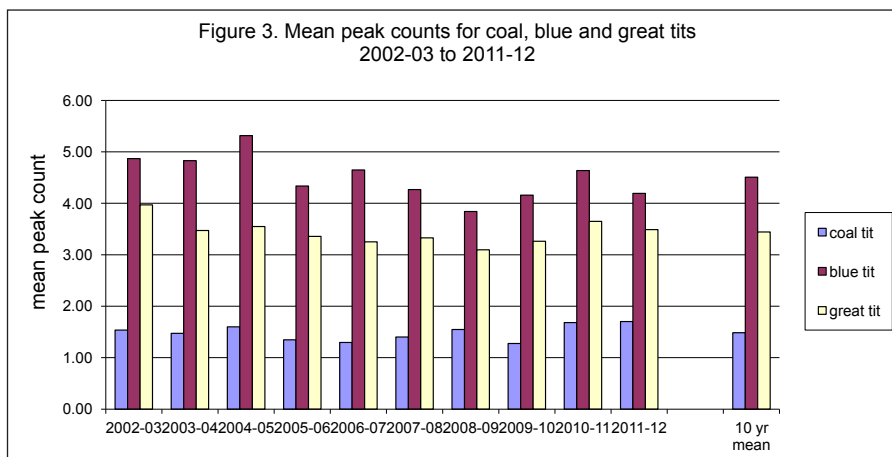
## Winter Garden Bird Statistics and Trends

The major use of the records received from surveyors is to calculate annually two figures. The **mean peak count** is the sum of each contributor's peak count for each species, including zeros for the gardens where the species was not recorded, divided by the total number of gardens surveyed in that winter. Multiplying this figure by 100 standardises it as the count/100 gardens, and year on year comparison shows changes in the size of the wintering population, for species which make use of gardens at this season. The **percentage of survey weeks recorded** sums the number of weeks a species was recorded in every garden taking part, and divides this by the total number of weeks when gardens were actually watched, expressing the value as a percentage. (This allows for survey gaps for holidays, etc.) Since locally common species, present in only a few gardens every week, would give a similar figure to widespread species occasionally using gardens across the county, interpretation of this index does require an understanding of the distribution and habitat needs of each species.

For both indices, interpretation for a particular species also involves consideration of a range of factors, such as flocking v solitary behaviour; residents v migrants; irruptions; winter territoriality (including the 'guarding' of berry bushes, usually by thrushes); effect of weather; size and location of gardens surveyed, etc. However, providing enough gardens are surveyed (ideally at least 100) each year, and that distribution across the natural regions and between town and country gardens remains reasonably constant, then the indices can be used to examine trends. The latter requirement has been met over the 26 years of the survey to date, but it should be noted that the number of contributors was down to only half the long-term average in 2011-12 winter.

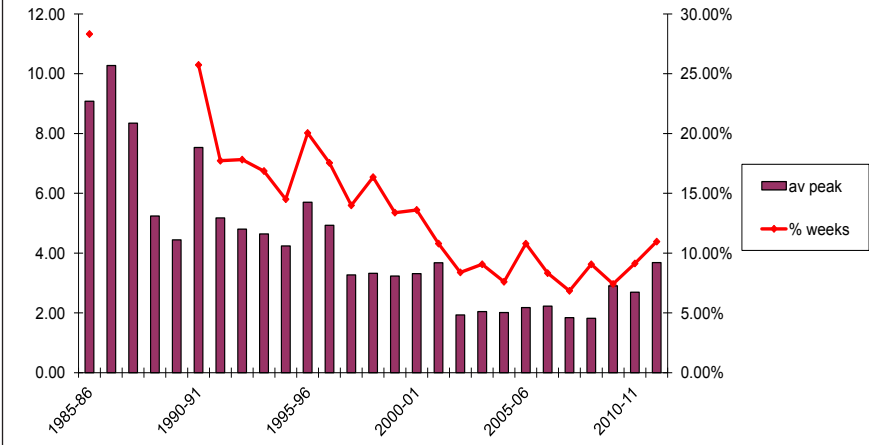
Table 3 shows the mean peak count and the percentage of total survey weeks in which each species was recorded for the 33 most widespread species. All of these were recorded in at least a quarter of the gardens surveyed in at least one of the last 3 winters. For both tables, the first column in each half of the table gives the figures for the mean of that parameter over the ten years 2002-03 to 2011-12. Comparing the figures for the last three winters with this mean indicates the medium-term trend. Examples of the main trends are shown in Figures 3-7.

Many of these 33 species appear to have been fairly stable, or fluctuated in a narrow band around a mean value, over the last decade or longer in Lincolnshire gardens. Species for which both indices have behaved in this way through the whole of the survey period, from 1985-86 to 2011-12, are robin, blackbird, coal tit, blue tit, great tit, carrion crow and chaffinch. Figure 3 shows the annual mean peak values for the three tit species over the last decade. In these species there is a suggestion of cycles over this period, and also that the peaks for each species are coincident. These cycles may be weather-related, possibly reflecting productivity in the previous breeding season.



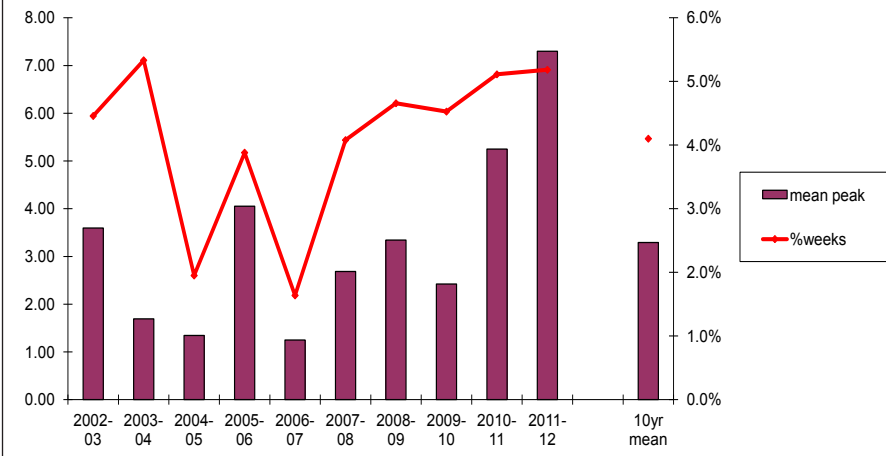
The indices for four species, sparrowhawk, pheasant, collared dove and magpie, have been relatively stable for the last decade, following earlier increases from the start of the survey in all cases. Conversely, black-headed gull and bullfinch are currently stable following declines from the start of the survey. Figure 4 shows the indices for black-headed gull as an example of this.

Figure 4: Wintering black-headed gull 1985-2012



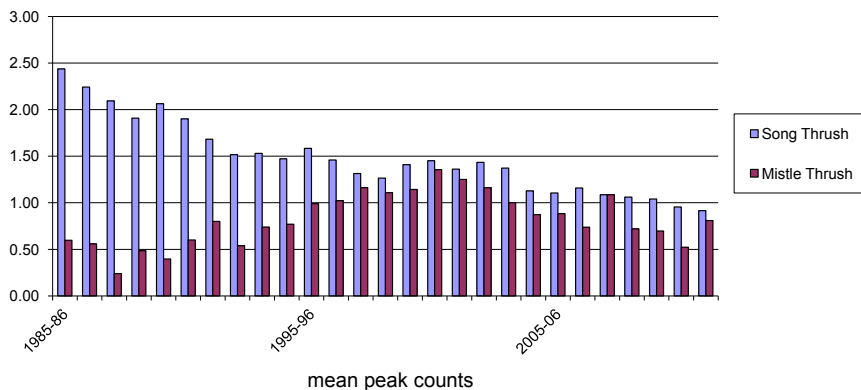
Another group of species show continuous larger fluctuations in their indices. This happens most obviously in migrants, such as fieldfare (shown in Figure 5) and redwing, where the numbers of birds either passing through or staying in the county vary both from year to year, and region to region. Although not included in this group of target species (since their numbers are much lower in most years) waxwing, brambling, siskin and crossbill also show this kind of pattern as do partial migrants such as goldcrest, where the numbers arriving often greatly outnumber the residents.

Figure 5: Wintering fieldfare 2002-2012



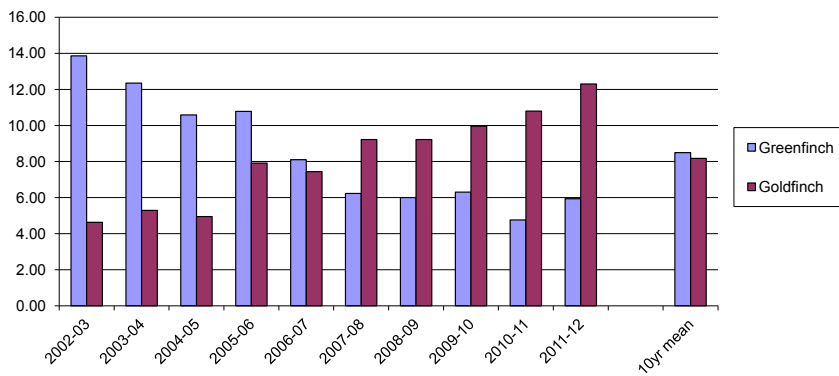
Other species whose numbers and use of gardens fluctuates over a wide range are great spotted woodpecker, rook, yellowhammer and reed bunting. The last of these is currently in the upswing of a fluctuation, while rooks appear to have a 6-12 year cycle in their fluctuations. It is likely that all of these swings are weather-related, but not impossible that numbers of some of these species are also augmented by arrivals in some winters.

Figure 6: Mean peak counts for song thrush and mistle thrush 1985-2012



A third group of species have been declining steadily, either over recent years, having previously been stable, such as pied wagtail, wren and greenfinch: or from the beginning of the survey, as in song thrush, starling and house sparrow: or following a peak, as in mistle thrush. Figure 6 shows the contrasting patterns for song and mistle thrush over the whole survey period. Finally, there are five species, woodpigeon, long-tailed tit, jackdaw, tree sparrow and goldfinch which, having previously been stable at a lower level, have been increasing through the last decade. Figure 7 contrasts the differing fortunes of greenfinch and goldfinch in gardens over this period. According to BTO reports, finch trichomonosis was first noted in the UK in 2005, with widespread mortality in greenfinches, mainly in the West Midlands, recorded in 2006; from here it spread east in 2007 and 2008. Figure 7 shows though that the decline had already begun before this, with the Lincolnshire peak in winter 2002-03. Goldfinch numbers in gardens actually began to increase a year or two before this.

Figure 7: Mean peak counts for greenfinch and goldfinch 2002-2012



### Summer Garden Bird Statistics and Trends

The summer survey both supplements winter recording by covering the late winter 'hungry gap' and the pre-breeding periods for several species, and also provides information on summer visitors and on use of gardens for breeding. Unfortunately, it is less well supported than the winter survey, so these aspects are less robust than they could be.



Figure 8: Song thrush, weekly count/100 gardens  
Oct 2009-Sep 2010

The bar chart displays the weekly count of song thrushes per 100 gardens from October 2009 to September 2010. The y-axis represents the count, ranging from 0 to 80 in increments of 10. The x-axis shows the months from October to September. The data indicates a seasonal pattern with a significant peak in May and June, followed by a decline in the summer months and a low count in the winter months.

Month	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Week 13	Week 14	Week 15	Week 16	Week 17	Week 18	Week 19	Week 20	Week 21	Week 22	Week 23	Week 24	Week 25	Week 26	Week 27	Week 28	Week 29	Week 30	Week 31	Week 32	Week 33	Week 34	Week 35	Week 36	Week 37	Week 38	Week 39	Week 40	Week 41	Week 42	Week 43	Week 44	Week 45	Week 46	Week 47	Week 48	Week 49	Week 50	Week 51	Week 52																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
October	13	12	11	7	6	5	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
November	25	28	30	32	35	38	40	42	45	48	50	52	55	58	60	62	65	68	70	72	75	78	80	82	85	88	90	92	95	98	100	102	105	108	110	112	115	118	120	122	125	128	130	132	135	138	140	142	145	148	150	152	155	158	160	162	165	168	170	172	175	178	180	182	185	188	190	192	195	198	200	202	205	208	210	212	215	218	220	222	225	228	230	232	235	238	240	242	245	248	250	252	255	258	260	262	265	268	270	272	275	278	280	282	285	288	290	292	295	298	300	302	305	308	310	312	315	318	320	322	325	328	330	332	335	338	340	342	345	348	350	352	355	358	360	362	365	368	370	372	375	378	380	382	385	388	390	392	395	398	400	402	405	408	410	412	415	418	420	422	425	428	430	432	435	438	440	442	445	448	450	452	455	458	460	462	465	468	470	472	475	478	480	482	485	488	490	492	495	498	500	502	505	508	510	512	515	518	520	522	525	528	530	532	535	538	540	542	545	548	550	552	555	558	560	562	565	568	570	572	575	578	580	582	585	588	590	592	595	598	600	602	605	608	610	612	615	618	620	622	625	628	630	632	635	638	640	642	645	648	650	652	655	658	660	662	665	668	670	672	675	678	680	682	685	688	690	692	695	698	700	702	705	708	710	712	715	718	720	722	725	728	730	732	735	738	740	742	745	748	750	752	755	758	760	762	765	768	770	772	775	778	780	782	785	788	790	792	795	798	800	802	805	808	810	812	815	818	820	822	825	828	830	832	835	838	840	842	845	848	850	852	855	858	860	862	865	868	870	872	875	878	880	882	885	888	890	892	895	898	900	902	905	908	910	912	915	918	920	922	925	928	930	932	935	938	940	942	945	948	950	952	955	958	960	962	965	968	970	972	975	978	980	982</

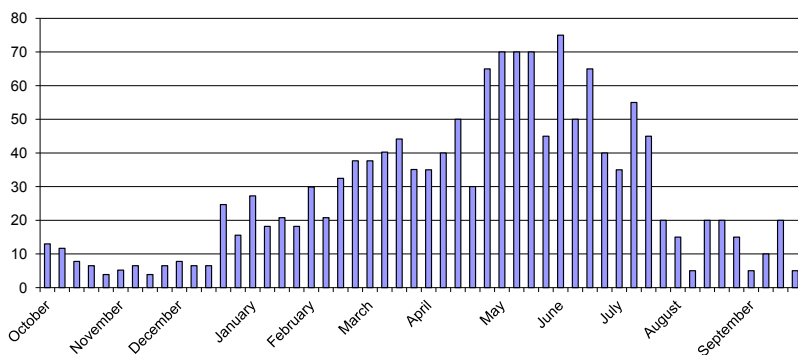
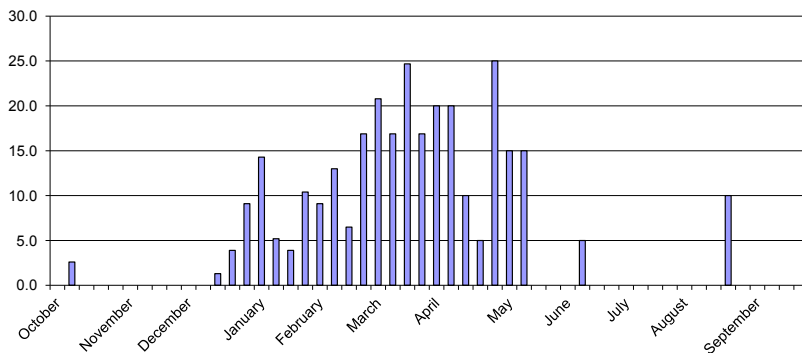


Figure 9: Yellowhammer, weekly count/100 gardens  
Oct 2009-Sep 2010

The bar chart displays the weekly count of Yellowhammers per 100 gardens. The x-axis represents the months from October 2009 to September 2010. The y-axis represents the count, ranging from 0.0 to 30.0 in increments of 5.0. The data shows a seasonal pattern with peaks in late March and early May.

Month	Weekly Count (per 100 gardens)
October 2009	2.5
November 2009	0.0
December 2009	0.0
January 2010	1.5, 4.0, 9.0, 14.5, 5.0, 4.0
February 2010	10.5, 9.0, 13.0, 6.5, 6.5
March 2010	17.0, 21.0, 17.0, 24.5, 17.0, 17.0, 20.0, 20.0
April 2010	10.0, 5.0, 5.0, 25.0, 15.0, 15.0
May 2010	5.0
June 2010	0.0
July 2010	0.0
August 2010	0.0
September 2010	10.0



Month	Deaths
October	18
November	22
December	23
January	44
February	30
March	40
April	37
May	55
June	42
July	14
August	5
September	10

Turning to monitoring of summer visitors, Table 4 gives the summary statistics (as for Table 3) for the 15 species most regularly recorded in gardens. For nearly half of these, records in this smaller selection of gardens are rather sporadic, although for some, this is now an indication of how scarce they have become across the county and UK: examples are shown in Figures 11 and 12. Note the difference in the scales: turtle doves are typically birds of farmland scrub and small woods, while spotted flycatchers often also occur in suburban gardens and parks, so have in the past been more widely recorded. The figures show that both species were more common ten years ago, and though they have had some reasonable years since, the overall trend has been downward, in line with UK trends.

Year	mean peak	% weeks
2003	0.195	3.70%
2004	0.082	1.60%
2005	0.135	1.20%
2006	0.060	0.70%
2007	0.052	0.60%
2008	0.047	0.60%
2009	0.100	1.00%
2010	0.025	0.70%
2011	0.038	0.50%
2012	0.042	0.50%
mean	0.078	0.90%

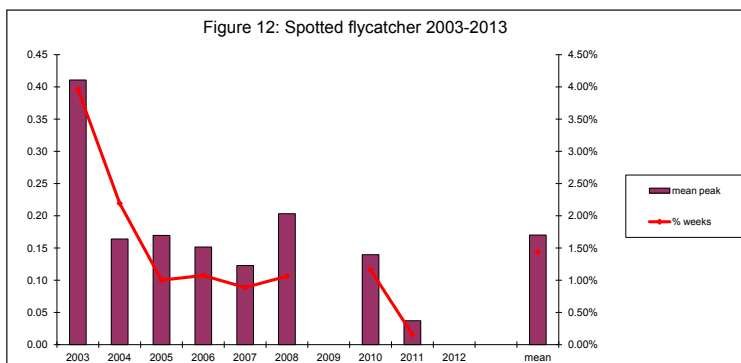


Figure 13 compares annual peak count data for two related species, house martin and swallow. Contributors regularly report that one or other has been scarce in their area in a particular year, and the former especially has shown some large fluctuations, but over the last ten years it would appear that numbers across the county as a whole have been stable. There is some suggestion that summer 2008 was poor for both species, as it seems to have been for turtle dove, and possibly for summer visitors more generally.

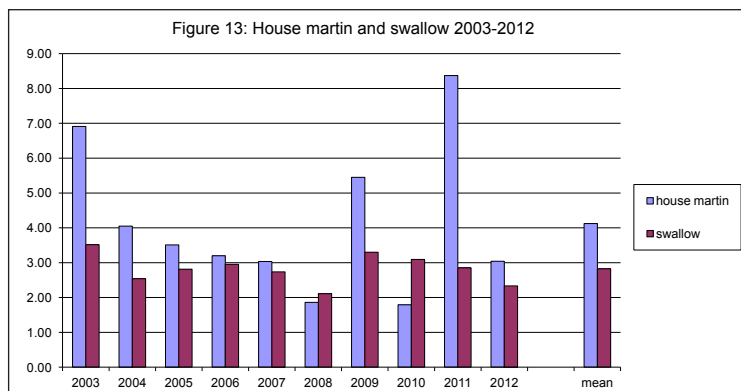
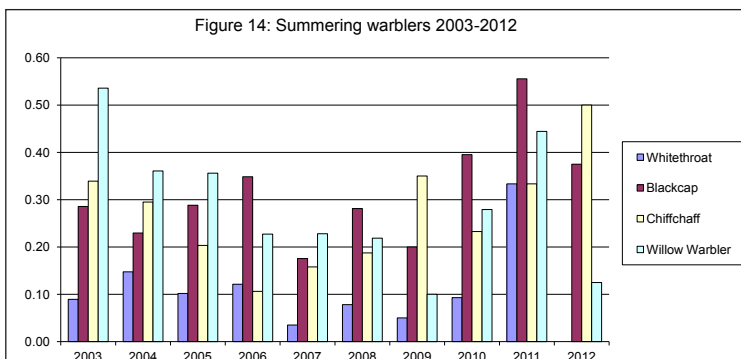


Figure 14 provides a similar comparison for the four most regular warblers recorded in gardens, and though these all show quite wide fluctuations, possibly cycles in some cases, across the decade, all seem to have had low numbers in at least one of the years 2006-2008.



In 2003, contributors were also asked to tick a column indicating which species had nested (ie, made a nest and laid eggs, even if the nest then failed) in their gardens that year. This wasn't repeated in 2004 or 2005, but the information has been requested every year since 2006. For the 38 species recorded as breeding in the surveyed gardens during these years, Table 5 shows how many years out of the possible eight each species was recorded in at least one garden, and, on average, the proportion of gardens in which that species nests each year. This last figure is only very approximate, both since the numbers of contributors in some years was very small (and many of the same gardens were represented in several years) and also because unfortunately, contributors were NOT asked to tick a box stating that no birds nested in their garden. The assumption has been made that if no box was ticked, no species nested, but this need not have been so, making the figures conservative. However, they do indicate that blackbirds are the most widespread breeding bird in gardens, followed by blue tit, and with woodpigeon, collared dove, robin, dunnoek, great tit and house sparrow all nesting in around 20-25% of gardens annually over the last decade. Comparing the annual figures shows that while numbers nesting for most species have remained fairly steady over the decade, for others the figures parallel the change in mean counts. For example, from 2003-2007, wrens were recorded nesting from around 20% of gardens each year, but since then this figure has dropped steadily to less than 10%. Conversely, jackdaws were not recorded nesting in gardens until 2006-2007, and have increased to around 5% of gardens in 2011 and 2012.

### Conclusion and Acknowledgements

This brief summary has hopefully shown just how much information is provided by this relatively simple survey, and the different ways in which it can be used to monitor many of our common birds. LBC has undertaken to monitor and report on population trends for the birds included in the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan, and this information could not have been provided without the efforts of those who have surveyed the 452 gardens included in the database since 1985. Your contributions, including the notes and summaries many of you provide, are most gratefully acknowledged. Please keep it up!

In most years, some 60-70 species are recorded in contributing gardens, although only around half of these are recorded in enough gardens to provide reasonably robust trends. We really need at least twice as many contributors to improve on this, and ideally even more than this, since unfortunately so many of these 'common' birds are declining. If you can help, please join us.

*Anne Goodall*

**Table 1 Contributors Statistics: Summer 2009-2012**

Year	No of Gardens	Total Species Recorded	Species recorded/Garden			Mean Survey Weeks
			Fewest	Most	Mean	
2009	20	53	13	40	21.6	24.4
2010	39	63	14	39	22.8	24.3
2011	26	61	13	40	24.6	24.5
2012	24	57	12	42	23.6	24.1
decade mean	47.1	63.5	12.0	41.0	22.8	24.2

**Table 2 Contributors Statistics: Winter 2009-2012**

Year	No of Gardens	Total Species Recorded	Species recorded/Garden			Mean Survey Weeks
			Fewest	Most	Mean	
2009/10	76	63	7	41	22.6	24.1
2010/11	88	67	13	36	23.4	24.0
2011/12	47	57	11	40	24.3	25.0
decade mean	88.5	65.0	9.9	40.2	22.8	24.7

**Table 3 Mean peak counts and % Weeks Recorded for Selected Species, Winter 2009-2012**

Species	Mean Peak Count				% of Survey Weeks Recorded			
	10yr mean	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	10yr mean	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Sparrowhawk	0.78	0.67	0.72	0.89	20.1%	16.6%	16.1%	28.6%
Pheasant	1.45	1.53	1.84	1.74	20.0%	21.0%	21.6%	20.5%
Black-headed Gull	2.33	2.91	2.69	3.68	8.8%	7.4%	9.1%	11.0%
Woodpigeon	5.56	9.01	8.09	10.02	73.6%	79.1%	84.2%	87.9%
Collared Dove	6.56	5.80	6.20	6.47	89.1%	88.3%	88.6%	92.9%
Gt Sp Woodpecker	0.55	0.43	0.70	0.40	12.6%	14.4%	15.2%	7.1%
Pied Wagtail	0.87	0.75	0.81	0.68	13.7%	14.8%	12.1%	6.5%
Wren	1.31	1.33	1.20	1.13	48.4%	42.6%	40.8%	39.1%
Duncock	2.87	3.09	3.03	2.70	85.8%	89.2%	87.3%	83.8%
Robin	2.19	2.12	2.22	2.13	84.6%	83.4%	85.5%	83.6%
Blackbird	8.62	9.45	9.42	10.26	96.2%	96.4%	95.7%	94.9%
Fieldfare	3.29	2.42	5.25	7.30	4.1%	4.5%	5.1%	5.2%
Song Thrush	1.13	1.04	0.95	0.91	21.0%	17.3%	15.2%	9.9%
Redwing	0.99	0.95	1.73	0.83	2.0%	2.5%	2.7%	1.8%
Mistle Thrush	0.85	0.70	0.52	0.81	10.8%	9.2%	6.9%	7.6%
Goldcrest	0.47	0.22	0.30	0.45	5.3%	1.9%	2.8%	5.7%
Long-tailed Tit	4.67	4.14	5.56	4.85	20.5%	17.2%	22.7%	21.9%
Coal Tit	1.49	1.28	1.68	1.70	35.7%	28.6%	44.2%	39.9%
Blue Tit	4.51	4.16	4.64	4.19	85.3%	79.4%	85.0%	85.2%
Great Tit	3.44	3.26	3.65	3.49	72.6%	69.4%	75.5%	73.1%
Magpie	1.61	1.46	1.63	2.13	34.4%	31.5%	32.9%	42.0%
Jackdaw	2.31	3.07	2.98	3.11	24.2%	29.7%	27.4%	28.9%
Rook	0.79	0.91	0.75	0.98	5.9%	8.1%	4.6%	7.0%
Carrion Crow	0.56	0.62	0.58	0.77	7.5%	8.7%	8.8%	11.2%
Starling	26.48	23.03	28.70	23.11	73.0%	69.2%	69.1%	57.0%
House Sparrow	17.44	15.00	14.50	23.30	87.5%	85.7%	83.9%	85.2%
Tree Sparrow	2.80	3.46	3.68	2.74	19.1%	22.4%	22.7%	24.2%
Chaffinch	7.07	7.08	7.41	8.06	69.6%	68.5%	69.0%	71.0%
Greenfinch	8.49	6.30	4.76	5.94	64.7%	59.1%	50.2%	55.5%
Goldfinch	8.17	9.96	10.80	12.30	54.7%	70.4%	68.9%	72.1%
Bullfinch	0.29	0.51	0.25	0.45	2.4%	3.5%	1.3%	3.3%
Yellowhammer	0.72	0.57	0.55	0.81	4.1%	3.5%	3.7%	4.9%
Reed Bunting	0.24	0.22	0.50	1.00	1.8%	2.3%	3.5%	7.5%

**Table 4 Mean peak counts and % Weeks Recorded for Summer Visitors 2009-2012**

Species	Mean Peak Count					% of Survey Weeks Recorded				
	10yr mean	2009	2010	2011	2012	10yr mean	2009	2010	2011	2012
Hobby	0.04		0.05	0.07	0.04	0.29%		0.77%	0.31%	0.17%
Turtle Dove	0.08	0.10	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.87%	0.83%	0.29%	0.16%	0.17%
Cuckoo	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.33%	0.21%	0.19%	0.16%	0.17%
Swift	3.26	4.40	2.77	2.33	2.71	11.28%	12.29%	7.53%	13.17%	12.78%
Swallow	2.83	3.30	3.09	2.85	2.33	17.58%	26.88%	17.95%	25.08%	15.03%
House Martin	4.12	5.45	1.79	8.37	3.04	14.13%	25.83%	10.52%	14.58%	15.20%
Yellow Wagtail	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.04		0.42%	0.21%	0.10%	0.31%	
Sedge Warbler	0.02				0.04	0.10%				0.17%
Lr Whitethroat	0.03			0.04		0.09%			0.16%	
Whitethroat	0.12	0.05	0.09	0.33		1.25%	0.21%	1.16%	3.92%	
Garden Warbler	0.04				0.08	0.19%		0.00%		0.17%
Blackcap	0.31	0.20	0.40	0.56	0.38	4.44%	2.50%	5.79%	8.15%	5.35%
Chiffchaff	0.27	0.35	0.23	0.33	0.50	3.07%	4.38%	2.70%	4.23%	4.32%
Willow Warbler	0.29	0.10	0.28	0.44	0.13	2.63%	0.42%	3.57%	3.61%	0.86%
Sp Flycatcher	0.17		0.14	0.04		1.44%		1.16%	0.16%	

**Table 5 Species Nesting in Lincolnshire Gardens: Frequency and Proportion of Gardens Used**

Years	Species	% of gardens	Species	% of gardens
8	Blackbird	56.5%	Robin	20.2%
	Blue tit	31.5%	Wren	15.7%
	House sparrow	27.5%	Goldfinch	6.2%
	Woodpigeon	25.6%	House martin	3.9%
	Dunnock	25.6%	Swallow	3.1%
	Collared dove	23.3%		
7	Great tit	19.1%	Starling	9.3%
	Song thrush	9.6%	Chaffinch	7.0%
6	Greenfinch	7.0%	Jackdaw	2.0%
	Tree sparrow	6.5%		
5	Goldcrest	2.5%	Long-tailed tit	1.7%
4	Magpie	2.2%	Pied wagtail	1.1%
	Mallard	1.4%		
3	Mistle thrush	1.1%	Stock dove	0.8%
	Pheasant	0.8%		
2	Cuckoo	0.6%	Coal tit	0.6%
1	Linnet	0.6%	Swift	0.3%
	Red-legged partridge	0.3%	Spotted flycatcher	0.3%
	Moorhen	0.3%	Marsh tit	0.3%
	Turtle dove	0.3%	Siskin	0.3%
	Barn owl	0.3%	Yellowhammer	0.3%



# 

Compiled by Alan Ball, Stuart Britton, Andrew Chick and Mark Grantham

2008 - 33,815

2009 - 30,576

2010 - 43,592

2011 - 36,764

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Species	Pullus 2011	Change compared to 2006-10 average (%)
Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	1,616	+45%
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	951	+41%
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	737	+6%
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	446	+66%
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	262	+13%
Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>	234	-7%
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	229	-9%
Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>	142	+54%
Tawny Owl <i>Strix aluco</i>	125	+73%

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Species	Pullus 2011	Juvenile 2011	Adult 2011	Unaged 2011	2011 Total	Change compared to 2006-10 average (%)
Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	1,616	1,116	1,214	3	3,949	+39%
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	5	1,287	1,553	22	2,867	+68%
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	737	779	1,067	15	2,598	+18%
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	5	1,327	1,004	19	2,355	-15%
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	59	989	998	3	2,049	-17%
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	229	1,618	133	0	1,980	+18%
Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	5	540	1,195	11	1,751	+19%
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	446	212	390	517	1,565	+71%
Dunnoch <i>Prunella modularis</i>	14	691	351	20	1,076	+2%

Species	Pullus 2011	2011 Total	2010 Total
Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>		4	36
Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>		7	0
Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>		22	0
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	5	6	0
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		9	15
Grey Partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>		10	2
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	13	14	27
Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	37	37	44
Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	6	6	7
Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	14	14	11
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1	40	57
Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	10	12	2
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	262	278	324
Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	4	4	6
Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1	5	6
Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>		1	5
Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	2	110	439
Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	1	1	4
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	20	22	18
Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	14	45	71
Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		16	2

Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	43	43	36
Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>		474	22
Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>		13	0
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>		154	769
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>		1	15
Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>		0	190
Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>		105	312
Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		2	1
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>		84	11
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>		30	42
Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>		2	1
Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	61	63	122
Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i>		3	20
Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>		0	0
Little Tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i>	1	1	31
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>		0	19
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	66	102	90
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	1	66	79
Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	2	61	64
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		1	3
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>		1	2
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	951	1,063	799
Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>	142	178	168
Tawny Owl <i>Strix aluco</i>	125	138	80
Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i>		1	0
Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	22	85	295
Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>		9	9
Green Woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>		5	4
Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	4	45	61
Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>		22	18
Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		9	7
Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>	234	256	343
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	11	16	6
Carrion Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>	1	2	5
Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>		1,012	1,612
Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		4	15
Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	1,616	3,949	3,909
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	737	2,598	2,864
Coal Tit <i>Parus ater</i>	19	326	304
Willow Tit <i>Poecile montana</i>		19	25
Marsh Tit <i>Poecile palustris</i>		9	11
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>		1	6
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>		556	322
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	229	1,980	2,613
House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>		225	1,141
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>		2	1
Long-tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		662	721
Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>		4	2
Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		1	2
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		464	490
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	5	539	795
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		898	674
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>		63	67
Barred Warbler <i>Sylvia nisoria</i>		1	5

Lesser Whitethroat <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	1	143	155
Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i>	6	632	567
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>		6	5
Icterine Warbler <i>Hippolais icterina</i>		1	0
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		292	273
Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>		1	0
Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	62	496	497
Waxwing <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>		1	2
Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i>		8	4
Treecreeper <i>Certhia familiaris</i>	5	74	75
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	7	526	546
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	1	666	749
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	59	2,049	3,070
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>		29	85
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	4	235	685
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>		162	587
Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	8	16	26
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	7	15	17
Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	26	866	1,794
Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		0	2
Bluethroat <i>Luscinia svecica</i>		0	1
Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		1	21
Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		1	0
Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		7	38
Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		1	3
Stonechat <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		2	2
Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		8	5
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	14	1,076	1,292
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	24	847	944
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	446	1,565	1,593
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>		44	34
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		4	4
Pied/White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	29	94	87
Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>		1	0
Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	6	154	170
Rock Pipit <i>Anthus petrosus</i>		1	0
Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	5	1,751	1,742
Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>		484	259
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	5	2,355	2,895
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	5	2,867	2,694
Siskin <i>Carduelis spinus</i>		183	115
Linnets <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	13	114	83
Twite <i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>		1	2
Lesser Redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>		454	206
Common Redpoll <i>Carduelis flammea</i>		74	12
Redpoll (Common/Lesser) <i>flammea/cabaret</i>		8	4
Common Crossbill <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		2	1
Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		263	248
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		541	859
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	4	616	808
Corn Bunting <i>Emberiza calandra</i>		16	15
	5397	36764	

# **Mute Swan *Cygnus olor***

W01073	Nestling	23/06/2001	Billingham Beck Country Park: 54°35'N 1°18'W (Cleveland)
	Alive (ring read in field)	09/12/2001	Cleethorpes: 53°33'N 0°2'W (Humberside) 141km SE 0y 5m 16d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	22/08/2002	Hornsea Mere: 53°54'N 0°11'W (Humberside) 105km SE 1y 1m 30d
	Alive (ring read in field)	05/12/2002	Humberston Fitties, Cleethorpes: 53°31'N 0°0'W (Lincolnshire) 146km SE 1y 5m 12d
	Caught by ringer	15/03/2011	Market Stainton: c. 53°18'N 0°9'W (Lincolnshire) 162km SSE 9y 8m 20d
W06418	Second-year	25/07/2001	Eyebrook Reservoir: 52°32'N 0°46'W (Leicestershire)
	Freshly dead (hit wires)	03/03/2011	near Martin: 53°7'N 0°18'W (Lincolnshire) 72km NNE 9y 7m 6d

W01073 is a particularly interesting bird. The British and Irish Mute Swan population is generally sedentary (Wernham *et al* 2002) so an initial movement of 141km in its first year is unusual. Between the sighting in Dec 2002 and being controlled in 2011 it had also lost its colour ring.



**Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus* Feb 14th 2011 © Russell Hayes**

Neck collar individual 981A was with two other Bewick's Swans at Nocton in Feb 2011, being ringed in The Netherlands on Dec 17th 2008. It had been seen many times in winter 2008 commuting between The Netherlands and Denmark and was also seen in Poland in spring 2010. On Dec 21st and 28th 2010 it was in Denmark, then at Nene Washes, Cambridgeshire from Dec 3rd to Jan 27th before turning up at Nocton Fen on Feb 14th and staying until at least Feb 24th. The same bird then reappeared with four adults and two juveniles, with the Mute Swan herd, at Nocton Fen on Nov 24th and at Bardney on Nov 27th.

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

ZZ6256	First-year Female	26/11/2008	Welney: 52°31'N 0°15'E (Norfolk)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	21/04/2009	Skoghlið, Hroarstungu, Nordur-Múla: 65°22'N 14°32'W Iceland 1,655km NNW 0y 4m 26d
	Long dead (hit wires)	11/12/2011	Gainsborough: 53°23'N 0°46'W (Lincolnshire) 118km NW 3y 0m 15d

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

5221370	Adult	26/06/2003	Ancaster Gravel Pits, Sleaford: 52°58'N 0°33'W (Lincolnshire)
	Unknown	05/02/2011	Cranwell: 53°2'N 0°28'W (Lincolnshire) 10km NE 7y 7m 10d
5246403	Adult	27/06/2007	Ancaster: 52°58'N 0°33'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	30/01/2011	Navenby, Lincoln: 53°6'N 0°32'W (Lincolnshire) 15km N 3y 7m 3d

**Greater Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

5246409	First-year	26/06/2008	Ancaster: 52°58'N 0°33'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	15/11/2011	Eakring: 53°8'N 0°59'W (Nottinghamshire) 35km WNW 3y 4m 20d
5246041	First-year	25/06/2009	Ancaster Gravel Pits, Sleaford: 52°58'N 0°33'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	31/01/2011	Grantham: 52°55'N 0°39'W (Lincolnshire) 9km SW 1y 7m 6d
5246079	Adult	30/06/2011	Ancaster Gravel Pits, Sleaford: 52°58'N 0°33'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	19/12/2011	Syston Park: 52°57'N 0°36'W (Lincolnshire) 5km 0y 5m 19d

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

FP25706	Adult Male	17/02/2003	Dunham, Retford: 53°15'N 0°47'W (Nottinghamshire)
	Freshly dead	16/11/2011	Eagle, Lincoln: 53°11'N 0°42'W (Lincolnshire) 10km SE 8y 8m 30d
FP26844	Adult Male	10/02/2006	Kinloch, near Collessie: c. 56°18'N 3°10'W (Fife Region)
	Freshly dead (predated)	17/01/2011	Tetney: 53°29'N 0°2'W (Lincolnshire) 372km SSE 4y 11m 7d
FP68561	Adult Male	19/11/2007	Nature Reserve, North Duffield, Selby: c. 53°49'N 0°57'W (North Yorkshire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	17/09/2011	Tumby, Tattershall: 53°7'N 0°8'W (Lincolnshire) 95km SE 3y 9m 29d

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

EW65539	Adult Female	04/11/2008	Borough Fen Decoy, Peterborough: 52°39'N 0°14'W (Cambridgeshire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	22/10/2011	Skirlaugh: 53°50'N 0°16'W (Humberside) 132km N 2y 11m 18d
EW65561	Adult Male	18/08/2009	Borough Fen Decoy, Peterborough: 52°39'N 0°14'W (Cambridgeshire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	18/10/2011	River Ancholme, Horkstow Bridge: 53°39'N 0°32'W (Humberside) 113km N 2y 2m 0d

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

GC18322	First-year Male	17/02/2010	Brackenborough Hall, Louth: 53°23'N 0°0'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	19/11/2011	near Scarcroft: 53°51'N 1°27'W (West Yorkshire) 109km WNW 1y 9m 2d
NLA	Adult Male	04/09/2011	Stroekerkoogweg, Hippolytushoef: 52°54'N 4°58'E (Noord-Holland) The Netherlands
6168770	Freshly dead (shot)	16/10/2011	Conisholme Fen: 53°25'N 0°6'E (Lincolnshire) 330km WNW 0y 1m 12d

There are a surprisingly large number of movements of Mallards to/from abroad and this is the seventh Dutch-ringed Mallard to be found in the county. There are only more reports of birds ringed in Sweden (eight) and Denmark (21).

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

FC95661	First-year Male	13/09/1997	Pensthorpe, near Fakenham: 52°49'N 0°53'E (Norfolk)
	Freshly dead (shot)	08/11/2011	Sotby: 53°16'N 0°13'W (Lincolnshire) 89km NW 14y 1m 26d



**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* Frampton Marsh April 2011 © Steve Keightley

Originally ringed in Zuidwest Friesland, The Netherlands in Jan 2001 and seen at Frampton from Jan 16th-Apr 21st 2011

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

5034365	Nestling	16/05/2004	Abberton Reservoir, near Colchester: 51°49'N 0°51'E (Essex)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	24/07/2010	Kirkby-on-Bain: 53°7'N 0°10'W (Lincolnshire) 160km NNW 6y 2m 8d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	17/03/2011	Kirkby-on-Bain: 53°8'N 0°10'W (Lincolnshire) 162km NNW 6y 10m 1d

5034366	Nestling	16/05/2004	Abberton Reservoir, near Colchester: 51°49'N 0°51'E (Essex)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	13/03/2011	Kirkby-on-Bain: 53°8'N 0°10'W (Lincolnshire) 162km NNW 6y 9m 25d
NLA	Nestling	12/07/2010	Vogelmeer, Nationaal Park Zuid-Kennemerland: 52°25'N 4°34'E (Noord-Holland) The Netherlands
9009658	Freshly dead (shot)	30/03/2011	Bishopthorpe, near Tetney: 53°30'N 0°0'W (Lincolnshire) 329km WNW 0y 8m 18d

This is just the second Dutch-ringed Cormorant to be found in the county, following one found dead in 1987.

#### **Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

DEW	Nestling	30/05/2008	Oland, Langeness: 54°41'N 8°43'E (Schleswig-Holstein) Germany
252919	Alive (colour rings seen)	28/05/2011	Frampton Marsh, Boston: 52°55'N 0°2'E (Lincolnshire) 603km WSW 2y 11m 28d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	02/06/2011	Druridge Bay: 55°15'N 1°35'W (Northumberland) 660km W 3y 0m 3d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	21/06/2011	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 578km WSW 3y 0m 22d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	24/06/2011	Holkham: 52°57'N 0°47'E (Norfolk) 555km WSW 3y 0m 25d
NLA	Nestling	11/05/2010	Onderdijk, Noord-Holland: 52°44'N 5°8'E (Noord-Holland) The Netherlands
8052585	Alive (ring read in field)	09/04/2011	Hickling, Stalham: 52°45'N 1°34'E (Norfolk) 240km W 0y 10m 29d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	09/06/2011	Hickling Broad: 52°44'N 1°34'E (Norfolk) 239km W 1y 0m 29d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	13/06/2011	Alkborough Flats: 53°40'N 0°41'W (Humberside) 399km WNW 1y 1m 2d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	19/06/2011	Cley Marshes: c. 52°57'N 1°3'E (Norfolk) 274km W 1y 1m 8d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	21/06/2011	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 324km W 1y 1m 10d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	24/06/2011	Holkham: 52°57'N 0°47'E (Norfolk) 292km W 1y 1m 13d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	17/07/2011	Titchwell RSPB: 52°57'N 0°36'E (Norfolk) 306km W 1y 2m 6d

Note the rapid and wide-ranging June movements of both birds. They may provide a guide to the origins of some of the birds in the Norfolk breeding population, and clearly demonstrate the value of colour-ringing.

#### **Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

GN97472	Nestling	23/06/2011	Little Bells Farm, Isle of Sheppey: 51°22'N 0°52'E (Kent)
	Alive (wing-tag seen)	05/09/2011	Alkborough Flats: 53°41'N 0°41'W (Humberside) 278km NNW 0y 2m 13d
FP84934	Nestling	16/06/2010	Elmley Hills: 51°22'N 0°45'E (Kent)
	Alive (wing-tag seen)	02/09/2010	Grainthorpe Haven: 53°29'N 0°6'E (Lincolnshire) 240km N 0y 2m 17d





**Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia* Frampton Marsh May 2011 © Steve Keightley

Nestling bird from Oland, Langeness, Germany recorded at Frampton Marsh in May 2011, Northumberland in Jun 2011, Gib Point in Jun 2011 and Holkham Pines, Norfolk in Jun 2011.

**Red Kite *Milvus milvus***

GR19910	First-year Female	19/08/2011	Gigrin Farm, Rhayader: c. 52°17'N 3°30'W (Powys)
	Sick (disease)	08/09/2011	Freiston: 53°1'N 0°37'W (Lincolnshire) 211km ENE 0y 0m 20d

Although most recoveries of BTO ringed Red Kites are within a few kilometres of the ringing site, each year there are small number of longer movements over 100km. This is a particularly rapid movement from by far the furthest west of any tagged birds seen in the county. Previous records have come from various release sites in the Midlands and West Yorkshire. There are only 22 records of Welsh-ringed Red Kites in England, with just one hit by a train in Kent in 1970 being further east than this bird.

**Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus***

EL60272	Nestling	24/06/2005	Horbling Fen: c. 52°54'N 0°17'W (Lincolnshire)
	Sick (injury)	15/06/2011	Sleaford: 52°59'N 0°25'W (Lincolnshire) 13km NW 5y 11m 22d
EW26163	Nestling	06/07/2006	Moat Farm, Bratoft, Skegness: 53°9'N 0°12'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (hit by car)	19/09/2011	Thame: 51°44'N 0°59'W (Oxfordshire) 177km SSW 5y 2m 13d
EJ44089	Nestling	16/06/2010	near Preston-on-Stour, Stratford-Upon-Avon: 52°8'N 1°43'W (Warwickshire)
	Long dead	09/04/2011	Faldingworth: 53°20'N 0°25'W (Lincolnshire) 160km NE 0y 9m 24d
EW29376	Nestling Female	29/05/2008	near Sailor's Home, Wrangle, Boston: 53°1'N 0°8'E (Lincolnshire)
	Long dead (hit by car)	21/09/2011	Howden: c. 53°45'N 0°51'W (Humberside) 105km NW 3y 3m 23d
NOS	Nestling	20/06/2011	Haneknekjolen Vest, Trysil: 61°1'N 12°12'E (Hedmark) Norway
5185287	Freshly dead	27/08/2011	near Chapel St Leonards: 53°12'N 0°11'E (Lincolnshire) 1,128km SW 0y 2m 7d

NOS 5185287 is one of fewer than 20 Norwegian-ringed Kestrels to be found in the UK, though the third to be found in the county: the previous were found dead in 1999 and 2004. This is not too surprising as, unlike the large broad-winged raptors, Kestrels can migrate long distances over water and they regularly cross the North Sea.

**Merlin *Falco columbarius***

EL88778	Nestling	27/06/2008	Blubberhouse Moor: 53°59'N 1°49'W (North Yorkshire)
	Freshly dead	15/11/2011	Limes Farm, Baumber: 53°14'N 0°10'W (Lincolnshire) 138km SE 3y 4m 19d

**Peregrine *Falco peregrinus***

SFH	Nestling	23/07/2010	Sodankyla: 68°37'N 26°49'E (Lappi) Finland
D260131	Dead	01/03/2011	Weston: 52°49'N 0°4'W (Lincolnshire) 2,262km SW 0y 7m 6d
GC82632	Nestling Male	29/05/2009	St Wulfram's Church, Grantham: 52°55'N 0°39'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	24/05/2011	near Horncastle: 53°12'N 0°8'W (Lincolnshire) 47km NE 1y 11m 25d

A sobering set of recoveries. The Finnish-ringed bird is the second nestling from there to be found in the county (the first was found dead in 2010) and shows the origins of Peregrines wintering in Lincolnshire, presumably having arrived the previous autumn and not surviving its first year. Note the appalling fate of one of Lincolnshire home grown chicks, one of the stars of the Lincolnshire

Bird Clubs website at St Wulfram's Church, Grantham and watched developed online before fledging in Jun 2009.

**Coot *Fulica atra***

GC59824	First-year Male	20/10/2008	North Duffield, Selby: 53°49'N 0°57'W (North Yorkshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	29/11/2010	Cleethorpes Country Park, Cleethorpes: 53°32'N 0°2'W (Humberside) 69km ESE 2y 1m 9d

**Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus***

FV50026	First-year	27/08/1980	Friskney, near Wainfleet: 53°3'N 0°15'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	10/01/1993	Terrington Bund: 52°49'N 0°17'E (Norfolk) 27km S 12y 4m 14d
	Freshly dead (hit by car)	07/06/2011	Sutton Bridge: 52°46'N 0°12'E (Lincolnshire) 32km S 30y 9m 11d
FV70337	Adult	21/08/1985	Friskney: 53°3'N 0°14'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	01/10/2011	Llanfairfechan: 53°15'N 4°0'W (Gwynedd) 283km W 26y 1m 10d
FR82238	Adult	15/12/1985	Friskney: 53°3'N 0°15'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	29/08/2011	Wainfleet Marsh: 53°5'N 0°18'E (Lincolnshire) 5km 25y 8m 14d
FA10174	Adult	07/09/1986	Friskney: 53°3'N 0°14'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead	28/05/2011	Fishtoft, near Boston: 52°57'N 0°1'E (Lincolnshire) 19km SW 24y 8m 21d
FA47138	First-year	29/08/1992	Butterwick: c. 52°58'N 0°5'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead	03/11/2011	Heacham, King's Lynn: 52°54'N 0°29'E (Norfolk) 28km ESE 19y 2m 5d
FP74894	Adult	03/08/2007	Friskney New Marsh: 53°2'N 0°12'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (hit wires)	24/06/2011	Netherstove, Quoyloo: 59°3'N 3°19'W (Orkney) 704km NNW 3y 10m 21d
FP74840	First-year	08/09/2006	Wainfleet Marsh: 53°5'N 0°18'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (hit by plane)		05/05/2011 Dyce Airport, Aberdeen: 57°12'N 2°12'W (Grampian Region) 485km NNW 4y 7m 27d
FV70337	Adult	21/08/1985	Friskney: 53°3'N 0°14'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	01/10/2011	Llanfairfechan: 53°15'N 4°0'W (Gwynedd) 283km W 26y 1m 10d

Note the age of FV50026, the longevity record for oystercatcher is 40 years, 1 month and 2 days, a record held by a nestling ringed at Friskney Marsh (Lincolnshire) on Jun 14th 1970 and caught by a ringer at Wrangle Tofts (Lincolnshire) on Jul 16th 2010.

**Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta***

EW43198	Nestling	22/05/2011	Orfordness: c. 52°5'N 1°34'E (Suffolk)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	29/07/2011	Melton: 52°5'N 1°20'E (Suffolk) 16km W 0y 2m 7d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	30/08/2011	Alkborough Flats: 53°41'N 0°42'W (Humberside) 234km NW 0y 3m 8d
EW43151	Nestling	06/06/2010	Orfordness: c. 52°5'N 1°34'E (Suffolk)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	08/09/2011	Alkborough Flats: 53°41'N 0°42'W (Humberside) 234km NW 1y 3m 2d

EG25241	Nestling	16/06/2010	Seal Sands, Teesmouth: 54°37'N 1°12'W (Cleveland)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	02/05/2011	Saltholme, near Teesmouth: 54°36'N 1°15'W (Cleveland) 4km 0y 10m 16d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	11/09/2011	Alkborough Flats: c. 53°41'N 0°42'W (Humberside) 109km SSE 1y 2m 26d
EX15786	Nestling	23/05/2011	Seal Sands, Teesmouth: 54°37'N 1°12'W (Cleveland)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	11/09/2011	Alkborough Flats: c. 53°41'N 0°42'W (Humberside) 109km SSE 0y 3m 19d
EY04553	Nestling	27/06/2011	Seal Sands, Teesmouth: 54°37'N 1°12'W (Cleveland)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	11/09/2011	Alkborough Flats: c. 53°41'N 0°42'W (Humberside) 109km SSE 0y 2m 15d

All these reports highlight the importance of colour-ringing nestlings, allowing us to monitor post-juvenile dispersal.

#### **Knot *Calidris canutus***

SV71350	First-year	25/02/2005	Brora: 58°0'N 3°52'W (Highland Region)
	Caught by ringer	31/07/2011	Wainfleet Marsh: 53°5'N 0°18'E (Lincolnshire) 606km SSE 6y 5m 6d
SR74572	First-year	17/01/2010	Llanfairfechan: 53°15'N 4°0'W (Gwynedd)
	Caught by ringer	29/08/2011	Wainfleet Marsh: 53°5'N 0°18'E (Lincolnshire) 287km E 1y 7m 12d
SR76269	Adult	23/03/2008	Heysham: 54°2'N 2°55'W (Lancashire)
	Caught by ringer	29/08/2011	Wainfleet Marsh: 53°5'N 0°18'E (Lincolnshire) 238km ESE 3y 5m 6d
NOS	Adult	27/05/2009	Marnes, Porsanger: 70°24'N 25°32'E (Finnmark) Norway
7502795	Alive (colour rings seen)	02/10/2011	Freiston: 52°57'N 0°5'E (Lincolnshire) 2,334km SW 2y 4m 5d
NOS	Adult	27/05/2009	Marnes, Porsanger: 70°24'N 25°32'E (Finnmark) Norway
7502749	Alive (colour rings seen)	09/01/2011	Cleethorpes Beach: 53°33'N 0°0'W (Humberside) 2,276km SW 1y 7m 13d
NOS	Adult	23/05/2007	Lystrevika, Porsanger: 70°28'N 25°39'E (Finnmark) Norway
7506119	Alive (colour rings seen)	09/01/2011	Cleethorpes Beach: 53°33'N 0°0'W (Humberside) 2,284km SW 3y 7m 17d

Note that NOS 7502749 and NOS 7502795 were caught together in summer 2009, both then seen wintering along the Lincolnshire coast, the former with a second colour-ringed bird from a similar area of Norway.

#### **Dunlin *Calidris alpina***

NT01999	First-year	04/08/1996	Kamarad Farm, Terrington: c. 52°48'N 0°14'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (bird of prey)	24/04/2011	Titchfield Haven, Hill Head, Fareham: 50°49'N 1°15'W (Hampshire) 243km SSW 14y 8m 20d
NT01999	First-year	04/08/1996	Kamarad Farm, Terrington: c. 52°48'N 0°14'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (bird of prey)	24/04/2011	Titchfield Haven, Hill Head, Fareham: 50°49'N 1°15'W (Hampshire) 243km SSW 14y 8m 20d

BT07062	Adult	24/07/2009	Butterwick: 52°58'N 0°6'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	23/11/2011	Crossness Sewage Works, Thamesmead: 51°30'N 0°9'E (Greater London) 163km S 2y 3m 30d
NT89076	Full-grown	28/08/2011	Wainfleet Marsh: 53°5'N 0°17'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	07/10/2011	Hazelwood, near Ham Creek: 52°9'N 1°33'E (Suffolk) 135km SE 0y 1m 9d
NOS	First-year	18/08/2011	Longyearbyen: 78°13'N 15°40'E Svalbard
8E02173	Alive (colour rings seen)	25/09/2011	Rimac, near Saltfleetby All Saints: 53°23'N 0°10'E (Lincolnshire) 2,833km SSW 0y 1m 7d

8E03173 is the first Dunlin to link Svalbard with the UK, and is the most northerly record of a Dunlin ringed or reported here. Only 12 Dunlin have been colour ringed in Svalbard at the end of 2011 (O.E. Torland per comm.), showing the value of colour ringing.

#### **Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

NOS	Adult	11/10/2009	Revtangen, Klepp: 58°45'N 5°30'E (Rogaland) Norway
6182645	Freshly dead (shot)	24/12/2011	Gainsborough: 53°24'N 0°46'W (Lincolnshire) 710km SW 2y 2m 13d

It's perhaps surprising that more foreign-ringed Woodcock haven't been found in the county, with this being just the 10th record, and the second from Norway.

#### **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

EP85275	Adult	09/09/2002	Lawyer's Farm, Holbeach St Matthew: 52°52'N 0°7'E (Lincolnshire)
	Dead (hit by car)	26/05/2011	Vesturardalur, Vopnafjörður, Nordur Múla: 65°41'N 15°1'W Iceland 1,657km NNW 8y 8m 17d
NLA	Nestling Female	03/06/2009	Kooiweg, Ameland: 53°27'N 5°49'E (Ameland) The Netherlands
1430831	Alive (colour rings seen)	12/07/2011	Gayton Le Marsh, Louth: 53°19'N 0°7'E (Lincolnshire) 378km W 2y 1m 9d

1430831 was colour ringed in the Netherlands as part of an ongoing study to investigate the decline of this species (Scheekerman et al 2008) and was the first ringed in the Netherlands and reported in Britain and Ireland, although there have been 17 ringed here and reported in the Netherlands.

#### **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

EL09666	Adult	02/09/2011	Leverton Outgate: 53°0'N 0°9'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead	19/09/2011	Holywell Bay: 50°23'N 5°9'W (Cornwall) 467km SW 0y 0m 17d

This is just the second recovery of a Whimbrel to/from the county: the first was a bird from North Sea Camp shot in France in August 2005. Note the bird's rapid movement southwest as well.

#### **Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

FA62612	Adult	14/08/1995	Holbeach St Matthew: c. 52°52'N 0°6'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead	10/01/2011	South Holland Internal Drainage, The Wash: 52°52'N 0°10'E (Lincolnshire) 5km 15y 4m 27d
FP99985	Adult	13/08/2010	Lawyer's Farm, Holbeach St Matthew: 52°52'N 0°6'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead	14/01/2011	Burgham Farm, Etchingham: 51°1'N 0°25'E (Sussex) 207km S 0y 5m 1d

FP32856	Adult Male	23/08/2005	Lawyer's Farm, Holbeach St Matthew: 52°52'N 0°7'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	16/05/2011	Torvela, Kajaani: 64°19'N 27°51'E (Oulu) Finland 2,036km NE 5y 8m 23d
FP99285	Adult	28/08/2007	Leverton Outgate: 52°59'N 0°8'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead	14/03/2011	Nieuwleusen: 52°35'N 6°17'E (Overijssel) The Netherlands 416km E 3y 6m 14d
<b>Redshank</b> <i>Tringa totanus</i>			
DD15241	Adult	30/09/2007	Wrangle Tofts: 53°2'N 0°11'E (Lincolnshire)
	Dead	10/08/2011	Porth China, near Aberffraw: 53°11'N 4°30'W (Anglesey) 313km W 3y 10m 11d
This individual was probably from the Icelandic population, wintering on different sides of the UK in different years.			
<b>Kittiwake</b> <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>			
ER72426	Nestling	28/06/2010	Lowestoft: 52°28'N 1°45'E (Suffolk)
	Alive (colour marks seen)	29/07/2011	Theddlethorpe: 53°24'N 0°14'E (Lincolnshire) 146km NW 1y 1m 1d
<b>Black-headed Gull</b> <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			
ER10737	Adult	01/12/1990	Wyberton, Boston: 52°58'N 0°0'W (Lincolnshire)
	Alive (ring read in field)	17/03/2002	Holme So, Brondby: 55°37'N 12°26'E (Sjaelland) Denmark 858km ENE 11y 3m 16d
	Alive (ring read in field)	28/04/2004	Brondby Strand: 55°37'N 12°26'E (Sjaelland) Denmark 858km ENE 13y 4m 27d
	Alive (ring read in field)	20/03/2005	Holme So, Brondby: 55°37'N 12°26'E (Sjaelland) Denmark 858km ENE 14y 3m 19d
	Alive (ring read in field)	27/04/2006	Holme So, Kobenhavn: 55°37'N 12°26'E (Sjaelland) Denmark 858km ENE 15y 4m 26d
	Alive (ring read in field)	25/03/2011	Damhussen: 55°41'N 12°28'E (Sjaelland) Denmark 862km ENE 20y 3m 24d
ES90130	Nestling	25/05/1996	Baston Fen: 52°43'N 0°19'W (Lincolnshire)
	Dead (on wire or netting)	01/03/2011	Boston Landfill: 52°57'N 0°1'W (Lincolnshire) 33km NE 14y 9m 4d
ES90467	Nestling	30/05/2000	Baston Fen: 52°43'N 0°19'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead	19/06/2011	Plenmeller Common: 54°56'N 2°24'W (Northumberland) 282km NNW 11y 0m 20d
EW30311	Nestling	03/06/2007	Baston Pits, Bourne: 52°43'N 0°20'W (Lincolnshire)
	Alive (ring read in field)	10/08/2007	Waterside: 53°16'N 9°5'W (Galway) 589km W 0y 2m 7d
	Alive (ring read in field)	05/01/2011	Nimmo's Pier, Galway: 53°16'N 9°4'W (Galway) 588km W 3y 7m 2d
ES90467	Nestling	30/05/2000	Baston Fen: 52°43'N 0°19'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead	19/06/2011	Plenmeller Common: 54°56'N 2°24'W (Northumberland) 282km NNW 11y 0m 20d
EP39490	Adult Female	11/04/2008	Baston Fen, Market Deeping: c. 52°43'N 0°19'W (Lincolnshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	07/01/2011	River Wear, Low Southwick: c. 54°54'N 1°24'W (Tyne & Wear) 253km NNW 2y 8m 27d

EC71940	Nestling	01/06/2008	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Alive (ring read in field)	19/02/2010	Regent's Park, London: 51°31'N 0°10'W (Greater London) 179km SSW 1y 8m 18d
	Alive (ring read in field)	24/02/2011	Regent's Park: 51°31'N 0°9'W (Greater London) 179km SSW 2y 8m 23d
ER29442	Nestling	13/06/1990	Hamford Water, near Little Oakley: 51°53'N 1°13'E (Essex)
	Dead	27/08/1996	Gunby, Spilsby: 53°10'N 0°11'E (Lincolnshire) 159km NNW 6y 2m 14d
NLA	Nestling	03/06/2005	Skarsterlan, Oldeouwer: 52°54'N 5°48'E (Friesland) The Netherlands
3631712	Dead	20/01/2011	Boston: 52°57'N 0°0'W (Lincolnshire) 389km W 5y 7m 17d
NOS	Nestling	17/07/2006	Karmoy, Tjosvollsvatnet: 59°16'N 5°12'E (Rogaland) Norway
6209543	Freshly dead	17/12/2011	Boston: 52°58'N 0°1'W (Lincolnshire) 771km SSW 5y 5m 0d
SVS	Adult	18/05/2003	Pildammsparken, Malmo: 55°35'N 13°0'E (Malmöhus) Sweden
6407513	Alive (colour rings seen)	21/10/2011	North Parade Car Park, Skegness: 53°9'N 0°21'E (Lincolnshire) 862km WSW 8y 5m 3d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	07/11/2011	North Parade Car Park, Skegness: 53°9'N 0°21'E (Lincolnshire) 862km WSW 8y 5m 20d

#### Common Gull *Larus canus*

EW97336	Adult	09/01/2010	Boston: 52°59'N 0°1'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (injury)	09/05/2011	Limhamn: 55°35'N 12°56'E (Ostergötland) Sweden 888km ENE 1y 4m 0d
SVS	Nestling	22/06/2010	Tavelskaret, Tafta: 63°45'N 20°31'E (Västerbotten) Sweden
7190323	Freshly dead	14/03/2011	Brumby Golf Course, Scunthorpe: 53°35'N 0°39'W (Humberside) 1,658km SW 0y 8m 20d

Only 20 Common Gulls were ringed in Lincolnshire in 2010. EW97336 had probably returned to its breeding area and provided a good recovery for the ringer.

#### Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

GG49999	Nestling	03/07/1994	Orfordness: c. 52°5'N 1°34'E (Suffolk)
	Freshly dead	30/04/2011	Sutton Bridge: 52°46'N 0°11'E (Lincolnshire) 121km NW 16y 9m 27d
FB31074	Adult	15/12/2007	near Wingmore Farm, Stoke Orchard: 51°56'N 2°6'W (Gloucestershire)
	Alive (colour marks seen)	19/02/2009	Meiras Beach, Valdovino: 43°36'N 8°11'W (Coruna) Spain 1,031km SSW 1y 2m 4d
	Alive (colour marks seen)	10/01/2011	Millennium Green, North Hykeham: 53°11'N 0°37'W (Lincolnshire) 172km NE 3y 0m 26d
FA83899	Adult	23/02/2008	near Wingmore Farm, Stoke Orchard: 51°56'N 2°6'W (Gloucestershire)
	Alive (colour marks seen)	26/09/2011	Leadenham Rubbish Tip, Leadenham: 53°3'N 0°33'W (Lincolnshire) 163km NE 3y 7m 3d



FH21638	Adult	07/02/2009	near Wingmore Farm, Stoke Orchard: 51°56'N 2°6'W (Gloucestershire)
	Alive (colour marks seen)	31/10/2011	Leadenham Rubbish Tip, Leadenham: 53°3'N 0°33'W (Lincolnshire) 163km NE 2y 8m 24d
GG49999	Nestling	03/07/1994	Orfordness: c. 52°5'N 1°34'E (Suffolk)
	Freshly dead	30/04/2011	Sutton Bridge: 52°46'N 0°11'E (Lincolnshire) 121km NW 16y 9m 27d
DEW	Nestling	23/07/2009	Helgoland-Dune: 54°11'N 7°54'E (Helgoland) Germany
4305211	Freshly dead (injury)	14/09/2011	South Hykeham: 53°9'N 0°34'W (Lincolnshire) 571km W 2y 1m 22d
GC79063	Nestling	22/06/2008	Inner Westmark Knock, off Terrington Marsh: 52°50'N 0°14'E (Norfolk)
	Freshly dead (trapped)	01/06/2011	Roxby, near Scunthorpe: 53°38'N 0°38'W (Humberside) 106km NNW 2y 11m 10d
GC16215	Nestling	26/06/2005	Inner Westmark Knock, off Terrington Marsh: 52°50'N 0°14'E (Norfolk)
	Dead	01/07/2011	Fish Docks, Grimsby: 53°35'N 0°4'W (Humberside) 85km NNW 6y 0m 5d

### **Herring Gull *Larus argentatus***

GG76836	Adult	06/11/1993	Slippery Gowt Landfill, near Wyberton: 52°57'N 0°0'W (Lincolnshire)
	Alive (ring read in field)	13/03/2011	Orfordness: c. 52°5'N 1°34'E (Suffolk) 144km SE 17y 4m 7d
GG88593	Adult	02/09/2000	Leverton Outgate: 53°0'N 0°8'E (Lincolnshire)
	Sick (hit by car)	30/05/2011	Brandesburton: 53°54'N 0°19'W (Humberside) 105km NNW 10y 8m 28d
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 (Humberside) 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
GN77377	Adult	21/01/2004	Hyde Farm, near Beaconsfield: 51°35'N 0°38'W (Buckinghamshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	19/12/2008	Zeebrugge: 51°20'N 3°11'E (West-Vlaanderen) Belgium 266km E 4y 10m 28d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	26/09/2011	Leadenham Tip: c. 53°3'N 0°34'W (Lincolnshire) 164km N 7y 8m 5d
GN78458	Second-year	30/11/2007	Seamer Carr Landfill, Scarborough: 54°13'N 0°25'W (North Yorkshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	09/12/2010	Skegness: c. 53°8'N 0°20'E (Lincolnshire) 131km SSE 3y 0m 9d
GN78464	Adult	30/11/2007	Seamer Carr Landfill, Scarborough: 54°13'N 0°25'W (North Yorkshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	03/01/2011	Leadenham Tip: c. 53°3'N 0°34'W (Lincolnshire) 130km S 3y 1m 4d

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

HT31602	Second-year	01/11/2008	Pitsea Landfill Site: 51°32'N 0°30'E (Essex)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	03/01/2011	Leadenham Tip: 53°3'N 0°34'W (Lincolnshire) 184km NNW 2y 2m 2d
NOS	Nestling	25/06/2011	Makeskjaer, Randesund: 58°5'N 8°6'E (Vest-Agder) Norway
398592	Alive (colour rings seen)	17/11/2011	Donna Nook: 53°28'N 0°9'E (Lincolnshire) 714km SW 0y 4m 23d
RUM	Nestling	10/07/2010	Kandalakshskiy Nature Reserve, Severnoe Lesnchestvo: 67°5'N 32°29'E (Murmansk) Russia
ES14633	Alive (colour rings seen)	02/12/2011	Leadenham Tip: 53°3'N 0°34'W (Lincolnshire) 2,380km SW 1y 4m 22d

ES14633 is only the 13th Great Black-backed Gull ringed in Russia to be found in the UK, though the second to be found in the county: the first was found dead in 1989. Most originate from the North Sea coast and there have been over 500 Norwegian-ringed Great Black-backed Gulls found in the UK, but bizarrely none have yet been found in Lincolnshire.

**Common Tern *Sterna hirundo***

SV94421	Nestling	02/06/2003	Baston Fen: 52°44'N 0°18'W (Lincolnshire)
	Long dead	10/10/2011	Rutland Water: 52°40'N 0°42'W (Leicestershire) 28km WSW 8y 4m 8d

**Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus***

FH09812	Nestling	16/06/2008	Brackenborough Hall, Louth: 53°23'N 0°0'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (hit by car)	18/04/2011	Louth: 53°22'N 0°0'W (Lincolnshire) 2km 2y 10m 2d

**Barn Owl *Tyto alba***

GF86545	Nestling	05/07/1998	Burgh-Le-Marsh, Skegness: 53°9'N 0°15'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (wild mammal)	20/12/2011	Theddlethorpe: 53°21'N 0°13'E (Lincolnshire) 23km N 13y 5m 15d
GN40976	Nestling Female	06/06/2002	near Leverton, Boston: 53°1'N 0°3'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	12/08/2003	Collingham: 53°8'N 0°46'W (Nottinghamshire) 57km WNW 1y 2m 6d
	Caught in nestbox	13/07/2009	near Long Bennington: 52°59'N 0°47'W (Lincolnshire) 56km W 7y 1m 7d
	Caught in nestbox	10/05/2010	Collingham: 53°8'N 0°46'W (Nottinghamshire) 57km WNW 7y 11m 4d
	Caught in nestbox	14/06/2011	Collingham: 53°8'N 0°46'W (Nottinghamshire) 57km WNW 9y 0m 8d
GN58615	Nestling Male	27/09/2002	near Pinchbeck: c. 52°49'N 0°11'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	02/03/2011	Pinchbeck North Fen: c. 52°49'N 0°16'W (Lincolnshire) 6km W 8y 5m 3d
GM56542	Nestling Female	26/07/2004	Ashington End, Skegness: 53°10'N 0°17'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	15/06/2011	near Sapperton, Ropsley: 52°53'N 0°30'W (Lincolnshire) 62km WSW 6y 10m 20d

GN94498	Nestling Female	25/09/2004	Quadring Fen: 52°53'N 0°17'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	15/06/2011	Sunnyside Farm, Ingoldsby: 52°51'N 0°29'W (Lincolnshire) 14km WSW 6y 8m 21d
GC96162	Nestling	17/07/2010	near Sloothby, Alford: 53°13'N 0°13'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (hit by car)	26/01/2011	Shorwell: 50°39'N 1°22'W (Isle of Wight) 306km SSW 0y 6m 9d

A small selection of the many Barn Owl recoveries for 2011. GN40976 provides a fascinating nine-year history of a breeding female.

#### **Tawny Owl *Strix aluco***

GN28173	Nestling	08/05/2001	Alford: 53°16'N 0°10'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead	26/05/2011	Well, Alford: 53°15'N 0°9'E (Lincolnshire) 3km 10y 0m 18d

#### **Long-eared Owl *Asio otus***

GM82638 (Derbyshire)	Adult Female	12/07/2006	Middleton Moor: 53°16'N 1°42'W
	Freshly dead (natural causes)	20/01/2011	Grantham: 52°55'N 0°39'W (Lincolnshire) 81km ESE 4y 6m 8d

#### **Swift *Apus apus***

SB78889	Adult Female	07/06/1999	Fishtoft: 52°57'N 0°1'E (Lincolnshire)
	Sick	07/05/2011	Zara Close, Boston: 52°58'N 0°0'W (Lincolnshire) 3km 11y 11m 0d

Note the old age of this bird when found. The longevity record for Swift is 17 years 11 months 5 days, ringed in the West Midlands in June 1981 and recaptured in May 1999 at Marston Sewage Farm.

#### **Magpie *Pica pica***

EW86252	First-year	03/08/2010	Ewerby, Sleaford: 53°0'N 0°20'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (hit by car)	17/05/2011	Waddington: 53°10'N 0°31'W (Lincolnshire) 23km NNW 0y 9m 14d
EX45438	First-year	02/07/2011	Hubbert's Bridge Golf Course: 52°59'N 0°7'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead	16/12/2011	Hubbert's Bridge, Boston: 52°58'N 0°7'W (Lincolnshire) 2km 0y 5m 14d

#### **Rook *Corvus frugilegus***

FH51526	Nestling	27/04/2011	Donington-on-Bain: 53°20'N 0°9'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead	02/07/2011	Stenigot: 53°19'N 0°7'W (Lincolnshire) 3km 0y 2m 5d

#### **Goldcrest *Regulus regulus***

BPR141	First-year Female	02/10/2011	Isle of May: 56°11'N 2°34'W (Fife Region)
	Caught by ringer	21/10/2011	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E (Lincolnshire) 361km SSE 0y 0m 19d
EAE672	First-year Male	19/10/2011	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	20/10/2011	Dungeness: 50°55'N 0°57'E (Kent) 247km S 0y 0m 1d

EAE621	First-year Male	17/10/2011	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	20/10/2011	Dunes de Slack, Wimereux: 50°46'N 1°36'E (Pas-de-Calais) France 274km SSE 0y 0m 3d
SVS	Second-year Male	01/10/2010	Fyren, Falsterbo, Skane: 55°23'N 12°49'E (Malmöhus) Sweden
SN2410	Caught by ringer	11/10/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 851km WSW 0y 0m 10d

All these reports highlight the speed of long-distance movements made by birds weighing little more than 5 grams! SVS SN2410 is the fifth Swedish-ringed Goldcrest to be found in the county, three of which have been recaptured at Gibraltar Point.

#### **Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

L147748	Nestling Male	24/05/2010	Moorsholm Mill, Moorsholm: 54°31'N 0°57'W (Cleveland)
	Caught by ringer	09/04/2011	Market Stainton: c. 53°18'N 0°9'W (Lincolnshire) 145km SSE 0y 10m 16d

Very few movements of BTO ringed Blue Tits exceed 100 kilometres so L147748 is exceptional. Apart from a bird found dead in France in 1959, this is the longest movement of a Blue Tit to/from the county.

#### **Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

X009923	First-year	18/03/2008	Kirmond-Le-Mire: 53°25'N 0°14'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (cat)	04/06/2011	Tealby: 53°23'N 0°16'W (Lincolnshire) 3km 3y 2m 17d
L039533	First-year	04/12/2009	Usselby Plantation, near Market Rasen: 53°25'N 0°21'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	16/11/2011	Kirmond-Le-Mire: 53°25'N 0°14'W (Lincolnshire) 8km E 1y 11m 12d
L363689	First-year	01/09/2010	Usselby Plantation, near Market Rasen: 53°25'N 0°21'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead	30/08/2011	Usselby Plantation, near Market Rasen: 53°25'N 0°21'W (Lincolnshire) 0km 0y 11m 29d
L471601	First-year Female	18/11/2010	Grantham: 52°53'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (in nestbox)	10/05/2011	Stoke Pasture Wood: 52°50'N 0°42'W (Lincolnshire) 6km SSW 0y 5m 22d

#### **Willow Tit** *Poecile montana*

L730585	First-year Female	10/04/2011	Moss Farm, Scotterthorpe: 53°30'N 0°42'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	21/04/2011	Willow Garth: 53°44'N 1°11'W (North Yorkshire) 42km NW 0y 0m 11d

The decline of this largely sedentary species is well documented, so this rapid movement of over 40 kilometres is surprising, and is the first movement to/from the county.

#### **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

T165603	First-year Male	11/07/2004	Dunwich: 52°16'N 1°37'E (Suffolk)
	Caught by ringer	11/06/2011	Old Garage, Hagworthingham: 53°12'N 0°0'W (Lincolnshire) 151km NW 6y 11m 0d
L428028	First-year Male	11/09/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	27/07/2011	Morayhill: 57°31'N 4°5'W (Highland Region) 564km NNW 0y 10m 16d

L187314	First-year Female	05/08/2010	Blankney Sand Quarry: 53°7'N 0°25'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	05/06/2011	Mid Laigs, Daviot: 57°24'N 4°9'W (Highland Region) 532km NNW 0y 10m 0d
V508169	First-year	06/09/2007	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex)
	Caught by ringer	17/06/2008	near Nettleton: 53°30'N 0°21'W (Lincolnshire) 298km NNW 0y 9m 11d
	Caught by ringer	29/06/2009	near Nettleton: 53°30'N 0°21'W (Lincolnshire) 298km NNW 1y 9m 23d
	Caught by ringer	28/06/2011	near Nettleton: 53°30'N 0°21'W (Lincolnshire) 298km NNW 3y 9m 22d
Y074286	Juvenile	26/07/2011	near Nettleton: 53°30'N 0°21'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	09/08/2011	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) 298km SSE 0y 0m 14d
Y261139	Adult Male	29/06/2011	Blankney Sand Quarry: 53°7'N 0°25'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	06/08/2011	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) 258km SSE 0y 1m 8d
V249397	First-year	02/09/2006	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	04/09/2010	Zuera: 41°54'N 0°47'W (Zaragoza) Spain 1,230km S 4y 0m 2d
FRP	First-year Female	29/08/2010	Etang de la Horre, Lentilles: 48°29'N 4°39'E (Aube) France
6455219	Caught by ringer	15/06/2011	Blankney Sand Quarry: 53°7'N 0°25'W (Lincolnshire) 626km NNW 0y 9m 17d
FRP	First-year Female	06/08/2009	Pk 18,5, Saint-Vigor-d'Ymonville: 49°29'N 0°21'E (Seine-Maritime) France
6181325	Caught by ringer	29/06/2011	Blankney Sand Quarry: 53°7'N 0°25'W (Lincolnshire) 408km N 1y 10m 23d

# **Swallow *Hirundo rustica***

T426139	First-year	05/10/2005	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex)
	Long dead (in building)	10/02/2011	West Moor Farm, Middle Rasen: 53°24'N 0°22'W (Lincolnshire) 287km NNW 5y 4m 5d
Y260158	First-year	15/08/2011	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	02/09/2011	Farlington Marsh, Portsmouth: 50°50'N 1°2'W (Hampshire) 239km S 0y 0m 18d
Y194616	First-year	13/08/2011	Skegness: 53°8'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	01/09/2011	Mclaren Technology Centre, Horsell: 51°20'N 0°33'W (Surrey) 209km SSW 0y 0m 19d
X228790	First-year Female	19/09/2008	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	26/06/2009	Street Gate Farm, near Hawaby: 54°20'N 1°13'W (North Yorkshire) 171km NW 0y 9m 7d
	Caught by ringer	11/06/2010	Street Gate Farm, near Hawaby: 54°20'N 1°13'W (North Yorkshire) 171km NW 1y 8m 23d
	Caught by ringer	17/05/2011	Street Gate Farm, near Hawaby: 54°20'N 1°13'W (North Yorkshire) 171km NW 2y 7m 28d

L422411	Nestling	05/08/2011	Hemingby: 53°15'N 0°9'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	15/09/2011	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire) 110km SSE 0y 1m 10d
ESI	First-year Female	18/09/2010	Vejer de la Frontera: 36°16'N 5°56'W (Cadiz) Spain
KR0576	Caught by ringer	30/08/2011	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire) 1,901km NNE 0y 11m 12d

ESI KR0576 has the long-overdue accolade of being the first foreign-ringed Swallow to ever be found in the county.

Eight birds ringed here have been found in Spain, a total only beaten by the 10 to have been found in South Africa!

#### Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

CHB197	Full-grown Female	14/11/2010	Landguard Point, Felixstowe: 51°56'N 1°19'E (Suffolk)
	Caught by ringer	14/05/2011	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 147km NNW 0y 6m 0d
	Caught by ringer	09/10/2011	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 147km NNW 0y 10m 25d

#### Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

BPJ315	Juvenile	22/08/2009	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	11/10/2009	Beachy Head: 50°44'N 0°15'E (Sussex) 293km S 0y 1m 19d
CXY252	Full-grown	01/10/2011	Dunsby, Bourne: 52°50'N 0°22'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	14/10/2011	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) 227km SSE 0y 0m 13d
DEE073	Adult Male	02/07/2010	Market Stainton: c. 53°18'N 0°9'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (bird of prey)	22/04/2011	Market Stainton: c. 53°18'N 0°9'W (Lincolnshire) 0km 0y 9m 20d
9T2742	Juvenile	22/07/1991	Stoke Pasture Wood: 52°50'N 0°42'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	31/08/1992	Harlaxton Manor: 52°53'N 0°41'W (Lincolnshire) 6km NNE 1y 1m 9d

Both BPJ315 and CXY252 were recaptured on migration on the south coast.

#### Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

CVJ608	First-year	16/09/2009	Lundy Island: c. 51°10'N 4°40'W (Devon)
	Caught by ringer	03/09/2011	Dunsby, Bourne: 52°50'N 0°22'W (Lincolnshire) 348km ENE 1y 11m 18d
DPR007	First-year	31/07/2011	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	06/08/2011	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) 246km S 0y 0m 6d
CXY020	First-year	19/08/2010	Dunsby, Bourne: 52°50'N 0°22'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	03/09/2010	Chanteloupe, Les Sables-d'Olonne: 46°30'N 1°47'W (Vendée) France 711km S 0y 0m 15d

Fewer than 120 BTO-ringed Willow Warblers have ever been recaptured in France so CXY020 is significant, and is the seventh to be ringed in the county found there.



**Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina* trapped and ringed at Gib Point on Aug 24th © George Gregory



**Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris* trapped and ringed at Gib Point on Jun 2nd © George Gregory



**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

L426291	First-year Female	02/09/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	28/09/2011	Sewage Treatment Works, Swindon: 51°34'N 1°50'W (Wiltshire) 225km SW 1y 0m 26d
Y443196	First-year Female	15/09/2011	Queen Mary Reservoir: 51°25'N 0°29'W (Surrey)
	Caught by ringer	25/09/2011	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 195km NNE 0y 0m 10d
L755633	Second-year Male	04/05/2011	Wilsford Quarry, Sleaford: 52°57'N 0°32'W (Lincolnshire)
	Alive	25/10/2011	Tizi-Ouzou, Algiers: 36°43'N 4°3'E Algeria 1,839km S 0y 5m 21d
X950799	Full-grown Female	15/10/2011	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	13/11/2011	Saint-Clement-des-Baleines, Ile de Ré: 46°13'N 1°33'W (Charente-Maritime) France 805km S 0y 0m 29d
NLA	First-year Male	05/10/2009	Polderweg: 53°15'N 4°57'E (Vlieland) The Netherlands
AT00201	Caught by ringer	13/02/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 309km W 0y 4m 8d

Blackcaps wintering in the UK are thought to be of central European origin, though there are few recoveries to support this, so NLA AT00201 is significant. This interestingly mirrors the only record of a Lincolnshire-ringed Blackcap to be found in The Netherlands: ringed at Theddlethorpe in Oct 1981 and killed by a bird of prey in Noord-Holland in Feb 1982.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

L659465	Juvenile	14/08/2011	Saltholme, near Teesmouth: 54°36'N 1°15'W (Cleveland)
	Caught by ringer	08/09/2011	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 196km SSE 0y 0m 25d
L470078	Adult Male	30/08/2010	Ewerby, Sleaford: 53°0'N 0°20'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	07/05/2011	Ruskington Fen: 53°3'N 0°21'W (Lincolnshire) 6km N 0y 8m 7d

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

V750258	Juvenile Male	04/07/2008	near North Somercotes: 53°27'N 0°9'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	24/07/2011	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) 286km S 3y 0m 20d
X885018	Juvenile Male	31/07/2009	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	07/05/2010	Little Crosthwaite, near Keswick: 54°38'N 3°12'W (Cumbria) 249km NW 0y 9m 6d
	Caught by ringer	07/05/2011	Little Crosthwaite: 54°38'N 3°12'W (Cumbria) 249km NW 1y 9m 6d
X730787	First-year Male	30/08/2009	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex)
	Caught by ringer	19/07/2011	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire) 248km NNW 1y 10m 19d

L470131	First-year	07/09/2010	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	14/08/2011	Marsworth Reservoir, near Tring: 51°48'N 0°40'W (Hertfordshire) 130km S 0y 11m 7d
X885771	Juvenile	16/09/2009	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	12/08/2010	Mars-Ouest, Saint-Philbert-de-Grand-Lieu: 47°2'N 1°38'W (Loire-Atlantique) France 663km S 0y 10m 27d
L471209	Juvenile	23/08/2010	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	29/08/2010	Pk21, Sandouville: 49°29'N 0°19'E (Seine-Maritime) France 393km S 0y 0m 6d
L375579	Full-grown Male	03/07/2010	near North Somercotes: 53°27'N 0°9'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	08/08/2010	Pirou: 49°10'N 1°34'W (Manche) France 491km SSW 0y 1m 5d
Y260064	Juvenile	29/07/2011	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	24/08/2011	Trunvel, Treogat: 47°53'N 4°21'W (Finistère) France 622km SSW 0y 0m 26d
BLB	First-year	01/09/2009	Messelbroek, Vlaams: 51°0'N 4°55'E (Brabant) Belgium
11349794	Freshly dead	01/07/2011	Moulton East Fen: 52°43'N 0°5'W (Lincolnshire) 393km WNW 1y 10m 0d

Incredibly, these are the seventh to tenth reports of Sedge Warblers ringed in the county being found in France. BLB 11349794 is also, surprisingly, the first Belgian-ringed bird to be found here.

#### Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

BLB	Full-grown Female	02/02/2002	Bakadaji: 13°1'N 15°35'W Senegal
6724947	Caught by ringer	02/08/2007	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire) 4,636km NNE 5y 6m 0d
L235051	Juvenile	17/08/2010	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	30/07/2011	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) 248km SSE 0y 11m 13d
X885340	Juvenile	14/08/2009	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	12/08/2011	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) 248km SSE 1y 11m 29d
T444066	First-year	17/08/2006	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex)
	Caught by ringer	02/07/2011	Hubbert's Bridge Golf Course: 52°59'N 0°7'W (Lincolnshire) 238km NNW 4y 10m 15d
R968839	First-year Male	10/08/2009	Cauldwell Hall Farm, Hollesley: 52°3'N 1°27'E (Suffolk)
	Caught by ringer	11/07/2011	Ruskington Fen: 53°3'N 0°21'W (Lincolnshire) 165km NW 1y 11m 1d
X499683	First-year Male	16/08/2009	Marston Sewage Farm: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	12/07/2011	Brook Vale, Liverpool: c. 53°28'N 3°0'W (Merseyside) 165km WNW 1y 10m 26d
X792269	First-year	19/09/2009	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	28/08/2010	Les Barthes-de-Quartier-Bas, Villefranche: 43°27'N 1°28'W (Pyrénées-Atlantiques) France 1,081km S 0y 11m 9d

Y260233	Juvenile	22/08/2011	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	07/09/2011	Lagoa de Santo Andre, Setubal: 38°5'N 8°47'W (Baixo Alentejo) Portugal 1,769km SSW 0y 0m 16d
ESI	First-year Male	03/09/2010	Estuario del Mino, Salcidos, A Guarda: 41°54'N 8°51'W (Pontevedra) Spain
1N27552	Caught by ringer	02/08/2011	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W (Lincolnshire) 1,374km NNE 0y 10m 30d

BLB 6724947 is the 24th Reed Warbler ringed in Senegal to be controlled in Britain. The effort of the Marston Ringers has been rewarded by some good foreign controls. The only bird going the other way was one ringed at Tetney Lock in Sep 1965 being trapped in Senegal in Apr 1969.

#### **Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

DBN782	Full-grown	23/09/2009	South Rauceby: 52°59'N 0°28'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead	29/01/2011	South Rauceby: 52°59'N 0°28'W (Lincolnshire) 0km 1y 4m 6d

#### **Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

RP60775	First-year Male	13/04/2004	Newball Wood, Newball, near Langworth: c. 53°16'N 0°23'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead	13/08/2011	Newball Wood, Newball, near Langworth: c. 53°16'N 0°23'W (Lincolnshire) 0km 7y 4m 0d
CW10168	Juvenile	29/06/2004	Boston: 52°58'N 0°3'W (Lincolnshire)
	Unknown	06/07/2011	Boston: 52°58'N 0°2'W (Lincolnshire) 2km 7y 0m 7d
CW25982	First-year Male	20/12/2005	North Cockerington: 53°23'N 0°4'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (cold weather)	12/01/2011	North Cockerington: 53°23'N 0°4'E (Lincolnshire) 0km 5y 0m 23d
LC11759	First-year Female	30/10/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Sick (in building)	07/01/2011	Ballyferriter, Tralee: 52°9'N 10°28'W (Kerry) 735km W 0y 2m 8d
CW83893	First-year Male	11/12/2007	Digby Stone Quarry, near Heath Farm, Lincoln: 53°6'N 0°26'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	28/10/2011	Cott, Sanday: 59°15'N 2°33'W (Orkney) 696km N 3y 10m 17d
LB80966	First-year Male	30/01/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	04/01/2011	Ae Village: 55°11'N 3°36'W (Dumfries & Galloway) 345km NW 0y 11m 5d
LA10187	First-year Male	28/10/2009	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Alive (ring read in field)	29/01/2011	Broadway, Ilminster: 50°56'N 2°58'W (Somerset) 330km SW 1y 3m 1d
RP64947	First-year Female	07/03/2008	Cockett: 51°38'N 4°0'W (Glamorgan)
	Freshly dead (hit building)	29/03/2011	Deeping St Nicholas: 52°43'N 0°13'W (Lincolnshire) 285km ENE 3y 0m 22d

LC11759 shows the onward westerly movement of a bird caught on passage on the east coast.

**Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos***

RT91678	First-year	11/10/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	10/02/2011	Sousel, Portalegre: 38°57'N 7°40'W (Alto Alentejo) Portugal 1,687km SSW 0y 3m 30d
RT22339	First-year Female	20/04/2006	Muckton Bottom: 53°19'N 0°2'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (hit by car)	11/01/2011	Legbourne, near Louth: 53°20'N 0°3'E (Lincolnshire) 3km 4y 8m 22d
RF13951	First-year	31/03/2009	Whisby Nature Park: c. 53°11'N 0°38'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (pollution)	02/04/2011	Lincoln: 53°14'N 0°33'W (Lincolnshire) 8km NE 2y 0m 2d
RT91663	First-year	10/10/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	09/11/2010	Villefranche: 43°26'N 1°27'W (Pyrenees-Atlantiques) France 1,082km S 0y 0m 30d

It is particularly sad that RT91678 and RT91663, ringed on consecutive days at Gibraltar Point, were both shot in Portugal and France respectively! This fate befalls many migrant Song Thrush, reflected in the number of recoveries from both Portugal (13) and France (32).

**Redwing *Turdus iliacus***

RT32238	First-year	15/10/2009	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (hit glass)	04/06/2011	Outokumpu: 62°43'N 28°59'E (Kuopio) Finland 1,976km ENE 1y 7m 20d
RT32778	First-year	25/10/2010	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	20/11/2010	Lacanau-Ocean, Lacanau: 45°0'N 1°12'W (Gironde) France 936km S 0y 0m 26d

RT32778 met a similar fate to the Song Thrushes! RT32238 is the second Redwing ringed in the county to be found in Finland, with others found in a wide variety of locations as dispersed as Russia, Cyprus, Turkey, Georgia (two) and Italy (five).

**Robin *Erithacus rubecula***

X429113	First-year	12/10/2010	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E (Lincolnshire)
	Dead	19/11/2010	Lanton: 44°42'N 1°1'W (Gironde) France 968km S 0y 1m 7d
SVS	First-year Male	19/04/2010	Fyren, Falsterbo, Skane: 55°23'N 12°49'E (Malmöhus) Sweden
CK11177	Caught by ringer	12/10/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 851km WSW 0y 5m 23d

**Dunnock *Prunella modularis***

L429928	First-year	09/10/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Long dead	31/03/2011	Hundasaeter, Twatt: 59°6'N 3°14'W (Orkney) 702km NNW 0y 5m 22d

There have been previous records of Dunnocks ringed in the Northern Isles in autumn being controlled shortly afterwards on the east coast and L429928 shows an interesting reverse movement.

**Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus***

TK76633	Nestling	26/06/2010	Buckton: 54°9'N 0°12'W (Humberside)
	Freshly dead (cat)	(10-03-2011) (Lincolnshire)	Tattershall Thorpe: 53°6'N 0°11'W 115km S 0y 8m 12d
TR27180	Nestling	12/05/2011	Baumber Park: c. 53°15'N 0°11'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	13/10/2011	Stanford Reservoir: 52°25'N 1°7'W (Northamptonshire) 112km SW 0y 5m 1d
X364601	Full-grown	19/01/2011	Bright's Farm, Lavenham: c. 52°6'N 0°46'E (Suffolk)
	Caught by ringer	16/03/2011	Frampton Village: 52°56'N 0°2'W (Lincolnshire) 108km NNW 0y 1m 25d
L549771	Juvenile	22/09/2010	The Barracks, Little Livermere: 52°18'N 0°44'E (Suffolk)
	Freshly dead	05/06/2011	Counthorpe, Creeton: 52°46'N 0°31'W (Lincolnshire) 100km WNW 0y 8m 14d

While ringing recoveries indicate that most Tree Sparrows in Britain and Ireland are sedentary a proportion of the population do disperse, generally in a southerly direction during the winter. TK76633 and TR27180 are examples of this.

**Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs***

R958502	Adult Male	27/12/2003	Charnwood Lodge, Oaks in Charnwood: c. 52°44'N 1°19'W (Leicestershire)
	Freshly dead (cat)	07/04/2011	Newtoft, Market Rasen: 53°22'N 0°26'W (Lincolnshire) 92km NE 7y 3m 11d
V950435	First-year Male	23/03/2008	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Dead	15/04/2011	Romskog: 59°44'N 11°48'E (Ostfold) Norway 1,019km NE 3y 0m 23d
L883018	Adult Male	27/02/2011	Northorpe Fen: 52°45'N 0°20'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	18/04/2011	Skjongskaret, Giske: 62°30'N 6°6'E (More og Romsdal) Norway 1,148km NNE 0y 1m 22d

Shown are the seventh and eight birds ringed here to be found in Norway.

**Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla***

L691090	First-year Male	19/10/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	26/03/2011	Upper Farm, near Failand: 51°27'N 2°40'W (Avon) 274km SW 0y 5m 7d
L429586	First-year Male	16/10/2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	26/03/2011	Newport: 52°46'N 2°22'W (Shropshire) 184km W 0y 5m 10d
L441649	First-year Female	18/12/2010	Northorpe Fen: 52°45'N 0°20'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	13/04/2011	Anholt by: 56°42'N 11°33'E (Anholt) Denmark 880km ENE 0y 3m 26d

The 2010/2011 winter was exceptional for the number of wintering Brambling in Lincolnshire, when over 200 were ringed at Northorpe Fen alone: none were caught in the 2011/12 winter. L441649 is the first Brambling ringed in the county to be found in Denmark, with others being found in Italy and Belgium (five).

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

TL16873	First-year Male	21/11/2010	Embley Wood: 50°58'N 1°33'W (Hampshire)
	Dead	31/08/2011	West Keal, near Spilsby: 53°9'N 0°2'E (Lincolnshire) 266km NNE 0y 9m 10d
TP68430	First-year Female	22/11/2009	Cross Lane Head, Bridgnorth: 52°33'N 2°27'W (Shropshire)
	Freshly dead	25/03/2011	Wilsford, near Sleaford: 52°58'N 0°31'W (Lincolnshire) 138km ENE 1y 4m 3d
TR14958	First-year Male	27/10/2010	Ramsley Reservoir: 53°16'N 1°35'W (Derbyshire)
	Caught by ringer	15/03/2011	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 128km E 0y 4m 16d
TJ91885	Full-grown Female	21/03/2011	Burnham Deepdale: 52°58'N 0°41'E (Norfolk)
	Caught by ringer	22/03/2011	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 29km WNW 0y 0m 1d

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

Y173684	First-year	23/09/2011	Wellington Park, Montrose: 56°43'N 2°27'W (Tayside)
	Caught by ringer	04/11/2011	Usselby Plantation, near Market Rasen: 53°25'N 0°21'W (Lincolnshire) 391km SSE 0y 1m 12d
L922061	Juvenile Male	23/07/2011	Townhead, Gifford: c. 55°54'N 2°43'W (Lothian Region)
	Caught by ringer	20/10/2011	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 368km SSE 0y 2m 27d
X780899	First-year Female	07/11/2010	Low Newton-by-the-Sea: 55°30'N 1°37'W (Northumberland)
	Caught by ringer	25/02/2011	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E (Lincolnshire) 295km SSE 0y 3m 18d
X499779	Juvenile	10/07/2009	Butterwick, Boston: 52°58'N 0°3'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	07/11/2011	Hardham: 50°57'N 0°32'W (Sussex) 228km SSW 2y 3m 28d
V995859	First-year	27/10/2008	Willingham by Stow: 53°21'N 0°42'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	27/02/2009	Hertford: 51°47'N 0°6'W (Hertfordshire) 179km SSE 0y 4m 0d
X862445	Juvenile	15/09/2011	Hundleby: c. 53°10'N 0°4'E (Lincolnshire)
	Dead (hit glass)	(05-12-2011)	Maasmechelen: 50°58'N 5°39'E (Limburg) Belgium 453km ESE 0y 2m 20d
L441270	First-year Female	09/10/2010	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire)
	Dead	07/03/2011	Montmorillon: 46°25'N 0°52'E (Vienne) France 712km S 0y 4m 26d

Increasing numbers of Goldfinches are being caught at feeding stations and this has identified a substantial southerly migration along the east coast in autumn. X862445 and L441270 both then continued to cross the North Sea.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

NLA	Adult Male	13/10/2010	Schiermonnikoog: 53°29'N 6°10'E (Schiermonnikoog) The Netherlands
AV01477	Caught by ringer	14/01/2011	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire) 445km W 0y 3m 1d
X499386	Full-grown Female	21/03/2009	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	04/03/2011	Beechamwell, Swaffham: 52°37'N 0°35'E (Norfolk) 69km ESE 1y 11m 11d
X677748	Full-grown Female	08/02/2011	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	03/04/2011	Brandon: 52°26'N 0°35'E (Suffolk) 76km ESE 0y 1m 26d
L222979	First-year Male	30/01/2011	Brandon: 52°27'N 0°38'E (Norfolk)
	Caught by ringer	17/03/2011	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire) 79km WNW 0y 1m 15d

This is just the second Dutch-ringed Siskin to be found in the county, following one in 2008.

**Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*

T938585	Adult Male	21/03/2009	Light Hazzles Reservoir: 53°40'N 2°4'W (Greater Manchester)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	27/09/2009	Britannia Quarries: c. 53°40'N 2°12'W (Lancashire) 9km W 0y 6m 6d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	22/08/2010	Worsthorne Moor: 53°46'N 2°9'W (Lancashire) 13km NNW 1y 5m 1d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	14/02/2011	Leverton: 52°56'N 0°5'E (Lincolnshire) 165km ESE 1y 10m 24d
X647928	Nestling	07/06/2010	Warley Moor Reservoir: 53°46'N 1°58'W (West Yorkshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	15/08/2010	Britannia Quarries: c. 53°40'N 2°12'W (Lancashire) 19km SW 0y 2m 8d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	14/02/2011	Leverton: 53°0'N 0°8'E (Lincolnshire) 164km ESE 0y 8m 7d
X647902	Nestling	02/06/2010	Warley Moor Reservoir: 53°46'N 1°58'W (West Yorkshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	14/02/2011	Leverton: 53°0'N 0°8'E (Lincolnshire) 164km ESE 0y 8m 12d
X647995	Nestling	28/06/2010	Chelburn Moor: c. 53°40'N 2°5'W (Greater Manchester)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	04/10/2010	Britannia Quarries: c. 53°40'N 2°12'W (Lancashire) 8km W 0y 3m 6d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	02/04/2011	Frampton Marsh: 52°55'N 0°1'E (Lincolnshire) 163km ESE 0y 9m 5d
X648202	Nestling	30/06/2010	Blackstone Edge Pasture: c. 53°38'N 2°4'W (Greater Manchester)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	22/08/2010	Worsthorne Moor: 53°46'N 2°9'W (Lancashire) 16km NNW 0y 1m 23d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	18/03/2011	Frampton Marsh: 52°55'N 0°1'E (Lincolnshire) 160km ESE 0y 8m 16d

A selection of sightings of birds colour-ringed in their breeding area around Lancashire and over-wintering on the Wash.





**Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis cabaret* and **Common Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea* Fulbeck Jan 29th 2011  
© Andrew Chick

Top bird is a Lesser Redpoll (female) with wing length 71mm and weight 10.5g and the bottom bird is a Common Redpoll (male) with wing length 77mm and weight 12.7g.

**Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis cabaret*

L883128 (Lincolnshire)	Full-grown	30/03/2011	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W
	Caught by ringer	27/10/2011	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) 220km SSE 0y 6m 27d
L441788	First-year Female	06/01/2011	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	27/03/2011	Catterick Garrison: c. 54°22'N 1°44'W (North Yorkshire) 199km NNW 0y 2m 21d
L623636	Full-grown	12/03/2011	Light Oaks: 53°3'N 2°7'W (Staffordshire)
	Caught by ringer	02/12/2011	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire) 120km ESE 0y 8m 20d

**Common Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea*

NOS	Adult Male	14/11/2010	Blikshavn, Karmoy: 59°12'N 5°19'E (Rogaland) Norway
9H69302	Caught by ringer	09/01/2011	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire) 798km SSW 0y 1m 26d
L670995	Adult Male	17/10/2010	Holme Bird Observatory: 52°58'N 0°33'E (Norfolk)
	Caught by ringer	17/02/2011	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire) 68km WSW 0y 4m 0d

The taxonomy of Redpolls is complicated and prior to *C. cabaret* and *C. flammea* being elevated to species level in 2001, most recoveries were thought to be the more common Lesser Redpoll.

The Common Redpoll occurs on passage and as a winter visitor and both of the above are good examples of this. NOS 9H69302 is the first Norwegian-ringed bird to be found in the county and only the eighth to be found in the UK.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

V516478	First-year Male	28/09/2010	near Nettleton: 53°29'N 0°20'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (hit glass)	29/07/2011	Caistor: 53°29'N 0°20'W (Lincolnshire) 0km 0y 10m 1d
L611647	Adult Female	22/01/2011	Washingborough: 53°13'N 0°30'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (disease)	02/05/2011	Branston: 53°11'N 0°29'W (Lincolnshire) 4km 0y 3m 10d
L611648	First-year Male	22/01/2011	Washingborough: 53°13'N 0°30'W (Lincolnshire)
	Long dead	25/05/2011	Washingborough: 53°13'N 0°30'W (Lincolnshire) 0km 0y 4m 3d
Y394215	Juvenile Male	24/09/2011	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (cat)	02/12/2011	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W (Lincolnshire) 0km 0y 2m 8d

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

T914503	First-year Female	22/04/2006	near North Somercotes: 53°27'N 0°9'E (Lincolnshire)
	Caught by ringer	20/02/2011	Great Chesterford Sewage Works: 52°4'N 0°11'E (Cambridgeshire) 154km S 4y 9m 29d

## Contributors to the county records for 2011, with initials for reference

ABa	Alison Baldwin	CSm	Colin Smale
ABe	Anthony Bentley	CTy	Chris Tyler
ABw	Alan Brewster	DAL	David Anthony Lake
ACa	Alastair Carr	DAn	Dave Andrew
ACBH	Andrew Henderson	DCo	David Cohen
ACH	A C Houghton	DD	Don Davis
ACL	Alexander Lees	DE	Dean Eades
ACS	Andrew Sims	DEv	Derick Evans
AFP	Alkborough Flats Partnership	DGr	David Griffith
AGB	Alan Ball	DJ	D Johnson
AHu	Alan Hudson	DJB	Dave Bradbeer
AJH	Tony Housman	DJG	Daniel John Green
AKy	Alan Kydd	DJW	David J Wright
ALG	Anne Goodall	DKW	Dave Wright
AN	Tony Nuttall	DL	Denis Lee
AP	Alex Parker	DM	D Mogford
APC	Andrew Chick	DMA	Darren Matthews
APh	Alan Phillips	DMJ	David Jenkins
ARb	Alan Roberts	DMn	David Morison
ASha	Andy Sharp	DMy	Derek Morley
ATD	Alan Daws	DN	Dean Nicholson
ATo	Alan Tomlinson	DNe	Debbie Neve
AV	Andrew Vaughan	DRa	David Ralph
BGu	Birdguides	DRB	Dave Bromwich
BHa	Barry Hancock	DRob	David Roberts
BHe	Brian Hedley	DS	D Satterthwaite
BJ	Barry Johnson	DSP	Dave Purnell
BJo	Barry Jones	DV	David Vandome
BLW	Barry Lane Wilcox	DVi	David Vincent
BM	Brenda Mighell	DWm	David Woodmassey
BMac	Ben Macdonald	DWo	Dave Worrell
BMC	Barry Clarkson	DWs	Danny Walsh
BPk	Bryan Parker	EG	Elaine Genney
BRE	Brian Eke	EJM	Edmund Mackrill
BRG	Birklands Ringing Group	EJR	John Redshaw
BTr	Birdtrack	et al	et al
CA	Chris Atkin	FIBG	Far Ings Bird Group
CBe	Colin Beck	FJ	Freddy Johnson
CBo	Chris Bottomer	FWa	Fred Waddingham
CCG	Clare Gillatt	GAb	Glen Abbott
CD	Chris Dobson	GAM	Grimsby Area Members
CDr	Carl Drakard	GBe	G Beasley
CEH	Clare Harrison	GBi	George Bishop
CG	Chris Grimshaw	GBr	Geoff Brown
CJJ	Colin Jennings	GCS	Garry Steele
CMo	Cliff Morrison	GD	Gerry Davies
CNe	Colin Neve	GFi	Graham Figg
CPO	Peter Overton	GGr	George Gregory
CPt	Christopher Porter	GH	Graham Hardy
CPu	Colin Pumfrett	GHo	Grahame Hopwood
CRo	Christopher Robinson	GJF	Gary Fenwick

GMO	Gervase Orton	KAM	Kevin Marshall
GMu	Geoff Mullett	KAr	K Armstrong
GNe	Glenys Newton	KBi	Katherine Birkett
GPBO	Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory	KBo	Keith Bowden
GPC	Graham Catley	KBw	Kevin Bower
GPL	Guy Langan	KDR	Keith Robertson
GRo	Greg Roberts	KH	Kay Heath
GRu	George Rutter	KJS	Keith Seaton
GTa	Graham Taylor	KJW	Kit Wallace
GW	Geoff Williams	KKH	Kerry Harrison
GWl	Gill Wilson	KMW	Kevin Wilson
GWr	Garry Wright	KRm	Ken Rome
HB	Howard Bunn	KRo	Keith Robinson
HJM	Heber Martin	KSp	Karen Spavin
HK	Henry Kennedy	KWa	Keith Warner
HM	Hugh Middleton	LBCF	Lincolnshire Bird Club Forum
IAA	I A Ashworth	LCa	Les Carter
IB	Ian Birch	LE	Les Enderby
IE	Ian Ellis	LHa	Linda Harvey
IGS	Ian Shepherd	LHi	Lynn Hill
ILe	Ian Lee	LM	Linda Moran
ILy	Ian Lyall	MaB	M Bibby
IPM	Ian Misselbrook	MBI	Matthew Blissett
ISm	Ian Smith	MCr	M Craythorne
ISo	Istvan Somoskovi	MDa	Michael Daly
JAS	J A Smith	MEH	Mike Harrison
JB	John Badley	MFr	Martin Francis
JCm	Jack Common	MG	Mark Grantham
JD	Jacqueline Dumbleton	MHa	Matt Harrison
JDM	John Mortemore	MJG	Martin Gray
JDu	Judith Dunkling	MJo	Malcolm Johnson
JEa	Jayne Eames	MJTa	Mike Tarrant
JEn	John Ensor	MKi	Malcolm Kitchen
JHr	John Harry	MLa	Matt Latham
JLu	John Lusby	MLRG	Mid-Lincs Ringing Group
JMcM	Jenny McMahon	MM	Monica Marks
JMd	Joe Mould	MMal	Michael Maltby
JNi	John Nicholson	MPv	Mark Paver
JPe	John Pegden	MRB	M R Briggs
JPS	J P Shaughnessey	MSi	Mark Smith
JPu	Julian Purvis	MSt	Matt Strahan
JRC	John Clarkson	MSu	Mike Surr
JRH	J R Hurst	MW	M Welbourne
JRN	J R Nelson	MWes	Mick West
JRs	Jan Rousseau	MWs	Mandy West
JRW	John Walker	NAL	Nigel Lound
JS	James Siddle	NCl	Nick Clayton
JSa	Jonathan Savory	ND	Neil Drinkall
JTG	John Goy	NHD	N H Dorrington
JWa	John Watt	NKz	Neil Kurz
JWh	J Wheldon	NMg	Neil Moglione
JWl	John Wilson	NPT	Nick Tribe
JWW	John Walton	NS	Neil Smith
KA	Keith Atkin	OM	Owen Marks

PAH	Phil Hyde	RR	R Riddington
PBe	Patrick Bell	RSh	Bob Sheppard
PBH	Peter Haywood	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
PBo	P Bone	RSw	Rob Stewart
PCa	Paul Carter	RT	Roy Twigg
PCl	Peter Clement	RTf	Russ Telfer
PDb	Paul Daubney	RTh	Roger Theobald
PDo	Paul Douch	RTi	Robert Titman
PDr	Peter Dryburgh	RTo	Robert Townhill
PDu	Paul Dumpleton	RWa	Bob Wacey
PEs	Phil Espin	RWr	Roger Wardle
PHa	Peter Harvey	SA	Stephen Andrew
PHi	Phil Hickerton	SAB	Stuart Britton
PLe	Phil Lee	SA-P	Sherry Allen-Pearson
PMa	Paul Marshall	SBk	Steven Black
PNe	Paul Neale	SC	Stewart Chester
PP	Phil Porter	SGC	Steve Cross
PRF	Paul French	SHa	Susan Hayes
PS	Paul Sullivan	SHg	Stewart Hogg
PSc	Pete Scott	SHl	Sheelagh Halsey
PSh	Pete Short	SJ	Sheila Jennings
PSm	Paul Smith	SJg	S Jagger
PSn	Paul Snow	SJM	Steve Meek
PTa	Paul Taylor	SK	Steve Keightley
PTo	Philip Townsend	SKi	Stephen Kitchen
RBe	Rick Bennett	SL	Steve Lorand
RBk	Roger Bark	SLo	Steve Lovell
RBn	Russell Bean	SML	Steven Lister
RBr	Robin Borwick	SN	Steve Nesbitt
RBW	Barrie Wilkinson	SPB	Steve Botham
RC	Robert Carr	SPd	Stuart Pedley
RCh	Roy Cheetham	SR	Stephen Ryland
RDn	Richard Doan	SRO	Stephen Routledge
RDv	Richard Davidson	SSp	Simon Spavin
RGu	Richard Gunn	SWa	Steve Watson
RHa	Roy Harvey	SWi	Steve Willey
RHay	Russell Hayes	SWl	Simon Wilson
RHe	Richard Heath	TBg	Tim Bagworth
RHr	Robert Hardy	TCL	Tom Lowe
RHs	Russ Heselden	TCo	Terry Corlett
RHu	Richard Humphreys	TGu	Trevor Gunby
RJH	Ray Hume	TWe	Terry West
RKW	Rob K Watson	TWh	Terry Whalin
RL	R Lorand	Unk	Unknown
RLb	Roger Labbett	VF	Vin Fleming
RLm	Dick Lambert	WBR	Whisby Nature Park Bird Report
RL-S	Rob Lidstone-Scott	WBS	Bill Sterling
RNH	Roger Hebb	WC	Billy Clapham
RPC	Richard Council	WG	Wayne Gillatt
RPi	Richard Pipe	WJH	Will Heeney
RPk	R Pask	WPB	William Brooking
RPr	Roy Pearson		

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# Lincolnshire Red Data Breeding Birds of Conservation Concern: BBS Trends 1995-2009

## Distribution and Population change in Lincolnshire and other parts of UK

Ranked in order of frequency of occurrence in Lincolnshire

Species	%Squares	%Squares	% Change			Trend
	Lincs	UK	Lincolnshire	East Midlands	England	
Skylark	95.0	58.9	-26	-39	-24	same
Yellowhammer	83.3	41.0	-14	-5	-23	better
Linnet	75.0	41.5	-25	-31	-27	same
House Sparrow	51.7	59.2	55	7	-14	better
Starling	51.7	55.3	-81	-42	-55	worse
Song Thrush	50.0	72.1	-36	24	15	worse
Yellow Wagtail	41.7	5.3	*	-80	-50	
Tree Sparrow	40.0	7.4	*	49	58	
Lapwing	35.0	21.3	*	13	-14	
Grey Partridge	31.7	6.4	*	-44	-52	
Cuckoo	20.0	20.1	*	-79	-63	
Corn Bunting	13.3	4.3	*	*	-31	
Turtle Dove	8.3	1.9	*	*	-81	
Grasshopper Warbler	5.0	5.5	*	*	1	
Marsh Tit	3.3	5.3	*	*	-24	
Spotted Flycatcher	3.3	4.6	*	*	-55	
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	1.7	0.5	*	*	*	
Tree Pipit	0.0	4.7	*	*	-46	
Willow Tit	0.0	1.0	*	*	-78	

### Notes

1. %Squares UK is taken from the 2011 BBS report and refers to the proportion of BBS squares in which each species was recorded in 2011 (Lincolnshire; 60 and UK; 3,222)
2. Figures in bold indicate statistically significant change at the 95% level
3. \* indicates insufficient BBS squares covered in Lincolnshire to provide data to compute changes
4. Trend is %change in Lincolnshire compared to % change in England
5. Lincolnshire Skylarks are now on trend with the rest of England but the position of our Starlings has worsened
6. The data suggests Yellow Wagtail, Tree Sparrow, Corn Bunting, Grey Partridge and Turtle Dove continue to be significantly more widespread in Lincolnshire than the rest of UK.



## ● Main Lincolnshire bird sites



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Front cover: White-tailed Eagle taken by John Clarkson