

THE Lincolnshire BIRD REPORT 2012



**The
Lincolnshire
Bird Club**

www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk

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FRONT COVER: Redshank at Frampton Marsh © Neil Smith, 2012

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Welcome to the 2012 Bird Report



Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix* Nocton Feb 2012 © Russ Telfer



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THE LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD CLUB 2012 REPORT

Welcome to the 2012 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 also 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 previous years and thanks must go to the two bird recorders, the Lincolnshire Bird Record Committee, Roy Harvey and to Colin and Shelia Jennings for all the 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 2012 report. Inevitably, using such a pool of authors will lead to difference in writing styles throughout the report. Personally, I feel this is a small price to pay in order to achieve a published final report.

Notes for Contributors.

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

Submissions of Records

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

How to submit records

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

The Club is moving rapidly towards the electronic submission and processing of records so that we can produce our Annual Reports more efficiently, and we encourage you to do this if possible. Many birders are now using BirdTrack (www.bto.org/birdtrack) to maintain their personal records online. All such records (barring confidential ones) for Lincolnshire are passed to LBC by BTO and are published in this report subject to our usual checking procedures. LBC supports BirdTrack and a single submission to BirdTrack will suffice; there is no need for you to send duplicate records direct to LBC. However, as an alternative to BirdTrack, 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. You can download the spreadsheet and read more about how you can use it at http://www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk/lbc_recordgathering.htm.

Non-electronic submission of records

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

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

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National Rarities.

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

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

County Rarities.

Species or forms considered rare at county level are dealt with by the Lincolnshire Bird Record Committee. The committee currently (September 2014) comprises Graham Catley, Phil Hyde, Dean Nicholson, James Siddle and Andy Sims, and is chaired by John Clarkson. The secretary is Roy Harvey.

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

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

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

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

Data Sources used in the 2012 Bird Report

The Lincolnshire Bird Club is grateful to the following individuals and organizations for supplying and letting us use their data in the 2012 bird report. Apologies for 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.

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@bro.org).

BirdTrack Data. Data supplied by BirdTrack has been used in the production of the 2012 bird report. BirdTrack provides free online bird recording software for Britain and Ireland and is being developed in a partnership between the BTO, RSPB and Birdwatch Ireland. All Lincolnshire records are available for download by the bird club. Further details can be found at <http://www.birdtrack.net>.

BirdGuides Data. Data supplied by BirdGuides Ltd has been used in the production of the 2012 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 Richard Doan 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 to comments and suggestion from the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, including Dave Bromwich, Grahame Hopwood and Barrie Wilkinson.

Ringling Report Data. We would like to thank the Boston Ringing Association, the Mid-Lincs Ringing Group, Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory, Wash Wader Group and the Birkland Ringing Group for submitting their annual ringing reports and especially Mark Grantham from the British Trust for Ornithology for help compiling the 2012 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@btpopenworld.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.

LBC Database Team

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

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

Contributing Authors for the 2012 report

The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to the following contributing authors for the 2012 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.

Contributing Authors: Alan Ball, Graham Catley, Andrew Chick, John Clarkson, Phil Espin, Chris Grimshaw, Andrew Henderson, Grahame Hopwood, Phil Hyde, Steve Lorand, Kev Wilson.

Photographers

The Lincolnshire Bird Club is very grateful to the following photographers for supplying images for the 2012 Lincolnshire Bird Club report. All images included in the report have been taken in Lincolnshire during 2012 and many are referred to in the text. All images are labelled with the photographer's name, their contact details are listed below.

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The LBC Database and Gathering Records in General

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

Andrew Chick, July 2014

OBITUARY

Alexander George Parker

Many members will be aware that well known Club member, Alex Parker, sadly passed away on 1st November 2012, at the age of 75.

He was with a group of friends on a bird watching holiday in Brazil when he was taken ill. He was taken to a local hospital where he was operated upon, then returned home. Regrettably, he passed away within a week of his arrival back in this country without regaining consciousness.

Alex worked in insurance and for most of his working life he was an Insurance Claims Inspector. His interest in the natural world, however, started in his teens, cycling around the county birding and botanising.

In the 1960's Alex trained as a bird ringer with John Marshall, who was then the reserve manager at the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's Friskney Decoy Wood Reserve, and he was still ringing birds in his garden a few days before he went on his last holiday. At one time he was a member of the Wash Wader Ringing Group.

When John retired as Reserve Manager at Friskney Decoy Wood in the early 1970s Alex took over as Voluntary Reserve Manager and dedicated a lot of time and effort in maintaining the Wood and the ride system and replacing all the windblown trees over the next 40 years. He also did a lot of research into the history of the Decoy.

An accomplished photographer, Alex amassed a large collection of photographs, slides and images of birds, flowers, butterflies and dragonflies, all meticulously labelled and indexed, all of which he left to the Wildlife Trust. He also made a video of all the British species of dragonflies and damselflies filmed in their natural habitats.

Alex found the time for many other interests during his lifetime, including shooting, fishing and latterly even making walking sticks, but he will forever be remembered as a birder and was extremely well known in the birding world throughout the country. When and wherever a rarity turned up Alex would be there. He had his first bird watching holiday abroad in 1968 and over a period of about 44 years he visited 55 countries or states on birding holidays, some of them more than once, and amassed a life list of just over 5000 bird species, a quite remarkable achievement.

Alex was always cheerful, easy to talk to and had a great sense of humour and was very good company. He had time for everyone and was always keen and ready to enthuse an interest in the natural world in others. He had friends everywhere and he will be sadly missed by a lot of people.

Brian Redman

Review of the Year 2012

January

The year began with the **Great White Egret** still in residence at Kirkby on Bain and a **Green-winged Teal** found at Alkborough Flats. At the latter site the lingering **Lesser Yellowlegs** from 2011 remained until the 29th. Three **Little Auks** were at Freiston on 1st and another **Great White Egret** was at Little Carlton next day. Good numbers of **White-fronted Geese** were around during the month, including up to 48 at Nocton and 129 on the Humber at Whitton Sand. The juvenile **Rough-legged Buzzard** remained on show at Withern having arrived the previous month.

Good numbers of thrushes, particularly **Fieldfares**, were noted at coastal localities early in the month. Inland a **Glaucous Gull** was in Lincoln on 7th with an **Iceland Gull** there on 9th along with a **Caspian Gull** and two **Caspian Gulls** were also at Kirkby. The **Iceland Gull** was the forerunner of an influx into the county, which mirrored a major influx of birds across the UK and indeed north-west Europe. In Lincolnshire records were widespread and included at least five in the Boston area and 2-3 at Donna Nook and Grimsby. Interestingly, the majority of birds were aged as second-winters. Associated with this influx were two **Kumlien's Gulls** – singles found in Boston and Grimsby. A **Common Sandpiper** was noted in Boston next day.

A **Black Brant** was at Frampton with two lingering birds also at Donna Nook from 2011 and 1-2 at Gib Point. Out in the Wash a **Pomarine Skua** and **Black-throated Diver** were noted on the 10th along with twelve **Little Gulls** and 35 **Snow Buntings** on the Outer Trial Bank. Two **Puffins** were found at Gib Point on 9th-10th; there were only nine further records of this species in the county during the year. A **Great Grey Shrike** was in the north of the county at Wroot; this bird had been ringed at Spurn the previous autumn. This was one of seven recorded in the first winter period.

A **Spoonbill** was at Frampton on 13th. The **Ring-necked Duck** at Kirkby was often elusive during its protracted stay before moving to West Ashby in April. A **Sandwich Tern** was at Witham mouth at lunchtime on the 19th, the first January record in the county, with an **Iceland Gull** also beginning a lengthy stay in the area. Two **Waxwings** were at Grasby on the 21st.

The **Snow Bunting** flock at Cleethorpes numbered 96 on the 23rd and a **Glaucous Gull** was in the area next day, when Inland 13 **Brent Geese** were at Martin Fen. At Gib Point two **Black Brants** and 380+ **Common Eider** were noted on the 28th. On the 29th c350 **Fieldfare** were at Legsby. A **White Stork** was seen at Conisholme from 29th.

February

A **Spoonbill** was at Frampton on 1st when a wintering **Little Stint** was located at Alkborough. Cold conditions with sub-zero temperatures and snow coincided with the discovery of an Estonian ringed **Common Gull** photographed in Grimsby docks. The **White Stork** was reported at Scrivelsby (having also previously also been noted in East Yorkshire); this bird the finally settled at Kirkby Landfill where it proved a popular twitch. A **Great White Egret** was at Manby – possibly the bird seen at Little Carlton earlier in the year. A few scattered **Smew** including three redheads at Freiston on the 12th, two at Kirkby and two at Far Ings. On the 13th there were 50+ **Brambling** on a farm near Caistor.

On the 14th a total of 1480 **Common Eider** were on the high tide off Wrangle. On the 16th there were 17 **Red Kites** at Stainby tip. A fine selection of birds at Freiston and Frampton at this time included a **Kumlien's Gull**, **Black Brant**, **Red-necked Grebe** and 5 **European White-fronted Geese**. Ringing data again showed its value with a colour marked **Turnstone** at New Holland which had been ringed at Ellesmere Island in Canada. Up to 2000 **Brent Geese** were at Frampton with 3000 at Gib Point (with around 50% of these being juveniles) along with three **Black Brants**. An **Iceland Gull** was at Gib Point on 20th and two **Iceland Gulls** were at Frampton on 23rd.

March

On 1st a flock of 37 **Barnacle Geese** flew low and fast, calling over Theddlethorpe. A **Purple Sandpiper** was at Trusthorpe on 3rd. Returning **Avocets** were noted at Frampton, Gib Point and Kirkby early in the month. A **Rough-legged Buzzard** flew south over the East Dunes at Gib Point on the 3rd with another over Sloothby on 27th. Three **Glossy Ibis** were found feeding in flooded fields at Saltfleet Haven on 9th with a single photographed near Caistor on the 17th. On the 14th 250 **Yellowhammers** was a good count at Kirton in Lindsey.

The first returning **Northern Wheatear** was on the prom at Sutton-on-sea on the 16th and the first **Garganey** at Denton reservoir on 19th. A **Great Grey Shrike** was near Hemingby from 19th when the first **Barn Swallows** were noted. A **Common Crane** flew south at Donna Nook on 23rd and

presumably the same bird flew over Gib Point next day. A **Black Redstart** was at Gib Point on the 25th with two present next day.

The first **Sand Martins** were at Kirby on Bain on 25th. On the 27th a **Rough-legged Buzzard** was found near Hogsthorpe. A **Firecrest** added colour to Donna Nook on the 28th – an early record. Next day a drake **Garganey** was noted at Gib Point. Counts of over 1000 **Common Eider** were still in the Wash during the month peaking at 1551 at Wainfleet.

April

In what was a poor year for the species in the county a party of seven **Shorelarks** were at Donna Nook on 2nd, when a **Hobby** was remarkably early at North Hykeham Pits. The first **Ring Ouzels** were noted on the 2nd – part of a good spring passage. Next day a **House Martin** was at Cleethorpes.

Rain and light westerlies produced a superb movement of **Redwing** at Gib Point, with over 4000 noted on the 3rd, mostly before 0830hrs. However, the day's big talking point was the finding of a second year **Thayer's Gull** at Elsham – this being the first twitchable record in the UK. Small numbers of **Black Redstarts** were noted early in the month including odd inland birds. A very early record was a male **Common Redstart** at Gib Point on 8th. Inland a **Kittiwake** was at Covenham on 9th.

The first returning **Tree Pipit** was at Laughton by the 8th. On the 12th a **Rough-legged Buzzard** went south at Gib Point. If the coming spring was in any doubt a female **Black-winged Stilt** at Willow Tree Fen from 14th added a Mediterranean feel. This bird relocated to Frampton from the 19th into May. The first **Cuckoo** on the 17th was a week later than last year's first.

The county's second **King Eider** was noted at Wrangle on 21st and was relocated in July at Gib Point. On the 23rd a **Spotted Crake** was located singing at Bason Fen – this bird staying until late May. The **Ring Ouzel** influx peaked with 13 birds at Gib Point on 24th. Another first for the county was noted on the 27th – a **Bufflehead** at Covenham. This bird showed well that evening but was gone next morning. Next day a lingering **Red-rumped Swallow** was found at Far Ings – this the first of six noted around the county during the spring.

May

A female **Montagu's Harrier** flying north at Huttoft Bank on the 1st was the first of an unremarkable year for the species, although a single pair did successfully breed in the north of the county. A **Hoopoe** lingered in Skegness for a few days from the 3rd and a **Wryneck** at Donna Nook next day was the only bird of the year. A **Wood Warbler** at Appleby Carrs on the 3rd was also the only record of the year.

On 7th the first of nine spring **Temminck's Stints** was at Freiston on 7th. On the 9th a second calendar year **Pallid Harrier** proved to be yet another addition to the county list at Gib Point. The bird lingered over the old saltmarsh before drifting south. Despite a count of 120 **Little Terns** at Gib Point on the 11th breeding was not confirmed at the site – or any other in the county. Also on the 11th an **Alpine Swift** was over Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe at 0700hrs before it powered southward with **Common Swifts** over Huttoft Bank 23 minutes later.

The first of at least five **Golden Orioles** at Gib Point during the spring was noted on the 14th – there were also two records in the Donna Nook area. With the wind in the east male **Red-backed Shrikes** were noted at Gib Point on the 19th and Wolla Bank on the 24th. A **European Bee-eater** at Goxhill on the 20th was presumably the same as the bird at Scartho on the 24th. On the 21st a **Stone Curlew** was seen briefly at Gib Point and an **Icterine Warbler** was singing at Saltfleet Haven. A singing **Marsh Warbler** in Cleethorpes from the 25th was popular and a second bird was noted at Donna Nook from the 29th.

Remarkably, and disappointingly, the two **Dotterel** near Wroot on 27th were the only birds seen in the county this year. A second year **Night Heron** was at Holbeach St Marks on the 29th when a **Common Rosefinch** was at Gib Point.

June

Calling **Quail** was drastically reduced around the county compared to the previous year. A **Common Rosefinch** was at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on 5th was followed by one at Gib Point on 20th. A real surprise was the female **Western Black-eared Wheatear** photographed at Frampton on the 12th. Retrospectively identified from the photographs, this was the first county record. Unfortunately, the bird did not linger.

An adult **Rose-coloured Starling** was at Frampton from 20th. A good influx of **Common Crossbills** was noted during the summer peaking at 138 at Gib Point on 5th.

July

The month began with the female **King Eider** relocated offshore at Gib Point from the 1st. At Frampton up to four pairs of **Garganey** may have bred this year with evidence of breeding at four further sites. An adult **White-rumped Sandpiper** started a length stay at Frampton from 7th, unlike the bird at Kirkby on Bain on 14th, which only stayed one evening.

On the 12th a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** showed well north of Howden's Pullover – perhaps one of last autumn's returning birds? A **Great White Egret** was at Fiskerton on 15th with it, or another, at Whisby from 22nd. Next day 3200 **Common Swifts** moved south past Gib Point followed by 6000 on the 28th. A moulting adult **White-winged Black Tern** was nice find at Frampton on 25th and 3080 **Sandwich Terns** were at Gib Point on the 27th. Also at the end of the month up to three **Roseate Terns** were noted at Freiston Shore.

August

Gib Point reinforced its reputation as a superb location for wader passage with a fantastic 6830 **Sanderling** on 3rd. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Alkborough from the 5th was the first of eight during the autumn. The first **Honey Buzzard** of the year flew south-west over Barton-on-Humber on 11th. A record of an **Oystercatcher** found killed by a raptor near Hjelme in Norway on 8th bore a ring added at Friskney in 1975!

Waders continued to dominate on the 18th when a **Red-necked Phalarope** was at Frampton. This year there was no repeat of last year's **Barred Warbler** influx, but two at Donna Nook in August were matched by two at Gib Point the following month. Passage of common warblers was also generally down at coastal sites compared to the previous year. Up to 16 **Spotted Flycatchers** had gathered at Hubbard's Hills, Louth on the 23rd. On the 27th the first **Long-tailed Skua** of the year was noted at Gib Point – the first of 9-10 noted this year.

September

The month began with two **Red-necked Phalaropes** found – singles at Cumberworth and Frampton. A **Red-backed Shrike** was ringed at Gib Point on 3rd. Numbers of **Red Knot** peaked at 115,000 at Gib Point mid-month. Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Frampton on 15th-16th was the only multiple record of the year. Several **Yellow-browed Warblers** were noted at coastal sites as the wind shifted round to the east from the 22nd and a **Common Rosefinch** was at Gib Point on 24th.

In a poor year for the species a **Grey Phalarope** was noted at Gib Point on 25th. Also on the 25th an elusive **Red-breasted Flycatcher** was at Seaview with another at Tetney Lock next day. Continuing fresh easterlies at this time also brought the year's highest numbers of **Common Redstarts** with 33 at Gib Point on 26th when a dozen were also noted at Donna Nook.

October

A superb juvenile **Red-necked Phalarope** was at West Ashby from 2nd. Two **Honey Buzzards** were over Theddlethorpe on 4th and were followed by singles at Alkborough on 7th and Crowle Moors on 9th. A **Long-billed Dowicher** at Alkborough Flats on 4th lingered until the end of the year but was often frustratingly elusive. This bird was joined by the returning **Lesser Yellowlegs** from 28th into December.

The first large arrival of **Goldcrests** came on the 6th when 205 were noted at Gib Point. A **Richard's Pipit** at Donna Nook on 9th was the first of three noted during the month. A good autumn passage of **Little Gulls** peaked at 685 at Gib Point on 10th. A **Black-winged Stilt** flying south at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe was unexpected on 13th. Also unexpected was a late **Nightjar** at Maltby le Marsh next day.

The only **Spotted Crake** of the autumn was at Alkborough on 16th. Also mid-month a **Waxwing** invasion became apparent following the first record, of six birds, at Frampton on 16th. North-easterly winds and heavy overnight rain brought some huge counts of migrants – particularly noteworthy were the massive numbers of thrushes arriving at coastal sites. **Blackbird** counts included 1200 at Donna Nook and 1418 at Gib Point. These were rather overshadowed by the remarkable 9595 **Fieldfares** noted at Gib Point on 23rd. **Redwings** also arrived in huge numbers at this time with counts of 8900 at Gib Point and 8000 at Donna Nook. **Ring Ouzels** were also caught up in this influx with 38 at Gib Point on the 22nd and 23 at Donna Nook and 20 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe the same day. Numbers at Gib Point increased to 47 by the 24th. All

along the coastal fields and hedgerows were chattering parties of thrushes which lingered for a number of days in fog and drizzle.

Other migrants included 240 **Goldcrests** at Churchill Lane on 22nd with 230 at Donna Nook on 23rd and 171 at Gib Point next day. This exciting period also brought large numbers of **Robins** with 500 noted at Chapel St Leonards and 495 at Gib Point. Not to be outdone, there was also a superb arrival of **Brambling** with 384 at Gib Point on the 22nd. Also noted at Chapel St Leonards was a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** on the 23rd. Good numbers of **Black Redstarts** were noted at this time – peaking at 10 at Gib Point. The same period produced the only **Pallas's Warbler** of the autumn – at Gib Point on 25th. On the 27th 3000 **Kittiwakes** went south at Huttoft along with 28 **Little Auks**, this count was bettered next day with 33 at Donna Nook – part of a county wide influx.

November

A **Bluethroat** was found near the visitor's centre at Gib Point on the 3rd with a **Great Grey Shrike** ringed there next day. Also at Gib Point **Bramblings** peaked at superb 465 on 6th. The final **Yellow-browed Warbler** of the year was noted at Donna Nook on 12th.

On 17th a **Rough-legged Buzzard** went south-west at Gib Point. **Waxwings** were scattered far and wide around the county during the month with feeding flocks noted at many inland sites and birds moving through coastal locations such as Gib Point.

December

A lingering **Ring Ouzel** at Donna Nook was last noted on the 1st and another was at Gib Point until the 8th. On 5th a **Rough-legged Buzzard** was at Frampton, followed by one at Gib Point from the 27th which lingered into 2013. An influx of **Fieldfares** was noted early in the month, including 2500+ near the Humber Bridge. The second, and final, **Grey Phalarope** of the year was noted on the 9th – like the first this bird was also at Gib Point. The **Waxwing** invasion reached its peak during the month with counts including 400 at Burton Stather and 300 Witham St Hughes – the 9th produced the highest county-wide total with 691 birds reported.

The year's peak count of 800 **Pintail** was at the Witham mouth on 16th. On the 18th seven **Woodcock** at Gib Point was overshadowed by 53 at nearby Croftmarsh. The year ended with many lingering **Waxwings** and good numbers of **Golden Plovers** in the county including 16,000 at Gib Point and 8,000 at Frampton.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 2012

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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.

Tables:

Tables are provided to convey information in a minimum of space. The sites included vary between species, and are selected to include areas holding significant numbers (sometimes defined in the text), usually with counts in several or many months. The figures shown are the highest counts for each month.

For waterfowl (wildfowl, waders and other waterbirds), tables use data from the LBC database plus that from Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory and RSPB Reserves, to whom we are grateful for sharing this information. In addition, Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) data are used, kindly made available by the WeBS partnership, which is funded by BTO, RSPB and the JNCC (on behalf of, in England, Natural England), in association with WWT, and run by the BTO. Where a site's counts comprise solely WeBS data, the site name is marked by an asterisk. The tables for some species also give the sums of Lincolnshire WeBS sector totals for the Humber (which extends to Mablethorpe) and the Wash. WeBS counts extend systematic coverage away from more intensively watched areas but are, in most cases, made on a single date near the middle of the month, and thus may miss higher counts made on other dates.

Ring recovery data

A selection of the more interesting recoveries or sightings of ringed birds affecting Lincolnshire are included with the species entries. These should be fairly self-explanatory, with the ring numbers in the left hand columns, then details of the individual and the recovery method, then the dates, and in the right hand column the locations of ringing and recovery/sighting. Where no county (or overseas country) is specified, the location is in Lincolnshire. In some cases, additional comment is included in the text.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Humber totals	46	64	32	31	43	33	7	11	26	23	51	116
Wash totals	19	8	7	12	52	60	38	34	14	17	21	41
Wroot	-	90	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Messingham SQ	29	28	18	28	32	53	50	17	18	15	24	21
Bardney	114	-	24	31	37	105	74	107	4	1	-	33
Brayford Pool, Lincoln	42	39	36	43	41	51	58	61	53	41	34	18
Nocton Fen	144	82	85	74	11	-	5	10	21	40	17	4
Metheringham Delph	40	16	85	85	20	10	12	4	5	25	51	12
Anwick Fen	30	15	38	7	7	39	10	7	28	28	50	33
Deeping High Bank	324	278	183	84	156	89	10	5	107	109	182	140
Deeping Lakes NR	40	5	50	6	64	64	152	100	130	60	8	11

The table gives peak monthly counts for most areas holding 50 or more at some time during the year; note that there is overlap between some areas. Also noted were 200 on Martin Fen and 67 on Pinchbeck South Fen in Dec. Within the estuarine areas, the peaks were 64 and 103 at New Holland in Feb and Dec respectively, and 60 at Frampton Marsh in Jun. About thirteen other sites held between 25 and 49 birds in at least one month. Confirmation of breeding came from about twenty sites, mostly involving only single pairs; no extensive surveys of nesting were reported.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tunnel Pits (Wroot)	9	10	1	-	-	-	2
Donna Nook/Grainthorpe	2	-	-	-	-	2	7
Saltfleet	-	-	-	-	9	-	-
Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	22	-
Huttoft Bank Pit	7	7	-	-	-	-	-
Anderby Creek	-	-	-	-	-	18	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	-	-	8	13
Frampton Marsh	8	18	1	-	-	-	-
Bardney Pits	8	6	-	-	-	-	-
Nocton Fen	13	14	5	-	-	-	-
Deeping High Bank	5	9	10	2	-	-	-

The table shows all locations holding seven or more in any month. A group of ten on Nocton Fen, present from late 2011, comprised seven adults and three juvs and included the neck-ringed bird A981. They remained until at least Jan 19th; usually only nine were seen but there were 13 on the 8th. At Frampton Marsh, there were intermittent records of three-five in Jan, rising to up to 11 during Jan 23rd-Feb 8th. In the Deeping High Bank area (between Spalding and Deeping), two from Jan 12th increased to four-five from the 21st. At Wroot, three present from Jan 18th increased to nine by the 31st and reached a peak of ten on Feb 20th. A group of two adults and five juvs was at Huttoft Bank Pit on Jan 23rd-Feb 16th. There were raised numbers at several sites in mid Feb, including 14 at Nocton Fen on Feb 16th, 18 at Frampton Marsh on Feb 12th-20th, and nine at Deeping High Bank on Feb 16th, with ten there on Mar 10th. The few other Mar records included five at Nocton Fen on the 11th, and the last of spring were two at Deeping High Bank on Apr 7th. Four were at Deeping Lakes NR on Nov 5th, followed by two at Donna Nook on the 8th-9th, six flying south-west at Wainfleet St Mary Fen on the 13th and five south at Gib Point on the 16th. The largest count of the year was 22 seen during a WeBS count at Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe on Nov 18th. Movement was noted on a further five days at Gib Point, including eight on Nov 23rd, and ten on both Dec 27th and 29th. There were also five at Sutton on Sea on Dec 15th with three there on the 16th.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wroot	75	34	20	-	1	-	12	37	31
Alkborough Flats	5	-	51	-	-	-	11	2	26
Donna Nook	19	-	23	-	-	7	16	19	14
Huttoft-Sutton on Sea	49	52	-	-	-	-	5	-	14
Gibraltar Point	5	1	2	-	-	7	53	30	3
Frampton Marsh	24	24	76	1	-	-	23	29	26
Whisby NR	20	-	45	-	-	-	-	2	2
Nocton Fen-Martin Fen	14	7	11	-	-	1	6	14	21
Deeping High Bank	25	39	11	2	-	-	12	-	1

The table includes all sites with regular presence of swans at either end of the year; the core areas are named but birds ranged widely over surrounding farmland. The peaks in Jan-Feb at the principal sites were 75 at Wroot on Jan 17th, 24 at Frampton Marsh on Jan 27th and Feb 20th, 52 at Huttoft Bank on Feb 12th and 39 at Deeping High Bank on Feb 16th. There were also 20 flying N over Whisby NR on Jan 14th. The main period of spring passage was during Mar 1st-28th, beginning with 45 N at RAF Waddington on the 1st and 60 at Threedingham on the 2nd. There

were 27 at Manby Flashes on Mar 9th, 76 at Frampton Marsh on the 14th and 51 at Alkborough Flats on the 15th. A series of smaller counts were made over the next week, but including 27 at Messingham SQ and 22 at Toft Newton Res on Mar 19th. Later high counts were 47 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Mar 22nd, 20 N at Woodhall Spa on the 24th and 45 W at Whisby NR on the 25th, and then 18 at Whitton Sand on the 27th and 14 at Cleethorpes on the 28th, but no further double-figure counts. There were records on six dates in Apr, including nine at Covenham Res on the 11th-12th, and three dates in May, the last being two north at Horseshoe Point on May 13th. One adult summered at Fiskerton Fen during Jun 5th-Sep 16th. Seven at Donna Nook and flying south at Gib Point on Sep 22nd were presumably the same. Between then and Nov 18th, 385 were recorded at Gib Point, mostly moving S, including maxima of 47 on Oct 6th, 53 on Oct 26th, 30 on Oct 30th and 30 on Nov 3rd. Elsewhere there were 39 at Lea Marsh, Gainsborough, on Oct 25th and 35 at Toft Newton Res on the 27th. In wintering areas, the highest total before the year's end was 37 at Wroot on Nov 30th.

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**

All records this year were of *A f rossicus* ('Tundra' Bean Goose) or undetermined, and there were no confirmed *A f fabalis* ('Taiga' Bean Goose). The flock of 46 birds which built up from Nov 2011 in the Read's Island-Bonby area remained throughout January, declining to 45 between Feb 4th and 8th, and last seen on Feb 25th (GPC). A flock of 40 at Goxhill Haven on Jan 12th (TCL) is assumed to have been the same. A separate group of 11 was near Wroot from Jan 17th to Feb 28th (HMBSG, GH, AHu *et al*). There was also a flock of 11 flying S at Gib Point on Jan 27th (KMW). Elsewhere in Jan-Feb, there were a few sightings of one-three in north-west Lincs and on the coast (many observers), plus four at Thoresby Bridge from 2011 until Jan 4th with two there on the 9th (ABe, PEs, *et al*) and five at nearby Donna Nook on the 11th (SL), four at Baston-Langtoft Pits on Jan 9th-12th (BGU), and singles in the Wainfleet sector of the Wash on Jan 15th (WeBS) and on the Witham near Woodhall Spa on Feb 13th (WeBS). Two were at Messingham SQ on Feb 19th with one on the 27th, and two – perhaps the same – on Mar 25th (ND, WG *et al*). Other Mar records were two at Sea View on the 11th and one at Donna Nook on the 17th (SL). A lingering individual was at Alkborough Flats on May 4th-5th (ND *et al*). Far fewer were seen at the end of the year: one flew NW a Gib Point with Pink-feet on the 17th (RD) and one was at Frampton Marsh on Dec 9th-10th (PS, JWh).

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.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber & coast</i>												
Alkborough Flats	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	67	3200	500	470
Whitton	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4000	3000	-
West Halton	880	1200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3000	-
Read's Island area	1450	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	696	4500	3260	1800
South Ferriby	160	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1100	-	-	-
Wolds farmland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6220	-	-
Barton Pits	200	520	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	700	42	-
Goxhill	500	356	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	150
Donna Nook	640	56	-	-	1	1	-	-	210	970	1100	270
Saltfleetby	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	265	524	100	-
Mablethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	935	-	-
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gibraltar Point	2920	700	-	228	2	2	-	-	400	686	2435	659
Wainfleet/Wrangle	565	175	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	1350	260
Freiston Shore	562	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	-	-
Frampton Marsh	8	35	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	150	700	2000
Holbeach/Gedney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4000	500	265
Wingland	1200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2429	-	-
<i>Inland</i>												
Marton	2280	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RAF Waddington	800	1300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The table includes all localities recording 500 or more birds; note that in some cases overflying birds were involved. Most of the Humber records involve the same flock; this is the principal wintering area in the county. This declined from 1450 on Jan 8th, most being gone by mid Feb, with the first returning birds at Alkborough Flats on Sep 9th, reaching 1100 at South Ferriby by the 29th and a relatively high peak of 6220 flying off the Wolds to the Read's Island roost on Oct 15th. Numbers there then diminished, with the Dec peak being 1600 at Read's Island on the 16th. Elsewhere, the largest Jan counts were 2920 at Gib Point on the 14th and 2280 at Marton on the 15th, in both cases moving north/north-west. Movement continued through Feb, with 700 north-west at Gib Point on the 5th, 600 north-west there on the 5th, 1300 over RAF Waddington on the 17th, and a total of 930 north-west over Barton on the 25th-26th. The last substantial counts were 124 north at Covenham Res on Apr 11th, with 105 north-west at Gib Point that day and 228 north-west there on the 12th. There were seven at Alkborough Flats on May 4th and a handful of summering birds remained. Returning birds appeared on Sep 8th, with 45 over both Marton and Willingham by Stow, and 200 over Bardney. Similar or larger movements continued through Sep, and larger counts in Oct included 935 south at Mablethorpe on the 4th, 686 south at Gib Point on the 8th, 2429 west-south-west at Wingland Marsh on the 18th, 4000 at Gedney Marsh on the 19th, 970 at Donna Nook on the 20th, where there were 1100 on Nov 1st. Up to 1350 were counted feeding on Wainfleet Marsh in the second half of Nov with smaller numbers remaining in Dec, but the peak count at Gib Point was 2435, mostly flying S, on Nov 16th. There were also substantial numbers at Frampton Marsh, peaking at 2000 on Dec 9th, and in the Holbeach/Gedney sectors of the Wash, with the peak in this wide area being 500 on Nov 20th.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

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

European White-fronted Goose *A a albifrons*

The unusually high numbers at the end of 2011 persisted into 2012. On the Humber, the peak was 129 flying between Whitton Sand and Trent Falls on Jan 7th, with 95 still in the area on Feb 4th and 60 on Feb 19th, on which date there were also 33 at Read's Island where they were noted for a few day. The last significant count in this area was 30 at Whitton Sand on Mar 9th but there were also seven at Barton Pits during Feb 26th-Mar 12th with three there on the 15th. At Nocton Fen, 48 present from Dec 30th 2011 stayed until Jan 8th. At Frampton Marsh, 30 of the flock that had arrived in Dec 2011 remained until Jan 13th. At Wroot, 12-14 were present during Jan 30th-Feb 4th. Also early in the year, 12 were at Donington on Bain on Jan 2nd, up to six at Freiston Shore on Jan 1st-9th, and up to 25 were in the Gib Point area on Jan 6th-9th, plus a scattering of single-date single-figure records. Two lingered at Frampton Marsh until Mar 26th, two were seen on the R Witham near Kirkstead Bridge on Mar 8th, and one was at Messingham SQ on Apr 9th and 13th. The end of the year was something of a contrast: two were seen at Donna Nook on Nov 11th, one on the R Witham again on Dec 17th, and one at Frampton Marsh on Dec 20th.

Greenland White-fronted Goose *A a flavirostris*

Six adults were on Alkborough Flats and Whitton Sand from Jan 3rd to Feb 2nd (ND, GPC *et al*). There was also a first-winter bird at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Feb 4th-12th (ND, WG).

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.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	200	165	98	77	200	1500	600	443	1400	50	760	730
Bagmoor/Winterton	300	500	-	5	44	-	610	480	710	-	-	-
Messingham SQ	300	18	7	36	3	-	2	50	3	214	191	61
Read's Island	111	121	50	67	38	-	145	85	9	2	-	61
Barton Pits	42	100	43	50	52	296	249	93	168	120	83	185
Manby Flashes	180	-	-	-	-	-	-	324	554	-	12	2
Gibraltar Point	156	140	24	14	30	44	3	110	164	221	264	98
Freiston Shore	100	-	1	-	9	1	9	1	-	200	121	180
Frampton Marsh	48	50	4	10	20	16	24	70	12	80	200	36



Greenland White-fronted Geese *Anser albifrons flavirostris* Alkborough Flats Jan 3rd 2012 © Graham Catley



Greenland White-fronted Geese *Anser albifrons flavirostris* Alkborough Flats Jan 2nd 2012 © Graham Catley



Tundra Bean Geese *Anser fabalis rossicus* Read's Island Jan 9th 2012 © Graham Catley



Tundra Bean Geese *Anser fabalis rossicus* Read's Island Feb 25th 2012 © Graham Catley

Hagnaby Lock	45	23	3	3	8	8	7	30	210	14	-	-
Whisby/N Hykeham	190	151	109	72	56	314	58	6	64	62	217	220
Norton GP	60	196	39	20	7	-	-	223	11	111	-	-
Fiskerton-Martin Fens	63	346	66	44	34	3	2	214	150	372	234	135
Anwick Fen	37	49	56	51	22	1	29	1	8	24	61	12
Kirkby on Bain GP	400	111	82	27	125	370	300	50	470	452	145	21
Tattershall Lakes CP	430	120	160	209	160	450	475	370	355	213	330	640
Marston STW	350	300	120	50	20	35	95	230	280	280	360	320
Langtoft West End GP	550	75	70	6	22	-	-	-	-	-	8	35
Spalding-Deeping	275	189	20	38	24	80	29	4	103	2	120	100

The table includes all regularly counted sites holding significant numbers and all those holding 250 or more, except for one count of 500 at East Butterwick in Dec. The post-breeding population of the county is probably over 4000 individuals; the Sep total in the table is almost 4700 but is thought to include some duplication (e.g. at Kirkby on Bain and Tattershall pits). Breeding was under-reported, however, with no more than three pairs at any one site.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Common resident, introduced from North America in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The taxonomic status of Canada geese has recently changed with Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* and Cackling Goose *B. hutchinsii* now being recognised as two distinct species. Only Canada Goose occurs as a feral resident in Britain.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	44	72	8	10	20	25	180	55	50	15	144	110
Read's I/South Ferriby	60	257	150	88	120	-	-	180	43	22	-	11
Barton Pits	30	20	50	23	25	40	24	30	63	50	60	30
Manby Flashes	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	76	1	-	200	97
Gibraltar Point	140	30	86	28	46	46	29	95	294	200	300	189
Wrangle Bank	53	44	51	23	64	18	21	32	74	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	500	100	19	7	17	36	20	2	7	450	125	130
Frampton Marsh	200	78	14	10	21	21	12	90	18	60	300	26
Fiskerton Fen	-	-	3	8	12	16	17	150	27	32	-	-
Hagnaby Lock	-	10	7	8	-	-	10	60	20	14	-	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	25	12	20	15	17	29	18	12	35	21	6	6
Whisby NR	35	99	19	17	15	81	27	135	192	-	60	34
Grimsthorpe Lake	22	375	85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holywell Lake	12	96	32	-	-	-	-	-	26	138	191	120

Additional sites that held 100 or more were Havenside CP, with 100 on Feb, and Norton GP with 51 in Aug and 175 in Sep. As for Greylag Goose, little breeding was reported for this widespread species. The sums of site totals in the table exceed 1000 in most months during Oct-Feb, and probably do not involve much duplication while omitting many smaller totals. The post-breeding county population is probably over 1500 individuals.

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**

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Whitton Sand	468	-	798	-	54	24	480	-	40	553	500	145
Cleethorpes/Humberston	47	-	12	-	-	6	-	-	-	40	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	4	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	6	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	3	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	3	36
Frampton Marsh	3	2	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	40

The Whitton Sands peak count was 798 on Mar 16th. A flock of 280 belonging to this population was seen flying east but turning back at the Humber Bridge on Sep 2nd. Other sightings not in the table included up to seven at Goxhill Marsh in Jan-Feb, 37 north-west at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Mar 1st, 40 N at Huttoft Bank on Nov 28th, and in the Wash four at Wingland Marsh on

Apr 26th and four in the Gedney sector on Sep 17th. Inland records were singles at Donington on Bain and Langtoft West End GP in Jan, South Kyme in Sep, and Woodhall Spa in Dec.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	1426	2437	1052	77	1	-	-	-	-	738	1267	1423
Tetney-Somercotes	1300	2270	620	150	150	-	-	-	12	490	550	1000
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	11459	9761	11165	6810	5212	5	-	-	4	3685	9210	10979
Gibraltar Point	1600	2000	600	146	150	3	2	1	24	578	505	1150
Wainfleet*	2048	1165	1201	72	309	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Friskney*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	640	1690
Wrangle*	2465	2800	910	210	65	-	-	-	-	-	1320	968
Leverton*	1249	1686	752	411	273	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Butterwick*	359	342	1123	-	760	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Freiston*	171	-	1100	1055	257	2	-	-	-	3	800	1080
Witham*	1056	2250	2730	300	111	-	-	-	-	650	1900	2000
Frampton*	1379	1149	1146	1245	1305	-	-	-	-	590	2072	2130
Welland*	720	-	791	1271	450	-	-	-	-	872	600	1525
Terrington*	311	-	640	1251	1346	-	-	-	-	209	243	-

The table shows maxima for all sites/areas holding 1000 or more on the Wash, or 500 or more on the Humber. Quite large numbers remained in the inner Wash until late May, including 350 at Freiston Shore on the 21st and 170 at the Nene Mouth on the 23rd, and 55 flew north-east at Gib Point on the 28th. A handful of birds remained for the summer, and the first returning flocks were 15 at Gib Point on Sep 2nd and 150 at Freiston Shore on the 15th. The only inland record was a flock of 13 at Martin Fen on Jan 24th, while in the inner Humber there was one at Whitton Sand on Jul 19th and three at Alkborough Flats on Nov 4th.

DEW 3086820	Adult Female	02-04-1990	Norderheverkoog: 54°25'N 8°48'E (Schleswig-Holstein) Germany									
	Dead	18-02-1993	Butterwick Marsh, Boston: 52°58'N 0°6'E 595km WSW 2y 10m 16d									
RUM DS009499	Adult Female	30-07-2008	Middle Beacon Island, River Pyasina Delta: 74°5'N 86°24'E									
			(Taymyr) Russia									
	Dead	20-03-2012	Benington Marsh: 52°59'N 0°4'E 4,676km WSW 3y 7m 19d									

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tetney Haven-Somercotes	6	-	4	-	1	-	-	2	-	4
Gibraltar Point	2	15	14	1	-	1	-	2	1	3
Freiston Shore	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	2
Frampton Marsh	5	43	3	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Nene Mouth	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

In the Tetney Haven-Horseshoe Point area, there was a peak of six on Jan 13th. At Gib Point, there were a few early in the year and then ten on Feb 18th, rising to 15 on the 21st and with 14 on Mar 3rd, and subsequently fewer though with one lingering until Apr 18th. At Freiston Shore and Frampton Marsh, there were mostly very small counts, with five at Frampton on Jan 29th and seven-nine there during Feb 14th-18th plus an isolated count of 43 on Feb 20th. The last reports at those two sites were singles on Apr 15th at Frampton and on May 13th at Freiston. There was a very late record of one at Gib Point on June 17th. The first in autumn was one at Freiston Shore on Sep 20th, and the highest count at the end of the year was just four at Tetney Marsh on Dec 21st.

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

One had been at Donna Nook from Oct 23rd 2011 with two birds on Nov 16th and Dec 12th 2011, these two were reported again on Jan 1st and 5th in 2012 (SL). At Gib Point, there were

sightings, all of adults, on eighteen dates during Jan 7th-Mar 2nd (KMW, JPS *et al*). Most were singles but there were two on Jan 11th, Feb 15th and Feb 19th, and three on Feb 20th-21st. The two on Feb 15th and 19th were accompanied by a bird believed to be an intergrade between Black Brent and Dark-bellied Brent Goose. Some of the singles also may have been intergrades. The whole sequence of Gib Point records should be regarded as relating to two individuals. A bird was present at Frampton and Witham Mouth between Jan 1st-Feb 25th (SK) and another bird was at Freiston Shore on Feb 18th (PS). Later in the year, a Black Brant or intergrade was at Gib Point on Dec 4th (KMW).

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Boultham-Hykeham	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	2	2
Kirby on Bain area	6	9	14	16	9	13	12	6	10	5	6	4

As usual, more were seen in the Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall/Woodhall Spa area than anywhere else. This was the one site at which breeding was confirmed, though only one brood was reported, and the highest count was 16 on Apr 2nd. The one double-figure count elsewhere was 12 at Frampton Marsh on Nov 12th, and one-three were seen at about twelve other sites. One flew east at Gib Point on Nov 13th, and three south there on Nov 19th.

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**

Peak monthly counts	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Alkborough Flats	3	2	3	6	11	7
Frampton Marsh	-	-	3	3	3	-

The first birds of the year were three at Alkborough with a single hybrid during May 28th-Jun 18th and with two hybrids until Sep 5th, after which there were eight adults on Sep 8th-14th, nine adults on the 15th and a peak of 11 adults on Sep 20th. Numbers then reduced to seven, being seen intermittently until at least Oct 8th (ND *et al*). Occasionally these birds were recorded nearby at Whitton Sand. Three were at Frampton Marsh on Jul 22nd and then from Aug 31st until Sep 8th, with a single bird on Sep 9th-10th (PS). Inland birds were three at Fiskerton Fen on Jul 6th and then at Cumberworth on Jul 24th-Aug 6th. The pattern of occurrence, peaking in early autumn, fits with the birds occurring here being dispersing individuals from naturalised populations on the near continent.



Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* Cumberworth Aug 6th 2012 © Russell Hayes

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	836	849	1428	721	886	324	160	523	777	1119	397	574
Alkborough Flats	440	416	476	366	396	415	520	255	212	383	315	155
Read's Island	434	316	944	560	541	-	-	120	694	850	906	298
Killingholme	16	221	45	39	62	-	-	75	-	54	10	-
Pyewipe	-	-	-	118	134	-	731	-	704	460	-	-
Tetney-Somercotes*	267	178	116	62	85	49	8	13	5	78	158	248
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe*	61	110	55	19	15	25	28	4	6	22	105	237
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	1805	776	1868	837	569	221	132	63	29	306	807	2945
Gibraltar Point	140	139	103	94	75	143	127	84	118	45	112	76
Wainfleet	309	140	90	24	22	41	-	16	-	-	193	30
Friskney*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	1225
Butterwick*	255	282	46	-	66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	50	30	364	185	162	7	-	-	2	-	5	78
Witham*	187	120	750	195	-	13	8	10	3	-	150	28
Frampton Marsh	95	111	165	96	76	13	34	82	17	4	24	67
Welland*	210	-	150	66	63	-	38	-	4	5	75	284
Gedney*	409	-	160	53	-	-	40	2	4	152	116	1031
Terrington*	222	-	161	201	99	-	8	2	1	105	289	-
<i>Inland</i>												
Messingham SQ	14	7	14	18	11	12	-	-	-	2	8	-
Bardney-Nocton	28	-	15	14	6	6	9	5	-	-	-	7
Kirkby on Bain pits	2	2	17	14	20	14	-	-	-	-	-	-

The table shows maxima for all sites/areas holding 100 or more on the Wash or the Humber, or 15 inland. There were no counts exceeding 1000 this year on the Humber, where the maximum was 944 at Read's Island on Mar 10th. There were, though, some notable counts on the Wash especially on the Dec WeBS counts on the 16th, when there were 1225 on the Friskney sector and 1031 on the Gedney sector. Offshore movements were, typically, mostly small but 86 flew south at Gib Point on Nov 16th. Breeding was poorly reported; more complete information for defined areas would be welcome. There were at least seven broods at Alkborough Flats and peak counts of ducklings at other sites included 17 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and 25 at Gib Point.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Rare/scarce feral resident/visitor and local escapee.

Two reported at Far Ings NNR on Feb 3rd were the only ones occurring in the first half of the year. Eclipse drakes were at Mablethorpe on Sep 12th and at Marston STW from Sep 22nd to Nov 15th, while three (two drakes and one duck) were at Grimsthorpe Park on Sep 17th. In addition, a drake was at Thurlby Sand Pit on Oct 27th.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	1187	799	278	80	1	-	-	2	103	347	274	676
Alkborough Flats	1200	1413	1089	84	2	1	3	25	70	300	463	916
Whitton Sand*	164	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	-	210
Read's Island	325	480	120	32	-	-	-	-	27	110	180	210
Tetney-Somercotes*	61	150	21	12	-	-	-	2	14	270	13	40

<i>Coast</i>												
Huttoft Bank Pit	120	620	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	2	54	74
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	1487	1947	590	10	12	1	-	38	846	1230	3196	5629
Gibraltar Point	420	935	123	7	3	4	3	15	341	650	471	300
Freiston Shore	730	1360	162	-	12	-	-	32	628	1500	4000	1700
Frampton Marsh	600	2565	242	25	10	9	15	100	200	800	1500	2500
Welland*	610	-	11	-	-	-	-	6	200	92	1200	1572
Gedney*	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	430	1352
<i>Inland</i>												
Messingham SQ	101	40	52	-	-	-	-	-	23	11	7	8
Covenham Res	77	318	60	17	-	-	-	-	10	16	25	22
Lea Marsh-Knaith	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	200
Lincoln-Norton area	158	123	71	4	-	-	-	-	6	48	25	150
Kirkby on Bain pits	169	70	25	6	4	2	1	4	46	150	168	114
Kirkstead Br-Chapel Hill*	43	193	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5
Spalding-Deeping	12	366	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	12	265
Deeping Lakes	200	156	18	1	-	-	-	-	31	20	11	305
Baston/Langtoft GP	74	-	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	16	7
Marston STW	15	110	60	-	-	-	-	-	2	12	12	40

The table shows maxima for all sites/areas holding 500 or more on the Wash, 200 on the Humber and coast, and 100 inland. Note that WeBS counts, on one day per month, sometimes miss higher numbers present at other times. Five individual sites held 1000 or more in at least one month, and maxima at these were 4000 at Freiston Shore on Nov 20th, 2565 at Frampton Marsh on Feb 20th, 1413 at Alkborough Flats on Feb 23rd and 1572 on the Welland sector of the Wash plus 1352 on the Gedney sector on Dec 16th. Additional to the table were 198 at the Humber Bridge viewing area on Sep 22nd with 265 on the 23rd, and other inland sites holding 50 or more were Bagmoor/Winterton Floods, Cadney Res, Manby Flashes, Withern Washlands, Stenigot, Tattershall Lakes CP, Hagnaby Lock/Fen, and Anwick Fen. A few birds summered at various sites but the only activity suggestive of breeding was the presence of two drakes and a duck at Barton Pits on May 18th. Movements at Gib Point, all to the south, included 169 on Feb 5th, 240 on Sep 1st, 151 on Sep 28th, and 154 plus 40 in off the sea on Nov 6th.

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.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	7	15	18	18	18	45	33	40	58	9	7	5
Bagmoor/Winterton Floods	54	58	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-
Barton Pits	88	128	27	16	4	3	9	22	42	85	127	40
Covenham Res	-	58	51	2	2	-	-	-	3	5	13	-
Gibraltar Point	11	16	15	4	7	7	9	21	17	12	5	23
Frampton Marsh	35	92	20	20	12	13	30	45	8	4	25	67
Messingham SQ	105	100	159	39	-	-	-	-	21	47	100	8
Boultham Mere/Swanholme	7	10	12	6	-	47	33	40	103	76	32	50
Whisby/North Hykeham	205	234	20	16	5	8	19	33	52	36	138	107
Thurlby/Norton pits	13	67	-	1	4	-	-	-	7	-	-	41
Fiskerton-Bardney	36	24	34	27	8	12	7	15	6	4	-	2
Metheringham Delph	-	18	30	9	4	-	-	-	-	4	36	7
Kirkby on Bain pits	52	70	98	79	20	36	42	65	149	150	119	95
Tattershall Lakes CP	82	37	23	2	1	-	-	4	28	88	66	73
Kirkstead Br-Chapel Hill*	82	219	-	1	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Deeping Lakes	60	32	-	-	-	1	-	5	18	6	8	44
Marston STW	6	30	10	13	2	2	-	5	18	20	4	12

Some of the tabulated areas include two or more closely situated sites, and doubtless there is frequent movement between areas. Burton GP, close to Boultham Mere, held up to 34 in Feb but otherwise the table includes all sites holding 30 or more. Breeding was considered probable or

confirmed at seven widely spread localities, including Trent Port (Marton), Blackmoor Bridge, Donington on Bain, Gib Point, Anwick Fen, Marston STW and Baston Fen NR, but of course is far more prevalent than this suggests.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	1673	711	379	178	4	-	31	325	470	659	451	271
Alkborough Flats	2018	363	851	267	5	62	22	2006	2323	1646	900	905
Read's Island	522	150	150	65	-	-	-	-	340	450	260	450
Grainthorpe-Donna Nook	200	60	75	15	2	5	1	20	110	120	41	122
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	160	283	2	25	2	0	12	38	230	10	39	160
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	586	194	259	39	-	27	13	155	194	369	1306	2418
Gibraltar Point	180	360	57	37	5	23	43	200	1412	597	700	730
Freiston Shore	332	190	33	14	8	21	-	-	24	59	800	304
Witham*	63	54	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	650
Frampton Marsh	600	450	151	16	3	19	60	356	251	200	400	800
Welland*	4	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	220	99
Gedney*	22	-	3	-	-	-	-	9	-	10	70	255
<i>Inland</i>												
Manby Flashes	100	126	-	33	-	10	14	50	249	170	326	81
Bardney/Nocton	142	228	41	25	-	-	-	7	52	250	100	138
Kirkby on Bain pits	95	40	13	26	6	1	2	170	220	300	190	34
Hagnaby Lock/Fen	233	108	90	38	2	-	-	14	22	46	70	160
Anwick Fen	85	25	43	14	-	-	-	-	5	31	67	275
Marston STW	110	120	100	35	6	-	7	45	57	50	34	250

The table shows maxima for most sites/areas holding 200 or more. In addition, four sites held more than 200, as follows: 300 at Cadney Res and 220 at Rosper Road Pools NR in Jan and 900 there in Dec, 500 at Appleby Carrs in Feb, and 350 at the Humber Bridge in Sep. The largest numbers were at Alkborough Flats, where the autumn build-up had reached 1070 by Aug 17th and reached the peak of 2323 on Sep 5th. Breeding was suspected at four sites (Alkborough Flats, Barton Pits, Boultham Mere and Hagnaby Lock/Fen) but not confirmed anywhere. Movement at Gib Point included 110 in off the sea on Oct 18th, 160 in from the east or south on Nov 17th, and 115 flying south on Nov 27th.

DKC 6300409	Adult Male	11-11-2010	Margrethe Kog , Hojer: 54°56'N 8°39'E (Jylland)	Denmark
	Freshly dead (shot)	21-12-2012	Holbeach: 52°48'N 0°1'E 614km WSW	2y 1m 10d

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

Vagrant. LBRC

All records for the year were from Alkborough Flats where a drake was present during Jan 1st-27th (ND *et al*) and a presumed different drake on Apr 7th (ND), which coincided with spring passages of Eurasian Teal at the site. A presumed returning drake was found on Dec 2nd (ND, GPC).

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>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	615	543	365	212	106	70	79	215	174	246	219	508
Alkborough Flats	118	147	94	42	100	94	74	195	180	233	190	80
Barrow-Goxhill	320	210	245	230	59	-	-	34	-	15	134	256

The Wash

WeBS totals	988	529	423	217	133	166	146	235	330	534	1210	998
Gibraltar Point	259	280	87	28	25	43	45	48	140	240	133	178
Freiston Shore	85	30	73	15	27	62	20	46	42	23	165	142
Witham*	36	10	50	1	15	4	-	-	6	50	85	200
Frampton Marsh	63	180	21	37	79	27	23	320	56	78	62	216
Gedney*	72	-	30	29	-	-	7	6	14	121	472	190

Inland

Cadney Res	200	200	2	7	1	3	18	55	57	57	26	250
Covenham Res	144	552	28	87	19	4	48	22	254	219	240	130
Manby Flashes	120	71	5	11	18	22	9	100	121	139	211	212
Kirkby on Bain pits	174	38	39	21	47	73	121	112	126	222	185	154
Tattershall Lakes CP*	333	267	211	197	134	169	307	336	320	335	277	308
Fiskerton-Chapel Hill*	594	670	134	139	42	102	43	274	124	142	221	215
Spalding-Deeping*	588	617	169	86	57	102	44	8	229	244	332	341
Anwick Fen	168	51	96	45	74	26	86	179	200	94	225	132
Deeping Lakes	225	448	41	23	4	34	141	25	59	125	40	82

The table shows maxima for all sites/areas holding 200 or more. About fifteen other areas held between 100 and 200 of this widespread species. The impressive Spalding-Deeping area totals are the combined WeBS counts for the Rivers Welland and Glen, and the Coronation Channel, while those between Fiskerton and Chapel Hill involve two separate lengths of the R Witham. The Tattershall Lakes counts include a significant proportion (generally about 20%) of domestic-type birds. Breeding was fairly widely reported but no systematic counts of defined areas were received.

GN60920	Adult Male Freshly dead (hit by car)	29-09-2003	Borough Fen Decoy, Peterborough: 52°39'N 0°14'W (Cambridgeshire)									
		11-04-2012	near Peak Hill, Cowbit, Spalding: 52°42'N 0°8'W 9km NE 8y 6m 13d									

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
<i>The Humber</i>												
Alkborough Flats	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	6	9	10	7	1
Read's Island	27	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Humberston-Somercotes	1	3	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	3	1
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	-	-
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gibraltar Point	4	35	2	2	-	-	-	2	26	11	5	3
Freiston Shore	39	46	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	12	6	-
Frampton Marsh	110	357	25	1	-	-	1	20	25	27	40	36
Terrington (WeBS)	84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	28	31	-
<i>Inland</i>												
Bagmoor/Winterton Floods	7	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whisby NR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
Bardney Pits	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Marston STW	-	5	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

There was also an outstanding count of 800 at the Witham Mouth on Dec 16th (SK). All other counts over 100 were in Jan-Feb, with the peak of 357 at Frampton Marsh on Feb 12th. The Gib Point peak was a southerly movement of 35 on Feb 5th, and the Freiston Shore peak was 46 on Feb 13th. Other counts of five or more not in the table were six in the Gedney sector of the Wash in Jan, eight in the Wrangle sector in Mar, and 18 at the Humber Bridge on Sep 22nd with seven there on the 28th. Smaller counts came from another dozen mainly coastal sites. Southerly movement was most evident at Gib Point in Sep-Oct, including 13 on Sep 10th, 26 on the 20th, 19 on the 24th, and 11 on Oct 10th.



Garganey *Anas querquedula* Gibraltar Point
May 22nd 2012 © Paul Neale



Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* Swanholme
Lakes Dec 27th 2012 © Chris Grimshaw

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

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

Peak monthly counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Number of sites	2	2	5	5	3	5	4	2
Minimum Lincs total	2	3	16	6	5	12	4	2

Garganey was reported from twelve sites this year, down from fifteen last year. The first were single drakes at Denton Reservoir on Mar 19th and Gib Point NNR on Mar 29th. There was less evidence of a widespread spring arrival this year with only two sites, Frampton Marsh and Deeping High Bank, reporting birds in April compared to eight the previous year and numbers of birds were down too, from thirteen to three. As in 2011, the main event was at Frampton with up to eight birds on May 10th including four drakes. As many as four pairs may have bred there. Breeding also possibly occurred at Alkborough Flats, Fiskerton Fen Scrape, Freiston Shore and Gib Point, at each of which single pairs were seen through spring. There was no confirmed evidence of breeding. Juvs were first reported from Gibraltar Point on Jul 25th and Frampton Marsh on Aug 18th. Birds were reported on sixty two days at Frampton Marsh, twenty five at Gib Point, ten at Alkborough Flats, seven at Whisby NR and four at Fiskerton Fen Scrape and nine days at six other sites. Late birds were at Frampton Marsh on Sep 28th and Gibraltar Point on Oct 7th with one at Whisby NR on seven dates between Sep 21st and Oct 27th.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Scarce/fairly common resident and passage migrant. **RBBP.**

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
Alkborough Flats	15	9	11	13	8	21	25	155	63	50	30	6
Read's Island/South Ferriby	26	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	15	-	12
Barton Pits	75	92	40	6	2	2	-	6	34	57	51	46
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	6	-	16	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gibraltar Point	57	56	53	25	6	4	8	13	35	40	45	56
Freiston Shore	4	-	6	2	2	-	-	22	4	-	4	16
Frampton Marsh	25	28	30	30	14	10	4	35	8	8	12	50
<i>Terrington (WeBS)</i>												
<i>Inland</i>												
Messingham SQ	2	2	12	5	-	-	-	-	2	17	5	-
Manby Flashes	5	16	2	9	4	-	2	9	19	25	15	20
Boultham/Swanholme	29	22	5	9	1	-	5	-	33	46	19	14
Whisby/North Hykeham	12	111	14	6	2	2	3	34	3	16	4	9
Bardney Pits	24	4	4	19	1	1	4	6	50	183	38	55
Kirkby on Bain Pits	14	19	29	11	2	1	2	17	14	32	51	27
Tattershall Lakes CP	12	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Marston STW	4	9	10	6	3	-	-	-	2	1	1	2

The table includes all sites holding ten or more, except Wyberton where 12 drakes were noted on Jul 8th. The largest counts by some margin were 92 at Far Ings on Feb 3rd, 107 at North Hykeham Pits plus four at nearby Whisby on Feb 8th, 155 at Alkborough Flats on Aug 19th, and 183 at Bardney Pits on Oct 14th. Breeding was confirmed at only three sites, with single broods seen at Frampton Marsh and Bagmoor/Winterton Floods, and two broods at Blackmoor Bridge. At Gib Point, 14 in came off the sea on Oct 18th and 22 on Nov 18th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

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

The area with the most regular reports this year was Swanholme Lakes, where a male and a female were noted intermittently during Jan-May and Oct-Dec. At nearby sites, there were three (one male) at Hartsholme CP on Jan 22nd, a drake at Whisby NR on Aug 18th and four (three drakes) there on Sep 15th-21st, a female at North Hykeham Pits on Dec 27th, plus a little further away one at Blackmoor Bridge on Nov 25th and two at Norton Disney Quarry on both Aug 16th and Dec 28th. In the south of the county, there were occasional reports through the year but apart from 41 on Oct 28th at Baston-Langtoft GP, all counts were of one-four. There were three (two males) at Baston-Langtoft GP on Jan 19th and two there on Mar 11th; at Baston Fen, there were four on Mar 23rd and two on Mar 26th; and singles were reported on Deeping Lakes on Jul 25th and Nov 25th. In the north, a female was present at Barton Pits from Aug 26th until Dec 30th, and an eclipse drake was at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods during Aug 31st-Sep 27th. On the coast, an eclipse drake was at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Nov 8th.

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
<i>The Humber</i>												
Alkborough Flats	2	1	15	-	5	4	-	4	2	7	-	-
Barton Pits	234	336	62	47	32	9	17	17	13	25	19	12
<i>The Wash</i>												
Frampton Marsh	8	46	12	2	2	8	3	6	4	1	9	15
<i>Inland</i>												
Bagmoor/Winterton Floods	-	-	-	-	-	-	73	60	-	-	-	27
Messingham SQ	2	20	42	10	9	-	-	-	-	14	-	2
Whisby/North Hykeham	83	100	23	4	6	7	25	23	35	39	26	45
Norton/Thurlby pits	400	171	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	6	-	20
Bardney Pits	-	-	21	1	6	25	14	22	6	9	-	-
Kirkby on Bain Pits	110	81	16	3	3	8	8	24	27	20	44	34
Tattershall Lakes CP	115	155	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	69	91
Deeping Lakes	30	8	-	3	-	10	31	61	35	8	-	7

The table includes all sites holding 20 or more, apart from Denton Res where there were 70 on Nov 28th and Cove Farm Quarry where there were 54 on Dec 26th. Breeding was confirmed at three sites, with at least three broods at Barton Pits, one brood at Gainsborough, and one brood at Whisby Quarry. The bill tag (A94) on the marked bird below has made it easily identifiable in the field – research showed it spent its time in France in 2010 and 2011 before returning to Kirkby-on-Bain.

FRP DA262783	First-year Female	07-11-2006	Saint-Philbert-De-Grand-Lieu: 47°5'N 1°39'W (Loire-Atlantique) France
	Alive	22-04-2007	Kirkby-on-Bain, Woodhall Spa: 53°8'N 0°8'W 681km N 0y 5m 15d
	Alive	01-06-2008	Kirkby-on-Bain, Woodhall Spa: 53°8'N 0°8'W 681km N 1y 6m 25d
	Alive	01-08-2008	Kirkby-on-Bain: 53°7'N 0°8'W 681km N 1y 8m 25d
	Alive	12-04-2009	Kirkby-on-Bain: 53°7'N 0°8'W 681km N 2y 5m 5d
	Alive	30-08-2009	Kirkby-on-Bain, Woodhall Spa: 53°8'N 0°8'W 681km N 2y 9m 23d
	Alive	29-08-2012	Kirkby-on-Bain, Woodhall Spa: 53°8'N 0°8'W 681km N 5y 9m 22d

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Scarce. LBRC

A drake was found at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Jan 15th-17th (HK), being relocated at Shearman's Wath, West Ashby during Apr 8th-May 11th (MEH), and was then seen again at Kirkby Pits from Dec 19th until the end of the year (KDR *et al*).

[Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*]

Rare. LBRC

The 2011 first-winter *hybrid* drake returned to Barton Pits from Sep 12th-29th and again on Nov 17th. The bird was considered to resemble Ferruginous Duck to a large degree, but certainly was not 100% that species.

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>The Humber</i>												
Barton Pits	165	148	176	124	42	15	40	48	50	26	40	30
<i>The Wash</i>												
Frampton Marsh	134	150	63	15	77	70	33	37	27	18	20	51
<i>Inland</i>												
Bagmoor/Winterton Floods	90	51	75	28	4	-	96	100	-	-	98	98
Messingham SQ*	21	26	67	27	36	6	6	4	-	14	9	33
Cadney Res*	17	30	12	11	2	8	293	276	120	4	5	-
Covenham Res	47	141	19	192	17	17	19	16	187	289	200	210
Whisby/North Hykeham	332	180	227	185	35	44	127	170	448	364	466	249
Norton/Thurlby pits*	49	63	62	109	39	79	30	24	40	77	-	63
Bardney Pits*	-	11	106	246	23	43	158	168	55	38	26	10
Fiskerton-Chapel Hill*	23	581	13	-	4	-	-	10	-	7	29	32
Kirkby on Bain Pits	151	180	143	87	38	58	205	153	164	102	197	141
Tattershall Lakes CP*	150	157	160	37	16	19	7	57	56	143	102	169
Holywell Lake*	86	8	30	-	-	-	-	-	21	15	62	41
Spalding-Deeping*	389	673	144	132	56	9	5	11	56	144	133	134
Deeping Lakes	100	8	75	53	-	7	89	88	41	29	110	70

The Spalding-Deeping area totals are the combined WeBS counts for the Rivers Welland and Glen, and the Coronation Channel, while those between Fiskerton and Chapel Hill involve two separate lengths of the R Witham. Note the elevated numbers present on these large channels during the cold weather of February. A movement of 18 south at Gib Point on Feb 5th was associated with the cold. One other locality holding more than 100 was New Holland, where there were 218 on the Humber on Jan 16th. Breeding was widely reported but few systematic assessments were made; seven broods were noted at Whisby NR.

FS38335	First-year Male	13-12-1971	near Market Deeping: 52°42'N 0°18'W	
	Caught by ringer	18-04-1975	Abberton Reservoir, near Colchester: 51°48'N 0°49'E (Essex)	126km SE
	Freshly dead (shot)	25-10-1975	Place name unknown: c. 52°42'N 0°18'W (Northamptonshire)	0km 3y 10m 12d

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

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

There was one at Frampton Marsh on Jan 7th increasing to four by Jan 14th and remaining at that level until Jan 28th (though five were reported on the 23rd). Subsequently two-three were usually seen through until Mar 11th, after which there was only one, a drake, last noted on May 17th. At Freiston Shore, two were reported on Jan 23rd, and then a female was present during Feb 12th-Mar 3rd. At Gib Point, there was a female/immature during Jan 3rd-15th, and a different individual on Jan 17th-19th, and then, offshore, six south on Feb 5th and seven with Eiders on Feb 9th. Four were seen at Donna Nook on Jan 28th. At Barton Pits, there were two females on Jan 15th, also seen at New Holland on the 16th, and one female on the 21st. A first winter male at Far Ings on Feb 7th was followed by a female there on Mar 3rd, and an adult pair on pits at

Barton and Barrow Haven during Mar 22nd-Apr 7th. A first winter female was reported on Apr 19th and a female was then present at Barton Pits during Apr 24th-May 19th. The first in autumn was a female at Frampton Marsh on Sep 19th, followed by a male flying north with scoters at Gib Point on Sep 29th, one at Witham Mouth on Oct 3rd, a male at Covenham Res on Oct 8th, and one at Frampton Marsh on Oct 20th. Then came the largest counts of the year, involving ten north at Huttoft Car Terrace on Oct 27th, seven at Witham Mouth on Nov 10th, and 30 south at Gib Point on Nov 16th with 11 south there on the 17th. Four first seen at Messingham SQ on Nov 18th were reported intermittently until Dec 27th. There were females at both Kirkby on Bain pits and Barton Pits on Dec 2nd. A first winter male was seen at Covenham Res on Dec 16th and Dec 26th-27th. Meanwhile at Frampton Marsh, there were three on Dec 10th, with five at Witham Mouth on Dec 21st, then four at Frampton Marsh on the 27th and six (three males) by Dec 28th, and then three again on the 29th and one on the 31st.



Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* Frampton Marsh
Feb 19th 2012 © Russell Hayes



Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* Frampton Marsh
Feb 19th 2012 © Paul Neale

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
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	-	-	19	7	-	-	4	-	-	4	5	-
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	982	3719	1241	103	223	116	138	144	43	2	254	802
Gibraltar Point	380	220	300	49	52	67	39	34	55	31	230	35
Wainfleet*	391	1551	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Friskney*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	620
Wrangle*	245	1480	965	10	30	-	-	-	-	-	214	64
Leverton*	117	684	239	31	169	112	129	112	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	80	8	9	1	-	6	-	-	20	18	-	9

Any area regularly holding more than 550 Eiders is of national importance, and the Wash clearly falls into this category, especially this year when record numbers for the Lincolnshire side were counted in Feb. The only previous occasions when more than 1000 have been seen were Apr 1996 when 1197 were counted including 750 at Dawsmere, and Feb 2010 when there were 1463 including about 500 at each of Wainfleet and Friskney. In Feb 2012, the counts at Wainfleet and Wrangle were made on successive days (12th and 13th) and could have involved duplication; however, many more Eiders are probably out of sight from the shore, and it is clear that very large numbers were present. In addition to those in the table, there were 100 in the Gedney sector in Dec. Away from the Wash, the largest counts were 16 between Grainthorpe Haven and Horseshoe Point on Mar 11th and 18 off Huttoft Car Terrace on Nov 28th.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*

Vagrant. BBRC

An adult female was near Wrangle Flats on Apr 21st (SK *et al*) and presumably the same bird was at Gib Point from Jul 1st-7th (KMW *et al*), accepted by BBRC (British Birds vol.106 p. 577). The

only previous county occurrence concerned a drake off Freiston Shore-Witham Mouth between Sep 5th and Oct 18th 2009.



King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* adult female near Wrangle Flats Apr 21st © Joe Pell (left) and Paul Lawrence (right)

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, rare in summer.

The majority of reports this year came from Gib Point. An adult male flew south there and landed on the sea on Jan 15th, followed by a male flying south on Feb 12th, a female/immature on Feb 14th and one south on the 16th. More unusual was a female flying south at Gib Point on May 8th, when a female was also seen at Frampton Marsh. On Oct 27th-28th, two were seen at Donna Nook, and a female/immature flew south then north at Gib Point on the 27th with possibly the same flying south on the 28th. The next records from Gib Point were a female/immature south with scoters on Nov 9th, and a juv arriving from the south on Nov 17th. On Nov 18th, one – probably first year female – was found at Messingham SQ. One flew south at Gib Point on Nov 27th and the last of the year was one in from the north there on Dec 21st.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare inland.

The table shows maxima for all sites/areas holding 1000 or more on the Humber, or 20 or more on the Wash. Areas marked * include only WeBS data; others include other counts as well. The table also gives the sums of Lincolnshire WeBS sector totals for the Humber (which extends to Mablethorpe) and the Wash.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	27	14	93	-	-	68	383	46	13	2192	12	750
Tetney-Somercotes	11	11	60	4	-	280	400	84	400	1800	110	150
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	-	3	60	-	-	37	75	145	300	1081	-	750
<i>The coast</i>												
Mablethorpe-Skegness	55	3	35	3	-	-	3	58	126	2000	1000	-

The Wash

WeBS totals	670	-	-	1	-	-	497	110	-	160	20	22
Gibraltar Point	30	100	12	26	15	310	346	164	440	520	456	320
Wainfleet*	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Friskney*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	12
Leverton*	603	-	-	1	-	-	457	103	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	-

Early in the year, the highest numbers were 603 in the Leverton sector of the Wash on Jan 14th and 800 at Freiston Shore on Jan 15th. Numbers dipped in the spring but picked up during the summer, but it was not until October until large counts were made. On Oct 13th, there were 1800 at Donna Nook, 950 at Saltfleet and 500 north at Gib Point, while on Oct 29th 2000 were on the sea off Mablethorpe. A month later, on Nov 27th, 1000 were still in the same area, and there were 750 between Saltfleet and Theddlethorpe on Dec 15th. Up the Humber, there were two at East Halton Skitter on Feb 3rd, one was seen at Far Ings on Apr 27th, six flew east at Alkborough Flats on Sep 22nd, and there were five by the bridge on Sep 23rd, three at Barton Pits on the 24th, and a much larger total of 204 at the bridge on Nov 27th. Inland records were concentrated at Covenham Res, where there were three on Mar 18th, a female on May 20th-24th, a male on Jul 19th, a female on Nov 9th-11th, and two during Dec 1st-8th. There was also one at Toft Newton Res on Oct 14th-16th.

Velvet Scoter Melanitta fusca

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

After singles at Anderby Creek on Jan 4th and Gib Point on the 5th, eight were seen off Horseshoe Point-Tetney Haven on Jan 11th, with 11 seen in the same area on the 13th and three between Theddlethorpe and Mablethorpe on the 23rd. A male flew S at Gib Point on Feb 8th and two were at the Witham Mouth on the 12th. On Feb 13th, 14 were seen off the Leverton section of the Wash. This was the highest count of the year and coincided with large Eider numbers. One was at Donna Nook on Feb 14th, but then no more were seen until an adult male was found at Roaring Middle in the Wash on Sep 1st. Singles were seen at Gib Point on Sep 10th and Donna Nook on Sep 25th, on which date some were seen off Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, and five flew south off Huttoft Car Terrace on the 26th. During Oct 1st-8th, there were six sightings of two off Donna Nook, Saltfleet, Brickyard Lane, Mablethorpe, Skegness and Gib Point – possibly involving just two individuals – before three flew north at Gib Point on Oct 13th with one there on the 16th. A further seven sightings of one-two took place between Donna Nook and Gib Point between Oct 26th and Nov 10th. There were three again at Gib Point on Dec 9th, then singles at Donna Nook on Dec 15th, Gib Point on Dec 18th and Donna Nook on Dec 27th.

Bufflehead Bucephala albeola

Vagrant. BBRC

One was recorded at Covenham Res on Apr 27th (GPL *et al*) and represents the first record of this species in Lincolnshire and the 16th record for Britain. Based on present plumage knowledge, it was not possible to age or sex this bird. Accepted by BBRC (British Birds vol.106 p 580). Two birds were present in Britain in 2012, the other being in Cornwall from Oct 26th 2011 until Mar 4th, and careful examination of photographs suggests that the records refer to separate individuals.



Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* Covenham Res
Apr 27th 2012 © Roy Harvey



Smew *Mergellus albellus* (drakes) Kirkby on Bain
March 2012 © Russ Telfer

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Fairly common winter visitor; rare in summer.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bagmoor/Winterton	12	24	15	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	-
Cadney Res	13	7	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	12
Barton Pits	21	102	36	7	3	-	-	-	2	3	10	18
New Holland-Goxhill	638	182	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Covenham Res	79	101	16	2	-	-	-	-	4	2	100	27
Gibraltar Point	4	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	9	8	7
Butterwick	4	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	25	69	55	3	-	-	-	-	-	10	9	20
Whisby/N Hykeham	24	19	29	16	2	-	-	-	-	2	19	18
Norton/Thurlby pits	24	16	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4
Kirkby on Bain GP	12	13	12	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	14
Tattershall Lakes CP	18	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	6
Langtoft West End GP	15	8	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	16
Deeping Lakes	8	16	23	14	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	10

The count of 638 on Jan 16th between New Holland and Goxhill Haven was a new Humber record (GPC). There were 182 in the same area on Feb 17th, when the year's peak count of 101 was made at Covenham Res. Many of the records from Barton Pits, where the peak was 102 on Feb 29th, are of the same birds as at New Holland. The Freiston Shore/Witham Mouth peak of 69 was on Feb 20th. There were records in May at Frampton Marsh, Whisby NR and Barton Pits, the last being at Barton on the 19th. There was one at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Jul 29th, one at Deeping Lakes on Aug 22nd, and a juv at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Aug 23rd, then more widespread records from early Sep. Towards the end of the year, the highest totals were about 100 at Covenham Res on Nov 1st, and 75 there on Nov 15th.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Scarce winter visitor Oct-Apr.

A redhead on Bagmoor/Winterton Floods was joined by a second on Feb 3rd-15th. On Barton Pits, there was a drake at Far Ings on Jan 2nd-13th, and a redhead from Feb 7th joined by a second on the 16th, both remaining until Feb 24th, after which there was one until Feb 28th and a drake on Mar 10th-11th. There were also redheads on Killingholme Haven Pit on Jan 12th-26th, at Huttoft Bank Pit on Feb 12th, at New Holland on Feb 14th, and at Tetney Haven on Feb 14th-15th. On the Wash, there was one redhead at Frampton Marsh on Jan 7th and three redheads at Freiston Shore on Feb 12th. In the south-west, a redhead was reported on Deeping Lakes on Jan 12th, and one was also present on the R Welland at Deeping High Bank during Jan 15th-Feb 12th. A drake was reported at Tallington/West Deeping Lakes on Jan 16th, following which a drake was present on Baston-Langtoft GP during Jan 23rd-Feb 25th, joined initially by one redhead and with three redheads from Feb 16th onwards. In mid Lincolnshire, one was at North Hykeham Pits on Feb 8th but most records came from Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits. Here, one drake was seen on Jan 20th-22nd, and then while most water bodies were frozen four were in the wider Tattershall/Woodhall area on Feb 8th with five on the R Witham downstream of Kirkstead Bridge on Feb 13th. A drake was at Tattershall Lakes CP on Feb 16th, and perhaps the same reappeared at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on the 23rd, joined by a second drake during Feb 24th-Mar 19th, which was the last of spring. Later in the year, a drake appeared at Far Ings on Nov 4th, remaining until the end of the year. Another drake was at Tattershall Lakes CP on Dec 30th.

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	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	1	3	-	12
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	76	32	207	57	10	-	-	-	-	21	-	12
Gibraltar Point	16	22	14	2	2	-	1	-	1	6	10	5
Wainfleet*	21	19	160	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Wrangle*	5	-	14	4	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leverton*	20	9	20	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benington*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	10
Butterwick*	16	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	16	30	29	7	1	-	1	7	1	3	4	12

The largest count was 160 on Mar 11th during WeBS coverage in the Wainfleet sector of the Wash. The Leverton sector peak of 44 was on Apr 8th. In addition to the counts in the table, there were 55 at Witham Mouth on Feb 19th. The table includes peaks at Donna Nook including the maximum of 12 on Dec 1st. Other records between Grimsby and Skegness were singles at Cleethorpes on Apr 6th and Nov 3rd, two at Saltfleet on Oct 7th, ten at Huttoft Car Terrace on Oct 26th with one there on the 27th when there were seven flying south at Mablethorpe, and one south at Huttoft Car Terrace on Nov 10th. On the Humber, there was one at Far Ings on May 5th, while inland, there was one at Deeping St Nicholas on Feb 10th, and an eclipse drake at Whisby NR on Jul 6th which was the first of autumn. The last in spring had been one south at Gib Point on May 25th.

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>												
Riseholme	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Skellingthorpe*	11	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	26
Boultham Mere	2	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Boultham Park	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	9
Swanholme/Hartsholme	22	8	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	50
<i>Other areas</i>												
Barton Pits	1	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Goxhill-East Halton	17	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-
Cadney Res*	16	5	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Covenham Res	3	9	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8
Whisby/North Hykeham	-	10	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Bardney Pits	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Fiskerton-Chapel Hill*	11	36	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	1	5	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	3
Spalding-Deeping	28	56	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6
Deeping Lakes	3	15	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Number of sites	35	37	24	6	0	0	1	0	0	3	13	26

Goosanders were numerous and widespread in the first two months of the year with birds concentrating on larger channels during the coldest weather of late Jan and early Feb; it is difficult to decide how much duplication there is between sites but the Feb county total was probably over 250. The Spalding-Deeping area totals are the combined WeBS counts for the Rivers Welland and Glen, and the Coronation Channel, while those between Fiskerton and Chapel Hill involve two separate lengths of the R Witham. The highest single count early in the year was 45 at Deeping High Bank (part of the Spalding-Deeping area) on Feb 12th. Somewhat surprisingly there was also a count of 46 at Swanholme Lake on Dec 17th, and around the same time 26 at Birchwood Lake, Skellingthorpe, on the 16th and 23 at Bardney on the 15th; this too was just after a short cold spell. There were no records between two at Far Ings on Apr 30th and one at Gib Point on Oct 18th, apart from a female at Gib Point on Jul 13th-17th.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Former scarce feral breeder, declining migrant and winter visitor.

A further reduction was evident this year. Four were on North Hykeham Pits on Jan 15th falling to three on the 16th and one on Feb 3rd. There was a drake on Barton Pits on Feb 7th, one at Norton Disney Quarry on Mar 9th and two, male and female, at Chapel Pit on Mar 15th. A drake appeared at Frampton Marsh on Jul 31st, remaining to Aug 19th. Four were at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Aug 4th. The only later reports were one at Bardney Pits on Oct 14th and three at Toft Newton Res on Dec 16th.



Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa* Nocton
Feb 2nd 2012 © Dean Eades



Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix* Nocton
Feb 2012 © Russ Telfer

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Very common feral resident; huge numbers released for shooting annually.

In 2012 there were over 200 records submitted from about 60 widespread sites, illustrating that this species is both widespread and common in Lincolnshire. During the BTO Atlas this species was recorded from every 10km square with a stable breeding population recorded across the county. All large counts received corresponded to areas of local releases at sites such as Nocton Fen, Blackmoor Bridge, and Anwick Fen. The largest report was of about 125 at Blackmoor Bridge on Oct 19th, and the next highest 37 at Donington on Bain on Sep 9th.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

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

In 2012 almost 450 records were submitted from 90 widespread sites suggesting the national decline of this species is probably being masked in Lincolnshire by the release of captive-bred bird onto shooting estates. The largest counts were 30 at Holme in Feb and Dec, and between Mareham le Fen and Wilksby on Sep 10th. Confirmed breeding was recorded at Holme, Elsham Wold, Horseshoe Point, Wickenby Wood, North Cotes, Donna Nook and Nocton Fen. The only site to record this bird in every month of the year was Gib Point.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

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

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of Sites	11	16	15	42	22

There were just 25 reports from 22 sites in 2012, being a decrease by more than 50% in records from 2011. The first calling bird of the year was at Normanby-by-Spital on May 13th, followed by individuals at Baston Fen on May 16th, Allington on May 17th and Wrangle Bank and Willingham by Stow on May 20th. The majority of submitted records were received in Jun with singing birds recorded at Grimoldby, Hawthorpe, Horkstow, Irby upon Humber, Langtoft, North Rauceby, RAF Coningsby, Rothwell, Saltfleetby St Clement, Saxby Wold, Toft Newton Res, Willingham by Stow, Withcall and Worlaby. Most of these were singles but there were two at North Rauceby Heath and Withcall, and up to three at Worlaby and Willingham by Stow. At the last location, up to three were heard throughout the period May 20th until Jul 20th. Other individuals in Jul were at Grainthorpe on the 11th, Worlaby Carrs on the 17th, Baston Pits on the 28th and RAF Digby on the 30th. The final bird of the year was at Donna Nook on Aug 13th.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Very common feral resident.

Over 900 records were submitted during the 2012 recording period, yet confirmed breeding was reported from only two sites: Anwick and Donna Nook. With the widespread releases of birds bred in captivity, this remains a very common and regularly encountered species in Lincolnshire. The largest counts were 120 at Anwick Fen and 95 at Haverholme Park, both in November.



Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* Covenham Res Mar 2012 © Russ Telfer



Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* Ashbyville Lake Dec 30th 2012 © Graham Catley

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 counts of between one-ten birds were recorded from numerous coastal locations with high counts of 64 at Donna Nook on Jan 14th and 49 there on Jan 28th, 16 at Saltfleet on Jan 14th and 55 on Feb 12th and 62 at Sandilands on Jan 22nd. The notable exception was Gib Point which recorded peak counts of 204 on Jan 11th, 389 on Feb 3rd, 393 on Feb 9th and 139 on Feb 23rd after which date numbers reduced to just single figures after mid Mar. A slightly oiled juv was inland at Covenham Reservoir from Mar 6th-Apr 6th. There were no records between Apr 26th and Jul 5th. During Jul, moulting birds were noted between Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe North End and Gib Point but no counts exceeded four before Sep. Away from Gib Point, the peak counts in Sep-Oct were 24 at Huttoft Bank Car Terrace on Sep 23rd and 18 at Donna Nook on Oct 7th, whilst at Gib Point birds were recorded daily with an average of between five-twenty birds per day and a peak count of 30 on Oct 12th and 28 on Oct 21st. Towards the end of the year the daily totals at Gib Point increased to 54 on Dec 17th, 71 on Dec 25th and 46 on Dec 28th.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

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

The first bird of the year was at Huttoft Bank Car Terrace on Jan 2nd (JRC, PEs), another was recorded from a boat in The Wash on Jan 10th (JB) and one was between Donna Nook and Saltfleet on Jan 14th (SL). Singles flew south at Gib Point on Jan 18th, north on Jan 29th and two south on Feb 6th (all JCN). Birds in summer plumage were recorded north past Gib Point on May 21st (KMW), south on Jul 3rd (JCN) and north on Jul 20th (JCN), the last two assumed the same. Singles were recorded during Oct-Dec from Gib Point on Oct 11th (TB), Oct 21st (JCN, RDn) and Nov 16th (JCN) and at Huttoft Bank Car Terrace on Nov 10th (ABe). The final bird of the year was a 1st winter individual at Covenham Res from Dec 1st-4th (GPL, RHa, LHa).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

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

During Jan, singles were recorded south past Gib Point on the 5th, 7th, 10th, 15th and 16th (TB, JPS, JCN) and during Feb on the 10th (KMW) with two on the 21st (KMW). One was photographed past Huttoft Bank Car Terrace on Feb 10th (GWr), another was at Freiston Shore from Feb 12th-13th (SHI, PS), two at Anderby Creek on Feb 16th (DMi) and one at Donna Nook on Mar 9th (SL). A bird in adult summer plumage was at Gib Point on May 18th (KMW, NAL). Singles were recorded south at Gib Point on Jul 1st (RDn), Sep 10th (TB), Oct 3rd (KMW) and at Donna Nook on Oct 6th (SL), Oct 28th (SL), Nov 30th (JRW) and two on Dec 1st (SL). During Nov a single bird flew south at Gib Point on the 16th (NAL, JPS), one south on the 17th (JPS) and two north on the 27th (NAL). Inland birds were at Covenham Res on Nov 15th (GPL) and the final bird of the year was at Ashbyville Lake from Dec 27th until the year end (JTH *et al*).

Fulmar *Fulmaris glacialis*

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

The first of the year was one at Gib Point on Jan 3rd with two there on the 5th, and a freshly dead bird was found there on Feb 8th. After just one in Mar, at Gib Point on the 6th, the highest counts of the year were in early Apr with 50 at Freiston Shore on the 3rd, c.50 there on the 4th and 47 north at Gib Point on the 5th; the proximity of date and place rather suggesting that the same birds were involved in the three counts. There were a further five records during the rest of Apr. In May nine birds were noted, including six on the 15th, all at Gib Point, while in Jun one-four were seen there on ten dates with singles also at Donna Nook, Cleethorpes and Anderby Creek. Four birds were seen in July at Gib Point and Anderby Creek. In Aug one-two were recorded on thirteen dates, mainly at Gib Point with a high count there of 11 on the 30th. Single birds were noted on nine dates in Sep, some at Donna Nook but mainly at Gib Point where a high count of 12 was made on the 24th. The last few records of the year came from Gib Point where there were three north on Nov 27th, one north on Nov 28th and finally one flew south on Dec 18th.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

Vagrant LBRC

2011: One (accidentally omitted from 2011 report) flew S at Trusthorpe on Oct 10th 2011 (JRC, GM).

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

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

During Aug-Oct there were twelve records involving 14 birds. Aug records were all singles, at Gib Point on the 11th and 12th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on the 18th and 26th and Donna Nook on the 27th. In Sep there were two at Donna Nook on the 10th, singles north at Gib Point on the 13th and 24th, and one at Huttoft Car Terrace on the 23rd. One at Gib Point on Oct 8th landed with large gulls for a while before flying north; the final records came from Huttoft Car Terrace on Oct 26th and two at Donna Nook on Oct 27th.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

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

The first sightings of the year came from Gib Point where four flew north on Jun 2nd and another north on the 21st, and one flew south at Saltfleet on the 23rd with the final 'early' bird south at Gib Point on Jul 3rd. There was then a gap of thirty days before the first autumn bird was seen at Gib Point on Aug 2nd, with two south there on the 30th the only other birds of the month. In Sep, fourteen birds were recorded: one south at Gib Point on the 14th, one south at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on the 15th, two south at Gib Point on the 16th, one at Saltfleet Haven on the 18th, one north at Gib Point on the 19th with four north there on the 21st, two north and one south on the 24th and one south at Huttoft Car Terrace on the 26th. There were five records totalling five or six birds in Oct with one at Donna Nook and Saltfleet on the 7th, one at Gib Point on the 11th, one at Huttoft Car Terrace on the 26th and two at Donna Nook on the 27th. The final bird of the year flew south at Gib Point on Nov 23rd.

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.

Reported in every month of the year but, typically, very few in the first quarter with nine individuals seen in Jan, one in Feb and two in Mar, most at Gib Point. Numbers began to increase significantly in Apr as returning birds began to populate the North Sea; birds were noted on eleven days of the month with high counts of 45 at Huttoft Car Terrace on the 25th and nine at Gib Point on the 28th. This trend was repeated in May when there were high counts of 12 on the 19th and 14 on the 21st, both at Gib Point. Birds were recorded almost every day in June; higher counts included 22 at Donna Nook on the 5th, 38 at Gib Point on the 12th, 54 there on the 18th and 28 on the 25th. Numbers increased throughout July and peak counts included 72 south at Gib Point on the 2nd, 86 there on the 13th and 233 at Witham Mouth on the 28th. Birds were recorded every day in Aug apart from an odd gap during the 7th-10th inclusive when none was noted. High counts at Gib Point were 53 on the 1st, 176 on the 11th, 160 on the 13th and up to 80 subsequently, 65 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on the 14th, 58 at Gedney Drove End on the 26th, and 91 at Donna Nook on the 27th. Numbers increased dramatically during Sep with regular counts in the hundreds. These included 250 in The Wash and 184 at Gib Point on the 1st, 389 at Gib Point on the 10th, 390 there on the 12th, 385 at Gib Point and 140 at Wrangle on the 13th, 510 at Gib Point on the 14th, 136 at Donna Nook, 180 at Freiston Shore and 152 at Huttoft Car Terrace on the 15th. There were 190 at Frampton, 233 at Witham Mouth and 500 at Freiston on Sep 16th, 370 at Gib Point on the 20th, 350 at Huttoft Car Terrace and 478 at Gib Point on the 23rd, 410 at Gib Point on the 24th, 235 at Huttoft Car Terrace on the 26th and 100 in The Wash on the 29th. Numbers began to fall off in Oct but there were still regular and widespread counts of over 100 with 212 at Gib Point on the 3rd, 400 there on the 8th and the highest count of the year of 751 there on the 11th. There were 443 at Gib Point on the 14th, 394 on the 26th, and 250 at Huttoft Car Terrace and 208 at Gib Point on the 27th. There were few records in Nov, mostly single figures recorded at the usual coastal sites with higher counts at the end of the month of 15 at Gib Point on the 27th, and 24 at Huttoft Car Terrace and 10 at Gib Point on the 28th. In Dec a total of six birds was recorded on five days, all at Gib Point with the last of the year on the 27th.

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>												
Donna Nook	184	66	58	4	1	17	5	21	28	34	17	91
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	61	87	151	5	-	2	20	13	11	13	17	54
Gibraltar Point	200	350	130	11	9	15	36	17	63	80	160	210
Terrington (WeBS)	112	-	29	17	5	-	73	97	18	62	11	-
<i>Inland</i>												
Covenham Res	42	2	4	7	9	-	9	11	11	6	180	13
Whisby/North Hykeham	70	7	3	9	2	2	6	21	26	70	20	79
Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall	10	8	6	4	2	6	13	18	13	9	7	6

The table includes coastal sites holding 100 or more plus selected inland sites. Other noteworthy numbers were 39 on R. Witham at Chapel Hill on Feb 13th, 19 at Anderby Creek on Feb 16th, 17 at Deeping St James Lake on Mar 14th, 53 at Haverholme Park on Jul 19th, 14 at Far Ings on Jul 24th, 10 at Frampton on Jul 22nd, 18 at Witham Mouth on Aug 19th, 34 at Cleethorpes on Aug 29th, 80 in The Wash on Sep 1st, 17 at Read's Island on Sep 16th, 10 at Marston STW on Sep 19th, 14 at Boultham Mere on Oct 28th, 32 at Bardney Lock on Dec 15th and 31 at Cove Farm Quarry on Dec 26th. Elsewhere small numbers were very widespread. There were no confirmed breeding records submitted but possible breeding was noted at Holbeach St Johns.

5224063	Nestling Long dead	26-06-2002 25-09-2012	Puffin Island: c. 53°19'N 4°2'W (Anglesey) Uffington, near Stamford: 52°39'N 0°26'W	252km	ESE	10y 2m 30d
5247520	Nestling Alive (colour rings seen) Alive (colour rings seen)	11-05-2011 23-08-2011 01-04-2012	Rutland Water: 52°40'N 0°42'W (Leicestershire) Boultham Mere, Lincoln: 53°14'N 0°35'W Boultham Mere, Lincoln: 53°14'N 0°35'W	64km	N	0y 3m 12d 0y 10m 21d

European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

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

There were a few early year records with the first at Donna Nook on Jan 2nd and a ringed bird was found dead at Gib Point on the 4th, followed by one south there on the 5th. A small flock appeared at Donna Nook with three there on Jan 14th, four on the 28th and increasing to six on Feb 2nd. One was at Freiston Shore on Jun 9th but the bulk of records were in the final third of the year with singletons at Donna Nook on Sep 15th, Gib Point on Sep 27th and again there on Oct 6th. There was a rare inland record on Sincil Drain, Lincoln on Oct 12th then singles at Donna Nook on Oct 13th, Gib Point on Oct 26th, Donna Nook on the 27th and 28th, Trusthorpe also on the 28th, Anderby Creek on the 29th and another south at Mablethorpe on the 29th. One flew south at Gib Point on Nov 3rd, another was there on Dec 2nd and finally there were four at Donna Nook on Dec 15th.

1452953	Nestling Long dead	12-06-2011 04-01-2012	Isle of May: 56°11'N 2°34'W (Fife Region) Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E	390km	SSE	0y 6m 23d
1452946	Nestling Long dead (leg only)	07-06-2011 12-03-2012	Isle of May: 56°11'N 2°34'W (Fife Region) River Humber, Grimsby: 53°34'N 0°3'W	333km	SSE	0y 9m 5d

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
Number of sites	2	3	4	2	2	0	2	1	3	2	3	6
Maximum Lincs total	4	5	5	2	2	0	2	1	3	2	6	8

Following two hard winters, Bittern numbers were marginally higher with the sum of site monthly peaks at 40, up from 38 in 2011, 51 in 2010 and 44 in 2009. Reports came from twelve sites and 65% of all birds were reported from pits along the Humber Bank from Alkborough to Killingholme Haven Pits NR. There were no reports of confirmed breeding but booming was heard from single birds at Barton, Far Ings and Messingham SQ during Apr/May. A possible juv was reported from Goxhill on Jul 14th. Away from the Humber singles were reported from Whisby NR on Feb 4th

and Baston Fen on Mar 23rd and Apr 7th. Later in the year one was picked up dead on Market Deeping by-pass on Oct 22nd. Singles were reported in the Lincoln area from Boultham Mere on Dec 19th and 20th, Blackmoor Bridge on Dec 21st and Whisby NR on Dec 28th and 30th. There were also singles at Gibraltar Point on Dec 2nd and Kirkby Pits on Dec 16th.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

Vagrant. BBRC

1994: An adult male was at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on May 11th-13th. (P M Troake, JRW, KMW). Accepted by BBRC (British Birds vol. 106 p. 581). This now constitutes the ninth of the eleven Lincolnshire records, with all other accepted records shown below.

2004	Messingham, adult male, Jun 1st-2nd	British Birds 98: 641
2003	Spalding, male, May 12th-13th, photo.	British Birds 102: 541
1978	East Halton pits, adult male, Apr 19th-29th	British Birds 72: 509
1977	Barton-upon-Humber Pits, adult male, Jun 23rd	British Birds 71: 489
1976	Birchwood, juv, found dying, Aug 26th-27th	British Birds 72: 509
1970	Burton Gravel Pit, Lincoln, adult male, May 13th	British Birds 64: 346
1964	Chapel Pit, near Skegness, adult male, May 21st-26th	British Birds 58: 357
1953	Goxhill, immature, trapped, Aug 12th-16th	Lorand & Atkin, 1989
1900s	Ludford, male, shot, no date, now at Louth Museum.	Lorand & Atkin, 1989
1870	Worksop and Gainsborough area, male, shot, May 20th or 24th	Lorand & Atkin, 1989

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Vagrant LBRC

A 2nd calendar year bird was seen at Hospital Farm, Holbeach St. Marks on May 29th (D Waudby).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

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

The number of records submitted for this species continues to rise dramatically, with over 1500 this year. The summary table below shows the monthly minimum peak counts of birds recorded in each of four districts. The only areas of the county where there are no records are the (relative) upland areas of the Wolds, the south west of Kesteven and the Lincoln heights. There is a notable influx of birds in July/August presumably originating from post breeding dispersal of juvs from further south.

District minimum totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
The Humber	39	32	24	41	53	47	71	121	112	116	19	25
East coast	17	11	8	8	9	9	27	11	32	22	14	17
Gibraltar Pt/The Wash	83	29	49	46	63	46	191	442	443	403	219	109
Inland	27	34	24	12	9	9	23	30	24	18	20	26
Minimum Lincs total	166	106	105	107	134	111	312	604	611	559	272	177

Breeding records came from six sites this year, one down from 2011. The number of breeding pairs was up 40% on the previous year to 63. Seventy five percent of breeding pairs were in the Humber district. The number of pairs at site B has declined over the last two years and local observers suspect that some pairs have moved from site B to site E. There was no data submitted this year on fledging success. The spread of birds in Apr/May when breeding is in full swing suggests that there are more breeding pairs to be discovered, particularly around the Wash and some of our inland wetlands.

Breeding Sites	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
A Wash	1	-	5	7	6	6	8	6
B Humber	-	1	11	14	11	27	17	12
C Inland	-	-	-	1	4	5	7	6
D Humber	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	3
E Humber	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	32
F Wash	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
G Inland	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
County total	1	1	16	22	21	40	45	63

The established colour ringing scheme of breeding Little Egrets on the Lincolnshire coast is producing some surprising movements. GR36305 is the first to the Channel Islands.

GR36303	Nestling	22-05-2011	North Somercotes: 53°26'N 0°9'E
	Alive (colour rings seen)	31-01-2012	Croxall Lakes Nature Reserve: 52°42'N 1°44'W (Staffordshire) 149km WSW 0y 8m 9d
GR36305	Nestling	19-06-2011	North Somercotes: 53°26'N 0°9'E
	Alive (colour rings seen)	27-04-2012	Le Hurel: 49°12'N 2°6'W (Jersey) Channel Islands 496km SSW 0y 10m 8d

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

Vagrant. LBRC

A long staying bird which had been present since the end of Nov 2011 was recorded around the Kirkby on Bain area until Feb 21st (KDR *et al.*). Other birds were at Little Carlton on Jan 2nd (JRC, PEs), possibly the same bird at Manby Flashes on Feb 7th-9th (PEs), plus another at Fiskerton Fen on Jul 15th (MLa) with probably the same at Whisby NR on Jul 22nd-23rd (DCe, PP *et al.*).



Great White Egret *Ardea alba* Kirkby Pits Jan 12th 2012 © Graham Catley

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 2012 was as follows:

Abbey Wood	27	Lea Marsh	4
Appletree Ness	15	Long Wood, Fiskerton	10
Baston Sand & Gravel Pits	6	Nocton Wood	8
Belton Park	4	North Cotes Spinney (new site 2011)	2
Bottom Barff Wood	1	Patterson's Pit	16
Dowsby Fen	5	The Deepes	3
Hartsholme Country Park	13	The Mere, Deeping St James	12
Hospital Cottage Spinney	8	Troy Wood	15
Howsham Barff Wood	nil	Tuetoes Wood	6
Kingerby Wood	11	Warren Plantation	5
Kirkby Pits (west)	1	Welland Farm	6
Legbourne Wood	4	Willoughby Wood	17

The total number of occupied nests in 2012 was 199, very similar to the 201 nests in 2011. In 1990 there were 414 reported nests in Lincolnshire, so the total of 199 in 2012 represents a 50% decline in the county population in 22 years. Interestingly, the number of recorded heronries had



Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* Gibraltar Point Sep 2012 © Russ Telfer



Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta* Alkborough Flats Sep 9th 2012 © Graham Catley



Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* Gibraltar Point Sep 2012 © Russ Telfer



White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* Kirkby on Bain © Roy Harvey



White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* Kirkby on Bain Feb 25th 2012 © Russell Hayes



White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* Kirkby on Bain Feb 13th 2012 © Paul Neale

increased over the same period, from 13 to 23. The UK trend has involved increase from the severe winter of 1963, tempered by some cold weather losses in the 1980s, until an unexplained decline started in about 2001. It is not known why the decline here started earlier, and possible causes such as cold winters or persecution by buzzards would not be restricted to Lincolnshire. However, at Howsham Barff Wood no nesting herons were reported in 2012 but when checked in 2013, broken egg shells were found under a tree, the same situation as 2011: a pair attempted to nest but were either frightened away or had young predated by buzzards. In the ring recoveries, note the age of 1280678.

1280678	Nestling	03-05-1997	Kingerby Wood, near Bishopbridge: 53°24'N 0°26'W
	Freshly dead (injury)	24-11-2012	Thorganby Hall: 53°28'N 0°12'W 18km ENE 15y 6m 21d
1505132	Nestling	25-04-2011	Kingerby Wood, near Bishopbridge: 53°24'N 0°26'W
	Long dead	04-03-2012	Between Iburndale and Littlebeck, near Whitby: c. 54°26'N 0°40'W (North Yorkshire) 116km N 0y 10m 8d
1286455	Nestling	30-04-2008	Kingerby Wood, near Bishopbridge: 53°24'N 0°26'W
	Long dead (leg only)	(27-04-2012)	Winterton, Scunthorpe: 53°39'N 0°35'W 30km NNW 3y 11m 28d

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Vagrant LBRC

Two records involved birds of unknown origin. A single bird was initially found at Conisholme from Jan. 29th-Feb 1st (SL *et al*), then at Scrivelsby on Feb 5th (AP) before taking up residence at Kirkby on Bain landfill from Feb 9th-Mar 1st (RH_a, LH_a *et al*). Two birds were then recorded feeding in fields at Risegate and Gosberton on Apr 23rd-24th (R Karassek).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Vagrant. LBRC from 2013

Three birds were at Saltfleet Haven from Mar 9th-10th (SL *et al*) and one was photographed at Nettleton Holiday Park, Caistor on Mar 17th (D M Langston). These are the tenth and eleven records for Lincolnshire and the first occurrence of a small flock. Both were accepted by BBRC (British Birds vol.106 pp 584-585). The species was dropped from BBRC consideration from Jan 1st 2013 and is now subject to adjudication by LBRC.



Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* Saltfleet Mar 9th 2012 © Mark Johnson

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	3	3	1	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6	6	3	-	-
Frampton Marsh	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

A minimum of 38 individuals was thought to have occurred in Lincolnshire in 2010, and 30-50 in 2011. During 2012 the total was no more than 25-30 individuals; the previous years' trend has not been maintained. An immature bird that had been present in South Lincolnshire since late Sep 2011 remained at Frampton until Feb 1st. At Alkborough single birds were present on May 3rd and Jul 7th, with three resident from Jul 30th to Sep 2nd, and later records of juvs on Sep 8th-14th and Oct 12th-16th. At Gib Point adults were recorded on Jun 2nd and Jun 26th-27th, one on Jul 29th-30th and then an adult and immature from Jul 31st-Aug 15th, increasing to three on Aug 16th, and six by Aug 24th. This number was maintained until Sep 11th, after which there were only four, declining further to three on the 19th and one on the 23rd. This individual, an immature, was last at Gib Point on Oct 6th but was probably the bird recorded at Frampton on Oct 8th. Elsewhere three were present at Donna Nook on May 26th, one was seen at Grainthorpe Marsh on Sep 7th and the last of the year were three at Gib Point on Oct 17th.

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
Alkborough Flats	1	2	4	-	-	4	-	6	-	5	2	-
Barton Pits	17	4	8	5	1	-	4	1	2	12	2	1
Covenham Reservoir	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	6	9	3
Donna Nook	6	4	6	4	1	1	1	2	2	5	4	1
Frampton Marsh	5	4	2	9	5	4	4	12	6	6	2	-
Gibraltar Point	2	8	4	3	2	2	1	2	4	3	5	4
Holywell Lake	10	8	11	-	-	-	-	-	6	10	11	11
Kirkby-on-Bain GP	3	7	2	-	3	1	2	7	22	16	5	13
Whisby NR	2	2	5	6	4	4	2	4	6	3	3	3

The Bird Atlas 2007-11 showed very similar breeding and winter distributions for this species throughout Britain and Ireland. Nationally, there has been a steady increase in numbers since the early 1990s, reflected in increased 10km square occupancy across Lincolnshire. The true population in Lincolnshire is doubtless under recorded as many birds use water bodies and rivers which are not regularly monitored. During 2012 the species was recorded at over 100 locations with just 16 sites recording birds on six or more months. There were some higher counts in the Barton area than in 2011, indicating recovery from the cold of Dec 2010. Counts of ten or more not tabulated included 16 at Anwick Fen on Jan 15th, ten at Thurlby Sand Pits on Feb 9th, 18 on the Witham between Chapel Hill and Kirkstead Bridge on Feb 13th, 11 at Tetney Blow Wells on Feb 19th, ten at High Melwood on May 28th, 12 at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Sep 27th, 15 at Bardney Pits on Oct 14th, and 21 on the Welland on Nov 17th.

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
<i>Humber & Wash</i>												
Barton Pits	17	15	24	20	7	7	4	6	7	21	5	5
Gibraltar Point	26	80	24	18	13	18	16	10	12	7	37	26
Levertton*	163	-	1	54	-	1	18	4	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	2	6	16	-	2	3	1	-	3	4	-	-
Witham Mouth*	-	20	15	-	4	2	5	-	4	-	3	4
Frampton Marsh	-	2	6	9	6	14	6	3	3	2	-	-
<i>Inland Sites</i>												
Covenham Reservoir	11	35	-	11	4	2	48	34	34	20	37	7
Toft Newton Reservoir	15	5	17	15	7	8	6	15	17	19	34	24
North Hykeham Pits	16	7	8	19	10	3	6	18	45	24	26	18
Whisby NR	4	3	12	10	13	11	9	15	8	9	6	3
Kirkby on Bain Pits	2	4	10	10	7	6	9	13	9	10	1	2
Tattershall Pits	14	13	24	18	13	18	16	10	12	7	14	14
Spalding-Deeping*	5	1	50	43	43	40	24	18	29	32	14	6
Deeping Lakes NR	10	1	11	2	2	3	14	20	13	10	2	1



Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Frampton Marsh Jul 2012 © Russ Telfer



Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* Frampton Marsh Apr 2012 © Russ Telfer



Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* Covenham Res Aug 25th 2012 © Roy Harvey



Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* Kirkby on Bain Oct 29th 2012 © Paul Neale

There were clearly large numbers in the Wash early in the year. The outstanding count in Lincs was 163 in the Leverton sector on Jan 14th, with 25 at Wrangle and 20 at Wainfleet at the same time. The Wash WeBS total (Lincs only) for Jan was 215. At Gib Point, birds were recorded frequently offshore until the end of Feb with a peak of 80 on Feb 21st. It was a good year for nesting at Whisby NR with seven pairs on the various waterbodies and a total of 12 young birds recorded. Over on the adjacent North Hykeham Pits, after a blank year for nesting during 2011, three pairs were located with a total of five young. Breeding was also confirmed at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods (four broods), Barton Pits (three pairs), Cleethorpes CP, Fillingham Lake, Fiskerton Fen NR, Frampton, Hartsholme CP, Huttoft Bank Pit, Kirkby on Bain and Tattershall Thorpe Pits.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

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

The long-staying bird first recorded in Dec 2011 remained at Covenham Res until Jan 4th. One was on the sea at Gib Point on Jan 3rd and 29th, two were at Tetney Marsh on Jan 11th and one was at Donna Nook-Saltfleet on Jan 14th. The final bird of the first winter period was at Freiston Shore on Feb 18th. During Jul-Aug, a moulting adult was at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Jul 25th, an adult at Covenham Res from Aug 21st-26th, and two at Chapel Point and one at Gedney Drove End on Aug 31st. During Oct, two moved south at Gib Point on the 17th, and singles were at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on Oct 9th, Donna Nook on the 13th, an adult winter was at Kirkby on Bain on the 23rd-30th, another at Huttoft Car Terrace on Oct 26th and the final bird of the year at Donna Nook on Oct 28th.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

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

Ten records involving up to 14 birds represented a below average showing. In the first winter period, singles were at Covenham Res on Feb 2nd, Gib Point on Feb 13th and 16th, Witham Mouth on Feb 17th and in spring an adult in breeding plumage was at Kirkby on Bain on Apr 30th-May 1st. The first of the autumn was at Covenham Res on Sep 27th, another at Donna Nook on Oct 6th, then one at Covenham Res on Oct 8th. One was recorded offshore at Huttoft Car Terrace on Oct 28th, three past Gib Point on Nov 11th and the final bird at Freiston Shore on Nov 18th.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

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

The first bird of the year was reported from the R Witham below Kirkstead on Feb 13th. A single adult summered at Site A from Mar 26th to Aug 3rd but there was no evidence of breeding. An adult bird in breeding plumage arrived at site B on Mar 12th and was joined by another on Apr 6th. Displaying was noted on April 13th and the pair subsequently nested and fledged three young, the first appearing on Jul 3rd. The family of five remained throughout July and the last one was seen on Aug 18th. At another breeding site, C, adult birds were present from May 14th. Although up to four adults were present on Jul 15th, only one pair nested and successfully fledged three young. A total of nine was counted here on Aug 19th, presumably including birds from elsewhere, and the last bird was seen on Oct 14th. At Frampton Marsh, an adult in breeding plumage arrived on May 10th and was seen throughout the summer; one in winter plumage during Aug 5th-Sep 3rd is assumed to have been the same. Another adult was seen at Baston-Langtoft Pits on Jul 13th-19th. A juv was at Covenham Reservoir on Aug 9th-10th, with others there on Sep 6th and Sep 28th. At Thurlby Sand Pit, there was one on Oct 13th-15th and two, noted as juvs, from Oct 21st to 27th.

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

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

An adult flew southwest low over Barton-on-Humber on Aug 11th (GPC) and a small late autumn influx of juveniles produced two south at Brickyard Lane, Theddlethorpe on Oct 4th (CMo, PRO), a dark juvenile south at Alkborough on Oct 7th (GPC *et al*) and a juvenile west-northwest over Crowle Moors on Oct 9th (TCL).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

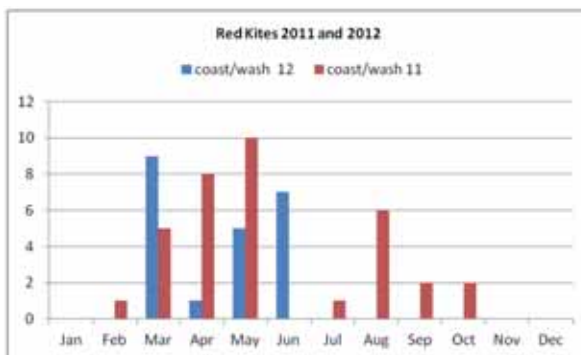
Scarce, occurring in most months though mainly winter to spring; increasing due to re-introduced birds. Bred to 19th century and since 2008. **RBBP**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Pairs	1	1	1	1	5	10	14	10
Proven Nests	1	1	1	1	5	5	14	10
Fledged	-	-	-	1	9+	9+	13+	10
Inland	-	-	-	-	5	3	1	5

It is possible that some nests were not located in 2012 but the fall from 14 pairs and 14 proven nests in 2011 to 10 of each in 2012 was somewhat disappointing. However, the total of 10 young fledged was the second highest to date, only behind the 13+ in 2011. As usual the largest concentrations of birds were at the Colsterworth landfill site, within the core range, where the monthly maxima are shown in the chart below.



Note, below, the dramatic reduction in coastal records in 2012 with none whatsoever in the autumn or either winter period. The almost total lack of reports in August is at odds with the number of birds clearly still present in breeding areas. Most of the inland records came from two core areas in the south-west of the county and records in the middle and north of the county were notably scarce in 2012. Reports (singles unless stated) away from core areas included birds in Jan at Rothwell and Ludford; in Feb at Leadenham and Market Rasen; in Mar at Frampton Marsh (two dates), Gib Point (three dates), RAF Waddington, Wold Newton, Wrangle, Wainfleet, Susworth (three dates), Welton-le-Marsh (four birds); in Apr at Bardney, Kenwick Park, Bigby, Frampton Marsh, Gib Point, Linwood Warren, Market Rasen, Waddington, Goulceby and Far Ings; in May at Bardney, Bagmoor Floods, Gib Point (four dates), Greetwell Warren, Humberston Fitties, Nocton Fen, Welbourn, Lincs Showground, Bradley Woods, Frampton Marsh, Messingham SQ and Caistor; in Jun at Welbourn Heath, Wainfleet, Barrow on Humber, Nene Mouth, Frampton Marsh (three dates), Gedney, Gib Point (three dates), Riseholme, Whisby NR, Horkstow-Barton Wolds and Normanby by Spital; in Jul at South Elkington; in Aug at North Thoresby and Waddington; in Sep at Wyville, Swallow (two dates) and Fulbeck; in Oct at Far Ings and Whisby NR; and finally in Nov at Greetwell Warren and Barnetby.



Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

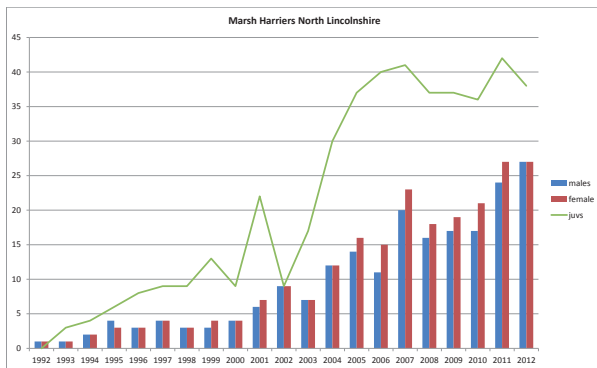
Fairly common passage migrant and summer visitor, increasing in winter. **RBBP**

Winter roost/day counts of Marsh Harriers 2004-2013

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Humber	1	9	12	18	18	18	23	49	26
Wash	-	-	-	-	2	3	4	6	3
Coast	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	2
Inland	-	-	-	-	5	3	1	5	4

After record counts in Dec 2011, numbers wintering on the Humber remained high in the first winter period, with 32 recorded in Jan. These birds account for records inland as far as Brigg and Cadney and probably odd singles at Wroot as the birds are known to travel to Hatfield and Crowle. Elsewhere in Jan-Feb, there were frequent sightings of singles at Gib Point and one-two at Frampton Marsh, with four there on Feb 20th, and also at other locations in the Wash and at Winthorpe, Chapel St Leonards, Saltfleet and Fotherby. Breeding sites are occupied from March onwards with the majority of reports during Mar-Aug referable to breeding birds. Monitoring of the north Lincolnshire population continued showing a new peak of breeding males but the same number of females in 2012 as 2011, though there was a fall in the number of fledged young. The increase in males and females included the addition of two new breeding sites that may well have held birds in previous years and it does now seem that the breeding population has reached a steady level. There was no significant monitoring of breeding birds in any other area of the county with a total of only 17 additional proven nests being recorded. This combined total of 44 nests compares with the Lincolnshire total of 91 pairs fledging 236 young in the national census of 2005 and clearly shows that current monitoring is woefully inadequate and is not allowing us to plot the expansion of the species around the county.

Some coastal passage was evident in Aug-Oct but no site recorded more than four birds in a day and once again there were very few reports received from any significant autumn roosts, the exception being ten at Baston Fen on Sep 19th where two were still roosting on Nov 18th. In the late winter period there was a reduction in the number of birds found around the Humber but with the number of roosts being occupied increasing, it is more difficult to maintain accurate records of the absolute number of birds present. While the number of adult males remains low in winter there has been an increase in the proportion of males, forming up to 55% of the birds at some locations in the late winter: at one site on Dec 14th, of 14 birds present pre-roost, two were adult males, five 2cy males, one 3cy male, three females and three juveniles. Pairs again roosted at breeding sites though the birds that winter do not necessarily maintain the territory in the following spring. In the Wash late winter birds were recorded from Gedney Drove End, Frampton Marsh, Holbeach Marsh, Gib Point and the Witham Mouth.



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**



Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* (2nd calendar year) Barton Oct 20th 2012 © Graham Catley (left) and
Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* Far Ings, Barton Dec 27th 2012 © Graham Catley (right)



Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* (female) Alkborough Flats Nov 5th 2012 © Graham Catley (left) and
Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* (female) Alkborough Flats Nov 5th 2012 © Graham Catley (right)



Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* male Worlaby Carrs Oct 8th 2012 © Graham Catley (left) and
Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* female Alkborough Flats Dec 23rd 2012 © Graham Catley (right)

Hen Harriers were recorded from Jan 1st to May 12th and Aug 16th to Dec 31st. It continues to be difficult to assess just how many birds winter in the county each year as reports often do not age or sex birds and records from different locations within limited areas may well refer to the same individuals, though different birds can be involved in multiple sightings from the same site. During Jan-Mar, records from the Wash came from Gib Point, Witham Mouth, Freiston Shore, Frampton Marsh, Holbeach Marsh and Wingland Marsh but there were no reports of more than three birds (an adult male and two ringtails) and no way of working out how many individuals were involved in the sightings. On the coast sightings were concentrated between Grainthorpe Marsh and Theddlethorpe and involved at least one grey male and one ringtail; a male was at Tetney on Feb 29th and a non-aged or sexed bird at Tetney Blow Wells on the 25th. On the Humber three different birds a 3rd calendar year male and two ringtails (one a 2nd calendar year male) were seen at Alkborough Flats between Jan 1st and Mar; probably these same individuals accounted for records of a sub-adult male and ringtail at Broughton Common, Appleby Carrs and Worlabby Carrs during the same period as birds are known to travel long distances from the main Humber roost to hunting areas during the day. In the upper Witham Fens (Dunsby/Nocton) a total of six birds was noted during the same period with three grey males and three ringtails but the maximum roost count on any one night was four birds and oddly there were no records in Feb but birds in Mar from 6th-14th. Records additional to the above came from Deeping High Bank on Jan 3rd, Withern on the 15th, Belchford on the 25th, North Kelsey Carrs on Feb 13th, Northorpe Fen on the 17th, Manby Flashes on the 25th, Messingham SQ on Mar 5th and West Ashby on the 18th. In Apr, males were at Theddlethorpe on the 1st and Gib Point on the 11th with all the other records in Apr and May referring to ringtails/females; in the Wash one or two were at Frampton Marsh from Apr 28th to May 12th, and singles at Freiston Shore on Apr 15th, Gib Point on Apr 11th, Butterwick Marsh on Apr 7th, Wingland Marsh on May 1st and 6th, Alkborough Flats on Apr 18th-25th and May 6th, Whitton on Apr 25th, Horkstow Wold on Apr 17th, Bonby/Appleyby Carrs on Apr 19th and May 3rd-4th, plus inland birds at Aswarby Park on May 2nd, Nocton Fen on Apr 8th and 25th and on the coast at Saltfleet on Mar 31st, Donna Nook/Grainthorpe Marsh on Apr 29th, and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on Apr 1st and May 12th. The first of the autumn were early birds at Gib Point on Aug 16th and 18th and Grainthorpe Marsh on the 19th-26th. From Sep to Dec, at least two different birds (a male and ringtail) were at Gib Point but never on the same day! Elsewhere on the coast, at least three (a male and two ringtails) were recorded between Grainthorpe and Theddlethorpe, with a ringtail at Tetney on Sep 26th and a second calendar year male there on Dec 21st, plus one at Anderby Creek on Oct 29th. In the Ancholme Valley, a male and ringtail were at Worlabby Carrs during Oct 8th-Nov 18th, occasionally roosting there, while a ringtail was at Barton on Sep 22nd and a female on Barton/Horkstow Wolds on Oct 15th. At Alkborough Flats, four different birds, two 2nd calendar year males, an adult female and a ringtail were seen between Nov 2nd and Dec 31st. One was on Crowle Moors on Sep 3rd, one at Eastoft on Nov 13th and a male at Wroot on Dec 25th. In the Wash, at least one male and a ringtail were noted from Gedney Drove End, Freiston Shore, Frampton Marsh, Holbeach Marsh and Wingland Marsh between Sep 1st and Dec 31st. A male was at Nocton Fen on Nov 18th to Dec 15th and other odd inland records came from Grantham (female on Sep 3rd), Baston Fen (male roosting on Sep 15th-19th), Blackmoor Bridge on Oct 8th, Market Deeping on Oct 14th, Withern Washland on Oct 15th, Welton le Wold on Oct 27th, Marston STW on Nov 18th, Anwick Fen on Dec 1st, Willow Tree Fen on 18th and Covenham Res on the 28th.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

Vagrant. BBRC

A 2nd calendar year bird was reported at Gib Point on May 9th (KMW). The record has been accepted by BBRC (Mar 2014) and represents the first county record. Other reports of the species in the county in spring 2012 were mainly unsubstantiated or were considered not proven by BBRC. A bird reported as this species at Barton-Barrow Wolds in June was identified from images as a 2nd calendar year female Montagu's Harrier.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

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

Breeding Montagu's Harriers	Males	Females	Young fledged
2008	2	2	2
2009	2	2	0
2010	4	4	4
2011	1	2	3
2012	1	1	4



Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* (female) North Lincs July 27th 2012 © Graham Catley



Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* (male) North Lincs July 25th 2012 © Graham Catley

As usual most of the sightings of Montagu's Harrier came from the Wash but there was an intriguing series of records from the northern Wolds with a female south-west at Saxby Wold on May 1st, an adult male Barton/Horkstow Wolds on the 28th then a 2nd calendar year female at Barton/Barrow Wolds on Jun 5th-6th. In the Wash, ringtails were reported at Frampton Marsh on May 13th-14th and Jun 18th, at Gib Point-Wainfleet-Friskney there was an adult male on May 15th, then a first summer female on various dates between Jun 1st and Aug 4th with an adult female at Wingland Marsh on Jun 5th and a 2nd calendar year female there on Jul 19th-25th. A female flew north at Huttoft on May 1st, a female was at Short Ferry on May 26th, a male at Manby Airfield on Jul 23rd, a male at Burwell on Jul 30th and one there on Aug 2nd-6th.

A pair bred in the north of the county fledging four young that flew between Jul 25th and 27th; the pair and all four juvenile were still present on Aug 2nd.

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.

Few significant records were received of this common and widespread breeding resident. There was some spring movement, mainly south, at Gib Point, with peak counts of eight on Mar 19th and ten including five south on May 8th. There was also some coastal passage in the autumn, with peak counts of eight at Donna Nook on Oct 20th and also eight at Gib Point on Oct 5th and 29th.

EX31261	First-year Female Freshly dead (hit wires)	19-09-2011	Spurn Head: 53°34'N 0°6'E (Yorkshire)
		24-04-2012	Scawby Brook, Brigg: 53°32'N 0°31'W 41km W 0y 7m 5d

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

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

A breeding census of Laughton Forest located 21 pairs of which at least 10 were proven to have bred in the 18 1km squares that contain at least some of the forest area. This compares with no territories found in the same survey in 2000, demonstrating the rapid increase in this species within the county. In the north Ancholme Valley and adjacent area of the Wolds there were a minimum of 17 successful nests. These figures compare with a total of only six proven breeding records reported from the remainder of Lincolnshire, where birds were reported from a further 76 localities between April and July, and shows the comparative lack of detailed bird recording over vast tracts of the county. The presence of 38 breeding pairs in a limited area of the north of the county suggests that the estimate of 200 pairs for Lincolnshire noted in previous reports is now a serious underestimate of the total population. Further support for accepting that the increase is county wide was provided by soaring surveys in TF02 by Vin Fleming that have shown Common Buzzard territories jumping from 14 in 2003 to at least 45 in 2013.

Observations of ten or more birds during the year included the following: ten at Rothwell on Jan 23rd, ten at Anwick Fen on Feb 4th, ten at Alkborough on Feb 25th, 29 at Laughton Forest on Mar 1st, ten at Belton Park on Mar 3rd and Apr 1st, ten at Broughton Common on Mar 12th, ten at Knaith on Mar 26th, and 14 at Messingham SQ on Mar 26th. Possibly indicative of autumn dispersal were five at Donna Nook and 12 at Gib Point on Sep 3rd, nine at Covenham Res on Sep 26th, seven at Grainthorpe Marsh on Oct 4th, ten at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on Oct 15th, while other high inland counts of note were 11 at Fulletby on Sep 5th, 13 at Worlaby Carrs on Sep 9th and 30 at Laughton Forest on Oct 4th.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

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

In the first winter period a juvenile from 2011 was in the Withern area until Feb 24th (JS *et al*) with one south at Gib Point on Mar 3rd (JS) and another juvenile at Sloothby on Mar 27th (GRu, EJM *et al*), then one south at Gib Point on Apr 12th (JPS *et al*). Later three singles was a poor showing, with one southwest at Gib Point on Nov 17th (GPBO), one at Frampton Marsh on Dec 5th (JRW, EJM) and a juvenile that settled in the Gib Point area from Dec 27th into 2013 (RDn *et al*).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

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

The first spring bird passed through Covenham Res on Mar 27th with nine records following in Apr: at Frampton Marsh on the 14th, Gib Point on the 17th, 21st and 30th, Baumber on the 18th, Gib Point on the 21st, Messingham SQ on the 22nd, Wragby on the 22nd-23rd, Wellingore Low Fields on the 26th and Roxby Carrs on the 30th. Numerous records in May could have related to only six birds, as non-adults spent longer on passage: one at Kirkby-Tattershall Pits on the 2nd was followed by singles at Messingham SQ on the 8th-13th with probably the same at Holme on the 13th, one flew south at Pyewipe and was tracked to North Thoresby on the 9th, then singles at Keadby on the 13th, Revesby Res on the 15th, Kirkby-Tattershall on the 16th, Frampton Marsh on the 17th, Rauceby/Wilsford Warrens on the 18th, Usselby on the 23rd, and Donna Nook/Grainthorpe Marsh and Frampton Marsh on the 27th. Late spring birds appeared at Deeping Lakes on Jun 1st and Metheringham Airfield on the 9th, then an unusual series of Jul records at Messingham SQ-Ashbyville Lake on the 7th-15th and Tunnel Pits, Wroot on the 21st with one at Deeping Lakes again on the 29th and 31st. Juveniles and passage adults can linger for longer periods in autumn, so assessing how many birds are involved is difficult, but there did



Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* Marston STW Mar 15th 2012 © Steve Nesbitt

seem to be a good passage in Aug-Oct concentrated in Sep 7th-Oct 3rd. One was in the Wash on Aug 11th followed by singles at Alkborough Flats and Tortoiseshell Wood on the 19th, and Frampton Marsh on the 21st and 23rd. On Aug 23rd there were also one at Sleaford Ballast Pit and two at Gib Point. Presumably the same bird flew south at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and Trusthorpe on the 28th, then one was at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe again on the 30th. Singles at Donna Nook/Grainthorpe Marsh on Sep 7th-13th and Gib Point-Croft Marsh on Sep 7th-19th could have involved just two birds. In the same period singles were at Frampton Village on Sep 9th-10th, Grantham on the 9th (male Red 8T), Burton le Coggles on the 10th, Messingham SQ on the 16th-18th and 23rd, Witham Mouth on the 16th, Gedney Drove End on the 26th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on the 26th, Kirkby-Tattershall on the 28th, Aby on the 29th, a juvenile at Messingham SQ on the 23rd and probably the same at Black Bank on Sep 30th-Oct 3rd, and further singles at Gib Point on Sep 28th with one south there on Oct 1st, and presumably the same late individual at both Aby and flying south at Gib Point on the late date of Oct 18th.

Male Red 8T is a Scottish bird ringed in 2001 as a chick, which had a satellite transmitter attached in 2009. Full details of his movements can be found on Roy Dennis's blog at www.roydennis.org/animals/raptors/osprey/satellite-tracking/red-8t/.



Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (juvenile) Messingham area Sep 30th 2012 © Graham Catley

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Alan Ball and Bob Sheppard have kindly provided data relating to their Kestrel ringing programme. Compared to 2011, this year was a very different story with the best ever site occupancy, but probably the worst they have fared for 20 years averaging just 2.8 young per brood or, if counting failures, as low as averaging exactly 2.0 young per breeding pair. Six of the 27 failures were known to be at the chick stage. Clearly the wet weather affected Kestrels quite badly as there was plenty of prey around.

Kestrel brood sizes

Number of young	failed	1	2	3	4	5	6	total	Unringed + missed
Number of broods	27	8	16	26	12	4	0	93	13 +7

Additional records of concentrations included eight between Sleaford and Ancaster on Feb 10th, eight at Metheringham Delph on Feb 23rd, double-figure counts in the Grainthorpe Marsh-Donna Nook area during Jul 28th-Sep 2nd including maxima of 17 at Donna Nook on Jul 28th, 21 there on Aug 4th and 24 around Pye's Hall on Aug 26th, and ten at Gib Point on Sep 4th with 13 there on the 19th.

EX37414	First-year	18-08-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E									
	Freshly dead	10-11-2012	Mark Farm, Tillingham: 51°42'N 0°53'E (Essex)	161km	SSE	0y	2m	23d				
EW96994	Nestling Male	17-06-2011	Earsham: 52°26'N 1°23'E (Suffolk)									
	Caught by ringer	29-01-2012	Great Scrubbs Wood: 53°15'N 0°18'W	158km	NW	0y	7m	12d				
EY25096	Nestling	20-06-2012	Timberland Dales: 53°7'N 0°14'W									
	Freshly dead	31-12-2012	Tatenhill, Burton Upon Trent: 52°47'N 1°42'W (Staffordshire)	105km	WSW	0y	6m	11d				



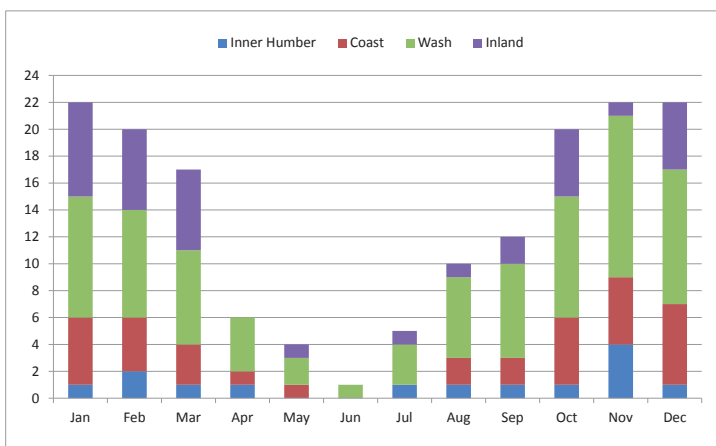
Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* Alkborough Flats Nov 30th 2012 © Graham Catley

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

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

Estimated area totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Inner Humber	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	4	1
Coast	5	4	3	1	1	-	-	2	2	5	5	6
Wash	9	8	7	4	2	1	3	6	7	9	12	10
Inland	7	6	6	-	1	-	1	1	2	5	1	5
Total	21	18	16	5	4	1	4	9	11	19	18	21

There were May records on three dates to the 11th at Gib Point, at Horseshoe Point on the 10th, Freiston Shore on the 13th and Wold Newton on the 21st, followed by one more at Gib Point on Jun 7th and one, perhaps the same, in the Wainfleet sector of the Wash on Jun 24th. In Jul, there was one at Gib Point on the 11th, one at Humby on the 15th, and singles at Frampton Marsh from the 16th and Alkborough Flats from the 19th. Numbers in the Wash may well be under-estimated as a result of patchy coverage. However, inland records now only come from a handful of sites and even the coastal population seems to be in decline. The only records of three or more together were three at Gib Point on Feb 28th, on five Oct dates and Nov 16th, three at Frampton Marsh on Oct 15th and Nov 12th, and four there on Dec 26th-27th, and four were at Grainthorpe Marsh on Dec 16th.



There are few ringing records of Merlin in the county and this is a good example of a first year bird being found on its wintering grounds near Gibraltar Point.

EX15012	Nestling	29-06-2012	near Rueval, Benbecula: 57°27'N 7°19'W (Western Isles)
	Freshly dead		
	(hit glass)	08-11-2012	Field House Farm: 53°10'N 0°18'E 677km SE 0y 4m 10d

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**

In the north of the county seven breeding pairs were located, fledging at least six young. Birds were first noted at breeding sites on May 9th, with the last family party noted on Sep 4th and the last adult at a nest site on Sep 18th. In the remainder of the county possible or probable breeding was noted at three sites but there were no reports of proven breeding, yet there were reports from 54 localities during Jun-Aug. Although some of these would have been non-breeders, several reports from suitable breeding habitat suggest that 50+ pairs were present but even this is considered to be a serious under-estimate of the county total, which has been suggested at 80-100 or more pairs in recent years. Unfortunately the lack of widespread reporting of breeding birds means it is not possible to monitor any annual changes in abundance by this migrant falcon.

A very early bird was reported from North Hykeham Pits on April 2nd, 24 days before the next arrival at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on the 26th, with the only other April record at the Hobhole Bank on the 29th and Covenham Res 30th. In May three were at Boultham Mere 2nd but no other locality held more than two birds. Some coastal passage was evident in September with three at Gib Point on the 2nd and four there on the 5th; there were a number of October records in a very warm autumn with singles at Gib Point on the 1st-5th, Far Ings, Barton on the 3rd, two juvs at Laughton Forest on the 4th, Donna Nook on the 5th and Nocton Fen on the 14th.

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**

The increase in numbers of breeding Peregrines in Lincolnshire continued but it seems inevitable that the species is being overlooked in several parts of the county, where breeding birds are only reported from a few obvious nest sites. A total of 19 pairs was known to held breeding territories, and 19 young fledged from eight successful nests – an average of 2.4 young per nest. Several nests are known to have failed while the outcome of a small number was unknown due to restrictions on access. In the north of the county, the closest nests were 7km, 7.6km, 8km, 8.78km and 8.87km apart, showing the potential density of breeding territories in the county. In fact 11 of the 19 breeding territories were in the north of the county, in under 20% of the county area, again suggesting that the total population is much higher than being reported. Some pairs remain at

or close to nest sites throughout the year, with occasional absences, while others move unknown distances during the winter, but nest sites are typically occupied from February onwards.

Any habitat rich in prey will attract birds in winter, with the Wash, Humber, and any coastal and inland areas with high numbers of Woodpigeons and waders holding birds. Birds were recorded from 35 sites during Jan-Mar and several sites produced records of two birds with three at Frampton Marsh on Jan 6th and 10th. Dispersing juvs are noted away from breeding sites by late July with records peaking in Aug-Sep but no site recorded more than two birds together in this period. Recorded from 40 sites during Oct-Dec but the only reports of three birds were at Frampton Marsh on several dates and in the vicinity of breeding sites.

GC29056	Nestling Female	01-06-2006	Mytholmroyd Crag, near Halifax: 53°43'N 1°59'W (West Yorkshire)			
	Alive (colour marks seen)	22-04-2007	Grantham: 52°55'N 0°39'W 126km SE 0y 10m 21d			
	Caught by ringer	26-05-2010	St Wulfram's Church, Grantham: 52°55'N 0°39'W 126km SE 3y 11m 25d			
	Alive (colour rings seen)	24-05-2012	St Wulfram's Church, Grantham: 52°55'N 0°39'W 126km SE 5y 11m 23d			

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	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	4	3	6	10	2
Far Ings	2	4	4	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	10
Donna Nook	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	2	1
Gibraltar Point	1	2	3	1	2	-	-	-	3	4	6	6
Frampton Marsh	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1
Messingham SQ	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-
Boultham Mere	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Whisby NR	4	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4
Kirkby on Bain Pits	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Baston Fen NR	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	1	2
Marston STW	5	5	3	1	-	-	-	-	3	3	7	11
Number of sites	14	13	15	7	4	2	5	2	6	9	14	18
Minimum Lincs total	24	26	25	7	7	5	6	5	14	23	45	50

Water Rail reports rebounded in 2012 following two hard winters. Donna Nook, Far Ings, Whisby NR and Kirkby on Bain are reported in the table for the first time. The eleven sites listed reported 87% of the total peak counts. Birds were reported from thirty-nine sites, returning to 2010 levels after a drop to twenty-nine in 2011. January's 24 birds from fourteen sites was well up on the previous years eight birds from two sites. The lift in wintering numbers was also reflected in an increase in breeding records. The only reports of confirmed breeding were a brood of four at Gibraltar Point on May 27th and a brood of five at Killingholme Haven Pits NR on Jul 16th. There were a further twelve possible pairs at eleven other sites where birds were present during April to July, compared to three sites in 2011. Reports at the end of the year in Dec of up to fifty birds at eighteen different sites suggest 2012 was the best year for this species for at least five years. There have been ten previous Dutch-ringed Water Rails found in the UK but 1457323 is the first to be found alive.

NLA 1457323	First-year Female	03-10-2007	Wassenaar: 52°8'N 4°19'E (Zuid-Holland) The Netherlands			
	Caught by ringer	23-09-2008	Willingham Forest: 53°24'N 0°19'W 342km WNW 0y 11m 20d			

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

Rare passage migrant. **LBRC RBBP**

A single singing bird was sound recorded at Baston Fen NR from Apr 23rd until May 21st (VF *et al*). During the autumn one was at Alkborough Flats on Oct 16th (ND, R Rowland).

Corn Crake *Crex crex*

Rare migrant. **LBRC RBBP**

Single birds were heard at Gib Point on May 30th (TB), calling from Jackson's Marsh, and at Baston Fen on Jun 11th (IPM, NHD).

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>Humber & Wash</i>												
Alkborough Flats	15	-	13	-	-	-	5	8	12	20	18	18
Barton Pits	27	14	62	18	6	4	3	4	5	13	6	5
Gibraltar Point	18	16	14	11	7	10	11	19	21	18	13	17
Frampton Marsh	5	5	10	5	6	3	2	10	8	6	-	17
<i>Inland</i>												
Boultham Park Lake	15	11	8	7	1	1	1	7	8	8	11	-
Whisby NR	19	34	13	10	10	6	21	11	27	33	25	18
Fiskerton-Kirkstead Br*	58	60	33	13	0	2	0	1	0	4	10	5
Kirkby-on-Bain Pits	3	8	-	5	5	5	7	13	20	18	14	10
Tattershall Lakes CP	43	34	27	25	16	15	21	40	34	44	42	29
Hagnaby Lock Fen	9	3	4	4	1	4	6	15	11	3	7	2
Anwick Fen	26	19	2	19	6	3	11	6	9	9	6	6
Haverholme Park	15	8	17	9	6	15	13	18	16	11	13	7
Spalding-Deeping*	62	50	31	9	5	4	2	6	8	5	29	21
Holywell Lake	28	7	12	-	-	-	-	-	7	19	28	5

A widespread and common breeding bird which is greatly under-recorded. The Spalding-Deeping area totals are the combined WeBS counts for the Rivers Welland and Glen, and the Coronation Channel, while those between Fiskerton and Chapel Hill involve two separate lengths of the R Witham. In addition to the tabulated sites, the following locations held more than 20 in at least one month: Bardney Lock, Boultham Mere, Carlton and Manby Washlands, Marston STW, and Tetney Marsh.

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
Barton Pits	715	483	345	192	75	50	32	72	69	104	113	120
Messingham SQ	154	34	51	34	19	33	11	28	44	87	38	36
Cadney Res	6	8	3	3	-	2	42	111	62	30	55	15
Covenham Reservoir	39	45	25	21	4	4	12	37	207	241	160	220
Toft Newton Reservoir	62	88	79	25	3	14	7	-	19	57	43	71
Boultham Mere	28	-	23	17	22	54	71	74	78	97	70	1
Swanholme Lakes	82	-	53	4	-	3	8	-	-	50	20	89
North Hykeham Pits	375	122	134	65	18	37	29	91	307	154	351	615
Whisby NR	219	241	150	99	52	90	154	126	205	223	256	218
Norton Gravel Pits	42	25	7	25	6	6	34	91	108	68	-	274
Kirkby-on-Bain Pits	129	119	61	48	27	42	74	69	66	71	86	65
Tattershall Lakes CP	348	348	149	64	53	58	69	148	154	231	301	359
Spalding-Deeping*	201	281	156	74	48	44	12	12	93	95	49	29
Deeping Lakes NR	50	34	20	11	2	16	112	111	214	140	130	20

Most high numbers derive from WeBS counts, underlining the importance of this long-running survey. The Spalding-Deeping area totals are the combined WeBS counts for the Rivers Welland and Glen, and the Coronation Channel. Similarly, the Barton Pits totals come from the whole of the area from Barton Cliff to Barrow Haven. The highest single count was 615 at North Hykeham Pits on Dec 15th, almost exactly the same as the 616 counted in Dec 2011. However, the WeBS total of 715 at Barton Pits on Jan 15th was higher. Counts of 100 or more not in the table were 110 in pits east of Barrow Haven in Feb and 150 at Denton Res in Nov.

Common Crane *Grus grus*

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

The first birds of the year were eight which flew NNW over Bourne on Feb 17th (AGB), being recorded later that day over Langford Lowfields RSPB (Notts). In Mar, two adults were in fields

near Wroot (WG) on the 10th, one was at Grainthorpe Marsh (CSm) on 23rd and presumably the same bird was at Gib Point on the 24th (Mick Hutton). On Apr 12th, three flew SW over Cleethorpes (TWh), Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR (JRW), Mablethorpe and Gib Point (JPS *et al*) heading to Norfolk and being recorded at Holme NNR. Two flew NW over Halton Holgate Apr 16th (EJM) and one was recorded inland flying N at Kirkby Moor NR on Apr 27th (JWa). In May at Gib Point, two birds flew E towards Norfolk on the 15th (NAL, D Miller *et al*) and one flew E on the 27th (TB). There was just a single autumn record of two at Tunnel Pits, Wroot, on Oct 30th (HMBSG).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	4589	2589	2038	1081	399	120	418	1314	1217	1391	2562	3334
Read's Island*	-	-	62	38	18	-	3	12	-	-	-	-
Cleethorpes-Horseshoe Pt	1700	700	310	4	3	93	-	295	1850	-	-	1000
Horseshoe Pt-Grainthorpe	1150	890	1010	660	229	218	194	800	85	849	1100	1450
Donna Nook area	1470	547	248	156	4	92	220	720	153	580	1149	470
Saltfleet*	195	285	181	171	77	75	140	660	600	63	250	145
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	13250	5429	12010	7177	3839	1482	2970	13321	13298	8073	8169	15082
Gibraltar Point	440	860	1900	687	825	70	385	4000	3850	5000	1302	5500
Wainfleet*	535	1200	1500	1512	994	128	282	4140	-	-	-	-
Wrangle*	810	2020	2010	430	100	-	40	4000	4564	-	1200	2820
Leverton*	1336	37	970	541	845	773	63	-	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	3701	800	2056	965	1115	1100	1201	4000	2500	8	831	1650
Witham Mouth*	-	108	40	65	10	16	15	100	160	350	1045	10
Frampton Marsh	756	680	2112	142	288	53	84	11	780	2804	18	700
Welland*	904	-	666	308	22	-	188	5	600	-	500	852
Dawsmere*	4000	-	400	2000	16	30	300	1000	250	700	1100	3500
Terrington*	400	-	965	457	380	-	541	586	2100	3500	1101	-
<i>Inland</i>												
Messingham SQ	-	-	6	-	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
North Hykeham Pits	-	-	2	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
Whisby NR	-	5	7	8	5	5	4	3	-	-	-	-
Blackmoor Bridge	-	-	4	5	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norton Gravel Pits	-	3	-	2	6	1	2	-	-	5	-	-
Fiskerton Fen Scrapes	-	-	2	-	-	3	2	1	1	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain	-	2	7	3	6	5	4	2	-	-	-	1
Marston STW	-	2	2	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-

Numbers of Oystercatcher over-wintering on The Wash have been stable in the medium-term having previously declined from the late 1980s onward. One significant count not tabulated was 1775 at Gedney Drove End on Aug 31st. In spring northern passage was recorded at Gib Point with good number including 150 northeast on Apr 23rd, 600 on May 6th and 825 on May 16th. Breeding attempts were reported at 16 sites with confirmed breeding at Barton Pits, Boston Cemetery, Kirkby on Bain, Market Rasen, Norton Disney Quarry, Tetney Marsh and Whisby NR. Inland at Whisby NR the first bird was at Teal Lake on 15th Feb, whilst up to five birds had returned to the general area by the end of the month. A peak of eight was recorded on 13th Apr as pairs prospected for suitable nesting areas, but in the end only two settled with one pair on Thorpe Lake and the other on the north shore of Teal Lake. The Thorpe Lake birds were unsuccessful, whilst the Teal Lake pair successfully fledged two chicks. Southern passage was recorded at Gib Point from mid-Jul with 256 on Jul 26th, 170 on Jul 27th and 135 on Jul 31st.

In the ringing data, the fate of FV04446 is intriguing, having survived for 36 years, finally to be eaten in Norway.

FA11579	Adult Unknown (ring only)	14-08-1987 16-05-2012	Friskney New Marsh: 53°3'N 0°13'E Landshipping, Narberth: 51°46'N 4°53'W (Dyfed) 374km WSW 24y 9m 2d
FV04446	Second-year Caught by ringer Long dead (bird of prey)	12-08-1975 14-12-1996 08-08-2012	Friskney New Marsh: c. 53°4'N 0°13'E Butterwick: c. 52°58'N 0°5'E 15km SW 21y 4m 2d Site Confidential, near Hjelmte, Oygarden: c. 60°40'N 4°50'E (Hordaland) Norway 890km NNE 36y 11m 27d
FA33448	Second-year Alive (ring read in field) Alive (ring read in field) Alive (ring read in field) Alive (ring read in field) Alive (ring read in field) Alive (ring read in field) Alive (ring read in field) Alive (ring read in field) Alive (ring read in field)	30-07-1992 18-07-1996 17-04-1999 29-03-2004 13-07-2004 31-03-2006 14-03-2008 09-04-2010 10-03-2012	Wrangle Tofts: c. 53°2'N 0°10'E Haren, Hoornseplas: 53°10'N 6°36'E (Groningen) The Netherlands 430km E 3y 11m 18d Eelderwolde, Hoornseplas: 53°8'N 6°33'E (Drente) The Netherlands 427km E 6y 8m 18d Hoornseplas, Haren: 53°11'N 6°33'E (Groningen) The Netherlands 427km E 11y 7m 28d Hoornseplas, Haren: 53°11'N 6°33'E (Groningen) The Netherlands 427km E 11y 11m 13d Kaa Horn, Haren: 53°11'N 6°33'E (Groningen) The Netherlands 427km E 13y 8m 1d Hoornseplas, Haren: 53°11'N 6°33'E (Groningen) The Netherlands 427km E 15y 7m 13d Eelderwolde, Tynaarlo: 53°10'N 6°33'E (Groningen) The Netherlands 427km E 17y 8m 10d Haren: 53°10'N 6°33'E (Groningen) The Netherlands 427km E 19y 7m 9d
FA37535	Second-year Freshly dead (hit wires)	31-07-1992 15-03-2012	Holbeach St Matthew: c. 52°52'N 0°6'E Oudehaske: 52°57'N 5°52'E (Friesland) The Netherlands 387km E 19y 7m 13d
FA11579	Adult Unknown (ring only)	14-08-1987 16-05-2012	Friskney New Marsh: 53°3'N 0°13'E Landshipping, Narberth: 51°46'N 4°53'W (Dyfed) 374km WSW 24y 9m 2d
FP42629	Second-year Caught by ringer	16-12-2001 16-09-2012	Penmon, Beaumaris: 53°18'N 4°3'W (Anglesey) Wainfleet Marsh: 53°5'N 0°18'E 291km E 10y 9m 0d
FA62463	Adult Male Alive (ring read in field) Alive (ring read in field) Alive (ring read in field)	21-07-1997 03-05-2008 12-04-2009 20-05-2012	Holbeach St Matthew: c. 52°52'N 0°6'E Orfordness: c. 52°5'N 1°34'E (Suffolk) 133km SE 10y 9m 12d Orfordness: c. 52°5'N 1°34'E (Suffolk) 133km SE 11y 8m 22d Orfordness: c. 52°5'N 1°34'E (Suffolk) 133km SE 14y 9m 29d
FP08006	Adult Alive (ring read in field)	31-08-1999 24-06-2012	Holbeach St Matthew: c. 52°52'N 0°6'E Breydon Water: 52°37'N 1°42'E (Norfolk) 112km ESE 12y 9m 24d
FP32339	Adult Freshly dead (hit by car)	04-09-2004 01-07-2012	Wainfleet Marsh: 53°5'N 0°18'E Norduri A Krossi, Svínair, Eysturoy: 62°14'N 7°2'W Faeroes 1,105km NNW 7y 9m 27d
FA46820	Second-year Freshly dead (cold weather)	23-07-1994 20-02-2012	Butterwick: c. 52°58'N 0°5'E Spiekeroog: c. 53°46'N 7°44'E (Ostfriesische Inseln) Germany 515km E 17y 6m 28d

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Vagrant. BBRC

An adult female was at Willow Tree Fen from April 14th-17th and then relocated to Frampton Marsh from Apr 19th until May 18th (B Wilcox *et al*). Another bird was seen flying south at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Oct 13th (A Ashley, A & R Lowe *et al*). Both records accepted by BBRC (British Birds vol.106 p. 589).



Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Frampton Marsh Apr 22nd 2012 © Russell Hayes

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**

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Humber</i>												
Alkborough Flats	-	-	125	230	97	522	893	700	980	655	109	3
Read's Island	27	392	908	350	212	3	150	569	398	596	-	-
Far Ings	-	-	33	86	80	16	-	3	1	-	-	-
Killingholme Haven Pits	-	-	11	16	-	-	8	-	-	30	-	1
<i>Wash</i>												
Gibraltar Point	1	8	64	48	43	65	68	34	37	24	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	19	30	40	52	50	4	-	1	-	-
Frampton Marsh	1	3	30	66	60	97	71	20	2	-	-	-
<i>Inland</i>												
Messingham SQ	-	-	10	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kirton in Lindsey	-	-	19	8	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain Pits	-	-	6	9	13	8	4	-	-	1	1	-

The table includes all estuary sites holding 20 or more, and inland sites holding ten or more. There were several Jan records this year, including 27 at Read's Island on the 15th, whereas there had been none in the previous four Januaries. Numbers at Read's Island built up rapidly as winter drew to a close, with 392 on Feb 24th, 725 on Mar 3rd and 908 on Mar 10th. Birds became more widespread throughout the county's breeding sites by this time and peak numbers were reached at most sites by the end of March. Numbers of pairs were back up to the highs of 2010 with 392 pairs reported from 14 different breeding sites. The key site was Read's Island where there were 220 pairs, but these sadly raised no young at all. It was reported that water levels were excellent for early spring (despite the drought). However, from early April the weather deteriorated to one of the wettest and coldest springs on record, and although the avocets did hatch some young they seemed to struggle. Probably, predation from the aggressive Lesser Black-backed Gulls took a heavy toll. At Frampton Marsh RSPB, production from 61 pairs was thought to be quite good but no count was made. At Barton Pits, 31 pairs raised no young while at Freiston Shore RSPB, the productivity of 22 pairs was poor. Six young were raised from 21 pairs at Gibraltar Point but at Alkborough Flats and Kirton in Lindsey, 12 and 8 pairs respectively raised no young. At Kirkby on Bain/

Tattershall Thorpe Pits four pairs raised two young. At Middlemarsh Farm, near Skegness, three pairs raised four young, while birds at other minor sites raised no young including Messingham SQ (three pairs), Blackmoor Bridge (three pairs) and Lymn Bank (one pair). Four sites which had held breeding birds in 2011 had none in 2012. Alkborough Flats has become an increasingly important post breeding dispersal site for Avocet and reports of colour-ringed birds listed in the table below show that individuals from further north on the east coast are using Alkborough as a staging post for their migration south year after year. The observation of two birds on Oct 14th, both ringed as nestlings near Hartlepool two years earlier, is a good example. What make this observation especially interesting is that the two birds had consecutive ring numbers suggesting they came from the same nest. Numbers fell off dramatically through November and in December there were only three reports including three at Alkborough Flats on Dec 5th and one there on Dec 13th, with the last one reported at Killingholme Haven Pits NR on Dec 17th. Recovery data include further examples of how colour ringing has increased our knowledge of bird movement. Note EG25238 and E25239, ringed in Cleveland on the same day in 2010 and seen together some two years later at Alkborough Flats.



Avocets *Recurvirostra avocetta* Killingholme Oct 12th 2012 © Graham Catley

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 234km NW 0y 3m 8d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	18-07-2012	Alkborough Flats: 53°41'N 0°42'W 234km NW 1y 1m 26d
EY04570	Nestling	25-05-2012	Greenabella Marsh, Graythorp, Hartlepool: c. 54°37'N 1°13'W (Cleveland)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	18-07-2012	Alkborough Flats: c. 53°41'N 0°42'W 110km SSE 0y 1m 23d
EG25238	Nestling	31-05-2010	Greenabella Marsh, Graythorp, Hartlepool: c. 54°37'N 1°13'W (Cleveland)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	14-09-2012	Alkborough Flats: c. 53°41'N 0°42'W 110km SSE 2y 3m 14d
EG25239	Nestling	31-05-2010	Greenabella Marsh, Graythorp, Hartlepool: c. 54°37'N 1°13'W (Cleveland)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	14-09-2012	Alkborough Flats: c. 53°41'N 0°42'W 110km SSE 2y 3m 14d

EG25230	Nestling	17-05-2010	Seal Sands, Teesmouth: 54°37'N 1°12'W (Cleveland)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	19-08-2010	Alkborough Flats: c. 53°41'N 0°42'W 109km SSE 0y 3m 2d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	14-10-2010	Samouco Salt Pan, Alcochete: 38°44'N 9°0'W (Estremadura) Portugal 1,861km SSW 0y 4m 27d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	10-09-2012	Alkborough Flats: c. 53°41'N 0°42'W 109km SSE 2y 3m 24d

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedichenus*

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

One was flushed and flew north at Gib Point on May 21st (KMW).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant since 1950. **RBBP**

Peak monthly counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Alkborough Flats	2	3	9	-	11	8	-	-
Blackmoor Bridge	1	7	-	2	-	-	1	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Frampton Marsh	-	9	12	4	6	14	3	-
Gibraltar Point	-	4	4	4	4	5	2	-
Kirkby on Bain Pits	2	4	4	3	5	4	-	-
Marston STW	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of sites	4	9	10	5	5	5	4	-
Minimum Lincs total	6	36	39	15	27	35	7	-

The first birds in, were singles at Blackmoor Bridge on Mar 20th and Fiskerton Fen Scrapes on Mar 23rd. There were two at Alkborough Flats on Mar 26th and Kirkby on Bain on Mar 31st. The spring arrival was muted and delayed with the April 2012 total of nine sites and 36 birds contrasting with twenty five sites and 79 birds in 2011. Overall, birds were reported from nineteen sites, down from thirty-five in 2011, which was a good year (and may have been helped by atlas fieldwork). The table includes 87% of reported birds. Fifteen pairs attempted to nest at eight sites with confirmed breeding reported at three: Gibraltar Point, Kirkby on Bain Pits and Middlemarsh. Autumn passage was also down on 2011 with the peak being 14 birds at Frampton Marsh on Aug 23rd. Passage also finished earlier, the latest reports were of two at Gibraltar Point on Sep 13th and one at Freiston Shore on Sep 16th, seventeen days earlier than the last in 2011.

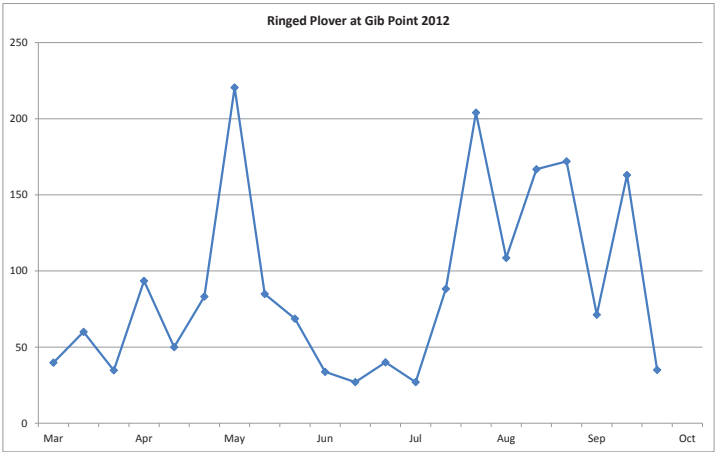
Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	59	32	62	64	330	21	192	523	235	170	71	35
Alkborough Flats	-	-	1	-	30	2	-	80	1	8	-	-
Read's Island	13	11	8	-	55	-	-	55	6	34	-	24
Cleethorpes-Grainthorpe	14	30	26	8	410	6	-	1000	600	43	29	35
Donna Nook-Somercotes	-	-	6	2	81	50	2	7	17	6	-	-
Salfleet-Mablethorpe	12	-	25	40	162	15	192	430	223	180	41	-
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	35	2	33	33	716	12	39	184	388	206	9	31
Gibraltar Point	20	23	60	128	361	88	121	250	400	35	2	3
Freiston Shore	20	23	15	3	5	-	-	70	25	30	-	-
Frampton Marsh	16	12	7	12	150	3	30	376	200	180	55	18

Spring passage was recorded between May and mid-Jun with highest counts including 159 at Gib Point on May 4th, c350 at Wainfleet on May 6th, 410 at Grainthorpe Marsh on May 13th, 276 at Pyewee, Grimsby on May 13th and 361 at Gib Point on May 16th. The chart below shows ten-day averages at Gib Point, with peak spring passage occurring in mid-May and a prolonged autumn passage between late-Jul and the end of Sep. The highest autumn counts were during Aug

19th-Sep 3rd, and were especially noteworthy at Cleethorpes and Humberston, where the peak was c1000 on Aug 22nd.



At least five-six pairs were recorded displaying at Gib Point on Apr 19th, with the first nest recorded on May 6th and ten chicks from at least four broods recorded on Jul 12th. Single pairs were confirmed breeding at Frampton Marsh and Cleethorpes. Near Wisby NR, a nesting pair were present at the Europa Oil compound on Jul 6th, although a week later no birds could be found and it's thought likely the nest had been predated.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare/scarce passage migrant, mainly spring.

This was one of the poorest years ever for this species, with only one record of two birds at Alderfen near Wroot on May 27th (KSp, SSp). There was one other unsubstantiated record of what seems to be an increasingly rare bird in the county.

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	1704	621	470	447	137	-	164	73	341	7862	5803	4793
Alkborough Flats	6000	3415	1200	-	-	-	53	120	200	6000	12000	6000
Read's Island	1200	600	-	-	-	-	130	-	-	10000	2500	320
Donna Nook	350	130	70	17	1	2	400	155	450	1600	2500	1350
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	5458	268	1293	1002	-	1	8280	13442	1389	7366	12095	6672
Gibraltar Point	12000	145	200	100	1	1	14	281	2000	5000	5000	16000
Wainfleet*	1445	5	-	686	-	-	545	423	-	-	-	-
Wrangle*	377	113	990	265	-	-	7473	13000	-	-	940	271
Freiston Shore	3500	70	-	36	-	1	7	3	-	6	600	7000
Frampton	4500	3000	1500	70	1	2	2	1000	20	1000	8000	8000
Welland*	70	0	0	0	0	0	48	0	0	6200	3515	3000
<i>Inland</i>												
Anwick Fen	15	-	180	-	-	-	-	-	275	1836	25	255
Nocton Fen	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1800	1000	100

Elsewhere counts of over 1000 in the first winter period included 1000 at Tetney on Jan 7th, c2000 at Hall's Hill, Grantham on Jan 9th, 1500 at the Nene Mouth on Jan 25th and 1000 at Pyewipe, Grimsby on Jan 31st with numbers generally dropping away at the end of Jan. Alkborough Flats,



European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* Alkborough Flats Dec 9th 2012 © Graham Catley



European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* Alkborough Flats Dec 23rd 2012 © Graham Catley

Gib Point and Frampton Marsh hold the bulk of the wintering Lincolnshire population with peak counts in the first winter period of c12000 at Gib Point on Jan 1st, c6000 at Alkborough Flats on Jan 3rd and c4500 at Frampton Jan 13th. Bird were scarce in May with singles at Frampton on the 10th, three at Saltfleet Haven on 19th-20th, Gib Point on the 22nd and 25th. In June a single was at Gib Point on the 7th-8th, two birds were at Frampton on the 16th and 21st, one at Freiston on the 24th and two at Donna Nook on the 29th, and there were two at Huttoft on Jul 1st. The first returning birds occurred in Jul, including seven at Frampton Marsh on the 3rd, 280 at Goxhill Marsh on the 14th and 400 at Donna Nook on the 21st, and there were outstanding numbers in the Wrangle sector of the Wash with 7473 on Jul 23rd increasing to 13000 on Aug 22nd. Counts of over 1000 birds not in the table for the second winter period were c4000 at Gedney Drove End on Sep 26th with c10000 there on Dec 25th, c2000 at Potterhanworth Fen on Nov 10th and c1200 there on Nov 19th, and 3000 at Far Ings on Nov 15th.

NLA 1563011	Second-year	08-08-2012	near Grijpskerk: 53°14'N 6°17'E (Groningen) The Netherlands
	Freshly dead	19-08-2012	Seacroft, Skegness: 53°7'N 0°19'E 397km W 0y 0m 11d

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Common passage migrant and common winter visitor. Rare inland.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	1783	169	1721	115	40	-	6	26	9	64	130	485
Alkborough Flats	2	-	1	2	-	1	-	1	12	16	1	3
Read's Island	-	-	21	-	11	-	-	-	-	30	9	-
Pyewipe	-	-	-	162	520	-	-	-	-	170	-	-
Humberston-Grainthorpe	1600	1	1600	1000	700	-	-	1000	1000	-	-	360
Grainthorpe-Donna Nook	52	55	6	150	25	1	5	21	1	1	67	12
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	127	112	99	10	1	-	-	22	9	34	48	65
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	2642	1568	2708	2917	5448	53	187	3190	3244	2180	3879	864
Gibraltar Point	700	450	2170	3270	870	95	100	2000	2820	3460	1980	400
Wainfleet*	512	304	310	198	1409	3	-	546	-	-	-	-
Wrangle*	330	750	200	310	1510	-	51	789	604	-	100	344
Leverton*	207	218	59	466	570	3	-	135	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	300	2	-	1	300	15	-	15	97	60	-	-
Witham*	33	13	10	3	-	-	-	100	30	-	350	-
Frampton Marsh	13	100	226	370	251	1	2	480	15	113	48	20
Welland*	300	-	70	120	798	-	85	600	300	418	95	-
Gedney*	1092	-	1216	730	-	-	48	252	250	882	1800	182
Terrington*	25	-	117	468	320	-	1	162	256	736	73	-

Numbers in the area between Humberston and Horseshoe Point were unusually high. In addition to those in the table, smaller numbers were recorded elsewhere on the coast and Wash, including 93 at Butterwick on Feb 13th. Inland birds were scarce with singles at Deeping Lakes from Feb 2nd-10th and at Messingham SQ on May 26th. Visible migration was recorded at Gib Point with southern movement recorded from early Jul to mid-Aug.

DD15110	Adult	28-08-2007	Leverton Outgate: 52°59'N 0°8'E
	Freshly dead (trapped)	28-12-2012	Salinas de Alhos Vedros, Setubal: 38°39'N 9°1'W (Estremadura) Portugal 1,741km SSW 5y 4m 0d

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
Alkborough Flats	5711	1720	51	24	10	75	647	300	312	1221	3000	2000
Read's Island	600	500	22	8	6	-	-	-	-	600	900	430
Far Ings	304	150	10	4	4	8	28	100	265	130	170	120

<i>The Wash</i>												
Gibraltar Point	3013	493	100	30	20	19	145	300	86	300	1020	5000
Wainfleet*												
Wrangle*												
Freiston Shore	665	306	10	13	38	7	156	3	9	2	365	1500
Frampton	3000	1200	600	26	30	45	150	50	100	230	2586	2300
Welland*												

Inland

Messingham SQ	40	240	47	9	21	20	3	48	66	0	49	3
Boultham Mere	300	70	11	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whisby NR	180	60	46	10	12	2	20	79	32	35	1	1
Blackmoor Bridge	-	48	148	32	18	30	-	300	-	27	-	-
Nocton Fen	200	49	44	20	38	-	2	-	1	320	1500	800
Fiskerton Fen Scrapes	-	-	40	44	7	17	50	30	12	40	-	-
Anwick Fen	85	52	27	6	5	-	4	8	120	1000	339	487
Kirkby on Bain	150	300	20	3	6	1	50	650	440	150	24	40
Deeping High Bank	250	8	34	1	4	2	141	130	40	267	12	137
Marston STW	240	32	80	5	7	4	91	120	65	70	150	-

Records over 500 not tabulated include 540 at Chowder Ness on Jan 5th, c2300 at Tetney Marsh on Jan 11th, c600 at Goxhill on Jan 15th, c600 at Baston Fen on Feb 13th, 975 at Anwick on Oct 20th, c1500 at Nocton Fen on Nov 22nd, 1000 at Horseshoe Point on Nov 29th, 1500 at the Nene Mouth on Dec 21st, 1020 at Grainthorpe Marsh on Dec 23rd, 2500 at Gedney Drove End on Dec 25th and 760 at Wainfleet Marsh on Dec 31st. Breeding records included 20 displaying birds at Alkborough Flats on Mar 2nd, four pairs at Croftmarsh, four pairs at Nocton Fen, two successful broods at Whisby NR, 15 juveniles at Blackmoor Bridge, and two pairs at Baston Fen NR, and breeding was also reported at Anwick Fen, Bagmoor/Winterton Floods, Dorrington Fen, Dunsby Fen, Fiskerton Fen Scrapes, Frampton Marsh, Freiston Shore, Gib Point, Hagnaby Lock/Fen, Haverholme Park, Holbeach St Johns, Kirton in Lindsey, Miningsby, Morton (Gainsborough), Tattershall Lakes CP, Thorpe on the Hill, Washingborough Fen and Wildmore Fen. Autumn movements at Gib Point began in mid Aug with first significant counts starting from Sep including 24 south on the 26th, 40 south on Oct 29th, 90 south on Nov 8th and 160 south on Nov 22nd.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare inland.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	4542	6846	3618	2010	23	-	98	121	20	809	5088	8088
Humberston-Grainthorpe	4240	3565	2900	1400	23	-	-	-	-	720	2230	5810
Donna Nook-Somercotes	255	2120	540	365	-	-	-	13	-	69	2530	1508
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	47	1161	178	245	-	-	98	108	20	17	320	769

The Wash

WeBS totals	36594	9252	33876	31520	21448	1500	14294	61735	123339	12725	34370	47100
Gibraltar Point	3000	3500	18200	24700	14000	1200	7000	79500	115000	115000	20000	20000
Wainfleet*	2025	1760	5750	8200	10500	-	7610	21625	-	-	-	-
Wrangle*	-	220	300	1140	285	-	-	6320	5000	-	340	400
Leverton*	2050	3300	331	4280	1100	-	6125	1260	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	1000	500	375	-	40	3	300	2000	1000	2000	14000	6000
Frampton Marsh	7000	2800	-	1600	32	1500	4000	1100	2000	1100	300	-
Welland*	7000	-	7000	-	1630	-	-	600	155	8000	4500	20400
Dawsmere*	10000	-	2000	-	1000	-	-	-	1200	1500	5500	7000
Gedney*	2000	-	5000	-	-	-	-	-	1000	-	4000	2500

There were no counts exceeding 80 during Jun 26th-Jul 19th. The Wash supports over-wintering levels of international importance for this species. Largest counts are recorded on spring tides (which do not always coinciding with WeBS count dates), hence tabulated counts for Gib Point sometimes exceed the WeBS counts. The Gib Point count of c115000 record on Sep 17th and again in mid-October represents about one third of the UK wintering population. An inland bird was at Toft Newton Reservoir on Feb 1st (DE).

XS92057, XS92149 and XS92876 were ringed together on the same day on the Wash and re-trapped together some eight years later.

XS92057	Adult Caught by ringer	31-07-1988 02-09-1996	Wainfleet Marsh: 53°4'N 0°15'E Admiralty Point, Terrington: c. 52°48'N 0°20'E (Norfolk)	31km S 8y 1m 2d
XS92149	Adult Caught by ringer	31-07-1988 02-09-1996	Wainfleet Marsh: 53°4'N 0°15'E Admiralty Point, Terrington: c. 52°48'N 0°20'E (Norfolk)	31km S 8y 1m 2d
XS92876	Adult Caught by ringer	31-07-1988 02-09-1996	Wainfleet Marsh: 53°4'N 0°15'E Admiralty Point, Terrington: c. 52°48'N 0°20'E (Norfolk)	31km S 8y 1m 2d
SV90041	Adult Caught by ringer	29-08-2011 21-08-2012	Wainfleet Marsh: 53°5'N 0°18'E de Richel: 53°17'N 5°8'E (Vlieland) The Netherlands	323km E 0y 11m 23d



Red Knot *Calidris canutus* Pye's Hall
Feb 19th 2012 © Mark Johnson



Sanderling *Calidris alba* Donna Nook
Oct 6th 2012 © Mark Johnson

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
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	234	184	114	81	45	2	267	118	43	68	273	360
Donna Nook	70	75	102	44	14	38	55	33	15	69	100	143
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	18	7	-	11	-	2	38	18	11	-	36	30
Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe	87	73	66	38	4	-	74	85	24	33	33	78
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	110	9	-	450	246	16	916	684	1047	-	80	28
Gibraltar Point	120	113	150	515	1100	1700	4060	6830	2210	2200	980	200

Significant counts not tabulated in the first half of the year included 59 between Horseshoe Point and Tetney on Jan 13th, 60 at Sandilands on Feb 4th, 18 at Sutton on Sea on Feb 12th, 60 at Wainfleet on Jan 15th with 300 there on Apr 8th and 240 on May 6th, 150 at Humberston Fitties on Apr 9th with 100 on May 6th and 30 at Grainthorpe Haven on May 13th. In the Humber there was one at Goxhill on Mar 19th, one at Barton Pits on Apr 25th and two at Alkborough Flats on May 21st while Wash records were 1-2 birds at Frampton Marsh on nine dates from Jan 31st through to Jun 17th, four at Wrangle on Feb 13th and one at Freiston Shore on June 9th. Spring passage at Gib Point was marked between May 24th and Jun 10th, with peaks of 1630 on Jun 1st and 1700 on Jun 6th-7th. Return passage was most pronounced from mid Jul until mid Oct. The first count of 1000 at Gib Point was on Jul 19th, followed by peaks of 4060 on Jul 23rd, 6830 on Aug 3rd and 5370 on Aug 5th. Subsequently counts of up to 2210 were made until Oct 18th after which no total exceeded 1000. The peaks are far higher than the WeBS counts; this is typical of Sanderling passage which often has very short-term peaks. The count of 6830 is outstanding; it is probably the highest count made in Lincs and there has never been a WeBS total for the whole Wash of that size. The threshold for international importance is 1200, implying that over 5% of

the East Atlantic flyway population were at Gib Point that day. No comparable numbers were recorded at other sites but nonetheless there were good counts of 80 at Chapel Point on Aug 5th, peaks at Huttoft Car Terrace of 56 on Aug 26th and 145 on Sep 26th, 54 at North Cotes on Aug 18th, 120 at Grainthorpe Haven on Dec 12th, 65 at Mablethorpe on Oct 27th, 30 at Trusthorpe on Oct 28th and 23 at Anderby on Nov 18th. Inland birds were all at Covenham Reservoir: one on Nov 10th-11th, with three on the 12th, four on the 16th and one from Nov 19th to Dec 28th. Humber birds were singles at Alkborough Flats on Jul 25th and Read's Island Flats on Aug 5th, then five at Alkborough Flats on Aug 18th and four there on Sep 8th, and five at Killingholme Haven Pits on Oct 24th. Fifty were counted in the Wash on Sep 29th and there were WeBS counts at Wrangle of 20 on Sep 13th and 80 on Nov 19th and at Friskney of 20 on Dec 16th. Two were at Witham Mouth on Aug 24th, one at Freiston Shore on Aug 30th and occasionally one-two at Frampton Marsh from Aug 31st to Nov 4th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

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

A wintering bird was present at Alkborough Flats on Feb 1st-2nd. The first spring birds were two at Frampton Marsh on Apr 30th. Birds were present there through most of May, all sightings until the 11th being of one but six were present on the 12th and four through to the 18th. Usually one-two were present for the rest of May but there were three-four on the 21st-22nd. In Jun there were records of one-three on eight dates to the 21st. Elsewhere in spring, one was at Donna Nook on May 6th, one at Gib Point on May 18th-20th, and one at Covenham Res on May 27th, followed by two at Gib Point on Jun 3rd with one there on the 4th. Autumn passage began with one at Frampton Marsh on Jul 21st, and at this site there was presence with some small gaps through to early Nov. Mostly numbers were around one-three, but occasionally four-five and with six on Aug 18th, seven on the 19th and six again on Oct 11th. At nearby Freiston Shore, after two on Aug 19th, none occurred until one-four during Sep 21st-Oct 6th, and the last there on Oct 20th. At Gib Point, single juvs were seen eight days during Aug 20th-30th, and one on Sep 12th. Between Saltfleetby and Mablethorpe, there were sightings of one-two on three days during Aug 18th-22nd, four days during Sep 18th-22nd, plus Oct 1st and 3rd. Further north, there was one at North Cotes two at Donna Nook on Aug 25th and one there on Oct 7th. At Alkborough Flats, there were two juvs on Aug 13th but then none until one-two during Oct 6th-12th with three on the 11th. Meanwhile, at Frampton Marsh, there were still four on Oct 20th but then fewer, and the last one was on Nov 8th.



Little Stint *Calidris minuta* Alkborough Flats
Feb 2nd 2012 © Graham Catley



Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* Alkborough
Flats May 24th 2012 © Graham Catley

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Rare passage migrant. LBRC

A minimum of nine spring birds was recorded with the first at Freiston Shore on May 7th (PS) then one at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on May 9th (ND), followed by a series of records involving a minimum of two birds at Frampton Marsh from May 15th-20th (HM, DAL *et al*) before a five day gap then two more birds from May 26th-28th (JB, RSPB, SK). At Gib Point, singles were seen on May 20th-22nd (RDn, RKW *et al*) and May 26th-27th (RDn). Single birds were at Alkborough Flats on May 24th (AFP, GPC, ND) and at Donna Nook on May 27th (SL). There were no autumn records during 2012.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

Vagrant. LBRC

Adult birds were at Frampton Marsh during Jul 7th-21st (PS) and at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Jul 14th (JS).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Rare autumn migrant, vagrant in spring. LBRC

The first bird of the autumn was one at Alkborough Flats from Aug 5th-6th (Chris Jarvis, ND). A little later, one was at Gib Point from Aug 29th-Sept 5th (JS *et al*). At Frampton Marsh a single bird was present from Sep 1st-19th (RSPB) with two birds reported Sep 15th-16th (PS, RSPB) and another Oct 4th-6th (PS). Singles were at Humberston Yacht Club pools on Sep 17th (DEv), another at Toft Newton Reservoir from Sep 17th-24th (DE *et al*). Finally, one was at Gib Point on Sep 20th-21st (GW, KMW).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

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

Peak monthly counts	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Alkborough Flats	1	-	-	1	2	3	1
Gibraltar Point	2	1	-	2	1	1	-
Freiston Shore	1	-	-	3	-	1	-
Frampton Marsh	15	2	12	10	22	12	-

With the exception of one bird at Alkborough Flats on May 17th, records of a marked spring passage were confined to the Wash. The first birds of the year were four at Frampton Marsh and one at Freiston Shore on May 6th. Birds were then present more or less continuously through to Jun 5th, with numbers at Frampton in double figures during May 13th-19th, peaking at 13 on the 15th-16th. At Freiston Shore, there were singles on four dates in May. At Gib Point, singles were present during May 18th-22nd and May 31st-Jun 5th, with two on May 20th-21st. One was at Nene Mouth on May 7th. One was at Frampton Marsh on Jun 26th but the first of autumn was one also there on Jul 19th. There was an early peak there of 12 on Jul 22-23rd, but generally low numbers until ten on Aug 23rd, and the largest numbers during Sep 11th-19th, peaking at 22 on the 15th-16th. Numbers then dwindled but birds were reported on eight dates in Oct, the last two on the 30th. Elsewhere, numbers were smaller with peaks of three at Freiston Shore on Aug 19th, two at Gib Point on Aug 5th-7th, two at Alkborough Flats on Sep 9th and three there on Oct 10th. Records (singles unless stated) from non-tabulated sites came from Horseshoe Point on Jul 21st and Aug 8th, Donna Nook on Jul 27th, Read's Island on Aug 5th, three at North Cotes on Aug 18th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Aug 19th and 25th and two on Sep 26th, Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe on Aug 19th, Cleethorpes on Aug 29th, Tetney Marsh on Sep 13th, and Pyewipe on Oct 18th. Late birds hung on at Frampton Marsh and Alkborough Flats to Oct 30th, and there was one juv at Alkborough on Nov 2nd-4th.



Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* Alkborough Flats May 17th 2012 © Graham Catley



Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* Frampton Marsh Apr 17th 2012 © Mike Tarrant

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

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

One at Trusthorpe on Feb 22nd was presumably the same bird seen there on Mar 2nd. One was at Gib Point on Mar 18th and another there on Apr 12th-16th. The first returning bird was at the Welland Mouth on Sep 23rd followed by single birds at Gib Point on Sep 25th and Oct 5th. The only record for the north of the county at Covenham Res on Nov 4th was also the only inland report this year. Single birds were at Gib Point on Nov 17th and on Dec 16th-17th.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	4923	4301	3164	832	548	17	670	329	156	1576	1492	3533
Alkborough Flats	500	413	97	-	37	1	127	57	12	319	392	2760
Read's Island	1900	1800	600	400	95	-	4	40	60	900	2750	3000
Far Ings	30	600	200	11	-	1	-	15	34	10	163	-
Pyewipe	-	-	-	1650	3600	-	-	-	326	3000	-	-
Humberston-Grainthorpe	1600	820	1700	21	53	-	-	1	-	70	126	2110
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	144	930	490	321	200	-	474	40	2	361	784	541
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	979	914	251	90	139	17	196	248	94	107	530	717
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	5432	5731	10300	5594	11099	10	7412	11337	9639	4519	12001	5956
Gibraltar Point	300	600	3000	5700	900	250	3940	8030	7680	7200	3420	5000
Gibraltar Point	300	600	3000	5700	900	250	3940	8030	7680	7200	3420	5000
Wainfleet*	1845	1171	3980	890	2250	-	570	757	-	-	-	-
Friskney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1400	2050
Wrangle*	442	1800	1200	700	1910	-	400	473	1000	-	3290	845
Leverton*	407	927	580	1115	330	-	155	440	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	500	700	450	110	110	-	100	4000	800	625	1393	760
Witham*	54	400	150	35	200	-	450	2000	1970	0	650	-
Frampton Marsh	180	975	312	654	1586	30	2350	700	1840	261	300	2760
Welland*	300	-	190	425	2360	-	2000	550	-	412	-	2
Holbeach*	-	-	250	250	460	-	-	700	50	200	320	432
Dawsmere*	-	-	-	-	120	-	-	500	270	100	3000	420
Gedney*	550	-	490	365	-	-	75	1	40	300	70	1060
Marston STW	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

Counts over 300 birds, but not tabulated, included 500 at Goxhill Haven on Jan 13th, c300 from the Boston Belle boat trip in The Wash on Aug 10th, c370 at Gedney Drove End on Aug 26th, 445 in the Butterwick sector of the Wash on Dec 16th, and 300 at Immingham on Dec 12th. Birds were very scarce during Jun with records coming from just seven sites, and the maximum of 250 at Gib Point on Jun 3rd was in fact the highest count anywhere during May 21st-Jul 11th. Birds were seen inland at about ten sites, mostly in very small numbers and with maxima of four at Thurlby Sand Pit on Feb 19th, seven at Toft Mewton Res on Feb 4th with four there on Apr 27th and five on Sep 24th, and three at Covenham Reservoir on Aug 9th-10th.

FRP SA771740	Adult Female Caught by ringer	18-05-1985 01-08-1996	Bouin: 46°58'N 1°59'W (Vendee) France Holbeach St Matthew: c. 52°52'N 0°6'E 673km NNE 11y 2m 14d
FRP SA556564	First-year Caught by ringer	13-09-1985 31-07-1996	Sidi Moussa, Oualidia: 32°50'N 8°46'W Morocco Kamarad Fm, Terrington: c. 52°48'N 0°14'E 2,334km NNE 10y 10m 18d
POL D005894	First-year Caught by ringer	07-10-1987 01-08-1996	Ludo, Faro: 37°2'N 7°59'W (Algarve) Portugal Holbeach St Matthew: c. 52°52'N 0°6'E 1,869km NNE 8y 9m 25d
ESI 2655887	Full-grown Caught by ringer	15-08-1994 01-08-1996	Playa de Los Lances, Tarifa: 36°1'N 5°36'W (Cadiz) Spain Holbeach St Matthew: c. 52°52'N 0°6'E 1,925km NNE 1y 11m 17d



Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* Toft Newton Sep 2012 © Russ Telfer



Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* Toft Newton Sep 2012 © Russ Telfer



Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* Toft Newton Sep 2012 © Russ Telfer



Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* Trusthorpe Feb 21st 2012 © Graham Catley



Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* Gibraltar Point Feb 13th 2012 © Paul Neale

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

Vagrant. LBRC

An adult was found north of Howden's Pullover on Jun 12th (GW, RHa, LHa, JS). The bird was observed displaying to Dunlins and Ringed Plovers.

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	1	1	2	11	-	2	8	24	36	60	21	38
Gibraltar Point	-	-	2	2	3	1	3	5	15	4	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	18	29	-	-	7	8	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	15	25	50	60	20	4	6	200	100	150	31	-

Away from tabulated sites, early year counts included up to ten in the Tetney Marsh-Humberston area during Jan-Mar, five at Garthorpe on Feb 2nd, and one at Anderby Creek on Feb 16th. Small numbers were more widespread in Mar including four between Theddlethorpe and Mablethorpe on the 10th, six at Saltfleet Haven on the 23rd, seven at Humberston on the 26th, two at Messingham SQ, two at Manby Flashes and singles at West Ashby, Kirton in Lindsey, Kirkby on Bain and Donna Nook. Spring passage peaks were 50 at Frampton Marsh on Mar 28th and 60 there on Apr 21st, and 29 at Freiston Shore on May 1st. Away from the main areas in Apr-May, there were six at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on May 4th, and one-two at Donna Nook, Kirkby on Bain Pits and Messingham SQ. Autumn passage was most marked at Frampton Marsh, where numbers peaked at about 200 on Aug 23rd and 100 on Sep1st, but Alkborough Flats also held many a little later, peaking at 60 on Oct 7th. During Aug-Oct, widespread occurrence away from tabulated sites included four at Fiskerton Fen on Aug 18th, ten at Willow Tree Fen on Aug 25th, 13 at Cumberworth on Aug 26th, six at Manby Flashes on Aug 27th, and five at Chowder Ness on Sep 29th. At the end of the year, Alkborough Flats still held 38 on Dec 24th-27th but the only other records were four at Manby Flashes on Nov 16th, four at Humberston on Nov 24th and eight at Pye's Hall on Dec 9th.

Jack Snipe *Lymanocryptes minimus*

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	3	5	6	1	1	3	5	4	5
Minimum Lines total	4	8	8	1	2	4	7	5	6

In the first winter period birds were recorded from just 11 locations. There were singles at Tetney Marsh, Pye's Hall, Donna Nook, Gib Point and Frampton Marsh. Two were found in Laughton Forest on Jan 7th, two at Grainthorpe Haven on Feb 12th, three at Leverton on Feb 13th, two at Alkborough Flats on Mar 17th and three there on Mar 19th, and two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on May 7th, the last record of spring. In the second winter period, birds were recorded at nine locations with the first flushed at Gib Point on Sep 24th, with two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on Sep 25th and one at Frampton Marsh on Sep 27th. During Oct, singles were at Alkborough Flats, Anderby Creek and Gib Point, and three birds were at Frampton Marsh on Oct 16th. During Nov and Dec, singles remained at Alkborough Flats, Grainthorpe Haven-Horseshoe Point, Huttoft Bank Pit, Gib Point, Wrangle Bank and Frampton Marsh with two birds in Laughton Forest on Nov 11th and two at Gunthorpe on Dec 26th.

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
Alkborough Flats	9	-	18	16	2	-	14	64	7	59	70	-
Gibraltar Point	3	3	5	21	1	-	11	46	9	23	22	18
Freiston Shore	4	4	-	1	1	-	-	2	1	2	5	23
Frampton Marsh	12	2	12	6	1	1	11	28	20	36	36	22
Whisby NR	7	4	5	2	1	-	-	-	5	7	20	25
Marston STW	2	3	2	4	-	-	-	1	11	14	21	21

Other counts of 20 or more were 22 at Hagnaby Lock/Fen on Jan 26th, 34 in the Tetney Haven-Humberston area on Mar 9th, and 23 at Far Ings on Nov 17th, and there were counts of 10-19

at a further ten sites. Records came from only nine sites during May-mid Jul, mostly of one but with two at Alkborough on May 8th. Possible/probable breeding was noted at Messingham SQ and Hawthorpe.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

Vagrant. BBRC

A juv/first winter bird was at Alkborough Flats from Oct 4th until the end of the year (ND *et al*) and formed the second over-wintering record of a Nearctic vagrant in the county, remaining until mid April 2013. Accepted by BBRC (British Birds vol.106 p. 597).

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point 2012	4	44	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	7	5	53
Gib Point 2011	21	14	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	12	6

During Jan, birds were reported from just 12 locations, with highs of six at Laughton Forest on Jan 7th and three at Chambers Farm Wood on Jan 23rd. During the cold weather of Feb, birds were found more widely at over 30 locations, including 14 at Gib Point on the 4th, 30 there on the 5th, an impressive 44 on the 7th and 17 on 13th. There were also counts of eight at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Feb 5th and six at Donna Nook on Feb 6th. Ten at Gib Point on Mar 16th was the only double-figure count of the first half of the year after mid Feb. Roding birds were recorded at Laughton Forest, Twyford Wood and Chambers Farm Wood. There was just a single Jul record of six birds at Keb Wood on the 23rd and no records received during Aug and Sept. There were numerous coastal records birds during Oct after the first one near Theddlethorpe on the 12th, with max counts of seven at Gib Point, five at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR, four at Donna Nook and singles at Grainthorpe Marsh, Holbeach Range, Humberston Yacht Club Pools and Huttoft Bank Car Terrace. During the second winter period birds were recorded from 23 sites, with the November maximum of five at Gib Point on the 6th, and seven at Gib Point on Dec 11th and 18th plus seven at Whisby NR also on Dec 18th.



Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* Bardney
Feb 11th 2012 © Hugh Middleton



Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
Alkborough Flats Nov 13th 2012 © Graham Catley

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
Alkborough Flats	52	37	71	90	21	73	210	157	86	840	572	60
Read's Island	86	124	110	155	-	-	8	-	-	4	-	-
Killingholme	1	89	238	25	-	-	2680	3000	5000	3350	4120	2160

The Wash

Gibraltar Point	2	2	2	11	19	16	112	78	110	20	2	2
Freiston	22	25	-	35	35	2	25	100	5000	5000	4158	3000
Frampton	15	120	69	160	75	20	2000	6000	5700	500	4	950
Welland*	30	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	900	8	-	1900
Gedney*	991	-	6	-	-	-	89	1430	72	-	110	-

All records of this increasingly common species refer to birds of the Icelandic breeding population *islandica*. Once again there were no reports of the European subspecies *limosa*. Away from the tabulated sites above, which show clearly the post-breeding highs and increasing wintering numbers, significant counts in the first half of the year included 60 at Wrangle on Jan 14th, 28 west at Barton on Mar 3rd, and 50 at Witham Mouth on Mar 11th, plus smaller numbers in other places on the estuaries and coast. Inland birds were two at Messingham SQ Mar 29th and 3 at Blackmoor Bridge Apr 12th, two at Kirton in Lindsey on Apr 16th with one still there at the start of May, one at Willow Tree Fen NR on Apr 18th, three at Whisby NR on Apr 26th, and eight at Fiskerton Fen on Jun 16th. Numbers were at their lowest in May-Jun but started to rise in Jul with, in addition to counts in the table, 700 at Wrangle on Jul 23rd. Inland at this time were four at Messingham SQ on the 1st and five at Worlaby Carrs on the 5th. During Aug-Oct, birds were much more numerous and widespread and small numbers were noted at several inland sites; remarkably at Manby Flashes, the prime inland site for this species, only one bird was seen all year, on Aug 23rd. At the end of the year birds were largely restricted to the Humber and The Wash but 21 were between Grainthorpe Haven and Horseshoe Point on Nov 16th, 88 between Somercotes and Donna Nook on Nov 18th with 10-11 remaining at these sites into Dec, and a first winter bird was at Covenham Res on Dec 1st.

DR22217	Adult Freshly dead (cold weather)	31-08-2007 15-02-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E Hoofdplaat: c. 51°22'N 3°39'E (Zeeland)	The Netherlands	298km SE
ISR 549078	Adult Caught by ringer	01-06-1991 30-08-1996	Skipalon, Horgardalur, Eyjafjardar: 65°47'N 18°12'W Holbeach St Matthew: c. 52°52'N 0°6'E	Iceland	5y 2m 29d

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce inland.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	1136	772	772	203	-	-	10	660	184	167	72	238
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	4	-	102	63	50	10	10	-	-
Read's Island	16	1	1	22	-	100	-	-	62	42	3	12
Far Ings	42	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	9	204	13
Humberston-Grainthorpe	952	800	710	14	-	6	-	1000	1080	26	-	50
Donna Nook	115	73	60	161	-	4	1	5	63	34	88	165
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	70	184	72	7	5	-	9	34	75	58	66	96
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	2274	7219	4204	1658	1556	-	2542	6426	3857	3142	1139	1451
Gibraltar Point	20	500	702	750	620	40	300	450	4300	2560	2400	706
Wainfleet*	1490	3305	1958	1350	1110	-	995	2657	-	-	1	-
Wrangle*	1	2300	711	-	-	-	70	1472	1275	-	140	520
Levertton*	734	1295	1500	285	350	-	1420	2275	-	-	-	-
Freiston	-	-	-	1	59	225	1	1	4	3000	7	3

The table above shows sites where there were regular counts and although widespread from the Humber to The Wash the importance of the latter can clearly be seen. Other significant counts included 410 at Skitter Ness on Feb 14th, 114 at Killingholme Haven on Mar 23rd, 130 at Frampton Marsh on Apr 9th, 49 at Pyewipe on May 23rd, 80 at Frampton Marsh Jul 5th, c.500 on a Boston Belle Wash trip on Aug 10th, 625 at Halton Marshes on Aug 19th, and 136 at Gedney on Aug 31st increasing to 2000 there on Sep 17th. There were 72 at Pyewipe on Oct 18th, 73 on the Welland on Oct 20th, 960 at Friskney on Nov 17th and 220 there on Dec 16th. The only inland record came from Kirkby on Bain Pits on Sep 10th.

DEW 6326898	Adult Male Caught by ringer	22-04-1986 31-08-1996	Witsum Auf Fohr: 54°41'N 8°26'E Levertton Outgate: c. 53°0'N 0°8'E	(Nordfriesische Inseln)	Germany
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Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	1	0	0	0	8	0	38	48	6	0	0	0
Alkborough Flats	1	-	-	21	30	-	2	4	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	7	10	1	9	15	1	1	-	-
Saltfleetby-Mablethorpe	-	-	-	40	5	3	35	45	4	-	-	-
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	0	0	0	2	196	10	169	279	50	0	0	0
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	19	17	8	41	44	4	1	-	-
Wainfleet*	0	0	0	0	2	0	11	97	0	0	0	0
Wrangle*	0	0	0	0	30	0	80	3	0	0	0	0
Benington*	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	6	0	0	0	0
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	1	89	-	1	21	1	-	-	-
Witham Mouth	-	-	-	-	19	3	67	16	24	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	2	29	19	1	20	35	1	1	-	-
Gedney	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	123	11	0	0	0
Terrington	0	0	0	2	14	0	9	39	7	0	0	0

There were two exceptional early year records of one at Alkborough Flats on Jan 4th and another at Grainthorpe Haven on Jan 15th, and these were followed by two relatively early birds at Frampton Marsh on Mar 3rd. More typically arrival began when two birds were at the Nene Mouth on Apr 9th with a steady influx involving small numbers for the following two weeks. Double figures started to be recorded towards the end of the month with 18 at Gib Point on the 24th, and 21 at Huttoft Bank, 25 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and 19 at Gib Point on the 26th. The highest Apr count was 40 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 30th. May began in similar vein with 70 at Freiston Shore on the 1st increasing to 89 by the 6th; 30 at Alkborough Flats on the 2nd was the highest count away from The Wash for the whole of May, but one-ten were recorded widely along the coast for the rest of the month. June was quiet with a peak of eight at Gib Point and an inland record of one at Covenham Res. Autumn migration was spread out with birds being noted on almost every day from Jul 1st to Sep 29th. The highest counts in the table were 67 at Witham Mouth on Jul 15th, 80 at Wrangle on Jul 23rd, 97 at Wainfleet and 73 at Gedney on Aug 19th, with 123 flying inland at Gedney Drove End on Aug 26th. Additional to those tabulated, peaks included 12 at Huttoft Bank Pit on Jul 31st, 11 at Garthorpe on Aug 3rd, 10 at Horseshoe Point on Aug 5th, 50 seen from the Boston Belle trip into the Wash on Aug 10th, 50 at Grainthorpe Marsh on Aug 19th, with one to ten being widely recorded. Ten in The Wash at Roaring Middle on Sep 29th almost marked the end of autumn migration; there were a few stragglers in Oct with singles at Gib Point on the 13th, Donna Nook and Grainthorpe Marsh on the 17th and finally one at Frampton Marsh Oct 27th.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	800	890	1397	681	327	66	613	675	842	657	1455	1152
Alkborough Flats	212	148	209	173	61	46	216	187	221	243	490	540
Barton Pits	20	36	13	31	4	1	10	17	52	12	100	103
Read's Island	240	200	681	578	208	170	-	200	250	270	110	75
Goxhill Marsh	77	129	21	11	-	-	-	79	158	15	151	130
Pyewipe	-	-	-	56	82	-	228	-	242	320	-	-
Cleethorpes-Grainthorpe	77	87	92	15	27	200	-	120	180	33	48	103
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	100	38	179	40	5	105	180	145	162	146	190	120
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	204	430	219	20	50	10	274	210	254	346	561	614

The Wash

WeBS totals	2034	1040	3433	2615	692	264	3839	4004	3419	2065	2514	1758
Gibraltar Point	2000	255	343	273	65	113	475	459	800	300	237	260
Wainfleet	655	374	565	393	152	65	1492	1231	-	1072	16	-
Wrangle*	126	250	470	400	60	-	300	383	292	-	80	346
Leverton*	233	117	295	197	15	72	207	188	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	131	60	572	177	100	23	207	120	10	122	109	230
Frampton Marsh	150	76	59	50	52	12	171	3	146	136	50	180
Welland*	54	-	339	470	25	-	22	678	307	23	81	10
Holbeach*	11	-	72	-	140	-	450	150	130	310	250	130
Dawsmere*	-	-	17	4	-	-	370	50	70	137	67	32
Gedney*	83	-	108	49	-	-	30	411	680	473	736	123
Terrington*	376	-	309	622	31	-	341	451	1450	692	474	-

Inland

Alderfen/Wroot	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	-	22
Hagnaby Lock/Fen	98	133	136	91	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marston STW	15	26	38	2	3	2	6	9	9	17	2	18

The table includes most areas with maxima of at least 100 on the Humber, 300 on the Wash and 25 inland. In addition, there were 331 at East Halton Skitter on Feb 24th, 155 at Killingholme Haven Pits NR on Jan 26th with 140 there on Mar 8th, and 455 at Friskney on Nov 17th with 610 there on Dec 16th. Inland between Apr-Jul birds were at Marston STW, Hagnaby Lock/Fen, RAF Waddington, Hawthorpe, Trent Port (Marton), Messingham SQ, Baston Fen NR, North Rauceby Heath, Blackmoor Bridge and Normanby-by-Spital. Possible/probable breeding was recorded at Baston Fen NR, Bonby Carrs, Hawthorpe (three pairs), Messingham SQ, North Rauceby Heath (two pairs) and RAF Waddington.

SFH CT078056	Nestling Caught by ringer	23-06-1991 04-08-2012	Nivala: 63°58'N 24°45'E (Oulu) Finland Leverton Outgate: 53°0'N 0°9'E 1,868km SW 21y 1m 12d									
FP32856	Adult Male Caught by ringer	23-08-2005 16-05-2011	Lawyer's Farm, Holbeach St Matthew: 52°52'N 0°7'E Torvela, Kajaani: 64°19'N 27°51'E (Oulu) Finland 2,036km NE 5y 8m 23d									
	Alive (ring read in field)	20-04-2012	Torvela, Kajaani: 64°19'N 27°51'E (Oulu) Finland 2,036km NE 6y 7m 28d									
NOS 4206512	Nestling Caught by ringer	24-06-1995 31-08-1996	Fjermestad, Time: (Rogaland) Norway Leverton Outgate: c. 53°0'N 0°8'E 729km SSW 1y 2m 7d									



Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* Pye's Hall Mar 11th 2012 © Mark Johnson

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

For the second year running an over-wintering bird was recorded on The Haven, Boston, on Jan 8th and Feb 16th, and singles were recorded also at Frampton Marsh on Feb 23rd, Mar 16th and 23rd, with the first inland bird of the year at Fiskerton Fen Scrapes on Mar 17th. During early Apr, birds were at Toft Newton Res on the 8th, and Bagmoor/Winterton Floods and Cleethorpes CP on the 11th. There were three at Covenham Reservoir on Apr 11th-12th, four at North Hykeham Pits on Apr 21st and five Toft Newton Res from Apr 23rd. Birds were then widely reported on spring passage in ones and twos with counts of five or more at Alkborough Flats, Toft Newton Reservoir, Gib Point, Barton Pits and Saltfleet Haven. There were no records during Jun, with the first of autumn being reported two at Gib Point on Jul 1st. There were then reports from about 25 areas, with totals of five or more from about ten sites through to late Sep. The highest counts were 13 at Alkborough Flats on Aug 5th, nine at Covenham Res on Aug 9th, about 50 in the Wash (from the Boston Belle) on Aug 10th, ten at Witham Mouth on Aug 19th, ten at Gib Point on Aug 20th, eight at Frampton Marsh on Aug 23rd, eight at Covenham Res on Aug 26th, and nine at Frampton Marsh on Sep 22nd. There was a handful of reports from four sites on the Humber and Wash during Oct-Nov, with none after three at Frampton Marsh on Nov 13th.



Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Gibraltar Point Jul 2012 © Russ Telfer

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	10	6	14	12	5	7	11	25	17	8	5	8
Minimum Lincs total	15	9	26	13	6	16	41	90	44	10	9	15
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	1	-	2	5	10	4	2	2	1
Anwick Fen	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Blackmoor Bridge	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	1	1	5	18	10	6	1	-	-
Gib Point	-	-	1	1	1	2	3	9	4	1	1	-
Kirkby on Bain	2	1	1	1	-	3	2	4	4	-	-	-
Marston STW	2	-	5	2	-	2	5	8	3	1	-	4

The table shows all site that recorded birds in four or more months. During Jan-Feb, singles were at Anwick Fen, Broughton Common, Deeping Lakes, Havenside CP, Kirkby on Bain, Marston STW, Tetney Marsh, Thurlby Sand Pit with three on 26th, West Ashby Pits, Willoughby, Withern Washland and Woodhall Spa. During Mar and Apr, counts of five were recorded at Broughton

Common and Marston STW. There were no reports during May 24th-Jun 8th. The main autumn passage occurring during Jul-Sep with the highest counts being 18 at Frampton on Jul 22nd with 10 there on Aug 11th, eight at Marston STW on Aug 1st and 4th, nine at Alkborough Flats on Aug 5th with ten there on the 19th, nine at Jackson's Marsh, Gib Point on Aug 18th, and seven at West Ashby Pits on Aug 28th. Numbers were smaller after that and during Oct-Nov, the only counts of more than two were three at Nocton Fen on Nov 1st, four at Marston STW on Dec 26th and three at Trent Port (Marton) on Dec 29th.

SR13043	First-year	25-04-2009	Nanjizal, Land's End: c. 50°3'N 5°42'W (Cornwall)
	Caught by ringer	06-07-2010	Beddington Sewage Works: 51°22'N 0°9'W (Greater London) 417km ENE 1y 2m 11d
	Alive (colour marks seen)	05-07-2012	Kirkby on Bain Gravel Pit: 53°8'N 0°9'W 514km NE 3y 2m 10d

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

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

During Jan and Feb, there were up to seven wintering at Alkborough Flats and up to 12 were present there from early Mar through to late Apr. The only other wintering birds recorded were one at Saltfleet on Jan 14th and one-three at Frampton Marsh until the end of Apr. There was one inland at Tongue End NR (Baston) on Mar 8th and one at Donna Nook on Mar 22nd. Spring passage away from Alkborough Flats was mostly light. Single birds were noted at Frampton Marsh on several dates in Apr-May, plus a WeBS count of 20 on May 7th. Singles were also inland at Kirton in Lindsey on Apr 12th, at Manby Flashes from Apr 30th-May 2nd, Grainthorpe Haven on May 18th, and Gib Point on May 19th. The only Jun records were four at Alkborough Flats on the 17th-18th plus singles on two dates at Gib Point and three dates at Frampton Marsh. Light passage was apparent from Jul 1st onwards with one-four regularly at the main sites of Alkborough Flats, Gib Point and Frampton Marsh, and also two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Jul 26th. Numbers increased in Aug, including peaks of around 20 at Frampton Marsh on the 19th, eight at Gib Point on the 21st and 20 at Alkborough Flats on the 31st. Peaks in Sep and Oct were eight at Frampton Marsh on Sep 2nd, 23 at Alkborough Flats on Sep 14th, and six at Gib Point on Sep 6th and Oct 2nd-3rd. In addition, there was a notable count of 125 out in the Wash around Roaring Middle on Sep 29th. One-three were seen at other coastal sites and at Freiston Shore. Autumn inland sightings were restricted to single birds Cumberworth on Aug 26th and Kirkby on Bain on Oct 10th. Late birds were limited to two at Frampton Marsh on Nov 5th and 7th, then one on Nov 15th-19th and six on Dec 16th when there was one at Butterwick, but there were also up to nine at Alkborough Flats throughout Nov 3rd-Dec 23rd.



Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* Gibraltar Point Aug 20th 2012 © Paul Neale

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Coasts</i>												
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	1	1	-	5	17	18	2	-	-
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	-	-	1	1	3	1	1	8	4	4	1	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	3	4	1	19	39	26	10	1	-
Frieston Shore	1	-	1	1	8	9	18	11	14	2	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	1	10	-	-	50	31	26	-	-

Inland

Trent Port (Marton)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Covenham Reservoir	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Manby Flashes	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Withern Washlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Fiskerton Fen Scrapes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
Willow Tree Fen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-

At the beginning of the year, one was in the Read's Island area on Jan 15th and another at Frampton on Jan 27th, with one again at Read's Island during Feb 12th-25th, and singles at Frampton from Mar 6th-9th and Donna Nook on Mar 22nd. Numbers of birds recorded during spring and autumn passage were down on 2011, with inland sightings significantly reduced. The highest spring count was ten at Freiston Shore on May 6th. Spring passage away from tabulated areas was limited to singles recorded at Grainthorpe Haven-Horseshoe Point on Apr 7th, Tetney Marsh on Apr 13th, Cleethorpes on Apr 22nd, Butterwick, Holbeach and Welland on May 6th and Saltfleet on May 19th-20th. Peak autumn passage counts were 18 at Frampton on Jul 19th, 50 at Freiston Shore on Aug 4th, 27 at Terrington and 26 at Holbeach on Aug 19th, 39 on Jackson's Marsh, Gib Point on Aug 24th, 18 at Alkborough Flats on Sep 11th, and 11 at Tetney Marsh on Sep 13th. The last birds of the year were singles recorded at South Ferriby and Friskney on Dec 16th.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

Vagrant. BBRC

The 2011 juv/first winter bird present at Alkborough Flats and Bagmoor Floods stayed until Jan 29th and then presumably the same bird returned to Alkborough Flats from Oct 28th until Dec 8th when it disappeared during a severe freeze (GPC, ND *et al*). Accepted by BBRC (British Birds vol.106 p. 595).



Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (with Ruffs and Redshank) North Lincs Nov 16th 2012
© Graham Catley

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

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

The first spring bird was at Alkborough Flats on May 3rd-4th followed by one at Bardney Pits on May 7th. There were one-three at Frampton Marsh during May 18th-21st and again during May 29th-Jun 1st, plus ten on May 27th and eight on the 28th. There were also singles at Alkborough Flats and Gib Point on May 21st, and Covenham Res and Messingham SQ on the 28th when there were two at Gib Point, and one more at Gib Point on the 29th. Single birds were seen at Frampton Marsh on Jun 14th-15th and 23rd. Returning birds in Jul were one at Gib Point on the 6th, one-four at Frampton Marsh from the 6th onwards and one-two at Alkborough Flats from the 9th-14th, plus two at Cumberworth from the 24th-31st, one at Tetney Marsh on Jun 30th and one at Gib Point on the 31st. There was continued presence at Frampton Marsh throughout Aug while elsewhere, one was at Alkborough Flats on Aug 4th and more widespread passage developed from Aug 11th through to Sep 9th. There were one-two at eleven sites during this period with a peak of seven at Frampton Marsh on Aug 18th and six at Cumberworth on Aug 26th. The last birds of the year were singles at Frampton Marsh on Sep 14th and at Manby Flashes on Sep 15th.



Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* Pye's Hall
Mar 11th 2012 © Mark Johnson



Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* Pye's Hall
Oct 21st 2012 © Mark Johnson

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	860	724	548	308	71	30	86	230	318	578	706	874
Alkborough Flats	12	16	47	31	12	12	18	-	61	54	67	115
Read's Island	98	55	76	85	8	-	-	8	24	65	-	-
Halton Marshes*	11	23	128	19	2	-	-	-	-	4	8	6
Killingholme	180	136	150	50	-	-	-	-	200	15	-	162
Pyewipe	-	-	-	-	-	-	184	-	205	406	-	-
Cleethorpes-Grainthorpe	121	227	119	41	45	17	-	50	230	92	231	114
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	210	46	97	119	5	60	22	30	210	113	335	455
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	295	219	22	20	6	7	62	98	237	151	82	138
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	1586	989	1762	1537	544	200	1712	3163	2350	969	1872	1754
Gibraltar Point	304	165	368	346	50	34	468	720	575	575	202	260
Wainfleet*	385	438	338	199	78	88	29	238	-	-	-	-
Friskney*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	441	380
Wrangle*	97	151	155	290	230	-	7	83	20	-	48	92
Freiston Shore	121	20	101	21	44	17	680	822	800	4	193	331
Frampton Marsh	89	141	64	148	20	23	40	57	251	305	213	55
Welland*	515	-	266	225	24	-	650	1240	182	93	250	252
Holbeach*	4	-	30	6	8	-	-	-	42	26	86	260
Gedney*	24	-	88	201	-	-	50	56	600	103	200	157

Terrington*	58	-	200	239	46	-	15	-	45	343	79	-
<i>Inland</i>												
Covenham Res	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	1
Kirkby-on-Bain GP	7	13	6	4	1	2	-	-	1	2	1	11
Hagnaby Lock/Fen	12	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deeping-Crowland area	5	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12

The table includes all areas with maxima of at least 100 on the Humber, 250 on the Wash and 10 inland, with the exception of 105 at New Holland in Feb. Inland reports came from about 20 sites, including those in the table and five-six at each of Nocton Fen, Bardney Pits, Kirton in Lindsey and Messingham SQ. Breeding was confirmed at Alkborough Flats, Blackmoor Bridge, Frampton Marsh, Fiskerton Fen Scrapes, Tetney Marshes and Gib Point. Significant counts in the autumn, which traditionally includes influxes of birds from Iceland and northern Europe included c250 at Freiston Shore on Aug 8th, 350 there on Sep 15th and c800 on Sep 20th, 470 at Gedney Marsh on Sep 17th, 720 at Gib Point on Aug 13th, 575 there on Sep 17th and 575 on Oct 17th, 205 at Pyewipe on Sep 14th and 406 there on Oct 18th, 343 at Terrington on Oct 18th, 230 at Tetney Marsh on Sep 13th, and 1240 at Welland on Aug 20th.



Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Grimsby Docks Feb 3rd 2012 © Graham Catley

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
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	30	10	86	25	33	7	23	49	62	16	28	85
New Holland/Goxhill	200	552	47	-	-	-	-	-	250	450	4	-
Grimsby Docks	54	70	53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleethorpes Promenade	38	34	45	10	4	-	6	50	93	138	31	42
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	193	247	220	318	221	4	350	496	409	62	171	285
Gibraltar Point	63	50	43	43	37	18	40	73	30	27	33	65
Wrangle*	5	200	10	210	160	-	11	-	20	-	-	65
Freiston Shore	83	25	155	75	1	4	250	200	315	13	78	141

The Jan-Feb counts at New Holland and Goxhill Haven were records totals for the area, peaking at 510 on Feb 14th and 552 on Feb 17th. The Wrangle count of 200 was on Feb 13th. Spring passage from Apr through to early Jun was light at most sites with easily the highest counts of

210 and 160 at Wrangle on Apr 10th and May 6th. A good total of 250 on the Freiston Shore WeBS count on Jul 22nd marked the start of autumn passage which was widely recorded elsewhere during the last week of the month. Particularly noteworthy counts included 200 at Freiston Shore/Witham Mouth on Aug 19th with 315 there on Sep 16th, and 60 at Goxhill Marsh on Sep 14th and 250 at New Holland on Sep 26th rising to 450 by Oct 20th. The Cleethorpes population peaked at 138 on Oct 4th. Inland records were one at Kirkby on Bain on May 4th and May 19th, one at Thurlby Sand Pit on Jul 16th, four at Wroot on Jul 20th, and two at Covenham Reservoir on Aug 9th. The versatility of the species' feeding habits is well-known and birds in the traditional flock amongst the seal colony at Donna Nook, which peaked at 42 on Nov 28th, were regularly seen pecking at carcasses, placentas and the associating invertebrates.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Rare passage migrant, mainly autumn. **LBRC**

A first summer bird was at Frampton Aug 18th-31st (RSPB) and an adult Sep 1st (RSPB), a juv was at Cumberworth on Sep 1st-5th (DLi, CJJ *et al*) and another juv was at West Ashby on Oct 2nd-8th (MEH *et al*).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

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

One, probably first winter, flew in from the north and landed on the sea at Gib Point on Sep 25th. A first winter bird arrived from the north and landed on pools at Gib Point on Dec 9th before continuing south (RKW, PNe, SNe).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

There were two or three early year records with one seen from a boat in The Wash on Jan 10th and possibly the same bird at Freiston Shore on the 11th and 13th. More typically, birds began appearing in late July with one at Anderby Creek and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 29th and two adults at Gib Point on the 30th. One at Donna Nook on Aug 11th was followed by two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Aug 14th and four at Gib Point on Aug 27th. After one in The Wash at Roaring Middle on Sep 1st, autumn passage became more significant with an adult south at Gib Point on the 10th and five juvs south there on the 12th plus one more on the 13th, an adult and five juvs at Nene Mouth on the 14th, single juvs at Gib Point on the 15th, Wingland Marsh on the 19th and Gib Point on the 20th, one at Gib Point on the 22nd, one north at Huttoft Car Terrace on the 23rd and one south there on the 26th. In Oct singles were seen at Donna Nook on the 11th and Far Ings on the 19th, and then came the high count of the year of 13 at Nene Mouth on Oct 26th when there was also an immature at Gib Point on the 26th. On the 27th, there were two at each of Donna Nook, Huttoft Car Terrace and flying inland at Nene Mouth. The last records for the year came from Gib Point where four juvs flew south on the Nov 27th.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

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

The first of the year was at Tetney Marsh on Jun 6th then three at Freiston Shore on the 9th and one at Donna Nook on the 23rd and 24th. Regular autumn passage began with a single bird at Gib Point on Jul 10th with two on the 12th and 12 on the 13th, after which small numbers were recorded widely until mid Oct from Horseshoe Point to The Wash. Peaks in Jul were 28 at Gib Point on the 27th and 35 there on the 30th, while in Aug small numbers were seen every day but one with most higher counts coming from Gib Point. There were ten at Gib Point on Aug 1st, 15 there on the 11th rising to 30 on the 13th and 19 on the 15th. Ten at Chapel Point on the 3rd and 14 at Donna Nook/Grainthorpe Marsh on the 17th were the only double-figure counts of the month away from Gib Point where there were significant numbers at the end of Aug: 23 on the 26th, 81 on the 27th and 43 on the 30th. The pattern was similar in Sep when there were 50 in The Wash on the 1st, 23 at Gib Point on the 7th, 13 at Donna Nook on the 10th with 111 at Gib Point on the same day and 32 there on the 12th; there were also six other double-figure counts at Gib Point scattered through the month, and also 11 at Huttoft Car Terrace on the 23rd and 15 in The Wash at the Roaring Middle on the 29th. Small numbers were noted most days to Oct 11th and then five further days in the month, with the highest count of six at Mablethorpe on the 27th. The final record of the year came from Huttoft Car Terrace where there were three on Nov 28th.



Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* Shearman's Wath Sep 2012 © Russ Telfer



Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* Shearman's Wath Sep 2012 © Russ Telfer



Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* Shearman's Wath Sep 2012 © Russ Telfer

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

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

A fairly typical showing, with nine or ten birds seen. The first was a juv which flew south at Gib Point on Aug 27th (KMW, JPS) followed by one in The Wash at the Roaring Middle on Sep 1st (SK) then an immature being carried upstream by the incoming tide at Nene Mouth on Sep 5th (PCL). A juv flew south at Gib Point on Sep 10th (TB) and one was at Saltfleet on the 11th (CMo). Later in the month, an intermediate juv was seen from the Humber Bridge Viewing Area on the 23rd (WG) and two juvs were at Barton Pits (GPC) and two juvs also at Gib Point (KMW) on the 24th. One flew south at Huttoft Car Terrace on Sep 26th (CMo, RL) and the last bird of the year was a juv at Gib Point on Oct 9th. There were four other unsubstantiated records of this relatively rare species.



Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* Barton Sep 24th 2012 © Graham Catley

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

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

The usual pattern for this species seems to be a few early year records then autumn passage but in 2012 they were recorded in every month except Mar. Two were at Freiston Shore on Jan 1st, while one flew south at Gib Point on Feb 10th and another, 'looking unwell', was there on the 12th. In April there were singles at Gib Point on the 19th, a remarkable inland record at Kirkby on Bain from 26th-28th sporting a light blue Darvic ring on its left leg and again not looking well, Gib Point on the 26th, and one at Freiston and Frampton from Apr 28th to May 6th on which day it killed a Coot. Elsewhere in May, singles were at Horseshoe Point on the 2nd, Donna Nook on the 4th, Gib Point and Nene Mouth on the 19th and at Gib Point feeding on a dead Cormorant on the 26th. There were singles in June at Gib Point on the 8th, North Cotes Marsh on the 14th and again at Gib Point on the 18th. In July, singles were noted at Gib Point on the 14th, Gedney Drove End and Terrington on the 22nd, and Frampton on the 30th, but seven south at Gib Point on the 29th seemed to suggest that autumn passage was getting under way. However, Aug was as quiet as the previous month with singles at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 8th, Gib Point on the 11th, Terrington on the 19th, six at Gib Point on the 30th and singles there and at Mablethorpe on the 31st. Sep began quietly with one-four seen at Gib Point, Huttoft Car Terrace, Saltfleet and Donna Nook from 1st-12th then 22 flew inland at Nene Mouth on the 14th and peaks for the rest of the month included seven south at Holbeach Marsh on the 19th, 15 south at Gib Point on the 24th and 20 south at Huttoft Car Terrace on the 26th whilst one-five were recorded widely. There was a juv at Barton Pits on Sep 24th. Small numbers were recorded widely on the coast throughout Oct with peaks at Gib Point of ten on the 8th and 11 on the 11th, and then 12 on Gib Point, ten at Huttoft Car Terrace and nine flying inland at Nene Mouth on the 26th, and 15 at Gib Point, 15 at Huttoft Car Terrace and eight south at Mablethorpe on the 27th. In Nov, birds were recorded on

just two days with four at Gib Point and one at Mablethorpe on the 27th, and two flying up river at Cleethorpes, one at Gib Point and four at Huttoft Car Terrace on the 28th. Finally singles were seen at Gib Point on Dec 10th and 12th.



Great Skua *Stercorarius skua* Frampton May 2012 © Russ Telfer

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

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

Recorded in small numbers in every month of the year from 13 sites, including a single inland record of an adult at Covenham Res on Apr 9th. In the first winter period at Gib Point there were numerous single birds recorded with peak counts of ten on Jan 13th, nine on Feb 9th and 20 on Mar 18th. Elsewhere there were singles at Freiston Shore on Jan 31st and Havenside CP, Boston, on Feb 2nd, four at Freiston Shore on Feb 22nd, two at Grimsby Dock on Jan 31st and 20 at Donna Nook on Mar 18th. Birds were typically scarce over the summer period with the first juv bird being record at Gib Point on Aug 8th and no double figure counts until the end of Aug with 24 at Gib Point on the 30th. A slight increase in records was recorded during Sep with Gib Point recording 75 on the 7th, 11 on the 10th, 48 on the 25th and 16 on the 26th. The main passage of the year was recorded in the second half of Oct with Gib Point recording 131 on the 26th and 310 on the 27th. Also on the 27th, further north, c 3000 birds flew south at Huttoft Car Terrace at a rate of approx. 500 per hour and c 450 went past Mablethorpe. Mostly small numbers were again recorded in Nov with a marked peak of c 160 past Gib Point on Nov 27th. During Dec birds were recorded on a few dates from Gib Point with 17 on Dec 9th and a single bird at Anderby Creek on Dec 21st.

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 Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	444	244	222	203	-	41	937	10621	6245	6956	237	284
Far Ings	50	130	30	40	29	50	60	800	1000	55	100	100
Donna Nook	60	60	46	10	15	23	800	3750	2049	600	350	255
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	382	48	78	120	3	18	505	8200	3832	6566	63	25

The Wash

WeBS totals	1526	433	3148	4503	3715	3750	6608	18061	7027	1011	2905	3214
Gibraltar Point	2000	5900	1000	520	350	1209	2500	5950	8250	3000	4031	6000
Leverton*	-	30	68	1700	17	2090	1570	3198	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	500	-	920	550	1831	1000	500	350	500	97	30	300
Frampton Marsh	150	25	180	106	311	250	500	388	260	125	164	20
Gedney*	3	-	106	138	-	-	1276	2995	1657	580	138	1124

Inland

North Hykeham Pits	12000	3000	1000	569	-	350	350	-	-	1500	10000	3500
Kirkby on Bain	1500	533	219	100	20	150	300	300	300	800	361	2000
Tattershall Lakes CP	6000	4700	2100	4	1	3	350	15	7	1300	-	7300

The table includes only a selection of sites with high counts. Counts of 1000 or more were also made at Thurlby Sand Pit and Leadenham Tip in Jan, Havenside CP in Jan-Feb, Whisby NR in May, Alkborough Flats and Barnoldby le Beck in Aug, Anderby Creek in Oct, Cadney Res in Dec, and the following Wash WeBS sectors, mostly in Aug-Nov: Wainfleet, Wrangle, Welland and Terrington. The highest of these non-tabulated counts was an estimate of 10000 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Jan 15th. There had been 12000 not far away at North Hykeham Pits on Jan 7th. Not all breeding colonies were reported but at Whisby NR there were 709 nests rearing an average of 1.5 young each, at Barton Pits 14 pairs reared at least ten young, there were 45-50 nesting pairs at Melwood Quarry, and breeding was confirmed also at Gib Point and Moulton Marsh, though all nests were washed out at the last site. There are growing numbers of dedicated gull “ring readers” throughout Europe which gives us a closer insight into individual gull movements.

EN42793	Adult	14-01-1987	Boston: 52°59'N 0°1'W	
	Alive (ring read in field)	29-05-1987	Utterslev Mose Iii, Copenhagen: 55°43'N 12°32'E (Sjaelland) Denmark	
			867km ENE 0y 4m 15d	
	Alive (ring read in field)	30-03-1988	Utterslev Mose Ii, Copenhagen: 55°43'N 12°30'E (Sjaelland) Denmark	
			865km ENE 1y 2m 16d	
	Alive (ring read in field)	17-03-1989	Utterslev Mose I, Bronshoj: 55°43'N 12°29'E (Sjaelland) Denmark	
			864km ENE 2y 2m 3d	
	Alive (ring read in field)	04-03-1992	Utterslev Mose Iii, Copenhagen: 55°43'N 12°31'E (Sjaelland) Denmark	
			866km ENE 5y 1m 19d	
	Alive (ring read in field)	27-07-1992	Frihaven Syd, Copenhagen: 55°42'N 12°36'E (Sjaelland) Denmark	
			871km ENE 5y 6m 13d	
	Alive (ring read in field)	18-07-1993	Frihaven Unicef, Copenhagen: 55°42'N 12°36'E (Sjaelland) Denmark	
			871km ENE 6y 6m 4d	
	Caught by ringer	22-03-1994	Gentofte So, Gentofte: 55°45'N 12°32'E (Sjaelland) Denmark	868km ENE 7y 2m 8d
	Alive (colour marks seen)	03-03-1996	Binnensee, Heiligenhafen, Ostholstein: 54°22'N 10°58'E (Schleswig-Holstein) Germany	739km ENE 9y 1m 18d
	Alive (ring read in field)	23-03-1996	Sortedamsso I, Copenhagen: 55°42'N 12°35'E (Sjaelland) Denmark	
			870km ENE 9y 2m 9d	
	Alive (colour marks seen)	10-05-1997	Tingbjerg Idraetsanlaeg: 55°42'N 12°29'E (Sjaelland) Denmark	864km ENE 10y 3m 26d
	Alive (ring read in field)	15-04-2000	Utterslev Mose I, Copenhagen: 55°42'N 12°29'E (Sjaelland) Denmark	
			864km ENE 13y 3m 1d	
	Alive (colour marks seen)	04-04-2002	Utterslev Mose Ii: 55°42'N 12°30'E (Sjaelland) Denmark	865km ENE 15y 2m 21d
	Alive (ring read in field)	23-04-2004	Utterslev Mose Iii, Copenhagen: 55°43'N 12°30'E (Sjaelland) Denmark	
			866km ENE 17y 3m 9d	
	Alive (ring read in field)	14-03-2006	Brondby Strand: 55°37'N 12°25'E (Sjaelland) Denmark	858km ENE 19y 2m 0d
	Alive (ring read in field)	16-03-2009	Sortedams Soe, Copenhagen: 55°41'N 12°34'E (Sjaelland) Denmark	
			869km ENE 22y 2m 2d	
	Alive (ring read in field)	21-03-2012	Utterslev Mose: 55°42'N 12°30'E (Jylland) Denmark	865km ENE 25y 2m 7d
EN78646	Second-year	16-01-1987	Skegness: 53°9'N 0°19'E	
	Alive (ring read in field)	17-05-2005	Hirsholm: 57°29'N 10°37'E (Jylland) Denmark	810km NE 18y 4m 1d
	Alive (ring read in field)	21-05-2006	Hirsholm: 57°29'N 10°37'E (Jylland) Denmark	810km NE 19y 4m 5d

	Alive (colour rings seen)	16-05-2007	Hirsholm, Frederikshavn: 57°29'N 10°37'E (Jylland) Denmark	810km NE 20y 4m 0d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	15-05-2008	Hirsholm, Frederikshavn: 57°29'N 10°37'E (Jylland) Denmark	810km NE 21y 3m 29d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	03-06-2011	Hirsholm, Frederikshavn: 57°29'N 10°37'E (Jylland) Denmark	810km NE 24y 4m 18d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	19-05-2012	Hirsholm, Frederikshavn: 57°29'N 10°37'E (Jylland) Denmark	810km NE 25y 4m 3d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	12-12-2012	Middlemarsh Tip, Skegness: 53°9'N 0°18'E	2km 25y 10m 26d
EW54693	Nestling	21-06-2010	Moulton Marsh: 52°52'N 0°1'W	
	Freshly dead (predated)	06-05-2012	Lady's Island Lake: 52°12'N 6°23'W (Wexford)	437km W 1y 10m 15d
DEW 5401233	Second-year Alive (colour rings seen)	10-07-2008	Bredstedt-Muhlenteich: 54°37'N 8°57'E (Schleswig-Holstein) Germany	
		10-02-2012	Cleethorpes: 53°33'N 0°1'W	597km W 3y 7m 0d
PLG FN80274	Adult Male Alive (ring read in field)	01-06-2009	Przykona Reservoir, Radyczyny, Turek: 52°0'N 18°39'E (Konin) Poland	
	Alive (ring read in field)	14-07-2012	Grimsby Docks: 53°33'N 0°4'E	1,261km W 3y 1m 13d
		03-12-2012	Cleethorpes: 53°33'N 0°1'E	1,264km W 3y 6m 2d
HRZ LA19891	First-year Alive (colour rings seen)	17-01-2010	Jakusevec, Zagreb: 45°45'N 16°1'E (Hrvatska) Yugoslavia	
		15-12-2012	Cleethorpes: 53°32'N 0°0'W	1,438km NW 2y 10m 28d

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	1	3	1	9	14	5	7	4	4	3	1	-
Minimum Lincs total	12	4	1	74	62	58	46	4	24	991	20	-

During Jan, 12 were recorded from a boat in The Wash on the 10th. Between Feb and the end of Apr, one-two were recorded offshore on about ten dates, with the first inland bird at Covenham Res on Apr 9th and two there and one at Deeping Lakes on Apr 18th. The first large counts of the year were 25 at Barton Pits and 21 at Covenham Res on Apr 25th and 20 off Gib Point on Apr 26th. During May birds were recorded at 14 sites with peak counts of 15 at Covenham Res on May 3rd and 6th, 15 at Frampton on May 20th and 16 at Gib Point on May 22nd. Over the summer, there were 20 at Frampton Marsh on Jun 4th, but sightings were concentrated at Gib Point with 22 on Jun 20th, 33 on Jun 28th, 32 on Jul 1st and 14 on Jul 7th. Autumn passage on the coast started in early October with 100 recorded past Donna Nook on the 6th and 290 on Oct 7th, then 208 birds at Gib Point on Oct 8th, 685 on Oct 9th, 334 on the 10th and 595 on the 12th. A second period of strong passage was recorded at Gib Point in late Oct with 324 on 21st and 341 on 25th after which numbers soon dropped off. The only inland record in the second half of the year involved two at Covenham Res on Sep 26th.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites 2012	9	7	7	6	6	6	11	12	6	10	6	3
Minimum total 2012	11	8	9	9	11	12	23	21	8	14	12	3
Number of sites 2011	7	4	7	5	7	6	14	9	5	6	3	3
Minimum total 2011	7	4	12	9	14	11	34	16	8	6	3	3
Number of sites 2010	4	8	8	7	9	10	13	10	9	9	3	6
Minimum total 2010	4	9	10	12	10	26	32	10	13	9	3	6

Peak monthly counts

Alkborough Flats	-	-	1	1	-	-	9	1	-	1	-	-
Covenham Reservoir	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	-	1	-	1
Donna Nook	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	1	-
Huttoft Bank Pit	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	-
Gibraltar Point	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	3	3	4	1	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	1	-	3	4	2	-	-	-	-	-
Whisby NR	-	1	3	2	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-



Mediterranean Gulls *Larus melanocephalus* Gibraltar Point May 22nd 2012 © Paul Neale



Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* Gibraltar Point May 2012 © Russ Telfer

Typically recorded in small numbers during Jan-Mar, with singles recorded at 17 sites plus two at Covenham Res on Jan 15th, two at Grimsby Docks on Jan 21-Feb 1st, and three at Whisby NR on Mar 27th. At Whisby NR birds were recorded visiting the Black-headed Gull colony between 24th Feb and 3rd Jul, including one second summer and five adult birds. Again expectations were high that nesting might take place at this site, but unfortunately this was not to be. The Bird Atlas 2007-11 charts the rapidly expanding population within the UK, with 573 confirmed breeding pairs in 2009 and at least 1016 pairs in 2010. In Norfolk at least 11 pairs bred in 2011 but yet again there was no confirmed breeding in Lincolnshire during 2012. During Apr-May numerous records came from coastal reserves particularly Gib Point, where one was seen displaying on Apr 26th, and Frampton Marsh. Inland, as well as Whisby, two were at Deeping Lakes NR on Apr 14th, and singles were at Covenham Res on Apr 18th-19th, Apr 27th and May 3rd. The late summer peak included nine at Alkborough on Jul 5th (including five adults, three 2nd calendar years and one 3rd calendar year) and four at Covenham Res on Aug 13th (three adults and a 2nd winter bird), and three individuals were at Bonby Top on Jul 18th-19th. In the second winter period four adult birds were off Gib Point on Oct 4th, two were at the Nene Mouth on Oct 27th, an adult and 1st winter were at Elsham Wolds on Nov 18th and six adults were recorded following a plough at Saxby Wolds on Nov 18th. Elsewhere single birds were recorded at 12 sites. Ringing data from 2012 includes two birds, both ringed as adults inland in Poland, hinting at the origin of some of the birds that appear in Lincolnshire during the late summer.

PLG FN16061	Adult Alive (colour rings seen)	30-05-2008 06-01-2012 3y 7m 7d	Rz. Wisla, Jordanow, Gabin: 52°29'N 19°45'E (Warszawa) Poland Middlemarsh Landfill Site, near Skegness: 53°8'N 0°17'E 1,310km W
PLG FN16107	Adult Male Alive (colour rings seen)	17-05-2011 06-08-2012	J.Rynskie, Rybical: 53°55'N 21°31'E (Olsztyn) Poland Gibraltar Point: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E 1,404km W 1y 2m 20d

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
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	1262	660	643	269	4	25	124	348	113	1202	117	106
Donna Nook	100	300	190	120	10	200	25	200	500	200	150	100
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	1200	2100	436	265	4	19	220	1498	900	1060	3000	22



Common Gull *Larus canus* Grimsby Docks Feb 5th 2012 © Graham Catley

The Wash

WeBS totals	347	190	-	28	349	3	128	223	3	4	138	37
Gibraltar Point	600	3350	1750	333	680	120	300	750	480	476	784	2410

Inland

North Hykeham Pits	8000	800	300	3	-	1	1	-	-	50	3500	2500
Tattershall Lakes CP	150	200	200	-	-	-	1	-	1	15	-	200

Notable counts not in the table included 8000 at Thurlby Sand Pit, 1500 at Skitter Ness and 300 at Havenside CP in Jan, 800 at Holton le Moor in Feb, 300 at Donington on Bain in Mar, 295 at Freiston Shore in May, 200 at Barnoldby le Beck in Aug, and 200 at Manby Flashes in Nov. As for other gulls, reported counts do not reflect true numbers particularly well.

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
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The Humber

WeBS totals	-	1	5	9	9	12	12	2	17	-	-	-
Far Ings	8	4	2	3	3	10	1	83	20	8	1	5
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	-	1	-	3	4	9	14	300	12	-	-	-

The Wash

WeBS totals	23	8	103	414	987	121	749	167	659	799	203	719
Gibraltar Point	1	7	3	19	77	28	56	67	21	8	3	2
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	20	27	2	97	53	124	-
Welland*	16	-	50	289	310	-	-	28	168	3	22	710
Holbeach*	-	-	35	125	185	70	53	17	-	1	-	-
Dawsmere*	-	-	-	-	-	-	150	-	300	-	12	-
Gedney *	-	-	-	-	-	-	69	76	73	41	45	8
Terrington*	-	-	-	-	470	-	340	-	12	700	-	-

Inland

North Hykeham Pits	5	8	80	190	60	260	350	70	100	230	4	1
Kirkby on Bain	-	10	300	150	4	200	400	75	50	20	1	2

Counts were generally unexceptional, though it was noticeable that totals in the inner Wash were higher than elsewhere, even allowing for the variable inclusion of gulls in WeBS counts. Breeding seems to be increasing around the county in both natural and urban settings. There were around ten pairs with nests, and ten young noted in Jul, on Read's Island, and at least seven pairs, most with young, on one pier in Grimsby Docks. Other pairs were believed to be nesting elsewhere in the docks. One pair with young was in Alghitha Road, Skegness, and at least two pairs in Boston

GG77680	Nestling	04-07-2009	Orfordness: c. 52°5'N 1°34'E (Suffolk)	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	08-10-2010	Matosinhos: 41°10'N 8°41'W (Douro Litoral) Portugal	1,442km SSW
	Alive (colour rings seen)		1y 3m 4d	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	26-06-2012	North Hykeham, Lincoln: 53°11'N 0°37'W	192km NW 2y 11m 22d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	19-07-2012	Gainsborough Landfill Site, Gainsborough: 53°23'N 0°47'W	215km NW 3y 0m 15d
GR36587	Nestling	03-07-2011	Havergate Island: 52°4'N 1°31'E (Suffolk)	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	07-02-2012	Sidi Ifni: 29°27'N 10°5'W Morocco	2,690km SSW 0y 7m 4d
GN56870	Nestling	14-07-2011	Port of Felixstowe, Felixstowe: 51°57'N 1°19'E (Suffolk)	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	23-11-2012	Anza, near Agadir: 30°26'N 9°39'W Morocco	2,556km SSW 1y 4m 9d
GG77478	Nestling	10-07-2005	Orfordness: c. 52°5'N 1°34'E (Suffolk)	
	Alive (colour rings seen)	18-09-2007	Rutland Water: 52°39'N 0°42'W (Leicestershire)	167km WNW 2y 2m 8d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	22-11-2007	Gijon, Asturias: 43°31'N 5°37'W (Oviedo) Spain	1,092km SSW 2y 4m 12d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	14-03-2012	Havenside Country Park, near Boston: 52°57'N 0°0'W	144km NW 6y 8m 4d

NLA 5460133	Adult Male Alive (colour rings seen) Alive (colour rings seen)	22-05-2009 24-12-2010 23-03-2012	Den Hoorn, Texel: 53°0'N 4°43'E (Texel) The Netherlands Albert Village Lake: 52°45'N 1°32'W (Leicestershire) 421km W 1y 7m 2d Lincoln Landfill, North Hykeham: 53°11'N 0°36'W 356km W 2y 10m 1d
GH11908	Nestling Unknown (ring only)	21-07-1983 (13-07-2012)	Isle of May: 56°11'N 2°34'W (Fife Region) Whitton: 53°42'N 0°38'W 303km SSE 28y 11m 22d

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
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	897	749	1483	3129	313	395	177	133	342	845	378	598
Donna Nook	300	200	530	600	200	100	25	100	163	460	180	311
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	596	526	921	2602	213	335	154	44	177	385	194	285
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	3875	5608	5197	3325	3966	3141	4772	5738	4633	917	1577	5997
Gibraltar Point	5000	3410	1200	3000	600	600	1050	600	3000	3000	950	10816
Wrangle*	70	120	422	-	130	-	2450	1355	250	-	20	107
Leverton*	274	109	355	275	133	1160	204	1010	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	300	-	156	200	1500	350	150	750	100	18	80	39
Frampton Marsh	650	31	13	88	20	92	21	6	17	420	120	5
Holbeach*	700	-	2800	1520	1220	250	400	1000	500	252	320	400
Dawsmere*	300	-	-	-	-	160	200	-	1000	-	300	500
Gedney*	82	-	179	188	-	-	925	955	303	94	186	1059
<i>Inland</i>												
North Hykeham Pits	1200	510	80	40	11	11	9	4	20	150	600	300
Kirkby on Bain	2500	600	200	800	400	700	350	250	400	1500	165	3000

While gulls are not counted as consistently as wildfowl or waders, there were some high counts this year, especially at Gib Point and in the Wash. The largest total at Gib Point of 10816, comprising 5816 in to roost and 5000 moving south offshore, was on Dec 25th. Notable counts not in the table included 1000 at Havenside CP, 450 at Thurlby Sand Pit and 400 at Leadenham Tip in Jan, 800 at Bagmoor Floods in Jan-Feb, 1000 on Elsham Wolds in Nov, plus Wash WeBS sector counts of 4800 at Witham Mouth in Feb, 2000 at Terrington in Sep and 1000 in Friskney in Dec. Urban nesting has been strangely scarce in Lincolnshire but seems at last to be developing. At least one pair has nested in Cleethorpes since 2002. This year, there were seven nests on one pier at Grimsby Docks most of which fledged young, two pairs with young on factory roofs nearby, and others were believed to be nesting in the docks and elsewhere in Grimsby. At Skegness there were single pairs with young on Alghith Road and at Butlins. In addition to these roof-nesting birds, there have been occasional single nests over the years in saltmarshes and similar places. While roof-nesting birds can be difficult to view, it would be of interest to make a special effort to record these to document the likely spread of the species in the county.

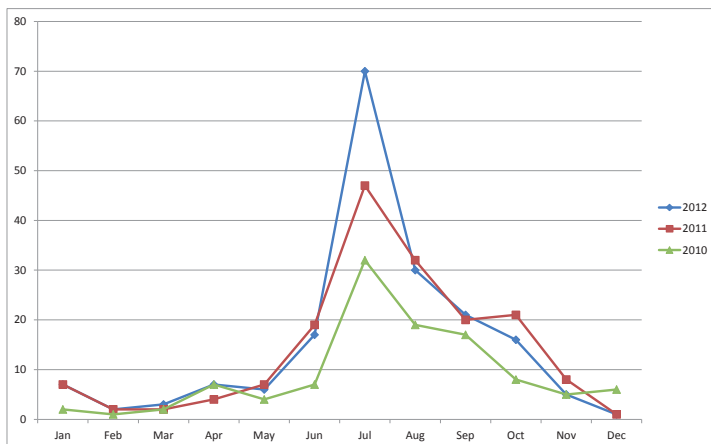
GC86410	First-year Alive (colour rings seen) Alive (colour rings seen)	17-07-2011 23-01-2012 25-03-2012	Glaxo Sea Defence, Montrose: 56°42'N 2°27'W (Tayside) Boston Landfill: 52°57'N 0°0'W 446km SSE 0y 6m 6d Holme-next-the-Sea: 52°57'N 0°31'E (Norfolk) 458km SSE 0y 8m 8d
GN77423	Adult Alive (colour rings seen) Alive (colour rings seen) Alive (colour rings seen) Alive (colour rings seen)	20-01-2004 01-05-2010 28-04-2011 28-01-2012 29-10-2012	Hyde Farm, near Beaconsfield: 51°35'N 0°38'W (Buckinghamshire) Orndalen, Tromsø: 69°42'N 19°0'E (Troms) Norway 2,264km NNE 6y 3m 11d Orndalen, Tromsø: 69°42'N 19°0'E (Troms) Norway 2,264km NNE 7y 3m 8d Pitsea Landfill: c. 51°32'N 0°30'E (Essex) 79km E 8y 0m 8d North Hykeham: c. 53°11'N 0°37'W 178km N 8y 9m 9d

GN77377	Adult Alive (colour rings seen) Alive (colour rings seen)	21-01-2004 19-12-2008 26-09-2011	Hyde Farm, near Beaconsfield: 51°35'N 0°38'W (Buckinghamshire) Zeebrugge: 51°20'N 3°11'E (West-Vlaanderen) Belgium 266km E 4y 10m 28d Leadenham Tip: c. 53°3'N 0°34'W 164km N 7y 8m 5d
GA11047	Adult Freshly dead (hit by car)	17-02-2001 21-04-2012	Slippery Gowt Landfill, near Wyberton: 52°57'N 0°0'W Simonby, Parainen: 60°16'N 22°13'E (Turku-Pori) Finland 1,579km ENE 11y 2m 4d
SFH HT260479	Adult Female Alive (colour rings seen)	29-05-2007 08-02-2012	Ruovesi: 61°51'N 23°52'E (Hame) Finland Millennium Green, North Hykeham: 53°11'N 0°36'W 1,742km WSW 4y 8m 10d
NOS FA27601	Nestling Freshly dead (bird of prey)	25-06-2006 18-10-2012	Store Slettingen, Mandal: 57°57'N 7°29'E (Vest-Agder) Norway Boston: 52°58'N 0°1'W 728km SW 6y 3m 23d

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites 2012	6	2	2	4	3	3	11	8	7	4	3	1
Minimum total 2012	7	2	3	7	6	17	70	30	21	16	5	1
Minimum total 2011	7	2	2	4	7	19	47	32	20	21	8	1
Minimum total 2010	2	1	2	7	4	7	32	19	17	8	5	6



The figure illustrates the peak arrival time for this species in Lincolnshire. Counts of more than seven all occurred in the period Jun-Aug and included nine at Lea Marsh, Gainsborough on Jul 6th, 20 on Jul 14th and 10 on Aug 14th, 11 at Elsham Wold on Jul 10th, eight at Kirkby on Bain Jul 17th, 14 at North Hykeham Pits on Jun 21st and nine on Jul 20th and nine at Wroot on Jul 20th.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Scarce all-year visitor. **LBRC**

The first recorded bird of the year was a 2nd calendar year at Havenside CP, Boston on Jan 30th (PS). Inland, an adult was at North Hykeham on Feb 13th (DN) and a 2nd calendar year at Gainsborough Landfill on Feb 27th (TCL). During Apr, a 2nd calendar year was at Elsham Wold on the 17-18th (TCL) and a 4th calendar year at Fischers Waste Ground, North Hykeham on 19th (DN). A moulting 2nd calendar year was at North Hykeham on May 8th (DN), a 3rd calendar bird was at Elsham Wold on May 28th (TCL) and a 2nd calendar year on Jun 5th (TCL). A 2nd

calendar year bird was at North Hykeham from Jun 18th-23rd (DN) and a 2nd calendar year on Jun 29th (DN). A 4th calendar year was present at Gainsborough Landfill from Jul 5th-19th (DN) when two further adult birds were recorded including the first sighting in 2012 of 'stumpy' the one-legged adult bird which had been recorded in Lincolnshire since Oct 2004 (DN). A 2nd calendar year was at North Hykeham on Jul 31st (DN). A juv was at North Hykeham on Sep 1st (DN) and possibly the same at Skegness (NAL), a juv at Gainsborough Landfill on Sep 11th (DN), an adult at North Hykeham Sep 14th (DN, NAL), and two (1st and 2nd calendar year) at Kirkby on Bain Sep 27th (TCL). There was a notable influx of Caspian Gulls into Lincolnshire at the end of October with a 3rd and a 2nd calendar year at Kirkby on Bain on Oct 10th (TCL), a minimum of four adult and a 1st calendar year at North Hykeham on Oct 23rd (DN), a 4th calendar year at Gainsborough Tip on Oct 24th (DN), an adult at North Hykeham on Oct 29th (DN). Finally, an adult was at North Hykeham on Nov 30th (DN), a 1st calendar year bird at Gainsborough Landfill on Dec 18th (DN) and a 1st calendar year at Elsham Wold on Dec 28th-30th (TCL, GPC).

Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri*

Vagrant BBRC

A 2nd calendar year bird was at Newland Hill, Elsham from Apr 3rd-18th (TCL *et al*). The record is under consideration by BBRC and BOURC but would form the first county record if accepted. See full description on p.185 of this report.



Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides* Grimsby Feb 1st 2012 © Russell Hayes

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

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

An unprecedented influx of Iceland Gulls into northern and north western Britain occurred during Jan and Feb 2012, with a significant influx of 2nd calendar year birds into Lincolnshire from mid Jan. The number of records meant it was difficult to accurately assess the total number of birds, with some sites (particularly The Haven, Boston) having a marked turnover between mid-Jan and early Mar. Associated with this influx were a number of birds showing the characteristics of the race *L. g. kumlienii* colloquially known as Kumlien's Gull.

The first bird of the year was a 2nd calendar year at North Hykeham Pits on Jan 9th (GHO, DN, WBR, ACS) and possibly the same bird was at Leadenham Landfill on Jan 14th (APC). In the Wash a 2nd calendar year was at Havenside CP, Boston from Jan 19th-27th (PS), being the first of a number of records from this site that possibly involved up to five individuals, including a 3rd calendar year bird on Jan 27th (PAH), two 2nd calendar year birds present from Feb 1st (PS, EJM) occasionally being recorded from Frampton Marsh on Feb 6th (JB) until at least Mar 14th (SK, SJ, CJJ *et al*). In the north of the county on Jan 21st a 3rd calendar year bird was at Donna

Nook (SL) and a 2nd calendar year at Bagmoor (ND), with a 2nd calendar year there also on Jan 29th (GPC, WG). Also on Jan 21st, a 3rd calendar year was found at Grimsby Docks (GPC), seen intermittently until Mar 20th (WPB) with a second 3rd calendar year bird present on only Jan 31st (GPC). A 3rd calendar bird was Donna Nook on Feb 13th (SL), a 2nd calendar year was at Elsham from Apr 5th-7th (ND), and an adult was at Bonby Carrs on May 9th (GPC) and May 20th (CPu). In the second winter period a 1st calendar year was at Bonby Top from Dec 28th until the end of the year (GPC).

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

Second calendar year birds, probably different, were at Havenside CP, Boston on Jan 26th and Feb 2nd (PS). A 2nd calendar bird was present at Pyewipe and then Grimsby Docks from Jan 31st-Feb 5th (GPC).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

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

The first bird of the year was a 2nd calendar year bird at Whisby NR on Jan 7th (DMJ,WBR). Next, a juv was at Bagmoor on Jan 21st (ND), a 3rd calendar year was at Donna Nook on the same date (SL), a 2nd calendar year was at Buck Beck Outfall on Jan 24th (DJB), and a 2nd calendar year was at Pyewipe, Grimsby from Jan 29th-30th (Bill Meek). A 2nd calendar year was around Gainsborough Landfill from Jan 31st-Feb 27th (DN) and a 3rd calendar and 2nd calendar bird were at Lea Marsh, Gainsborough on Feb 29th (TCL). A 2nd calendar year bird was at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Mar 3rd and 27th (WG), and an adult was at Mablethorpe North End on Apr 22nd (BHe). A 2nd calendar year was at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on May 5th, a 3rd calendar year was at Gibraltar Point on May 18th (KMW) and probably a second one on May 22nd (JPS). Two birds were recorded during Jul: 2nd calendar year birds at both Elsham Wold on the 3rd (GPC) and Thealby on the 19th (TCL). A juv was at Elsham Wold from Nov 14th-19th (TCL, GPC), another at Donna Nook on Dec 2nd (SL), a 2nd calendar year was at Gainsborough Landfill from Dec 10th-13th (DN), a juv was at Bagmoor on Dec 15th (ND) and a new juv was present on Dec 25th (ND).



Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* Elsham Top
Nov 18th 2012 © Graham Catley



Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* Pyewipe
Jan 30th 2012 © Graham Catley

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
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	116	94	183	140	39	23	81	114	263	313	206	218
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	42	60	110	-	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook	30	49	115	45	30	25	20	30	52	157	132	132
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	84	40	70	95	30	25	22	61	200	156	80	86
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	125	73	24	39	101	40	229	278	69	287	269	80
Gibraltar Point	120	313	200	120	140	330	540	500	550	1000	422	534
Frampton Marsh	8	2	3	17	-	8	62	9	3	280	110	3

Inland

North Hykeham Pits	900	500	250	210	70	140	190	15	30	350	800	400
Kirkby on Bain	100	30	7	110	50	50	100	40	100	200	-	100

Other counts exceeding 100 were up to 300 at Havenside CP in Jan, 200 at Leadenham Tip in Jan with 100 there in Dec, 300 at Bagmoor Floods in Apr, 120 at Cleethorpes and 102 in the Wainfleet sector of the Wash in Aug, 100 in the Witham sector of the Wash in Oct. The Birds of Lincolnshire (1989) mentions 'roosts of several thousands' in the Humber and Wash. Along with other gulls, this species is probably under-counted, but during 2008-12 the only counts over 1000 have been 2000 at Whitton on the Humber in Jan 2010, 1100 at Gainsborough tip in Dec 2010, and up to 1414 at Gib Point in Aug-Oct 2011., plus 1000 there in Oct this year.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

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

Peak monthly counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Donna Nook	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	-	-	3	-	4	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	34	120	14	61	2	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	3	-	2	-	-
Witham Mouth	-	-	1	-	7	2	-	-

In addition to those in the table, there were 20 at Holbeach Marsh on Aug 6th and 14 in the Terrington sector of the Wash on Aug 19th. The first birds of the year were singles at Grainthorpe Marsh on Apr 18th and 16 at Gibraltar Point on Apr 22nd where they arrived in reasonable numbers through May with 41 on the 6th and up to 120 by the 11th. A pair was seen mating on the 25th. However, most had dispersed by late May, coinciding with a period of very poor weather, and up to 10 only were seen during the first half of Jun. Of these, there appeared to be three pairs. However no nests were confirmed. Later in Jun, a bird was seen excavating a scrape on 26th but there was no further activity. Gibraltar Point is the only site on the Lincolnshire coast where Little Terns still nest with any regularity and with significant numbers. The lack of nesting pairs here in 2012 is a major cause for concern and birds do not seem to have been moved to an alternative site in the immediate vicinity. Whilst there are suitable areas of shingle for nesting along the Reserve frontage, optimum areas have diminished. This is partly due to the reduction in natural shingle supply to this stretch of coast and also to the accretion of embryo dunes over the main shingle ridges. Where good nesting habitat remains, below the dune line, it is inevitably at lower altitude and more vulnerable to tidal inundation. The dune build up also reduces all-round visibility which may be another important factor for the terns. There were no breeding reports from elsewhere in Lincolnshire. In what was a poor year generally for Little Terns in Lincolnshire, reflected by the low monthly peak counts in the table above, there were only two inland reports, one at Covenham Res on Apr 25th and another at Whisby NR on May 3rd. The latest reported bird was one at Gibraltar Point on Sep 25th.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

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

Vagrant. **BBRC**

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Donna Nook	2	-	-	-	2	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	1	9	1
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	-	2	1
Frampton Marsh	-	2	-	1	-	-
North Hykeham/Whisby	-	1	-	-	3	-
Number of sites	2	7	-	2	12	2
Minimum Lincs total	3	16	-	2	23	2

The table includes individual sites holding at least two birds *and* in two or more months. The first bird of the year was at Waters' Edge, Barton Pits on Apr 23rd-24th, and there were records from nine widespread inland and coastal sites during Apr-May. Most were singles but there were two at Donna Nook on Apr 30th, two at Frampton on May 19th, three at Kirkby on Bain on May 26th and seven at Thurlby Sand Pit on May 27th. There were no reports between singles at Frampton on May 28th and on Jul 8th-13th. After an adult at Gib Point on Jul 29th, birds were more



Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* Water's Edge, Barton Apr 23rd 2012 © Graham Catley



Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* Covenham Res Aug 26th 2012 © Russell Hayes



Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* Frampton Marsh Jul 2012 © Russ Telfer



Little Auk *Alle alle* Trusthorpe Oct 12th 2012 © Russell Hayes

frequent during Aug, with two at Donna Nook on the 18th, two at Apex Pit, North Hykeham also on the 18th, a single at Whisby NR from the 14th-20th, nine moving south at Gib Point on the 29th, and two at Freiston Shore on the 30th. The only records in Sep were juvs moving south at Gib Point on the 20th and 24th, and singles at Freiston Shore on the 21st and 24th.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Vagrant. LBRC

A moulting adult was at Frampton Marsh on Jul 25th (JB).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandwicensis*

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

Peak monthly counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
<i>The Humber & coast</i>								
WeBS totals	-	-	-	107	1222	244	142	33
Donna Nook	-	2	-	19	200	490	73	21
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	51	700	550	14	-
Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe	-	-	-	19	550	164	43	33
Huttoft-Anderby	-	-	-	-	46	450	200	-
<i>The Wash</i>								
WeBS totals	-	-	12	39	1015	369	147	3
Gibraltar Point	-	108	39	180	3080	2400	1000	58
Leverton*	-	-	-	-	105	19	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	24	5	1	130	-

One was at the Witham Mouth on Jan 19th. There have been Dec records in 1990 and 2000 but no previous Jan records; the earliest spring record is Mar 12th 1990. This year the first of spring were two north at Gib Point on Apr 12th, with birds present there most days subsequently. Spring passage peaked in late Apr-early May, with the maximum count 108 including 73 north on Apr 24th. There were few spring records away from Gib Point but they did include one inland at North Hykeham Pits on Apr 26th and two at Pyewipe on May 24th. Higher numbers started to be seen from mid Jun but the first four-figure count was not until 1667 including 1267 south at Gib Point on Jul 14th. Similar numbers remained until Jul 30th, including the peak of 3080 including 580 south on Jul 27th. There were also 700 near Theddlethorpe on Jul 20th. Counts were a little smaller early in Aug but rose again during Aug 20th-Sep 1st, including 2400 on Aug 23rd. Thereafter, numbers gradually decreased, with no counts over 100 after Sep 16th. There were sightings most days in the first three weeks of Oct, including 18 at Gib Point on the 21st, and the last three were there on the 22nd.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

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

Peak monthly counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
<i>The Humber & coast</i>								
WeBS totals	-	1	4	16	30	163	8	-
Barton Pits	-	5	22	14	15	7	6	-
Donna Nook	-	-	5	1	15	720	29	43
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	15	22	500	-	-
<i>The Wash</i>								
WeBS totals	-	-	32	240	174	475	47	4
Gibraltar Point	-	2	20	36	300	500	50	14
Freiston Shore	-	14	100	200	200	100	100	-
Witham Mouth	-	-	3	28	80	353	250	-
Frampton Marsh	-	4	50	20	50	18	23	-
<i>Inland</i>								
North Hykeham Pits	-	20	34	12	19	19	-	-
Whisby NR	-	7	18	25	24	8	-	-
Kirkby on Bain	-	20	70	40	50	5	-	-

The first winter record of a Common Tern in Lincolnshire was a surprise at Freiston Shore on Jan 11th (PS). Previous extreme dates were Mar 19th-Nov 4th, but there have been other winter occurrences further south along the east coast. Presumably the same bird was seen again at the brick pits at Wrangle Bank on Feb 12th (RPearson). At a more typical date, spring arrivals began with one at Far Ings on Apr 11th with widespread reports of small numbers during the rest of the month, with up to 20 at each of North Hykeham and Kirkby on Bain. There were 100 at Freiston Shore by May 17th-18th and 70 at Kirkby on Bain by the 23rd. Breeding reports included 23 pairs at Whisby NR producing 0.48 young per pair (some nests flooded out), up to 11 pairs at Barton Pits, four at Messingham SQ, two at Boultham Mere, and single pairs at Killingholme Haven Pits and Eastville. Breeding was confirmed, but with no estimates of numbers of pairs, at Kirkby on Bain Pits (25 young noted), Frampton Marsh and Deeping Lakes, and probable breeding at West Ashby Pits. Numbers reached 200 at Freiston Shore on Jun 28th but at Gib Point there were fewer until a sudden increase in late Jul, reaching 300 on the 28th. In Aug, large numbers were present along the coast and in the Wash, including (not in the table) 1500 at Horseshoe Point on Aug 8th and 720 at Donna Nook on Aug 22nd. Totals fell away from late Aug, though there were still 100 at Freiston Shore on Sep 15th and 43 at Donna Nook on Oct 6th. The last were six at Gib Point on Oct 21st.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

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

Peak monthly counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Alkborough Flats	-	39	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barton Pits	-	88	6	-	-	-	5	-
Bagmoor Floods	-	-	33	-	-	-	-	-
Pyewipe	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	10	-	-	4	6	5	2
Covenham Res	-	49	25	-	1	1	-	-
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	-	22	16	-	-
Chapel Point	-	-	-	-	47	-	-	1
Gibraltar Point	-	53	26	6	23	17	8	7

The table includes all sites at which 20 or more were recorded plus Donna Nook. Other sites where ten or more were noted were Boultham Mere (11 in Apr), North Hykeham Pits (ten in Apr), Kirkby on Bain Pits (ten in May), Trent Port (13 in May), and Whisby NR (18 in May). The first of the year were singles at Covenham Res and Donna Nook on Apr 19th but the bulk of Apr records fell during the 24th-26th including the counts of 53 north at Gib Point on the 24th and 88 flying east from Far Ings on the 25th. Most significant May records also fell within a short period of the 2nd-5th, including 33 at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on the 4th. There was a short gap in records between Jun 9th and 24th. There were small numbers until late Jul, when peak counts occurred during the 26th-30th, including 47 at Chapel Point on the 29th. There were also a few double-figure counts during Aug 8th-13th but none exceeding eight after that. Records in Oct came on nine dates, mostly at Gib Point, with the last flying north at Chapel St Leonards on the 23rd.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Rare passage migrant May-Oct. LBRC RBBP

A minimum of three adults was recorded at Freiston Shore during Jun 28th-Jul 2nd (JB, PS *et al*), involving two ringed adults seen on Jun 28th with presumably one of the same on Jul 1st, plus unringed singles on Jun 30th and Jul 2nd.

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

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

There was a surprising number of early year records, including eight at Gib Point and five at Freiston Shore on Jan 1st and a further eight reports from Gib Point of up to eight birds from Jan 3rd until Feb 21st. Single birds were at Donna Nook on May 19th and Gib Point on Jun 21st, and five at Huttoft Car Terrace on Jul 1st. Significant numbers were noted from mid July until the end of Oct. High counts in July were 39 at Gib Point on the 27th, 14 at Chapel Point on the 29th and 89 at Gib Point on the 31st. Counts of one-four birds were widespread throughout Aug but at Gib Point there were between 12 and 20 on six dates with 43 on the 25th. Small numbers were noted from Donna Nook to the Wash on almost every day in Sep with high counts of 10 at Saltfleet on

the 16th, 11 at Huttoft Car Terrace on the 23rd, 18 at Gib Point on the 25th and 50 in The Wash on the 29th, and there were also two on the Humber at Barton on Sep 24th. There was a very similar picture in Oct, with high counts of 11 at Donna Nook on the 7th, 118 at Gib Point on the 12th – the largest count of the year and most moving north, 10 at Trusthorpe on the 17th and 10-13 at Gib Point on the 25th-26th. One-three were recorded on fifteen dates during Nov-Dec with the final sighting of two birds between Tetney Haven and Humberston Fitties on Dec 18th.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

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

The high numbers at Freiston Shore in Dec 2011 continued to Feb, with counts of 15 on Jan 1st increasing to 25 by Feb 10th, and the last five on Feb 22nd. Smaller numbers, one-four, were noted at Gib Point and Witham Mouth through Jan and Feb with eight at the latter site on Feb 19th. Up to four were recorded on five dates from Apr 26th until Jun 10th at Gib Point and one-three were seen on six dates from Jul 1st to Aug 8th between Huttoft Car Terrace and Gib Point. Ten were at Gib Point Sep 10th and 14 were there on the 25th, before the highest count of the year of 75 on a Wash boat trip on Sep 29th. One-two were noted from Donna Nook to Freiston Shore throughout Oct with four at Gib Point on the 3rd and six there on the 5th. The final bird of the year was at Gib Point on Dec 17th.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Scarce/common passage migrant and winter visitor. .

A very good year with a minimum of 80 birds, beginning with two early records of three at Freiston Shore on Jan 1st and again on Feb 10th. Singles were noted in Oct on the 8th, 13th and 24th at Gib Point before a larger influx began with three at Huttoft Car Terrace on the 26th, six at Gib Point on the 27th on which day there were also 28 at Huttoft Car Terrace comprising 17 north, 10 south and one inland with Starlings and nine north at Mablethorpe. On the 28th, one was at Cleethorpes LNR, 33 at Donna Nook, three north at Trusthorpe, 14 at Huttoft Car Terrace, nine north and one south at Gib Point, and one at Freiston Shore which was still there on 29th. The final records of the year came from Gib Point where eight flew north on Nov 27th and two north on the 28th.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

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

There were ten records for the year involving 11 individuals with early singles south at Gib Point on Jan 9th (KMW) and 10th (JPS) and the next being found freshly dead there at North End Beach on May 1st. One was at Chapel Point Aug 31st (GH), two flew north with a Guillemot at Gib Point on Sep 24th (KMW), with singles north there on the 26th and 29th (JPS), and a juv was seen on a Wash boat trip in the Roaring Middle also on Sep 29th (SK). The last birds of the year were in Oct at Freiston Shore on the 3rd (PS) and at Huttoft Car Terrace on the 28th (CMo, RL). There were other unproven or unattributed records; this is still a rare bird in the county and needs appropriate documentation.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common and widespread resident.

A common and familiar Lincolnshire species associated especially with urban centres but with flocks sometimes feeding in nearby countryside. Counts of over 50 birds were recorded from Far Ings, Freiston Shore, Miningsby, Pinchbeck and Wrangle Bank, with the maxima being 225 at Pinchbeck in Oct, up to 200 at Freiston Shore in Jan, and 75 at Miningsby in Apr.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Common resident and winter visitor.

Reports came from about 70 sites but in most there were no counts of more than ten. In general, numbers during the first and last quarters were higher than in the middle of the year, but Donna Nook was an exception with maxima in Jun-Jul and the peak of 55 on Jul 7th. Other localities holding 40 or more were Croftmarsh with 41 in Jan and 40 in Nov, Gib Point with 42 in Feb and 60 in Nov, Metherringham Delph with 80 in Feb and 50 in Mar, and Morton (Gainsborough) with 43 in Jan. At Gib Point in autumn, 290 were counted moving south during Oct 1st-Nov 15th, most during Nov 2nd-12th. Peaks were 60 on the 2nd, 51 on the 3rd and 49 on the 8th.

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
Donna Nook	2000	400	300	800	200	200	50	30	200	500	300	500
Gibraltar Point	306	141	663	656	897	259	59	66	304	2107	3000	65
Anwick Fen	425	670	315	110	115	50	155	315	175	340	450	3750
Deeping High Bank	420	1100	105	103	117	55	30	23	154	557	375	495

The four sites in the table illustrate typical patterns of occurrence. In many places, highest numbers occur in winter, while especially on the coast there can be peaks also during autumn passage. Counts of 750 or more elsewhere were 1000 at Fulbeck and 800 at Tattershall Lakes CP in Jan, 1000 near Barton in Feb, 820 at Swanholme Lakes in Mar, 900 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes in Oct, 825 at Haverholme Park in Dec. During Oct and the first half of Nov, about 20000 were logged moving south at Gib Point, with heaviest passage during Oct 14th-Nov 8th; peaks were 1469 on Oct 31st, 2430 on Nov 2nd and 3000 on Nov 3rd.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Very common resident.

Reports came from about 70 sites, with ten or more at thirteen of them. The highest totals were 33 at Deeping High Bank in Jan, 25 at Long Bennington in Oct, and 25 at Tanvats (near Metherringham) and 70 at Witham Mouth in Nov.



Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* Kirkby on Bain May 6th 2012 © Russell Hayes

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Widespread but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Donna Nook	-	-	5	4	1	1	-	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes	-	-	6	-	8	3	2	-
Gibraltar Point	1	2	24	17	11	13	5	-
Wrangle Bank	-	-	2	1	-	1	1	-
Frampton Marsh	-	1	2	1	2	5	-	-
Fiskerton Fen	-	-	4	1	1	1	-	-
Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	-
Tydd St Mary's Marsh	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-
Number of sites 2012	1	3	36	22	29	20	7	-
Number of sites 2011	-	12	34	29	18	14	9	1

A general request for all records of this species has probably lead to a higher reporting level than in past years. The table shows all sites where birds were recorded on four or more months. The continued decline of this species is of considerable concern and all records are still requested. In 2012, roughly a third of records came from the intensively-covered Gib Point, where the first occurred on the very early date of Mar 23rd followed by two on Apr 22nd the first two occurred on Apr 22nd. The main passage at Gib Point started on May 6th, when seven birds were recorded, and peaked at 24 on May 29th. Moderate numbers continued to be seen there during much of Jun, including 17 on both the 2nd and 10th. Elsewhere during Apr-Jun, the highest counts were up to six at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR in May, five at Donna Nook and four at Fiskerton Fen in May, and four at Donna Nook in Jun. Counts were generally lower in Jul, although up to 11 were counted at Gib Point, four pairs were breeding in Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR, and six including a juv and a nest were noted at Dunsby on the 31st. Passage at Gib Point in Aug peaked at 13 on the 8th and ten on the 20th, while the highest counts elsewhere were six at Timberland Fen on the 3rd, five at Frampton March on the 5th and five at Rippingale Fen on the 6th. Reports came from six sites in Sep including five at Gib Point on the 3rd, and the last one at Howden's Pullover on Sep 26th.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Rare. Vagrant from feral populations and occasional local escapes.

Most recent county records of this species seem to refer to recent escapes rather than birds in a naturalised population, and this certainly seemed the case during 2012. Other similar parakeets may also escape, and care is needed to identify birds accurately. A pair (one was normal green, the other almost yellow with a shorter tail) was recorded in Weelsby Wood from Jan 13th, and were recorded at a presumed nest hole on Feb 26th. One was at Wyberton on Jul 13th, two were at Boston (The Haven) on Sep 23rd, three flew NNE at Wainfleet St Mary Fen Sep 27th and two flew WNW at Friskney Nov 26th.



Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* Bardney May 6th 2012 © Russell Hayes

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Fairly common but declining summer visitor.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Donna Nook	5	6	7	1	2	1	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes	2	3	3	1	1	1	1
Gibraltar Point	2	5	5	2	1	2	1
Number of sites 2012	22	69	22	15	7	4	2
Number of sites 2011	33	43	30	6	7	4	1
Number of sites 2010	43	46	24	10	4	-	1

The first bird of the year was heard at Chambers Farm Wood on Apr 17th, over a week later than in 2011. Singles were then recorded at eight further sites before Apr 24th, when the main arrival occurred, with birds at 17 sites by the end of the month. Most were singles but there were five at Donna Nook on Apr 26th. During May one-two birds were recorded at almost 70 widely spread sites, a significant increase on numbers recorded in 2011 and almost certainly a reflection on observer recording rather than population increase. Peaks of four or more during May were four at Saltfleetby St Clement on May 7th, six at Donna Nook on May 12th and 31st, five at Grainthorpe Marsh on May 13th, five at Gib Point on 18th, and four at Woodhall Spa on May 19th. A similar pattern continued in Jun when three-seven were present at Donna Nook, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR and Gib Point. Records of one-two continued during Jul-Sep, and juveniles were recorded at nine sites during the period. There were three singles at Gib Point in the first half of Oct, and the last of the year was a juv south at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on Oct 20th.



Barn Owl *Tyto alba* Dunsby Dec 16th 2012 © Steve Nesbitt

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**

It was a poor year for breeding during 2012 due to the almost continuous wet weather, though reports still came from well over 150 locations. A particular spell of continuous and heavy rain at the end of July meant that chicks that were large, needing plenty of food, starved. Barn Owls that had either eggs or small chicks, requiring less food, fared better. Bob Sheppard and Alan Ball monitored some 330 breeding attempts in the county and the overall failure rate of 39% was the highest they have recorded in recent years, though this figure is inflated, by failed pairs relaying late in the season, and failing again due to the wet October.

The first of the ringing recoveries below was the oldest recorded during the year. In addition there were three birds that had been ringed in 2002. These are good ages for Barn Owls as the British 'record' is 15 years. Barn Owls are very sedentary and most birds settle within around 10 km of where they were raised, but in 2012 there were a good number of long distance movements and all those over 100 km are included below. Of particular note is the bird from Dumfries and Galloway, which is thought to be the first instance of a Scottish reared bird found in Lincolnshire. The bird was found freshly dead on a very rural road and therefore there is no possibility of it being transported to its finding location on the front of a vehicle.

GC72747	Nestling	05-06-2011	Balmurrie: 54°57'N 4°49'W (Dumfries & Galloway)
	Freshly dead (hit by car)	08-02-2012	Snitterby Sandhays: 53°26'N 0°31'W 327km ESE 0y 8m 3d

GC90982	Nestling Long dead (hit by car)	06-07-2009 Orby Marsh, Skegness: 53°11'N 0°16'E (10-01-2012) Craythorne: 54°27'N 1°20'W (North Yorkshire) 176km NW 2y 6m 4d
GR33779	Nestling Alive (ring read in field)	15-06-2011 Sunnyside Farm, Ingoldsby: 52°51'N 0°29'W 20-04-2012 Newton: 52°1'N 0°50'E (Suffolk) 129km SE 0y 10m 5d
GC68549	Nestling Freshly dead (hit by car)	29-07-2009 near Sutton Upon Derwent: 53°54'N 0°54'W (Yorkshire) 31-08-2012 near Horbling: c. 52°54'N 0°21'W 117km SSE 3y 1m 2d
GR13890	Nestling Female Caught by ringer	03-08-2011 near Oakington: 52°15'N 0°3'E (Cambridgeshire) 29-06-2012 Holme Barn Fm, Claypole: c. 53°2'N 0°45'W 103km NNW 0y 10m 26d



Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* North Killingholme Dec 17th 2012 © Graham Catley



Little Owl *Athene noctua* Cumberworth
Aug 6th 2012 © Russell Hayes



Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* Stixwould
Sep 1st 2012 © Russell Hayes

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Locally common resident and very sedentary.

It would seem that 2012 was too wet even for Little Owls, which normally do well in wet conditions when nesting, as they switch to feeding on earthworms that come to the surface. There

were 59 pairs of owls in Bob Sheppard's nest box study during 2012, but many broods failed during the cold and wet May. The failure rate of 27% of clutches/broods was one of the highest recorded with 113 chicks fledging. The recovery below of EW32275 is a significant distance for a Little Owl to move. In addition one female was retrapped in the same box where she had been ringed as a breeding female in 2003. At 9 years, this is not too far from the British record of 10 yrs 11 months.

EW32275	Nestling	16-06-2008	South Rauceby Hill Farm: 52°59'N 0°29'W
	Dead	13-09-2012	RAF Cottesmore, Oakham: c. 52°44'N 0°39'W (Leicestershire) 30km SSW 4y 2m 28d

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Localised widespread resident.

Noted from around 75 locations, most Tawny Owl records (95%) as usual were of one-two birds. They were widespread in the county though with few in the southern fens, a scarcity confirmed by the Bird Atlas 2007-11, though this effect is accentuated by low levels of coverage. Extensive surveys of the species are rarely attempted, so the estimate of 32 territories in Laughton Forest is notable. Other relatively high counts were six at Donna Nook on Jan 3rd, and four at Brigsley and Swallow (family parties) and at Donington on Bain.

GC82942	Nestling	16-06-2010	Timberland Fen: c. 53°7'N 0°17'W
	Freshly dead	29-04-2012	Hawthorn Hill: 53°5'N 0°12'W 7km SE 1y 10m 13d

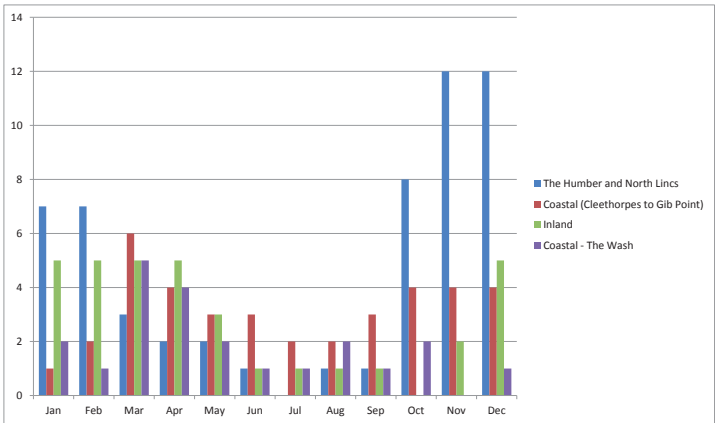
Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

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

Birds were recorded from 14 locations during 2014, a slight increase on 2011. In the first part of the year birds were recorded from Messingham SQ on Jan 7th, 14th and Feb 9th, Appleby Carrs on Jan 10th and Feb 7th, Killingholme Haven Pits NR on Feb 6th, Branston Booths on Feb 29th, Claypole on Mar 9th, Bonby Carrs on Mar 19th and Deeping Lakes NR on Mar 28th and Apr 14th. What were assumed to be a spring migrants were at Donna Nook on May 5th and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on May 13th. Confirmed breeding was recorded at two locations in the north of the county. At site A, an adult was recorded on a nest on May 6th with two broods recorded during Jun 19th-Jul 5th. At site B, two juv birds were recorded calling on Jun 25th. In the second half of the year, at Gib Point, single birds were recorded on Jul 1st, Sep 28th, Oct 21st, Nov 15th and Dec 14th. Elsewhere, a roost at Messingham SQ held one on Dec 2nd and four birds on Dec 16th, one was at Saxby Wolds on Dec 11th, another at Killingholme Haven Pits NR on Dec 17th and finally one at Hemingby on Dec 23rd.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Winter visitor and occasional breeder. **RBBP**



Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tetney Haven/Marsh	1	-	3	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	-	-	6	4	2	3	1	1	2	4	2	3
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	1	3	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
Huttoft (village)	1	2	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	1	2	3	3	3	2	2	1	3	3	4	4
Freiston Shore	1	-	-	4	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	1	2	1	-	1	2	1	-	-	1
Holbeach Range	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Wingland Marsh	1	-	3	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
Worlabby Carrs	7	7	1	4	2	1	-	-	-	8	12	12
Nocton Fen	4	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Anwick Fen	-	1	-	1	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Baston Fen NR	1	3	-	2	2	1	-	-	1	-	1	1
Monthly totals 2012	66	35	72	69	77	19	11	9	14	34	31	44
Number of sites 2012	35	15	34	39	52	15	10	7	10	18	14	21
Number of sites 2011	6	11	13	16	6	4	1	1	5	23	29	27
Number of sites 2010	11	7	6	5	2	-	-	2	10	11	18	15

The fortunes of Short-eared Owls in Lincolnshire continue to prosper; all sites recording this species in five or more months are tabulated. The chart roughly divides Lincolnshire into four distinct geographical regions (with Worlabby Carrs included within The Humber and North Lincolnshire calculations). The highest counts were seven at Worlabby Carrs on Jan 27th and Feb 26th, and six at Grainthorpe Marsh on Mar 11th, and later in the year six at Worlabby Carrs on Oct 21st rising to 12 on Nov 10th and Dec 13th.

European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Scarce summer visitor and rare passage migrant.

The first bird of the year was recorded at Gib Point on the evening of May 15th, when a bird was seen on the main reserve road. The primary breeding site in the county remains Laughton Forest, where three singing males were heard on May 23rd and 20 singing males recorded on Jun 18th. At Crowle Waste/Moors, up to 12 churring males were recorded during Jun 19th-Jul 5th. Away from these two breeding sites, birds were recorded at Keb Wood on Jul 23rd, feeding over the churchyard at Algarkirk at dusk on Sep 7th, at Seaview, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on Sep 10th, Gib Point on Sep 18th and a late bird at Maltby le Marsh on Oct 14th.



European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* Laughton Jun 20th 2012 © Graham Catley

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

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

One flew south on May 11th over Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR at 0700hrs (JRW) and then south at Huttoft Bank at 0723hrs (JS).

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first were seven at Messingham SQ and one at Donna Nook on Apr 24th. Despite the dismal weather, there was a surge of arrivals before the end of the month, with 53 at Pyewipe and 36 at Whisby NR/North Hykeham Pits on the 26th and 100 at Covenham Res on the 28th. Counts of 100 or more were widespread by May 5th, and the month's peaks were 1000 at North Hykeham Pits and 710 south at Gib Point on the 10th including one with a white crescent on its breast, 590 south at Gib Point on the 11th and 522 south there on the 14th, and 600 at Barton Pits on the 18th. Generally reports in Jun were of smaller numbers but with a few much larger totals. At Gib Point, 3240 flew south on the 22nd, 2715 on the 24th and 1440 on the 29th, while there were about 1000 over Frampton Marsh on the 23rd. There was another count over 1000 at Gib Point on Jul 1st, then a hiatus until the 22nd when there were 1200 at Frampton Marsh, with 1500 there on the 23rd when 3800 flew south at Gib Point. A few days later, 6000 flew south at Gib Point on the 28th and there was another count of 1000 at Frampton Marsh. Numbers then quickly fell away with few totals over 200, though 580 flew south at Gib Point on Aug 18th. On Aug 29th, 260 south at Gib Point was the last count of more than ten. There were regular sightings of one-seven until mid Sep, and then singles at Sleaford on the 25th and Donna Nook on the 28th, and two at Gib Point on the 29th.

SH07031	Adult	12-05-2010	Marston Sewage Farm: 52°58'N 0°40'W
	Freshly dead (bird of prey)	14-07-2012	Foxholes: 54°8'N 0°27'W (North Yorkshire) 131km N 2y 2m 2d

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly totals 2011	7	8	12	6	8	16	20	31	33	24	21	16
Monthly totals 2012	25	15	21	14	7	8	28	24	38	36	24	12

Kingfishers appear to have recovered somewhat from the harsh winter of 2010/11 which saw low counts at the beginning of 2011. Numbers and distribution during 2012 were more typical of previous years, with low counts in May reflecting a lack of breeding records. It possible that this year's counts have been boosted by improved inland WeBS coverage. The increase in records in Sep and Oct probably reflects the dispersal of juv birds through the local river systems. The Bird Atlas 2007-11 maps show absence from the Wolds and, especially as a breeding bird and surprisingly, the area south-west of the Wash.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Vagrant. **LBRC RBBP**

One was photographed on wires at Goxhill on May 20th (Maureen Douglass) and presumably the same bird was at Scartho on May 24th (Chris Eaton, SJM).



European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* Goxhill May 2nd 2012 © Maureen Douglass

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

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

One was found on waste ground off Burgh Road, Skegness on May 3rd (K Buckley) and remained in the general area until the 6th (NAL, MWi *et al*).



Hoopoe *Upupa epops* Skegness May 6th 2012 © Russell Hayes

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

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

One was at Donna Nook on May 4th (SL).

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	2	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Boston Cemetery	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Elsea/Math Wood	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haverholme Park	-	-	-	2	3	2	-	3	4	1	3	1
Kirkby on Bain Pits	1	1	3	2	1	3	3	2	1	2	-	1
Roughton Moor Wood	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whisby NR	1	3	2	2	1	1	4	3	1	2	2	-
Woodhall Spa	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

During the year, 420 birds were recorded in 325 sightings from 85 widely spread locations. As in 2011, there was some evidence of spread into the south-east of the county. The numbers of reports was similar to last year and little evidence can be seen of a marked recovery from the effects of the hard winter of 2010/11 in the north and west. The table includes sites where there were counts in at least three months *and* of three or more birds. In addition, there were counts of four at Roughton Moor Wood NR in Feb, five at Woodhall Spa on Mar 30th, three at Boston Cemetery in May, and three at Fulbeck in Jul. Though clearly a widespread breeding species, reports confirming this came only from Fulbeck on Jul 2nd, Cogglesford Mill, Sleaford on Jul 12th, and at Whisby NR where there were several sightings of juvs in Jul and Aug..



Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis* Saltfleetby Aug 21st 2012 © Mike Tarrant

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
Anwick Fen	-	5	1	2	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	2	4	1	1
Elsea/Math Wood	-	4	10	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	2	3	3	2	3	3	4	5	6	11	3	4
Haverholme Park	4	3	7	4	3	5	2	2	3	-	1	1
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	4	-	-
Whisby NR	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	1	1

The table includes a selection of the better reported sites, especially where higher maxima were recorded. The Elsea/Math Wood peak of ten was on Mar 10th. Other counts of five or more were six at Weelsby Wood on Jan 13th and nine at Temple Wood on May 7th. Numbers of this species have more than doubled throughout England since 1995, and the generally low numbers reported reflect lack of woodland coverage as much as anything. Nevertheless, the totals of 1063 birds recorded in 678 sightings were almost double last year's values, despite coming from about 90 countywide locations which was fewer than in 2011; the species seems to be doing as well in Lincolnshire as elsewhere. Breeding was poorly reported, from a handful of sites. There was a clear autumn passage on the coast, with peaks of six at Rimac on Sep 27th, and 11 at Gib Point on Oct 2nd, and four at Donna Nook on Oct 6th and 13th. RP11744 represents a new British longevity record.

RP11744	First-year Female	08-04-2001	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W
	Caught by ringer	03-03-2012	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W 0km 10y 10m 24d

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Rare resident. RBBP

The continuing decline was evident, as only 14 individual birds were recorded compared with 22 in 2011. Only eight locations were involved. With the exception of one at Skegness, records came from within a twenty-five mile radius of Lincoln, and half of them very close to the city. At Boultham Park, a male was noted on Jan 9th with singles the following day and on Feb 10th. Around the lake in nearby Hartsholme Park, three records came in Mar when pair was noted on the 9th and a female seen two days later and again on the 30th. Meanwhile, a male was drumming and calling on Feb 16th in Loughton Forest. One bird was noted at Linwood Warren on Mar

25th. A bird was heard at Belton Park on Apr 1st. On Apr 20th, a male was seen on the coast at Skegness, while on the same day two were observed at Eagle Hall Wood. The only record after Apr was not far from the previous one, though on the other side of the A46, when a male was observed at Hill Holt Wood on Aug 20th. While the decline is real, the species may not be quite as scarce as it seems, as they are inconspicuous except during a short period in early spring. A wide variety of woodland types may be used, and more effort to locate the species is desirable, remembering the need to avoid disturbance.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

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

An immature was seen at Gib Point on May 14th (TB, NAL) and one heard singing on the next day was considered to be the same (KMW). Two were singing simultaneously on May 19th (KMW, MLEdgeller) and probably were both new arrivals, as were further female/immatures recorded on May 25th (TB, GG) and 29th (KMW). Elsewhere, there were immature males (2nd calendar year) at Howden's Pullover on May 25th (GPC) and at Donna Nook on Jun 1st-2nd (SL).



Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* Howden's Pullover May 25th 2012 © Graham Catley

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

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

Just two spring records, both males, at Gib Point on May 19th (KMW) and Wolla Bank Pit on May 24th (S Birchall). The single autumn record was an immature ringed at Gib Point on Sep 3rd (N Judson, C Flint).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

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

Over wintering individuals in the first winter period were recorded at Folkingham until Jan 18th, Tunnel Pits, Wroot until Feb 4th, and at Hemingby until Mar 21st. Other records from the first winter period include singles at Horkstow Wolds from Apr 2nd-7th (TCL *et al*), Nocton Fen during Apr 12th-21st (MWi), Alkborough Flats on Apr 13th-14th (M Wardley *et al*) and at Worlaby Carrs on Apr 23rd (AAt). In the second winter period, a bird was trapped and ringed at Gib Point on Nov 4th (GG *et al*), one was at Ulceby, Alford from Nov 18th-27th (JS *et al*) and finally a bird was recorded at Moorby on Dec 21st (SK).

The ringing data below refers to the bird at Wroot from Nov 20th 2011 until Feb 14th. 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 ringed at Spurn Point on Nov 7th, this being confirmed after it was re-trapped at Wroot.

LC07867	First-year	07-11-2011	Spurn Point: 53°34'N 0°6'E (Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	08-01-2012	Wroot, Tunnel Pits: 53°32'N 0°54'W 67km W 0y 2m 1d



Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* Gib Point
Nov 4th 2012 © George Gregory

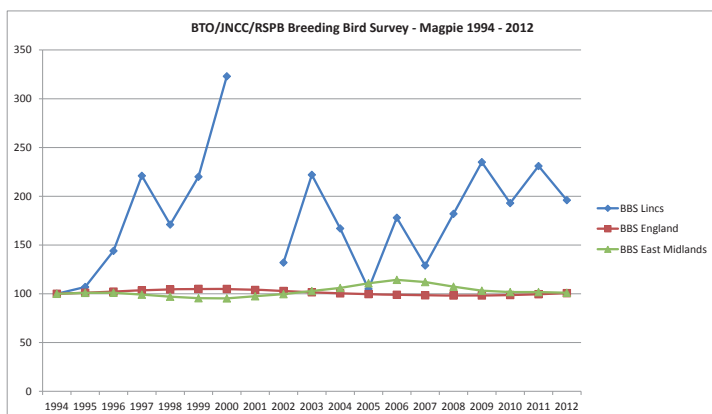


Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* Hemmingby
Mar 21st 2012 © Russell Hayes

Magpie *Pica pica*

Very common resident.

Counts of 15 or more were made at fourteen locations, and there were more of the largest counts than in the past few years. By a small margin, the highest count anywhere was 52 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Dec 8th. However, as usual, high counts were most regular at Gib Point where there were maxima exceeding 25 in all months during Apr-Jun and Oct-Dec, and a peak of 46 on Nov 17th. There were 50 at Far lngs on Jan 2nd with 45 roosting there on Nov 17th, and another large roost in the north, at Dawson City Pits, totalled 50 on Jan 16th. Counts of 25 or more at other localities were 30 at Freiston Shore on Feb 12th, 32 at Whisby NR on Jan 31st and 25 at Greetwell Hollow on Dec 4th. At Whisby, counts of 15 or more occurred in most months during Jan-Aug but subsequently only up to six were reported. Other locations recording ten or more were Burton Stather, Scunthorpe, Donna Nook, Tetney Marsh, Anderby Creek, Alvingham, Market Rasen, Swanpool and Holme. One at Gib Point was seen to catch and eat a young Grass Snake on Aug 9th.

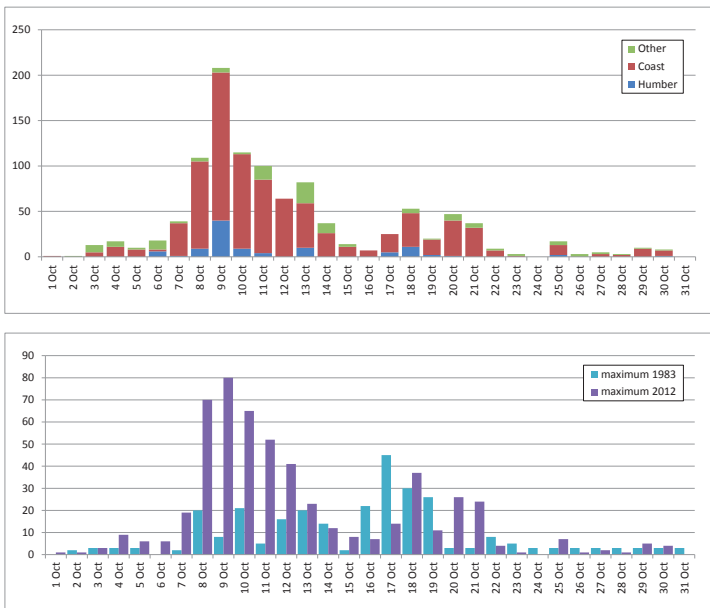


Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Common resident, irregular migrant and winter visitor.

Except during October, counts were if anything smaller than the past few years. Reports of five or more came from just eight sites, including up to seven at Whisby NR, 10 at Elsea/Math Woods on Feb 16th, and six at Swanpool on Aug 26th. A breeding survey at Loughton Forest located 23 territories but otherwise little breeding activity was reported.

Autumn movements this year were among the largest recorded in Lincolnshire. The last major movement was in 1983, and this year's numbers exceeded the peaks that year by a considerable margin. Events began with a few birds seen in unusual locations at the end of September and some were still wandering about in early November, but the majority of definite movement occurred during Oct 4th-21st. The largest totals were recorded along the coast between Donna Nook and Gib Point, and the predominant movement was to the south although, throughout the event, some were seen flying north or west or appeared indecisive. The first 'big' day was Oct 8th, when 70 flew south at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and 22 south at Gib Point. On the 9th, these same locations recorded about 70 south and 80 south respectively, and there were 13 at both Donna Nook and Far Ings, the highest counts at those sites. Subsequently counts declined but included 65 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 10th, 52 at Gib Point on the 11th with 41 there on the 12th, and 23 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 13th. Also on the 13th, there were 16 at Marston STW, the highest count reported from so far inland. A few days followed with smaller totals but there was then a second smaller wave of movement, most evident at Gib Point where there were 37 south on the 18th, 26 with some moving north and others south on the 20th, and 24 on the 21st. DE31416, in the ringing details below, was part of this unprecedented large scale movement. The upper chart shows the sums of site counts in three areas of the county each day in October, and can be compared to a similar chart in the 1983 report. The lower chart compares the maximum count at any one site on each October day in 2012 and 1983, showing that the totals at least during the first big wave of movement were larger than in 1983.



DE31416	First-year	11-10-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Freshly dead	17-11-2012	Sandhall, Skelton: 53°42'N 0°51'W (Yorkshire) 103km NW Oy 1m 6d



Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* Gibraltar Point Oct 14th 2012 © Russell Hayes

Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Very common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

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

No roost counts were reported this year, though some of the larger counts probably were birds moving towards roosts. The largest total was 1500 at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Feb 27th, and there were also 600 there on Jan 30th and 500 on Jul 5th. At North Hykeham Pits, there were counts of 850 on Jan 9th and (together with a similar number of Rooks) 1000 on Nov 20th. According to the BBS, Jackdaw populations in England have risen by over 50% since 1995 but variable reporting means that the trend is not clearly reflected in Lincolnshire data. At Gib Point, there were peaks of 120-152 during Feb-Apr and in Sep, and a peak of 300 in Oct. Counts of 200 were made at Far Ings in Mar, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR in Oct and Donington on Bain in Nov. Other localities where totals exceeding 100 were noted were Barton-upon-Humber, Manby Flashes, Stenigot, Whisby NR, Crowland Common, Oasby, Deeping High Bank and Deeping Lakes NNR. As usual, many of the higher counts at Gib Point were associated with southerly movements, in both spring and autumn. In spring, these extended from early Mar to late May, with maxima of 70 on Mar 10th, 32 on Mar 19th, 30 on May 9th and 63 on May 15th. In autumn, movement was noted at Gib Point from late Sep to mid Nov, with maxima of 25 on Oct 4th, 31 on Oct 18th and 29 on Oct 21st.

One showing characters of Nordic Jackdaw *C.m.monedula* was at North Hykeham Pits on Jan 3rd, perhaps the same as that seen there on Nov 14th 2011.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Very common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were few colony counts this year, the largest being 137 nests at Tattershall Lakes CP on Mar 16th. Similarly, there were no roost counts and the largest totals were 500 at North Hykeham Pits on Jan 9th and at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Feb 27th, with 450 at Haverholme Park on Jan 2nd. There were also counts of 400 at Coningsby in Jan, Blankney Heath in Feb and at Kirkby/Tattershall pits in Jun-Jul, plus 300 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR in Aug, Willow Tree Fen NR in Sep, and Manby Flashes in Nov. Movement was noted at Gib Point from late Feb into the second half of May, with peaks of 29 S/SW on Mar 10th, 21 S on Mar 19th and 31 S on Apr 11th, and from mid Sep to mid Nov, with peaks of 35 S on Oct 6th and 23 S on Oct 21st.

Carriion Crow *Corvus corone*

Common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

The highest count was 312 at Normanby Hall on Feb 25th, and there were a few counts between 150 and 200: 167 at North Hykeham Pits on Jan 19th, considered an exceptional number for the area, 150 at Donna Nook on Nov 23rd-24th, and 190 at Marston STW on Dec 6th. Other areas attracting 100 more were as follows: 100 at Nocton Fen in Jan, 110 at Alkborough Flats in Apr, 100 at Anderby Creek in Oct, and 100 at Grainthorpe Marsh in Nov. Counts of 30 or more came from an additional 20 localities. Concentrations of 100 or more were uncommon and mainly coastal in the early 1990s and numbers have clearly risen enormously, as recorded by the BBS, which has shown increases of 40% or more in eastern England since 1995.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

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

One was seen flying N at Donna Nook on Mar 24th (SL) but all other reports came from Gib Point, where there was one on many dates during Jan 4th-29th (KMW *et al.*), probably that present at the end of Dec 2011, and then a gap before one on Mar 19th (JCN) and one flying S on Apr 7th (KMW). There were no records later in the year.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*

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

As in previous years, most records were submitted for Belton Park or nearby, intermittently through Jan-May and Sep-Dec but with none in summer. Most reports in that area were of one-two but with four on Feb 19th. Elsewhere in the south-west of the county, there were clusters of reports in the Castle Bytham area and near Temple Wood, with outlying reports of one at Folkingham on Jan 12th and two at Colsterworth landfill on Nov 23rd. In the Castle Bytham area, where birds were reported during Mar-Sep, a pair nested in a quarry, fledging four young. At or near Temple Wood, there were reports of three on Mar 10th, one on May 12th and two on Nov 11th but as in 2011 the local nest site was not occupied. Two were at Grimsthorpe Park, between Castle Bytham and Temple Wood, on Sep 17th. Some sightings in the south-west probably go unreported, and it is possible that one nest site, discovered in 2013, was used but undetected this year. Further north in the county, two were seen at Dunston on Feb 25th, one at North Hykeham Pits on Feb 8th, with two elsewhere near Lincoln on the 28th, one flew E at Louth on Sep 5th, and one flew SE at Normanby on Feb 25th.



Common Raven *Corvus corax* Easton Park Dec 10th 2012 © Russell Hayes



Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* Pye's Hall Oct 22nd 2012 © Graham Catley

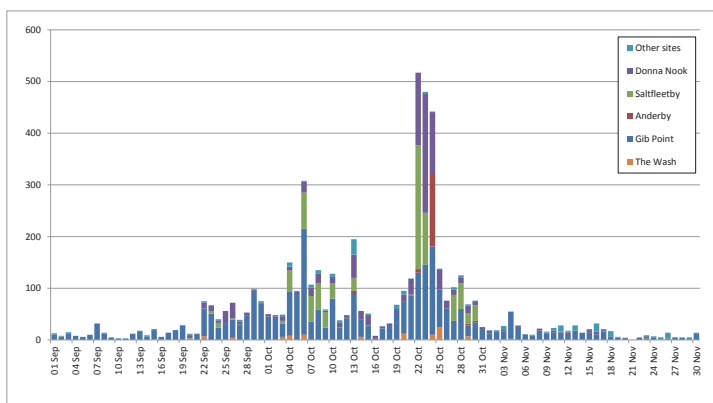
Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The BBS showed a 30% increase in the breeding population in England between 2011 and 2012 but very few counts were received at that season and records submitted are dominated by autumn passage counts, as shown in the table which includes the same five sites as last year. Spring passage at Gib Point was concentrated during Mar 13th-21st, when several counts of 14-15 were made. By this time, local birds were already on breeding territories, with 20 in song on Mar 12th at Laughton Forest, where the survey eventually located 56 territories, and 11 noted at Welton High Wood on Mar 28th.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	1	-	6	2	-	-	-	1	30	230	6	2
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	9	240	-	-
Gibraltar Point	7	8	15	3	1	1	3	6	95	205	52	14
Haverholme Park	5	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	2	7	12	12
Whisby NR	4	3	2	2	1	1	1	-	1	2	9	2

The chart illustrates the varying strength of autumn passage, though bear in mind that recording effort affects counts, with coverage at Gib Point most consistent. At Gib Point, passage was slightly stronger than last year's, with 2938 and 2785 bird days respectively. The first counts there over 50 came on Sep 21st and 23rd, and there followed three counts of 86-95 during Sep 29th-Oct 5th before a large fall of 205 on Oct 6th, when there were also 70 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR. Moderate totals continued including 89 at Gib Point and 45 at Donna Nook on Oct 13th but there was then a short pause before the biggest arrival during Oct 21st-24th. The largest estimates in this period were 240 in the Churchill Lane-Brickyard Lane area and 140 at Donna Nook on the 22nd, 230 at Donna Nook and 145 at Gib Point on the 23rd, and 171 at Gib Point and 140 at Anderby Creek on the 24th. Numbers then tailed off, with 52 at Gib Point on Nov 4th the highest that month and no more than 14 anywhere in Dec.



0Z2908	First-year Female Freshly dead	28-10-2011 04-05-2012	Dungeness: 50°55'N 0°57'E (Kent) Friskney Eaudykes, Boston: 53°4'N 0°12'E	245km NNW	0y 6m 6d
BKL762	First-year Male Caught by ringer	20-11-2011 06-10-2012	Hen's Wood, Marlborough: 51°25'N 1°38'W (Wiltshire) Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E	230km NE	0y 10m 16d
DJY794	First-year Female Caught by ringer	28-10-2012 18-12-2012	Hilfield, Elstree: 51°39'N 0°20'W (Hertfordshire) Marston Sewage Works: 52°58'N 0°40'W	149km N	0y 1m 20d
ERX083	First-year Caught by ringer	10-10-2012 14-11-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E The Haven, Thorpeness: 52°10'N 1°36'E (Suffolk)	136km SE	0y 1m 4d
ERX506	First-year Female Caught by ringer	13-10-2012 08-11-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E Rushmere St Andrew: 52°4'N 1°11'E (Suffolk)	129km SSE	0y 0m 26d

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

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

One at Gib Point on Jan 28th may have been the same as that present nearby in Dec 2011. In spring, singles were at Gib Point on Mar 9th and 19th, and then at Covenham Res on Mar 27th-28th and Donna Nook on the 28th. A month later there were two more singles at Gib Point on Apr 22nd and May 1st. The first of autumn was one at Gib Point on Sep 23rd. One trapped at Walesby on Oct 9th was the furthest inland of any record this year, and there was one at North Somercotes on Oct 11th. A little later, there were singles at Gib Point on Oct 18th, at Freiston Shore on Oct 20th and at Gib Point on the 21st. Two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 22nd was the only multiple occurrence of the year. Two further records involved singles at Gib Point on Oct 24th and Nov 14th. The total of 17 individuals makes 2012 a very poor year.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Very common resident.

Birds were seen in good numbers throughout the year with counts at Whisby NR exceeding 70 throughout Jan-Apr and Jun-Aug, with the peak of 105 in Feb. Elsewhere, the highest daily totals were 48 at Gib Point on both Jan 29th and Mar 8th, and 38 at Donna Nook on Oct. 13th. As expected there were confirmed breeding records throughout the county.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Very common resident.

Sightings and confirmed breeding record received from all parts. An estimate of 100 territories in Laughton Forest was almost three times that of Blue Tit (38 territories) but fewer than Coal Tit (qv). Monthly counts at Whisby NR exceeded 40 in several months, with the maximum being 81 in February. The highest counts at Gib Point were 49 on Feb 26th, 40 on Mar 30th and 40 again on Oct 6th. Other maxima exceeding 20 were 26 at Haverholme Park on Mar 3rd and 21

at Donington on Bain on Mar 9th. AR46121, below, is only the eighth Dutch ringed Great Tit to be found in Britain.

X008623	First-year Female Caught by ringer	24-02-2012 16-09-2012	Landguard Point, Felixstowe: 51°56'N 1°19'E (Suffolk) Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E 147km NNW 0y 6m 23d
L840657	Juv Female Caught by ringer	06-08-2011 17-01-2012	Winfarthing: 52°25'N 1°6'E (Norfolk) Forgotten Garden, Ford Street, Thetford: 52°24'N 0°45'E (Norfolk) 24km W 0y 5m 11d
	Caught by ringer	06-10-2012	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W 109km WNW 1y 2m 0d
NLA AR46121	Nesting Female Caught by ringer	16-05-2009 18-03-2011	Oost-Vlieland: 53°18'N 5°4'E (Vlieland) The Netherlands Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E 317km W 1y 10m 2d

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Widespread resident and passage migrant.

The majority of the reports from around the county were in single figures, with nine birds at Chambers Farm Wood on Jan 2nd, ten at Minting Park on May 8th and 14 at Walesby on Oct 9th. Regular ringing at a garden site adjacent to Usselby Plantation produced 15 birds on Aug 31st, 21 on Oct 9th and 18 on Nov 24th. The breeding estimate in Laughton Forest was 170 territories.

L363552	Juv Caught by ringer	20-08-2010 20-02-2012	Kirmond-Le-Mire: 53°25'N 0°14'W Hundleby: 53°10'N 0°5'E 35km SE 1y 6m 0d
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Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris* Potterhanworth Wood
Mar 21st 2012 © Mike Tarrant



Coal Tit *Periparus ater* Louth
Jan 13th 2012 © Mike Tarrant

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Far Ings	2	1	1	1	2	-	2	2	5	2	2	2
Messingham SQ	2	2	4	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Laughton Forest	-	5	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whisby NR	2	2	4	2	2	1	1	3	2	1	2	-
Boultham Mere	1	3	1	2	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	2
Haverholme Park	2	1	2	-	-	2	-	1	3	2	3	2

A small population can still be found at Belton Park where four were recorded on Mar 3rd and the same number was reported from Whisby NR on Mar 20th. At Whisby, assessment of territories was made difficult by a nearly complete absence of singing males, and numbers have probably not recovered from the severe winter of 2010/11. However, one pair was confirmed breeding and another possible territory was recorded. Around Barton-Barrow Haven pits five territories were occupied and two broods fledged, and one pair probably bred at Goxhill Marsh. In Laughton Forest, detailed survey work revealed 21 occupied breeding territories with at least 12 pairs present but the outcome of most was unknown; this is the largest concentration of the species recorded in the county in recent years. While the density here is probably aided by the abundance of old rotting birch trees within the forest, similar coverage elsewhere might well reveal other significant populations. Breeding was also confirmed at Bagmoor, Callan's Lane Wood and Haverholme Park,

and birds were noted in the breeding season at several other sites in the northern half of the county. In view of their status, every effort should be made to confirm breeding records in their traditional but declining strongholds.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

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

Forty reports were received from seventeen locations, mostly in the Belton Park, Callan's Lane Wood, Holywell Lake, Temple Wood and Colsterworth area. The highest count was seven at Ropsley on Mar 24th and the only confirmed breeding record was from Lobthorpe on May 19th. There were also reports of one or two birds in the Anwick Fen/Haverholme area and in the south of the Lincolnshire Limewoods at Potterhanworth and Nocton. Together with Belton Park these appear to be the only areas where both *P. palustris* and *P. montanus* can be found in Lincolnshire. As for *P. montanus*, there appears to be a decline in the number of reports received and renewed effort should be made to report all sightings and confirmed breeding records.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	1	-	2	4	8	10	8	10	-	50	-	5
Far Ings	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	12	1	1
Huttoft Bank Pit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-
Chapel Six Marshes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	2
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2

The south Humber bank remains the stronghold for this species, but newly created reedbeds, particularly at Frampton RSPB, are likely to redress the balance in future years. In the first winter period, singles were recorded at Alkborough and the Barton Pits complex only. In May up to eight birds were recorded at Alkborough with probable breeding reported on May 8th, eight juvs recorded on Jul 17th, up to ten birds on Aug 12th and five birds on Aug 27th. At Far Ings two juvs were reported on Jun 10th. At Alkborough several estimates were made during Oct with a peak of c 50 birds on Oct 10th-13th. Birds are prone to dispersive movements outside the breeding season and this is reflected in the first records of the year away from the south Humber bank, including four at Chapel Six Marsh on Oct 18th and up to three at Huttoft Bank Pits from Oct 21st-Nov 18th. Two were at Gib Point from Oct 7th, with five on Oct 9th-24th, four on Nov 1st-15th and two until Dec 10th at least. Four were at Frampton Marsh from Nov 13th, with five recorded on Nov 16th and two on Dec 3rd.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*
Gibraltar Point Nov 18th 2012
© Russell Hayes



Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

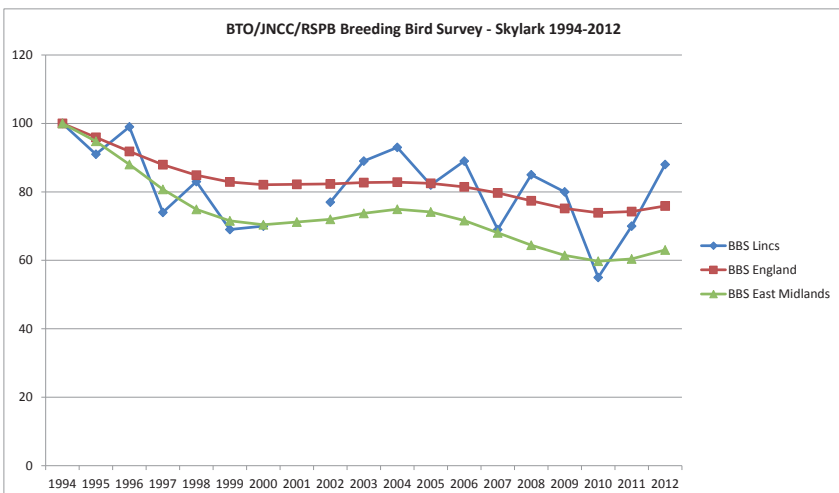
Scarce semi-resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Bred to 1959 and again from 1984 with numbers peaking around the year 2000, although now steadily declining. **RBBP**

A much improved picture over the previous year. Wintering/early migrant birds were reported from Whisby NR on Jan 16th (the second record for the reserve), Gib Point on Feb 23rd-24th and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Feb 24th. These latter dates immediately preceded the first reports of singing males at Kirkby Moor NR on Feb 26th and Laughton Forest on Feb 28th. Singing males were reported from eleven sites, almost double the number in 2011, including seventeen territories in the principal site, Laughton Forest. In all, confirmed breeding was reported from two sites: Keb Wood (one pair) and Laughton Forest (12 pairs), and in addition, twenty one probable pairs were reported including Appleby Carrs (1), Keb Wood (3), Kirkby Moor NR (3), Laughton Forest (5), Manton Warren (3), Moor Farm (1), Risby Warren (1), Rowland Plantation (1), Tuetoes Hills Woods (1) and Twigmoor Warren (1), and there was a single singing male from Ostler's Plantation. Most of these records came between March and June, and no records at all were received for Jul-Aug, though two were in Laughton Forest on Sep 6th. Elsewhere, autumn records of singles were from Gibraltar Point on Sep 4th and Nov 8th, Pye's Hall-Donna Nook on Oct 20th, Oct 22nd and Nov 19th.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

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

Skylark populations are declining throughout much of Europe and in Britain the population has halved since the 1970s. The main cause is considered to be the switch from spring to autumn-sown cereals, together with other features of agricultural intensification. While the decline has been huge, it remains a common and widespread species in Lincs, and counts were received from around 115 sites. In Jan, between 100 and 200 were recorded at Donna Nook, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe, Gib Point and Wainfleet but there appeared to be an influx in the cold of early Feb with counts of 475 at Wainfleet, 450 at Saltfleet and 290 at Appleby Carrs. Several other sites recorded more than 100 at this time. Numbers tailed off later in Feb and significant southward movements were noted at coastal sites during Mar-Apr. With the start of autumn immigration, some large totals were recorded on the coast, including 74 at Gib Point on Sep 28th and 150 at Donna Nook on Sep 30th. During Oct about 1500 moved south at Gib Point, with a peak count of 270 on the 12th. Donna Nook recorded maxima of 250 on several days during Oct 4th-20th. Southward movements continued during Nov, with a total of at least 750 through Gib Point and maxima of 180 there on the 7th and 200 at Donna Nook on the 29th, but counts in Dec were smaller.





Woodlark *Lullula arborea* Laughton Feb 28th 2012 © Graham Catley



Woodlark *Lullula arborea* Laughton Feb 28th 2012 © Graham Catley



Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* Barton Pits Apr 28th 2012 © Graham Catley



Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* Far Ings Apr 24th 2012 © Mike Tarrant

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

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

2012 was an exceptionally poor year for Shore Larks in both Lincolnshire and elsewhere in Britain. In the first quarter, there was just one wintering bird reported, at Seacroft on Jan 2nd and 13th (GPBO). The largest count of the year was seven at Donna Nook on 2nd April (SL). The paltry year continued, as just one was seen in the second part of the year, at Gib Point on Dec 16th (JCN).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

One of the harbingers of spring for many birders, the first bird was noted on Mar 19th at North Hykeham Pits. This was about a week later than in the past few years, and just five other sites had March records. The main wave of arrivals occurred from around Apr 5th-10th with flocks of 10-30 recorded at several sites. Numbers increased later in Apr and into May, with 200 at North Hykeham Pits on May 1st. Reports from breeding colonies were as follows: at least 137 occupied holes at Castle Bytham, 30 adults and young at Hagworthingham, 22 occupied holes at Deeping Lakes, 30 occupied holes at Whisby NR where there was a minimum of 29 broods with at least 4 being double-brooded, and four pairs at Tydd St Mary's Marsh. Significant coastal movement was noted from late Jul, and post-breeding roost gatherings included 200 at both Far Ings on Aug 25th and at Alkborough Flats on the Aug 27th-Sep 3rd. At Barton Pits there were 1000 on Sep 1st and 1500 on the 2nd when 335 flew south at Gib Point. Daily southward movement was noted along the coast during Sep, peaking at 204 south at Gib Point on the 17th. Numbers dwindled rapidly after this date and the last birds in the county were on Oct 5th when 14 were still at Deeping Lakes NR and a single was at Gib Point.

X447228	Adult	01-07-2011	Flint Farm, Pinchbeck Marsh: 52°49'N 0°7'W	
	Caught by ringer	29-07-2012	Hiers-Brouage: 45°51'N 1°4'W (Charente-Maritime) France	778km S 1y 0m 28d
FRP 6336981	First-year Male	07-08-2010	Tour Aux Moutons, Donges: 47°19'N 2°4'W (Loire-Atlantique) France	
	Caught by ringer	11-06-2011	Old Garage, Hagworthingham: 53°12'N 0°0'W	670km NNE 0y 10m 4d

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

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

The first birds of the year were singles at Barton-upon-Humber (the earliest ever there) and at West Rasen on Mar 19th. A few more were seen from Mar 28th but the first double figure counts were not until Apr 12th. The cool weather and predominantly north-east winds clearly affected Swallow arrival, along with other migrants. Higher counts later in Apr included 200 at Lincoln STW on the 22nd, 300 at Covenham Res on the 26th, 270 at Kirkby on the 28th and 286 at Gib Point on the 30th. There were 600 at both Kirkby on Bain on May 3rd and Covenham Res on May 20th, and coastal movements during May included 725 south at Gib Point on the 8th and 1065 south on the 10th. Significant post-breeding counts occurred from late Jul, with 150-200 at several sites and maxima of 1070 at the Witham Mouth on the 28th and 480 at Donna Nook on the 29th. More than 1000 moved south at Gib Point on most days during Aug 18th-Sep 4th, with peaks of 6200 on Aug 18th and 7600 on Sep 2nd. At Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes, 1000 moved south on Aug 19th and 1500 on the 25th. Notable counts later in Sep were 1070 at Witham Mouth on the 16th, 1615 south at Gib Point on the 18th, 800 at Wainfleet St Mary on the 26th, and 1548 south at Gib Point on the 28th. An interesting record on the 29th was of 200 south across the Roaring Middle in the Wash. The peak count in Oct was 297 south at Gib Point on the 3rd. Late Swallow records are not unusual, and the last sighting in the county was of a singleton at Donna Nook on 27th November. Barn Swallows roost communally on autumn migration. All the Gibraltar Point ringed birds were first years and were re-trapped within three days on the Sussex coast.

L195112	First-year	26-07-2011	Graemeshall Loch, Holm: 58°53'N 2°54'W (Orkney)	
	Caught by ringer	19-05-2012	Marston Sewage Works: 52°58'N 0°40'W	672km S 0y 9m 23d
Y086711	First-year	02-09-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E	
	Caught by ringer	04-09-2012	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex)	246km S 0y 0m 2d

Y086745	First-year	02-09-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E				
	Caught by ringer	04-09-2012	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex)	246km	S	0y 0m 2d	
Y086673	First-year	02-09-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E				
	Caught by ringer	05-09-2012	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex)	246km	S	0y 0m 3d	
Y086703	First-year	02-09-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E				
	Caught by ringer	05-09-2012	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex)	246km	S	0y 0m 3d	

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first of the year was at Southrey on Mar 29th. Small numbers arrived in the first two weeks of April, when the maximum was 20 at Messingham SQ on the 13th. Further modest immigration continued throughout the month with the highest count being 50 at Lincoln STW on the 22nd. A larger arrival during the first week of May included 200 at North Hykeham Pits on the 1st, with 135 there on the 5th when there were also 112 at Whisby NR. Peaks later in May were 200 at Barton Pits on the 11th, 300 at Covenham Res on the 15th and 400 there on the 20th. Autumn movements began in earnest about Aug 20th, when 500 went south at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes, with 1000 south there on both the 21st and 23rd. Other high counts at this time were of 220 south at Gib Point on the 21st, 300 at Alkborough Flats on the 27th, and a further 450 south at Gib Point on the 28th. September saw the peak of emigration with 250 at Normanby on the 1st, 800 at Covenham Res on the 12th, 2867 south at Gib Point on the 19th, 603 south there on the 28th and 500 south on the 30th. Around 40 other sites reported flocks of 20-100 during this period. Southwards movement, mostly coastal, continued during Oct, with peaks at Gib Point of 898 on the 3rd and 335 on the 5th. A surprisingly abrupt end to the year came on Oct 18th, when 14 went south at Gib Point.

Y193451	First-year	31-08-2011	Beachy Head: 50°44'N 0°15'E (Sussex)				
	Caught by ringer	08-06-2012	Marston Sewage Works: 52°58'N 0°40'W	256km	NNW	0y 9m 8d	
L568693	First-year	25-09-2010	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex)				
	Caught by ringer	15-05-2012	Marston Sewage Works: 52°58'N 0°40'W	248km	NNW	1y 7m 20d	
X547472	First-year	18-09-2011	Orfordness: c. 52°5'N 1°34'E (Suffolk)				
	Caught by ringer	18-05-2012	Marston Sewage Works: 52°58'N 0°40'W	181km	NW	0y 8m 0d	

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

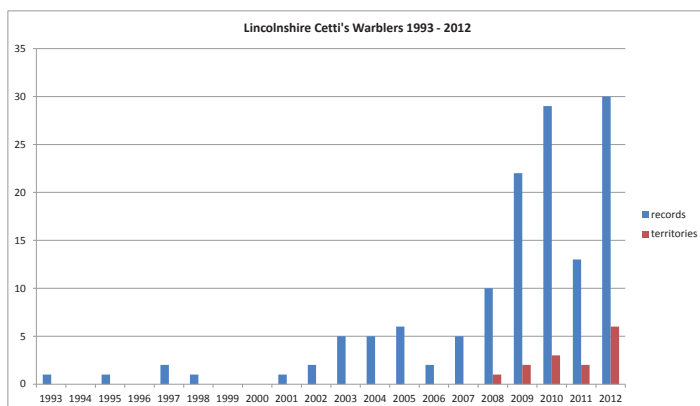
Rare passage migrant. **LBRC**

About 50 Red-rumped Swallows were reported in Britain during Apr-May with six of these being in Lincolnshire. These were one at Far Ings on Apr 28th-29th (GPC *et al*), one at Gib Point on Apr 30th (KMW, TB), two at Frampton Marsh (P Hadfield, W Gawne) and one at Gib Point on May 11th (HM, KMW) and one at Freiston Shore on May 18th (PS).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Rare breeding resident and passage migrant / winter visitor; first proven breeding in 2008. **LBRC RBBP**

Following sporadic records from 1977 onwards, and males holding territories in 1997 and 1998, colonisation of Lincolnshire began apace in 2008 when the first pair were proven to have bred, fledging four young. The breeding site occupied then has not held the species since but the species does have a habit of appearing in odd locations and then disappearing from them for several years. The first regular records began at Barton-Barrow Haven pits in 2003 but it was 2009 before a male held a breeding territory and a pair probably bred; in 2010 there were six singing males and one brood was located with a minimum of ten birds being present on Oct 31st. A particularly severe winter followed and the population crashed leaving just one singing male in 2011 but one pair did successfully breed.



In 2012, there were four birds at Barton in Jan and three pairs in summer, one of which was proven to breed fledging at least one brood. Four birds were present at the end of the year. Elsewhere in the county birds were recorded from 11 localities with a minimum of 30 birds (including the Barton birds) recorded during the year and a combined total of seven birds holding breeding territories. This clearly marks a notable change in the species status but as noted in previous reports there are still many areas of suitable habitat that have yet to record the species, although birds could well be overlooked in areas away from the main birding sites. On the coast, two sites were occupied in spring and one pair probably bred; and at Marston STW, at least two males were recorded and five juvs trapped suggesting at least two broods fledged. Elsewhere, one was at Wroot on Jan 8th-13th, one at Fiskerton Fen on Mar 8th, one at Laceby on Jan 11th, at least one at Deeping Lakes during Apr-Jun, a male at Alkborough Flats from Nov 6th-Dec 1st, a singing male in the Wybers-Freshney area, Grimsby from Nov into 2013, one at Cleethorpes CP on Nov 12th-13th, and a male at Gib Point during Nov 7th-Dec 18th.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Far Ings	64	26	12	8	10	20	26	30	25	28	36	12
Gibraltar Point	14	21	15	16	14	18	87	37	35	35	44	15
Whisby NR	84	46	43	8	9	10	40	5	-	11	-	40

The table includes well-recorded sites with relatively high numbers. Overall, counts of 20 or more came from 14 sites, similar to last year, and the maxima were slightly higher. The highest count of all was 87 at Gib Point on Jul 26th, closely followed by 84 at Whisby NR in Jan, 64 at Far Ings on Jan 2nd and 58 at Haverholme Park on Oct 20th. A survey of Laughton Forest found 34 territories.

Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Vagrant. LBRC

The only bird seen this year was at Gib Point on Oct 25th (EJM).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

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

On Sep 22nd, two were at Gib Point and one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, the latter assumed to be the bird present there on the 23rd. One was found at Grainthorpe Haven on the 23rd, and on the 24th one was seen in a garden at Saltfleetby All Saints. On the 25th, there were two at Donna Nook and one to the north at Pye's Hall and there was one at Brickyard Lane, assumed to be a new bird but with probably the same bird in the same area on the 26th. Three new birds were found on Sep 26th: one at Howden's Pullover, one near the yacht club at Gib Point and one at Weston, near Spalding. On the 27th, one near Tetney Outfall was new, and the Weston individual was present

for a second day, while at Gib Point one at Syke's Farm during 27th-30th is assumed to be the same as the bird present on the 26th. There were three at Gib Point on the 28th, two considered new, and then on the 29th there were four there, again including two which were probably new. There was also one in a Skegness garden on Sep 28th-29th. On the 30th, two were seen at Gib Point, and one of these is assumed to have been a new bird, as was one found there on Oct 1st. On Oct 3rd, one was found on the Humber at Goxhill Haven. A second wave of arrivals occurred on Oct 12th-14th, beginning with singles at Pye's Hall, trapped at Crook Bank, and at Gib Point on the 12th, the last remaining on the 13th. Also on the 13th, one was trapped at Donna Nook and another was at Brickyard Lane, while additional birds were seen at Donna Nook and Gib Point on the 14th. A month later, there was one more, seen at Donna Nook on Nov 12th. As now usual, many assumptions have to be made in calculating a total for the year, but the listing above suggests 29 individuals, one more than in 2011.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare/scarce passage migrant. LBRC

There was a singing male at Appleby Carrs on May 3rd (TCL).

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	-	-	40	16	12	6	3	6	14	8	-	-
Gib Point	1	1	12	24	16	7	8	7	31	88	2	1
Whisby NR	-	1	10	37	33	46	27	26	7	4	-	-

There were singles in Jan-Feb at Tetney Blow Wells, Skegness, Gib Point, Usselby and Whisby NR, with up to three at Marston STW rising to four there on Feb 23rd. One of the Marston birds on Jan 12th was possibly of an eastern race (ACL). Immigrants started to appear with one at Twigmoor Woods on Mar 11th, and widespread records by the 17th including six at Barton Pits. The first double-figure count was about 20 at Barton on Mar 24th. Spring peaks included 40 at Barton Pits on Mar 26th, 30 at Laughton Forest on Mar 28th, and 37 at Whisby NR in Apr. There were three counts of 20-24 at Gib Point during Apr 6th-10th. The BBS reveals that Chiffchaff numbers rose by over 280% during 1995-2011 in the East Midlands including most of Lincolnshire. There were widespread breeding reports but not fully reflecting the species' current status. There may have been some autumn migrants on the coast in late Aug but obviously raised numbers were not evident until mid Sep. There were twelve dates during between Sep 22nd and Oct 7th when Gib Point counts were 20 or more, peaking at 81 on Oct 4th and 88 on Oct 6th, with 20 also on Oct 22nd. There were 772 bird-days at Gib Point during Sep-Oct (547 in 2011). Elsewhere there were 14 in the Walesby-Normanby area on Sep 22nd, 14 at Barton Pits on Sep 26th, up to 13 at Donna Nook during Sep 26th-Oct 24th and 11 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 22nd. After Oct 24th there were only single-figure counts, and only singles after Nov 23rd apart from three at Chapel Pit on Dec 13th. From Dec 15th, there were records only at Gib Point, Sleaford and Marston STW. DJA002, below, was ringed on autumn passage in 2010 and found two years later in summer in Denmark, which may be where the bird originated.

DJA002	First-year Male	09-10-2010	near North Somercotes: 53°27'N 0°9'E									
	Freshly dead	10-06-2012	Harring Bro Vej, Snedsted: 56°51'N 8°32'E (Jylland) Denmark 653km NE 1y 8m 1d									

Siberian Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis*. LBRC

One showing characteristics of Siberian Chiffchaff was at Pye's Hall on Oct 22nd (GPC).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Peak counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Barton Pits	-	22	18	8	2	4	3	-	-
Donna Nook	-	15	9	2	1	20	4	1	1
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	6	8	-	10	43	-	-	1
Gib Point	-	19	19	14	11	74	27	1	-
Anwick Fen	-	12	14	3	7	11	3	-	-
Whisby NR	2	56	40	28	14	2	1	-	-



Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* Pye's Hall Oct 23rd 2012 © Graham Catley

There were two at Whisby NR and one at Woodhall Spa on Mar 29th and more widespread records from Apr 1st. Ten in Laughton Forest on Apr 8th and 14 at Messingham SQ on the 14th were the first double-figure counts; higher counts later in the month included up to 56 at Whisby NR, 22 at Barton Pits on Apr 22nd and 95 in Laughton Forest on the 24th. A survey at Laughton located 121 breeding territories this year. The BBS shows that populations declined by more than 40% in the East Midlands including most of Lincolnshire during 1995-2012. Autumn passage appeared to be lighter than last year's, with 801 bird-days at Gib Point during Jul 30th-Sep 13th (1118 in 2011). There were 20 or more at Gib Point on fifteen dates during Aug 3rd-Sep 7th, including 59 on Aug 8th and 74 on Aug 26th. Relatively high counts elsewhere were 20-25 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR during Aug 18th-23rd with 43 there on the 24th, 20 at Donna Nook on the 24th and 20 at Alkborough Flats on the 25th. The last double-figure count was 14 at Gib Point on Sep 13th, but birds continued to be seen to the end of the first week of Oct. There were also some late records, involving one trapped at Gib Point on Oct 22nd and singles at Donna Nook on Oct 23rd, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Nov 10th and Donna Nook on Nov 12th. There have been four previous November Willow Warblers in Lincolnshire, plus singles in Dec 1999 and Feb 1975.

DYP375	First-year	15-08-2012	Cumrue Loch: 55°9'N 3°28'W (Dumfries & Galloway)
	Caught by ringer	01-09-2012	Marston Sewage Works: 52°58'N 0°40'W 304km SE 0y 0m 17d
4P4703	Juv	04-08-1987	Ancaster Sand Pits, Sleaford: 52°58'N 0°33'W
	Caught by ringer	17-08-1987	Litlington: 50°47'N 0°9'E (Sussex) 248km S 0y 0m 13d

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gib Point	1	1	3	11	16	11	11	11	23	47	2	-
Whisby NR	-	-	2	24	45	42	32	11	5	2	-	-

Between Jan and mid Mar, birds were seen at twelve locations. There were two at Donna Nook on Jan 1st with one there on the 11th, and two at Skegness from Feb 29th to Mar 7th, plus singles at Normanby, Healing, Mablethorpe, Gib Point, Stickford, Anton's Gowt, Pinchbeck, Lincoln and Navenby, several on multiple dates. More were seen from Mar 17th; some may have been wintering birds but arrivals were soon evident though slow. There were nine at Welton High Wood on Mar 28th but double-figure counts did not occur until ten at Whisby on Apr 18th. There were few high counts despite this being a widespread and numerous breeding species, for which the BBS shows an increase since 1995 of over 80% in eastern England. Peak counts included 35 at Barton Pits on Apr 25th, 45 at Whisby NR in May, at least 20 pairs at Temple Wood on May 7th, 25 at Donington on Bain on May 27th, and 50 territories at Laughton Forest. The Gib Point

spring peak was 16 on May 2nd. Autumn passage was apparent from the last week of Aug but there was no count over 20 until 23 on Sep 29th at Gib Point, where subsequent peaks were 35 on Oct 4th and 47 on Oct 6th. There were 440 bird-days at Gib Point during Sep 1st-Oct 16th (544 in 2011). Elsewhere there were few significant counts, though maxima of 10-11 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR during Oct 7th-13th. Numbers tailed off quickly and one at Gib Point on Nov 8th was the last until one at Anton's Gowt on Nov 29th, and in Dec singles at Barton, Donna Nook, Welton (Lincoln) and Fulbeck, with two in Lincoln on Dec 6th.

FRP 6409732	First-year Male Caught by ringer	23-09-2011 02-06-2012	Dunes de la Slack, Wimereux: 50°46'N 1°36'E (Pas-de-Calais) France Donington-on-Bain: 53°20'N 0°9'W 310km NNW 0y 8m 10d
NLA V467680	Adult Male Caught by ringer	04-05-2010 29-07-2012	Gemaal Leemans: 52°55'N 5°2'E (Noord-Holland) The Netherlands Newball Wood, near Langworth: c. 53°16'N 0°23'W 364km W 2y 2m 25d
NLA V607375	Full-grown Female Caught by ringer	09-05-2012 06-10-2012	Zwanenwater, Sint Maartensvlotbrug: 52°48'N 4°41'E (Noord-Holland) The Netherlands Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E 295km W 0y 4m 27d

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first was at Whisby NR from Apr 16th, with five there by the 26th when records began elsewhere. Spring passage at Gib Point involved six singles between May 7th and Jun 16th, while elsewhere on the coast there were a few other singles and two at Donna Nook on May 7th. The BBS records a 21% decline in England as a whole during 1995-2011 and a further 20% between 2011 and 2012. Counts at breeding sites this year were mostly small, apart from 43 territories at Loughton Forest, about 24 singing males at Whisby NR and nine at Temple Wood. During Aug-Sep, there were four singles at Pye's Hall-Donna Nook and one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, plus 24 bird-days at Gib Point (19 in 2011) with a maximum of four on both Aug 18th and Sep 26th. After the last date, the only records were one at Pye's Hall on Oct 22nd-24th and one trapped at Gib Point on Oct 28th.

Y090244	First-year Freshly dead (hit glass)	26-06-2011 08-05-2012	Broom Quarry Beds: 52°4'N 0°18'W (Bedfordshire) Bracebridge Heath, Lincoln: 53°11'N 0°32'W 126km N 0y 10m 12d
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Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

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

Four individuals were found this year, beginning with one at Donna Nook on Aug 24th (GW), and a second bird there on Aug 31st (SL). One trapped at Gib Point on Sep 3rd remained to the 4th (GPBO, N Judson, C Flint), while a second bird trapped on Sep 9th was retrapped on the 13th, when it had gained 10% in weight (GPBO, G Gregory). The first was not aged but others were reported as first-year birds.



Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* Gib Point Sep 2nd 2012 © George Gregory

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

One at Churchill Lane on Apr 16th was the first, followed by singles elsewhere on the coast during the 18th-21st and more widespread arrivals from the 22nd. Spring counts were low, with maxima of 12 at Gib Point on both May 2nd and 8th, 11 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on May 5th (including local breeding birds) and ten at Donna Nook on May 10th. Only small numbers were reported in Jun-Jul, as is usual for this well dispersed species. However, seven singing males at Whisby NR was well down on recent years, including 28 in 2011. There were 284 bird-days at Gib Point during Aug-Sep (499 in 2011), with nine instances of ten or more and maxima of 17 on Sep 2nd and 29 on Sep 4th. At Crook Bank, 13 were trapped on Aug 24th but elsewhere on the coast, the maximum was four at Donna Nook on Aug 13th. There was a handful of records of singles on the coast during Oct 2nd-11th and the last one was at Gib Point on Oct 25th.



Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* Gibraltar Point May 2012 © Russ Telfer

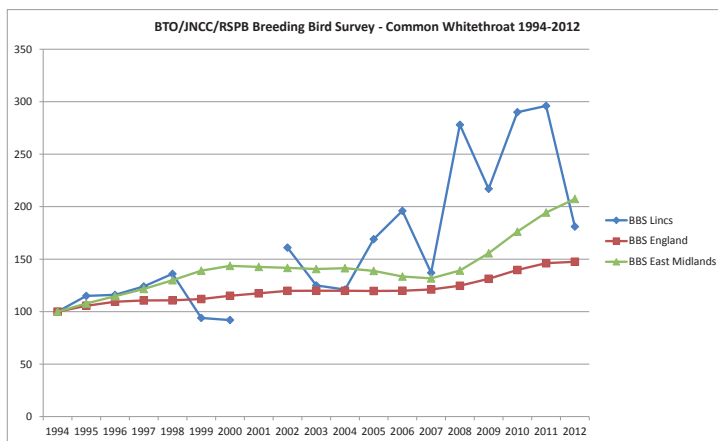
Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Peak counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Donna Nook	-	9	20	14	8	20	8	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	8	34	-	20	35	-	-
Gib Point	-	20	99	82	64	46	35	-
Anwick Fen	-	7	11	15	9	2	-	-
Whisby NR	-	6	31	31	24	8	3	-

Three at Gib Point and two at Churchill Lane on Apr 16th were the first, a later arrival than in most recent years, with ten at Barton Pits on Apr 30th the only double-figure count that month. Numbers remained lower than in 2011 and the BBS for England as a whole showed a significant 31% fall between 2011 and 2012 after strong increases over the previous 15 years. At Gib Point, the bird-day total during Apr-May was 1206 (1359 in 2011), with peaks of 89 on May 7th, 82 on the 9th and 99 on the 12th. Peaks elsewhere included 20 at Donna Nook on May 9th and 34 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on May 25th. The Whisby maximum of 31 referred to singing males and there were counts of 20 territories at Laughton Forest and 15 territories at Crook Bank (22 in 2011), but few other breeding details were received for this common bird. After a period of rising numbers, the BBS showed a marked fall this year. Autumn numbers were low. At Gib Point

there were 583 bird-days (850 in 2011) with counts of 20 or more on only nine dates and peaks of 46 on Aug 8th, 39 on the 24th when 39 were ringed at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, and 35 on Sep 4th. The Donna Nook maximum of 20 was on Aug 20th. Passage diminished in mid Sep, with 11 at Gib Point on the 15th the last in double-figures, but birds were present through to the end of the month, with a few in Oct, the last being three at Marston STW on Oct 8th.



Y053839	First-year	20-08-2011	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex)		
	Caught by ringer	12-05-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E	246km	N 0y 8m 22d
Y082015	First-year	13-08-2011	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E		
	Caught by ringer	28-09-2012	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex)	246km	S 1y 1m 15d

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	Sep
Number of sites	7	10	2	4	2	3
Max number of birds	11	12	6	5	3	4

After last year's large and widespread arrival, 2012 was disappointing. The BBS in England as a whole showed a significant 60% decline between 2011 and 2012. One at Donna Nook on Apr 11th preceded one at Gib Point on the 14th and more from the 16th. Three held territory on Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR from Apr 18th to Jun 17th, and there were also three at Donna Nook on Apr 26th and three singing at Appleby Carrs on Jun 4th. At all other sites, only single birds were recorded. Most were along the coast or close to the Humber, but in the north-west birds were noted at Owston Ferry and Wroot, towards the centre of the county at Glentworth, Lincoln West Common, Swanpool and Fiskerton Fen, and at Marston STW in the south-west. Only a few were encountered in autumn but there were later records than in 2011, including birds trapped at Gib Point on Aug 25th and Sep 3rd, and flushed there on Sep 25th, and finally singles at Donna Nook and Cleethorpe on Sep 30th.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

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

A singing male was found at Saltfleet Haven on May 21st (BMC, PEs, GH). The species has now occurred four years in a row.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

One was at Frampton Marsh on Apr 8th and three by Apr 12th, with the next one at Gib Point on Apr 13th. This arrival time was fairly typical but numbers built up slowly, with no double-figure

counts until 22 were noted at Barton Pits on Apr 22nd and ten at Anwick Fen on the 30th. At Gib Point, there were 22 bird-days in Apr, contrasting with 105 in 2011. Peak counts were low, perhaps reflecting observers' difficulties in the poor weather as well as genuinely reduced numbers. As well as the 22 at Barton Pits in Apr, there were 22 at Anwick Fen on May 20th, 18 at Frampton Marsh on May 28th, 11 at Donington on Bain on Jun 26th and ten at Hobhole Bank on Jun 25th. Maxima everywhere else were less than ten. The BBS for England as a whole showed a significant 30% decline between 2011 and 2012. Autumn passage was pathetic: there were 58 bird-days at Gib Point during Aug-Sep (87 in 2011) with a peak of six on Aug 8th, and the highest counts elsewhere were eight at Frampton Marsh on Aug 5th, eight at Alkborough Flats on Aug 25th and Sep 9th, and four at Marston STW in Aug and Sep. After Sep 19th, one was seen at Donna Nook on the 26th and one trapped at Gib Point on Oct 6th.

Y061109	First-year	22-08-2011	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex)
	Caught by ringer	21-07-2012	Donington-on-Bain: 53°20'N 0°9'W 277km N 0y 10m 29d
Y985703	Juv	20-07-2012	Marston Sewage Works: 52°58'N 0°40'W
	Caught by ringer	18-08-2012	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) 248km SSE 0y 0m 29d
DEW 90170175	Full-grown	10-01-2011	Djoudj National Park: 16°27'N 16°17'W Senegal
	Caught by ringer	24-04-2011	Rutland Water: 52°40'N 0°42'W (Leicestershire) 4,254km NNE 0y 3m 14d
	Caught by ringer	06-08-2012	Marston Sewage Works: 52°58'N 0°40'W 4,285km NNE 1y 6m 27d

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Very rare passage migrant. LBRC RBBP

One was singing near the Discovery Centre at Cleethorpes from May 25th to Jun 16th (DJB *et al.*), and a second singing male was at Donna Nook on May 29th-30th (SL).



Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* Cleethorpes May 28th 2012 © Graham Catley

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

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

After one at North Hykeham Pits on Apr 11th and one at Whisby NR on the 13th, there was a slow arrival at other sites. About 30 were counted at Barton Pits on Apr 25th but elsewhere there were no Apr reports exceeding three. The species was not even recorded at Gib Point until May 4th, and there were 94 bird-days there by the end of May (228 in Apr-May 2011). Over the whole breeding season from Apr-Jul, counts of ten or more came from ten localities, down from 18 last year, though this scarcely reflects the species abundance in suitable parts of the county. The Barton pits count of 30 was the highest, but there were 24 at Far Ings alone on May 25th, 19 at Haverholme Park on Aug 8th and 17 at Tydd St Mary's Marsh on May 20th. Maxima elsewhere were below 15. The BBS in England indicated a decline between 2011 and 2012, against a longer-term increase. From mid Aug, numbers were mostly low apart from 14 at Gib Point on Sep 4th. However, the 187 bird-days recorded there during Aug-Sep were up from 159 in 2011. In Oct,

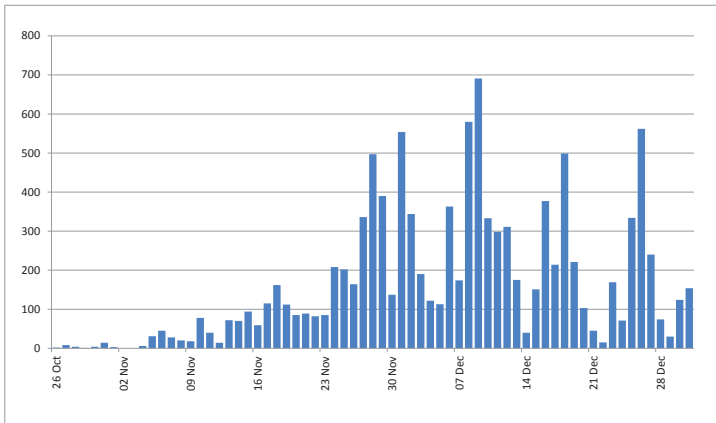
one-two were seen at four localities through to the 9th, after which there were two at Huttoft Bank Pit on Oct 12th and one at Far Ings on Oct 13th.

Y260041	Juv Male	27-07-2011	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W
	Caught by ringer	04-08-2012	Zwevegem: 50°48'N 3°21'E (West-Vlaanderen) Belgium 366km SE 1y 0m 8d
L426260	Juv	31-08-2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Caught by ringer	24-08-2012	Figueira da Foz, Coimbra: 40°9'N 8°52'W (Beira Litoral) Portugal 1,599km SSW 1y 11m 24d

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor, most in Oct-Apr. Rare/scarce most winters but fairly common in irruption years.

There were very few records early in the year. In Jan, the highest number reported was a flock of five at Tetney Lock on the 2nd, followed by singles at Gib Point on the 4th and Lincoln on the 6th. One in Grimsby on Feb 12th was the final record of the first quarter. In the autumn, it was a different story with the second Waxwing invasion in three winters beginning in mid Oct. The first were six on Oct 16th at Frampton Marsh, and two-three birds were seen elsewhere as the month progressed, plus 14 at Belton Park on the 31st. Over a thousand were recorded in Shetland and Orkney at the beginning of Nov, and soon after birds were recorded from at least 70 sites in Lincolnshire. Notwithstanding the mobility of some of the flocks reported, it seems that at least 1500 birds were involved during Nov. During the month there were many flocks of 20-40 birds with notable and well-watched flocks at Burton Stather (226 on 28th), Marston STW and environs (70 on 15th and 22nd) and in Lincoln (60 on 26th). There were also some significant southwards movements at coastal sites such as Gib Pt where a minimum of 200 moved through between Nov 5th and 18th. During Dec, some of the largest flocks ever recorded in Lincs were present, including (monthly peak and date in parentheses): Burton Stather (400 on 8th-9th), Witham St Hughes (300, 26th), Thorpe on the Hill (200, 25th), West Halton (150, 10th), Lincoln (140, 1st), Gib Point (124, 16th), Gainsborough (100, 2nd), Wyberton (100, 27th), Barton Pits (90, 27th). In summary, examination of the counts from all sites during December indicated that around 3800 birds may have been involved in this spectacular invasion. However, although more than 70 sites returned data during the month, reports came only from between one and 20 sites on any one date, and the highest December day count from these returns was 691 on the 9th. The chart, using summed site counts for each date, shows a series of peaks; several of these are on weekends/bank holidays but the pattern may also reflect pulses of flocks moving through.



BV94253	First-year	19-04-2009	High Street, Kexby: 53°22'N 0°43'W
	Caught by ringer	08-11-2011	Ronnskar, Kirkkonummi: 59°49'N 22°54'E (Uusimaa) Finland 1,695km ENE 2y 6m 20d



Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* Burton Stather Nov 25th 2012 © Graham Catley



Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* Burton Stather Nov 25th 2012 © Graham Catley



Waxwings *Bombycilla garrulus* Burton Stather Nov 25th 2012 © Graham Catley



Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* Marston STW Nov 23rd 2012 © Steve Nesbitt

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Scarce local resident.

The spread into formerly unoccupied parts of Lincolnshire, mentioned in previous reports and evident in Bird Atlas 2007-11, is now well-established, with birds turning up at places like South Ferriby and Barton on the Humber. The highest total reported was five pairs at Welton High Wood in mid Jan, but there were also seven at Revesby in Jul, six at both Bradley Wood and Temple Wood (at opposite ends of the county), and five at Woodhall Spa and Hendale Wood. There was one in the East Dunes at Gib Point on Sep 17th.



Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* Laughton May 10th 2012 © Graham Catley

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Reports came from about 60 locations, widely spread through the county, but the majority were of small numbers. There were counts of nine at Haverholme Park on Jan 2nd and five at Woodhall Spa on Feb 9th. A survey at Laughton Forest located 30 breeding territories. Treecreepers now breed at Gib Point but other coastal records were one at Donna Nook on Jul 27th and one-two on six dates in Oct at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR involving at least five individuals.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

This common and widespread bird was reported from around 110 locations throughout the county. A notable 108 breeding territories were recorded in Laughton Forest, whilst other high counts submitted included a peak count of 46 at Whisby NR during Jun, and day counts of 33 at Haverholme Park on Dec 2nd and 29 at Donington on Bain on Jun 5th.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A very common and widespread bird which was reported from around 105 locations throughout the county. By far the biggest counts were recorded during the autumn and early winter. Most impressive of all was a count of c 25000 that roosted at Barton Pits on Dec 10th, but peak counts at other roost sites included c 10000 at Alkborough Flats on Oct 27th and, inland, 7000 at Whisby NR on Nov 2nd. There were also c 5000 at Kirkby on Bain Pits on Dec 17th. Coastal movement was noted mainly during Mar and Oct-Nov, with the largest spring count being 1175 south at Gib Point on Mar 6th. The largest coastal counts during autumn immigration were c 6800 at Donna Nook on Oct 24th, with 5000 there on the 18th.

CT08302	First-year Female Unknown (ring only)	17-10-2003	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E 26-08-2012Vestlax: 60°4'N 22°46'E (Turku-Pori) Finland 8y 10m 9d	1,560km ENE
RA06365	Adult Male Caught by ringer	24-01-1987 12-06-1990	near Lincoln: c. 53°11'N 0°34'W Ventes Ragas, Silute: 55°21'N 21°13'E Lithuania	1,434km E 3y 4m 19d
CT08302	First-year Female Unknown (ring only)	17-10-2003	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E 26-08-2012Vestlax: 60°4'N 22°46'E (Turku-Pori) Finland 8y 10m 9d	1,560km ENE
CW84069	First-year Female Sick (natural causes)	18-10-2009 26-03-2011	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E Jezierzany, Postomino: 54°32'N 16°35'E (Gdansk) Poland 1y 5m 8d	1,078km E

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*

Vagrant May-Jun and Aug-Oct. LBRC

An adult was at Frampton from Jun 20th-25th (JB, PS *et al*).

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

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

The first migrant of the year were singles at Donna Nook and on Saxby Wolds on Apr 2nd, followed by a good spring passage. Between one to five birds were recorded from 12 coastal and 13 inland locations during Apr and May, including a fall of 13 birds which occurred at Gib Point on Apr 24th, 11 remaining on the 25th. There were five on Barton/Horkstow Wolds plus one in Bonby Carrs on May 1st. Gib Point recorded the last bird of the spring on the late date of Jun 7th. The first returning autumn birds were singles at Gib Point and Howden's Pullover on Sep 26th, and was followed by one of the best passages for some years. Throughout Oct and Nov there were regular records from 19 coastal sites with an exceptional fall on Oct 22nd. Peak day counts for this date alone included 38 at Gib Point, 23 at Donna Nook, and 20 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR. A couple of days later Gib Point's day count record was broken with at least 47 counted on both the 24th and 25th. Inland records in autumn were restricted to singles at Lincoln on Oct 16th and Saxby Wolds on Oct 25th. Not surprisingly birds continued to be recorded well into the season with singles at Donna Nook on Dec 1st, and Gib Point on Dec 2nd and 8th the last birds of the year.



Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* Far Ings
Apr 28th 2012 © Mike Tarrant

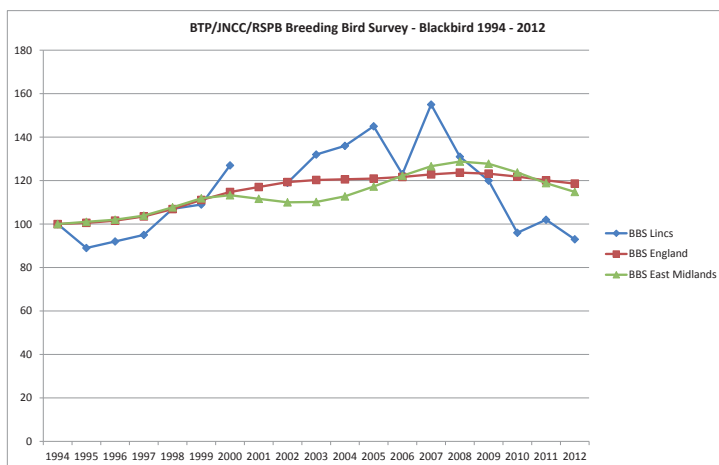


Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* Saltfleetby
Oct 25th 2012 © Mike Tarrant

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

An extremely common and widespread bird that was reported from 140 locations throughout the county. During late Oct an exceptional arrival of thrushes occurred on the east coast of Lincolnshire, with peak Blackbird day counts for selected coastal locations including 1200 at Donna Nook on the 22nd, 1418 at Gib Point on the 24th and around 1000 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR each day during the 27th-29th. A few days later, the day count at Gib Point on Nov 6th was 1824.



NLA L210511	First-year Female Unknown (ring only)	21-11-2004 24-02-2012	de Cocksdorp: 53°6'N 4°47'E (Texel) The Netherlands Grange Farm, South Willingham: 53°19'N 0°12'W	334km
DKC 8A37981	First-year Male Freshly dead	03-11-2011 (20-02-2012)	Anholt by: 56°42'N 11°33'E (Anholt) Denmark Marshchapel, Grimsby: 53°28'N 0°2'E	816km WSW 0y 3m 17d
SFH A690644	Adult Female Caught by ringer	24-09-2010 12-02-2012	Kirkkonummi: 60°3'N 24°31'E (Uusimaa) Finland Brackenborough Hall, Louth: 53°23'N 0°0'W	1,664km WSW 1y 4m 19d
SFH A728903	First-year Female Freshly dead	09-04-2011 11-12-2012	Pernaja: 60°15'N 25°56'E (Uusimaa) Finland Morton, Bourne: 52°48'N 0°23'W	1,808km WSW 1y 8m 2d

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

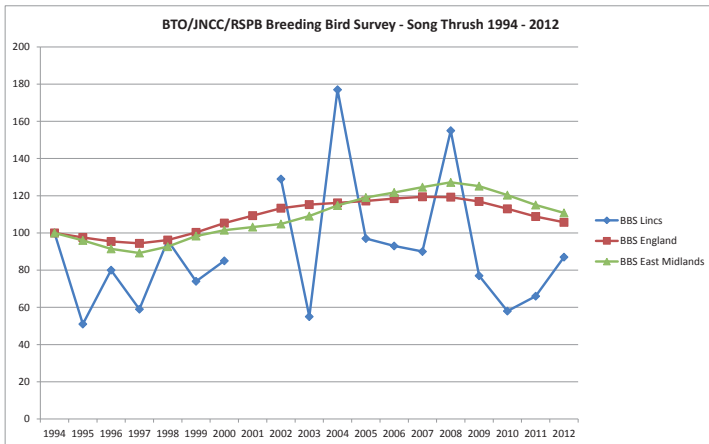
Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly Sep-Apr; rare in summer. **RBBP**

Very common and widespread throughout the county during the beginning of the year including many records into the low hundreds, with 500 at both Tetney Marsh and Freiston Shore in early Jan and a winter peak count of c 600 at Pinchbeck on Feb 12th, and a spring peak passage count of c 850 at Trent Port (Marton) on Mar 29th. Predictably numbers dwindled during Apr but records continued well into May, with a notable count of 60 on Bonby Carrs on the 4th and one at Humberston Fitties on the late date of the 28th the last bird of spring. Autumn passage commenced with a single at Donna Nook on Sep 24th and continued through Oct which saw an exceptional fall of thrushes along the Lincolnshire coastline during the latter half of the month. Maximum day counts on the 22nd alone included 2000 at both Anderby Creek and Donna Nook, a record 9595 (including 1900 flying south) at Gib Point, with smaller counts (between three and 480) from elsewhere. Over the following days birds continued to be recorded in large numbers, and peak counts from Gib Point remained impressive with 2570 on the 23rd, 4080 on the 24th, when there were also 1159 at Donna Nook and 800 at Anderby Creek, and 2385 on the 25th. Numbers declined as most birds moved on to leave Fieldfares as a common wintering bird in the county once again. The largest estimates in Dec were 2500 at Barton Pits on the 4th with 2500 at the Humber Bridge on the 6th, 1500 at Frampton Marsh on the 5th, 2000 between Burton Stather and Alkborough on the 7th, and 1500 at Nocton Fen on the 8th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Continues to be a common but often inconspicuous resident with records from almost 100 locations throughout the county, with either probable or confirmed breeding reported from many of these sites during the breeding season. In common with other thrushes there was a marked autumn passage which included a significant fall during the latter half of Oct. Peak day counts included 400 at Donna Nook on the 22nd, whilst at Gib Point there were 279 on the 22nd, 302 on the 23rd and 284 on the 24th.



RF37677	First-year	29-10-2011	near North Somercotes: 53°27'N 0°9'E
	Long dead (hit glass)		02-06-2012 Baekgardsvej, Give: 55°51'N 9°3'E (Jylland) Denmark 631km ENE 0y 7m 4d
RV72101	First-year Female	11-10-1991	Theddlethorpe Dunes: 53°22'N 0°14'E
	Freshly dead (hit glass)		08-04-1992 Leeuwarden: 53°11'N 5°47'E (Friesland) The Netherlands 370km E 0y 5m 28d
RT91287	First-year	28-10-2009	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Long dead	30-09-2010	Torres Novas, Santarem: 39°29'N 8°34'W (Alto Alentejo) Portugal 1,658km SSW 0y 11m 2d

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

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

Common and widespread throughout the county early in the year, though counts were not enormous, the highest being 100 at Tetney on Jan 2nd and 150 at Chambers Farm Wood on Jan 30th. There was an impressive spring passage count of 4124 recorded from Gib Point on Apr 3rd, with 250 at Brigsley the same day. Most birds leave by the end of Apr so singles at Gib Point on May 1st and Donna Nook on May 4th unsurprisingly proved to be the last birds of spring. A moulting adult female trapped and ringed at Gib Point on Jul 3rd and re-trapped on the 21st was an interesting record. Autumn passage commenced with one at Gib Point on Sep 21st and continued into Oct, when an exceptional arrival occurred on the coast on the 22nd-25th. Selected peak day counts on the 22nd included 8640 at Gib Point, 8000 at Donna Nook and 3000 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, with many smaller counts elsewhere. Over the following days counts from Gib Point remained impressive with 5400 on the 23rd, a record 8900 on the 24th and 3390 on the 25th. Numbers tailed off afterwards as birds pushed west, though about 1000 moved west over Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 30th. During Nov-Dec, Redwings were widespread though seldom very numerous except in the first half of Dec in the north of the county where peaks were 1000 at Alkborough Flats on Dec 5th, 800 between Caistor and Market Rasen on the 6th, 1000 between Burton Stather and Alkborough on the 7th and 1000 at Far Ings on the 13th.

RT32752	First-year	23-10-2010	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E				
	Freshly dead (shot)	02-01-2012	Barthes: 44°6'N 1°9'E (Tarn-et-Garonne) France	1,032km	S	1y 2m	10d
NOS 8A79143	First-year	02-10-2010	Finnvik, Tromsø: 69°44'N 18°57'E (Troms) Norway				
	Caught by ringer	17-10-2010	near North Somercotes: 53°27'N 0°9'E	2,052km	SSW	0y 0m	15d

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Widespread during the first quarter with between one to ten birds reported from 41 locations, plus a higher count of 14 from Holme on Feb 2nd. During the breeding season recorded from 47 locations throughout the county and although there were few instances of confirmed breeding, a total of 11 territories at Loughton Forest during Jun was noteworthy. Post breeding flocks included 48 at Redbourne on Aug 2nd and 22 at Tydd St Mary's Marsh on Sep 4th. Autumn passage during Oct included peak day counts of 26 at Gib Point on the 5th, 20 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 13th, and 17 at Donna Nook on the 21st. Finally, Nov and Dec brought counts of between one and seven birds from 36 widespread locations.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

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

The first returning bird was at Belton Park on May 10th followed by singles at Elsea/Math Woods and Manby the following day. Spring passage at coastal locations was light with just a handful of single birds at Donna Nook and Grainthorpe Marsh and a peak count of three at Gib Point. During the breeding season, there were reports from 55 locations throughout the county, and due to increased observer coverage breeding was confirmed at no fewer than 35 of these sites, whilst five had probable breeding and four possible breeding. This now local summer visitor has seen a long term decline nationally, and the number of breeding reports is welcome, though probably more a result of better observer coverage than of an increase in numbers. Autumn passage saw mostly single figure counts from around 28 locations (there was some overlap with late nesting birds), with peak counts of 16 at Hubbard's Hills (Louth) on Aug 23rd, 10 each at Fillingham on Aug 28th and Linwood Warren on Sep 8th and nine at Gib Point on Sep 26th. Most had gone by the end of Sep but, at Gib Point, records continued until two on Oct 6th were the last.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A very common and widespread species which was reported from 106 locations throughout the county. Spring passage involved peak counts of 20 at Donna Nook on Apr 5th and 43 at Gib Point on Apr 6th. There were up to 152 at Gib Point in late Sep but the highest counts were during the major fall of migrants on the coast in the second half of Oct. This saw peak counts of 280 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 22nd, c 500 at Chapel St Leonards on the 23rd, and 495 at Gib Point and c 300 at Donna Nook on the 24th.



Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* Baumber Aug 2012 © Russ Telfer



Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* Bardney Jul 4th 2012© Russell Hayes



Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* Fulbeck Jul 1st 2012 © Steve Nesbitt

Y394764	First-year Freshly dead (cat)	23-11-2011 04-03-2012	Butterwick, Boston: 52°58'N 0°3'E Stronsay: 59°6'N 2°35'W (Orkney)	701km NNW	0y 3m 10d
D051135	First-year Freshly dead (hit glass)	29-09-2012 01-11-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E Lakewall, Westonzoyland, Bridgwater: 51°5'N 2°57'W (Somerset)	317km SW	0y 1m 3d
D052810	Adult Caught by ringer	23-10-2012 03-11-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E Horumersiel: 53°41'N 8°1'E (Braunschweig)	Germany	515km E 0y 0m 11d
BLB 11460117	First-year Caught by ringer	20-09-2009 29-10-2012	Berendrecht: (Antwerpen) Belgium Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E	358km NW	3y 1m 9d

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Scarce and declining local summer visitor and scarce passage migrant.

As 2012 was the BTO's national Nightingale survey year, coverage for this iconic summer visitor was more comprehensive than normal with many former haunts surveyed, although the results were not particularly encouraging. Whisby NR recorded the first birds for the year with two singing males on Apr 13th with at least nine singing by the end of the month, but there were no Apr records anywhere else in the county. During May spring passage at the coast included singles at Donna Nook on May 5th-6th and Saltfleet Haven on May 21st. The South Kesteven woodlands breeding population is now much reduced from the past but still held three singing males at Gunboro Wood, five at Careby Wood and one at Twyford Wood. One other bird was heard singing in the south, at Deeping Lakes. In the limewoods near Bardney, only three were found, two in Newball Wood and one in Chambers Wood, though there were others not far away, with one at Potterhanworth Wood and two at Highall Wood near Woodhall Spa. Detailed survey work at Whisby NR located 15 singing males with 11 around Coot Lake and four in the Teal Lake area, and despite the poor summer weather which would certainly have affected ground nesting birds, at least one pair was confirmed breeding. Elsewhere, two singing males were at Snipe Dales, the third successive year at least one has been there, whilst a surprising coastal record was a bird singing at the end of Ocean Avenue, Skegness, during May 19th-Jun 1st. There were no records this year from north Lincs. The total of 34 singing males contrasts with 159 found in 1980 and 90 in 1999. Though there have been only the three full surveys, this suggests that the rate of decline has been fairly steady and it does not augur well for the future. Low-lying scrubby areas such as Whisby NR now seem to offer the best prospect for retaining the species. An article on the history of Nightingales there, and conservation management for them, is on p.173. The last bird for the year was at Whisby NR on Jul 21st, with no coastal autumn records.



Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* Gibraltar Point Nov 3rd 2012 © Paul Neale



Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* Gibraltar Point Nov 3rd 2012 © Russell Hayes

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Vagrant. **LBRC RBBP**

After a blank year in 2011, there was a single accepted record for 2012: a male of the red-spotted form at Gib Point on Nov 3rd (RDn *et al*).

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

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

A good year with three accepted records all, as usual, in autumn. Singles were at Seaview (Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR) on Sep 25th (SJM *et al*), Tetney Lock and nearby Commissioner's Bank on Sep 26th (DEv *et al*), and Chapel St Leonards on Oct 23rd (TCL).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

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

A very quiet spring with just three records: a female at Messingham SQ on Apr 30th, and at Gib Point a male on May 1st and a female on May 8th. Autumn passage started early this year with one at Donna Nook on Jul 27th and continued from Aug 10th through to early Oct, with day counts of one-seven at 13 coastal locations. The highest totals, of six or seven, came from Donna Nook, Humberston Fitties, Gib Point and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes during Aug 13th-24th. In Oct, one-two were seen on six dates to the 11th, when there were two at Grainthorpe Haven and one at North Cotes Marsh.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

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

There were no wintering records during Jan-Feb but light passage during Mar 25th-31st included up to two at Gib Point and singles from Susworth, Tetney Marsh and Owmbly. Apr records included singles at Grimsby Docks, Cleethorpes, Donna Nook, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, Louth, Gib Point, and Moulton Marsh, whilst May produced just four singles at Donna Nook, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, Gib Point, and Frampton Marsh. In the north of the county a pair was discovered on Aug 10th which, although late, was only five miles from where breeding was confirmed during 2010, and it remains possible that this pair had remained undetected during the breeding season. Otherwise autumn records lasted from Oct 19th to Nov 5th, with peaks at Gib Point of ten on Oct 22nd and eight on Oct 24th, and maxima elsewhere of two at both Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and Donna Nook, and singles at Grainthorpe Marsh, Mablethorpe, Anderby Creek and Chapel St Leonards, plus one inland at Grantham on Nov 3rd. In Dec, there was one at Market Rasen on the 13th and a wintering bird at Covenham Res for most of the month.



Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* Gibraltar Point Oct 20th 2012 © Russell Hayes

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

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

The first of the year was a male at Gib Point on Apr 8th followed by a widespread arrival from Apr 15th with a light passage for the rest of the month and into May which involved one-two birds from four coastal and four inland locations. Another poor year for breeding records with a singing male in Laughton Forest on May 3rd the only suggestion of it. Autumn passage commenced with a juv at Gib Point on Jul 7th. There were frequent records of one-two and occasionally three there and some records of one-two at other sites through much of the autumn. Most were on the coast but there were reports from Alkborough Flats, Swanpool and Baumber. A noticeable spike in numbers occurred during Sep 24th-29th when peaks included 12 at Donna Nook and 33 at Gib Point both on the 26th. Numbers tailed off during Oct with the last bird for the year at Donna Nook on the 25th.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Fairly common passage migrant. Formerly bred.

The first of the year was at Frampton Marsh on the early date of Apr 14th, but it wasn't until a more typical date of Apr 30th that there was a multiple arrival of eight at six locations. May recorded a light passage predominantly from coastal sites with 12 birds from eight locations, with the last bird of spring at Pye's Hall on the 27th. As usual autumn passage was more pronounced with the first returning bird at Bonby Carrs on Jul 18th, followed by another four birds at three coastal sites to the end of the month. Passage was more widespread during Aug and Sep with one-four recorded from nine coastal and four inland locations, whilst during Oct there were only six singles, all at Gib Point, with the last on the 23rd. Even by the low standards of recent years, this year's showing was dismal. The one previous year with a maximum count in single figures was 2008, and that year's peak was eight in contrast to four in 2012.

European Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

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

Peak counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	2	4	2	2	1	-	1	-	3	12	7	5
Max number of birds	6	5	2	2	1	-	1	-	6	29	9	7

The status of this chat was unchanged, remaining scarce at both coastal and inland locations during the majority of the year, and with just a modest passage during Oct. It is therefore not surprising that there were no reported breeding attempts in the county during the year. The more

notable records included two wintering at Marston STW and four at Seacroft/Gib Point during Jan, four-six at Gib Point during Sep 28th-Oct 12th plus 15 there on Oct 6th, when there were also three at Alkborough Flats.



European Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* Marston STW Jan 2012 © Steve Nesbitt



Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* Toft Newton Res Aug 18th 2012 © Dean Eades

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.

The first report was from Frampton Marsh on Mar 11th, with further singles on Mar 16th at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, Frampton and Sutton-on-Sea, followed by regular records. Widespread throughout Apr-May with the highest day counts being 31 at Gib Point on Apr 11th, 43 at RAF Waddington on Apr 13th, 23 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Apr 27th and an impressive 81 at RAF Waddington on Apr 30th. Only single-figure counts were made after mid May and most birds had passed through by early Jun, with one at Frampton Marsh on the 12th the last of spring. Autumn passage commenced during Jul with singles at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the 12th and both Freiston Shore and Alkborough Flats on the 17th. Though widespread during Aug-Sep, counts were low and all in single figures but for 18 at Skegness on Sep 17th. Regular records continued to Oct 8th, with one later bird at Long Bennington on the 24th.

Individuals showing characters of the Greenland race *leucorrhoa* were reported at Nene Mouth on May 7th, Pyewipe on May 20th, and at Gib Point on May 6th and Sep 11th, but others occurring in late spring also would have belonged to this race.



Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* Gibraltar Point Apr 30th 2012 © Paul Neale

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica*

Vagrant. BBRC

A first summer female (of the Western race *hispanica*) was recorded at Frampton Marsh on Jun 12th (PS). This constitutes the first record of this species in Lincolnshire and was accepted by BBRC (British Birds vol.106 p 622).

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

A very common and widespread bird with reports from over 80 locations throughout the county. At Gib Point spring movements included monthly peak counts of 42 on Mar 19th and 43 on Apr 8th, whilst a more pronounced passage during Oct peaked with 82 on the 21st. Peaks at other coastal locations included c 40 Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on Oct 7th and 40 at Donna Nook on Oct 30th.

P469847	First-year	28-09-2010	Seacroft, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°20'E
	Caught by ringer	19-04-2012	Holland, North Ronaldsay: 59°22'N 2°26'W (Orkney) 717km NNW 1y 6m 22d



Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* first summer female (of the Western race *hispanica*)
Frampton Marsh Jun 12th © Paul Sullivan



Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* first summer female (of the Western race *hispanica*)
Frampton Marsh Jun 12th © Paul Sullivan

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

There were fewer reports of large numbers this year, perhaps a result of the end of Atlas surveying but perhaps also an indication of continuing population decline. There were only three counts of 50 or more (in contrast to six last year, and more and larger totals in 2010): 50 at Anwick Fen on Jan 29th, 95 at Sloothby on Aug 3rd and 70 at Cleethorpes on Aug 23rd. There were also 42 at Far Ings on Mar 8th and counts of 30 or more at four other places.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

With records from about 100 sites, almost 50% more than for House Sparrow, Tree Sparrow continues to be better reported than its congener. Many of the larger counts were of feeding flocks in the first and last quarters. Those of 50 or more were 50 at West Ashby pits on Jan 8th and 31st, 100 at Barnetby le Wold on Jan 10th, 60 at Kirton in Lindsey on Mar 14th, 73 at Normanby-by-Spital on Aug 25th, and 56 at Stenigot on Dec 18th. Also, at Gib Point, autumn counts, mostly of birds moving south, were largest during Sep 27th-Oct 24th. During this period, day counts averaged 49 birds, and there were totals exceeding 50 on nine dates; peaks were 104 on Oct 6th, 112 on the 13th and 142 on the 14th. There was one further count of 53 there on Nov 3rd. Tree Sparrows are known to disperse along the east coast but VB52339 had moved a considerable distance.

VB52339	Nestling Female	07-05-2011	Vine House Farm: 52°43'N 0°13'W
	Caught by ringer	30-08-2012	Coursers Road GP, near London Colney: 51°43'N 0°16'W (Hertfordshire)
			113km S 1y 3m 23d



Tree Sparrows *Passer montanus* Hemingby Jun 2012 © Russ Telfer

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant mostly Apr-Sep.

Peak counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Alkborough Flats	-	15	-	-	20	70	14	-
Gib Point	-	11	54	2	10	73	74	1
Frampton Marsh	-	10	7	1	5	50	25	3

The first birds of the year were singles reported from Frampton Marsh on Apr 4th and Sutton on Sea on Apr 5th. Early peaks included c 20 at Toft Newton Res on Apr 20th and 23 at Covenham Res on the 26th, but these totals were some two-three weeks behind the equivalents in 2011.

Spring passage at Gibraltar Point in early May produced 31 birds on the 4th, 54 on the 8th and 47 on the 11th. The *flavissima* race of Yellow Wagtail is virtually endemic to England and, with declines elsewhere, BTO analysis suggests that 22% of breeding numbers of this red data species are found in Lincolnshire, more than for any other passerine species. Perhaps the most important bird taxon of conservation concern in the county, it was recorded in 31 out of 79 1 km BBS squares surveyed in 2012 with a total of 124 birds counted. Post-breeding concentrations, around feeding livestock and at roosts, included 70 at Alkborough Flats on Aug 11th and 50 at Frampton on Aug 20th, and there were relatively high numbers at Gib Point throughout Aug 18th-Sep 4th with peaks of 73 on Aug 26th and 74 on Sep 2nd on which dates most were moving through to the south. The last record of the year was two at Hobhole Bank on Oct 29th. It is unusual for there to be no counts of 100 or more – perhaps another indication of the species' decline.

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

Single birds resembling *M.f.flava* were at Gibraltar Point on May 21st and 22nd and on October 1st, 2nd and 19th. All were moving south.

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.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	8	10	9	3	4	4	4	7	10	18	14	5
Min number of birds	8	12	10	5	9	8	7	9	19	32	20	6

In 2012 records were received from 48 sites of which 34 were inland and 14 coastal. The table indicates there is pronounced dispersal or autumn passage in Sep-Oct but this is attributable mainly to singles across many sites. The peak coastal count was five at Gib Point on Oct 18th, though there had also been five at Marston STW, Haverholme Park and Sleaford earlier in late summer/early autumn. Confirmed breeding was reported from Haverholme Park and Sleaford. The breeding status of Grey Wagtail in Lincolnshire has changed substantially over the last fifty years. There were no breeding records in any 10 km square in the BTO Atlas of 1968-72, but four in 1988-91 and 21 in 2007-11, of which 12 were confirmed breeding. It remains far less frequent than other wagtails, however, being reported (two individuals) from only one of 79 1 km BBS squares surveyed in 2012. The 2007-11 Atlas showed that Grey Wagtail wintered in 55 out of 73 10km squares in Lincolnshire, a net increase of 25 squares over 1988-91. It is relatively widespread but thinly spread with all the winter records in 2012 being of single birds apart from three at Marston STW during Feb and four in Nov.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarelli*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gibraltar Point	1	1	21	7	6	4	27	72	45	50	3	2
Marston STW	7	9	12	2	3	2	8	3	7	3	12	2

Pied Wagtail wintered and bred in every 10 km square in Lincolnshire during the Atlas period. There were 70 in fields adjacent to Horncastle STW on Jan 7th but there were no significant counts from winter roost sites. At Gib Point, counts included up to 21 during Mar 24th-26th, 27 on Jul 17th, 72 mostly close to Seacroft on Aug 28th, and 45-50 at a roost on Sep 27th-Oct 2nd. Elsewhere there were 25 at Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe Pits on Apr 23rd, 30 at Nocton Fen on Oct 14th, 30 at Trent Port (Marton) on Sep 27th, and 71 roosting at Baston Fen NR on Oct 21st. In 2012, a total of 52 birds were reported in 32 out of 79 1 km BBS squares surveyed.

White Wagtail *M.a.alba*: scarce passage migrant, mainly Mar-Jun. RBBP

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	-	-	8	10	6	2	1	2	3	-	-	-
Min number of birds	-	-	13	41	18	3	4	3	8	-	-	-

Spring passage was heralded by single birds at Frampton Marsh and Freiston Shore on Mar 11th. There were up to four at Gibraltar Point between Mar 24th and 28th. A peak of up to 11 was at Frampton Marsh during Apr 14th-21st. There were ten at Covenham Reservoir on May 3rd. The last bird of the year was a single at Anwick Fen on Sep 29th.



White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba* Frampton Apr 2012 © Russ Telfer

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Rare passage migrant, mainly Sep-Nov, rarely Dec-Jan and Apr-May. LBRC

Just two or three autumn birds were recorded, all during Oct. The first was at Donna Nook on the 9th (GPC), and it and or another was seen at Donna Nook on 23rd (SL). In between these records, one was at Gib Point on the 17th (NAL).



Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* Laughton May 7th 2012 © Graham Catley

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

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

The first spring record was on Apr 8th in Laughton Forest, close to the average British arrival date. Seventeen were logged at the same site by Apr 24th, and a total of 34 territories were located there

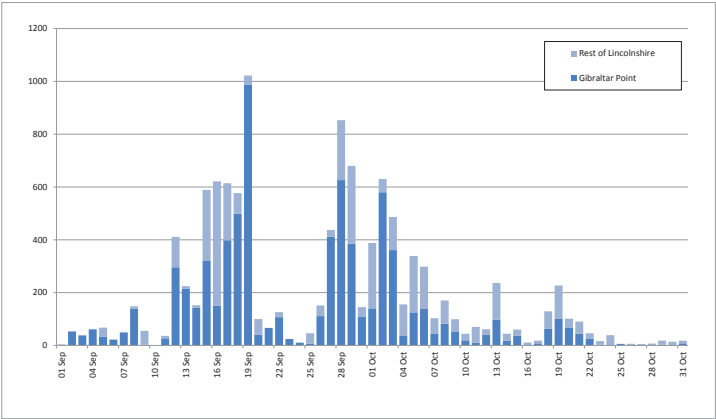
by late Jun. Passage birds on the coast were noted a little later with the first at Gib Point on Apr 26th, and Donna Nook and Huttoft Bank Pit on the 30th. The Gib Point spring peak was four on May 4th. The only other sites to record Tree Pipits were Crowle Waste, Linwood Warren and Scotton Common, in late May and early Jun. Autumn migration usually starts in early Aug and the first bird on the coast was trapped on Aug 7th at Gib Point. Further singles were noted at Donna Nook and Grainthorpe Marsh on 12th with at least five more through Gib Point by the end of Aug. Daily counts of only one-three birds were recorded during Sep, mainly at Gib Point, and the last two in Laughton Forest were seen on Sep 8th. Two went south at Gib Point on Sep 26th, when another was trapped, and the last birds of autumn were two south at Gib Point on Oct 1st, and one there on the late date of Oct 23rd.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	2	-	11	20	10	20	25	12	190	150	14	2
Gibraltar Point	11	156	43	44	47	19	34	16	988	580	37	20
Freiston Shore	17	10	3	16	27	3	6	11	200	6	14	18
Frampton Marsh	8	8	17	15	10	4	3	-	30	6	20	5

Though recorded throughout the year, records tend to be dominated by autumn passage. The only counts exceeding 50 during Jan-Aug were, most notably, a roost of 215 at Broughton Common on Feb 8th, and also 156 at Gib Point, including 96 south, on Feb 10th, 73 in the Wainfleet sector of the Wash on Feb 12th, 60 at Greetwell Hollow on Mar 1st, 90 at Alkborough Flats on Apr 3rd, and 53 at Wainfleet on Apr 8th. Numbers built up from early Sep and visible passage was evident at Gib Point through to mid Oct, though slack in the period Sep 20th-26th when the wind shifted from south-west to north-east. Peaks there were 499 on Sep 18th, 988 on the 19th, 626 on the 28th and 580 on Oct 2nd, the vast majority moving through. High counts elsewhere were 200 at Freiston Shore on Sep 15th, 190 at Donna Nook on the 16th, 115 at Anwick Fen on the 29th and 150 at Donna Nook on Oct 5th. No counts over 40 were reported in Nov-Dec.



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.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	17	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	1	12	18	44
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	65	65	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	35	-	9
Gibraltar Point	51	35	13	2	1	-	-	-	24	132	91	85
Frampton Marsh	41	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	46	169

The highest counts during the first part of the year were 51 at Gib Point on Jan 1st, with 40 there on Jan 16th, and 40 also at Saltfleet on Feb 12th. There were five records of one-two at Gib Point during Apr 2nd-12th and the last of spring was one south there on May 3rd. One at Wainfleet St Mary on Sep 7th preceded the next at Tetney Marsh and Donna Nook on the 13th. Numbers slowly increased to the year's peak at Gib Point of 132 flying south on Oct 18th, with 105, most south, on the 19th. The total number logged moving south at Gib Point during Sep 19th-Nov 30th was 1128. Numbers remained high at the end of the year with peaks in Dec of 85 at Gib Point on the 12th and 169 at Frampton in a co-ordinated count on the 13th.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare/scarcely passage migrant and winter visitor Oct-Apr. Mainly coastal, possibly increasing. LBRC

In the first quarter, one-two birds were noted at Donna Nook, Frampton Marsh, and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes, and up to four were seen at Gib Point. Birds lingered into Apr, with one at Gib Point on the 4th and one or more singles at Frampton Marsh during the 14th-28th. The latter site recorded the first bird of the autumn on Sep 23rd, with a small arrival in October, mainly the second half, with one-two at Alkborough Flats and up to six at Gib Point. In Nov, there was an inland record at Baston-Langtoft Pits on the 3rd, but the only other records in Nov-Dec were at Gib Point where there was a maximum of five until the end of the year.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Long-term Atlas data show little change in distribution over 40 years, since Chaffinch has always been common and widespread, but the BBS suggests that numbers in Lincolnshire have almost doubled during 1994-2012. Count data for all reported sites is summarised as the sum of the peak counts each month for each site to facilitate comparison between months; they are not absolute totals but do illustrate trends. Counts were received from about 130 sites across the county.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of all site peaks	437	524	986	431	445	549	176	157	255	776	768	525

Spring migration peaked in late Mar with 527 recorded at Gibraltar Point on Mar 16th, similar to the peak in 2011. As usual, autumn immigration peaked in Oct, with 271 at Gib Pt on the 13th, 100 at Donna Nook there on the 22nd and 220 at Saltfleetby on the 23rd. The Nov peak at Gib Pt was 349 on the 3rd and the only Dec count in three figures was of 100 at Blankney Barff on the 27th. Most of the larger coastal counts involved morning movement of flocks, typically southwards in both spring and autumn, and probably chiefly of Scandinavian origin.

L044507	Full-grown Female	02-04-2010	Heck Dale, Dalby Forest: c. 54°15'N 0°41'W (North Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	25-10-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E 144km SSE 2y 6m 23d

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in summer. RBBP

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	4	71	2	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	2	46	2	-
Gibraltar Point	-	4	3	25	12	-	-	1	15	384	465	7
Number of sites	3	6	6	10	4	1	-	1	4	21	11	9
Sum of all site peaks	5	77	23	104	28	1	-	1	22	622	486	39

Counts received in the first half of the year were very unremarkable, though there were about 50 at Caistor on Feb 13th. The last of spring was at Brickyard Lane on May 8th and the first of autumn were two at Donna Nook on Sep 22nd, but there were singles at Fullbeck on Jun 3rd (photographed and clearly showing foot lesions - *Papillomatosis*) and at Gib Point on Aug 7th. The autumn of 2012 will be remembered for the enormous numbers of Scandinavian passerines including Bramblings arriving in late Oct and into Nov. At Gib Point, the very high peak counts were 384 on Oct 22nd and 465 on Nov 6th (possibly a Lincs record count), and there were totals of 20 or more on 14 other dates during Oct 14th-Nov 14th. Peaks elsewhere were 71 at Donna Nook, 46 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe and 25 at Anderby Creek, all on Oct 22nd. Most of these birds were moving south and numbers tailed off towards the end of the year. Y475675, below, was re-trapped returning to the breeding area.

L883820	First-year Male Caught by ringer	03-04-2011 20-10-2012	Northorpe Fen: 52°45'N 0°20'W Walworth Moor Farm: 54°35'N 1°39'W (Durham) 222km NNW 1y 6m 17d
Y475675	First-year Female Caught by ringer	09-02-2012 12-05-2012	near Stenigot: 53°19'N 0°7'W Evenes, Osmark Solbakken: 68°30'N 16°49'E (Nordland) Norway 1,910km NNE 0y 3m 3d



Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* Saltfleetby
Nov 7th 2012 © Mike Tarrant



Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* Saltfleetby
Feb 10th 2012 © Mike Tarrant

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Count data for all reported sites is summarised as the sum of the peak counts each month for each site to facilitate comparison between months; they are not absolute totals but do illustrate trends. Counts were received from 77 sites across the county, considerably down on previous years. Greenfinch numbers nationally and in Lincolnshire are falling as a result of the disease trichomonosis.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of all site peaks	570	474	288	128	98	84	41	67	250	929	467	528

The peak counts totals for each month for all sites show a similar pattern to that for Chaffinch with peaks in the autumn and winter. The largest wintering flocks during the first quarter were 84 at Gib Point on Jan 10th, 120 at East Butterwick on Jan 13th, 80 at Freiston Shore on Feb 13th, and 210 at Whisby NR on Feb 15th. After March, numbers quickly fell as wintering flocks dispersed to breeding territories. In autumn, numbers at Gib Point reached 159 by Sep 26th and peaked at 716, most moving south, on Oct 18th, with further high counts of 429 on Oct 20th and 260 on Nov 3rd. There were much smaller numbers elsewhere on the coast. The largest counts in Dec were 150 at Gib Point on the 26th and 103 at Whisby NR on the 29th.

TR06709	Adult Male Freshly dead (hit by car)	25-02-2012 18-08-2012	Woolston Eyes, Warrington: 53°23'N 2°32'W (Cheshire) Castle Bytham, Grantham: 52°44'N 0°32'W 150km ESE 0y 5m 24d
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Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Count data for all reported sites is summarised as the sum of the peak counts each month for each site to facilitate comparison between months; they are not absolute totals but do illustrate trends.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of all site peaks	418	236	203	477	417	162	151	669	1642	4937	1169	686

Most British Goldfinches move to Iberia in winter but some remain, and more than 40 years ago, a trend no doubt helped by the sharp increase in breeding numbers, which have doubled in England since 1995. The highest count in the first quarter was 57 at North Hykeham Pits on Jan 30th. Spring passage at Gib Point was most marked during Apr 26th-May 11th, with the peak of 234 on May 8th. Autumn passage counts were much larger. The Sep maximum was 415 at Gib Point on the 28th, but in Oct the day-counts there exceeded 1000 on 11 dates including 2255 on the 2nd, 2236 on the 3rd, 2201 on the 5th, and 2289 on the 8th, the majority moving south. Noteworthy

counts elsewhere were 320 at Freiston Shore on the 5th, 550 at Donna Nook/Pye's Hall on the 6th with 500 there on the 17th, and 350 at Worlaby Carrs on the 11th. Increasing numbers of Goldfinches are being ringed both at feeding stations and on autumn passage along the east coast. The large number of controls and recoveries reflect this.

L429767	First-year Female Caught by ringer	11-12-2010 24-05-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E Berriedale: 58°10'N 3°31'W (Highland Region)	612km NNW	1y 5m 13d
Y484091	Juv Female Caught by ringer	31-08-2012 30-11-2012	Lagganbeg, Kilninver, Oban: 56°19'N 5°29'W (Strathclyde) College Farm, Frampton: 52°54'N 0°0'W	519km SE	0y 2m 30d
Y726069	First-year Caught by ringer	28-07-2012 13-10-2012	Girdle Ness: 57°8'N 2°4'W (Grampian Region) Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E	473km SSE	0y 2m 15d
Y203092	First-year Male Caught by ringer	26-10-2011 10-01-2012	Peterculter, Aberdeen: 57°6'N 2°16'W (Grampian Region) Lade Bank Pumping Station: 53°4'N 0°3'E	472km SSE	0y 2m 15d
L235269	Full-grown Male Caught by ringer	19-03-2011 18-06-2012	Sea Bank, Benington: 52°58'N 0°6'E Hilton of Fern, Fern: 56°44'N 2°49'W (Tayside)	459km NNW	1y 2m 30d
L470705	First-year Female Freshly dead	04-10-2010 12-11-2012	College Farm, Frampton: 52°54'N 0°0'W Sandillon: 47°50'N 2°1'E (Loiret) France	581km SSE	2y 1m 8d
L691894	Adult Female Freshly dead	25-05-2011 19-03-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E Pruniers-En-Sologne: 47°19'N 1°40'E (Loir-et-Cher) France	650km S	0y 9m 23d
D188003	First-year Caught by ringer	26-10-2012 31-12-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E St. Venant, Bethune: 50°37'N 2°32'E (Pas-de-Calais) France	316km SSE	0y 2m 5d
BLB 12541608	First-year Caught by ringer	03-11-2011 13-10-2012	Ethe: 49°35'N 5°35'E (Luxembourg) Belgium near North Somercotes: 53°27'N 0°9'E	571km NW	0y 11m 10d

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
Gibraltar Point	8	5	15	7	13	5	4	1	114	296	333	29
Number of sites	12	10	11	11	3	6	5	1	15	19	15	12
Sum of all site peaks	234	47	116	48	28	16	30	1	218	482	612	248

Siskin numbers paralleled those of Brambling with a large autumn influx after modest numbers in the first half of the year, though there were 50 at each of Lea Marsh (Gainsborough) and Holme in Jan. Breeding was confirmed at Laughton Forest and suspected at Willingham Forest. Modest flocks began appearing on the coast in Sep, with 87 at Gib Point on the 15th and 114 on the 28th, most passing south. Gib Point continued to record far more than elsewhere, with totals surpassing 100 on six dates in Oct and fifteen dates in Nov to the 18th, with peaks of 296 on Oct 18th, 303 on Nov 11th and 333 on Nov 12th; again most were flying south. At other sites, the highest counts in Oct-Nov were 40 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes and Woodhall Spa in Oct and 60 at Messingham SQ in Nov. Fewer were seen during Dec, apart from an exceptional flock of 160 was recorded at Kirkby on Bain on the 22nd.

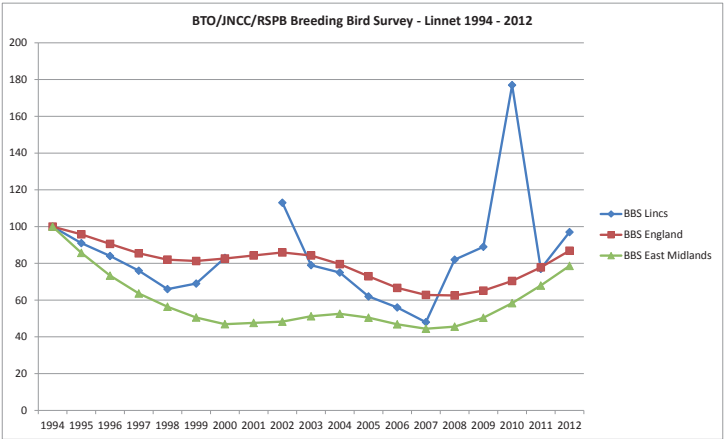
X499277	Adult Female Freshly dead	19-03-2009 26-07-2012	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W Mains of Waterton, Auchmacoy: 57°21'N 2°2'W (Grampian Region)	520km N	3y 4m 7d
X677882	Adult Male Caught by ringer	14-01-2010 04-05-2012	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W Revheim: 60°30'N 5°31'E (Hordaland) Norway	932km NNE	2y 3m 20d

Linnet Carduelis cannabina

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	40	25	45	110	80	50	30	180	170	80	30	10
Gibraltar Point	80	121	66	223	223	63	18	17	168	798	87	64
Freiston Shore	700	400	180	606	18	-	6	5	6	-	-	-

Recorded widely throughout the county all year. Counts over 200 additional to the table were 400 at Baston Fen on Jan 20th, 350 at Barnetby le Wold on Feb 3rd, 400 at North Kelsey Moor on Feb 12th, and 300 at Nocton Fen on Oct 8th. The high numbers at Freiston Shore early in the year peaked at 700 on Jan 31st and 606 on Apr 8th. Spring movements saw counts of 223 at Gib Point on both Apr 20th and May 7th. Autumn number built up through Sep but with peak counts in most areas in Oct, when Gib Point recorded 798 south on the 2nd. The highest count during Nov-Dec was 120 at Kirton Marsh on Dec 3rd. The two ringing reports illustrate well-documented finch movements along the east coast.



Y081931	Juv Female	08-08-2011	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Caught by ringer	31-03-2012	Caister-on-Sea: 52°39'N 1°43'E (Norfolk) 107km ESE 0y 7m 23d
Y081630	Juv Female	30-07-2011	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Caught by ringer	14-04-2012	Caister-on-Sea: 52°39'N 1°43'E (Norfolk) 107km ESE 0y 8m 15d



Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* Bardney Apr 1st 2012 © Russell Hayes

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber</i>								
WeBS totals	310	273	15	-	-	2	60	494
Alkborough Flats	-	-	55	40	-	23	-	-
Donna Nook	25	-	-	-	-	4	32	32
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	220	220	58	-	-	3	150	170
<i>The Wash</i>								
WeBS totals	245	460	152	71	4	28	96	-
Gibraltar Point	-	3	-	-	1	18	7	5
Frampton Marsh	94	150	40	-	1	-	20	34
Freiston Shore	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nene Mouth-Terrington	55	30	40	43	-	25	64	-

The wintering numbers recorded here reflect an average showing and at most of the usual coastal sites. The WeBS totals are the sums of all count sectors, including some not in the table. The highest individual site counts were 220 in the Saltfleet WeBS sector on Jan 14th and Feb 12th, 275 at Witham Mouth on Feb 12th, 200 at Horseshoe Point on Nov 10th and 250 there on Dec 18th. The only inland record was one at Knaith Park, near Gainsborough, on Jan 10th, but on the upper Humber, up to 55 were at Alkborough Flats from mid Mar-mid Apr, and 23 were there on Oct 30th. At Far Ings, two were seen on Nov 4th. There were no records between one at Gib Point on May 21st and two there on Oct 10th.



Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* Alkborough Flats Mar 17th 2012 © Graham Catley



Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* Alkborough Flats Mar 17th 2012 © Graham Catley

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Rare breeding bird, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gibraltar Point <i>totals south</i>	5	-	3	27	16	-	-	-	104	1917	327	20
Gibraltar Point <i>maxima</i>	2	-	4	14	13	-	-	-	29	476	65	16
Sum of all site peaks	167	37	59	45	14	-	-	1	76	757	323	277

A quiet first half of the year followed by some spectacular coastal passage, largely in Oct. Counts were received from around 54 sites, but the most complete were from Gib Point, where counts separate those definitely identified as Lesser from those identified as redpoll sp. In 2012 most or all of the latter will have been the same species, and the Gib Point totals shown here are combined totals. Impressive numbers were logged moving south there throughout the autumn, with a minimum of 1917 in Oct. The peak day was Oct 13th, when 445 were counted flying south and 31, all Lessers, were ringed. As ever, Lesser Redpolls were virtually absent from the county during the breeding season and there were no reports received of attempted breeding. The ringing summary provides interesting reading and illustrates both the origins of our passage birds and how nomadic Lesser Redpolls may be (e.g. Y438643 and AS05362).

Y825081	Second-year Female Caught by ringer	22-05-2012 08-11-2012	Damhead Farm, Carlisle: 55°44'N 3°45'W (Strathclyde) Butterwick, Boston: 52°58'N 0°3'E 394km SE 0y 5m 17d									
Y468406	First-year Caught by ringer	22-09-2012 09-10-2012	Easter Inch Moss, Blackburn: c. 55°52'N 3°36'W (Lothian Region) Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E 371km SE 0y 0m 17d									
Y126157	First-year Male Caught by ringer	01-09-2011 19-10-2012	Dubs Moss: c. 54°39'N 3°24'W (Cumbria) Seacroft, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°20'E 300km SE 1y 1m 18d									
Y487028	First-year Male Caught by ringer	29-03-2012 25-10-2012	Greystoke Forest: c. 54°41'N 2°57'W (Cumbria) Seacroft, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°20'E 278km SE 0y 6m 26d									
Y438643	First-year Caught by ringer	29-10-2011 25-10-2012	Pett Level: c. 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) Seacroft, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°20'E 246km N 0y 11m 26d									
X792935	First-year Male Caught by ringer	17-10-2009 24-10-2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E Heusden, Asten: 51°20'N 5°47'E (Noord-Brabant) The Netherlands 421km ESE 1y 0m 7d									
NLA AS05362	First-year Caught by ringer	16-01-2009 02-12-2012	Windhond, Venlo, Tegelen: 51°19'N 6°8'E (Limburg) The Netherlands Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W 475km WNW 3y 10m 16d									

Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Scarce/rare winter visitor, but probably overlooked. LBRC RBBP

This species was scarce in 2012 with just three birds reported in the first winter period: one at Messingham SQ on Jan 15th (GAM), one ringed and present in the Baston-Langtoft Pits area during Jan 23rd-Feb 19th, and one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on May 1st (CMo). The first of the autumn was one at Donna Nook on Oct 22nd and 23rd (GPC), followed by one photographed with 15 Lesser Redpoll on Oct 26th at Gib Point (GPBO) and another there on Nov 30th (GPBO). The final bird of the year was at Messingham SQ on Dec 27th (SRO).

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.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gibraltar Point <i>totals south</i>	3	26	99	16	30	335	84	204	54	108	48	2
Gibraltar Point <i>maxima</i>	3	6	26	15	27	138	25	63	15	22	21	1
Sum of all site peaks	3	36	59	99	89	293	105	74	19	75	53	12

Early in the year, breeding was confirmed at Laughton Forest, where at least eight singing males were recorded in Mar, and 18 birds including two fledged young were seen in May. Breeding was also confirmed in May at Snipe Dales. However, the highest totals in this period were at Willingham Woods, where there were 18 in Feb and 39 in Apr. From June onwards, 2012 became a remarkably good year for Common Crossbills, with a major irruption. As for Lesser Redpoll, assiduous "viz miggling" at Gib Point makes it possible for the table to include both monthly totals

of those logged moving south, and monthly peak counts of all birds. The arrivals were largest in Jun, with the peak at Gib Point of 138 on the 5th, but continued through the autumn. Other notable summer counts were 19 west over Saxby Wolds on Jun 19th, 20 west at Alkborough Flats on Jun 20th, 29 at East Keal on Jun 23rd, and 134 flying over Welton le Marsh during Jul peaking at 53 on the 31st. Several observers noted unusual calls (see article in Dutch Birding, vol 22, pp. 61-107, by Magnus Robb who noted at least six different groups of calls in European Common Crossbills).



Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* Gibraltar Point Feb 3rd 2012 © Paul Neale

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Vagrant May-Jun and Aug-Oct. LBRC RBBP

In spring, one was calling and seen well at Gib Point on May 29th (KMW). One was at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on Jun 5th (JRW), and another was at Gib Point on Jun 20th (KMW), which was heard but not seen as it flew south. In autumn there was one at Gib Point on Sep 24th (JPS).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common resident, but largely absent from the fens.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of all site peaks	153	95	89	37	53	22	17	25	36	35	45	47

This somewhat secretive species is almost certainly being under-recorded, and the counts above merely give an indication of the relative frequency of birds seen each month, based on records from about 90 sites. Counts in double figures came from Far Ings and Normanby Hall CP in Jan, Greetwell Hollow/Quarry in Mar and from Whisby NR in several months with the highest total there 33 in Jan. It was an unremarkable year overall. Y477158 made a considerable movement for a normally sedentary species.

Y477158	First-year Male	28-09-2011	Sewage Treatment Works, Swindon: 51°34'N 1°50'W (Wiltshire)
	Freshly dead	18-05-2012	Wainfleet Bank: 53°6'N 0°12'E 220km NE 0y 7m 20d

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare local resident and rare passage migrant. RBBP

The only records received in both spring and autumn were from Gib Point. The single spring record was on Jun 4th when one was seen flying into the plantation. In Oct, single birds were seen on the 2nd and 8th, and two on the 18th, all passing through to the south. Another was seen on Oct 21st and the final bird of the year was seen flying south on Nov 14th.



Snow Buntings *Plectrophenax nivalis* Cleethorpes Feb 10th 2012 © Graham Catley



Snow Buntings *Plectrophenax nivalis* Cleethorpes Feb 10th 2012 © Graham Catley

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant on coast, mainly Sep-Apr; exceptional in summer. Scarce but fairly regular inland.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cleethorpes-Humberston	96	110	50	-	-	2	50	26
Donna Nook	3	-	-	1	-	3	40	35
Saltfleetby-Mablethorpe	18	1	-	-	-	2	9	24
Gibraltar Point	4	9	-	-	-	2	19	58
Freiston Shore	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	1	-	-	1	18	-
Number of sites	7	4	2	1	1	12	7	5
Sum of all site peaks	274	224	53	1	4	31	138	194

Most Snow Buntings arrive from Nov onwards and flocks wintering on the coast disperse in Feb and early Mar. The Cleethorpes-Humberston Fifties flock was the largest early in the year, reaching 110 during Feb 20th-26th, and, exceptionally, 50 remained until Mar 9th. There were singles at Frampton Marsh, Alkborough Flats and Pyewipe in Mar, and was one final record at Donna Nook on Apr 1st. The first in autumn were two at Trusthorpe on Sep 27th. A trickle of birds continued in Oct, including another one at Alkborough Flats, but the main arrivals were in Nov. Counts in Nov-Dec were lower than in recent years, the highest count being 58 at Gib Point on Dec 2nd.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Scarce local passage migrant and winter visitor Sep-Apr. Rare inland.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grainthorpe-Donna Nook	5	2	1	-	1	6	3	4
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	6	5	-	2	1	5	1	-
Gibraltar Point	1	-	5	-	1	2	4	2
Frampton Marsh	6	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Number of sites	5	3	3	2	3	6	7	2
Sum of all site peaks	23	9	3	3	3	17	15	6

Though scarce this year, reports came from about twenty sites. The highest counts early on were six at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on Jan 15th and Frampton Marsh on Jan 26th. The only reports after mid Mar were one at Gib Point on Mar 28th and two at Saltfleet on Apr 7th. An autumn bird arrived at Donna Nook on Sep 12th, and the peak there was six on Oct 21st, the only later counts of more than three were four at Gib Point on Nov 18th and four at Donna Nook on Dec 16th.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Very common resident. Numbers decreased through the 1980s.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of all site peaks	475	533	372	196	119	105	82	49	44	86	83	215

BBS data for Lincs show a stable, perhaps even increasing trend in marked contrast to the sharp decline that has affected most parts of England. Flocks of Yellowhammers are a familiar scene in winter in many parts, with counts of 150 at Hall's Hill (Grantham), 75 at Horncastle and 70 at Hubbard's Hills in Jan, 150 at Edenham and 30-65 birds at half a dozen other sites in Feb but fewer during Mar-Apr, with the exception of 250 at Kirton in Lindsey on Mar 14th and 53 at Anwick Fen on Apr 22nd. Low counts thereafter reflected birds returning to breeding territories. In autumn and into winter, worryingly, no notable flocks were reported and even in Dec no total was more than 30. Most ringing recoveries are within 20km of the natal area so L203943 is a notable exception.

L203943	First-year Male	29-12-2010	Fishtoft Sewage Works: 52°57'N 0°1'E
	Caught by ringer	26-02-2012	Rushcliffe Country Park: c. 52°53'N 1°9'W (Nottinghamshire) 79km W 1y 1m 28d

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Reed Buntings were widely recorded across the county in all months. The only count exceeding 50 in the first half was 68 at Gib Point on Jan 29th, after which numbers decreased as birds dispersed

to breeding areas. Many observers recorded evidence of breeding, but systematic counts were generally lacking. The highest counts at this season were 25 inland at Whisby NR in Apr and 20 at Frampton Marsh in May. In the autumn, counts built up, especially at coastal sites, towards the end of Sep and into Oct. There were peaks of 35 at Donna Nook on Oct 6th, 25 at Alkborough on the 13th, 110 at Gib Point on the 18th and 25 at Hobhole Bank on the 23rd. Smaller numbers remained later in the year, with 46 at Gib Point on Nov 7th and 76 on Dec 4th, and up to 30 at Alkborough and Whisby NR.

L429212	First-year Male	28-09-2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Caught by ringer	13-01-2012	Wainfleet Bank: 53°6'N 0°12'E 8km W 1y 3m 16d



Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* Saltfleetby
Feb 11th 2012 © Mike Tarrant



Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* Saltfleetby
Feb 10th 2012 © Mike Tarrant

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Scarce and local resident and partial migrant.

British Corn Buntings are resident in Britain, with few wandering more than 15 km. Although records were received from 61 sites across the county, the majority were of single counts from one month. In the first half of the year maxima of 75 were at Gib Point (January) and Horncastle area (80). Few double figure counts were received for the rest of the year, with Gib Point again providing most data and a peak count of 61 in December. Overall, the picture from total counts received was clearly incomplete with only one report from the south Lincolnshire fens and inconsistent site data elsewhere preventing an overview of the overall status.



Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra* Hemingby Jun 2012 © Russ Telfer



Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra* Gibraltar Point Nov 18th 2012 © Russell Hayes



Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra* Gibraltar Point Apr 6th 2012 © Paul Neale

Appendix 1

Records in 2011 of species not currently accepted on the BOU British list

(Accidentally omitted from the 2011 report)

Category E – Escape

This list includes those species that may have non self-sustaining wild populations and any individuals from species that are on the British list, but which are known are strongly believed to have been of captive origin. The Lincolnshire Bird Club request all records of category E species recorded in Lincolnshire. However, we are aware that the species on this list are under recorded.

Greater Rhea *Rhea americana*

Dorrington Fen two birds on Jan 28th, Mar 27th, single on Apr 8th

Digby Fen two birds on Mar 27th

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Thornton Curtis on Oct 22nd ringed bird with damaged primaries, escaped from Nottinghamshire.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*

Theddlethorpe St Helen on Aug 2nd

Frampton Marsh on May 14th

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats								1				
Bourne			3		3							2
Fleet Fen		1										
Frampton Marsh			1	1	1		1					
Freiston					1							
Hallington									1			
Holywell Lake		1							1	1	1	
Raithby									1			

Breeding was recorded at Bourne

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Marston STW on Jan 2nd

Frampton Marsh on May 14th

Cape Shelduck *Tadorna cana*

Huttoft Bank Pit on Dec 16th

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

North Hykeham Pits one to two birds from Jan 10th-Nov 11th and at Apex Pit from Feb 13th-Aug 14th

Brayford Pool Lincoln two to eight birds from Jan 17th-Dec 18th

Tattershall Lakes CP two birds on Jun 9th

Stoke Rochford & Park from Feb 26th-Apr 16th

Cleethorpes Boating Pool one to three birds from Jan 13th-Oct 20th

North Somercotes Gravel Pits one to two birds from Jan 18th-Sep 29th

Chiloe Wigeon *Anas sibilatrix*

Barton Pits on Jun 19th, Oct 23rd & 25th, Nov 20th

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

Humberston Fitties three on Oct 31st

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Whisby NP on Mar 10th

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Apr 22nd

Reeves's Pheasant *Syrnaticus reevesii*

Ruckland on Apr 25th

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numidea meleagris*

Jericho Wood five birds on Apr 22nd

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Boston Cemetery on Jun 27th

Fulbeck on Oct 16th

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*

North Hykeham on Sep 17th

Records in 2012 of species not currently accepted on the BOU British list 2012

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats							1					
Bagmoor/Winterton Floods							1					
Bourne	2	1			1						7	
Cleethorpes CP					1							
Deeping High Bank												2
East Kirkby				1								
Frampton Marsh							1					
Gibraltar Point	1			1	1					1		
Holywell Lake	1		1						1			
Humberston Fitties					1							
Trent Port (Marton)					1							
Wainfleet Marsh				1	1							

Breeding was recorded at Bourne

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Gib Point Nov 23rd

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

Nene Mouth Oct 6th

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

Marston STW 2 Jan 24th

Theddlethorpe to Mablethorpe North End two Jul 27th

Theddlethorpe to Mablethorpe North End six Sep 7th

Cape Shelduck *Tadorna cana*

Frampton March Sep 9th

Kirkby on Bain Oct 2nd

Canvasback *Aythya valisineria*

Gib Point Jun 7th

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

North Hykeham Pits single bird from Mar 22rd-Dec 15th

Bardney Lock single on May 21st

Brayford Pool Lincoln two to eight birds all year

Cleethorpes Boating Pool two Jun 17th

Holywell Lake Jan 14th

River Witham and South Delph three on Mar 12th

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Thurlby Sand Pit (Bassingham) Apr 2nd

Louth Apr 3rd

Spalding from Apr 6th-8th

Alkborough Flats Apr 9th

Torksey Aug 2nd

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Grantham Nov 7th

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

Grimsby Mar 18th

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

Whisby NP Apr 11th-13th

Reeves's Pheasant *Syrnaticus reevesii*

Bonthorpe Oct 5th

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numidea meleagris*

Thoresby Bridge Oct 10th

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Gib Point May 17th

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*

Boston (The Haven) Sep 23rd

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*

Gib Point Jul 20th-Sep 7th

Ringling Report 2012

These summaries provide information on the numbers of birds ringed. For the first time in the 2012 report the recoveries are included within the main systematic list.

Pullis are birds ringed in the nest, juveniles are those identified as being in their first calendar year, adults are all birds in their second or later calendar year. Some birds cannot be aged by plumage characteristics, these unaged birds are not tabulated but are included in the totals for the year. A few birds (mostly scarcer raptors) ringed at confidential locations have been excluded from the county totals.

Notes: The BTO currently treats counties based on the old (1970s) boundaries for technical reasons. The data shown in the 2008, 09, 10, 11 and 12 reports are for Lincolnshire without Humberside. However, recoveries from those parts of historical Lincolnshire in Humberside (i.e. North and North East Lincolnshire) are included in the systematic list but not included in the totals. It is understood that BTO will be updating its county boundary policy in 2015 (*pers comm* BTO) and the ringing reports in the Lincolnshire Bird Club report will reflect those changes.

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total	26,659	29,698	33,830	30,596	43,582	36,772	36,430

These totals are of ringing data that have been submitted electronically to BTO HQ.

Species	Pullus	Juvenile	Adult	2012 Total
Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>	0	28	6	34
Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>	0	9	2	11
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	0	8	1	10
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	17	0	0	17
Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	19	0	0	19
Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	7	0	0	7
Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	2	0	0	2
Eurasian Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	0	25	12	37
Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	4	0	0	4
Common Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	261	1	14	276
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	6	0	0	6
Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	0	0	1	1
Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	0	4	0	4
Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	0	12	111	123
Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	8	0	0	8
Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	0	0	6	6
Northern Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	8	0	0	8
Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>	0	2	18	20
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	0	9	51	60
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	0	2	5	8
Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	0	10	135	145
Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	0	1	58	59
Common Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	0	3	9	12
Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	60	0	23	83
Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i>	0	0	4	4
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	55	4	23	82
Wood Pigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	0	4	41	45
Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	0	19	42	68
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	1	1	0	2
Common Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	0	1	1	2
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	659	5	135	799
Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>	123	1	18	142
Tawny Owl <i>Strix aluco</i>	96	1	28	125
Common Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	21	0	254	275
Common Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	0	5	4	9
Green Woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>	0	1	3	4
Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	0	44	28	72
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	0	1	0	1
Great Grey Shrike <i>Lanius excubitor</i>	0	0	1	1
Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	0	6	5	11
Eurasian Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	0	24	12	36
Western Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>	207	1	8	216
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	0	0	3	3
Carrion Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>	0	2	0	2

Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	0	942	100	1,074
Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	0	3	1	4
Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	1,244	700	1,126	3,072
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	476	494	981	1,963
Coal Tit <i>Pariparus ater</i>	40	172	120	346
Willow Tit <i>Poecile montana</i>	0	4	0	4
Marsh Tit <i>Poecile palustris</i>	0	0	4	7
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	4	0	0	4
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	0	87	93	180
Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	166	2,445	732	3,344
House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	0	555	1,306	1,861
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	0	5	2	7
Long-tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	0	88	157	587
Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	0	0	0	2
Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	0	1	0	1
Common Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	6	246	112	414
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	0	330	84	418
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	1	317	155	481
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	0	17	26	43
Barred Warbler <i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	0	2	0	2
Lesser Whitethroat <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	0	78	24	102
Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i>	2	221	110	333
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	0	3	0	3
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	0	233	33	266
Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	9	302	86	399
Waxwing <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	0	4	1	5
Eurasian Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i>	3	1	2	11
Eurasian Treecreeper <i>Certhia familiaris</i>	0	19	10	43
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	7	363	115	494
Common Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	3	641	336	982
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	0	9	3	12
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	57	1,423	1,114	2,600
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	0	22	33	55
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	3	242	51	300
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	0	262	172	443
Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	0	3	5	8
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	0	2	3	5
Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	21	752	357	1,150
Common Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	0	0	1	1
Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	0	14	0	14
Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	0	1	0	1
Common Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	0	10	1	15
Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	0	2	1	3
Northern Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	0	2	4	6
Dunnoek <i>Prunella modularis</i>	16	520	310	867
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	7	281	310	763
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	258	89	354	921
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	0	9	14	23
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	4	4	3	11
Pied/White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	4	27	37	68
Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	0	3	0	3
Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	0	69	16	98
Common Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	2	405	1,036	1,457
Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	0	62	36	99
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	17	1,513	1,279	2,835
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	12	1,511	1,580	3,149
Siskin <i>Carduelis spinus</i>	0	16	22	39
Linnets <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	5	14	59	78
Lesser Redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	0	299	177	570
Common Redpoll <i>Carduelis flammea</i>	0	0	1	2
Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	0	67	100	167
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	0	37	644	683
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	0	126	524	664
Corn Bunting <i>Emberiza calandra</i>	0	0	9	9
Grand Total	3,921	16,303	15,034	36,430

Nightingales *Luscinia megarhynchos* at Whisby Nature Reserve

Introduction

Whisby Nature Reserve (hereafter Whisby) to the south west of Lincoln is a 150 hectare Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust site comprising a complex of flooded gravel pits. Some former sediment lagoons have been turned into grasslands, while naturally re-generated Birch *Betula spp* and Willow *Salix spp* scrub has occurred on land connecting the waterbodies. It represents one of the possible after uses of land that has been subject to large scale sand and gravel extraction and is a site of high nature conservation importance.

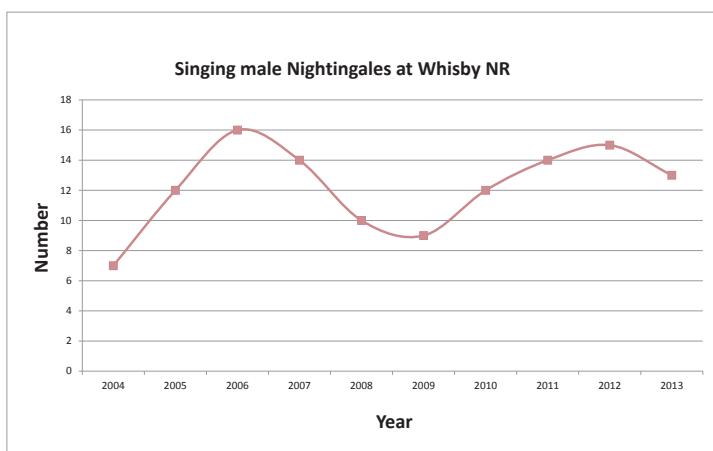
Past records

Back in the 1980's Nightingales *Luscinia megarhynchos* were still relatively common in Lincolnshire, with a BTO national survey in 1980 locating at least 100 singing males in the county. It's not entirely clear when Nightingales first colonised Whisby but the first bird to be documented was a singing male in 1985. Although the source of this colonisation is not clear it's likely that the Lincolnshire Limewoods to the east of Lincoln, a traditional strong hold, would have been the most likely source. In any case, it would have been at a time when native scrub was colonising Whisby after gravel and sand extraction had ceased. Although Nightingales have traditionally been associated with coppice woodland in the past, this transition to secondary scrub woodland has become increasingly important in recent decades. The number of singing males slowly increased and by the time the first LWT warden was appointed in 1989 the number of birds had increased to around four singing males. During the 1990's some basic territory mapping was undertaken and the population appeared to peak at around six to seven singing males with birds centred around the eastern end of Coot Lake, with outliers at West Lake and the 'Rosebay Clearance' on the Magpie Walk.

Present records and management

My appointment as Assistant Warden at Whisby in mid April 2004 coincided with the return of Nightingales from their wintering quarters in West Africa. As one of the most iconic species occurring on the Reserve, it seemed appropriate to continue to conduct detailed surveys to determine numbers and extent within the recording area. Although now no longer used the BTO's Common Bird Census proved to be ideal as it uses a full version of the territory mapping census method. As well as the numbers of territories (from which population trends can be assessed), this method produces a map which shows exactly where the birds are holding territory and this can then be correlated to habitat use. Importantly the area to the east of the A46 Lincoln by-pass known as Teal Lake had been recently acquired by LWT, and with former access restrictions lifted could be monitored for the first time. Recording during that first year showed that the number of territories recorded was at least consistent with previous years, but it was felt that a delayed start to the survey season and unfamiliarity with the recording area may have impacted on the results.

Recording in subsequent years has revealed that Nightingales have averaged around 12 territories (fig.1), and are found in two discrete sub-populations based around Coot Lake and the southern side of Teal Lake. These two areas have a particularly good thicket layer with vigorous scrub forming a very dense canopy. This shades out the plants below leaving the ground free from vegetation and often covered with leaf litter. The edges of these scrub patches are surrounded by a thick, usually impenetrable, field layer and ground cover to provide safe nesting places. More importantly this scrub comprises mostly Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* (agg) and Rose *Rosa spp*, which recent research work has identified as being major components required by Nightingales. In addition two other important factors are also present, optimal vegetation height of between 3-5m and, despite song territories being mostly within scrub woodland, the presence of some mature trees (15-20m) within each home range. What annual monitoring has shown is that for the time being at least, the Nightingale population at Whisby is bucking the national trend and remains relatively stable.



Once the number and size of Nightingale territories had been determined and habitat requirements understood, specific management techniques could then be identified and implemented. A row of Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* planted around the southern side of Coot Lake by the previous gravel pit company had become large enough to start shading out the valuable scrub beneath it, and it was relatively easy enough to apply for a felling licence to remove these trees, which was undertaken over a number of years. Indeed the space created in the first year of Sycamore removal has now developed into a valuable scrub component and is once again being utilised by Nightingales. One aspect of ideal Nightingale habitat is that it is dynamic and within a relatively short space of time becomes over mature. These areas become unsuitable for territory holding and in December 2012 one such area in the south east corner of Coot Lake was coppiced to help re-create ideal habitat conditions. Based on the removal of the Sycamore referred to above, this area should hopefully hold singing Nightingales within a five to seven year timeframe. This management strategy will be repeated in another area around Coot Lake during the winter of 2013/14, with a long term aim to have small blocks of scrub woodland around the waterbody on rotation. In addition thoughts about coppicing the southern side of Teal Lake will need to be addressed in the future, once this area shows signs of un-suitability. Finally there may be possibilities to try and establish Nightingales elsewhere at Whisby in the future, although apparent suitable habitat doesn't currently exist.

Future records and threats

Annual monitoring to assess the number of singing males will continue at Whisby using standardised methodology, as will appropriate habitat management. However there are additional pressures, although some do not have an easy solution. At a time when the Nightingale population is in steep decline in England and now qualifies for the Red List as a Species of Conservation Concern, the population at Whisby has become increasingly isolated. The populations elsewhere in Lincolnshire within the Lincolnshire Limewoods complex and South Kesteven woodlands are on the brink of collapse. This may result in genetic in-breeding if the only reliance is on young birds fledged from Whisby returning in subsequent years. As the next stable populations of Nightingales are some 40 miles away to the south in Rutland and Cambridgeshire this may be too far for any interaction between these populations.

Recent research has shown that deer browsing woodland understorey reduces the habitat suitability for breeding Nightingales, and this is probably a significant factor in the loss of this species at sites in a Lincolnshire context. Whisby is fortunate in that the deer numbers are currently very low, but should the situation change in the future, then appropriate action may need to be considered.

Finally human related disturbance is a potential factor. Although the vast numbers of visitors stick to the path network, dogs off leads do not, and owners who allow their pets to be off leads are a constant threat during the nesting season. This is despite signage that requests owners to have dogs on leads in all areas where Nightingales occur. Nightingales can nest very close to the paths and evidence for this was obtained in 2012, when a female was watched (and photographed) repeatedly returning to the same spot nest building just 3.5m from the path edge. Although birds

perceive dogs as natural predators, the effect of humans in close proximity is not always clearly understood. The major attraction Nightingales have become in recent years to large numbers of birders complete with an array of photographic equipment, can look alarming, but there is little evidence to suggest that disturbance is a factor. Singing males frequently perch right out in the open, and birds often feed on the short grassy verges that border the path system, oblivious to the audience watching them. If Nightingales were not so accustomed to human presence at Whisby, then this might be expected to impact on breeding success, which doesn't appear to be the case at present.

Conclusion and summary

Nightingales have contracted their range in Lincolnshire into one peripheral 'hotspot' at Whisby, and although the population is increasingly isolated, it currently exists as a stable outpost with a relatively high population density. It is hoped that this can be maintained and for those wishing to hear and see this nocturnal songster, then a trip to Whisby in late April or early May is recommended. The thought of losing such a valued bird, one which is such an ingrained constituent of our culture, would be too awful to contemplate.

Grahame Hopwood
Assistant Warden
Whisby Nature Reserve

Reedbeds and bittern: An assessment of current status in Greater Lincolnshire

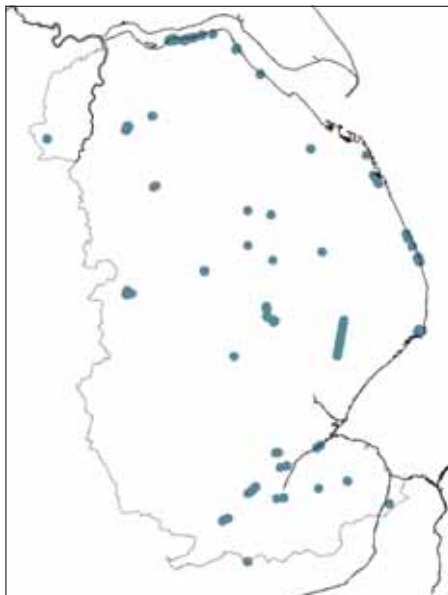
Clare Schofield, Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership

Introduction

Reedbed habitat declines and its legal status

In England there are approximately 5200ha of reedbed; habitat dominated by stands of common reed *Phragmites australis*, where the water table is at or above ground level for most of the year. Many of these are small and isolated sites and only around 50 sites are greater than 20ha in extent. Reedbed is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitat. The most significant reedbed areas are notified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and many are also notified under the Ramsar Convention and as Special Protection Areas (SPA). However, in the wider countryside many reedbeds remain in poor condition for key species and in some cases they may be deteriorating due to a lack of appropriate management, sea-level rise due to climate change and pollution of fresh water suppliesⁱ. In Greater Lincolnshire, an area that includes Lincolnshire county, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire, reedbed is covered by the Lincolnshire BAP 3rd edition grouped Action Plan for reedbeds and bittern [1].

The map shows the known reedbed in Greater Lincolnshire with a 1km buffer for clarity. The estimated reedbed resource in Greater Lincolnshire is around 100ha. Most areas of reedbed are small and fragmented, however more extensive areas occur along the Humber Bank, from Barton to New Holland.



Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* population declines and their legal status

Bittern is a localised and rare breeding species in the UK. It is confined almost entirely to reedbed habitats, where it feeds principally on fish and amphibians. The UK population had declined to just 11 booming males at seven sites in 1997 from a peak of 70-80 in the 1950s. Intensive study showed that in most cases the decline was due to deterioration in habitat. In recent years, increasing numbers of wintering bittern have been recorded at many sites in the UK, most of which do not currently support booming males (Wotton et al, 2011)ⁱⁱ.

Wetland creation and restoration for bittern began in the mid-1990s, and the decline has now been halted and reversed. During the 2009/10 winter a minimum of 598 bittern were recorded at 396 sites across the UK, and in the 2012 breeding season, the number of booming males was up to 106.

Present threats to bittern include loss of suitable large reedbeds, reduced food availability, salt water intrusion into reedbeds, unseasonal fresh water flooding, severe winter weather and a small population size.

Due to the historic decline, its current breeding and non-breeding rarity and status as a Species of European Conservation Concern the bittern is fully protected at all times in the UK under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)ⁱⁱⁱ. This prohibits the intentional killing, injuring or taking (including capture) of any wild bird, taking, damaging or destroying the nest while in use or being built, and the taking or destruction of any eggs. Bittern is listed on Annex 1 of the Birds Directive and Appendix III of the Bern Convention. It is a Red List species, a UK BAP priority species and is covered by the Lincolnshire BAP 3rd edition grouped Action Plan for reedbeds and bittern.

Bittern habitat requirements

The common elements to the results of some of the most recent research on the breeding habitat preferences of bittern in the UK^{iv} are the presence of tall emergent vegetation and standing water, and in many cases, open water.

Although bittern will breed in reedbeds of a wide range of sizes (3-380ha in the UK), new reedbeds should ideally be as large as possible (c.100ha if possible) to accommodate habitat variation, especially in areas without smaller satellite reedbeds nearby. Bittern home ranges (studied on sites >100ha) are around 20ha on average, increasing in the non-breeding season.

With regard to reedbed structure, the most important parameter providing feeding habitat is the area of wet reed (growing in water) within 30m of pools. Ditches connected to pools can increase the suitability of a site, however, reed edge adjacent to open pools was preferred over that adjacent to channels and ditches. The reed/water interface is critical, with 250-400m of reed edge per hectare being the ideal target. Home ranges of the males have been found to be, on average, composed of 30% open water (excluding ditches), 48% reed edge (30m width adjacent to open water and ditches) and 16% reed that was 30m or more from any water edge.

When choosing a nest location, female bittern tend to have less scrub nearby and more reed/pool edge, avoiding vegetation indicative of dryness. Water levels around the nest are generally high even at the driest part of the season. Research in the 1990s suggested that breeding bittern in the UK use reedbeds with water depths between 15 and 30cm within the reed, however, new nests have been found at sites in Norfolk and Somerset in water up to 100cm deep (Wotton, pers. com). When seasonal water level changes occur, bittern will move to maintain ideal feeding depths. They will also move outside key reedbed areas to other feeding sites. Therefore maintaining variation in topography will maximise opportunities for bittern throughout the year.

As a piscivorous bird, access to fish populations is important for the bittern and reedbed design must provide conditions suitable for sustainable populations of principally fish, but also amphibians, crayfish, mammals and birds, which they will take from within extensive wet reed/open water interface. Female bitterns may be using the availability of the four fish species of preference in nestling diet (eel *Anguilla anguilla* (which, according to the Environment Agency^v has suffered a catastrophic decline across Europe with numbers estimated to have fallen to less than 5% of their 1980 levels), rudd *Scardinius erythrophthalmus*, three-spined stickleback *Gasterosteus aculeatus* and nine-spined stickleback *Pungitius pungitius*) as one of their cues whether to settle at a site and nest (Gilbert and Jose 2003vi).

Wintering sites are crucial to the survival of individual birds which remain in or migrate to Greater Lincolnshire to avoid harsh winter weather however their requirements are less exacting than during the breeding season. Small wetland sites, not suitable for breeding, may be occupied if they have a good food supply and at least some cover in the form of wetland vegetation. Management of small sites for wintering birds should therefore be seen as important for the retention of Greater Lincolnshire's bittern population, even if breeding is unlikely^{vii}.

Reedbed and bittern conservation and research in Greater Lincolnshire Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan

The Lincolnshire BAP describes the species and habitats that are priorities for conservation in Greater Lincolnshire and identifies actions that can take place at a local level which also contribute to national and international conservation commitments. The BAP includes a Species Action Plan (SAP) for bittern.

The SAP for bittern outlines a number of objectives and targets and the actions to be undertaken in order to achieve them:

Objectives

- To create a county-wide network of well-managed reedbeds and associated habitats capable of supporting key species.
- To establish areas in Lincolnshire, particularly inland, that provide suitable habitat for breeding bitterns, to allow an expansion in range and provide a safeguard against sea-level rise.

Targets

- Update the 2010 baseline for reedbeds by 2012 with details of condition, including extent of inland areas suitable for restoration or creation of breeding habitat for bittern.
- Achieve favourable conservation management by 2015 for 95% of SSSIs and LWSs with reedbeds, and for sites newly created for bittern.

- Increase the total area of reedbeds in Lincolnshire compared to 2010 figures – additional 500ha by 2020.
- 50% of suitable sites with booming males or wintering birds by 2015.
- Increase the breeding bittern population in Lincolnshire to at least five sites with breeding females, three of them inland, by 2020.

Actions

- Use existing information (and carry out further surveys as necessary) to determine the condition of identified sites.
- Identify priority sites for habitat creation and expansion (especially for the benefit of bitterns).
- Encourage the construction of reedbeds as a means of water treatment, including community and public facility use.
- Produce assessments of the suitability and management for bitterns of occupied and unoccupied sites to identify the main features of each site and the principal actions required to improve or maintain them.
- Monitor reedbed habitats, water quality and food availability at key bittern sites.
- Ensure management for bittern within designated reedbeds where appropriate.
- Survey all suitable reedbed sites annually for bittern activity. Ensure accurate recording of the presence of all breeding and wintering individuals throughout the county.
- Ensure that any bittern corpses or addled eggs are analysed for presence of heavy metals and pesticides.

Getting involved

Bittern monitoring

In order to be able to better protect bittern and their reedbed habitats and prevent further declines, it is important to have an accurate picture of the amount of suitable reedbed habitat and the species' range and population status.

Surveying and monitoring are essential activities as they provide the basis for judging conservation decisions and the effectiveness of resulting actions. Having a believable baseline count or estimate for such an elusive species as the bittern can provide the justification necessary to prioritise valuable resources, attract funding and set targets. As the habitat management necessary to restore or create sites for bittern can be very expensive it is necessary to be able to measure how the population reacts to such expenditure.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Natural England have been responsible, through the Action for Birds in England program, for monitoring bittern in the UK annually since 1990. At the same time, an intensive research program focused on understanding the detailed habitat requirements of bittern, as well as habitat condition and food availability at key sites. The research program ended in 2004, but the monitoring program continued, annually until 2012 and a regular resurvey is planned for every few years from now on^{viii}. Detailed bittern monitoring methods are available from the Senior Conservation Scientist at the RSPB^{ix}.

As well as bittern monitoring, it is important to also be aware of other biological parameters upon which habitat suitability will depend, including;

- Fish species and biomass.
- Chemical water quality, water level and turbidity.
- Reed cover.

The records used to produce this report originated from a large number of sources including the Lincolnshire Bird Club* (LBC), Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWT) reserve managers, national surveys, members of the public and other records held by Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre (LERC)^x. It has been collated by LERC, whilst maintaining confidentiality of the individuals that submitted it, and plays a vital role in informing conservation efforts, habitat management work and decisions about planning applications.

Sending in records

If you are involved with the Bittern monitoring programme, run by the RSPB in partnership with Natural England, please hand in all of the sheets, forms and maps that you filled in to your local

co-ordinator or Bittern Project staff at the end of the season. The information will then be passed on to the LERC and included in national datasets in due course.

Please send all other information on bittern sightings, booming activity or location of suspected nests to LBC or LERC. Other species records can also be sent to LERC.

For any record it is important to include as much information as possible – in particular:

- ‘What’ – the species (and number if more than one).
- ‘When’ – the date the bittern was seen.
- ‘Where’ – the location of the sighting (a grid reference or postcode is best).
- ‘Who’ – contact details in case any further details are needed.

Using this report

The maps and species accounts in Section 3 summarise the information that is currently available on the distribution and status of bittern in Greater Lincolnshire. This report is intended to inform and support bittern conservation and awareness-raising work undertaken by BAP Partners.

It can also be used by conservation organisations, land managers, ecologists, planners and other interested parties to:

- Highlight key areas of the county that are of importance for bittern.
- Identify areas where further surveys are needed.
- Indicate areas where particular consideration of the presence of bittern needs to be taken into account at sites of proposed development or habitat management works (though this should be taken into account in all areas of suitable habitat).
- Identify areas where habitat enhancement works could be targeted to benefit breeding or overwintering bittern.

NOTE: The absence of a record does not necessarily mean that bittern are not present – simply that they have not been recorded.

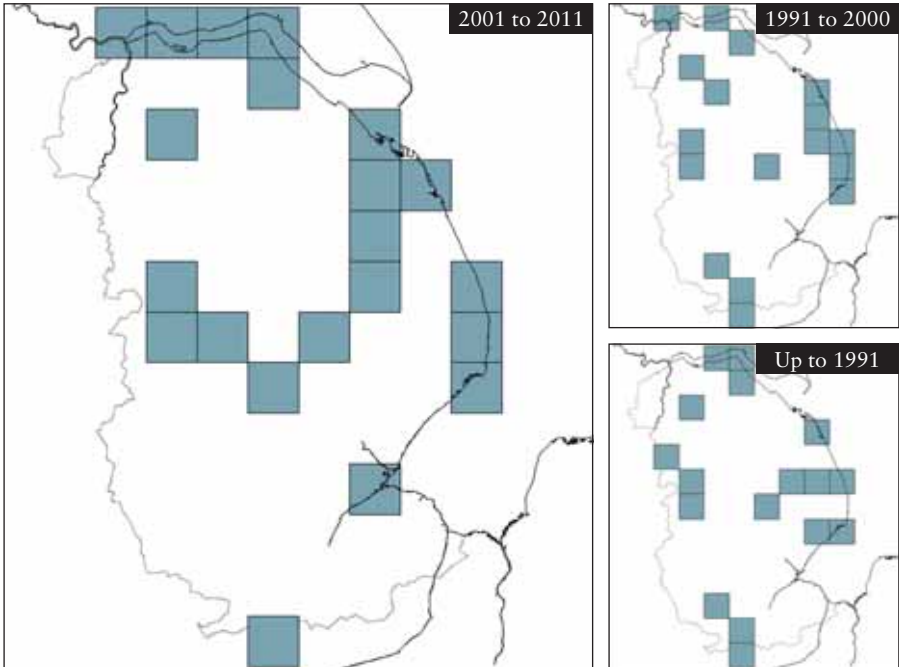
Species account

The maps on the following pages have been produced using the bittern records and habitat data held by LBC and LERC, and show one page each for all bittern records, booming records (a booming male does not necessarily suggest breeding), summer records (April-July, no evidence of an attempt to breed) and wintering records (August-March). Each map shows the area of Greater Lincolnshire. Each 10km square, containing records of bittern, is highlighted blue. Records have been divided into three date ranges: pre 1990, 1991-2000 and 2001-2011, to allow for comparison.

Each species is accompanied by an interpretation of trends and possible explanations, information about known breeding sites, and identification of gaps in survey effort/knowledge.

LBC and LERC would be pleased to hear from anyone that can add any further information or additional records (historic or recent) to the maps.

All bittern records

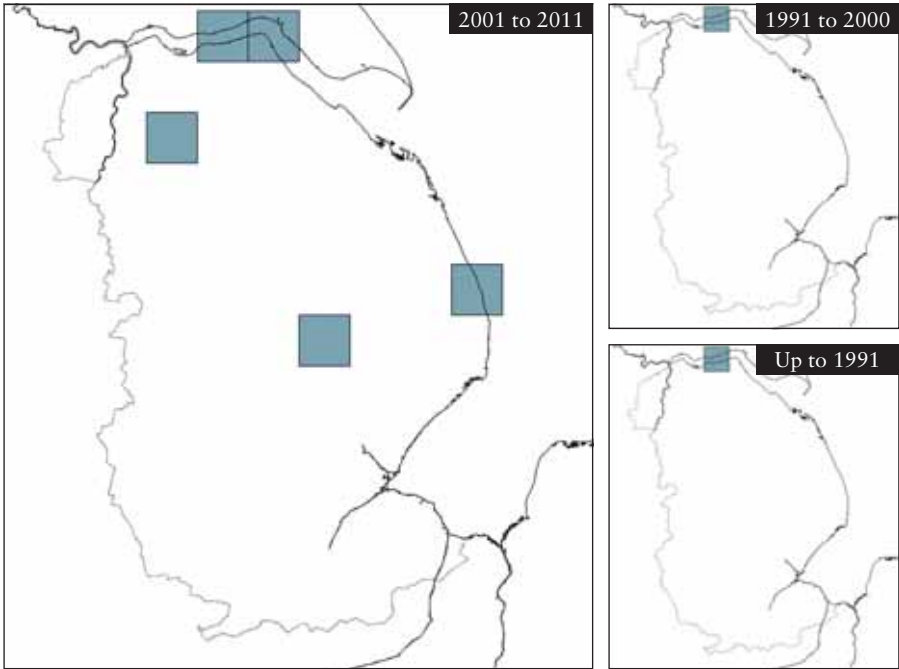


Fluctuation of the bittern population in Greater Lincolnshire can be linked to; levels of reedbed management, with lack of management resulting in succession from reedbed to woodland with natural drying out of potential sites; reduction of water quality resulting in reduced prey items; and excessive water extraction (a potential issue if climate change requires more water to be used for farming practices). Some of these reasons may help to explain why sites where bittern have historically been recorded do not appear to have been used in recent years. The opposite also applies, as some of the more recent records are from within managed nature reserves where specific bittern habitat management does occur.

Due to the specific habitat requirements of bittern, perceived gaps in distribution indicate areas where no suitable habitat occurs, rather than a lack of surveyor effort, which has been sustained by the LBC for many years.

The small population of bittern in Greater Lincolnshire makes management for this species

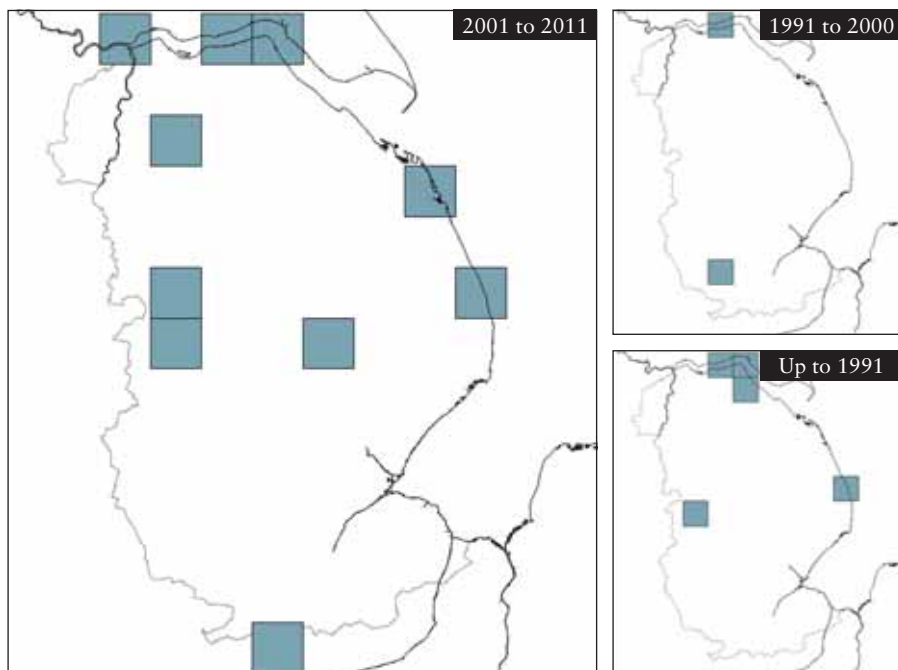
Booming records



During the period 2001-11 bittern were recorded as booming at a total of eight sites within Greater Lincolnshire. One of the sites has been used by booming bittern repeatedly for the last 10 years. The examination of the current habitat management techniques of this site is necessary to identify best practice. Another site was used for seven years but not for the last few. The next stage will be to determine whether changes that may have occurred at that site have caused bittern to stop using it, or whether another site was simply more favourable that year.

Due to the specific habitat requirements of bittern, perceived gaps in distribution indicate areas where no suitable habitat occurs, rather than a lack of surveyor effort, which has been sustained by the LBC for many years.

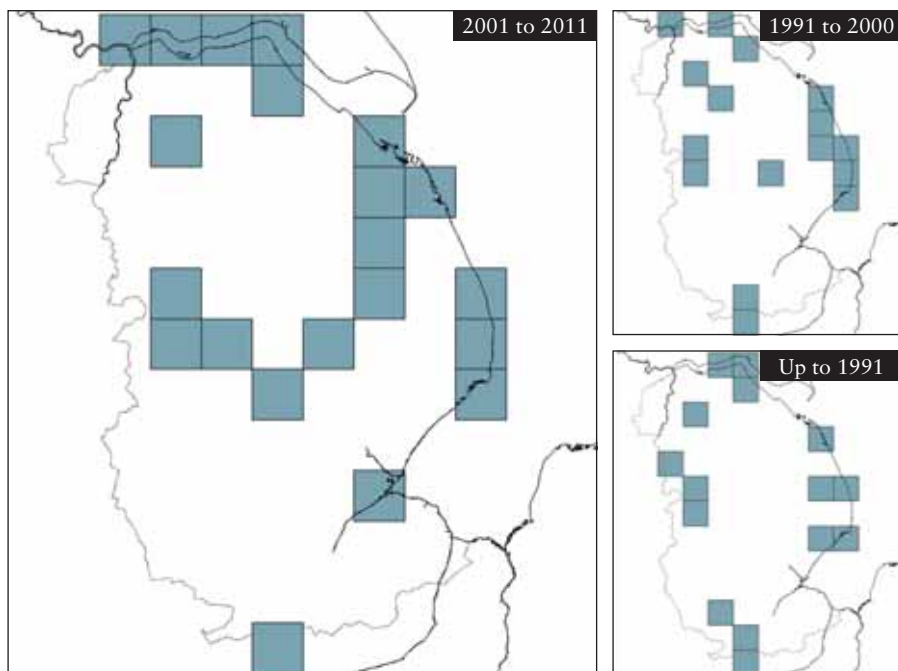
Records of bittern seen from April to July



A high majority of the Greater Lincolnshire summer bittern records are within managed nature reserves where specific bittern habitat management occurs. Due to the specific habitat requirements of bittern, perceived gaps in distribution indicate areas where no suitable habitat occurs, rather than a lack of surveyor effort, which has been sustained by the LBC for many years.

Sand and gravel extraction sites provide the main opportunities to create additional areas of reedbed in Greater Lincolnshire, with good opportunities for restoration of abandoned pits in the Isle of Axholme; at Messingham south of Scunthorpe; in the Trent Vale to the west and south-west of Lincoln; on the Fen edge at Tallington to Deeping Gate; and in the lower Bain valley at Kirkby and Tattershall. Other opportunities may arise through managed realignment schemes, Landscape Scale Project work, and work by Internal Drainage Boards.

Records of bittern seen from August to March



Between the winters of 2001/02 and 2011/12 a maximum of 12 sites had bittern recorded at them during any one year. A total of 38 sites have had bittern recorded at least once during the above 10 winters. Many of the sites that have had bittern records submitted for them are in fact small ponds, which form part of a larger complex of sites that often falls within the boundary of a nature reserve.

The wintering population is heavily influenced by weather, both locally and on the continent, with bird numbers and sighting regularly reported by both LBC members and non-members.

Due to the specific habitat requirements of bittern, perceived gaps in distribution indicate areas where no suitable habitat occurs, rather than a lack of surveyor effort, which has been sustained by the LBC for many years.

Conclusion

Greater Lincolnshire is fortunate to have bittern present, but only by a mixture of monitoring known sites and surveying new sites will we begin to establish the full distribution picture. By increasing our knowledge of bittern ranges and protecting the habitat, we hope to protect bittern within Greater Lincolnshire. The small population of bittern in Lincolnshire makes management for this species essential, with the chance of local loss of the resident population very high.

Size of site appears to be of little significance to bittern when choosing a breeding site while proximity of satellite sites may have a more important role. Many of the sites that have had bittern records submitted for them are in fact small ponds, which form part of a larger complex of sites which often falls within the boundary of a nature reserve. There is a lack of consistency however, and in many cases the record is assigned to the nature reserve rather than a specific pond making comparison difficult.

Implications

This report identifies the potential for Lincolnshire BAP actions to be fulfilled. It serves as a precursor to further survey and more detailed study of the condition of reedbed sites within Greater Lincolnshire. It is also intended to aid identification of those reedbeds where targeted management, restoration or creation would benefit breeding bittern and facilitate population expansion, especially as there have been no records of confirmed nesting in Greater Lincolnshire in recent years.

The contribution of individuals working or volunteering in the field is vital to the broadening of our knowledge and understanding of bittern and it is hoped that conservation organisations, ecologists, and other interested parties will feel encouraged by this report to carry out annual surveys, ideally following the methodology used by the RSPB, and realise the importance of submitting their records.

It would be valuable to have an assessment of food availability every five years or so at sites that have been used by bittern more than once within the last five years. This could include electrofishing surveys. If predatory fish such as pike and perch are found to be a problem, they could be removed to benefit other species. Due to the decline in eel numbers the Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 (the Regulations)^{vi} require, among other things, the installation of eel passes and screens on abstraction points. To provide maximum benefit to bittern these need to be targeted on catchments with reedbed habitat. Actions to improve water quality and adjust hydrology may also be of benefit.

Simultaneously, the examination of the current habitat management techniques of successful bittern breeding sites is necessary to identify best practice. Detailed maps and site specific knowledge would determine the significance of the wet reed/open water interface which has not been assessed as part of this report.

Acknowledgements

The Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership is grateful to Andrew Chick (Lincolnshire Bird Club), Phil Espin (Lincolnshire Bird Club Rare Breeding Birds Panel Representative) and Simon Wotton (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) for their contribution to 'Reedbeds and bittern: An assessment of current status in Greater Lincolnshire'.

ⁱ Lincolnshire BAP 3rd edition

ⁱⁱ Wotton, S., Grantham, M., Moran, N. and Gilbert, G. 2011. *Eurasian bittern distribution and abundance in the UK during the 2009/10 winter*. British Birds **104**: 636-641.

ⁱⁱⁱ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69

^{iv} Gilbert, G.; Tyler, G. A.; Dunn, C. J.; Smith, K. W. 2005. *Nesting habitat selection by bitterns Botaurus stellaris in Britain and the implications for wetland management*. Biological Conservation **124**: 547-553.

^v <http://a0768b4a8a31e106d8b0-50dc802554eb38a24458b98ff72d550b.r19.cf3.rackcdn.com/geho0411btqb-e-e.pdf>

^{vi} Gilbert G. and P. Jose 2003. The status of Bittern Botaurus stellaris in relation to fish stocks. Proc. Inst. Fish. Manage. 32nd Ann. Stucy Course, Greenwich, London: 124-130

^{vii} White G, Purps J and Alsbury S. (2006). *The bittern in Europe: a guide to species and habitat management*. The RSPB, Sandy

^{viii} Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/projects/details/258718-annual-bittern-monitoring-

^{ix} Simon Wotton, RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL simon.wotton@rspb.org.uk

^x Lincolnshire Bird Club www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk/

^{xi} LERC is a part of Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership www.glnp.org.uk

^{xii} <http://a0768b4a8a31e106d8b0-50dc802554eb38a24458b98ff72d550b.r19.cf3.rackcdn.com/geho0411btqb-e-e.pdf>

Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri* 2nd calendar year bird at Newland Hill, Elsham from Apr 3rd - 18th.

By Tom Lowe

I can't resist a roadside flock of gulls, regardless of season or location. My inner optimist always believes there could be something good lurking amongst the locals - and if there is a tanker in the field, I will rarely fail to stop. That tell-tale trailer usually means the field is being treated with liquid waste, and experience has told me that gulls love it. And so it was that early on Monday 2nd April 2012, I sped up the outside lane of the A15 in Lincolnshire past just such a field of gulls and a tanker... and I didn't stop.

I had outdoor work to do and the fine weather was not forecast to last, so I resisted the urge to mount the verge, and continued on my way to a farm a few miles further north. It began to look like I'd made the right choice when, a couple of hours later, I found a passage Great Grey Shrike chasing bumblebees on the farm. But there was also a constant passage of large gulls overhead, apparently commuting between the Humber and fields to the south where I'd seen the tanker. A niggling temptation stayed with me all day...

The following morning, the gulls were again filing south, in numbers greater than I'd seen all winter, so after I finished work at lunchtime I went after them. I arrived at the field with the tanker in, on Newland Hill near the village of Elsham at about 1.45pm, and was thrilled to see over 600 large gulls, mainly Herring Gulls, feeding avidly. They would not let me get anywhere near them though, always taking flight when they saw my car approaching, so I resorted to scanning a smaller flock in the field to the south. Here, some 200 birds were loafing after feeding, and things seemed a little more settled.

Being the start of April, I was hoping for a late Glaucous or Iceland Gull on its way back north, or maybe a Caspian Gull amongst the sprinkling of recently-returned Lesser Black-backs. After 20 minutes, I hadn't found anything of interest but just as I was considering trying the feeding field again, my scope panned onto a remarkable looking juvenile gull that must have just landed at the front of the flock. It almost looked like it was made of chocolate!

My initial reaction when confronted with such a smooth, dark-bodied bird was American Herring Gull, but within seconds I had discounted that species on size and structure. First impressions were of a bird that was slightly smaller than most of the Herrings around it, with a velvety mud-brown body and head, fully juvenile upperparts and long blackish primaries. The bill was dark and the head was small and rounded, and structurally there was a superficial resemblance to Iceland Gull... could it be a Thayer's?

As I hastily grabbed some digiscoped shots, the bird walked into the flock and took up a position that allowed only the most obstructed of views. However, amongst the other members of the flock, its distinctiveness could be fully appreciated, and comparisons made with nearby birds. The



Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri* 2nd calendar year bird was at Newland Hill, Elsham from Apr 3rd to Apr 18th 2012 © Tom Lowe



Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri* 2nd calendar year bird at Newland Hill, Elsham Apr 4th 2012
© Graham Catley

size and shape seemed to vary according to posture, and when sitting down on the bare earth it could appear surprisingly big. When stood amongst Herring Gulls, though, it was a slim and long-winged bird, with a slender neck and small head which tapered into long lores and a fairly long bill. On some views the bill looked quite narrow, but on others it appeared to thicken at the gonys and look somewhat blob-tipped. Basally the bill was a very dark maroon, whilst the distal third was black. It was not especially long-legged, but the legs were stout and a slightly deeper pink than those of the surrounding Herring Gulls.

Having initially appeared solidly coloured on the head and underparts, closer inspection showed there to be a degree of paler mottling on the breast, and the crown was in fact finely streaked with white. There was also a lick of white along the end of the lores, where the feathering met the bill. The ear-coverts were solidly dark brown and highlighted a fine white crescent below and behind the eye, and a hint of a pale ear-covert spot. The eye itself was large and dark, the iris appearing to be a very dark chestnut brown, and was set forward in the head, creating the oft-quoted "soft expression".

The nape and upper mantle were smooth brown, leading into lower scapulars with a distinctive pattern: a narrow creamy-white fringe bulged in along the edges of the feather to create an oak-leaf effect in the solid brown centre, the tip of which was very slightly darker. A pattern of brown and creamy-white chequering was visible on the lesser and median-coverts, as well as on the inner greater-coverts, whilst the outer greater-coverts were more solidly brown with pale marbling. The tertials were a slightly darker brown with finely patterned edges to the distal half of each feather, lacy-looking tips and some simple internal markings consisting of a creamy white crescent near the tip of each web. At rest, the primaries were blackish-brown with a distinct whitish fringe around the tip of each feather.

Feeling increasingly confident that I was indeed watching a Thayer's Gull in a field in Lincolnshire, I was desperate to see the spread wing pattern. I needed to see the bird preen, stretch, or fly, and I sat with my finger poised above the video-record button of my camera for an hour and a half, before the battery died. Ten minutes later, the bird flew over the hedge into the feeding field. On that fleeting view I glimpsed a pale, silvery underside to the primaries, and a very pale inner primary window on the upperwing, flanked by darker outer primaries and secondaries, but then it was gone, with no detail seen, and I couldn't relocate it. Would it show the characteristic "Venetian

blinds” primary pattern of Thayer’s Gull, or would it be curtains for it and me? I spread the news of what I had seen, and that evening, uploaded my best images of the bird to the internet.

Following a night spent looking at images of near-identical birds on the internet, I woke on 4th April to sleet lashing my window on a near-gale force northeasterly, and hopes of relocating the gull were dashed. There were barely any birds in the fields, and the previous days’ overhead passage of gulls off the estuary had ebbed to a mere trickle. In such inclement weather, it appeared they weren’t venturing far from their Humber slumber. By mid afternoon, however, the rain eased, and a couple of intrepid souls followed up the tentative pager message of the night before. The gulls were back too, and at 3pm the bird was re-found, using the gale to “dip-feed” over the field, showing that critical wing-pattern to great effect. A couple of blasts of the Catley cannon, and the definitive photos were in the bag: P5-10 showed dark outer webs and contrastingly pale inner webs, with the dark curling around the tip of the feather in the manner of a Nike “tick”. Rather helpfully, on the right wing P5 was missing, and P6 was visible in its entirety, as if laid out on a museum table. P1-4 showed a ghosting of the same pattern, but with the addition of a long pale lozenge shape running along the outer web, effectively making the whole feather appear pale except for an isolated darker tip to the outer web. The secondaries also showed a pattern of dark outer webs and pale inner webs, but as they tend to be held more tightly together, the general impression was of a solid dark brown bar, similar in colour to the outer primaries, with a broad pale trailing edge. From below, the remiges were pale and silvery with contrasting dark tips to P5-10 forming a bar along the wingtip. The underwing coverts and axillaries were dark brown.

A feature that took our little group by surprise was the forked tail, something we hadn’t expected to see; a few central tail-feathers were missing, breaking up the broad, muddy brown tail band. There was pale notching and marbling on the bases of the outer 3 or 4 feathers, and the rump and uppertail-coverts were heavily barred brown. Similar dense barring was visible on the undertail-coverts.

Despite its extreme rarity, and the fact that nearly every Thayer’s Gull on this side of the Atlantic has attracted controversy of some sort, here I was claiming one in a field in Lincolnshire! Yet the combination of size, structure and the suite of plumage features I had now been able to observe and that had been photographed left me feeling this had to be the real thing. Not only did everything appear to stack up, but it was also at the darker end of the Thayer’s spectrum



Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri* 2nd calendar year bird at Newland Hill, Elsham Apr 4th 2012
© Graham Catley



Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri* 2nd calendar year bird at Newland Hill, Elsham Apr 4th 2012
© Graham Catley

(immediately bringing to mind photos of the Danish bird in 2002 http://www.netfugl.dk/pictures.php?id=showpicture&picture_id=240) which helped to rule out thoughts of Kumlien's Gull. My confidence was buoyed by positive comments from friends that I had emailed photos to, and over the next few days it was successfully twitched by many. Its appearances became very erratic, but after a few days of absence I relocated it on 17th April and it remained until at least 18th. Although most observers were happy with the identification, the bird inevitably attracted its share of internet discussion and a variety of opinions were voiced. The possibility of a hybrid was something I had considered, but could a hybrid really match so many Thayer's Gull features so closely? The overall smoothness of the body plumage is something only really associated with American Herring Gull or a few Pacific coast species and hybrids, and whilst hybrids are fairly common there, they are apparently undocumented on this side of the Atlantic. With all these things, likelihood of occurrence surely has to play a part in the discussion, and following a winter that had seen an unprecedented influx of Iceland and Kumlien's Gulls into western Europe, it seems only fitting that a Thayer's Gull or two should join the party?

As well as my own digiscoped efforts, there were a great many photographs taken of the bird, many of which aided in the identification process. I have attached a selection, others can be seen online:

<http://pewit.blogspot.co.uk/2012/04/thayers-gull-lincolnshire-first.html>

<http://pewit.blogspot.co.uk/2012/04/thayers-gull-batch-2.html>

<http://www.rarebirdalert.co.uk/RealData/gallery.asp?level=4&SpeciesID=5980.2>

Contributors to the county records for 2012, with initials for reference

AAt	Andy Atkinson	DEv	Derick Evans
ABa	Alison Baldwin	DGr	David Griffith
ABe	Anthony Bentley	DH	Dave Hitchin
ACa	Alastair Carr	DJ	D Johnson
ACBH	Andrew Henderson	DJB	Dave Bradbeer
ACL	Alexander Lees	DJW	David J Wright
ACS	Andrew Sims	DKW	Dave Wright
AFP	Alkborough Flats Partnership	DLi	David Lillywhite
AGB	Alan Ball	DMi	David Miller
AHd	Tony Houlden	DMJ	David Jenkins
AHu	Alan Hudson	DMn	David Morison
AJH	Tony Housman	DMy	Derek Morley
AN	Tony Nuttall	DN	Dean Nicholson
AO	Alan Oliver	DNw	Daniel Newton
APC	Andy Chick	DRob	David Roberts
ARC	Andy Chapman	DRr	Desmond Roberts
ASh	A Shearsmith	DS	D Satterthwaite
ASha	Andy Sharp	DSP	Dave Purnell
AT	Alan Temple	DWo	Dave Worrell
ATD	Alan Daws	DWs	Danny Walsh
ATu	Aidan Turner	EJM	Edmund Mackrill
AV	Andrew Vaughan	EJR	John Redshaw
BGu	Birdguides	et al	et al
BHe	Brian Hedley	FIBG	Far Ings Bird Group
BMC	Barry Clarkson	FJ	Freddy Johnson
BRE	Brian Eke	GAM	Grimsby Area Members
BRG	Birklands Ringing Group	GBi	George Bishop
BTr	Birdtrack	GCS	Garry Steele
CA	Chris Atkin	GF	Graham Fordham
CAn	Carl Annall	GGr	George Gregory
CBe	Colin Beck	GGu	Georgia Gough
CCG	Clare Gillatt	GH	Graham Hardy
CG	Chris Grimshaw	GHo	Grahame Hopwood
CHe	Chris Heaton	GJF	Gary Fenwick
CJJ	Colin Jennings	GLe	Geoff Lee
CLu	Chris Lunn	GMO	Gervase Orton
CMo	Cliff Morrison	GMu	Geoff Mullett
CNe	Colin Neve	GPBO	Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory
CPO	Peter Overton	GPC	Graham Catley
CPr	Clive Pearson	GPL	Guy Langan
Csm	Colin Smale	GRu	George Rutter
DAk	Dave Adkin	GTP	Gary Tapp
DCo	David Cohen	GW	Geoff Williams
DE	Dean Eades	GWa	G Watola

GWr	Garry Wright	MBe	Michael Betts
HB	Howard Bunn	MEH	Mike Harrison
HK	Henry Kennedy	MFr	Martin Francis
HM	Hugh Middleton	MH	Malcolm Holley
HMBSG	Hatfield Moors Bird Study Group	MHa	Matt Harrison
IAA	I A Ashworth	MJG	Martin Gray
IB	Ian Birch	MJn	Mark Johnson
IE	Ian Ellis	MJo	Malcolm Johnson
IG	Ian Gordon	MJTa	Mike Tarrant
IGS	Ian Shepherd	MM	Monica Marks
IMP	I M Phillips	MRB	M R Briggs
IPM	Ian Misselbrook	MWe	Mike Weedon
ISm	Ian Smith	MWi	Mick Widdowson
JAH	John Hayes	MWs	Mandy West
JAS	J A Smith	NAL	Nigel Lound
JB	John Badley	NCl	Nick Clayton
JBy	Jonathan Bye	ND	Neil Drinkall
JDS	John Spring	NHD	N H Dorrington
JHar	Julie Harrison	NKz	Neil Kurz
JJa	John Jaines	NPT	Nick Tribe
JNi	John Nicholson	NS	Neil Smith
JPS	J P Shaughnessey	OM	Owen Marks
JRC	John Clarkson	OW	Oliver Woodman
JRN	J R Nelson	PAH	Phil Hyde
JRW	John Walker	PBe	Patrick Bell
JS	James Siddle	PBH	Peter Haywood
JSa	Jonathan Savory	PC	Paul Collis
JSl	Jon Salmon	PCo	Peter Cox
JSt	John Stephenson	PDu	Paul Dumpleton
JTG	John Goy	PEs	Phil Espin
JWa	John Watt	PLa	Peter Lackey
JWh	J Wheldon	PLe	Phil Lee
KAr	K Armstrong	PNe	Paul Neale
KBi	Katherine Birkett	PO	Paul Otter
KDR	Keith Robertson	PP	Phil Porter
KH	Kay Heath	PRo	Peter Roworth
KKH	Kerry Harrison	PS	Paul Sullivan
KMW	Kevin Wilson	PSc	Pete Scott
KRo	Keith Robinson	PSh	Pete Short
KSp	Karen Spavin	PSm	Paul Smith
LBCF	Lincolnshire Bird Club Forum	PSn	Paul Snow
LDa	Les Davidson	RBar	Roger Bark
LHa	Linda Harvey	RBe	Rick Bennett
LNU	Lincolnshire Naturalists Union	RBW	Barrie Wilkinson
LWN	Lincolnshire Wildlife News	RC	Robert Carr
LWT	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	RCa	Richard Caney
MaB	M Bibby	RCl	Ron Clarke

RCm	Richard Camm	SK	Steve Keightley
RDn	Richard Doan	SL	Steve Lorand
RF	R Favell	SLy	Steve Lyon
RGu	Richard Gunn	SMi	Sue Misselbrook
RHa	Roy Harvey	SML	Steven Lister
RHay	Russell Hayes	SMo	Steve Moore
RHe	Richard Heath	SN	Steve Nesbitt
RHr	Robert Hardy	SR	Stephen Ryland
RJa	Richard Jackson	SRo	Stephen Routledge
RJH	Ray Hume	SSp	Simon Spavin
RKW	Rob K Watson	SWa	Steve Watson
RL	R Lorand	SWl	Simon Wilson
RLb	Roger Labbett	SWm	Sidney Williams
RNH	Roger Hebb	TBa	Terry Barnatt
RPi	Richard Pipe	TC	Toby Collett
RPr	Roy Pearson	TCL	Tom Lowe
RRi	Reg Rice	TCo	Terry Corlett
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	TGu	Trevor Gunby
RTf	Russ Telfer	TT	Trisha Thompson
RWa	Bob Wacey	TWe	Terry West
RWk	Robert Walker	TWh	Terry Whalin
RWr	Roger Wardle	TWo	Tomas Wood
SAB	S A Britton	Unk	Unknown
SGC	Steve Cross	VC	Vinny Chambers
SGr	Steve Green	VF	Vin Fleming
SJ	Sheila Jennings	WBS	Bill Sterling
SJM	Steve Meek	WG	Wayne Gillatt
		WPB	William Brooking

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Lincolnshire Red Data Breeding Birds of Conservation Concern: BBS Trends 1995-2011

Distribution and Population change in Lincolnshire and other parts of UK

Ranked in order of frequency of occurrence in Lincolnshire

Species	%Squares Lincs	%Squares UK	% UK birds in Lincs	Lincolnshire	% Change East Midlands	England	Trend
Skylark	94.9	59.4	6.2	-26.5	-36	-23	same
Linnet	84.8	42.8	6.2	-25.1	-21	-19	same
Yellowhammer	75.9	39.0	5.5	14.4	1	-22	better
Starling	60.8	55.6	2.8	-81.5	-48	-58	worse
House Sparrow	60.0	57.9	2.6	54.9	7	-12	better
Song Thrush	55.7	72.0	1.2	-36.1	20	12	worse
Yellow Wagtail	39.2	5.1	25.3	*	-75	-45	
Grey Partridge	35.4	7.7	9.1	*	15	-49	
Tree Sparrow	34.1	8.5	8.1	*	61	75	
Lapwing	30.4	19.0	2.1	*	3	-24	
Corn Bunting	16.5	4.5	6.1	*	*	-30	
Cuckoo	12.7	18.1	1.3	*	-83	-65	
Turtle Dove	7.6	1.6	10.1	*	*	-85	
Willow Tit	3.8	0.9	6.7	*	*	-81	
Grasshopper Warbler	2.5	2.6	1.7	*	*	-9	
Marsh Tit	2.5	4.6	0.7	*	*	-26	
Spotted Flycatcher	1.0	4.8	0.4	*	*	-56	
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	0.0	0.2	0.0	*	*	*	
Tree Pipit	0.0	4.0	0.0	*	*	-45	

Notes

1. %Squares UK is extracted from the BTO website and refers to the proportion of BBS squares in which each species was recorded in 2012 (out of 79 squares in Lincolnshire and 3430 in the UK).
2. Figures in bold indicate statistically significant change at the 95% level.
3. * indicates insufficient BBS squares covered to provide data to compute changes.
4. Trend is %change in Lincolnshire compared to % change in England.
5. Lincolnshire Skylarks are broadly on trend with the rest of England but the position of our Starlings remains much worse.
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.
7. % UK birds in Lincs indicates the % of number of birds recorded in Lincolnshire in BBS compared to total recorded in UK.

● Main Lincolnshire bird sites



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