

Welcome to the 2014 Bird Report



Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* North Lincolnshire Apr 2014 © Colin Smale



**The
Lincolnshire
Bird Club**

www.lincsbirdclub.co.uk

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THE LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD CLUB 2014 REPORT

Welcome to the 2014 Lincolnshire Bird Report

On behalf of the Lincolnshire Bird Club ("LBC") it gives us great pleasure in presenting the annual report on the birds of Lincolnshire. The publication of the Bird Report inevitably involves a huge amount of work, with many individuals involved in its publication. Thanks are also due to the growing numbers of observers who submit records to the LBC. 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 Records Committee ("LBRC"), Roy Harvey and to Colin and Sheila Jennings for all the work undertaken.

Species Authors

The LBC would like to thank all the authors who volunteered their time to complete species write-ups for the 2014 report. Inevitably, using such a pool of authors will lead to difference in writing styles throughout the report. Personally, we 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. If you would like to contribute 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 many 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 by 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 and are indicated as such by the identifier **LBRC** after the species name in the systematic list in this report. The committee currently comprises John Clarkson, James Siddle, Steve Keightley, Andy Sims, Phil Hyde and John Badley. The chairman of the 2014-15 LBRC is John Clarkson and Roy Harvey is secretary.

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

All records of LBRC 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.

LBC Data

LBC has a data sharing agreement with the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership based at LWT headquarters, Banovallum House Horncastle. All our bird data from the late 1990s onwards can be accessed by requesting a search from the Information Officer. Searches are free for members of LBC and students undertaking scientific research. Commercial organisations and others may need to pay a fee. There are restrictions on access to confidential data for rare breeding birds. Further details can be obtained from Charlie Barnes, Information Officer, GLNP on 01507 528381 and charlie.barnes@glnp.org.uk.



GLNP
GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE
NATURE PARTNERSHIP

Data Sources used in the 2014 Bird Report

LBC offers their thanks to the following individuals and organizations for supplying and letting us use their data in the 2014 bird report. Apologies to anyone we have missed off the list.

RSPB. For supplying data from their reserves at Frampton Marsh, Freiston Shore and Tetney.

Heronry Data. LBC is 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 LBC members to submit data to this survey.

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

BirdTrack Data. Data supplied by BirdTrack has been used in the production of the 2014 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 LBC. 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 2014 bird report. Further details can be found at <http://www.birdguides.com/>.

Deeping Lakes Site bird recorder. David Griffith for supplying data from Deeping Lakes.

Gibraltar Point Dataset. Kev Wilson and Richard Doan for supplying data from Gibraltar Point NNR.

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

Far Ings NNR Dataset. Andy Sharp and the Far Ings Bird Group for supplying data from Far Ings NNR.

Forest Enterprise. For permission to use breeding bird data collected on the wet heath project in Laughton Forest by Graham Catley on behalf of Forest Enterprise.

Whisby Nature Park Dataset. Grahame Hopwood for supplying data from Whisby Nature Park.

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, including Dave Bromwich, Grahame Hopwood and Barrie Wilkinson.

Ringling Report Data. The Boston Ringling Association, the Mid-Lincs Ringling Group, Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory, Wash Wader Group and the Birkland Ringling Group for submitting their annual ringling reports and especially Mark for help compiling the 2014 ringling report.

Grimsby Area Members Group. Bill Sterling for submitting data from the Grimsby Area Members Group.

Barn Owl and Little Owl Data. Alan Ball and Bob Sheppard for supplying data from their extensive ringling project in Lincolnshire.

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

Alkborough Flats Partnership. The Alkborough Flats Partnership for supplying data from Alkborough Flats.

BTO BBS Data. Sarah Harris the National Organiser of the Breeding Birds Survey for providing Lincolnshire specific BBS data.

Woodcock data. BTO for making available summary data for 2014 coverage in the BTO/Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust monitoring project.

Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust. For supplying partridge count data for Lincolnshire. 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 forms the lynchpin for this report. At the end of each month they produce a spreadsheet that contains all the bird records for that month. We are grateful to Chris Grimshaw and Carl Annall for helping Colin and Shelia with data input.

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

Contributing Authors for the 2014 report

The Lincolnshire LBC is very grateful to the following contributing authors for the 2014 Lincolnshire LBC 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: Tony Baker, Anthony Bentley, Graham Catley, Andrew Chick, John Clarkson, Phil Espin, Vin Fleming, Chris Grimshaw, Matthew Harrison, Andrew Henderson, Grahame Hopwood, Phil Hyde, Steve Lorand, Ian Macalpine-Leny, Bill Sterling, Ben Ward, John Watt.

Photographers

LBC is very grateful to the following photographers for supplying images for the 2014 report. All images included in the report have been taken in Lincolnshire during 2014 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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Brendan Doe

Ian Misselbrook

Steve Nesbitt

Colin Smale

Mandy West

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 and Phil Espin, Feb 2016

OBITUARY

KEITH ATKIN – 1938 to 2016

Keith Atkin, who was an immense figure in Lincolnshire birding over much of the past 50 years, sadly passed away on Monday 18th January 2016 at his home in Louth, aged 77 years. Although he was less active in recent years through ill health, he was central to birding in Lincolnshire for much of his adult life. Born in Lincoln the youngest of three sons, Keith's early years were devoted to trains and fishing. After returning to Lincoln, having studied engineering at Imperial College, London, he became interested in birds through the encouragement of his neighbour, the late Dennis Townsend, a leading figure in the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union at the time.

Keith soon became passionate about birds and turned into a proficient rarity finder as well as soon becoming a dedicated ringer. He first appeared in the BBRC Rarities report for 1961 having found a Pectoral Sandpiper at Lincoln Sewage Farm in September of that year. The co-finders were Dennis Townsend and Richard Cornwallis, the latter famous for having co-authored the first county avifauna *The Birds of Lincolnshire* (1958) with Ted Smith. Bardney was a favourite early patch and he found the county's second Long-billed Dowitcher there in October 1963 and the second Baird's Sandpiper in September 1966. Throughout this period he ringed around Lincoln, training with Peter Prince, becoming an A ringer and subsequently training many others. He ringed at Gibraltar Point and developed a site at Anderby Creek where he trapped the first Pallas's Warbler for Lincolnshire in October 1968 and found the first Great Spotted Cuckoo in May 1971. His other county firsts were Siberian Stonechat in 1978 with Steve Lorand, Penduline Tit in 1991 and Audouin's Gull in 2008 with Pete Haywood. Keith ranks as the third most prolific finder for firsts for Lincolnshire since 1950.

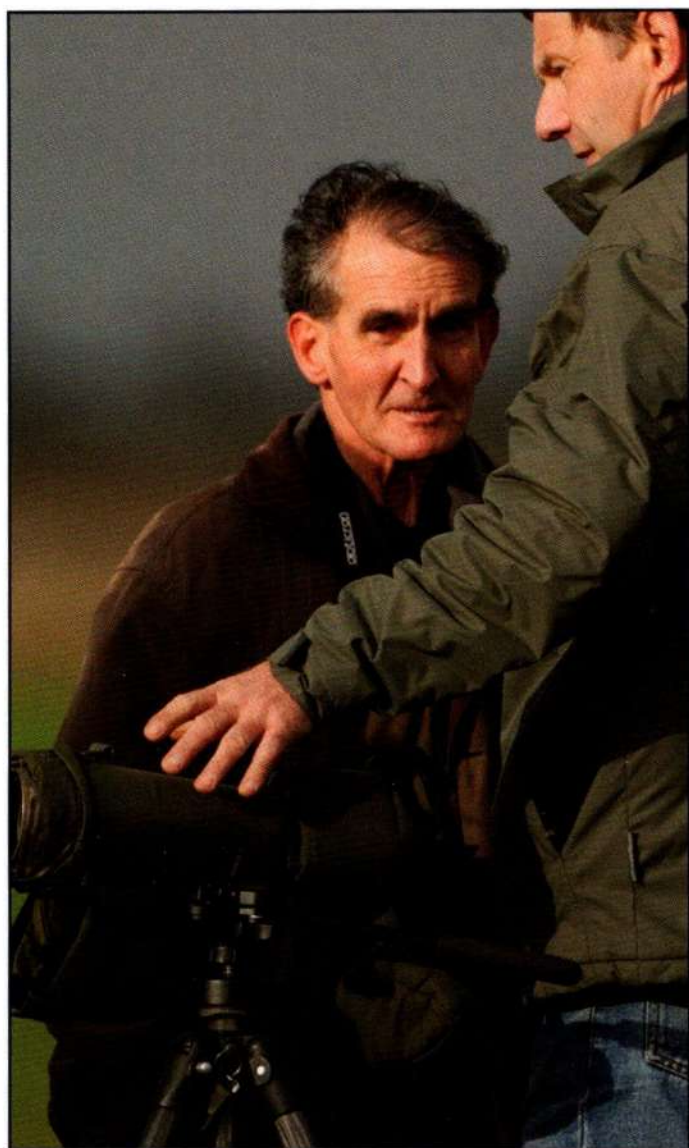
In the early 1970s Keith gave up ringing and turned to bird photography, tackling the challenge of capturing birds in flight. He became internationally known as a bird photographer through providing photos in books like J.T.R. Sharrock's early Poyser classic *Scarce Migrants of Britain and Ireland* and regular contributions to *British Birds*. His elder brother, a successful aeronautical engineer, attended a NATO conference once and, speaking to a German attendee, mentioned that he was from Lincoln. The German asked if he was related to the famous bird photographer Keith Atkin.

From his earliest birding days Keith was involved in writing the Lincolnshire Bird Report, assisting Dennis Townsend. He became county recorder from 1969 and continued that role until 1981 when he handed the baton on to Graham Catley, so that he could focus on producing a new *Birds of Lincolnshire* with Steve Lorand. That book was eventually published in 1989. Steve Lorand writes:

"Keith shared my strong passion for bird migration, record-keeping and ornithological history and, upon my mere suggestion that I would like to update the Smith and Cornwallis *Birds of Lincolnshire*, he greeted the idea with enormous enthusiasm and within a few days we had conceived the basic plans for *The Birds of Lincolnshire and South Humberside*. Keith was always a pleasure to work with and his single-mindedness and meticulous analysis of records meant that there were seldom any distractions from our research. Often there would be long discussions over certain topics, but thankfully our differences of opinion were kept to an absolute minimum. Obviously, in the pre-internet days, we were involved in much correspondence with individuals and had to undertake a lot of travelling to museums and libraries, sometimes out of the county, yet good collaboration on such a shared goal ensured that we always derived great experience and pleasure from such encounters. Another very important aspect for Keith was his love of photography. He was keenly involved when far fewer birders bothered to carry a camera, and was amply able to provide the full range of photographs needed for our book."

During the 1970s a number of birders, including Keith, had decided to form the Lincolnshire Bird Club which was inaugurated in September 1979 with Keith a key founder member. By that time Keith had been the centre of the Lincolnshire grapevine for many years and was well known to all birders in the county having inspired many of them to develop their interest in birds. During the late 1970s his deep knowledge of both bird identification and birders saw Keith join the Records Committee of the British Ornithologists' Union, as one of the gatekeepers of the British List. He relished this opportunity to stamp his expertise in adjudicating on some of the UK's rarest birds.

Keith's engineering career developed at Ruston's in Lincoln where he worked in the research and development team. He also met fellow birders Pete Haywood and Frank Stewart there, training the latter to be a C ringer at Rand Wood. As an engineer Keith had a love of VW cars, graduating from Beetles to fastbacks in the 70s. He moved to Louth around 1975 to be nearer to the coast and, when redundancy at Ruston's loomed in 1976, he was actively involved in a sit-in. Following



Keith Atkin with Howard Bunn at the Steppe Grey Shrike at Grainthorpe Nov 8th 2008 (Graham Catley).

redundancy he never worked in engineering again, using the opportunity to follow his birding interests full time.

Keith was interested in rare birds but was never really a committed twitcher. He travelled to adjacent counties but the mad overnight twitch to Cornwall or Scotland was not his scene. He enjoyed birding overseas, driving across Europe to Yugoslavia with Mick Mellor and Wayne Todd in 1976, around Scandinavia with Mick and Howard Bunn in 1977, and to the Camargue and Pyrenees with Phil Espin in 1978. After that period he rarely left the county for birding again, devoting all his time to the writing of *The Birds of Lincolnshire and South Humberside* and doing survey work for The Lincolnshire Bird Atlas which he co-authored with Anne Goodall and Ian Nixon, but which sadly remains unpublished at the current time.

His influence on Lincolnshire birds and birders is summarised in these words from Graham Catley: "As a fledgling teenage bird(watch)er in the late 1960s and early 1970s, I was fortunate to have local mentors including the late Derek Robinson, and most Sundays he would give me a lift, often accompanied by the late Reg May, to venues in north Lincolnshire; it really was the north as sites such as Gibraltar Point were almost abroad. At some time during this period I recall we met Keith Atkin, I think with Mick Mellor, on the coast at Rimac, one of our autumn venues. I was informed that Keith was the County Recorder, an exalted title in the birding world, and 5 Hazel Grove became the address to which I would

send off my annual records, such that they were. In 1969, I had my first communication from Keith as I submitted a record of a Hoopoe that I had found at Far Ings, Barton. The reply from Keith was along the lines of 'if it had been anything less obvious, I would probably not have accepted it'! In early October 1972, Keith and Mick Mellor informed us in passing that there had been a Gull-billed Tern at the then newish Covenham Reservoir and we called in on our return from Rimac, seeing the bird only three weeks after its arrival, such were the communications of the time. By the mid 1970s I had a vehicle and would meet Keith regularly on the coast or at other Lincolnshire venues and, as I was submitting more than my fair share of records to the annual report, Keith asked me to get involved when the Bird Club was formed, taking over from him as County Recorder in 1980. Visits to Keith's bungalow inevitably involved a cup of tea and the occasional chocolate biscuit, but always the black and white photos came out, often accompanied by a recent issue of *British Birds* and a pile of references and books to raise discussion of some identification feature. The BB monthly marathon was always a source of long-winded discussion! Keith's knowledge of Lincolnshire and its birds and birders was of course extensive to say the least and he helped me greatly in my early work on the LBC annual reports, all records logged in a card index and typed on something called a typewriter. His influence on Lincolnshire ornithology goes well beyond the name on the spine of *The Birds of Lincolnshire and South Humberside* and I am sure he influenced many other of the now rapidly ageing members of the county bird spotting community."

In early 2002 Keith suffered a stroke from which he recovered with courage and indefatigability. For many years he held the record for the largest Lincolnshire list which he hung on to for as long as he could. When the Lesser Sand Plover turned up at Rimac in May of that year he was keen to see it. Phil Espin recollects:

“Even when I first met him in 1976, Keith was never an early morning starter and his start time got later as the years went by. He eventually gave up driving and Pete Haywood, John Clarkson and I did what we could to ensure he kept his number one spot by taking him to see new birds. He was still recovering from his stroke and walking with a stick but he was keen to get out on the foreshore at Rimac for the Lesser Sand Plover, a first for Lincolnshire found the previous day by Barry Clarkson and Mike Tarrant. I decided to go from Sea View as there were fewer people parking there and it was a shorter route. Keith set off across the saltmarsh manfully, brushing aside all offers of help from me but limping heavily. After five minutes or so I realised he’d gone quiet and turned round to see how he was doing. He had disappeared. I then spotted a flailing arm and realised he’d fallen into a creek. He again spurned offers of help, got himself up and plodded on to enjoy good views. This for me sums him up. He was always determined to complete a task, but intensely private and self-reliant.”

In August 2008 Keith was enjoying some sea watching at Huttoft Bank with Pete Haywood, who regularly took him out on a Saturday afternoon. Pete recollects they were about to pack up when Keith spotted a gull flying into the flock on the beach. Keith knew instantly that it was unusual and got Pete on to it. Once scrutinised it was immediately identified as Audouin’s Gull, a first for Lincolnshire and Keith’s last self-found first, 40 years after his first.

Keith never married and is survived by his brother Roy, now 85. His eldest brother Dennis died 15 years ago. In his later years Keith returned to his boyhood interest in trains and spent many hours getting the most out of his rail pass. His interest in birds remained and he continued to submit records till shortly before his death.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 2014

Collated and edited by: Andrew Henderson and Andrew Chick

Contributing Authors: Tony Baker, Anthony Bentley, Graham Catley, Andrew Chick, John Clarkson, Phil Espin, Vin Fleming, Chris Grimshaw, Matthew Harrison, Andrew Henderson, Grahame Hopwood, Phil Hyde, Steve Lorand, Ian Macalpine-Leny, Bill Sterling, Ben Ward, John Watt.

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.

BB	British Birds	JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
BBRC	British Birds Rarities Committee	NNR	National Nature Reserve
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	NR	Nature Reserve
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
CP	Country Park	SQ	Sand Quarry
GP	Gravel Pit(s)	STW	Sewage Treatment Works
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature	WWT	Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

Taxonomic order

The order of species in this report differs from that in previous Lincolnshire Bird Reports. We have used that published by *British Birds* in 2015. Frequent changes to taxonomic order are a nuisance to report writers and users, and it is our intention to avoid annual changes. Among the changes made on this occasion is the relocation of falcons to a position between woodpeckers and parrots.

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.

WeBS data

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. Note that there may occasionally be overlap between sites in the table; we try to avoid it but occasionally it is preferable to not presenting important data. An example of this concerns the Witham Mouth WeBS sector, which includes part of Freiston Shore RSPB reserve and is used by birds from both Freiston and Frampton reserves.

BBS data

Breeding Bird Survey data is kindly supplied by the BTO who run the scheme, which is funded jointly by the BTO, JNCC (on behalf of the statutory country nature conservation agencies) and RSPB. Each year, we choose a few species to illustrate population trends in Lincolnshire with comparable data for the East Midlands region (which includes most of Lincolnshire) and for England as a whole. In most cases, we use the smoothed indices for East Midlands and England, so as to draw attention to long-term trends rather than to year-on-year changes. Because the Lincolnshire data are unsmoothed, and because of the relatively small sample size (about 80 out of over 3500 UK squares are in the county), the lines showing Lincolnshire trends tend to be more

variable. Additional BBS coverage is desirable and anyone wishing to help with this valuable and straightforward survey should contact their local BTO representative (see inside front cover) or visit the BTO website.

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.

Rare and scarce species

Many reports of rare and scarce species are submitted each year without documentation, in some cases even without a named observer. This poses difficulties, because we cannot be certain that mistakes have not been made, something that is important for understanding of species' status now and, even more so, in the future when patterns of occurrence are reviewed and analysed. However, because of the numbers of records now coming without supporting details, we have taken a pragmatic approach for this report. Records have been included in the systematic list if the LBRC was confident that a mistake was unlikely, taking into account the experience of observers, the circumstances of the sighting and any verbal information received, and how the record fits into the known pattern of occurrence of the species. This approach will be kept under active review for future reports. If a significant record is missing from the report and documentation is available, please let the editorial team know. Records, including those from national information services, which have no named observer, may often be excluded. Please note that this can apply to reports of commoner species that are out of season or in atypical locations, as well as to LBRC species.

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 WeBS totals	70	31	127	111	107	116	84	60	88	57	73	39
Wash WeBS totals	31	12	26	31	47	20	20	18	22	10	13	20
Barrow-Goxill	47	19	69	80	62	90	62	1	11	3	20	2
Brayford Pool, Lincoln	33	19	30	33	-	42	36	31	41	18	28	6
Thurlby/Norton GP	1	-	3	2	12	61	68	52	67	11	92	96
Branston Fen	104	99	38	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	44
Bardney-Nocton area	104	99	117	87	21	11	61	83	70	84	106	89
Spalding-Crowland area	175	172	70	28	110	90	38	14	40	100	123	97
Deeping area pits	115	6	16	10	54	14	54	65	23	8	14	47

In addition to the Lincolnshire Humber and Wash WeBS count totals, the table shows the peak monthly counts for sites with two or more counts of over 50 birds, plus Brayford Pool. Other site peaks of 50 or more were 53 at Baston in Feb, 52 at Covenham Res in Jan, 60 at Frampton Marsh in Jun, 50 at Humberston Fitties in Sep, and 60 at Gayton le Marsh in Nov. As usual, the largest concentrations were in the Witham valley especially downstream on Lincoln, and in the southern fens near Spalding and Deeping. The largest site counts included 174 at Deeping High Bank and 105 at Pinchbeck South Fen on Jan 5th, 104 at Branston Fen on Jan 19th, 117 near Bardney on Nov 8th, and 96 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Dec 5th. There were quite a few reports of 1-2 breeding pairs but the only larger counts involved four pairs at Frampton Marsh and five broods fledging 14 young at Kirkby on Bain GP.

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	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wroot	5	-	-	-	-	8
East Butterwick Common/Hale	-	-	-	-	26	-
Gayton le Marsh-Manby	-	-	1	-	4	-
Gibraltar Point	3	-	-	-	6	4
Frampton Marsh	2	3	5	-	-	3
Bourne	-	-	-	-	5	-

The peak counts for all locations holding four or more birds are tabulated. There were several sightings of 1-2 in the Wroot-Westwoodside area on Jan 4th-11th, with five there on the 7th. At Frampton Marsh, two appeared on Jan 14th, increasing to three on Feb 2nd and five on Mar 3rd, but not seen after Mar 8th, which was the last in the county in spring. Elsewhere in the first quarter, there were three adults at Gib Point on Jan 1st-2nd, two at Nocton Fen on Jan 7th and Feb 8th, two at Kirton Marsh (presumably the Frampton Marsh birds) on Jan 20th, an unknown number flying north at Sutton Bridge at 10.30 p.m. on Mar 5th, and one at Manby Flashes on Mar 6th. Two south at Gib Point on Nov 7th were the first of autumn, followed by a herd of 26 at Butterwick Hale on Nov 12th (JTH), six south at Gib Point on Nov 24th, four at Gayton le Marsh on Nov 27th, two at Nocton Fen on Nov 30th and Dec 7th, three north at Gib Point on 2nd, and four north there on Dec 29th. At Wroot, there were six on Dec 21st, four on the 26th and eight on the 27th. At Frampton Marsh, there was one on Dec 29th and three on the 31st.

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	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wroot	130	142	125	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	43	100
Alkborough Flats	1	-	24	1	-	-	-	-	-	13	55	5
Barton Pits	-	-	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	20	5
Grainthorpe-Donna Nook	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69	132	50
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	53	-
Sandilands-Mogg's Eye	90	75	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	59	58
Gibraltar Point	82	-	11	-	7	-	-	-	-	98	46	9
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68	14	-
Frampton Marsh	40	40	241	4	-	2	-	-	-	31	18	61
Holbeach Marsh	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55
Nocton Fen-Bardney	9	49	110	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	36
Bourne South Fen	-	23	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6



Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* Frampton Marsh RSPB Mar 20th 2014 © Neil Smith

The table shows all sites with two or more double-figure peak monthly counts; note that in some cases counts involve birds on passage, or combinations of birds present and on passage. The wintering flock at Wroot continues to grow, and this year the peak was 142 on Feb 15th. Other regular wintering areas this year were near Sandilands and Huttoft Bank, at Frampton Marsh, and at Nocton Fen. There was also a resident herd in the last quarter at Donna Nook from late Oct, usually totalling 30-40 but occasionally more, with 132 including passage birds at Donna Nook on Nov 3rd. The largest spring passage counts included 97 at Dorrington on Mar 5th, 241 at Frampton Marsh on Mar 5th with 120 there on the 8th, 69 at Bonby Carrs on Mar 20th, and c100 north-west at Bardney and c150 at Barton upon Humber on Mar 24th. There were single figure counts in Apr to mid month, then four north at Gib Point on May 4th. Two at Frampton Marsh

on Sep 30th with the first returning birds, quickly followed by others in Oct. Substantial passage counts included 47 south at Gib Point on Oct 11th, 98 south at Gib Point on Oct 24th (thought to include only one juvenile), followed by 83 south and 79 south there on the next two days, 68 at Freiston Shore on Oct 29th, 69 at Donna Nook on Oct 30th, and 55 south at Alkborough Flats on Nov 23rd.

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**

Unless stated, all records were of Tundra Bean Geese. Two were at Donna Nook on Jan 5th (SL). One was at Gib Point and Croftmarsh on Feb 8th-9th (KMW, RDn). One was at Winteringham during Feb 9th-15th, also seen at Read's Island on the 15th (ND, DEv). In autumn, two Taiga Bean Geese were at Donna Nook on Oct 11th (SL) and, presumably the same birds, during Nov 3rd-10th (CA, KRo, SL). One flew over Gib Point on Oct 24th (GPBO) and another was seen there on Nov 4th (ABe), the latter perhaps the same as one at Middlemarsh on Nov 9th (NAL). There was one at Donna Nook on Dec 1st (SL). Finally, three were at Rimac on Dec 15th (GPC) and again on Dec 30th (CMo); these were perhaps the same as those at North Cave in Yorkshire earlier in Dec.

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/Whitton	460	1000	856	-	-	-	-	-	6	1740	5	1
Read's Island area	500	450	-	-	-	-	-	-	3800	13160	4480	6809
Barton Pits	120	202	-	1	-	-	-	-	63	5000	6000	500
Goxhill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	320
Cleethorpes/Tetney	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1000	760	-
Donna Nook	64	205	-	1	-	-	-	-	290	690	408	70
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2000	702	900
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gibraltar Point	1000	453	367	3	9	1	1	1	887	1760	4100	2000
Wainfleet-Wrangle	671	3	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	674	3505	-
Freiston Shore	1100	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	1000	130	-
Frampton Marsh	800	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	20	104	400	1226
Holbeach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2000	250
Gedney-Tydd St Mary	5000	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	310	5000	600
<i>Inland</i>												
Whisby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	600	1

The table includes the majority of locations at which counts of 500 or more were made, plus a few other sites that have experienced larger numbers in previous years. Some of the totals refer to overflying birds. Notable counts elsewhere included 500 over Lincoln and 785 at Anderby on Oct 12th, 800 at Wroot on Nov 12th, 1120 at Crowle Moors on Nov 14th and 550 at Fiskerton Fen on Nov 16th. The outstanding record this year was of 13160 leaving the Read's Island roost on Oct 19th, with 1740 at Whitton Sand on the same day. This is the highest Humber count for many years, the total of 14900 being only fractionally short of the highest ever estimate of 15000 in winter 1959/60. Other high counts in that area were 6850 at Read's Island on Oct 3rd and 6809 there on Dec 12th. There were also 5000 in the wider Gedney Marsh area in Jan and Nov, and numbers were high too between Gib Point and Wrangle Marsh, including 4100 at Gib Point on Nov 24th. Some substantial movements were noted at Gib Point in Jan, including 1000 north-west on the 12th and 900 south-east on the 16th. Only small numbers were present after the first week of Mar, though a late flock of 100 went over Withcall on Apr 11th. The last certain migrants were nine at Croft, near Gib Point on May 13th. A handful of birds remained through the summer, including one at Tattershall Lakes in May and Jun. Six at Alkborough Flats on Sep 7th were the first of autumn and there were already 120 south-east at Gib Point on the next day. In autumn, movements were typically to the south and, while seen across the county, were concentrated along the coast. The largest estimates were 2000 south at Crook Bank on Oct 12th when 870 went south at Gib Point, 800 south at Crook Bank on Oct 20th and 1169 south at Gib Point on Nov 24th.

The details below summarise the movements of two neck-collared Pink-footed Geese seen at South Ferriby in October.

ISR	Juvenile male	22-07-2000	Nordurardalur, Skagafjordur, Iceland
131489	Colour mark seen	01-11-2000	Loch of Strathbeg, Aberdeenshire
		Nine sightings in eastern Scotland in 2001, 2002, 2003 & 2004	
	Colour mark seen	20-12-2004	Martin Mere, Lancashire
	Colour mark seen	08-09-2005	Loch of Strathbeg, Aberdeenshire
	Colour mark seen	05-12-2005	Repps Mill, Norfolk
	Colour mark seen	28-06-2006	St Cyrus, Aberdeenshire
	Colour mark seen	12-10-2006	Martin Mere, Lancashire
	Numerous sightings mainly autumn & spring in Scotland and Lancashire, winter Norfolk, in 2006-2009 and one in 2012		
	Colour mark seen	03-10-2014	South Ferriby
	Colour mark seen	14-10-2014	Martin Mere, Lancashire
1408077	Adult male	16-12-2007	Loch of Lintrathen, Angus
	Colour mark seen	06-12-2008	Fleggburgh, Norfolk
		Selection of nine subsequent sightings in 2009, 2010, 2013 & 2014	
	Colour mark seen	23-04-2009	Findhorn Bay, Aberdeenshire
	Colour mark seen	28-10-2010	Martin Mere, Lancashire
	Colour mark seen	10-12-2013	Field Dalling, Norfolk
	Colour mark seen	03-10-2014	South Ferriby

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*

Four arrived at Frampton Marsh on Jan 15th, remaining until Mar 30th, with five present on Jan 19th and one remaining on Mar 31st. They were noted as two adults and two immatures – but could the adults belong to the four present on the reserve during Feb-Apr 2013? Elsewhere in the first quarter, there was one at Whitton on Jan 25th and one at Read's Island on Feb 16th. Inland, two were at Kirkby on Bain GP on Feb 4th, with a first-winter bird at Tattershall Lakes CP during Feb 16th-Apr 11th at least, and two were on the R Witham downstream of Kirkstead on Sep 8th. Other than these birds of doubtful provenance, the first of autumn was an adult with Pink-feet at Wainfleet Marsh/Gib Point on Nov 24th-25th and again on Dec 5th-6th. Two were at Covenham Res on Nov 28th, and on the same date an adult arrived at Frampton Marsh. It was joined by a second adult on Dec 3rd, both remaining to the end of the year and being joined by a third bird on Dec 30th-31st. Inland, two were at Deeping Lakes NR on Dec 14th-28th.

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	166	52	82	101	600	12	700	1350	1	200	520	1215
Messingham SQ	400	1	4	1	12	2	-	-	130	400	-	-
Read's Island	-	5	45	-	-	-	220	320	1100	2	-	95
Barton Pits	159	200	83	30	57	160	64	100	200	260	238	123
Cleethorpes/Tetney	300	8	-	1	15	-	-	180	-	20	20	1
Covenham Res	100	6	2	1	43	8	-	17	48	455	17	2
Manby Flashes	152	4	2	2	2	2	3	377	600	300	87	4
Gibraltar Point	15	15	14	8	15	21	19	170	167	414	175	117
Freiston Shore	200	7	1	4	5	2	-	3	1	60	60	1
Frampton Marsh	47	26	16	14	13	12	36	50	20	30	75	60
Hagnaby Lock Fen		100	4	2			1	70			9	
Whisby/N Hykeham	131	103	26	50	54	247	175	220	440	3	162	184
Norton/Thurlby area	75	2	39	9	13	15	-	-	41	200	88	4
Bardney & nearby fens	256	129	46	35	18	5	-	3	915	1501	160	295
Fiskerton Fens	1	89	60	36	62	9	300	250	2	20	1	
Kirkby on Bain GP	160	170	140	22	90	320	110	400	450	430	65	200

Tattershall Lakes CP	310	270	290	169	214	500	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spalding-Borough Fen	-	-	42	11	9	17	13	-	-	7	-	13
Deeping Lakes	310	160	183	44	19	70	55	113	248	-	284	25
Baston-Langtoft	500	50	87	50	20	-	40	154	270	-	-	47
Grimsthorpe Lake	190	155	112	-	-	-	-	-	251	-	17	550
Marston STW	420	360	61	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The table includes all regularly counted sites holding significant numbers and all those holding 250 or more, except for 300 at Tetney Blow Wells and 250 at Wolla Bank in Jan, 1500 at RAF Woodhall in Feb (the largest single count anywhere during the year), 300 at Donington on Bain in Aug, and 300 at Kirton in Lindsey in Sep. Counts were broadly similar to those of 2013, with some peaks higher and some lower, indicative of the mobile nature of the Greylag flocks. Breeding was widely reported but with few systematic counts. There were 10 broods totalling 41 young at Alkborough Flats by Apr 27th.

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	200	1	-	-	6	34	13	40	1	72	220	208
Barton Pits	9	29	27	31	29	21	20	30	240	250	150	19
Read's Island	-	200	106	-	-	20	6	155	300	193	1	2
Covenham Res	20	8	10	4	3	35	14	117	151	185	-	-
Manby Flashes	75	1	2	2	2	2	6	12	110	84	11	6
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	50	-	1	8	4	1	-	-	88	84	140	87
Gibraltar Point	15	50	95	37	35	46	37	225	390	140	119	79
Wrangle Brickpits	-	29	28	13	6	9	11	9	20	40	-	-
Freiston Shore	400	242	3	12	5	17	30	5	23	150	70	526
Frampton Marsh	313	48	31	26	45	30	107	112	120	56	250	100
Fiskerton Fen	-	40	10	14	9	8	50	-	1	12	1	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	-	30	9	6	8	10	40	28	5	-	-	-
North Hykeham Pits	19	47	4	5	6	22	10	10	-	2	6	33
Whisby NR	66	81	19	17	13	46	32	200	200	-	12	6
Norton/Thurlby area	-	10	8	3	4	14	-	-	67	20	152	13
Holywell Lake	4	11	28	-	-	-	-	-	63	-	64	56
Grimsthorpe Lake	220	153	25	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	22	375

Additional counts of 100 or more were 100 at Lea Marsh (Gainsborough) in Jan, and 225 at Whisby Quarry and 100 at Anderby Creek in Sep. Little change in abundance was evident compared to 2013. Breeding was noted in small numbers but under-representing the widespread status of the species.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

An increasing feral resident population has bred irregularly since the late 1980s. Wild birds are scarce/fairly common winter but erratic visitors, mainly to the coast, Oct-May.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough/Whitton Sand	1180	1000	900	6	50	-	-	440	500	1200	1	1
Cleethorpes-Tetney	68	20	-	-	-	-	-	68	38	-	-	45
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	-	110	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Freiston Shore	1	1	4	2	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	1	1	1	1	4	5	-	1	2	1	1	1

During the first two months of this year, the Whitton Sand population, which is based mainly in Yorkshire, spent much time at Alkborough Flats following the surge tide flooding of Dec 2013. For the rest of the year they were mainly on Whitton Sand but up to 500 were on the Flats in Aug-Sep. The peak count of 1200 was on Whitton Sand on Oct 2nd. Elsewhere, peak counts relating to the Cleethorpes population were 68 at Cleethorpes on Jan 8th and 68 at Tetney Marsh on Aug 26th, and – not in the table – 26 south at Donna Nook on May 19th. Additional non-tabulated records involved one-six at scattered locations, mainly on estuaries and coast but including a few inland sites.

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	1789	1326	3	445	-	-	-	1	7	3339	3051	1412
Tetney-Somercotes	1129	1208	600	445	2	-	-	1	1000	2649	2118	2200
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	660	118	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	700	932	357
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	13239	9687	8389	6136	1671	3	9	7	40	12371	14407	12872
Gibraltar Point	800	946	600	150	110	35	1	3	57	1108	817	800
Wainfleet	1056	720	18	58	110	-	-	-	-	1173	1567	1161
Friskney*	2440	-	15	87	30	-	-	-	22	471	3600	2036
Wrangle	1388	1800	81	100	10	-	-	-	-	1407	2800	2240
Leverton*	690	1272	612	542	146	-	-	-	-	922	991	1369
Freiston Shore	1600	26	2	500	500	3	1	1	1500	1870	3000	550
Witham*	1350	450	1100	1800	77	-	-	-	-	1600	35	50
Frampton Marsh	2183	2000	2800	2000	600	2	8	5	300	2000	4664	4375
Welland*	2100	1650	900	296	59	-	-	-	-	950	1670	1220
Dawsmere*	425	880	450	380	6	-	-	-	-	1270	1170	-

The table includes sites holding 1000 or more birds in The Wash, or 500 or more on the Humber. Note that many of the listed Wash areas are based on WeBS data only (asterisked) but that more data are available for other areas, and that – for example – birds from the Witham sector also use Freiston Shore and Frampton Marsh. In addition to the table, there were up to 1800 at Gedney Drove End/Nene Mouth in Nov. The wintering numbers were similar to last year’s, though counts around Donna Nook were a little higher in the last quarter. There was a scattering of records up the Humber, including 22 at Barton that turned back at the bridge on Jan 29th, one flying down the Trent near Alkborough on Apr 27th, one off Barton Pits on Sep 29th and up to three there in Nov. Inland, there were two at Toft Newton Res on Apr 3rd, with one remaining to the 12th.



Dark-bellied Brent Goose *B.b. bernicla* Frampton Marsh RSPB Oct 20th 2014 © Neil Smith

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tetney Haven-Somercotes	2	2	2	-	-	-	1	3	3
Gibraltar Point	1	3	1	1	-	25	5	1	1
Freiston Shore	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
Frampton Marsh	2	1	2	4	3	-	1	2	3

In addition to those in the table, there was one at Saltfleet on Jan 7th. Two on Friskney Marsh could have been the same as those at Gib Point or Frampton Marsh. One or more grey-bellied intergrades were noted at Gib Point in Mar. The outstanding record of the year was the flock of 25 north at Gib Point on Sep 21st (JPS, NAL); a further six flew north there on the 22nd and five south on Oct 7th.

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**

An adult Black Brant was at Frampton Marsh during Mar 13th-31st (JB *et al*). Probably the same bird was at Gib Point on Feb 22nd and Mar 12th (RDn). In addition, an adult considered to be a Black Brant x Brent Goose hybrid was at Frampton Marsh on Jan 2nd (PDr) and, perhaps the same, at Gib Point on Feb 15th-16th (KMW). In autumn, perhaps the same hybrid was at Frampton Marsh on Oct 25th-31st (TC) and Nov 27th (SK). In Dec, one was at Grainthorpe Marsh and Donna Nook on the 24th-29th (CA, SL *et al*). The minimum total is one early in the year, one late in the year, plus the hybrid at both ends of the year.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Rare/scarcely 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
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	2	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	4	2	-	-	1	-	5	-	-	-	1
Boultham-Whisby	2	2	2	7	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Fiskerton Fen-Bardney	-	-	-	3	7	5	5	2	-	4	3	3
Kirkstead-Chapel Hill	2	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	7	-	-	-
RAF Woodhall	-	27	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	6	4	14	9	9	8	13	12	8	6	4	6
Tattershall Lakes	4	4	2	5	19	10	-	-	2	2	-	3
Deeping Lakes	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

Although the peak counts were little different, reports came from about 30 sites this year, almost double last year's total and spread throughout the county. The largest counts were 27 at RAF Woodhall on Feb 9th, 19 (including 11 juveniles) at Tattershall Lakes CP on May 21st, and 14 (including five juveniles) at Kirkby on Bain GP on Mar 29th. In addition to those in the table, there were counts of five or more as follows: eight at Freiston Shore in Jan, seven (a pair with five juveniles) at Fillingham Lake in Apr, and seven at Dogdyke in Sep. Confirmed breeding was reported from six localities, with four pairs fledging 10 young at Kirkby on Bain GP, eight adults with 11 juveniles at Tattershall Lakes CP, 12 adults and one juvenile at RAF Woodhall, and three single pairs with respectively five juveniles at Fillingham Lake, five juveniles at Swanholme Lakes and three juveniles at Fiskerton Fen. Two perched on Tattershall church roof on Dec 3rd was a strange sight, and one which could not have occurred during the first 500 years after the building's completion.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

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

Two were on Alkborough Flats or Whitton Sand during Jun 27th-Jul 27th with three there on Aug 2nd, and presumably the same three at Read's Island on Aug 13th. A juvenile flew south at Gib Point on Aug 22nd, landing briefly on the shore. One was at Manby Flashes on Sep 9th-10th and again on Oct 12th. One at Queen's Park, Mablethorpe, on Sep 29th-Oct 3rd was said to have been present for a few weeks before then, and this was perhaps the same bird as one at Huttoft Bank Pit on Sep 30th and possibly that at Manby Flashes.

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	978	1097	1087	816	451	374	1009	1813	433	1984	2834	790
Alkborough Flats	194	129	219	229	672	535	48	106	100	390	300	346
Read's Island	-	200	714	7	16	100	650	1406	140	380	900	300

Killingholme	8	-	180	43	1	-	-	-	49	-	105	-
Pyewipe-Grimsby	110	600	-	-	-	-	228	-	33	50	1000	11
Humberston-Horseshoe Pt	135	53	61	51	27	-	-	1	300	560	469	400
Donna Nook area	446	734	19	497	167	57	291	385	351	827	970	290
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	193	199	40	10	16	25	14	-	13	86	231	112

The Wash

WeBS totals	2584	2005	524	943	438	133	113	167	282	675	1051	611
Gibraltar Point	112	123	107	137	115	183	215	159	260	67	108	86
Wainfleet*	387	208	12	6	69	11	1	34	26	42	322	50
Friskney*	336	-	10	10	15	19	2	8	18	-	203	243
Freiston Shore	500	5	188	358	18	2	15	15	17	93	9	2
Witham*	100	150	-	200	15	-	-	2	-	225	20	150
Frampton Marsh	273	23	54	200	72	30	49	40	60	38	51	36
Welland	230	300	64	41	59	-	-	-	1	18	40	10
Holbeach*	241	58	4	14	29	13	2	-	5	4	2	-
Dawsmere*	42	70	26	14	-	7	-	-	-	65	230	-
Gedney	211	292	54	35	36	13	6	7	2	21	200	-
Terrington*	481	703	187	-	34	-	10	27	4	36	-	-

Inland

Messingham SQ	17	10	1	12	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Covenham Res	2	4	14	34	14	6	1	-	-	3	1	-
Blackmoor Bridge	4	2	17	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manby Flashes	-	10	15	10	16	1	1	2	-	-	-	-
Bardney-Nocton	4	19	38	19	22	45	14	5	-	5	1	2
Fiskerton Fen	16	4	5	6	15	4	2	-	-	-	2	2
Kirkby on Bain GP	2	7	13	14	13	17	5	1	-	2	1	-

One other count exceeding 100 or more was 150 at Howden Pullover in Jan. The larger movements were mostly in autumn and all came from Gib Point. In Jan, there were 57 south on the 9th and 83 south on the 13th. Later, in summer, peaks were 55 south on Jun 22nd and 48 south on Aug 9th, and, in early autumn, 44 north on Aug 22nd and 70 north on Sep 12th. At Alkborough Flats, seven broods totalling 18 young, all of which were believed to have fledged. Twenty-four pairs were estimated to have bred at Frampton Marsh, and one pair at Freiston Shore. Elsewhere, breeding was widely reported in coastal and estuarine locations, and inland including at North Kelsey Moor (three broods), Toft Newton Res (one adult with 14 juveniles), West Ashby Pits, Kirkby on Bain GP (two broods but none fledged), and Willow Tree Fen.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Rare/scarce feral resident/visitor and local escapee.

A drake was at Deeping Lakes during Jan 20th-31st and reported there again on Feb 16th and Mar 15th. Two were reported at Stickney on Mar 17th, and a drake was at Norton Disney Quarry on Mar 17th, Mar 30th and Apr 1st. A drake was at Alkborough Flats on Apr 2nd. Later in the year there were 17 at Grimsthorpe Lake on Sep 14th; this is a high count for the county but similar totals have occurred there erratically over recent years. Also, one was at Stoke Rochford on Nov 30th.

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	1753	1014	739	-	-	-	-	14	8	862	454	330
Alkborough Flats	2778	924	620	250	1	-	-	4	78	280	396	616
Barton pits	54	16	22	-	1	-	-	10	40	1300	80	49
South Ferriby	-	130	92	-	-	-	-	-	230	400	400	93
Tetney-Somercotes	80	180	7	7	1	-	1	14	200	900	900	220
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	88	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	741	120	11
<i>Coast</i>												
Huttoft Bank Pit	168	34	7	-	1	2	2	-	1	32	124	180

<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	3227	7529	216	456	4	4	10	7	983	2184	8016	2564
Gibraltar Point	1002	267	161	16	3	2	3	9	230	2413	385	216
Middlemarsh-Croft	400	200	500	2	2	-	-	3	18	250	500	500
Freiston Shore	3000	5546	260	436	20	-	-	9	298	4000	3000	2500
Witham*	250	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	550	850	200
Frampton Marsh	2600	3000	3000	80	10	6	18	38	1500	3300	3805	4690
Welland	70	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1000	3070	72

<i>Inland</i>												
Trent Port (Marton)	400	110	160	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	22
Covenham Res	116	92	60	12	-	-	-	1	49	60	122	192
Manby Flashes	114	70	55	-	-	-	-	-	3	200	140	105
Withern Washlands	160	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	5
Lincoln-Norton area	370	150	350	10	1	2	1	2	110	146	1000	1600
Fiskerton-Bardney	37	556	60	10	1	1	-	4	9	60	1	15
Kirkby on Bain pits	308	348	55	3	2	2	1	7	38	331	376	402
Tattershall Lakes	121	40	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Willow Tree Fen	180	870	575	19	2	-	-	-	50	109	650	400
Deeping Lakes	85	185	6	1	-	-	-	2	2	149	46	112
Baston Fen & Pits	400	120	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The table shows maxima for all sites/areas holding 500 or more on The Wash, 200 on the Humber and coast, and 100 inland. Additional to the table, there were 300 at RAF Woodhall in Feb. Note that there is some overlap between listed sites in terms of bird use. There were some impressively high counts at widespread localities. Particular attention is drawn to the record 2778 at Alkborough Flats on Jan 3rd, and inland 870 at Willow Tree Fen on Feb 16th and 650 there on Nov 19th, 250 at Kirkby on Bain GP, and up to 1600 at Thurlby Sand Pit in Nov-Dec, all of which were probably local area records. There were Jun records at eight sites including three possible pairs at Frampton Marsh but no firmer breeding evidence. There were some large movements off Gib Point in autumn, with passage heaviest in October when at least 5300 moved south. The highest day-counts were 505 south on Oct 3rd, 2065 south on the 7th and 1300 south on the 18th. Two ringing recoveries of interest concern birds repeatedly wintering in the Trent valley.

FA93738	First-year Male	03-03-2013	near Littleborough, near Retford: 53°19'N 0°46'W (Nottinghamshire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	21-12-2014	near Gainsborough: 53°22'N 0°46'W 4km 1y 9m 18d
FP95381	Adult Male	03-03-2009	near Littleborough, near Retford: 53°19'N 0°46'W (Nottinghamshire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	25-11-2014	Lea: 53°22'N 0°46'W (Lincolnshire) 4km 5y 8m 22d

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	50	25	9	22	77	159	15	56	56	1	6	14
Barton Pits	90	59	10	23	8	2	6	87	76	110	48	51
Kirton in Lindsey	-	1	20	18	2	-	9	1	1	1	30	1
Toft Newton Res	29	31	46	10	1	-	-	-	-	2	12	8
Covenham Res	8	6	4	7	5	2	-	-	4	8	15	7
Donington on Bain	-	-	30	15	8	2	2	5	-	14	-	28
Middlemarsh, Skegness	-	13	6	13	5	7	4	35	19	4	48	24
Gibraltar Point	62	90	85	21	18	33	22	52	34	83	80	83
Frampton Marsh	51	40	160	32	30	35	26	39	6	15	34	50
Messingham SQ	-	-	1	28	2	1	12	-	50	24	-	-
Burton GP	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
Boultham Mere/Swanholme	66	50	40	28	14	49	34	30	67	160	64	46
Whisby/North Hykeham	146	34	12	14	8	23	63	30	104	121	130	187
Thurlby/Norton pits	200	120	60	20	10	13	1	5	3	1	100	150
Fiskerton-Bardney	16	23	17	40	29	13	12	35	71	12	4	33
Metheringham Delph	45	35	7	20	3	7	-	-	2	12	9	-
Kirkby on Bain pits	193	175	212	130	18	17	92	70	141	283	279	64
Tattershall Lakes CP	108	94	19	4	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holywell Lake	48	24	16	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	16	16
Deeping Lakes	21	40	3	-	-	2	37	22	8	1	28	53

At many sites, numbers were either down or not significantly higher than the last few years, representing a hiatus in the long-term trend of increase. One site forming an exception to the pattern was Thurlby Sand Pit, where counts were substantially higher than before, peaking at c.200 on Jan 7th. Gadwall is prone to such site fluctuations, exploiting aggregate pits in the years soon after extraction and then declining. There was also a record 159 at Alkborough Flats on Jun 17th. Breeding was widely reported but the totals reported probably greatly under-estimate the full populations at most sites. However, 40 pairs thought to have bred at Frampton Marsh was a large increase from 13 on 2013. Other reports included two pairs at Freiston Shore, two broods at Alkborough Flats, three pairs at Trent Port (Marton), three broods at Kirkby on Bain GP, and three pairs at Gib Point.



Gadwall *Anas strepera* Frampton Marsh RSPB Dec 13th 2014 © Neil Smith

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	1470	458	285	51	-	52	90	522	490	2063	1409	825
Alkborough Flats	1242	1300	399	210	70	120	82	880	1860	3200	1845	464
Barton Pits	101	63	33	18	4	-	-	160	60	300	250	120
Read's Island	-	96	40	-	-	-	-	80	-	600	1200	247
Humberston-Grainthorpe	40	12	8	11	-	-	-	-	50	35	224	50
Grainthorpe-Donna Nook	300	26	33	-	-	3	5	50	177	800	475	270
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	66	4	6	1	-	-	38	3	200	238	850	50
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	1248	1463	164	162	5	70	126	270	1394	1928	3222	1434
Gibraltar Point	638	214	100	26	12	84	178	555	983	1500	1159	1395
Freiston Shore	600	790	46	132	-	6	-	100	110	150	200	300
Witham*	200	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	275	10
Frampton Marsh	1000	413	260	28	20	31	36	360	962	1074	2192	1500
<i>Inland</i>												
Manby Flashes-Withern	248	278	111	43	3	2	17	30	150	200	220	413
Bardney/Nocton	60	32	60	35	-	-	-	-	20	64	11	26
Kirkby on Bain pits	100	60	22	17	1	6	8	105	634	598	286	437
Willow Tree Fen	250	150	135	80	15	4	3	-	35	28	400	132

Most areas supporting 200 or more are included in the table. There were also up to 385 at Killingholme Haven Pits in Nov-Dec, and two large southerly offshore movements, of c.850 at Trusthorpe on Nov 27th and 826 at Huttoft Car Terrace on Dec 2nd. Offshore movement was as usual most evident at Gib Point, especially between mid Sep and early Dec. The largest count by far was 1395 south, also on Dec 2nd. Three other counts above 400 were 435 on Oct 7th, 565 on Nov 27th and 518 on Nov 28th. Birds were present in various places through the summer, including nine pairs at Frampton Marsh and two drakes at Crowle Moors on May 15th, but proof of breeding was lacking.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

Vagrant. LBRC

A drake was at Alkborough Flats during Apr 24th-May 5th (ND, GPC). This was the 34th Lincolnshire record (one involving two birds) since the first in 1984 but several are likely to have involved returning birds; all have been drakes. No fewer than eleven records of the records (including the two together) have come from Alkborough Flats.

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	790	509	384	249	204	353	380	376	325	623	625	411
Alkborough Flats	234	74	55	22	50	100	280	160	140	178	88	156
Barton Pits	181	218	190	150	103	195	305	146	155	247	282	136
Barrow-Goxhill	228	52	78	54	39	109	133	22	4	123	138	230
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	766	536	242	167	271	329	419	458	453	657	673	674
Gibraltar Point	104	169	114	21	56	103	152	293	399	258	312	150
Wrangle*	11	20	9	5	11	30	26	50	50	91	-	239
Freiston Shore	150	14	10	28	34	131	106	47	111	20	21	8
Frampton Marsh	300	400	400	60	107	70	300	350	200	219	190	300
<i>Inland</i>												
Covenham Res	232	92	50	64	41	58	58	228	334	284	236	374
Manby Flashes	111	44	25	23	55	49	41	205	87	112	90	118
Thurlby-Norton Disney	200	100	100	10	4	18	10	-	10	96	150	500
Fiskerton-Chapel Hill*	210	151	150	130	58	89	149	176	278	63	312	539
Kirkby on Bain pits	145	33	40	37	62	79	139	312	181	155	232	354
Tattershall Lakes CP*	195	208	181	118	126	197	2	2	14	6	4	2
Hagnaby Lock Fen	30	56	15	6	19	18	11	230	8	10	30	26
Spalding-Borough Fen*	283	204	95	37	65	92	250	65	165	219	220	230
Deeping Lakes	67	44	48	12	22	52	236	91	96	63	55	26

The table includes all localities that held 200 or more birds. Although this species has been declining for many years, there are still some significant concentrations around the coast and inland. Breeding was widely reported. At Alkborough Flats, at least 25 females were thought to have nested and 20 broods were seen during the season. At The Wash RSPB reserves, there were estimates of 41 pairs at Frampton Marsh and 26 pairs at Freiston Shore. Offshore passage is not a prominent feature for Mallard but there were counts of 31 and 47 south at Gib Point on Nov 5th and 7th.

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	12	4	2	-	2	-	-	1	10	7	10	-
Read's Island	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	13
Barton Pits/Humber	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	29	-	4
Humberston-Somercotes	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	2
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-

The Wash

Gibraltar Point	25	8	8	1	-	-	-	5	24	25	18	5
Wrangle*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	-
Freiston Shore	60	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	20	1	15
Frampton Marsh	53	129	10	4	3	1	1	14	25	15	23	70
Terrington*	76	268	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Inland

Covenham Res	3	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	3	4	2
Boultham Mere-Swanpool	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	1
Kirkby on Bain GP	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Willow Tree Fen	2	10	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

The table includes all coastal and estuarine locations attracting 10 or more, plus the inland sites with greatest frequency of occurrence. The RSPB Wash reserve totals were down on those on 2013 but there was a notable concentration in the Terrington WeBS sector, including 268 on Feb 2nd. That was also the date of the Frampton Marsh peak of 129. There were one or two at Alkborough Flats and Willow Tree Fen in early May, while at Frampton Marsh a single female was seen occasionally throughout May-Jul but there was no evidence that it was breeding. There was offshore movement at Gib Point in Jan-Feb and in autumn, including 25 south on Jan 5th, 24 south on Jan 25th, 23 south on Oct 7th and 18 south on Nov 7th. On the Humber, 29 moved west with Wigeon at Barton on Oct 3rd.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

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



Garganey *Anas querquedula* (drake) Thoresby Bridge Jun 10th 2014 © Colin Smale

Peak monthly counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Number of sites	3	8	10	3	4	6	8	3
Minimum Lincs total	4	16	23	11	7	17	11	4

Garganey was reported from 21 sites this year, up from 17 in 2013. The arrival dates of first birds, having been three weeks late in 2013, were more typical this year with the first report of a pair at Frampton Marsh on Mar 23rd. There was a male at Kirkby on Bain GP on Mar 27th and one at Willow Tree Fen NR on the 28th. During Apr-Jun, short-staying pairs were reported from Bardney Pits, Butterwick Common/Hale, Cleethorpes, Covenham Reservoir, Donna Nook, Freiston Shore, Nocton Fen and North Thoresby Fisheries. Four birds, three males and one female, were reported

at Frampton Marsh at various dates in May and June, with a peak of seven there on Jun 4th. Two pairs probably bred at this site. Two other sites held probable breeding pairs: Alkborough Flats and Gib Pt. The first juvenile of the year was reported with an adult at Alkborough Flats on Aug 9th. Confirmed breeding took place at a confidential site near the Wash where a pair present from May 5th raised young; five female/juvenile birds were counted here on Aug 24th. The only other juvenile specifically reported was one at Gib Pt on Oct 29th which was also the last bird of the year.

Blue winged Teal *Anas discors*

Vagrant. BBRC

A drake was at Middlemarsh Farm, near Skegness from Jun 29th to Jul 2nd (NAL *et al*). Accepted by BBRC (BB 108 p.570). This was the eighth Lincolnshire record, involving 11 birds; details of the previous ones were given in the 2013 report.

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	32	6	9	13	10	20	22	94	147	80	74	52
Barton Pits	28	8	12	19	2	-	-	24	63	62	52	39
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	20	38	2	-	-	1	-	-	12	4	7	17
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gibraltar Point	52	59	87	40	7	7	11	16	29	70	113	84
Freiston Shore	12	88	52	72	2	-	-	1	-	-	3	1
Frampton Marsh	28	42	48	15	20	10	44	40	28	36	57	60
<i>Inland</i>												
Kirton in Lindsey	-	-	8	2	1	1	-	1	1	1	40	14
Covenham Res	1	4	4	3	2	1	3	-	13	2	17	19
Manby Flashes	7	28	13	14	9	7	-	2	-	34	47	49
Boultham/Swanholme	12	11	9	3	-	-	2	7	6	52	12	8
Whisby NR	13	19	12	7	1	2	9	4	6	24	16	40
Blackmoor Bridge-Norton	28	17	32	19	6	3	-	-	6	1	38	4
Bardney Pits	24	-	43	16	9	8	-	3	44	15	122	143
Kirkby on Bain Pits	46	13	15	5	2	2	6	25	50	36	25	26
Willow Tree Fen	-	12	62	8	4	2	1	-	1	2	30	44

Peaks of 10 or more not in the table were 15 at Humberston Fitties in Jan, 11 at Rosper Road Pools in Feb, 16 at Bonby Carrs in Mar, 11 at Middlemarsh in Jun, 80 at North Killingholme Haven, 10 at Deeping Lakes NR in Nov, and 11 at South Ferriby in Dec. The highest counts during the year were 147 at Alkborough Flats on Sep 8th, 143 at Bardney Pits on Dec 7th, and 113 at Gib Point Nov 21st. A total of 44 flew south off Gib Point in Oct-Nov, including 14 on Oct 7th. In the breeding season, up to four females were present at Alkborough Flats and thought to have bred (though no young were seen) together with up to seven males. At Frampton Marsh 18 pairs were considered to have bred, with one pair at Freiston Shore. At Willow Tree Fen, eight pairs were recorded. Elsewhere, two drakes assumed to be part of breeding pairs were at each of East Butterwick and Rosper Road Pools in May and one-two pairs probably bred at each of Manby Flashes, Kirkby on Bain GP, and Middlemarsh (Skegness). A total of 39 pairs was recorded for the county.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Toft Newton Res	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Swanholme Lakes	2	2	3	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	2	2
Frampton Marsh	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Deeping Lakes & Pits	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	5
Baston-Langtoft Pits	5	14	2	3	9	6	2	-	-	-	-	-
Denton Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	5	5

The table includes sites with records in at least three months. There were many more this year than last, and the table excludes a couple of large totals: 12 at Messingham SQ (seven adult males, two immature males, three females) on Nov 9th and 15 (eight males, seven females) at Thurlby Sand Pit (Bassingham) on Nov 22nd (and eight were counted there three days later). At Baston-Langtoft Pits, the principal site for the species in Lincolnshire, there were 14 on Feb 11th, and breeding was later confirmed when a female was seen with one juvenile on Jun 11th. Other records additional to the table were a male at Tattershall Lakes CP on Jan 29th, two at Messingham SQ on Aug 19th, a female at Whisby NR on Oct 12th, and a male at Kirkby on Bain GP on Nov 5th and Dec 15th.

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	9	34	2	9	9	6	-	4	9	4	3	2
Barton Pits	100	196	80	60	30	104	120	145	6	24	40	125
Barrow-New Holland	-	3	10	4	21	59	15	-	-	10	3	-
<i>The Wash</i>												
Frampton Marsh	30	65	30	14	5	11	3	5	17	3	20	27
<i>Inland</i>												
Messingham SQ	-	30	10	16	4	1	5	-	5	-	-	-
Toft Newton Res	4	10	2	-	-	-	1	3	14	7	60	9
Boultham Mere	16	19	10	-	1	9	4	2	3	17	17	24
North Hykeham Pits	12	24	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	10	3	3
Whisby NR	14	25	12	1	1	1	8	3	10	4	15	15
Norton Disney/Thurlby Pits	100	28	15	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	32	2
Bardney Pits	85	21	20	29	24	18	4	7	15	3	5	16
Kirkby on Bain GP	29	40	8	9	9	30	18	8	3	37	15	30
Tattershall Lakes CP	69	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deeping Lakes & Pits	1	2	-	-	3	7	87	79	12	-	44	4

The table includes all sites holding 25 or more birds, and the text below draws attention to the highest counts. Now on both the IUCN and UK Red Lists, Pochard were seen in reasonable numbers during 2014. Barton Pits most consistently held large numbers, including peaks of 196 on Feb 16th, 145 on Aug 21st and 125 on Dec 27th. In the central part of the county, 100 were counted at Thurlby Sand Pit on Jan 7th, 85 were observed at Bardney Pits (during a WeBS count) on Jan 19th, 69 were at Tattershall Lakes CP (also on a WeBS count) on Jan 29th, and 60 were at Toft Newton Res on Nov 8th. At Frampton Marsh, the count of 65 on Feb 12th was well above others there. In the south, the Deeping Lakes peak of 87 was on Jul 14th. At least ten pairs were thought to have bred at Barton Pits, with several broods noted, and in addition two broods were seen at Barrow Haven. At Alkborough Flats, a single female accompanied by up to five males was considered to have attempted breeding but unsuccessfully. At Nebraska Farm, Kirton in Lindsey, broods of three medium-sized young on Jul 3rd and four small young on Jul 16th were presumably different. At Frampton Marsh, three pairs bred, with a brood of three juveniles observed on the early date of May 17th. Elsewhere breeding was thought probably to have occurred at Messingham SQ and Kirkby on Bain GP. Single Common Pochard x Tufted Duck hybrids were at Messingham SQ on Mar 15th, and at Barton Pits on Apr 12th and May 3rd.

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	245	239	166	100	48	33	200	158	127	156	130	101
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gibraltar Point	64	50	36	32	64	83	54	34	87	17	41	47
Freiston Shore	50	74	1	26	11	16	8	9	4	1	1	22
Frampton Marsh	50	28	42	28	65	70	24	30	40	9	17	63
<i>Inland</i>												
Covenham Res	238	163	92	158	94	137	99	68	271	272	225	263
Toft Newton Res	95	36	27	13	2	2	1	34	47	54	47	28

Swanholme Lakes	21	100	52	-	-	10	-	-	18	28	32	120
North Hykeham Pits	109	64	47	27	9	17	86	142	171	93	70	53
Whisby NR	152	150	137	77	23	40	120	152	92	183	151	110
Norton Disney/Thurlby Pits	200	100	174	104	18	85	107	10	293	51	150	36
Bardney Pits	48	50	76	110	52	67	113	121	43	74	21	34
Kirkby on Bain GP	185	162	130	106	45	135	155	158	64	116	141	119
Tattershall Lakes CP	358	206	120	66	11	9	-	5	-	-	-	-
Spalding-Borough Fen*	128	103	45	123	24	32	8	26	70	162	63	202
Deeping Lakes & Pits	44	32	68	26	16	32	153	85	42	18	48	55

All instances of 100 or more birds are shown in the table and the text includes mention of peak counts of 175 birds or over. The Barton Pits area had 245 on Jan 1st and 239 on Feb 16th, with 200 on Jul 25th. At Covenham Res, there were large numbers in Jan and Sep-Dec, including peaks of 271 on Sep 24th and 272 on Oct 2nd. At Whisby NR, the highest count was 183 during the WeBS count of Oct 11th, while not far away at the Norton Disney/Thurlby Pits there were counts of c200 on Jan 7th and 293 on Sep 7th. The highest single count anywhere during the year was 358 at Tattershall Lakes CP on Jan 29th, though the total was down to 206 by Feb 16th. Also in Jan, there were 185 at the Kirkby on Bain GP complex during the WeBS count on the 19th. In the south of the county, 202 were counted on the large watercourses of the R Welland, Coronation Channel and R Glen during WeBS counts on Dec 6th-8th. Breeding was confirmed at the following sites (with details where available): Alkborough Flats (two broods of four fledged), Barton Pits (two broods on the sailing pit), North Kelsey Moor (one brood of nine), Tetney Marsh (one brood of seven), Donna Nook (one brood of seven), Kirton in Lindsey (one brood of seven), Boultham Mere, Whisby NR (at least seven broods), R Witham near Bardney (one brood of eight), Kirkby on Bain GP (seven broods totalling 38 juveniles), Tattershall Lakes CP (juveniles observed), Stickney (one brood of seven), Middlemarsh (Skegness), Gib Point (one brood of six at Tennyson's Sands), Freiston Shore (nine pairs), Frampton Marsh (18 pairs), Sleaford (one brood of five), Baston-Langtoft Pits and Fen, and Willow Tree Fen. This is far from a complete account but indicative of the species' widespread occurrence. Single Common Pochard x Tufted Duck hybrids were at Messingham SQ on Mar 15th, and at Barton Pits on Apr 12th and May 3rd.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton-New Holland	2	2	6	5	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Covenham Res	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	1
Gibraltar Point	2	4	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-
Frampton Marsh	2	2	2	1	-	-	2	-	3	1	-	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	3	3	3	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-

New Year's Day saw two at Gib Point in addition to the two present at Frampton Marsh from Dec 2013. The latter remained to Mar 29th with one to Apr 12th. Gib Point had further records of singles in Jan and up to four in Feb. At New Holland, one-two immature birds were observed in Jan-Feb, and a subsequent series of records in Barton Pits peaked at six (two adult drakes and four females) on Mar 29th. The other long-staying group early in the year was inland at Kirkby on Bain GP, where there was one on Jan 12th, two from Jan 16th, increasing to three (two males and one female) on Jan 26th, all present until Apr 16th and two remaining to May 3rd. There was an unusual series of summer records, including a male at Covenham Res during May 25th-Jun 8th, two males there on Jul 11th and one on the 16th. There was a female type at Gib Point on Jul 1st-7th and again on Aug 14th, and two at Toft Newton Res on Jul 13th. The first true autumn birds were three at Freiston Shore on Sep 21st, after which there were scattered records to the end of the year, with no long-stayers. Other records not in the table were singles at Donna Nook and the Butterwick WeBS sector on Jan 5th, a male at Alkborough Flats on Feb 23rd, a male at Fiskerton Fen on Mar 25th, and one at Humberston Fitties on Oct 23rd-30th.

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	2	15	3	-	-	-	7	6	12	-	2	-

The Wash

WeBS totals	163	173	275	48	278	25	151	300	66	741	596	457
Gibraltar Point	30	780	44	6	19	20	30	20	17	68	70	11
Wainfleet*	67	-	137	-	-	-	-	-	-	170	71	375
Friskney*	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	136	400	70
Wrangle*	23	-	110	-	74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leverton*	-	135	23	37	106	-	144	236	7	234	61	-
Freiston Shore	19	30	14	9	15	7	2	50	50	10	40	7
Witham*	21	4	2	-	17	-	-	35	-	1	35	10
Dawsmere*	-	-	-	-	38	-	-	20	22	11	-	-
Terrington*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	181	-	-

Peak numbers, and The Wash WeBS totals, were generally down again. Several of the largest counts were in Feb at Gib Point, including southerly movements of 274 on the 6th, an impressive 758 on the 9th and 422 on the 15th. The largest - but far smaller - movements in autumn were also at Gib Point, of 68 south on Oct 30th and 70 south on Nov 19th. Elsewhere on the coast, the highest count was 39 off Anderby Creek on Oct 18th. Other large counts were of flocks within The Wash during the last quarter, where sector peaks included 400 at Friskney on Nov 9th, 375 at Wainfleet on Dec 27th, 236 at Leverton on Aug 9th with 234 there on Oct 11th, and 181 at Terrington on Oct 12th. There were no inland records but, within the Humber, there were five at Pyewipe on Sep 3rd and two at the Humber Bridge on Nov 7th.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, rare in summer.

The three present from Dec 2013 remained at Barton Pits until Jan 21st (though only all seen at once on the 18th-21st), after which one first winter drake remained until Apr 24th. The two at Covenham Res from 2013 also remained to Apr 11th, with one until Apr 26th. At Kirkby on Bain GP, two females remained from Nov 2013 until Apr 16th. The Kirkby birds were sometimes reported as two males, but it is believed this is due to the difficulty of determining Long-tailed Duck sexes rather than more birds occurring; the sexes of the Covenham birds also were not consistently reported. Other records in the first half of the year were one north at Horseshoe Point on Jan 3rd, a female south at Gib Point on Mar 7th, one at Norton Disney Quarry on Mar 30th-Apr 3rd, and single females offshore at Gib Point on Apr 26th and May 13th. The first in autumn was a female south at Gib Point on Oct 31st, followed by two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Nov 5th. Next, one was resident at Covenham Res during Nov 19th-Dec 2nd, and two flew south at Gib Point on Dec 2nd.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

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	48	42	5	-	3	62	349	162	47	30	-	40
Barton upon Humber	-	-	-	1	-	-	46	4	100	-	120	-
Tetney-Somercotes	45	200	1	65	-	55	230	130	720	12	55	1
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	48	10	50	-	-	15	15	71	50	30	15	3
Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe	12	32	-	-	3	-	450	16	-	-	32	14
<i>The coast</i>												
Mablethorpe-Skegness	8	-	-	-	-	40	-	18	24	19	140	8
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	7	420	-	1	23	-	1038	102	23	135	3	15
Gibraltar Point	555	1615	60	416	72	700	820	457	180	450	144	400
Wainfleet*	-	-	-	-	-	-	170	-	-	-	-	-
Leverton*	-	325	-	-	23	-	858	102	-	135	-	-
Freiston Shore	200	95	-	-	-	1	-	50	-	25	15	3

With the exception of the offshore counts at Gib Point, numbers were everywhere far lower than in 2013. The outstanding movement of the year was 1365 south, with 290 others present, on Feb 10th. Other relatively high counts were 700 at Gib Point on Jun 25th, 820 north at Gib Point on Jul 15th and 858 in the Leverton WeBS sector on Jul 26th and 720 at Donna Nook on Sep 11th. Most records in the Humber were in autumn, including 46 at Barton on Jul 28th, 36 at East Halton Skitter on Sep 7th, 100 at Barton on Sep 18th and c120 there on Nov 29th. Inland records

included at two at Cadney Res on Jun 9th, one at Toft Newton Res on Sep 5th-7th and two there on Nov 11th-12th, plus birds at Covenham Res on twelve dates in Mar-Jul, Sep-Oct and Dec. Peaks there were three on Apr 1st and Apr 22nd-23rd, five on Jul 18th and three on Dec 4th.



Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* (drakes) Cadney Res Jun 9th 2014 © Russell Hayes

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

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

This was another poor year. Four flew south at Gib Point on Jan 5th, and there were three at Freiston Shore on Jan 16th and three south at Gib Point on Feb 9th. In Apr, five flew north at Gib Point on the 16th and two south on the 18th. Autumn records began with two north and three south at Gib Point on Oct 14th, and singles south there on the 18th and 19th. Next came one at Huttoft Car Terrace on Oct 22nd, three at Freiston Shore on the 26th and one south at Gib Point on the 30th. More widespread reports in Nov began with four north at Gib Point on the 5th. Two flew north at Mablethorpe on Nov 16th when two appeared inland at Toft Newton Res, remaining until Dec 13th. After one south at Chapel Point on Nov 17th, there were three south at Gib Point on Nov 21st, two at Donna Nook on the 22nd, one at Freiston Shore on the 26th, and three in the Humber at Barton on Nov 29th.

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
Barton Pits	35	62	87	24	2	1	-	-	-	5	45	13
New Holland-Goxhill	281	157	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90
Covenham Res	94	90	51	8	-	-	-	-	-	2	30	36
Toft Newton Res	10	19	12	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	8
Gibraltar Point	4	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	8	10
Freiston Shore	35	44	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	8
Frampton Marsh	12	20	5	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	7
Whisby/N Hykeham	19	26	20	8	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	16
Norton/Thurlby pits	16	36	30	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	4
Kirkby on Bain GP	20	20	11	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3
Tattershall Lakes CP	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Langtoft West End GP	14	13	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Deeping Lakes	15	19	15	3	-	-	-	-	1	7	2	17

The table incorporates all counts of 10 or more apart from 21 at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Feb 24th. Totals generally were down on those of 2013, including at the key sites of New Holland and Covenham Res where the highest counts were 94 at Covenham Res on Jan 3rd and 281 at New Holland on Jan 11th. At Barton Pits, used by the New Holland population, the peak was 87 on Mar 3rd, while at Freiston Shore there was a good count of 44 on Feb 2nd. Birds were still widespread in small numbers through April but the only May records were two at Barton Pits on May 4th and one there on the 14th. Summer reports were one at Far Ings on Jun 29th and one at Frampton Marsh on Aug 6th. There was one at Deeping Lakes on Sep 6th and 15th but then none until five south at Gib Point on Oct 7th. Towards the end of the year, numbers were smaller but included 90 at Goxhill Haven on Dec 29th, and also noteworthy were 42 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Nov 22nd.

Smew Mergellus albellus

Scarce winter visitor Oct-Apr.

No more than ten individuals were seen this year. One redhead was at Kirkby on Bain GP on Jan 16th and presumably the same on Jan 30th. This was joined by an adult drake on Feb 2nd, both then remaining to Feb 13th with the redhead until Apr 6th. At Deeping Lakes NR, two redheads were found on Jan 22nd and stayed until Feb 3rd. An isolated and unusual record early in the year involved two at Humberston Fitties on Jan 27th. An unusual early autumn record was of a redhead on the Humber at Barton on Oct 3rd. Others at the end of the year were one at Langtoft West End GP on Dec 14th, and an adult drake on a warping drain at Owston Ferry on Dec 31st.

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 coast</i>												
Sutton on Sea-Chapel Point	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	1
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	4	27	150	17	-	-	-	-	-	3	54	38
Gibraltar Point	29	87	18	8	-	-	2	2	-	23	8	31
Wainfleet*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	35
Wrangle*	-	-	139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benington*	-	16	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Freiston Shore	12	7	15	15	-	-	-	-	2	5	8	8

The table includes all sites at which there were 10 or more. The only record between Apr 28th and Aug 26th was of two at Gib Point on Jul 13th. The largest count this year came from the Wrangle WeBS sector on Mar 31st, when 139 were counted. Such large counts are an occasional feature of late winter in this part of The Wash; there were 160 at the nearby Wainfleet sector in Mar 2012. Offshore movements at Gib Point, typically in early morning, were frequent especially in Feb, with peaks of 87 including 75 south on Feb 9th and 80 including 65 south on Feb 15th. The largest count there at the end of the year was 31 including 29 south on Dec 21st. Away from Gib Point and The Wash, there were scattered records along the coast, including two at Humberston Fitties on Apr 12th and more during Oct-Dec. The largest of these were five at Saltfleet on Oct 11th and 15 south at Chapel Point on Nov 17th. Up the Humber, there was one at Barton on Oct 16th. Inland records involved two at Messingham on Apr 3rd, three at Westwoodside on Apr 7th and two at Toft Newton Res on Nov 18th.

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>												
Fillingham Lake	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	20	26
Boultham Mere/Swanpool	11	13	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Swanholme/Hartsholme	22	27	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	19
North Hykeham	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whisby NR	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thurlby/Norton pits	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10

Other areas

Owston Ferry	-	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Humberston Fitties	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
Covenham Res	7	10	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Washingborough Fen	20	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fiskerton-Chapel Hill*	22	17	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Dogdyke	20	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	8	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	7	8	4
Spalding-Borough Fen	13	5	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	9
Langtoft West End GP	14	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Belton Park	10	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of sites	36	27	22	9	3	1	0	0	0	4	19	19

The table includes all sites attracting five or more and with records in two or more months. Other counts of five or more were 11 at Thoresby Bridge and six at Alvingham/Conisholme Fen in Jan, seven at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods in Apr, and six at North Kelsey Carrs in Dec. Numbers were a little down on last year's, with maxima of 27 at Swanholme Lakes on Feb 1st and 26 at Fillingham Lake on Dec 22nd. Apart from one redhead at Gib Point on Jun 8th, there were no reports between a male at Cleethorpes on May 4th and one at Donna Nook on Oct 5th.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Former scarce feral breeder and winter visitor, now very rare.
There was only one report this year: a male at Holywell Lake on Sep 7th.

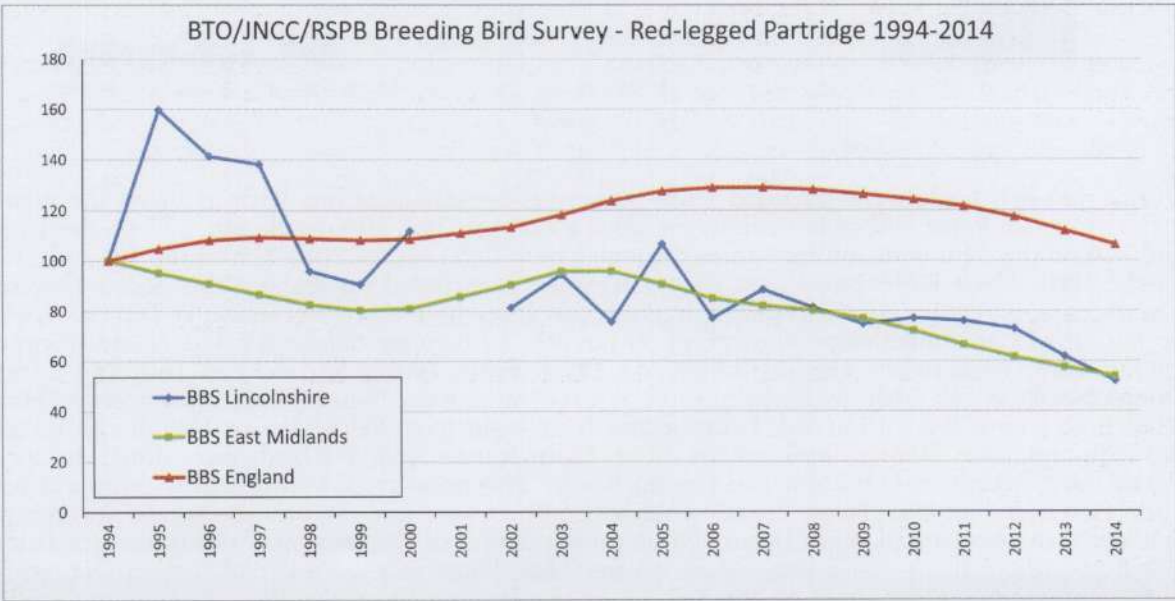
Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

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

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of sites	11	16	15	42	22	7	8
Number of birds	13	22	18	64	27	8	18

There were records from eight widely spread sites, the first being one at Gib Point on May 2nd and one at Langholme Wood, near Westwoodside, on May 13th. The only localities with more than single birds noted were Donna Nook where there were four calling on Jul 15th, and Frampton Marsh where there were two close to the reserve on May 26th. Based on numbers of singing males, 11 pairs probably bred but there were no records of confirmed breeding. The only records after the end of Jul were one at Donna Nook on Aug 2nd and one at Gib Point on Sep 12th. While numbers were again fairly low, this year saw an increase on 2013.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*



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

There were about 450 records from 105 sites with a maximum of 75 at Aurbourn on Dec 31st. With many thousands being released on shooting estates every year throughout the county, such records are largely academic. The breeding population in some districts is considered largely stable but the breeding success of released birds is generally considered poor, and in the county as a whole, as more widely in the East Midlands, the BBS shows a declining population trend.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

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

The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust's Partridge Count Scheme returns (43 for Lincolnshire) indicate that the September density of birds on the sampled farms in the county declined from 27.4 per 100 ha in 2013 to 23.9 per 100 ha, and the young to old ratio had decreased from 3.1:1 to 2.6:1. There were about 470 bird club records from 110 sites but only 13 records of confirmed or probable breeding, so breeding is still being seriously under recorded. Small numbers of birds are being released on some shooting estates that together with specific measures to encourage Grey Partridges are helping to reduce the decline in Lincolnshire. The largest counts reported during the year were 44 at Welbourn Heath in Jan and 20 including five young at Woodhall Spa in Aug. Four or five coveys with about seven juveniles were at Baumber in early Sep.

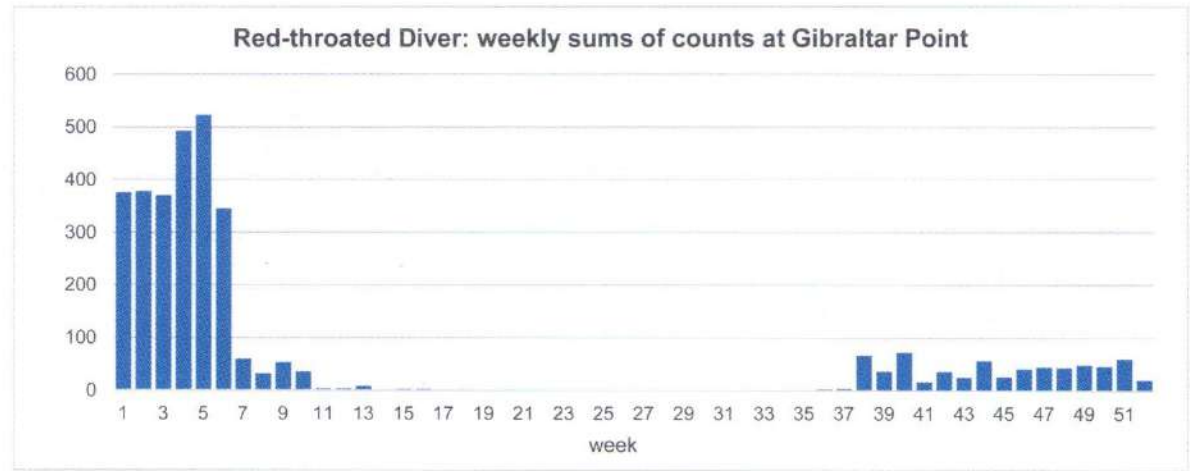
Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Very common feral resident.

There were 2,178 records from 210 sites with a maximum of 68 at Broughton Common on Sept 30th. Again, with many thousands of birds released on shooting estates annually, such records are largely academic. Few breeding records were submitted for such a common resident.

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 birds were recorded from numerous coastal locations with as usual the great majority at Gib Point, where Jan counts included 65 on Jan 2nd, 106 on the 5th, 177 on the 18th and 214 on the 24th with similar figures through Feb with 91 on the 2nd, 129 on the 4th and 155 on the 10th. These high counts (and only a selection is included throughout this account) were mainly part of regular southerly dawn movements. Elsewhere there were nine at Donna Nook on Jan 5th, 11 at Mablethorpe North End on Jan 8th, 13 between Saltfleetby and Theddlethorpe on Jan 18th, 14 between Theddlethorpe and Mablethorpe North End on Feb 16th and 15 at Donna Nook on Feb 24th, with one to three at a few other sites. Numbers fell off sharply in Mar when high counts were 15 at Gib Point on the 10th, eight from Saltfleetby to Theddlethorpe on the 15th and 13 at Donna Nook on the 22nd. From Apr to Aug, 1-3 birds were noted on only eleven days, mainly at Gib Point and Donna Nook, with none at all between May 24th and Jul 10th. Post-breeding movements began in Sep when birds were noted on most days, with three at Saltfleetby on the 1st and six at Donna Nook on the 27th, but the great majority of records from Gib Point where there was a peak of 31 on the 21st. There was a similar picture in Oct, with high counts at Gib Point of 24 on the 3rd, 18 on the 7th and 14 on the 20th; 11 were at Donna

Nook on the 9th, 10 at Huttoft Car Terrace on the 22nd, and 1-3 at a few other sites. Numbers remained modest through the final two months of the year, contrasting with Jan-Feb (see chart), a pattern that is typical of recent years. High counts included 18 at Gib Point on the Nov 1st, 17 at Sutton on Sea and 18 at Huttoft Car Terrace on Nov 5th, six at Saltfleet Haven on Nov 29th and three at Humberston Fitties on the 30th; also of note was a singleton in the Humber seen off East Halton Skitter on Nov 17th. In Dec, there were two at Humberston Fitties and five at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on the 1st, 11 at Mablethorpe/Trusthorpe on the 3rd, 16 at Gib Point on the 8th and the month's highest count there of 42 south on the 16th. Eight were at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on the 15th, two at Freiston Shore on the 24th, four at Wainfleet Marsh on the 27th, and six at Gib Point on the 28th. There were no inland records.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

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

The first of the year was a juvenile/first winter bird at Cleethorpes CP from Jan 3rd-Feb 5th (PSHp, ABe et al) which coincided with birds at Covenham Res on the Jan 3rd (LHa, RHa, KRo) and at Humberston Fitties on the same day (RL). Other early year birds were five at Witham Mouth on Jan 5th (SK), one at Freiston Shore also on the 5th (PS), two at Humberston Fitties on Jan 14th (RL), singles at Gib Point on Jan 24th (NAL) and Humberston Fitties on Jan 27th and 29th (RL), two at Freiston Shore on Feb 1st and one there on the 2nd (SK, PS), one flew south at Gib Point before landing off Lyme Ridge on Feb 2nd (KMW) and one was at Witham Mouth on Feb 16th (DRob). Autumn birds were at Gib Point Sep 30th when two flew south together (KMW), and an adult in summer plumage was there on Oct 7th, one south at Donna Nook on Oct 9th (BMC), one at Gib Point on Oct 11th (JB) and the final birds of the year in early Nov were singles south at Gib Point on 2nd (RKW), at Huttoft Car Terrace on the 5th (RL) and last of all were two at Freiston Shore on the 8th (SK).

Identifying divers out of summer plumage requires care, and although this species is now to be removed from the list of LBRC species, the committee will continue to seek documentation for records involving unusual locations or dates, or from inexperienced observers.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

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

One seen at Witham Mouth on Jan 6th is assumed to be the juvenile on the Freiston Shore lagoon from Jan 9th to Feb 9th. Also in Jan, one was at Deeping Lakes NR on the 4th, one flew south at Gib Point on the 5th, one was at Langrick Bridge also on the 5th, one was on the refuse tip lagoon at Slippery Gowt Pits on the 9th-10th, two were noted at Gib Point on the 21st, one there on the 25th, and one was at Witham Mouth on the 25th, assumed to be the Freiston Shore bird. Birds in Feb were singles at Gib Point on the 3rd and 4th, a juvenile was at Staples Farm, Wrangle on the 11th, and two flew south at Gib Point on the 26th. There were no further records until Sep when there was one at Donna Nook on the 13th. In Oct one was at Gib Point on the 12th, two south together there on the 14th, one south there on the 21st and one off Crook Bank on the 28th. In Nov there were two at Gib Point on the 5th, one north at Sutton on Sea on the 5th, two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR also on the 5th, and another at Gib Point on the 20th. Dec birds were at Gib Point with one south on the 10th, singles on the 21st and 23rd, and one south on the 25th.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Offshore visitor, declined from fairly common to scarce, mainly Mar-Nov. Rare in winter and very infrequent inland.

Although once 'fairly common offshore' and noted in most months, this species can now be difficult to connect with; this year it was recorded on just forty-six days, in low numbers and all are listed here. The first of the year flew south at Gib Point on Feb 3rd followed by sightings of two at Donna Nook on Mar 20th and one on the 27th. In Apr one was at Donna Nook on the 8th, two north at Gib Point on both the 15th and 18th, two at Donna Nook on the 20th and one north at Gib Point on the 21st. All but one record in May were from Gib Point with one south on the 8th, two north on the 9th, singles north on the 12th and 15th, one south on the 24th, one north on the 27th and one south on the 31st; the other record was of one at Horseshoe Point on May 25th. June had three sightings at Gib Point with two on the 7th and singles on the 10th and 15th, all flying south. There were four records in July: singles north at Gib Point on the 9th and 11th and two on the 18th, and one at Horseshoe Point on the 31st. Autumn passage produced more sightings. In Aug there were two south at Anderby Creek on the 11th, singles at Gib Point



Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* Cleethorpes Jan 7th 2014 © Graham Catley



Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* Freiston Shore lagoon Feb 1st 2014 © Neil Smith

on the 12th and 17th, one at Donna Nook on the 18th, one north at Gib Point also on the 18th, and singles at Freiston Shore on the 25th, 26th and 28th and, probably, one of these at Frampton Marsh on the 26th. Sep was the peak month starting with two north at Gib Point on the 5th, two at Donna Nook on the 7th, one at Frampton Marsh on the 8th, 10 north at Gib Point on the 9th and one there on the 12th, three at Donna Nook on the 13th, one at Gib Point and two at Witham Mouth on the 14th, two at Gib Point on the 15th and singles there on the 16th and 21st. There were just five records in the last three months of the year beginning with two at Gib Point on Oct 14th, then one north there on Oct 22nd, three at Donna Nook on Nov 5th, one there on the 29th, and the final bird of the year flew south at Gib Point on Dec 20th.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

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

During Jul-Nov there were fifteen records, mostly of 1-3 birds. All but two of the records were from Gib Point beginning with two north there on Jul 18th, three south on Aug 14th, then singles north on Aug 15th, 18th, 25th and 26th. All Sep records were from this same site with one north on the 14th, seven north and two south on the 21st, three north on the 22nd, and singles north on the 24th and 25th. There were sightings at three sites on Oct 13th, with one at Sandilands, four at Huttoft Car Terrace and one north at Gib Point. The final record of the year was of two north at Gib Point on Nov 5th.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

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

There was a maximum of 275 birds seen during 2014 on twenty-three days; all but two of the records came from Gib Point where the first of the year were three north on Apr 15th, then three north on Jun 25th. In Jul, there were six north on the 6th, nine north on both the 9th and the 18th, 11 south on the 19th, and two on the 27th. In Aug, there were three north on the 9th, two north on the 16th and a massive total of 182 north on the 18th, in moderate north-west winds, accounting for two-thirds of the total for the year. These were followed by one north on Aug 20th, seven north on both the 25th and the 26th. The first record in Sep was at one at Donna Nook on the 6th, followed by two north and one south at Gib Point on the 14th, 18 north there on the 21st, one north on the 28th and one south on the 30th. Two flew north at Gib Point on Oct 1st, one north there on the 2nd and one south on the 9th. The next were four at Freiston Shore on the 13th and the final record of the year was of one north at Gib Point on Nov 5th.

European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Rare offshore Jul-Dec; exceptional inland and in other months. LBRC

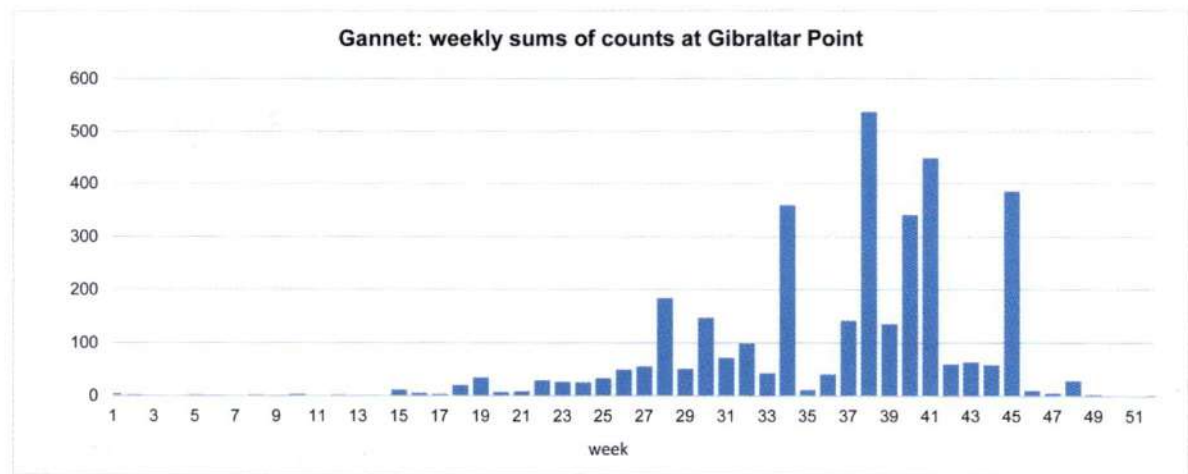
The only record for the year was two north at Gib Point mid morning on Jun 18th (JPS).

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.

Birds were noted in every month of the year but few in the first quarter, when there were 1-3 mainly at Gib Point with a few from Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR, Wolla Bank and Donna Nook. During Apr-May, numbers remained fairly low with single figures seen at a number of sites from Donna Nook to The Wash plus peaks of 14 north at Horseshoe Point on Apr 18th, 10 at Gib Point on May 1st, 30 there on the 9th and 12 north on the 30th. Sightings became more frequent during Jun-Jul when all but two sightings were of adults, many fishing, but all double figure counts were from Gib Point. Peaks there were 50 south on Jun 7th, 42 north on Jun 25th, 30 on Jul 6th, 60 on the 9th, 79 mainly north on the 11th, 50 on the 18th, 36 on the 22nd including the first report of a juvenile bird, 55 on the 23rd and 70 on the 26th. Migration became apparent in Aug when high counts at Gib Point included 60 on the 6th and 130 south and 185 north on the 26th; elsewhere there were 10 at Donna Nook on the 3rd, 25 at Freiston Shore on the 25th, 30 there on the 26th and eight at Mablethorpe on the 27th. During Sep and Oct birds were seen on all but three days with single figures widespread with peak migration taking during mid Sep-mid Oct (see weeks 37-41 of the chart below). High counts in Sep included 32 north at Gib Point, 12 at Wainfleet and 10 at Terrington on the 13th, on the same day, 25 at Witham Mouth and 32 north at Gib Point on the 14th, 37 north at Gib Point on the 15th, 328 including 304 north there on the 21st, 141 on the 22nd, 35 on the 23rd, 48 on the 24th, and 44 on the 28th. Of note was a juvenile at Barton upon Humber on Sep 29th. Oct had a similar pattern with almost all high counts coming

from Gib Point beginning with 72 north there on the 2nd, 129 including 99 south on the 3rd, 60 on the 4th, 36 on the 7th, 40 on the 9th, 379 north on the 13th, 32 on the 18th and 36 south on the 24th. Elsewhere in Oct single figures were widespread on the coast, there were two juveniles at Barton on the 5th, 30 at Freiston Shore on the 8th and 35 there on the 9th, 40 at Donna Nook also on the 9th, 50 at Freiston Shore on the 13th, six flying west at the Humber Bridge on the 14th, an inland juvenile west at Black Bank, Messingham, on the 22nd when there were also 40 at Huttoft Car Terrace. Significant numbers were noted on Nov 5th including 18 at Donna Nook, 367 at Gib Point, 92 at Huttoft Car Terrace and c80 at Sutton on Sea. A juvenile was at Barton on Nov 6th. Things quietened down thereafter with single figures mainly at Gib Point plus 10 there on Nov 11th, 25 south on Dec 2nd and eight at Huttoft Car Terrace also on the 2nd, then one to three at a few sites with the last two of the year on Christmas Day at Gib Point.



Great 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>												
Humberston Fitties	34	21	141	7	-	-	-	-	150	39	43	23
Donna Nook	22	120	62	4	7	10	18	30	23	18	13	14
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	112	116	73	7	1	17	1	2	5	20	21	49
Gibraltar Point	79	93	62	13	13	13	74	51	39	250	214	235
Terrington*	142	262	33	-	3	-	87	90	106	60	-	-
<i>Inland</i>												
Covenham Res	208	59	2	4	4	3	4	27	12	123	160	26
Whisby/North Hykeham	26	27	9	6	3	4	16	16	19	19	29	23
Kirkby on Bain GP	17	8	8	6	-	3	-	4	3	3	4	5

The table includes coastal sites usually holding 100 or more plus selected inland sites. Other noteworthy numbers were 68 at Mablethorpe on Jan 20th, 50 at Cleethorpes on Sep 10th, 74 at Wainfleet on Nov 9th and 67 at Deeping Lakes NR on Dec 8th. Breeding was confirmed at one site in Lincolnshire with four birds on nests at Deeping Lakes in May, though no information on success was received. A colony was formerly occupied there between 1992 and 2007, peaking at 136 occupied nests in 1998.

European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

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

As to be expected, most sightings were at Gib Point. Singles south there on Jan 9th and 13th and one on the 27th settled on the sea could all have been the same bird. One was off Donna Nook on Feb 19th. The first autumn bird was at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on Sep 1st. Some good seawatching conditions at Gib Point provided two north on Oct 14th and one also north on Oct 15th. The last sighting was of one at Humberston Fitties on Oct 20th. A ringing recovery from several years ago gives an idea of the origin of Shags found in Lincolnshire.

G9626	Nestling	02-07-2007	Isle of May: 56°10'N 2°34'W (Fife)
	Alive (ring read)	07-10-2007	Dawsmere: 52°52'N 0°10'E 409km SSE Oy 3m 5d

Eurasian 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	4	2	-	1	2	3	2	1	3	6	5
Minimum Lincs total	3	4	3	-	2	3	3	2	1	4	9	7

It was a relatively poor year for Bittern in the county with reports from only 11 sites, down from 18 the previous year, and a cumulative monthly Lincs total for the year of 39, down from 50 the previous year. Only one area, Barton Pits, held birds throughout the year (records in 11 months) with a maximum of three in Nov-Dec. Breeding attempts continued to be sporadic with three reports of single booming birds from Barton Pits in May and Messingham SQ in Mar. There was no other evidence of breeding. At Alkborough Flats, 1-2 birds were present on several dates in Jun 28th-Jul 27th, with singles on other dates during Jun-Aug and Nov-Dec, these being feeding birds from upper Humber breeding sites. One or two birds wintered in the Lincoln area, with reports of singles from Boultham Mere and Whisby NR during Jan, Feb, Oct, Nov and Dec. Two were reported from Whisby NR on Nov 22nd. Frampton Marsh had a single bird from Jul 10th to Aug 29th and a single on Nov 27th. Other singles were at Wolla Bank on Feb 18th, Black Bank (Messingham) on Oct 10th and Cleethorpes CP on Nov 20th-21st.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Vagrant. **LBRC**

There were two records this year. The first was one at Susworth during Aug 3rd-11th (JTH *et al*) and the second one at Willow Tree Fen NR on Nov 28th-29th (SBk, JOv, KKH). These were the seventh and eighth Lincolnshire records.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

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

The summary table below shows the monthly minimum peak WeBS counts of birds recorded in each of four districts; the east coast includes Mablethorpe-Skegness. Little Egrets are now so widespread and numerous at all times of the year that the easiest way to present their occurrence is based on standardised WeBS counts rather than individual reports.

District minimum totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
The Humber	21	17	16	20	22	29	31	48	25	55	15	16
East coast	15	12	10	15	21	15	18	15	15	37	47	13
The Wash	89	96	82	51	68	53	261	466	422	416	284	86
Inland	6	4	10	5	8	4	5	13	6	2	41	46
Minimum Lincs total	131	129	118	91	119	101	326	555	533	510	422	161

It was a record breeding year for Little Egrets, with a minimum of 84 pairs reported. The main gains were in the Humber area where site D increased sharply from four to 20 pairs, E from 20 to 32 pairs, and the colony at site B re-established with eight pairs after none the previous year. Site G had birds present throughout the summer period but no evidence of breeding. There were also single birds present in another inland heronry but no evidence of nesting as yet; that site is not listed below.

Numbers of nests	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
A Wash	-	5	7	6	6	8	6	7	6
B Humber	1	11	14	11	27	17	12	0	8
C Inland	-	-	1	4	5	7	6	8	10
D Humber	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	4	20
E Humber	-	-	-	-	-	8	32	20	32
F Inland	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	5	8
G Wash	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	0
County total	1	16	22	21	40	45	63	44	84



Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* North Lincolnshire May 2014 © Colin Smale



Five ringing recoveries below illustrate again the random wanderings of Lincolnshire-bred Little Egrets.

GR37162	Nestling	07-05-2014	North Cotes: 53°28'N 0°1'E
	Alive (colour rings seen)	11-09-2014	Aberlady Bay Local Nature Reserve: 56°0'N 2°52'W (East Lothian) 336km NNW 0y 4m 4d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	06-12-2014	Cocklemill Marsh: 56°10'N 2°52'W (Fife) 353km NNW 0y 6m 29d
GR36342	Nestling	10-06-2013	North Cotes: 53°28'N 0°1'E
	Alive (colour rings seen)	15-08-2013	Ironbridge: 52°37'N 2°28'W (Telford and Wrekin) 193km WSW 0y 2m 5d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	31-08-2013	Venus Pool, near Shrewsbury: 52°39'N 2°40'W (Shropshire) 203km WSW 0y 2m 21d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	06-10-2013	Durleigh, Bridgwater: 51°7'N 3°3'W (Somerset) 336km SW 0y 3m 26d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	20-10-2013	Ludford Bridge, Ludlow: 52°22'N 2°43'W (Shropshire) 222km WSW 0y 4m 10d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	01-12-2013	Badshot Lea: 51°13'N 0°45'W (Surrey) 258km SSW 0y 5m 21d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	19-03-2014	Moor Green Lakes Nature Reserve, Finchampstead: 51°21'N 0°49'W (Wokingham) 244km SSW 0y 9m 9d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	30-12-2014	Tice's Meadow, Badshot Lea: 51°13'N 0°45'W (Surrey) 258km SSW 1y 6m 20d
GR37169	Nestling	09-05-2014	North Cotes: 53°28'N 0°1'E
	Alive (colour rings seen)	04-08-2014	Alnmouth: 55°22'N 1°37'W (Northumberland) 236km NNW 0y 2m 26d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	14-09-2014	SWT Wildlife Centre, Montrose Basin: 56°42'N 2°28'W (Angus) 392km NNW 0y 4m 5d
GR37165	Nestling	09-05-2014	North Cotes: 53°28'N 0°1'E
	Alive (colour rings seen)	22-07-2014	Cresswell Pond: 55°13'N 1°34'W (Northumberland) 220km NNW 0y 2m 13d
GR36352	Nestling	13-05-2014	North Cotes: 53°28'N 0°1'E
	Alive (colour rings seen)	28-12-2014	Runcorn-Widnes Bridge: 53°19'N 2°45'W (Halton) 184km W 0y 7m 15d

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

Rare visitor. LBRC

A few well-reported birds were present this year but also several short-staying ones; as previously it is difficult to be sure how many individuals were involved in total. The first of the year was one at Dunsby Fen on Jan 2nd (IPM). The next was a first winter bird at Thoresby Bridge on Jan 17th-19th (ABe *et al*). On Mar 31st, one arrived at Frampton Marsh (BCI, PSt, JB *et al*) which stayed until Apr 16th. Possibly the same bird was then photographed at Huttoft Bank Pit on Apr 21st (LDa) and seen at Gib Point on Apr 23rd (NAL, PAH) before being back at Witham Mouth on Apr 25th (SK). One at Burgh le Marsh on May 2nd (NAL) and the Gib Point area on May 3rd-4th and 9th (PNe, DH, RDn) could well also have been the same. One flew north over the Humber from Chowder Ness on May 3rd (SRo). One was on Alkborough Flats on Jun 13th (AMo). There were singles at Wrangle Brickpits on Aug 27th (RPr) and Alkborough Flats on the 30th (WG), and at Killingholme Haven Pits on Sep 12th (JWW). Another series possibly involving just one bird began with one at Whisby NR on Sep 20th (DN), then at Manby Flashes on the 21st-22nd (CJJ, SJ *et al*), and at Barton Pits on Sep 29th (GPC). One found at Thornton Abbey on Oct 24th remained to the 29th (CADl *et al*). Another one was at Grimsby Docks on Oct 25th (GTy). Finally, one was at Alkborough Flats on Nov 21st-22nd (ND, GPC *et al*).

A number of unsupported reports were received; these have not been included since the possibility that they were other egrets was not excluded. Though clearly more frequent than in the past, Great White Egret remains a rare species in the county, and adequate information should be provided to demonstrate that accurate assessment of size and colouration has been made.

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 2014 was as follows:

Abbey Wood	36	Lea Marsh	6
Appletree Ness	2	Long Wood	7
Baston Sand & Gravel Pits	8	Nocton Wood	8
Belton Park	4	North Cotes Spinney	13
Bottom Barff Wood	0	Patterson's Pit	23
Dowsby Fen	2	The Deeps	3
Fitties Nature Reserve	1	The Mere, Deeping St James	6
Hartsholme Country Park	13	Troy Wood	9
Hospital Cottage Spinney	5	Tuetoos Wood	0
Howsham Barff Wood	1	Warren Plantation	4
Kingerby Wood	0	Welland Farm	6
Kirkby Pits (west)	9	Willoughby Wood	24
Legbourne Wood	0		

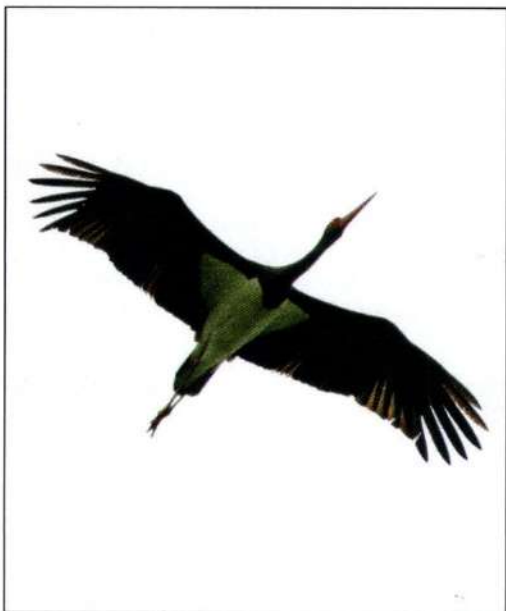
The total number of occupied nests in 2014 was 190; this compares with 183 in 2013. The increase would have been much larger without the loss of Kingerby Wood, which was deserted for reasons unknown. Additionally, there were significant decreases at Appletree Ness, thought to be due to wind blow, and at Troy Wood, also for reasons unknown. The heronry at Fitties Nature Reserve, Humberston is a new site. Howsham Barff Wood was checked; fresh egg shells were found below one of the nests but no juveniles or adults were seen. The Tuetoos Wood site is now deserted; the likely problem at this site is thinning of the trees in which they nest, and increased public disturbance. Away from the breeding sites this is a regularly encountered birds and WeBS trends do not show any significant changes. No significant passage was recorded on the coast, but there were elevated numbers in late summer and autumn with high counts of 11 at Gib Point on Jun 19th, 17 at Frampton Marsh on Jun 28th, up to 12 at Alkborough Flats for much of Jul, 10 at Pye's Hall on Sep 5th, and 14 along the R Welland at Spalding on Oct 12th and 12 there on Dec 7th.

The BTO Heronries Census, which has monitored Grey Herons throughout the UK since 1928, shows the species to have been more abundant in the early 2000s than at any time in the last 80 years. However, a strong downturn began in 2001, for unexplained reasons. A similar trend has been evident in Lincolnshire, but with the decline beginning considerably earlier, from 1990. The Lincolnshire Bird Club is grateful to Mr Barrie Wilkinson for organising the BTO Heronries Census within Lincolnshire and supplying the data for use in the bird club report.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

Vagrant BBRC

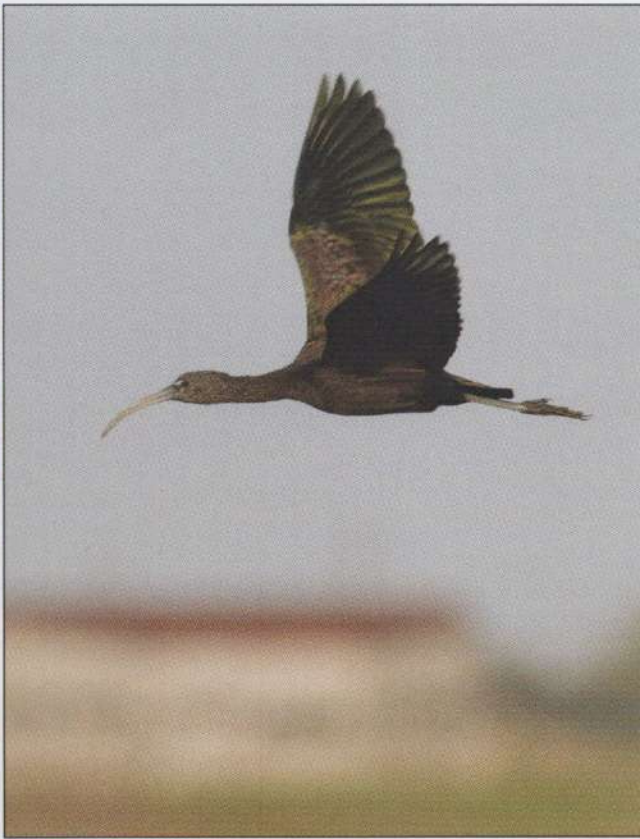
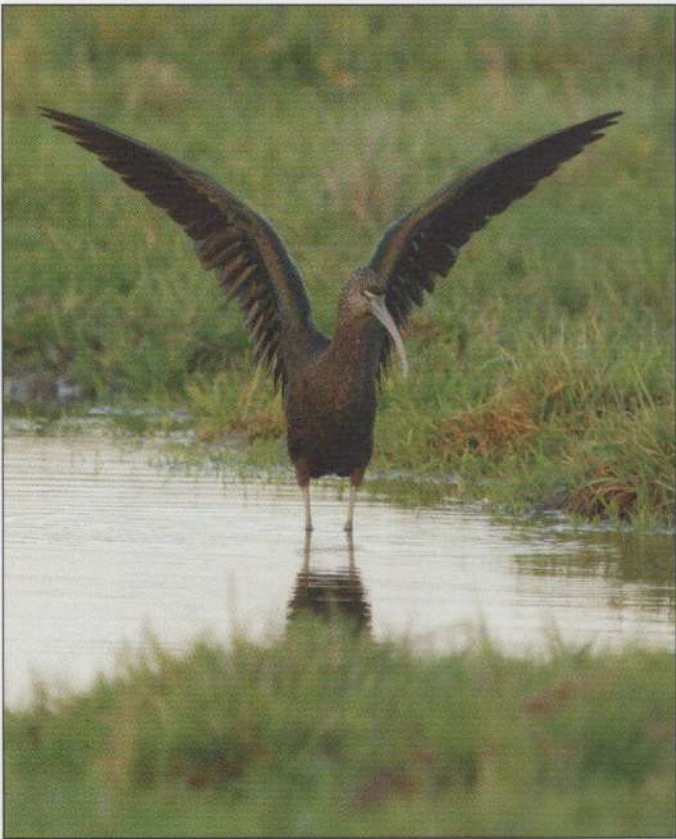
One, a first summer individual, was watched flying east over Crowle Moors and Crowle village on May 26th, having previously been seen in Yorkshire (GPC, ND, TCL). Accepted BBRC (BB 108 p.577). This was the third record of Black Stork in Lincolnshire. The previous ones were both adults, on 25th April 1984 at Freiston and on 20th May 2006 at Welton-le-Marsh.



Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* first summer Crowle Moor May 26th 2014 © Graham Catley



Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* Frampton Marsh RSPB Oct 19th 2014 © Neil Smith



Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* Frampton Marsh RSPB Oct 27th (left) and Oct 19th (right) Neil Smith

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Vagrant. LBRC from 2013, RBBP

The bird that arrived at Deeping Lakes on Dec 31st 2013 remained there until Jan 7th (GH, GMO *et al*). The next was one at Chapel St Leonards during Feb 10th-17th (EHo, NAL *et al*), which is treated as different from one at North Hykeham Pits on Feb 12th (DN) although we have no definite reports of the bird on the coast on Feb 12th-13th. On May 15th, a sequence of records began that probably relates to the same pair of birds throughout. One was found at Willow Tree Fen NR on the 15th, remaining until at least the 25th (CNe, GH, VF *et al*). One was at Frampton Marsh on Jun 3rd-4th (IE) and one again at Willow Tree Fen on Jun 7th (KJS), then one back at Frampton Marsh on Jun 12th (CAJ). One was next at Gib Point briefly on Jun 13th (KMW) before settling at Frampton Marsh on the 14th. It was joined by a second bird during Jun 26th-29th, and display and construction of a nest platform took place, but no eggs were laid (JB *et al*). This was the first nesting attempt in the British Isles. One bird stayed on at Frampton Marsh through the autumn until Dec 7th. During the late summer and autumn, there were also a few sightings elsewhere, involving singles at Willow Tree Fen NR on Jun 20th-21st (BHe), Whisby NR on Aug 23rd (GHO) and Freiston Shore on Nov 16th, all of which may have been one or other of the Frampton birds. Thus the year's total is counted as only five individuals (including the one from 2013), and it is not impossible that only two were involved.

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	-	-	2	-	3	4	10	12	8	-	-	-
Tetney-Donna Nook	1	1	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	1	2	2	5	5	10	2	1	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	1	2	1	5	4	4	1	-	-



Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* Frampton Marsh RSPB Sep 27th 2014 © Neil Smith

Sightings not included in the table were two at Howden's Pullover on Mar 14th, one south at Chapel St Leonards on Apr 27th, two near Covenham Res on May 26th, and four at Willow Tree Fen on Jun 7th-8th with two remaining on the 9th-10th. One, from 2013, was in the Tetney-Donna Nook area from the start of the year through to early summer, but elsewhere the first were an adult and an immature at Alkborough Flats during Mar 25th-28th. From mid Apr, sightings were more widespread and it becomes difficult to keep track of totals. At Alkborough Flats, there were three immatures in the second half of May then regular presence from Jun 10th, with eight

off and on between Jul 9th and Sep 10th and a peak of 12 on Aug 1st-9th. The last there was on Sep 16th. At Frampton Marsh, birds were present most of the time between Apr 16th and Oct 5th, usually 1-2 but with some counts of 3-4 during Jul 19th-Sep 10th and five on Jul 31st. At Gib Point, there were mostly 1-2 (but not always the same birds) between Apr 22nd and late Aug, but occasionally up to four. During Aug 28th-Sep 11th there were sometimes more, peaking at 10 on Sep 9th-10th, but then counts reverted to 1-2 until Nov 2nd, the last one anywhere this year. At least 18 individuals were in the county at the peak but the overall county total could well have been around 30.

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	-	2	7	2	7	1	14	10	16	14	1	-
Barton Pits	14	8	3	2	2	3	1	25	2	20	6	4
Barrow-New Holland	-	1	3	1	3	3	1	-	7	11	6	-
Humberston-Horseshoe Pt	4	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	6	12	16	13
Donna Nook	6	4	5	4	2	2	4	7	12	9	6	11
Covenham Reservoir	7	6	3	1	-	-	2	3	11	14	16	13
Gibraltar Point	9	8	15	8	8	6	5	14	29	28	21	21
Freiston Shore	14	15	1	2	1	1	-	12	20	10	20	8
Frampton Marsh	7	4	2	2	2	2	2	9	17	26	24	9
Welland*	35	2	18	1	-	-	-	-	5	5	8	24
Toft Newton Res	8	5	2	1	1	-	-	-	2	1	3	6
Whisby NR	1	3	7	3	6	12	2	9	8	2	1	1
Norton/Thurlby Pits	2	8	12	6	-	3	-	-	1	2	3	-
Kirkby-on-Bain GP	3	8	4	4	1	-	3	4	13	15	5	6
Tattershall Lakes CP	4	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Holywell Lake	5	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	10	14



Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Frampton Marsh RSPB Aug 3rd 2014 © Steve Keightley

The table includes the majority of sites that held 10 or more birds. In addition, there were 12 at Stoke Rochford in Nov. In the majority of cases, numbers increased significantly on 2013. The highest counts were well spread geographically but predominantly made during Aug-Nov; they included 25 at Barton Pits on Aug 9th, 27 at Kirkby on Bain GP on Aug 28th, 20 at Freiston Shore on Sep 20th, and 26 at Frampton Marsh on Oct 12th. The highest count earlier in the year was 20 at Holbeach St Matthew on Jan 1st. Breeding reports included four pairs that fledged at least 10 young at Alkborough Flats, five pairs at Whisby NR with four broods totalling 10 young, and four pairs at Frampton Marsh.

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	11	15	16	16	13	12	7	4	11	9	7	7
Gibraltar Point	19	39	8	4	4	3	1	3	4	7	21	17
Freiston Shore	8	-	5	2	5	-	-	3	6	20	15	3
Frampton Marsh	1	-	6	6	4	6	11	10	2	1	-	-
<i>Inland Sites</i>												
Covenham Reservoir	72	68	15	17	19	20	25	29	37	33	46	18
Toft Newton Reservoir	14	11	15	3	4	9	18	20	18	16	32	25
North Hykeham Pits	15	24	20	13	10	11	24	10	36	28	33	18
Whisby NR	4	9	16	11	15	21	13	14	18	7	15	5
Norton-Thurlby Pits	66	16	11	15	3	8	9	6	7	5	25	60
Kirkby on Bain GP	2	6	38	5	12	4	4	5	7	7	3	2
Tattershall Pits	20	14	22	16	12	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spalding-Borough Fen*	5	7	34	28	28	22	34	31	25	35	11	5
Deeping Lakes NR	3	3	7	5	1	6	9	8	10	5	6	7

The table includes sites at which 25 or more were recorded plus a selection of other consistently-recorded places. Numbers were slightly higher in the first half of the year with peaks of 72 at Covenham Res on Jan 3rd and 66 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Jan 7th. As in 2013, early morning movement was noted off Gib Point in Jan-Feb with 16 birds flying south on both Jan 2nd and Jan 17th, 26 south on Feb 2nd and 36 south on Feb 6th. Later, 21 were recorded heading south on Nov 13th. Breeding was confirmed at 14 sites. The earliest report of displaying birds was two pairs at Toft Newton Res on Jan 5th. At North Hykeham Pits two pairs nested successfully and were seen with broods of three and two in July. Other sites with more than one pair reported were Barton Pits, Swanholme Lakes, Whisby NR, Kirkby on Bain GP (six broods, some fledged) and Frampton Marsh.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

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

With only five records, there was a meagre showing this year. The first was one offshore at Gib Point on Jan 6th, followed by one at Mablethorpe North End on Jan 20th. The next was not until Oct, when one was seen at Tabs Head at the Witham Mouth on the 15th. Three days later, one moved south at Gib Point on the 18th. The last of the year was one at Humberston Fitties on Nov 25th.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

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

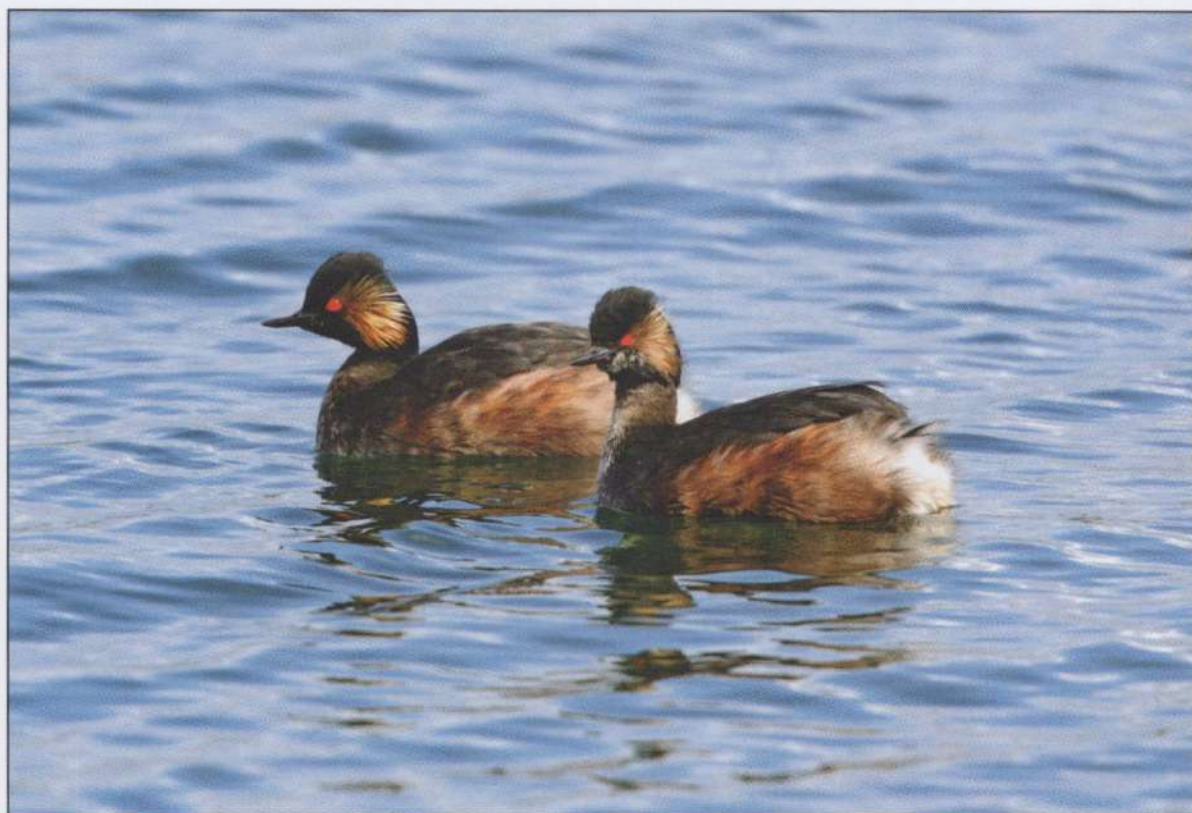


Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* Saltfleet Haven Feb 1st 2014 © Mark Johnson

In Jan, there were singles offshore at Gib Point on the 1st, 14th and 27th. In Feb, there were two at Freiston Shore on the 1st with one on the 2nd, then singles moving south offshore – but quite likely all the same bird – at Gib Point on six dates during the 3rd-10th. One arrived at Covenham Res on Feb 12th, remaining to Mar 9th. Shortly after – perhaps the same bird – one was seen intermittently on Barton Pits during Mar 11th-May 13th. Autumn records began with one north at Gib Point on Sep 24th. The next was one on a pool just north of Saltfleet Haven on Oct 8th-11th. Singles were reported at both Freiston Shore and Frampton Marsh on Oct 10th, and on the 13th there were three at Freiston Shore. Singles were offshore at Gib Point on Oct 18th and 26th, and one at Kirkby on Bain GP on the 27th. Two at Covenham Res on Nov 21st was the only record that month. In Dec, there were four singles, at Freiston Shore on the 1st, Mablethorpe/Trusthorpe on the 3rd, Freiston Shore again on the 9th and Gib Point on the 16th. Depending on one's interpretation of which sightings comprised each record, this amounted to some 20-25 records, considerably more than in the last few years.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare breeder, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. RBBP



Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* Barton Pits Apr 8th 2014 © Graham Catley

At site A, no breeding birds were reported, the only record being of a juvenile on Aug 28th-31st. At site B, a male in breeding plumage appeared on Mar 5th, the first bird reported in the county for the year. However it remained alone and was last seen on Jun 6th. There was no evidence of breeding. Two different birds were also present on Jun 6th, two more on Jun 21st and yet another two on Jul 11th (one staying until Jul 13th); all of these are assumed to have been failed breeders from elsewhere. At site C, three adult birds were reported on the Apr 19th and 12 birds and five nests were observed on May 25th. Sadly on Jun 8th only one nest remained. The reason for the loss of nests is not known. On Jul 27th, seven adult birds were present and two juveniles indicating one pair had been successful. Four birds including at least one juvenile remained here until Sep 7th. Site C is particularly sensitive because both of fraught access and the risk of disturbance and birders are asked not to visit it during Apr-Jul. During spring three wandering birds in breeding plumage were reported briefly at Covenham Res on Apr 1st-4th with three also at Toft Newton Res on Apr 2nd-3rd, and two at Covenham Res on May 5th-7th; there were also two birds at both Frampton Marsh on Apr 7th and Barton Pits on Apr 8th. A little later, there were singles at Thurlby Sand Pit on Apr 17th, South Ferriby Pits on Apr 18th and Humberston Yacht Club pools

on Apr 24th-26th. There was also one at Toft Newton Res on Mat 17th. During autumn/winter the only other reports of Black-necked Grebes were an adult on the sea at Gib Point on Aug 4th, two at Covenham Reservoir on Aug 19th-20th with single juveniles there on Sep 11th and Dec 12th, and a single at Saltfleet Haven on Oct 8th.

Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

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

A series of sightings in spring may have referred to just one bird. One flew north at Gib Point on May 31st (RHay). It – a dark female – was then seen again at Gib Point on Jun 1st, 4th, 6th, 10th, 12th and 13th (RDn, KMW *et al*). One flew south at Gib Point on Aug 27th (JPS, RDn *et al*). Finally, one was seen at Donna Nook on Sep 2nd (SL).

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.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aisby	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kelby	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colsterworth	14	10	5	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	26	-
Stainby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	6
Grimsthorpe-Swinstead	5	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	3	7	7

With records from about 140 localities throughout the county, it has become impossible to keep track of the numbers occurring. The table shows sites that held five or more, all of which are in the south-west of the county, as were sites attracting four: Newton (Sleaford), Osbournby, Scott Willoughby, Temple Wood, and Twyford Wood. Breeding reports came from seven sites, again all in the south-west; breeding was confirmed at one site, judged to be probable at three and possible at three. This is assumed to understate the true position and more information would be welcome. One set of sightings of a Lincolnshire nestling, neither more than 10km from the nest site, is shown.

GR67004	Nestling	18-06-2012	SW Lincolnshire
	Alive (wing-tag seen)	15-12-2012	Braceby: 52°54'N 0°30'W 0y 5m 27d
	Alive (wing-tag seen)	05-07-2014	P W G Barracks, Grantham: 52°54'N 0°37'W 2y 0m 17d

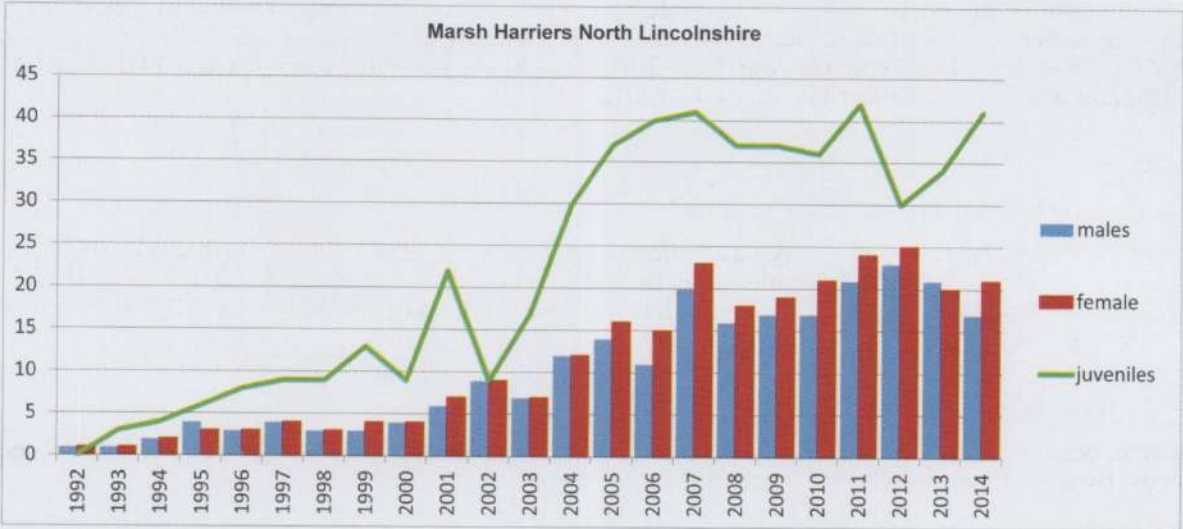
Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
North	19	8	45	30	5	10	45	26	11	23	27	17
Coast	4	1	3	9	7	5	5	5	10	3	3	1
Wash	12	11	20	20	25	17	30	22	21	18	8	10
Inland	3	4	16	44	43	29	26	25	28	15	11	10

The table includes sums from localities within four broad regions, though it is difficult to be sure which reports refer to the same birds within these. Wintering numbers seemed higher than in 2013. The largest roost count was of 19 at Whitton Sands on Jan 25th. No other roost counts over 10 were received away from this area. A total of 10 birds were seen harrying a Teal at Alkborough Flats on Nov 22nd; the Teal was eventually drowned and picked up by one bird and eaten on the bank.

In North Lincolnshire there was a slight fall in the number of breeding males (17) over 2013 but females were about the same (21) (see chart below, based on Graham Catley's data) but the total of 41 fledged young was higher than the 34 in 2013 and the highest since 2011. Elsewhere, breeding was poorly reported with only 12 confirmed nests recorded plus a further 17 probable breeding attempts. A full county survey would be helpful to determine current breeding status more accurately. It seems there were more pairs trying to breed in 2014 than the previous year and this is reflected in the higher peak monthly counts during Mar-May over 2013.



Shown below are three sets of sightings of young Marsh Harriers fledging in Norfolk and spending part or all of their first autumn/winter in Lincolnshire.

AJ60733	Nestling Female	11-06-2014	Buckenham: c. 52°34'N 1°28'E (Norfolk)
	Alive (wing-tag seen)	09-08-2014	near Alkborough: 53°42'N 0°40'W 190km NW 0y 1m 29d
	Alive (wing-tag seen)	23-10-2014	near Doncaster: 53°28'N 1°7'W (South Yorkshire) 202km WNW 0y 4m 12d
	Alive (wing-tag seen)	22-11-2014	near Alkborough: 53°42'N 0°40'W 190km NW 0y 5m 11d
GR77891	Nestling Female	14-06-2014	near Wighton: 52°54'N 0°52'E (Norfolk)
	Alive (wing-tag seen)	05-12-2014	near Alkborough: 53°42'N 0°40'W 136km NW 0y 5m 21d
FH56831	Nestling Male	24-06-2014	Haddiscoe Island: 52°33'N 1°37'E (Norfolk)
	Alive (wing-tag seen)	17-09-2014	near Skegness: 53°7'N 0°16'E 111km NW 0y 2m 24d
	Alive (wing-tag seen)	13-12-2014	Burgh Castle, Great Yarmouth: 52°34'N 1°40'E (Norfolk) 6km NE 0y 5m 19d

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**

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	3	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Humberston-Donna Nook	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	3	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Gibraltar Point	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	-	1	4	6	2
Frampton Marsh	2	3	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3

Reports were received for about 45 locations, mostly around estuaries and the coast but some well inland, including regular sightings of first winter individuals at Marston STW at both ends of the year. Birds were more widespread early in the year than towards its end. It is not possible to say how much the counts under-estimate numbers present at the tabulated sites, which includes areas with most records, but it may not be by very much. At Alkborough Flats in the first quarter, for example, two males and two ringtails were noted but the peak count was three. At Gib Point, three males in differing plumages and one ringtail contrasted with a peak day count of two. At other sites, numbers may have equalled peak counts but few details were provided. There were records at Gib Point through to mid May but then few records until Sep, involving one south at Gib Point on Jun 2nd, a male at Gib Point on Jun 23rd and one at Freiston Shore on the 26th, and a ringtail at Gib Point on Jul 17th. In Sep, there was one at Gib Point on the 1st and then a juvenile there on the 11th-12th. More regular and widespread reports began on Oct 1st. The largest counts of the year came from a roost close to Gib Point, where there were four on Oct 19th and six (one adult male, two second winter males, three ringtails) on Nov 23rd.



Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* (bright juvenile) East Halton Skitter Nov 13th 2014 © Graham Catley



Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* Marston STW Jan 25th 2014 © Steve Nesbitt

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

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

On the upper Humber, a pair bred on the Yorkshire side of the estuary fledging a single juvenile; the male and latterly the female hunted at Alkborough Flats on several days between May and Aug 23rd with the juvenile also being seen there on Jul 28th and Aug 9th. Another pair bred in the north of the county but the nest was predated, probably by stoats, on July 12th and the birds left the area immediately. At Gib Point, a ringtail on Apr 28th may have been the bird seen again on May 5th and possibly the same second calendar year female seen on several dates between Jun 2nd and Aug 11th. This was the worst year for a long period with regard to passage birds.



Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* adult female Alkborough Flats Jul 19th 2014 © Graham Catley

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.

More widely reported than last year, from almost 200 localities, but as usual with the vast majority of records were counts of one or two. Only at Gib Point were counts frequently of three or more, with up to five during Apr-May and Jul-Sep, these including breeding birds. Higher totals still were recorded in Oct-Nov, including seven on Oct 17th and 13 on Nov 12th. Birds seen moving south through the area included four on Oct 22nd and three on both Oct 17th and Oct 30th. Elsewhere there were peaks of 10 at Humberston Fitties on Sep 30th, six at Midville on Oct 16th, and five at Donna Nook on Sep 6th, with four there on Sep 16th. There were counts of four at Austen Fen in Jan, North Hykeham Pits in Apr, and counts of three at Boultham Mere in Jan and Oct, Kirkby on Bain GP in Jan and Nov, Surfleet Seas End in Jul, Frampton Marsh in Sep, Tetney Haven and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes in Oct, and Alkborough Flats in Nov.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

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



Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* pale juvenile, Pyewipe, Grimsby Sep 30th 2014 © Graham Catley

The density of Buzzards in the county continues to rise: there were reports from over 400 named locations this year. Most counts were in the range 1-4 but higher totals were not uncommon. These high counts occurred throughout the year but most often in spring and autumn. The largest concentrations were 12 at Dorrington Fen on Jan 18th, 16 at Laughton Forest on Mar 9th, 11 at South Kyme on Mar 13th, 13 at Middlemarsh (Skegness) on Sep 12th 10 at Northorpe Fen on Sep 14th, 10 at Gib Point on Sep 21st, 14 north-west over Grimsby on Sep 22nd, and 17 at Donna Nook and 10 at Worlaby Carrs on Oct 5th. Visible passage was most evident at Gib Point in autumn, with the highest day-totals being six south/south-east on Aug 20th, seven (including a group of five juveniles) south on Sep 2nd and six south on Sep 4th. A negligible amount of breeding information was received.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

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

There were only two early in the year, but the autumn was more productive. The first of the two in spring was photographed at Donna Nook on Apr 9th (SL, BMC), while the second was seen at Gib Point on the late date of May 9th (SCL, JCN). The first in autumn was one south over Gib Point on Oct 14th (KMW) and presumably the same was over the saltmarsh there on the 15th (JPS). There was also one at Humberston Fitties on Oct 15th-16th (RL) and one at Welland Marsh on the 16th (SK). On Oct 17th, one was seen at Rimac and Crook Bank (NAL) and a new bird, a juvenile, arrived at Gib Point where it remained until the 20th (JPS). One at Tetney Marsh on Oct 21st (DJB) is assumed to have different from the earlier one at Humberston Fitties. Another new bird, this one very pale, arrived at Gib Point at noon on the 21st. One was seen at Frampton Marsh on the 22nd (TC). On Oct 24th, the fourth of the autumn at Gib Point arrived, and this one was present in the area until the 29th (KMW *et al*). Another bird, possibly that of the 22nd, was seen at Frampton Marsh on Oct 27th and seen regularly to the 31st (TC, JB). Regular sightings at Frampton Marsh of a juvenile recommenced on Nov 6th (TC, JB *et al*), and continued through until at least Dec 20th. Two brief sightings towards the end of the year were of one over Wainfleet Marsh on Nov 27th (RDn) and another that came in off the sea at Gib Point at dusk on Dec 28th (RDn), but another long-staying juvenile was found at Helpringham Fen on Nov 28th, where it remained until Dec 29th (DRo *et al*).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

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

Spring passage began with two Mar records, at Theddlethorpe All Saints on the 19th and west at Cranwell on the 23rd. In Apr, there were eight single date records involving singles at Messingham SQ on the 3rd, Colsterworth on the 6th, Tetney-Humberston on the 10th, Appleby on the 14th, Grimsby also on the 14th, Gib Point on the 17th, Deeping Lakes NR on the 21st and Colsterworth on the 29th. There was then a two week gap until the next at Market Deeping on May 13th, followed by singles at Covenham Res and at Donna Nook on May 16th, Covenham Res again and Tetney Blow Wells on the 20th, and Alkborough Flats on the 24th. On May 25th-26th, a series of records from Tetney, Cleethorpes and North Thoresby are assumed to refer to one bird (and possibly this could have been the same as that at the Blow Wells on the 20th). In Jun, there were singles at Gib Point on the 4th, Frampton Marsh on the 8th, Stamford on the 15th and Gib Point again on the 23rd. On Jun 29th, two were found at Donna Nook; two birds were then present in this area continuously through to Jul 17th and one to Sep 12th. While not certain, it is likely that just two individuals were involved; records came mainly from between Donna Nook and Horseshoe Point, but one report of two at Laceby on Jul 23rd is assumed to be the same birds. One at Donna Nook on Sep 18th, after several days with no records there, is assumed to be a different individual. One additional midsummer record was of one at Denton Res on Jul 2nd. Other records in autumn were rather few. There was one at Gib Point on Aug 16th, singles at Alkborough Flats and Market Rasen on Sep 7th, one at Stubton on Sep 10th, one at Aby on Sep 14th and finally one south at Cleethorpes on Oct 12th. Our assessments of overall numbers are that 21 occurred in spring, through to early Jul, plus the two long-stayers at Donna Nook, and only seven in autumn.

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	4	1	4	7	12	1	1	1	30	30	30	30
Barton Pits	8	4	6	5	1	2	-	2	1	2	20	8
Huttoft Bank Pit	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	2

Gibraltar Point	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	4	14	6
Frampton Marsh	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1
Boultham Mere	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	3	-	2	4	2
Whisby NR	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4
Kirkby on Bain GP	2	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	1
Baston Fen NR	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	1	-
Marston STW	10	4	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	12	5
Number of sites	15	13	14	6	6	6	6	8	10	15	22	18
Minimum Lincs total	41	23	26	16	17	6	5	12	43	31	117	75

A good year for Water Rails with better evidence of breeding and a big winter influx in November. Six singing males were reported from Barton Pits in Mar and twelve singing males were reported from Alkborough Flats in May, and breeding clearly must have occurred at those locations. Confirmed breeding came from three other sites, Boultham Mere where a pair with a single juvenile were seen on Aug 7th, Kirkby on Bain GP where a juvenile was seen on Jun 26th, and Baston Fen. This suggests there were at least 20 breeding pairs in the county, the highest reported total for several years, though still likely understated.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

Rare passage migrant. LBRC RBBP

There was only one record of this secretive species in 2014: one was seen at Boultham Mere on Aug 6th (DN).

Corn Crake *Crex crex*

Rare passage migrant. LBRC RBBP

After a blank year in 2013, a male was found at an undisclosed site in the north of the county on Jul 10th-14th (ISh, DN *et al*). It was heard singing and seen on a few occasions. Its identity was confirmed on Jul 10th but it had probably been seen on about Jul 3rd.

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>												
Barton Pits	51	35	31	19	6	17	10	7	7	6	15	15
Humberston Fitties	27	26	17	14	-	-	-	-	10	11	16	16
Gibraltar Point	24	30	26	26	20	19	28	40	46	35	44	51
Frampton Marsh	46	59	42	29	18	13	60	50	60	50	65	97
<i>Inland</i>												
Boultham Mere	9	9	12	5	3	2	10	30	25	55	50	60
Whisby NR	9	16	17	11	8	10	23	33	30	28	21	28
Norton Disney Quarry	2	12	26	3	-	1	-	1	3	1	12	17
Fiskerton-Bardney*	26	24	21	11	15	-	12	20	26	24	31	23
Kirkby-on-Bain Pits	14	7	8	5	7	2	14	20	20	11	12	16
Tattershall Lakes CP	17	25	25	13	18	22	7	6	5	4	1	1
Spalding-Deeping*	40	24	9	4	5	3	11	16	11	26	45	38
Willow Tree Fen	9	7	9	6	5	8	9	9	21	22	20	17

The table includes regularly-counted sites with totals of 20 or more. Other sites that held such numbers were Middlemarsh, Freiston Shore and Tetney Marsh. The highest count of the year was 97 from Frampton Marsh on Dec 15th with 60 there in Jul and Nov. The count of 73 at Middlemarsh on Dec 23rd also was notable. This shy-natured species is undoubtedly under recorded: no less than 20% of records simply said “present”; co-ordinated counts may reveal higher totals for the county.

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-New Holland	469	348	201	142	104	95	251	451	240	338	316	260
Covenham Reservoir	210	110	34	24	9	27	141	124	237	259	250	170

Manby Flashes	-	-	5	10	8	7	60	30	56	4	-	2
Toft Newton Reservoir	135	170	85	19	12	3	13	19	18	89	88	55
Boultham Mere	23	22	22	17	16	30	53	44	14	13	7	12
Swanholme Lakes	82	25	18	-	-	18	-	6	12	40	64	50
North Hykeham Pits	321	210	76	27	12	28	71	72	33	35	29	55
Whisby NR	410	200	109	70	56	92	155	246	299	437	462	501
Norton/Thurlby pits	500	300	100	36	11	20	60	103	79	72	1000	500
Kirkby-on-Bain Pits	137	90	49	38	58	40	115	144	157	212	256	172
Tattershall Lakes CP	354	274	145	56	38	47	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	22	30	50	42	25	36	108	104	200	17	22	33
Spalding-Deeping*	17	14	23	16	25	34	33	63	97	50	48	46
Deeping St James pits	77	59	32	38	17	26	6	171	64	80	97	35
Denton Res	156	92	38	23	19	24	47	90	102	103	123	152

The table includes most sites that held at least 50 birds. Other sites that held more than 50 at any one time were Bagmoor/Winterton floods, Norton Disney GP, Arnold's Pond at Bardney, and Middlemarsh. The highest count of the year by far was c1000 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Nov 11th, the next highest being 501 at Whisby NR on Dec 6th. Breeding counts from The Wash RSPB reserves were 10 pairs at Freiston Shore and 22 pairs at Frampton Marsh.



Common Coot *Fulica atra* Frampton Marsh RSPB Jul 13th 2014 © Steve Keightley

Common Crane *Grus grus*

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

Two moving north-west over Gainsborough on Mar 4th (RH_a, DN) were probably the same as two west over Scampton on the 5th (PD_b). Two north-east at Willow Tree Fen NR on Mar 5th (TB_a) are assumed to have been different from the Gainsborough/Scampton two. Two were at Alderfen (Wroot) on Mar 9th (RJ_o). At Alkborough Flats, two were seen on Apr 12th-13th, one on Apr 16th-17th (giving bugling display calls) and two on May 4th (PS_h, ND, GPC). Also, one landed on the saltmarsh at Rimac on Apr 17th (GW). These birds may all have been part of the small population now breeding or prospecting in neighbouring counties.



Common Crane *Grus grus* Alkborough Flats Apr 17th 2014 © Graham Catley

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	-	110	209	225	87	426	968	1200	860	470	1	4
Read's Island	-	73	505	-	-	40	70	1400	240	1340	542	28
Barton Pits	-	4	12	16	20	6	-	-	-	1	1	-
Donna Nook	-	-	1	2	6	22	50	40	6	-	-	-
<i>Wash</i>												
Gibraltar Point	-	15	39	68	62	60	91	63	33	6	1	-
Freiston Shore	-	3	12	15	4	9	70	3	1	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	7	83	116	157	100	100	45	14	6	2	1
<i>Inland</i>												
Messingham SQ	-	-	5	8	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blackmoor Bridge	-	-	3	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	-	-	7	11	10	9	6	-	-	-	-	-

There were no Jan records this year. The first single birds were reported at Gib Pt on Feb 9th and Frampton Marsh on Feb 11th and there were 73 at Read's Island on Feb 17th. There were good numbers of birds about in Mar, up on 2013, but that did not translate into local breeding success. In total 216 pairs were reported from 12 sites in 2014, compared to 218 pairs at 13 sites in 2013. Breeding success was poorer than in 2013. Read's Island was the most important site but the 90 pairs raised no young compared to 100 in 2013. Elsewhere on the Humber there were over 80 birds at Alkborough Flats lingering into May and despite lots of mating, none attempted to nest; three pairs bred at Barton Pits, none at Bonby Carrs where the habitat is now unsuitable, nor at Killingholme Haven Pits. Further down at the mouth of the estuary there were new breeding colonies of three pairs at Horseshoe Point which raised seven young, and seven pairs at Donna Nook Realignment where eight young were raised. Around The Wash, 19 pairs raised nine young at Gib Point, six pairs raised two young at Freiston Shore, where numbers were thought to be reduced by Black-headed Gull predation, and 74 pairs bred at Frampton Marsh. Inland sites reporting breeding were Blackmoor Bridge (two pairs), Kirkby on Bain GP (two pairs raised two young) and Messingham SQ (four pairs). Despite the relatively poor breeding season, Read's Island had 1400 birds on Aug 16th and there were 1200 at Alkborough Flats on Aug 9th.



Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* and **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* Frampton Marsh RSPB Jun 11th 2014
© Neil Smith



Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* Frampton Marsh RSPB Jun 6th 2014 © Neil Smith

Read's Island held good numbers into Nov with 1340 on Oct 1st and 540 on Nov 16th. Singles lingered at Frampton Marsh until Dec 27th and at Alkborough Flats until Dec 29th and there were 18 at Read's Island on Dec 29th. The ringing recoveries below show four birds hatched to the north of Lincolnshire; EW28645 in particular has made repeated to-and-fro movements between Alkborough and North Yorkshire.

EY04812	Nestling	04-06-2013	Greenabella Marsh, Graythorp, Hartlepool: c. 54°37'N 1°13'W (Hartlepool)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	11-06-2013	Greenabella Marsh, Graythorp, Hartlepool: c. 54°37'N 1°13'W (Hartlepool) 0km 0y 0m 7d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	19-01-2014	RSPB Bowling Green Marsh, Exminster: c. 50°39'N 3°28'W (Devon) 467km SSW 0y 7m 15d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	27-04-2014	RSPB Frampton Marsh, Boston: 52°55'N 0°0'W 204km SSE 0y 10m 23d
EW28645	Nestling Male	17-07-2011	Nosterfield: 54°13'N 1°34'W (North Yorkshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	13-04-2012	Langwith House: 54°13'N 1°34'W (North Yorkshire) 2km 0y 8m 27d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	30-06-2012	Alkborough Flats: 53°40'N 0°40'W 84km SE 0y 11m 13d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	23-09-2012	Langwith House: 54°13'N 1°34'W (North Yorkshire) 2km 1y 2m 6d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	01-07-2013	Alkborough Flats: 53°40'N 0°40'W 84km SE 1y 11m 14d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	22-03-2014	Nosterfield: 54°13'N 1°34'W (North Yorkshire) 0km 2y 8m 5d
EW28738	Nestling	15-06-2014	Nosterfield: 54°13'N 1°34'W (North Yorkshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	28-07-2014	Alkborough Flats: 53°40'N 0°40'W 84km SE 0y 1m 13d
EW28719	Nestling	25-05-2014	Nosterfield: 54°13'N 1°34'W (North Yorkshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	31-07-2014	Alkborough Flats: 53°40'N 0°40'W 84km SE 0y 2m 6d

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	2795	1904	155	1013	472	59	384	1110	623	5189	4264	1355
Cleethorpes-Horseshoe Pt	2498	1617	400	930	363	110	450	1150	1000	2630	3080	918
Horseshoe Pt-Donna Nook	1985	1267	118	569	445	37	350	846	600	2142	2080	1328
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	41	198	55	36	22	20	28	264	24	946	64	27
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	13636	9887	3104	5630	3494	2448	3871	8247	8251	10129	5057	7546
Gibraltar Point	2160	190	500	350	420	417	287	3272	2500	3000	1300	2000
Wainfleet*	1100	-	553	122	60	129	1021	860	1580	1800	1875	830
Friskney*	60	-	300	42	299	20	120	1400	200	-	22	250
Wrangle*	340	500	20	600	762	185	452	10	639	410	-	780
Leverton*	669	448	358	371	72	21	116	332	-	7	434	807
Freiston Shore	2000	1855	1700	1826	702	1352	3300	2500	2154	3802	1601	2008
Frampton Marsh	803	572	489	269	123	160	312	1135	1650	1750	1000	1818
Welland*	2001	3020	250	792	104	-	-	-	1100	165	351	620
Holbeach	4000	-	500	404	10	43	4	-	-	-	60	-
Dawsmere*	1300	3000	300	565	300	253	200	72	410	200	-	-
Gedney	1	500	263	124	23	19	59	120	47	-	50	-
Terrington*	-	200	12	-	320	-	176	1100	350	-	-	-
<i>Inland</i>												
Whisby NR	1	2	4	4	4	5	4	-	-	-	-	-
Blackmoor Bridge	-	1	4	5	4	2	3	-	-	-	-	-
Norton Gravel Pits	3	3	3	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fiskerton Fen	-	2	6	2	3	5	3	-	-	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	-	7	8	8	5	6	2	2	-	-	-	-
Spalding-Borough Fen	-	2	1	5	1	1	4	-	-	-	-	-
Deeping Lakes	-	4	6	4	5	3	2	-	-	-	-	-
Baston Pits/Fen	-	2	7	5	6	2	1	-	-	-	-	-

The table includes estuarine and coastal areas supporting at least 500 birds, and inland sites attracting at least four. Also five at Branston Moor in Jul. The Humber WeBS totals were a little higher than those in 2013, whereas those on The Wash were very slightly down. Numbers inland

continue slowly to rise, and breeding was confirmed at widely spread localities including Market Rasen, Whisby NR, Fiskerton Fen, Kirkby on Bain GP and Baston-Langtoft Pits. Visible passage at Gib Point in early autumn included 280 south on Jul 19th and 247 south on Aug 11th. The ringing recoveries below include a further series of ancient Oystercatchers – though none quite as old as the bird reported in the 2011 report, which survived 40 years and one month and which holds the British longevity record. That was a Wash bird, ringed in Lincolnshire, like most of those listed here. Also included are a couple of longer distance movements, from Shetland and to Anglesey.

FV70672	Adult Freshly dead	23-08-1982 16-02-2014	Leverton Outgate: c. 53°0'N 0°7'E Heacham (Far North): c. 52°54'N 0°28'E (Norfolk) 25km ESE 31y 5m 24d
FH31854	Adult Caught by ringer	04-01-1987 13-09-2014	Heacham: 52°52'N 0°27'E (Norfolk) Wainfleet Marsh: 53°4'N 0°16'E 25km NNW 27y 8m 9d
FA11211	Adult Caught by ringer Caught by ringer	10-08-1987 04-08-1996 01-03-2014	near Friskney: 53°3'N 0°13'E Wrangle Tofts: c. 53°1'N 0°10'E 4km 8y 11m 25d Long Bank Marsh, near Kilnsea: 53°37'N 0°7'E (East Riding of Yorkshire) 66km N 26y 6m 19d
FA32520	Second-year Caught by ringer Caught by ringer Caught by ringer	22-08-1990 10-05-1997 20-02-1999 13-09-2014	Friskney: 53°3'N 0°12'E Heacham: c. 52°54'N 0°28'E (Norfolk) 25km SE 6y 8m 18d Heacham: c. 52°54'N 0°28'E (Norfolk) 25km SE 8y 5m 29d Wainfleet Marsh: 53°4'N 0°16'E 7km ENE 24y 0m 22d
FA40036	Second-year Caught by ringer	28-08-1992 13-09-2014	North Sea Camp, Boston: c. 52°55'N 0°4'E Wainfleet Marsh: 53°4'N 0°16'E 23km NE 22y 0m 16d
FR72787	Nestling Caught by ringer Caught by ringer	30-06-2003 21-08-2005 13-09-2014	Out Skerries: c. 60°25'N 0°46'W (Shetland) Holbeach St Matthew: 52°52'N 0°7'E 841km S 2y 1m 22d Wainfleet Marsh: 53°4'N 0°16'E 818km S 11y 2m 14d
FP99580	Adult Caught by ringer	31-08-2008 23-11-2014	Wainfleet Marsh: 53°4'N 0°18'E Penmon Quarry, Beaumaris: 53°18'N 4°3'W (Isle of Anglesey) 291km W 6y 2m 23d
FA62463	Adult Male Alive (ring read) Alive (ring read) Alive (ring read) Alive (ring read)	21-07-1997 03-05-2008 12-04-2009 20-05-2012 15-03-2014	Holbeach St Matthew: c. 52°52'N 0°6'E Orfordness: c. 52°4'N 1°34'E (Suffolk) 133km SE 10y 9m 12d Orfordness: c. 52°4'N 1°34'E (Suffolk) 133km SE 11y 8m 22d Orfordness: c. 52°4'N 1°34'E (Suffolk) 133km SE 14y 9m 29d Orfordness: c. 52°4'N 1°34'E (Suffolk) 133km SE 16y 7m 22d

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

Vagrant. BBRC

2002 addition Two adults were present at Horseshoe Point on Jul 17th-18th, one remaining to the 19th (DJB, IGS *et al*). This was the first instance of two occurring together in Britain. Accepted BBRC (BB 108 p. 584).

This was the fourth Lincolnshire record, all from the Humber area, the previous three also having arrived in Jul. Note that the SoBiL report for 1996-2000 refers to four records but that for 2000 was included in error.

- 1986 Tetney and North Cotes, adult, between Jul 19th and Aug 19th
- 1993 South Ferriby area, adult, Jul 2nd and 18th-19th
- 1994 South Ferriby and Read's Island area, Jul 10th-11th

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	6972	16099	-	139	-	-	16	212	666	9040	21310	9841
Alkborough Flats	9000	6000	1300	3	1	3	15	15	200	10000	8000	2320
Read's Island	18000	13000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8000	26000	6500
Cleethorpes-Grainthorpe	3500	1500	480	220	-	34	130	700	5000	5000	10000	4000
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	6000	250	-	138	-	1	120	350	1000	5000	1740	1700
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	90	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	64	1400	500	350

The Wash

WeBS totals	10275	10833	1139	12	-	-	307	646	719	5679	1532	5144
Gibraltar Point	7900	4003	1000	20	50	-	85	750	803	7000	10000	8000
Wainfleet	752	2088	1000	-	-	-	-	270	459	3541	1135	3579
Wrangle*	702	440	310	-	-	-	130	60	84	80	-	265
Leverton*	1194	328	88	-	-	-	-	-	73	-	224	415
Freiston Shore	6000	5000	-	-	-	-	1	200	1	1800	1	2300
Frampton Marsh	8000	10000	2700	25	40	2	9	116	70	700	8000	8000
Welland*	5300	330	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74	750
Dawsmere*	12	-	-	-	-	-	50	300	-	1500	-	-
Gedney	105	350	-	-	-	-	67	300	-	1500	700	-
Terrington/Nene Mouth	315	2000	1000	-	-	-	59	-	-	52	5000	-

Inland

Spalding-Borough Fen	-	25	1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	404	200
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The table includes the majority of sites attracting 1000 or more, but there were a few others with only occasional high counts. These included additional inland sites, with 1500 at Trent Port (Marton) in Feb, 1300 at Dorrington Fen in Mar, and up to 2000 in the Anwick area in Oct-Nov. The Humber and The Wash are internationally important wintering areas for this species. The 2014 counts at both were significantly higher than in 2013. Read's Island in particular held remarkable numbers: 18000 on Jan 16th, 13000 on Feb 17th and 26000 on Nov 17th. The highest counts in The Wash were at Frampton Marsh, where monthly maxima were between 8000 and 10000 in Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec, and at Gib Point, where the highest totals of 10000 and 8000 were recorded in Nov and Dec respectively. There were records for every month of the year but numbers dwindled rapidly in Mar, and in May-Jun most records were of singles, though a flock of 50 flew south at Gib Pont on May 16th and there were 34 at Horseshoe Point by Jun 30th. There was a gradual build-up of numbers in Jul and Aug, with the first count of 1000 at Donna Nook on Sep 16th.

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	206	532	2564	117	3	-	5	140	54	312	365	102
Cleethorpes-Grainthorpe	112	411	2500	100	13	-	-	1	100	400	169	5
Grainthorpe-Donna Nook	64	39	32	6	13	-	5	128	320	100	157	82
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	30	82	39	11	2	-	-	12	-	18	36	35

The Wash

WeBS totals	2901	3449	9449	4358	4244	237	320	884	3524	3068	1491	2828
Gibraltar Point	770	500	4880	2964	870	100	150	851	3210	2480	3000	1800
Wainfleet*	478	930	7345	830	592	-	-	203	630	367	126	943
Wrangle*	-	600	540	800	970	14	100	150	402	305	-	600
Leverton*	585	38	278	35	997	24	115	107	301	204	316	428
Freiston Shore	20	3	7	23	48	-	-	10	30	120	30	195
Frampton Marsh	125	338	34	355	284	20	28	40	337	177	8	34
Welland*	420	600	805	1000	450	-	-	-	805	1	32	383
Dawsmere*	22	-	-	200	-	-	-	1	-	550	20	-
Gedney*	330	485	52	990	3	-	77	104	-	215	-	-
Terrington*	164	164	123	-	36	-	-	95	78	71	-	-

The table includes all sites with counts of 100 or more. Respective totals show that Grey Plover favour The Wash over the Humber as a wintering area and, indeed, throughout the year. Gib Point held numbers over 1000 regularly in Sep, Oct and Nov and less frequently in Jan, Mar and Dec. The species was recorded on The Wash in all months of the year, with, for instance, an aggregate count of 250 on Jun 15th. Highest individual site counts for the two estuaries were in Mar, for The Wash at Gib Point 4880 on the 1st, and for the Humber a WeBS count at Horseshoe Point to Tetney Haven of 2500 on the 21st. Inland records were of singles at Willow Tree Fen on May 24th, Whisby NR on Jul 18th, Baston-Langtoft Pits on Sep 15th and Toft Newton Res on Nov 22nd. There were also a few seen up the Humber including 20 west on Apr 11th. The national importance threshold of 430 and the international threshold of 2500 indicate how vital the Wash and Humber are as wintering areas for Grey Plover.

DK07483	Adult	20-08-1993	Wrangle, Boston: 53°1'N 0°10'E
	Caught by ringer	30-01-1995	North Gare Sands, Teesmouth: 54°37'N 1°10'W (Hartlepool) 199km NNW 1y 5m 10d

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Declining breeding species, becoming scarce, 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	5200	4742	148	8	6	200	550	650	600	1700	5200	5000
Winteringham-Read's I.	-	7000	45	-	-	20	216	75	-	180	3000	2342
East Halton-Killingholme	1550	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	61	-	2350	2000
Cleethorpes-Grainthorpe	1800	2200	46	-	-	-	-	3	-	120	700	1100
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	3200	590	6	-	1	1	25	17	80	470	410	480
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gibraltar Point	3000	1771	600	15	11	29	143	506	306	3500	2810	1600
Freiston Shore	4500	3000	11	11	8	50	5	3	-	75	217	262
Frampton Marsh	2000	3652	300	94	75	27	300	500	300	150	3000	2000
Kirton*	1526	1200	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	3	-
Welland*	1004	990	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	37	-	-
Gedney	1526	6000	100	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	3	-
Terrington*	1004	990	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	37	-	-
<i>Inland</i>												
Trent Port (Marton)	300	5000	60	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	105	10
Whisby NR	280	150	30	6	6	29	80	222	280	101	414	440
Nocton Fen	200	700	15	12	18	-	46	-	-	-	1500	19
Metheringham Delph	-	3	2	5	8	60	80	70	80	215	850	5
Kirkby on Bain GP	200	300	12	11	3	30	200	170	350	150	250	80
Fiskerton Fen Scrapes	100	7	20	12	10	6	150	200	200	220	67	200
Spalding-Borough Fen	-	25	6	-	2	4	20	1	82	1025	500	1050
Willow Tree Fen	60	2000	250	20	20	34	300	44	29	25	500	300

Breeding numbers are much reduced in Lincolnshire but it is still a very common passage migrant and wintering species. The pattern of occurrence in 2014 followed that of previous years, with the largest concentrations being at coastal sites in Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec. The highest figures for individual, regularly recorded, sites were between 5000 and 6400 on the Humber estuary and The Wash. On Feb 13th the Frampton Marsh and Freiston Shore reserves together held 6336. Inland counts at any one location during the winter were in general in the tens or hundreds, with numbers over 1000 being unusual, and the only inland count was 5000 reported from Trent Port (Marton) on Feb 15th. Breeding records were submitted between early Mar and early Jul, chiefly from wetland sites scattered throughout the county, but numbers were low and breeding success mostly limited. The RSPB Wash reserves were exceptions, with 44 pairs fledging 56 young at Frampton Marsh and 16 pairs nesting at Freiston Shore. Seven juveniles from three broods at Kirkby on Bain GP was the highest number of young reported elsewhere. Even at a premier site such as Alkborough Flats, only two pairs nested, fledging a single chick. Breeding was confirmed at 15 sites, probable breeding occurred at another 17 and possible breeding at two more. At other sites birds were simply recorded as being present during the spring and early summer period.

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	2	1	4	5	1	-
Barton Pits	-	1	2	-	2	4	3	-
Donna Nook	-	2	4	1	4	9	1	-
Manby Flashes	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-
Middlemarsh (Skegness)	-	4	2	4	6	4	3	-
Gibraltar Point	-	2	4	3	8	3	1	-
Freiston Shore	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-
Frampton Marsh	1	10	14	16	18	6	3	-

North Hykeham	-	2	4	6	1	-	-	-
Whisby NR	-	4	3	7	13	4	4	-
Blackmoor Bridge	1	4	3	2	3	-	-	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	-	4	4	2	5	1	-	-
Willow Tree Fen	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
Marston STW	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of sites	5	17	16	9	12	13	10	-
Minimum Lincs total	5	45	50	42	65	51	22	-

The first bird in was one at Freiston Shore on Mar 20th, and Frampton Marsh had one on Mar 23rd. Blackmoor Bridge and Marston STW had singles on Mar 30th. The Apr arrival of at least 45 birds was up from the 2013 total of 38 birds, with records from 17 sites, similar to 16 in 2013. Overall, birds were reported from 37 sites, up from 26 in 2013. Breeding numbers were up with 23 pairs reported across 10 sites with confirmed breeding reported at nine (numbers of confirmed pairs in brackets): Alkborough Flats (one), Barton Pits (one), Blackmoor Bridge (one), Donna Nook (three), Frampton Marsh (10), Kirkby on Bain GP (two), Middlemarsh Farm near Skegness (one), Whisby NR (two), and Willow Tree Fen NR (one). At least 11 young were recorded as having fledged from six of these pairs. The peak late summer counts were made at Frampton, with 18 on Jul 12th, Whisby NR with 13 on July 3rd and Donna Nook with nine on Aug 6th. The county total in Jul of at least 65 birds at 12 sites was well up from 43 birds at 10 sites in 2013. The latest records were singles at Frampton Marsh and Whisby NR on Sep 20th. The ringing recovery below is of a male that was presumably breeding in Lincolnshire in 1998, which has been nesting 150km to the north during the past two years. What is especially noteworthy is the age of the bird – this has set a new record for Little Ringed Plover in the BTO ringing scheme.

NR61892	Adult Male	27-06-1998	Blankney Sand Quarry: 53°7'N 0°25'W
	Alive (ring read)	16-04-2013	Scaling Dam: 54°30'N 0°51'W (Redcar and Cleveland) 157km N 14y 9m 20d
	Alive (ring read)	24-07-2013	Scaling Dam: 54°30'N 0°51'W (Redcar and Cleveland) 157km N 15y 0m 27d
	Alive (ring read)	15-04-2014	Scaling Dam: 54°30'N 0°51'W (Redcar and Cleveland) 157km N 15y 9m 19d
	Alive (ring read)	08-07-2014	Scaling Dam: 54°30'N 0°51'W (Redcar and Cleveland) 157km N 16y 0m 11d

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	68	60	28	52	318	3	37	225	42	137	129	31
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	4	17	-	9	33	19	1	-	-
Cleethorpes-Grainthorpe	46	88	17	31	175	-	24	21	200	87	45	19
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	-	-	1	6	215	2	1	133	8	2	1	6
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	-	23	5	15	87	3	8	220	22	112	45	8
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	20	50	16	127	1092	12	43	146	292	384	87	7
Gibraltar Point	5	38	112	256	455	100	36	275	297	160	3	11
Freiston Shore	50	34	-	1	5	-	12	50	2	150	8	1
Frampton Marsh	9	20	30	28	180	14	40	100	250	118	100	100

Counts exceeding 50 in addition to those in the table were 595 in the Wainfleet WeBS sector of The Wash, 89 in the Friskney sector and 280 in the Wrangle sector during May 15th-17th, contributing to the large WeBS total that month, when there were also 80 at North Killingholme on the 14th in addition to the tabulated counts for the Humber. Small numbers were noted inland, mainly on spring and autumn passage, with all counts in single figures apart from 21 at Willow Tree Fen on May 10th. Breeding was reported only from Gib Point, where 18 pairs raised 23 juveniles, and Frampton Marsh where there was one pair.

NOS	First-year	25-08-2013	Makkevika, Giske: 62°30'N 6°1'E (More og Romsdal) Norway
8A56732	Alive (colour rings seen)	08-08-2014	Pyewipe: 53°34'N 0°6'W 1,054km SSW 0y 11m 14d
NOS	First-year	24-08-2014	Makkevika, Giske: 62°30'N 6°1'E (More og Romsdal) Norway
8B45122	Alive (colour rings seen)	15-09-2014	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E 1,098km SSW 0y 0m 22d

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Vagrant. LBRC

A female was at the mouth of the River Steeping at Gib Point throughout the day on Apr 19th (JPS).

Kentish Plover is a rare bird in Lincolnshire, and the frequency of records has been declining nationally. From the first record in 1881, this was the 28th record in the county, only two of which have occurred since 1996. Most records have been of single birds but three were seen together in 1950 and pairs occurred in 1979 and 1980: remarkably the pair in 1979 bred (the most recent occasion on which the species has done so in the UK). There has been only one spring record earlier than this year's, involving the group of three at Gib Point on 13th April 1950. However, there was also the unusual event of one wintering at Barton and Read's Island during Dec-Apr 1989/90.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare/scarce passage migrant, mainly spring.

It was difficult to assess the total number involved in a series of spring records in the Tetney-Donna Nook area, as the birds were mobile and counts often varied between observers. A moderately cautious approach suggests that about 80 occurred. It could well have been more (and possibly could have been significantly fewer); the reports of flocks in the Tetney-Donna Nook area strongly support the notion that they were different but it has not been possible to eliminate the possibility that they were the same. The first trip of eight was found between North Cotes Point and Tetney outfall sluice on Apr 24th, still present on the 25th and with two there on the 26th-27th. One female was then found some distance away off Keyholme Lane, Marshchapel on Apr 28th. After a few days, 10 appeared, again near Tetney outfall sluice, on May 4th. There were four in that area on the 6th and then 14 on the 7th but, confusingly, 14 were then located in a field near Grainthorpe Haven a couple of miles away on the evening of the 7th. On the 8th, the Grainthorpe Haven flock had increased to 23 but on the same day the Tetney group reached 23, and at one point 25 birds. Also on the 8th, a flock of 20 was seen flying purposefully north at Donna Nook in late morning. On the 9th, just one female was seen at Grainthorpe Haven. On May 10th, two were found on the mudflats at Donna Nook. Finally – and this can safely be assumed to be different – there was one at Frampton Marsh on May 11th. The only record later in the year was of one seen and heard at Gib Point on Sep 11th. A total of 80 makes this the second best year of the modern era, after 109 in 1996.

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	-	-	-	8	4	-	16	87	8	-	-	-
Humberston-Grainthorpe	-	-	-	6	6	1	8	3	30	-	-	-
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	-	-	-	3	1	-	9	37	2	-	-	-
Saltfleetby-Mablethorpe	-	-	-	5	3	-	7	50	6	-	-	-
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	-	-	-	21	9	2	104	232	17	2	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	19	49	1	126	71	6	-	-	-
Wrangle*	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	20	-	-	-	-
Butterwick*	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	21	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	70	-	-	17	25	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	100	40	9	12	40	10	4	-	-
Gedney*	-	-	-	1	-	-	44	78	-	1	-	-
Terrington*	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	56	1	-	-	-

The table includes all areas with counts of 20 or more. An early record was on New Year's Day when one was seen at Shep Whites, near Holbeach St Matthew. Spring passage began with six at Humberston Fitties on Apr 10th and singles at Donna Nook and Gib Point the following day. Counts of 45 at Witham Mouth on Apr 25th, and 70 at Freiston Shore and 100 at Frampton Marsh on Apr 28th marked the passage peak, though it is possible that some of these may have been common to each count. At Gib Point, the spring maximum was 49 on May 13th. The best inland count of the year was of nine birds at Fiskerton Fen Scrapes on May 2nd, but counts of up to six came from ten other places, mostly in spring. During May 14th-Jul 11th, there were only single figure counts, and none at all during Jun 16th-21st. An early autumn peak involved 126

south at Gib Point on Jul 20th including a single flock of 70. On the re-alignment at Donna Nook c50 were noted on Aug 7th and 45 on Aug 13th. Between Theddlethorpe and Mablethorpe during the WeBS count of Aug 9th, 47 were counted. Gib Point had a count of 45 on Aug 9th, 55 on Aug 11th and 71 the following day. Further south in the Gedney WeBS sector, 78 were observed on Aug 9th and four days later a total of 56 were noted in the WeBS count at Terrington. Another in the series of winter records was observed on Dec 30th at Holbeach St Matthew, continuing a series of mid winter records from this part of The Wash.

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	870	1193	460	147	27	58	517	569	386	611	755	938
Alkborough Flats	402	378	390	270	12	170	300	275	320	220	242	343
Barton Pits	103	36	50	37	2	3	10	350	52	12	27	15
Goxhill	21	8	11	-	-	-	-	5	5	2	30	450
Pyewipe	43	-	-	-	-	-	240	-	280	367	-	25
Cleethorpes-Grainthorpe	60	109	26	79	43	-	11	21	50	168	154	67
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	193	173	180	27	3	49	209	172	145	158	183	268
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	98	482	27	30	7	7	270	246	121	191	261	405
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	2162	2421	2804	1178	600	525	3818	4202	4838	5113	4176	1181
Gibraltar Point	242	283	200	156	52	213	532	1300	1020	1000	226	232
Wainfleet	355	427	555	209	73	122	628	625	2019	1600	2033	430
Friskney*	405	-	651	173	116	128	147	1540	1386	258	871	-
Wrangle*	69	208	167	454	150	49	533	352	394	764	-	400
Leverton*	143	110	120	-	28	78	387	442	229	120	389	175
Benington*	22	285	98	70	-	6	60	25	-	-	88	-
Butterwick*	93	51	50	19	4	61	110	253	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	225	214	1	70	2	64	350	175	93	191	586	18
Frampton Marsh	123	67	58	65	88	11	600	68	190	81	95	180
Welland*	60	34	491	16	19	-	-	-	8	750	41	28
Holbeach*	100	22	16	8	40	4	400	-	8	480	2	-
Terrington*	323	585	348	-	26	-	850	250	390	351	-	-
<i>Inland</i>												
Covenham Res	97	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Withern Washland	15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	31	-
Hagnaby Lock Fen	90	94	20	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marston STW	17	15	33	-	-	-	-	11	17	-	-	5

The table includes all estuarine and coastal areas with counts of 250 or more, and the inland areas with highest counts. The text contains all records of 500 birds or more and come from the Wash area. There were high counts of 402 at Alkborough Flats on Jan 20th and 482 on the Saltfleet-Mablethorpe WeBS counts in Feb. The highest totals in spring were from The Wash, and included 651 in the Friskney sector on Mar 29th and 555 in the Wainfleet sector on the 30th. Early autumn counts included 530 at Gib Point on July 7th, and numbers on the Wash were high throughout late Jul-Nov. Notable totals included 850 at Terrington on Jul 27th, 1540 at Friskney on Aug 9th, 1300 at Gib Point on Aug 14th, and the Wainfleet WeBS counts of Sep-Nov of respectively 2019, 1600 and 2033. A significant count in the Humber at the end of the year was 450 at Goxhill Marsh on Dec 29th. Confirmed breeding was noted at Kirton in Lindsey, Redbourne, Waddingham Carrs and RAF Digby. Probable breeding was noted at Hawthorpe and at Fenton (Beckingham). An unusual ringing recovery, given the small size of the Lincs breeding population, is the first recovery below of a nestling ringed in the county and retrapped nine years later in north Wales. Also included are a selection of long-lived birds, one probably nesting in Finland.

FP88006	Nestling Caught by ringer	06-07-2005 28-09-2014	Copper Hill Airfield, Wilsford Heath: 52°57'N 0°33'W Abergwyngregyn, near Bangor: 53°13'N 4°1'W (Gwynedd) 235km W 9y 2m 22d
FC52964	Full-grown Caught by ringer	03-10-1990 23-05-2014	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W Angesleva, Tyrnava: 64°46'N 25°40'E (Oulu) Finland 1,990km NE 23y 7m 20d

FA46628	Adult Caught by ringer	18-09-1993 13-08-2014	Holbeach St Matthew: c. 52°52'N 0°6'E Lawyer's Farm, Holbeach St Matthew: 52°52'N 0°6'E 0km 20y 10m 26d
FA46889	Adult Caught by ringer Caught by ringer	09-09-1994 01-09-2007 14-08-2014	Wrangle Tofts: c. 53°1'N 0°10'E Friskney New Marsh: 53°1'N 0°12'E 3km 12y 11m 23d Wrangle Tofts: 53°1'N 0°10'E 2km 19y 11m 5d

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	48	38	80	3	49	16	232	164	-	250	142	41
East Halton-Pyewipe	13	-	-	34	170	-	21	4130	2450	2100	1400	87
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gibraltar Point	54	22	13	57	154	144	282	370	348	500	120	29
Freiston	400	650	1	25	1	36	15	501	6000	4203	2403	400
Frampton	5	140	1650	543	150	110	2100	3250	1550	30	115	40
Dawsmere*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	400	10	-	150	-
Gedney	-	-	900	-	-	-	-	310	-	231	-	500
Terrington*	439	335	210	-	-	-	11	-	-	100	-	-

Other counts exceeding 100 were 149 at Rosper Road Pools on May 5th and 500 at Shep Whites on Sep 19th. Peak numbers were similar or a little lower than last years, with the highest numbers found at Freiston Shore, peaking at 6000 on Sep 12th, and North Killingholme Haven, peaking at 5500 on Oct 21st. Inland, there were records on seven dates at Whisby NR, mostly in Jul-Aug and including 24 on Jul 30th, up to 12 at Fiskerton Fen during Jul 18th-29th, records on five dates at Covenham Res including 11 on Aug 17th and 15 on Sep 14th, and scattered other reports in single figures. The ringing recovery below concerns a 12 year old bird: a respectable age but the record is 23 years.

EP85389	Adult Dead	09-09-2002 20-10-2014	Lawyer's Farm, Holbeach St Matthew: 52°52'N 0°7'E Flatford: 51°57'N 1°1'E (Essex) 120km SSE 12y 1m 11d
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Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Very common coastal 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	239	98	73	-	6	-	11	124	48	98	364	50
Cleethorpes-Grainthorpe	200	600	350	3	70	18	-	-	500	800	266	60
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	86	25	30	-	-	-	6	34	20	9	96	113
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	153	11	48	-	6	-	-	3	2	2	-	39
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	13767	7129	4577	4976	154	325	7295	15161	10525	7318	6717	8779
Gibraltar Point	83	20	6000	2336	740	300	501	5000	5750	6350	4000	3150
Wainfleet*	3860	5750	1528	302	-	-	2470	2375	6150	3575	3157	3201
Friskney*	5000	-	800	3523	10	-	320	8000	530	-	18	800
Wrangle*	-	260	2170	1100	15	-	1645	1000	2000	1150	-	1200
Leverton*	3298	842	77	-	80	-	2681	1575	1589	943	3150	2971
Freiston Shore	35	35	-	-	-	-	-	1	200	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	1	10	1	100	342	600	400	10	3	2	-	1
Welland*	1500	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120	-
Dawsmere*	-	50	-	50	-	-	140	2000	230	840	-	-
Gedney*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	196	-	600	-	-

The table includes all areas with counts of 200 or more apart from Pyewipe, where there were 600 on Jan 13th. The threshold for international importance for Bar-tailed Godwit is 1200, so the significance of the Wash especially is evident. Several individual sectors regularly surpass the threshold, let alone the estuary as a whole. Among the highest totals in the first quarter were 5000

in the Friskney sector on Jan 5th and 6000 at Gib Point on Mar 1st. In autumn, 8000 birds were counted at Friskney on Aug 9th, and there were 5000 or more at Gib Point for most of the period Aug 14th-Oct 9th, peaking at 6350 on the last date. There were 6150 in the Wainfleet area on Sep 13th. A few sightings up the Humber, in addition to the Pyewipe count included 10 at Read's Island on Mar 6th and 23rd, and at East Halton Skitter 51 on Aug 9th and 39 on Sep 7th. Two inland sightings were singles at South Kyme on Apr 20th and at Toft Newton Res on Apr 27th. Below are shown three of the oldest retraps from Wash ringing this year (the BTO longevity record is just under 34 years), then two birds wintering together in Ireland, and two autumn birds on The Wash that had been trapped originally on passage on the north German coast.

DN52395	Adult	10-09-1987	Leverton Outgate: 52°58'N 0°7'E
	Caught by ringer	15-08-2014	Wrangle Tofts: 53°1'N 0°10'E 7km NNE 26y 11m 5d
DK07212	Adult Female	01-08-1992	Wrangle Tofts: c. 53°1'N 0°10'E
	Caught by ringer	15-08-2014	Wrangle Tofts: 53°1'N 0°10'E 2km 22y 0m 14d
DK07212	Adult Female	01-08-1992	Wrangle Tofts: c. 53°1'N 0°10'E
	Caught by ringer	15-08-2014	Wrangle Tofts: 53°1'N 0°10'E 2km 22y 0m 14d
DD73031	Adult	12-08-2010	Friskney New Marsh: 53°4'N 0°13'E
	Caught by ringer	30-01-2014	Booterstown: 53°18'N 6°13'W (Dublin) 431km W 3y 5m 18d
DB87978	Adult	11-08-2006	Leverton Outgate: 53°0'N 0°7'E
	Caught by ringer	30-01-2014	Booterstown: 53°18'N 6°13'W (Dublin) 425km W 7y 5m 19d
DEW	Adult Male	14-08-1987	Norderheverkoog: 54°25'N 8°48'E (Schleswig-Holstein) Germany
6326965	Caught by ringer	22-08-1997	Wainfleet Marsh: c. 53°4'N 0°16'E 579km WSW 10y 0m 8d
DEW	Adult Female	22-04-1986	Witsum, Foehr: 54°42'N 8°25'E (Nordfriesische Inseln) Germany
5220143	Caught by ringer	12-08-1994	Wainfleet Marsh: c. 53°4'N 0°16'E 563km WSW 8y 3m 21d

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	81	185	7	22	14	-	22	37	23	99	101	177
New Holland/Goxhill	-	142	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	68	70	170
Cleethorpes-Humberston	61	151	77	46	-	-	11	78	58	12	14	4
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	185	89	302	371	281	-	60	426	127	298	179	155
Gibraltar Point	15	25	50	32	45	5	8	36	11	13	13	14
Wrangle*	-	-	33	150	-	-	2	-	10	2	-	100
Freiston Shore	48	12	50	170	200	-	95	277	85	220	70	50

The most significant counts during the early winter period were all in the Humber and The Wash, with only limited numbers elsewhere along the coast. Peak numbers at this time were 48 at Freiston Shore on Jan 5th, 50 at Witham Mouth on Jan 4th-5th, 142 at New Holland on Feb 16th and 151 at Cleethorpes on Feb 19th. There was a general decrease at most sites during Mar and Apr, but good migrant numbers during the spring included 230 at Goxhill Marsh on Apr 4th and 46 at Cleethorpes on Apr 19th. In The Wash there were 50 at Gib Point on Mar 26th and May 9th, 150 at Wrangle on Apr 21st, 172 at Freiston Shore on Apr 20th, 180 at Witham Mouth on Mar 30th and 76 at Frampton Marsh on Apr 19th. Freiston Shore produced a good late count of 200 on May 18th. By the last week of May, most migrants had moved on and mainly single figures were recorded only at Gib Point and Frampton Marsh, although there were 30 at the latter site on Jun 18th. Returning birds were widespread along the coast in generally single or low double figures for much of the autumn. The best concentrations were at Freiston Shore with peaks of 275 on Aug 3rd and 220 on Oct 11th, and at East Halton Skitter with 170 on Dec 6th. Other high counts included 78 at Cleethorpes on Aug 23rd, 80 at Frampton Marsh on Sep 27th, 64 at Witham Mouth on Dec 19th and 100 at Wrangle on Dec 29th. Inland records were singles at Covenham Res on Apr 26th and May 2nd and two there on May 20th, one at Baston-Langtoft Pits on May 6th-7th, two at Toft Newton Res on May 10th and one there on the 17th, and two at Whisby NR on July 21st.

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	6497	8547	496	-	-	-	1	153	29	329	8111	395
Cleethorpes	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3000	-	300	1
Humberston-Grainthorpe	5950	7273	3000	400	-	-	-	-	5000	5000	8000	1500
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	512	120	300	-	-	-	3	3500	200	56	675	900
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	64	192	96	-	-	-	-	110	15	133	66	198

<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	41675	27697	31091	20121	4239	1	27988	63698	82040	57523	64735	58500
Gibraltar Point	9600	7000	16400	16530	5380	16	1209	100000	105000	90004	30000	40000
Wainfleet*	12950	7500	25025	8300	-	-	10460	19000	1180	24000	23000	47000
Friskney*	2000	-	700	5470	2570	-	230	9000	200	60	-	5400
Wrangle*	1800	2200	145	1700	2	-	10250	20000	1280	1385	-	2200
Leverton*	825	525	3601	-	17	-	6656	15000	850	550	3785	410
Freiston Shore	2500	120	-	20	2	-	130	223	8	20	3600	70
Frampton Marsh	400	2902	30	400	1	12	255	350	160	5	8	1000
Welland*	8000	5300	-	1400	-	-	-	-	-	3000	4000	2500
Holbeach*	1000	550	800	1300	500	-	75	-	300	120	-	-
Dawsmere*	3600	2500	-	1550	50	-	-	-	43	450	-	-

The table includes all areas holding 500 or more. As quite often the case, individual site monthly maxima, derived from counts throughout the month, sometimes exceed the WeBS counts made on/close to a single date. On the Humber, the highest count was 7273 on Feb 27th-28th. On The Wash, numbers were as usual very high, especially in autumn when numbers at Gib Point remained above 50000 from the end of Aug until the end of Oct. Wainfleet WeBS totals also were high, though these include much overlap with the Gib Point totals. Elsewhere on The Wash, the highest counts involved WeBS totals of 20000 at Wrangle and 15000 at Leverton in the second week of Aug. Inland records of Knot are scarce but there was one at Covenham Res on Aug 20th-21st, and there were more than usual at Alkborough Flats including 19 on Sep 6th and 25 on Sep 14th. The ringing recoveries include two long-lived birds, the two making the longest recorded movements within Britain this year, and two international recoveries, the last of these a bird that ended up all at sea.

XR49280	Adult Caught by ringer	14-02-1998 14-08-2014	Heysham, near Lancaster: 54°1'N 2°55'W (Lancashire) Wrangle Tofts: 53°1'N 0°10'E 233km ESE 16y 6m 0d
SV70859	First-year Caught by ringer	28-01-2001 14-08-2014	Buckpool, Buckie, Moray: 57°40'N 3°0'W (Moray) Wrangle Tofts: 53°1'N 0°10'E 553km SSE 13y 6m 17d
SV70859	First-year Caught by ringer	28-01-2001 14-08-2014	Buckpool, Buckie, Moray: 57°40'N 3°0'W (Moray) Wrangle Tofts: 53°1'N 0°10'E 553km SSE 13y 6m 17d
XR49280	Adult Caught by ringer	14-02-1998 14-08-2014	Heysham, near Lancaster: 54°1'N 2°55'W (Lancashire) Wrangle Tofts: 53°1'N 0°10'E 233km ESE 16y 6m 0d
SR46380	Adult Caught by ringer	31-07-2011 22-05-2014	Wainfleet Marsh: 53°4'N 0°18'E Dynjandisvogur, Dynjandi, Arnarfjörður: 65°43'N 23°12'W (Vestur-Ísafjarðarsýsla) Iceland 1,922km NW 2y 9m 21d
SV90416	Adult Freshly dead (on ship)	26-07-2013 20-05-2014	Leverton Outgate: 53°0'N 0°9'E 500km SW of Iceland: 60°0'N 28°15'W North Atlantic Ocean 1,902km WNW 0y 9m 24d

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	5	3	2	22	2	5	31	59	68	52	30	3
Humberston-Donna Nook	1	-	2	2	1	-	2	26	7	2	-	-
Manby Flashes	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	19	24	17	-	-
Middlemarsh, Skegness	-	-	1	-	6	-	1	3	8	11	-	1
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	8	23	5	-	-

Freiston Shore	-	1	-	-	100	-	2	4	1	3	1	-
Frampton Marsh	12	30	40	100	40	7	65	65	200	50	80	85

Features of this year’s data were rather low winter numbers at Alkborough Flats and some high spring and autumn estimates at The Wash RSPB reserves. The latter included 100 at Frampton Marsh on Apr 13th, 100 at Freiston Shore on May 3rd (the only count from that reserve above four) and a Sep peak of c200 at Frampton Marsh on the 29th. The Alkborough Flats maximum of 68 came on Sep 8th. There was also again a marked autumn passage through Manby Flashes, peaking at 24 on Sep 10th and 22 on Sep 24th. One tardy recovery was received this year.

NLA	Adult Male	19-03-2009	Workum: 52°58'N 5°25'E (Friesland) The Netherlands
1508488	Alive (colour rings seen)	19-07-2009	Frampton Marsh: 52°55'N 0°1'E 362km W 0y 4m 0d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	27-07-2011	Titchwell Marsh Nature Reserve: 52°58'N 0°37'E (Norfolk) 322km W 2y 4m 8d

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus*

Vagrant. BBRC

One spring bird and one autumn bird were seen this year. The spring record was of one at Alkborough Flats on May 16th (ND, CCG, WG *et al*) and the autumn bird was an adult at Gib Point on Jul 29th (JPS *et al*). Both accepted BBRC (BB 108 p, 585).

This is not the first time that there have been two in a year, as there were two in May 1984. The first in Lincolnshire was one at Wisbech sewage farm on 18th May 1959, and this year’s two take the total to 12 individuals. The last bird before this year was one at Alkborough Flats on 16th-18th May 2008, a coincidence of date. Eight have occurred between 16th May and 8th June and the other four between 15th July and 4th August, so there are narrow windows for Broad-bills.



Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus* Gib Point Jul 27th 2014 © Leslie Davidson

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

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

Peak monthly counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	3	6	1	1
Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	-
Gibraltar Point	-	3	2	1	2	6	-	-
Freiston Shore	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	-
Frampton Marsh	-	2	-	6	10	50	4	-

The first bird of the spring was at Freiston Shore on Apr 27th. One arrived at Killingholme Haven Pits on May 14th when there were also two at Frampton Marsh which remained to the 15th. Another was present at Willow Tree Fen on the 15th. One was at Freiston Shore on May 17th, then 1-2 were seen at Gib Point from the 19th-25th with three on the 26th. Two were at Frampton Marsh on May 28th with one until the 30th. The only June record was of two birds at Gib Point on the 13th with one remaining to the 14th. Records of returning birds were initially concentrated in The Wash. One-two birds were at Frampton Marsh from Jul 1st-7th and 2-3 were regular there from the 19th until the arrival of six on Jul 29th. Single birds were at Leverton on Jul 26th and at Gib Point on 26th-27th. There was an increase to 10 birds at Frampton Marsh on Aug 2nd, then 1-3 regularly from the 3rd onwards. Elsewhere there were single birds at Gib Point on Aug 4th and at Wainfleet on the 10th until the appearance of 1-3 birds at Donna Nook from Aug 16th-25th. One-two were regular at Gib Point from Aug 25th onwards while others seen in the last week of the month were one at Freiston Shore on the 27th-28th, three at Alkborough Flats and two at Covenham Res on the 28th and three at Manby Flashes on the 30th-31st. Fifteen birds were present at Frampton Marsh on Sep 2nd, increasing to 26 next day, to 30 by the 6th and to a peak of 50 on Sep 11th. Note that the ringing recovery below shows that, while there must be turnover, some birds stay for at least a week. Counts at Frampton Marsh soon declined to 20 by the 15th, and then to 1-4 birds from the 17th onwards. At Gib Point there was a regular series of 1-4 birds until the 17th, with a peak of six on the 6th-7th. One bird was at Far Ings on Sep 4th and 1-3 were at Donna Nook on five dates from the 4th-14th. One was seen at Grainthorpe Haven on Sep 5th when there were also two at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes followed by one on the 7th and the 12th. Four-six birds were at Alkborough Flats on four dates from Sep 8th-19th and 1-3 were regular at Manby Flashes from 9th-26th with 5-6 from 22nd- 24th. One was at Cleethorpes on Sep 10th, one was at Grimsby on the 17th and six were at Pyewipe on the 17th. One-four were present at Frampton Marsh in Oct until the 12th, two were at Donna Nook on the 3rd, one was at Freiston Shore on 8th-9th and one was at Alkborough Flats on Oct 17th-24th and on Nov 9th.

NOS	First-year	27-08-2014	Revtangen, Klepp: 58°45'N 5°28'E (Rogaland) Norway
8N56650	Alive (colour rings seen)	07-09-2014	Frampton Marsh: 52°55'N 0°0'W 733km SSW 0y 0m 11d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	13-09-2014	Frampton Marsh: 52°55'N 0°0'W 733km SSW 0y 0m 17d

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Rare passage migrant. LBRC

In spring, birds were present at Frampton Marsh from May 13th to May 23rd (JB, DNw, JSa *et al*), beginning with one on the 13th, three on the 14th-16th, then 1-2 for three days until three again on the 20th, four on the 21st and three on the 22nd-23rd. It is not possible to be sure of how many there were in total. One much later in spring was at Gib Point on Jun 13th (KMW, RDn). In autumn there were three individuals. The first was at Frampton Marsh on Jul 24th (IE), the next at Alkborough Flats on Aug 16th (WG) and Aug 27th (CCG), being seen on some intervening dates at Blacktoft Sands, Yorkshire, and finally one was seen at Frampton Marsh on Sep 2nd-7th (JB *et al*).

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	72	129	264	386	391	1	1	72	31	200	111	206
Cleethorpes-Horseshoe Pt	28	26	8	60	16	-	-	-	50	60	61	18
Grainthorpe-Donna Nook	230	170	226	35	58	8	79	80	110	110	130	322
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	60	118	38	307	381	-	45	400	5	81	63	60
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	320	90	137	4	1219	80	3	1250	1170	37	850	574
Gibraltar Point	239	170	570	200	4500	1350	1000	4640	4850	2000	1200	800

Most records were from the open coast between Cleethorpes and the northern reaches of The Wash. In the early winter period, easily the highest counts were at Donna Nook and Gib Point. At Donna Nook several counts of 130-170 birds were made with peaks of 230 on Jan 25th and 226 on Mar 15th, while at Gib Point the highest counts were of 239 on Jan 5th, 570 on Mar 1st and 390 on Mar 31st. Fewer birds were apparent at most sites during Apr, but passage birds were especially pronounced in the Wash in May and early Jun. Four figure counts were regular at Gib Point, the most spectacular being 3288 on May 23rd, 4500 next day and 3065 on the 25th. The best count elsewhere during this period was 347 at Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe North End

on May 23rd. Returning passage birds began to arrive in late Jul and 450 were at Gib Point by the 25th with 1000 there by the 27th. There were good counts of 870 at Wainfleet on Aug 10th and 400 at Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe North End on the same day, but the heaviest passage continued to be at Gib Point where in excess of 2000 birds were regularly present and particularly high numbers were 4640 on Aug 15th, 4500 on Sep 10th and 4850 on the 12th. Up to 2000 were at Gib Point in early Oct, but only double figures were recorded at most other sites. Lower numbers continued in the late autumn, though occasional high counts at Gib Point included 810 on Oct 26th, 1200 on Nov 5th and 800 on Dec 25th. There were three figure counts on several days at Donna Nook with 322 on Dec 24th being the highest, while at Wainfleet there were 850 on Nov 9th and 447 on Dec 27th. Birds which penetrated the upper reaches of the Humber were five at Alkborough Flats on May 18th-19th and one there on Jul 23rd, plus two at Barton Pits on May 19th with three there on Sep 16th, four on Sep 18th and three on Oct 3rd. Inland birds were two at Toft Newton Res on May 6th and six there on the 18th, one at Baston-Langtoft Pits on May 7th with two on the 11th and one at Covenham Res on May 18th with five on the 19th and six on the 20th. Below is a sighting of a south coast wintering bird passing through Lincolnshire on autumn migration.

NT46250	03-10-2011	Eastoke, Hayling Island (Hampshire)
	sighted three times at Hayling Island, Hampshire, in October 2011	
Alive (colour rings seen)	26-08-2012	Eastoke, Hayling Island (Hampshire)
Alive (colour rings seen)	29-01-2013	Black Point, Hayling Island, Chichester Harbour (Hampshire)
Alive (colour rings seen)	10-08-2013	Donna Nook

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	3015	5172	2658	1535	174	-	63	1169	458	2199	4016	2794
Alkborough Flats	1250	1430	1200	32	20	1	140	43	87	380	396	942
Winteringham-Read's I	-	2200	300	-	-	-	-	110	2	1200	3200	1700
Barton	1	4	1	-	10	-	22	6	50	26	160	5
Cleethorpes-Grainthorpe	1000	884	1700	1365	270	-	-	1	2000	1400	1500	600
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	600	430	670	150	151	1	430	882	437	500	1200	400
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	390	452	423	161	23	-	33	300	45	914	363	612
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	8710	13554	8727	8739	6277	6	15789	11116	6249	7131	8542	8220
Gibraltar Point	600	5000	4490	3363	4090	45	3078	6018	10295	8320	6000	2300
Wainfleet*	1565	1262	3215	224	1192	-	4480	2355	612	2156	4210	2439
Friskney*	600	-	40	40	1070	-	320	4000	300	-	-	400
Wrangle*	-	4500	2530	4400	1380	-	10530	180	1000	1010	-	3500
Leverton*	923	1694	1162	-	800	4	3764	2770	382	298	1221	817
Freiston Shore	450	900	2000	150	70	3	1300	500	170	482	300	400
Witham*	500	-	200	150	150	-	600	150	-	100	-	100
Frampton Marsh	1000	600	620	1100	400	-	330	750	200	500	1100	180
Welland*	1550	1400	670	770	600	-	-	-	124	160	600	170
Holbeach*	275	130	25	200	500	-	350	-	105	320	-	-
Dawsmere*	540	120	-	470	-	-	-	40	1	920	120	-
Gedney*	55	830	340	400	11	-	55	129	-	580	-	-
Terrington*	705	420	320	-	46	-	65	1	-	9	-	-

The table includes most areas holding 300 of more birds. Additionally there were 930 at Pyewipe on Jan 13th and 500 at Howden Pullover on Oct 9th. There were some high counts at Alkborough Flats at either end of the year, including 1430 on Feb 17th, and improved coverage at Read's Island gave some good counts there, including 3200 on Nov 16th. Early autumn passage at Gib Point was smaller than 2013's but there were 670 south on Jul 17th and 195 south on the 20th. However, the WeBS count in the Wrangle sector of The Wash on Jul 28th was an astonishing 10530; this has been confirmed as correct by the BTO, and included an estimate of 10000 in the outer (Wrangle 30) subsector. Inland reports came from nine sites, most involving fewer than five birds, but also 13 at Toft Newton Res on May 11th, 17 at Covenham Res on Jul 18th, 10 at Fiskerton Fen on Aug 26th and seven at Covenham Res on Sep 4th.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

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

It was a very poor year with single birds recorded at Gib Point only. One flew south on Aug 25th and one flew north on Sep 10th. Other birds were seen on Sep 13th, flying south on Oct 11th and present all day on Oct 14th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

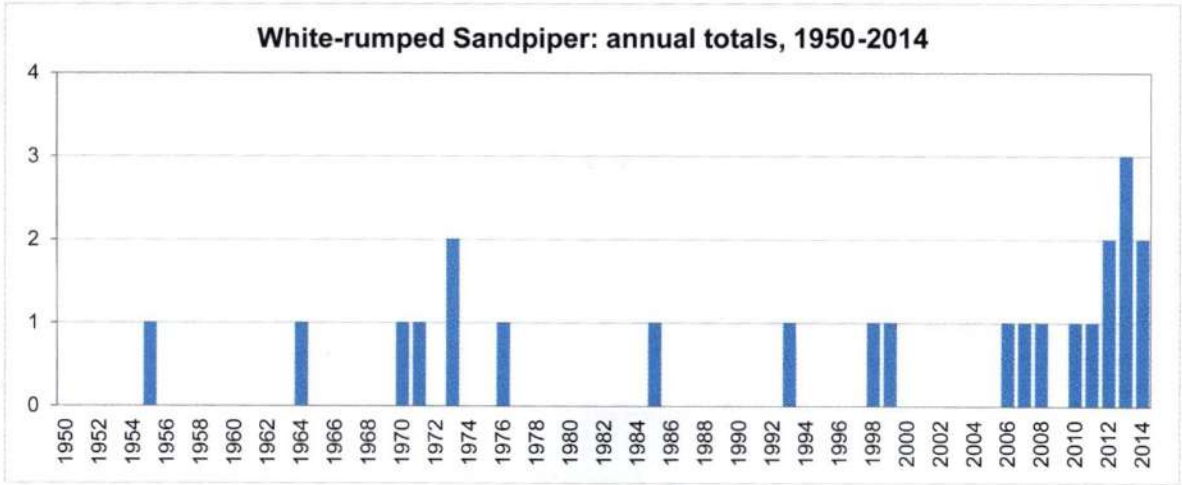
Passage migrant, rare/scarce in spring and scarce/fairly common in autumn with rare winter records

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	1	1	-
Gib Point	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	11	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	1	1	1	3	1	3	5	23	6	1	-

Wintering birds were one at Frampton Marsh from Feb 3rd and into Apr and one at Freiston Shore during Feb 9th-24th. A winter-plumaged bird appeared at Gib Point on May 1st, but no notable spring passage developed. Regular single birds were at Frampton Marsh during May with 2-3 from 15th-17th. Elsewhere there were only single birds at Gib Point on May 6th and the 22nd, at Skegness on May 13th-14th at Wainfleet on May 17th and at Donna Nook on May 22nd. One was at Gib Point on Jun 8th and another was seen at Frampton Marsh on Jun 28th-29th. One-two were present at Frampton Marsh from Jul 18th onwards with three on the 28th-30th, and there was one at Gib Point on Jul 30th. The main autumn passage continued until Oct and was most marked at Frampton Marsh where regular sightings in Aug peaked at five on the 22nd and the 29th. Up to eight were present there in Sep with 12-16 birds on four dates and a peak of 23 on the 15th, then there were up to six during Oct and the last bird on Nov 2nd. Alkborough Flats recorded 3-4 from Aug 27th-29th, then 1-3 on five days in Sep and one from Oct 17th to the end of the year. Two were at Donna Nook on Aug 1st, then single birds until Aug 14th, followed by five on Sep 6th and 1-3 from Sep 14th-Oct 3rd. There were 11 at Gib Point on Sep 3rd, otherwise just 1-2 on five dates from Aug 23rd-Sep 12th. Other coastal records were one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Aug 4th, 1-3 at Freiston Shore from Aug 3rd-Sep 3rd, one at Mablethorpe on Sep 29th and Oct 3rd and one at Skegness on Sep 12th. There was one at Middlemarsh Farm (Skegness) on May 13th-14th, two there on Aug 23rd, and further inland one at Toft Newton Res on Aug 27th, two at Kirkby on Bain GP on Aug 28th and one there next day. One at Manby Flashes on Aug 31st-Sep 1st was followed by four on 9th-12th, one on the 13th, five on the 22nd and two on Sep 23rd. Baston-Langtoft Pits had one on Sep 8th, two on the 14th, three on the 15th, two on the 17th, five on the 19th and one on Sep 20th. Single birds were at Covenham Res on Aug 28th, Sep 14th and Oct 15th.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

Vagrant. LBRC



An adult in winter plumage was at Gib Point on Jul 28th-30th (JPS, LHa, RHa *et al*) and then, probably the same bird, it was at Frampton Marsh on Aug 2nd-4th (TC, IE *et al*). A different

adult, this one in summer plumage, was then at Gib Point on Aug 6th and 8th, and presumably the same bird briefly on the 12th (KMW, RDn). These were the 22nd and 23rd county records, and the chart shows their recently increased frequency.



White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* Frampton Marsh RSPB Aug 3rd 2014 © Steve Keightley

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Rare autumn migrant, vagrant in spring. LBRC

This was another bumper year, with nine individuals or possibly more. The one spring record was an adult at Gib Point on 21st-23rd (RDn *et al*). The first of autumn was one at Frampton Marsh during Aug 19th-22nd (CJJ, SJ *et al*). Possibly the same, but counted as different, was one at Freiston Shore on Aug 23rd-30th (PS, SK *et al*); this was noted as an adult on the 30th. At the same time, there was an adult at Alkborough Flats on Aug 26th-28th (ND *et al*). One at Frampton Marsh on Aug 31st was the start of continuous presence there through to Sep 19th. Usually only one was seen but the count rose to three on Sep 11th-12th (none had been reported on the 10th) and there were two on Sep 12th-15th (JB, PS *et al*). Another one was at Manby Flashes on Sep 21st-24th (AT, CJJ, SJ *et al*), and the last of the year was a juvenile at Gib Point on Oct 18th (CPE via CSC).

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Rare passage migrant, mainly autumn. LBRC

A juvenile was at Frampton Marsh on Aug 10th-11th (JB *et al*). Presumably the same bird was also at Freiston Shore on the 11th (IE), and back at Frampton Marsh on the 15th (RSPB). Another juvenile was at Frampton Marsh on Sep 5th (LHa, RHa).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

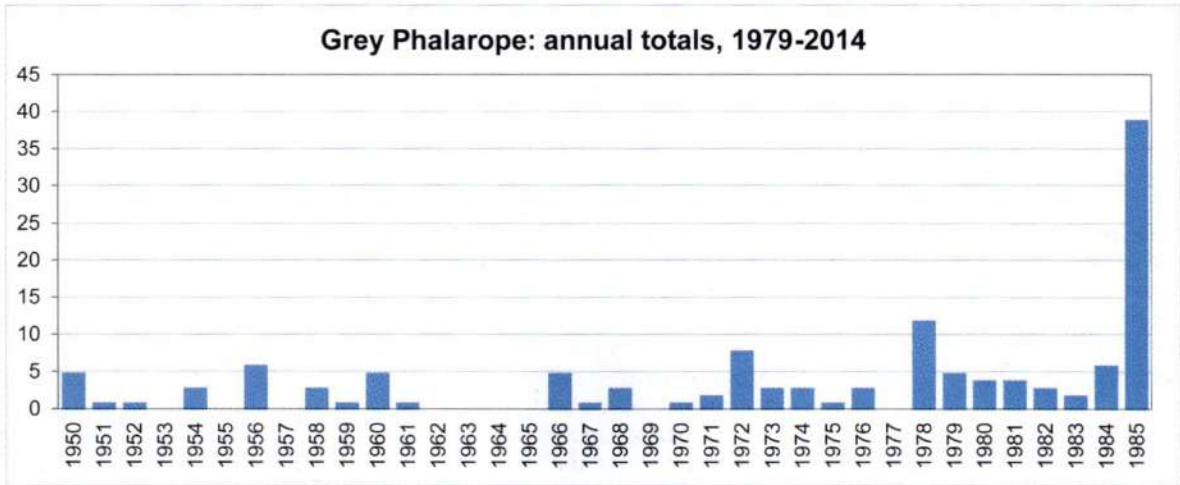
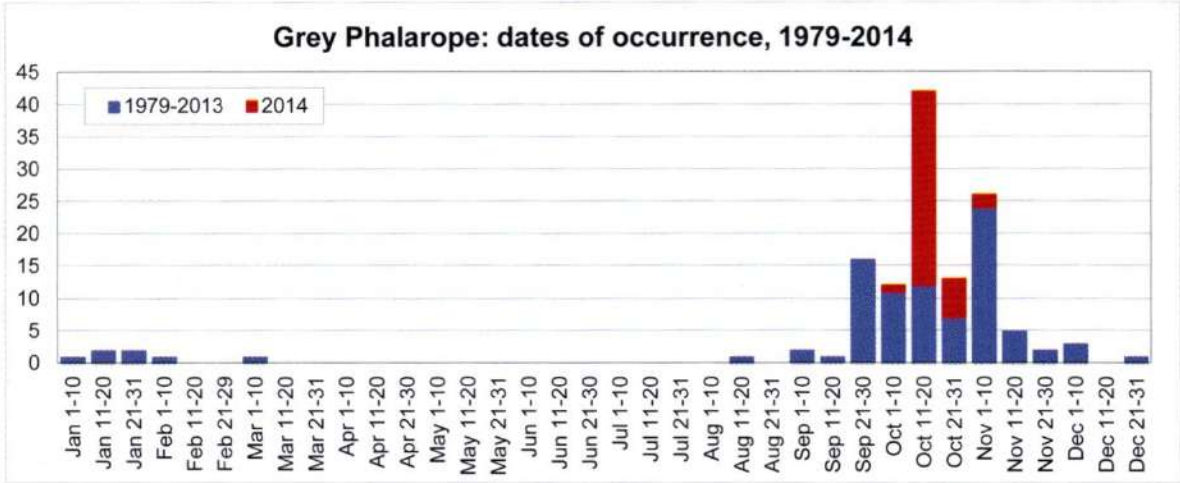
Rare passage migrant, mainly autumn, exceptional in winter. LBRC

One at Freiston Shore on Oct 6th-12th (JB, PS *et al*) was a typical autumn record. The next record, of three (possibly more) seen from a boat off Tabs Head, Witham Mouth, on Oct 16th (SK), was more unusual but the next few days were unprecedented. On Oct 18th at Gib Point, between 0820 and 1030 hrs, there was a slow south movement of 15 birds, mostly ones and twos but including groups of three and four, often settling on the sea as they went (KMW, JPS *et al*). On the 19th, another 12 moved south in a similar fashion between 0820 and 0930 hrs, this time including one group of three (KMW, JPS *et al*). Three further singles moved south on the 21st during 0820-0950 hrs (KMW, JPS) and three more on the 23rd during 0950-1010 hrs (KMW, RKW). The winds during the 18th-23rd were predominantly south-westerly and strong though not gale force. Finally, one flew south at Gib Point on the morning of Nov 2nd (KMW) and one was seen at Huttoft Car Terrace on Nov 5th (RL). The total for the year was thus 39 birds – but the possibility exists that the birds seen on successive days were the same, moving in and out of The Wash.



Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* Tabs Heads Oct 16th 2014 © Steve Keightley

As can be seen from the charts below, the movement of Oct 18th-23rd (33 birds) was at the most typical time of year for Grey Phalaropes to be seen here, but the number was remarkable. This was even more the case because, although a few were being seen elsewhere along the east coast, nowhere were there numbers as at Gib Point. The largest site count in Yorkshire was four, while in Norfolk it was one (per BirdGuides). There were a few more in western Britain including counts of five and six in Cornwall on the 21st, but only in County Mayo in Ireland was there a report in double figures – of 55 – on Oct 21st.



Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

Vagrant. BBRC

An adult in summer plumage, occasionally giving bursts of song, was at Covenham Res on May 19th-20th (GPL *et al*). Another, also an adult, was at Far Ings on Aug 12th (MWs), possibly the same as that at Easington, Yorkshire, on Aug 7th. Both accepted by BBRC (BB 108 p.587). These were the third and fourth county records, previous ones having been as follows:

2005 Adult at Gib Point, Jul 11th

2009 Adult at Gib Point, Jun 17th



Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* Far Ings on Aug 12th 2014 © Mandy West

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	-	-	-	3	3	-	11	5	2	-	-	-
Barton Pits	-	-	-	1	2	1	10	4	2	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	2	2	-	7	8	10	1	-	-
Covenham Res	-	-	-	4	5	-	12	23	14	3	-	-
Gib Point	-	-	-	1	2	1	18	10	12	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	1	1	1	4	-	8	4	21	-	-	-

The table includes most sites with counts of ten or more. Birds were recorded in every month of the year except Nov, beginning with one at Freiston Shore on Jan 10th, whilst in Feb one was at Frampton Marsh on the 17th. Other early year or over-wintering birds were noted in Mar with one in Boston Town centre on the 3rd, and possibly the same bird at Frampton Marsh on the 4th and 23rd. Indeed, all of these Jan-Mar records could relate to one individual. Clear signs of migration began in mid-Apr with one at Barton Pits on the 16th and 1-2 widespread thereafter on every day of the month with a peak of four at Covenham Res on the 23rd. This pattern continued through May with 1-2 birds reported from some twenty sites and a high count of eight at Cleethorpes Country Park on May 4th. There was something of a hiatus in Jun when just five single birds were noted, and none between the 1st and 15th. Returning birds were strongly evident from early Jul to the end of Sep, with 1-4 recorded almost every day at nearly forty sites; peak counts apart from those tabulated included 14 between South Ferriby Sluice and Winteringham on Jul 13th, about 15



Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* Covenham Res May 20th 2014 © Graham Catley



in The Haven on an RSPB Wash bird cruise on Aug 18th, six at Cleethorpes on Sep 10th and five at Humberston Fitties on Sep 30th. The highest counts of all were 23 at Covenham Res on Aug 26th and 21 at Frampton Marsh on Sep 9th. In Oct singles were at Donna Nook on the 1st, Gedney on the 11th and at Covenham Res from the 12th-21st with three there on the 15th. The final bird of the year was at Sutton Bridge on Dec 31st.

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	9	6	13	12	3	12	25	25	16	12	6	8
Minimum Lincs total	13	5	17	14	2	39	109	87	37	22	9	8
Alkborough Flats	-	1	-	1	-	3	11	8	3	3	-	2
Donna Nook	-	-	-	1	-	1	7	12	3	1	-	-
Middlemarsh	-	-	2	1	-	-	3	4	2	4	2	-
Gib Point	-	-	1	1	-	3	6	6	3	1	1	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	1	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	-	1	1	1	15	26	19	3	3	1	-
North Kelsey Moor	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	3	-	2	-	1
Manby Flashes	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	2	4	-	-	-
West Ashby Pits	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	2	3	1	-	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	11	5	2	1	-
Marston STW	2	-	-	2	-	2	6	3	3	-	3	-

The table above includes all sites recording birds in at least four months and with maxima of three or more. In the first quarter of the year 1-2 were widely seen and there were three on Louth Canal on Jan 5th and three at Thurlby Sand Pit on Mar 4th. There was little evidence of spring passage in Apr and May when one to two were noted at thirteen sites on a total of eighteen days. After a gap of nearly three weeks after the last on May 20th, returning birds were recorded from Jun 8th when 1-4 were widespread almost every day until early Oct. Individual site peaks included 26 at Frampton Marsh on Jul 9th, 11 at Alkborough Flats on Jul 24th, 12 at Donna Nook on Aug 9th, and 11 at Kirkby on Bain GP on Aug 17th. High counts other than those tabulated above included seven at Tetney Marsh on Jul 25th and nine at Grainthorpe Marsh on Aug 4th. In the final quarter of the year numbers fell off significantly and other than those in the table, there was one at Wainfleet Common on Oct 5th, one at Withern Washland on Oct 12th, two at Thornton Abbey on Oct 28th, one at Toft Newton Res on Nov 2nd, one at Thurlby Fen on Dec 6th, one at Bardney Pits and Nocton Fen from Dec 7th-9th, one at Conisholme Fen on Dec 17th and finally one at Woodhall Spa on Dec 24th.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	3	6	6	13	3	10	3	8	24	13	10	10
Gib Point	-	-	2	1	1	1	2	3	5	6	1	-
Freiston Shore	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	12	6	7	1	-
Frampton Marsh	1	-	2	3	1	6	11	12	11	3	1	1

Wintering birds present during Jan-Mar were six at Alkborough Flats, two at Gib Point, one at Freiston Shore and 1-2 at Frampton Marsh. Numbers rose at Alkborough Flats in Apr to a peak of 13 on the 14th, but there was only very light passage elsewhere, hence one at Donna Nook on Apr 5th, 1-3 regularly at Frampton Marsh all month, one at Gib Point on the 22nd and one at Tetney Lock on Apr 25th. Only a few remained in May and the last spring birds were two at Alkborough Flats on the 5th. One was at Gib Point on Jun 3rd and one was at Alkborough Flats on Jun 8th increasing to four on the 18th and to 10 by the 25th. There were also single birds at Frampton Marsh from Jun 15th rising to six from 25th-28th. One at Covenham Res on Jun 25th was the only inland record of the year. Only 1-3 birds were recorded occasionally at Alkborough Flats in Jul and Aug until eight on Aug 22nd, followed by further increases to 23-24 birds from Sep 7th-16th. Good counts of 8-13 birds were frequent during Oct and 10 were still present to Dec 7th with eight on 19th. Similar patterns occurred in the Wash with 1-5 birds fairly regularly, and up to 12, at both Freiston Shore and Frampton Marsh during Aug and Sep. Frampton Marsh had 1-3 birds in Oct and one to Dec 27th, while after seven at Freiston Shore on Oct 2nd, the only

other records there were singles on Oct 11th and Nov 16th. Passage at Gib Point involved mainly low counts of 1-3, but occasionally 5-6 birds, with the last record of one on Nov 1st. Other sites noted very low numbers, hence one at Donna Nook on Jul 6th and 1-3 birds there on nine dates from Aug 13th-Sep 18th. One was at Theddlethorpe on Aug 12th, followed by one at Horseshoe Point on Aug 27th-28th, two at Saltfleet Haven on the 27th and one at Humberston Fitties on Aug 31st-Sep 1st. One was at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Oct 30th and one was at Read's Island during Nov 16th-Dec 29th.

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>Coast & estuaries</i>												
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	-	-	-	5	5	1	8	31	16	6	2	1
Gibraltar Point	-	-	-	4	8	2	22	32	27	13	6	-
Butterwick*	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	1	-	-	-	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	3	6	-	108	43	22	1	-	-
Frampton Marsh	3	2	-	4	4	3	77	6	16	6	5	-
Boatmere Scrape	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	49	73	-	-	-
<i>Inland</i>												
Covenham Reservoir	-	-	-	3	4	1	-	2	-	2	-	-

The table includes all sites holding 15 or more, with a few exceptions, and the inland site with most records. Over-wintering or early birds in the first quarter, apart from those at Frampton Marsh tabulated above, included one at Read's Island on Feb 19th, one between South Ferriby Sluice and Winteringham on Mar 21st and three at The Wash Welland WeBS sector on Mar 29th. Regular spring passage was noted from Apr 10th and small numbers were widely recorded through to the end of May. There was something of a hiatus in the first two weeks of Jun when only three birds were recorded with one at Donna Nook from 1st-3rd and two at Gib Point on the 3rd but returning birds were seen from Jun 15th and in a remarkable run this species was noted on every day from late Jun until early Nov except Oct 26th. The peak count anywhere was 108 at the high tide roost at Freiston Shore on Jul 16th. Peaks elsewhere included 77 at Frampton Marsh on Jul 15th, 31 at Donna Nook on Aug 16th, and 73 at Boatmere Scrape on Sep 11th. Away from the tabulated sites, counts of 10 or more came from three sites, with 12 at Alkborough Flats on Sep 7th, 10 at the Dawsmere sector of The Wash also on Sep 7th and 10 at Humberston Fitties on Sep 30th. Additional places attracting five or more during the autumn were the Holbeach and Welland sectors of The Wash, and Middlemarsh (Skegness). Small numbers were seen at scattered inland localities, mostly single birds but including three at Willow Tree Fen on Jul 19th. Counts were smaller in Oct and declined sharply in Nov. Apart from those in the table above, there were singles at South Ferriby on Nov 9th, Alkborough Flats on the 14th and Middlemarsh, Skegness, on the same day. The final birds of the year were one at Donna Nook on Dec 5th and the bird at South Ferriby/Read's Island which has been over-wintering for twenty years. The sightings below involve a bird ringed on the Ythan estuary in Aberdeenshire noted on either side of The Wash later the same autumn.

DE81212	First-year	06-08-2014	Kirkton of Logie Buchan: 57°21'N 2°1'W (Aberdeenshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	18-10-2014	Holme next The Sea: 52°58'N 0°33'E (Norfolk) 514km SSE Oy 2m 12d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	01-11-2014	Gibraltar Point: 53°6'N 0°19'E 496km SSE Oy 2m 26d

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

Vagrant. BBRC

An adult was present at Frampton Marsh for two weeks from Jul 11th to 26th (TC *et al*). Accepted BBRC (BB 108 p.587).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

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

The first bird of the year was seen at Middlemarsh, near Skegness, on Apr 22nd and again on the 27th. One was at Frampton Marsh on May 4th with two there on the 5th-6th and one was at Kirkby on Bain GP from May 5th-7th. There was one at Fiskerton Fen on May 7th-8th, two at Alkborough Flats on the 8th with one on the following day and one at Cleethorpes on the 10th. Single birds appeared at Baston-Langtoft Pits and at Gib Point on May 15th, the latter remaining

to the 17th when one arrived at Frampton Marsh. There were two at Frampton Marsh on May 19th and three at Manby Flashes on the 20th-21st with one still there on the 22nd. One was at Gib Point on May 22nd-23rd. The only June records concerned one at Alkborough Flats on the 14th and one at Frampton Marsh on the 29th-30th. Autumn passage began with one at Frampton Marsh on Jul 9th, rising to five there on the 12th, then 1-3 on several dates until five on Jul 26th and seven by the 30th. Willow Tree Fen had two on Jul 18th and one on the 19th and the 25th, two were at Alkborough Flats on the 19th-20th with three on Jul 26th. One was at Gib Point on Jul 22nd-23rd, three were at Kirkby on Bain GP on the 23rd and one was at Donna Nook on the 23rd, 26th and 28th. Single birds were at Skegness on Jul 24th and at West Ashby on the 27th and two were at Manby Flashes on Jul 31st. In Aug, 1-2 birds were seen on most days at Frampton Marsh until the 14th with peaks of four on the 3rd and five on the 4th. Two were at Donna Nook on Aug 8th with three on the 9th, four on the 13th, then 1-2 from the 14th-22nd while Gib Point had one on Aug 9th-10th, two on the 12th-13th and sporadic single birds to Aug 27th. Later birds were one at Alkborough Flats on Sep 10th-11th and one at Gib Point on Sep 21st.

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	845	566	400	216	102	17	124	233	207	554	1064	679
Alkborough Flats	127	54	63	60	1	8	33	37	74	76	63	105
Read's Island-South Ferriby	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	35	27	141	10	44
Barrow-Goxhill	5	101	119	74	-	-	-	-	-	83	141	5
Killingholme-Immingham	100	-	22	-	-	-	-	180	55	20	129	137
Pyewipe	260	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	30
Cleethorpes-Grainthorpe	247	187	107	110	88	-	55	68	100	91	394	117
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	130	112	110	40	6	7	80	135	66	190	167	230
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	300	112	51	10	8	12	25	70	36	78	154	160
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	2670	1845	1561	871	463	372	1417	2306	2354	2179	2036	2086
Gibraltar Point	460	256	300	495	66	58	497	800	753	243	453	134
Wainfleet*	366	127	81	33	61	33	93	6	22	40	77	452
Friskney*	500	-	198	87	17	69	-	172	153	205	582	440
Wrangle*	27	120	163	200	169	26	20	70	49	142	-	100
Leverton*	119	23	65	14	22	30	9	49	5	24	54	71
Freiston Shore	250	819	111	181	13	39	900	775	851	881	240	225
Frampton Marsh	211	90	99	61	37	25	300	116	320	111	130	400
Welland*	420	32	280	53	20	-	-	-	353	354	340	198
Dawsmere*	95	50	60	94	-	16	-	90	300	110	92	-
Gedney	80	35	47	35	28	38	113	47	11	31	-	-
Terrington*	230	141	154	-	30	-	239	404	152	136	-	-
<i>Inland</i>												
Trent Port (Marton)	-	10	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Kirkby-on-Bain GP	15	5	9	12	1	-	-	1	-	2	3	1
Hagnaby Lock/Fen	4	20	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Willow Tree Fen	2	17	5	5	3	2	-	-	-	-	20	-

The table shows all inland sites with more than 10 and all coastal sites with 100 or more, except 16 at RAF Woodhall in Feb, 12 at Middlemarsh, Skegness, on Apr 15th rising to 24 by May 14th, 18 by the R Witham (Chapel Hill-Kirkstead) in Dec, and 11 at Middlemarsh in Dec. Breeding estimates from the RSPB Wash reserves were 223 pairs at Frampton Marsh and 36 pairs at Freiston Shore, similar to last year's totals. The two Redshank recoveries below, of birds found dead on the Humber, were ringed earlier in the autumn in east Scotland, the first not far from the Greenshank listed above.

DT03001	First-year Freshly dead	22-08-2014 11-11-2014	Meikle Tarty, near Ellon: 57°19'N 2°1'W (Aberdeenshire) P66 Humber Refinery: 53°37'N 0°15'W 426km SSE 0y 2m 20d
DE15718	First-year Freshly dead	14-08-2014 29-11-2014	Wigeon Hide Pools, Montrose Basin: 56°43'N 2°31'W (Angus) Cleethorpes: 53°31'N 0°1'W 388km SSE 0y 3m 15d

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtes minimus*

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	6	5	6	4	1	4	4	8	8
Minimum Lincs total	9	7	8	6	1	5	5	28	14

Records came from 16 locations in the first winter period and 13 in the second winter period, but most sightings involved low single-figure counts. In the first part of the year, most counts were of 1-2 but there were three at Gib Point on Apr 7th. There were several singles in the last week of Apr, and the last of spring was one at Frampton Marsh on May 1st. The first in autumn was one at Seacroft Marsh on Sep 17th. As earlier, most reports were of 1-2 but there were counts of four at Alkborough Flats on Nov 16th and Dec 12th, while on the saltmarsh at Tetney five were seen on Nov 6th and 18 on Nov 9th. The birds at Tetney Marsh are in an area where Jack Snipe have traditionally occurred, but to find them here as in many places means disturbing them, so searches are kept to a minimum. The species can be so hard to find, flushing only at short range, that our knowledge of how many there may be in the county is minimal.

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 2011	21	14	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	12	6
Gib Point 2012	4	44	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	7	5	53
Gib Point 2013	25	10	15	67	-	-	-	-	-	4	8	7
Gib Point 2014	10	8	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	3

The 2014 BTO Woodcock survey, based on three visits during May-June (see 2013 report for more detail), recorded maximum counts (2013 in brackets) of 0 (1) at Crowle Moors, 13 (19) at Stonepit Wood, 13 (10) at Laughton Forest (west), 9 (5) at Laughton Forest (east), 4 (1) at Cocklode Wood, near Wragby, 0 (5) Southrey Wood, near Bardney, 13 (11) at Minting Park (Chambers Farm Wood), 7 (7) at Willingham Woods and 7 (9) at Kirkby Moor. The combined totals show a small decline from 68 to 66, but the failure to find the species at two sites is indicative of the wider trend. Other than at the surveyed sites, probable breeding was reported from Twyford Wood in the south-west. The maximum number of birds recorded during the year was 10 at Gib Point on Jan 5th. Records of birds flushed by the beating lines on shooting estates would have given a more accurate picture of winter visitors and breeding remains under-recorded.

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	3	25	2	21	-	17	10	16	55	92	56	30
Barton Pits	3	8	17	2	-	-	-	-	9	30	15	6
Humberston-Tetney	5	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	5	5	37	-
Donna Nook	1	2	6	1	-	-	11	34	8	19	1	1
Manby Flashes	-	5	3	11	-	-	9	45	20	3	2	3
Gibraltar Point	18	5	12	11	3	1	22	18	39	41	19	8
Freiston Shore	5	1	3	4	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	1
Frampton Marsh	33	9	4	3	1	1	40	20	50	3	11	5
Laughton Forest	24	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	27
Whisby NR	55	64	31	3	-	-	2	2	7	7	18	25
Hagnaby Lock Fen	25	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	25	1
Baston Fen	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	39
Willow Tree Fen	5	-	8	2	-	-	28	2	5	1	-	-

The table includes most sites recording counts of 20 or more, and details of counts over 40 are highlighted in the text. At Pyewipe on the Humber 47 were counted on Jan 13th. Inland 49 were present at Trent Port (Marton) on Feb 2nd and 42 at Laughton Common on Feb 19th. Counts at Whisby NR exceeded 40 for much of mid Jan-late Feb, with several counts exceeding previous records for the site; the highest totals included 55 on Jan 23rd and then 64 on Feb 7th. At Baston Fen a count of 40 was made on Mar 15th. Drumming hinted at breeding at Crowle Waste on Mar 30th and Frampton Marsh on Jun 26th. In autumn, 40 were counted at Frampton Marsh on Jul 30th and 50 on Sep 6th. Manby Wetlands held around 45 on Aug 5th. At Alkborough Flats the

highest counts all came from later in the autumn. There were 45 on Sep 19th, c55 on Sep 23rd, 75 on Oct 2nd-3rd, 92 on Oct 17th, 74 on Oct 24th and 56 on Nov 16th. The age of the following ringing recovery exceeds the official BTO longevity record for Snipe of 16 years but unfortunately the date of death could not be determined.

RK67857	Full-grown	04-09-1996	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W
	Long dead (leg only)	14-09-2014	Oasby: 52°55'N 0°31'W 11km ESE 18y 0m 10d

Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni*

Vagrant. BBRC

An adult was at Gib Point on Jul 14th (JPS *et al*). It was there for a little over three hours before flying off high to the south-west. This was the first Lincolnshire record of this species, and there is an article about the event on page 167 of this report. Accepted BBRC (BB 108 p.590).

There has been one record of a pratincole not identified to species (in 1980), one record of Oriental Pratincole (in 2010), and five records of Collared Pratincole (in 1827, 1973, 1981, 2009 and 2011).



Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* Gib Point Jul 14th 2014 © Paul Neale

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

One flew north at Gib Point on Jan 6th. All other records were in Aug-Dec. The first of those was one at Pye's Hall on Aug 31st, and Sep records comprised, at Gib Point, an adult north on the 8th, a juvenile south on the 13th, 16 (five adults and 11 juveniles) south on the 22nd, and one juvenile on the 30th, plus elsewhere one at Tetney Marsh on the 23rd and three at Sutton Bridge on the 24th. Sightings of 1-2 were frequent at Gib Point and in The Wash during Oct, but along with other skuas, the 13th saw larger numbers, including 20 at Sandilands, one at Huttoft Car Terrace and 15 at the Nene Mouth. Seven flew south at Mablethorpe on Oct 21st and three juveniles south at Gib Point on the 23rd. On Nov 5th, in rather slack north-westerly conditions preceding a low pressure system, 19 flew south past Sutton on Sea, with 16 at Sandilands and 14 at Gib Point presumably including many of the same birds. The next records all came on Nov 17th: one at the Humber Bridge, seven juveniles moving up the Humber at East Halton Skitter, six south at Chapel Point, and three juveniles at Gib Point. A few records of 1-3 followed before widespread sightings on Nov 29th in light south-east winds and poor visibility. These included four at Alkborough Flats, the first records there, eight west at Barton upon Humber, one at Donna Nook, one south at Saltfleet Haven and three south at Gib Point. The biggest movement of the year came on Dec 2nd, in brisk northerlies, with 49 south at Huttoft Car Terrace and 81 south at Gib Point, all thought to have been juveniles. This last total is believed to be a record for Gib Point and comes very close to the record for Lincolnshire, which involved 92 (85 adults and seven juveniles) past Huttoft on Sep 29th 1988. On the 3rd, 12 more flew south at Mablethorpe and two at Crook Bank. The last records of the year were two juveniles north at Gib Point on Dec 6th, one north on the 10th

and one juvenile north on the 21st. While the number of sightings this year was fewer than in the previous bumper years of 1985, 1988 and 2007, it was nonetheless impressive because of the size and very late date of the counts on Dec 2nd. As with previous years with large numbers of Pomarine Skuas, 2014 was evidently one of high productivity in the Arctic.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Fairly common/common autumn passage migrant. Scarce in spring, and rare in winter and inland.

The first of the year was one at South Ferriby that appeared to have flown north along the R Ancholme before turning north-east over the Humber on Apr 20th. At Gib Point, one was seen on May 13th and a different bird flew inland on May 19th. One-seven occurred on 16 days in Jul at Gib Point, with two at Donna Nook on the 12th and a few in The Wash late in the month. Aug began with 10 on the 2nd and 12 on the 3rd at Gib Point and frequent records in smaller numbers from there and elsewhere on the coast and Wash. On Aug 26th, in strong easterlies, there were 92 south at Gib Point and 20 at Sutton Bridge. After that, counts reverted mainly to single figure ones, mainly at Gib Point but also occasionally further north on the coast or in The Wash, through to early Dec. There were exceptions, beginning with 15 at Gib Point on Sep 8th and 15 again there on Sep 21st. On Oct 13th, moving with other skuas, there were c40 at Sandilands and 14 at Freiston Shore. A small flurry on Nov 5th including five at Donna Nook and five at Huttoft Car Terrace, after which there were three at Freiston Shore on Nov 26th, one south at Gib Point on Dec 2nd and one south at Mablethorpe on Dec 3rd.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

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

There was one at Freiston Shore on Aug 28th (DRob) and a juvenile on the sea off Gib Point on the 29th (JPS). Two were seen at Anderby Creek on Sep 18th (CRM) and two juveniles flew south at Gib Point on the 21st (KMW). A juvenile flew north at Gib Point on Sep 24th (NAL). A dark morph juvenile flew in off the sea and over the beach at Gib Point on Sep 26th (KMW). One was seen at Donna Nook on Oct 9th (SL), and then on the 13th there were two pale juveniles north together at Gib Point (NAL). Finally, one was seen at Humberston Fitties on Oct 16th (RL).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

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

In the first half of the year, there were only eight records. Seven of them were at Gib Point, as follows: one south on Jan 24th, two south on each of Feb 8th and Feb 9th, one south on Feb 15th, and singles north on Mar 17th, Apr 15th and Jun 13th. There was also one at Donna Nook on Apr 10th. There were singles at Gib Point on Jul 19th and 20th, and one at Donna Nook on Aug 3rd and 1-2 at Gib Point on several more dates to Aug 18th. Some much larger numbers then occurred during a short spell of strong easterlies, including six at Sutton Bridge and 37 at Gib Point on Aug 26th. In Sep, single figure counts were frequent, especially at Gib Point, and there were 11 at Sutton Bridge on the 21st. In early Oct, reports from The Wash predominated, including 12 at Freiston Shore on the 8th and 9th, and 18 there on the 13th. Also on Oct 13th, in a strong north-east/north wind, 42 were at the Nene Mouth, 12 of which flew inland, and there was an estimate of c180 at Sandilands. Through the rest of Oct and early Nov, counts of 1-9 were frequent along the coast, with occasional higher numbers. There were 20 at Huttoft Car Terrace on Oct 22nd and 12 south at Gib Point on the 23rd. On Nov 5th, 36 flew south at Sutton on Sea, and there were 10 south at Gib Point on Nov 7th. After mid Nov, most reports were of 1-2 but there were six at Gib Point on Nov 17th and 21 south there on Dec 2nd. The only records away from the coast at this time were one at Freiston Shore on Nov 26th and two there on the 27th.

A Great Skua seen at Kirkby on Bain GP in 2012 was colour-ringed and the details have now been obtained (DCo), see below. Bear Island lies well to the north of Norway and is closer to Svalbard than mainland Europe. The bird was last seen on the island on 7th August 2011 at 37 days old before being relocated at Kirkby on Bain on 26th April 2012. Interestingly, the mother of this bird was also ringed and was found dead in the Isle of Wight in November 2014. The ringing scheme started in 2004 and recently birds have been fitted with geolocating loggers which confirm that part of the Bear Island population overwinters around Great Britain in the North Sea, the English Channel and the Celtic Sea while the rest overwinters around the Grand Banks of Newfoundland and off the west coast of Africa as far south as the Gulf of Guinea.

NOS	Nestling	12-07-2011	Arctic Ocean, Bear Island (Bjørnøya): 74°29'N 18°47'E
363568	Alive (colour rings seen)	26-04-2012 to 28-04-12	Kirkby on Bain Pits: 53°07'N 0°9'W 2523km 0y 9m 14-16d

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

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

There were only three definite records during the year. Single birds were seen at Donna Nook on Oct 9th (SL), at Gib Point on Oct 24th (KMW) and at Huttoft Car Terrace on Nov 5th (RL).

Razorbill *Alca torda*

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

Two flew south at Gib Point on Jan 1st, followed by two on Jan 5th and at least one on the 8th. There was one at Freiston Shore on Feb 1st and single birds flew south at Gib Point on Feb 2nd, the 3rd and the 9th. On Jun 2nd, 43 including a good flock of 40 flew south at Gib Point and later records from the same site were six north on Jun 18th, single birds on Jul 6th and Oct 14th, three south on Oct 26th and two on the 27th.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Scarce/common passage migrant and winter visitor.

The only records in the early part of the year were single birds at Donna Nook on Jan 5th and at Freiston Shore on Feb 1st. Two were seen at Gib Point on Nov 4th, then during a strong northerly wind on Nov 5th there were good counts of 62 at Sutton on Sea, 36 at Huttoft Car Terrace and 94 at Gib Point. Elsewhere, there were two at Donna Nook, one at Saltfleet Haven, four at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes and one which flew inland at Frampton Marsh. On Nov 6th a high count of 72 was made in the Humber estuary at Barton, with two of these birds taken by Peregrines. On the same date there were 16 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes, three at Huttoft Bank Car Terrace, two at Gib Point and one in a garden at Halton Hologate. Later records were much less frequent with four at Freiston Shore on Nov 7th, one in a garden at Holbeach St Marks on the 8th and two at Cleethorpes on the 11th. Two were at Mablethorpe on Nov 16th followed by single birds at Gib Point on the 17th and the 18th, at Freiston Shore on the 26th and at Barton upon Humber on Nov 29th. There were eight at Huttoft Car Terrace and four at Gib Point on Dec 2nd and the final bird of the year was at Gib Point on the 3rd.



Little Auk *Alle alle* Huttoft Nov 5th 2014 © Graham Catley

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

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

There were peaks at Gib Point of 22 south on Jan 1st and 24 south on Jan 17th, otherwise only low single figure counts were made during the rest of the year and there were only four sightings during Mar-Jun. Apart from seven at Gib Point on Jan 6th and five there on the 8th, there were fairly regular records of 1-4 birds at six sites between Humberston Fitties and Witham Mouth in Jan and until Feb 16th. One was at Donna Nook on Mar 15th. One-two were noted at Gib Point on eight dates between May 30th and Aug 27th with one also at Freiston Shore on the last date. By Sep, 1-3 were at Gib Point on six dates, there was one on the Humber by the bridge on the 21st and single birds were at Donna Nook on the 27th and the 28th. Gib Point contributed most of the records in Oct, but there were still only 1-2 birds present on 10 dates plus 1-2 birds at Freiston Shore on the 8th, the 9th and the 13th and two at Huttoft Car Terrace on the 22nd. There were five at Huttoft Car Terrace on Nov 5th and single birds at Gib Point on the 5th and the 28th, at Frampton Marsh on the 10th and at Donna Nook on Nov 22nd. Two were at Huttoft Car Terrace on Dec 2nd and one was at Gib Point on 16th.

Most unidentified distant auks recorded on seawatches presumably belonged to this species. No large numbers were noted at any sites during the year with single or low double figure counts made chiefly in Jan and early Feb and during Sep-Nov.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

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

Peak monthly counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Humberston-Tetney	-	3	-	-	-	3
Grainthorpe-Donna Nook	-	-	-	2	2	5
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	1	1	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	15	133	40	86	60	2
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	-	3	1
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	8	8	3

The first of spring were four at Gib Point on Apr 16th, and high counts there were 133 (including 132 north) on May 2nd and 102 south on May 7th. Breeding at Gib Point involved 18 pairs which reared 26 young to fledging, the best year especially in terms of productivity for several years. No breeding was reported from elsewhere. In addition to those in the table, there were significant numbers around The Wash, mainly seen during WeBS counts, between the end of Jul and mid Sep (and the Frampton Marsh counts in the table include some from areas beyond the RSPB reserve boundary there). Birds were noted at various locations all the way from Wainfleet to Terrington, with the highest totals being 12 at Friskney Marsh and 30 at Gedney Marsh on Aug 9th, 15 in the Witham sector on Aug 11th and c.35 at Witham Mouth on Aug 18th. The autumn peak at Gib Point was 86 on Jul 20th. Inland, there were one at Boultham Mere on May 5th, two at Thorpe Tilney Dales on May 6th and one at Covenham Res on May 27th-28th, while at Alkborough Flats there were two on Jul 5th and one in the Humber on Jul 18th. There was a handful of records after mid Sep, the last being two south at Gib Point on the 22nd and three at Humberston Fitties on the 30th. As can be seen from the ringing recovery below, Little Terns can be long-lived (the BTO scheme record is 21 years 10 months). In one sense, this is encouraging because it means they have many years in which to produce offspring. On the other hand, such longevity can obscure the effects of poor productivity, as surviving adults continue to nest with no success.

2013 addition Two pairs of breeding Little Terns were on the shingle ridge of Rimac foreshore on Jul 10th 2013. One pair had two young and the other had an unknown number but it is unknown whether or not they fledged.

NV47385	Nestling Female	04-07-1993	Tetney: 53°31'N 0°1'E
	Freshly dead	08-06-2014	Blakeney Point: 52°58'N 0°58'E (Norfolk) 88km SE 20y 11m 4d

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

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

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Alkborough Flats	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bagmoor/Winterton Floods	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Covenham Reservoir	1	8	-	-	-	-	-



Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* Frampton Marsh RSPB May 18th 2014 © Neil Smith



Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* Frampton Marsh RSPB May 25th 2014 © Neil Smith

Gibraltar Point	-	1	-	-	1	2	-
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Toft Newton	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Number of sites	3	4	-	2	4	1	-
Minimum Lincs total	4	12	-	2	10	2	-

There were possibly a maximum of 40 birds present in the county this year although the actual figure is probably several less when lingering birds and those in transit are taken into consideration. The first bird of the year was at Alkborough Flats on Apr 16th and there was one the following day at Covenham Res. The next birds were two on Apr 22nd at Toft Newton Res and then in May Covenham Res had three on the 5th, four on the 18th and eight on the 20th. Also in May, Gib Point had its first bird of the year, an adult offshore, on the 9th, Frampton Marsh had two on the 18th and Toft Newton Res one on the 22nd. It was probably that the same individual accounted for the sightings at Frampton Marsh on Jul 1st and 2nd. Bagmoor/Winterton Floods had a lone juvenile bird on Jul 19th. A single bird was seen at Freiston Shore/Witham Mouth on Aug 4th, and further singles at Gib Point on Aug 6th and Donna Nook on Aug 11th with three at the latter site two days later. There was another at Donna Nook on Aug 31st. Freiston Shore had counts of five on Aug 26th and one on the 28th. The final sighting of the year two birds at Gib Point on Sep 2nd.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Vagrant. LBRC

There was just a single juvenile bird observed at Frampton Marsh on Sep 3rd (JB, MPO). This constitutes the 38th record (39 individuals) for the county.

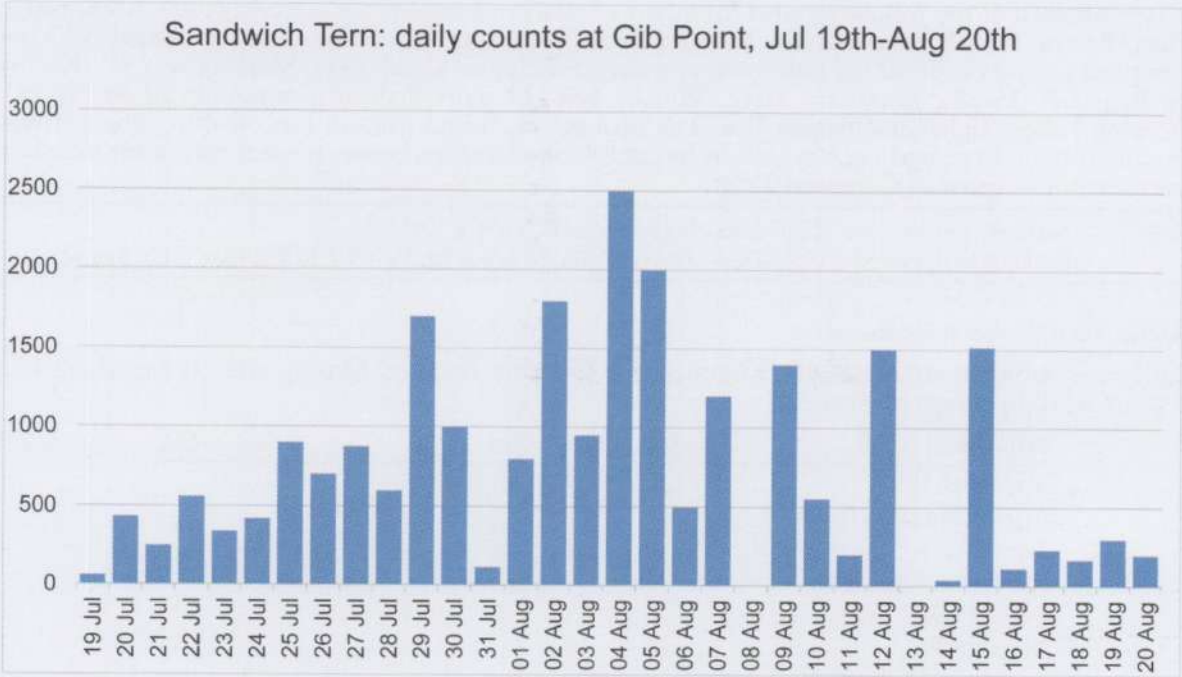
Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

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

Peak monthly counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The Humber & coast</i>									
WeBS totals	-	-	1	347	144	67	5	-	-
Cleethorpes-Humberston Fitties	-	-	-	8	-	100	-	-	-
Horseshoe Point-Donna Nook	2	2	2	110	176	42	2	-	-
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	-	-	-	150	420	24	3	-	-
Mablethorpe-Anderby	-	-	9	-	100	34	7	2	-
<i>The Wash</i>									
WeBS totals	-	2	-	1500	1047	7	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	26	87	58	1700	2500	153	20	-	-
Wainfleet-Butterwick*	-	-	-	613	436	1	-	-	-
Freiston Shore/Witham Mouth	-	-	6	32	75	50	6	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	3	5	1	-	-	-	-	-

The first bird of the year was one at Donna Nook on Apr 7th. There were four at Gib Point on the 8th and 26 south there on the 10th. The spring peak was eight at Gib Point on May 8th. All counts of over 500 also came from Gib Point and are highlighted in the chart below, which graphically shows the ups and downs of autumn migration. Significant counts from other areas were 485 from Wainfleet on Jul 27th and 420 between Theddlethorpe and Mablethorpe on Aug 10th. The only occasion when the species was recorded inland was one at Trent Port (Marton) on Jul 22nd. Below we include one of three sightings of colour-ringed Blakeney Point nestlings seen at Gib Point on Jul 25th and one that went to Freiston Shore, showing the origin of, no doubt, many of the large numbers on our side of The Wash in autumn. The final birds of the year were at Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace where two were recorded on Nov 5th.

DB29329	Nestling	18-06-2014	Blakeney Point: 52°58'N 0°58'E (Norfolk)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	25-07-2014	Gibraltar Point NNR, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E 46km WNW 0y 1m 7d
DD04741	Nestling	18-06-2014	Blakeney Point: 52°58'N 0°58'E (Norfolk)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	14-09-2014	Witham Mouth, Freiston: 52°55'N 0°4'E 62km W 0y 2m 27d



Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

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

Peak monthly counts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
<i>The Humber & coast</i>								
WeBS totals	-	12	2	35	98	7	-	-
Barton area (Chowder-New Holland)	14	20	12	9	10	-	1	-
Cleethorpes-North Cotes	-	-	-	-	-	2	100	1
Horseshoe Point-Donna Nook	-	-	2	450	5800	5000	-	-
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	-	-	-	6	350	4	-	-
Huttoft-Anderby	-	-	-	2	105	-	1	-
<i>The Wash</i>								
WeBS totals	10	165	89	63	274	13	-	-
Gibraltar Point	3	9	3	27	1029	246	11	-
Freiston Shore & Witham Mouth	56	130	85	25	300	-	1	-
Frampton Marsh	5	40	66	30	6	-	-	-
<i>Inland</i>								
Whisby NP-North Hykeham Pits	6	21	27	48	15	1	-	-
Kirkby on Bain GP	25	107	45	65	-	-	-	-
Tattershall Lakes	1	14	18	2	4	-	-	-
Spalding-Borough Fen	5	2	12	5	-	-	-	-
Deeping St James	10	27	29	18	14	-	-	-

Details of all counts of 200 and over are included in the text. The first bird of the year was noted at Tattershall Lakes on Apr 11th and thereafter numbers increased steadily throughout the rest of the month, with the spring peaks around the middle of May. Some large autumn numbers, made as roost or pre-roost counts, from the Donna Nook area reflected day-to-day passage. At Horseshoe Point, an impressive figure of 5000 was observed on Aug 20th and this had decreased to 1000 by Sep 8th. At nearby Pye's Hall there were 540 on Aug 18th, 2100 on the 19th, 800 on the 20th and 3800 on the 22nd. On the 26th there was a total of 2100 and an impressive 5600 on the 31st. The following day this figure was still 5000 but it had declined to 680 by Sep 9th. At Stonebridge, Donna Nook, 273 were seen on Aug 11th but two days later this figure had increased significantly to c4360 but was down to 540 by Aug 18th. Between Theddlethorpe and Mablethorpe there was a count 350 on Aug 10th. At Gib Point high counts were 288 on Aug 10th, c1029 on Aug 15th, 454 on Aug 20th, 200 on Aug 26th and 246 on Sep 22nd. The Witham Mouth had 300 birds on Aug 4th. The final bird of the year was recorded at Gib Point near the end of Oct on the 23rd. Breeding

was confirmed at the following sites (numbers of nests in brackets for selected sites): Alkborough Flats, Barton Pits, Barrow Haven, Middlemarsh (Skegness), Gib Point, Freiston Shore (127 but complete failure occurred for unknown reasons), Frampton Marsh (31), Messingham SQ, Kirkby on Bain GP (25-35), Boultham Mere, Whisby NR (24 pairs fledged a minimum of 31 chicks), Deeping Lakes (eight) and Baston Fen. The bird below, found dead in Lincolnshire where it was presumably nesting, had been reared in Ireland; long distances between natal and adult breeding sites are not unusual in Common Tern.

SV84771	Nestling	27-07-2002	Rockabill: 53°34'N 6°0'W (Dublin)
	Freshly dead (hit wires)	01-06-2014	Tattershall Thorpe Gravel Pit: 53°7'N 0°10'W 390km E 11y 10m 5d

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	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Alkborough Flats	50	1	-	-	-	-	-
Bagmoor/Winterton Floods	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barton Pits	5	1	-	-	-	-	-
Humberston Fitties-Tetney	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	14	28	-	12	-
Covenham Res	21	9	-	-	-	-	-
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	-	1	4	-
Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe	-	-	-	50	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	-	43	3	60	75	18	-
Witham Mouth	30	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
Nene Mouth/Terrington	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Thurlby Sand Pit (Bassingham)	32	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fiskerton Fen	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Deeping Lakes	1	6	-	-	-	-	-
Baston-Langtoft Pits	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Grantham	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

The first bird of the year was seen at Covenham Res on Apr 14th. There were ten at the same location on Apr 19th and 12 on the 20th, when 19 were at Alkborough Flats. Spring passage was evident with returns of 21 from Covenham Res, 32 from Thurlby Sand Pit (Bassingham), and 30 at Witham Mouth all on Apr 25th and 50 at Alkborough Flats the next day. Counts were generally in single figures throughout the rest of Apr and May except for totals of 35 and 43 at Gib Point on May 3rd and 8th respectively. There were no reports in June and except for 14 on the re-alignment area at Donna Nook on July 14th the other returns that month were all in single figures. Autumn passage became apparent with sightings of 15 at Gib Point on Aug 9th, and 50 at Theddlethorpe to Mablethorpe the following day. There were 28 at Donna Nook on Aug 13th, then at Gib Point, 27 on Aug 22nd, 50 on Aug 25th, and 60 on Aug 26th. Sep was fairly quiet until counts of 63, 75 and 38 at Gib Point on the 22nd, 24th and 28th respectively. Counts again from Gib Point of 15 on Oct 2nd and 18 the next day were the best counts of that month. There were 12 at Donna Nook on Oct 9th, and then just a few more before four juveniles at Rimac on Oct 30th that were the final birds of the year.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	-	2	1	4	-	-	-	-	8	70	57	-
Mablethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-
Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	570	1
Sutton on Sea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	680	-
Anderby Creek	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	8	12	-	-	61	60	1	10	12	5	897	57

Recorded throughout the year in small numbers from 12 coastal sites with two inland records of a first winter bird at Kirkby on Bain GP on Mar 27th and an adult at North Hykeham Pits (Apex Pit) on Apr 4th. The table below shows all sites that recorded 10 or more birds in any one month period. Peak passage was in early Nov when 897 (551 south, 346 north) were recorded at Gib Point, c680 south at Sutton on Sea and c570 south at Huttoft Car Terrace, all on the 5th during a period of northerly winds. All other records, not in the table, were an adult at Barton Pits on Jun 22nd, three at Alkborough on Jul 11th, a first winter bird at Wrangle Marsh on Sep 8th and two offshore at Freiston Shore from Oct 8th-9th and six there on the 13th.

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	151	434	157	100	27	41	833	3701	4551	751	429	165
Alkborough Flats	1	13	500	95	100	70	2000	20	1	1	1	1
Garthorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3320	500	300	-
Barton Pits	100	80	100	150	111	30	50	1000	250	70	300	1000
Cleethorpes-Tetney	2000	1000	350	108	6	-	500	20	10000	1500	1000	800
Donna Nook	30	150	250	11	25	50	1600	3500	6000	500	200	20
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	400	208	50	10	1	1	246	2565	2850	5000	450	250
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	4258	5363	3989	3418	2928	2565	17943	8779	7458	4483	7227	1163
Middlemarsh, Skegness	1100	700	500	150	50	80	480	500	250	270	450	900
Gibraltar Point	8000	330	1654	2642	440	483	18000	13000	4500	2790	5260	1500
Wainfleet*	63	10	-	-	-	437	9200	2500	975	-	3236	540
Friskney*	530	-	20	12	5	163	162	630	2620	2190	2220	98
Wrangle*	20	80	36	4	42	377	550	350	1274	610	-	400
Leverton*	159	22	970	21	14	284	2907	689	27	124	191	64
Freiston Shore	2000	1	1	680	200	50	20	1	1	4	1	1
Frampton Marsh	46	20	2500	2000	400	600	500	138	40	75	700	300
Gedney*	28	33	345	21	43	34	861	-	630	925	30	-
Terrington*	3000	5000	320	-	-	-	700	2000	500	-	-	-
<i>Inland</i>												
Covenham Pits	25	5000	400	350	14	6	2	5	-	70	104	-
Toft Newton Res	150	1500	250	9	6	-	20	80	55	80	1200	1000
North Hykeham Pits	6000	2600	3000	1	-	-	1	-	60	-	2500	10000
Whisby NR	24	125	180	1500	1686	360	400	18	25	700	7500	5500
Norton Disney/Thurlby	8000	1500	400	150	8	14	6	2	1	1	5000	2000
Bardney Pits	-	15	168	150	5	-	6	153	1200	14	64	57
Kirkby on Bain GP	1000	152	73	150	50	60	40	5	61	210	500	300
Tattershall Lakes CP	35	5200	250	10	4	4	30	100	70	70	50	7500

The table includes most counts of 1000 or more. The highest totals were at Gib Point in late summer, peaking at 18000 on Jul 27th, and there were also 10000 at Humberston Fitties on Sep 30th and 10000 at North Hykeham Pits on Dec 8th. The annual nest count at Whisby NR continues to grow, with 519 nests on Thorpe Lake, 300 on Grebe Lake, five on Coot Lake, four on Willow Lake and 15 on Teal Lake, giving a total of 843 nests. The rapid and substantial increase, shown in the table below, is down to the increased area of low-lying seasonally flooded islands that have been created at Whisby NR since the early 2000s.

Whisby NR	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Breeding Pairs	36	87	126	142	316	326	540	709	527	843

The other major colonies are at Freiston Shore where there were 770 occupied nests and Frampton Marsh with 677 occupied nests. At Gib Point there were 55 nests on Tennyson's Sands, eight on Fenland Lagoon, 10 on Freshwater Mere and four on Jackson's Marsh. At Kirkby on Bain GP, 20-25 pairs reared about 20 chicks. There were about 50 pairs at Melwood Quarry near Epworth and breeding was also confirmed at Barton Pits, Barrow Haven, Messingham SQ, Boultham Mere (seven pairs) and Baston-Langoft Pits. A varied selection of recoveries is included here. The first two are Scandinavian breeding birds showing summer and winter site fidelity, the first in particular being of good age. Then come two birds from other breeding areas in Europe, and finally what is presumably a Lincolnshire breeding birds wintering some 250 km to the north.

EN78646	Second-year	16-01-1987	Skegness: 53°9'N 0°19'E
	Alive (ring read in field)	17-05-2005	Hirsholm: 57°28'N 10°37'E (Nordjyllands) Denmark 810km NE 18y 4m 1d
	also seen at same site in May-Jun 2006, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2012		
	Alive (colour rings seen)	12-12-2012	Middlemarsh Tip, Skegness: 53°9'N 0°18'E 2km 25y 10m 26d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	24-12-2013	Middlemarsh Tip, Skegness: 53°9'N 0°18'E 2km 26y 11m 8d
SVS	Adult	18-05-2003	Pildammsparken, Malmo: 55°34'N 13°0'E (Skåne) Sweden
6407513	Alive (colour rings seen)	21-10-2011	North Parade Car Park, Skegness: 53°9'N 0°21'E 862km WSW 8y 5m 3d
	also at Skegness or Gib Point in Jul 2012, Mar 2013, Aug 2013, Dec 2013		
	Alive (colour rings seen)	28-07-2014	Gibraltar Point: 53°6'N 0°19'E 867km WSW 11y 2m 10d
LIK	Nestling	13-06-2003	Kalviu Karjerai, Klaipėdos: 55°37'N 21°16'E Lithuania
409127	Alive (colour rings seen)	24-07-2014	Frampton Marsh: 52°55'N 0°0'W 1,413km WSW 11y 1m 11d
HGB	Adult	09-03-2014	Sopron: 47°39'N 16°36'E (Gyor-Mosin-Sopron) Hungary
HA15386	Alive (colour rings seen)	24-07-2014	Gibraltar Point NNR, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E 1,301km WNW 0y 4m 15d
	Alive (ring read in field)	01-10-2014	Middlemarsh Farm, Croft, Skegness: 53°7'N 0°16'E 1,305km WNW 0y 6m 22d
EP39490	Adult Female	11-04-2008	Baston Fen, Market Deeping: c. 52°43'N 0°19'W
	Alive (colour rings seen)	07-01-2011	River Wear, Low Southwick: c. 54°54'N 1°24'W (Tyne and Wear) 253km NNW 2y 8m 27d

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

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

During the first winter period, birds were characteristically scarce, with records from just nine coastal and estuarine locations involving three or fewer birds, and the only significant counts came from Gib Point with 10 on Feb 5th and 26 on Mar 8th. There were also small numbers in spring/summer. On the Humber, birds were present regularly at Alkborough Flats from late May to mid Sep, mostly second year birds but with some adults, and peaking at five on Jun 9th-10th; there were also singles at Barton Pits on three dates in Apr-May. On the coast, the highest count was five at Gib Point on May 15th. A number of birds were present at Frampton Marsh from late Apr, mainly involving immatures roosting on islands visible from the visitor centre, and a peak count of 11 on Jun 18th, with individuals lingering until mid Jul. Inland, there were several records from Covenham Res, the highest being six (five adults) on Apr 21st. An adult was at Kirkby on Bain GP on Apr 30th-May 3rd, one at Fiskerton Fen on Jul 4th and a first summer bird at Whisby NR on Jul 21st. On the coast in autumn, up to 10 were recorded offshore regularly, with higher counts of 47 north at Gib Point on Sep 22nd, 15 at Huttoft Car Terrace on Oct 13th, 57 (30 north, 27 south) at Gib Point on Oct 14th with 14 there on the 15th and 21 mostly adults south on the 18th, 10 at Sutton on Sea on Nov 5th, 10 south at Gib Point on Nov 13th, and 80 flying out of The Wash in the afternoon on Nov 17th. There were few subsequent records and the last bird of the year was a first winter bird recorded Freiston Shore/Witham Mouth on Dec 28th.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	6
Barton-Elsham Wolds	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6
Pyewipe-Cleethorpes	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
Donna Nook area	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	6	1	1	-	-
Covenham Res	-	3	-	1	-	2	4	2	-	-	4	3
Whisby NR	-	-	2	5	5	2	3	-	-	1	1	1
Gibraltar Point	1	-	2	2	3	4	2	12	2	3	1	1
Freiston Shore	-	-	-	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frampton Marsh	1	-	3	4	3	2	1	1	-	-	1	-

There was a very interesting series of events at Whisby NR during the spring. On Mar 3rd an adult bird was noted in the Thorpe Lake Black-headed Gull colony, and several different individuals visited the colony over the following weeks. On May 2nd it was confirmed that one pair (an adult male and a second summer female) were nesting but unfortunately the attempt was unsuccessful, the birds abandoning the nest by Jun 10th. Nearby a pair of adults were present at Whisby Quarry



Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* Gib Point May 25th 2014 © Paul Neale



Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* Frampton Marsh RSPB Jun 6th 2014 © Neil Smith

from Mar 20th-24th but did not linger. In a strange twist, on Jul 3rd two adults and a pristine juvenile were found at Whisby NR, on Teal Lake, but the origins of these birds remains a mystery; the adults didn't linger but the juvenile stayed until Jul 23rd. In total nine adults, two second summers, one first summer and a juvenile were present in the Whisby NR/Whisby Quarry area from early Mar to late Jul. Elsewhere, a pair was seen mating at Frampton Marsh on Apr 30th but no other nesting activity was reported there. The highest count in the county during the year was 12 (nine adults, one first summer, two juveniles) roosting at Gib Point on Aug 9th. The first set of ringing details below concerns a bird almost 17 years old (older than the oldest – 15 years – in the BTO scheme) seen at Gib Point for its first British sighting. The other three ringing recoveries below extend the evidence of a central European origin of many of the Mediterranean Gulls seen here. The first of them is interesting because it was presumably a Polish breeding bird in 2011 which was in Norfolk and Lincolnshire immediately before and after subsequent breeding seasons, if it had not shifted its location completely.

NLA 3558098	Nestling	02-06-1997	Kreekraksluizen, Noordervoorhaven, Zeeland, The Netherlands 51°27'N 4°13'E
Numerous sightings between 2000 and 2013 (except in 2004, 2005 & 2011) mostly in Belgium and northern France (Pas-de-Calais and Seine-Maritime) and once in the Netherlands at a breeding colony in Pas-de-Calais in June 2003, but in south-west France (Landes) in winters 2000/01, 2001/02, 2002/03, 2007/08 & 2008/09.			
	Alive (colour rings seen)	24-03-2014	Gibraltar Point 53°06'N 0°19'E
PLG FN16107	Adult Male	17-05-2011	J.Rynskie, Rybical: 53°55'N 21°31'E (Warminko-Mazurskie) Poland
	Alive (colour rings seen)	06-08-2012	Gibraltar Point: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E 1,404km W 1y 2m 20d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	07-02-2013	Titchwell Reserve: 52°58'N 0°34'E (Norfolk) 1,390km W 1y 8m 21d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	12-07-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E 1,404km W 2y 1m 25d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	06-07-2014	Gibraltar Point: 53°6'N 0°19'E 1,403km W 3y 1m 19d
HGB HA05808	Nestling	15-06-2013	Bugyi: 47°12'N 19°7'E (Pest) Hungary
	Alive (colour rings seen)	28-06-2014	Alkborough: 53°40'N 0°40'W 1,573km WNW 1y 0m 13d
PLG FN16132	Nestling	07-06-2013	J. Ryn, Wejdyki, Ryn, Warminko-Mazurskie: 53°55'N 21°30'E (Warminko-Mazurskie) Poland
	Alive (colour rings seen)	17-04-2014	Old Moor: 53°31'N 1°21'W (South Yorkshire) 1,503km W 0y 10m 10d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	23-05-2014	Leighton Moss: 54°10'N 2°48'W (Lancashire) 1,586km W 0y 11m 16d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	20-12-2014	Barton-upon-Humber: 53°40'N 0°27'W 1,441km W 1y 6m 13d

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	136	323	254	28	12	14	83	213	166	348	231	59
Cleethorpes-Horseshoe Pt	70	65	80	14	2	-	6	1	1000	100	40	60
Donna Nook	35	250	250	100	1	-	100	1000	1000	300	100	100
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	1000	300	2000	50	18	7	5	4	131	500	28	53
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	39	99	181	14	96	8	444	1	6	-	98	19
Gibraltar Point	50	55	583	95	95	9	25	550	300	212	770	50
<i>Inland</i>												
Covenham Res	2	500	30	15	3	1	3	1	-	20	169	1
North Hykeham Pits	1100	800	600	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	100	250
Whisby NR	12	15	20	8	2	2	15	1	-	40	750	2200
Tattershall Lakes CP	1	500	2	1	-	-	2	1	1	1	1	200

The table includes most counts of 500 or more. This species is generally widespread with the largest concentrations recorded from Jan-Mar and Sep-Oct. During the first winter period significant counts not tabulated included 800-1000 at Thurlby Sand Pit in early Jan, c3000 at Toft Newton Res on Feb 21st and 1250 at Westwoodside on Feb 28th. Numbers dropped in early Apr and by May most records involved immature birds, often gathering offshore at coastal sites, with peak counts including up to 81 at Gib Point, but no more than eight anywhere else, in May. During Jun birds were recorded from just 17 sites, often singly, with the peak count being 15 at Frampton Marsh on the 5th. Returning passage birds began arriving in late Jul with several coastal sites recording over 100 birds and the first count of c1000 came from Donna Nook on Aug 19th. By Oct, birds were widespread, with c200 birds even well inland at Woolsthorpe by Belvoir. During the second winter period, high counts not in the table included c2000 on Horkstow/Barton

Wolds on Dec 20th and c2000 Toft Newton Res on Dec 30th. The following details relate to two (presumably) Scandinavian breeders wintering close to The Wash, no doubt characterising many of those wintering here. Note that the second involves a ring found perhaps very many years after the bird's death.

EW75305	Adult	29-10-2009	Montgomery Road, Skegness: c. 53°7'N 0°19'E
	Alive (ring read in field)	27-06-2014	Ilene, Tonsberg: 59°16'N 10°22'E (Vestfold) Norway 922km NE 4y 7m 29d
EC94063	Adult	05-04-1967	Benington: 52°58'N 0°4'E
	Unknown (ring only)	20-06-2014	Tanumshede: 58°43'N 11°19'E (Västra Götaland) Sweden 947km NE 47y 2m 15d

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Scarce all-year visitor. LBRC

There was one at Middlemarsh on Mar 6th and 8th (NAL). Stumpy, the one-legged adult first seen at Kirkby on Bain GP in 2005, when already adult, was seen at Whisby NR on Jun 16th, Jul 8th and Jul 15th (GHO, DN). There was also a first summer bird at Whisby NR on Jun 19th (DN) and one of unspecified age at North Hykeham Pits on Jul 11th (ACS). An adult was seen with Yellow-legged Gulls near Crowle on Aug 6th (TCL). A juvenile was found on the beach, then flew inland at Gib Point on Aug 16 (KMW). A third winter bird was near Crowle and an adult near Eastoft on Aug 22nd (TCL). An adult and a first winter bird were at Willingham by Stow on Sep 22nd (DN). One was at Rimac, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Nov 13th (NAL). A first winter bird was at Croft Marsh near Skegness on Dec 4th (NAL).

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
<i>The Humber</i>												
WeBS totals	16	17	-	14	5	19	28	6	12	3	11	-
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	13	17	1	1	2	12	3	3	100	-	5	1
<i>The Wash</i>												
WeBS totals	154	30	196	160	1336	139	93	285	242	656	128	2
Middlemarsh, Skegness	100	5	5	11	10	5	11	5	2	1	3	-
Gibraltar Point	1	2	5	17	34	11	11	30	8	7	2	1
Friskney*	20	-	25	3	1	-	1	2	32	36	109	2
Frampton*	133	1	1	16	21	-	31	254	203	611	1	-
Welland*	-	5	143	115	1135	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Inland</i>												
Whisby NR	-	30	20	31	12	183	81	24	5	30	10	1

The table includes most counts of 100 or more. Peak counts included a WeBS total of 1135 in the Welland sector of The Wash on May 18th. A number of breeding records were noted, presumably all relating to the *graellsii* subspecies. The number of roof-nesting records of this species in the UK has dramatically increased over the last 30 years. Difficulties of coverage limit the accuracy of monitoring of birds nesting on roofs, and it is likely there a number of successful breeding attempts have been overlooked. In 2014, a pair was recorded in central Lincoln (on commercial buildings to the west of Tritton Road) and at least two pairs on man-made structures at Grimsby Docks. The causes of the population increase in urban areas may have been facilitated by an abundance of locally available food and nest sites being predator-free. Confirmed breeding was also noted at Boultham Mere and Baston-Langtoft Pits, and nest building was recorded at Gib Point. Passage migrants recorded from mid Mar to Jun include birds of the *intermedius* subspecies; this year sightings of colour-ringed birds included individuals from Norway (a fourth calendar year at Burgh Werlands on Apr 26th) and Germany (a second calendar year bird at Whisby NR on Jun 23rd). The selection of ringing data below include another Norwegian-bred bird here in spring, one from a nest in The Wash, a fairly old one, and an adult using widely dispersed locations outside the breeding season.

NOS	Nestling	19-07-2001	Kubboy, Sogne: 58°0'N 7°46'E (Vest-Agder) Norway
4217790	Caught by ringer	24-03-2012	Pitsea Landfill Site: 51°31'N 0°30'E (Essex) 857km SSW 10y 8m 5d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	02-04-2012	North Hykeham, Lincoln: 53°10'N 0°37'W 751km SW 10y 8m 14d

GC52710	Nestling Freshly dead	16-06-2007 10-09-2014	Inner Westmark Knock, off Terrington Marsh: 52°49'N 0°13'E (Norfolk) Sleaford: 52°58'N 0°25'W 47km WNW 7y 2m 25d
GG97259	Second-year Dead (leg only)	03-02-1996 29-05-2014	Slippery Gowt Landfill, near Wyberton: 52°57'N 0°0'W South Gare, Redcar: c. 54°37'N 1°9'W (Redcar and Cleveland) 202km NNW 18y 3m 26d
GN77377	Adult Alive (colour rings seen)	21-01-2004 19-12-2008	Hyde Farm, near Beaconsfield: 51°34'N 0°37'W (Buckinghamshire) Zeebrugge: 51°19'N 3°10'E (West-Vlaanderen) Belgium 266km E 4y 10m 28d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	26-09-2011	Leadenham Tip: c. 53°3'N 0°34'W 164km N 7y 8m 5d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	31-10-2011	Leadenham Tip: c. 53°3'N 0°34'W 164km N 7y 9m 10d

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Rare/scarc passage migrant and winter visitor, rare in summer. **LBRC**

The first record of the year came in the form of a first winter at Thurlby Sand Pit on Jan 5th (DMJ) then the same bird at Whisby NR the following day (DN) and what was thought to be the same individual returning to Whisby NR on Jan 27th (GHO, DN). A first winter bird at Cleethorpes on Jan 9th was the year's first coastal record (JRN). On Feb 3rd an adult was at North Hykeham Pits (DN) and an adult was present at Gib Point during Feb 21st-24th (BGU, PNE). At Bagmoor/Winterton Floods a first winter was present on Mar 16th (ND). A first winter was on Read's Island on Apr 12th (ND). The only record from the year's end was of a first winter bird at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on Dec 28th (NAL).

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoideus*

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

The overwintering juvenile bird from Dec 2013 was present at Grimsby Docks until Jan 26th (GPC *et al*). A different first winter bird was in the Pyewipe-Stallingborough area from Jan 5th to Jan 27th (JWW, GPC *et al*). Two first winter birds were also present, one at Bagmoor/Winterton Floods on Jan 5th and Feb 22nd (ND) and the other at Elsham on Jan 1st and 15th (SRO, GPC), and a third calendar year individual was at Bonby Top on Mar 10th (GPC). At Gib Point, a second winter flew south on Feb 3rd (KMW) and an adult was briefly present on Apr 20th (JPS). During the second winter period, there was just a single record of a first winter bird in the Lincoln area, initially recorded at Swanpool on Nov 7th-9th (ACS), then at Whisby NR later on the 9th (DN) and back at Swanpool on the 14th (ACS).



Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoideus* Stallingborough Jan 23rd 2014 © Graham Catley

Thayer's Gull *Larus glaucooides thayeri*

Vagrant. BBRC

2012 The second calendar year individual at Elsham on Apr 3rd-18th 2012 (TCL *et al*) – mentioned in the 2012 LBR as subject to confirmation by BOURC and BBRC – has been accepted as the second record for Britain (BB 108 p.595). The first was one in Essex in November 2010.

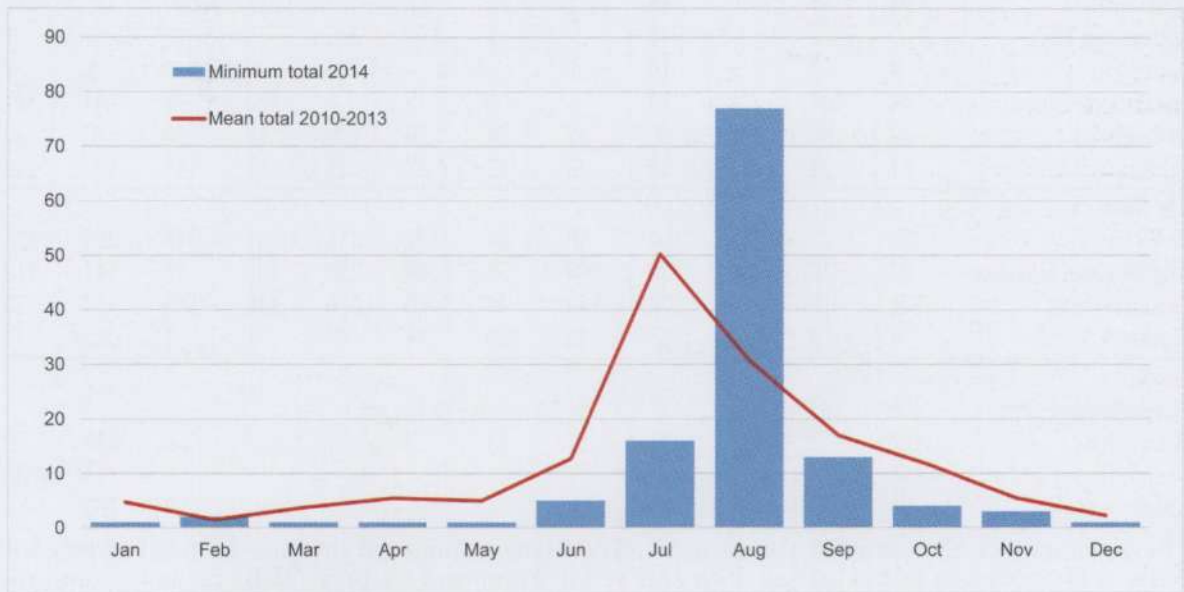
Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

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

summer/autumn, rare in winter RBBP

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites 2014	1	2	1	1	1	2	5	7	6	4	3	1
Minimum total 2014	1	2	1	1	1	5	16	77	13	4	3	1
Minimum total 2013	3	1	8	4	3	8	52	42	10	2	4	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 extreme north-west of the county provided an outstanding count of 65 individuals present at Crowle/Eastoft on Aug 6th. That area accounted for all of the year's double figure counts, the most significant of which were 38 on Aug 12th, 24 on Aug 19th and 30 on Aug 22nd. At Whisby NR a good number of records were received, involving a minimum of 11 individuals and a peak of five there on Jul 4th and 9th. Other notable counts included six at Colsterworth landfill on Jul 24th and five at Alkborough Flats on Aug 6th. The first juvenile of the year roosted at Gib Point on Jul 16th. The chart below summarises the species' seasonal pattern of occurrence, showing the marked late summer peak. An adult present at North Hykeham Pits on Jan 22nd is considered to have been a Yellow-legged x Herring Gull hybrid. This is a known, rare but increasing, pairing on the continent (DN).



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	188	1952	682	668	181	195	607	147	371	596	308	581
Cleethorpes-Tetney	200	200	45	320	1	-	2	1	500	60	55	120
Donna Nook	180	230	700	300	150	100	70	800	300	200	250	550
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	427	1547	240	524	81	72	452	46	250	241	156	335

The Wash

WeBS totals	1338	1947	4144	1903	3059	3210	1453	1326	929	3197	2548	1675
Gibraltar Point	1200	400	6000	648	564	1	200	380	600	4259	1680	50
Middlemarsh, Skegness	520	370	650	110	380	120	20	80	400	576	500	550
Wainfleet*	246	454	161	27	101	314	370	303	139	587	763	120
Friskney*	240	-	660	227	122	20	250	178	430	1284	1137	165
Wrangle*	218	300	300	40	364	1699	156	172	100	8	-	910
Leverton*	339	707	397	-	33	120	24	194	84	-	251	-
Freiston Shore	4	53	-	328	207	579	343	24	11	34	41	2
Frampton Marsh	11	7	37	93	39	-	34	39	24	242	121	-
Welland*	-	12	580	230	815	-	-	-	70	250	24	8
Gedney*	98	139	150	42	199	132	73	-	21	780	66	-

Inland

Kirkby on Bain GP	1500	200	4	-	-	1	-	2	-	200	1500	700
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The table includes most counts of 500 or more. The largest counts not included were of up to 5000 on Horkstow/Barton Wolds in the second half of Dec. Confirmed breeding was reported at Grimsby Docks and Skegness, presumably involving roof-nesting birds, and there were seven occupied nests at Freiston Shore. During 2014, there were 18 colour-ringed birds recorded in the county, with the largest number (12) from England, three from Scotland, two from The Netherlands and a single bird from Germany. The majority of sighting related to birds visiting landfill sites, but with a number of such sites closing and further closure planned, it is likely that the number of ringing returns will reduce over coming years.

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
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The Humber

WeBS totals	94	149	60	65	22	57	67	69	215	250	235	212
Alkborough Flats	1	-	-	42	-	1	170	242	1	1	1	1
Barton Pits	4	2	9	10	1	-	-	100	4	5	1	2
Cleethorpes-Tetney	44	169	18	12	-	-	-	1	500	38	65	111
Donna Nook	40	40	100	40	25	28	20	100	50	60	70	250
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	61	72	15	14	6	12	27	31	98	145	147	204

The Wash

WeBS totals	74	27	218	104	40	85	138	216	241	249	365	107
Middlemarsh, Skegness	82	110	100	70	100	75	200	320	180	92	144	110
Gibraltar Point	106	50	180	174	150	40	400	300	460	500	350	30
Frampton Marsh	6	2	7	63	20	20	14	33	5	32	215	11

Inland

North Hykeham Pits	200	62	180	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whisby NR	102	73	149	86	16	18	7	1	-	80	220	70
Norton Disney Quarry	146	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	37
Kirkby on Bain	80	32	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	200	60

The text includes all counts of 100 or more. The highest counts of the year both involved c500 birds at Humberston Fitties on Sep 30th and at Gib Point on Oct 11th. WeBS counts in both the Humber and Wash appear to be similar to past years, but peak roost counts are considerably down, with the max count of 500 at Gib Point in Oct being over 50% lower than both Aug 2013 and Oct 2012. Reduction in large inland counts probably reflect the gradual closure of landfill sites throughout Lincolnshire, with the North Hykeham Energy from Waste (incinerator) Plant opening in Aug 2013 probably leading to further reductions of the number of large gulls overwintering in the county. During the year, 22 colour-ringed birds were recorded with 15 relating to pulli ringed in Norway and sighted on the coast between Grimsby and Skegness (including Middlemarsh Tip), a further three ringed in Denmark, again as pulli, and four ringed in England. Those below are a selection of Scandinavian origin.

NOS	Nestling	04-07-2007	Sandholmane, Arkehamn, Karmoy: 59°15'N 5°9'E (Rogaland) Norway
363228	Alive (colour rings seen)	05-01-2014	Grimsby: 53°34'N 0°3'W 708km SSW 6y 6m 1d

HW93611	First-year	20-02-2012	Daneshill Landfill Site: 53°22'N 1°0'W (Nottinghamshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	17-04-2013	Husmoderstranden, Hirtshals Harbour: 57°34'N 9°57'E (Nordjylland)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	03-02-2014	Denmark 833km ENE 1y 1m 28d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	30-09-2014	Middlemarsh Tip, Skegness: 53°7'N 0°16'E 90km ESE 1y 11m 14d Middlemarsh Tip, Skegness: 53°7'N 0°16'E 90km ESE 2y 7m 10d
NOS	Nestling	30-06-2007	Ryvingen, Karmoy: 59°16'N 5°9'E (Rogaland) Norway
363037	Long dead	18-09-2014	near Cleethorpes, Humber Estuary: 53°31'N 0°1'W 712km SSW 7y 2m 19d

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common and widespread resident.

This species continues to be ignored by many birders and few large counts are received from urban/industrial sites where it is probably abundant. A notable exception was Pyewipe, Grimsby where 236 were counted on Jan 13th. Freiston Shore had 185 on Jan 14th, Horncastle 150 on Oct 25th and Gib Point 150 on Jan 25th. The most rigorous recording of Feral Pigeon in Lincolnshire is via the BTO BBS survey which recorded birds in 21 out of 83 one km squares surveyed, compared to Stock Dove 34, Wood Pigeon 78, Collared Dove 48 and Turtle Dove one. The number of birds counted were Feral Pigeon 83 (a big drop on 208 in the previous year), Stock Dove 104, Wood Pigeon 3107, Collared Dove 232 and Turtle Dove one.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Common resident and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	40	16	60	25	20	65	22	25	24	23	29	24
Gibraltar Point	41	21	15	10	4	7	4	10	9	90	11	16
Baston-Langtoft Pits	60	26	4	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

All counts of 40 or over are included in the table except for 68 at East Ravendale, 63 at Grainthorpe Fen and 45 at Conisholme Fen in Jan, 200 at Nene Mouth in Mar, and 140 at Garthorpe in Dec. With over 1200 records it may be a surprise that there were only two counts over 100, and almost as far apart in the county as possible. With only 13% of records accounting for totals of over 20 it is difficult to discern any meaningful information. Only seventeen counts of 40 or over were received. Donna Nook had one count in Jan and eight in Jun. The count of 200 (the largest) at Nene Mouth in Oct and another of 90 at Gib Point, 87 of which were flying south, may suggest some autumn passage. The other qualifying count not already mentioned above came from Baston-Langtoft Pits where there were 60 in Jan. The ringing details below show a bird that is becoming used to encounters with its ringer!

EW97495	Adult	10-07-2010	near Braceborough: 52°42'N 0°25'W
	Caught by ringer	27-08-2012	near Braceborough: 52°42'N 0°25'W 0km 2y 1m 17d
	Caught by ringer	09-06-2013	near Braceborough: 52°42'N 0°25'W 0km 2y 10m 30d
	Caught by ringer	19-05-2014	near Braceborough: 52°42'N 0°25'W 0km 3y 10m 9d

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
Humberston Fitties	220	240	300	60	-	-	-	-	5000	300	300	820
Donna Nook	50	800	400	300	50	60	100	50	200	200	220	600
Croftmarsh LNR	90	350	170	413	270	300	-	-	-	-	-	800
Gibraltar Point	100	1700	2060	1740	350	70	300	500	100	5800	4310	230
Whisby NR	19	100	460	25	13	1	1	-	-	600	1	-
Ruskington Fen	-	-	-	-	-	-	65	80	175	-	2060	-
Welbourn area	230	364	148	157	62	67	35	-	114	1000	700	900
Marston STW	120	12	50	100	-	1	-	-	6	650	-	6
Sum of tabulated peaks	829	3566	3588	2795	745	499	501	630	5595	8550	7591	3356
Sum of all peaks	4237	7014	7492	5074	2147	1328	1185	1854	6764	11922	11510	7638

All monthly peaks of 500 or more are in the table except for 750 at Seacroft Fields in Feb, 1000 at Nene Mouth in Mar, 1000 at Midville in Oct, 1500 at Metheringham Delph in Nov, and 550 at Tetney Marsh in Dec. There were well over 3000 records this year with some large numbers

observed. The six largest counts were 5000 were at Humberston Fitties on Sep 30th, and five counts exceeding 3000 at Gib Point including 5800 on Oct 20th and 5350 on Oct 25th. Other totals of 1000 and over came from Nene Mouth with 1000 on Mar 24th, Midville with 1000 on Oct 10th, and Ruskington Fen with 2060 and Metherringham Delph with 1500, both on Nov 11th. Wood Pigeon movements in south and east England in autumn are now well known, and they were clearly evident at Gib Point this year with around 32000 birds flying south in Oct and the first week of Nov, including counts of 500 or more on 13 dates.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Very common resident.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	2	52	4	3	2
Humberston Fitties	50	45	40	30	-	-	-	-	100	25	30	35
Branston	29	15	8	8	6	6	6	5	5	8	6	6
Spalding-Borough Fen	33	2	3	3	6	4	4	8	13	2	10	12

Over 1600 records produced only 48 sightings of 40 birds or over. The highest count for the year was 100 at Humberston Fitties on Sep 30th. This location proved to be a stronghold for the species in the county (or perhaps better recorded than elsewhere) as between Jan and Mar another 43 of the counts of 40 or more were recorded there. High totals elsewhere were 40 at Branston Fen in Jan, 40 in Mar and 45 in Apr at Dorrington Fen, 52 by Barton STW in Sep, and 50 at Conisholme Fen in Nov.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Restricted and declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Barton Pits	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-
Donna Nook	-	1	4	1	2	-	-	-
Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe Dunes	-	-	2	2	1	5	2	-
Gibraltar Point	-	4	16	15	9	6	-	-
Frampton Marsh	-	1	6	4	6	7	1	-
Baumber	-	-	1	1	2	2	-	-
Kirkby on Bain/Tattershall Thorpe	-	-	4	2	1	4	-	-
Fiskerton Fen	-	-	2	1	1	2	1	-
Baston Fen	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-
Number of sites 2014	-	8	39	39	20	18	6	-
Number of sites 2013	-	4	23	26	21	11	3	1
Number of sites 2012	-	12	34	29	18	14	9	1

The table shows all sites where birds were recorded in four or more months. The increase in numbers of sites and distribution of breeding reports (see below) probably reflects better reporting than any recovery for the species. The continued decline is still of considerable concern and all records are still requested. Approximately 352 records were received for the year, which is virtually the same as last year. It is difficult to quantify how many birds were in the county because of the movement of the species and because of multiple records at some of the larger sites. A rough analysis suggests that there could have been as few as 13 reported in April, 81 in May, 71 in Jun, 43 in Jul 44 in August and eight in Sep. The first bird of the year was recorded at Tetney (village) on Apr 18th. All counts in double figures came from Gib Point, where there were totals of 10 or more on ten dates between May 9th and Jun 3rd including 14 on May 9th, 12th and 16th, and 16 on May 23rd. Frampton Marsh had peak counts of seven on May 31st, Aug 14th and Aug 27th. Counts of five came from Northorpe Fen and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes. There were only two observations confirming actual breeding but several suggesting probable breeding in the year. Four territories were established at Frampton Marsh. At Dunsby two territories and a single juvenile were seen on Jun 1st and in Baumber a newly fledged chick was seen on Aug 18th. Probable breeding evidence came from Rimac, Crook Bank, Gib Point, Burgh Le Marsh, Billingborough Fen, Claypole, Corringham, Fenton (Beckingham), Kirkby on Bain GP, and Thurlby Fen, and possible breeding evidence from another 14 sites. There was little evidence of autumn passage and the last of autumn was reported from Baston Fen on Sep 20th. However, one was photographed in a Lincoln garden on Dec 17th; this is believed to be the second winter record for the county, following one that wintered with Collared Doves at Cleethorpes from Nov 1966 to Feb 1967.



Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* Donna Nook Apr 27th 2014 © Mark Johnson



Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* (juvenile) Alkborough Flats Aug 17th 2014 © Graham Catley

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Fairly common but declining summer visitor.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Donna Nook	4	6	5	1	1	-	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
Gibraltar Point	2	4	4	3	2	-	-
Sum of site peaks 2014	30	95	49	13	11	0	0
Number of sites 2014	25	69	33	8	10	0	0
Number of sites 2013	16	51	32	8	12	6	-
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 at Donna Nook on Apr 15th followed by one at Twyford Wood on the 18th and one at Temple Wood on Apr 19th. Single birds were then seen at 22 sites to the end of the month with two birds at Tetney Lock on Apr 26th, two at Gib Point from the 26th onwards and 2-4 birds at Donna Nook from the 27th. Records of 1-2 birds were much more widespread in May with 4-6 present at Donna Nook and 3-4 birds at Twyford Wood and at Gib Point. Three birds were noted at North Scarle on the 16th and at Willow Tree Fen on May 23rd. A similar pattern ensued in Jun, but by early Jul most records were of single birds and involved mostly juveniles. These included three juveniles that fledged from Reed Warbler nests at the Coronation Channel at Spalding around Jul 1st. Records of single birds remained fairly regular until late Aug when the last bird was seen at Donna Nook on the 29th. The absence of later records contrasts with previous years.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

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

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

Barn Owl brood sizes									
Number of young	Failed	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Number of broods	38	19	45	82	101	66	16	5	333



Barn Owl *Tyto alba* North Somercotes Jun 23rd 2014 © Mark Johnson

As in 2013, there were reports from about 160 places; Barn Owl evidently remains widespread in Lincolnshire. Most casual reports were of 1-2 birds, but threes and fours were noted at several sites and it was a phenomenal breeding season. From late 2013, vole numbers were rising and by 2014 were present in plague proportions in many areas of the UK. Bob Sheppard and Alan Ball monitored 559 nest boxes during 2014 of which only 144 supported breeding birds in 2013. However, in 2014 this had risen to 394 with a failure rate of just under 10% (compared with 14% in 2013). A total of 333 broods were ringed involving 1214 chicks, or 3.6 chicks per brood, a remarkable achievement for both birds and ringers! In addition, they have only encountered broods of seven Barn Owl chicks on two occasions prior to 2014, so five in one year is exceptional (four of these were at Northorpe/Thurlby Fen alone!). For comparison, BTO data for 2014 showed average first brood sizes in northern, eastern, midland, central and southeastern counties of England, ranged between 3.6 and 4.0 per successful nest. Elsewhere, broods of four were reported at Gib Point and Barton Pits. Among the ringing recoveries were the following two oldest and three most long distance recoveries of the year. The BTO longevity record for Barn Owl is 15 years 3 months.

GJ99924	Nestling Male	28-06-2004	Oven's Farm, near Harrington, Spilsby: 53°13'N 0°3'E
	Caught by ringer	30-05-2013	near Langton, Spilsby: 53°12'N 0°4'E 5km 8y 11m 2d
	Caught by ringer	14-10-2014	near Langton, Spilsby: 53°12'N 0°4'E 5km 10y 3m 16d
GN94422	Nestling Male	29-06-2004	Stickney, Boston: c. 53°4'N 0°1'E
	Caught by ringer	03-10-2014	West Fen Fm., Carrington: 53°4'N 0°1'W 4km 10y 3m 4d
GR12839	Nestling Female	08-06-2011	near Pershore: 52°7'N 2°7'W (Worcestershire)
	Caught in nestbox	17-06-2014	Guy's Head: 52°48'N 0°13'E 176km ENE 3y 0m 9d
GR61053	Nestling Female	07-08-2013	Great Ashfield: 52°15'N 0°55'E (Suffolk)
	Caught by ringer	09-05-2014	Muston: c. 52°55'N 0°46'W (Leicestershire) 136km NW 0y 9m 2d
GR12912	Nestling Female	15-06-2011	near Laughterton: 53°16'N 0°46'W
	Caught by ringer	09-06-2012	Oakfield Farm, near Huxley: 53°7'N 2°43'W (Cheshire) 132km W 0y 11m 25d

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Locally common resident and very sedentary.

Little Owl brood sizes

Number of young	Failed	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Number of broods	16	2	11	19	18	7	57

Reporting of this species was better this year, with counts coming from 83 localities, and increase from the 50 in 2013. Counts were all of 1-2 birds with the exceptions of groups of three reported from Midville, Stixwould and Wyberton in Jun and Jul. Those at Midville were of an adult with two juveniles, and at least one juvenile was seen at Stixwould. Eight other sites reported possible or probable breeding. Nest box data from Bob Sheppard and Alan Ball showed 188 chicks were ringed from 57 broods, an average of 3.3 chicks per brood. There were 18 failures, 22.5%. For comparison, there were 65 pairs in Bob's nest box study scheme during 2013, with 20 broods failing, and 45 pairs fledged 103 chicks with an average brood size of 2.28 per pair. As with Barn Owls, 2014 was a better year. Recoveries included the two oldest Little Owls recovered this year in the county, both around 6 years of age compared with the BTO longevity record of 10 years 11 months.

EW30521	Adult Female	08-05-2008	Walcott Dales: c. 53°6'N 0°13'W
	Caught by ringer	13-06-2008	Walcott Dales: c. 53°6'N 0°13'W 0km 0y 1m 5d
	Caught by ringer	25-04-2009	Walcott Dales: c. 53°6'N 0°13'W 0km 0y 11m 17d
	Caught by ringer	01-05-2010	Walcott Dales: c. 53°6'N 0°13'W 0km 1y 11m 23d
	Caught by ringer	30-04-2011	Walcott Dales: c. 53°6'N 0°13'W 0km 2y 11m 22d
	Caught by ringer	06-05-2012	Walcott Dales: c. 53°6'N 0°13'W 0km 3y 11m 28d
	Caught by ringer	02-07-2013	Walcott Dales: c. 53°6'N 0°13'W 0km 5y 1m 24d
	Caught by ringer	02-06-2014	Walcott Dales: c. 53°6'N 0°13'W 0km 6y 0m 25d
EW32250	Adult Female	26-06-2008	Ewerby, Sleaford: 53°0'N 0°19'W
	Caught by ringer	19-05-2009	Ewerby, Sleaford: 53°0'N 0°19'W 0km 0y 10m 23d
	Caught in nestbox	17-05-2012	Ewerby, Sleaford: 53°0'N 0°19'W 0km 3y 10m 21d
	Caught in nestbox	14-05-2013	Ewerby, Sleaford: 53°0'N 0°19'W 0km 4y 10m 18d
	Caught in nestbox	03-06-2014	Ewerby, Sleaford: 53°0'N 0°19'W 0km 5y 11m 8d

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Localised widespread resident.

There was no indication of any significant change in status. Records came from just under 80 locations, slightly down from 2013, but as usual with the majority being of 1-2 birds. Reports of three or more came from 13 places, coincidentally the same as in 2013. Confirmed breeding was reported from just six sites, at three of which juveniles were reported (Donna Nook, Gib Point and Whisby NR). It is likely that confirmed breeding is grossly under-reported for this species. The bird controlled by a ringer at Old Bolingbroke was the county's oldest of the year (BTO longevity record is 21 years 10 months).

GN28199	Nestling Female	10-05-2001	Old Bolingbroke, Spilsby: 53°9'N 0°1'E
	Caught by ringer	02-05-2014	Old Bolingbroke, Spilsby: 53°9'N 0°1'E 0km 12y 11m 22d



Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* Bucknall Jul 5th 2014 © Russell Hayes

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

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

Birds were recorded from twelve locations during 2014, the same as in 2013. In the first part of the year 1-2 birds were recorded from Deeping Lakes NR on six dates from Jan 2nd to Feb 16th. There was one at Risby Warren on Feb 28th. Single spring birds were at Kirkstead Bridge and Spalding Common on Mar 31st and Gib Point on Apr 9th. Confirmed breeding was recorded at three locations in the north west of the county and one in the south west, though this understates breeding status. At site A on Apr 10th a bird was observed sitting in an old crow's nest in a birch tree, while on Jun 11th three juveniles were heard. Another report from this site was that four nests were present. At site B, an adult was noted in willows on Apr 24th and seen hunting between May 14th and 31st, while two juveniles called from a plantation. At site C a single juvenile was seen on May 9th. At Site D four juveniles were heard on Jun 13th. In the autumn birds were noted at Gib Point on Sep 19th (one), Oct 14th (two), Oct 21st (one) and Nov 17th (one). At Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes there were two birds on Oct 16th and at Donna Nook three on Oct 14th. An inland bird was at East Keal on Nov 16th. Below is the recovery of a fairly old bird (the BTO longevity record is 12 years 10 months); this bird was found dead in Jul on or close to the A15 near Scopwick Heath – could it have been breeding there?

GN04387	Nestling	30-05-2007	Winscar Reservoir: 53°31'N 1°46'W (South Yorkshire)
	Dead (hit by car)	03-07-2014	Temple High Grange Farm: 53°6'N 0°28'W 98km ESE 7y 1m 3d



Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* Northwest Lincolnshire May 26th 2014 (left) and Pye's Hall Oct 14th 2014 (right) © Graham Catley



Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* Dunsby Fen Mar 4th 2014 © Steve Nesbitt (left) and Frampton Marsh RSPB Nov 9th 2014 © Neil Smith (right)

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
East Halton Skitter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Tetney-Grainthorpe	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Grainthorpe-Somercotes	1	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	1	5	2	-
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Gibraltar Point	2	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	4	2	1
Frampton Marsh	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-
Beckingham-Stapleford	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Kyme	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Dunsby Fen	3	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Spalding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Hawthorpe	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4
Number of sites 2014	12	5	9	5	3	0	1	3	4	4	16	6
Sum of site peaks 2014	20	11	15	6	4	0	1	4	4	11	24	10
Sum of site peaks 2013	27	15	29	15	16	2	0	0	1	12	10	19
Sum of site peaks 2012	66	35	72	69	77	19	11	9	14	34	31	44

The table shows all area with at least three birds or records in at least three months. There were even smaller numbers than in 2013, with none at all reported in the former stronghold of the Ancholme valley where the habitat had been lost at the end of a stewardship scheme. The highest counts were five between Beckingham and Stapleford on Feb 9th, with four there on the 16th, four at Dunsby Fen on Mar 3rd, and in autumn, five at Donna Nook on Oct 14th and four at Gib Point on Oct 15th, with four at Hawthorpe on Dec 12th. After mid April, there were single birds at Croft on Apr 16th, Frampton Marsh on Apr 26th, Donna Nook to May 1st and Tetney Marsh on May 2nd, and two at South Kyme on May 8th, and one was at Gib Point from Jul 2nd onwards, but there were no indications of breeding.

European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Rare summer visitor and rare passage migrant.

No full survey was undertaken at Laughton and Scotton, where the first birds were heard on May 13th and the only significant data involved a total of five males holding territories on the wet heath project compared to nine in the same area in 2012 and 2013. At least one additional male was noted at Laughton but there were 20 males recorded there in 2012, that total being well down on the peaks of 29-33 males recorded during 1990-1995 and 32 males in 2005; the amount of suitable habitat in Laughton is declining as large areas of replanted clear fells from the mid 1990s are now unsuitable for this species. Away from Laughton-Scotton, the only reported breeding birds were three males on one part of Crowle Moors on Jun 11th and a single male in Willingham Forest on Jul 30th. There are clearly more birds at Crowle and we understand that the total found in the Natural England-funded surveys (as reported last year) was 13 singing males, the same as in 2013, but the results of the NE surveys were not reported to LBC. Whether there are other birds in the Market Rasen woodlands or in the woodlands and heathland at Kirkby Moor, Moor Farm and Ostlers Plantation is unknown. With such a restricted county population, it would be beneficial to survey all suitable habitat every year. The most unusual and intriguing records of the year came from Gib Point where a male was churring on May 25th with a female also present, following which a possible was seen on Jun 4th and presumably a different male was churring in the same location on Jun 11th.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first reports were of two at Barton Pits and one at Marston STW on Apr 20th,. There were reports of 1-3 at seven sites in the rest of Apr but the first double figure count of 16 at Far Ings NNR didn't come until May 1st and the major influx started from then with peak counts on succeeding dates as follows: 25 at Far Ings on the 2nd, 50 at Barton Pits on the 5th, 120 at Donna Nook on the 6th, 200 at Barton Pits on the 7th, 500 at Barton Pits on the 9th and 900 at Covenham Res on the 10th. The only other large count during May was of 450 at Frampton Marsh on 25th. During June, there were large movements south at Gib Point of 1456 on 10th and 3000 on 23rd. July saw 1531 on the 2nd and 2500 on the 14th, both also southerly movements at Gib Point. Generally these peak counts were more than 50% down on 2013. After the first week

of Aug when most breeding birds left, numbers rapidly fell away with a peak count of 419 south at Gib Point on the 10th. After Sep 1st there were only six reports of single birds at Gib Point on Sep 2nd, 6th and 15th, Donna Nook on Sep 12th and Nov 14th and the last of the year at Pinchbeck on Nov 15th.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

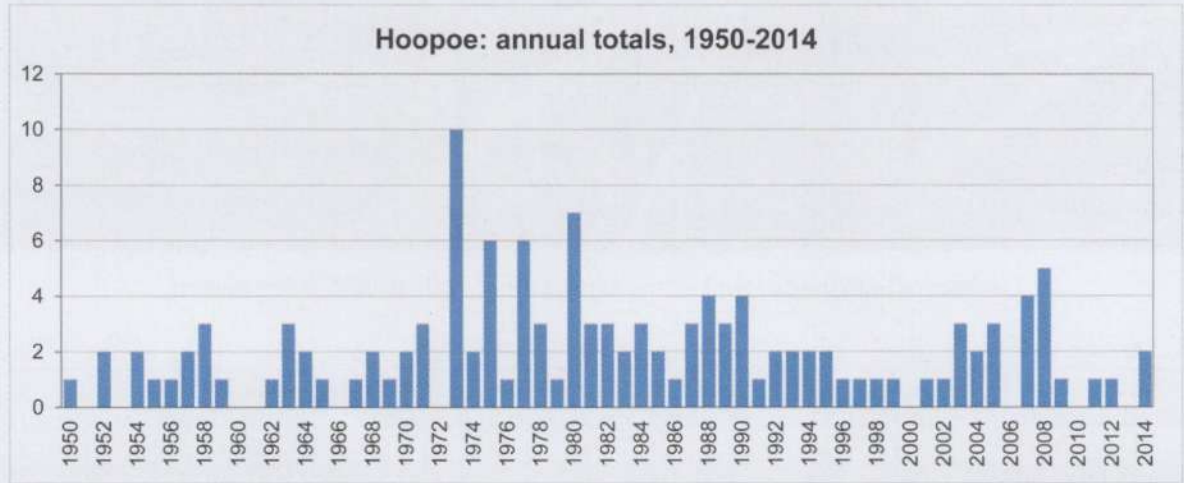
Rare passage migrant mainly Apr-Oct, rarely to Dec. LBRC

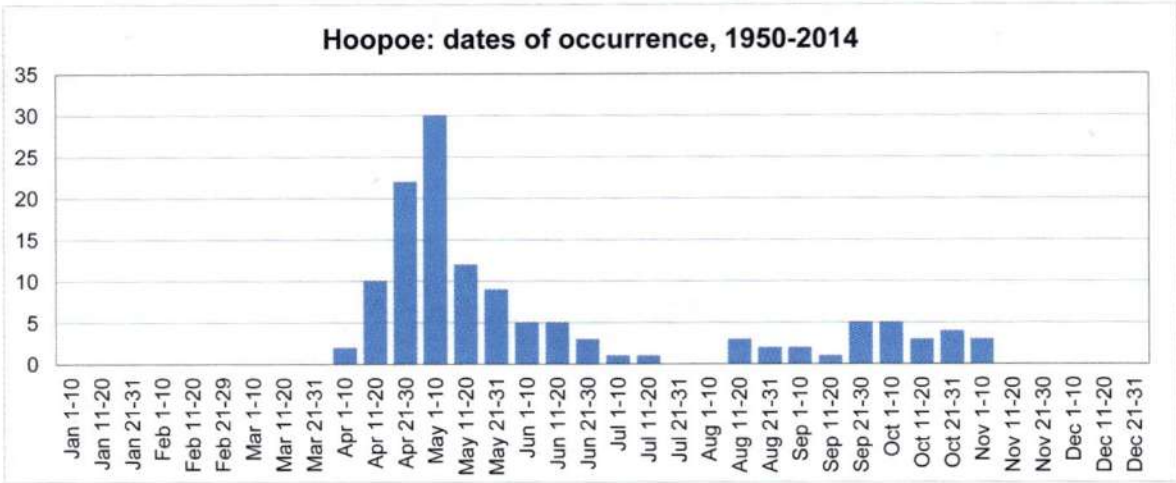
One was seen at Gib Point on Apr 23rd (NAL) was at a typical date. More unusual but not unprecedented was a late autumn individual at Barton Pits, moving between Pasture Wharf and Barrow Haven on Nov 6th-7th (RDa, GPC *et al*).

Two Hoopoes in a year is typical, though there was a period in the 1970s and 1980s when years with more were frequent. As can be seen from the second chart below, they are more common in spring than in autumn, peaking at the end of Apr and beginning of May. The extreme arrival dates during the period since 1950 are 9th April 1958 at Denton, and 9th November in both 2003 (Crook Bank) and 2008 (North Somercotes). Most records have been of single birds but two have been seen together in 1957, 1977 and 1980, all on the coast in spring.



Hoopoe *Upupa epops* Barton Pits Nov 7th 2014 © Graham Catley





European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Vagrant. LBRC RBBP

2009 addition: At least five were seen on wires at Marsh Lane, Donna Nook on May 16th-17th (SL, BLi)

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.



Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Barkston Jun 10th 2014 © Steve Nesbitt

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	24	15	21	14	7	8	24	21	35	32	21	11
Monthly totals 2013	21	16	22	24	19	18	14	37	36	33	27	21
Monthly totals 2014	41	30	25	24	26	24	28	42	52	42	50	38



Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* Gib Point Aug 30th 2014 © Paul Neale



Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* Gib Point Aug 30th 2014 © Paul Neale

The table shows how peak monthly counts have grown steadily during a series of mild winters from 2011 through to 2014. Kingfisher is widespread throughout Lincolnshire and reports were received from around 140 sites. The peak monthly total of 52 in Sep 2014 was the highest total in the four year period and could be indicative of a good breeding season or an early autumn influx. The largest single count was of seven birds on the Louth Canal between Louth and Austen Fen on Jan 10th. There were six at Barton Pits during May-Jun where three pairs probably bred. Confirmed breeding was reported from Boultham Mere, South Kyme, Tetney Marshes and Whisby NR. The peak autumn count was of five at Frampton Marsh on Nov 7th and 9th.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

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

Four individuals were recorded this year, all within the typical period of Aug 26th-Sep 9th. One stayed five days on the rock ridge at Gib Point during 26-30th Aug (JPS *et al*). Inland at Spalding, one was present and videoed in a garden on Aug 30th (MLm). On Sep 5th, one was found at Gib Point (KMW), assumed to be different from the earlier individual, and another inland bird seen in his garden at Louth by a lucky observer on Sep 9th (RLb).

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
Alkborough Flats	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	1
Dunholme	2	2	2	4	-	2	2	-	-	2	2	2
Boultham Mere/Swanpool	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	1	2	2	1
Whisby NR	2	1	1	2	2	-	1	1	1	1	-	-
Branston	-	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
Gibraltar Point	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
Norton Disney Quarry	1	1	-	-	-	1	2	2	1	1	-	1
Kirkby on Bain Pits	-	-	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	1	1	-
Anwick	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	6	1	-	-	-
Elsea/Math Woods	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Willow Tree Fen	-	1	2	1	2	1	-	-	1	1	3	-
Deeping Lakes NR	3	2	2	1	2	1	-	1	2	3	-	3
Number of sites 2014	24	28	44	51	22	24	39	22	26	28	15	19
Number of sites 2013	13	17	25	36	20	16	15	27	15	18	15	13

The table includes all sites where there were counts of four or more, or records in eight months or more. Birds were recorded in 137 areas. Five birds were present in Elsea/Math Woods on Mar 22nd and Dunholme had four birds on Apr 9th. At Anwick there were six on Aug 16th. There were counts of three at a further nine sites, spread widely across the county and with many such records either in Mar, when territorial birds are most evident, or in early autumn when numbers are boosted by young. Breeding was poorly reported. A pair of adults with a juvenile were seen at Surfleet Sea Ends (Spalding Golf Club) on Jul 14th and confirmation of breeding came also from East Keal the following day. Probable or possible breeding activity was observed at another 12 sites.

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
Alkborough Flats	1	3	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1
Anwick	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Barton Pits	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	4	1	3	1
Boultham Mere/Swanpool	3	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	2
Branston	-	1	2	2	2	1	-	1	1	1	1	1
Gibraltar Point	4	2	4	2	2	2	3	3	6	8	4	3
Humberston Fitties	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	5	3	2	2
Tattershall Lakes CP	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	2
Whisby NR	1	4	1	2	1	-	1	3	2	4	3	2
Number of sites 2014	32	33	51	44	22	21	22	20	28	30	28	27
Number of sites 2013	24	25	31	40	21	22	16	15	16	28	24	30

The table includes all sites where there were counts in eight months or more. Records came from 151 sites and involved 937 records. Many of the higher totals came from inland areas in the spring, including five at Belleau Bridge and Trout Farm on Feb 16th, five at Hartsholme CP on Mar 4th, six at Elsea/Math Woods on Mar 16th and 30th, six at Highall Woods on Apr 16th, and six at Temple Wood on Apr 19th. Coastal peaks came in the autumn, including five at Humberston Fitties on Sep 30th, and six at Gib Point on Sep 6th and Oct 11th, and eight there on Oct 15th. There were counts of four at a further seven sites. Breeding was very poorly reported, and confirmation was reported only for the Boultham Mere/Swanpool area on Jun 16th. Records of probable breeding came from nine localities and possible breeding at nine more sites. The details below concern a well-established breeding resident (the BTO longevity record is 11 years one month).

CW60141	First-year Female	04-04-2007	Kirmond-Le-Mire: 53°25'N 0°13'W
	Caught by ringer	19-01-2008	Kirmond-Le-Mire: 53°25'N 0°13'W 0km 0y 9m 15d
	Caught by ringer	03-12-2008	Kirmond-Le-Mire: 53°25'N 0°13'W 0km 1y 7m 29d
	Caught by ringer	25-04-2014	Kirmond-Le-Mire: 53°25'N 0°13'W 0km 7y 0m 21d

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Rare resident. RBBP

Records came from just ten sites covering 18 differing dates (all but one during Feb-May) and numbering probably as few as 12 birds. This is an increase on last year but could just reflect raised awareness of where these secretive birds can be found. The first record was from Hartsholme CP where a male and female were observed on Feb 4th and on four further dates to Feb 24th, and singles birds during Feb and Mar; breeding probably took place there. Breeding was confirmed only at Woodhall Spa Golf Course where an adult was observed feeding young on May 29th. One was seen on two dates in Apr on the coast at Seacroft, but all other observations were of singles on just a single date in more typical locations. These sightings were at Lea, Neville Wood, Hill Holt Wood, Belton Park and Deeping Lakes NR between early Feb and early May, and then the one record from later in the year, one at Rand on Nov 17th.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Kestrel brood sizes								
Number of young	Failed	1	2	3	4	5	6	Unringed/missed
Number of broods	16	5	16	15	23	37	15	23

Alan Ball and Bob Sheppard have kindly provided the data above relating to their Kestrel ringing programme. The majority of nests are located within chambers incorporated above pole mounted barn owl nest boxes although they additionally monitor a number of bespoke Kestrel nest boxes and occasionally birds will commandeer the main chamber of a barn owl nest box. This year, 150 nests were monitored, of which 16 failed and 23 were not ringed for various reasons, meaning that 111 broods were ringed – over twice as many as the 54 in 2013. A total of 449 chicks was ringed (average 4.0 per brood). Making comparisons with previous years is difficult, as differing numbers of nest sites have been monitored, but during 2011-2013 mean brood sizes were, respectively, 4.2, 2.8 and 3.2, suggesting that this year was above average, as it was for various owls. Additionally, in the last 20 years of monitoring they have only ever recorded 12 successful broods of six juveniles, therefore to record 15 in a single year is noteworthy.

Throughout the year, birds were recorded across the county with majority of records relating to single individuals, with little difference in winter and summer distribution. Passage at Gib Point was recorded from late July with peak counts of seven on four dates during Jul 20th-Aug 15th and 13 on Aug 14th. Elsewhere peak counts included eight at Metherringham Delph on Jan 31st and on several dates during Jun-Dec, about 12 at Halton Marshes during Nov, and eight at Dunsby Fen in Dec.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

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

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	1	1	1
<i>Coastal</i>												
Humberston Fitties	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Tetney Marsh	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1

Donna Nook	2	1	1	2	-	-	1	2	1	3	2	2
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
<i>The Wash</i>												
Gibraltar Point	3	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	4	3	2
Wainfleet	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	2
Leverton	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Freiston Shore	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
Frampton Marsh	3	2	2	1	-	1	1	2	2	2	2	2

Recorded from 63 widely spread locations with numerous individual records received from inland locations especially in the latter part of the year. Birds were seen at coastal sites, including both the Wash and Humber, most consistently with ten sites recording birds on four or more months, as shown in the table. The highest counts from defined areas were four in the Wainfleet WeBS sector on Feb 2nd and six there on Nov 9th, while nearby at Gib Point there were four on Oct 20th (in view together) and 24th. There were also counts of three at Gib Point in Jan, Mar-Apr and Oct-Nov, and at Frampton Marsh on Jan 29th-30th and at Donna Nook on Oct 5th. There were a handful of coastal and Wash records in May-Jul and the period between Jun 14th and Jul 2nd was the only significant time with no reports at all. Inland birds during the first winter period were singles at Trent Port (Marton) on Jan 15th, Kirkby on Bain GP on Jan 17th, two birds at Nocton Fen on Jan 21st and singles at Baston-Langtoft Pits on Jan 24th and Hill Holt Wood on Jan 30th. In Aug, single birds were at Horkstow/Barton Wolds on the 5th and Metheringham Delph on the 24th, and in Sep, singles were at Willow Tree Fen NR on the 21st and Black Bank (Messingham) on the 29th. During Oct, singles were at Bonby/Worlaby Carrs on the 5th, Dunsby on the 7th, Nocton Fen on the 9th and Midville on the 17th. During the second winter period, birds were at Dunston Fen on Nov 9th, Barkston on Nov 20th, Thorpe Tilney Fen on Nov 25th, Aubourn on Dec 2nd, by the R Welland (Spalding-Borough Fen) on Dec 6th, Dunsby Fen on Dec 13th-15th, Screddington on Dec 16th, at Helpringham and at Salmonby on Dec 20th, Gipsy Bridge on Dec 22nd, and finally at Bloxholm and at Temple Bruer on Dec 30th.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

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

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Number of sites	6	34	25	26	32	29	4

As in previous years, very few birds were recorded breeding although it is clear that this species has increased within the county. The table shows numbers of sites reporting birds per month. The total number of locations where birds were recorded at least once between May and Aug was 80. The only confirmed breeding involved two broods of three in Laughton Forest, one brood of two at Dunsby, and birds carrying food at Susworth; this clearly seriously understates the numbers nesting in the county. The first bird of the year was at Gib Point on Apr 21st, with further birds recorded at Metheringham Delph and Town's Holt (Grimsby) on Apr 24th, Whisby NR on Apr 27th and Marston STW on Apr 29th. The first birds to be recorded on their breeding ground were displaying at Laughton Forest on Apr 30th. During the period May-Aug, the only sites to record birds during every month were the well watched sites of Alkborough Flats, Donna Nook, Frampton Marsh and Gibraltar Point. Most records involved single individuals or occasionally two in flight, with the exception of three at East Keal on May 23rd, five at Crowle Waste/Moors on May 31st and four at Laughton Forest in Jul-Aug. There were singles at Manby Flashes and Willingham by Stow on Oct 1st and the last bird of the year was at Toft Newton Res on Oct 2nd.

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus*

Vagrant. **BBRC**

An immature grey morph bird was first seen at Far Ings on Feb 16th (MWs), and then at Read's Island on Mar 9th-10th (GPC, ND). Accepted BBRC (BB 108 p.598). A note on these sightings is included on page 169 of this report.

This was the second acceptable record of Gyr Falcon in Lincolnshire, the previous one being an immature female grey morph bird shot at Saxilby, near Lincoln, in December 1900. There are also three rejected records (Manton Common pre 1851, Twigmoor 1826, Scunthorpe 1823); the Twigmoor bird was formerly included on the Lincolnshire list but has since been discarded by the BOU Records Committee (Ibis 154 p.213).



Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* (juvenile) Read's Island Mar 10th 2014 © Graham Catley



Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	30	26	34	30	17	15	20	13	21	23	22	26
Sum of site peaks	35	36	47	42	38	36	32	17	29	30	35	31

In 2014 the BTO undertook a national survey, the results of which are incorporated in this report. There were 19 confirmed breeding sites, 10 pairs of which produced 24 chicks, five pairs definitely produced no young and four sites were not fully monitored due to restricted access. The pair at Boston Stump were successful for the first time raising four chicks, while the usual pair at St Wulfram's, Grantham did not attempt to nest because of ongoing repairs to the church steeple. The Lincoln Cathedral nest produced only one juvenile. Away from those on public buildings, seven pairs nested in quarries and nine pairs on various industrial buildings, masts and other tall structures. Probable breeding was recorded at a further six sites. So far there has been no evidence in Lincolnshire of breeding in natural sites such as trees which has been noted in some lowland English counties. The first such record is awaited with interest. Outside the breeding season, from Aug to Feb, birds were seen widely. Of 461 reports, 378 were singletons, 77 reports of two, five of three birds and one of five. Five were at Humberston Fitties on Sep 30th and threes were at Alkborough Flats on Nov 8th, Donna Nook on Aug 24th, Gib Point on Nov 7th, New Holland on Feb 16th and Whisby NR on Nov 11th.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Rare. Vagrant from feral populations and occasional local escapes.

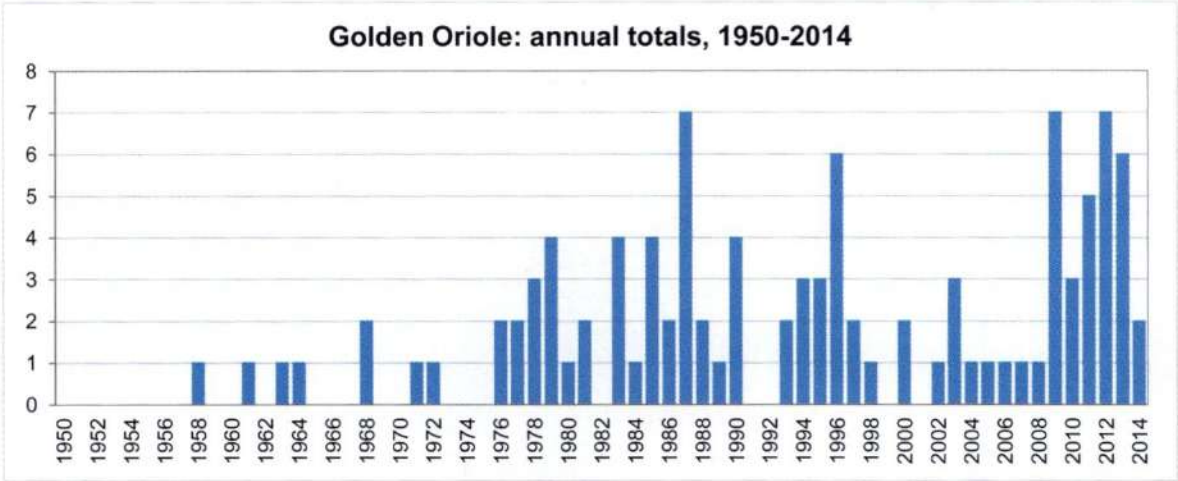
Records in the Friskney and Wainfleet area and possibly elsewhere are considered to involve birds escaped from the Friskney Parrot Zoo. One was at Lincoln on Jan 1st and one was at North Hykeham on Jan 15th. One was at Friskney on Jan 2nd, two were there on Feb 4th and two were at Wainfleet on Feb 10th. One was heard at Market Rasen on Feb 16th and one was at Gib Point on the 19th. Four were at Friskney on Oct 12th, three were at Wainfleet on the 29th and a party of c20 flew south at Gib Point on Oct 30th. One was at Gainsborough on Nov 6th-7th and one was at Irby in the Marsh on Nov 24th where apparently there had been a colony of six present for some time, perhaps an offshoot from Friskney.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

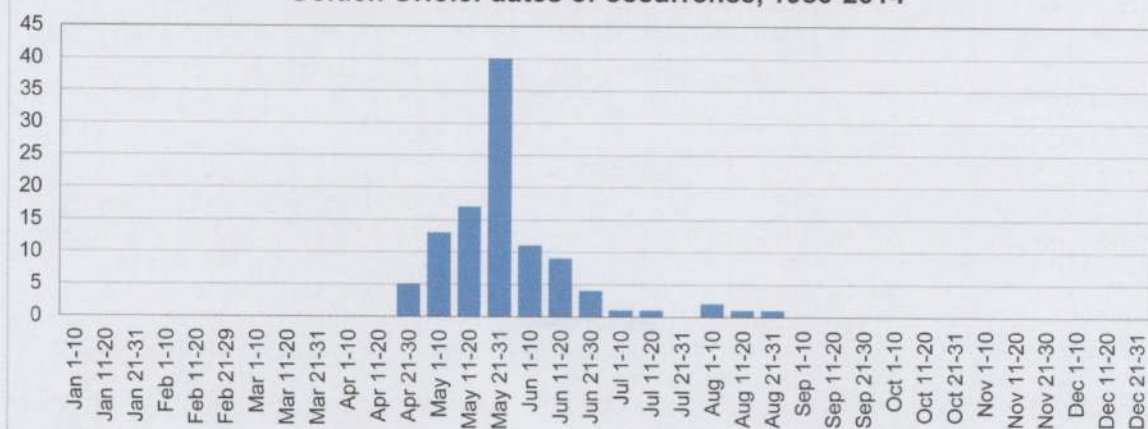
Rare migrant mainly spring/early summer, but recorded Apr-Aug. **LBRC RBBP**

A sub-adult male was heard singing and seen briefly at Gib Point on May 29th-30th (KMW *et al*). Another male was at Donna Nook on Jun 3rd (SL).

The long-term trend for Golden Oriole could be interpreted as showing increase but perhaps it reflects a greater likelihood that birds are found nowadays. However, the annual average for 2009-2014 is five individuals, while that for the previous 20 years was less than two. The predominance of spring records, peaking in the last ten days of May, is a striking feature of Golden Oriole occurrence, along with the fact that the majority of birds located are males, albeit many of them not in full black-and-yellow plumage.



Golden Oriole: dates of occurrence, 1950-2014



Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

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

An adult female at Gib Point on Jun 1st (NAL) and an adult male at Baston Fen on Aug 2nd (GMO, AGd) were the only documented records this year.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

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

The year began with three wintering birds in situ. The ringed individual at Bassingham was not reported after Jan 2nd (MPv), but the bird near Aisby/Culverthorpe Lakes was seen regularly through to Feb 9th (HK, ABa *et al*), and that near East Butterwick Common until Apr 10th (GPC *et al*). The East Butterwick Common bird – in an area of restricted access – was only intermittently reported before mid Feb. Separate individuals were seen on the Viking Way at Hungerton on Jan 20th (JWa) and near the New Midge Inn at Hatton on Feb 4th (SK). Autumn began with a rush on Oct 14th, when one was at Humberston Fitties (RL), at least two and probably three at Donna Nook (SL, GPC *et al*), two at Gib Point (KMW, GGr, RDn), one of which was trapped and ringed, and one at Frampton Marsh (SWI). The Frampton bird was also seen on the 15th, while both Gib Point birds remained to the 16th, with one until the 17th. At Donna Nook, two different birds were present on the 15th (SL *et al*). Also on Oct 15th, three others were found, at Saltfleet (SJM, GPC *et al*), Nocton Fen (JWa), and Black Bank (Messingham) (SWa, RNH, *et al*), with the last of these also seen on the 16th. One at Howden's Pullover on Oct 16th (MBE) is assumed to be the Saltfleet bird of the 15th, and one at Humberston Fitties on the 16th (RL) is assumed to be the same as that there on the 14th. There was then a gap of two weeks until the next appeared, at Frampton Marsh on Nov 4th (IE). One was at Rimac in Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Nov 19th (NAL). Finally, one was found at Blyton on Dec 24th (ND *et al*) which stayed into 2015; it is tempting to think that this was the same as the Black Bank individual of Oct 15th-16th but it is counted as a different bird. The total for the year, then, including the three already present in 2013, was 19 individuals, five in Jan-Apr and 14 in Oct-Dec.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Very common resident.

Counts of 15 or more came from 17 sites (13 in 2012) and the highest count anywhere in the county of 60 (46 last year), there was little concrete evidence of a change in status. The all-England BBS results showed a small but statistically significant increase between 2013 and 2014 of 4%. Winter maxima in the first quarter were 39 at Cleethorpes CP on Jan 17th and at Far Ings NR, where a peak of 60 occurred on Feb 16th. Later in the year, autumn peaks occurred in mid Oct at Gib Point (40) and at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NR (36). There were no significant ringing data for this species in 2014.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Common resident, irregular migrant and winter visitor.

After the record-breaking numbers of autumn 2012, with a substantial movement in spring 2013, 2014 turned out to be an unremarkable year throughout. A total of 141 sites reported



Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* Aisby Jan 2014 © Ian Misselbrook



Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* M180 near Butterwick Feb 28th 2014 © Graham Catley

Jays during 2014, but in the first half of the year there was no evidence of any significant coastal movements and nowhere reported counts in double figures. Many sites recorded 1-5 birds only. Autumn counts were slightly higher, although only two sites reported double figure counts in Sep: Baston Fen with 16 on the 14th and Alkborough with 28 on the 20th. In Oct there were 15 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on the 5th and 25 at Gib Point on the 16th. Numbers rapidly dwindled thereafter with no count above five during Nov and Dec. There was a single interesting recovery of a bird ringed at Gib Point during the spring movement of 2013 and found dead the following spring in Norfolk.

DE31442	Second-year	16-05-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Dead	29-04-2014	Peterstone Farm, near Burnham Market: 52°57'N 0°46'E (Norfolk) 35km ESE 0y 11m 13d

Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Very common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

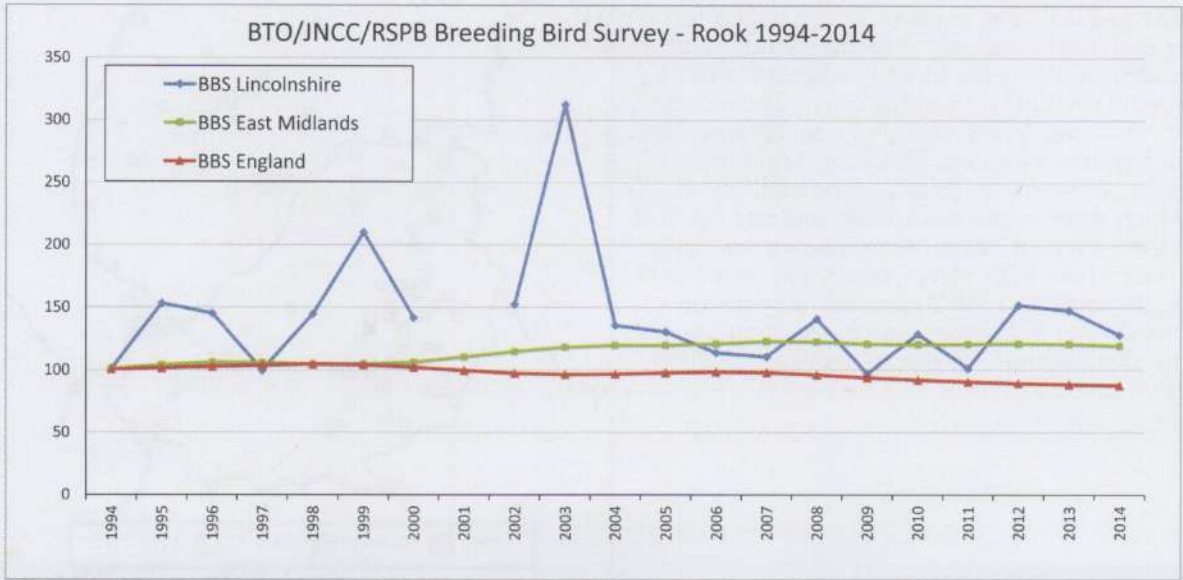
Nordic Jackdaw *C.m.monedula*. Rare or overlooked winter visitor. (Eastern Jackdaw *C.m.soemmerringii* is not on the British List but it is a migrant wintering southwest into north-central Europe with ringing recoveries from Belgium and northeastern France)

The national and regional BBS graphs continue to show increasing trends although the 2013-2014 increase was not statistically significant. Reports this year came from more than 200 sites, significantly more than in 2013 (140). There were some counts of 100 or more all months apart from Jul. The largest totals were, as expected, restricted to the year-ends. There was a huge mixed flock of c.5000 Jackdaws and Rooks going to roost in Belton Park on Jan 18th. Further Jackdaw counts of 100-200 were recorded at Gib Point, Kirkby on Bain, Mablethorpe North End, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR, South Thoresby, Swanpool and Witham on the Hill during the first quarter. Southward movement was noted at Gib Point in spring and autumn although this did not involve huge numbers. Daily counts of up to 46 south were made during early Mar-early May. In autumn pre-roost gatherings of up to 200 were noted there from late August and later small southwards movements were noted from mid Sep into Oct with a daily maximum of 112 on 24th Oct. An impressive 2000 were counted over Hartsholme Park on Nov 27th. Into Dec, roost numbers at Gib Point remained in the vicinity of 150 to the year's end. There were also 350 at Humberston Fitties on Dec 7th and 330 on Croft Marsh on Dec 22nd. There were no notable ringing recoveries or controls during 2014.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Very common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

Rook remains an abundant and widespread species but the national BBS population trend has shown a slight downward trend since 2000, in contrast to that for the East Midlands, which has not varied much during that time. The Lincolnshire trend seems fairly level, though with some 'spikiness' probably the result of occasional high counts of feeding birds.



As with many common species, Rook is not very well reported. Counts were received from 142 sites with peaks of more than 150 coming from only eight sites in the first quarter, as follows. There was a huge mixed flock of c.5000 Rooks and Jackdaws going to roost in Belton Park on Jan 18th. Further Rook counts of 250 were at There were 250 at Baston Fen on Jan 11th, 250 at Willow Tree Fen on Feb 3rd, 200 at Louth on Feb 4th, 200 at Belleau Trout Farm and 150 at Normanby-by-Spital both on Feb 16th, 150 at Thurlby Sand Pit on Feb 25th, 200 again at Belleau Trout Farm on Mar 1st and 300 at Risby Warren on Mar 29th. The only nest counts received were as follows: 40 at Kirkby on Bain GP, 40 at Butt's Bridge (Coningsby) and 145 near Tattershall Castle. A small amount of movement was noted at Gib Point in spring and autumn, the largest counts being 49 south on Apr 5th and 51 south on Apr 8th. Elsewhere in the last quarter of the year, 250 were at Manby Flashes on Oct 27th, 400 at Swanholme Lakes on Nov 13th, 450 at Humberston Fitties on Dec 7th, 300 at Woodhall Spa on Dec 21st, 270 at Winterton on Dec 30th and 200 at Middlemarsh on Dec 24th-30th. Rooks are resident over the western and southern parts of their western European range, including British breeding birds, but migratory to the north and east. Ringing recoveries indicate an intricate pattern of wintering areas for migratory populations, most of which forsake breeding grounds during Oct. There have been irregular influxes from the Baltic and Dutch breeding population winters to eastern England although these appear to have become very infrequent since at least the 1950s.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Common resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

The national breeding population trend for this species continues to show a consistent but gentle increase. Around 266 sites recorded this species and there were counts of 100 or more in Jan from 13 sites, the maximum being 360 at Marston STW on Jan 12th, with 200 at Mablethorpe North End the next highest total. There were no notable spring or summer records but flocks built up again during the autumn, Sep-Dec. Most were seen on the coast, although not as numerous as in the first quarter. Up to 150 were counted at Donna Nook in Nov, and a maximum of 112 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes. Inland, flocks of 20-75 were also widely reported.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

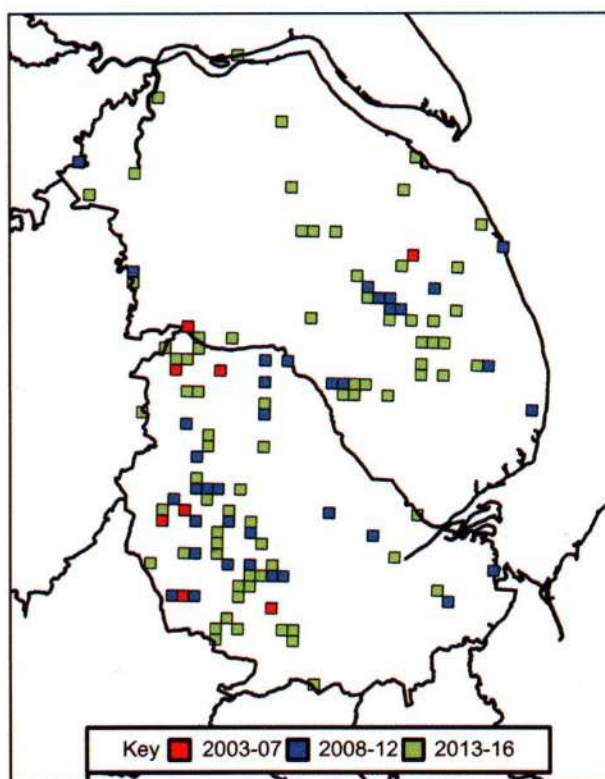
Very scarce migrant and winter visitor formerly much more common in winter. LBRC

This species continues to become scarcer. One was in the New Holland-Goxhill Haven area on Apr 9th (GPC). It or another flew west at Barton Pits on Apr 18th (GPC), the first record there since Apr 16th, 1984. In the autumn, one flew south at Donna Nook on Oct 12th (NHD).

Common Raven *Corvus corax*

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

Reports came from 51 sites this year, although the maximum in any single month was just 11. The reports were concentrated in the southwest and into the Wolds with a scattering along the Lincoln edge and a few to north Lincolnshire and the coast. The number of breeding pairs is slowly increasing but incompletely known. This year, a minimum of eight territorial pairs was reported, seven of which were in the southwest and one further north. Five of these were known to fledge young: two with three young, two with two young, and one with just one. Expansion of this species continues apace: the map shows the distribution of Raven records in 2004, 2009 and 2014.



Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	3	1	4	2	2	-	-	2	1	6	3	2
Donna Nook	-	-	3	10	-	-	1	-	5	700	6	1
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	15	2000	3	7
Gibraltar Point	6	5	2	9	1	-	-	3	32	734	38	20
Whisby NR	2	4	2	1	1	-	1	-	6	7	8	6
Branston	1	2	3	2	3	2	1	2	1	2	2	1
Anwick STW	-	-	2	4	2	4	4	5	3	9	8	5

The table includes all sites at which more than 30 were noted or with records in nine or more months. Except in Oct, numbers reported were very small: all counts of 50 or more fell during that month. The main arrival was on Oct 14th when site counts included 200 at Humberston Fitties, at least 700 and possibly many more at Donna Nook, c2000 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes (including 381 trapped), 30 at Chapel St Leonards and 734 at Gib Point (52 trapped). Estimates on the 15th included 600 at each of Donna Nook and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes and 255 at Gib Point, after which numbers tailed off and after 280 at Gib Point on Oct 18th there were no more counts exceeding 100. The highest totals away from the coast also fell during Oct, including 15 at Belton Park on Oct 5th and 20 at Frampton Marsh on Oct 22nd, although of course substantial breeding populations around the county are inadequately reported. The ringing recoveries show onwards movements by three of the October migrants, and one of 2013's autumn birds in The Netherlands on almost the same day a year later.

HCK357	First-year Male Caught by ringer	14-10-2014 24-10-2014	Gibraltar Point: 53°6'N 0°19'E Thornton: c. 52°39'N 1°19'W (Leicestershire) 121km WSW 0y 0m 10d
HCK555	First-year Male Caught by ringer Caught by ringer	11-10-2014 28-10-2014 31-10-2014	Gibraltar Point: 53°6'N 0°19'E Herne: 50°43'N 4°1'E (Brabant) Belgium 367km SE 0y 0m 17d Herne: 50°43'N 4°1'E (Brabant) Belgium 367km SE 0y 0m 20d
CNV300	First-year Male Caught by ringer	15-10-2014 24-10-2014	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E le Fort Vert, Marck: 50°55'N 1°57'E (Pas-de-Calais) France 296km SSE 0y 0m 9d
EVB183	Adult Male Caught by ringer	18-10-2013 20-10-2014	near North Somercotes: 53°27'N 0°9'E Burgh Haamstede, Schouwen-Duiveland: 51°40'N 3°40'E (Zeeland) The Netherlands 311km SE 1y 0m 2d

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

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

With one exception, there were only spring and autumn migrants this year. The first in spring was one at Gib Point on Mar 19th, and on the 22nd, one was photographed well inland at Dole Wood. One was at Frampton Marsh on Mar 31st-Apr 1st. One was present near Pye's Hall on Apr 1st-4th, and there were two at Gib Point on Apr 9th, one of them trapped and ringed. Another inland bird was seen at Barnetby le Wold on Apr 10th, and a month later the last of spring was at Gib Point on May 9th. The first of autumn was one at Pye's Hall on Sep 12th-16th. One was at Gib Point on Sep 15th, then one on the 17th, and singles on the 18th, 19th and 20th; it is not certain how many individuals were involved. There were also three at Saltfleet on the 17th. One, assumed to be new bird, was found at Pye's Hall on Sep 22nd. Meanwhile one was seen by the path to Witham Mouth at Frampton Marsh on Sep 20th. Presumably the same bird was found again there on Sep 26th and seen several times up to Oct 5th, and also on Oct 15th. Records of singles at Donna Nook on Oct 6th-8th are assumed to relate to just one bird. On Oct 14th, there were singles at Chapel St Leonards and Gib Point, and the last of autumn was one at Gib Point on Oct 24th. However, at the end of the year, one was caught by a cat at Gosberton Fen on Dec 24th, and subsequently died.

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	5	4	30	50	50	200	200	200	150	40	30
Garthorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	16	-	7

Winteringham Haven	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Far Ings	-	-	4	-	1	7	2	4	11	12	6	2
Huttoft Bank Pit	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Gibraltar Point	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-

This year's totals were probably higher than any previously recorded in Lincolnshire. The Alkborough Flats breeding population was estimated to be 22 pairs. Breeding success there was good, with pairs fledging two or three broods; the first fledged young were seen on May 31st, and there were around 200 birds present on Jul 28th. Erupting flocks were evident through Aug-Oct, also noted across the river at Garthorpe and in both places birds remained in Trentside reeds at the end of the year. There were also at least four pairs at Winteringham Haven and one pair at Far Ings where a juvenile was seen on Jul 21st. Records from sites not in the table were 10 at East Halton Skitter on Oct 12th, a male at Whisby NR on Dec 6th (the first reserve record), two at South Ferriby Cliff on Dec 9th and five at Messingham SQ on Dec 29th.



Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus* Alkborough Flats Jul 28th 2014 © Graham Catley

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

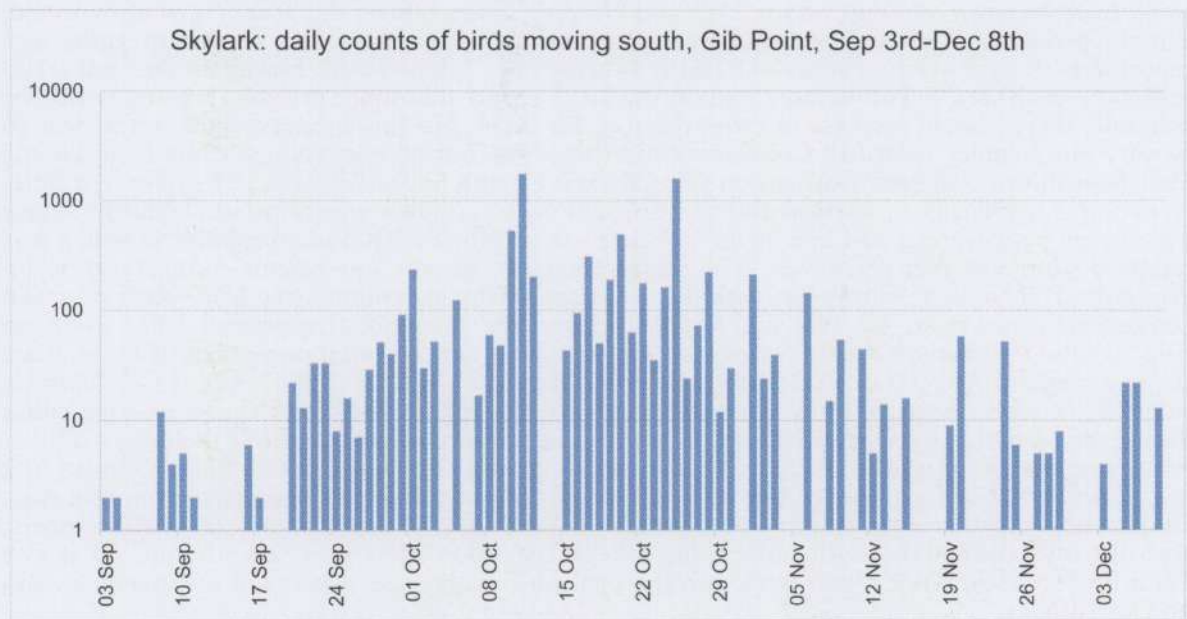
Scarce semi-resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Bred to 1959 and again from 1984 with numbers peaking around the year 2000, although now steadily declining. **RBBP**

Most of the key breeding sites for Woodlark were not surveyed in 2014 and hence the data presented are known to be an inadequate reflection of the county population. The first birds of the year were two males in Laughton Forest on Feb 19th but only one pair was confirmed there in 2014 compared with 17 territories in 2012; other occupied sites in the north-west were Forest Pines, Broughton with a male on Feb 28th and Mar 14th, at least two males on Risby Warren and a two pairs at Santon-Rowland Plantation; key sites at Greetwell and Twigmoor were not covered. Recent evidence suggests that the population in the north of the county is in steep decline mainly due to a loss of clear fells and other suitable habitats within commercial forests and a full county survey would be beneficial. Other breeding records came from Kirkby Moor with a minimum of three birds noted. Away from breeding sites, in spring singles were at Gib Point on Apr 9th and Apr 28th-May 1st. In autumn, one was at Donna Nook on Oct 1st with another there on the 20th, and at Gib Point one flew south on Oct 10th. A wintering bird was at Knaith on Dec 22nd.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

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

Notable counts of over 100 in Jan and early Feb were made at six sites in the Wash with the clear peak being of 345 at Wainfleet on Jan 5th. The establishment of breeding territories in Feb led to the break-up of winter flocks, but there was little evidence of any visible spring passage. Small numbers were counted for most breeding sites across the county and the maximum summer counts were of up to 90 at Donna Nook during late May and June and 89 at Welbourn Heath on May 17th with 118 there on Jun 10th. At three areas subject to breeding bird surveys, there were 89 territories at Alkborough Flats, 30 territories at Freiston Shore and 48 territories at Frampton Marsh. Southerly passage along the coast in autumn was most pronounced at Gib Point. An early movement of 25 birds was noted there on Jul 16th, but regular passage occurred from Sep 3rd to Dec 8th. In all, 7809 birds were counted heading south during the autumn with 6657 of these concentrated in Oct. The best days by far were 1765 on Oct 11th and 1600 on Oct 25th. The chart below shows the progress of this passage; note the logarithmic scale used to lessen the disparity between displayed high and low counts. Ten other sites had counts of 100 or more birds during Oct-Dec, the highest of these being 195 at Wainfleet on Dec 27th.



Skylark *Alauda arvensis* Frampton Marsh RSPB Mar 29th 2014 © Neil Smith

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.

Records were confined to four sites during the year. Eight birds at Gib Point on Jan 1st-2nd decreased to six from 3rd-5th. The wintering flock from the previous autumn at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes numbered 10 until Feb 2nd, thereafter there were nine birds until Feb 14th. Nine were at Donna Nook on Mar 20th. Very low numbers were noted in the autumn. The only bird at Gib Point was one that headed south on Oct 15th and there were single birds at Donna Nook on Oct 28th and the 29th and from Nov 8th-11th. Two were present at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Nov 1st and 17th and on Dec 12th. Two at Cleethorpes were seen on Dec 7th and again from Dec 14th-23rd.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first, at Louth on Mar 2nd, was a rather early arrival and beat the first in 2013 by 17 days. The next, south at Gib Point on Mar 15th was the forerunner of a more sustained and widespread arrival from the 16th. This only involved small numbers however with the peak monthly counts of 20 from Newton on Trent on the 29th and Deeping Lakes NR on the 30th. As to be expected, a more pronounced arrival occurred from Apr, although there were no significant gatherings reported with peak spring counts of c200 at Whisby NR, 150 at North Hykeham Pits and c.120 at Kirkby on Bain GP. Following a note in the 2013 report that more breeding reports would be valuable, there was an increase in those received for 2014, but this species would still appear to be very much under recorded. Confirmation of breeding (but no nest counts) came from Holme Hall, Scunthorpe and both Coronation Channel and Cowbit Sluice, Spalding; 16 active nest holes were noted at Trent Port, Marton and a nesting colony of 20 holes was noted at Dalderby. A pair were noted excavating a nest hole in an embankment at Whisby NR and a probable breeding was reported from a further seven sites. The traditional large autumn movements commenced on Jul 7th with c700 south at Gib Point, with this site then producing counts over 1500 birds on seven consecutive dates from Jul 29th and which included the exceptional estimated 8000 south on Aug 3rd and 5000 south the following day: a remarkably concentrated movement of birds. After the first week in Aug passage certainly tailed off, and after a further 2000 south at Gib Point on Aug 7th, numbers remained low with 400 south on Aug 29th the highest visible passage count during the second half of the month. Large numbers elsewhere around this time included c1000 at Frampton Marsh for most of Aug, with 3000 noted on Aug 16th, and 2000 at Barton Pits on Aug 2nd, with c1000 still present to Aug 25th, although generally numbers decreased from mid Aug. Despite being regularly recorded to Sep 26th, as to be expected this was only in small numbers, with the only counts above 10 birds being 100 at Frampton Marsh on Sep 6th, and 50 at Gib Point on Sep 15th. After a two week gap the final bird of the year was noted at Covenham Res on Oct 12th.

ESI	First-year	08-09-2011	Estanca Escoron, Ejea de Los Caballeros: 42°1'N 1°12'W (Zaragoza) Spain
KV4556	Caught by ringer	05-07-2012	Kettleby, near Barnetby le Wold: c. 53°33'N 0°25'W 1,281km N Oy 9m 27d

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

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

The first of the year at Saracen's Head on Mar 15th was followed by six other early records during the month at Gib Point and Wellingore Low Fields on the 17th, Frampton Marsh on the 22nd, five at Deeping Lakes NR on the 25th, at Marston STW on the 30th and another at Frampton Marsh on the 31st. The expected widespread arrival into the county began from Apr 2nd but with generally low numbers and just a few selected sites hosted any significant concentrations. At Covenham Res, following 39 on the 8th and 80 on the 17th, numbers then peaked during the latter half of the month with c.300 on the 22nd and 400 on the 25th. The only other high counts during Apr were 160 at North Hykeham Pits 22nd and 100 at Witham Mouth and c.130 at Barton Pits both on the 25th. During May there were fourteen reports involving counts of 100 or more from five sites, the highest of which were 600 at Covenham Res on the 1st, 300 at Donna Nook on the 6th, 363 at Gib Point on the 7th with 382 south at the same site on the 9th. Confirmed breeding records were few and thinly spread across the county and this is no doubt an under recorded species as a breeding bird. More breeding reports would be valuable, especially as breeding populations in eastern England have shown a recent decline. Coastal movement became evident from the middle of Jul when 200 flew south at Gib Point on the 13th, with the same site producing two other notable Jul high counts with 2500 south (of which many were juveniles) on

the 15th and 1554 south on the 20th. Southerly passage at Gib Point during Aug-Sept was not as pronounced as in 2013, possibly due to the earlier Jul peaks but did include totals of 7000 on Aug 4th and 3500 on Aug 29th. As to be expected movement tailed off in Sep with 640 south on the 8th but then a surprising late peak of 1200 moving south during the morning of the 23rd. Elsewhere there were counts of 200 or more at eight sites, most notably at Trent Port (Marton) where there were c900 on Jul 22nd, Frampton Marsh with c1000 on Aug 1st and Tetney Marsh with 500 also on the 1st. Following 100 at Humberston Fitties on Sep 30th and 184 south at Gib Point on Oct 1st and 182 south there on Oct 11th, numbers soon began to dwindle with only single figure counts towards the end of the month. There were just four Nov records with singles at Blackmoor Bridge on the 3rd, Gib Point on the 14th, and the last of the year at Donna Nook and Gib Point on Nov 19th.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

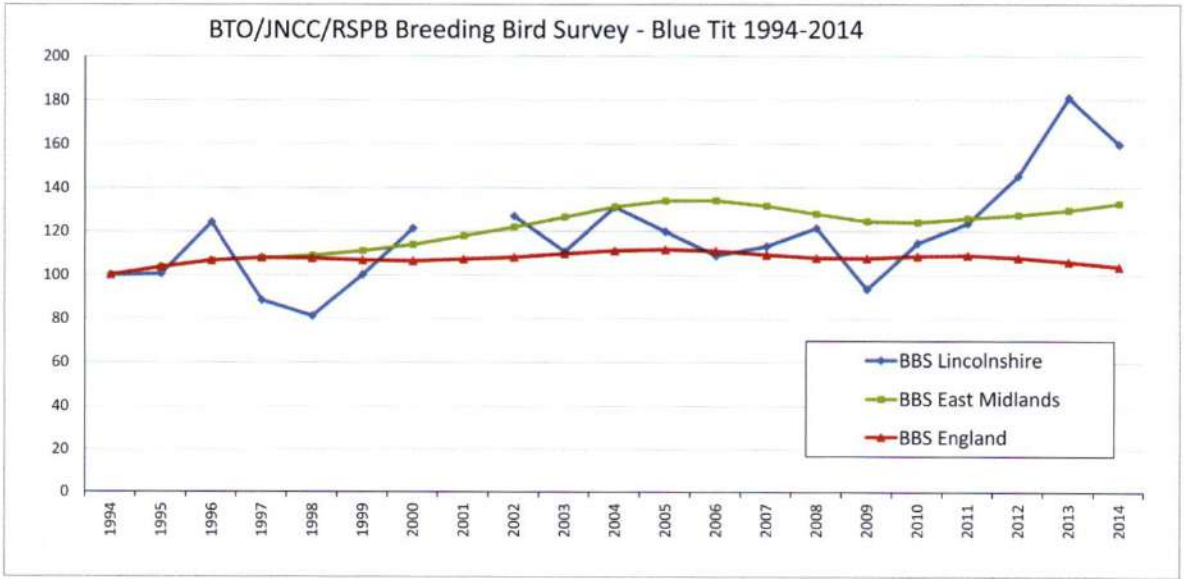
An earlier arrival period than in 2013 for this species by almost two weeks. The first record involved two birds in Boston on Mar 31st soon followed by a single bird at Gib Point on Apr 4th which heralded a more general and widespread arrival across the county, albeit in small numbers. The highest Apr counts came during the latter part of the month with 70 at North Hykeham Pits and c75 at Covenham Res both on the 22nd with the latter site providing the month's peak count of 120 on Apr 25th. The only three figure counts reported during May were c100 at Barton Pits on the 24th with c200 there on the 27th and 180 at North Hykeham Pits on the 28th. Several records of successful breeding were received, but aside from the record of 20 pairs nesting on a cottage at Frithville no detail on the number of pairs were supplied and as with other hirundines this species is much under recorded during the breeding season. There were some very small southerly movements of birds noted at Gib Point during the first half of Jun (maximum 28 on the 5th), and 30 flew south on the Jul 12th, but autumn passage here did not commence in earnest until Aug 4th when 340 flew south. The only four-figure count of the autumn occurred at Gib Point on Aug 21st when 1000 flew south with 601 south on Aug 30th the only other notable movement during the month. Peak southerly movements there in Sep occurred on consecutive days with 254 on Sep 23rd and 372 on Sep 24th, with a final late surge of 101 south on Oct 1st, and 98 south on Oct 11th. Elsewhere six sites recorded counts of 100 or more birds most notably 200 at Frampton Marsh on Aug 14th, 240 at Donna Nook on Aug 16th and c200 at Knaith on Sep 14th. Recorded regularly throughout most of Oct up to 28th when 3 birds flew south at Gib Point. After a gap of 18 days a bird was seen at Stallingborough on Nov 15th, with the final bird of the year, a very late individual at Gib Point on Nov 23rd.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Very common resident.

Records were received from about 260 sites with most records being of 10 birds or fewer. Consistently the highest counts came from Gib Point at which 30 birds or more were recorded in every month except in May and Jul; counts there peaked at 65 in Jan, with 47 in Sep and 44 in Nov. A further 22 sites had counts of 20 or more birds. These included counts of 36 birds at Hartsholme CP in Feb, 40 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR in Oct (of which 32 were trapped), and 36 at Swanholme Lakes and 33 at Whisby NP, both in Jan. Movements of 42 birds south were recorded at Gib Point over nine dates in Mar and Apr and, in the autumn, 16 heading south over five dates from Sep to Dec. Below are the two oldest of this year's Lincolnshire ringed birds. Also below is a chart showing the Lincolnshire BBS trend, indicating a small reversal in 2014 of the steep increase from 2009 to 2013. Generally, the county trend matches the gentle increase in the East Midlands region, whereas there has been little change in England as a whole.

V440339	First-year Female	30-09-2007	Wrangle Brickpits: 53°3'N 0°7'E
	Caught by ringer	08-01-2009	Wrangle Brickpits: 53°3'N 0°7'E 0km 1y 3m 9d
	Caught by ringer	04-01-2010	Wrangle Brickpits: 53°3'N 0°7'E 0km 2y 3m 5d
	Freshly dead	24-03-2014	Wrangle Brickpits: 53°3'N 0°7'E 0km 6y 5m 22d
V598481	First-year Male	08-02-2008	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W
	Caught by ringer	10-01-2014	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W 0km 5y 11m 2d
	Caught by ringer	14-01-2014	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W 0km 5y 11m 6d



Great Tit *Parus major*

Very common resident.

In common with Blue Tit, records were received from almost 250 sites across the county, ten of which had counts of 20 or more birds. Consistently the highest monthly counts came from Gib Point where 20 or more birds were recorded in every month and counts exceeded 50 birds in four months, peaking at 63 in Sep and 66 birds in Oct. Other records exceeding 30 birds were at Bradley Woods (33 in Jan) and Hartsholme CP (38 in Feb). Some movements were recorded at Gib Point including 52 south over 13 dates in Mar and Apr (and an additional eight birds high to the north on one date) and with 13 south over four dates in Oct. Below are the two oldest of this year's Lincolnshire ringed birds.

V312369	First-year Female	17-02-2007	Newball Wood, near Langworth: c. 53°16'N 0°22'W
		Caught at Newball Wood seven times during 2007-2011	
	Caught by ringer	19-11-2011	Newball Wood, near Langworth: c. 53°16'N 0°22'W 0km 4y 9m 2d
	Caught by ringer	14-12-2013	Newball Wood, near Langworth: c. 53°16'N 0°22'W 0km 6y 9m 27d
	Caught by ringer	29-03-2014	Newball Wood, near Langworth: c. 53°16'N 0°22'W 0km 7y 1m 12d
V985244	First-year Male	14-09-2009	Wrangle Brickpits: 53°3'N 0°7'E
	Caught by ringer	05-12-2009	Wrangle Brickpits: 53°3'N 0°7'E 0km 0y 2m 21d
	Caught by ringer	12-10-2010	Wrangle Brickpits: 53°3'N 0°7'E 0km 1y 0m 28d
	Caught by ringer	04-11-2014	Wrangle Brickpits: 53°3'N 0°7'E 0km 5y 1m 21d

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Widespread resident and passage migrant.

Records were received from over 110 sites spread widely across the county. Most records were of five or fewer birds; double figures were noted at only three sites with 20 birds at Broughton Forest in February, 10 at Nettleham in May and 15 at Humberston Fitties in Sep. Other counts of over five birds came from a further six sites: Belleau Bridge & Trout Farm (Apr), Boultham Mere/Swanpool (Nov), Chambers Farm Wood (Feb & Apr), Hartsholme Country Park (Apr), Linwood Warren (Feb & Nov) and Skellingthorpe Old Wood (Mar). There were no obvious signs of passage. The details below concern two fairly old Coal Tits; the BTO longevity record is nine years two months.

V256621	First-year	02-02-2007	Elsea Park, Bourne: 52°45'N 0°22'W
	Caught by ringer	10-01-2014	Elsea Park, Bourne: 52°45'N 0°22'W 0km 6y 11m 8d
V516414	First-year	13-09-2009	near Nettleton: 53°28'N 0°19'W
	Caught by ringer	01-11-2014	near Nettleton: 53°28'N 0°19'W 0km 5y 1m 19d

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
Crowle Waste/Moors	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barton Pits	2	1	4	2	5	1	1	3	2	2	4	1
Messingham SQ	6	2	6	1	2	2	1	-	-	1	-	-
Laughton Forest	-	-	2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Whisby NR	4	1	2	2	2	-	2	2	1	2	1	1
Chambers Farm Wood	-	1	2	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Snipe Dales	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haverholme Park	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of sites	10	9	12	8	3	4	7	3	3	6	3	4

The table includes sites with counts of three or more, and those with records in four or more months. Records also came from a further 24 sites mostly across the middle and north of the county with, from the south west, a single bird at Deeping Lakes in Jan and two birds in Callan's Lane Wood in Apr. Sites with both Marsh and Willow Tits included Anwick STW and Haverholme Park but no records were received of either species from Belton Park from which both have previously been recorded. Breeding was confirmed from Barton Pits, Laughton Forest, Messingham SQ, Whisby NR and Chambers Farm Wood, and was probable at Walesby. With the continuing decline in both Willow Tit and the following species, Marsh Tit, it is clearly desirable to increase effort to record both species and to attempt to confirm breeding where feasible. The British longevity record is 10 years four months, so the individual below is doing quite well.

V312260	First-year	07-10-2006	Newball Wood, near Langworth: c. 53°16'N 0°22'W
	Caught nine times at Newball Wood in 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 & 2013		
	Caught by ringer	12-03-2014	Newball Wood, near Langworth: c. 53°16'N 0°22'W 0km 7y 5m 5d

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

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

Only 40 records were received from 14 sites in the traditional range of this species, namely from Temple Wood to Morkery Wood and Woolthorpe by Belvoir in the south-west and from Anwick to Potterhanworth Wood on the south-west side of the Witham valley. Most records were of 1-3 birds but four birds were recorded in Callan's Lane Wood in Feb with six there in Dec whilst eight were recorded at Anwick STW in Aug. Breeding was confirmed at Bourne Woods with breeding probable at Callan's Lane Wood, Potterhanworth Wood and at Twyford Wood. Noteworthy additional records, away from the established range of the species, included, on Jan 13th, the single bird at Alkborough that had been present since Nov 2013, and a single bird recorded at Gib Point on several dates during Aug 11th-22nd. The ringing details below, though, show more typical sedentariness by Marsh Tits.

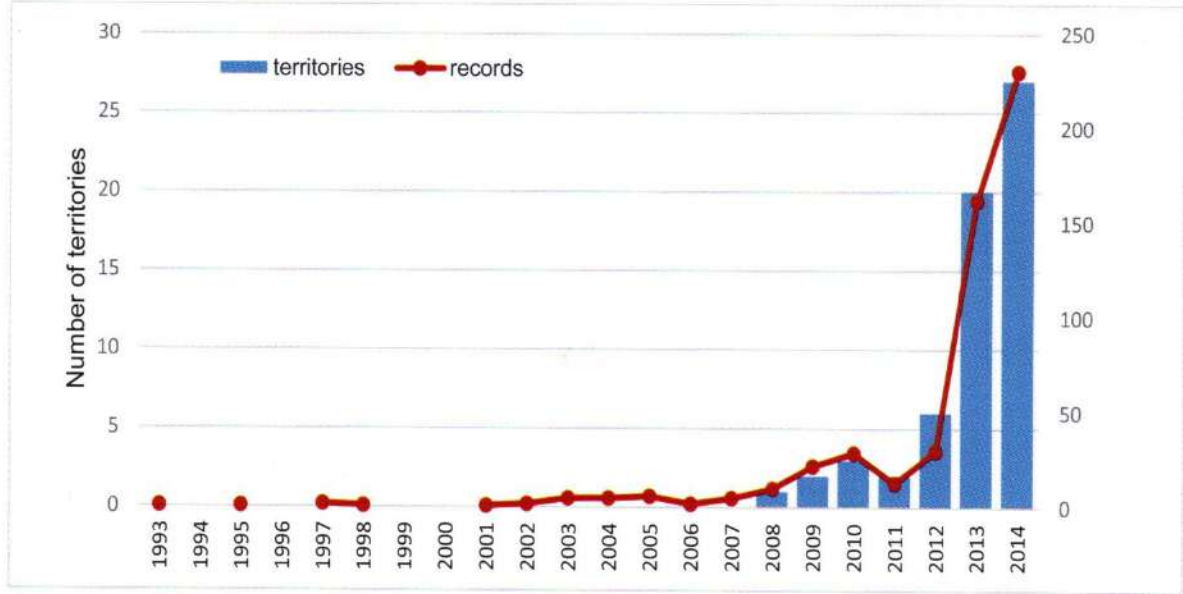
L441704	Full-grown	21-12-2010	Elsea Park, Bourne: 52°45'N 0°22'W
	Caught by ringer	17-02-2012	Elsea Park, Bourne: 52°45'N 0°22'W 0km 1y 1m 27d
	Caught by ringer	10-01-2014	Elsea Park, Bourne: 52°45'N 0°22'W 0km 3y 0m 20d
X677892	Full-grown	14-01-2010	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W
	Caught by ringer	31-10-2010	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W 0km 0y 9m 17d
	Caught by ringer	07-12-2013	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W 0km 3y 10m 23d
	Caught by ringer	07-02-2014	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W 0km 4y 0m 24d
D959575	Full-grown	09-11-2014	Ropsley Rise Wood: 52°54'N 0°34'W
	Caught by ringer	15-11-2014	Ropsley Rise Wood: 52°54'N 0°34'W 0km 0y 0m 6d
	Caught by ringer	25-11-2014	Ropsley Rise Wood: 52°54'N 0°34'W 0km 0y 0m 16d

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

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

The county population of Cetti's Warblers continues to increase but there are some strange gaps in distribution where suitable habitat exists but no birds are recorded; along some of the river systems where there is little or no birding effort there could well be additional Cetti's Warblers. The main site in the county continues to be the Barton to Barrow Haven pits complex where the total of territory holding males rose to a new record of 12 in 2014, up from eight occupied

territories in 2013. As shown in the chart the species suffered a setback after the severe winter of 2010/11 but numbers now seem to be on an inexorable rise though the next bad winter may have a detrimental effect upon the species' fortunes. Away from this core area 12 sites held birds during the breeding season, with presumed breeding in all sites but no more than two males were noted at any one location. Coastal sites were: Chapel Pit one, Wolla Bank two, Anderby Creek one, Huttoft Pits one, Town's Holt, Grimsby two; and inland sites were: Deeping Lakes two, Baston Fen one (Mar 1st only), Marston STW two, Kirkby on Bain GP one, Bardney Pits one, Burton Stather Pits one, Heighington Fen one. This gives a total of at least 15 territories and, with Barton, 27 in the county. Information in the database is limited in detail of the number of territories held at some sites, particularly places like Deeping Lakes and Marston, where it seems the total number of males could be higher than the figures noted. Additional birds noted in the autumn and late winter away from breeding sites were as follows: two males and a probable female at Alkborough Flats, two at Boultham Mere on Oct 22nd-Nov 28th, one at Cleethorpes CP on Nov 21st-28th, one at Frampton Marsh on Nov 20th-Dec 31st, at least two birds at Gib Point from Sept 28th to Dec 16th, one at Goxhill Marsh on Dec 29th and one at Willow Tree Fen on Dec 27th.



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 NNR	18	12	11	4	11	6	-	10	20	20	16	20
Humberston Fitties	13	9	6	3	-	-	-	-	50	15	20	8
Donna Nook	12	-	-	1	11	17	17	-	10	25	8	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	20	9	23	14	3
Gibraltar Point	10	7	4	5	11	13	23	20	30	31	35	9
Frampton Marsh	4	2	1	1	2	20	1	10	7	6	4	12
Boultham Mere/Swanpool	4	15	4	3	5	1	2	15	2	12	14	15
Whisby NR	12	14	6	5	2	2	8	35	28	1	27	50
Branston	11	7	4	4	5	15	5	6	10	12	11	8
Tattershall Lakes CP	3	2	2	1	3	28	1	2	3	7	5	4
Culverthorpe Lakes	6	6	10	1	-	6	6	32	-	-	-	6
Willow Tree Fen	-	1	-	2	-	8	-	3	2	25	5	-

The table includes a selections of the better recorded sites holding relatively high numbers. Overall, records came from over 170 sites spread widely across the county. Forty-seven records of 20 or more birds were made from 24 sites; these peak counts were recorded throughout the year apart from the months of Mar, Apr and May. The two highest counts, each of 50 birds, came from Humberston Fitties in Sep and from Whisby NR in Dec and counts of over 30 birds also came from Culverthorpe Lakes (Aug), Hartsholme CP (Feb), and Gib Point (Sep, Oct and Nov) where 32 were recorded as heading south on one date in Nov.

BNY469	Juvenile	28-05-2009	Newball Wood, near Langworth: c. 53°16'N 0°22'W
	Caught by ringer	09-11-2014	Newball Wood, near Langworth: c. 53°16'N 0°22'W 0km 5y 5m 12d
BKE703	Full-grown	14-12-2008	Willingham by Stow: 53°21'N 0°42'W
	Caught by ringer	17-02-2014	Willingham by Stow: 53°21'N 0°42'W 0km 5y 2m 3d



Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* Whaplode Mar 17th 2014 © Neil Smith

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Vagrant. LBRC

One was trapped and ringed at Donna Nook on May 31st (JMS, SL).

This was the twelfth Greenish Warbler in Lincolnshire. The first was shot at North Cotes on 5th September 1896. It was not until 1958 that the next was found, but ten more occurred between 1976 and this year, all single birds and all along the coast between North Cotes and Gibraltar Point. The first ten appeared in the typical early autumn window, between 14th August and 22nd September, but two spring birds followed on 29th-31st May 2013 and 31st May 2014.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

Vagrant. BBRC

One was seen and photographed at Stonebridge, Donna Nook on Oct 11th-14th (BMC, MJT *et al*). Accepted BBRC (BB 108 p.604).

This was the ninth Arctic Warbler in Lincolnshire but the first since 1995. The first was shot at North Cotes on 24th October 1932 but the others have all occurred since 1976. One in 1995 was on 3rd September but the others were found between 18th September and 24th October.



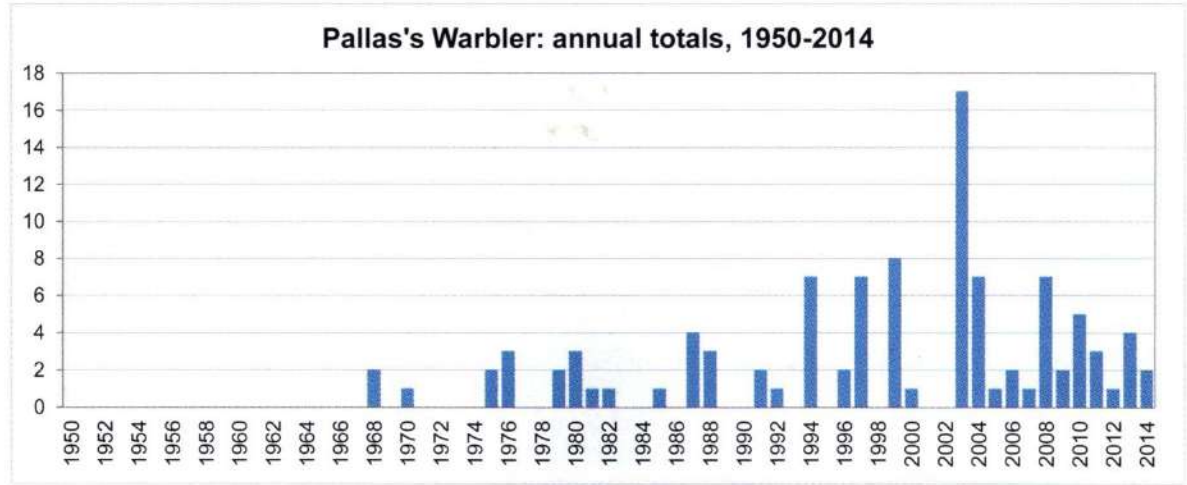
Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* Donna Nook Oct 12th 2014 © Mark Johnson

Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Rare late autumn passage migrant; one spring record. LBRC

Two were found close together just north of the Stonebridge car park at Donna Nook on Oct 13th (RHa, LHa). One remained on the 14th-15th (SL, GPC *et al*).

There are now records of 103 individual Pallas's Warblers in Lincolnshire, peaking at 17 in 2003 and with seven-eight in five other years during 1994-2008, but fewer since then. The extreme dates in autumn are 9th October and 17th-18th November, and the one spring record was at Freiston Shore on 7th May 2007. Almost all have been along the coast between Cleethorpes and Gibraltar Point but, in addition to the Freiston record, one came from the Inner Dowsing Light, about 12 miles offshore in 1985 (see note by Paul Lee in the 1985 LBR), and another from Kirton Marsh in The Wash in 2000.



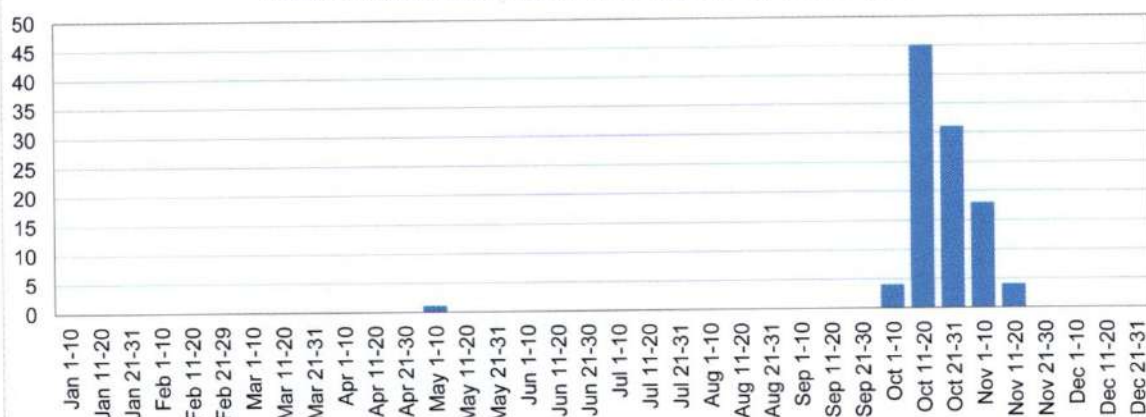


Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* Donna Nook Oct 15th 2014 © Graham Catley



Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* Waters' Edge, Barton Oct 16th 2014 © Graham Catley

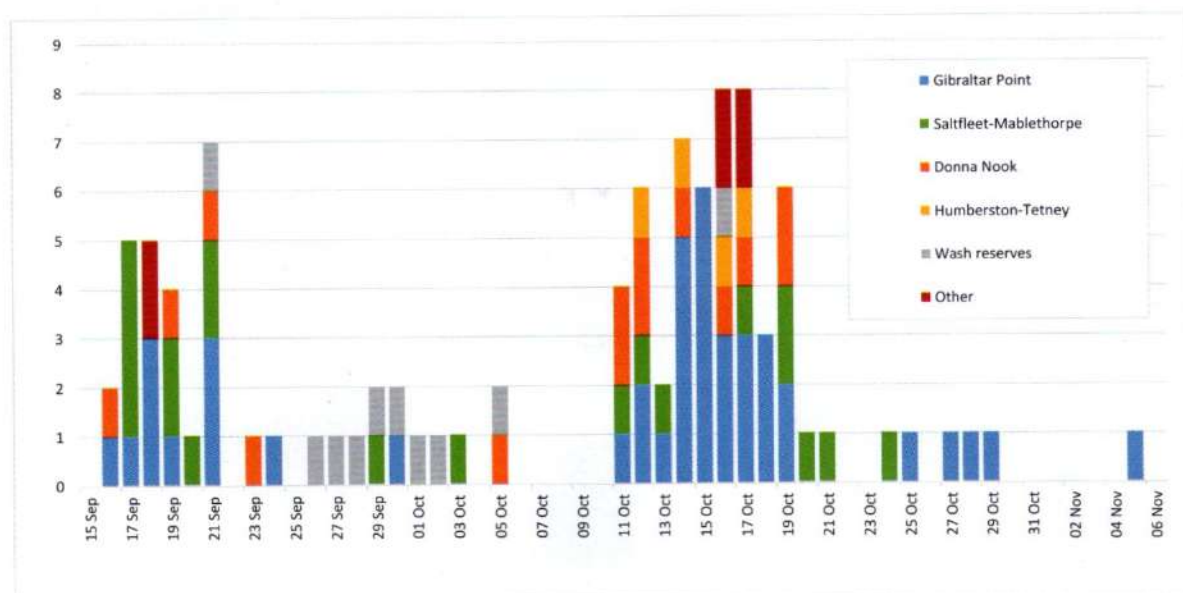
Pallas's Warbler: dates of occurrence, 1950-2014



Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

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

This was another year with two waves of Yellow-browed Warblers and, as in 2013, they can clearly be associated with wind direction. For much of mid Sep there was an easterly element in the wind but it backed to the west during the 20th-21st, remaining there most of the time until Oct 12th, when another easterly spell began, lasting until the 16th. The chart indicates the numbers located in six areas, without distinguishing between new arrivals and those already present. The first wave began with singles at Donna Nook and Gib Point on Sep 16th. During this period, most records were of singles but there were four in the Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe area on Sep 17th, and two there on the 19th and 21st, two at Anderby Creek on the 18th, and three at Gib Point on the 18th and 21st. The Wash reserve records in this period were one at Frampton Marsh on Sep 21st and perhaps the same during Sep 26th-Oct 2nd. The second wave began with two at Donna Nook, one trapped at Crook Bank and one at Gib Point on Oct 11th. There were two at Gib Point on the 12th and then a sharp increase to five there on the 14th, with six found on the 15th. On the 16th, birds were discovered away from the coast, with two at Barton upon Humber and one at Freiston Shore, and on the 17th a couple were found inland in a garden at Horncastle and in Thurlby Wood between Upton and Gainsborough. Numbers gradually dwindled on the coast. There were perhaps a few new arrivals after the 20th but some were birds that hung on for a while, for example one at Gib Point on Oct 25th-29th. After another gap, the final record was one trapped at Gib Point on Nov 5th. It is impossible to be sure how many were seen in total, but a cautious analysis suggests about 20 during Sep 16th-Oct 5th and 25 during Oct 11th-Nov 6th, giving a grand total of 45.



Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*
Vagrant. LBRC

Three were found this year, in the space of five days. The first was one at Donna Nook, between Stonebridge and Pye's Hall, on Oct 11th-14th (BDe, BMC *et al*). On the 14th, one was found at Gib Point (RDn *et al*), and on the 15th, a first year bird was trapped at Crook Bank (BRG). These three take the Lincolnshire total to 12: one shot at North Cotes (not a safe place for rare warblers a century ago!) in 1898 and the rest since 1988, all along the coast. The finding dates extend from 1st to 24th October.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
Rare passage migrant. LBRC

There were more than for several years. There were 11 in 2010 but most recent years have seen totals in low single figures, so the count of seven in 2014 was quite respectable. On May 1st, one was singing at Brickyard Lane on Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes (CMo) and one was at Gib Point (KMW *et al*). There was then a late spring record of one trapped and ringed at Donna Nook on Jun 11th (JMS, SL). The first of autumn was one at Gib Point on Aug 28th (JPS), remaining on the 29th-30th (KMW). Yet another was at Gib Point on Sep 13th (JPS, KMW *et al*), and the last of the year were singles at Donna Nook on Sep 20th (CA) and at Sea View Farm, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Sep 22nd (GPL).

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*
Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Rare/scarc in winter.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	4	-	30	40	17	8	2	23	15	1	1	1
Donna Nook	-	-	5	9	4	1	1	3	8	20	2	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	-	1	3	1	1	-	-	8	15	1	-
Gibraltar Point	3	1	12	15	13	14	16	12	18	25	4	2
Whisby NR	-	-	18	20	8	1	3	6	9	2	1	-

In Jan birds were recorded on 20 dates from 11 different areas. The best counts were three at Gib Point on the 7th and four at Far Ings on the 13th. Two birds were seen on eight occasions at Gib Point and once at Odder Pits, near Saxilby. In contrast, Feb had records of single birds from just four sites. In Mar, the first assumed migrants were at Barton Pits and Chambers Farm Woods on the 3rd and birds were seen every day from the 7th onwards. Barton Pits had the best counts of the month with c30 by Mar 29th, and there were c40 there on Apr 14th. Whisby NR and Heighington Fen also had counts of 20 on Apr 3rd and 13th respectively. Through May to Jul, counts were somewhat lower than in Apr with 17 at Far Ings NNR on May 3rd and 16 at Gib Point on Jul 17th being the best. Confirmed, probable or possible breeding notification came from over 70 sites in the county. In Aug, 23 were counted at Far Ings on the 1st and 25 were trapped and ringed at Donington on Bain on the 13th. Some evidence of return passage was apparent on the coast during Sep and Oct. At Gib Point there were counts 16 on Sep 4th, 15 on Sep 10th, 18 on Sep 19th and 17 two days later. Then in Oct, 23 were counted at Gib Point on the 11th, 20 on the 14th, 25 the following day and 18 on the 16th. At Donna Nook there were 18 on Oct 14th and 20 the next day. Also on Oct 14th, 15 were counted at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes. Somewhat perversely, the best count of the migration period was 40 miles from the coast, when there were c30 at Nocton Fen on Sep 9th. Numbers dwindled after mid Oct but there were frequent counts of 1-4 in Nov, and 1-2 in eight locations in Dec including two at Marston STW on the 1st and at Gib Point on the 5th, 6th, 14th and 16th.

Siberian Chiffchaff *P.c. tristis* LBRC

There were two records this year, involving one trapped and ringed at Donna Nook on Apr 1st (JMS, SL) and another trapped and ringed at Gib Point on Nov 22nd (MBr).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*
Very common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Peak counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Barton Pits	2	20	4	2	3	38	1	-	-
Donna Nook	-	10	10	5	2	12	13	2	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	-	1	1	-	2	4	1	-
Gibraltar Point	-	15	12	9	13	76	21	1	-
Whisby NR	-	18	13	4	2	2	-	-	-

Two separate birds in the Barton Pits area on Mar 29th were the first of the spring. A bird the following day at Marston STW and four in Laughton Forest on the 31st were the precursors to



Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* Donna Nook Oct 14th 2014 © Graham Catley



Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* Donna Nook Oct 14th 2014 © Brendan Doe

widespread arrivals in the county. The best counts of Apr were 20 at Barton Pits on the 14th, 34 Twyford Woods on the 18th and c30 in Laughton Forest on the 19th. In the period from the beginning of May to the end of July, Twyford Woods had 30 on May 10th and c20 on May 25th, but there were no other counts higher than 13. Although numerous records of probable or possible breeding were received, there were no reports of confirmed breeding. Noticeable autumn passage extended from the beginning of Aug through until the first week in Sep, but almost exclusively at Gib Point. In this period there were fifteen counts there of 20 birds or more, with the best totals being 70 (33 trapped) on Aug 14th, 76 (17 trapped) on Aug 16th and 44 on Aug 22nd. Elsewhere, high counts were 38 at Far Ings on Aug 1st, 12 at Alkborough Flats on the 23rd and 12 at Donna Nook on the 30th. Peaks in Sep were 21 at Gib Point on the 6th and 20 there the next day, and 13 at Donna Nook on the 18th. By Oct, it seems most birds had departed with just eight sightings, the last bird of the year being at Marston STW on Oct 16th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barton Pits	-	-	1	40	15	10	2	5	30	1	-	-
Donna Nook	-	-	-	5	7	2	2	2	6	25	3	-
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	-	2	30	1	-
Gibraltar Point	2	-	1	14	12	10	8	11	28	80	7	4

The table includes all sites recording 25 or more. The species was recorded in every month of the year. There were 12 records in Jan with single birds recorded in Scunthorpe on the 2nd, East Keal on the 3rd, and Cleethorpes on the 8th. Gib Point had singles on the 2nd, 3rd and 20th and two birds on the 10th. Single birds were noted at South Ferriby, Market Deeping and North Thoresby on the 25th, 26th and 28th respectively. In Feb singles were noted at Healing on three dates, and at Whisby NR, Fiskerton Fen NR, Market Deeping and Deeping Lakes. During Mar single birds were recorded at ten sites and two birds at Eagle Hall Wood and at Boultham Park, Lincoln. With birds singing, good numbers were recorded during Apr, including 30 at Barton Pits on the 12th, 40 on the 14th and again on the 20th. At Whisby NR, 22 were noted on the 14th and 23 on the 26th. Further south in the count at Belleau Bridge and Trout Farm, 20 were noted on the 28th. After a quiet period in mid summer, good numbers were noted with post breeding dispersal and possible incoming migrants with totals of between 20 and 28 at Gib Point on seven dates in Sep and 30 at Barton Pits on the 28th. During Oct, good numbers were noted on the coast at Donna Nook, Crook Bank and Gib Point between the 13th and 17th of the month. The peak count anywhere during the year, by a clear margin, was 80 at Gib Point on Oct 14th, and 56 birds were trapped and ringed at Crook Bank during the month. Birds were recorded at 12 sites throughout the county during Nov and Dec with the best counts being of seven birds on Nov 11th and four on Dec 16th, both at Gib Point. This primarily summer visitor was even recorded on Christmas Day in Grantham and Boxing Day at Whisby NR. The recoveries below include the most distant in Britain plus some widely spread foreign ones.

Z089662	Adult Male	08-06-2014	Hirds Farm, Fotherby: 53°24'N 0°1'W
	Caught by ringer	17-09-2014	Litlington: 50°46'N 0°9'E (East Sussex) 291km S 0y 3m 9d
Y702924	Juvenile Female	07-08-2013	Market Stainton: c. 53°18'N 0°9'W
	Caught by ringer	25-04-2014	Sint Laureins: 51°15'N 3°31'E (Oost-Vlaanderen) Belgium 339km SE 0y 8m 18d
DKC	Full-grown Male	04-10-2014	Tved: 57°3'N 8°40'E (Viborg) Denmark
AX88063	Caught by ringer	14-10-2014	Gibraltar Point: 53°6'N 0°19'E 689km SW 0y 0m 7d
X529436	First-year Male	23-10-2012	Jews Gate: 36°7'N 5°19'W Gibraltar
	Caught by ringer	30-05-2014	Newball Wood, near Langworth: c. 53°16'N 0°22'W 1,943km NNE 1y 7m 7d
	Caught by ringer	15-07-2014	Newball Wood, near Langworth: c. 53°16'N 0°22'W 1,943km NNE 1y 8m 22d
NOS	First-year Male	05-08-2014	Lista Fyr, Farsund: 58°6'N 6°34'E (Vest-Agder) Norway
EF41560	Freshly dead (cat)	22-11-2014	Grimsby: 53°33'N 0°7'W 656km SW 0y 3m 17d

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Just over 200 records covering the period from the end of Mar to the middle of Nov were received from around 45 different locations. There were a few records from the first on Apr 16th at Thurlby

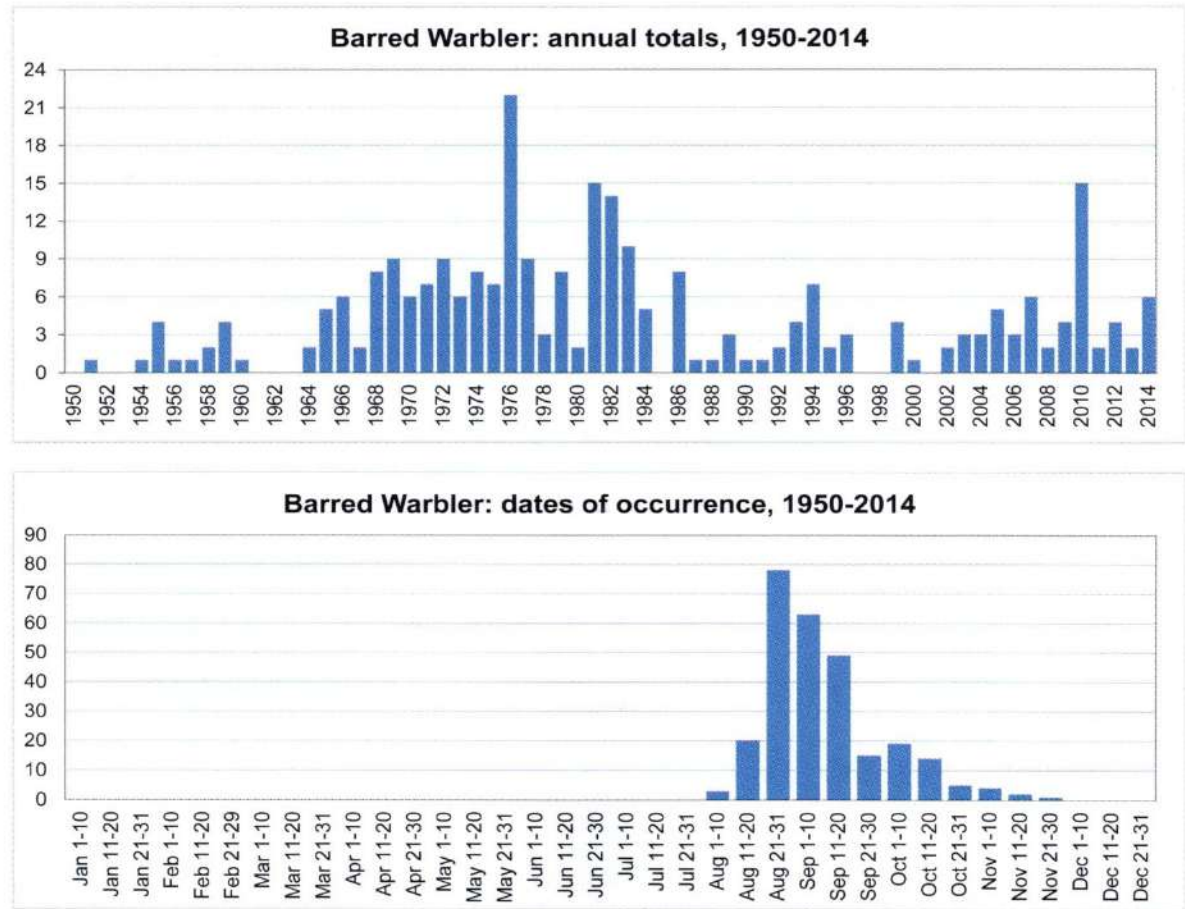
Sand Pit and Whisby NR but the main influx of birds occurred from Apr 23rd with records covering several locations in mid Lincs. This year there were no double figure counts. Over 10% of all the year's reports came from Whisby NR with eight (twice), six (three times) and five (three times) during Apr & May. Around eight were noted at Loughton Forest on Apr 30th, the highest count of the year was from Walesby Moor where nine were noted on May 4th, and eight were at Messingham SQ on May 7th. Twyford Woods held six on May 25th. Five birds were counted in Chambers Farm Wood, Norton Disney Quarry and Belleau Bridge and Trout Farm in May. The peak autumn counts were four, at Gib Point on Sep 16th and 20th, and at Donna Nook on Sep 18th. After Sep 26th, there was a gap, then four records during Oct 13th-22nd, the last bird of the year being one trapped at Crook Bank on Oct 22nd.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

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

With six birds, this was the best year for sightings since the 15 recorded in 2010. One was at Gib Point on Sep 4th (RDn) and another in a separate location there on the 6th (KMW). At Frampton Marsh, one was present a few hundred yards along the track to the Witham Mouth between Sep 6th and 9th (TC *et al*). Up the coast at Pye's Hall, Donna Nook, a bird was noted on Sep 9th (SL). A week later another bird was at Stonebridge, Donna Nook, on Sep 16th (MJT, SL), and then in Oct a first winter bird was seen at Pye's Hall on the 14th (GPC).

The first Barred Warbler for Lincolnshire was shot at North Cotes on 5th September 1898 and there were eight more up to 1927, but then none until 1951. They increased with increasing numbers of observers and the advent of mist-nets, and from 1968 to 1983 averaged almost nine per year. A sudden drop in frequency followed, for unknown reasons, and since then the average, excluding the atypical total of 15 in 2010, has been less than three. They have been wholly autumn migrants but, while peaking at the end of August and in early September, can arrive at any time throughout August-November. The earliest finding date was 4th August 1967 and the latest 27th November 2000, though the famous bird at Covenham Reservoir in 2004 achieved the latest recorded date by staying from 20th November to 9th December. The majority have occurred on the coast but three have been at Frampton Marsh (1989, 1994 and 2014) and, as well as the one at Covenham, there has been one other inland bird, at Wroot in October 2009.



Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

A rare winter record was of one in a private garden at Tetney on Jan 15th-24th; this bird showed some characters of the central Asian forms of Lesser Whitethroat but it was not possible to obtain sufficient detail to support a submission to the national records committees. More typically the first spring migrant was of one at Teal Lake, Whisby on Apr 12th and then there were widespread records throughout the rest of the month. The best counts for Apr were 10-12 at Donna Nook and Gib Point during the 21st-28th, and there were 14 at Gib Point on May 4th. In fact these two areas and Whisby NR were the only areas where over ten birds were recorded. At Whisby, census mapping revealed that there were 12 singing males holding territory. In Aug-Sep, there were 10 at Donna Nook on Sep 6th and double figure counts at Gib Point regularly between Aug 2nd and Sep 15th, the highest being 20 on Aug 16th. The final bird of the year was at Donna Nook on Oct 1st.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Far Ings	-	2	12	6	21	10	1	-
Donna Nook	-	45	60	80	60	20	20	-
Gibraltar Point	-	80	65	80	53	56	16	-
Normanby-by-Spital	-	1	21	12	6	-	-	-
Boultham Mere/Swanpool	-	11	20	15	15	10	-	-

The table shows localities with consistent recording and counts of 20 or more. The largest counts, of 25 or more birds, came exclusively from Donna Nook and Gib Point, but these are among the more consistently recorded sites (this species was recorded from them on 110 days and 146 days respectively). The first arrivals were noted at Dunholme with two on Apr 9th. This was followed by, in general, an influx in low numbers throughout the county during the rest of the month, though the BBS indicates that breeding numbers remain high. Relatively high reports away from the coast were 21 at Normanby-by-Spital on May 17th, 21 at Far Ings on Jul 12th and 20 at Wingland Marsh on Aug 9th. Autumn passage counts were undistinguished, with the highest totals after mid July being 56 at Gib Point on Aug 2nd and 55 there on Aug 16th. Most counts after mid Sep were in single figures and the final record of the year was at Humberston Fitties on Sep 30th.

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.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Number of sites	17	5	5	4	-	1
Sum of site peaks	22	5	7	6	-	1

The first bird was noted at Donna Nook on Apr 12th. The following day single birds were at Barton Pits and Cleethorpes CP. One-two birds were widely reported from then until late Jul, but the only later record was of one at Gib Point on Sep 22nd. The only higher count was from East Butterwick Common/Hale where three males were reeling in Apr-May. However, numerous records from Gib Point covering the period Jun 14th-Jul 20th, including two on five dates and coming from at least three separate areas of the reserve, suggested a similar number breeding there. Elsewhere, two birds were recorded at Donna Nook on Apr 19th, Barton Pits on Apr 24th, and Town Halt (Grimsby) on Apr 27th. Breeding was suspected also at Tetney Marsh, Alkborough Flats, Crowle Moors, Dunsby and Twyford Wood but no confirmation was obtained.

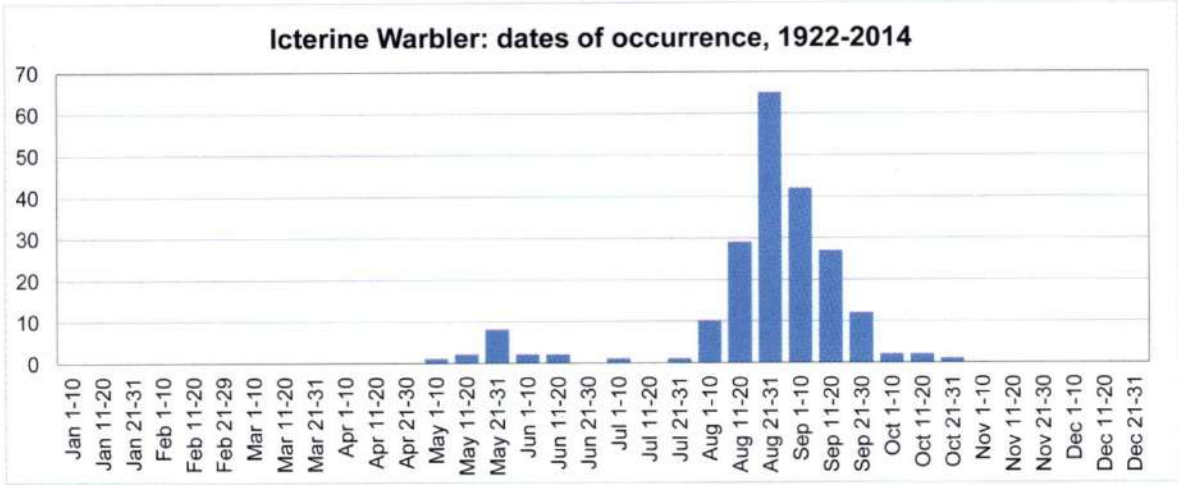
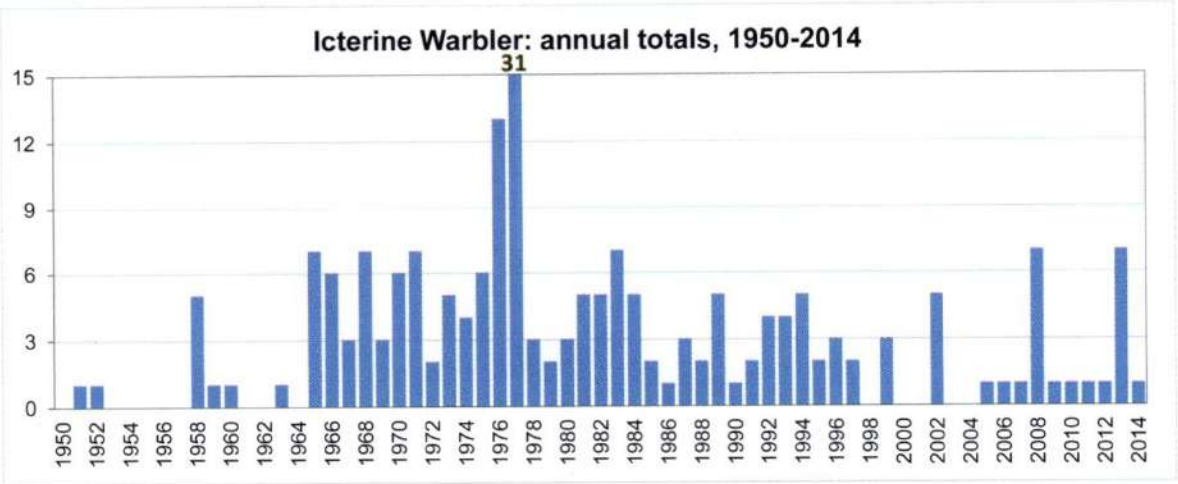
Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

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

A singing male was trapped and ringed at Donna Nook on May 30th, and not seen again until it was retrapped on Jun 11th (JMS, SL).

The one record prior to 1950 was the first, shot at North Cotes on 4th September 1922. There were five years around the turn of the century when no Icterine Warblers occurred but they were the exceptions over the past fifty years. The numbers found per year have been variable though, often with the odd good year interspersed by a string of years with only one or two birds. The two years that stand out are 1976 with 14 and 1977 with no less than 31. In total, there have been

173 records, estimated to comprise 207 birds though in some cases there was uncertainty over the number involved in multiple occurrences. Only 16 out of the 207 individuals were in spring, between 7th May and 20th June, while autumn occurrences have been between 5th July and 31st October (a bird that stayed until 7th November). The two sites at which most were found were Donna Nook (58 records, 73 birds) and Gibraltar Point (45 records, 56 birds). Most have been on the coast but one was a short way inland at Skidbrooke in September 1988 and two much further, near Gainsborough in June 1970 and on Crowle Moors in June 2008.



Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

The first record of the spring was one at Barrow Haven on Apr 7th, followed by one at Frampton Marsh on the 10th and more on subsequent days. These first dates were a full week earlier than the first records of 2013, when spring had been especially cold, but arrivals generally were slower than the norm. To confirm the impression of a later spring arrival, phenology data from the BTO in 2014 showed that evidence of active breeding status in female Sedge Warblers (brood patch) peaked around the beginning of Jun, somewhat later than usual. By Apr 30th, however, 37 sites had recorded the species, with a count of 20 at Barton Pits on the 24th. Whisby recorded 11 singing males, about 23 were counted at Midville and 10 or more at Gib Point, and Frampton Marsh RSPB reserve recorded 22 territories. Confirmed breeding was reported at Willow Tree Fen, Donna Nook and Frampton Marsh, with probable or possible breeding at a further 24 sites, but this is of course a widespread species in low-lying parts of the county. At Alkborough Flats, numbers of territories have risen from three in 2008 to 48 in 2014, as habitat has developed followed the establishment of the managed realignment scheme. No notable counts were received during the autumn and the last record of the autumn was of one trapped at Gib Point on Sep 14th.

Two interesting recoveries were reported provide further evidence of the migration route of this species through Western Europe.

D370110	Juvenile Caught by ringer	27-07-2013 13-08-2013	Marston Sewage Works: 52°58'N 0°40'W Carrizal de Tauste, Tauste: 41°55'N 1°15'W (Zaragoza) Spain 1,229km S 0y 0m 17d
FRP 7173707	First-year Caught by ringer	10-08-2013 03-05-2014	Noyant, Soulaire-Et-Bourg: 47°33'N 0°31'W (Maine-et-Loire) France Wainfleet Bank: 53°6'N 0°12'E 619km N 0y 8m 23d

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

Vagrant. BBRC

One was present in the east dunes at Gib Point on Sep 5th-6th (KW, JS, RD, AB). Accepted BBRC (online notification, 4th Apr 2016).

There have been only two previous records of this species:
1991 One trapped and ringed Theddlethorpe, Sep 3rd-4th
2006 First winter trapped and ringed Gibraltar Point, Sep 16th

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Very rare passage migrant. LBRC RBBP

A singing male was found by the Horncastle Canal/River Bain near Horncastle on May 21st (GPC) and was present until May 22nd only. This was a serendipitous find during a long search for the elusive reported Black Stork seen in the area earlier. It was also the only record received, and is the 35th county record (39 individuals).



Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* Horncastle Canal/River Bain near Horncastle May 21st 2014
© Graham Catley

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

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

The first records this year were of singles at Barrow Haven on Apr 14th and Willow Tree Fen on Apr 16th, with widespread records soon after that. There were maxima of 13 at Far Ings, 15 at Kirkby on Bain GP and reports from 21 sites by the end of Apr. Eight territories were recorded at Freiston Shore and 18 at Frampton Marsh, but there were few other detailed reports of numbers of breeding pairs, apart from at Alkborough Flats and on the Coronation Channel at Spalding (per KS). At Alkborough, there were 173 territories, numbers having increased from six in 2008 in line

with the growth of *Phragmites*. Sixty-two nests were located in the *Phragmites* reeds fringing the Coronation Channel, of which 50 were successful, nine failed and three had unknown outcome. Four nests were parasitised by Cuckoo and of these three fledged (or were missing from the nest on last weekly visit so presumed fledged) and one failed due to fishermen. This was the best year for Reed Warblers since KS began his study:

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Nests	9	19	15	29	22	51	62
Cuckoo parasitised	0	0	0	1	0	4	4

During the peak autumn passage period in August, maximum counts received were of 39 at Far Ings, 21 at Gib Point, and 10 at Saxilby. Overall, this was a rather poor autumn showing, with the final date for autumn migration being at Gib Point on Oct 14th. However, after this date there was an exceptional record was of an over-wintering bird at Marston STW; first found on Dec 1st (DR), and remaining into 2015. Two interesting ringing records were reported, one of a five year old bird returning to its birth site, the second of a bird trapped on its way south in a south coast reed-bed.

X885210	Juvenile Male	06-08-2009	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham: 52°58'N 0°40'W
	Caught by ringer	06-08-2014	Marston Sewage Works: 52°58'N 0°40'W 0km 5y 0m 0d
D536521	Adult	14-06-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Caught by ringer	13-08-2014	Pett Level: 50°54'N 0°40'E (East Sussex) 246km S 1y 1m 30d

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Vagrant. BBRC

A spring bird was trapped and ringed at Gib Point early on May 23rd, sang briefly after release, but was not relocated thereafter (GGr, CHs *et al*). Accepted BBRC (BB 108 p.613).

The first accepted record for Lincolnshire was of one singing for several weeks in July 1897 near Tetney Lock. The next was one trapped at Huttoft on 3rd May 1969. Seven subsequent records were all of singing males, found between 23rd May and 6th July. Thus this year's bird was the tenth for the county. Most have been on or near to the coast but there was one near Lincoln in 1979 and one at Far Ings in 2006. These records exclude one singing at Tetney Lock in July 1897; that was regarded as unconvincing by Smith & Cornwallis (1955) and is currently not accepted though it was included by Lorand & Atkin (1989).

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

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

After four years of large numbers, there were only six individuals in 2014 making it the poorest year since 2002 when only three individuals were seen. There was one at Far Ings on Jan 20th. One found in the West Dunes at Gib Point on Jan 25th was seen again on the 26th, 29th and Feb 1st. At the end of the year, singles were present near Grimsby on Dec 1st-3rd, flying south at Gib Point on Dec 16th, at Market Rasen during Dec 19th-23rd, and at Barton Pits on Dec 29th.

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Scarce local resident.

Records were received from 63 sites, an increase from the 45 sites recorded in 2013 and mirroring the upwards trend for the species in England recorded through the BBS. Nevertheless, the species is probably under-recorded with, for example, only a single record received from the large woodland block of Bourne Woods. Records peaked in Mar and Apr (from 21 and 22 sites respectively), when the species is most vocal, but were fewest in May and Jun (from only two and three sites), presumably because the species is quieter after incubation commences and so is less likely to be detected. Breeding was confirmed at only one site, Morkery Wood, with probable or possible breeding indicated at a further 15 sites. Most records were of 1-4 birds but counts were also noted of six at both Belton Park (Feb) and Neville Wood (Apr) and five in Owlet Plantation (Jul). Away from more regular woodland haunts, there was a record of one from Willow Tree Fen in Apr.

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Common resident and partial migrant.

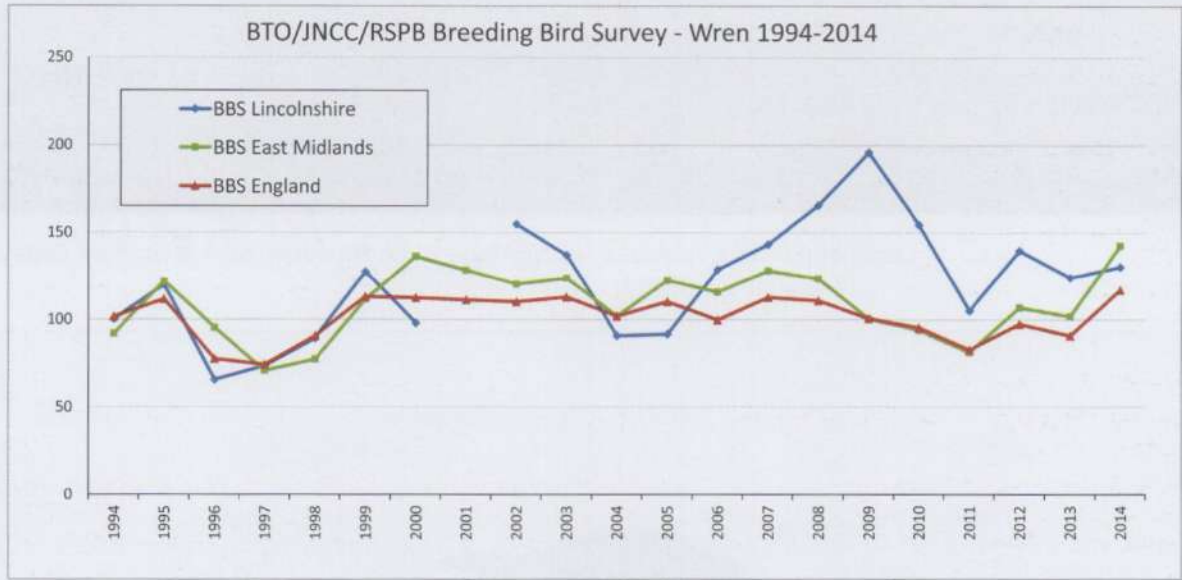
Records were received from 80 sites widely distributed around the county. Records peaked in Mar with 54 records from 33 sites and were fewest in July (eight records from five sites). Most sightings comprised 1-3 birds but sightings of four or five were recorded from Belton Park, Elsea

& Math Wood and Hill Holt Wood in Feb or Mar and five from Woodhall Spa in May, the latter comprising of a family group of two adults and three young. Other records of confirmed breeding came from Baston Fen, North Hykeham Pits and Barton Pits, all in May, and records of probable breeding came from a further four sites. Single birds were recorded, and some trapped and ringed, at Gib Point on several dates from Jul to Oct inclusive.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

A very common and widespread species in the county with an increase in the number of records received to around 225 locations (145 in 2013), and although not necessarily recorded, there is no reason to doubt that this remains a common breeding bird. Sites with day counts of 50 or over included 56 at Ruskington, Haverholme Bridge & Anwick STW on Aug 10th and 50 at Donna Nook on Oct 14th, whilst at Gib Point there were 50 on Mar 5th and 53 on both Oct 11th and Nov 4th. Breeding season records included counts of 19 males at Kirkby on Bain GP and 37 males at Gib Point in early Apr. BBS trends generally over the past twenty years show little change, with sharp declines after severe winters being followed by periods of increase and stability. The size of the declines in Lincolnshire in the winters around 2010 appears to have been particularly large, though county trends are affected by the relatively small sample sizes. Unlike other charts, that for Wren uses unsmoothed regional and English indices.

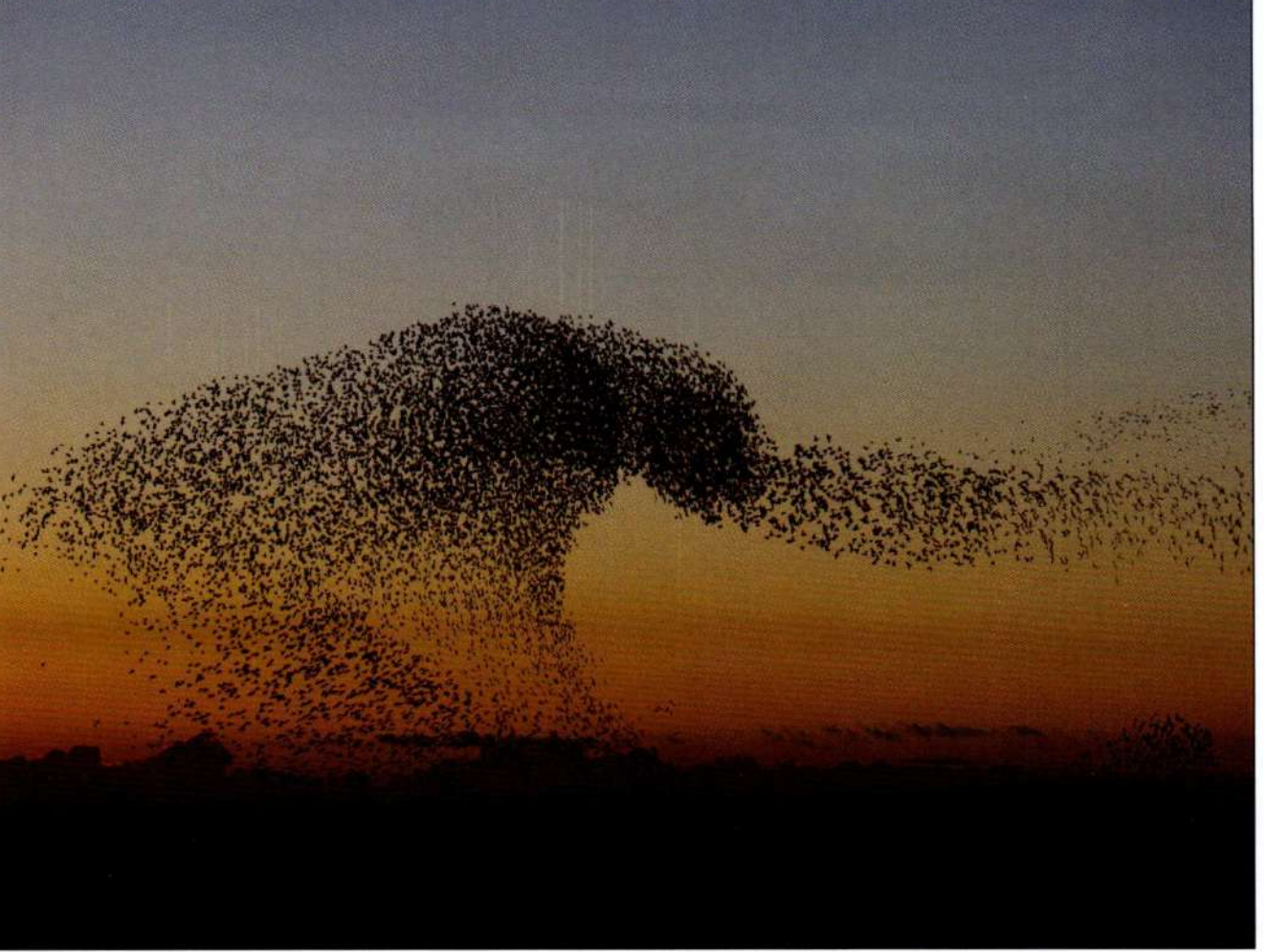


Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Despite currently being red listed as a bird of conservation concern due to a long term decline in breeding numbers, this species remains common and widespread. There were records from around 215 locations within the county during the year, including a scattering of confirmed breeding records. The regular autumn influx of Fennoscandian migrants boosts numbers and some impressive murmurations can occur, the most noticeable of these were at Alkborough Flats during Sep to Nov, which peaked with an impressive 200,000 on Oct 14th. Elsewhere peak counts for various locations included 4000 roosting at Kirkby on Bain GP on Jan 17th (the highest count early in the year), 5000 at Wainfleet on Jun 21st, 8000 at Gib Point on Jul 11th, 7000 at Knaith Park on Nov 9th, 8000 to roost at Barton Pits on Nov 23rd, and 6000 at Kirkby on Bain GP on Nov 24th. The ringing recoveries are two moderately old birds, one locally bred and the other a wintering bird from Sweden.

LA00344	Juvenile Freshly dead	13-06-2006 25-05-2014	Boston: 52°58'N 0°3'W Spalding: 52°46'N 0°10'W 22km SSW 7y 11m 12d
SVS 4585404	Nestling Caught by ringer	19-05-2009 31-12-2014	Paris, Vange: 59°49'N 17°22'E (Uppsala) Sweden Willingham by Stow: 53°21'N 0°42'W 1,318km WSW 5y 7m 12d



Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* Alkborough Flats Nov 2014 © Graham Catley



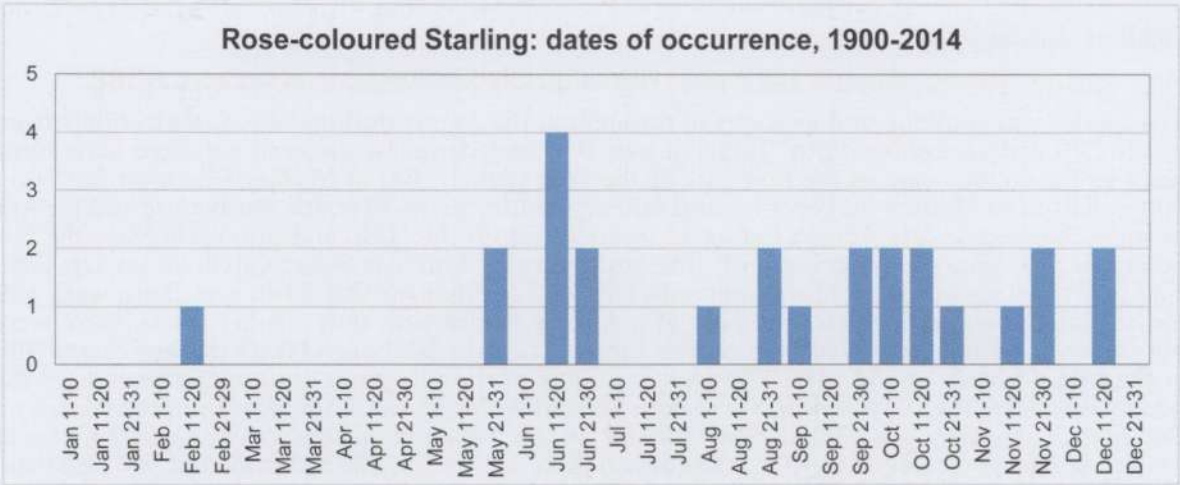
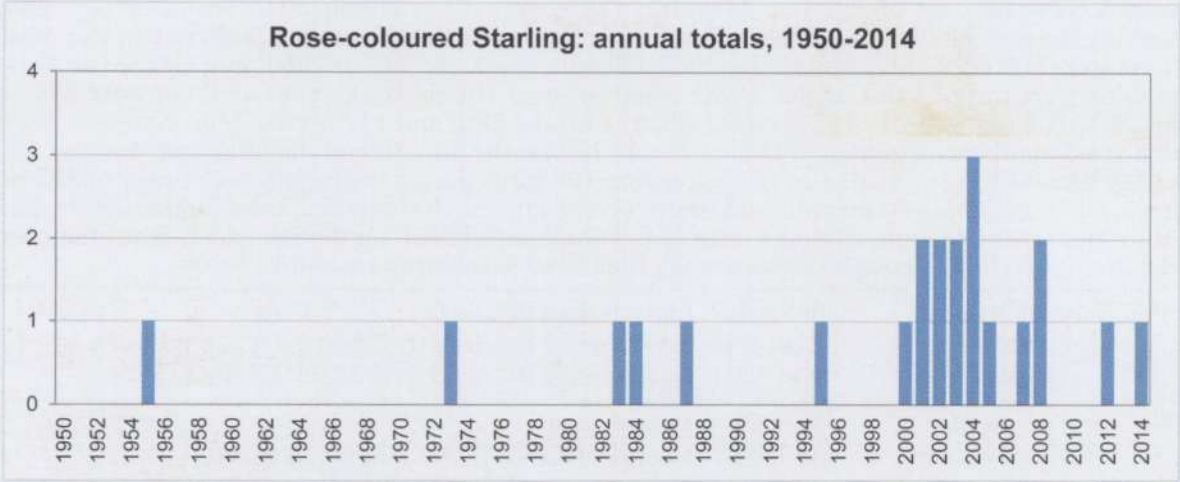
Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus* Anderby Creek Oct 11th 2014 © Russell Hayes

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*

Rare passage migrant. LBRC

After a blank year during 2013, there was a well-watched and photographed adult at Anderby Creek from Oct 7th-13th (ABu *et al*).

The first records of Rose-coloured Starling were one shot near Grantham prior to 1783 and another at an unrecorded Lincolnshire locality in July 1818. There were nine widely spaced records in the twentieth century and, so far, another 16 since then, giving a total of 27, all single birds. Twelve of the 23 for which age has been reported were adults, the remainder juvenile/first winter birds. About half occurred on the coast between Cleethorpes and Gibraltar Point and the rest at locations widely spread across the county.



Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

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

Records were received from around 20 sites with six being from inland locations. There were records from 12 sites on twenty different dates in April with the first bird being noted at Donna Nook on the 3rd, a week later than the first sighting of 2013. The highest counts of the month were three at Humberston Fitties on the 22nd and four at Gib Point two days later. A male and female were present in a field at Marston STW on Apr 12th-15th. Another inland bird was at Normanby-by-Spital on the 20th. Two at Gib Point on May 1st and one there on the 2nd were the last of spring. One at Donna Nook on Sep 15th was the first of autumn, and there were a few more up to the 21st but then a gap until Oct 13th. Passage then became more noticeable with birds recorded in Oct at nine coastal and three inland sites. The inland records were one at Covenham Res on Oct 14th, a dead bird at Bracebridge Heath on the 15th and one at Baston Fen on the 18th. Good numbers were counted on the coast, especially at Gib Point with 54 on the Oct 13th, 40 the following day and then 48 on the 15th. Most of these had moved on by the 16th with only five

being recorded. Six were present on the 24th. Donna Nook held four birds on Oct 16th and Crook Bank, Theddlethorpe, the same figure on the 30th. Either one or two birds were present at coastal sites on ten dates in Nov with the last sighting being of one at Crook Bank on the 21st.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

An extremely common and widespread breeding bird that was reported from around 250 locations throughout the county. Counts of 25 or over came from 37 locations, a figure that could have been swollen except that many observers chose to record the species as present rather than making an attempt to count them. Counts of 50 or over were recorded five times between Jan and Aug. Four of these were at Dorrington Fen, including 63 on Feb 22nd, 68 on Apr 5th and 75 on Jun 8th. At Anwick STW 60 were counted on May 4th. There were 50 at Humberston Fitties on Sep 30th, marking the start of autumn passage. The three largest counts of the year all occurred on Oct 30th. These were 600 at Humberston Fitties, 950 at Donna Nook and 665 at Gib Point. Of the Gib Point total, 68 were trapped and ringed. Other counts of over 100 during Oct at Gib Point were 236 on the 14th, 108 on the 15th, 168 on the 24th, 128 on the 28th and 117 on the 29th. Nov continued with good numbers including, at Donna Nook, 170 on the 6th, 100 on the following day and 150 on the 10th. Gib Point had 13 counts exceeding 100 birds during the month with peaks of 322 on the 8th, 270 including 60 trapped and ringed on the 9th and 300 on the 23rd. Numbers had tailed off by Dec when the highest counts were 120 at Welbourn Heath on the 9th and 120 at Frampton Marsh on the 19th. A couple of moderately long lived Blackbirds are shown below.

LA94020	Adult Male	30-12-2007	Brackenborough Hall, Louth: c. 53°22'N 0°0'W
	Caught by ringer	24-02-2013	Brackenborough Hall, Louth: c. 53°22'N 0°0'W 0km 5y 1m 25d
	Caught by ringer	02-03-2014	Brackenborough Hall, Louth: c. 53°22'N 0°0'W 0km 6y 2m 0d
CW60368	First-year Male	09-01-2009	Kirmond-Le-Mire: 53°25'N 0°13'W
	Caught by ringer	17-01-2011	Kirmond-Le-Mire: 53°25'N 0°13'W 0km 2y 0m 8d
	Caught by ringer	10-02-2014	Kirmond-Le-Mire: 53°25'N 0°13'W 0km 5y 1m 1d

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

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

The species was common and widespread throughout the county during the year with counts from nearly 200 widespread locations. Totals of over 350 came from 16 sites and are listed here. Only three of the counts were in the first part of the year, namely 500 at Market Rasen on Jan 30th, 800 at Kirton in Lindsey on Feb 14th and 400 at Scunthorpe on Mar 6th. Birds were still present in small numbers in late Apr, including 15 at Stickford on the 30th, and into early May, the last being one at Donna Nook on May 5th. The first returning bird was one at Gib Point on Sep 17th. The first three-figure count of autumn was 550 at Gib Point on Oct 24th, and there were 500 moving south-west at Nettleton on Nov 6th. After a month with only smaller totals, there were 400 at Saxilby and 500 at Nettleton on Dec 8th, with 368 at Welbourn Heath on the 9th and 400 at Frampton Marsh on the 11th. The highest counts of the year came from opposite ends of the county on consecutive days with 1000 at both Elsham Wolds on Dec 13th and Frampton Marsh on Dec 14th. There were also 500 at New Holland on Dec 14th and on subsequent days 414 were at Frampton Marsh on Dec 15th, 400 at Owmbly on Dec 15th-19th, 600 at Wroot and 500 at Barton Pits on Dec 16th, and finally 400 at Witham Mouth on Dec 19th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

This continues to be a widespread but often inconspicuous resident with records from around 180 locations throughout the county, though probable or confirmed breeding was reported from only 11 of these. Marked migration was apparent in the north of the county with 30 at Humberston Fitties on Oct 14th and 80 at Donna Nook on Oct 30th, these totals being around five times those recorded earlier in the month. Further south at Gib Point, there were three periods when passage birds were most evident. First during Sep 17th-20th there was a maximum count of 51, then during Oct 11th-17th there were several good counts including 295 on the 14th, and third at the end of Oct including counts of 86 on the 24th and 102 on the 30th.

RL27197	First-year	18-10-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Freshly dead (hit glass)	26-03-2014	Chadderton, Oldham: 53°33'N 2°9'W (Greater Manchester) 172km WNW 0y 5m 8d



Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* Grantham Jun 8th 2014 © Steve Nesbitt

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

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

Common and widespread throughout the county early in the year with nine counts of over 100 being reported for the period Jan-Mar inclusive, the highest being 132 at Boothby Great Wood on Jan 2nd. In Apr passage became most evident with counts of 111 on the 2nd and 182 on the 7th at Gib Point but elsewhere counts were low. The final birds of the first winter (and the only May record) were four in Sleaford on May 16th. Autumn passage commenced with two birds at Donna Nook on Sep 13th and just small numbers at various places during the rest of the month. After Oct 7th significant numbers of birds began to arrive with at least 22 counts exceeding 100, mainly from coastal sites but not exclusively so. About 1000 moving south at Crook Bank on Oct 13th was the first really big count. At Gib Point there were 1715 on Oct 14th, with at least a third coming in off the sea. The largest counts of the year were 2000 at each of Donna Nook on Oct 24th and Marston STW on Oct 30th. Also on the 30th, 1800 were noted at Gib Point, with around half of these coming in off the sea and moving quickly west. Gib Point had another five counts of between 250 and 680, all in October. Other sites with counts between 250 and 400 included Alkborough Flats, South Ferriby Cliff, Humberston Fitties, Donna Nook, Nettleton Moor, Trent Port (Marton) and Welbourn Heath.

RL27488	Full-grown	16-10-2014	Gibraltar Point: 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Freshly dead (shot)	07-12-2014	Rouillet-Saint-Estephe: 45°34'N 0°1'E (Charente) France 836km S 0y 1m 21d

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

Widespread throughout the year with records from around 160 different locations from around the county with breeding season records coming from around 24 of these areas, although there were only two sites (Baston Fen and Belton Park) where breeding status was actually reported as confirmed. Post-breeding flocks included a flock of 43 birds in a sugar beet field at Waddingham on Jun 16th, a flock of 48 at Blyton on Jul 12th (the highest count of the year), 31 on the golf course at Market Rasen on Jul 30th and 20 at Woodhall Spa on Aug 27th. Autumn passage was marked at Gib Point with seven counts of over 20. The highest were 21 on Aug 3rd and 12th, 22 on Aug 24th, and 23 including three south on Sep 8th.

LC85383	Adult Male	09-02-2012	near Stenigot: 53°19'N 0°7'W
	Caught by ringer	15-01-2013	near Stenigot: 53°19'N 0°7'W 0km 0y 11m 6d
	Caught by ringer	30-12-2014	near Stenigot: 53°19'N 0°7'W 0km 2y 10m 21d

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

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

Singles at Donna Nook and Gib Point on May 7th were the first for the year, followed by singles at Gib Point on May 10th, Cleethorpes CP on May 11th and at several sites on May 14th including inland at Willingham by Stow and Bardney. The rest of May and the beginning of Jun were somewhat sparse with counts of one to two migrants from a variety of both inland and coastal locations. During the breeding season (Jun to mid Aug for second broods) this iconic summer visitor was recorded from approximately 43 locations. Breeding was confirmed at 18 of these sites with probable breeding at four more, whilst it is reasonable to assume that the remaining 21 sites qualify for possible breeding. Among the breeding reports were five clutches from three pairs at Dunsby, and 10 birds (seven adults and three juveniles) at Woodhall Spa on Aug 14th. Widely reported across the county during the autumn in single figures, there were also counts of 10 at Linwood Warren on Aug 14th-15th and again on Aug 30th and 10 at Donna Nook on Sep 18th. Most birds had passed through the county by the third week of Sep with one at Stallingborough on Sep 22nd and just one later record of a single at the Humber Bridge Viewing Area on Oct 11th.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A very common and widespread species with reports from around 245 locations throughout the county (170 in 2013), and although not widely recorded as such, a common breeding bird as well. As usual autumn passage involving continental birds was pronounced at coastal locations with peak day counts including 260 at Donna Nook, 200 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes and 442 at Gib Point all on Oct 14th. Of those, 130 were trapped and ringed at Crook Bank and 62 at Gib Point. On the following days, 220 were at Donna Nook on the 15th and between 198 and 240 at Gib Point Oct 15th-17th. Peak counts for inland sites included 70 at Ruskington Fen on Sep 6th, 82 at Ruskington, Haverholme Bridge and Anwick STW on Sep 20th, and 37 at Wold Newton on Oct 5th. All bar one of the counts of 50 or more fell during Sep 6th-Nov 22nd, the exception being 61 at Gib Point on Dec 29th. The ringing recoveries below illustrate typical Robin migration routes.

D051745	First-year	27-09-2012	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Dead	07-01-2013	Fleury sur Orne: 49°7'N 0°22'W (Calvados) France 444km S 0y 3m 11d
SVS	First-year Male	19-04-2010	Fyren, Falsterbo, Skane: 55°22'N 12°49'E (Skåne) Sweden
CK11177	Caught by ringer	12-10-2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E 851km WSW 0y 5m 23d
	Caught by ringer	18-10-2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E 851km WSW 0y 5m 29d

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Scarce and declining local summer visitor and scarce passage migrant.

With Whisby NR now the one location within the county to hold a significant population of Nightingales it was not surprising that the first records for the year occurred at this site, with two singing males on Apr 11th. For the eleventh consecutive year census work locating and mapping singing males was carried out with a total of 11 singing males recorded. As in previous years two sub-populations were identified with eight around the Coot Lake/Grebe Lake area and three on the south side of Teal Lake and adjacent Butterley's Pit. Nocturnal surveys at the end of May which help to give an indication of unpaired males, detected at least seven males a somewhat higher figure than anticipated. However, at least one pair was confirmed breeding, with an adult observed feeding at least one recently fledged young on May 28th. Elsewhere within the county possible or probable breeding records included one heard at Fiskerton on May 2nd, up to two birds present in Bourne Wood during May 5th-26th, one present at Chambers Farm Wood from Apr 30th to May 23rd with a second bird recorded on May 14th, and one present at Deeping Lakes NR on Jun 23rd. On the coast the only migrant recorded was at Gib Point on May 16th. Birds at Whisby NR continued to be recorded throughout Jun, with singing noted until the 12th whilst the last bird for the year was at Teal Lake on Jul 4th. There were no autumn records.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

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

Another very good year for this eastern flycatcher with nine records, typically all during the autumn. The first influx involved a first winter bird at Gib Point from Sep 6th-8th (KMW, JS *et al*) and another one there on Sep 12th-15th (RDn *et al*), one at Saltfleet on Sep 13th-15th (BMC, GW *et al*) and a first winter bird at Sea View Farm, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Sep 14th-15th



Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* Donna Nook Sep 7th 2014 © Mark Johnson



Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* Donna Nook Sep 21st 2014 © Mark Johnson

(PSm, NCC *et al*). After a two day break with no birds recorded, suggesting that this first wave had moved on, a second influx occurred beginning with one at Donna Nook from Sep 18th-22nd (MJT, SL *et al*), aged as first winter on the 20th, with a second bird present on the 19th (GPC). There were also two at Gib Point on Sep 19th-21st (JPS, KMW *et al*) with one bird remaining to the 22nd (GPBO); these were trapped and ringed on the 20th and 21st. Finally one was at Donna Nook on Sep 29th (SL). The total of nine is equal to the Lincolnshire record, achieved in both 1986 and 1987.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

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

Scarce during spring migration with just three records of single males, all at Gib Point, on May 3rd, May 14th and a late bird trapped and ringed on Jun 3rd. An early autumn bird was at Crowle Waste/Moors on Aug 12th but it was not until Aug 21st before the main passage started, with up to seven at Gib Point and one-two at three other coastal sites in Aug. The Gib Point peak was on the 28th but there were also five there on the 27th. Passage continued throughout most of Sep with reports from eight coastal locations, mostly of between one and four birds plus just two higher day counts. These were both from Donna Nook, of eight on the 4th and six on the 18th. Single birds were at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Oct 8th and Gib Point on Oct 14th and the last bird for the year was at Gib Point on the very late date of Nov 5th, beating the previous latest Lincolnshire record by one day.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

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

At the beginning of the year wintering records comprised only two at Theddlethorpe St Helen on Jan 14th. Spring passage was typically light with an early one at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Mar 19th, then singles at Skegness on Apr 3rd, Gib Point on Apr 12th, Apr 22nd and May 26th and Donna Nook on Apr 27th. For the second year in a row no records were received of birds at former breeding sites. Autumn passage started with a singles at Seacroft on Sep 4th and Gib Point on Sep 23rd followed by one to two individuals from Gib Point intermittently through Oct with surprisingly no other coastal records during the month. There was though one inland record of one at Baumber between Oct 13th and 15th. Nov records included singles at Gib Point on the 1st and 3rd, Donna Nook on the 2nd and finally Huttoft Bank/Car Terrace on the 23rd. The autumn Gib Point records involved female/immatures on Sep 23rd and Oct 7th, three birds (a male a two female/immatures) during Oct 13th-18th, then singles (probably the same) on Oct 30th and Nov 1st and perhaps a different bird on Nov 3rd. Thus a cautious interpretation is that six or seven individuals occurred at Gib Point, which with four other autumn birds and eight earlier in the year gives a year total of 18-19 individuals.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

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

The first migrants were singles at Deeping Lakes NR on Apr 13th and 18th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Apr 17th and Gib Point on Apr 24th. Spring passage was light with between one to three birds recorded at Gib Point throughout Apr and May, whilst singles were at Alkborough on Apr 27th, Linwood Warren on Apr 29th (the only record received from suitable breeding habitat), Witham Mouth on May 3rd and Baston Fen on May 14th. Autumn passage commenced with singles at Gib Point on Jul 8th, 13th and 18th, inland at Swanpool on Jul 28th and Whitton on Jul 31st. Passage was more or less continuous throughout Aug with day counts of between one to four birds from four inland and five coastal locations with Gib Point receiving the majority of records. Likewise, recorded continuously throughout Sep with typical day counts of between one to seven birds from three inland and 12 coastal sites, and just a handful of counts in double figures, oddly all from Donna Nook including 13 on the 16th, 15 on the 17th and 23 on the 18th. The only records in Oct were singles from Donna Nook on the 8th and 10th, whilst two trapped at Crook Bank, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes, on the 14th were the last birds of the year.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Fairly common passage migrant. Formerly bred.

The first migrants to arrive were singles at Gib Point on Apr 26th and Donna Nook on Apr 30th, whilst during May singles were at Tetney Marsh on the 5th, Baston Fen on the 6th, Alkborough Flats, North Cotes Point and Tetney Outfall all on the 8th, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on

the 29th and Donna Nook on the 30th-31st, whilst two were recorded from each of Barton Pits on the 9th and Gib Point on the 14th. Autumn passage commenced with one at Gib Point on Jul 3rd followed by two (male and female) at Blyton on Jul 12th-16th. The latter birds were in potential breeding habitat and the area had not been visited earlier in the spring, but there was no evidence of breeding. From Aug 10th, records were more continuous, with typical day counts in Aug of between one and four birds from nine coastal and four inland locations, although higher counts from Gib Point included five on the 13th, six on the 19th and five on the 30th. Likewise widespread throughout Sep, typical day counts being between one and 15 birds from around 14 coastal and six inland locations, with some notable higher counts including 19 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on the 3rd, an impressive 60 at Donna Nook and 20 at Gib Point both on the 4th, 19 at Donna Nook on the 7th, 18 at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on the 12th and 20 at Donna Nook on the 18th. The highest inland count was five at Baston Fen on both Sep 1st and 8th. Oct brought a scattering of records with up to two at Donna Nook on 1st-2nd, singles at Gib Point on the 5th and Donna Nook on the 8th and 11th, and finally one at Frampton Marsh on the 16th.

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	8	2	1	-	2	2	-	9	20	21	15
Min number of birds	3	11	3	2	-	2	2	-	19	54	49	28

Scarce during the first quarter of the year with one to two birds recorded from just a handful of both coastal and inland locations until Mar 17th. Two birds at Crowle Waste/Moors on Apr 18th were in possible breeding habitat. A series of summer records suggested that breeding may have occurred in the county, notably the appearance of a recently-fledged juvenile at Garthorpe on Jun 12th-15th, and a juvenile across the Trent at Alkborough Flats on Jul 12th. There was also a single bird at Fiskerton Fen on Jun 12th, and a male at Gib Point on Jul 8th. In contrast to earlier, autumn passage was more pronounced than for several years with many sites recording between one to five birds, and higher counts including 12 at Gib Point on Oct 12th, six at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes on Oct 17th, 13 at Gib Point on Oct 24th and six at Alkborough Flats on Dec 28th.

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

The first returning migrant was a male by the visitor centre at Gib Point on Mar 11th followed by two at RAF Waddington on Mar 20th with five there on the 21st, whilst three were at Harmston on Mar 21st. Passage was typically widespread for the remainder of Mar and during Apr-May with single figure counts at many locations. Double figure counts during spring included 18 at Risby Warren on Apr 15th, 10 at Humberston Fitties on Apr 23rd, 26 at Gib Point on Apr 24th, 12 at Alkborough Flats on Apr 27th, 10 at Tetney Marsh on May 5th, 15 at Donna Nook on May 7th and 16 at Gib Point on May 9th. There were fewer towards the end of May but then slightly more records than normal during Jun, including non racially-assigned singles at Rimac on the 3rd, and at Gib Point on the 4th, 6th and 12th. Autumn commenced with singles at Alkborough Flats on Jul 28th-29th and Frampton Marsh on Jul 29th. Passage continued throughout Aug and Sep and, although once again widespread, most day counts only managed single figures, with just a handful of double figure counts including 10 at Gedney Drove End on Aug 10th, 14 at Skegness on Sep 16th, and 14 at Gib Point on both Sep 17th and 20th. Day counts of between one to five birds were recorded throughout Oct, though few after the 20th, whilst Nov records included singles at Covenham Res on the 2nd, Frampton Marsh on the 3rd and the last bird of the year at Gib Point on the 4th, thought to be of the Greenland race.

Individuals reported as showing characters of the Greenland race *leucorrhoa* were singles at Gib Point on May 6th, May 16th, Jun 8th and Jun 18th, two at Barton Pits on May 17th, one at Alkborough Flats on May 19th, one at Donna Nook on Aug 25th, and less typically the last Wheatear of the year, the juvenile at Gib Point on Nov 4th.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Very common resident and partial migrant.

Common and widespread with reports from around 205 sites throughout the county, and although confirmed breeding was recorded for just a handful of locations, this species remains



European Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* Gib Point Oct 26th 2014 © Paul Neale



Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* Frampton Marsh RSPB Apr 18th 2014 © Neil Smith

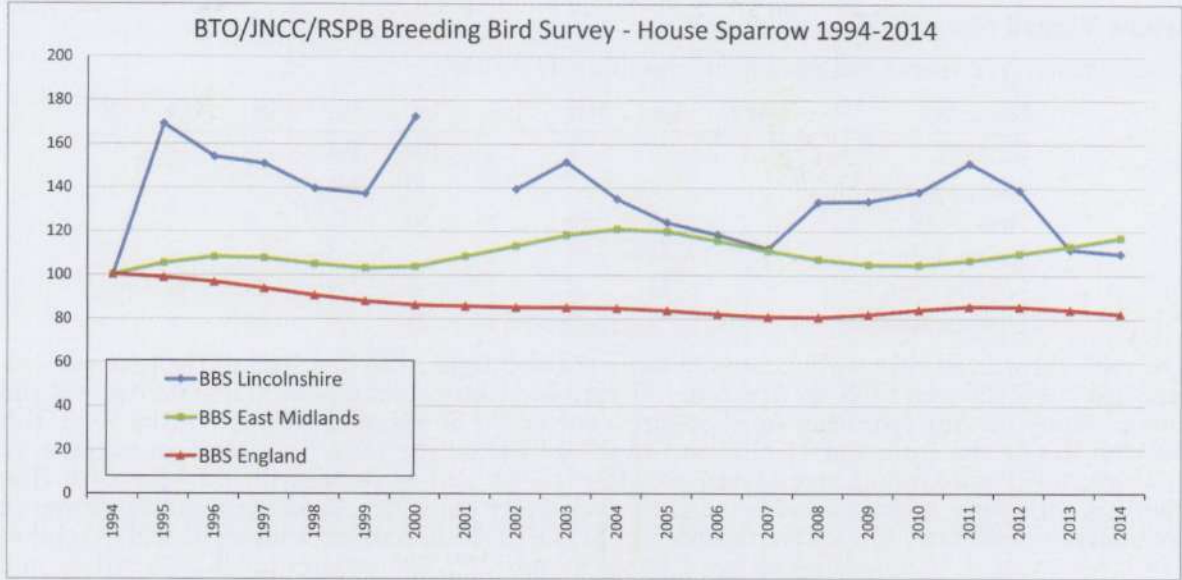
a common nesting bird even though BBS data indicate a moderate decline over the last 20 years for Lincolnshire. Inland, selected high counts included 29 at Dorrington Fen on Feb 22nd, 16 at Welbourn Heath on Oct 7th and 15 at Hartsholme Park on Oct 7th. However at coastal sites a modest passage occurred which included spring peak counts of 20 at Donna Nook on Mar 12th and 61 at Gib Point on Mar 22nd, whilst autumn peak counts included 60 at Donna Nook on Oct 15th, 20 at Crook Bank, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes, on Oct 11th and at Gib Point, 88 on Sep 17th, 70 on Oct 7th and 51 on Nov 4th. The ringing recoveries involve a long-lived Whisby resident and a Scandinavian migrant.

V312522	Adult Male	14-04-2007	Whisby Nature Park: c. 53°10'N 0°37'W
	Caught by ringer	12-05-2007	Whisby Nature Park: c. 53°10'N 0°37'W 0km 0y 0m 28d
	Caught by ringer	12-05-2012	Whisby Nature Park: c. 53°10'N 0°37'W 0km 5y 0m 28d
	Caught by ringer	15-04-2014	Whisby Nature Park: c. 53°10'N 0°37'W 0km 7y 0m 1d
D629271	First-year	15-10-2013	near North Somercotes: 53°27'N 0°9'E
	Freshly dead (hit glass)	09-04-2014	Bodo: 67°18'N 14°25'E (Nordland) Norway 1,721km NNE 0y 5m 25d

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common resident and partial migrant.

There were 97 records of 30 or more, down from 143 last year but it's unclear what the significance of that is. Many reports came from the same locations where counts are made regularly, but equally many observers do not bother to count this species (16% of House Sparrow reports were submitted merely as 'present'). Counts of 50 or more came from just seven sites, and the highest of these were 105 at Dorrington Fen on Jun 8th, 105 at Ruskington and Dorrington Fen on Jul 27th with 110 there on Aug 17th, and 100 at Anderby Creek on Oct 11th. Apart from an estimate of 25 pairs at Stenigot and confirmation of breeding at five other places, there was no detailed breeding information. If the 1994 point is treated as an anomaly, the BBS in Lincolnshire suggests a declining trend in parallel to the pattern for England, though in the East Midlands as a whole they have, if anything, been increasing.



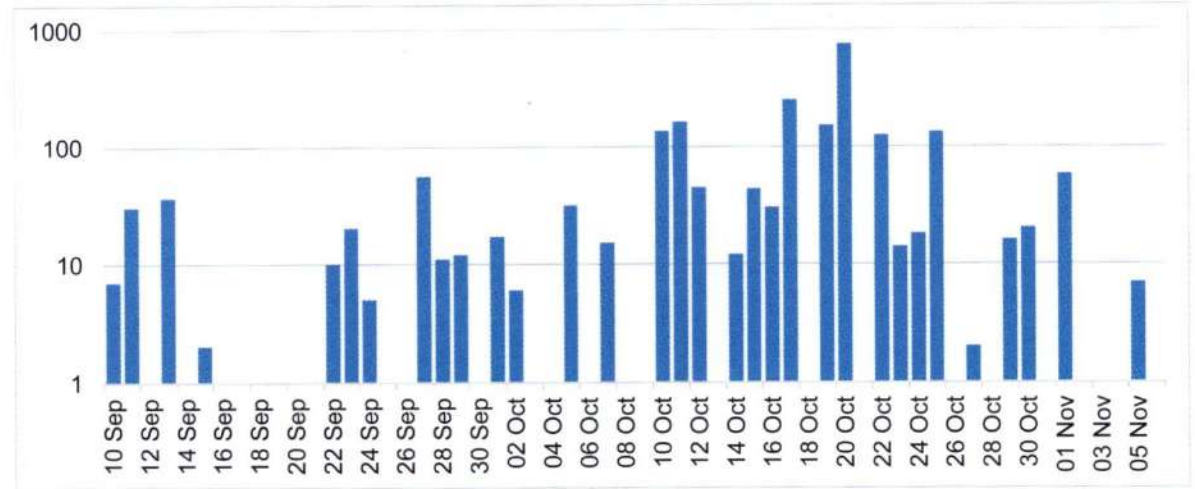
Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Fairly common resident and partial migrant.

Counts of up to 50 were widespread during the first quarter, with a peak of c100 at Gate Burton on Jan 5th and also 50 at Sea View on Jan 19th and 51 at Thurnholmes Farm, Owston Ferry, on Feb 3rd. Smaller totals were reported during the breeding season, then increasing numbers through Jul and Aug. There were 50 at Hemingby on Jul 30th, then a series of counts from Garthorpe of birds feeding on unharvested wheat including monthly peaks of 80 on Aug 22nd, 117 on Sep 20th and 80 on Oct 2nd. Other notable counts at this time were 90 at Toft Newton Res on Aug 30th and 71 at Thurnholmes Farm on Sep 27th. Movement at Gib Point was most pronounced between mid Sep and early Nov, though 38 had been logged flying south on Aug 30th. The chart below shows the daily counts of birds flying south at Gib Point over a 58 day period; note the logarithmic

scale used to lessen the disparity between displayed high and low counts. Totals of over 100 were recorded on seven dates during Oct 10th-24th, including 251 on the 17th and no less than 749 on the 20th. Elsewhere, the only other counts of 50 or more up to the end of the year were 62 at Wrangle Brickpits on Oct 26th and 50 at Donington on Bain on Dec 8th. The national longevity record for Tree Sparrow is 10 years but the Newball Wood resident below was fairly old when last trapped.

X278714	Full-grown Male	28-02-2009	Newball Wood, near Langworth: c. 53°16'N 0°22'W
		Also caught at Newball Wood in Mar 2010, Nov 2011 and May 2013	
	Caught by ringer	05-07-2014	Newball Wood, near Langworth: c. 53°16'N 0°22'W 0km 5y 4m 7d



Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant mostly Apr-Sep.

Peak counts	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Garthorpe		-	-	-	100	135	7	-
Alkborough Flats		2	-	1	40	100	1	-
Donna Nook		6	10	5	50	12	4	-
Covenham Res		41	10	2	-	5	-	-
Gibraltar Point		16	8	3	36	50	24	1
Frampton Marsh		7	10	2	25	100	50	1

The table records all sites with records of more than 40 birds. The first bird of the year was one reported from Marston STW on Apr 2nd, followed by singles at Frampton Marsh on Apr 4th and Donna Nook on Apr 5th. Peak April counts involved 20 at Marston STW on 12th, 30 at Toft Newton Res on the 16th, and 41 birds at Covenham Res on the 17th. Peak May counts were 12 at Horseshoe Point-Grainthorpe Haven on May 7th-8th and 11 at Midville on May 24th. The numbers on spring migration were therefore well down on 2013. Breeding numbers however, continued to hold firm. Birds were recorded in 31 out of 83 BBS squares surveyed with a total of 114 birds counted. Yellow Wagtails were found in only 159 BBS squares in UK as a whole, and Lincs thus contributed around 20% of the recorded squares as in 2013. Autumn migration was better than spring but still down on 2013. The Jul peak came at the end of the month with 50 at Donna Nook on the 26th, 40 at Alkborough on the 27th-28th, 25 at Frampton Marsh on the 30th and c100 at Garthorpe on the 31st. In Aug there were c135 at Garthorpe on the 2nd, c.100 at Alkborough on the 6th and c100 at Frampton Marsh on the 13th and 16th. The last records of the year were singles at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on four dates during Oct 4th-11th.

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

Single birds resembling *M.f.flava* were at Frampton Marsh on April 16th (JB), Toft Newton Res on Apr 16th (GJF), Baston Fen on Apr 17th (AGd) and Broadholme on May 7th and 17th (TWO). A breeding pair of wagtails at Marston STW consisted of a female that appeared to be a *flava* x *flavissima* hybrid with a *flava* male (DRob).

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	15	12	9	8	8	6	6	9	16	28	24	15
Min number of birds	20	14	13	11	15	8	12	19	41	50	30	20

Records were received from 68 sites (up from 56 in 2013) of which 58 were inland and ten coastal. The table indicates that there is pronounced dispersal or autumn passage especially in Sep-Oct; all counts of six or more fell between Aug 21st and Oct 15th. The peak coastal counts were 10 at Gib Point on Sep 19th with 11 moving south there on Sep 21st and Oct 1st and 12 south on Sep 23rd. There were six at Humberston Fitties on Sep 30th. Inland the maximum count was six at Denton Res on Aug 21st. Breeding was confirmed at Sleaford with recently fledged young seen in May and Jul, Riseholme Park in May, Keddington in Jun and Marston STW in Jul. Probable breeding was reported from Dalderby Lock, Town's Holt Grimsby, Belton Park, Kirkby on Bain and Louth. It was not recorded in any of the 83 BBS squares surveyed in Lincs in 2014. It is relatively widely but thinly spread in winter with most records being of single birds, but more twos this year and five at Marston STW on Jan 12th.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	100	20	1	1	1
Toft Newton Res	3	4	8	10	6	30	45	50	60	10	7	5
Fiskerton Fen	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	1	3	6	60	1
Woodhall Spa	-	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Gibraltar Point	6	2	10	12	6	16	55	56	96	125	15	35
Marston STW	180	1	30	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100

The table includes all sites recording 50 or more, with the exception of the peak winter count, which was c250 at a roost at a McDonalds in Grantham on Jan 13th. There had been 180 close by at Marston STW on the previous day, Jan 12th. It is not certain but seems likely that birds were commuting between these two sites. There were also 54 at Woodhall Spa STW on Feb 21st and 44 at Wainfleet All Saints on Mar 5th. The largest spring count not on the table was 25 at Covenham Res on Apr 17th indicating a poorer migration than in 2013. A total of 76 birds were reported in 40 out of 83 BBS squares surveyed, which was similar to 2013. Autumn passage extended from late Jul to mid Nov. There were 55 or more at Gib Point on Jul 31st, and an impressive concentration of 100 feeding at Alkborough Flats on Aug 6th. At Gib Point, using combined counts of Pied and those not determined as to sub-species, the largest counts were 96 on Sep 14th, 125 on Oct 12th and 93 on Oct 30th, in each case mostly going to roost. Elsewhere the highest count was 60 at Toft Newton Res on Sep 27th. The only large flocks reported in the last two months of the year were 60 at Fiskerton Fen Scrape on Nov 12th and around 100 regularly present at Marston STW during December.

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	-	-	6	11	4	-	-	3	2	1	-	-
Min number of birds	-	-	11	52	9	-	-	3	4	1	-	-

Spring passage started with a single birds at Gib Point on Mar 12th with two birds there on Mar 20th. The spring passage was well down on that in 2013 which was exceptional. Peak counts were of 16 at Frampton Marsh on Apr 14th and 15 at Covenham Res the same day. There were no reports between May 15th and Aug 9th. Autumn passage peaked at three birds at Toft Newton Res on Sep 7th and the last bird of the year was seen at Donna Nook on Oct 19th.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Rare passage migrant, mainly Sep-Nov, rarely Dec-Jan and Apr-May. LBRC

One flew south at Gib Point on Oct 10th (NAL). This was a return to rarity level after the record 19 birds in 2013, but it came at a typical time of year.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

Vagrant. LBRC

One was seen in an arable field near Howden's Pullover, near Saltfleet on June 8th (DN, NN). This was the eleventh Lincolnshire record and the first in Jun; of the others, one was in Apr, five in May and the rest in Sep-Oct. Nine have been on the coast between Tetney and Gib Point, with two inland.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Vagrant. LBRC

One was found at Gib Point on Sep 17th and remained to the 20th, often accompanying a Tree Pipit (KMW *et al*). This was the eleventh Olive-backed Pipit for Lincolnshire and the earliest, previous birds having occurred during Sep 26th-Nov 8th.

2011 addition: One was at Wroot on Oct 13th (MMc). Accepted BBRC (BB 106 p.626).



Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* Gib Point Sep 20th 2014 © Russell Hayes

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

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

Breeding birds were reported from only three sites in 2014: the Laughton-Scotton area where there were at least 15 territories but no full survey was undertaken, Crowle Moors where again no survey results were available but two males were in the southern section, and Linwood Warren where a single bird was present from Apr 29th to May 5th at least. One or two birds have been recorded in recent years around Greetwell, Manton and Twigmoor but it would be worth establishing whether any now use the Market Rasen woodlands or those around Kirkby on Bain and Woodall Spa. The first birds of the year were at Marton on Apr 14th and Gib Point on the 16th with 1-2 birds at the latter site on nine dates to May 15th. Autumn passage birds occurred at Gib Point from Aug 13th and Donna Nook from the 15th; most breeding sites are abandoned by mid August. The coastal records had the following peaks: five at Gib Point on Aug 22nd, five at Donna Nook on Sep 3rd, five at Gib Point on Sep 15th and 17th, eight at Donna Nook on the 18th, five at Gib Point on the 19th, and then 14 there on the 20th with four at Donna Nook on Oct 14th. Away from the coast, singles were at Alkborough Flats on Aug 23rd and 25th and Freiston Shore on Sep 20th. The four at Donna Nook on Oct 14th were the last of the year.

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
Humberston-Tetney	3	3	8	10	1	-	5	1	60	25	25	6
Donna Nook	10	2	20	26	17	23	40	35	150	145	80	51
Gibraltar Point	9	5	45	142	50	42	100	65	2440	675	44	10
Friskney-Wrangle*	128	4	35	24	19	33	20	88	104	289	70	16
Freiston Shore	15	16	14	21	8	8	27	9	20	15	15	13
Frampton Marsh	1	1	13	6	18	20	35	50	235	25	72	37
Covenham Res	16	29	23	2	10	-	-	-	-	30	80	30
Branston	30	5	30	6	1	2	2	200	50	20	15	-

The table includes some of the more consistently recorded coastal sites, plus a couple of inland ones. These include all areas with records of 75 or more birds. The highest count early in the year was 125 on the Friskney sector of The Wash; no doubt large numbers are present across other saltmarsh around the county but it is difficult to achieve comprehensive counts of these. The peak spring count was 142 at Gib Point on Apr 4th. Breeding estimates on The Wash RSPB reserves were 29 territories at Freiston Shore and 83 territories at Frampton Marsh, similar to last year's; at Alkborough Flats, there were 72 territories compared to 77 in 2013. Recording of visible passage at Gib Point gave a total of about 12700 moving south or west during Sep-Oct; counts exceeded 1000 on three dates, with 1358 south on Sep 8th, 420 south plus 790 in from east then flying west on Sep 20th, and 1738 south on Sep 23rd. In addition, the peak day-count at Gib Point was 2240 on Sep 21st; that included 1770 that came in off the sea from the south-east. The highest autumn counts elsewhere were 200 at Branston on Aug 27th, 150 at Donna Nook on Sep 15th and 18th, 235 at Frampton Marsh on Sep 27th, and 150 in the Wrangle sector of The Wash on Oct 11th with 139 in the Friskney sector on the 12th. The ringing recoveries include one that was caught during the autumn passage period at Gib Point but which turned out to be breeding there in subsequent years, and the other a short-term retrapping of a bird ringed in east Derbyshire.

L429390	First-year Male	02-10-2010	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Caught by ringer	18-05-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E 0km 2y 7m 16d
	Caught by ringer	17-06-2014	Gibraltar Point: 53°6'N 0°19'E 0km 3y 8m 15d
Z318140	First-year	14-09-2014	Bondhay Farm, Whitwell: 53°18'N 1°13'W (Derbyshire)
	Caught by ringer	20-09-2014	Dunsby, Bourne: 52°49'N 0°22'W 78km SE 0y 0m 6d

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	16	3	6	2	-	-	-	-	2	30	50	25
Saltfleet-Theddlethorpe	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	35	40
Gibraltar Point	22	37	45	3	-	-	-	-	11	157	76	68
Freiston Shore	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	15	11
Frampton Marsh	91	64	25	-	-	-	-	-	2	30	107	112

Other counts of 10 or more were 30 in the Dawsmere sector of The Wash in both Jan and Oct, 30 at Gedney Drove End in Jan and 20 there in Nov, and 10 flying west at Barton Pits on Sep 29th. Gib Point and Frampton Marsh recorded higher counts than anywhere else, with peaks of 157 at Gib Point on Sep 20th and 112 at Frampton Marsh on Dec 29th (well down on the 2013 peak of 252). There were regular reports in spring up to Apr 7th, then one late bird at Gedney Drove End on Apr 20th. The first of autumn were singles at Gib Point and Frampton Marsh on Sep 12th. The Sep-Nov southerly passage total at Gib Point was 1284, slightly higher than the previous two years. The highest day passage totals were 97 south on Oct 17th and 127 south on Oct 20th. Away from coast and estuaries, there were singles at Covenham Res on two dates in Mar-Apr, and 1-3 there on five dates between Sep 30th and Oct 17th with a peak of five on Oct 3rd, and singles at Toft Newton Res on Mar 8th and 22nd.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare/scarce passage migrant and winter visitor Oct-Apr. Mainly coastal, possibly increasing. LBRC

Two were recorded intermittently at Gib Point from the beginning of the year until Mar 12th, with two sightings of singles later in Mar and one at Croftmarsh on Apr 6th – the last anywhere

in spring (GPBO, KMW *et al*). There was one at Frampton Marsh on Feb 4th-9th (RSPB, PS *et al*) and singles at Donna Nook on four dates during Mar 8th-20th (SL, CA). At the end of the year, there were three at Gib Point on Nov 14th, and 1-3 were then seen irregularly there until Dec 13th with one subsequent record of two on Dec 29th (GPBO, KMW *et al*). At Alkborough Flats, there were at least three from Nov 16th to Dec 20th (ND, GPC *et al*). Elsewhere there were singles at Frampton Marsh on Nov 17th, Dec 3rd and Dec 6th-31st (RSPB, ABe *et al*), singles at Donna Nook on Nov 22nd (MPL) and 29th (ABe) and two there on Dec 29th (ADv), one at Rimac on Dec 15th (GPC), and on The Humber two at Chowder Ness on Dec 25th-30th (GPC *et al*).

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	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	2	27	-	1
Gibraltar Point	-	1	6	16	3	-	-	-	4	80	21	2
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	20	-	2
Sum of all site peaks	16	19	49	28	3	0	0	0	14	142	26	38

Thirty-eight sites reported Bramblings although they were decidedly thin on the ground in the first quarter of the year, counts of 10 birds at Broughton Carrs in Jan and at Marston STW in Mar being the largest. Most occurred during Mar though when peak count was just 49 across 16 sites. The spring maximum was 16 at Gib Point on Apr 5th, with the last three birds of the spring there on May 1st. Autumn arrivals were noted from Sep 14th, when one was seen at Rimac, all at coastal sites. A larger influx occurred during Oct when the sum of monthly peaks across all sites was 142. There were c20 at Crook Bank on Oct 5th, but most arrived from mid-month onwards, when 20 were at Gib Point on the 13th and 27 at Donna Nook on the 14th. Gib Point recorded monthly highs of 64, also on the 14th, 80 on the 15th and 60 on the 20th. Smaller numbers remained to winter and seven sites reported them in December.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The table shows sums of monthly peaks from 267 sites, almost 50% up on the number in 2013, reasons for which are unclear. Chaffinch abundance has increased rapidly since the early 1970s, according to BTO surveys, but numbers seemed to stabilise for a period during the 1990s. There was a downturn in numbers from 2006, linked to the widespread and severe outbreak of trichomonosis that began in 2005. Currently, changes in adult survival seem the major contributor to annual population change.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of all site peaks	1026	861	1299	865	520	508	209	235	487	936	788	734

Local Chaffinches are highly sedentary but from autumn onwards, large numbers of Scandinavian migrants join them. The Jan peak count was the highest for some years, although this may simply reflect the increased number of sites reported on, with high numbers seen at both East Ravendale (215 on the 3rd) and Welbourn Heath (184 on the 8th). Spring migration began during Mar with significant numbers recorded at Gib Point, including 426 on the 8th, 236 on the 9th, 208 on the 19th and 111 on the 23rd, most going south. Numbers decreased during Apr as birds further dispersed with a maximum of 144 at Gib Point on the 8th. Possible or probable breeding was reported from more than 60 sites across the county. Autumn immigration began during Sep with peak counts of 50 or more as follows: 122 at Gib Point on the 25th, 55 at Anwick STW on the 13th, 54 at Welbourn Heath on the 18th and 50 at Humberston Fitties on the 30th. October saw the highest influx, with a site maximum of 481 at Gib Point on 11th and several other days when three figure counts were logged there including 333 on the 17th and 366 on the 20th. Nov and Dec peaks were unremarkable and somewhat lower than Jan-Feb peaks, though one late high count at Gib Point was 186 on Nov 1st, and there were estimates of 100 at Wold Newton in Nov and Buslingthorpe Wood in Dec. Ringing details for two relatively old birds and two relatively long distance movements are shown below.

T745295	Adult Male	27-12-2005	Newball Wood, near Langworth: c. 53°16'N 0°22'W
	Caught by ringer	20-06-2014	Newball Wood, near Langworth: c. 53°16'N 0°22'W 0km 8y 5m 24d
V825030	Adult Male	13-10-2007	near North Somercotes: 53°27'N 0°9'E
	Caught by ringer	09-12-2008	near North Somercotes: 53°27'N 0°9'E 0km 1y 1m 26d
	Caught by ringer	15-05-2012	near North Somercotes: 53°27'N 0°9'E 0km 4y 7m 2d
	Caught by ringer	22-07-2014	near North Somercotes: 53°27'N 0°9'E 0km 6y 9m 9d

L691418	Adult Male	08-03-2011	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Alive (ring read in field)	06-01-2014	Astley: 53°30'N 2°28'W (Greater Manchester) 191km WNW 2y 9m 29d
Y394840	Adult Male	02-03-2012	Saul's Bank, Benington: 52°58'N 0°6'E
	Freshly dead (hit glass)	20-03-2014	Vestre Dal, Skollerud: 60°16'N 10°10'E (Buskerud) Norway 1,017km NE 2y 0m 18d

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare local resident and rare passage migrant. **LBRC RBBP**

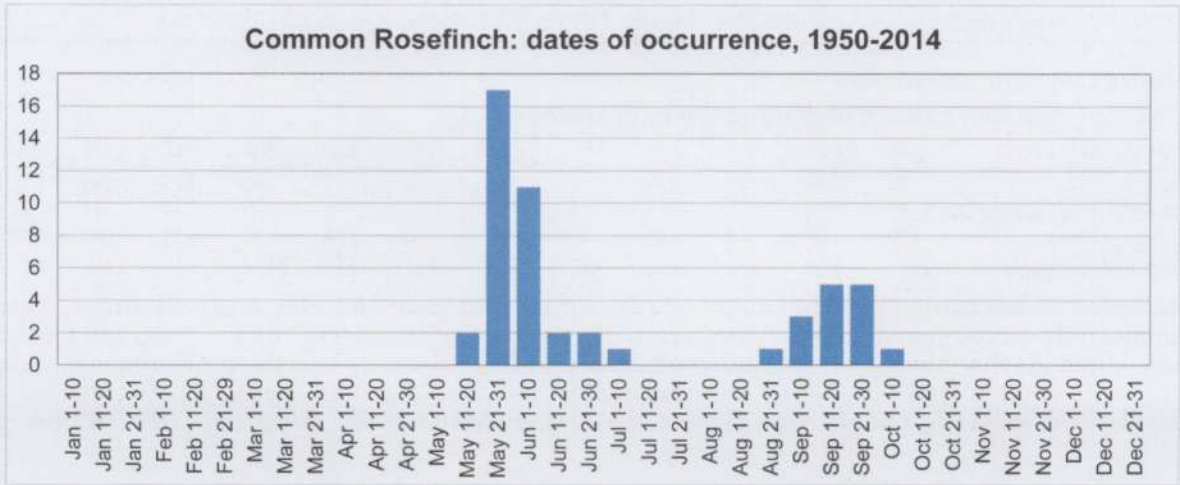
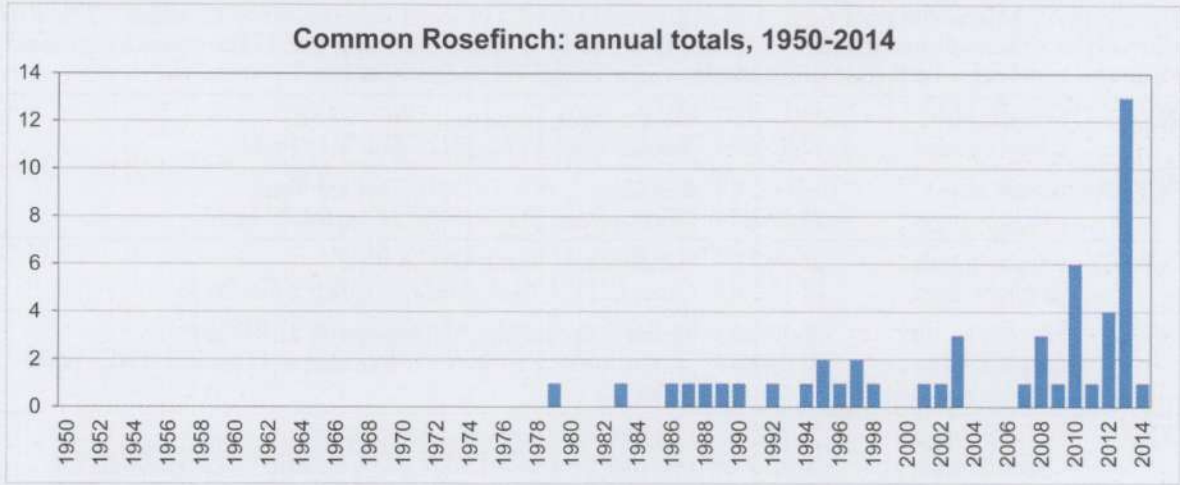
An extremely poor year for this increasingly rare visitor with just three records of single birds, all in the autumn: Alkborough Flats on Sep 14th (ND, WG), Barton Pits on Sep 28th (GPC), and flying south at Gib Point on Nov 1st (RDn). These records follow the recent trend in the county with just a few records during autumn migration in coastal or estuarine areas away from traditional breeding sites.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Vagrant May-Jun and Aug-Oct. **LBRC RBBP**

Just one record was received – one at Donna Nook on Sep 18th (SL). This was a return to more normal level after the remarkable number in 2013.

Common Rosefinch was recorded for the first time in Lincolnshire in 1979, and typically there have been fewer than five records per annum. The totals of six in 2010 and 13 in 2013 were exceptions, but there is an apparent trend of increase – or is this a reflection of observers being more aware of their calls and song? Of the 50 individuals so far recorded, 35 have occurred in spring (many of these being first summer singing males) and 15 in autumn. Most have been singletons but there have been four records of two. With the exception of one at Barrow Haven in June 2003, all have been along the coast between Cleethorpes and Gibraltar Point, and 34 at Gibraltar Point itself.



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	197	132	116	82	58	29	26	33	32	42	87	113

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 147 sites in 2014, slightly more than in previous years. For comparison, 191 Bullfinches were ringed in the county in 2014. The largest monthly peak counts were during the first quarter and the last two months of the year, when birds are most noticeable. In Jan, counts in double figures came from Raithby near Louth (10), Whisby NR (23) Woodhall Spa (16) and Boothby Great Wood (11). As in several previous years, Whisby NR was the site with the highest counts, peaking at 28 in Feb, when there were also 15 at Walesby. At the end of the year, the highest count was 11 at Boultham Mere/Swanpool in Nov. Twenty sites reported possible or probable breeding. There were no significant counts from any of the usual coastal sites.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of all site peaks	591	387	382	264	141	139	74	204	203	496	189	300

Counts were received from 176 sites across the county. Greenfinch numbers nationally, regionally and in Lincolnshire, have continued to fall as a result of the protozoan parasite *Trichomonas*, a phenomenon first noted in 2006. The peak counts totals for each month for all sites are very similar to those for 2013. Wintering flocks of 20-60 during the first quarter were noted at 16 sites across the county with most at Gib Point where there was a peak of 100 in Jan and Mar. After Mar, numbers quickly fell as wintering flocks dispersed to breeding territories. In autumn, 100 were reported at Saltfleetby on Oct 12th, and at Gib Point numbers peaked on 17th when 312 were seen, most moving south. The total of birds logged moving south at Gib Point between Sep 25th and Nov 1st was 1508. There were 87 at Gib Point on Nov 1st but much smaller numbers elsewhere during Nov, and Dec also was an unremarkable month with no notable numbers. The first recovery below shows a fairly old individual (the BTO longevity record is 12 years). The first four of the others show origins or destinations of birds passing along the Lincs coast in autumn, while the last was a bird that quite likely was a victim of trichomonosis.

TJ83600	First-year Male Caught by ringer	11-11-2007 12-03-2014	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E Wainfleet Bank: 53°6'N 0°12'E 8km W 6y 4m 1d
TX77345	Juvenile Male Caught by ringer	16-06-2014 25-10-2014	West Moor: c. 55°1'N 1°36'W (Tyne and Wear) Gibraltar Point: 53°6'N 0°19'E 247km SSE 0y 4m 9d
TX76377	Full-grown Male Caught by ringer	27-09-2014 02-12-2014	Fishtoft Sewage Works: 52°57'N 0°1'E Grain: 51°27'N 0°42'E (Medway) 174km SSE 0y 2m 5d
TS76625	First-year Female Caught by ringer	20-10-2013 02-08-2014	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E Skelton, Saltburn: 54°33'N 1°0'W (Redcar and Cleveland) 154km NNW 0y 9m 13d
TX30850	First-year Female Caught by ringer	26-10-2013 20-02-2014	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E near Hollesley Heath: 52°3'N 1°25'E (Suffolk) 139km SSE 0y 3m 25d
TK68733	First-year Female Freshly dead (disease)	12-10-2013 27-08-2014	Old Weston: 52°22'N 0°24'W (Cambridgeshire) Utterby: 53°25'N 0°3'W 118km NNE 0y 10m 15d

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	50	44	98	230	120	60	95	220	340	120	40	25
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes	43	-	1	7	7	7	-	6	30	55	37	300
Gibraltar Point	100	60	64	686	85	32	90	102	375	1618	100	210
Sum of all site peaks	1743	929	852	1700	662	301	462	1259	2427	2935	1248	1872

Recorded widely throughout the county all year with counts from 185 sites, and peak counts were significantly up compared with previous years. This is reflected in the BTO BBS index graph for the east Midlands that has shown an upturn since around 2008. January was the peak winter month, but some notable flocks of 100 or more were recorded at several sites during the first quarter - Bradley Woods (150), Humberston Fitties (120), Tetney Marsh (150), Gib Point (100), Wainfleet

Marsh (110), Freiston Shore (220), Scunthorpe (100), Louth (200), and Martin Dales (100). Spring movements saw counts increase dramatically during April, reflecting the national picture on BTO BirdTrack. Some very large numbers were counted moving south at Donna Nook and Gib Point. At the latter site, 2986 birds were counted moving south during the month by the vigilant "viz miggers". The peak day there was Apr 8th when 686 were logged. These data emphasise the purely comparative nature of the monthly peak counts table. In contrast, counts elsewhere were insignificant. Counts during May were much lower, with a maximum of 120 at Donna Nook and 85 at Gib Point. Breeding reports included 51 pairs at Alkborough Flats. Autumn number built up from August onwards, post breeding, and continued to increase into Sep as coastal passage got underway. At Gib Point, visual migration watches recorded 4649 moving south during the month, with the highest day totals by a wide margin being 825 on the 1st and 1618 on the 10th. The Oct peak count was the highest for some years, presumably reflecting a good breeding season at home and abroad. The bountiful autumn was reflected in some good wintering flocks. Nov maxima were 250 at Cleethorpes, 110 at Normanton, 100 at Gib Point, 90 at Humberston Fitties, 82 at Market Rasen and 72 at Frampton Marsh. Good numbers remained up to the end of the year, the biggest flocks in Dec being at Thealby (280), Cleethorpes (200), Rimac (300), and Gib Point (210).

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

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

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tetney Haven-Horseshoe Point	69	80	-	2	-	-	84	120	70
Grainthorpe Marsh-Donna Nook	30	20	100	102	-	-	3	35	32
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR	54	-	-	-	-	-	300	250	220
Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe North End	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	134	125
Wainfleet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	240	17
Frampton Marsh	60	60	60	60	-	-	-	18	39
Holbeach St Matthew	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	220
Sum of all site peaks	392	233	176	193	-	-	1	450	937

Numbers recorded in the first quarter reflect a below average showing, in large part due to absence of birds (or counts) from Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR. Fifteen sites recorded Twite during Jan with the highest individual site counts being at Horseshoe Point (69), Frampton Marsh (60), Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR (54) and Humberston Fitties & Mablethorpe North End (40 at each). Most of these had departed by mid-Apr, with a late flock of 60 still at Frampton Marsh on Apr 19th the last birds of the spring. Three at Gib Point on Oct 1st were the first of autumn, with more from the 11th onwards. A sharp build-up of numbers at the end of the month included 84 at Horseshoe Point-Tetney Haven on the 28th and c300 at Brickyard Lane on the 29th. Numbers there stayed at over 200 until the end of the year, and generally totals on the coast and in The Wash were far higher than earlier. A flock of 70 at Holbeach St Matthew on Nov 24th included three colour-ringed birds ringed near Huddersfield in Sep 2014, which are shown below along with three others wintering in coastal Lincs. Inland records during the year included four at Marston STW on Mar 28th, increasing to six on the 29th, four at Covenham Res on Oct 10th, three at Dunsby Fen on Nov 15th and one at Toft Newton Res on Nov 20th.

D979481	First-year	23-09-2014	Booth Wood Reservoir, Rishworth: 53°37'N 1°58'W (West Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	02-10-2014	Booth Wood Reservoir, Rishworth: 53°37'N 1°58'W (West Yorkshire) 0km 0y 0m 9d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	24-11-2014	Holbeach St Matthew: 52°52'N 0°4'E 160km ESE 0y 2m 1d
D979418	Adult	16-09-2014	Booth Wood Reservoir, Rishworth: 53°37'N 1°58'W (West Yorkshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	24-11-2014	Holbeach St Matthew: 52°52'N 0°4'E 160km ESE 0y 2m 8d
D979486	Adult	23-09-2014	Booth Wood Reservoir, Rishworth: 53°37'N 1°58'W (West Yorkshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	24-11-2014	Holbeach St Matthew: 52°52'N 0°4'E 160km ESE 0y 2m 1d
Z380649	First-year Male	12-10-2014	Booth Wood Reservoir, Rishworth: 53°37'N 1°58'W (West Yorkshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	01-11-2014	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E 147km ESE 0y 0m 20d
Z380503	Adult	02-10-2014	Booth Wood Reservoir, Rishworth: 53°37'N 1°58'W (West Yorkshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	03-12-2014	Theddlethorpe St Helen, Mablethorpe: 53°22'N 0°13'E 147km ESE 0y 2m 1d
Z380649	First-year Male	12-10-2014	Booth Wood Reservoir, Rishworth: 53°37'N 1°58'W (West Yorkshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	28-12-2014	Tetney Marshes: 53°31'N 0°3'E 134km E 0y 2m 16d

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
Sum of all site peaks	77	91	31	53	4	-	1	-	10	36	146	114

Although records were received from 50 sites across the county, the monthly totals were very low. Flocks of 25 were at Marston STW on Jan 16th and Trent Port on Feb 1st, and with 20 at Kirkby on Bain GP on Feb 17th and 12 in Willingham Forest on Mar 25th were the only double figure counts in the first quarter. Twenty were seen in Laughton Forest on Apr 10th, and there were one or two seen on the coast in May, the last on the 10th at Gib Point. As in previous years, Lesser Redpolls appeared to virtually absent from the county during the breeding season. A single bird reported from the Donington-on-Bain on Jul 27th was the sole summer record. No reports were received of attempted breeding. The first autumn immigrants appeared during Sep, with singles reported from Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR on the 15th and Gib Point on the 16th. Small numbers trickled in during Oct with maxima of 10 south at Gib Point on the 19th and 19 at Whisby NR on the 24th. During Nov, small numbers were logged daily at Gib Point with a peak of 19 on the 3rd. Inland, there were 52 at Willingham Woods on Nov 21st and numbers continued to build at Whisby NR where there were 55 by Nov 29th, falling to 27 by Dec 17th. Forty were at Callan's Lane Wood on Dec 7th, with another flock of 25 at Boultham Mere/Swanpool on the 16th. These last three flocks were the only ones to reach double figures in Dec. The ringing recoveries form another series demonstrating the highly variable trajectories of redpoll movement.

As in previous years, some records were reported as "Redpoll spp"; the only potentially significant records were of 14 at Normanby Hall CP on Apr 3rd and 19 at Gib Point on Nov 3rd.

L690318	Adult Male	25-10-2012	Seacroft, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Freshly dead (disease)	05-05-2014	Strachur: 56°9'N 5°4'W (Argyll and Bute) 486km NW 1y 6m 10d
Y984653	Full-grown Female	08-04-2013	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W
	Caught by ringer	12-04-2014	Torwood Lodge, Lockerbie: 55°7'N 3°22'W (Dumfries and Galloway) 326km NW 1y 0m 4d
L690200	Full-grown Female	25-10-2012	Seacroft, Skegness: 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Caught by ringer	08-01-2014	Shorne, Gravesend: 51°24'N 0°25'E (Kent) 189km S 1y 2m 14d
D714492	First-year	24-11-2013	Northward Hill, High Halstow, Rochester: 51°27'N 0°33'E (Medway)
	Caught by ringer	09-04-2014	Bourne Wood: 52°46'N 0°24'W 160km NNW 0y 4m 16d
D539333	First-year Female	12-10-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Caught by ringer	13-04-2014	Hardwick Wood, Wingerworth: 53°10'N 1°27'W (Derbyshire) 119km W 0y 6m 1d

Redpoll reminder

It was apparent when compiling the text here that some observers were apparently confusing Lesser and Common Redpolls. This may have been a problem as much with terminology as with identification. All Redpolls can be variable and confident identification in the field can be difficult. For this reason observers are reminded that **all** field records of **Common** (formerly **Mealy**) **Redpolls** in Lincolnshire should be supplemented by supporting details such as a written description, ringing report and/or photographic evidence. Only the following records below met these criteria and were deemed acceptable.

Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

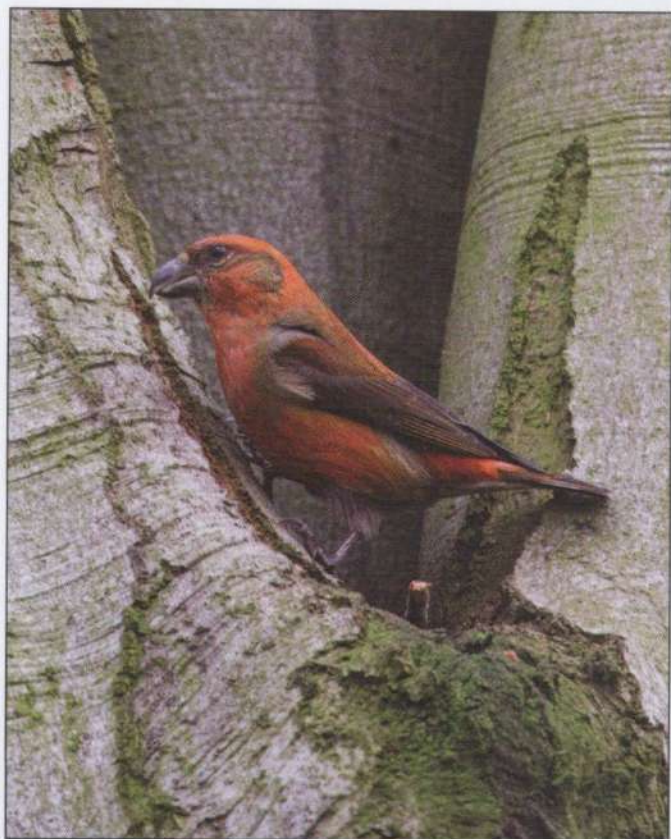
Scarce/rare winter visitor, but probably overlooked. **LBRC**

A poor showing of this scarce form of *Carduelis*, with just one seen in Jan, in Lincoln on the 3rd-5th (CG). Three were at Humberston Fitties on Feb 19th (RL) and one was photographed at Gib Point on Mar 14th (DN, MWi). Two birds were ringed at Walesby Moor on Mar 31st (SB). Two were still at Humberston Fitties on Apr 2nd (RL) and another moved south at Gib Point on Apr 5th (KMW, NAL). Two were at Barton Pits on Apr 6th (SRo, GPC) with three there on Apr 9th (GPC). There were just two autumn records – one at Humberston Fitties on Oct 26th (RL) and one at Whisby NR on Dec 8th (DN). The recovery below involves one of six Common Redpolls trapped at Gib Point on Oct 13th 2013, which was presumably wintering in Sussex.

D539588	First-year	13-10-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Freshly dead	17-02-2014	Nutley: 51°1'N 0°3'E (East Sussex) 231km S 0y 4m 4d



Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera* Forest Pines Mar 9th 2014 © Mark Johnson



Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* Broughton Feb 2014 © Graham Catley

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*

Rare winter visitor. *C.h. hornemanni* BBRC *C.h. exilipes* LBRC

A well-watched first winter individual of the form *C.h. exilipes*, “Coue’s Redpoll”, was at Waters’ Edge CP, Barton from Apr 1st to 6th (GPC *et al*).

Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera*

Vagrant. BBRC

A male was found on Feb 9th at Forest Pines golf course, Broughton (CHe, MJn *et al*), with the last accepted sighting on Feb 28th (though there were other reports by competent observers through to Mar 21st). Accepted BBRC for Feb 9th-28th (BB 108 p.633). This currently constitutes the second county record, the first being of an adult male shot at South Cockerington in September 1889. There is also a record from 2013 under consideration by BBRC.

This record was part of a larger invasion of Two-barred Crossbills into the UK and provided food for thought over the aging of these birds. It is listed by BBRC as an adult (without specifying sex) but the following summary was provided by GPC: The bird appeared to have replaced all of its greater and median coverts judging by the width of the white tips, and also all of its tertials and flight feathers which appeared blackish rather than worn and brown toned, as they would be if they were juvenile feathers. The tips of the primaries and secondaries also appeared fresh and not abraded; the lower scapulars were largely black-centred. The orange colour of the body feathers was mixed with patches of red, quite similar to two of the Broomhead, Sheffield, birds, but they seemed to show more red and less orange in their body plumage; those birds were considered to be the juveniles that arrived there the previous autumn so it seems logical that the Broughton bird was indeed a first summer male but one that had undergone a rather more extensive moult than described in BWP.

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
Sum of all site peaks	13	38	55	18	3	3	-	-	4	3	1	-

Crossbills were reported from just 11 sites with fewer records than in 2013 and little sign of any significant coastal movements: a poor year overall. Only two reports were received in Jan, namely three at Ostler’s Plantation on the 2nd, and 10 at Laughton Forest on the 12th. Forest Pines (Broughton) golf course had a flock of up to 22 birds during Feb, with 14 at Linwood Warren on the 16th and two at Laughton Forest on the 19th. More birds were evident during Mar with up to 12 south at Gib Point on several days and evidence of attempted breeding at Forest Pines (Broughton) and in Laughton Forest, where females were seen nest building at both sites early in the month. However, numbers tailed off abruptly during Apr, with 1-2 birds on the coast and a flock of 16 at Market Rasen on the 17th the only significant number. Records from Forest Pines ceased to appear with the departure of the Two-barred Crossbill! Summer records were few and far between with 1-2 birds reported from Gib Point and Messingham SQ until Jun 20th. In an exceptionally poor autumn, one was at Donna Nook on Sep 16th followed by three south at Gib Point on Sep 21st. Donna Nook had three on Oct 19th and a singleton flew south at Gib Point on Nov 16th completed a rather dismal year for this species in the county.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Counts were received from 241 sites across the county, with the highest summed peak counts occurring in October.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of all site peaks	1135	832	670	632	246	262	364	1357	1837	3760	936	910

Most British Goldfinches move to Iberia in winter but some remain in the UK. The UK population has been increasing since around 2000 and, although showing signs of flattening out, the population is at an all-time high. In the first quarter, counts of more than 50 were reported from Donna Nook, Gib Point, Boultham Mere, Swanpool, Whisby NR, Hartsholme CP, Osbournby, and Pinchbeck and with the largest flock of 100 at Whisby on Feb 7th. Numbers tailed off into the spring months, but there was some southerly passage along the coast when at least 724 were logged during Apr at Gib Point, with the maximum being 136 south on Apr 5th. Autumn counts were very much



Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* Frampton Marsh RSPB Dec 29th 2014 Neil Smith



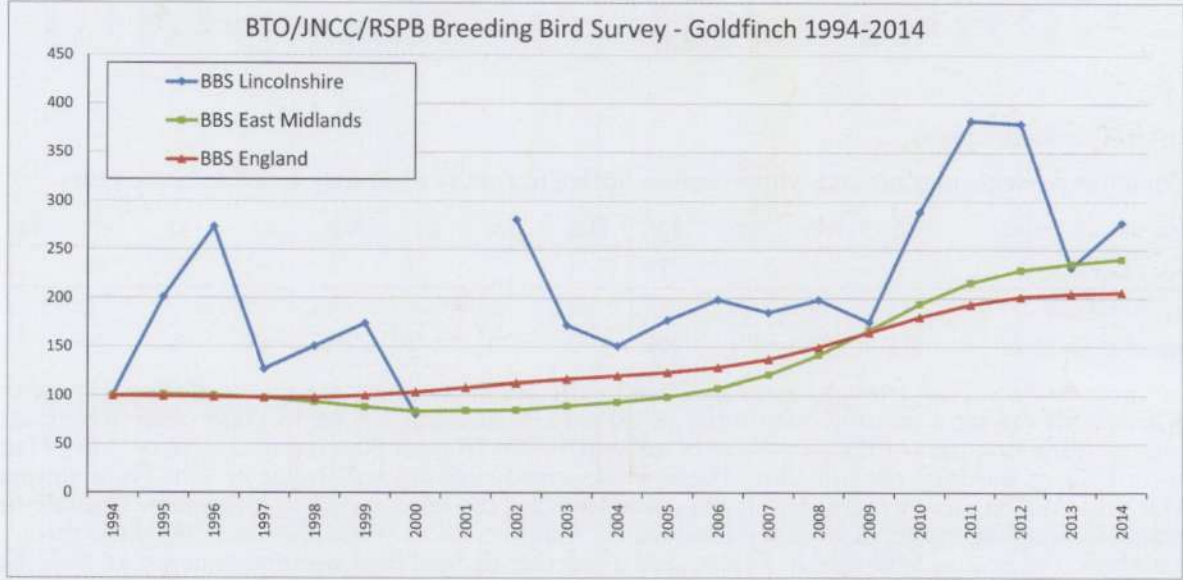
European Serin *Serinus serinus* Gib Point May 11th 2014 © Paul Neale



European Serin *Serinus serinus* Gib Point May 11th 2014 © Paul Neale

larger with passage building up during Aug and Sep, and the summed peak in October was 3760. However, this masked the true totals moving south. At Gib Point, 8590 were counted with a high of 2383 on Oct 10th. The wintering population in Nov and Dec was substantially lower, though there were 205 at Gib Point on Nov 1st and still 60 there on the 9th, with flocks of 50-100 wintering at Cleethorpes, Humberston Fitties, Donna Nook, Manby Flashes, Trent Port (Manton), North Hykeham Pits, Whisby NR, Welbourn Heath and Marston STW. The recoveries include three fairly old birds (the British record is 8 years 8 months), the first two apparently winter residents at those locations, the two longest distance recoveries within Britain, and two overseas recoveries, both involving Belgium.

X499110	Adult Male	11-03-2009	Northorpe Fen: 52°45'N 0°19'W
	Caught by ringer	13-03-2010	Northorpe Fen: 52°45'N 0°19'W 0km 1y 0m 2d
	Caught by ringer	13-12-2014	Northorpe Fen: 52°45'N 0°19'W 0km 5y 9m 2d
X230622	Adult Female	03-12-2008	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	also caught at Gib Point	Mar 2009, Nov 2010, Apr 2011, Dec 2012	
	Caught by ringer	23-04-2014	Gibraltar Point: 53°6'N 0°19'E 0km 5y 4m 20d
X050346	First-year Female	19-10-2009	Rye Meads: c. 51°46'N 0°0'W (Hertfordshire)
	Caught by ringer	24-10-2014	Butterwick, Boston: 52°58'N 0°3'E 134km N 5y 0m 5d
Y573800	First-year Female	14-01-2012	Northorpe Fen: 52°45'N 0°19'W
	Caught by ringer	14-03-2012	Northorpe Fen: 52°45'N 0°19'W 0km 0y 2m 0d
	Caught by ringer	05-04-2014	Kerrow, Cannich: c. 57°19'N 4°46'W (Highland) 582km NNW 2y 2m 22d
D271807	Adult Female	19-04-2013	Pickworth: c. 52°52'N 0°27'W
	Caught by ringer	10-01-2014	Fox Covert Lane, Ponteland: 55°1'N 1°46'W (Northumberland) 254km NNW 0y 8m 22d
D539944	Adult Male	02-11-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Caught by ringer	26-12-2014	Berchem, Kluisbergen: 50°46'N 3°30'E (Oost-Vlaanderen) Belgium 338km SE 1y 1m 24d
BLB	First-year Male	22-04-2013	Bois-De-Lessines: 50°40'N 3°52'E (Hainaut) Belgium
12969573	Caught by ringer	15-05-2013	Pickworth: c. 52°52'N 0°27'W 386km NW 0y 0m 23d

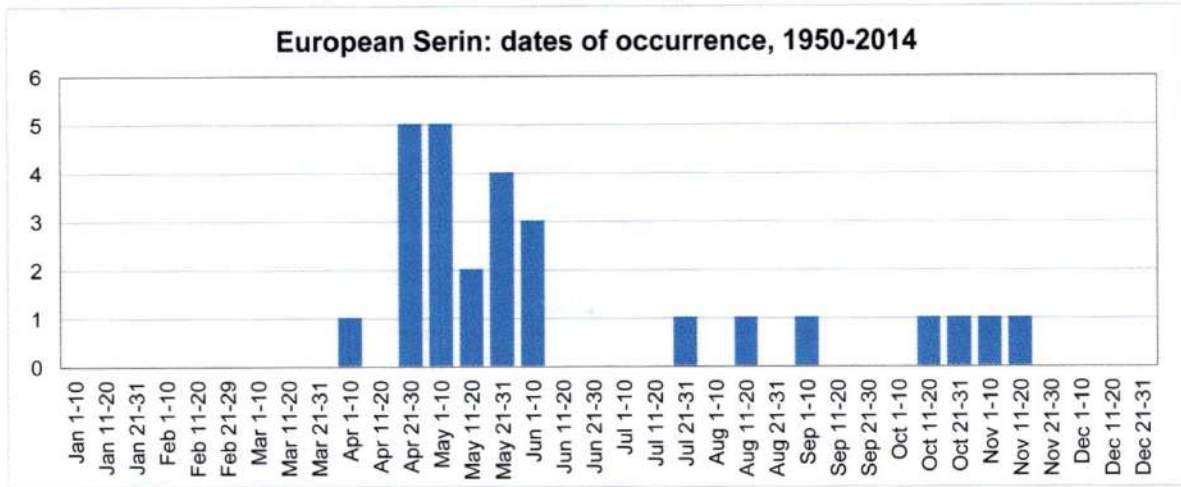
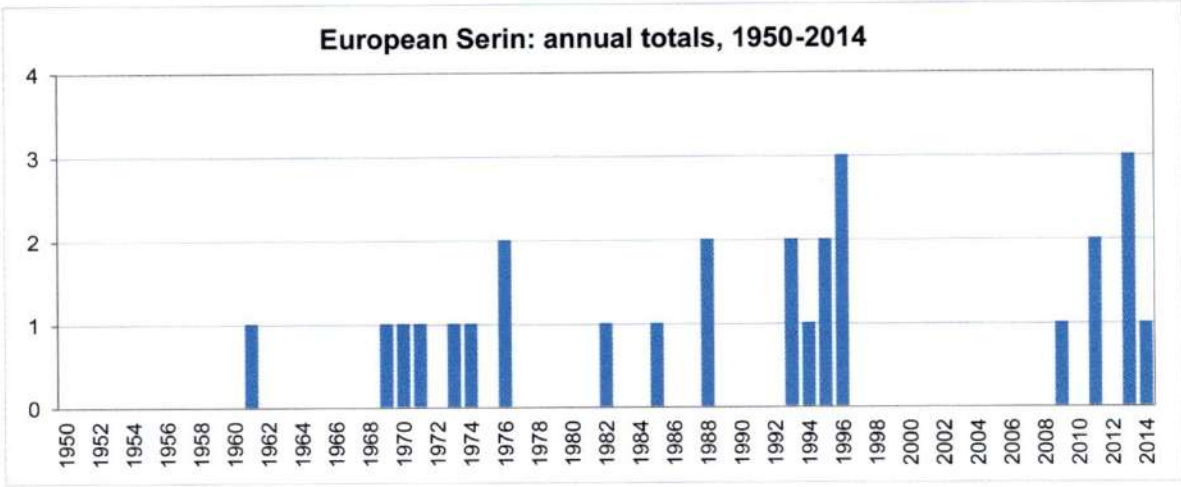


European Serin *Serinus serinus*

Rare migrant Apr-Jun and Sep-Nov. LBRC

A female was found on May 7th (SAi *et al*) at the feeders in Syke’s Farm, Gib Point. It remained in the area until May 14th and was enjoyed by many observers.

The first, at Gibraltar Point on 10th May 1961, set the trend for this surprisingly rare species. There has yet to be a multiple occurrence. Fourteen of the 27 birds now recorded have been at Gibraltar Point (six others were at Donna Nook, and there have been two inland, at Brumby Common and Riseholme), and 20 of the 27 have occurred in spring.



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	5	1	33	11	1	-	1	15	42	63	68	8
Number of sites	13	14	28	13	2	1	1	1	7	7	8	6
Sum of all site peaks	113	128	334	115	2	1	1	15	88	90	135	75

Counts were received from 51 sites in 2014. Only small numbers were seen during Jan, with Whisby NR noting a monthly maximum of 30 and Hartsholme CP of 35. Two other significant counts in the first part of the year were of around 100 at Market Rasen golf course on Mar 31st, and of 80 at Bardney on Apr 2nd. There was a steady southward trickle at Gib Point during Mar and Apr but few were noted in the county during the later spring and summer. Possible or probable breeding attempts were reported from Chambers Farm Wood, Forest Pines (Broughton), Laughton Forest and Willingham Forest, and a recently fledged bird was encountered at Walesby on Jun 13th. One at Gib Point on Jul 7th was the only report between then and Sep 16th. Small flocks began appearing on the coast in Sep, with 42 at Gib Point on the 20th the highest day count, most passing south, but overall passage was very light compared with some previous years. The count of 25 at Donna Nook on Sep 18th was the highest on the coast away from Gib Point for the whole of the autumn. More passed south through Gib Point during Oct with a monthly peak day count of 63 on the 19th, but the monthly total count was significantly lower than 2013 with just 300 logged in total. Small flocks continued south along the coast during Nov, with 68 on the 1st being the most seen at Gib Point. Few were being seen inland at this time, the most being a flock of 32 at Swaby on Nov 14th. Numbers during Dec were insignificant; the only double figure counts were at Dog Kennel Wood (30 on the 14th), Woodhall Spa (20 on the 28th) and Kirkby on Bain GP (15 on the 10th).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant on coast, mainly Sep-Apr; exceptional in summer. Scarce but fairly regular inland.

Counts were received from 22 sites across the county, and as expected, the vast majority of these were coastal.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cleethorpes-Humberston	84	35	-	-	-	-	60	150
Humberston-Horseshoe Point	150	1	-	-	-	-	3	10
Grainthorpe-Donna Nook	-	-	-	1	-	1	80	40
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes	110	75	20	-	-	2	44	12
Theddlethorpe-Mablethorpe	69	72	3	-	-	-	-	8
Sandilands-Ingoldmells	28	21	-	-	-	2	-	-
Gibraltar Point	25	2	2	-	-	2	25	55
Number of sites	10	11	4	1	-	6	12	10
Sum of all site peaks	490	232	26	1	-	10	232	327

Most Snow Buntings arrive from Nov onwards and flocks wintering on the coast disperse in Feb and early Mar. The record influx of Snow Buntings that occurred in the last quarter of 2013 was reflected in the large totals remaining in the county in the first quarter of 2013. Most of these birds continued to be concentrated in the north-east coastal area with few further south at, for example, Gib Point. The highest peak counts were recorded in Jan at Cleethorpes (84), Tetney Marsh (150), Horseshoe Point-Tetney Haven (56), Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR (110), and Mablethorpe North End (65); bear in mind that some of these areas overlap as will the flocks. There were still up to 75 along the Saltfleetby to Mablethorpe coastline during Feb, but as usual, numbers dwindled as birds moved northwards. Most had departed by Mar 19th, with one later spring record of one at Donna Nook on Apr 18th. The first in autumn was later than usual, a single bird at Saltfleet on Oct 11th, and just 1-2 birds were seen elsewhere along the coast in Oct. The main arrivals though, as usual, were in Nov and Dec with the bulk being on the north-east coast. Just single figure counts were received from the Wash between Freiston and Terrington. Most seemed to arrive during Nov 13th-20th and by the end of Nov sizeable flocks were at Cleethorpes (60), Donna Nook (80), Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR (44) and Gib Point (25). Notable flocks during Dec were at Cleethorpes (150), Donna Nook (40), Skegness (42) and Gib Point (55). At less usual sites, one was at Covenham Res on Mar 13th and two there on Nov 10th, one remaining to the 27th, two at Chowder Ness on Nov 12-13th, one at Alkborough Flats on Nov 16th-28th with a different bird there on the 30th, one at New Holland on Dec 14th, and there was one record further inland of one at Willow Tree Fen on Nov 29th.

TJ64868	First-year Female	28-11-2013	Pakefield: c. 52°27'N 1°43'E (Suffolk)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	19-03-2014	Theddlethorpe Dunes: 53°22'N 0°13'E 143km NW 0y 3m 19d

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
Cleethorpes-Horseshoe Point	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Donna Nook	3	-	1	-	1	1	5	7
Saltfleet-Mablethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2
Gibraltar Point	3	1	-	-	1	2	1	1
Witham-Frampton	-	3	-	-	-	1	2	1
Number of sites	3	3	1	-	2	5	6	5
Sum of all site peaks	8	5	1	-	2	7	12	12

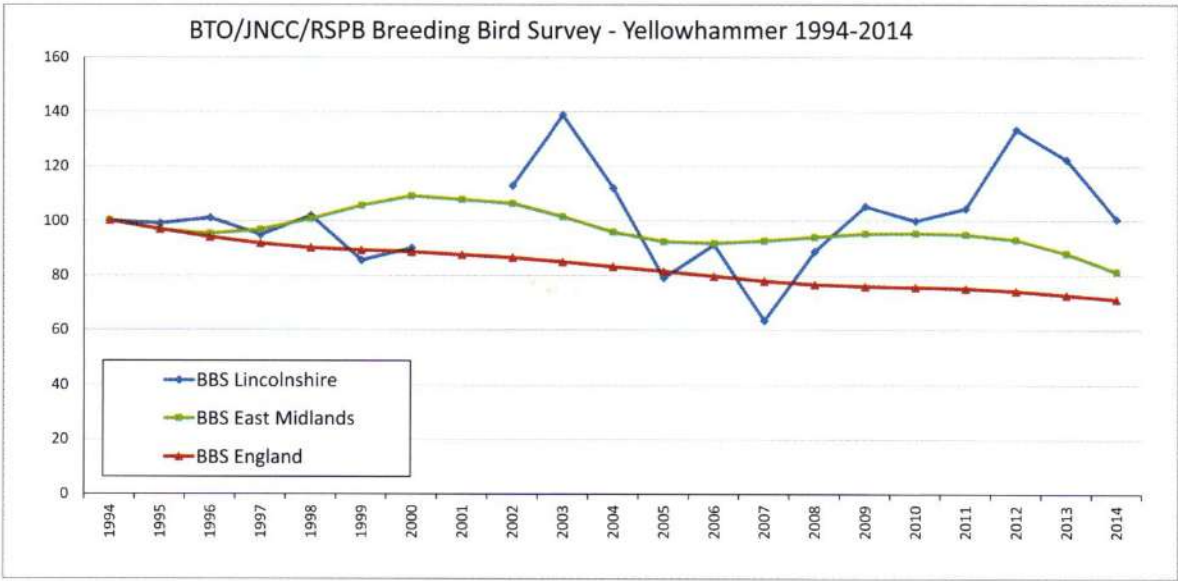
Up to 11 coastal sites recorded Lapland Bunting, with some overlap possible. Numbers were very much down during 2014, with maxima of just three birds seen at Donna Nook, Gib Point and the Witham Mouth in the first quarter. The last record of spring (and the only one after Feb 21st) was of a single bird at Donna Nook on Mar 29th. Autumn arrivals were very scarce, beginning with one at Gib Point on Sep 22nd, and occasional records of 1-2 through Oct, mainly at Gib Point and Donna Nook. This pattern continued through Nov and Dec with just 1-3 coastal birds being reported at most sites. A flock of seven at Donna Nook on Dec 26th completed a very lean year for this species.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Common resident, but numbers have decreased.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of all site peaks	828	487	337	257	162	185	133	94	84	170	427	729

Flocks of Yellowhammers are much diminished but still a familiar scene in winter in many parts, and counts were received from 202 sites across the county. In the first quarter, low double figure flocks were widespread with maxima seen in Jan in most cases. Flocks of 50 or more were reported from Cleethorpes CP (60), Donna Nook (55), Austen Fen (60), Toft next Newton (80), Gate Burton (80), Brant Broughton (50), and the highest (150) at Louth. Numbers dwindle after mid Feb, low counts reflecting birds dispersing and returning to breeding territories. In the autumn, small numbers moved south along the coast during Oct and by Nov there were some notable inland flocks building – 60 at Welbourn Heath and 56 at Wrangle Brick Pits. This theme continued into Dec with 40 at Toft Newton Res, 80 at Conisholme Fen, and 200 or more in the Welbourn area. The county BBS data show no clear trend, while in the East Midlands generally and in England as a whole, numbers continue to decline. There is a feeling that this may now be the case in some parts of our county (e.g. the north).



Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* Frampton Marsh RSPB Sep 29th 2014 © Steve Nesbitt

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Vagrant. LBRC

An over-wintering bird at Lea Marsh, Gainsborough on Feb 25th was an excellent find (DN). It was seen by many birders from within and outside the county and remained in the area until Mar 10th.

This was the thirteenth Little Bunting for Lincolnshire, following closely on the one at New Holland in 2013. The first was one killed at Saltfleet on 5th October 1951. Ten of them were in Sep-Oct, one in Dec, one in Apr, and then the present bird which stayed for longer than any other. Two have been well inland: this one and one at Cowbit Wash in October 1954.



Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* Lea Marsh, Gainsborough Mar 2nd 2014 © Graham Catley

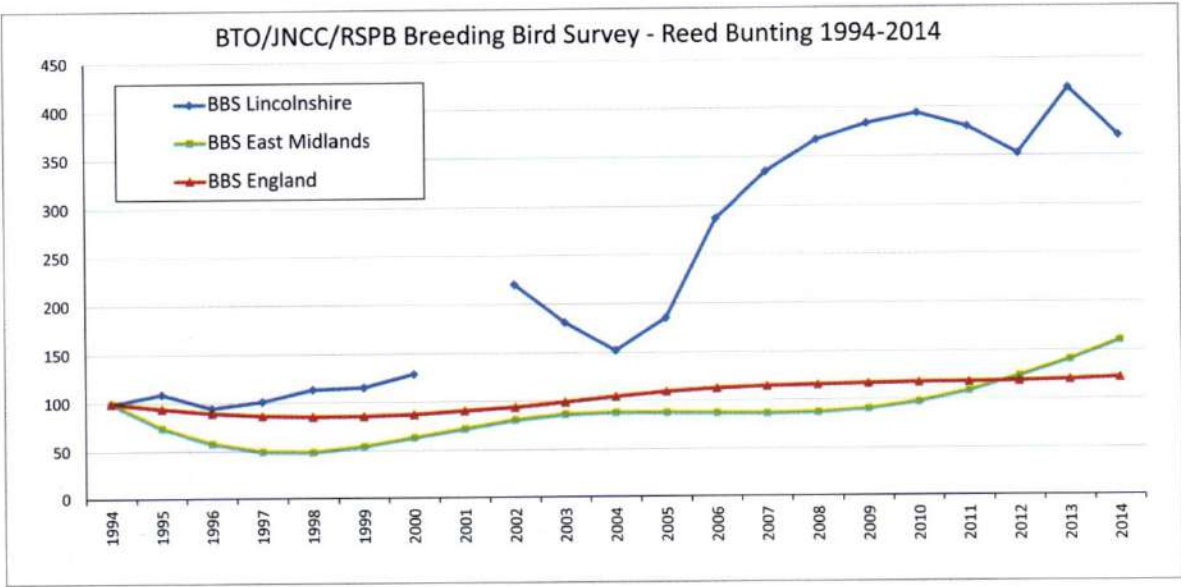
Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alkborough Flats	1	4	1	1	1	24	1	1	50	1	40	80
Garthorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120	70	-	350
Donna Nook	20	35	65	11	9	22	11	6	30	95	80	18
Gibraltar Point	25	35	31	17	14	7	13	11	127	362	38	42
Sum of all site peaks	425	282	398	286	299	258	132	66	490	838	460	747

Reed Buntings were widely recorded across the county in all months with counts from 180 sites. In the first quarter counts of 30 or more birds were received from Donna Nook (max 65), Gib Point (31), Freiston Shore (40), Fenton, near Kettlethorpe (30), and Louth (40), after which numbers decreased as birds dispersed to breeding areas. Some observers recorded evidence of breeding, but systematic counts were generally lacking; however, 120 territories were recorded at Alkborough Flats. The English population trend (see chart below) is a slight increase, which is more marked in the East Midlands region, and appears to have been particularly strong in Lincolnshire since the early 2000s. In the autumn, counts built up, especially at coastal sites, towards the middle of Sep and into Oct. There was significant southwards movement along the coast, especially at Gib Point and Donna Nook. Peak counts at individual sites during Sep included 50 at Alkborough Flats, 120 at Garthorpe, and 127 at Gib Point. Highest peak day counts during Oct were 362 south at Gib Point on the 10th and 95 at Donna Nook on the 29th. However, and as usual, assiduous visible migration counts at Gib Point recorded a total of 1461 birds moving south, including two other day totals exceeding 200, on the 1st and 20th. Smaller numbers remained into Dec, but there were substantial flocks of up to 80 at Alkborough Flats, up to 42 at Gib Point and a very impressive 350 at Garthorpe, feeding on unharvested wheat adjoining a reedbed.

D539433	First-year Female	14-10-2013	Gibraltar Point, Skegness: c. 53°6'N 0°19'E
	Caught by ringer	30-10-2014	Sizewell Belts, Sizewell: 52°13'N 1°36'E (Suffolk) 131km SE 1y 0m 16d



Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Scarce and local resident and partial migrant.

Peak monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Donna Nook	-	-	2	9	11	10	10	3	1	2	2	8
Gibraltar Point	100	73	50	20	12	-	-	-	-	-	23	131

British Corn Buntings are resident, with few wandering more than 15 km. The BTO population trend graph for the UK continues to show a decline. Records were received from around 60 sites across the county, but the majority were of single counts from one month. In the first quarter of the year, double figure counts were received from Kelstern (30, Feb), Gib Point (100, Jan), Fosdyke village (30, Jan), Nene Mouth (16, Feb) and Baston Fen (17, Feb). Counts from other places previously holding significant numbers were not received during this period. Gib Point again provided most data and there was an impressive peak count of 131 on Dec 29th. Overall, the picture from total counts received was clearly incomplete with minimal information from the south Lincolnshire fens and inconsistent site data elsewhere preventing an overview of the overall status. However, breeding season surveys over about 4000 ha at Deeping Fen has traced the decline from 66 singing males in 1992 to 16 in 2009, 18 in 2011, 23 in 2012 but then 15 in 2015.

Appendix 1

Records in 2014 of species not currently accepted on the BOU British list

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 or strongly believed to have been of captive origin. The Lincolnshire Bird Club request all records of these 'category E' species recorded in Lincolnshire. We are aware that the species on this list are under recorded.

Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator*

Two were at South View lakes, Skegness on Oct 20th.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Singles at Alkborough Flats on Jan 1st-3rd, possibly the same bird at Goxhill to New Holland on Jan 16th, two at Woodhall Spa on Feb 1st and for at least a month around Apr, two at Branston on Feb 1st-2nd, singles at Holywell Lake on Feb 16th, Mar 30th, Sep 7th and Dec 7th and at Bourne on Mar 29th and Jul 3rd.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

Present at Frampton Marsh on Mar 19th.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Two at Nene Mouth on Feb 6th, three adult white morph at Gibraltar Point NNR on Apr 3rd, singles at Freiston Shore on May 23rd and at Sutton Bridge on Dec 31st.

Hawaiian Goose *Branta sandvicensis*

One at Frampton Marsh on Jan 15th.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

One at Cleethorpes on Jan 1st, 8th, one to two at Brayford Pool, Lincoln on five dates Jan 19th, Feb 16th, Aug 10th, Sep 7th, Oct 12th, Nov 9th and Dec 12th, one at Apex Pit - North Hykeham on seven dates on Feb 16th, 17th, Mar 15th, Jun 9th, 16th, Sep 12th, Oct 11th, one at Heighington Fen on Mar 31st, one at Huttoft Bank Pit on Sep 7th, ten at Stoke Rochford on Nov 30th.

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*

One at Frampton Marsh on Apr 18th.

Australian Wood Duck *Chenonetta jubata*

Singles at Frampton Marsh on Jan 5th, Feb 2nd-26th, Apr 4th-14th and Jul 6th.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

One at Frampton Marsh on Feb 6th, 23rd, Apr 10th.

Speckled Teal *Anas flavirostris*

One at Middlemarsh Farm (Skegness) on Aug 29th.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Singles at Humberston Fitties/Tetney Lock on Jan 7th, at Gibraltar Point on May 4th-5th, at Kirkby on Bain GP on May 21st, at Caistor on Dec 12th and at Humberston (village) on Dec 16th.

Black Kite *Milvus (migrans) aegyptius*

On Nov 13th, a presumed escaped Yellow-billed Kite was seen at East Halton Skitter (GPC).

Ringling Report 2014

These summaries provide information on the numbers of birds ringed.

Pulli 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	2013	2014
Total	26,659	29,698	33,830	30,596	43,582	36,772	36,430	33,850	33,262

These totals are of ringing data that have been submitted electronically to BTO HQ.

Species	Pullus	Juvenile	Adult	Unaged	2014 Total
Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>	0	2	4	0	6
Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>	0	6	42	0	48
Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>	0	9	3	0	12
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	0	0	2	0	2
Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	0	1	0	0	1
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	31	0	0	3	34
Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	2	0	0	0	2
Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	3	0	0	0	3
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	0	28	8	0	36
Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	2	1	0	0	3
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	543	2	13	1	559
Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	7	1	0	0	8
Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1	0	0	0	1
Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	0	3	142	0	145
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	0	0	26	0	26
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	23	0	0	0	23
Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>	0	55	657	0	712
Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	0	1	0	0	1
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	0	43	139	0	182
Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	0	0	0	1	1
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	0	0	10	2	12
Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>	0	2	9	0	11
Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	0	1	136	0	137
Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	0	1	5	0	6
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	0	5	422	0	427
Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	0	2	0	0	2
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	0	127	69	0	196
Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	0	0	1	0	1
Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	125	0	1	0	126
Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	0	0	2	0	2
Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Little Tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	52	2	41	0	95

Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	0	8	35	0	43
Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	2	12	36	3	53
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	0	0	1	0	1
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	0	0	1	0	1
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	1,808	16	143	6	1,973
Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>	188	0	32	3	223
Tawny Owl <i>Strix aluco</i>	185	0	22	0	207
Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	7	0	56	0	63
Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	0	13	0	0	13
Green Woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>	0	1	1	0	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	0	36	24	1	61
Great Grey Shrike <i>Lanius excubitor</i>	0	0	1	0	1
Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	0	8	6	0	14
Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	0	4	4	0	8
Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>	354	0	12	1	367
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	0	2	2	0	4
Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>	8	0	0	0	8
Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	0	1,241	129	102	1,472
Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	0	1	1	0	2
Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	1,199	1,657	876	1	3,733
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	569	1,170	771	9	2,519
Coal Tit <i>Parus ater</i>	9	164	105	33	311
Willow Tit <i>Poecile montana</i>	0	13	0	0	13
Marsh Tit <i>Poecile palustris</i>	0	1	5	5	11
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	2	3	1	0	6
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	0	20	54	0	74
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	205	133	62	0	400
House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	0	63	161	0	224
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	0	2	1	1	4
Long-tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	0	107	130	372	609
Greenish Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	0	0	1	0	1
Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	0	0	0	2	2
Radde's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>	0	1	0	0	1
Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	0	0	1	0	1
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	6	332	157	28	523
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	0	313	65	0	378
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	0	570	118	15	703
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	1	34	7	0	42
Lesser Whitethroat <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	6	82	44	0	132
Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i>	9	429	143	0	581
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	0	2	0	0	2
Icterine Warbler <i>Hippolais icterina</i>	0	0	1	0	1
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	0	149	36	0	185
Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	34	189	66	1	290
Great Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	0	0	1	0	1
Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i>	7	4	3	2	16
Treecreeper <i>Certhia familiaris</i>	3	24	7	4	38
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	15	506	132	24	677
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	1	601	230	66	898
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	0	1	0	0	1
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	33	900	621	34	1,588
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	0	5	3	1	9

Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1	171	33	9	214
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	0	145	68	21	234
Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	1	4	3	0	8
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	2	0	1	0	3
Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	26	847	238	116	1,227
Red-breasted Flycatcher <i>Ficedula parva</i>	0	1	1	0	2
Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	0	6	1	0	7
Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	0	0	1	0	1
Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	0	10	2	3	15
Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	0	10	0	0	10
Stonechat <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	0	0	1	0	1
Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	0	3	0	0	3
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	20	798	263	43	1,124
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	8	370	178	145	701
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	278	176	290	256	1,000
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	0	1	1	0	2
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	5	0	1	0	6
Pied/White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	15	5	3	0	23
Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	0	5	2	0	7
Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	1	492	36	9	538
Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	0	650	725	21	1,396
Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	0	8	33	0	41
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	0	1,029	1,019	9	2,057
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	1	890	891	39	1,821
Siskin <i>Carduelis spinus</i>	0	7	57	0	64
Linnet <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	17	126	138	0	281
Lesser Redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	0	11	103	0	114
Common Redpoll <i>Carduelis flammea</i>	0	0	7	0	7
Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	0	91	100	0	191
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	0	74	227	1	302
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	0	184	337	24	545
Corn Bunting <i>Emberiza calandra</i>	0	1	5	0	6
Grand Total	5,815	15,224	10,805	1,418	33,262

Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni*: first record for Lincolnshire at Gibraltar Point, 14th July 2014

J. P. Shaughnessy

I had been at Gibraltar Point NNR since Sunday 6th July, and apart from one rainy day, was out birdwatching from very early morning to dusk every day. Really early starts became more difficult as the days passed, and on Monday 14th July I was slightly later than usual. After a quick cup of tea in the Sykes Farm reserve office, and a short chat with Nige Lound who was processing his moth trap catch, I set off for the morning at 0650hrs. However, feeling that it might be a bit chilly, I turned back to my car to get a jacket. I had got the door open and was rummaging around when something made me look back over my shoulder, eastward towards the buildings.

A single bird was in a shallow descending glide 50 m away just beyond the office building, about 25 m up and heading northward towards the freshwater areas of Jackson's Marsh and Tennyson's Sands. Instantly thinking pratincole or unusual tern, I dropped everything and managed a two or three second view through binoculars before the bird passed out of view. Although cloudy, it was reasonably bright, so looking eastwards just gave little more than a silhouette, however I was certain of dark upper-parts and a tightly closed longish tail tapering to a fine point; also, I hadn't seen any bill to speak of. I shouted "pratincole, probably" to Nige as I dashed to and up the fire escape steps on the north side of the office building; however, on quickly scanning towards the water bodies there was no sign of it.

Taking a guess that Tennyson's Sands was the best bet for finding the bird I grabbed my 'scope, left Nige to the moths, and ran to Harvey's Hide at the south end of Tennyson Sands. On the way, I gave site manager Kev Wilson a call, but I knew he was distantly away in the shorebird sanctuary with Richard Doan, looking after tern and wader nests on the rising tide. Anyway, neither answered, the sound of the sea drowning the ring tones apparently. Quickly into the hide, I started searching the areas favoured by waders and immediately found what I was looking for. The pratincole, a smart adult in breeding plumage, was stood motionless in the open, 90 m away (measured on aerial photograph) amongst a scatter of Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit, Redshank, Black-headed Gull, Teal and other waterbirds.

Although I was aware of the Black-winged Pratincole which had been in northeast England, I was not going to let that influence the identification, so I just set myself to stare at the bird until it showed conclusive features. At the same time, I phoned Nige, who said he would be there in 10min. after he had finished the moths, also R. K. Watson, and Kev, who had noticed his missed call and phoned me a couple of minutes earlier.

Initial views, though in now dull conditions, certainly indicated Black-winged rather than Collared Pratincole. I had more or less dismissed Oriental on the basis of tail length as the bird passed over Sykes Farm. Now, from the hide, I could see that there was only a very small amount of darkish red at the base of the lower mandible and into the gape, and that the loreal area was very dark. The back was a mid brown, the scapulars area below slightly darker, and the coverts darker brown still, showing little contrast with the blackish visible primaries. Even the mid or dark grey legs looked long, though that was mainly when the bird was alert. The tail was longer than I expected for Black-winged, being equal to the primary tips when the bird was in a relaxed posture. Both tail and primaries looked undamaged and not particularly worn. Unfortunately, the tail was mostly held tightly closed, so I never got a good view of its structure or exact colour pattern; I had a glimpse of a tail fork just once.

Additionally of course, I had noted the general plumage of the bird, including the pale creamy buff throat and upper breast area enclosed by a sharply defined thin black line which reached up to below the eye. Below the black line was a rather pale brownish breast which quickly faded into the pure white underparts, these reaching to the tail, and wrapping round to give a large white rump/upper-tail area, the tail itself appearing black. The pale brownish of the breast darkened upwards to the sides of the neck and the nape, these latter then appearing slightly paler than the back. The forehead to crown was a slightly darker brown than the rest of the head. Light and angle of viewing did change the subtle shades of these brown areas though.

Whilst waiting for others to arrive I kept my eye firmly to my 'scope, not wanting to miss a wing stretch or flight. The bird did run around a little, and was edged out of the way a few times by Black-headed Gulls, but did nothing to give a conclusive view. One brief wing flick confirmed the darkness of the wing-coverts and low contrast with the primaries and primary coverts, but failed

to show the trailing edge. Nige soon arrived, Rob Watson a little later, and so we settled down to watch and wait, now in improved light with the sun coming out. Another brief wing opening gave a fleeting view of the secondaries, and I was just about convinced of lack of any white tips, but needed a better view. So, when Kev arrived we just said “yes, it’s a Black-winged, but we still need to see the trailing edge and underwing”. Another 20 minutes or so passed, the four of us staring hard, then the bird took sudden flight for no apparent reason, and luckily took a line low right across in front of us, about 60 m away. I had the bird in my ‘scope view as it took off and was able to follow it in flight, clearly seeing the completely blackish secondaries, and the black underwing. On the latter, I could discern some individual feather structure in the basal area and axillaries, so was certain of the colour, including a very slight slaty tint, and certain that I was not just seeing a deeply shaded area.

We all said “Black-winged” in satisfaction, then exited the hide to watch the bird gain height southward back over Sykes Farm. However, it soon veered more south-eastwards, then began to lose height towards the shore and Wash saltmarsh, and was quickly out of sight. Kev and Nige departed, but Rob and I returned to the hide in case of a return. After maybe 15 minutes or so of idle chatter, Rob gave a hesitant and questioning “Green Sandpiper dropping in?”, quickly followed by “it’s back, the pratincole”. It was back to the same spot it had left.

Birders from further afield began to arrive, and the hide was soon full. The pratincole was a little more active, but the few low short flights it made around islands in the lagoon never gave a good view of critical features; also, it was out of view for a while, or a little more distant. It was only at about 1010 hrs, when it took off again, that many in the hide felt totally satisfied with the identification, the bird showing upper and underwing well. An explosion of bleeps and clicks accompanied the retracing of its previous flight, but this time it continued southward, slowly gaining height, and was soon lost to view in a bright sky. Unfortunately, several birders were still running towards the hide as it departed, and either missed it completely, or saw a disappearing dot.

One point worth mentioning is that when I first saw the bird pass over Sykes Farm I got the distinct impression that it knew exactly where it was going. The line of its glide, and angle of descent, were aimed right at the spot where I found it minutes later. Newly arrived birds tend to fly around and explore the site before deciding whether to land or not. I suspect that the pratincole had been to Tennyson’s Sands before.



Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* Gib Point July 6th 2014 © Kevin Wilson

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus*:

Barton Pits and Read's Island, February-March 2014

Graham Catley

On the evening of 9th March 2014, I was passing Read's Island and stopped to count the Avocets; immediately it was obvious that all the birds on the island were in the air; two of the resident Marsh Harriers were high up with a flock of Lesser Black-backs but they all seemed wary and were flying in an odd manner. Looking down I saw a large falcon sat upright on the front edge of the island, and it looked immediately interesting with grey brown uppers and paler underparts heavily marked with dark streaks and chevrons; the striking legs and feet were blue-grey and the paler head had a darker malar and eye stripe with a blue-grey cere; I watched it through the 'scope for two minutes, then went for the camera at which point it flew off, of course, and chased a flock of Shelduck before landing at 700m on the back of the island. I phoned Neil Drinkall, who was with me in 15 minutes, and four other observers arrived before dark, but views were by then poor at 700m after sunset and in rapidly fading light.

I returned the following morning at 09:00 and found the bird in the same location; ND arrived soon after and we watched it for two hours at 600-700m range. It was sometimes flying but always away from us out over the estuary where it may have landed on a sand bar out of sight. At 11:00 it flew towards us and I took some photos with a 500mm lens and 2x converter, hand-held in poor light, but at least they showed most of the features of the bird. It then landed on a washed up tree at 400m range after being chased by two Carrion Crows and more images were obtained of the spread tail, legs and tibial feathers and spread upper wing. After about 10 minutes, it then flew to the western end of the island where it perched on another tree before we left at 11:30 after which we were informed it flew south ten minutes later.

Description:

Obviously a large falcon with a deep chest and a longer tail than Peregrine's, wing tips falling short of tail tip at rest. Most of the features of the bird's plumage and structure are shown in the attached images.

- Bill heavy and strong with blue-grey cere; legs and feet again strong and blue-grey with darker claws.
- Upper parts mainly grey brown with paler feather tips and three large creamy spots at tips of largest upper scapulars; crown and nape paler creamy coloured with smudgy grey markings; dark line through eye and dark malar stripe.
- Underparts creamy base colour with heavy brown streaking on upper breast becoming darker and heavier on lower breast and flanks where turned into chevrons; tibial feathers also heavily marked with dark brown streaks and spots, cloaking the legs most of the time.
- Upper tail barred across all feathers with paler creamy bars narrower than the dark grey brown bars; same pattern on upper tail coverts.
- Upper wings quite uniform but with slightly darker primaries and barred inner webs to primaries on spread wing. Under wings striking with heavy barring on greater coverts and finer barring on lesser and median coverts contrasting with much paler underside of flight feathers that were also faintly barred.

A heavy bird in flight but very manoeuvrable and capable of sudden bursts of speed; deep chested and front heavy but with broad undertail coverts.

The blue-grey cere and legs/feet and the pattern of the upperpart feathers identify the bird as a juvenile/first-winter.

Identification and a twist

After the sighting on the 9th, I was not at all sure about the bird's specific identity, being aware that various falconer's hybrids can closely resemble Gyr Falcons and having in fact seen a very pale bird resembling a Gyr near Scunthorpe several years previously. So I posted some shots online and asked for people's comments while I checked all the available literature and also looked through a wide range of images on the internet. By the time I received comments from some renowned Gyr experts, I was coming to the conclusion that the bird was most likely a grey Gyr in spite of the seemingly almost mythical recent status of this form in Britain. In fact there had been an accepted

record of a juvenile near Stone Creek on the north bank of the estuary in November 2013 and this was most probably the same individual.

These were some of the replies to enquiries on BirdForum:

Edward Inselaf from Iceland: *Sadly I have no experience of Saker and happily I have no experience of falconry hybrids but I've seen lots of Gyr Falcons and this bird looks fine to me, perhaps warmer brown than your average bird but they do vary. Plenty of young Icelandic Gyr images to peruse here – www.flickr.com/photos/eyjovil...h/10496574303/*

Nils van Duivendijk towards falcon deliberations forwarded by the late Martin Garner: *About that falcon: to me it looks very good for Gyr, but I don't need to mention that a theoretical hybrid with Saker is often very difficult to exclude. Meanwhile I do not see anything that is 'strange' for Gyr. If a hybrid, I would expect more underwing contrast, not such a very typical juv Gyr flank-feather pattern, more contrast between darker secondaries and pale primaries (underside) – none in this one (like Gyr) – typical broad wings with rounded wing-tip, etc...*

Maybe one thing (as far I can see) is generally more in line with Saker and that's the very vague barring on the base of the underside of the primaries which is often more pronounced in Gyr. But this is a paler bird than the juv Continental Gyrs usually seen in Europe so I guess that this is not a very strange feature for a paler juv grey-type Gyr.

I submitted the bird to the BBRC along with all my photos and it was duly accepted but a strange twist ensued as it emerged that Mandy West had photographed what she took to be an odd Peregrine as it flew past Far Ings, Barton, on 16th February 2014. Her image clearly showed it to be the same Gyr Falcon. Presumably it had been somewhere around the upper Humber during the intervening period.

The status of non-white Gyr Falcons in Britain may have been clouded by the lack of acceptance of such birds in recent years but in fact a majority of the old records in Britain were of this form and it is only in recent years that white birds have dominated the statistics as described in the Gyr Falcon entry in the latest BOU checklist (Parkin, D. T. & Knox, A.G. 2010. *The Status of Birds in Britain & Ireland*. Helm, London):

About 150 records from GB since 1950 and at least 200 prior to that date: about two thirds from Scotland. Grey birds are commonest in October-January, whereas white predominate in Feb-April. In the 25 years from 1950 to 1975, less than 40% of birds were white phase, since then the figure has risen to over 65%. Presumably, the white birds come from Greenland (certainly more white birds are recorded from Ireland than elsewhere in GB and I), but why there should be an increase in these is unclear. Perhaps the situation is the reverse and the impression of an increase in white birds is due to fewer non-white ones coming to GB and Ireland as warming of the Arctic reduces the need to leave the breeding grounds in N Russia and Scandinavia.



Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* juv, Read's Island, Mar 10 2014 © G P Catley

The Birds of Covenham Reservoir 1970-2014

Keith Robinson, John Clarkson, Matthew Harrison
and Andrew Henderson

Introduction

Covenham Reservoir is a well-known birding location, situated on the coastal marshes about half way between the Wolds and the coast, some eight kilometres inland from Donna Nook (see map). A short report on the birdlife of the reservoir in the earliest years was published in 1971 (Higgins 1971) and a more detailed unpublished report was produced in 1985 (Wilson 1985). The present article is based on counts made during over 40 years, giving a detailed picture of a site which, though artificial, attracts noteworthy numbers of wetland birds.

It is of wholly artificial construction, being roughly square in shape with massive embankments 20m high surrounding the concrete-lined reservoir. It extends to approximately 88 ha (218 acres) and the maximum water depth is about 15 m. It is managed by Anglian Water and serves as a water supply reservoir for Grimsby and Cleethorpes, and areas south to Louth and Skegness, with a pipeline to Boston recently added. The water can also be used to top up the chalk aquifers, to prevent saline intrusion. It is filled by pumping water from the Louth Canal.



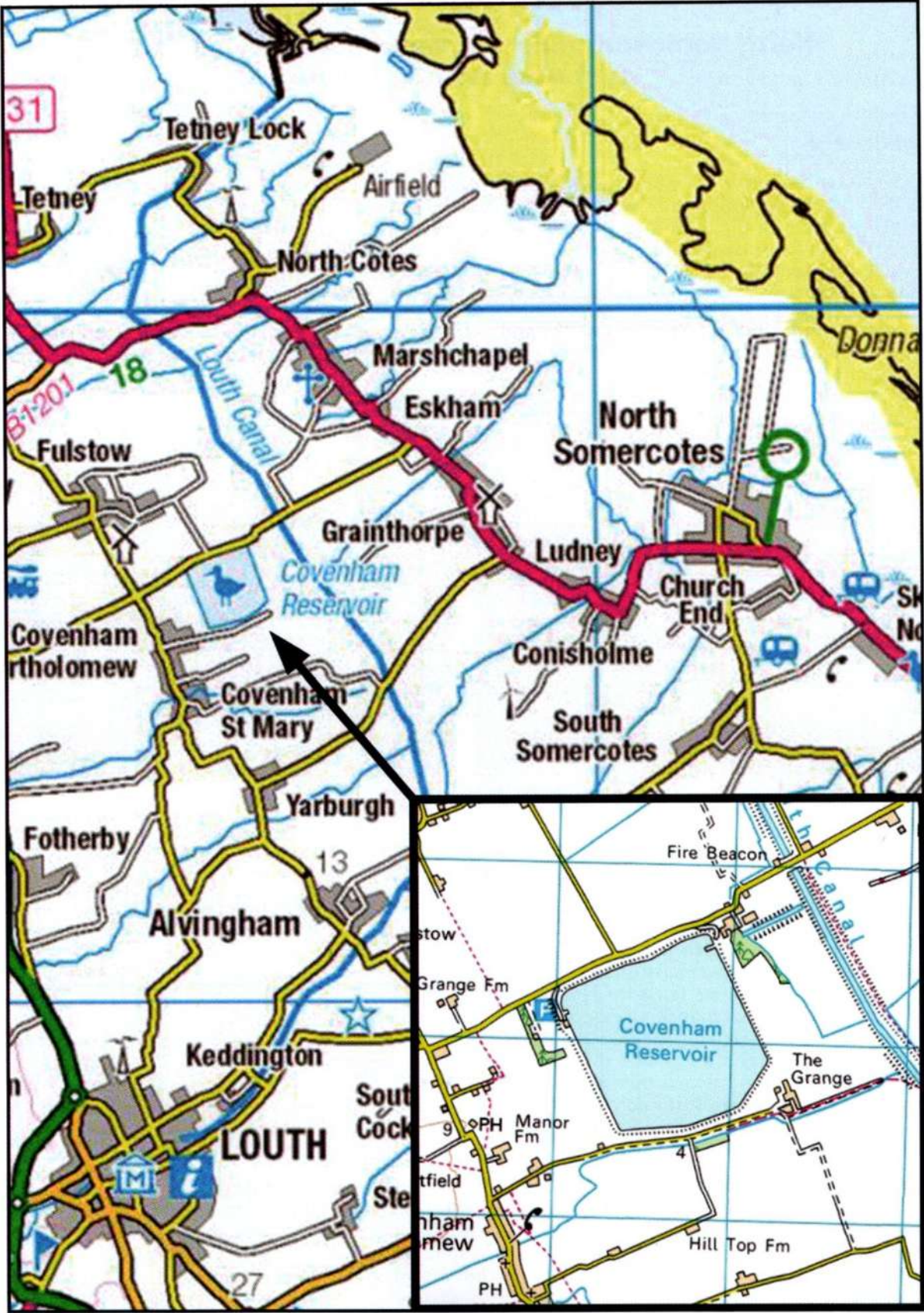
Covenham Reservoir looking south from
the watersports centre



Covenham Reservoir looking east along
the south wall

Construction of the reservoir began in 1963, and it was formally opened in 1972 though minor construction work continued until 1978. As well as its water supply functions, it is also a centre for water sports, including sailing, water-skiing and diving, with a clubhouse in the north-western corner. The south-eastern sector is designated a wildfowl refuge, comprising about 10% of the water surface, though this is quite frequently breached by various craft. According to Higgins (1971), the Lincolnshire Trust for Nature Conservation (now Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust) was in the earliest years on a management committee. For a number of years from 1979 to the late 1990s there was a birdwatching hide on the embankment in this area, erected by LWT, but the wind and vandalism eventually made this unusable and it was removed. However, the embankment carries a track along which public access is permitted, and this 3.6 kilometre (2.25 mile) route gives excellent views of birds across the reservoir. Initially this route was not open access, and KR has a letter from the North East Lincolnshire Water Board, permitting access to members of the Cleethorpes Ringing Group.

We do not have detailed information on the aquatic flora of the reservoir but, importantly, it is prone to algal blooms, including of blue-green algae (or cyanobacteria) which can be toxic to humans and other animals, and which cause problems in treatment for water supply. Such blooms are a feature of still waters with high phosphate levels, which is the case here, and methods employed to deal with the problem have included dosing with ferric sulphate to inactivate the phosphorus, and water mixing to reduce stratification and thus lower algal growth rates (Brierly & Harper 1999). The reservoir has a low biomass of fish but large numbers of small fry are sometimes evident, and eels and pike are known to be present. There is a large population of the non-native zebra mussel *Dreissena polymorpha*, filter feeders which may help to reduce the size of algal blooms (McLaughlan & Aldridge 2013).



Covenham Reservoir (Base map OS OpenData 2016 and insert map © Crown Copyright 2016, all rights reserved. Licence number 100051272)

The outer slopes of the embankments are maintained largely as grassland but there are a few clumps of planted trees and shrubs, and more extensive plantations dating from the 1970s are located along the flat ground immediately adjoining the foot of the slopes along the northern and southern sides. The plantations are mainly of broad-leaved species but include a few conifers. The plantations on the south side of the reservoir hold a rookery of about 50 nests.

This article begins with a short section on the levels of coverage over the years, before the two main sections, one dealing with trends and seasonal patterns of occurrence of the more numerous species, and the other describing some of the impressive array of rare and scarce species that have been found at Covenham.

Coverage

For one of us (KR), Covenham Reservoir has been a regular and frequently-visited patch for 45 years. This paper is based largely on these personal records, augmented by those submitted by other observers to the Lincolnshire Bird Club. For the latter, we have used the computerised records (from 1998 onwards, plus Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) counts for 1995-1997) for all species, and records for rare and scarce species and seabirds extracted from bird reports back to 1970. The LBC records amount to roughly 10% of the total.

The area covered by KR comprises primarily the open water surface together with the inner concrete banks plus the outer grassy embankments and plantations. However, recording has not been strictly limited to this area, and birds using the fields surrounding the reservoir and those overflying have sometimes been recorded. This applies also to records from other observers, some of which evidently refer to birds a little away from the reservoir. This affects only a minority of records but may be significant for a few such as Lapwing, Golden Plover, Curlew and Pink-footed Goose, for which the data exaggerate the use made by these species of the water.

Figure 1 shows the numbers of visits made annually by KR. A total of 4,347 visits was recorded over the 45 years. Note that, because of other commitments, these were relatively few in the early years but increased in the mid 1980s and again from 2000, and averaged 244 per year during 2005-2014. It is not possible to show numbers of visits by other observers. This is partly because LBC records are not computerised for years before 1998, and partly because some observers have submitted only peak counts, without individual visit records.

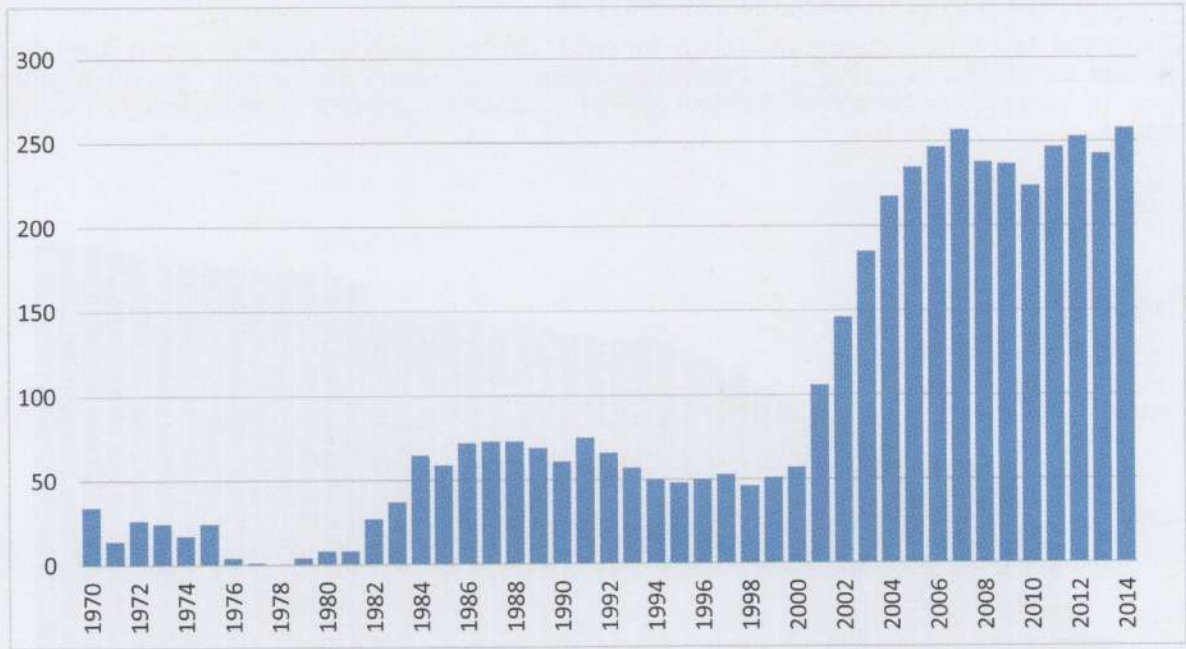


Figure 1. Number of visits made by KR annually

Figure 2 shows the monthly numbers of visits made by KR, displayed separately for 2005-2014 and for earlier years. Note that for the recent period, coverage has been fairly evenly spread between months, whereas previously there was some bias towards spring and autumn passage periods, especially May and August.

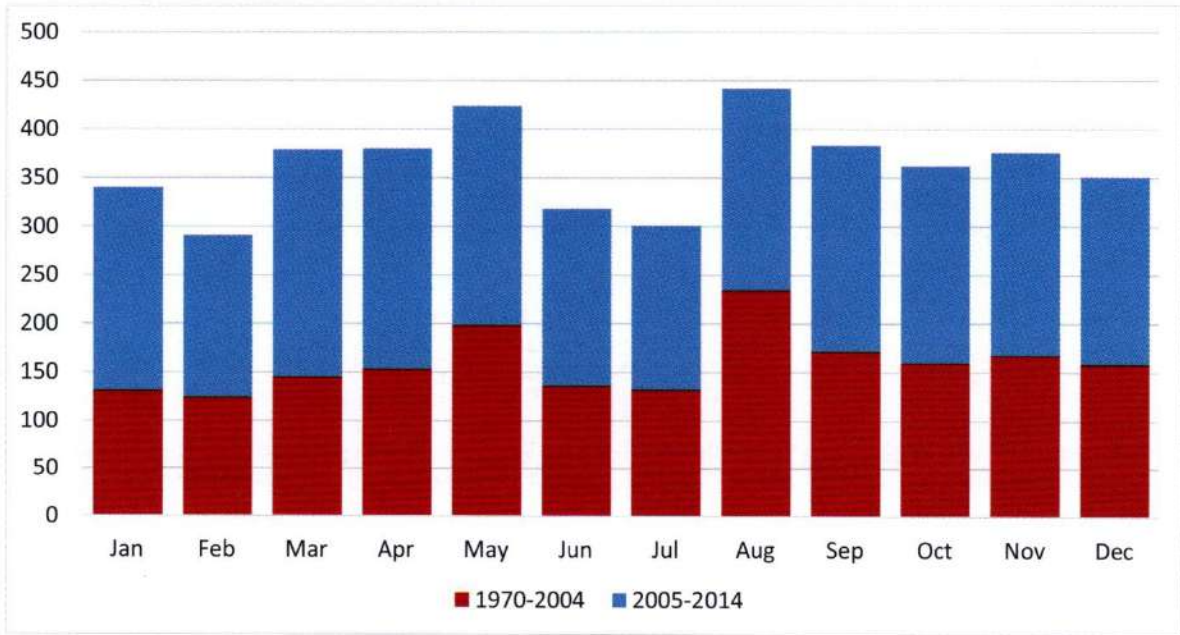


Figure 2. Number of visits by KR made per month

The number of species seen at Covenham Reservoir over the years is impressive – but note that recording by KR has concentrated on water birds, with for example just three counts of Wood Pigeon and none of Starling. Nevertheless, 198 species have been recorded by him alone, not including several distinctive races such as White and Blue-headed Wagtail. Other observers have provided more counts of land birds but mainly where these involve the more notable species or numbers of birds. The limited habitats within the recorded area affect what is likely to occur there, but the occurrence of small numbers of commoner species has tended to go unrecorded. Including records of other observers (as shown in Figure 3), the total number of species recorded at Covenham Reservoir to the end of 2014 was 234.

Analyses of data for commoner species are for either calendar years or July-June years. The latter are used for species occurring in Lincolnshire primarily as winter visitors; the use of calendar years for such species obscures the size of annual variations dependent on the severity of winter weather.

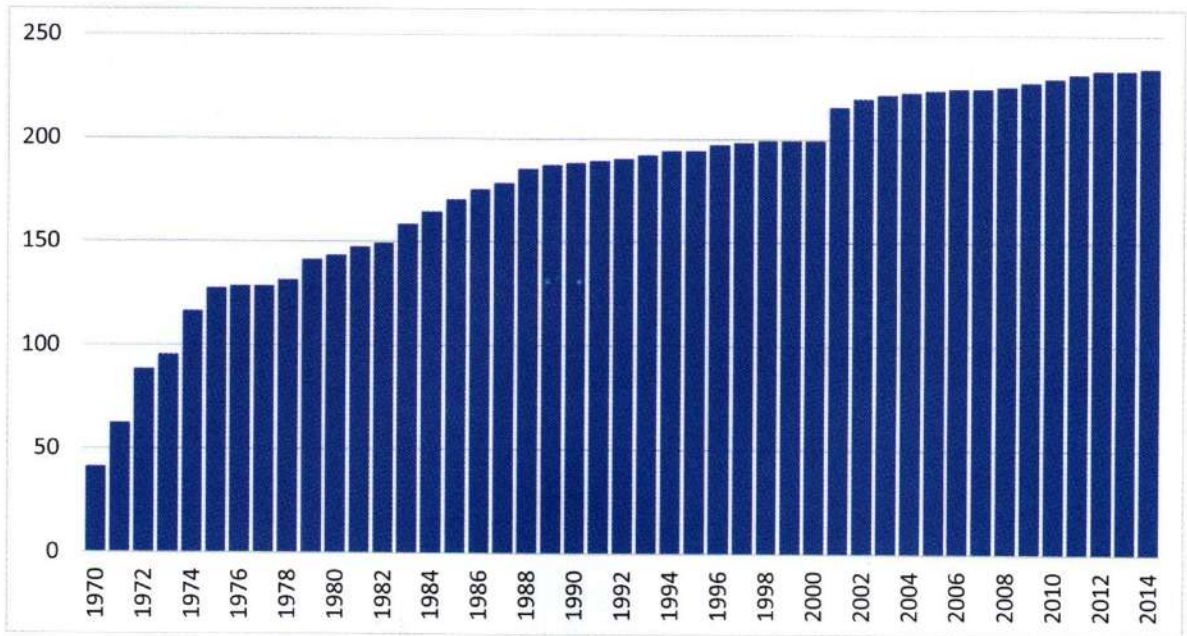


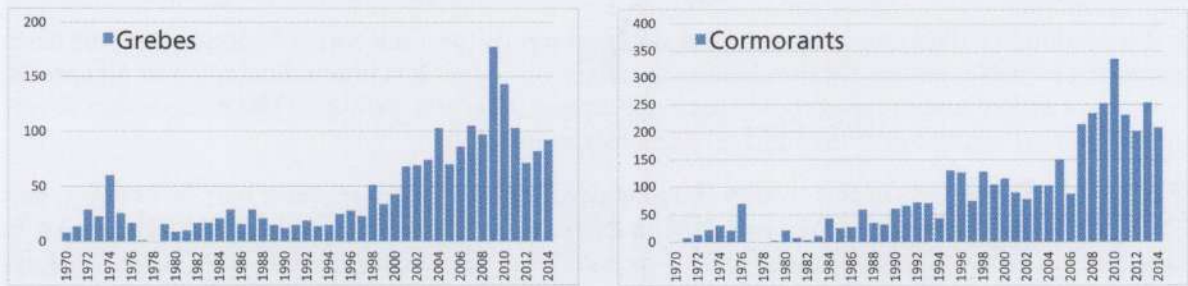
Figure 3. Cumulative total number of species recorded since 1970

Long-term trends

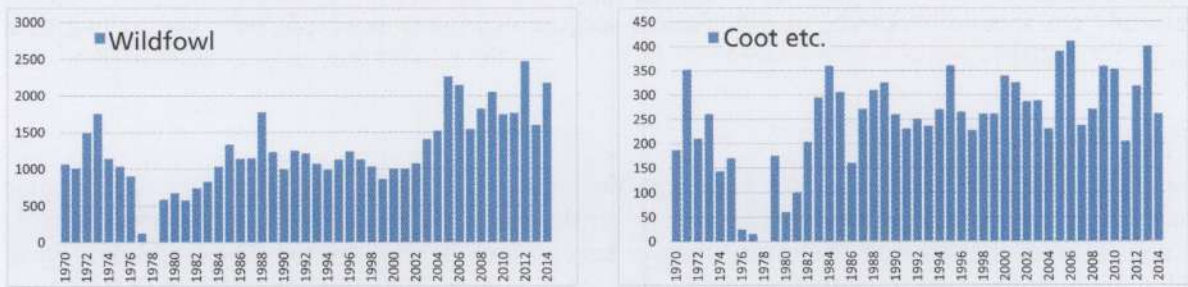
To examine the range and numbers of species occurring at Covenham Reservoir, we have looked first at trends for seven broad groups of birds, and then have investigated patterns for individual species. The set of seven charts below show the sums of annual peaks for a selection of groups: grebes, Cormorant & Shag, wildfowl (swans, geese & ducks), Coot & other rails/crakes, waders, gulls, and terns. These are all done for calendar years. Note that the values shown are sums of the peaks of each species, regardless of the dates on which they occurred; thus the charts may exaggerate the totals present on single dates.

For grebes, annual peaks were generally under 20 for the first 25 years of the study, after which a steep rise occurred, so that the last ten years have seen an average of almost 100 birds. To a degree, this pattern follows that of visit numbers (Figure 1), but the timings of the various increases and decreases do not match very closely. In particular, the steep though erratic decline evident since the peak of 2010 is not reflected in visit numbers, which have been maintained.

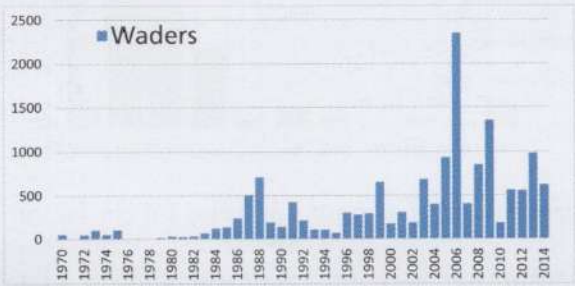
Cormorant numbers, with a few Shags, have followed a similar pattern to grebes, though the trend of increase began earlier, in the mid 1980s. There was an average peak of around 100 from 1995 onwards, which then jumped abruptly to 200 or more from 2007.

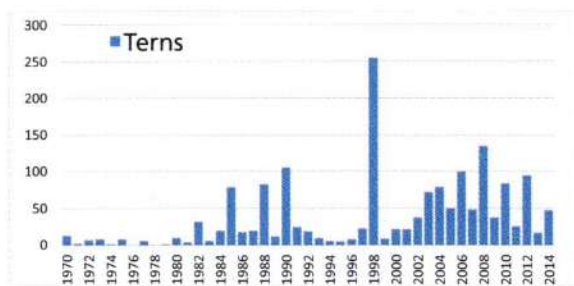
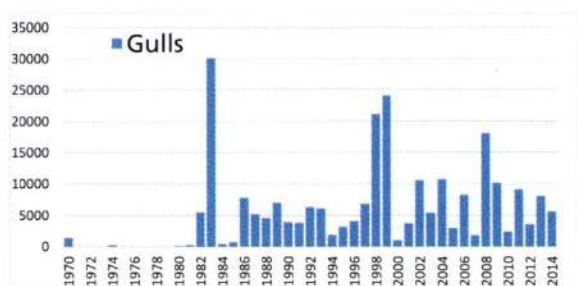


In contrast to the fish-eating birds, numbers of wildfowl and Coot (with some Moorhens) have remained fairly constant throughout the period from 1970, allowing for variations in coverage. In the case of Coot, this has been especially so, while for wildfowl there is an indication of increase from around 2003.



For the other groups – waders, gulls and terns – the patterns of occurrence are less clear, and for each of these groups occasional presence of large numbers has given rise to the marked spikes. For gulls, the erratic nature of high counts may be related to variation in coverage and counting effort. For waders and terns, it may be more to do with changes in passage numbers occurring more widely, though for waders there is some indication of a long-term increase, and for terns there were slightly elevated numbers during 2002-2010.





For the first four of the groups (grebes, Cormorant & Shag, wildfowl, and Coot and allies), these trends are likely to reflect food availability at Covenham Reservoir. For the others, food is for most species probably a less important factor governing numbers than the reservoir’s function as a washing and roost area, or a relatively secure location for birds disturbed from nearby farmland. The next section investigates the trends of occurrence for individual species.

Species trends

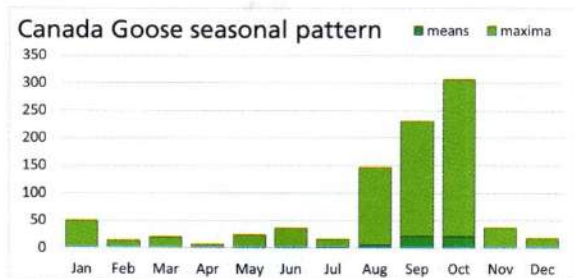
In this section, we illustrate long-term and seasonal trends for a selection of species, in some cases suggesting possible reasons for the changes that have occurred. It is impractical to cover all species, so we have picked a mixture of those species occurring in largest numbers. The next section covers species that are scarcer or more unusual at an inland location.

Where we include charts in this section showing patterns of occurrence, these may be of two types. The first shows the annual peaks recorded in each year, with records gathered by KR shown in dark blue and any additional totals shown in pale blue. These charts are usually based on July-June years between 1969/70 and 2013/14, but for species that are *not* mainly winter visitors to Covenham we have used calendar years from 1970 to 2014. The second shows the monthly pattern, with the mean count recorded per visit shown in dark green and the maximum counts in pale green; these seasonal patterns use all data from the ten-year period 2005-2014.

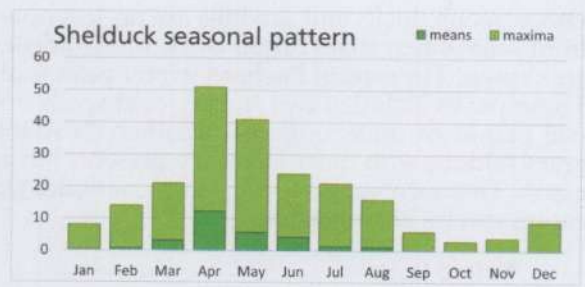
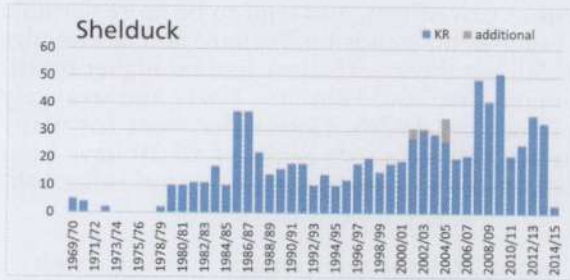
For other species, with no charts, we usually indicate levels of occurrence by giving the highest monthly mean count, with the month shown, and the maximum count, in both cases using data from 2005-2014 only.

Swans, geese and dabbling ducks

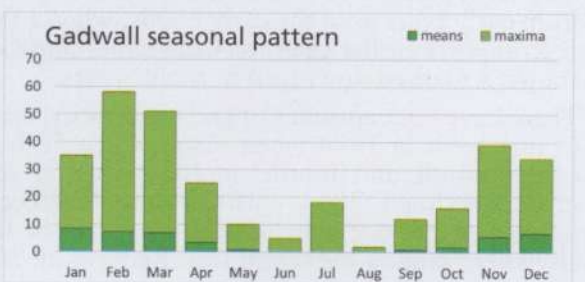
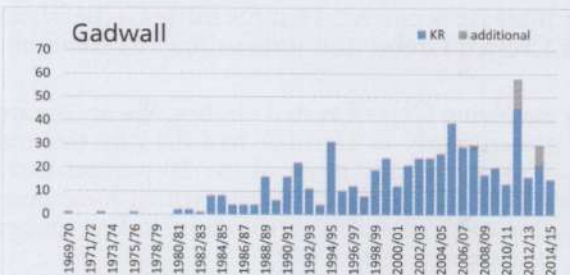
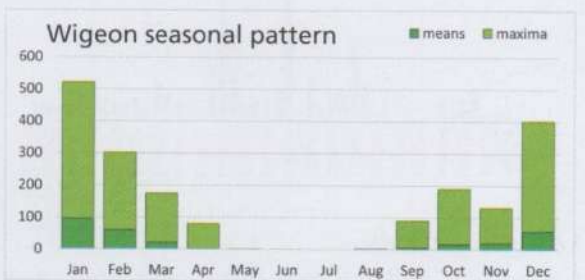
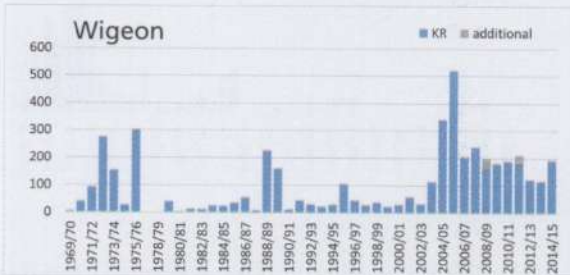
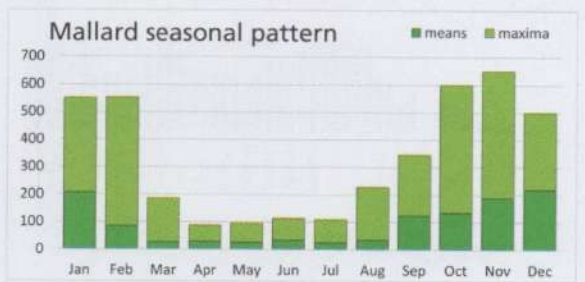
Swans and geese use the reservoir regularly but typically in fairly small numbers. While some of these records will have been flocks resting on the water, many of the larger counts probably involved birds flying over. The most frequent species include **Pink-footed Goose** (highest mean 22.2, in Oct; maximum 760), **Canada Goose** (21.7 in Sep; 306), **Greylag Goose** (5.9 in Oct; maximum 455), and **Mute Swan** (4.1 in Oct; 45). As illustrated for Canada Goose, the largest numbers occur in autumn.



Shelduck have used the reservoir in moderate numbers, for an inland location, throughout the period and peak numbers have gradually risen. This is one notable exception amongst waterfowl, in that most occur during spring and early summer, rather than in winter.



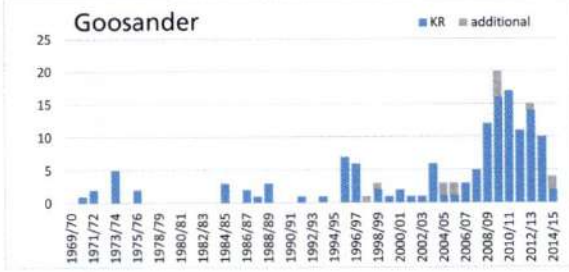
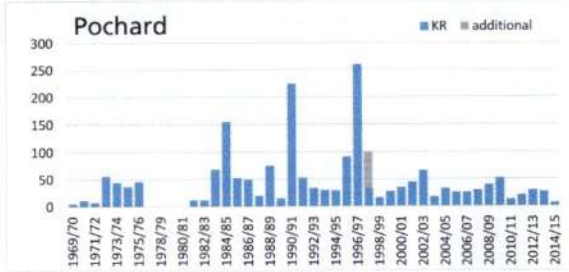
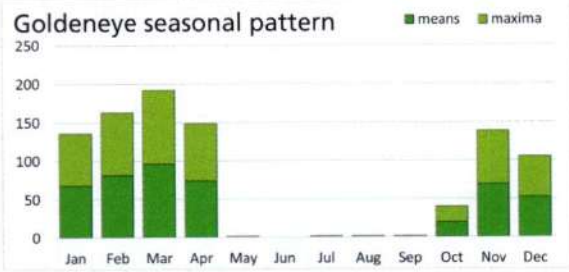
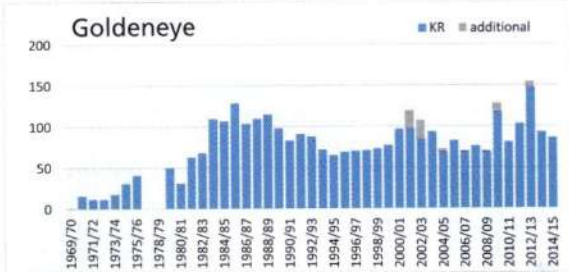
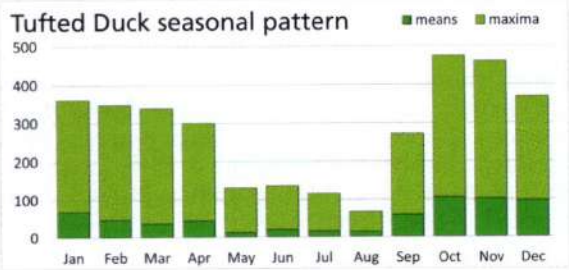
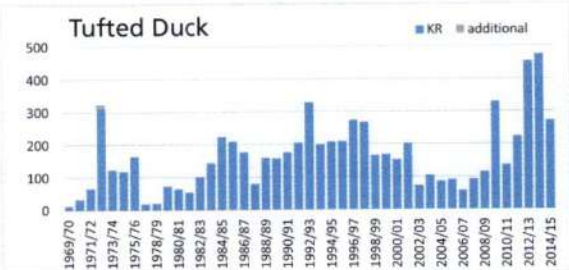
Larger numbers of dabbling duck use the reservoir, and while many may flight out at night, the flocks often remain throughout the day with many birds feeding there. There are some differences between species in their long-term patterns of occurrence and, to a lesser extent, seasonal patterns. Mallard numbers were highest early in the life of the reservoir and it has remained the most abundant of the dabbling ducks. However, in line with the national trend, it has undergone a gradual decline from a mean annual peak of over 800 in early years to under 400 now. Other dabbling duck have shown more variable patterns. Some show occasional periods with higher numbers which – as in the case of **Wigeon** – are not easy to explain. **Gadwall** has progressively increased, mirroring its long-term national increase. All of these species are essentially winter visitors, with only slight differences in when the peak numbers occur.



Diving ducks

The two most numerous diving ducks are Tufted Duck and Goldeneye. Both of these have had substantial winter populations on the reservoir since the 1970s. **Goldeneye** has remained fairly constant, with annual peaks typically in the range 60-100 plus occasional spikes, especially in cold weather. **Tufted Duck** has been more variable, with a pronounced dip in the early 2000s, since when numbers have bounced back and included three years with especially large counts. Both species are primarily winter visitors – though a few Tufted summer – but while Tufted Duck peak in October-November, Goldeneye does so in January-February.

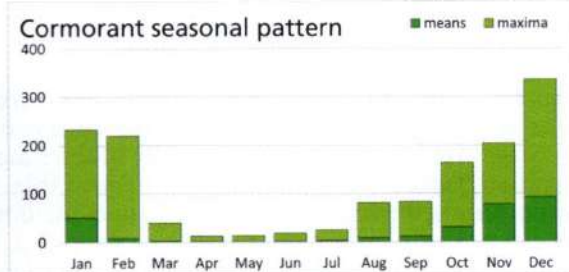
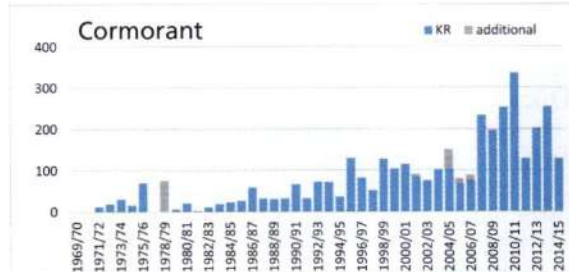
Other diving ducks and sawbills are far less numerous at Covenham, and tend to be more variable from year to year than Tufted Duck and Goldeneye. Long-term trends for Pochard and Goosander are shown. The typical **Pochard** winter peak is under 50, but three years have had far higher totals. Those peaks included two in very cold spells (in January 1985 and February 1991) and strangely one period of quite ordinary weather (November-December 1996). **Goosander** went for many years seldom with more than five present, but from 2008/09 onwards peaks of 10-20 have been usual. This increase does not match national trends but it is similar to that of several other fish-eating species at Covenham.

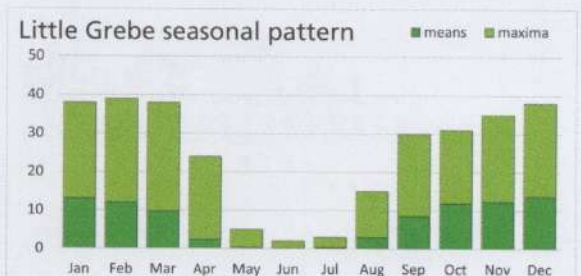
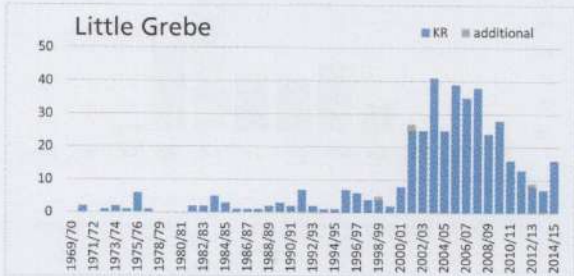


Other waterbirds

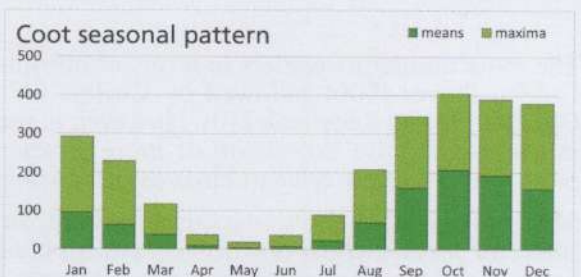
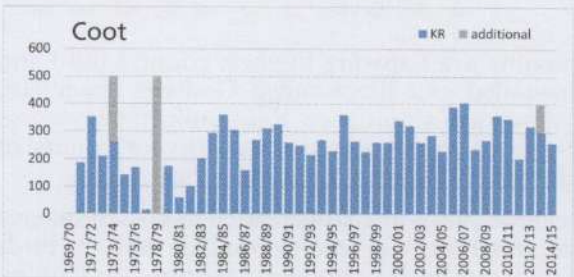
Cormorant and the two commoner grebe species – fish-eating species – have exhibited similar long-term patterns to that of Goosander. They were present in small but slowly increasing numbers from early years until the early 2000s, when a sharp increase occurred. That for **Little Grebe** began several years earlier than for **Cormorant** and **Great Crested Grebe**, and interestingly its trend has shown a marked downturn in recent years.

There have been episodes of grebe mortality, mainly involving Great Crested Grebes. We are aware of one event in 1974 when many of the 56 birds present early in October had died by the end of the month, and another in 2012 when at least 11 and probably more of the 20 present early in October died. These episodes may have been associated with algal blooms, which have been implicated but not conclusively proved to be the cause of deaths of waterbirds including grebes elsewhere around the world (e.g. Reifel *et al.* 2002, Matsunaga *et al.* 1999).

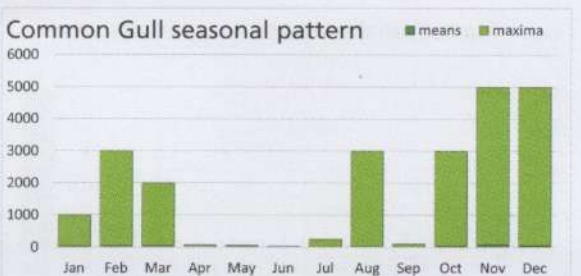
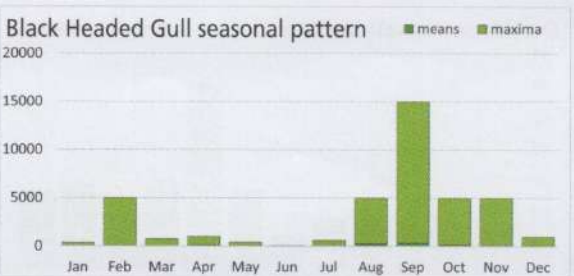




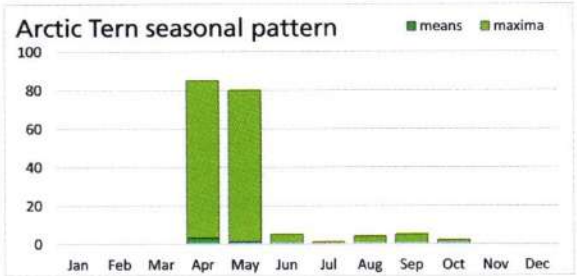
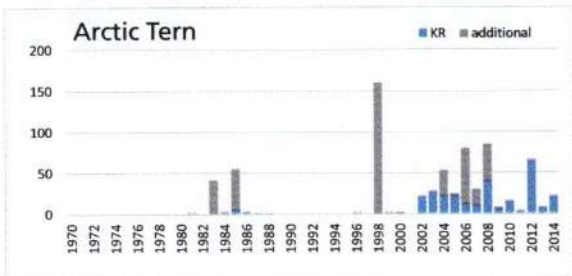
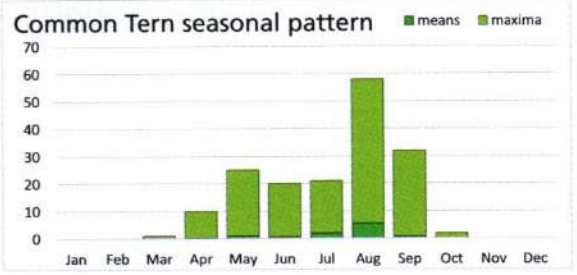
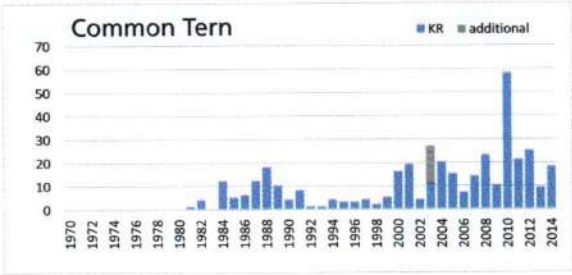
Coot is one of the species, like Mallard and Goldeneye, which has occurred at Covenham in good numbers since the earliest days. Coot is predominantly vegetarian though it also takes invertebrate prey, Mallard is similarly omnivorous, while Goldeneye feeds mainly on invertebrates. Significantly, fish do not form a major part of the diet of these species that have always used the reservoir in substantial numbers.



Gulls use the reservoir mainly for washing and resting, before either roosting on the water or flying out to the coast to roost. The large gull roost mainly consists of **Black-headed** and **Common** Gulls with far fewer of the larger species. Additionally there is often a constant stream of birds which feed inland during the day and roost on the coast but use Covenham to bathe during the latter part of the day. This is often when scarcer species are found, though the constant changing melee can mean keeping track of such species is tricky and sightings are usually brief. Their erratic presence through the day, the sheer numbers when they are present and lack of interest in gulls among some birders have tended to mean they have been less assiduously counted than other water birds. However, very large counts have been made at times. The largest numbers of Common Gull were 22,000 in November 1974 and 15,000 in August 1983. The next highest year peak was 6,000 in November 2004. Black-headed Gull counts have included 15,000 in August 1983, 20,000 in November 1998, 18,000 in January 1999, 10,000 in October 2002 and 15,000 in September 2008. As these records indicate, peak numbers occur in autumn and winter, and seasonal charts for 2005-2014 suggest that Black-headed Gull peaks tend to be earlier in the autumn/winter than those of Common Gull. Other species of gull occur in smaller numbers. For example, the next most frequent, Herring Gull, had a maximum count during 2005-2014 of 163.

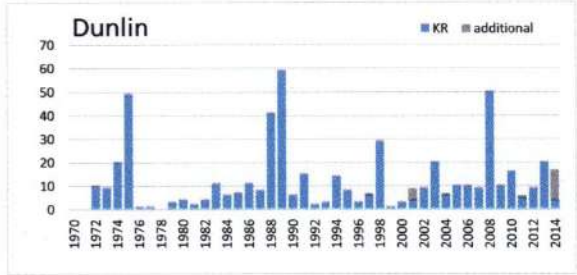
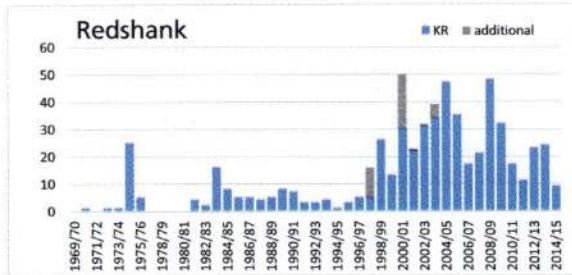


The terns are largely passage birds at Covenham Reservoir. **Common Tern** is the most consistently occurring, but in terms of peak counts, **Arctic Tern** takes the lead. The latter is mainly a spring migrant and the largest flocks can pass through very quickly. The highest count, by far, was 160 on 2nd May 1988. Common Terns occur seasonally more evenly but with a peak of 58 on 9th August 2010. **Black Terns** also are quite frequent on both spring and autumn passage, with peaks usually under ten but including 55 on 30th August 1985 and 105 on 2nd May 1990.

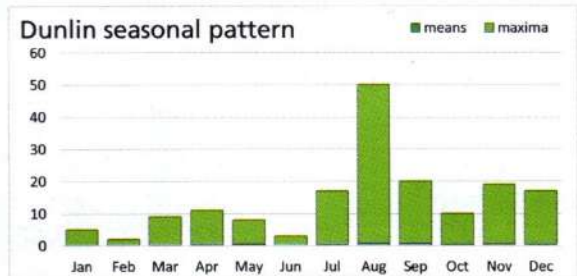


The most numerous waders in terms of absolute maxima are **Lapwing** (highest count 2,000) and **Golden Plover** (800) followed by **Curlew** (97), **Bar-tailed** and **Black-tailed Godwits** (each 70), **Dunlin** (59) and **Redshank** (50). However, in terms of average abundance, Redshank comes second in the list because others are of more erratic occurrence. Note that the majority of counts of plovers and Curlew refer to birds using nearby fields rather than the reservoir banks.

Most of the waders show an increasing trend. To an extent, this is probably related to visit frequency since, for species whose occurrence is only occasional, observers will tend to coincide with the birds being present if more visits are made. However, this may not be the whole explanation, for Dunlin, despite being of broadly similar frequency to Redshank, has a very different long-term trend.

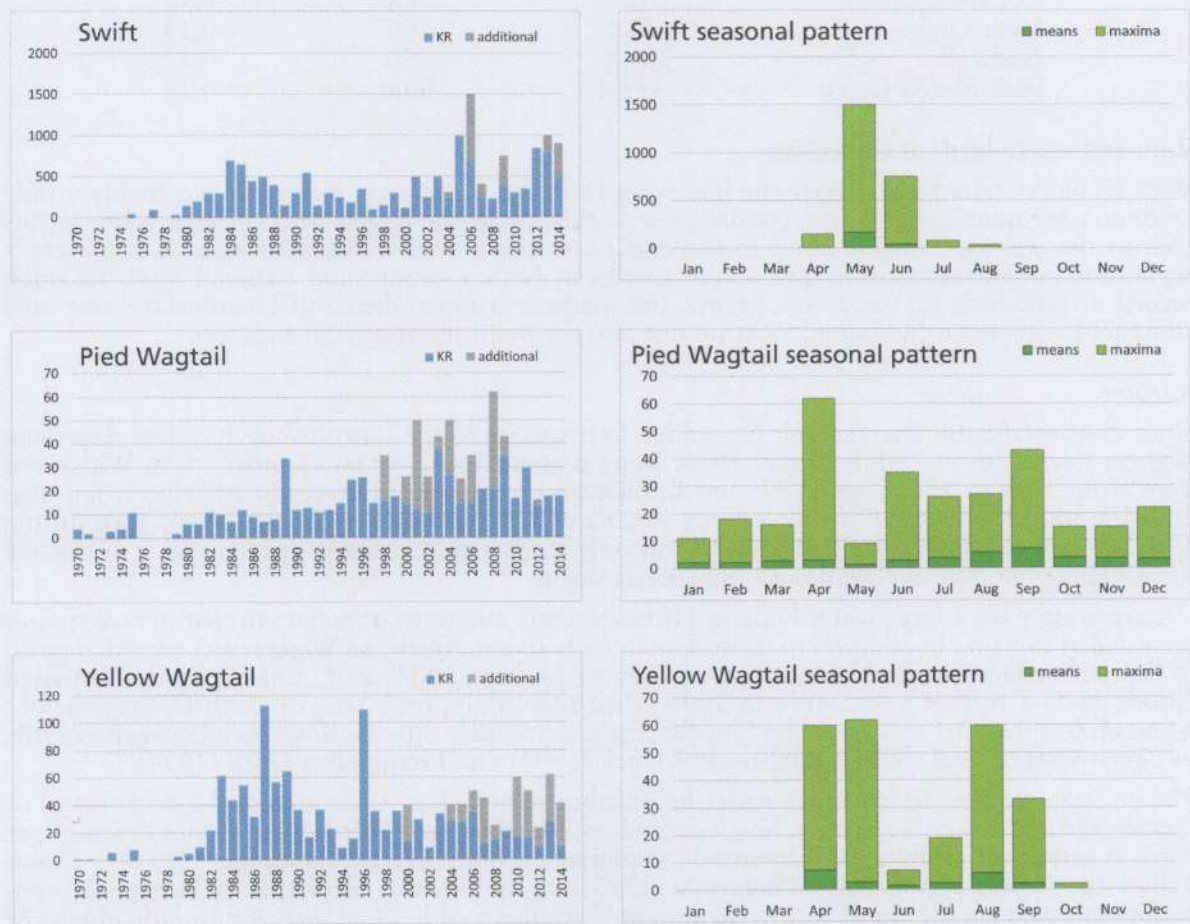


Most of the more numerous waders are most abundant in winter but Dunlin and the godwits are exceptions, and many of the scarcer waders also are mainly passage visitors. Incidentally, note that in these seasonal charts, the mean counts are tiny compared to the maxima – indicative of the erratic nature of these species' occurrence.



The final group to discuss are the insectivores. A large body of water such as Covenham Reservoir will produce an abundance of flying insects capable of being exploited by birds such as Swift, hirundines and wagtails. The three species illustrated below have used the reservoir throughout its existence and, while no sharp changes in abundance have been noted, **Yellow Wagtail** shows a distinct long-term decline in line with its national trend.

Their seasonal patterns are quite different. **Swift**, interestingly, uses the reservoir mainly in spring just after their arrival, while **Yellow Wagtail** is roughly similar in abundance in spring and autumn and **Pied Wagtail** is of fairly even occurrence throughout the year though with occasional higher counts in spring and autumn.



Importance of Covenham reservoir populations

It is an accepted convention that an area which regularly holds 1% of more of the total national or international population can be described as ‘important’ for the species involved. Thus, for example, an area attracting 5,000 Wigeon holds 1.14% of the estimated British population of 440,000, and it is therefore ‘nationally important’ for Wigeon. We have looked at the numbers of waterbird species occurring at Covenham Reservoir in recent years (2005-2014), to examine how close they get to the 1% threshold level. Note that thresholds are not available for introduced species including Greylag and Canada geese, and that this technique is not usually applied to species present in very small numbers.

The table below lists all species whose average annual peak at Covenham during 2005-2014 exceeded 0.1% of the national population estimate. None reached the level of national importance, but two were regularly present with over 0.5% of their British populations, namely Cormorant and Smew (Smew being at the lower limit of British population size to which this analysis can be sensibly applied). Another ten species have numbers at Covenham amounting to between 0.1 and 0.5% of their British totals. These twelve species are a varied selection of waterbirds but it is worth pointing out that four of them (Cormorant, Smew and the two grebes) are primarily fish eaters.

	Covenham 2005-2014 mean	GB 1% threshold	% of GB at Covenham
Great Cormorant	216.6	350	0.62
Smew	1.0	2	0.50
Common Goldeneye	96.0	200	0.48
Great Crested Grebe	75.9	190	0.40
Common Gull	2382	7000	0.34
Whooper Swan	28.6	110	0.26
Tufted Duck	235.3	1100	0.21
Black-headed Gull	4510.0	22000	0.21
Common Coot	318.9	1800	0.18
Little Grebe	23.1	160	0.14
Gadwall	29.4	250	0.12
Pink-footed Goose	391.4	3600	0.11

Rare and scarce birds at Covenham

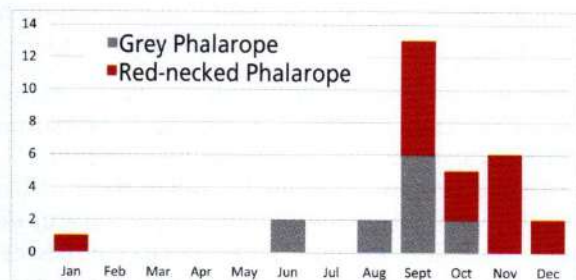
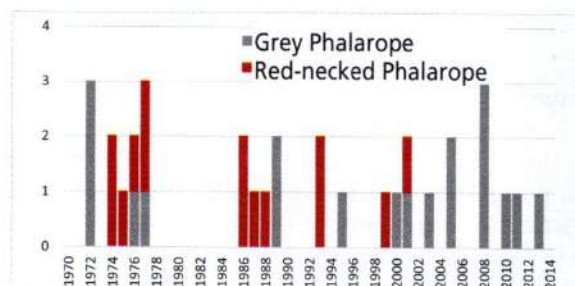
With its banks raised high above the low lying farmland Covenham Reservoir is a highly visible landmark for miles around and, combined with this, being the largest area of open water in this area of the county, being so close to the east coast and a well watched location it has earned a reputation for attracting rare and scarce species at both a county and national level. Its track record of attracting scarce divers, grebes and seaduck is unparalleled in Lincolnshire, not only compared with any other inland location but also the majority of coastal sites too.

Rarities

Since its construction the reservoir has added four species to the Lincolnshire bird list: **American Wigeon** from 12th to 24th February 1974, **Red-breasted Goose** on 1st October 1978, **Whiskered Tern** from 10th to 15th June 1987, and **Bufflehead** on 27th April 2012. In addition it has also added a notable subspecies to the county list, namely the juvenile **American Black Tern** during 17th September-7th October 2011 which was only the fourth record for Britain of this distinctive form – surely worthy of elevation to full species status.

Unsurprisingly for a large water body, wildfowl, waders and terns dominate the list of rare species recorded at this site. In addition to those first records above, **American Wigeon** was recorded again in September-October 2003 (and again briefly in January 2004) and, amazingly, **Red-breasted Goose** made a further appearance in 2006 when two adults were seen on 12th October before going on to spend the winter on the Lincolnshire coast. Other rare wildfowl include single records of **Green-winged Teal** (2011), **Ring-necked Duck** (1993) and **Ferruginous Duck** (1974).

The concrete banks are not ideal wader habitat but nonetheless it has attracted a wide range of species and some notable rarities. Single records of **Black-winged Stilt** (1991), **Pectoral Sandpiper** (two together in 1984), **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** (2006), **Terek Sandpiper** (2014), **Lesser Yellowlegs** (1984) and **Wilson's Phalarope** (1985) are the obvious highlights. In fact phalaropes feature strongly on the list of rare birds seen at Covenham with 14 records (of 16 individuals) of **Red-necked Phalarope** (the first in 1974) and 17 records (of 19 individuals) for the more pelagic **Grey Phalarope** (the first in 1972). The more sheltered waters of the reservoir no doubt helped make this – until the Gibraltar Point movement of October 2014 – the single best site in the county for the latter species. The charts below show the differing seasonal patterns of occurrence of the two species, with Red-necked an autumn species and Grey later in autumn and in winter. It is also interesting that the Red-necked Phalarope records are concentrated in the period up to the early 1990s, with only one since then; there is no obvious reason for this. Additionally the reservoir has proved quite an attraction for **Temminck's Stint** with 17 records (of 21 individuals) since the first on 30th May 1974.



During migration periods, passage terns are attracted to this area of water under suitable weather conditions and several rare species have been recorded. In addition to the Whiskered and American Black Terns mentioned above, the other star tern has to be the first winter **Gull-billed Tern** which spent four weeks at the reservoir from 16th September to 14th October 1972. This was only the third county record at the time and 44 years on remains the only twitchable individual seen in Lincolnshire. This site also has an affinity with **White-winged Black Tern**, attracting nine birds since the first on 8th August 1974 and therefore comprising a quarter of all county records.

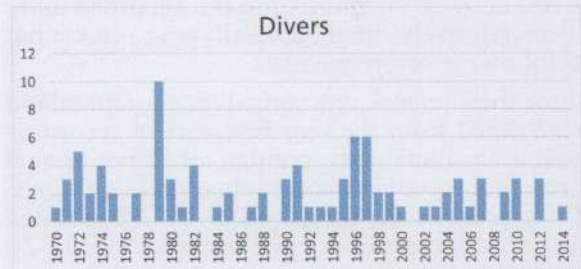
Rare passerines may not be the first thing one would associate with a reservoir of this nature but Covenham has produced its fair share. The abundant insects around the reservoir walls and banks in the spring provide a feast for passage wagtails, especially Yellow, and in amongst these have been several considered at the time to be **Grey-headed Wagtail** or **Ashy-headed Wagtail** and, on 27th May 1991, a bird resembling the eastern form, **Sykes's Wagtail**. However, the identification of these subspecies is notoriously tricky, and these records especially of Ashy-headed and Sykes's require re-evaluation; note that Sykes's Wagtail is not currently on the British list. The grassy banks and patchy scrub have proven productive over the years, the most celebrated bird perhaps being the first winter **Barred Warbler** which was present in bushes on the south bank from 20th November to 9th December 2004. This obliging bird was the first inland record for the county. **Wryneck** has twice made an appearance (1971 and 1986) and the four records of **Shore Lark** (1971, 1972, 1976 and 1986) are exceptional for an inland site (there is only one other inland record for the county). Even more remarkable are, perhaps, the four records of **Ortolan Bunting** (May 1982, two in May 1983 and one in April-May 1987), the only inland records for the county and a strangely concentrated set of records.

To round off the rarity review some of the other significant rarities the site has produced include a storm-blown **Leach's Petrel** on 21st September 1985, a **Glossy Ibis** in September 2009, two records of **Spoonbills** (one in 1996 and two in 2014), a **Crane** which flew south in April 1990, and a couple of scarce raptors with single **Rough-legged Buzzard** and three records of **Montagu's Harrier**.

Scarce species

Divers and Grebes

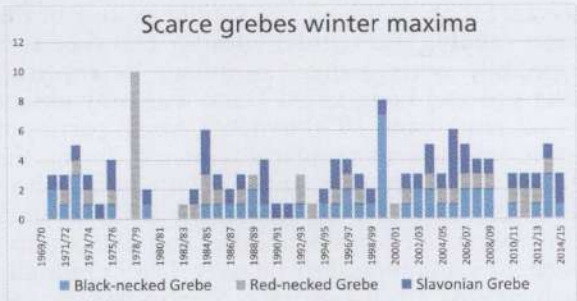
For an inland location, the reservoir has been highly productive for producing records of all three of the county's more regular diver species, with only eight blank years in the 44 years covered



more erratic in appearances with, for example, just two years producing records in the 1970s but yet recorded annually from 1995 to 2000. Four records in 1982 makes this the best year and this included three first-winter birds present from 9th-13th January and then the only record outside of the expected winter period for this species when another first-winter was present from 11th April until found dead on 14th August by which time it had moulted into first-summer plumage. Fifteen years have produced a total of 23 individuals of **Great Northern Diver** with three records in both 1990 and 2010 making them the best years. This species was recorded annually during 1995 to 2000. All records fall between the late autumn and early spring period and all except an adult in near summer plumage from 10th-21st November 2007 have involved either immature or winter plumaged individuals.

Scarce grebes (Red-necked, Black-necked and Slavonian) have an amazing record at the reservoir with not a single blank year between 1970 and 2013 when at least one of these species has not been seen. A remarkable statistic. Of these the **Red-necked Grebe** has just nine blank years out of the

by this review. Their frequency matches that at a county level with **Red-throated Diver** being the most regular (recorded in 23 years during the period). This included up to five in January to March 1972, and at least eight during 2nd February to 31st March 1979 following a period of severe weather. As to be expected most records occurred during the late autumn and winter with some birds lingering until the early spring. A highly unseasonal record involved a sick bird present from 29th April to 16th June 1977. **Black-throated Diver** has proven much



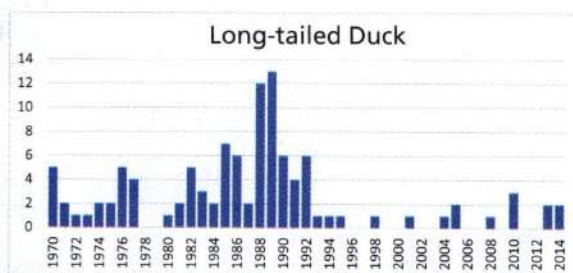
44 and it was recorded annually from 1971 to 1983. Generally between one and four birds have been recorded in a year but there were five records in 1982 and 2005 with six in 2011. However all of these were eclipsed by the unprecedented 14 records in 1979 which included 12 (two of which were unfortunately found dead) during January-April following periods of severe weather. August accounts for several early autumn juveniles with the majority of sightings during the expected winter months. More unusually, summer plumaged birds were seen from 11th-14th June 1982 and then in 2012 during 24th July-6th August and 21st-26th August. **Black-necked Grebe** has proven to be more of a spring and autumn passage species with fewer winter records, although it has been noted in all months of the year. Like Red-necked it has also proven to be remarkably regular with just nine blank years during the period. Annual records have generally involved between one and five individuals but there were eight records in 1972, six in 1998 and then the exceptional years of 2003 and 2004 with ten and eight records respectively. **Slavonian Grebe** has proven to be the most consistently recorded of the scarce grebes with just eight blank years and it was recorded annually from 1977 to 1989. There have been between one and five records during a year but with a peak of seven in 1983 which included five present on 23rd October. Some early autumn juveniles have appeared in August with the majority of records then occurring from the autumn with several birds remaining for the winter until the early spring. Summer plumage birds were noted from 5th to 6th May 1977 and 2nd September 2010.

Seaduck

As with many large open inland bodies of water, Covenham has proven to be an attraction for stray seaduck. The most notable of these is perhaps **Eider**, inland records of which are exceptional in Lincolnshire. Covenham has three records with a female on 11th November 1980, two immature males from 3rd to 12th December 1982 and another single bird on 7th November 1993. **Common Scoter** has also proven to be a regular visitor both during passage times and less so during the winter months. Movements of migrating flocks of up to 15 birds have not been infrequent but the events of 9th November 1988 are worthy of a special mention. Between 200 and 250 birds arrived in parties from the south-east, settled for 15 minutes and then all flew off north-east. This is by far the single highest count of this species for an inland location in Lincolnshire. Its rarer cousin the **Velvet Scoter** is also very rarely recorded inland, but Covenham has a track record of attracting this species, which remains exceedingly rare inland elsewhere in the county. It has been recorded in 20 years of the recording period with annual peaks of seven in 1979 and 1988 with up to four birds together and it has occasionally wintered. A highly unusual summer record involved a male on 18th July 1989. **Red-breasted Merganser** has been an erratic visitor, but recorded more frequently during the first 20 years. Numbers have been relatively small (generally up to eight) but 14 were present from mid-February to March 1979 following severe weather.

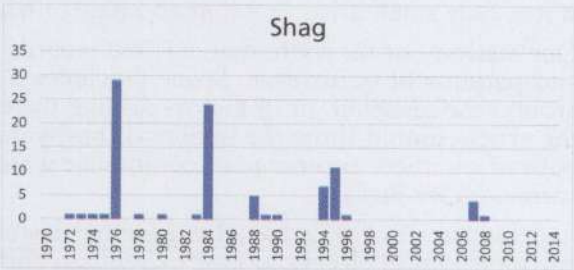
The final two species worthy of mention, if not least for their remarkable consistency for an inland location are Scaup and Long-tailed Duck. **Scaup** were noted from the very first year of recording at the reservoir in 1970 annually through to 1992 and it has remained a regular, albeit not annual visitor, since then. The early days of recording at the reservoir produced some remarkable sightings. The 10 records in 1971 are notable for any inland location but the record 48 in 1972 is nothing short of astonishing. This included a maximum of 40 on 12th December 1972 of which at least 20 went on to winter through to early April 1973. Numbers in subsequent years were nowhere near as impressive but small parties of up to seven wintering at the reservoir where a regular feature for many years until, in line with records elsewhere, numbers began to decline and it became more of a passage bird recorded across most months of the year. Records of 12 in September 2008 and 20 (of which 15 were drakes) on 22nd November 2010 were a brief reminder of former glories. **Long-tailed Duck** has always been scarce in Lincolnshire, so

the fact that an inland site should be one of the most reliable and regular sites for this species is especially noteworthy. Covenham Reservoir is that site and Long-tailed Duck was only absent in six years from 1970 to 1999. Small parties of up to seven birds regularly wintered during the 1980s and early part of the 1990s although in 1988 there were 10-12 birds from 3rd December (following an exceptional influx into the county) with 11 remaining into January 1989 gradually reducing to 10 in February, four in March and one in April. The only record outside of the autumn/winter period is a highly unusual summer record involving a first-summer male present from 6th July to 16th October 1983. As can be seen from the chart, far fewer have occurred since 1992 than before.



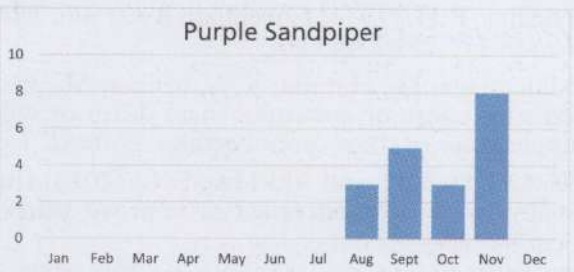
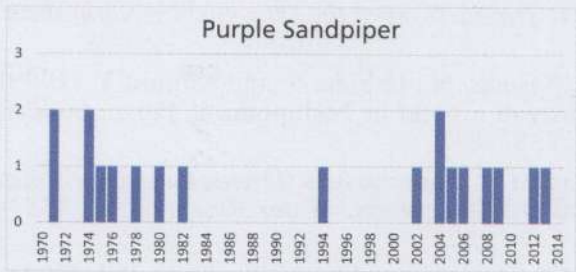
Seabirds

Storm-blown seabirds have found the reservoir to their liking on several occasions, not least the **Shag**. Recorded erratically over the period in small groups of up to seven, there are a couple of exceptional years that stand out. Of 29 birds seen in 1976, 25 of these were present on 2nd February, with a small number remaining until the end of March, whilst in 1984 there were 24 present on 26th January with smaller numbers remaining for the next two weeks. This was part of an exceptional early year influx into the county. Other unlikely pelagic visitors include a **Gannet** on 19th September 2011, two records of **Fulmar** (on 8th August 1972 and 20th April 2007) and three records of **Manx Shearwater** (21st-24th September 1974, 18th-27th July 2003 and 4th September 2008). Any skua species is rare inland within the county so five **Great Skuas**, four **Arctic Skuas** and two records of **Pomarine Skua** (2nd October 1974 and adult 10th November 1985) are all notable. The latter species is exceptionally rare inland. Records of auks include a single **Guillemot** (from 26th February to 2nd March 1983 following an auk wreck on the coast) and two records of **Little Auk** (single from 3rd-5th November 1987 and two birds on 16th November 1995).



Coastal waders

Inland records of coastal waders such as Grey Plover, Sanderling and Turnstone are scarce but regular across the county, and Covenham Reservoir has recorded these species with some regularity. One normally strictly coastal wader is notably rare inland, and Covenham with 19 records, all in autumn, accounts for over 80% of the inland records of **Purple Sandpiper** in the county.



Passerines

Aside from the above-mentioned rarities, the banks of the reservoir do attract a few migrant passerines. Perhaps most notable of the scarcer visitors are three wintering species usually associated with the open coast and which are either rare or scarce inland within Lincolnshire. The rarest of these at Covenham is the **Lapland Bunting** with singles on 9th September 1984 (an early autumn arrival date), 23rd April 1989, 1st November 1990 and 2nd November 2000, two on 23rd September 2010 and up to three during 7th-15th November 2010. **Twite** has been recorded on seven occasions, some of which involved small groups, the maximum of which was 15 on 9th February 2011. By far the most frequent to be recorded is the **Snow Bunting** which was annual from 1970 to 1989 but has remained regular since. Numbers are usually singles or small flocks up to 10 but there were c.80 on 14th February 1970 and up to 80 from January to March 1971: exceptional numbers for an inland location. The largest count and the only record involving more than 10 birds since then is 27 on 16th January 2009. The timing of sightings correspond with those on the coast involving late autumn and winter arrivals although there are two spring records from 19th to 21st April 1986 and up to two from 23rd to 26th April 1989.

Escapes

A few exotics are always good for brightening up a dull day's birding and Covenham has attracted a small but varied collection of escaped wildfowl over the years. A single **Snow Goose** was seen on 5th March 2010 and **Ruddy Shelduck** were noted 12th-16th May 2005 and on 29th August 2008. **Red-crested Pochard** have been recorded on several occasions, there are eight records of **Mandarin** and drake **Wood Ducks** have been noted on two occasions, on 20th-21st April 1982 and 23rd February 2008.

Concluding remarks

This article has, we hope, given an idea of the wealth of birds that have been found at Covenham Reservoir over the past 45 years. Even the simple statistic that 234 species have been recorded should convey what a rich area it is, something accentuated by the fact that apart from the open water, only small areas of a limited range of habitats exist in the area.

Our analyses of the more than 91,000 records have been presented as short summaries of trends and patterns of occurrence. Space precludes a more extensive description of the birdlife on and around the reservoir, or of factors driving the changes that can be observed for some species. But the article should show the quality of birdwatching to be had here throughout the year, in terms both of numbers and range of commoner waterfowl and of the relatively high chance of finding scarce or rare birds.

It demonstrates the value of a long-term study of a local patch. While we hope that it will encourage more birders to visit Covenham and to record what they see, we also hope that others will be stimulated to adopt a patch and in due course (not necessarily waiting 45 years!) to write an account of what they have found.

Acknowledgements

Many people have submitted records to LBC which have added usefully to the data collected by KR; we would mention particularly Guy Langan who has made a major contribution from 2001 onwards. Initial processing of the data for this report was by Charlie Barnes of the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, and Colin and Sheila Jennings quickly provided the LBC dataset; we are grateful to them.

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APPENDIX

This is the full list of species recorded at Covenham reservoir since 1970, showing the highest count recorded (left hand column) and the mean annual peak for the ten years 2005-2010 (right hand column). Uncertain identifications (except Pied/White Wagtail) and hybrids are omitted, but escapes and distinctive subspecies are included.

	Max.	Mean		Max.	Mean
Mute Swan	45	18.2	Egyptian Goose	8	1.9
Bewick's Swan	103	1.1	Ruddy Shelduck	1	0.3
Whooper Swan	62	28.6	Common Shelduck	51	32.8
Bean Goose	13	0.7	Wood Duck	1	0.1
Pink-footed Goose	760	391.4	Mandarin Duck	1	0.3
White-fronted Goose	17	1.2	Eurasian Wigeon	520	242.7
Greylag Goose	455	72	American Wigeon	1	0
Snow Goose	1	0.1	Gadwall	58	29.4
Canada Goose	306	132.6	Eurasian Teal	420	133.7
Barnacle Goose	6	1.1	Green-winged Teal	1	0.1
Brent Goose	37	4.3	Mallard	1200	455.4
Red-breasted Goose	2	0.2	Pintail	39	6.8

	<i>Max.</i>	<i>Mean</i>		<i>Max.</i>	<i>Mean</i>
Garganey	3	0.7	Avocet	4	2
Shoveler	100	10.1	Oystercatcher	25	4.2
Red-crested Pochard	11	1.7	European Golden Plover	800	223.5
Common Pochard	260	29.9	Grey Plover	8	1.7
Ring-necked Duck	1	0	Northern Lapwing	2000	485.4
Ferruginous Duck	1	0.1	Little Ringed Plover	4	1.9
Tufted Duck	474	235.3	Ringed Plover	11	5.5
Greater Scaup	40	5.1	Whimbrel	33	9.8
Common Eider	2	0	Eurasian Curlew	97	23.7
Long-tailed Duck	11	0.9	Black-tailed Godwit	70	12.2
Common Scoter	200	8.1	Bar-tailed Godwit	70	14.6
Velvet Scoter	7	0.3	Turnstone	14	4.6
Bufflehead	1	0.1	Red Knot	12	3.2
Common Goldeneye	154	96	Ruff	80	4.3
Smew	6	1	Curlew Sandpiper	16	0.2
Red-breasted Merganser	14	0.5	Temminck's Stint	3	0.5
Goosander	20	10.4	Sanderling	23	3.8
Ruddy Duck	5	1.6	Dunlin	59	15.7
Common Quail	1	0	Purple Sandpiper	1	0.6
Red-legged Partridge	8	1.4	Little Stint	77	2.9
Grey Partridge	19	2.9	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1	0.1
Common Pheasant	38	5.1	Pectoral Sandpiper	2	0
Red-throated Diver	8	0.3	Wilson's Phalarope	1	0
Black-throated Diver	3	0.6	Red-necked Phalarope	2	0.1
Great Northern Diver	3	0.8	Grey Phalarope	2	0.7
Fulmar	1	0.1	Terek Sandpiper	1	0.1
Manx Shearwater	1	0.1	Common Sandpiper	70	18
Leach's Storm-petrel	1	0	Green Sandpiper	12	1.7
Northern Gannet	1	0.1	Spotted Redshank	3	1
Great Cormorant	336	216.6	Greenshank	10	3.2
Shag	25	0.3	Lesser Yellowlegs	1	0
Eurasian Bittern	1	0.1	Wood Sandpiper	1	0.5
Little Egret	8	3.1	Common Redshank	50	30.3
Grey Heron	7	2.8	Jack Snipe	1	0.1
Black Stork	1	0	Woodcock	4	0.9
Glossy Ibis	1	0.1	Common Snipe	9	1.9
Eurasian Spoonbill	2	0.2	Pomarine Skua	1	0
Little Grebe	41	23.1	Arctic Skua	2	0.1
Great Crested Grebe	148	75.9	Great Skua	1	0
Red-necked Grebe	10	0.9	Little Auk	3	0
Slavonian Grebe	4	1.4	Common Guillemot	1	0
Black-necked Grebe	7	1.4	Little Tern	27	0.9
Red Kite	1	0.5	Gull-billed Tern	1	0
Marsh Harrier	4	1.6	Whiskered Tern	1	0
Hen Harrier	2	0.4	Black Tern	105	6.9
Montagu's Harrier	2	0.1	American Black Tern	1	0.1
Northern Goshawk	1	0.1	White-winged Black Tern	1	0.3
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	5	2.7	Sandwich Tern	22	0.4
Common Buzzard	10	4.8	Common Tern	58	20
Rough-legged Buzzard	1	0	Arctic Tern	160	33.9
Osprey	1	0.4	Kittiwake	7	0.9
Water Rail	1	0.1	Black-headed Gull	20000	4510
Moorhen	6	1.3	Little Gull	47	13.7
Common Coot	500	318.9	Mediterranean Gull	4	2
Common Crane	1	0	Common Gull	22000	2382
Black-winged Stilt	1	0	Lesser Black-backed Gull	300	15

	<i>Max.</i>	<i>Mean</i>		<i>Max.</i>	<i>Mean</i>
Glaucous Gull	2	0.1	Common Whitethroat	17	8.9
Iceland Gull	1	0	Grasshopper Warbler	1	0.1
Yellow-legged Gull	1	0.5	Sedge Warbler	7	2.3
Herring Gull	500	51.8	Reed Warbler	5	2.6
Great Black-backed Gull	600	42.7	Waxwing	18	3.3
Feral Pigeon	100	10	Eurasian Treecreeper	2	0.8
Stock Dove	49	25.8	Wren	10	1.8
Wood Pigeon	900	131.3	Common Starling	1000	73.3
Collared Dove	150	42.6	Ring Ouzel	4	0.6
Turtle Dove	9	0.9	Blackbird	79	25.6
Common Cuckoo	4	1.5	Fieldfare	550	187.6
Barn Owl	4	1.4	Song Thrush	7	1.6
Little Owl	3	1.5	Redwing	640	126.7
Tawny Owl	2	0.9	Mistle Thrush	35	14.5
Long-eared Owl	2	0.1	Spotted Flycatcher	2	0.4
Short-eared Owl	1	0.2	Robin	14	3.6
Common Swift	1500	728	Pied Flycatcher	1	0
Common Kingfisher	1	0.5	Black Redstart	4	1
Wryneck	1	0	Common Redstart	1	0.1
Green Woodpecker	2	0.5	Whinchat	2	0.6
Great Spotted Woodpecker	4	2.4	European Stonechat	3	0.5
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	1	0	Northern Wheatear	13	5.9
Common Kestrel	6	3.4	Duncock	5	1
Merlin	1	0.7	House Sparrow	24	4.3
Hobby	3	1.5	Tree Sparrow	45	8
Peregrine Falcon	3	1.3	Yellow Wagtail	113	41.7
Magpie	12	3.2	Blue-headed Wagtail	6	0.8
Eurasian Jay	3	0.7	Grey-headed Wagtail	1	0.1
Western Jackdaw	200	39.8	Grey Wagtail	6	3.1
Rook	150	39.6	Pied/White Wagtail	30	3.9
Carriion Crow	100	15.5	Pied Wagtail	62	28.5
Hooded Crow	2	0	White Wagtail	19	9.2
Goldcrest	9	2.7	Tree Pipit	2	0
Firecrest	1	0.1	Meadow Pipit	100	41.8
Skylark	276	27.3	Water Pipit	2	0.4
Shore Lark	1	0	Rock Pipit	7	3.5
Sand Martin	500	144.9	Brambling	37	4.5
Barn Swallow	1100	547.5	Common Chaffinch	112	47.7
House Martin	800	408.1	Bullfinch	7	3.3
Red-rumped Swallow	1	0	Greenfinch	90	19.5
Blue Tit	12	1.4	Linnet	200	63.5
Great Tit	3	0.5	Twite	15	2.1
Coal Tit	3	1.5	Lesser Redpoll	6	2.1
Willow Tit	2	0	Common Crossbill	4	0.8
Marsh Tit	1	0	Goldfinch	80	43.5
Long-tailed Tit	30	21.3	Siskin	29	8.2
Common Chiffchaff	7	3.4	Snow Bunting	80	5.4
Willow Warbler	11	2.5	Lapland Bunting	3	0.3
Blackcap	8	5.4	Yellowhammer	80	14.9
Garden Warbler	1	0	Ortolan Bunting	2	0
Barred Warbler	1	0	Reed Bunting	19	4.4
Lesser Whitethroat	5	3.9	Corn Bunting	3	0.4

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AKy	Alan Kydd	CNe	Colin Neve
ARb	Alan Roberts	CSc	Colin Scott
ACa	Alastair Carr	CSm	Colin Smale
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ACBH	Andrew Henderson	DJB	Dave Bradbeer
ACS	Andrew Sims	DRB	Dave Bromwich
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Cas	Casual Record	GJF	Gary Fenwick
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CAdl	Chaz Adland	GMu	Geoff Mullett
CAd	Chris Andrews	GW	Geoff Williams
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JMS	J M Sizer	MPv	Mark Paver
JPS	J P Shaughnessey	MFr	Martin Francis
JRN	J R Nelson	MJG	Martin Gray
JWh	J Wheldon	MHa	Matt Harrison
JW	J Winter	MLa	Matt Latham
JHe	James Hewson	MTh	Mel Thorn
JS	James Siddle	MBe	Michael Betts
JRs	Jan Rousseau	MPo	Michael Powell
JOs	Jane Ostler	MPn	Mick Paine
JHn	Jaquie Harrison	MWi	Mick Widdowson
JAt	Jason Atkin	MEH	Mike Harrison
JCl	Jim Clarke	MPi	Mike Pilsworth
JSe	Jim Steele	MJT	Mike Tarrant
JWg	Jim Wright	DAb	Mrs D Ablett
JB	John Badley	NHD	N H Dorrington
JRC	John Clarkson	ND	Neil Drinkall
JCw	John Cowell	NFo	Neil Foster
JFa	John Farmer	NRo	Neil Roberts
JTG	John Goy	NCl	Nick Clayton
JAH	John Hayes	NCC	Nick Crouch
JJa	John Jaines	NPT	Nick Tribe
JCN	John Nicholson	NWr	Nick Ward
JOv	John Oliver	NN	Nicola Nicholson
EJR	John Redshaw	NAL	Nigel Lound
JTH	John T Harriman	OB	Oliver Beacock
JRW	John Walker	OW	Oliver Woodman
JWW	John Walton	PCK	Pam Cook
JWa	John Watt	PBe	Patrick Bell
JSI	Jon Salmon	PDb	Paul Daubney

PDu	Paul Dumpleton	RPr	Roy Pearson
PMa	Paul Marshall	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
PNe	Paul Neale	RTf	Russ Telfer
PSm	Paul Smith	RBn	Russell Bean
PSn	Paul Snow	RHay	Russell Hayes
PS	Paul Sullivan	SAB	S A Britton
PSc	Pete Scott	SHr	Sandra Harlow
PSh	Pete Short	SJ	Sheila Jennings
PDr	Peter Dryburgh	SFo	Silvia Fowler
PHa	Peter Harvey	SBa	Stephen Bacon
PBH	Peter Haywood	SCp	Stephen Chippendale
PRo	Peter Roworth	SRo	Stephen Routledge
PEs	Phil Espin	SR	Stephen Ryland
PAH	Phil Hyde	SWe	Stephen Westerberg
PLe	Phil Lee	SPB	Steve Botham
PP	Phil Porter	SGC	Steve Cross
PT	Phil Todd	SK	Steve Keightley
PShp	Philip Sharp	SL	Steve Lorand
PTo	Philip Townsend	SLo	Steve Lovell
RFo	R Fox	SJM	Steve Meek
RL	R Lorand	SMo	Steve Moore
RP	R Parsons	SN	Steve Nesbitt
RJH	Ray Hume	SPh	Steve Phillips
RRi	Reg Rice	SWa	Steve Watson
RAb	Richard Abrahams	SML	Steven Lister
RCm	Richard Camm	SMi	Sue Misselbrook
RCa	Richard Caney	TBa	Terry Barnatt
RDv	Richard Davidson	TCo	Terry Corlett
RDa	Richard Dawkins	TWh	Terry Whalin
RDn	Richard Doan	TC	Toby Collett
RFx	Richard Fox	TCL	Tom Lowe
RHe	Richard Heath	TWo	Tomas Wood
RJa	Richard Jackson	AHd	Tony Houlden
RPi	Richard Pipe	AJH	Tony Housman
RBe	Rick Bennett	TGu	Trevor Gunby
RKW	Rob K Watson	TK	Trevor Kerry
RC	Robert Carr	TML	Trevor Lee
RHr	Robert Hardy	TW	Trevor Williams
RTi	Robert Titman	Twi	Twitter
RWk	Robert Walker	Unk	Unknown
RJo	Robin Jones	VJ	Vic Jay
RNH	Roger Hebb	VF	Vin Fleming
RLb	Roger Labbett	WG	Wayne Gillatt
RWr	Roger Wardle	WBR	Whisby Nature Park Bird Report
RCI	Ron Clarke		
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Lincolnshire Bird Club Car Stickers

£0.50 + stamped address envelope

All the above are available from LBC c/o Bill Sterling, "Newlyn",
5 Carlton Avenue, Healing, N.E. Lincs, DN41 7PW,
Tel No 01472 887988, E mail wbsterling@hotmail.com