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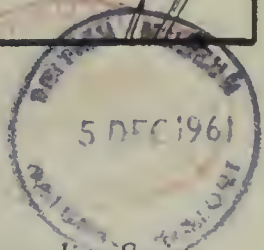
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# THE NORFOLK BIRD REPORT



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# THE NORFOLK BIRD REPORT

## 1958

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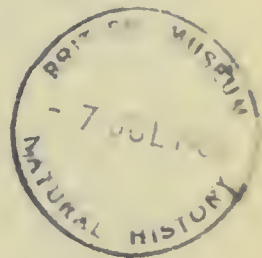


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YARMOUTH (GREAT) NATURALISTS'  
SOCIETY

(Published June, 1960)



# The Norfolk Bird Report

## 1958



17 AUG 1958  
REBENTEC

### INTRODUCTION.

The Council of the Norfolk Naturalists Trust, in co-operation with the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists Society, is pleased to present to members the annual report on the birds of Norfolk.

Although there was no severe weather early in the year, white-fronted geese were present in the Breydon area in larger numbers than for several winters; 1,200 were estimated. Very few pink-footed geese appeared. Higher up the Yare valley, 78 bean geese wintered and among them was a lesser white-fronted goose—the fourth fully authenticated county record. In north Norfolk, brent geese peaked at 2,200 birds. The most exciting visitor on this coast during January was the immature white-tailed eagle, which later in the winter spent its time on the Wash. One, perhaps the same, was seen also on the Suffolk coast. Another interesting bird of prey was the probable marsh hawk (*Circus cyaneus hudsonius*) which arrived at Cley in October, 1957. It was last seen on April 13th having been a regular visitor to the marshes and heathland.

A further influx of waxwings began early in January; the largest numbers were at Cromer including a flock of 50. Smaller numbers reached the centre of Norwich where they attracted attention as they fed fearlessly on berries. The most remarkable occurrence during March was a kite at Ridlington on the 3rd—the first county record for almost 80 years. One, possibly the same bird, was watched near Brampton in Suffolk the following day, whilst a kite was also recorded at Kelling on the 22nd.

Unusual numbers of avocets appeared during April when there were 14 at Cley. Large numbers of blackbirds appeared on the east and north coasts of Norfolk on March 30th and again on April 5th and 6th. Goldcrests, a firecrest and Continental robins were seen at the same time. They were almost certainly emigrants turning back after an abortive attempt to cross the North Sea in adverse wind and weather. This exodus was resumed on April 17th. It was a cold spring and flocks of redwing were much in evidence between April 13th and 20th. A small influx of blue-headed wagtails reached Cley on the 23rd. Then the first two days of May saw a large movement of black terns with 160 at Rockland Broad. This invasion was probably caused by an anti-cyclone then covering much of Europe and Britain, fog in the early morning of the 1st all along the Dutch coast and easterly winds in the North Sea. Other May visitors of special note included purple heron, little bittern, kite, osprey, two woodchat-shrikes and two ortolan buntings.

A number of nests were reported in unusual sites. They included a carrion crow's on the top spar of an electricity pylon near

Lower Thurlton ; a blackbird's in the basket of a bicycle at Hunstanton ; a robin's in a rush bag in a Mulbarton garage and another robin's in the top of a sack of coke at Norwich City station. Within a few yards of the latter nest was a blackbird's with young on an angle-iron bracket on the side of a railway wagon. This wagon had been moved several hundred yards since the eggs were laid. In the grounds of St. Andrew's hospital a pair of rooks selected as a nest site an ornamental wrought-iron globe set at a height of about 60 feet at the top of a water tower. In farm buildings at Stratton St. Michael wrens took over an old swallow's nest, roofed it with moss, and reared a family. Quite close by was a new swallow's nest with young. At Ashby St. Mary a wren regularly fed a brood of robins after one of their parents had been killed. A hen blackbird built a double nest (with two cups) and used only one of them for her eggs. At Wheatfen a chaffinch reared her brood in a blackbird's nest which she stole from its owner. A pied wagtail used a blackbird's nest directly the owner had finished with it. Another blackbird built her nest in the engine of a tractor, completing the work and laying her eggs at intervals when the tractor was not in use. A young cuckoo was found in a blackbird's nest whilst a pair of swallows reared a young cuckoo at Buckenham Tofts. Spotted flycatchers nested in a hanger at Marham aerodrome. Late nests included a song thrushes' at Blakeney where a young bird did not leave the nest until October 4th and a bearded tit's at Hickling with young on September 20th.

The breeding season was of great interest. On the coast, over 1,500 pairs of Sandwich terns and 2,500 pairs of common terns nested, whilst two pairs of kittiwakes nested for the first time at Blakeney Point. There is only one previous nesting record for the county (Scolt Head, 1946). Large numbers of kittiwakes again summered on the Norfolk coast, together with many eider-ducks. A census of breeding black-headed gulls produced a county total of some 1,950 pairs, but the large gullery at Scoulton Mere which has been famous for more than three centuries was deserted. The reason for this sudden abandonment has not been discovered, but the gulls may have been unduly disturbed by the increasing numbers of Canada geese and coypus. In the Broads area, over 55 pairs of bearded tits and 4 pairs of marsh harriers bred. The only breeding Montagu's harriers were again located in the Breck. At Breydon, short-eared owls and pintail nested successfully ; pintail also nested at Cley. Black redstarts bred at Cromer and Yarmouth and blue-headed wagtails at Salthouse. At least 24 fulmar petrels were reared, whilst 322 pairs of nesting herons were counted. Only 2 pairs of collared doves nested and no new breeding localities have been found since the initial " discovery " in 1956. Stonechats bred for the first time since 1945. 68 occupied house-martins' nests were counted at Oxburgh Hall and 44 pairs nested on a farmhouse at Thompson.

Two spoonbills stayed for over a month during the summer at Breydon, quail were reported at half a dozen localities in north Norfolk and there was a small irruption of crossbills in mid-July. A glaucous gull spent the summer on the north coast. In August, the most noteworthy event was the discovery of a great spotted cuckoo dead at Winterton. Other rarities during the month included a little bittern at Cley, an Alpine swift at Trimmingham and an aquatic warbler at Holme.

The autumn passage of waders produced few surprises, with the exception of single dotterel, 4 Temminck's stints, 2 avocets and a black-winged stilt. There was, however, an impressive passage of whimbrel during August. Curlew-sandpipers and little stints were scarce, particularly the former. Among the sea birds in early autumn, half-grown razorbills accompanied by their parents were off the north Norfolk coast in the first days of August. Peak numbers of gannets were in early September. More pomatorhine and long-tailed skuas were seen than usual.

In early September, a spectacular drift of outgoing north European summer visitors was noted along the Norfolk coast. At Cley and Blakeney Point during this exciting period no fewer than 10—12 wrynecks were recorded, at least 10 different bluethroats, 6—8 ortolan buntings, 4 each of icterine warbler and red-backed shrike and 3 barred warblers. Also recorded were black redstart (2 on 4th), sedge-warblers, chiffchaffs, wood warblers (singles on August 30th and on September 3rd), reed-warbler and a red-breasted flycatcher on the 13th. A rustic bunting (the second county record) was present from 10th—13th, wheatear influxes were noted on 15th and 17th—18th and yellow wagtail passages on 5th and 7th. Lapland buntings were noted on 12th and 15th (2 each day) and on 18th (3). Migration records for Cley and Blakeney Point taken from Cley Observatory Log between late August and mid-September are given below :

	<i>August</i>				<i>September</i>												
	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wryneck ...	...	...	...	...		1	3	8	3	5	4		3		1	1	
Wheatear ...	...	10	1		20	30	50	150	100	20	10			1	10	3	
Whinchat ...	...	4	4	2	6	25	20	10	5	5	1	1	2	2	2	2	14
Redstart ...	...	1		1	1	10	100	150	60	50	13	10	20	2	1	1	12
Bluethroat...	...							2	6	4	3	3	1		1		
Grasshopper W.	...			1		3	1	2	1								
Icterine W.	...						3	1							1		
Barred W....	...				1	1	1		1								
Blackcap ...	...				1			2	1								1
Garden W.	...		1		10	35	70	70	30	30						1	1
Whitethroat	...	1		2	2	2	3	10	10	30	30	3		1		1	4
Lesser White	...				1		1	3	2								
Willow W....	...	3	6	2	5	6	100	200	200	100	100	45	+		2	3	
Spotted Fly	...				1		3	25	50	2							
Pied Fly ...	...	10	2	4	3	5	50	50	50	40	15	1		7	1	1	5
Tree Pipit ...	...				2		25	20	20	10	5				1	1	
Red-B. Shrike	...				1	1	1		2	1							
Ortolan Bunting	...						3	6	3	2	1	1	1	1	1		



A hoopoe at Salthouse on August 30th was succeeded by another at Blakeney for a week from September 4th. A juvenile red-footed falcon was at Holme from the 13th—16th and a juvenile bee-eater at Morston on the 17th. At Scolt Head, peak numbers of migrants were on September 4th when there were hundreds of willow warblers, 50 redstarts, a black redstart, 24 pied flycatchers, 22 whinchats and 200 wheatears, also 2 ortolan buntings. The same day, in the pines at Holkham were over 200 pied flycatchers. Redstarts, wheatears and pied flycatchers were also noted at many coastal localities between Hunstanton and Yarmouth during the first week of September. At Cromer, on the evening of the 1st, a pied flycatcher was perching on the coloured illuminations along the sea-front.

In October there was a remarkable number of late swift records. Starling passage began on the 18th and was on an exceptionally large scale between then and the 25th with flock after flock coming in from the sea along the east coast and equally large numbers travelling westwards along the north coast. Large numbers of starlings were reported on the light-vessels off the Norfolk coast during this period. Even fog signals did not prevent them from occupying every possible perch. One night the rigging of the Outer Dowsing was crowded with several thousand birds all of which were later forced on to the deck by high winds. One bird which struck the Dudgeon had been ringed as a nestling in south Sweden in 1957; another, found dead on the Inner Dowsing was bearing a Russian ring. Very great numbers of chaffinches appeared between October 19th and 27th, while the main autumn blackbird movement began October 19th and continued well into December. November 4th was another day of heavy movement in east Norfolk with very great numbers of starlings arriving from the sea, together with fieldfares, redwing and lapwing. That night, the calls of waders, redwing and blackbirds were constantly heard over Norwich. On November 3rd 83 blackbirds were counted on a field at Wiveton; there were over 200 in House Hills, Scolt Head, on the 19th and a large influx at Cromer on the 21st when many struck the lifeboat house light there. On the night of December 22nd/23rd blackbirds, skylarks and fieldfares struck the lantern of the Dudgeon light-vessel and among them was a blackbird ringed in Sweden the previous August.

Following a build-up in south Scandinavia, waxwings again reached the Norfolk coast in numbers from November 19th and two days later there was an influx of woodcock in north Norfolk. A red-breasted goose at Breydon November 10th—30th was considered an escape as it carried a red ring. During December, up to 100 Lapland buntings were present on Morston saltings. In the same month 50 ruffs remained at Wisbech Sewage Farm.

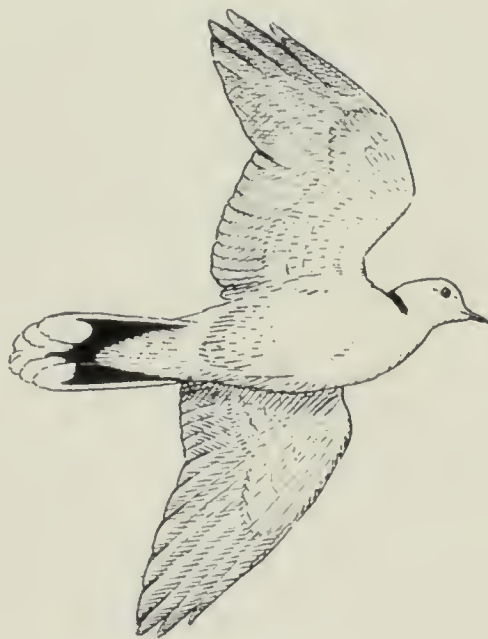
Among the many interesting ringing recoveries will be found a Swedish curlew  $31\frac{1}{2}$  years old, an oystercatcher ringed at Scolt Head which reached Morocco, winter records of common and Sandwich

terns in West Africa, teal from the U.S.S.R. and shoveler from Finland.

Varieties reported included an all-white sanderling at Holkham, an all-white ringed plover at Salthouse, a steel-grey swallow at Thornage and a white one at Warham; white house-martins at Wiveton and Walsingham, and a cream one at Thornage and Brinton; all-white blackbirds at Attleborough, Necton, Yarmouth and Norwich, a cream-coloured one at Sparham and pied ones at Brisley and Overstrand; partly white starlings at Dilham, Brancaster and Hardley; a cream-coloured house-sparrow at Binham and partly white ones at Holt and Thorpe. 235 species of birds were recorded in the county during the year.

We are indebted to Mr. R. A. Richardson for the cover drawing of black terns and other delightful illustrations; also to Mr. R. P. Bagnall-Oakeley, Dr. K. J. Carlson, Mr. R. Gaze, Mr. P. D. Kirby and Mr. W. J. Woolston for their photographs; to the Cambridge Bird Club; to the Gt. Yarmouth Naturalists Society for light-vessel notes, to the Trinity House Depot at Yarmouth and to all other contributors.

Records for the 1959 Report should be sent *by the end of January* to Mr. Michael J. Seago, 33 Acacia Road, Thorpe, Norwich. Records should be in Check List order rather than in diary form.



*Collared Dove*

## Notes on Breeding Birds of the Norfolk Nature Reserves.



SCOLT HEAD ISLAND  
(The Nature Conservancy)

WARDEN : R. CHESTNEY

The Warden's records show that the number of birds breeding on the island does not vary a great deal from year to year, except for fluctuation in regard to the colony of terns, but the number of young which survive depends to some extent on local conditions. The season under review was notable for its abnormal rainfall, with cold winds from time to time which must affect ground-nesting birds, particularly terns, in such an exposed area ; moreover, there was an absence of suitable food (whitebait) near at hand. Mortality among young in large bird communities is known to be high and the combination of circumstances this season increased the loss of common tern chicks, very few of which survived to fly.

**Mallard.**—It was a good breeding year for mallard, and seven nests were found, the first on House Hills on April 1st.

**Sheld-Duck.**—Large numbers returned to the area in February. A number were paired in early April and on May 7th 147 pairs were counted in the Cockle Bight and marshes adjoining the island. Three nests were examined on May 12th, in one of which were seventeen eggs—possibly laid by two ducks. The first brood of nine young was seen on June 19th ; but the majority of young did not survive the cold wet weather.

**Red-Legged Partridge.**—No nest was found but one pair with four young were seen later.

**Oystercatcher.**—An estimated number of ninety pairs nested. All the usual sites were occupied by April 11th but the first eggs were not found until April 28th. Most pairs reared from one to three young.



**Ringed Plover.**—An estimated number of 200 pairs bred on the island. It was fortunate that the majority of young hatched during one of the brief fine spells of weather and on the whole the season was a successful one.

**Redshank.**—Nineteen pairs reared young. Each pair took their young down to the nearby marshes within forty-eight hours of hatching.

**Black-headed Gull.**—There was a small colony of 40 pairs on the marshes east of House Hill, but only eight pairs successfully reared young.

**Common Tern.**—1,200 nests were counted on June 9th, rather more than last year. Birds were first seen on the Far Point on April 21st. A number were settled on the breeding area on May 12th, and the first nest, with one egg, was found on May 15th. The peak of the egg-laying period was reached from May 25th–June 1st. The first young were hatched on the Far Point on June 5th. Food was not plentiful inshore, and the average time taken for birds to bring in fish was twenty minutes and even longer during the neap tides. The sand-eels were often too large for the young and whitebait so scarce that they constituted only one in twenty of the fish brought in. The young, left uncovered for so long, suffered from cold wind and rain and also from the depredations of greater black-backed gulls. It was inevitable in these circumstances that a high percentage died.

**Arctic Tern.**—These were heard calling over the Far Point on May 4th and again on May 15th and a pair was identified on the ternery area on May 23rd. A nest, with one egg, was found on May 28th and there were three eggs on the 30th. This nest was well below high tide mark and was moved gradually a distance of forty feet to a safe site, but the birds did not appear to be disturbed. The first egg hatched on June 19th and the other two on the 21st and 22nd, but none of the young survived.

**Little Tern.**—Twenty-nine nests were counted. The first arrivals were seen on April 21st; the first nest, with two eggs, was found on May 15th and the first young hatched on June 6th. Nineteen young were seen on the wing but it is thought that more survived to fly.

**Sandwich Tern.**—A total of 348 nests, in four groups, was recorded on June 7th. Birds were first seen on April 14th, and on April 30th nest scraping began. Hatching was in progress on June 21st in very poor weather, and a number of chicks died. A remarkable instance of shortage of food was that of a three weeks old bird eating a day-old common tern chick—the first time that such an incident has been recorded. The

last nest hatched on July 13th. At the end of the season, 240 young birds reached the free flying stage; 182 chicks were ringed on June 23rd.

**Short-Eared Owl.**—No nest was found but a pair bred on the south side of Norton Creek. Young birds were seen frequently on the Island in July and August.

**Swallow.**—None nested at the Hut this year.

**Yellow Wagtail.**—At least two pairs bred on the Island.

**Linnet.**—Twenty-five nests were found—an increase on previous years.



BLAKENEY POINT  
(The National Trust)

WARDEN : W. EALES

The following summary on the breeding birds shows the season to have been of much interest in spite of the consistently cold wet weather. The colony of Sandwich terns, estimated at 800 pairs, shows an increase on last year's number and the two pairs of kittiwakes which nested among them provided a new record for Blakeney Point. It was a great disappointment that the two young kittiwakes died five days after hatching following a period of very heavy rain. Common tern chicks were also badly affected but the majority of young Sandwich terns survived to fly. A glaucous gull with some greater black-backed gulls gave the Warden and his assistants some anxiety and one kittiwake's nest was destroyed by these marauders. An egg-collector also caused some excitement and when caught was found to have picked up several Sandwich tern's eggs and one kittiwake egg. He was later charged at Holt Police Court and fined. Incidentally, the kittiwake's egg was replaced in the nest within twenty minutes of its removal and was one of the two which eventually hatched. A disturbance of a lighter nature was made by a hare which ran through the ternery pursued and attacked by a number of angry birds.

**Sheld-Duck.**—An estimate was made of thirty nesting pairs. The breeding birds were paired by the second week in April, rather later than usual.

**Red-Legged Partridge.**—One nest found and a brood reared.

**Oystercatcher.**—These were as numerous as usual; and seventy-two nests were marked. The first nest was found on the Far Point on May 6th. The first chicks hatched on June 7th and the last on July 22nd.

**Ringed Plover.**—Forty-seven nests were marked. Although pairing began at the end of March the first nest with eggs was not found until May 2nd, and the peak was reached in the third week of May.

**Redshank.**—Forty-seven nests were found, the first, with three eggs, on May 8th. The first young hatched on May 28th. The very exposed area of the Old Ternery was again the site of a number of nests.

**Kittiwake.**—A few were seen on the Point at the end of May and on June 13th; two pairs were found to be nesting among the Sandwich terns. On the following day there were two eggs in one nest and one in the other, but this second nest was destroyed by a greater black-backed gull. The two young hatched on July 8th and 9th, but were found dead on July 14th. An examination showed them to have died of congestion of the lungs.

**Common Tern.**—1,140 nests were marked. The first, with two eggs, was found on May 17th but the majority of eggs were laid in early June. The first young were seen on June 24th. Although an estimated number of 75 per cent hatched, only a relatively small proportion survived to fly. This was partly due to the shortage of whitebait inshore which resulted in the young being left too long in adverse weather. Twenty young birds were ringed.

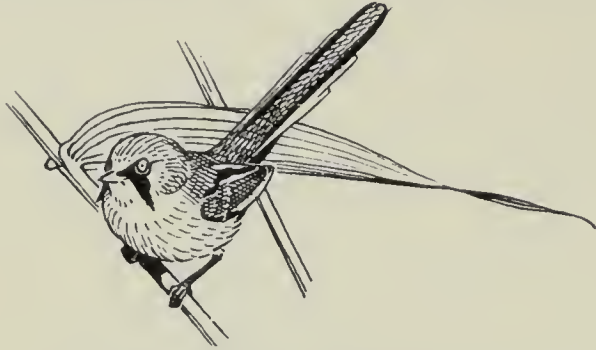
**Arctic Tern.**—One pair nested and reared two young.

**Little Tern.**—Eighty-four nests were marked, considerably less than last year. The first arrivals were seen on April 21st. A nest with one egg was found on May 12th and the first chicks hatched on June 8th.

**Sandwich Tern.**—An estimate of 800 pairs nested in the same area as last year. Birds were seen on April 17th, but did not begin to settle on the nesting site until May 3rd. After this the number increased steadily well into June. The first young were noted on June 9th and at an estimate 95 per cent of the eggs hatched. The loss of chicks was not unduly high; young Sandwich terns are not so dependant on whitebait for food as the young Common terns and there was a plentiful supply of sand-eels. 416 chicks were ringed. An interesting recovery was a young bird ringed on the Point in July which was picked up dead 250 miles north in Aberlady Bay in East Lothian.

**Linnet.**—Twenty-five nests, several of which were found in the lupins near the Tea-house.

**Skylark.**—Forty-five nests were found in the dune area round the Tea-house and there were more in the vicinity of the Hood.



CLEY AND SALTHOUSE  
(The Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

WARDEN : W. F. BISHOP

Although the summer was one of the wettest in memory it was not a cold one and there was an abundance of insect life on the marshes. It was, therefore, a good breeding season for birds dependant on this sort of food. Bitterns did not fare well ; there were fewer pairs and only three young were reared. Shovelers appear to be increasing in the area.

**Bittern.**—Booming was first heard on March 4th. Two nests were found and the young in the earlier one hatched on May 17th. Three young were reared in the two nests.

**Mallard.**—The number of breeding birds, estimated at 200 pairs, shows an increase on last year's total for the area. The first nest, with nine eggs, was found on April 2nd—a good deal later than usual. In July and August approximately 400 mallard were on the Big Pool daily.

**Teal.**—No nests were found but there was evidence of four pairs on Cley marshes and of more in the adjoining area.

**Garganey.**—The first arrivals were seen on March 17th. One pair nested but only two young were reared.

**Shoveler.**—Eight pairs bred and a number of young birds were on the wing at the end of July.

**Gadwall.**—At least one pair nested on the marsh and the duck was seen later with young.

**Pintail.**—One pair bred on the marsh for the first time.

**Sheld-Duck.**—The normal number of pairs in the area was well maintained. A large number of young were present on Arnold's Marsh from June until August.



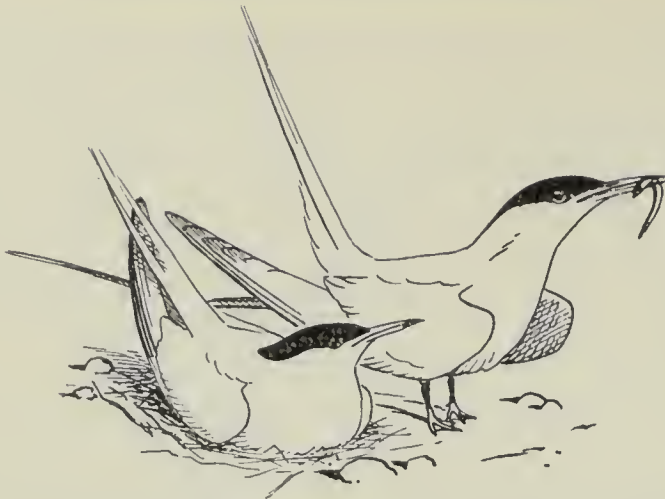
- Water-Rail.**—No nests were found although birds were frequently heard on the marsh.
- Oystercatcher.**—Three pairs nested but the young suffered from the wet season and only three were reared.
- Lapwing.**—These appear to be increasing. An estimated number of eighty pairs bred, most of them on nearby arable land.
- Ringed Plover.**—Very few pairs nested on the mudflats which were much too wet for them. Hardly any young were reared, and most of those hatched died within a few days.
- Redshank.**—The estimated number of pairs was not quite up to average. Some of the first nests were raided by carrion-crows, but in spite of this initial loss the birds had a very fair season. The young were not so badly affected by the weather as other waders.
- Stone-Curlew.**—Two nests were found near the Reserve but it is doubtful if the young survived.
- Common Tern.**—A few pairs attempted to nest on the Salthouse marshes but were not successful in rearing any young.
- Little Tern.**—The number of nests on the shingle beach was less than last year. A fair number of young were reared and later were seen on the wing.
- House-Martin.**—The first birds arrived considerably later than usual. Only fourteen pairs nested on the Warden's house, many less than hitherto, but with the abundant food available they reared large broods.
- Bearded Tit.**—The five birds, two males and three females, which remained on the marsh throughout the winter had a good breeding season, rearing a number of young. The first nestlings hatched on April 26th.
- Reed- and Sedge-Warblers.**—Both species were late in arriving and reed-warblers were not heard until April 26th. However, eventually there were as many as usual on the marsh, and they had an excellent season.

## RANWORTH

(The Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

KEEPER : R. BROWNE

Records of the birds breeding on and around Ranworth and Cockshoot broads show that the number of most species remains fairly constant from year to year. There were nine pairs of great crested grebes at Ranworth and all reared their young. The thirty-eight occupied nests in the Big Carr heronry shows an increase of three pairs on the total for the previous year.

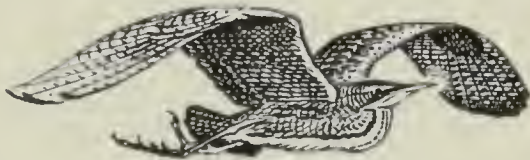


It is interesting to note that cormorants are using trees on the edge of the Carr for roosting ; the site is similar to those used by breeding colonies in Holland. The number of these birds at Ranworth has increased so much in recent winters that their inroads on the fish is viewed with some concern.

The season, with its abundance of insect life, proved an excellent one for mallard. At least 200 pairs bred but they are spread over such a large area that an accurate count is impossible. Teal prefer nesting sites on the edge of the broads and the number breeding is easier to assess. The estimate for the area is from sixty to seventy nests. Shovelers have decreased to some extent in recent years and only twenty pairs nested this season. Less sedge is cut than in the past and the available ground is probably too rough for them.

Six pairs of common terns returned to the broad in the Spring and three pairs nested on one of the old wherries. The nests contained one, two and three eggs respectively ; four young were reared. The wherries are disintegrating very fast now and it is doubtful whether the terns will be able to use them as nesting sites much longer.

There was no evidence of bearded tits nesting although, as usual, a number were present near the broad throughout the winter.



HICKLING  
(The Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

WARDENS : E. PIGGIN assisted by G. E. BISHOP

The breeding season was a very good one again for bearded tits and other insectivorous birds and the number of these was well up to average with the exception of house-martins, which arrived



very late. Ground-nesting birds did not do so well. Coypus have been very numerous, and have destroyed acres of sedge, in which bitterns normally nest.

**Great Crested Grebe.**—The number of twelve breeding pairs in the area remains almost constant. Six nests were found, the first, with two eggs, on April 23rd. An interesting observation made on May 17th was a vicious attack made by a grebe on a mute swan which had ventured too near to its nest. There were three nests in Heigham Sounds; an adult bird was seen here carrying its young on its back in the usual way.

**Heron.**—Ten nests were counted on April 14th, two in Whiteslea wood, six in the Sounds wood and two in the General's wood.

**Bittern.**—Booming was first heard on March 28th, considerably later than usual. Single birds were seen throughout the year; two were flushed near the Lodge on March 21st and three were seen in flight on July 27th and September 24th. Five pairs were believed to have bred in the area, but no nests were found.

**Mallard.**—There were fewer pairs than usual and nesting was later. A brood of eight was seen on April 28th and a nest, with eight eggs, was found in Catfield Dyke on May 8th, and another on May 10th. An estimated total of forty pairs bred on the surrounding marshes.

**Garganey.**—The first arrival was seen on March 31st. On April 6th there were three pairs on Rush Hills and others were seen later. Two pairs were known to have bred; the nest of one of these, with nine eggs, was found on the marshes near the Lodge.

**Shoveler.**—Several pairs were seen and a nest with nine eggs was found on Deary's marsh on April 23rd.

**Sheld-Duck.**—A brood of six was feeding on Rush Hills on June 16th.

**Mute Swan.**—Eight nests were found, with from three to nine eggs, the first on April 8th. The wintering herd reached a maximum of 425 birds.

**Marsh-Harrier.**—There were three nests, the first of which was found on May 7th. In two of these broods of five young were hatched; but the third, near Meadow Dyke, was deserted with three eggs, probably following disturbance by yachtsmen. Nine young birds were ringed on June 24th, and it was seen then that they were being fed on small coypu.

**Montagu's Harrier.**—None nested in the Horsey/Hickling area.

- Water-Rail.**—A nest with four eggs was found near the Lodge on May 28th. Two more, from which young had been hatched, were discovered by marshmen cutting sedge.
- Lapwing.**—The first three nests, with eggs, were found on the marsh meadows near the Lodge on April 10th. Six more were counted on April 23rd on Chapman's marshes. A good average number of approximately twenty pairs bred.
- Common Snipe.**—A few pairs bred but no nests were found.
- Redshank.**—These were late returning to Hickling and were first heard on March 5th. The first nest, with two eggs, was found on April 28th. An estimate of from fifteen to twenty pairs bred.
- Common Tern.**—A pair arrived on Rush Hills on May 2nd and two pairs were found to be nesting on May 12th. Unfortunately one clutch of eggs was taken by some predator, probably a carrion-crow or gull, and only one brood of young was reared.
- Barn-Owl.**—A pair occupied the box at the Lodge and three young were hatched on July 29th. Later, when almost ready to fly, these were found turned out of the nest and dead.
- House-Martin.**—A few arrived at the Lodge on May 22nd, much later than usual, and there were only two nests. The birds left on September 27th.
- Swallow.**—Two pairs nested—one in the boathouse and the other in the garage. They left on September 12th.
- Bearded Tit.**—Although the number did not reach last year's record total it was a very good season and 25 to 30 pairs were distributed round the Broad and Sounds. Food was plentiful and in spite of the wet season the majority of young were reared. The first nest, with four eggs, was found on April 29th, and breeding continued right into September. A very late nest, with two young, was found on September 20th. An abnormally large clutch of eight eggs was found in a nest at Heigham Corner on May 29th.
- Grasshopper-Warbler.**—It was judged from the number seen and heard that these were more plentiful than in the previous year. The first was heard on April 26th.
- Reed-Warbler.**—The first arrivals were heard on May 5th, considerably later than usual, but eventually there were as many as usual.
- Sedge-Warbler.**—The first birds arrived on April 18th; also rather a late date, but they were as numerous as ever and had an excellent season.



HORSEY  
(MAJOR ANTHONY BUXTON)  
KEEPER : G. CREES

In November 1957, a pair of nuthatches appeared in the Hall gardens at Horsey and fed regularly on nuts at a bird table. They stayed to nest successfully in a nest box but disappeared in the autumn. This is the first occasion that nuthatches have been known to breed at Horsey since at least 1931.

Oystercatchers returned to the marshes on March 28th and although five birds were present during the summer none nested. The first bittern was heard booming March 30th. There were five booming males; one nest was found. As usual, great crested grebes were on the Mere in early spring, but again none stayed to nest. Water-rails again left before the nesting season.

A male Montagu's harrier appeared May 10th and a female three days later, but they did not stay to nest. In early spring, it was hoped that three pairs of marsh-harriers would breed at Horsey, but in the end only one pair nested, laid only two eggs and hatched only one chick which eventually flew. At the end of the year, seven marsh-harriers (one female and the others immature birds) were at Horsey. One shoveler's nest was found. It is believed to be the only record of shoveler breeding here since the 1938 sea flood.

At least twenty-five pairs of bearded tits nested around Horsey Mere and the first nest, containing two young and three eggs was found May 12th. Some second clutches were lost as a result of high water and heavy rain. Five nests on the north bank of the Mere were found completely under-water, but other bearded tits' nests on the Brayden side of the Mere were on higher ground. Nests of sedge-warblers and reed-buntings also suffered disaster. In some cases, apparently owing to the weight of rain, reed-warblers' nests slid down the reeds into the water.



SCROBY SANDS  
(ROBIN H. HARRISON)

The first visit in 1958 was made on June 1st and it was found that a large area at the north-east corner of the sandbank had been scoured away during the winter. 125 common terns' nests, 149 Sandwich terns' nests and seven little terns' nests were counted.

A second visit was made on June 15th when 250 common terns' nests and 327 Sandwich terns' nests were found. One common tern chick had just hatched. Several Kittiwakes were flying over the island.

A week later, on June 22nd, the first young terns were ringed : fifty-one common tern chicks and one Sandwich tern chick. Bad weather prevented any further landing on Scroby until July 6th. A large colony of about 300 Sandwich terns' nests was then found and many of the eggs were hatching, whilst large numbers of young common terns were running over the sands. This trip was the most successful of the season and 102 young Sandwich terns and fifteen young common terns were ringed.

On July 13th, a strong south-west to west wind, with heavy showers, brought an abnormally high tide and caused a number of losses among the young terns. This was discovered on July 20th when a further ten common terns and three Sandwich terns were ringed. Quite a number of juvenile common terns were safely on the wing.

Large numbers of common and Sandwich terns remained at Scroby on July 27th and there were a few late common terns' nests with eggs. A considerable number of kittiwakes was seen. The 1958 breeding season was not as successful as that of the previous year, but it is the fourth year in succession that numbers of young terns have reached the free-flying stage.

A late trip was made to Scroby on August 24th when a large number of sanderling was feeding at the water's edge. Four purple sandpipers were seen, together with many dunlin. Hundreds of greater black-backed gulls had assembled on the Island and there were eighty kittiwakes and a score of cormorants.





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R. Gaze

Kittiwakes nested at Blakeney Point for the first time. The upper photograph shows one of the two nesting sites, while the lower depicts the first kittiwake chicks to be hatched in Norfolk. Unfortunately, no young were reared. A nest was also recorded at Scott Head in 1946, but the eggs did not hatch.







Copyright

Very little of Breckland remains in its natural state and many stone-curlew now nest in the forest rides and also on arable land which has to be disturbed by cultivation. On the remaining heathlands, the almost complete absence of rabbits leaves the grass too tall for these birds. Certain areas have now been ploughed in the hope that the stone-curlews will return. This photograph was taken at a regular breeding site within eight miles of Norwich.

Dr. K. J. Carlson



*Woodchat-shrike*

CLEY BIRD OBSERVATORY  
(The Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

WARDEN : R. A. RICHARDSON

Bird ringing, the daily estimate of all species in the area and assisting visiting bird-watchers continued to be the main work of the Observatory in 1958. The registered ringing team was responsible for the year's total of 1,074 birds of ninety-four species and seven, appearing for the first time on the Observatory's ringing list are Montagu's barrier, magpie, grey wagtail, blue-headed wagtail, woodchat shrike, ortolan and rustic bunting. Other noteworthy captures included wryneck, ring ouzel, bluethroat, seven black redstarts, three icterine warblers, barred warbler, great grey shrike and five snow buntings. A selection of the more important recoveries reported during the year follows this Report. The work of the nineteen Bird Observatories recently gained added importance with the appointment by the British Trust for Ornithology of Mr. Kenneth Williamson as migration research officer. A grant from the Nuffield Foundation has made this appointment possible and Mr. Williamson, formerly Director of the Fair Isle Bird Observatory, has already microfilmed much data from previous years for subsequent analysis; has achieved agreement on the standardization of recording techniques and is editing a new twice-yearly publication of the B.T.O. entitled *Bird Migration*.

In addition, Cley Observatory was able to assist Dr. David Lack in his radar studies of migration by providing evidence and confirmation of species involved.

The two "Heligoland" traps on the Salthouse boundary continued to prove their value by reason of their ready accessibility while the nylon mist-nets came into their own on Blakeney Point during the great fall of drift-migrants in early September.

The Observatory is open throughout the year and prospective visitors can book cottage or hotel accommodation in Cley and district, full details of which are obtainable from the Warden at Hill-top, Cley, Holt, Norfolk.

## CLEY BIRD OBSERVATORY RINGING PROGRESS.

Species	1949 1957	1958	Grand Totals	Total Recov- eries*	Species	1949 1957	1958	Grand Totals	Total Recov- eries*
Little Grebe	1		1		Tree Creeper	16	1	17	
Manx Shearwater	1		1		Wren	56	8	64	1
Fulmar	28	17	45	1	Dipper (Black bellied race)	1		1	
Heron	16	6	22	3	Mistle Thrush	37	7	44	
Bittern	3	1	4	1	Fieldfare	9		9	
Mallard	16	1	17	4	Song Thrush	440	66	506	5
Teal	2		2		Redwing	14		14	
Wigeon	3		3	1	Ring Ouzel	1	1	2	
Scaup	8		8	1	Blackbird	780	114	894	16
Sheld-Duck	5	1	6		Wheatear—Greenland				
Brent Goose	1		1		Wheatear	131	3	134	1
Sparrow Hawk	1		1		Stonchat	8	1	9	2
Montagu's Harrier		2	2		Whinchat	26	1	27	
Kestrel	2	6	8	1	Redstart	99	20	119	
Water Rail	3		3		Black Redstart	22	7	29	
Cornerake	1		1		Nightingale	126	9	135	
Moorhen	6	2	8	1	Bluethroat	4	1	5	
Oystercatcher	26	3	29	1	Robin	461	39	500	3
Lapwing	214	59	273	1	Grasshopper Warbler	8	5	13	
Ringed Plover	61	1	62		Reed Warbler	68	6	74	
Turnstone	1	1	2		Sedge Warbler	98	13	111	6
Suipe	2	3	5		Aquatic Warbler	1		1	
Woodcock	3		3	1	Melodious Warbler	2		2	
Wood Sandpiper	3		3		Icterine Warbler	1	3	4	
Common Sandpiper	4		4		Blackcap	29	2	31	1
Redshank	34	4	38	1	Barred Warbler	4	1	5	
Knot	3		3		Garden Warbler	39	22	61	
Purple Sandpiper	3		3		Whitethroat	621	51	672	20
Dunlin	9		9	1	Lesser Whitethroat	37	2	39	
Ruff	7		7		Subalpine Warbler	1		1	
Grey Phalarope	2		2		Willow Warbler	463	34	497	1
Stone Curlew	3	4	7		Chiffchaff	37	6	44	
Common Gull	1		1		Wood Warbler	11		11	
Black-headed Gull	188	5	193	5	Goldcrest	32	12	44	
Common Tern	43	32	75		Firecrest	1		1	
Little Tern	9	1	10		Spotted Flycatcher	43	9	52	
Sandwich Tern	82		82		Pied Flycatcher	91	20	111	
Razorbill	4		4		Red-breasted Flycatcher	1		1	
Little Auk	1	1	2		Hedge Sparrow	336	38	374	
Guillemot	4		4		Meadow Pipit	300	38	338	9
Stock Dove	26	3	29	2	Tree Pipit	11	3	14	
Wood Pigeon	10	2	12	2	Rock Pipit	6	1	7	
Turtle Dove	38	6	44	4	Pied Wagtail	55	9	64	1
Collared Dove	2		2	1	White Wagtail	1		1	
Cuckoo	11	2	13		Grey Wagtail		4	4	
Barn Owl	19		19		Yellow Wagtail	110	10	120	1
Little Owl	7	3	10		Blue-headed Wagtail		5	5	
Tawny Owl	15	2	17	1	Waxwing	1		1	
Long-eared Owl	6		6		Great Grey Shrike...	2	1	3	
Short-eared Owl	10		10	3	Woodchat Shrike		1	1	
Nightjar	3	1	4		Red-backed Shrike	102	1	103	
Swift	24	2	26	2	Starling	361	17	378	7
Kingfisher	1		1		Greenfinch	667	35	702	4
Green Woodpecker	1		1		Goldfinch	28	1	29	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1		1		Linnet	371	7	378	6
Wryneck	2	1	3		Bullfinch	10	8	18	
Wood Lark	16		16		Chaffinch	591	34	625	2
Skylark	169	2	171	3	Brambling	259	16	275	1
Swallow	259	17	276	8	Yellow Bunting	146	35	181	
House Martin	25	4	29		Corn Bunting	5		5	
Sand Martin	61	3	64	1	Ortolan Bunting		1	1	
Rook	50	10	60	2	Rustic Bunting		1	1	
Jackdaw	10	8	18		Reed Bunting	188	7	195	
Magpie		3	3		Lapland Bunting	5		5	
Jay	16	1	17		Snow Bunting	170	5	175	1
Great Tit	145	32	177		House Sparrow	569	8	577	1
Blue Tit	379	72	451		Tree Sparrow	68	9	77	1
Coal Tit	28	1	29		House x Tree Sparrow				
Marsh Tit	13	2	15		Hybrid	1		1	
Willow Tit	24		24						
Long-tailed Tit	18		18						
Nuthatch	1	5	6						
					GRAND TOTALS	10,420	1,074	11,494	142

## ANNUAL RECORD

1949-50: 1,254 birds of 60 species.  
 1950-51: 1,060 birds of 57 species.  
 1951-52: 1,466 birds of 71 species.  
 1952-53: 1,017 birds of 77 species.  
 1953-54: 1,782 birds of 76 species.

1955: 1,237 birds of 73 species.  
 1956: 1,293 birds of 78 species.  
 1957: 1,311 birds of 82 species.  
 1958: 1,074 birds of 94 species.  
 1949-58: 11,494 birds of 138 species.

\*Including initial local "re-traps" of birds known or believed to have migrated since ringing, but not of residents.

## SELECTED RINGING RECOVERIES

(Notified in 1958)

*Ringed**Recovered*

	<i>Ringed</i>	<i>Recovered</i>
<b>Fulmar Petrel</b>	Cromer. 30.6.56 (full grown).	Dead in fishing net off S.W. Norway. July 1958.
<b>Heron</b> (2 nestlings)	Wiveton. 18.5.58.	Dead near Peterboro' 23.9.58 ; dead Wisbech St. Mary 19.9.58.
<b>Heron</b>	Deeping St. James, Lincs. 28.4.56 (as nestling).	Bayfield Hall, Holt. 7.2.58.
<b>Teal</b>	Staraya Russa, Novgorod Government, U.S.S.R. 10.7.57.	Brundall. 23.1.58.
<b>Teal</b>	How Hill, Ludham. 4.1.58.	Buren, Isle of Ameland (Friesland) Holland. November 1958.
<b>Mallard</b>	How Hill, Ludham. February 1955.	Near Peno (Velikie Luki), U.S.S.R. 27.4.55.
<b>Mallard</b>	How Hill, Ludham. 15.2.58.	Lake Vectilza, near Balvi, Latvian S.S.R. 31.8.58.
<b>Mallard</b>	How Hill, Ludham.	Recoveries notified from Holland (1), Norway (1), Sweden (4) and Finland (1).
<b>Pintail</b>	Oudesluis, Noord Holland. 28.11.57.	Blakeney. 22.12.57.
<b>Shoveler</b>	Near Luvia, S.W. Finland. 19.7.58 (as young).	Hickling Broad. 31.10.58.
<b>Sheld-duck</b>	Estuary of River Weser, Germany. 24.8.52. (Caught while in moult).	Wootton marshes. 26.1.55.
<b>Pink-footed Goose</b>	First ringed by netting in Lincs. 2.12.50 and given second ring on breeding grounds in Iceland. 21.7.53.	Hunstanton boating lake. 22.1.58.
<b>Marsh-Harrier</b>	Hickling Broad. 21.6.56 (as nestling).	Amiens (Somme) France. 23.8.57.
<b>Marsh-Harrier</b>	Hickling Broad. 21.6.56 (as nestling).	Near Spalding, Lincs. 3.6.57.
<b>Marsh-Harrier</b>	Hickling Broad. 24.6.58 (as nestling).	Holbeach marsh, Lincs. 14.9.58.
<b>Kestrel</b>	Thornage, Holt. 29.6.58 (as nestling).	Near Wigan, Lancs. 27.9.58.
<b>Coot</b>	Abberton Reservoir, Essex. 21.2.55. (Caught and released Hauge, Kjellerup, (Jutland) Denmark. 24.4.56).	Rockland St. Mary. 26.1.57.
<b>Oystercatcher</b>	Blakeney Point. 27.7.53 (as nestling).	Netley, near Southampton, Hants. 30.1.57.
<b>Oystercatcher</b>	Scolt Head. 1.7.58 (as young).	Imsouane, Morocco. 26.12.58.
<b>Jack Snipe</b>	Wisbech Sewage Farm. 1.10.57.	Lozere, South France. 21.11.57.
<b>Curlew</b>	Stromsholm, Vastmanland, south Sweden. 4.7.26 (as nestling). This bird was 31½ years old.	Blakeney. 25.1.58.
<b>Dunlin</b>	Amager, Denmark. 19.9.53.	King's Lynn. January 1955.
<b>Greater Black-backed Gull</b>	Rott (Rogaland), Norway. 29.6.56.	Gt. Yarmouth. 16.11.56.

<b>Herring-Gull</b>	Vardo, Norway. 19.7.55 (as nestling). The first record to be received from this northernmost part of the herring gull's breeding range in Europe.	Smith's Knoll light-vessel. 29.10.55.
<b>Common Gull</b>	Langenwerder, Poel Island, Mecklenburg, Germany. 29.6.58 (as young).	Breydon. 9.11.58.
<b>Common Gull</b>	Heroy, Vest-Agder, South Norway. 28.6.57 (as young).	Scot Head. 15.12.58.
<b>Common Gull</b>	Island of Poel, Mecklenburg, Germany. 12.7.51 (as young).	Brancaster. 10.11.58.
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>	Cley. 21.6.53 (as nestling).	Nesting where ringed 1956-58 inclusive.
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>	Eksund, Norrkoping, Sweden. 6.6.57.	Salthouse Heath. 4.5.58.
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>	Alderfen Broad. 23.6.56 (as young).	Salsburgh, Lanarkshire. 8.9.58. (295 miles N.W.).
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>	Alderfen Broad. 14.6.57 (as young).	Woodplumpton, near Preston, Lancs. 9.8.58 (190 miles W.N.W.).
<b>Common Tern</b>	Scroby Sands. 21.7.57 (as nestling).	Monrovia, Liberia. 15.6.58.
<b>Common Tern</b>	Scroby Sands. 6.7.58 (as nestling).	Joal, Senegal. 22.11.58.
<b>Common Tern</b>	Scot Head. 2.7.57 (as nestling).	Yoff, near Dakar, Senegal. 2.2.58.
<b>Common Tern</b>	Scot Head. 3.7.57.	Monrovia, Liberia. 15.6.58.
<b>Common Tern</b>	Scot Head. 30.6.58.	M'Bour, Senegal. 10.11.58;
<b>Sandwich Tern</b>	Blakeney Point. 23.6.58 (as nestling).	Dakar, Senegal. 30.10.58.
<b>Sandwich Tern</b>	Blakeney Point. 15.6.58 (as nestling).	Esmeriz, North Portugal. September 1958.
<b>Sandwich Tern</b>	Blakeney Point. 18.6.58 (as nestling).	Aberlady Bay, E. Lothian, Scotland. 24.8.58.
<b>Sandwich Tern</b>	Scot Head. 6.7.56 (as nestling).	Joal, Senegal. 5.5.57.
<b>Sandwich Tern</b> (2 nestlings)	Scot Head. 9.7.57.	Happisburgh. 17.8.57 ; Wrangle, Lincs. 15.8.57.
<b>Sandwich Tern</b> (2 nestlings)	Scot Head. 9.7.57.	Dakar, Senegal. 19.2.58 and Dakar. 30.10.58.
<b>Sandwich Tern</b> (4 nestlings)	Scot Head. 18.6.58.	Crowborough, Sussex. 26.8.58 ; two at Dakar, Senegal, 23.10.58 ; Banana, Congo River, Belgian Congo, 19.12.58.
<b>Collared Dove</b>	Norfolk Site A. 9.9.56 (nestling).	Breeding Norfolk Site B. May 1958.
<b>Tawny Owl</b>	Salthouse Heath. 20.5.56 (nestling).	Caught and released, Great Witchingham. 18.8.58.
<b>Swift</b>	Cley. 16.7.57 (adult with young).	With 2 young under same tiles. 4.7.58.
<b>Swallow</b> (B64159)	Cley. 24.9.54 (adult male).	Nested where ringed 1953-57. Returned 27.4.58 ; found dead 3.6.58.
<b>Swallow</b> (A72833)	Cley. 13.5.56 (adult female).	Nested where ringed 1957-58.



<b>Swallow</b> (E16553)	Cley. 1.9.57 (adult male).	Nested where ringed 1958.
<b>Rook</b> (2 nestlings)	Marsham, Norwich. 22.4.57.	Whissonsett. 12.4.58 ; Attleborough. 31.10.58.
<b>Great Tit</b>	Mundford near Thetford. 25.5.57 (as nestling).	Hargrave near Bury St. Edmunds. 12.10.57 (20 miles S.).
<b>Blue Tit</b>	Walberswick, Suffolk. 27.10.57.	Little Plumstead. 15.4.58 (25 miles N.N.W.).
<b>Fieldfare</b>	Heskestad (Rogaland), Norway. 1.6.55.	Haddiscoe. 1.2.56.
<b>Song-Thrush</b>	Havering near Romford, Essex. 12.2.56.	Eastmoor near Stoke Ferry. 13.7.57 (67 miles N.N.E.).
<b>Blackbird</b> (X33087)	Cley. 12.4.53 (immature male).	Resident where ringed 1953-58.
<b>Blackbird</b>	Cley. 3.1.58 (adult).	Ronde, E. Jutland, Denmark. 1.5.58.
<b>Blackbird</b> (W40029)	Cley. 31.10.55 (immature male).	Caught and released Ponteland, Northumberland. 15.3.58.
<b>Blackbird</b>	Heligoland. 13.10.58 (migrant).	Caught and released, Cley. 16.11.58.
<b>Blackbird</b>	Island of Ledskar, Bay of Lovsta, Uppland, Sweden. 20.8.58 (as adult).	Dudgeon light-vessel. 23.12.58.
<b>Continental Robin</b>	Cley. 30.3.58 (drift migrant).	Caught and released, Winterton. 18.12.58.
<b>Sedge-Warbler</b> (A12375)	Cley. 1.5.55 (adult)	Nested where ringed 1955-58.
<b>Sedge-Warbler</b> (A56730)	Cley. 22.4.57 (adult)	Nested where ringed 1958.
<b>Whitethroat</b>	Dungeness, Kent. 4.5.57.	Spixworth, near Norwich. 12.5.57. (120 miles N.).
<b>Whitethroat</b> (A56731)	Cley. 23.4.57 (adult).	Nested where ringed 1957-58.
<b>Whitethroat</b> (C31664)	Cley. 26.6.57 (juvenile).	Where ringed. 1.5.58.
<b>Whitethroat</b> (C31390)	Cley. 18.5.57 (adult).	Where ringed. 2.5.58.
<b>Whitethroat</b> (C31705)	Cley. 21.7.57 (adult).	Where ringed 5.5.58.
<b>Whitethroat</b> (A56669)	Cley. 28.5.56 (adult).	Nested where ringed 1956-58.
<b>Starling</b>	Runde (Sunn More), Norway. 6.6.57.	Haisboro' light-vessel. 24.10.57.
<b>Starling</b>	Ryda, Skaraborgs, S. Sweden. 24.5.57 (as nestling).	Dudgeon light-vessel. 19.10.58.
<b>Starling</b>	Rybatschi, Kaliningrad District, U.S.S.R. 24.4.57 (as adult).	Inner Dowsing light-vessel. 25.11.57.
	This bird was ringed at the re-named Rossitten, East Prussia, observatory which has recently been opened again by the Russians.	
<b>Starling</b>	Island of Wangeroo, East Frisian Islands. 23.7.57 (as young).	Inner Dowsing light-vessel. 25.11.57.
<b>Tree Sparrow</b>	Cley. 15.12.57.	Near Rheine, Westphalia, N. Germany. 19.11.58.
	First foreign recovery of this species.	

## NORTH NORFOLK STARLING ROOSTS, 1958

R. P. BAGNALL-OAKELEY

The very large numbers of immigrant starlings in Norfolk this winter—probably the largest ever—make it increasingly important to record some of the more significant facts regarding their roosts.

The establishment of the first of these was reported by W. G. Bailey in mid-August—a very early date—when about 5,000 birds were assembling every evening in a hawthorn thicket just north of Litcham. These were almost certainly young and non-breeding adults. This roost grew rapidly and had reached about 20,000 by the end of the month. During September the numbers fluctuated considerably and began to dwindle in October until by the 10th the roost was deserted. Small autumn roosts of this kind are observed every year in a variety of sites, though reedbeds, hawthorn thickets and low secondary growth, where woodland has been felled, are preferred. These small roosts gradually become absorbed into the very large ones which usually begin in mid-October and increase with great rapidity as and when the immigrant birds arrive. By late October almost all the smaller roosts have been evacuated, though sometimes, as was the case this year at North Creake they became occupied again as overflows to the main roosts, when these reached saturation point.

This year the North Creake roost began to be occupied in mid-October, though two small plantations about threequarters of a mile to the north of the main roost, had both been used by large numbers of birds (c. 100,000) since the beginning of the month. The huge immigration of the night of October 18th–19th and the nights and days of the following week, was reflected in the enormous build-up in numbers at the North Creake roost and the establishment of a new roost at Lower Gresham which was first occupied on 19th October. Both of these roosts continued to build up, as more and more starlings came in from abroad. In both roosts the first week in November showed very marked swelling of numbers.

An interesting point revealed by observation of homing flights to these roosts was the curious distribution of areas served by them. The smaller Gresham roost regularly accommodated all the birds using the coastal areas north of lines drawn from the site to Stiffkey and Mundesley, even though the birds in the extremities of these areas were far closer to other roosts. From the south the Gresham roost drew birds from only just north of Norwich and many of these usually flew almost parallel with the Norwich—Holt road until they reached Heydon where they either turned eastwards to a collecting area on Oulton aerodrome or joined other flocks moving north-eastwards across their line of flight on a direct route to the roosting site.

This habit of flying parallel to a nearly straight main road made the estimation of speeds of "homing" flight very easy and on ten occasions in conditions varying from flat calm to strong head and tail winds these speeds were found to vary less than two miles per hour on each side of 34 miles per hour. Previous estimates of speeds of homing to other roosts have been the same.

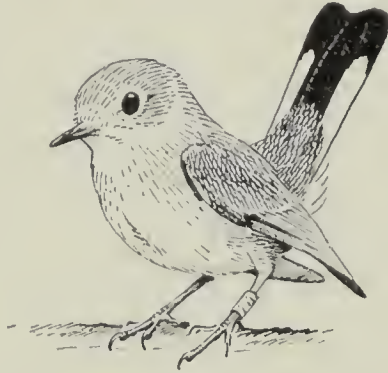
The possible use, as guide lines of such easily followed features as roads and railways, leads to an interesting point which might add weight to such a speculation—the almost complete inability of starlings to home in dense fog. On several nights this year large roosts have been almost empty, while reports of starlings crowding into trees around lighted streets and farmyards, military camps and other improbable roosting sites on these foggy nights, have confirmed that these were lost birds which failed to find their way home. Two such nights were January 15th and 31st, 1958 when flocks of starlings roosted almost anywhere from trees in Melton Constable and Briston streets to the vicinity of lighted chicken houses at North Elmham and Holt.

Two further facts are worth recording briefly. The first was the large mortality among incoming starlings on the night of October 18th–19th when low-flying birds in misty conditions appeared to have been attracted by the lights of military camps along the coast and flew into the maze of wires which all such installations possess. Most of the corpses examined lay immediately below the wires and appear to have been killed instantly by fracturing skulls or breaking necks. Indeed, the pattern of dead starlings on the ground conformed with that of the wires overhead, with those running east to west taking a far higher toll than the north to south ones. This would suggest that though the birds were attracted to the camp sites by their lights, they were trying to continue their flight landwards when they struck the wires. Examination of numerous corpses showed that the force of impact must have been considerable. Over 3,000 dead birds were counted when looking for rings, none of which was found.

The last fact relates to the sudden changes of roosting site which regularly take place at least once each winter. North Creake was evacuated overnight on December 22nd, 1957, though on several nights during the previous week only a small proportion of the total birds returned and large flocks roosted in a variety of woods and copses up to 20 miles away, as if prospecting new sites. The greater part of the North Creake birds moved to the shrubberies round Heydon Hall a distance of 17 miles. Since 32 miles appears to be the maximum that starlings will fly in returning to roosts, a considerable population of the birds which returned nightly to North Creake from the west, north-west and south-west must have formed new roosts or found others more easily within their range. This year both the big roosts were still occupied at the end of

December and numbers seem to have remained stable since a peak was reached at both sites in late November.

In compiling the notes from which these paragraphs have been written, I am grateful to numerous observers who are sufficiently interested and observant to feel that what they have seen is worth recording. I shall be grateful for any observations on starlings especially those relating to roosting habits and winter behaviour, from anyone and at any time.



*Red-breasted Flycatcher*

#### CLASSIFIED NOTES

The Wash and Fen records, which have been highly selected, have been taken from the draft of the Cambridge Bird Club Report. Important records from Wisbech Sewage Farm, part of which is on the Lincolnshire side of the county boundary, have also been included. Fuller details of these records, and of many others, may be found in the *Cambridge Bird Club Report* for 1958.

The number preceding the name of each bird refers to the *B.O.U. Check-list of the Birds of Great Britain and Ireland* (1952) where the scientific name may be found. All records refer to 1958, unless otherwise stated. Where no initials appear after a record, details have been supplied by many observers.

**1 Black-throated Diver :** North coast : Singles on twelve dates at Holme, Holkham, Wells, Cley, Salthouse and Weybourne up to May 17th and from Aug. 29th. East coast : 2 off Horsey, Oct. 12th (MJS). Inland : One, Hardley flood, March 21st–April 19th (MRR, MJS).

**2 Great Northern Diver :** North coast : One at Morston, April 7th (co) and one, in summer plumage, off Scott May 21st (PJM) are the only records.

**4 Red-throated Diver :** Inland records only are given. One long dead by river Wensum at Taverham, Jan. 7th (LWL) ; one injured near overhead cables at Wighton, Feb. 2nd (RPB-O). Broads area :



2, Horsey Mere, Jan. 9th (GC), singles at Hickling, March 25th and Oct. 13th (GEB); river Thurne at Martham, April 23rd (HCB) and Ranworth Broad, Dec. 28th (*per* PRB).

**5 Great Crested Grebe** : Summer counts of *adults* : Broads : Rockland, 24; Alderfen, 2; Hoveton Great, 16; Ranworth, 18; Hickling, 24 and Martham, 4. Breck : Didlington, 2; Stanford, 2; Mickle Mere, 9-10; Hill Mere, 3; Stradsett Lake, 4; Narford, 4; Narborough gravel pit, 2 and Thompson, 4. Other waters : Taverham gravel pits, 2; Fustyweed gravel pits, 4; Lenwade gravel pits, 2; Seamere, 10 and Holkham, 4. Wash : 100 estimated between Snettisham and Holme, November 23rd (CBC).

**6 Red-necked Grebe** : North coast : Cley : Singly on Aug. 25th (CJC), Sept. 17th and 20th, Oct. 6th-9th and Nov. 1st (CO); 4 off Blakeney Point, Nov. 23rd (CJC). Broads : Singles at Surlingham Broad, March 2nd-18th and at Rockland Broad during second week of March (EAE) and on river Chet at Hardley, April 2nd (MRR).

**7 Slavonian Grebe** : North coast : 1-4 on nine dates at Wells, Blakeney and Cley up to Feb. 9th and from Sept. 28th. Broads : One, Hickling, Jan. 22nd (EP). Wash : Hunstanton, records include 4 on Feb. 16th (CBC).

**8 Black-necked Grebe** : North coast : 2 in Brancaster harbour, Jan. 23rd-27th (RC), one at Salthouse, Feb. 20th (HM) and one at Cley, Nov. 16th (CJC). Wash : Hunstanton : 1-3 till March 16th and 3 on Nov. 23rd (CBC).

**16 Manx Shearwater** : North coast : One off Scolt, Aug. 24th (RC); Cley : one Aug. 6th and small passage second week Sept., with one on 25th.

**26 Fulmar Petrel** : Maximum number at Weybourne was 71 on April 29th (RPB-O) and 28 at Cromer, Feb. 23rd. First eggs seen May 23rd and on 26th one sitting bird was trapped at Cromer by a small cliff fall. The bird was released but the egg was broken. Breeding successes as follows : Overstrand-Cromer (one young); Cromer-East Runton (14 eggs, 11 young reared and 9 ringed); East Runton-West Runton (6 eggs, 5 young ringed); West Runton-Sheringham (4 eggs, 3 young ringed); Sheringham-Weybourne (about 4 young. At least 10 other nests robbed by boys). At least 24 young reared and 17 of them ringed. Summary by PT. First birds returned to breeding cliffs at Sheringham, Dec. 6th (*per* PRC) and at Cromer and West Runton on 18th (PT). Other interesting records : 2 flying low over Blickling Lake, May 10th; 2 attempting to land on Cromer church tower, June 27th (CDR). 1-2 at Hunstanton, April 28th (HM-G).

**27 Gannet** : Coastal records all months from April to Dec. Peak passage during first week Sept. with over 50 off Blakeney Point on 5th. Inland, one found exhausted at Gissing 25 miles from sea, April 11th, was later released at Lowestoft (*per* MJS).

**28 Cormorant** : East coast : Large numbers on Scroby Sands, Dec. 7th in groups of up to 50 (RHH).

**29 Shag** : Unusual numbers reported in Bedfordshire and neighbouring counties during Feb. During this month one picked up inland at Taverham on 25th (LWL) ; up to 4 seen at Stiffkey and 3 at Wells (HH). 10 other north coast records of singles up to April 4th and from Aug. 1st. Another inland at Hardley flood, Dec. 14th (MRR). Wash records include 4-5 at Hunstanton on March 2nd, where 7 and 3 dead birds on April 13th and 2 on 27th and May 11th (CBC).

**30 Heron** : Details of heronries as follows :

*Borders of Wash* : Snettisham, 12 nests. *Fenland* : Islington, 69 ; Denver Sluice, 28. *Breckland* : Black Dyke. Feltwell, 2 ; Wretham Park, 5 (AEV) ; Thompson Water, 2 (AWK) ; Narford Lake (occupied for first time since 1950), one (PCB). *Mid-Norfolk* : Kimberley Park, 16 (PRB). *Broads area* : General McHardy's Wood, Hickling, 2 ; Whiteslea, 2 ; Heigham Sounds Wood, 6 (EP) ; America Wood, Earsham, 14 (JWM) ; Fishley Carr, Acle, 5 ; Upton, 8 (RJ) ; Wickhampton, 31 (ETD, MJS) ; Calthorpe, one (*per* ED) ; Buckenham, 36 ; Mautby, 15 ; Ranworth, 38 (PDK, MJS) ; Ranworth Marshes (Horning Hall), one (RB) ; Ormesby Broad, one (EGS). *North Norfolk* : Melton Constable, 9 (RPB-O) ; Holkham Park (Obelisk Wood), 14 (*per* MJS) and Wiveton Hall, 4 (RGB, CO). Total, 322 nests. None nested at Horstead.

**31 Purple Heron** : Broads : One at Horsey Mere, May 10th stayed several days (GC).

**37 Little Bittern** : Broads : One at Buckenham, May 7th (*per* MJS). North coast : One at Cley, Aug. 26th (GP). Satisfactory details received.

**38 Bittern** : Breck : Probably bred at Thompson Water where birds seen and heard booming from March 29th (PJG, AWK, AEV). A new locality.

**42 Spoonbill** : Broads area : Breydon, one May 11th ; 2, 17th-24th and 2 from June 7th till July 9th (RHH). Hickling, one May 11th-17th (GEB, EP). North coast : Burnham Overy, one Aug. 25th (RPB-O). Cley, one April 25th, 2, May 10th-21st and one, Sept. 5th-15th.

**47 Garganey** : North coast : First, Cley, March 10th (HH) with 10 there April 2nd but only one pair nested (WFB). Broads area : Breeding season records from Hardley flood (MRR), Hickling and Strumpshaw Common (MJS).

**49 Gadwall** : Continues to increase in East/North Norfolk. 30 at Hickling, Feb. 20th (EP) and 15 there Sept. 26th (GEB) ; at least one successful nest at Hoveton Great Broad (MJS) ; minimum of 20 pairs at Rainham Park Lake, June 17th and 12 broods seen each with

4-9 ducklings (PCB); one successful nest at Cley marsh (WFB). Breck: Autumn/winter counts include 40 at Narford, Dec. 29th and 40-60, West Acre gravel pit, Sept. 13th-Oct. 20th (DW); 40, Mickle Mere, Dec. 27th (AEV).

**50 Wigeon**: Summer records include 7 at Breydon, May 10th (RHH) and one on 17th (MJS); 3 at Cley till mid-May.

**52 Pintail**: East coast: Breydon, maximum of 70, Feb. 28th-March 2nd falling to 50 by April 19th. One pair nested on same marsh where a pair bred successfully in 1949. 7 ducklings hatched between May 16th-17th (RHH). North coast: Maximum of 24 at Cley, March 31st and one pair bred (WFB). Fens: Ouse Washes, maximum of 2,800 on March 9th (CBC).

**53 Shoveler**: Broads area spring counts include 60 on flooded marshes, Rockland, March 4th (JES); 30 drakes Hardley flood, April 4th (MRR) and 50, Hickling, April 2nd-3rd (GEB).

**55 Scaup**: North coast: Apart from 45 at Blakeney, Oct. 6th and 50 there, Dec. 1st (WE); no party exceeded 6 in number. Broads: Pair at Rockland, March 4th April 4th and a drake on 14th (JES).

**56 Tufted Duck**: Breeding records only are given. 2-3 pairs nest regularly at Bolwick Lake (WLB). Breck: one brood, Cockley Cley Lake; 2 broods, Diddington Lake (CRK); one brood, Thompson Water (AWK) and 2 broods, Rush Mere (PH).

**57 Pochard**: Breeding records only are given. One brood, Rockland Broad (JES). Breck: Single broods, Rush Mere (PH) and Fowl Mere (PBL).

**58 Ferruginous Duck**: An adult drake, Cawston Manor Lakes, March 16th-30th. One Cley marsh, April 25th-26th (WFB) was probably the same bird.

**60 Golden-eye**: North coast: Maxima of 64, Brancaster, Feb. 6th (RC) and 44, Wells harbour, on 12th (JMF). Wash: 70, Snettisham, Jan. 26th (CBC).

**61 Long-tailed Duck**: North coast: Sheringham, 30-40, Oct. 28th-29th (EMCE). Cley, 1-2 from Jan. 12th to April 17th with 5 on Feb. 19th and a drake, Dec. 9th (CJC). Blakeney, one, Jan. 16th; 1-2 on 30th and one, March 6th (WE). Titchwell, 3, June 5th (MM). Wash: Maximum at Hunstanton, 9 on April 13th (CBC).

**62 Velvet Scoter**: North coast: Recorded all months *except* Feb., April, July and Dec., but no party exceeded 17 in number.

**67 Eider-Duck**: A remarkable year and monthly maxima for the main localities are given. North coast: *Brancaster-Titchwell*: Jan. 90; Feb. 80; March 120; April 120; May and June 100; July 80; Aug. 125; Sept. 50; Oct. 120; Nov. 180; Dec. 160. *Morston-Cley*: Jan. 15; Feb. 20; March 68; April 80; May 6;

June 60 ; July 4 ; Aug.–Nov. up to 12 ; Dec. 100. Wash : *Holme-Snettisham* : present till May 4th with 70 on March 2nd and from Sept. 13th with 70 (45 drakes) on Sept. 21st (CBC).

Also recorded at Wells harbour, Jan.–March and in May with maximum of 28 on Jan. 30th (HH) and 200 reported by whelkers about 12 miles off Wells, May–July (*per* RPB-O). East coast : 30 (9 drakes) off Waxham, Oct. 25th (DL).

**69 Red-breasted Merganser** : North coast : Recorded from usual localities up to June 2nd (when one at Brancaster) and from Sept. 25th. No party exceeded 15. Wash : On East side maximum of 50 on Jan. 26th (CBC).

**70 Goosander** : Inland records from Ormesby Broad (one, Jan. 19th–JES), Taverham Lake (2, Feb. 21st–LWL), Gunton Great Water (one, March 8th–CDR) and in Breck at Rush Mere (one, March 4th–PH). North coast, 5, Cley, April 5th/6th.

**71 Smew** : 1–3 from usual localities until March 12th and from Dec. 1st.

**73 Sheld-Duck** : Inland breeding sites include : North Norfolk : Salthouse and Kelling Heaths, Hempstead woods and old pits and quarries at Binham, Langham and Glandford (HH), Kelling Hall (RPB-O) and Gunton Park (PT). East Norfolk : Hickling Broad. Moults migrants passing east off Scolt on July 4th (15) and on 19th (16 birds–RC).

**76 White-fronted Goose** : Breydon area : 150 at Halvergate, Jan. 4th and 1,200 reached these marshes by 18th. This is largest number here since 1950–51 winter. They remained throughout Feb. and were last seen on March 6th when 300 flying out to sea. First autumn arrivals (3), Dec. 24th (RHH). North coast : Up to 12 on several dates at Cley, Wiveton and Stiffkey up to May 2nd and from Oct. 6th.

**77 Lesser White-fronted Goose** : East Norfolk : one in the Yare valley, with bean-geese, Jan. 19th (PDK, MJS) and March 2nd (REH, RCP). Detailed description received. The fourth fully authenticated county record.

**78 Bean-Goose** (*Anser a. arvensis*) : Yare valley : 67–78 from Jan. 1st until March 2nd. None reported again till Jan. 1959.

**Pink-footed Goose** (*A. a. brachyrhynchus*) : Breydon area : 29 on Bure marshes, Jan. 18th and 19 there, Feb. 16th. First autumn arrivals Oct. 12th but no party exceeded 23 (RHH).

**80 Brent Goose** : North coast : Blakeney, maximum of 1,100, Jan.–Feb. declining to 300 on March 13th but increasing to 1,000 on 15th. Last, April 17th. First autumn birds Sept. 14th, but no numbers till mid-Nov. when 200 and peak of 600 by Dec. 27th. Brancaster : up to 700, Jan. 1st–April 17th. On April 18th, only 2 remained (the gander had a broken wing). This pair stayed till



May 1st when the goose left. The gander stayed till end of July. First in autumn, Oct. 18th and peak of 300 by Dec. 26th (RC). Wells, up to 480 in Jan. (HU) declining to 30 by March 9th (PJW). Cley, 4 late birds, April 25th. East coast: Singles at Breydon, April 1st (PRB) and 13th (RHH). Fens: 6 on Ouse Washes, Feb. 23rd (CBC).

**82 Canada Goose:** In June, a county census showed a total of 1,277 *adult* Canada Geese (at least 102 breeding pairs with the remainder non-breeding birds). Of the breeding birds it is known that 51 pairs produced 215 goslings. They were reported from eight flooded gravel pits, seven stretches of river, 41 lakes and ponds, six Broads, Wolferton salt marsh and the North Walsham-Dilham canal. A total of 63 localities (43 observers).

The Canada Geese in the county fall into three groups. The largest of these groups is in North Norfolk and nearly the whole population winters at Holkham Lake. In 1941, as a result of disturbance and indiscriminate shooting by troops, the population at Holkham numbered about 200. By Sept. 1953, the Holkham population had increased to 440 and to 750 by early 1956. In 1958, there were 809 adults and 58 young there on June 23rd; an estimate of 1,250 birds at the end of Nov. and an actual count of at least 1,000 on Dec. 2nd.

The second group is in Breckland with the main breeding colony at Narford Lake where 24 adults and 42 goslings in June. There were at least five other nesting waters in this area.

The third and most recently established group is in the Broads area with the main colonies in the Bure valley at Wroxham and Hoveton. These totalled over 40 adults and 14 goslings in June.

**85 Whooper-Swan:** North coast/Broads area: 1-5 from usual localities until April 21st and from Oct. 20th. Only large numbers: 25 flying east off Holkham, Jan. 26th (RPB-O) and 40, Rockland Broad, March 4th (EAE).

**86 Bewick's Swan:** Numbers lower than usual. North coast: Salthouse, one, Feb. 22nd (IFK). Cley, 4 west Nov. 22nd and 13 west, Dec. 23rd. East coast: Breydon, 12 on Jan. 18th (RHH) and 4 at Rockland, March 4th (JES). Fens: Ouse Washes, 300 from Jan. 12th through Feb. Only 45 on March 16th and one bird remained throughout the summer (CBC).

**92 Rough-legged Buzzard:** North: One, Sandringham estate near Flitcham, March 12th (JSA). Broads: One at Horsey, May 1st (GC).

**95 Kite:** North: One over Ridlington Common, March 3rd (CA, CL) and one over Kelling Heath on the 22nd (ACC). Broads: One over Woodbastwick, May 26th (HJC). Full details received. The first county records since 1881.



*Immature white-tailed eagle*

**97 White-tailed Eagle :** The immature bird at Cley at the end of 1957 again appeared there on Jan. 9th, 12th, 15th, 19th and on March 4th. It was first seen in the Snettisham-Heacham area of the Wash on Jan. 26th and then on several occasions until at least Feb. 14th (CBC).

**99 Marsh-Harrier :** Broads : 4 pairs bred in the Hickling-Horsey area and 10 young successfully reared. At least 11 in this area at end of year. Many records from coastal marshes, Jan. 14th-May 29th and Aug. 5th-Oct. 11th.

**100 Hen-Harrier :** North coast (Scolt to Salthouse) : At least 2 (one male) until April 25th with an immature male at Scolt ternery, May 21st (RC, PJM). At least 2 (again one male) from Sept. 8th. Broads : A male, Surlingham, till mid-March (EAE). A pair in Hickling/Horsey area until March 22nd and again from Dec. 1st. Breck : A male, Snarehill, Dec. 27th (AEV).

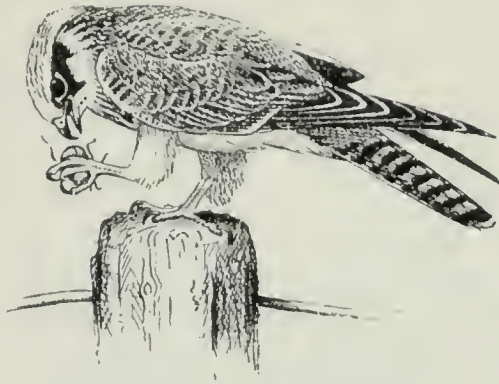
**102 Montagu's Harrier :** Breck : At the 1957 breeding site first noted April 26th (DW) and by May 4th one male and 3 females there. This single male was in charge of at least 2 females and 2 nests were found, each with 5 eggs. 4 young were successfully reared. Another pair also present at another locality from May 3rd (CRK, DW).

Broads : A male at Wheatfen, April 25th-May 2nd (EAE), a male at Horsey, May 10th and a female on 13th (GC), but none bred. North coast : A female at Cley, May 14th and a male at Scolt ternery on 22nd (PJM).

**103 Osprey :** Broads : Singly at Rockland, April 7th (EAE), Horsey, May 25th (GC) and Hickling, May 25th-26th and June 4th (GEB, EP). North : One at Selbrigg, April 28th (FM, JC).

**104 Hobby :** North : Singly at Blakeney, May 2nd (HH) ; Cley, May 10th, July 31st and Aug. 27th (CO) and at Thornage, May 30th (RPB-O). Broads : One, Whiteslea, June 19th (*per EP*).

**107 Merlin :** North coast : Usual records up to April 8th and from Aug. 27th, with one at Scolt ternery, July 30th (PJM).



*Juvenile red-footed falcon*

**108 Red-footed Falcon :** Broads : One at Whiteslea, June 12th (EP) and 22nd (GEB). North coast : A juvenile at Holme, Sept. 13th-16th (CBC). Details supplied.

**117 Quail :** North Norfolk : Burnham Overy, a pair May 25th (MB). Langham, one struck overhead wires, May 31st (WFB). Binham, heard May 23rd (RS). Cockthorpe, covey of 7, Aug. 21st (RPB-O). Blakeney Point, one May 29th-30th (WE). Morston, heard June 5th and Blakeney heard June 11th-21st (HH). Breck : Oxborough, one caught by a dog, Sept. 25th (CRK).

**120 Water-Rail :** North coast : In April, one at Blakeney Point on 13th, one dead under wires at Cley on 15th and another wired at Thornage on 20th (RPB-O).

**121 Spotted Crake :** Broads : Heard at Horsey, April 24th (GC).

**125 Corncrake :** Cley, one May 10th.

**131 Oystercatcher :** North coast : 4,000 at Wells, Oct. 29th (HH). Breeding records include 3 nests at Cley, 72 at Blakeney Point and 14 on south side of harbour, 5 at Stiffkey, 2 at Wells, 90 at Scolt, 2 at Titchwell and 2 at Holme. East coast : 3 nests Breydon marshes.

Wash : Maximum on east side was 4,000 on Sept. 28th (CBC).

**133 Lapwing :** Cley : Big weather influx, March 2nd, flocks remaining till 14th. Easterly passage March 27th-April 4th and on 15th. Main westerly passage of winter visitors daily from Oct. 15th-Nov. 7th with a few on 16th, several on Dec. 2nd and a marked influx during latter half of Dec.

**135 Little Ringed Plover :** North coast : Cley, singles on May 11th/12th and 18th; Salthouse, 2 on Sept. 26th (WFB). Broads : Hickling, one, Aug. 22nd (CJC). Fens : Wisbech Sewage Farm, 4 on July 10th and one throughout Aug. (CBC).

**140 Golden Plover :** Flocks recorded at usual localities with maximum of 250 at Horsey, April 26th (GC). 4 resembling Northern race at Cley, May 1st-5th.

**142 Dotterel** : North coast : Cley, one April 19th ; a juvenile, Oct. 11th-12th and probably the same bird on 25th-26th (co) ; Blakeney, one, Oct. 21st-Nov. 3rd (HH).

**146 Great Snipe** : Cley : One flushed (at nil range) from dry plantation of five-year old pine trees, April 9th (RAR). Detailed description received.

**147 Jack Snipe** : Cley, late spring dates April 30th (PJM) and May 2nd (WFB).

**148 Woodcock** : Only breeding season localities not mentioned in 1957 Report are given. In central Norfolk bred Stratton Strawless and Felthorpe woods (JML). In the west, birds roding at West Bilney, Wormegay, Bawsey and at Sandringham Warren (HM-G). In the Broads area, 2-3 roding at Buckenham and Hassingham Broads (PDK, MJS).

Large numbers in coverts near north coast between Stiffkey and Sheringham, Oct. 18th-25th and further influx at Cley, Nov. 21st-22nd. Unusual record of 12-15 feeding in semi-flooded meadow at Cringleford, Nov. 25th (MJD).

**151 Whimbrel** : Spring passage in coastal areas from April 6th (BLS) with main movement May 1st-6th including 32 at Breydon on 4th (RHH). Autumn return, July 4th-Oct. 6th with large movements in Aug. At Blakeney, 200 on Aug. 3rd, 6th and 7th and up to 100, 9th-18th (HH). At Scolt, three flocks totalling 180 flying west, Aug. 29th (RC). At Holme, 100 passing west, Aug. 18th, 54 on 20th and 89 on 22nd (CBC).

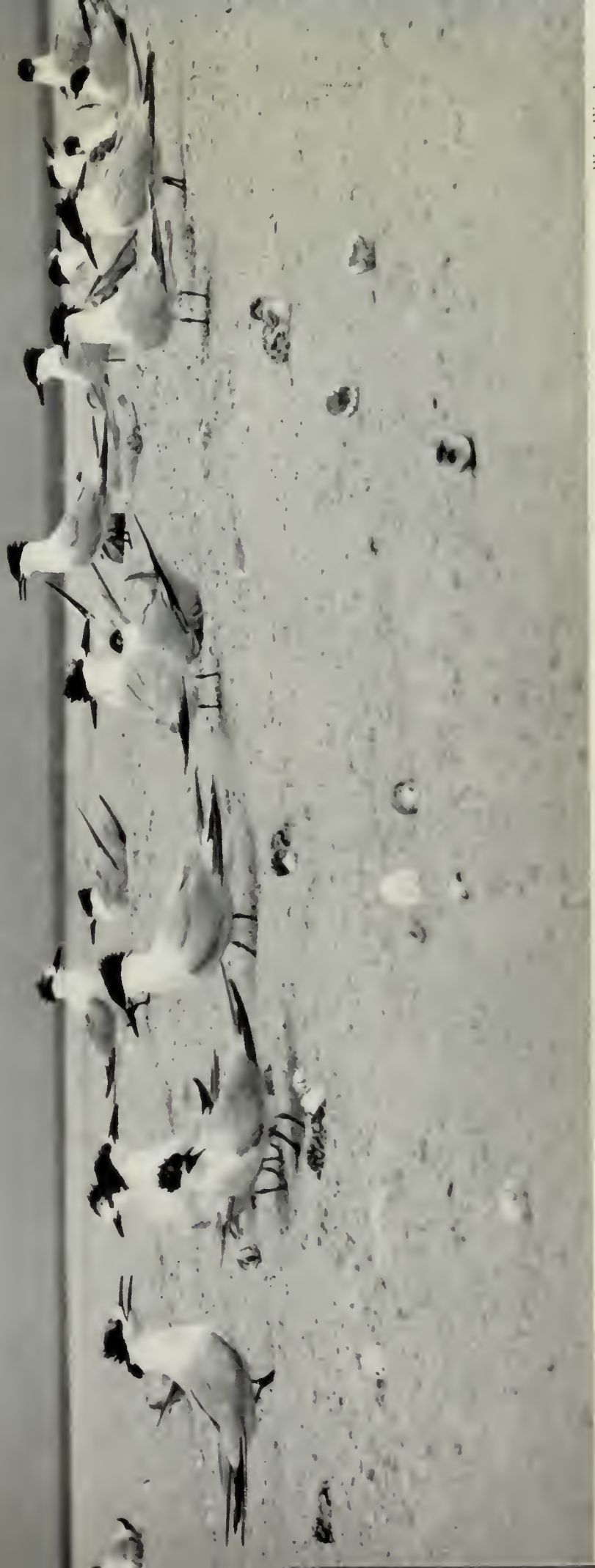
**154 Black-tailed Godwit** : Records from north coast (Stiffkey-Cley), Broads (Hickling, Horsey) and Breydon, March 29th-June 25th and July 7th-Oct. 6th. Largest parties 12 at Hickling, May 5th (EP) and 17 at Breydon, July 7th (RHH). Winter records from Wash (2 at Terrington, Jan. 12th-CBC) and Blakeney Point (one, Dec. 22nd-PGRB). Inland, one at Kimberley Lake, April 29th (PRB).

**155 Bar-tailed Godwit** : North coast : Winter flocks include 100 at Morston and 170 at Brancaster. Broads : Hickling, 2, April 18th and 3, Sept. 21st (GEB). Wash : Maximum 1,100 between Snettisham and Heacham, Jan. 5th (CBC).

**156 Green Sandpiper** : Recorded all months except Dec. Winter records from Litcham, Fakenham, Corpusty Mill, Taverham Mill, Rockland Broad and Buckenham.

**157 Wood-Sandpiper** : North/East coasts : Spring passage noted at Blakeney and Cley, May 4th-16th with maximum of 6 on 15th and one display flighting and singing on 2 dates at Cley. Autumn return, July 4th-September 19th with maxima of 9 at Hickling, Sept. 7th (EP) and 10 at Cley on 9th. Inland, singly at Gunton Great Water, May 1st (PJM) and Sept. 6th (PT).





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1958 was a very good year for Sandwich terns with over 1,500 pairs. This photograph shows part of the Scroby colony. Other record seasons have been 1940 (1,650 pairs), 1943 (2,000 pairs) and 1946 (1,900 pairs).

W. J. Woolston



Copyright

R. P. Bagnall-Oakeley

This hoopoe remained in a Blakeney garden for a week in early September.



Copyright

R. P. Bagnall-Oakeley

Alpine swift at Trimingham, August 18th. The ninth county record of this rare vagrant.

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P. D. Kirby

The autumn passage of Arctic skuas was very noticeable on the north Norfolk coast. This dark-phase immature bird was resting on Cley beach.

**159 Common Sandpiper** : Passage records April 4th–Oct. 22nd. Maximum 30 flying west at Brancaster, Aug. 18th (rc).

**162 Spotted Redshank** : North coast : Records from Brancaster, Burnham Overy, Morston, Blakeney and Cley, March 27th–May 28th and Aug. 3rd–Sept. 25th. Maxima 25 Blakeney Point, April 6th and 5 at Cley, Sept. 9th. Broads : Hickling, one, April 23rd, 1–2, Aug. 16th–Sept. 25th (GEB, CJC, EP). Fens : Wisbech Sewage Farm, maximum of 14 on Sept. 27th (cbc).

**165 Greenshank** : North/East coasts and Broads : Spring passage from April 15th (maximum 5 together). Autumn return from July 3rd with main passage mid-Aug.–mid-Sept. and late birds through Oct. and until Nov. 4th. Maxima 17 at Cley, Aug. 17th, 12 at Breydon, Sept. 8th and 20th, 18 at Blakeney, Sept. 3rd 10th and 32 there on 9th.

**170 Purple Sandpiper** : North coast : Records of 1–2 birds (and once 4) at usual localities on Jan. 20th and in periods March 1st–April 26th and Aug. 4th–Dec. 31st. East coast : 4 at Scroby, Aug. 24th (RHH). Wash : Hunstanton, up to 12 until March 2nd and up to 4 from Nov. 30th (cbc).

**171 Little Stint** : North coast : Cley, 2, April 30th, singles, Aug. 11th, 17th and 23rd. Main passage, Sept. 5th–21st with maximum of 4. 1–3 on 4 dates in Oct. and singly on Nov. 30th (PJM) and Dec. 7th (pc).

**173 Temminck's Stint** : North coast : Cley/Blakeney : 2, Sept. 2nd (prc, co) and one on 4th (co). Fens : Wisbech Sewage Farm, one, Sept. 9th–13th (cbc).

**178 Dunlin** : North coast : Cley, an influx of long-billed birds (probably Northern race), with *tundrae*-type ringed plovers on May 30th.

**179 Curlew-Sandpiper** : Very scarce in autumn. At Cley Blakeney, 3, Aug. 11th, singly on 25th and 31st, one, Sept. 8th/9th and 1–2, Oct. 3rd–7th. East coast : A late bird at Breydon, Nov. 9th (MJS).

**181 Sanderling** : Wash : 1,000–2,000 at Wolferton, July 27th (MG).

**184 Ruff** : North/East coasts and Broads : 1–2 wintered on Glaven river meadows. Passage records from usual localities with main spring movement during first week of May when 80–100 on Cley marsh including males in full breeding plumage and 10 at Strumpshaw Common. Autumn passage, July 12th–Oct. 19th, with maximum of 12 at Salthouse, Sept. 6th. Fens : Wisbech Sewage Farm, peak of 80 on Sept. 20th and still 50 in Dec. (cbc).

**185 Avocet** : North coast : 2 at Brancaster, March 28th (rc), 6 at Blakeney, April 1st (we). At Cley, 8 on April 1st, up to 14



between April 4th and 11th, 2, Sept. 4th–6th and one on 14th. 5, Burnham Overy Staithe, April 6th–8th (MB). East coast : 2 at Breydon, April 12th–27th (RHH).

**186 Black-winged Stilt** : North coast : One flew along shore at Holme and alighted on Thornham marsh, Aug. 31st (CBC). First county record since 1945.

**189 Stone-Curlew** : Since publication of the *Birds of Norfolk* (1930) status in North Norfolk has altered and up to 12 pairs now breed regularly at eight localities all within five miles of Holt.

**193 Arctic Skua** : North coast : Singly off Cley on 3 dates in last week of April ; off Scolt, one May 17th, 2, June 3rd and one, June 25th/27th. Autumn passage from July 17th until Oct. 21st with peak movements Aug. 3rd, Sept. 8th–10th and on 25th. East coast : One off Hemsby, May 18th (JES). Wash : An interesting winter record of 2 at Hunstanton, Jan. 12th (CBC).

**194 Great Skua** : North coast (Scolt, Blakeney and Cley), 1–2 on 17 dates between July 31st and Oct. 16th. Wash : Hunstanton, one, Sept. 21st and 4 on 25th (CBC).

**195 Pomatorhine Skua** : North coast : Cley, up to 3 on several dates between Sept. 5th and 20th (9 birds). Blakeney, singly on Aug. 30th (PNK) and Sept. 6th (EAC).

**196 Long-tailed Skua** : North coast : Scolt, one on Aug. 20th (RC). Cley, singly on Sept. 6th, 14th, 19th and 25th.

**202 Glaucous Gull** : North coast (Cromer–Blakeney Point) : 1–2 immature birds on many dates from Jan. 14th. One stayed until at least June 26th ; the other (a year older) remained until Aug. 1st when found dying. Other records include one at Wells, Jan. 30th (HH) and single adults at Cley, Feb. 7th and 23rd and March 8th–13th.

**203 Iceland Gull** : Cromer : One on March 16th (RAFC).

**207 Little Gull** : North coast : Up to 3 at Scolt, Blakeney and Cley in periods Feb. 27th–May 31st and July 5th–Sept. 24th with one on Dec. 19th. Broads area : Singly at Wroxham Broad, April 24th (RPB-O) and at Hardley flood, Oct. 19th–Nov. 16th (MRR). Fens : Wisbech Sewage Farm, one, Sept. 18th–26th (CBC).

**208 Black-headed Gull** : Numbers of *pairs* at breeding localities : North coast : Scolt, 40 but only 8 successful (RC) ; Wells, 150 (*per* WFB) ; Warcham, 200 (*per* RAR) ; Stiffkey, 25–30 ; Morston, 150 ; Wiveton/Blakeney fresh marsh, 88 (HH) ; Blakeney Point, 70 (WE) and Cley/Salthouse, 200–300 (WFB). Broads area : Alderfen, 215 (MJS, ETD) ; Cantley reservoir, 150 (GN) ; Hickling, 70–80 (EP). Wash : Wolferton, 200 (CBC). Fens : Wissington Beet factory, probably 350 (CBC). Total, about 1,950 breeding pairs.

**211 Kittiwake** : North/East coasts : Recorded every month and 2 pairs nested on Blakeney Point but no young reared. Summer



counts include up to 170 at Scolt in June, 166 in July and 180 in Aug. (RC, PJM) ; 50 at Morston, July 20th (HH) and 80 at Scroby, Aug. 24th (RHH).

**212 Black Tern** : Main spring passage first week of May. On May 1st, exceptional number of 160 at Rockland Broad (PDK), 20 at Seamere (CG), 35 at Hardley flood (MRR) and 15 at Cley. On 2nd, 40 at Hickling (EP), 21 at Rockland Broad (MJS) and 15 at Hardley (MRR). 9 records of up to 3 birds during June and first half July. Autumn passage from July 26th. Maximum at Cley 15-20 on Aug. 29th and Sept. 2nd ; at Hickling 32 on Aug. 18th (RPB-O) ; at Scolt total of 148 in 4 groups flying west on Aug. 31st (RC). Fens : 1-2 late birds at Wisbech, Sept. 20th-Oct. 26th with 4 on Sept. 26th (CBC). Wash : One late bird at Snettisham, Oct. 12th-30th (CBC).

**213 White-winged Black Tern** : Fens, an immature at Wisbech Sewage Farm, Sept. 21st-Oct. 7th (CBC). Details supplied.

**217 Common Tern** : First, April 12th ; last (Common/Arctic), Oct. 24th (RC). Breeding records include : North coast : Scolt, 1,200 nests, Blakeney Point, 1,140 nests. East coast : Scroby Sands, 250 nests. Broads : Ranworth, 3 pairs, Hickling, 2 pairs ; Ormesby, 4 pairs and How Hill, one nest. Westerly passage of juveniles at Cley, Sept. 26th/27th.

**218 Arctic Tern** : North coast breeding records : Single nests at Scolt and Blakeney Point. 2-3 pairs nested unsuccessfully near Wells.

**219 Roseate Tern** : North coast : None bred, but 10 records of 1-2 birds between Scolt and Blakeney Point, May 17th-Aug. 25th.

**222 Little Tern** : Recorded from April 20th with a straggler at Scolt until Oct. 18th (JFP). Breeding records include : North coast : Holme, 13 pairs ; Scolt, 29 nests ; Wells, 2 pairs ; Stiffkey, 2 pairs ; Blakeney Point, 84 nests and 5 pairs on south side of harbour. East coast : Winterton, 6 pairs ; Scroby, 7 pairs.

**223 Sandwich Tern** : Recorded March 27th-Oct. 19th. Breeding records : Scolt, 348 pairs ; near Wells, 23 pairs ; Blakeney Point, 800 pairs and Scroby Sands, 350 pairs. Spring peak at Cley was 400, April 26th.

**226 Little Auk** : North coast : Cromer, one freshly dead, Feb. 27th (PT) ; Cley, 5 on Oct. 18th and singles on 31st, Nov. 10th and 16th. Scolt, singles Dec. 3rd and 7th (RC). East coast : Waxham, one Oct. 25th (DL). Wash : Snettisham, one Nov. 15th-16th (CBC).

**229 Black Guillemot** : One just off Cley beach, June 13th (PNK).

**230 Puffin** : North coast : One dead at Salthouse, March 10th (HH) and one dead at Morston, April 13th (PRC). Cley, 6 west, Nov. 1st. Scolt, 3 on Aug. 10th-11th ; 5 on 16th and one on 27th (RC). East coast : One dead at Yarmouth, Dec. 18th (*per* ETD).



*Great spotted cuckoo*

**234 Wood-Pigeon :** Single winter-bred juveniles dead at Cley, March 26th and at North Creake, Dec. 28th.

**235 Turtle-Dove :** Recorded April 26th (HH) to Sept. 26th (PRC). At Cley, small flocks west on 8 days, May 6th-22nd and 6 west, June 14th. Wash : 50 at Wolferton, Aug. 10th (MG).

**Collared Dove :** (*Streptopelia decaocto*). *Site A :* At least 3 present June 8th and a nest with one egg, 19 feet up in a pine tree on July 12th.

*Site B :* Present from Jan. 30th till Oct. 11th, with up to 7 in early months of year. On May 24th, 2 young just able to fly but no other evidence of successful breeding although 3 pairs summered.

*Site E :* 2 regularly throughout Nov.

**237 Cuckoo :** First April 20th. Pair frequented Scolt Head throughout summer and at least 2 young successfully reared (PJM). 2, Blakeney Point, Aug. 17th.

**238 Great Spotted Cuckoo :** Winterton, a first-summer bird found dead in the dunes, Aug. 6th (GTW) is now in the collection at Norwich Castle Museum. The third county record.

**248 Long-eared Owl :** Only recorded from North Norfolk where at least one pair bred on Salthouse Heath ; one at Holme, Nov. 2nd (CBC) and one over North Creake starling roost in mid-Dec. (RAR, MG).

**249 Short-eared Owl :** Breeding records : Breydon, 2 pairs on marshes adjoining the estuary (RHH) ; Brancaster, a pair on the mainland near Scolt Head (RC) and Bircham area, 2 pairs (RPB-O).

**252 Nightjar :** Recorded May 3rd-Sept. 17th. Only breeding season localities not mentioned in 1957 Report are given. In North Norfolk, 3 breeding pairs Hempstead woods and one pair, Bodham Common (GHCb).

**255 Swift :** First April 24th, but main arrival from May 1st. Several records during second half Sept. and following very late birds in Oct. : Holme, 7 on 1st, 3 on 3rd and one on 5th (CBC) ; Scolt, one on 1st, 5 on 2nd, 2 on 3rd, one on 8th and 19th ; Cley,



*Juvenile Bee-eater*

singly on 5th and 13th ; Sheringham, one on 12th ; Cromer, 2 on 7th and 14th ; Overstrand, one on 13th ; Happisburgh, 2 from 9th till 16th and Poringland, one on 4th.

For an account of weather movements of swifts, 1955-57, in East Anglia, see *Bird Study*, Vol. 5 pp. 128-142.

**256 Alpine Swift** : Trimmingham, one flying west with swifts, Aug. 18th, was filmed by RPB-o. The ninth county record.

**259 Bee-eater** : Morston, one Sept. 17th (HH) had no projecting tail-feathers so was probably a juvenile. The first county record since 1939.

**261 Hoopoe** : North Norfolk : One Sheringham, April 21st (EMCE). One Salthouse, Aug. 30th (EAC) ; another at Blakeney, Sept. 5th-11th and at Cley Hall Farm on 13th. Breck : One flying north Thetford Heath, May 4th (LL-E).

**265 Wryneck** : North coast : Drift migrants at Cley and Blakeney Sept. 2nd-18th with maximum of 8 on 4th ; total of at least 12 birds. Cromer, 2 on Sept. 6th (RAFC) and one on 10th (JHW). Holme, 2 on Sept. 3rd and one on 4th and 7th (CBC). East coast : One flew at night, into a bedroom of a house at Ridlington near Walcot, Sept. 2nd (*per* RMB).

**272 Skylark** : Cley, main autumn passage (west) Oct. 12th-Nov. 3rd.

**273 Shore-Lark** : North coast : Records from usual localities between Salthouse and Scolt up to April 28th (when 4 at Cley) and from Sept. 25th. Maximum 25 at Cley, April 4th.

**274 Swallow** : Recorded March 27th-Nov. 22nd/25th.

**276 House-Martin** : Recorded April 3rd-Nov. 4th. Young still being fed in a nest at Salthouse, Oct. 5th (PJW) and at Cromer on 15th (CDR).

**277 Sand-Martin** : Recorded March 27th-Oct. 11th.

- 278 Golden Oriole** : Single males at Horsey, May 17th and 25th (gc). One at Scolt, Sept. 10th (Miss Louth) and 13th (rc). Details supplied.
- 281 Hooded Crow** : Coastal records up to April 27th (with one at Winterton, May 18th—jes) and from Oct. 1st. Easterly exodus at Cley, March 29th and April 4th–8th. Main autumn influx third week Oct. (co). The only report of over 15 birds was 28 at Stiffkey (hh).
- 282 Rook** : At Cley, spring exodus of winter visitors March 17th, 27th/29th and April 1st/2nd. Autumn arrival Oct. 23rd–Nov. 9th (co).
- 284 Magpie** : Winter roost at Foxley contained up to 35 birds, but was down to 16 by mid-March (rpb-o).
- 290 Coal-Tit** : Cley, one came in from sea, Aug. 28th (pcj).
- 295 Bearded Tit** : Broads : Breeding records from Hickling Broad/Heigham Sounds (25–30 pairs), Horsey (about 25 pairs) and Martham (at least 4 pairs). Up to 6 in vicinity of Barton Broad from mid-June. Winter records from Ranworth and Surlingham. North coast : 2 breeding pairs at Cley.
- 300 Black-bellied Dipper** (*Cinclus c. cinclus*) : The bird at Lexham at the end of 1957 remained until Feb. 9th (wgb).
- 302 Fieldfare** : Small weather movement at Cley, Jan. 23rd (co) and last spring birds May 5th (pgrb). One dead Blakeney Point, Sept. 16th but no more till Oct. 3rd and main influx commenced on 19th.
- 304 Redwing** : Flocks of up to 200 present at several localities until April 20th with one at Marham on May 12th (pw). First in autumn Sept. 23rd (gwc), but very few till main arrival Oct. 17th–25th. Further influxes Nov. 16th and 28th.
- 307 Ring Ouzel** : Spring : Cley, singly on April 6th, 20th, 26th and 27th (co) ; Holkham, 2 on April 15th (co) ; Blakeney, one April 6th, 2 on 7th and singles on 15th and 18th (hh) ; Overy Staithe, one, April 6th (mb) ; Wiveton, one, April 20th (prc) ; Horsey, 3 on May 2nd (gc).  
Autumn : Cley, singles, Aug. 11th and Oct. 25th (co) ; Blakeney, one, Oct. 18th (we). Winter : Blakeney, one on Dec. 1st (hh).
- 308 Blackbird** : North coast : Big influxes March 30th and April 5th/6th. In autumn, main arrival from Oct. 19th–26th with further influxes Oct. 30th, Nov. 1st–5th (many), 7th, 16th, 19th–21st and Dec. 1st.
- 311 Wheatear** : Spring : First, Cley, March 24th with influxes March 27th–29th, April 4th, 20th (many, mostly males) and 27th (co). Greenland wheatears (*Oenanthe o. leucorhoa*) passing through Cley, May 5th–21st with a marked influx on 20th.



Autumn passage July 30th–Nov. 2nd (EAC) with peak numbers Sept. 3rd–5th. Greenland birds at Cley, Sept. 17th/18th and 25th–27th (co).

**317 Stonechat** : 1–5 recorded up to April 20th and from Sept. 5th at Scolt, Morston, Blakeney Point, Wiveton, Cley, Sheringham, Hemsby, Hickling and Brisley, with 15 at Holme on Feb. 16th (CBC), when a small influx also noted at Cley.

Single pairs bred successfully at Kelling Heath (CLM), Dersingham Common (GJ) and Buxton Heath (RPB-o) where a freshly dead juvenile found Oct. 5th (DELH).

**318 Whinchat** : North coast (Scolt–Cley) : First April 12th (III) and from April 27th to May 20th with small peaks on May 6th, 9th and 20th (co). North/East coasts : Autumn passage Aug. 17th–Oct. 6th with peak numbers Sept. 2nd–9th. Breck : Bred, Brettenham Heath (GPD).

**320 Redstart** : North coast (Scolt–Cley) : Spring arrival from April 23rd with late male at Scolt on June 2nd (PJM). North/East coasts : Autumn passage Aug. 19th–Oct. 30th with large drift movement commencing Sept. 2nd and peaking on 4th/5th.

**321 Black Redstart** : One pair reared 4 young at Cromer (MW, co). 2 pairs nested successfully in Yarmouth, at the Marina on Marine Parade and at the new Power Station on South Denes (RHH). A singing male in Norwich May 19th to July 9th (PDK).

1–4 observed on passage between March 30th–April 29th (with singles May 25th and June 1st) and from Sept. 3rd–Oct. 27th at Hunstanton, Scolt, Holkham, Wells, Blakeney, Cley, Salthouse, Sheringham, West Runton, Hemsby, Binham, and Harleston.

**322 Nightingale** : Spring arrival from April 23rd. Not fewer than 50 singing males along coastal belt Blakeney–West Runton and to about 3 miles inland (III).

**324 Bluethroat** : North coast (Blakeney, Cley and Salthouse) : one, Aug. 20th with up to 6 drift migrants daily from Sept. 2nd–11th. Holme, one trapped, Sept. 3rd (CBC).

**327 Grasshopper-Warbler** : Spring arrival from April 24th (GUCB). Drift migrants on Blakeney Point, Aug. 30th–Sept. 5th (maximum of 5).

**338 Aquatic Warbler** : One at Holme, Aug. 20th (CBC—to whom details supplied).

**340 Icterine Warbler** : North coast : At least 11 birds during Sept. as follows : Blakeney Point, 3–4 (RJJ, co) and Holme, 2, one of which was trapped (CBC) on 3rd ; Cley, one (MM) and Blakeney, one (III) on 4th ; Morston–Stifikey, 2 on 5th (III) ; Titchwell, one on 6th (RJJ, DH) and Blakeney Point, one on 11th (RJJ, co).

**343 Blackcap** : A winter record from Cley where a female, Dec. 16th–23rd (RAR).

- 344 Barred Warbler :** North coast : Single drift migrants on Aug. 28th, 31st and Sept. 1st–7th inclusive also on 13th at Holme, Burnham Overy, Stiffkey, Morston, Blakeney Point and Blakeney (RPB-O, CBC, CO, HH). All were immatures.
- 346 Garden Warbler :** Cley/Blakeney Point : Drift movement began Sept. 1st, numbers peaking at 70 on the 3rd. Further small influxes (re-determined passage) Sept. 12th/13th and 18th/19th ; last, Oct. 9th (co).
- 354 Willow-Warbler :** First, March 29th (AWK), but main arrival not till April 18th. Autumn passage noted on north coast from Aug. 12th, but obscured by big drift movement from end Aug.–Sept. 7th with peak numbers on 3rd/4th when 1–2 of the Northern race *acredula* at Blakeney Point (co). Last, one singing, Oct. 1st (HH).
- 356 Chiffchaff :** Spring arrival from March 28th. Last in autumn Oct. 11th when singles singing at Blakeney (HH) and Norwich (PDK).
- 357 Wood-Warbler :** First, May 1st (HH). Pairs or singing males in breeding season at West Runton, Hempstead, Glandford, High Kelling (2 sites), Gresham's School woods, Weybourne and Wormegay (RPB-O, BAC, CBC, HH).
- 364 Goldcrest :** At Cley, drift migrants March 28th–April 26th with maximum of 15 on March 30th.
- 365 Firecrest :** One near North Walsham first week of April, with drift migrant goldcrests (CA). Another at Burnham Overy, Sept. 8th (RPB-O). Details supplied.
- 366 Spotted Flycatcher :** Large drift movement noted on coast, Aug. 31st–Sept. 6th, with maximum of 50 on Blakeney Point, Sept. 4th/5th (co).
- 368 Pied Flycatcher :** In spring, singles at Blakeney, May 2nd and 6th (HH) ; 2 at Scolt on 14th (PJM) and one at Northrepps on 15th (JHW). Autumn passage noted at many coastal localities (with one Mousehold Heath, Norwich, Sept. 4th–PRB) from Aug. 4th (GC) until Sept. 21st (HH), but obscured by drift movement of late Aug./early Sept. when up to 50 per day at Blakeney Point (co), 85 at Holme, Sept. 3rd and even larger numbers at Holkham on 4th (TC-s).
- 370 Red-breasted Flycatcher :** One at Burnham Overy, Sept. 7th (RPB-O) and one at Blakeney Point on 13th (co).
- 371 Hedge-Sparrow :** Wells, 50–60 in pinewoods and dunes, April 5th–7th (CWH) during influx of blackbirds, robins and goldcrests.
- 376 Tree-Pipit :** Spring arrival from April 23rd. At Cley/Blakeney Point, autumn passage from Aug. 5th merging into drift movement from Aug. 31st–Sept. 12th (maximum 25 on 2nd). Last, Sept. 28th.

**379 Rock Pipit** (*Anthus s. petrosus*): Coastal records up to April 29th and from Sept. 11th. 1-2 birds resembling the Scandinavian race, *littoralis* at Cley, March 6th.

**380 White Wagtail** (*Motacilla a. alba*): Cley/Blakeney: Spring passage April 6th-May 1st and in autumn, Sept. 5th-26th.

**381 Grey Wagtail**: Single *breeding pairs* at: Aylsham Mill (MISS RUST); Gressenhall (MISS PUDDY); Ebridge Mill (CA) and Briggate Mill (PRC) on North Walsham-Dilham Canal; Letheringsett Mill (RPB-O) and in Breck at Ickburgh where 2 broods reared in same nest (AEV).

Migrants at Cley: 8 on beach, Aug. 3rd; one in from sea, Sept. 5th and one, Oct. 22nd. Winter records from usual localities.

**382 Yellow Wagtail** (*Motacilla f. flavissima*): At Cley, first March 30th, but no numbers till main arrival began April 15th. First females April 23rd and passage ceased on 29th. Autumn: small influxes, Sept. 3rd and 5th; last, Oct. 10th (CO).

**Blue-headed Wagtail** (*M. f. flava*): Cley/Salthouse: A small influx of at least 6 birds of both sexes, April 23rd-27th (WFB). Kelling Heath, a male on May 25th (LL-E). Salthouse, a pair nested successfully and reared 5 young on the grazing marshes (JU, PGRB, CO).

**383 Waxwing**: An influx began in early Jan. with a further irruption from Nov. 19th.

*January*: In East Norfolk, 11 in Norwich on 14th and 6 on 21st. In the South, 2 at Ellingham Hall, 22nd-23rd. In the North, one at Blakeney, 7th and 3, West Runton, 24th; 50 at Cromer, 4th, 9 on 8th, 12 on 16th and 3 on 19th; 3 at Sheringham, 27th.

*February*: In the East, up to 8 Earlam Hall, 6th-19th; 2 in Norwich, 21st; 3, Forncett, 22nd-23rd. In the North, one at Fakenham, 10th-15th.

*March*: In the East, 4-11 in Norwich, 21st-23rd and singles at Thorpe, 16th and 30th. In the North, 5 at Cromer on 1st and 3 at Northrepps on 14th. In the West, 2 near Thetford, 16th.

*November*: One, Inner Dowsing light-vessel, 29th. In the North, 2 at Cawston, 20th; 7 at Cromer, 19th.

*December*: In the East, 14 at Wheatfen, 20th-25th; 2, Hempstead, 11th; Horsey, 7 on 3rd and 5 on 11th. In the North, at Cley 8 on 8th, 25 on 9th, 11 on 11th/12th and 8 on 15th; Blakeney/Morston, up to 26 from 13th-25th; Stiffkey, 12 on 19th; Holt area, present from 5th with 30 on 14th and same day 17 on Thornage road, 30-40 on 16th and up to 7, 28th-31st; Wiveton, 3 on 10th; Cromer, 3 on 11th and 24th and one on 25th; Overstrand, 2 on 27th; Brancaster Staithe, one on 15th and 3 arriving from sea, 26th.

**384 Great Grey Shrike** : Singles at Bodham Common, Jan. 19th (GHCB); Salthouse Heath, April 30th–May 7th; Heckingham Common, May 14th (MRR); Glandford, May 27th and Cley, Nov. 9th (PRC).

**386 Woodchat-Shrike** : Salthouse Heath, a first summer male trapped and ringed, May 4th remained till 9th (RAR, CO). Buxton Heath, a male, June 15th (ETD). Details supplied.

**388 Red-backed Shrike** : Spring arrival from May 15th. Only breeding season localities not mentioned in 1957 Report are given : a male at West Runton (HH) and single pairs at Kipton Heath (DW) and Dersingham Common (GJ); also a male in Breck near Mundford, May 25th (AEV).

**389 Starling** : Winter Roosts, see pages 22–24.

North/East coasts : In autumn, main immigration occurred between Oct. 18th–25th and Nov. 1st and 6th–12th and was on a scale more immense than anything seen during the past nine years at least.

**394 Siskin** : Only recorded at Taverham where 1–2, Jan. 19th, Feb. 16th and March 26th (LWL).

**395 Linnet** : Cley, westerly spring passage, March 29th–30th and April 15th–29th.

**396 Twite** : North coast : Recorded at usual localities up to March 25th and from Oct. 12th. Maxima : 100 at Holme (CBC) and 100 Blakeney Point (CJC) both in Jan. East coast : 25 at Breydon, Nov. 9th (MJS).

**397 Redpoll** : Only breeding season localities not mentioned in 1956–57 Reports are given : High Kelling, Blakeney, West Raynham, Shouldham (one nest found), Setchey, South Wootton, King's Lynn and in Breck at Narborough and Brettenham Heath.

At Scolt, one May 14th, 3 on 20th and singles on 29th and June 29th (PJM). Cley, 2 west on Sept. 28th.

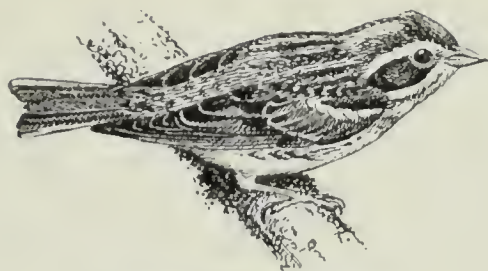
**404 Crossbill** : North Norfolk : Small flock at Holkham, March 9th; small parties up to 10, Kelling Pines, April 18th (RPB-O). Breck : Largest party 30 at Narford, Sept. 27th (DW).

Small irruption in July when 7 at Cromer on 11th (RAFC); 2 at Ridlington Heath on 15th and 9–10 there on 17th (CA) and on Wash, 10 at Wolferton on 13th (CBC).

**407 Chaffinch** : At Cley, very heavy westerly passage, Oct. 19th–27th with especially large numbers passing daily from the 23rd; 400 west, Nov. 1st (CO).

**408 Brambling** : Recorded up to April 27th and from Oct. 11th. Largest number : peak of 500 at end of Jan., Cley Eye; 500 at Saxlingham, Oct. 27th (RPB-O) and 250–300 at Marham, Nov. 13th (DW). No other flock exceeded 100.





• *Female Rustic Bunting*

**410 Corn-Bunting** : A summary of recent records suggests little change in distribution since publication of the *Birds of Norfolk* (1930). The corn-bunting may be found throughout the year in almost every coastal parish from Yarmouth to Hunstanton. Peak numbers in these areas occur in March when flocks of 20–40 may be seen. It may also be found along the east side of the Wash, whilst it is common in the Fens. In the Breck, Ring Mere, Wretham Heath and West Acre are regular sites. In the remainder of the county, however, it is extremely local or absent.

**416 Ortolan Bunting** : Spring : Salthouse, one, April 24th (PGRB) and a pair there, May 9th (co). Autumn : Stiffkey, one, Aug. 27th (HH) ; Cley/Blakeney : up to 6 daily during drift migration, Sept. 2nd–6th with singles 7th–9th and on 11th ; Scolt, 2, Sept. 4th (RC) ; Holme, 2, Sept. 7th (CBC).

**419 Rustic Bunting** : Blakeney Point, a female, Sept. 10th–13th was ringed on 12th (PW, CO). The second county record.

**422 Lapland-Bunting** : North coast (Salthouse–Stiffkey) : Up to 5 till mid-March and one, April 4th. First in autumn, Sept. 11th with 20 on Oct. 6th and till end of Nov. 50–100, in small scattered flocks, on Morston saltings during Dec.

**423 Snow-Bunting** : East coast : 4 at Yarmouth harbour mouth, March 4th/5th ; 30 at Breydon, Oct. 26th and 58 on Yarmouth beach, Nov. 8th. North coast : Blakeney/Cley/Salthouse : Up to 300 till spring departure and last on April 16th. Autumn arrival from Sept. 16th with 300 from Nov. 22nd onwards. Scolt : Up to 50 in early part of year ; first in autumn, Sept. 23rd and 70 by Nov. 7th.

**425 Tree-Sparrow** : Cley Eye, a flock of 1,500 during Jan., Feb. and early March were probably Continental immigrants (see page 21).

The following, not mentioned in the Classified Notes, were also recorded in 1958 (breeding species in italics) : *Little Grebe*, *Mallard*, *Teal*, *Common Scoter*, *Mute Swan*, *Sparrow-Hawk*, *Peregrine Falcon*, *Kestrel*, *Red-legged Partridge*, *Partridge*, *Pheasant*, *Moorhen*, *Coot*, *Ringed Plover*, *Grey Plover*, *Turnstone*, *Common Snipe*, *Curlew*,

*Redshank, Knot, Greater Black-backed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring-Gull, Common Gull, Razorbill, Guillemot, Stock-Dove, Barn-Owl, Little Owl, Tawny Owl, Kingfisher, Green Woodpecker, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Wood-Lark, Carrion-Crow, Jackdaw, Jay, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Marsh-Tit, Willow-Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Nuthatch, Tree-Creeper, Wren, Mistle-Thrush, Song-Thrush, Robin, Reed-Warbler, Sedge-Warbler, Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Meadow-Pipit, Pied Wagtail, Hawfinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Yellow Hammer, Reed-Bunting, and House-Sparrow.*



*Autumn Bluethroat*

## 1958 LIGHT-VESSEL NOTES

Compiled by R. A. RICHARDSON

- Little Grebe.**—Singly, Newarp, November 16th and 26th.
- Leach's/Storm Petrel.**—One, Lynn Well, October 29th ; a few Outer Dowsing, November 5th/6th and two, Newarp, 6th/7th.
- Scaup.**—A female, Lynn Well, May 1st.
- Common Scoter.**—30 S.W., Lynn Well, April 15th ; 50 N.W., June 8th ; 50, S.W., July 31st and again August 1st.
- Sparrow-Hawk.**—One, Inner Dowsing, November 15th.
- Water-Rail.**—Singly, Dudgeon, October 28th ; Outer Dowsing, November 6th and Lynn Well on 11th.
- Moorhen.**—Three, Lynn Well, April 18th ; one on *THV Warden* off Cromer, October 30th and one, Lynn Well, November 7th.
- Coot.**—One, Newarp, November 25th.
- Common Snipe.**—Several, Smith's Knoll, August 6th/7th and 12, Lynn Well, November 15th.
- Curlew.**—20, Lynn Well, April 14th ; several Smith's Knoll, August 6th/7th and 10th ; a few Newarp November 6th, 12th and 19th with 25 there on 24th ; several Dudgeon November 17th.
- Knot.**—12 Lynn Well November 16th.
- Wood-Pigeon.**—One, Lynn Well, October 29th and many Inner Dowsing November 27th.
- Long-eared Owl.**—Singly Lynn Well, October 28th and November 6th and at Newarp, October 29th.
- Swift.**—13, south, Lynn Well, June 19th ; one, Smith's Knoll, August 14th. Several S.E. at Lynn Well, September 8th.
- Skylark.**—Few, Haisboro', January 14th and February 15th with 50, Smith's Knoll, on 19th. In autumn recorded on 20 dates between October 12th and December 11th at nine vessels. Peak movements October 23rd–29th and November 11th–19th.
- Swallow.**—Singly, Lynn Well, April 21st (N.E.) and 30th.
- House-Martin.**—6, Dudgeon, May 23rd.
- Hooded Crow.**—One, Lynn Well, March 28th, 3 N.W. there April 1st ; 4 Newarp, November 6th.
- Rook.**—2, Lynn Well, October 24th ; several west at Newarp, October 25th/26th. A few Newarp, November 2nd with 8 on 6th (when 4 at Outer Dowsing). 5, Inner Dowsing, November 13th.
- Blue Tit.**—4, Lynn Well, April 1st.
- Wren.**—One, Corton, October 9th.

- Fieldfare.**—1,500 Outer Dowsing, October 26th ; 10 Newarp on 27th/28th ; 50, Lynn Well, November 6th ; several Haisboro' on 23rd and Inner Dowsing on 27th where there were a few December 16th.
- Redwing.**—Several S.W.-W. Lynn Well, October 18th ; 20 there on 28th and 10 at Newarp same date. One Corton, November 5th ; 50, Lynn Well same date, 20 on 11th and 6 on 16th ; 50 Newarp, November 18th and fewer on 26th.
- Blackbird.**—Small numbers at Lynn Well, April 4th–18th. Many occurred at Lynn Well, the Dowsings, Haisboro', Dudgeon and Newarp from October 17th–December 8th, with a few at Lynn Well on 16th. The preponderance of males is remarked upon.
- Redstart.**—Several Lynn Well, September 1st and 20 there October 24th.
- Robin.**—Singly Lynn Well, April 5th, Newarp October, 29th, THV *Warden* off Cromer, October 30th, 2, Corton, November 5th and one Lynn Well on 15th.
- Waxwing.**—One Inner Dowsing, November 29th.
- Greenfinch.**—Several at Newarp and Smith's Knoll, October 23rd, some exhausted and in sea.
- Chaffinch.**—In spring, a few, Lynn Well, March 30th, April 1st and 5th with 3 travelling W.N.W. on 30th. In autumn, recorded on 12 dates between October 12th and December 11th at 8 vessels. Peak numbers October 23rd–30th.
- Brambling.**—A few Lynn Well March 30th, 2 October 26th, a few on THV *Warden* off Cromer on 30th and 2 Lynn Well November 15th.
- Yellow Hammer.**—One, Lynn Well, December 16th.



*Montague's Harrier*



LAPWINGS AT NORFOLK LIGHT-VESSELS, 1958

Dates	Lynn Well	Inner Dowsing	Outer Dowsing	Dudgeon	Newarp	Smith's Knoll
Mar. 13	—	—	—	—	—	150 W.
30	Several	—	—	—	—	—
June 19	20 S.W.	—	—	—	—	—
25	10 S.	—	—	—	—	—
July 10	50 N.W.	—	—	—	—	—
Oct. 18	15 W.	—	—	—	—	—
24	50	—	—	—	—	—
30	30 S.	—	—	—	—	—
Nov. 2	—	Several	—	—	—	—
6	20	Several	100	Several	—	—
16	20	—	—	Several	—	—
19	—	Several	—	—	Many	—
25	100	—	—	—	22 S.W.	—
27	—	Several	—	—	—	—
28	—	Many	—	—	—	—
Dec. 3	—	Several	—	—	—	—

STARLINGS AT NORFOLK LIGHT-VESSELS, 1958

Date	Lynn Well	Inner Dowsing	Dudgeon	Outer Dowsing	Haisboro'	Newarp	Corton
Jan. 16	—	—	—	—	Few E.	—	—
Feb. 15	—	—	—	—	Few	—	—
Mar. 30	3,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
April 1	1,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	2,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
14	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	30 E.	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	1,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oct. 12	2,000	—	—	2,000	—	—	—
14	—	—	—	—	Several W.	—	—
18	Many	—	—	—	—	—	—
19	—	—	—	—	Sev. W.	1-2,000	Many W.
21	—	—	—	—	—	Many	Many
23	300	—	Many	Many	Few W.	—	—
26	—	Many	Many	500	Sev. W.	—	—
28	100	Many	Several	—	—	c. 200	—
29/30	2-3,000	—	Several	Many	Many	5,000	Many W.
31	—	Many	Many	—	—	—	—
Nov. 1	1,000	Many	—	5,000	Sev. W.	1,000's	—
4	—	Many	Many	3-4,000	—	1,000's	—
5	3-4,000	Many	Many	2,000	—	Fewer	—
6	2-3,000	—	Fewer	Several	—	1-2,000	—
7	—	Many	Fewer	—	—	100's	—
11	3,000	Many	Fewer	1,000	—	100+	—
14	300	Many	Fewer	—	—	—	—
15	2,000	Many	—	5,000	Many	—	—
19	—	Many	Few	—	Many	100+	Few
22	—	Several	—	—	Several	—	—
24	—	—	—	—	—	500+	—
25	200	—	—	—	—	—	—
27	—	Many	—	—	—	—	—
28	—	Few	—	—	—	—	—
29	—	12	—	—	—	—	—
Dec. 2/3	—	Several	—	—	—	—	—
8	—	Few	—	—	Several	—	—
11	—	Several	—	—	Several	—	—
12/16	—	Few	—	Few	—	—	—

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