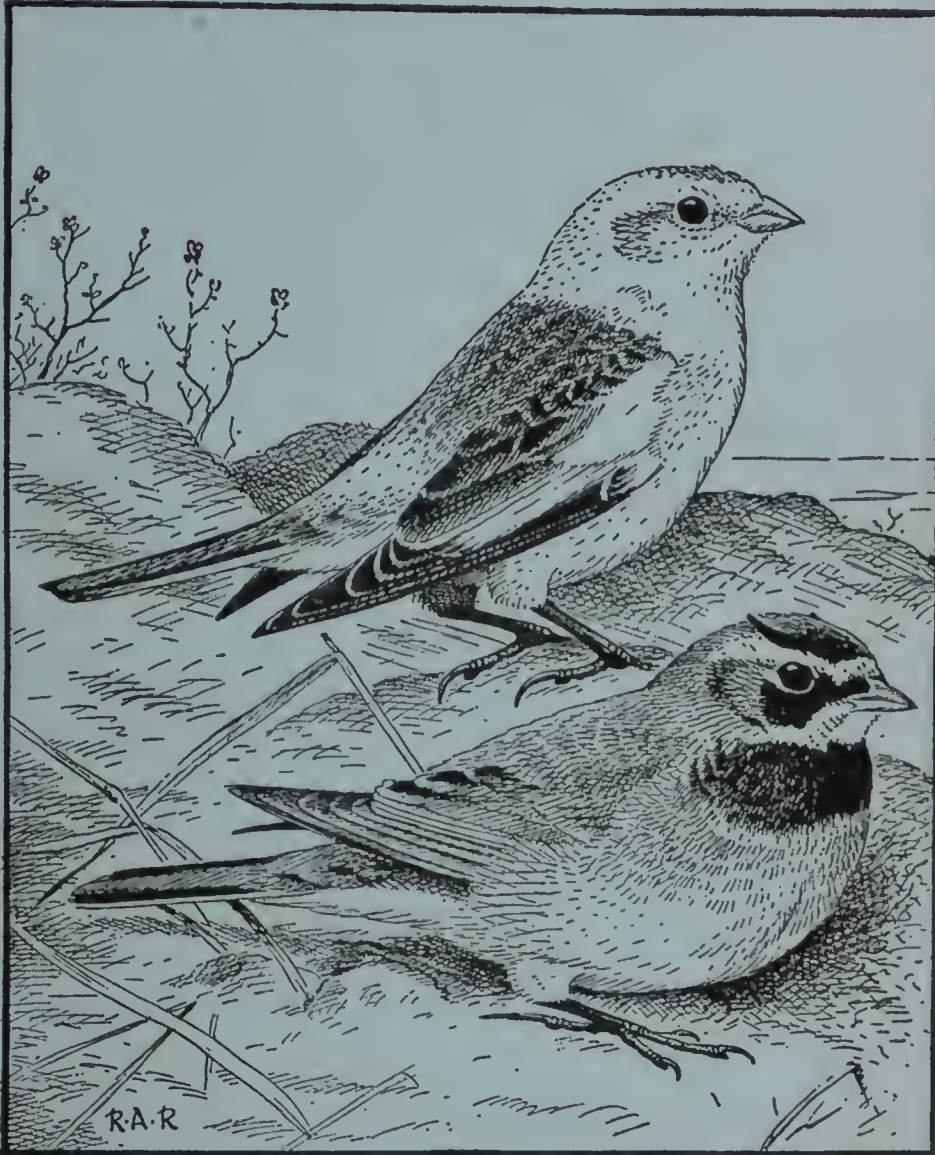
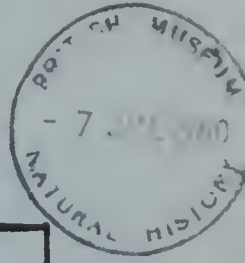


THE NORFOLK BIRD AND MAMMAL REPORT



1959

*(Transactions of The Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists Society,
Volume 19 Part 3)*

NORFOLK BIRD REPORT - 1959

Edited by

MICHAEL J. SEAGO

Assisted by the Records Committee :

R. A. RICHARDSON, A. H. DAUKES AND E. A. ELLIS

CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
INTRODUCTION	93
NOTES ON BREEDING BIRDS OF THE RESERVES	
SCOLT HEAD ISLAND	104
BLAKENEY POINT	105
CLEY AND SALTHOUSE	106
HICKLING	107
HORSEY	108
SCROBY SANDS... ..	109
CLEY BIRD OBSERVATORY	110
SELECTED RINGING RECOVERIES	113
CLASSIFIED NOTES	115
LIGHT-VESSEL NOTES... ..	135
LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS	137

NORFOLK MAMMAL REPORT - 1959

Edited by

F. J. TAYLOR PAGE

Assisted by

R. P. BAGNALL-OAKELEY AND E. A. ELLIS

CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
INTRODUCTION	138
CLASSIFIED NOTES	139
LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS	150

Published by

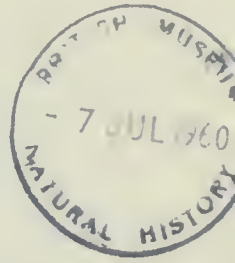
THE NORFOLK NATURALISTS TRUST
(Assembly House, Theatre Street, Norwich, NOR 62E)

AND

THE NORFOLK & NORWICH NATURALISTS SOCIETY
(Castle Museum, Norwich)

Norfolk Bird Report

1959



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.

January : Single grey phalaropes appeared at Sea Mere on 3rd and at Cromer on 17th. The cold spell between 9th and 17th was too short-lived to bring any really unusual visitors. In north Norfolk, brent geese peaked at 2,600 birds. In the Breydon area, the numbers of white-fronted geese were very low and did not exceed 68. Only small parties of pink-feet were observed.

The following table gives peak numbers of white-fronted geese in east Norfolk since the end of the last war :

1945/46 : 250	1950/51 : 1,500	1954/55 : 800
46/47 : 500	51/52 : 600	55/56 : 500
47/48 : 800	52/53 : 800	56/57 : 150
48/49 : 1,500	53/54 : 250	57/58 : 1,200
49/50 : 600		58/59 : 68

Up to 160 bean-geese wintered in the Yare valley. Waxwings were only reported in small numbers and the numerous parties reaching Norfolk during the previous month had doubtless moved to inland counties. A puffin was found dying at Litcham on 13th.

February : On the north coast, a little stint was at Cley on 2nd ; the wintering flock of Lapland buntings at Morston began dispersing by 15th ; a maximum of 250 eider-ducks were at Brancaster and 6 stonechats appeared at Cley on 26th. In the Fens, peak numbers of wildfowl were reached on 15th with a herd of 343 Bewick's swans on the Ouse Washes, together with 800 pochard and large numbers of pintail and wigeon.

March : The first garganey arrived at Cley on 4th with the first wheatear there on 20th. 3 early hoopoes were seen on 12th—2 at Wheatfen and one at Aylsham. The 23rd brought 2 black redstarts to Cley and 24th the first chiffchaff and a great grey shrike ; also stone-curlew at Marham. 2 Sandwich terns reached Salthouse on 25th. A ring ouzel appeared at Cley on 26th and sand martin, greenshank and 7 Sandwich terns next day when 20 black redstarts were counted between Sheringham and Cley. Up to 8 goosanders were in the Breck at Narford Lake. There were early whimbrel at Breydon and Cley on 28th with the first yellow wagtails ; the following day at Cley, ring ouzel, black redstart and white wagtail were seen. A ferruginous duck stayed at Cawston Manor lakes throughout the month.

April : The first three paragraphs are from Cley Observatory log.

Sandwich terns rose to 60 on 1st and on 2nd, 5 shore-larks were seen ; there were 3 avocets, a firecrest, male Lapland bunting, and 2—3 each of willow warbler and chiffchaff next day. The first swallow came on 5th with over 100 Sandwich terns. Next day, 2 yellow wagtails and 16 siskins appeared to be followed on 7th by the first sedge-warbler. The first blackcap appeared on 9th and a late hen-harrier on 11th.

An influx of Sandwich terns brought the number to 250 by 13th, willow warbler passage was getting under way, with 2 ring ouzels and black redstarts and on 14th new arrivals were tree pipit, nightingale, 2 whitethroats and an immature glaucous gull. At night 40 yellow wagtails roosted in the reed-beds. The first cuckoo and common tern came on 15th and female yellow wagtails began to arrive, the males being now widespread. There was also a third small influx of wheatears, including some big birds, also 4 bramblings.

The first redstart and grasshopper-warbler, with 2 black redstarts, appeared on 17th and first reed-warblers on 21st. The 23rd brought lesser whitethroat, turtle dove, 2 fieldfares, a whinchat, and on 25th the first swift and an avocet. The first wood warbler came on 24th and there was an influx of big wheatears, with the first 3 common and one green sandpiper. Swallows were moving west in good numbers with 1—2 house-martins until 29th when there were 4 little terns. On 30th the Sandwich tern numbers suddenly leapt to 400, the peak before dispersal to the breeding grounds.

Elsewhere, summer migrants were on the whole late in arriving with the exception of chiffchaffs and cuckoos, whilst a grasshopper-warbler returned to Wheatfen by 15th. The most exciting visitor was a kite at Weybourne on 15th.

May : The first three paragraphs are from Cley Observatory log.

Greenshank and great grey shrike appeared on 1st with a second great grey shrike, a dotterel and 3 little stints on 3rd and pied flycatcher and blue-headed wagtail on 6th. Whinchats and whimbrel were passing steadily and grey plovers, turnstones and both godwits figured among the waders at this time. Garden warblers appeared on 8th.

On 9th began an exciting phase in the spring migration. A male red-footed falcon was hawking over the reed-beds, 40 whimbrel passed west, grey plover, green sandpiper and little stint were present, and a spoonbill was followed at dusk by a purple heron. An avocet joined the spoonbill on 10th and a crane flew slowly up and down the marshes. A Montagu's harrier passed over and 80 black terns gradually moved eastwards as they fed over the pools.

Another Montagu's harrier, the avocet and spoonbill, a Kentish plover, 2 wood sandpipers and 4 ruffs were present on 11th, the black terns being reduced to 10. On 12th, first nightjars and spotted flycatcher were seen, also 20 wood sandpipers, red-backed shrikes following on 13th.

A wood sandpiper was singing on 17th. Several brown and white *acredula* willow warblers occurred on 22nd, with 50 black terns moving east and an increase in wood sandpipers. Many swifts passed. Next day, 5 avocets and 50 black terns appeared. A late hooded crow passed west on 30th.

Elsewhere, about 100 crossbills (half of them red birds) were at Kelling on 3rd, a hoopoe at Whiteslea on 11th, 2 gull-billed terns over arable land at Weybourne on 12th and a male red-footed falcon swooped low over Blakeney Point on 15th. The same day, a red-throated pipit was seen at Scolt Head and was joined by a second bird on 16th. 2 ospreys appeared at Horsey on 9th; one stayed at Hickling 11th—20th and another visited Cawston Manor lakes 14th—18th.

At Hickling Broad, Rush Hills wader ground was full of interest with 9 ruffs on 6th and 7 on 13th, usually 3—4 greenshank, single spotted redshank on 9th and 28th, parties of 3—5 turnstones, 4 wood sandpipers on 24th/25th and 3 on 26th/28th, 3 grey plover on 12th and 4 green sandpipers on 20th; also numbers of black terns. At Breydon, peak numbers of waders occurred between 17th and 21st including both godwits, knot, grey and golden plovers. A spoonbill was there on 21st and an ortolan bunting at Scolt on 22nd. Wisbech sewage farm held on 23rd spotted redshank, greenshank, a little and 2 Temminck's stints, 4 curlew-sandpipers, sanderling, 30 ruffs and 180 black terns. Other rare waders at Wisbech S.F. included a Temminck's stint on 21st, a broad-billed sandpiper on 19th, a Kentish plover on 21st and up to 6 avocets on 29th—31st.

At Scolt, on 27th, parties of 17, 19 and 10 turnstones were watched climbing high over the Cockle Bight and then departing NNE, loudly calling. A feature of the month were two big invasions of black terns, one at the beginning of the second week and the other in the fourth. The first influx reached spectacular numbers at Cley, even larger numbers appeared between 22nd and 25th with up to 120 at Rockland Broad, 50 at Cley and 180 at Wisbech S.F.

Spoonbills were feeding at Hickling on many dates and 2 there 19th—26th were joined by a third bird on 27th. All stayed till 29th. On 31st, 3 spoonbills at Minsmere (Suffolk) were very probably the same birds.

June : At Cley, a crane flew west at sunset on 1st and 6 spoonbills arrived on 27th (earlier the same afternoon they were seen flying east at Scolt). These spoonbills left Cley on 28th and were seen at Breydon July 5th. 14 spotted redshank were at Wisbech sewage farm on 24th. On 24th/25th there was a westward movement of lapwing at Cley and a wood sandpiper arrived on 27th. The limelight was stolen however by 2 Caspian terns at Hickling on 17th. Up to 200 kittiwakes summered at Scolt and there were over 1,000 at Scroby on 19th.

Unusual nest sites reported included a song thrushes' in a horse collar at Holt, a robin's on the top of a broom against a stable wall at Holt and another robin's in a horse collar at Baconsthorpe. At Snetterton, a pied wagtail built a nest beside the driver's cab of a twenty ton excavator. The excavator moved hundreds of yards a day but 4 young were reared. At Norwich, a wren built its nest in a gardener's cap hanging in a shed whilst at North Burlingham a blackbird's nest with a full clutch of eggs was found on the ground in the middle of a field of broccoli. Blue tits raised a brood under the capping at the top of West Harling church tower 63 feet from the ground. At Corpusty Mill, a wren's nest was built in a 1958 swallow's nest. The swallows built again alongside and reared young.

The warm, dry, summer benefited many breeding birds. At Breydon, sheld-duck had one of their most successful seasons. One evening in mid-June there, 127 young were counted along a mile of estuary wall. On the coast, 920 pairs of Sandwich terns and 1,700 pairs of common terns nested. 100 pairs of black-headed gulls returned to Scoulton Mere which had been deserted in 1958, but many eggs were destroyed. 2 pairs of wigeon nested at Norton and a pair of pintail at Cley. At least 18 young fulmar petrels were reared. 430 pairs of nesting herons were counted compared with 322 pairs the previous year. 2—3 pairs of collared doves nested. Stonechats bred successfully at Winterton. In the Broads area, bearded tits enjoyed a highly successful season and 4 pairs of marsh-harriers nested. No Montagu's harriers are known to have bred in the county. Black redstarts nested, unsuccessfully, for the first time in Norwich. Quail nested at Kirstead Ling and 2 pairs of curlew at Wretham.

July : No rarities were reported, but at Cley there was an early passage of waders. Curlew passage remained in full swing till 3rd when 100 came in from sea. Many lapwings also arrived next day with a green sandpiper. 3 greenshank accompanied the lapwing flocks on 11th. 6 little ringed plover were at Wisbech sewage farm on 15th/17th. All the lapwing moving west on 16th were adults in wing moult and they were followed by 5 whimbrel and 5 black-tailed godwits. 2 avocets arrived on 18th.

August : The first four paragraphs relate to Cley/Blakeney.

A guillemot and its half-grown flightless chick were swimming close inshore on 1st and a curlew appeared on 3rd. A little ringed plover came in on 7th and on 10th, 2 curlew-sandpipers, a black tern and 2 roseate terns were seen. Wader passage reached a peak on 11th with 17 species including 30 whimbrel, 8 wood sandpipers, 7 adult curlew-sandpipers, 2 little stints, 8 greenshank, 2 spotted redshanks and 40 turnstones.

A great skua was seen on 13th, while on 14th many house martins passed west. 6 kestrels arrived on 15th, 2 cuckoos were flying east and also recorded were 7 curlew sandpipers, 6 ruffs, 2 spotted redshanks, 4 black-tailed godwits and 20—30 wood-sandpipers. Next day over 1,000 curlew passed in half an hour.

A juvenile Montagu's harrier appeared on 17th. Next day, 3 little gulls arrived with a little ringed plover and spotted redshank. 3 dotterel were seen on 10th, also 5 wood-sandpipers and another little gull. A red-necked phalarope appeared on 21st. 15 black terns were moving west with flocks of common terns and the opening phase of passerine migration was indicated by the presence of 10 wheatears, 10 whinchats, 2 redstarts, single garden and willow warblers, a lesser whitethroat and an increase in whitethroats. A wryneck followed on 22nd with 10 pied flycatchers; another wryneck came on 23rd. An aquatic warbler on 27th was a herald of things to come.

Passerine birds on 28th included the first barred warbler. A sooty shearwater was also seen. The 30th brought a spotted crane and a second barred warbler. Waders at this time included a little stint, ruffs, curlew-sandpipers and a party of 23 grey plovers (all except 2 in breeding plumage).

At no time during this and the following month were any big movements of small passerines observed, presumably because the prolonged spell of calm and clear weather provided perfect migration conditions which enabled birds to continue without stopping. The most notable visitor at Scolt was a barred warbler ringed on 31st. Among the waders, wood-sandpipers reached peak numbers between 11th and 17th. In addition to those at Cley, 23 were at Brancaster on 11th. The next day, at Scolt, a party of 21 common sandpipers flew west and whimbrel were heading west all day. A highlight was a gathering of 47 dotterel at Terrington marsh on 20th.

September : The first five paragraphs relate to Cley/Blakeney.

An early fieldfare, red-backed shrike and 3 pied flycatchers arrived on 1st. A third barred warbler was recorded on 2nd with 2 ortolans, white wagtail, pied and spotted flycatchers, tree pipit, redstarts, garden warblers, wheatears and whinchats. On 3rd, 4 woodlarks were feeding on the beach, an ortolan was seen and the

sea produced a pomatorhine and 10 Arctic skuas. The first bluethroat arrived on 4th, also another barred warbler. On 5th, 2 bluethroats were present, while 3 great and 20 Arctic skuas were off shore and curlew-sandpiper numbers suddenly rose to 20. A fourth bluethroat, a red-breasted flycatcher and a grasshopper warbler were new on 6th and there were 8 pied flycatchers.

A Leach's petrel and a little gull were seen at sea on 9th. The first goldcrest was present on 10th with a grasshopper warbler, while next day saw a red-necked grebe, a coal tit, 10 long-tailed tits, 2 ortolans and 30 whinchats. 5 siskins appeared on 12th while 3 Lapland buntings arrived on 13th. Another sooty shearwater was seen at sea. The 15th brought the first young grey plovers and next day the first rock pipit and 20 whinchats appeared.

Newly arrived passerines on 17th included pied flycatchers, a Siberian lesser whitethroat and a red-breasted flycatcher. On 18th came the first hen harrier, woodcock and jack snipe, with an ortolan.

The 19th proved to be a big day of migration. Many lapwings and starlings were coasting west, a corncrake and a turtle dove were seen and there was a big passage of Hirundines (swallows predominating); also the first 2 bramblings. On 20th, a coal tit, 20 whinchats and 6 grey wagtails (moving west) were recorded.

Two corncrakes and a jack snipe appeared on 23rd. Siskins were passing in small numbers most days at this time, more than recorded for some years. Blue, coal and long-tailed tits were turning up in unexpected places on 24th. The following day brought 2 corncrakes, 40-50 snow buntings and a pied woodpecker, while 2 hen harriers were quartering the arable land adjoining the marshes. The 30th heralded the beginning of the early October movement which was perhaps the most profitable period of the autumn—13 goldcrests, a firecrest, 12 redstarts, 14 song thrushes and bramblings.

On the east coast, the highlight was a group of 3 barred warblers (probably on re-determined passage) at Sea Palling on 18th, with them were pied flycatchers, redstarts and whitethroats. At Breydon the peak wader passage was reached on 12th with whimbrel, grey plover, greenshank, bar-tailed godwits, green sandpiper and ruffs. September's most unusual bird of prey was a red-footed falcon found dead near Acle on 27th. At Hickling, a Caspian tern remained on the Broad until October 2nd.

Single red-breasted flycatchers appeared at Holkham on 2nd and 17th and there were 2 at Holme on 19th. Also at Holme, on 6th, were several whinchats, 20 redstarts and 20 pied flycatchers; together with a barred warbler. A barred warbler was also present there next day. A remarkable total of 400 gannets was off Hunstanton and Holme on 13th. At Scott, on 28th a kingfisher was at the pond in House Hills and on 30th a red-backed shrike appeared with blackcap, redstarts and pied flycatcher.

October : The first seven paragraphs relate to Cley/Blakeney.

A second firecrest on 1st was accompanied by 16 goldcrests, grey and yellow wagtails, chaffinches, bramblings, redwing, song-thrushes, blackbirds, whinchats, redstarts, blackcap and pied flycatcher, while 6 little gulls were at sea. Blue and long-tailed tits were again in evidence on 2nd and a late turtle dove and ring ouzel were also seen. The 4th was a day of large-scale immigration continuing till well after nightfall. Many song-thrushes and redwings were coming in from the sea with several blackbirds, 3 ring ouzels, a great grey shrike, merlin, hooded crow, several robins, 10 redstarts, many goldcrests, 3 blackcaps, spotted and pied flycatchers, siskins, chaffinches, bramblings, garden warblers and chiffchaffs. The influx continued on 5th with many skylarks, starlings and chaffinches arriving but fewer blackbirds. Thrushes and redwings again came in from noon on 7th accompanied by a few blackbirds and a ring ouzel and there were 12 siskins, a great tit, black redstart, 1-2 Lapland buntings and a woodcock.

The 8th brought in another great grey shrike, with great numbers of song thrushes and redwings; starlings, greenfinches, chaffinches and bramblings were also arriving but robins and goldcrests were fewer. On 9th, great, blue and long-tailed tits appeared in numbers, with meadow pipits, siskins and tree sparrows. Immense numbers of redwings arrived on 10th with 12 ring ouzels and many song-thrushes, blackbirds and 2 fieldfares. Many goldcrests (again with several robins), 4 blackcaps, 2 garden warblers, redstarts, chiffchaff and a long-eared owl were seen. A northern pied woodpecker was ringed on 11th and there was an influx of snipe, rooks, starlings, skylarks, many redwings, song thrushes, blackbirds, 4 ring ouzels, 4 blackcaps, 6 redstarts and several robins. Also seen were 20 siskins, 50 twites, house and tree sparrows, chaffinches, bramblings, 2 woodlarks, chiffchaffs and pied flycatchers.

On 12th, 5 little gulls were seen; rooks, lapwings, starlings and 20 mistle thrushes were moving west, meadow pipits were arriving and there was a moderate influx of Turdidae. Reed and yellow buntings increased sharply, many apparently drifting westwards accompanied by house and tree sparrows.

There were further big arrivals of redwings, thrushes and blackbirds on 14th, with a few fieldfares, a chiffchaff, garden warbler, stonechat, blackcap, short-toed lark, 10 long-tailed and 3 coal tits, 12 twites and 2 Lapland buntings. 6 little gulls were on the pools. Blackbirds increased on 16th with a further arrival of chaffinches, bramblings, skylarks, rooks, jackdaws, twites, siskins and redwings. A new fall of robins and goldcrests occurred on 17th and 8 long-tailed tits were seen. Single coal tits appeared almost daily at this

time and the finch, starling and lapwing passage was unabated. A heavy easterly movement of auks developed on 20th. At least 750 razorbills were involved ; also 2 puffins.

A black redstart was seen on 22nd and next day many fieldfares were moving west with several redwings. 3 Lapland buntings and 3 stonechats were recorded on 24th, the fieldfares and redwings still going by. There was an exceptional influx of little gulls at the end of the month with 7 on 26th, 25 on 27th, 12 on 28th, 15 on 29th, 5 on 30th, 2 on 31st and 7 on November 1st.

On 28th a force 9 north to north-west gale set in and ravaged the coast throughout the day and night. The sea spilt over the shingle beach at Cley. Over 30 great, 25 Arctic and 3 pomatorhine skuas passed within a few hours and some were swept inland. Hundreds of kittiwakes entering Blakeney harbour found themselves carried eastwards headlong down the coast. Fleeting glimpses were obtained of 2 storm-petrels and a Leach's petrel " as they fluttered over the yawning trough like black marionettes." On 29th the wind backed to the west and gradually diminished in strength. Skuas dropped in numbers, but were replaced by 2 grey phalaropes, 17 little auks moving west, a glaucous gull and kittiwakes in much the same numbers. 2 black guillemots and a storm-petrel were recorded.

Westward migration was resumed on a most impressive scale on 30th. It was most pronounced up to mid-day, but was still in progress at sunset. It was estimated that 5,000 skylarks, 5,000 fieldfares, 2,500 redwings, 300 blackbirds and 100,000 starlings passed along the coast at Cley. Many were totally exhausted. A grey phalarope was on the sea with another on 31st when a total of 25 little auks moved west. A waxwing appeared on 31st and thousands of starlings passed west.

At Scolt, 30 house sparrows appeared on 2nd, and were followed next day by blue tits and black redstart. On 4th, 30 song-thrushes, several goldcrests, and black redstart arrived. More song-thrushes and blackbirds were noted on 5th with robins, goldcrests and bramblings. Fieldfares arrived on 8th, with parties of bramblings. A late whimbrel passed over next day, when a kingfisher was in House Hills. On 10th, a great tit arrived, with wrens, song-thrushes, many redwings, blackbirds, robins and goldcrests. A siskin passed next day. At Holme, between 4th—11th, the pine plantation behind the dunes contained up to 4 blue, 10 coal and 10 long-tailed tits, 30 song-thrushes, 50 redwings, a few ring ouzels and pied flycatchers, numbers of blackbirds, bramblings, and robins, 15 redstarts (on 4th), 10—20 goldcrests rising to 80—100 on 11th. Also on 11th, 2 woodcock (one of which was trapped and recovered at the end of the year in Finistere, France), and 2 pied woodpeckers with another on 25th. Up to 25 goldcrests were moving through until 25th.

A honey-buzzard was shot at High Kelling on 7th and a ring ouzel struck the Lynn Well light-vessel on 13th. On 17th, a birch spinney and orchard at Waxham were alive with many hundreds of birds including redwings, song-thrushes, blackbirds, long-tailed, coal and great tits, goldcrests and bramblings; also 6—10 ring ouzels and redpolls.

Very heavy movements took place during the last 2 days of the month. At Cromer, there were great influxes of lapwing, skylarks, blackbirds and starlings. Between Stiffkey and Sheringham an all day influx of starlings, fieldfares, blackbirds, song-thrushes, redwings, hooded crows, rooks and lapwings was witnessed on 30th. In the Breck peak numbers of gadwall (90—100) were reached at West Acre.

Small numbers of little auks appeared on the coast with a few inland from 28th. Yet another invasion of waxwings began on 30th. On the last day of the month, it was estimated that 22,500 black-headed and common gulls were roosting at Breydon.

November : The first paragraph relates to Cley/Blakeney.

A conservative estimate of 30,000 starlings, 30,000 skylarks and 5,000 lapwings passed west along the coast during the morning of 1st. Many fieldfares passed west, 4 little gulls were seen and 34 waxwings arrived. There was an influx of blackbirds on 3rd. From 15th—18th many kittiwakes and several little gulls passed east along the shore. 15 Bewick's swans flew west and 5 shore-larks were seen. A great grey shrike was present on 20th. Next day 12 long-tailed tits came in from the sea at a good height and made off inland. A late swallow was still present on 22nd and next day 12 stock doves accompanied rooks and hooded crows heading west.

The 1st was one of the best days of late autumn movement. At Cromer, Sheringham and Wells, there was a huge all-day passage of skylarks and starlings with many lapwings. At Holme, 10,000 lapwings were estimated, together with skylarks, fieldfares and starlings. On the east side of The Wash between Heacham and Hunstanton, large numbers of starlings, redwings, and skylarks were flying WNW until dusk. Skylarks were passing at the rate of 4,000 an hour. On the muds were 10,000 gulls, mainly herring gulls but including many greater black-backs. A Leach's petrel was seen off Sheringham.

On 2nd, at Snettisham, there was a southerly movement of many starlings, skylarks, chaffinches, lapwings, rooks and fieldfares. 7 siskins were also noted. Numerous parties of waxwings appeared in the county but the majority did not stay long. On 13th, following a SE gale, a storm-petrel was found on a boating lake at Yarmouth. There was a little crane at Brinton on 15th. An influx of woodcock was noted on 26th and 26 were flushed in a small wood at Brinton. An avocet was at Brancaster on 30th.

A remarkable feature of the late autumn was the immensity of wood-pigeon movement. At Yarmouth, on the morning of 23rd shortly after daybreak until 10 a.m. flock after flock arrived from a NE direction. Many continued in a SE direction, but others passed SW over Yarmouth. The flocks ranged from parties of 50 to companies of 400—500 and approached the shore just north of Scroby. On 21st flocks of wood-pigeons also passed over Yarmouth and again on 24th. One stock dove was found exhausted in the centre of Yarmouth at this time. Further big influxes were noted at Yarmouth, December 4th/5th. The Newarp light-vessel (9½ miles off Winterton) reported numbers of wood-pigeons on the night of December 3rd/4th and 2 were killed. The Haisbro' light-vessel (8½ miles NE of Mundesley) reported many circling the vessel and some alighting on 22nd and again on December 6th. The Inner Dowsing light-vessel (10 miles off the Lincolnshire coast) had many on December 4th, 6 of which landed and others on 5th. At Cley, phenomenal numbers arrived from direction of the sea on 19th, 21st and 24th. Tens of thousands passed. One flock on 24th was 150 yards broad and extended for half a mile. At Scolt, on 30th, 45 came in from a NNE direction and continued inland; flocks of up to 300 were flying east and west during the day; 3 tired birds were found December 1st and the next day, groups of 25 and 37 came in from the sea and one was completely exhausted.

December : A late house-martin stayed at Gooderstone 4th—6th. Following severe SW—S gales in SW England on 6th/7th, a storm-petrel was picked up dead at Norwich on 8th. The same day a grey phalarope was seen at Sheringham. 5,400 sheld-duck were on The Wash at Snettisham on 12th. A drake red-crested pochard visited three north Norfolk lakes from 15th onwards. The first fulmars had returned to their breeding cliffs by 24th. At the end of the month, 800 brent geese had reached Morston and there were 400 at Brancaster. A water pipit was identified at Cley on 26th. On 31st an unusually large flock of 60 snipe was seen at Stiffkey and there was a remarkable total of 500 eiders in The Wash. Up to 26 shore-larks frequented Cley beach.

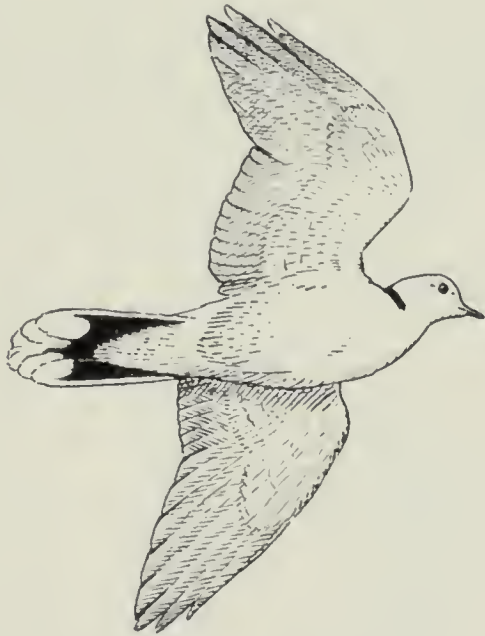
Varieties reported included an all white pheasant at Holt, 2 rooks with white wing patches at Thorpe-next-Norwich and at Corpusty, an all-white hedge-sparrow killed by house sparrows at Blofield, a very pale starling with white wings at Horsford and a partly white house sparrow at Blakeney. 233 species of birds were recorded in the county during the year.

We are indebted to R. A. Richardson for the cover drawing of snow bunting and shore-lark and for other delightful illustrations; also to J. V. Beer, P. R. Clarke, C. C. Doncaster and R. Jones 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; to *British Birds* and to all other contributors.

Records for the 1960 Report should be sent *by the end of January* to Michael J. Seago, 33 Acacia Road, Thorpe, Norwich, NOR 71T. Records should be in Check List order rather than in diary form.

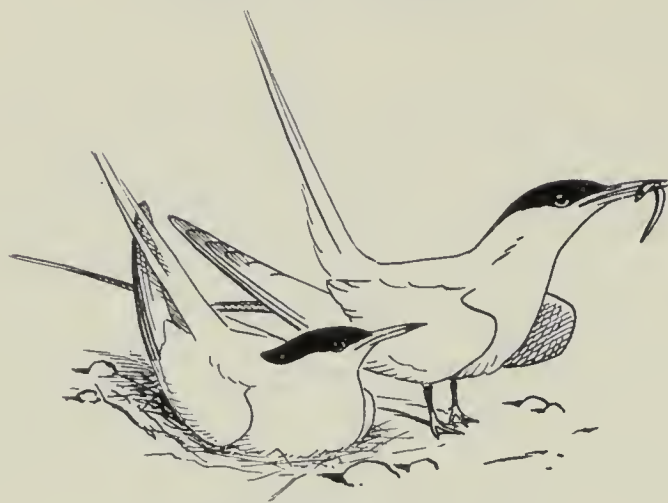
Attention may be drawn to the following papers affecting Norfolk published recently :

“ The spread of the Eider in Gt. Britain ” (*British Birds*, Vol. 52, pp. 245—258) ; “ Watching Migration by Radar ” (*British Birds*, Vol. 52, pp. 258—267) ; “ Migration across the North Sea studied by Radar ” : Part 1 Survey through the year (*Ibis*, 101 (1959) pp. 209—234) and Part 2 The Spring departure 1956—59 (*Ibis*, 102 (1960), pp. 26—57) ; “ The September drift-movements of 1956 and 1958 ” (*British Birds*, Vol. 52 pp. 334—377) ; “ A Winter census on The Wash (*Bird Study*, Vol. 6 pp. 123—132) ; “ Bewick’s Swans in the British Isles in the Winters of 1954/5 and 1955/6 ” (*British Birds*, Vol. 52 pp. 393—416) ; “ The irruption of tits in autumn 1957 ” (*British Birds*, Vol. 53 pp. 49—77, 99—117 and 176—192) and “ The coastal roosting of gulls in England and Wales 1955/6 (*Bird Study*, Vol. 7 pp. 32—52).



Collared Dove

Notes on Breeding Birds of the Norfolk Nature Reserves.



SCOLT HEAD ISLAND (The Nature Conservancy)

WARDEN : R. CHESTNEY

ASSISTANT WARDEN : P. J. MOUNTFORD

In 1959, the Assistant Warden carried out a close survey of breeding species outside the Ternery Area and it was thus possible to obtain a more comprehensive picture of the resident bird population this year than in the past. Records for the whole of the island are summarised below :

<i>Species</i>	<i>Number of nests or pairs of birds</i>	<i>Hatching success</i>	<i>Fledging success</i>	<i>Young ringed</i>
Mallard	14 nests	?	?	
Sheld-duck	150-200 pairs	?	Poor	
Red-legged Partridge	3-4 nests	Good	Fair	
Partridge	1 nest certain	Good	Good	
Oystercatcher	73 pairs	Fair	Very poor	13
Ringed Plover	150-175 pairs	Poor	Very poor	12
Redshank	80-100	Fair	?	
Black-headed Gull	30 pairs	Nil	Nil	
Common Tern	400 pairs	135 nests	17	
Arctic Tern	1 nest	1	Nil	
Little Tern	19 nests	Poor	Poor	
Sandwich Tern	20 nests	Poor	Nil	
Stock-Dove	1 nest certain	?	Nil	
Cuckoo	1 pair	?	2	
Skylark	Bred generally	Good	Good	5
Meadow-Pipit	Bred generally	Good	Good	4
Linnet	30 pairs	Fair-good	Fair-good	15
Reed-Bunting	18 pairs	Poor	Poor	5

One adult of each of the following species was ringed :-

Cuckoo, Skylark, Meadow-Pipit, Reed-Bunting.

Many species suffered losses of eggs through the interference of rats, black-headed gulls, carrion crows and high spring tides. At Scott Head terns of all three species had an exceptionally poor breeding season.

An open sheld-duck's nest was made in marram grass on Low Hills and three out of seven eggs hatched ; another sheld-duck's nest in the same area was made in a tunnel of marram grass and hidden from view. The reason may have been an acute shortage of holes.



BLAKENEY POINT
(The National Trust)

WARDEN : W. EALES

Although Sandwich terns did not nest on the Point in 1959, the breeding season for most other species was good. The Far Point was badly affected by high tides during June, when two hundred nests of common tern were lost, together with eight oystercatchers', one Arctic tern's and several ringed plovers'. This area is becoming more and more subject to inundations.

A short-eared owl was a regular visitor during the period when terns were hatching and took a large number of chicks. Rats were more troublesome than usual during the dry weather. Whitebait were very scarce during the summer.

Several times, roseate terns were seen, but none succeeded in breeding.

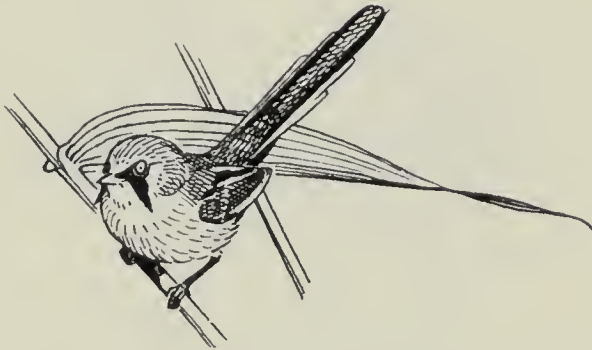
During the hot summer, nests of some species were found very late. Some common terns were hatching on 6th August, ringed plovers on 9th August, skylarks on 13th August and linnets on 15th August.

There was a notable increase in the number of redshanks nesting in the Ternery Area ; some birds chose sites well out on the shingle ridges, using only a few wisps of marram grass as a partial covering for their eggs.

The following is a summary of nests marked and estimated :

	<i>Marked</i>	<i>Estimated</i>
Sheld-duck	27	45-50
Red-legged Partridge ...	2	

			<i>Marked</i>	<i>Estimated</i>
Oystercatcher	...	...	91	
Ringed Plover	...	...	76	
Redshank	...	...	38	50
Common Tern	...	...	970	
Arctic Tern	...	...	2	
Little Tern	...	...	94	
Swallow	...	...	1	
Skylark	...	...	53	75
Linnet	...	...	21	40



CLEY AND SALTHOUSE
(The Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

WARDEN : W. F. BISHOP

A fine, dry summer greatly favoured many of the nesting species, especially the bearded tits and mallard.

Bittern.—The weather was mild at the end of February and booming commenced earlier than usual, being heard on February 27th. The first nest, containing four eggs, was found on April 13th and by May 4th all eggs were hatched. Five males were booming : four at Cley and one at Salthouse. One nest at Salthouse contained newly hatched chicks on May 16th.

Mallard.—It was estimated that 250–300 pairs bred in the area in 1959 and a large percentage of young were reared.

Teal.—No nests were found, but it is thought that at least three pairs bred on Cley Marsh.

Garganey.—Two pairs arrived on March 4th and a further two pairs were present on March 27th. Eleven young were flying on July 16th.

Shoveler.—A further increase was noted ; at least twenty pairs bred.

Gadwall.—It was estimated that about eight pairs nested.

Pintail.—One pair, probably the same as in 1958, bred in the area.

Sheld-duck.—Many of these ducks now nest in hedges and long grass. They enjoyed a very successful breeding season and large numbers of young were on Arnold's marsh during June. The first young were flying on July 21st.

Water-Rail.—Young were seen from the East Bank in June.

Oystercatcher.—It was estimated that 8-10 pairs bred and reared young (these included birds nesting on arable land adjoining the marsh).

Lapwing.—The increase in breeding numbers continued. 15 pairs nested in one field adjoining the marsh, there being a total of approximately 100 nests on marsh and farmland.

Ringed Plover.—Only 6-8 pairs bred, following the disastrous season of 1958. All reared young successfully.

Redshank.—40-50 pairs bred and enjoyed a successful season.

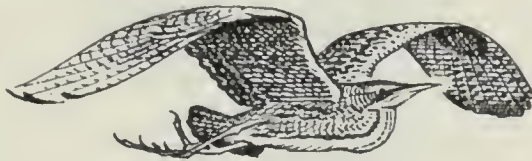
Stone-Curlew.—Young were reared in four nests in the vicinity of Cley Hall Farm.

Common Tern.—38 pairs with nests in early June, but after a female rat had taken a disastrous toll of chicks one night, only about a third of the young survived.

Little Tern.—A decreasing species in the area. Only 6 pairs bred and reared young.

House-Martin.—22 pairs bred on the Watcher's Cottage.

Bearded Tit.—There were about fifteen pairs at the beginning of the season: more than ever before. The first nest was found on April 11th and the first young left the nest on April 27th. Several pairs reared third broods and the nesting season was highly favourable.



HICKLING

(The Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

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

Great Crested Grebe.—Fourteen breeding pairs on Hickling Broad and Heigham Sounds. Eight nests were found.

Heron.—As in 1958, ten nests were counted: two in Whiteslea wood, five in the Sounds wood and three in the General's wood.

Bittern.—Booming was first heard March 1st. One nest was found May 6th containing one egg and three chicks. A second nest contained two eggs and one chick May 22nd. On June 3rd, six bitterns were flying together over Heigham Corner.

Garganey.—The first pair arrived March 18th and there were six pairs by the end of April. A brood of nine ducklings was watched June 25th.

Mute Swan.—A herd of up to 350 was resident on the Broad throughout the year. Eight nests were found.

Marsh-Harrier.—In early April, five hens and two cocks were present. Two nests were found on Wet Spurling's May 6th and both hens appeared to be served by the same cock. One nest held four eggs, the first of which hatched May 27th. On June 21st, two of the young died and the hen disappeared. The orphan chick was fed by hand and was ringed on the 24th. At the second nest, which contained three eggs, two young hatched and both reached the free-flying stage. One was ringed. The third nest near Sounds wood had five eggs, but the hen disappeared.

Common Tern.—First noted May 3rd. Two pairs nested on Rush Hills and a third pair on a "hover" on Heigham Sounds.

Bearded Tit.—These birds enjoyed one of their best breeding seasons. The first nest was found on Swim Coots April 26th and throughout May and June the wardens' diaries record the discovery of many nests at Hickling Broad, Whiteslea and Heigham Sounds. At least 45 pairs are estimated to have bred.



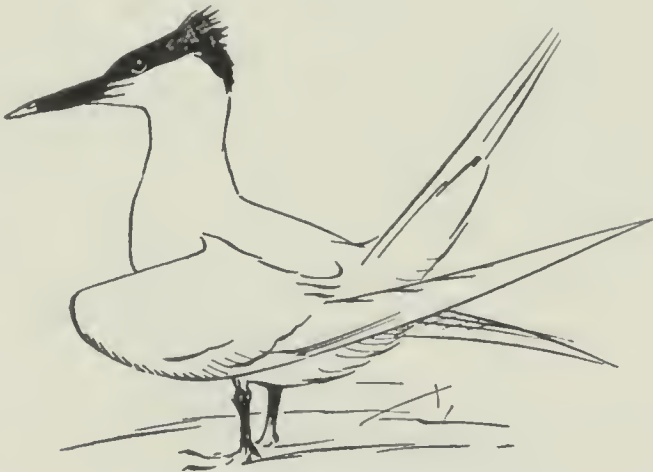
HORSEY
(MAJOR ANTHONY BUXTON)
REEPER: G. CREES

1959 was a remarkably good season for bearded tits and at least twenty pairs nested around Horsey Mere. They all appeared to have three broods. A pair was nest building April 17th and the first nest with six eggs was found two days later. One nest was liberally lined with bittern and mallard feathers. During Sep-

tember parties of ten to fifteen bearded tits were frequently observed travelling high over the reed-beds. At the end of the autumn, a compact flock of at least ninety was seen.

A cock marsh-harrier had two hens. One hen laid three eggs, two of which hatched and both young reached the free-flying stage. When the nest of the other hen was looked at it contained no eggs. This nest was in thick sedge and there were no tracks up to it. The two nests were about 500 yards apart. At the end of the year, three marsh-harriers were still at Horsey. No Montagu's harriers were seen.

The first bittern was heard booming March 3rd; there were at least five booming males. A water-rail's nest with six eggs was found on Brayden marshes April 24th. No oystercatchers or short-eared owls bred. A pair of goldcrests nested successfully in a cedar tree in the Hall gardens—for the first time since at least 1931.



SCROBY SANDS
(ROBIN H. HARRISON)

The first visit in 1959 was made on June 7th. 210 common terns' nests were counted and there were four newly hatched common tern chicks. It was, however, disappointing to find only one small group of 23 Sandwich terns' nests with eggs. The main colony of some 300 Sandwich terns' nests had been destroyed; these nests had been in four groups and the sand was littered with broken egg-shells. There was little doubt that the eggs had been plundered by greater black-backed gulls of which there were several hundred on the sandbank. In previous years it has been late summer before any big number of these gulls has assembled at Scroby. A small colony of eight little terns' nests was found at the north-east corner of the sands. Each contained two eggs. Between two and three hundred kittiwakes were seen.

Adverse weather prevented any further landing on Scroby until July 5th. There were then hundreds of young common terns on the sands, some almost fully fledged. 70 young common terns were ringed. A new colony of 121 Sandwich terns' nests was found and many of the eggs were hatching. Nineteen young Sandwich terns were ringed. Over 700 kittiwakes were on the island.

On July 7th, it was found that more Sandwich terns had hatched and a further twenty were ringed, together with 34 young common terns. Many juvenile common terns were on the wing, but there was also a large number of eggs.

It was discovered on July 19th that the remaining colony of Sandwich tern eggs and chicks had been destroyed. Again there was little doubt that greater black-backed gulls were responsible. Only one survivor was found, a chick ringed on July 5th. A further 67 young common terns were ringed and there were several common tern nests containing eggs.

On July 21st, 18 young common terns were ringed. There was no sign of any new Sandwich tern nests. A final trip was made to Scroby on July 26th when there were still quite a number of common terns' eggs. A further 37 young common terns were ringed. This made a total of 226—the largest number of common terns yet ringed here in one season.



Wryneck

CLEY BIRD OBSERVATORY
(WARDEN : R. A. RICHARDSON)

As many members will already know, Cley Bird Observatory became independent of the Norfolk Naturalists Trust on 1st January 1959 and a local committee was formed to manage its affairs. The N.N.T. sponsored the Observatory from the time of its inception by R. A. Richardson in 1949 and the two organisations will continue working together towards the better understanding of bird migration and related subjects.

1959 was a record year for the Observatory. 2,846 birds of 102 species were ringed (2,098 trapped and 748 as nestlings) and the grand total since 1949 now stands at 14,384 birds of 148 species. Ten species appeared on the ringing list for the first time : eider, mute swan, common partridge, spotted crane, two jack snipe, shorelark, three bearded tits, three siskins, two twites and three lesser redpolls while others worthy of mention were little grebe, seven fulmars, eleven herons, water-rail, fourteen snipe, wood and common sandpipers, three ruffs, 426 Sandwich terns, 2 collared doves, Northern greater spotted woodpecker, wryneck, willow tit, great grey shrike, waxwing and two Lapland buntings. A selection of recent recoveries follows this report.

Experimental rings of neater, non-overlap pattern have been issued to ringers handling a wide diversity of species and this is making possible the compilation of a revised list of appropriate sizes.

Full accounts of the spring and autumn migrations as observed at Cley were published, with similar reports from the other Observatories, in parts 2 and 3 of *Bird Migration*, a new journal of the British Trust for Ornithology. In addition a number of requests for information on specific subjects were answered and the Observatory continued to co-operate with Dr. David Lack whose studies, by means of radar, of migration in East Anglia is producing startling and hitherto unsuspected facts about the magnitude, direction and altitude of movements affecting Norfolk and the North Sea.

The daily estimate of all species present in the Observatory area was maintained continuously throughout the year and the willing assistance and keen interest of the many visiting bird-watchers have been of great value.

We are fortunate to enjoy continued access to the blackthorn thicket on the Salthouse boundary (the site of the Heligoland traps) and to the eminently productive mist-netting grounds on Blakeney Point and Snipe's marsh, Cley. To all concerned our grateful thanks, not least to Barry Spence who spent a total of some fifteen weeks as assistant warden and whose skill and enthusiasm was largely responsible for the increase of over a thousand on our previous best ringing total.

Prospective visitors can book hotel or cottage accommodation in the Cley district, details of which may be obtained from R. A. Richardson at Hill-top, Cley, Holt, Norfolk.

CLEY BIRD OBSERVATORY RINGING PROGRESS.

Species	1959	Total since 1949	Total Recoveries*	Species	1959	Total since 1949	Total Recoveries*	Species	1959	Total since 1949	Total Recoveries*
Little Grebe ...	1	2	1	Barn Owl ...	3	22	2	Melodious Warbler ...	...	2	...
Manx Shearwater ...	...	1	...	Little Owl ...	...	8	...	Icterine Warbler ...	...	4	...
Fulmar ...	7	52	...	Tawny Owl ...	5	22	1	Blackcap ...	2	152	1
Heron ...	11	33	5	Long-eared Owl ...	...	6	...	Barred Warbler ...	2	7	...
Bittern ...	...	4	...	Short-eared Owl ...	...	10	3	Garden Warbler ...	12	73	...
Mallard ...	1	18	4	Nightjar ...	...	4	...	Whitethroat ...	37	709	21
Teal ...	...	2	...	Swift ...	...	26	2	Lesser Whitethroat ...	4	43	...
Wigeon ...	...	3	1	Kingfisher ...	...	1	...	Subalpine Warbler ...	1	1	...
Scaup ...	...	8	2	Green Woodpecker ...	1	2	...	Willow Warbler ...	31	528	1
Eider ...	1	1	...	Great Spotted Woodpecker ...	2	3	...	Chiffchaff ...	11	54	...
Shield-Duck ...	1	7	...	Wryneck ...	1	4	...	Wood Warbler ...	11	11	...
Brent Goose ...	1	1	...	Woodlark ...	9	16	3	Firecrest ...	118	162	...
Mute Swan ...	1	1	...	Skylark ...	...	180	...	Spotted Flycatcher ...	25	77	...
Sparrow Hawk ...	...	1	...	Shorelark ...	1	1	...	Pied Flycatcher ...	11	122	...
Montagu's Harrier ...	...	2	...	Swallow ...	176	65	8	Red-breasted Flycatcher ...	2	3	...
Kestrel ...	8	16	1	House Martin ...	32	96	1	Hedge Sparrow ...	98	472	9
Common Partridge ...	1	1	...	Sand Martin ...	...	60	2	Meadow Pipit ...	29	367	...
Water Rail ...	1	4	...	Rook ...	5	23	1	Tree Pipit ...	7	21	...
Spotted Crane ...	1	1	...	Jackdaw ...	4	7	...	Rock Pipit ...	1	8	...
Corncrake ...	...	1	...	Magpie ...	...	17	...	Pied Wagtail ...	1	65	1
Moorhen ...	1	9	1	Jay ...	...	204	...	White Wagtail ...	1	2	...
Oystercatcher ...	3	32	1	Great Tit ...	28	204	...	Grey Wagtail ...	...	4	...
Lapwing ...	32	305	1	Blue Tit ...	69	520	...	Yellow Wagtail ...	...	5	...
Ringed Plover ...	9	71	...	Coal Tit ...	...	29	...	Blue-headed Wagtail ...	...	2	...
Turnstone ...	...	2	...	Marsh Tit ...	3	18	...	Waxwing ...	...	2	...
Snipe ...	14	19	...	Willow Tit ...	...	25	...	Great Grey Shrike ...	1	1	...
Jack Snipe ...	2	2	...	Long-tailed Tit ...	43	61	...	Woodchat Shrike ...	...	1	...
Woodcock ...	...	3	1	Bearded Tit ...	3	3	...	Red-backed Shrike ...	...	103	...
Wood Sandpiper ...	1	4	...	Nuthatch ...	5	11	...	Starling ...	100	478	9
Common Sandpiper ...	1	5	1	Tree Creeper ...	1	18	1	Greenfinch ...	89	891	4
Redshank ...	3	41	1	Wren ...	26	90	...	Goldfinch ...	19	49	...
Knot ...	...	3	...	Dipper (Black-bellied race) ...	1	45	5	Siskin ...	3	3	...
Purple Sandpiper ...	...	3	...	Mistle Thrush ...	...	1	...	Linnet ...	26	404	6
Dunlin ...	...	9	1	Song Thrush ...	...	9	...	Twite ...	2	2	...
Ruff ...	3	10	...	Redwing ...	242	718	1	Lesser Redpoll ...	3	3	...
Grey Phalarope ...	...	2	...	Ring Ouzel ...	3	38	1	Bullfinch ...	9	27	...
Stone Curlew ...	...	7	...	Blackbird ...	196	5	17	Chaffinch ...	108	723	2
Common Gull ...	...	1	6	Whitehead ...	10	144	...	Brambling ...	22	297	1
Black-headed Gull ...	31	224	1	Wheatear ...	1	1	2	Yellow Bunting ...	109	290	...
Common Tern ...	26	101	1	Stonechat ...	25	52	...	Corn Bunting ...	...	5	...
Little Tern ...	1	11	1	Whinchat ...	24	143	...	Ortolan Bunting ...	...	1	...
Sandwich Tern ...	426	508	1	Redstart ...	...	29	...	Rustic Bunting ...	...	1	...
Razorbill ...	...	4	...	Black Redstart ...	2	135	...	Reed Bunting ...	42	247	...
Little Auk ...	...	2	...	Nightingale ...	...	7	...	Lapland Bunting ...	2	7	...
Guillemot ...	1	5	...	Bluethroat ...	129	629	3	Snow Bunting ...	88	175	1
Stock Dove ...	4	33	2	Robin ...	...	14	...	Tree Sparrow ...	56	665	1
Wood Pigeon ...	1	13	2	Grasshopper Warbler ...	23	97	7	House x Tree Sparrow Hybrid ...	...	1	...
Turtle Dove ...	2	46	4	Red Warbler ...	14	125	...	GRAND TOTALS	2,846	14,384	153
Collared Dove ...	2	4	1	Aquatic Warbler ...	...	1	...				
Cuckoo ...	3	16	...								

*Including initial local "re-traps" of birds known or believed to have migrated since ringing, but not of residents. Species Total : 1959—102 ; Since 1949—148.

SELECTED RINGING RECOVERIES

(Notified in 1959)

	Ringed	Recovered
Shag	Farne Islands. 10.6.57 (as young).	King's Lynn. 27.1.58.
Shag	Isle of May. 3.6.57 (as young).	Overy Staithe. 9.2.58.
Shag	Farne Islands. 21.6.57 (as young).	Near King's Lynn. 9.3.58.
Shag	Farne Islands. 29.6.57 (as young).	Brancaster Staithe. 16.3.58.
Shag	Isle of May. 14.7.56 (as young).	Thornham. 16.3.58.
Shag	Farne Islands. 7.7.58 (as young).	Stow Bedon, Attleborough. 13.1.59.
Heron	Denver. 26.4.58.	Aveiro (Beira Litoral), Portugal. 16.10.58.
Heron	Wiveton. 18.5.58 (as nestling).	Ballynabraggett, Co. Down. 17.1.59.
Mallard	How Hill, Ludham. 8.2.56	Leshukonskoe (Archangel), U.S.S.R. 20.8.58.
Mallard	How Hill, Ludham. 5.2.58.	Near Olecko (Bialystok), Poland. September, 1958.
Mallard	How Hill, Ludham. 5.2.58.	Near Kannus (Vaasa), Finland. 11.5.59.
Mallard	How Hill, Ludham	Recoveries notified from Holland (2), Germany (1) and Sweden (1).
Teal	How Hill, Ludham. 4.1.58.	Byske (Vasterbotten), Sweden. 21.8.59.
Gadwall	Abberton, Essex. 24.5.57.	Gressenhall. 11.10.58.
Scaup	Cley. 28.2.54.	Ust-Tsilma, Pechora River, Komi, U.S.S.R. 25.5.58.
Scaup	Dereham. June 1955 (as captive bred juvenile).	Great Stambidge, Essex. Autumn 1958.
Coot	Abberton, Essex. 11.1.57.	Rockland Broad. 17.1.59.
Lapwing	Breydon. 10.5.58 (as nestling).	St. Jean de Liversay (Charente-Maritime), France. 20.1.59.
Ringed Plover	Scolt Head. 20.6.58.	Skegness, Lincs. 13.10.59.
Turnstone	Daneborg, N.E. Greenland. 2.6.56.	Sea Palling. 25.1.59.
Curlew	Pori, Finland. 6.6.56 (as nestling).	Stiffkey. 15.1.58.
Dunlin	Hohne. 19.8.58.	Near Vila Do Conde (Douro Litoral), Portugal. November 1958.
Dunlin	Revtangen, Norway. 29.9.57.	Terrington marshes. 3.12.58.
Dunlin	Island of Amager, near Copenhagen, Denmark. 11.8.58.	Breydon. 10.1.59
Herring Gull	Rottumeroog, West Frisian Is., Holland. 20.8.56.	Wootton marshes. 26.4.58.
Black-headed Gull	Near Riga, Latvian S.S.R. 6.6.56.	Breydon. January 1958.
Black-headed Gull	Island of Nordre Ronner in Kattegat. 29.6.59 (as young).	Brancaster. 20.10.59.
Kittiwake	North Shields, Northumberland. 1.7.58 (as nestling).	Scolt Head. 25.5.59.
Common Tern	Scolt Head. 30.6.58.	Near Freetown, Sierra Leone. 19.1.59.

Common Tern	Scolt Head. 6.7.58.	Near Port-Etienne, Mauritania. End February 1959.
Common Tern	Scolt Head. 27.6.58.	Sassandra, Ivory Coast. 15.5.59.
Common Tern	Scroby Sands. 18.6.58 (as nest- ling).	Dakar, Senegal. 11.12.58.
Common Tern	Scroby Sands. 7.7.59 (as nest- ling).	Happisburgh. 16.8.59
Common Tern (V32207)	Stiffkey. 29.6.58 (as nestling).	Dakar, Senegal. 23.6.59 (caught and released).
Common Tern	Scolt Head. 30.6.58 (as nest- ling).	M'Bour, Senegal. 10.11.58.
Common Tern	Scolt Head. 3.7.57 (as nestling).	Monrovia, Liberia. 15.6.58.
Sandwich Tern (2 nestlings)	Scolt Head. 18.6.58.	Keta Lagoon, Ghana, 7.6.59 ; and Anyoko Lagoon, near Keta, Ghana, 14.10.59.
Sandwich Tern	Scolt Head. 23.6.58 (as nest- ling).	Hann beach, near Dakar, Sene- gal. 27.3.59.
Sandwich Tern	Scolt Head. 2.7.57 (as nestling).	Keta Lagoon, Ghana. 7.6.59.
Sandwich Tern	Stiffkey. 21.6.59 (as nestling).	Portimao, Portugal. 27.9.59.
Sandwich Tern	Scolt Head. 5.7.57 (as nestling).	Spain, Near Cartagena (Murcia), September 1958.
Swallow (A72833)	Cley. 13.5.56 (as female).	Nested where ringed, 1956-59.
Swallow (E16553)	Cley. 1.9.57 (as male). (These swallows are a pair).	Nested where ringed, 1957-59.
Song-Thrush	Aylsham. 14.9.58.	Montendre (Charente-Mari- time), W. France. 30.11.59.
Redwing	Cley. 7.10.59 (as first winter).	Moron de la Frontera (Seville), Spain. 10.12.59.
Blackbird	Sokndal, S. Norway. 14.6.57 (as young).	Cley. 22.11.59.
Blackbird (X33087)	Cley. 12.4.53.	Regularly where ringed till January 1959.
Sedge-Warbler (K11682)	Cley. 24.5.58 (as adult).	Nested where ringed, 1958-59.
Whitethroat (A56669)	Cley. 28.5.56 (adult).	Nested where ringed, 1956-59.
Whitethroat (C31390)	Cley. 18.5.57 (adult).	Nested where ringed, 1957-59.
Whitethroat (E16832)	Cley. 10.5.58 (adult).	Nested where ringed, 1958-59.
Spotted Flycatcher	High Kelling. 22.6.58 (as nest- ling).	Eneriz, near Puente de la Reina (Navarre), Spain. 14.9.59.
Pied Flycatcher	Holme. 22.9.57.	Near Vila Franca Das Naves (Beira Alta), Portugal. 22.10.58.
Yellow Wagtail	Cley. 5.6.58 (as nestling).	Lisbon, Portugal. 27.9.59.
Starling	Cley. 15.1.59.	Loxstedt (Niedersachsen), Germany. 14.10.59.
Starling (R51753)	Sheringham. 19.1.59.	Wilhelmshaven, Germany. 3.5.59 (trapped and released where nesting).
Starling	Kandava, Latvian S.S.R. 1.6.58 (as nestling).	Inner Dowsing light-vessel. 5.11.58.
Starling	Loosduinen, Holland. 21.10.53. Transported to Geneva, Swit- zerland.	Alderford. 16.3.58.



Copyright

P. R. Clarke

During 1959, 2,846 birds were ringed by Cley Bird Observatory including ten species not previously ringed. One of the additions was this Shore-lark, only the second ringed in Britain. Since the Observatory was established in 1949, 14,384 birds of 148 species have been marked and recoveries reported from 12 European countries, Africa and Siberia.



Copyright

J. V. Bee

Part of a large flock of 47 Dotterel resting on reclaimed land just behind the sea wall at Terrington Marsh, August 20th. They allowed approach to within six feet. This flock appears to be the largest recorded in England this century.



Copyright

R. Jon

Attention may be drawn to the B.T.O. Greater Spotted Woodpecker enquiry. The objects of this are to determine (1) the present status of this woodpecker, (2) whether the practice of visiting bird tables is due to a new "tameness" or due to a shortage of other food and (3) whether the habit of attacking nest boxes is a new one and due to a shortage of nesting sites.

*Caspian Tern*

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 1959.

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 1959, unless otherwise stated. Where no initials appear after a record, details have been supplied by many observers.

1 Black-throated Diver : North coast : Singles (and once 2) on 18 dates at Scolt, Burnham Overy, Titchwell, Wells and Blakeney Point to Salthouse up to May 31st and from Aug. 30th when one still in breeding plumage.

2 Great Northern Diver : North coast : Singles (and once 4) on 14 dates at Scolt, Wells, Blakeney and Cley up to Jan. 31st, on April 23rd and from Sept. 4th.

4 Red-throated Diver : Inland records only are given. One, Sea Mere, Jan. 11th-14th (CG) ; 2, Holkham Lake, late Jan. (RPB-O) ; 2, Horsey Mere, Sept. 6th (GC) ; one, Breydon, Nov. 21st (RHH) and one Kelling Hall lake, Dec. 12th, which later died (RPB-O).

5 Great Crested Grebe : Summer count of *adults* : Broads: Rockland, 28 ; Hickling/Heigham Sounds, 28 ; Wroxham, 6 and Alderfen, 2. Breck : Narborough gravel pit, 2 ; Mickle Mere, 10-17 ; Hill Mere, 2 ; Thompson, 4 ; Narford, 8 ; Stanford, 3 and Fowl Mere, one. Other waters : Taverham gravel pits, 4 ; Earsham gravel pits, 2 ; Hardley flood, 2-3 ; Wolterton Lake, 2 and Cawston Manor, one.

Wash : 40-50, Holme to Hunstanton, Nov. 1st (CBC).

6 Red-necked Grebe : North coast : Scolt, one, Nov. 7th (RC), Burnham Overy, one, Oct. 8th (RPB-O); Wells, one, Jan. 28th (HH); Cley, singly, Sept. 11th, 19th, 26th and 28th and 2, Oct. 20th. East coast : Mundesley, an oiled immature, Dec. 29th (RAR). Wash : Singles at Hunstanton, March 1st, Nov. 1st and 8th and Dec. 9th and 12th ; also at Snettisham, Dec. 9th (CBC).

7 Slavonian Grebe : North coast : 1-6 on 6 dates at Wells, Titchwell, Blakeney and Cley up to Jan. 28th and from Nov. 6th. Broads : One at Hickling, Jan. 31st (EP). Wash : Hunstanton, maximum of 20, March 1st (CBC).

8 Black-necked Grebe : North coast : 1-5 on 6 dates at Scolt, Wells, Cley and Salthouse up to March 19th and from Sept. 1st. Wash : Rather scarce and 3 at Hunstanton on March 1st was largest party (CBC).

12 Leach's Petrel : North coast : Singles at Cley, Sept. 9th, 26th and 27th, and Oct. 28th ; and at Sheringham, Nov. 1st.

14 Storm-Petrel : North coast : Scolt, one, Sept. 12th (RC) ; Cley, 2, Oct. 28th and one, 29th. East coast : Yarmouth, one on a boating lake, Nov. 14th (RHH). Inland, one found dead at Norwich, Dec. 8th (*per* FJTP). Wash : Hunstanton, one, Oct. 28th (L.L-E).

16 Manx Shearwater : North coast : Cley, odd birds, Sept. 13th-20th included at least 3 *mauretanicus*, also singly Oct. 20th and 28th. Blakeney Point, 7, Oct. 25th and one on 27th.

21 Sooty Shearwater : North coast : singly at Cley, Aug. 28th (JMCC, JC) and Sept. 13th (RJJ). Four previous county records.

26 Fulmar Petrel : Maximum numbers include 68, Weybourne to Sheringham, May 3rd ; 21, Beeston, June 28th ; 20, W. Runton, June 28th ; 28, E. Runton, May 4th and 31, Cromer, April 20th and May 4th. First eggs seen May 19th.

Breeding successes : Weybourne-Sheringham (20 nests, at least 8 robbed and only 3 young reported. One nest—robbed—was in a nearby railway cutting) ; Beeston, (3 young ringed) ; E. Runton (6 young, 4 ringed) ; Cromer (6 young) and Mundesley (one egg). At least 18 young reared. Birds also present at Overstrand and Happisburgh (PT, RPB-O and other observers).

First bird returned to breeding cliffs Dec. 24th (PRC). A blue phase bird at Cromer, Jan. 7th (EAE).

27 Gannet : Coastal records all months from March to Nov. Peak movements Sept. 13th, when 400 (in 2 flocks) in Wash off Hunstanton (CBC) and Oct. 5th when very many off Cley including 150 in 15 minutes.

29 Shag : North coast : One found 2 miles inland at Brancaster, Jan. 24th was later released (RC). Singles at Blakeney Point, Oct. 19th and at Cley, May 17th and Dec. 18th/19th.

30 Heron : Details of heronries as follows :

Borders of Wash : Snettisham, 19 nests. *Fenland* : Islington, 134 ; Denver Sluice, 53. *Breckland* : Wretham Park, 6 (AEV) ; Thompson Water, 3 and 1 (AWK, AEV) ; Narford Lake, 4 (PCB) and Didlington, 2 (CRK). *Mid-Norfolk* : Kimberley Park, 18 (PRB). Broads area : General McHardy's wood, 3 ; Whiteslea, 2 ; Heigham Sounds wood, 5 (EP) ; America wood, Earsham, 12 (JWM) ; Fishley Carr, Acle, 6 and Upton, 8 (RJ) ; Wickhampton, 31 (ETD, MJS) ; Buckenham, 37 ; Mautby, 20 and Ranworth, 34 (MJS), Ranworth marshes (Horning Hall), 2 (RB). *North Norfolk* : Melton Constable, 13 (RPB-O) ; Holkham Park (Obelisk wood), 13 (*per* MJS) ; and Wiveton Hall, 4 (RGB, CO). Total, 430 nests. None nested at Black Dyke Feltwell, Calthorpe or Ormesby Broad.

31 Purple Heron : North coast, one at Cley, May 9th (RAR).

38 Bittern : Broads : A male booming, river Bure near " Stracey Arms " (RIII). A new locality. Breck : Autumn records from Rush Mere (PH) and Thompson (AWK).

42 Spoonbill : Broads area : Hickling, one April 26th–May 1st ; one, May 10th–13th ; 2, 19th–26th were joined by a third bird on 27th and all stayed till 29th ; one, June 2nd–6th and 3 again on 7th (EP, GEB). Breydon : one, May 21st (GRS) and 6, July 5th (RIII).

North coast : Cley, one, May 9th–11th ; Blakeney, 5, May 10th (III) ; 6 flying east at Scolt, June 27th (RC) alighted at Cley later same afternoon, but left next day (CO) ; Burnham Overy, one flying east, Sept. 3rd (RPB-O).

47 Garganey : First at Cley March 4th (WFB) and at Hardley on 11th where 3 pairs by end of month (MRR). Spring records include : Broads area, 4 at Horsey, April 19th ; Breydon, a pair March 26th onwards and Hickling, at least 6 pairs. Breck : A pair at Thompson, April 5th (AEV) ; a drake at Ring Mere, June 13th and at Lang Mere on 24th (PRB).

49 Gadwall : Breck : Autumn/winter counts include 60 at Narford, Jan. 7th (PCB) and 110 there, Nov. 22nd (AEV) ; 90–100 at West Acre, Sept.–Oct. (DW) ; 60 at Mickle Mere, Nov. 29th and 75 at Thompson, Dec. 20th (CAEK, AEV).

50 Wigeon : Summer records include one at Holkham Lake in early June ; 2 at Cley throughout May and 3 on July 1st ; 4 at Hickling till May 28th and 3 till June 10th. Two nests found June 10th on Norton fresh-marshes containing 7 eggs and one egg respectively (RC). The first breeding records for this area of the county.

52 Pintail : East coast : Breydon, maximum of 49 on Jan. 24th (RHH). No breeding record although a pair stayed till May 14th. North coast : One pair nested at Cley.

53 Shoveler : Largest numbers : Breck, 100 at Narford, March 1st (DW) and 60-70 there, Nov. 22nd (AEV) ; 50 at Hickling, March 4th-13th.

54 Red-crested Pochard : A drake at Bayfield, Brinton and Kelling Hall lakes, Dec. 15th-31st (RPB-O, GL, JF). See "The status of the Red-crested Pochard in the British Isles" by G. A. Pyman *British Birds*, Vol. LII, pp. 42-56). None has been present in the Great Fransham collection since 1956 (Sir S. Renshaw). See also 1954 Report, p. 24.

55 Scaup : Wash : Maximum of 180, Holme to Snettisham, Dec. 12th (CBC).

56 Tufted Duck : Breeding records only are given. Breck, 2 broods at Cockley Cley (CRK) and 3 records at Thompson Water (AWK). North : One brood on a lake near Holt (RPB-O).

57 Pochard : Broads, 2 broods at Rockland (JES, MJS). No other breeding records received. Breck : Maximum, 120 at Narford, March 8th (DW).

58 Ferruginous Duck : One, Cawston Manor lakes, Feb. 28th-March 31st (CAW). See 1956-58 Reports.

60 Golden-eye : Recorded up to May 30th and from Oct. 13th. North coast maxima : 53 at Scolt, Dec. 9th and 40 at Cley end of Jan. Broads maximum : 100 at Hickling, Feb. 24th.

61 Long-tailed Duck : North coast : Holme, one, Dec. 30th (CBC), Brancaster, singles, Oct. 21st, 30th and Nov. 6th-7th (RC), Wells, 3, March 20th (HH), and 2, Dec. 9th (RPB-O), Blakeney, 2, Feb. 1st (AEV), Cley, one, Nov. 8th-14th. Wash : Hunstanton, maximum of 4 on Dec. 9th (CBC).

62 Velvet Scoter : North coast (Holme-Cley) : Recorded all months *except* May-July. No party exceeded 9 in number except record of several flocks of up to 50 ten miles off Brancaster, Sept. 12th (RPB-O). Wash : Hunstanton-Heacham, maximum of 50 on Dec. 20th (CBC).

64 Common Scoter : North/East coasts : No flocks over 150 reported except 500 off Thornham, Feb. 1st (AEV). Wash : Largest estimate, 2,000 on Dec. 6th (CBC).

67 Eider-Duck : Wash : Heacham-Hunstanton, up to 4, Jan.-March. Reported from Sept. 27th with remarkable total of 500 on Dec. 6th and 31st (CBC). North coast : Monthly maxima for the

main locality are given : *Brancaster-Thornham* : Jan. 63 ; Feb. 250 ; March, 120 ; April, 148 ; May 85 ; June 17 ; July 20 ; Aug. 16 ; Sept. none ; Oct. 13 ; Nov. 19 and Dec. 14. Also recorded at Wells, Jan. 21st-March 20th with maximum of 28 (HH) ; at Cley, Blakeney and Salthouse, Feb.-April, June and Aug.-Oct. with maximum of 20 apart from 140-160 off Blakeney, Feb. 1st ; and off Weybourne where 2 on Dec. 31st.

69 Red-breasted Merganser : North coast : Recorded from usual localities up to May 17th (with one at Brancaster, June 20th) and from Sept. 19th. No party exceeded 10. Also a drake at Holkham Lake, end Nov. (RPB-O). East coast : One at Breydon, Jan. 13th ; 3 off Caister, March 8th (DKB). Wash : Snettisham-Hunstanton, maximum of 50-60 in Feb., March and Nov. (CBC).

70 Goosander : Breck : Narford Lake, up to 8 on 5 dates between Jan. 7th and March 8th (PCB, DW) and 5 on Nov. 22nd (AEV) ; Thompson Water, singly on Nov. 1st and Dec. 12th (AWK, AEV). Only other records : 3 at Sea Mere, Jan. 4th, another there Dec. 30th (CG), one at Ranworth, Jan. 5th (HJC) and 3 at Holkham Lake, end Dec. (RPB-O).

71 Smew : North coast and Broads : Only 3 records. A drake at Horsey, Feb. 2nd (GC) ; one shot at Waxham, Dec. 30th (*per* EAE) and one, Cley/Salthouse, Dec. 13th-30th.

73 Sheld-Duck : Moulting migrant records : Scolt, 20 east at sea 1945 hours, July 7th (RC, PJM) ; Blakeney, 44 east, July 27th (HH). Wash : Maximum count, 5,400 at Snettisham, Dec. 12th (CBC).

[Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*) Largest full-winged colony at Holkham Park (71 adults and 3 broods of young in June 1958. Also present at Fustyweed gravel pits (2 pairs bred 1958), Salthouse Broad (2-3 pairs in summer 1958), Hillington Lake (1-2, 1954-56), Stradsett Lake (2, 1958), Beeston Hall (up to 15 during Nov.) and Gunton Park (one pair bred) (MJS, AEV).]

76 White-fronted Goose : Breydon area : Smallest number since at least 1928 with maximum of 68 on Feb. 15th ; last noted on 28th when 63. First autumn arrivals (21) on Oct. 10th (RHH). North coast : Records include one shot at Blakeney, Sept. 16th (PNK) and 3 at Holme, Oct. 11th (CBC).

78 Bean-Goose (*Anser a. arvensis*) Yare valley : Up to 102 from Jan. 31st-March 3rd, with 160-170 in three gaggles on Feb. 13th (RHH, RFR, MJS).

Pink-footed Goose (*A. a. brachyrhynchus*) Breydon area : 14 wintered on Bure marshes during 1958-59 winter. North coast : 45 at Stiffkey in Jan. and 25-30 there from Nov. 20th (WE).

80 Brent Goose : North coast : Blakeney : maximum of 2,000 during Jan. and early Feb. declining to 650 by March 8th. 11

remained till early April and last one seen April 13th. Few returned by Nov. 10th and 800 by end of year. Brancaster : Maximum of 400 in Jan. and 300 in Feb., up to 250 till March 14th and last noted (80) on 29th. First in autumn (20) on Nov. 7th, 100 by Dec. 2nd and 400 by end of year (RC). Wells : Up to 160 in Jan., 280 in Feb. and last spring birds March 20th ; 40 again by Nov. 23rd (HH). East coast : Breydon, 7 on Jan. 18th (RHH).

81 Barnacle Goose : East coast : Breydon, one on March 7th (DVB).

85 Whooper-Swan : North coast and Broads : 1-18 in usual areas up to March 30th and from Oct. 30th. Also recorded at Taverham Lake where 5, Nov. 8th-16th (LWL, GRS) and in Breck at Rush Mere, where 7 Nov. 22nd (PH). Larger numbers as follows : Horsey, 32 on Jan. 16th (GC) ; Hickling, 60 also on 16th (EP) and 41 next day (GEB) when 2 flights totalling 54 west over Gt. Witchingham (PW) ; Surlingham, 45 north-east, Feb. 24th (EAE).

86 Bewick's Swan : North coast (Holme, Brancaster, Gun Hill, Wells, Stiffkey, Blakeney and Cley) and Broads area (Breydon, Hardley, Wheatfen, Rockland and Hickling) : Recorded up to May 1st and from Nov. 1st. Maxima : 12 at Breydon, Jan. 10th (RHH), 15 west at Cley, Nov. 18th and 23 at Holme, Feb. 1st where 16-18 from 22nd till March 1st (CBC). Wash : 34 at Snettisham, March 23rd (CBC). Breck : 4 at Didlington, Nov. 22nd (AEV) and 4 at Fowl Mere on 29th (CAEK). Fens : Ouse Washes, 80-100 through Jan., increasing to 268 on Feb. 7th and to 343 on 15th ; last reported (39 birds) March 13th. 15-16 from Dec. 10th. Wisbech Sewage Farm, records include 39 on March 8th and a late bird till April 26th (CBC).

91 Buzzard : North : One shot at Felbrigg, Feb. 27th ; singles over Holt Lowes, March 2nd and at Cawston, Nov. 5th (RPB-O) ; at Blakeney, July 6th-10th (HH) and at Holkham, Aug. 17th (ORM).

95 Kite : North : One at Muckleburgh Hill, Weybourne, April 15th (PRC). Satisfactory details received. See 1958 Report, p. 29.

98 Honey-Buzzard : North : One shot at a wasps' nest at High Kelling, Oct. 7th " in mistake for a crow " (identity confirmed by RPB-O). Only the fourth county record since publication of *Birds of Norfolk* in 1930.

99 Marsh-Harrier : Broads : 4 nests, with eggs, in Hickling/Horsey area but only 5 young successfully reared. Usual winter records including 5 over Wheatfen, Feb. 1st (EAE). Many records from coastal marshes between early April and Oct. 31st.

100 Hen-Harrier : North coast (Holme-Cley) : Single " ring-tails " frequently till end of March with one at Cley, April 11th and

again from Sept. 18th (with at least 2 from Sept. 25th till end of year). Broads area (Hickling, Horsey and Breydon) : Singles on several dates till Feb. 10th and from Nov. 16th with a male at Hickling, Jan. 19th. Also singly at Horsford Heath, Nov. 14th (RPB-O) and Foulden Common, Dec. 30th (DW).

102 Montagu's Harrier : Single birds on 8 dates on North coast at Cley/Blakeney and inland at Saxlingham Common and Ring Mere between May 7th and Aug. 7th. None is known to have nested in the county. One of the melanistic form at Bargate Fen, Sept. 11th (PJM). See 1956 Report.

103 Osprey : Broads : 2 at Horsey, May 9th (GC) and one at Hickling, 11th-20th (GEB, EP). Also one at Cawston manor lakes, May 14th-18th (MJS, CAW).

104 Hobby : North coast : Singly at Blakeney, April 25th, May 7th, June 20th and Aug. 4th (HH) ; at Scolt, May 31st and June 6th (RC, PJM) and at Cley, June 24th, July 24th and Aug. 23rd and 26th.

108 Red-footed Falcon : North : A male at Cley, May 9th (RAR, BRS, AJ) and a male at Blakeney Point on 15th (RG). East : A juvenile found dead on Acle New Road near "Stracey Arms," Sept. 27th (HFA). Full details supplied, together with remains of Acle bird.

117 Quail : North : Heard at Binham, June 12th (RS) ; one calling at Blakeney, July 16th-19th (HH) and 2 at Blakeney Point on 20th/21st (WE). South : A nest with 9 eggs at Kirstead Ling near Brooke, Aug. 21st (EAE).

119 Crane : North coast : Singly at Cley, May 10th (PJW, RAR) and June 1st (PJH).

121 Spotted Crake : North coast : One caught by observer's dog at Stiffkey, May 27th (HH). A first-winter bird at Cley, Aug. 30th-Sept. 5th was ringed on 4th.

124 Little Crake : North : A male at Brinton Lake on several dates from Nov. 15th ; also watched for ten minutes at 20 yards range on Jan. 14th, 1960 (RPB-O). Field sketch and full details received. Only one other published record since B. B. Riviere's *Birds of Norfolk* (1930).

125 Corncrake : East : One, long dead, Scroby Sands, June 19th (MJS). North : Singles at Morston, Aug. 3rd (EMCE) and at Letheringsett on 10th (RPB-O). At least 3, Cley/Blakeney, Sept. 13th-27th.

131 Oystercatcher : Breeding records : North coast : 8-10 nests at Cley, 91 at Blakeney Point and at least 14 on south side of

harbour including nests on arable fields ; 2 at Stiffkey, 2 at Wells and 73 at Scolt. East coast : 2 nests on Breydon marshes (RHH).

Large numbers : Wash, Snettisham-Hunstanton, 5,250 on Nov. 14th and an estimated peak of 7,000 on Dec. 30th (CBC). North, 3-4,000 roosting at Thornham, Feb. 22nd, 3,500 at Holme, Sept. 15th and 2,500 there, Nov. 1st (AEV).

135 Little Ringed Plover : North coast : Singly at Cley, Aug. 7th, 18th and 28th (MFMM, CO), and at Blakeney, Oct. 6th (HH). Fens : Wisbech sewage farm, autumn maximum of 6, July 15th/17th (CBC).

136 : Kentish Plover : North coast : A male at Cley, May 11th/12th (RAR). Fens : One at Wisbech sewage farm, May 21st (CBC).

139 Grey Plover : North coast : Unusual numbers in early autumn including 70 at Blakeney, Sept. 7th. Largest winter count there was 300, Feb. 24th (HH).

140 Golden Plover : The larger flocks are given. 200, Halvergate, Dec. 26th (RHH), 400, Horsey, Dec. 16th (GC), 300, Calthorpe, March 1st (CDR), 200, Marham, Feb. 2nd and 1,000 there, Dec. 24th (DW), 450 showing the characters of the Northern race at Swannington, April 5th and 250 there on 12th (RPB-o) and 3-400 Feltwell, Nov. 21st (AEV).

142 Dotterel : North coast : One at Cley, May 3rd (BRS) and 3 there, Aug. 19th (MFMM). Wash : Remarkable flock of 47, Terrington marsh, Aug. 20th (CBC). See *British Birds*, Vol. 53, p. 84. 2, Hunstanton golf course, Sept. 6th (CBC).

146 Great Snipe : Corpusty Mill, one, Sept. 3rd-7th (JML). Full details have been received.

151 Whimbrel : Spring passage in coastal areas from March 28th (RHH, CO). Autumn return from July 6th with peak numbers during first week of Aug. when up to 200 at Blakeney. A late bird at Brancaster, Oct. 9th (PJM).

154 Black-tailed Godwit : Records from usual localities between Feb. 25th and Oct. 11th. Largest parties, 7 at Breydon, May 10th (RHH) and 12 west at Cley, Sept. 9th. Also one on Scroby Sands, June 4th (DAJB)—a new locality. Fens : Wisbech sewage farm, maximum 12-15, July 15th (CBC).

155 Bar-tailed Godwit : North coast : Winter flocks include 120 at Brancaster, Jan. 24th (RC) and 300 at Holme, Oct. 21st. Wash : Snettisham, 1,000 on Nov. 8th (CBC).

156 Green Sandpiper : Recorded every month, with winter records from Bungay Common, Litcham, Corpusty Mill, Fakenham, Brinton, Hunworth and West Acre.

157 Wood-Sandpiper : North coast (Brancaster, Blakeney and Cley) and Hickling Broad : Spring passage, May 5th—31st with one at Brancaster, June 26th (PJM). Maximum, 20 at Cley, May 12th. Autumn return July 27th—Sept. 11th. Maxima, 10 on Aug. 11th, 20–30 on 15th and 18 on 17th— all at Cley ; also 23 at Brancaster, Aug. 11th (PJM). Breck : 2 at Lang Mere, Aug. 31st (PRB).

162 Spotted Redshank : North coast : None recorded until June when singles at Cley on 16th, at Titchwell on 19th and at Morston and Scolt on 26th. Autumn passage records of 1–3 birds at usual localities, Aug. 11th–Oct. 11th with 1–2 at small waters near Holt, Aug. 20th and Sept. 19th. East coast : Breydon, one, May 14th (NH). Broads : Hickling, singles, May 9th and 28th and 4 on Aug. 17th. Fens : Wisbech sewage farm, up to 4, May 1st–24th ; in summer from June 18th–30th with 14 on 24th, and from July 9th to Oct. 18th with peak of 22 on Sept. 4th (CBC).

165 Greenshank : North/East coasts : Breydon and Broads : Spring passage from March 23rd with parties up to 6. Autumn return from July 9th with peak passage, mid-Aug. to Sept. 11th when up to 16 together. Late birds through Oct. and until Nov. 12th. Breck : One at Lang Mere, Aug. 14th (PRB). Fens : Wisbech sewage farm, peak of 20 on Aug. 20th (CBC).

169 Knot : Wash : Estimate of 20–25,000 at Hunstanton, Nov. 29th (CBC).

170 Purple Sandpiper : North coast (Holme, Titchwell, Brancaster, Blakeney, Cley, Sheringham and W. Runton) : Records of 1–3 birds in all months *except* April–July inclusive. Wash : Records include up to 4, Hunstanton-Heacham, Feb. 21st–March 15th and from Nov. 1st (CBC).

171 Little Stint : North coast : Cley, one, Feb. 2nd, up to 3, May 3rd–9th and one, June 16th. Very small autumn passage at Holme, Cley and Blakeney, Aug. 11th–Sept. 18th and on Oct. 4th with a late bird Nov. 8th. Broads : Hickling, one, Aug. 17th (EP). Fens : Wisbech sewage farm, one, May 10th, 1–2 from 19th–24th, one, June 20th and up to 7, July 25th–Sept. 22nd (CBC). Wash : Snettisham, one, May 10th is only spring record (CBC).

173 Temminck's Stint : Fens : Wisbech sewage farm, one on May 21st, 2 on 23rd and one on June 2nd (CBC).

179 Curlew-Sandpiper : North coast (Holme, Blakeney and Cley) : Spring, one, May 27th (HH). Small autumn passage July 30th–Oct. 11th with first juveniles Aug. 12th. Maximum 20 at Cley, Sept. 5th. East coast : Breydon, 2, Aug. 31st (MJS) and 2, Sept. 14th (RHH). Fens : Wisbech sewage farm, one, May 23rd and autumn peak of 40–50 on Sept. 4th–8th (CBC).

183 Broad-billed Sandpiper : Fens : One at Wisbech sewage farm, May 19th (CBC—to whom full details supplied). The eighth county record.

184 Ruff : North/East coasts, Broads (Hickling, Horsey) and Breydon : Spring passage from March 1st with maxima of 14 at Cley, April 7th, 9 at Hickling, May 6th and 10 east at Cley on 23rd. Autumn return (up to 15 together) until Sept. 17th with second movement, Oct. 6th–25th. Fens : Wisbech sewage farm, 20–40, latter half of March, up to 50 in July, 80 in Aug., 20 in Sept. and 100 in Oct. (CBC).

185 Avocet : North coast : Cley, 3, April 3rd ; one on 25th, one, May 10th–13th, 5 on 23rd and one, 24th–25th, 2, July 18th and one, Oct. 5th–9th. Blakeney : 2, May 10th (HH). Brancaster : one, Nov. 30th (RC). Fens : Wisbech sewage farm, 6, May 29th/30th and 3 on 31st (CBC).

187 Grey Phalarope : North coast : One at Cromer, Jan. 17th (PT). Cley, 2, Oct. 28th/29th and one, 30th/31st. Sheringham, one on sea, Dec. 8th (PRC). Inland, one at Sea Mere, Jan. 3rd (CG).

188 Red-necked Phalarope : North coast : a juvenile at Cley, Aug. 21st–29th.

189 Stone-Curlew : First, Marham, March 24th (DW) ; last, Edgefield Heath, Oct. 10th (CJC).

193 Arctic Skua : North coast : 2, Blakeney Point, April 23rd ; singles at Cley, May 4th and 17th and at Scolt, May 17th and June 30th. Autumn passage, July 3rd–Oct. 29th. Maxima 17 off Scolt, Aug. 28th, 20 off Cley, Sept. 5th and 25 off Cley, Oct. 28th during severe gale. Wash : Hunstanton, maximum of 25, Aug. 30th (CBC).

194 Great Skua : North coast (Holme, Brancaster, Blakeney and Cley) : Autumn passage, Aug. 13th–Oct. 29th. Maxima 5 off Cley, Sept. 13th and 30 there, Oct. 28th during severe gale.

195 Pomatorhine Skua : More records than usual. North coast : Scolt, 2 on Aug. 28th (RC). Cley, 3 on Aug. 26th, 6 on 28th, 2 on 29th, singly on 30th–31st, Sept. 3rd, 4th, 7th and 13th, 3 on 15th, singly on 16th and 28th, 3 on Oct. 28th and one on 29th.

196 Long-tailed Skua : North coast, more than usual. Cley, 3 on Sept. 13th, 3 on 17th, one on 19th and 3 on Oct. 28th.

198 Greater Black-backed Gull : East coast : Breydon counts include 700 adults, Aug. 31st (MJS).

202 Glaucous Gull : North coast records of 1–2 birds (and once 4) at Brancaster, Holkham, Wells, Blakeney and Cley, on many dates up to April 29th and from Aug. 28th. East coast : one at Yarmouth, March 8th (DKB).

207 Little Gull : North coast (Scolt, Wells, Blakeney and Cley) : Up to 4 in periods, Jan. 1st–Feb. 11th, April 1st and July 27th–Dec. 13th with 8 east off Cley, Nov. 15th. Remarkable numbers off Cley and Salthouse end of Oct. with 7 on 26th, 5 on 27th (when 20 off Blakeney Point), 12 on 28th, 15 on 29th, 5 on 30th, 2 on 31st and 7 on Nov. 1st.

208 Black-headed Gull : Numbers of pairs at breeding localities : North coast : Scolt, 30 but no young reared (RC) ; Stiffkey, 42 ; Morston, 150 and Blakeney saltings (a new colony) 37 (HH). Broads area : Alderfen, 164 (MJS) and Cantley reservoir, 100 but no young reared (*per* MJS). Inland : Scoulton Mere, 100 but many eggs destroyed (GJ). Wash : Wolferton saltings, 300 (AEV). Fens : Wissington beet factory, 300 (AEV).

211 Kittiwake : North/East coasts : Summer counts include : 50 at Morston, July 9th and 50 at Blakeney on 25th (HH). At Scolt, 130 on May 23rd, 60 west June 10th, 200 July 6th, 80 on 7th and 90–100 on 17th (PJM). At Scroby, 2–300 on June 7th and 7–800 on July 5th (RH) with 1,040 on June 19th (MJS).

Migratory movements off Cley : 140–150 east, Sept. 13th (EAC, PJW) and 1,000–1,500 east during gales, Oct. 28th/29th.

Wash : Hunstanton, maxima of 300, Aug. 30th with 200, Oct. 25th when 200–250 west off Holme (CBC).

212 Black Tern : First spring birds, May 8th. Peak movements at the beginning of second week and in fourth week of May are shown by following records from selected localities :

	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th
Rockland Broad		3	1	17	11		65	50	120	70
Hickling Broad	9	4	4	20	9	2	9	4	6	
Cley/Salthouse			80	10	20	20	50	50	20	7
Wisbech S.F.		16				57		180	180	
Scolt Head							25	13	6	1
Thompson Water			5				5		11	

Spring passage ended May 31st and during the month reported from 18 localities. Small return passage, July 18th–Sept. 15th.

215 Gull-billed Tern : North coast : Weybourne, 2 flying east over arable land, May 12th (PRC). Details received.

216 Caspian Tern : Broads : Hickling, 2 on Rush Hills, June 17th were still present on 26th (EP). One there, Sept. 10th, 11th, 29th, 30th and Oct. 1st/2nd (EP, PDK, RP, JDW). Details supplied. First county records since 1918.

217 Common Tern : First, April 15th ; last (Common/Arctic), Nov. 15th. Breeding records include : Wash, Snettisham gravel pits, 15 pairs. North coast : Near Wells, 60 nests ; Scolt, 400 nests ; Blakeney Point, 970 nests and Arnold's marsh, Cley, 38 nests. East coast : Scroby Sands, 210 nests. Broads : Ranworth, 5 nests ; Hickling, 3 nests and Ormesby, 3 nests.

218 Arctic Tern : North coast : Recorded May 4th–Oct. 4th. 2 nests at Blakeney Point, one at Scolt and 1–2 near Wells.

219 Roseate Tern : North coast : None bred, but several records between Scolt and Cley, May 22nd–Sept. 4th including 2 pairs displaying at Scolt, July 7th.

222 Little Tern : First, April 19th with a very late straggler at Cley, Oct. 4th and at Blakeney on 5th. Breeding records include : North coast : Scolt, 19 nests ; Holkham–Wells, 10 pairs ; Stiffkey, 2 pairs ; Blakeney Point, 94 and 6 pairs on south side of harbour. East coast : Scroby, 8 nests.

223 Sandwich Tern : Recorded March 25th–Oct. 27th. Breeding records : Scolt, 20 nests ; near Wells, 600 pairs and 426 chicks ringed, and Scroby Sands, 300 pairs but only one young reared. Spring peak at Cley was 400 on April 30th.

226 Little Auk : Wash : Admiralty Point, 2, Oct. 29th ; Snettisham, one, Nov. 2nd ; Heacham/Hunstanton, one, Nov. 14th and 11, Dec. 12th (CBC). North coast : Scolt, one, Dec. 5th (RC) ; Burnham Overy, one dead, Feb. 1st (CAEK) ; Cley, one dead, Jan. 24th, several Oct. 28th, total of 17 on 29th, 4 on 30th, total of 25 on 31st, 5 on Nov. 1st, one on 6th, 9 on 18th and one on 2nd. East coast : Waxham, one dead, Feb. 22nd (CG) ; Hemsby, one dying, Oct. 31st (*per* EAE). Inland : One struck high tension cables at Ellingham and one on Yare near Buckenham, Oct. 31st (*per* EAE) ; one at Ashby St. Mary, Nov. 4th (*per* EAE) and one on Bure near Stokesby Ferry, Nov. 15th (RHH).

229 Black Guillemot : North coast : singles off Cley on Sept. 21st, Oct. 11th and 17th/18th with 2 on 29th.

230 Puffin : North coast (Brancaster, Blakeney and Cley) : 14 records of 1–3 birds, Jan. 2nd–25th and Aug. 31st–Oct. 25th. Inland, one dying at Litcham, Jan. 13th (WGB).

234 Wood-Pigeon : North/East coasts : Immense influx noted at Cley, Scolt Head and Yarmouth, Nov. 19th–24th with smaller numbers, Dec. 1st–3rd.

235 Turtle-Dove : Recorded April 18th–Oct. 12th.

Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) *Site A* (Overstrand), odd birds occasionally throughout year but no evidence of breeding. *Site B* (Cromer), 2 definite pairs ; 2 nestlings ringed on July 3rd

and another nest found from which young had recently fledged—no doubt first brood of same parents. Up to 8 on allotments there during winter. *Site F* (Aylmerton), a pair reared at least one young.

248 Long-eared Owl : Only 2 breeding records : at Blakeney on North coast where unsuccessful (RAR) and in Fens at Denver (CBC). None reported elsewhere except one in Breck at Blackdyke, Feltwell, April 24th (AEV).

249 Short-eared Owl : East coast : One pair bred on Halvergate marshes (RHH). North coast : One pair bred at Norton (RC) and in breeding season 4 pairs in Stiffkey-Blakeney area (HH). Winter records at usual localities with up to 5 together.

252 Nightjar : Recorded May 12th-Oct. 2nd when a freshly killed bird picked up on Norwich-Holt road at Buxton (RPB-O). A male, Mousehold Heath, June 3rd (GRS)—a new locality. Wash : Reported at Wolferton, June 28th and bred at Dersingham Fen (CBC). Fen border : Recorded E. Winch Common (AEV). See 1957/58 Reports.

255 Swift : Recorded April 25th-Sept. 27th. Main influx began May 3rd.

258 Kingfisher : At Scolt Head, singles, Sept. 28th and Oct. 9th (PJM).

261 Hoopoe : 2 at Wheatfen, March 12th (EAE) and one at Aylsham same day (CLM). Hickling, one at Whiteslea, May 11th (GEB).

263 Greater Spotted Woodpecker : North coast : A bird of the Northern race, *D.m.major*, ringed at Blakeney Point, Oct. 11th.

264 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker : A summary of recent records indicates little apparent change since publication of *Birds of Norfolk* (1930) and it remains the scarcest of the three woodpeckers. In the East (east of a line running from Cromer southwards through Norwich to Harleston) recorded at 23 localities (including centre of Norwich and 3 sites on outskirts and also at 10 sites in Broads area. In the North-central (north of a line between Norwich and Beechamwell) at 27 localities. In the South-central at 26 localities (all in the Breck *except* Runhall, Carlton Forehoe, Sea Mere, Intwood and Wymondham College. In the West (west of a line running from Thornham southwards through Narborough and Beechamwell) at 7 localities (Holme, Heacham, Snettisham, Sandringham, Wolferton, N. Wootton and King's Lynn).

265 Wryneck : Wash coast : One at S. Wootton, May 3rd and 2 at Hunstanton golf course, Sept. 6th (CBC). North : Hempstead woods, one on May 28th (HH) ; Scolt, one on Aug. 21st and one dead Sept. 22nd (RC) ; Holkham, one, Sept. 1st-6th and 9th

(RPB-O) ; Blakeney Point, 2 on Aug. 23rd with one till 27th ; Sheringham, singles, Sept. 8th (PRC) and 15th (EMCE) ; Felbrigg, one on Aug. 22nd (ACC). East : Singles at Winterton, Aug. 24th (JES) and at Horsey, on 30th (GC).

Additional 1958 record : One at Scolt, Sept. 5th (*per* JFM).

The *Birds of Norfolk* (1930) states the wryneck "is almost entirely confined as a breeding species to a few localities in the extreme south-western area of the county." No localities were however published and readers are asked to report any former breeding sites known to them. A pair nested at Lakenham in a broken street lamp about 1910 ; breeding was recorded regularly at Aylsham until 1900, at Fleggburgh until 1907, at Drayton until 1913, in the Wymondham area up to 1914, at Ellingham Hall until 1919 and at Thetford close to the golf course until at least 1927.

269 Short-toed Lark : North coast : One at Cley, Oct. 14th (MJC, EJLW). Very detailed descriptions received.

271 Wood-Lark : North coast : Migrants at Blakeney Point : 4, Sept. 3rd and 2 on Oct. 11th ; also one at Holme, Oct. 4th (CBC).

273 Shore-Lark : North coast (Scolt, Wells, Stiffkey, Blakeney Point, Cley and Salthouse) : Recorded up to early April and from Oct. 1st. Maximum, at Cley/Salthouse, 26 during Dec.

274 Swallow : First, March 29th. Latest Nov. 18th at Weeting, 22nd at Cley and 29th at Coltishall.

276 House-Martin : First April 8th. A very late bird at Gooderstone, Dec. 4th-6th (CRK).

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

281 Hooded Crow : Very scarce and recorded away from coast only at Thwaite St. Mary, Ranworth and Hickling. Coastal records up to April 14th (with singles at Horsey, May 18th and at Cley on 30th) and from Oct. 4th. Largest parties (17/18 and 37) noted at Wells, with maximum elsewhere of 10.

290 Coal-Tit : North coast : Up to 4 immigrants of the Continental race (*P.a. ater*) noted at Cley on 13 dates between Sept. 11th and Oct. 22nd.

294 Long-tailed Tit : North coast : Cley/Blakeney Point, probable immigrants noted as follows : 10 on Sept. 11th, 8 on 24th, 11 on 26th, 9 on Oct. 2nd, 12 on 9th, 10 on 12th, 10 on 14th, 8 on 17th, 12 in from sea high up on Nov. 21st, 7 on 27th and small parties throughout Dec. 3 birds ringed at Cley, Oct. 17th were re-trapped in Jan. 1960 so had not moved far.

295 Bearded Tit : Broads : Breeding records from Hickling/Heigham Sounds/Horsey area (at least 65 pairs), Barton (3 pairs)

and Waveney valley (1-2 pairs). Winter records also from Reedham and Rockland Broad.

North coast : 15 breeding pairs at Cley. A late autumn influx noted at Cley (including 2 ringed birds), at Brancaster (up to 4, Oct. 15th-31st—RC, GHE) and at Selbrigg Pond and Hempstead Mill (up to 8—RFB-O).

302 Fieldfare : Last spring birds, April 23rd. In autumn, early ones at Blakeney Point, Sept. 1st, at Scolt on 3rd (BC) and at Horsey on 8th (CC). Main influx commenced Oct. 23rd.

303 Song-Thrush : North/East coasts : Autumn arrivals on a large scale with main influx noted at Scolt, Blakeney Point and at Horsey, Oct. 4th-16th.

304 Redwing : Large concentrations along North coast in first half of March ; last 2, April 5th. First in autumn, Sept. 21st.

307 Ring-Ouzel : Spring : North coast : Singles at Blakeney, March 13th and at Salthouse on 26th and 30th ; 2 at Salthouse, April 13th ; singles at Morston on 15th, E. Runton on 16th and at Salthouse on 27th. Autumn : Wash : One struck Lynn Well light vessel, Oct. 13th (wing produced to MJS). North coast : 1-4 at Cley/Blakeney Point, Oct. 2nd-11th with 12 on 10th ; 2-4 at Holme on 4th ; singles at Titchwell, Oct. 6th and Holme on 11th and 16th and 2 at Cromer on 11th. East coast : 6-10 at Waxham, Oct. 17th.

311 Wheatear : Coastal records March 7th-Oct. 23rd and in Breck from March 22nd.

317 Stonechat : Coastal records of 1-3 birds up to March 29th and from Aug. 10th along Wash (at Heacham, Snettisham and Dersingham) and at Holme, Titchwell, Stiffkey, Blakeney Point, Salthouse, Cley, Sheringham, Cromer, Waxham and Horsey. Maximum of 5 at Cley, Feb. 26th. Also 2 at Haddiscoe, Nov. 9th onwards. One pair bred successfully at Winterton (JES, GRS). Another pair at Horsford Heath, mid-May to late July but no proof of breeding (RFB-O).

318 Whinchat : North coast (Scolt-Cley) and East coast (Horsey, Winterton and Breydon) : Spring passage April 23rd-June 3rd with maximum of 6 at Cley, May 8th. Autumn passage, Aug. 12th-Sept. 29th.

320 Redstart : North/East coasts : Small spring passage, April 15th-May 23rd and in autumn from Aug. 12th-Oct. 16th. Breck : Breeding localities include Thompson, Tottington, Merton, Stanford and Cressingham (GJ, AEV). Fen border : 4-5 pairs bred at Bawsey ; a pair at Shouldham Warren, May 29th (CBC).

321 Black Redstart : One pair bred unsuccessfully in centre of Norwich ; nest and 4 eggs presented to Norwich Castle Museum (JHS). A male singing among derelict buildings in Yarmouth during last week in May (RHH), but no evidence of breeding there. First spring birds March 23rd, 3 records of 1-2 birds on 25th/26th, and unusual total of 16 at Sheringham on 27th (with 2 at Weybourne, 2 at Cromer and singles at Cley and Kelling same date). Then 1-2 March 28th-April 1st, April 13th and 17th with a late bird at Scolt, May 25th. In autumn : single birds, Sept. 5th-Oct. 22nd. Localities not already listed include Marham, Blakeney Point, Salthouse, Beeston and Breydon.

322 Nightingale : Spring arrival from April 14th. One found dead by EAE in centre of Norwich May 26th was probably same bird reported singing in the vicinity close to Chapelfield Gardens.

324 Bluethroat : North coast : Blakeney Point, one Sept. 4th, 2 on 5th, 2-3 on 6th (when also one at Cley) and singly on 7th and Oct. 11th.

338 Aquatic Warbler : North coast : Cley, one in reed-beds, Aug. 27th (CCD, WFB). Satisfactory details received.

343 Blackcap : First, April 7th. More than usually in evidence during Oct. along North coast between 1st and 25th. At Cley, 3 on 4th, 4 on 10th/11th and at least 6 different single birds. At Scolt, one on 19th (RC). At Holme, 2 on 11th (CBC).

344 Barred Warbler : North coast : Cley/Blakeney, single immatures Aug. 28th, 30th, Sept. 2nd, 4th-7th and 11th. (Last mentioned bird found dead at Cley and presented to Norwich Castle Museum). Scolt, an immature ringed Aug. 31st (BC). Holme, single immatures, Sept. 6th/7th (CBC). Burnham Overy/Holkham, single immatures, Sept. 1st, 2nd, 5th and 8th (RFB-O). East coast : Sea Palling, 3, Sept. 18th (DL, MTM) one with yellow eyes.

356 Chiffchaff : First, March 22nd and recorded at 15 localities by 31st. Last, singing, Oct. 28th.

357 Wood-Warbler : North : Bred Gresham's school woods and Selbrigg Woods. Singing males at High Kelling and Hempstead.

365 Firecrest : North coast : Blakeney Point, one on April 3rd ; one on Sept. 30th and 2 on Oct. 1st (both ringed).

368 Pied Flycatcher : North/East coasts : Spring : Scolt, 2 on May 21st and one on 22nd (PJM) ; Blakeney, singles April 28th and May 9th ; Cley, singles May 6th, 22nd and 23rd ; Happisburgh, one dead May 31st (HFA) ; Horsey, 5 on May 3rd (GC) and Hickling, 2 on April 30th (EP).



Copyright

C. C. Doncaster

The autumn wader passage was at its peak during the latter half of August. Among the many waders on Cley marsh was this juvenile red-necked phalarope which remained for nine days.



R. Jones

Copyright

The red-backed shrike has decreased considerably during this century and readers are reminded of the B.T.O. enquiry. One of the purposes of this is to establish the present status of this species, and all records are welcome.

Autumn passage noted at many coastal localities, Aug. 16th–Oct. 12th with a straggler at Wisbech sewage farm, Oct. 30th (AEV).

370 Red-breasted Flycatcher : North coast : Holkham, one, Sept. 2nd (RPB-O) ; Blakeney Point, an adult on 6th–7th (ringed) ; Holkham, one on 17th ; Cley, a first-winter bird on 17th (ringed) ; Holme, 2 on 19th (1JF-L, DIMW) and Blakeney, one on 26th (HH).

378 Red-throated Pipit : North coast : Scolt Head, a male in breeding plumage, May 15th–21st with a second bird on 16th (RC, PJM, JFP, RPB-O). Very detailed descriptions received. The second county record.

379 Rock-Pipit (*Anthus s. littoralis*) : North coast : Singles of the Scandinavian race at Cley, March 6th–10th and 19th with 5 on 21st.

Water-Pipit (*A.s. spinoletta*) : North coast : Wells, one Oct. 23rd (HH) with rock-pipits. Cley, one Dec. 26th–31st (RAR, MFMM and other observers). Detailed descriptions received in each case.

381 Grey Wagtail : Breeding season records only are given. Taverham Mill, one male summered (LWL) ; Marlingford–Bawburgh Mills, 3 flying young, May 3rd (EQB) ; Buckenham Tofts, a pair bred by river Wissey (GJ) ; Gressenhall, a pair but no evidence of nesting (s. c. PUDDY) ; Selbrigg Pond, a pair bred unsuccessfully ; Hempstead Mill, a pair bred but no young reared (PJW) ; Letheringsett, one nest and West Acre, one nest (RPB-O).

382 Blue-headed Wagtail *M.f. flava*) : North coast : Single males at Cley, May 6th (co) and at Blakeney, Sept. 7th (HH).

383 Waxwing : Small numbers during first quarter with a further irruption from Oct. 30th.

January : East Norfolk : Norwich, 4–6 on 15th. North : Blakeney, 1–2 on 13th, 27th and 31st with 6 on 16th ; Cley, 1–2 on 7th, 9th and 17th ; Holt, 6 on 1st and Overstrand, 5 on 23rd. West : North Wootton, 5 on 18th.

February : North : Blakeney, 2 on 14th ; Cley, one on 13th and 5 on 16th ; Cromer, one on 16th and Burnham Overy, 2 on 3rd–5th.

March : North : Cley, one on 7th and Holt, 4 from 8th till 31st.

April : East : Norwich, 2 on 20th. North : Holt, 4 till 8th.

October : West, Clenchwarton, 20–30 on 31st. North : Cley, one on 31st ; Sheringham, 3 on 30th and Cromer, 27 on 31st.

November : North : Saxthorpe, 3 on 18th ; Blakeney, 2 on 16th ; Cley, 32 on 1st, 5 remaining on 5th and last seen on 22nd ; Brancaster, one on 8th ; Holme, 50 on 1st, 12 on 8th and 4 on 14th ; Sheringham, 6 on 1st and one on 9th ; Stiffkey, 2 on 2nd and 8 on 7th ; Holt, 2 on 6th, one dead on 8th and 4 on 9th. East : Waxham, 7 from 12th–22nd ; Caister-on-Sea, 12 on 29th ; Rockland Broad,

3 on 2nd, Wheatfen, 2 on 11th; Claxton, 19 on 24th; Norwich (College Road area), 11, 9th–11th, 18 on 15th and 2 on 21st; Thorpe St. Andrew, 10 on 7th; Taverham, one on 13th and Barford, 1–2, 28th–30th.

December : North : Sheringham, 8, 9th–12th and 2 on 25th. Beeston, 5 on 4th/5th; Corpusty, Horsford and St. Faiths, 3 parties of 4–7 on 11th; Felthorpe, 9 on 18th. East : Barford, 1–2, 1st/2nd. West : E. Harling, one on 19th; Watton, 3–20 during the month.

384 Great Grey Shrike : Single birds as follows : North : Salthouse Heath, March 24th–26th, May 2nd and Nov. 20th; Blakeney, May 23rd and Nov. 16th (HH); Blakeney Point, Oct. 4th–5th (ringed); Salthouse, Oct. 8th and Holme, Oct. 11th. East : Hemsby, April 13th (*per* AGH) and Winterton, April 19th (JES). West : E. Harling, March 21st (PAB).

388 Red-backed Shrike : Breeding season distribution : Wash : One pair at Hunstanton. North coast : Total of 9 pairs at 5 localities. Breck : Single pairs at 3 sites. Central : One pair bred at usual site near Norwich. Autumn : One at Ingoldisthorpe, Aug. 7th (JSA); one at Scolt, Sept. 30th (PJM); 2 at Cley, Aug. 23rd and one, Sept. 1st/2nd.

391 Hawfinch : 1958/9 records from Wolferton, Sandringham, Marham, W. Harling, Mattishall, Wiveton, Cley area, Aylsham, Cringleford, Thorpe St. Andrew, Norwich (where one dead inner courtyard of Castle Museum, July 1st, 1958), Keswick, Stockton and Shotesham.

394 Siskin : More records than for several years. Parties up to 30–35 reported inland at Sandringham, Selbrigg and Hempstead Mill, Gresham School ponds, Gunton Park, Cawston Manor, Mousehold Heath, Taverham, Wroxham, Watton and Narford up to March 13th and from Nov. 1st. North coast : Cley, 15 on April 6th; a few arriving or passing west daily during last week of Sept. and throughout Oct. with maximum of 20 on Oct. 11th. Holkham dunes, 14 on Oct. 12th (CJC). Holme, 5 on Sept. 20th and from Oct. 16th–Nov. 24th with 4 on Oct. 24th and Nov. 8th (CBC). Wash : Wolferton, one, Nov. 1st and 7 southwards at Snettisham on 2nd (CBC).

396 Twite : North coast : Recorded at usual localities up to March 23rd and from Oct. 6th. Maxima : 400 at Thornham, Dec. 8th–10th (CBC); 150 at Holme, Feb. 1st (CJC) and over 100 there, Oct. 25th (AEV); 50 at Blakeney Point, Oct. 11th; 40 at Morston on 22nd and 50 at Scolt, Nov. 8th (SM). East coast : Breydon, 28 on Oct. 17th (MJS).

397 Redpoll : Breeding season records from Shouldham, E. Winch, Bawsey, Hempstead woods, Roudham and Foulden. 20 at Mouse-

hold Heath, March 13th, together with one showing the characteristics of the Continental race, *C.f. flammea* (DKB).

401 Bullfinch : Numbers increasing markedly in several localities in North Norfolk and in the Broads area. A male showing the characteristics of the Northern race, *P.p. pyrrhula*, at Blakeney, Nov. 11th (HH).

404 Crossbill : North : High Kelling, 15 from April 17th with 100 on May 3rd and present till at least 23rd ; Sheringham, 40 on May 10th (GJ, TCS) ; Weasenham, one April 17th (WGB) ; Ridlington, pair on May 7th (CA). Central : Thorpe St. Andrew, up to 5, Nov. 7th-Dec. 21st (MJS). South : Diss, one dead, April 26th (*per* RMB). Breck : Only recorded at 3 localities.

408 Brambling : Recorded up to April 17th when 4 at High Kelling. First in autumn, Sept. 19th. Only three winter flocks over 100 strong, the maxima being 200 and 3-400.

416 Ortolan Bunting : North coast : Scolt, a male, May 22nd (PJM, RC) ; Blakeney Point, up to 3 between Sept. 2nd and 11th ; Cley, one on 18th.

422 Lapland Bunting : North coast (Holme-Cley) : large number at Morston where wintering flocks totalling 100 began to disperse by mid-Feb., the last being seen there March 28th with a male on Blakeney Point, April 3rd. First in autumn, Sept. 13th. Regular till end of year but no large numbers.

423 Snow Bunting : North/East coasts : Recorded up to March 25th and from Sept. 13th. Maxima recorded for the main localities : Holme, 140 end of Nov. (AEV) ; Scolt, up to 160 during Jan. (RC) ; Cley/Blakeney Point, 400 till spring departure and 400 by end of year : Breydon, 120 on Jan. 25th (MJS, RHH). Inland : 40 south over Coltishall, Dec. 30th (PCB). Ouse Washes : One at Welney, Jan. 25th (CBC).

425 Tree-Sparrow : North coast : Over 1,000 at Stiffkey, Nov. 19th were not in area next day (PRC). A House x Tree-sparrow hybrid, resembling the 1956 bird, at Salthouse, Aug. 13th (MFMM).

The following, not mentioned in the Classified Notes, were also recorded in 1959 (breeding species in italics) : *Little Grebe*, Cormorant, *Canada Goose*, *Mute Swan*, *Sparrow-Hawk*, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, *Kestrel*, *Red-legged Partridge*, *Partridge*, *Pheasant*, *Water-Rail*, *Moorhen*, *Coot*, *Lapwing*, *Ringed Plover*, Turnstone, *Common Snipe*, Jack Snipe, *Woodcock*, *Curlew*, Common Sandpiper, *Red-shank*, Dunlin, Sanderling, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring-Gull, Common Gull, Razorbill, Guillemot, *Stock-Dove*, *Cuckoo*, *Barn-Owl*, *Little Owl*, *Tawny Owl*, *Green Woodpecker*, *Skylark*, *Carrion-Crow*, *Rook*, *Jackdaw*, *Magpie*, *Jay*, *Great Tit*, *Blue Tit*,

Marsh Tit, Willow Tit, Nuthatch, Tree-Creeper, Wren, Mistle-Thrush, Blackbird, Robin, Grasshopper-Warbler, Reed Warbler, Sedge-Warbler, Garden Warbler, Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Willow-Warbler, Goldcrest, Spotted Flycatcher, Hedge-Sparrow, Meadow-Pipit, Tree-Pipit, Pied Wagtail, White Wagtail, Yellow Wagtail, Starling, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Linnet, Chaffinch, Yellowhammer, Corn-Bunting, Reed-Bunting, and House-Sparrow.



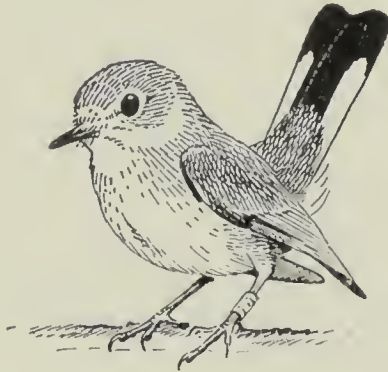
Autumn Bluthroat

SELECTED 1959 LIGHT-VESSEL NOTES

R. A. RICHARDSON

- Leach's/Storm Petrel.**—Lynn Well, one October 1st and 4 on 4th.
- Kestrel.**—Lynn Well, one August 13th.
- Water-Rail.**—Haisboro', one October 12th.
- Moorhen.**—Inner Dowsing, one December 9th.
- Lapwing.**—Lynn Well, 100 September 24th and a few October 2nd and 9th. Inner Dowsing, 20 August 22nd and 14, October 23rd. Haisboro', 13 west November 14th. Newarp, a few December 2nd–4th. Corton, several west September 30th.
- Woodcock.**—Haisboro', one October 29th.
- Wood-Pigeon.**—Inner Dowsing, 2 October 12th, many December 4th and a few next day. Haisboro', several November 22nd and December 6th. Newarp, one December 3rd/4th.
- Cuckoo.**—Newarp, one killed August 3rd.
- Long-eared Owl.**—Inner Dowsing, one eating a starling, November 1st.
- Short-eared Owl.**—Haisboro', one November 6th.
- Skylark.**—Autumn records on 17 dates between September 24th and November 23rd at six vessels. Peak movements end September to October 12th.
- Jackdaw.**—Inner Dowsing, 4 October 12th and one on 31st. Newarp, 2 October 30th/31st. Corton, one November 1st.
- Magpie.**—Haisboro', 10 west November 1st.
- Great Tit.**—Newarp, 6 October 10th. Corton, one dead, September 30th.
- Blue Tit.**—Newarp, 4 October 11th.
- Fieldfare.**—Newarp, a few October 26th and 30th/31st. Corton, several October 30th.
- Song-Thrush.**—Corton, one dead, October 1st. Small numbers of "thrushes" (including redwing) at Lynn Well, Outer Dowsing, Newarp and Cross Sands September 24th, October 4th and 11th–15th and November 1st.
- Ring Ouzel.**—Lynn Well, singly October 11th and 13th. Corton, 2 October 30th.

- Blackbird.**—Lynn Well, many November 1st/2nd. Inner Dowsing, several October 2nd. Haisboro', several November 22nd. Corton, many October 11th/12th and November 1st and many west, on 2nd.
- Robin.**—Lynn Well, 2 October 4th and 2 on 9th. Newarp, a few October 11th. Corton, 2 October 30th.
- Blackcap.**—Lynn Well, one October 9th.
- Goldcrest.**—Lynn Well, 24 October 9th. Inner Dowsing, 2 October 7th and 3 on 12th. Corton, one dead, September 24th.
- Great Grey Shrike.**—Haisboro', one carrying small bird, November 5th.
- Starling.**—Autumn records at seven vessels September 30th–December 5th. Large numbers on many nights during October and first week November, including 5,000 at Inner Dowsing, October 31st ; 5,000 at Outer Dowsing October 12th ; 1,000 at Newarp October 11th and November 1st and 2,000 there on 6th/7th.
- Goldfinch.**—Haisboro', one November 11th.
- Siskin.**—Haisboro', several, October 12th.
- Chaffinch.**—Many autumn records September 24th–October 31st at Lynn Well, Inner Dowsing, Outer Dowsing, Haisboro', Newarp and Corton. Peak numbers during second week October.
- Brambling.**—Lynn Well, a few October 6th. Newarp, a few October 24th and 26th. Corton, several October 10th/11th.
- Reed-Bunting.**—Lynn Well, one October 22nd.



Red-breasted Flycatcher

CONTRIBUTORS

- A. F. AIREY
 C. APPLETON
 J. S. ASH
 H. F. ASHTON
 R. P. BAGNALL-OARELEY
 J. BAILEY
 W. G. BAILEY
 D. K. BALLANCE
 MISS R. M. BARNES
 P. C. BANCE
 P. R. BANHAM
 P. A. BANKS
 G. E. BISHOP
 W. F. BISHOP
 E. Q. BITTON
 M. R. BOARDMAN
 R. J. BRADNEY
 T. BRENNAN
 F. S. BRIDGEMAN
 B. BROUGHTON
 C. BROWN
 R. BROWNE
 J. BRUIN
 B. BURTON
 D. V. BUTT
 D. A. J. BUNTON
 R. G. BUXTON
 C. J. CADBURY
 DR. B. CAMPBELL
 D. CARRITHERS
 M. J. CARTER
 H. J. CATOR
 T. CAVALIER-SMITH
 G. W. CAWSTON
 E. A. CHAPMAN
 R. CHESTNEY
 E. T. CHIPPERFIELD
 J. CLARE
 P. R. CLARKE
 CLEY OBSERVATORY
 H. CLUTTON-BROCK
 F. K. COBB
 R. W. COLEMAN
 P. COLSTON
 MISS B. A. CONEY
 MISS I. W. CORFE
 P. P. COVENTRY
 R. A. F. COX
 G. CREES
 J. CUTHBERT
 E. T. DANIELS
 K. I. DARLOW
 A. H. DAUPES
 G. P. DAVIES
 M. DAVIES
 MISS S. DAY
 E. DIMELOW
 C. DOLLEY
 C. C. DONCASTER
 C. J. DRISCOLL
 G. E. DUNMORF
 W. EALES
 E. A. ELLIS
 R. E. EMMETT
 G. H. EVANS
 I. J. FERGUSON-LEES
 MISS J. M. FERRIER
 MISS U. FOKES
 MISS E. FORSTER
 J. FORSTER
 R. GAZE
 P. L. GARRETT
 P. J. GEORGE
 T. W. GLADWIN
 M. GOODMAN
 C. GOSLING
 MISS C. GURNEY
 R. S. HARKNESS
 R. H. HARRISON
 N. HARWOOD
 P. J. HAYMAN
 A. & D. HEWITT
 R. HICKMAN
 R. HITCHCOCK
 P. A. D. HOLLOW
 D. HOLMES
 D. R. HORWOOD
 D. E. L. HOWES
 R. HIGH-CASTON
 P. HILL
 C. W. HOLF
 H. HUNT
 A. G. HURRELL
 C. INGRAM
 D. A. JACKSON
 P. C. JACKSON
 MISS C. JAMES
 G. JESSOP
 R. J. JOHNS
 A. JONES
 R. JONES
 P. N. KEARNEY
 S. KELLY
 MRS. J. KELLY
 A. W. KERRIDGE
 I. F. KEYMER
 P. D. KIRBY
 C. KIRTLAND
 R. KNIGHT
 C. R. KNIGHTS
 DR. D. LACK
 J. M. LAST
 LT.-GEN. SIR G. LATHBURY
 D. LEVENE
 J. LEVENE
 MISS P. B. LIND
 L. W. LLOYD
 L. LLOYD-EVANS
 DR. C. L. MAINGAY
 MRS. M. MAINGAY
 O. R. MARKS
 S. MARTIN
 MISS D. M. MAXEY
 MISS E. V. MAYNARD
 J. McCULLOCH
 MISS E. McEWEN
 C. J. MEAD
 J. W. MEADE
 H. P. MEDHURST
 MRS. M. MEIKLEJOHN
 PROF. M. F. M. MEIKLEJOHN
 A. B. MILLS
 DR. J. F. MONK
 A. C. MORRIS
 P. J. MOUNTFORD
 M. T. MYRES
 J. OSWIN
 MRS. R. PALMER
 J. F. PEAKE
 B. P. PICKFESS
 E. PIGGIN
 G. PROCTOR
 MISS S. C. PUDDY
 COL. T. W. PURDY
 C. D. RABY
 DR. M. RADFORD
 R. A. RICHARDSON
 MISS M. R. RICHES
 MRS. D. ROBSON
 M. J. ROGERS
 W. D. ROLLINS
 MISS M. P. RUST
 MAJ. R. F. RUTTLEDGE
 R. H. RYALL
 M. RYMER
 B. L. SAGE
 J. E. SANDFORD
 MISS E. SARTORIS
 R. SCOTT
 M. J. SEAGO
 DR. J. G. SELWYN
 MISS E. A. SERVANTE
 J. H. SHORTEN
 E. G. SKOYLES
 M. SMART
 MRS. E. C. SMITH
 K. SMITH
 M. E. SMITH
 M. SNOXELL
 B. R. SPENCE
 MISS D. STEINTHAL
 MISS M. SWANN
 A. SWEETING
 D. TAYLOR
 F. J. TAYLOR-PAGE
 G. THOMASON
 P. THOMPSON
 R. THOMPSON
 A. E. VINE
 A. VITTEY
 R. WADDINGHAM
 J. WAGSTAFF
 D. I. M. WALLACE
 LADY WALPOLF
 M. J. WARREN
 F. WATERS
 A. B. WATSON
 C. H. WATSON
 P. WAYRF
 E. J. L. WELHAM
 A. G. WHITE
 D. A. WHITEHOUSE
 J. WHITELEGG
 N. WILLIAMS
 P. J. WILLIAMS
 R. WILLIAMSON
 P. WOLSTENHOLME
 M. WOODCOCK
 J. H. WOODHOUST
 R. F. WORMALD
 C. A. WRIGHT
 D. WRIGHT
 B. W. YOUNGS

Norfolk Mammal Report

1959

INTRODUCTION

EACH year since 1953, a summary of the records of Norfolk mammals has been issued by the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society. We welcome this opportunity to present the Report for 1959 in more permanent form. While at present it cannot be expected to be so comprehensive as the Bird Report, it is hoped that it will stimulate additional observation, and develop as attractively as the ornithological records have done.

As this is the first time that the two reports have been published together, it was suggested that an historical background was desirable. This proved to be a major task, and likely to detract from the main purpose in hand of presenting the records for 1959. Only brief mention is therefore made of the past status of each species, except in so far as it is necessary to do so more fully in order to comment adequately on the present distribution and population fluctuation. It is hoped that it will be possible to produce later a special paper which will survey the knowledge we have of the Norfolk mammals of the past.

Sixty-one species have been recorded in the county, out of the one hundred and fourteen on the British list. Of these, only about forty are now likely to be met with in the county and in its coastal waters, and some of these but rarely. We have, however, only limited information on the Bats and Cetaceans. The former alone would, if more widely studied, provide an opportunity of adding to the county list. Some species of our mammals have not been recorded for over a century. Some, such as the Yellow-necked Mouse, are of uncertain distribution. At least one, the Black Rat, is verging on extinction. Replacing these species of limited range and doubtful status, the Coypu has made tremendous advances in the past ten years. In very recent times the appearance of the Mink as a feral escape from captivity, and even the domestic cat as a completely wild, breeding mammal, may add two species to our records.

Changes are constantly at work. The dramatic decrease in the rabbit population due to myxomatosis, has been followed by a puzzling increase in the number of hares, for example. An annual survey provides a means of following what is going on, and stimulates enquiry. We have about ninety individual observers

and schools providing information. The sampling effect they can produce, in reporting on the deaths of mammals due to road traffic, on trapping experiments, on the catches of cats, on the corpses on gamekeepers' gibbets, and on direct numerical counts, together with the reports from the Hunts, records from pest control officers and agricultural workers, the Forestry Commission censuses, and the game bags of large estates, have all contributed to improving the accuracy and completeness of what is presented here. The collecting of the available information has proved a worth-while task, and with five years of enquiry behind us we now have a fair conception of the nature and distribution of our mammal population.

All the records are card indexed, and most of them entered on a series of maps. These are now showing less of the effect of distribution of the observers, and more truly the distribution of the individual species of mammal. Gaps remain to be filled, however, especially in west Norfolk, and these can only be dealt with if our members will send in notes of even the most common species from as many localities as possible, and giving brief particulars of numbers and dates.

The Society's thanks are due to all correspondents whose work has been included in this report. We are anxious to increase the number of recorders. This work can be done through schools very effectively, and we already receive considerable help from a number of these. Records for the 1960 report should be sent **by the end of January** to Mr. F. J. Taylor Page, 77, Surrey Street, Norwich.

CLASSIFIED NOTES

Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)

One of the most widespread animals in the county. Reports suggest that hedgehogs are plentiful and probably showing an increase, though this may be due to the fact that owing to the dry summer, they wandered widely in search of water and were likely to have been noticed more frequently. The wet summer of 1958 produced an abundance of slugs and snails, which could have contributed to successful breeding. This would make itself evident in 1959.

Road traffic is responsible for heavy mortality. Increased use of the roads during the fine long summer inevitably took heavy toll, and this could not therefore be used as certain evidence of improved status; indeed, in some places fewer rather than more have been reported dead on the road. Where regular trapping has been carried out by gamekeepers, comparative numbers in 1958 and 1959, particularly in coastal areas, confirm that there is a larger population.

Much remains to be learned of the natural history of this animal. Observations on such habits as self-anointing, territory defence, and mating display, would be of considerable value. Colour varieties are always interesting. For example, we had a report this year of an albino at Bodham (RPB-O).

Common Shrew (*Sorex araneus*)

No regular trapping appears to have been done in the county this year, and in consequence comparative figures cannot be given. Observations mainly in south-west Norfolk show patches of abundance. In open agricultural areas, shrews have taken to living most frequently in hedgerows. Toxic sprays are thought to have had some effect in reduction of numbers in some places (RVE).

While it is common to find the corpses of old adults lying above ground towards the end of the year, in 1959 many older adults were still active at the end of November. This may be evidence that shrews are living longer (EAE).

Pigmy Shrew (*Sorex minutus*)

Still more plentiful than Common Shrew in several woodlands round Holt (RPB-O). Increase in population was noted at Blofield (DT), and occasional records come from Calthorpe Broad Estate (BFTD), Ellingham (ECS), Taverham Mill (LWL) and Geldeston (ws). It is probable that the population of pigmy shrews is high everywhere. A special cover over the opening above the trap control of a Longworth trap is necessary if any pigmy shrews that are caught are to be prevented from escaping.

Water Shrew (*Neomys fodiens bicolor*)

It has been particularly interesting to have new stations for this species in addition to those given last year. One was observed at the edge of a small pool on the marshes at Somerton (Js). A few have been seen on the Waveney marshes (ws), and at Taverham (LWL). Horsey Mere is known to support some, but they have not been seen recently (AB). Two were watched from a photographic hide on the bank of the Glaven below Hempstead Mill, and one was found dead on the road bridge over the Wensum at Guist (RPB-O).

Mole (*Talpa europaea*)

In the opinion of Sprowston Agricultural Station, the mole population is static and likely to decrease, as action against these animals becomes more stringent. Reports of increase and decrease over the county appear to be fairly balanced, though estimates based on mere observation of surface workings are likely to be of dubious accuracy. Activity appears more noticeable on ground used for cultivation of sugar beet and lucerne, in the earlier part of the year as some of the fields used for these crops lie uncultivated

for a considerable time. Different fields appear to be worked in different years. Crop spraying seems to clear the ground of moles very rapidly.

During 1959, and possibly associated with drought conditions, they became more evident in marsh areas and in woods. A good deal of surface rooting occurred, and in some instances very deep burrows were made.

A mole "castle" was opened up in north Norfolk. It contained five young and a store of sixteen decapitated or mutilated, but living earthworms (RPB-O). White or cream coloured specimens of moles were reported from Barnham (WMS), Fakenham (JML), and Old Costessey (NCM).

Bats

While there is most definite evidence that all species of bat are less common, particularly in Norwich, scarcity is now frequently mentioned in reports from the country. Houses and churches seem less hospitable. A colony of **Pipistrelle Bats** (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), for example, was destroyed by gassing in Stody church in August (RPB-O). Fewer hollow trees are left standing, chalk pits are filled in and poisonous sprays all doubtless contribute to the difficulties faced by bats in finding shelter and food. It is probable that they have never recovered from the set-back experienced in the winter of 1947. The **Noctule Bat** (*Nyctalus noctula*), while not common everywhere, has built up small colonies in places. Seventeen were found in a hollow elm, felled near Wendling (RPB-O), a few were seen regularly at Corpusty from May to August (JML) and at Surlingham from late March to early June (EAE), and at least thirty inhabit a hollow tree at Langmere (PRB). Single specimens were reported from four other stations.

The only other species commonly recognised is the **Long-eared Bat** (*Plecotus auritus*). It is usually found roosting in trees in North Norfolk, but one roost observed during July and composed entirely of nursing females, was discovered in a shooting hut in woods at Kelling. Other records come from Blofield (DT), Hemsby (NCM), Caister Hall (DAJB), Stoke Holy Cross (MEM), and South Raynham (PRB).

A colony of fifteen **Natterer's Bat** (*Myotis nattereri*), lived in an old poplar at Glandford and a few still may be seen in the neighbourhood. A **Whiskered Bat** (*Myotis mystacinus*), was taken at Brinton on September 19th (RPB-O). Watch should be kept for the **Lesser Horseshoe Bat** (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*), which is known to inhabit chalk caves at Bury St. Edmunds. One ringed there on January 9th was re-taken March 14th. Possibility of this species being found in south Norfolk is not remote, and we might hope equally for the spread of the **Serotine Bat** (*Eptesicus serotimus*), from the small colony at Somerleyton.

Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

In spite of efforts of the Rabbit Clearance Societies which now cover a very large proportion of the county, a noticeable increase in many local populations is occurring. In some places numbers have built up strongly, but in others rabbits are still entirely absent. Myxomatosis returned, particularly in the cold weather, when it is thought that the surviving surface-living animals once more took to burrows where they were again infected by the rabbit flea.

The litter average appears to go up where the population is notably diminished; it is now seven instead of five. The dry summer produced good breeding conditions, and marshy areas particularly served as centres for outward migration. In some instances, litters have been noted of up to a dozen. Despite this, in some places rabbits have probably never been fewer than at the present time. At Bawdeswell, for example, the average catch used to be 1000 or so at harvest time. This year it was 4 (QEG).

Hare (*Lepus europaeus occidentalis*)

In common with many other counties in the British Isles, Norfolk has shown a remarkable build up of the hare population in the post-myxomatosis years. This cannot be accounted for solely by a succession of good breeding seasons, for while 1959 was probably the most successful for many years, 1958 with its wet conditions, was very poor. Only a small proportion of the leverets survived, and the wet feeding conditions appeared to produce liver diseases in the adults. The drier weather of the present year encouraged a long and successful breeding season, commencing in the first week in March, and in some places continuing until the first week in December. Numbers of hares in excess of anything previously known have been shot, not only in areas where they had regularly been taken, but also in many new ones where their appearance otherwise would have been unusual. No adequate explanation appears to have been put forward. As far as we know, it bears no relationship to the scarcity of rabbits, and the matter requires a great deal more investigation. A suggestion that rabbits used to destroy the leverets in their forms has received no general substantiation.

Bank Vole (*Clethrionomys glareolus*)

Few records of these small climbing mammals have come in, though the general impression is that there has been a good breeding year. Populations are known to reach a peak, after which there may be a very marked decline. One of these peak populations was recorded at South Wootton (GBH).

A report from Stockton (MRR) of bank voles inhabiting nests of moss, grass and twigs, and lined with hair, built three feet up in some young fir trees, led to the hope that the identification, which

was uncertain, might in fact prove to be that of **Dormouse** (*Muscardinus avellanarius*). Stockton is one of the three parishes in which, according to Barrett-Hamilton, Dormouse was introduced from Surrey in 1844. Despite investigations by Thomas Southwell, extending over twenty years, it was never shown to be present, and while the chances against survival since that time are exceedingly remote, we hope that during 1960 it may be possible to record its discovery once again in the county. As if to add weight to this, an unconfirmed report of a dormouse taken dead in a store at Rackheath by an ex-Norfolk gamekeeper, came in this year (ATP).

Field Vole (*Microtus agrestis*)

This species was more generally distributed until many permanent pastures came under the plough. Periodically, well-established breeding populations suffer a set-back due to disturbance from crop rotation, and in consequence field voles are now more commonly found in coastal grasslands and river valleys. Even here they may now be subject to the effects of chemical sprays, and vole plagues seem less likely. The causes which produce these vast increases in numbers, followed by sudden decrease are still being studied, and no definite explanation has yet been given. On Breydon marshes, for example, these increases are accompanied by a noticeable increase in the predators, such as kestrels and short-eared owls (RHH).

Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius amphibius*)

At one time water voles were relatively common, but decreased numbers are now reported from a number of places. One contributor (HJ), attributes this in the Hingham–Attleborough area, to the drying up of water courses, but the reason elsewhere is unknown. Possibly, as at Hickling, the coypu is proving a competitor, or at least a disturbing factor (EP). Brown and black varieties were reported from Corpusty (JML), and at Taverham it was noted that they are eaten occasionally by herons (LWL).

Long-tailed Field Mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*)

Generally plentiful, particularly towards the end of the year. During November, twenty-seven were trapped at Watton (GJ). Doubtless the effects of the summer and the excellent seed crops from wild plants in the autumn will increase the possibility of even larger populations in 1960. Increase of the Weasel (q.v.) may be correlated with this.

Yellow-necked Mouse (*Apodemus flavicollis*)

Watch was maintained at Ellingham where this species was found last year for the first time (ECS), but no further specimens have been taken.

Harvest Mouse (*Micromys minutus*)

On the whole few records have come in for this species this year, and one gathers that it is not very common. Reduced numbers of static populations have been noted at Calthorpe Broad (BFTD), Taverham (LWL), Bolwick (JNW), Attleborough (HJ), Binham (RS) and north Norfolk (RPB-O). Two new stations were reported, Tuttington and Felmingham, when work on rick proofing was in progress (RAD).

House Mouse (*Mus musculus*)

More commonly met with outside human dwellings than formerly. Hundreds found in stacks being threshed at Hethersett (HWB). This has been the experience elsewhere. Records of decreased numbers have been received.

Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*)

An undoubted specimen was taken in premises adjacent to the River Yare in Norwich (ATP). One was found some years ago in a city warehouse away from the river, but this is the first time we have been able to record it. None has been taken at Yarmouth, one of the main strongholds in the early twenties (RHH), and the species may be verging on extinction in the county.

Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)

Despite the fact that ricks no longer provide such regular assurance of shelter, owing to the use of the combine harvester, and that vast numbers are regularly poisoned, the brown rat appears to have maintained its status, though a temporary decrease was noted by rodent operators during the dry summer. Hedgebanks are frequented more often, and rats are now the most common animals killed on the road. In the summer drought they took to climbing in search of berries in blackberry and blackthorn. Some were even observed raiding plum and apple trees (BB, DMM, EAE). Many took to the coastal marshes, especially between Wells and Stiffkey, where they lived on shellfish and small crabs (RVE, RC).

A family of four albinos was destroyed at Bressingham early in the year, and an adult albino was shot at Further Fen, Roydon, not far from the same place, in early May (EDP). Two sandy specimens, one from Thornage and one from Letheringsett were killed in the late Autumn. Several of the same variety also seen in the vicinity of bungalows on Hemsby dunes (RPB-O).

Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris leucorus*)

With hedgehog and coypu, red squirrel hold the distinction of having been noted more widely in the county than any other mammal. This is probably because of its size and roving nature. Despite this, it seems fairly successful at avoiding death on the road.



Copyright

R. P. Bagnall-Oakeley

Upper : Foxes were reported for the first time for many years in the Broads area at Repps, Martham and Hickling. Increases were also reported at Costessey where 40 were shot. *Lower* : Two of a litter of five leverets at Brinton. 1959 was a most successful breeding season and the hare population at the present time is remarkably high.





Copyright

R. P. Bagnall-Oakeley

Road traffic during the fine long summer took heavy toll of the hedgehog population.

Thetford Chase remains its chief stronghold, but wherever there is woodland, there, in all probability, a few will be found, especially in south and central areas. Control had to be exerted at Thetford to avoid recurrence of serious damage to tree crops over thirty years old. In part of the Chase, a concourse of squirrels, about thirty in number, was observed in a large beech tree, and on another occasion squirrels were observed licking the leaves of an oak tree, probably to obtain honey-dew (FJTP). Damage to a carrot crop was noted at Swaffham, where the squirrel population seems to have built up. They are also reported as very numerous at Horsford (FEDB), and increasing to the peak of a cycle in the Holt area (RPB-O). A specimen of the black variety, recorded once before many years ago at Ellingham Hall, was noted in September (ECS).

Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

Several reports have come in of unconfirmed suspects. One was seen at least three times at Castleacre, late in the year, and others at Croxton and Shropham. Care should be taken to avoid confusion between this species and the Red, in winter pelage.

Coypu (*Myocastor coypus*)

During the period 1956-59, totals were kept of the number of reports that were received. 1956 and 1957 showed 17 and 21 respectively. 1958 produced 58, and 1959, 65. There is no doubt at all that the population is expanding too rapidly and getting out of hand. On two farms at Waxham and Catfield, over two hundred were destroyed. From an eight-pound female, six well-developed young were taken, and several others of similar weight carried between four and seven foetuses. Consistent trapping showed that the largest numbers and largest average size (twelve to thirteen pounds) were in October. In November, very few were taken and all were small with an average weight of six pounds. December showed a marked increase in numbers and size, average nine pounds, and again in January all were small, about five or six pounds weight.

Almost every part of the county shows that their range has widened, and is increasing steadily. Some have been taken in holes in hedge banks, and far from water, as in south-west Norfolk (WMS). At Shipdham, three adults and five young were trapped in inland pits unconnected with streams. Some reached the coast at Trimmingham, and were reported to be living in holes at the base of the cliff, and feeding on beach refuse (XCM).

Serious damage to sugar beet and other crops has produced losses totalling £70 to £80 per acre. While there have been undoubted advantages from the clearance of river channels of encroaching reed by coypus, damage to the crops of reed and sedge

on Norfolk Naturalists' Trust property at Hickling, the sale of which forms an important part of the Trust income, has seriously reduced their value. The crop is said to be the worst for thirty years. It is also thought that the considerable damage to vegetation at Scoulton Mere, and the disturbance produced, seriously affected the numbers of Black-headed gulls attempting to nest there.

Burrows of other animals have been enlarged and in some places actual burrowing in the river banks appears to have been proved (AB). Low-winter temperatures appears to be an important natural control, particularly among the young. While a market remains for the pelts, much control is being exerted by Man, but this seems insufficient to prevent numbers reaching pest proportions.

Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

Distribution through the county is very variable, but this year there is evidence of widening range, with reports for the first time for many years from the Broads areas (YM) at Repps and at Mart-ham, where they were believed to be preying upon coypus, voles and hares. Two dog foxes, and a vixen with seven cubs, were at Hickling early in the year, but most of these were killed (MJS). Increases were reported from Mundford (TWT), Costessey, where forty were shot (RVE), Weybourne, where about thirty were killed (HFA), Stratton Strawless (EAE) and Ellingham (ECS). Decreases have, however, been noted in west and central Norfolk.

Late in the year, a disease, first recorded near Peterborough in April, caused death among foxes in the West Norfolk Hunt area. This disease, temporarily called fox encephalitis, produces blindness, haemorrhage in the gut, and inflammation of the brain leading to various signs of madness. This disease, the cause of which is unknown has hitherto not affected our wild life.

Badger (*Meles meles*)

Although Norfolk has been said to be an unsuitable county for badgers, and various explanations have been given for what was regarded as a low population, it is with some satisfaction that we are able to record the existence of ten setts, almost certainly all in use. Most of them are in the west and central areas covered by the West Norfolk Hunt, but there is at least one in north Norfolk. On three occasions, the Hunt pursued a fox to earth, and each time the fox used an occupied badger sett. It is hopeful news when farming and hunting fraternities seem to welcome badgers on their land, and leave them unmolested.

Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

Now found mainly only in quieter streams, and possibly not so numerous, though there is a suggestion of increase along the coastal

strip from Holme to Blakeney, where they leave fresh water and enter the sea (ss, RVE). Several pairs regularly breed in, and work, the Glaven valley, and evidence of their presence was seen at Selbrigg Pond, Hempstead Mill, Bayfield and Brinton lakes. Regular disturbance by reed cutting and dyke cleaning, and the increasing use of rivers for angling, may account for a decrease in some places, particularly in the Broads.

Abundant evidence of otters noted in the quiet reaches of the Wensum above Raynham (RPB-O).

Remains of two very young coypu found associated with otter's seals at Guist, suggest that coypu is likely to form an ingredient of otter diet in future (RPB-O). At Taverham, the remains of eels, crayfish, pike and roach have been found left by otters. Breeding is known to have occurred in this area (LWL).

Stoat (*Mustela erminea stabilis*)

Many observers report reduced numbers. The largest populations now appear to be found in marsh areas, where the diet includes water vole, eel, moorhen and frog. It has been suggested also that stoats have turned to rats and mice as food. Stoats are found more often than heretofore in corn stacks, but it is likely that they are as often killed by rats (HR).

Comparative numbers of stoats killed on one estate in Breckland show progressive reduction from 146 in 1956 to 62 in 1959. Although rabbits are returning and increasing here, the stoat population continues to fall (JAD).

Weasel (*Mustela nivalis*)

An increasing number of records suggests that there is probably a rise in the population, perhaps related to increases in numbers of voles or field mice. In the Binham-Fakenham area, weasels hunt in kale fields, taking small birds such as larks and linnets which roost there at night. They frequently use mole runs for shelter (RS). They have been taken in ricks at Felmingham and Tuttington (RAD). The main hunting grounds everywhere appear to be hedgerows (WS).

Mink (*Mustela vison*)

At least ten mink farms are known in the county, and it is hardly surprising that escapes have occurred. One, captured in Yarmouth, had travelled about ten miles from Somerton. In August, one was trapped at Thompson Mere, many miles from any mink farm. It was a male, about three years old. Body measurement, 2 ft. ; tail, 7 in. An almost certain specimen, was seen twice in Lynford forest later in the year (OCS). One was also reported as having been shot at Winterton (NCM).

Feral Domestic Cat (*Felis domesticus*)

It is worthy of note that domestic cats have recently been observed living and breeding in the wild. Reference was made in an article in the *Eastern Daily Press* to the fact that there are "more wild cats in our woods and copses than for a thousand years," and this may be said to be true of Norfolk. Five are known in North Walsham Wood (JBB), one with several kittens was seen in Thetford Chase (FJTP), and others are known at Horsford. Additional reports would be valued.

Seals

While control of the **Common Seal** (*Phoca vitulina*) on Scroby Sands now seems unnecessary, as numbers are down to less than one hundred for most of the year, in the Wash they are reported to be increasing and estimated as about 2500 (EDP). A fair number are also to be seen on the sand-bars at the mouth of Blakeney harbour, and odd individuals turn up during all months at Scolt Head (JFP). There appears to be a high mortality, adults and young being often found dead on the beach. The first young on Scroby were recorded on June 12th, with a peak period during the first week in July (PGT, RHH).

In June, about forty **Grey Atlantic Seals** (*Halichoerus grypus*), were swimming with the Common Seals off Scroby, and by November 22nd numbers had increased to about eighty. Nine young are thought to have been produced, but breeding dates are unknown. It is of interest to note that in the period 1951-53, seals with young were recorded on the beach at Scolt Head *late in the year*. They could only be this species.

A marked calf from N. Wamses in the Farne Islands born 16.11.58, was found alive at Sea Palling 16.1.59, and returned to the sea (GWH).

Deer

Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*), are now widely dispersed through Thetford Chase in small herds, or single old stags. Usually at the breeding season one old stag, several younger ones and up to four or five hinds are together and may remain so up to the end of the year. The first photographs of some of these were taken in November by Mr. P. Richards of the Great Yarmouth Naturalists' Society. Four outstanding animals have been shot, one, a twenty pointer, and the three others, all thirteen pointers. All have a very similar appearance, with fine tray points. It has been suggested that they show features characteristic of the famous Warnham Park herd (FJTP).

Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*). A few still remain at Newton St. Faiths, harried by forestry activities, and rarely seen, as they are almost completely nocturnal. The last remaining hind of the old Rackheath park herd was killed on the road at the end of April (EDP).

Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*). Heavier control, with the killing of about forty bucks, has been exerted this year. It remains to be seen what the effect will be in Thetford Chase. As was foreseen several years ago, deer have reached Swaffham forest and slight damage has been reported in the Drymere area.

Muntjac (*Munstiauc reevesi*). Only two unconfirmed reports have come to hand, one of a small deer about eighteen inches high, seen on the Mundford-Methwold road in December, and one of similar size killed on the A.11 at Fettlebridge, near the Hargham estate.

Whales

A Lesser Rorqual (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), was stranded between Waxham and Sea Palling 24.5.59. The last one of this species previously recorded was 13.10.43. It is probably the most frequently stranded among the larger whales. This one constitutes about the fifteenth record from the time of Sir Thomas Browne. Its measurements were : Length—16 ft. 7 in. ; Body circumference—9 ft. ; Tail span—4 ft. ; Weight approximately—2½ tons (EDP).

Porpoise (*Phocaena phocaena*)

Two strandings were reported to the British Museum of Natural History : 25.6.59 Great Yarmouth—Female, 2 ft. 7 in. ; 22.10.59 Caister—Two males, 4 ft. 3¼ in. and 5 ft. 6 in.

A number were inshore off Scolt Head in August and September, probably feeding on whitebait, mackerel and herring (JFP).

CONTRIBUTORS

- C. ASHMAN
 H. F. ASHTON
 AYLSHAM SEC. MOD. SCHOOL
 H. W. BACK
 SIR EDMUND BACON
 R. P. BAGNALL-OAKELEY
 P. R. BANHAM
 T. H. BARCLAY
 MISS R. M. BARNES
 SIR RICHARD BARRETT-LENNARD
 H. W. BIRKBECK
 F. T. BRAYBROOKS
 LT.-COL. F. E. DRAKE BRISCOE
 BRISLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
 BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)
 J. B. BROOKS
 B. BUSSEY
 MAJ. A. BUXTON
 D. A. J. BUXTON
 R. H. BUXTON
 W. BUXTON
 D. CARRUTHERS
 LT.-COL. H. J. CATOR
 L. G. CHAPMAN
 R. CHESTNEY
 CITY OF NORWICH SCHOOL
 MISS K. CLARKE
 G. COOPER
 MISS I. W. CORFE
 F. COURTIER
 R. A. DAVIS
 DISINFESTATION LTD.
 COL. O. C. S. DOBBIE
 J. A. DOW
 B. F. T. DUCKER
 "EASTERN DAILY PRESS"
 E. A. ELLIS
 ELVEDEN ESTATES CO.
 R. VAUGHAN EVANS
 J. FISHER
 FORESTRY COMMISSION, EASTERN CONSERVANCY
 T. GARRETT
 C. GOSLING
 GREAT YARMOUTH NAT. SOC.
 MISS B. GREEN
 GRESHAM'S SCHOOL
 R. DE GREY
- Q. E. GURNEY
 HANCOCK MUSEUM, NEWCASTLE
 R. H. HARRISON
 MRS. G. W. HICKLING
 MISS G. B. HILBERT
 MRS. I. HOOD
 H. JEFFEREY
 G. JESSUP
 MISS J. E. KING
 J. M. LAST
 L. W. LLOYD
 D. Q. MARSHALL
 MISS M. E. MARSTON
 MISS D. M. MAXEY
 MINISTRY OF AGR. FISH. & FOOD
 NORWICH CASTLE MUSEUM
 MISS B. OAKES
 F. J. TAYLOR PAGE
 A. T. PATON
 J. F. PEAKE
 E. PIGGIN
 C. D. RABY
 P. D. RICHARDS
 MISS M. R. RICHES
 H. RILEY
 J. L. ROYAL
 J. E. SANDFORD
 R. SCOTT
 M. J. SEAGO
 DR. S. SHEPHEARD
 MISS M. SHORTEN
 MISS W. SIMPSON
 MRS. E. C. SMITH
 M. E. SMITH
 C. J. SNOWDON
 MISS W. M. SPINKS
 D. TAYLOR
 LADY TEMPLEWOOD
 T. B. TERRY
 P. G. TRETT
 T. J. TURNER
 MRS. J. N. WATHEN
 P. WAYRE
 D. WENHAM
 WEST RAYNHAM PRIM. SCHOOL
 C. P. H. WILSON
 WYMONDHAM COLLEGE
 "YARMOUTH MERCURY"



