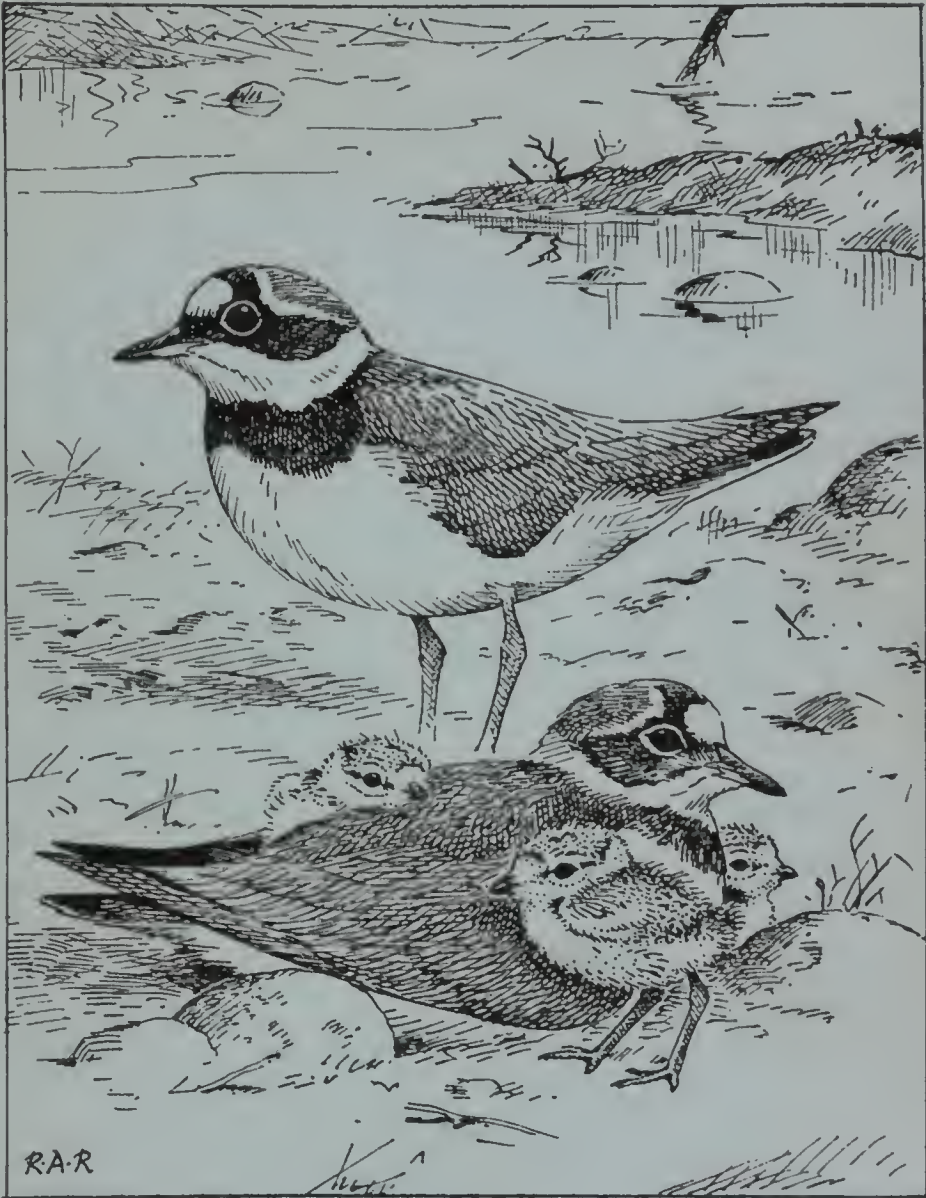
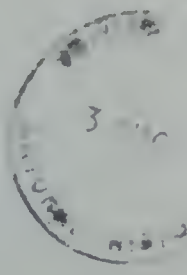


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THE NORFOLK BIRD AND
MAMMAL REPORT
1961



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NORFOLK BIRD REPORT - 1961

Edited by

MICHAEL J. SEAGO

Records Committee:

R. A. RICHARDSON, E. A. ELLIS AND THE EDITOR

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NORFOLK MAMMAL REPORT - 1961

Edited by

F. J. TAYLOR PAGE

Assisted by

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

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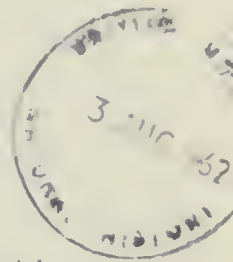
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THE NORFOLK & NORWICH NATURALISTS' SOCIETY
(Castle Museum, Norwich)

*(Transactions of The Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society,
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Norfolk Bird Report

1961



INTRODUCTION

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

Winter

In East Norfolk, goose totals were disappointing. White-fronts peaked at 140, beans at 30 and pink-feet at 23. On the North coast, a lesser white-front was identified amongst 91 brents at Cley. Brents peaked at a maximum of 3,000 birds. Winter highlights included kite at North Walsham and Cley; Mediterranean black-headed gull at Cley; spoonbill at Breydon; rough-legged buzzards and great grey shrikes at eight localities. Over 300 velvet scoters were counted between Hunstanton and Heacham in early March.

The wood pigeon campaign was intensified and it is estimated some 150,000 were shot on Feb. 6th.

Spring

April's most noteworthy visitors were hoopoe on Salthouse Heath on 23rd and male red-footed falcon at Cley on 30th. The latter re-appeared next day and what was presumably a different bird on May 16th. Ospreys were reported at eleven localities. In contrast with 1960, no large-scale movement of black terns developed but small groups made a brief appearance on May 13th/14th. The largest concentration was a total of 50 at Hickling.

Interesting waders which make up the May picture every year included Kentish plover at Cley on 8th/9th, up to 7 wood sandpipers, and Temminck's stints at both Cley and Wisbech S.F. on 21st.

At Scolt, a watch was kept for departing waders. Many small flocks of turnstones (maximum 30 birds) headed north each evening between May 22nd and 30th. 15 ruffs headed east on 29th whilst 142 grey plover were seen during the spring movement. Another surprise was a Mediterranean black-headed gull at Cley, May 9th. There were single male red-headed buntings at Cley, Salthouse and Breydon during May.

Summer

Unusual nest sites reported included a blackbird's between the radiator and the radiator grille of an ambulance at R.A.F. Station, Watton. A pair of blackbirds at Beighton reared 4 broods, 3 of

them in the same nest. At Methwold, song thrushes built a nest in sprouting broccoli. Two moorhen's nests at Sandringham were built in elder hedges; one at 8 feet, the other at 10 feet. At Thompson, 2 moorhen's nests were 15 feet high in thorns. 4 moorhen's nests at Blakeney were in hedges at heights up to 11 feet. The first brood left the nest by March 28th and a third brood departed Aug. 18th. Robins built a nest in the top of a kitchen mop propped up against the wall inside a shed at Bunwell.

A song thrushes' nest at Horsey was taken over and lined by a spotted flycatcher. Four flycatchers hatched and these were fed by both parent flycatchers and one song thrush. In Norwich, song thrushes successfully reared a brood and when they left the nest it was then occupied by chaffinches who constructed their own nest within the thrushes' and laid 3 eggs. A Surlingham song thrush returned to her old nest where she had brought off an earlier family and laid 3 eggs. Another song thrushes' nest at West Mere was in nettles at ground level.

At Eaton, blackbirds chose a stack of wooden crates with 4 in. by 4 in. wooded sections in them. On April 7th a nest was begun in the right-hand corner section of a crate in the second row of the stack. In 4 days a nest in the eighth crate from one end was almost complete, but by this time efforts had been made to build nests in exactly the same position in 14 other crates!

Pied wagtails nested inside a girder at the bottom of the jib of a large excavator in daily use at Frettenham. Wrens nested in a loudspeaker at an Aylsham auction room and in a swallow's nest at Corpusty Mill.

The nesting season was prolonged. A song thrush at Thompson had a full clutch of eggs, Feb. 29th. Young house martins were still in the nest at Thorpe, Oct. 12th and at Cromer on 22nd.

567 pairs of Sandwich terns and 2,100 pairs of common terns nested on the coast. At Ranworth Broad, a floating raft was provided for common terns and 12 pairs bred; the decaying wherry platforms had become unsuitable. 430 pairs of nesting herons, over 480 adult great crested grebes and 900 mute swans were counted.

Collared doves continued to increase and 40 had collected at one Yarmouth site at the end of the breeding season. Collared doves spread in a remarkable manner in 1961 and have now occurred in 36 counties. They have nested in 18 of them including quite a number of counties well away from the East coast including Dorset, Cornwall, Nottingham, Lancashire and Cheshire.

Black redstarts nested at Yarmouth. In Broadland, bearded tits again had a good season, but no marsh or Montagu's harriers bred. Little ringed plovers returned to the 1960 site and were also present at four other localities.

July's most unusual bird was a surprisingly early white-rumped sandpiper at Salthouse from 28th to 30th. Also of interest are the records of sheld-duck departing from the North coast and the Wash on moult migration to Knechtsand on the North Sea coast of Germany.

Autumn

The August wader pageant included parties of adult curlew-sandpipers still in breeding plumage, but compared with the 1960 invasion, little stints were scarce. Among other Northern waders, Temminck's stints appeared at Cley and Wisbech S.F. between Aug. 11th and Sept. 11th. An early purple sandpiper reached Breydon, Aug. 7th and black-tailed godwits were regular at Breydon for ten weeks. 17 species of waders were seen at Cantley settling ponds including red-necked phalarope, little ringed plover and spotted redshank. Other autumn wader highlights included a pectoral and 15 wood sandpipers and up to 20 spotted redshanks at Wisbech S.F.; 2 avocets at Breydon; and dotterel, pectoral sandpipers and red-necked phalarope at Cley.

Among interesting autumn warblers were aquatic at Cley, Aug. 11th and at Holme, Sept. 17th; icterine at Blakeney Point, Aug. 11th and Oct. 3rd; and barred at Cley, Aug. 31st and at Blakeney, Sept. 19th/20th. Easily the most fascinating record was a first winter male Radde's bush warbler from eastern Siberia at The Hood, Oct. 3rd.

Other noteworthy arrivals during this period included black redstart at Blakeney, bluethroats at Cley, Blakeney and Scolt, 5 ortolans at Cley, and red-breasted flycatchers at Blakeney and Holme. Among September birds of prey were honey buzzard at Cley and osprey at Hickling and Ormesby.

Between Oct. 16th and 18th severe N.W. to N. gales swept the Norfolk coast and among the many sea birds observed on the North coast and in the Wash were all four species of skuas. At Cley, on 18th, 82 Arctic skuas passed to the east, some were blown well inland and were seen over the coast road. 9 pomarine skuas were also identified there. At Heacham the same day 80 Arctic skuas were watched moving into the Wash and 6 headed inland. Numbers remained high in both localities next day. Leach's petrels and little auks appeared at the same time.

End of Year

Another N.W. gale sprang up Nov. 4th and sooty shearwater and black guillemot were at sea off Cromer. 10 great skuas appeared in the Wash between Hunstanton and Heacham. The gale abated next day when there was a spectacular influx of blackbirds and

other birds all down the East coast. Fieldfares were abundant: 35,000 arrived at Hunstanton but few of these birds came down as the blackbirds did.

At Cley on the 5th there were many thousands of blackbirds, at Mundesley 270 were counted on the clifftop, dozens appeared in gardens at Brancaster and at Horsey, some 300 were feeding in a meadow at Surlingham, coastal fields between E. Runton and Antingham were alive with them, over 3,000 arrived at Holme, several hundreds were in floodlit trees close to Cantley sugar beet factory, at Corpusty flights of up to 50 arrived from the east almost without a break for over three hours. At Yarmouth, numerous parties of blackbirds were watched coming in off the sea and by afternoon the whole district was alive with them. Many hundreds were on the marshes adjoining the Acle New Road and every roadside willow had two or three. In St. George's Park and St. Nicholas' churchyard, Yarmouth, blackbirds were present by the score. Light-vessels off the Norfolk coast had very large visitations. Drifter crews fishing in the Smith's Knoll area reported hundreds of blackbirds round their vessels at night. At Scolt, they arrived at the rate of over a thousand an hour. Inland, there were 400 at Swanton Morley, 300 at Hockham and 200 at Ovington.

Other notable November visitors were barnacle geese at Breydon, Salthouse, Holme and Scolt; firecrests at Cley and at Holme, waxwings from the 5th and a late hoopoe at Ridlington on 18th (possibly the bird at Mundesley on Oct. 30th). A flamingo over Thorpe on the 11th was presumably the same one filmed on the Stour at Manningtree the following day. It was an all-vermilion bird of the American race.

December reports included 35 black-necked grebes off Hunstanton, 2 adult lesser white-fronted geese in the Yare valley, a white-tailed eagle at Blakeney and at Holme, and an enormous concentration of kittiwakes in the Wash.

* * * * *

During an investigation on behalf of the Game Research Association into the effects of toxic seed-dressings one large-scale incident of mortality was discovered on a Norfolk farm near King's Lynn. The following dead birds were accounted for:—Pigeons (wood pigeons and stock doves but not separated) 175; in addition 269 wood pigeons and 20 stock doves were counted; greenfinch 68, chaffinch 39, tree sparrow 24, carrion crow 2, hedge sparrow 6, hooded crow 1, goldfinch 1, brambling 11, house sparrow 10, sparrowhawk 1, yellowhammer 8, unspecified small birds over 100, pheasant 140, lapwing 5, red-legged partridge 20, partridge 1, blackbird 6, song thrush 1, skylark 5, moorhen 5, jay 3, tawny owl 2, long-eared owl 2, barn owl 1, turtle dove 1, linnet 1, yellow wagtail 1. Total: Over 931.

Deaths were first noted at the end of Feb. and continued until mid-April, there was a resumption from mid-May to mid-June probably due to deliberate poisoning (JSA).

* * * * *

Varieties reported included an all-white moorhen photographed at Reedham, partly white blackbirds at Gorleston, Norwich, Alderford and Sheringham; also a pinky-buff blackbird at the latter place.

A melanistic golden plover appeared at Marham and melanistic house sparrow at Attlebridge. An all-white house sparrow was observed at East Bradenham, a roan-coloured starling at Taverham and a white swallow was bred at Claxton. A starling at Cley and Salthouse had fawn wings and tail but normal body; another there had a white tail. 236 species of birds were recorded in the county during the year.

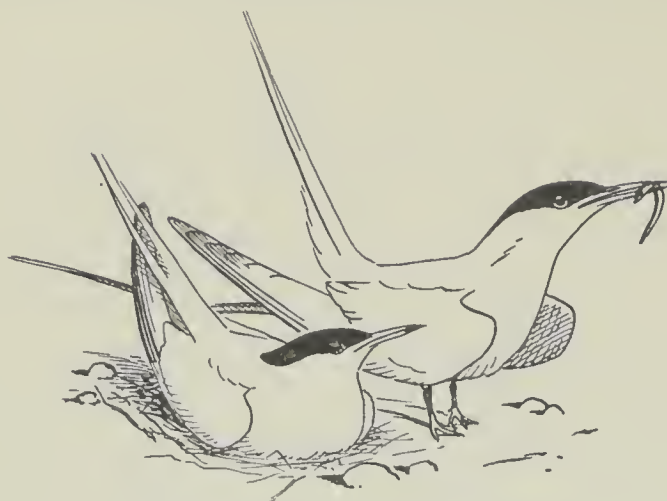
We are indebted to R. A. Richardson for the cover drawing of little ringed plovers and for other illustrations; also to D. M. T. Ettliger, A. Gilpin, H. A. Hems, J. High and R. Jones for their photographs; to the Cambridge Bird Club (in particular G. M. S. Easy), to the Gt. Yarmouth Naturalists Society for light-vessel notes; to the Trinity House Depot at Yarmouth; to *British Birds* and to all other contributors.

Records for the 1962 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 winter status of the lesser black-backed gull, 1959-60 ” (*Bird Study*, Vol. 8, pp. 127-147); “ The inland breeding of the Oystercatcher in Gt. Britain, 1958-59 ” (*Bird Study*, Vol. 8, pp. 194-209); “ The autumn movements of the wood pigeon ” (*Bird Study*, Vol. 9, pp. 7-41); “ Census of Black-headed Gull colonies in England & Wales, 1958 ” (*Bird Study*, Vol. 9, pp. 56-71); and “ Dowitchers in Gt. Britain and Ireland ” (*British Birds*, Vol. 54, pp. 343-356).

Notes on Breeding Birds of the Reserves



Scolt Head Island

(The Nature Conservancy)

WARDEN: R. CHESTNEY

ASSISTANT WARDEN: P. J. MAKEPEACE

The breeding season, although an improvement on 1960, was rather disappointing. Only 70 young Sandwich terns reached the free flying stage. By 1st July, 600 common tern chicks had hatched and at least 360 chicks had been found dead. Three days later, gale force northerly winds brought an exceptionally high tide and many young terns and clutches of eggs were lost. Some young Sandwich terns reached the mainland, but none survived. A short-eared owl fed almost daily on newly hatched common terns. On one occasion it was disturbed feeding on a young Sandwich tern. Some clutches of terns' eggs were destroyed by black-headed gulls and oystercatchers.

Human interference was disturbing. Twenty clutches of ringed plovers' eggs "disappeared" during the fine weather at Whitsun. Oystercatchers also suffered and at least 20 clutches were lost in the course of the season. Of 42 oystercatchers' nests found at Beach Point, Long Hills, Felters Hill and Butchers Beach, only 2 were known to succeed. 18 were destroyed by high tides. Of 100 ringed plovers' nests, mostly first clutches, 42 were destroyed by high tides on 1st June. Most of the first brood young redshank perished at the same time. From a total of 39 redshanks' nests found during incubation, 31 clutches hatched.

First broods of sheld-duck appeared 5th June. There was a concentration of 150 young in the vicinity of Little Ramsey 17th July. By the second week of July, over 2,000 common terns had assembled, together with 1,500 adult and 100 young Sandwich

terns. At the end of the month the evening assembly of Sandwich terns peaked at 3,000. Both Arctic and roseate terns were observed, but neither bred.

Records for the whole of the Island are summarised below:

	<i>Number of nests or pairs of birds</i>
Mallard	11 nests
Sheld-Duck	Over 100 pairs
Canada Goose	4 nests
Red-legged Partridge	8-10 pairs
Partridge	8-10 pairs
Oystercatcher	67 nests
Ringed Plover	158 nests
Lapwing	2 nests
Redshank	43 nests
Black-headed Gull	40 pairs
Common Tern	900 nests
Little Tern	28 nests
Sandwich Tern	472 nests
Wood-Pigeon	1 nest
Swallow	1 nest



Blakeney Point

(The National Trust)

WARDEN: W. EALES

Despite storm damage, the breeding season was more successful than in 1960 and many more common tern chicks reached the free flying stage. A number of terns had arrived by the end of April, but the first common tern's egg was not found until May 17th; little terns had five or six nests with eggs on May 8th.

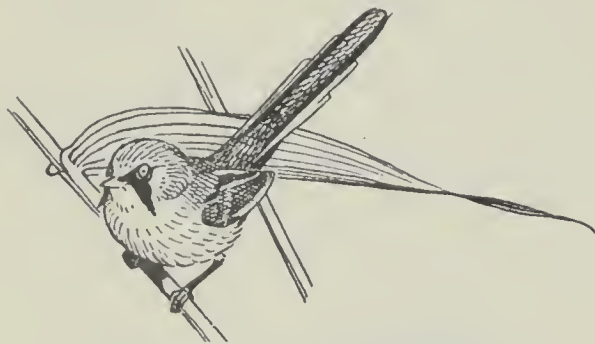
Following severe north-easterly gales with driving rain on June 1st, the majority of the terns' eggs were washed out, but repeat clutches resulted in one of the best common tern seasons for several years. Further gales from the north-west on June 12th brought in the same type of foam which caused so much destruction in 1960, but little damage was done. During the latter half of June large numbers of chicks hatched, but on July 4th a force nine gale resulted in almost the whole of the nesting area being under water.

No Sandwich or Arctic terns nested. Single pairs of partridge, lapwing and hedge-sparrow all bred for the first time, whilst two pairs of house-sparrows bred after an absence of many years.

The ternery at the Far Point and the Old Ternery were both wired off. This was a success and the common terns, no longer disturbed, remained brooding while visitors approached to within twenty feet of them. Thus the wire provided a protected area to the advantage of both birds and visitors.

The following is a summary of nests:

Sheld-Duck	..	..	36	Redshank	..	..	..	40
Red-legged Partridge	..	..	3	Common Tern	..	..	1000-1100	
Oystercatcher	..	..	65	Little Tern	..	..	120	
Ringed Plover	..	..	90-100	Swallow	..	..	2	



Cley and Salthouse (The Norfolk Naturalists' Trust)

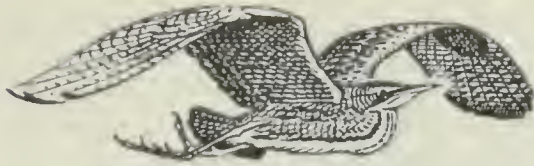
WARDEN: W. F. BISHOP

With a mild spring, ducks had a good nesting season. Mallard and sheld-duck numbers were maintained, two pairs of garganey, six pairs of teal and one pair of pintail bred. Twenty pairs of shoveler and ten pairs of gadwall summered.

Terns again had a disappointing season. One pair of common terns bred successfully on the North drain marshes, but the small colony on Arnold's marsh lost their eggs following high tides. A few pairs of little terns bred. Ringed plovers and oystercatchers had a more successful season than in 1960. Two pairs of stone-curlews reared young in the vicinity of Cley Hall farm.

Four bitterns were booming at Cley and Salthouse, but no nests were found. The Warden destroyed 600 coypus during the year. These animals are, without doubt, attracted to bitterns' nesting platforms where they perform their toilet. Three pairs of herons nested in The Hangs.

The bearded tit colony was larger than ever before. It is estimated there were thirty pairs, including eight to ten nests at Salthouse. The first nest was found April 1st. Some broods of young came to grief, possibly due to an increase of weasels along East Bank.



Hickling

(The Norfolk Naturalists' Trust)

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

Bearded tits again enjoyed a successful breeding season. Between 50 and 60 pairs nested round the Broad, at Whiteslea and Heigham Sounds. The first nest was found April 6th and the first eggs hatched nine days later. By the first days of May several young bearded tits had left their nests. The Wardens found at least 36 nests. Towards the end of the summer parties of twenty young were to be seen in the reedbeds. It is thought that ten to fifteen pairs remained to winter in the area.

Bitterns began booming as early as February 20th; five were booming at Hickling and three on the Sounds. For the second year in succession no marsh-harriers nested although birds were present all summer. Despite continuous trapping, coypus continued to damage the remaining reed and sedge beds. No Montagu's harriers were reported.

Common terns increased and five pairs nested on Rush Hills. Other interesting breeding birds included 11 pairs of great crested grebes and a similar number of herons; also single pairs of Canada geese and feral grey-lag geese. During the spring up to 20 gadwall, two pairs of garganey (which arrived March 15th), and 15 drake shoveler were on Rush Hills. Sheld-duck bred successfully. One pair of barn owls nested at Whiteslea Lodge.

Horsey

(MR. JOHN BUXTON)

KEEPER: G. GREES

As in 1960, a total of about 25 pairs of bearded tits nested round Horsey Mere. The first nest found April 20th contained four young. Later in the season, several bearded tits' nests were lost in mysterious circumstances. One of the culprits was found to be a water shrew. Eruptive behaviour of small flocks was again recorded during September and October. Groups were observed flying high, then suddenly dropping into the reeds before taking wing again. Most departures were north-westerly. On October 9th, a party of 15 bearded tits flew over the Mere before disappearing in a north-easterly direction.



Five marsh harriers including two males arrived early in April but none paired and there was no attempt at nesting. A male Montagu's harrier arrived April 26th, but did not stay; a hen Montagu's appeared May 10th and stayed a fortnight in the district.

Bitterns began booming March 2nd. A nest found at Horsey Brayden April 26th contained four eggs and all hatched successfully. There were five booming males.

A water-rail's nest with nine eggs was recorded May 10th; a pair of stonechats reared two broods and short-eared owls were thought to have bred. No oystercatchers attempted to breed.



Scroby Sands

(ROBIN H. HARRISON)

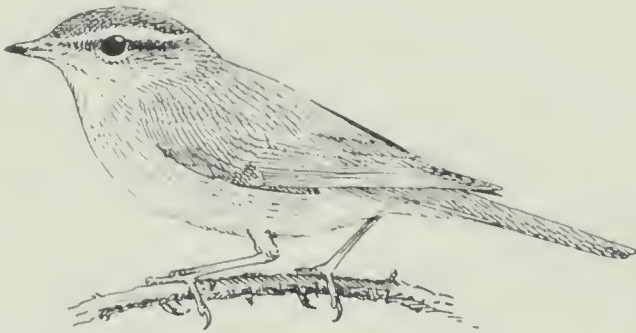
The first visit in 1961 was made on June 8th when scores of common and Sandwich terns' nests were found. Some common terns' eggs were on the point of hatching.

On June 26th, 95 Sandwich terns' nests were counted and there were some 200 common terns' nests. One of the few common tern chicks to survive spring tides earlier in the month was ringed. A

week later, 70 common tern chicks were ringed, also 7 young Sandwich terns. There were hundreds of terns' eggs still to hatch. A single little tern's nest was noted.

Everything seemed set for a good breeding season but on July 4th a north-westerly gale caused an abnormally high tide and mountainous seas. The tide was in fact a foot higher than it had been on July 1st 1960 when the sandbank had been completely covered. Unsettled weather continued for several days and it was not until July 14th that a landing was possible. As was to be expected, no chicks had survived. A few Sandwich and common terns were still present and three common terns' nests with eggs were found. These eggs soon disappeared, however, and were doubtless taken by greater black-backed gulls. Large numbers of these big gulls had assembled by the end of the month and they quickly devoured the carcasses of common seal pups.

A final visit was made July 21st. Sandwich and common terns were still fishing close to Scroby, but for the second year in succession the nesting season had been a complete failure.



Radde's Bush-warbler

Cley Bird Observatory

WARDEN: R. A. RICHARDSON

As in past years the recording of migration was the Observatory's primary concern, and it was maintained almost daily.

1,290 birds of 78 species were ringed during the year, including five species new to the Observatory ringing list: Canada goose, red-legged partridge, little ringed plover, Radde's bush-warbler and red-headed bunting. Others worthy of mention were wryneck, bluethroat, 2 icterine warblers and red-breasted flycatcher.

A number of recoveries were reported and a selection follows the Ringing Progress list.

Full reports were sent to Kenneth Williamson (Migration Research Officer of the British Trust for Ornithology) for analysis in *Bird Migration*.

We are again grateful to Norfolk County Council for continued use of the trapping thicket at Walsey Hills on the Salthouse boundary; to Mr. Newton Lemman for allowing the Ringing Hut to stand on his property and to the National Trust for permission to use mist-nets on Blakeney Point.

Details of hotel and cottage accommodation in the neighbourhood may be obtained by sending a stamped envelope to the Hon. Secretary, C.B.O., The Green Farm House, Cley, Holt, Norfolk.

* * * * *

A detailed account of the year's migration at Cley appears in *Cley Bird Observatory Annual Report, 1961*. Some of the most interesting observations appear below. Attention may also be drawn to the recently published *Check-list of the Birds of Cley & Neighbouring Norfolk Parishes* by R. A. Richardson. This 36-page volume gives the local status of 300 species with notes on habitat and dates of rarities.

* * * * *

March: The first 2 stone curlews returned to Salthouse Heath on 8th and the first 2 pairs of garganey were present next day. The first white wagtail appeared on 11th. A Sandwich tern arrived on 15th followed next day by the first wheatear.

A blackcap was new on 17th. 3 black-tailed godwits and 3 reeves followed next day. A sand martin passed on 28th, while on 30th the Sandwich tern flock stood at 30 with 50 present on 31st together with 8 wheatears and a ring ouzel.

April: A spotted redshank was new on 1st. 110 Sandwich terns were assembled next day, the first 2 swallows arrived and a willow warbler and a green sandpiper were seen. A little ringed plover came in on 3rd with an avocet. On the 5th Sandwich terns totalled 200. The first yellow wagtail arrived on 6th. Next day saw the first sedge-warbler and house martin. The first whitethroat followed on 8th. Redstart and nightingale both arrived on 10th. A cuckoo appeared on 12th, Greenland wheatear on 13th, blue-headed wagtail on 15th and common tern on 17th. A buzzard appeared on 19th; black tern, tree pipit and lesser whitethroat were all new. The first common sandpiper was seen on 20th with 5 little terns next day. On 22nd a black redstart was on the Point with a hoopoe on Salthouse Heath on 23rd when the first reed warbler was recorded. 4 black terns came in on 25th, a whinchat on 26th, avocet on 28th, pied flycatcher on 29th and a male red-footed falcon and a marsh harrier on the last day of the month.

May: The red-footed falcon re-appeared on 1st to be followed next day by a male red-headed bunting. The 3rd brought the first wood warbler. New on 4th were a garden warbler and red-backed shrikes. An immense westward passage of swifts and hirundines

took place on 5th and the first spotted flycatcher arrived. A little stint was seen on 7th, Kentish plover and Montagu's harrier on 8th and a first-summer Mediterranean gull followed next day. More Arctic waders were on the move including grey plovers, sanderling, knot, Arctic ringed plovers and whimbrel.

A hobby was over the marshes on 13th; the first nightjar was on the Heath and 5 black terns passed westward. Black tern numbers rose to 8 on 14th when there were 7 wood sandpipers. A cock red-headed bunting was at Salthouse, but it may have been the bird of 2nd May which on 3rd was mist-netted and ringed and taken from the dangerously busy coast road to the security of Salthouse Heath.

Another, or the same, male red-footed falcon was seen on 16th and a Temminck's stint appeared among the waders on 21st.

July: The first Arctic skua of the autumn arrived on 11th, and Northern waders again started to play a prominent role in daily observations. The first adult curlew-sandpiper was present on 16th. A great skua appeared on 21st and gannets began to appear inshore. Most noteworthy visitor was a white-rumped sandpiper from 28th to 30th.

August: 2 spotted redshank and 4 wood sandpipers were seen on 1st, with little stint, curlew-sandpiper, grey plover, knot, turnstone and whimbrel all newly arrived from the tundra next day. A little ringed plover, purple sandpiper, bar-tailed godwits and sanderling appeared on 3rd.

On the evening of 9th a party of 20 black terns suddenly arrived and left soon afterwards to the eastward, towering high into the sky. A tiny and short-lived arrival of European passerines was noted on 11th consisting of just four birds—a sedge warbler, pied flycatcher, aquatic warbler and an icterine. 2 dotterel passed through on 15th with another little ringed plover on 19th. 40 bar-tailed godwits and 9 black-tailed godwits followed on 20th. The first juvenile curlew-sandpipers appeared on 22nd, their travelling companions being knots, grey plovers, sanderling, ruffs and bar-tailed godwits. The 23rd brought 4 dotterel.

A young male peregrine came in from the sea on 27th and 6 spotted redshank arrived next day. The 30th brought 2 little gulls, pied flycatchers and 3 ortolans; a barred warbler following on 31st.

September: 2 wrynecks were on Blakeney Point on 2nd. Next day brought an evening arrival of 30 ruffs and reeves, a merlin, 6-7 Manx shearwaters and 2 little gulls, while all 4 species of skua were recorded. This movement continued next day with 12 great skuas and at least 30 Arctics, while Blakeney Point produced a goodly assortment of newly-arrived Scandinavian passerines

including 2 bluethroats, ortolan, black redstart, 40 wheatears, 30 pied flycatchers, 12 redstarts, 10 whinchats, willow, sedge and garden warblers, tree pipits and a red-backed shrike.

New birds on 5th included a bluethroat, wryneck and a Northern willow warbler. At Cley 12 little stints appeared with 4 spotted redshanks. On 7th the sea was productive with a strong eastward passage of 50 gannets, 80 Arctic skuas, 4 great skuas, single pomarine and long-tailed skuas and 3 Manx shearwaters. A Temminck's stint was new on 8th.

The 14th brought a honey buzzard, the first snow bunting and, on Blakeney Point, a wood warbler. A juvenile dotterel was on the beach on 16th with enormous numbers of swallows and house martins passing next day. New passerines included an ortolan and the first 2 Lapland buntings. At Blakeney on 19th an influx included 4 ring ouzels and a black redstart. On 22nd a buzzard came in from the sea, on 23rd there was a black redstart on the Point and a great spotted woodpecker was there next day. All 4 skua species were again reported on 24th. An immature red-breasted flycatcher was the highlight of 25th to be followed on 27th by 1-2 pectoral sandpipers.

October: The 3rd was probably our most exciting day of the year; it most certainly produced the rarest bird, for shortly after ringing an icterine warbler among the tree-lupins on Blakeney Point, a strange, large, dark olive leaf warbler was mist-netted in the *Suaeda* bushes at The Hood which proved to be a first winter male Radde's bush warbler.

The 7th brought many small, dark, song thrushes to Blakeney Point, together with robins, goldcrests, redstarts, 2-3 black redstarts, many chaffinches, a few bramblings and siskins and the first few redwings. A pectoral sandpiper was on Cley marsh on 8th.

Between 16th and 18th a severe gale ravaged the coast, veering gradually from N.W. to N. Among the species recorded were many skuas of all 4 species (Arctics predominating), at least 3 Leach's petrels and some little auks. When the storm had abated thousands of starlings and lapwings and a lot of skylarks resumed their spectacular westward passage with many wigeon and a few brent geese. Many hundreds of tree sparrows were also passing west on 22nd, the first shore-lark was seen and among a small party of long-tailed tits were some at least with pure white heads suggestive of Continental origin.

Immense numbers of starlings passed west on 29th, 200-300 twites moved eastward and a late Sandwich tern was inshore. The starlings continued unabated next day.

November: Another N.W. gale sprang up on 4th with 13 little auks and a big afternoon arrival of blackbirds. The gale abated on 5th, which provided the most spectacular day's immigration anyone

here can remember. Most of the birds arrived from the N.E., the waterfowl and most of the starlings turning westward on reaching the coast. Species involved were hundreds of thousands of starlings, many skylarks, fieldfares, redwings, wigeon, mallard, teal, brent geese, knot, dunlin, snow buntings, a few little auks and a dozen waxwings. As if this were not enough, the most immense "fall" of blackbirds began at mid-morning and continued till evening, females predominating till noon, males till late afternoon, and then a mixture till nightfall.

Two firecrests were seen on 11th, a water pipit returned to Snipe's marsh on 12th and a barnacle goose was at Salthouse on 17th. The month ended with a great grey shrike on the Heath on 27th.



Hoopoe

CLEY BIRD OBSERVATORY RINGING PROGRESS

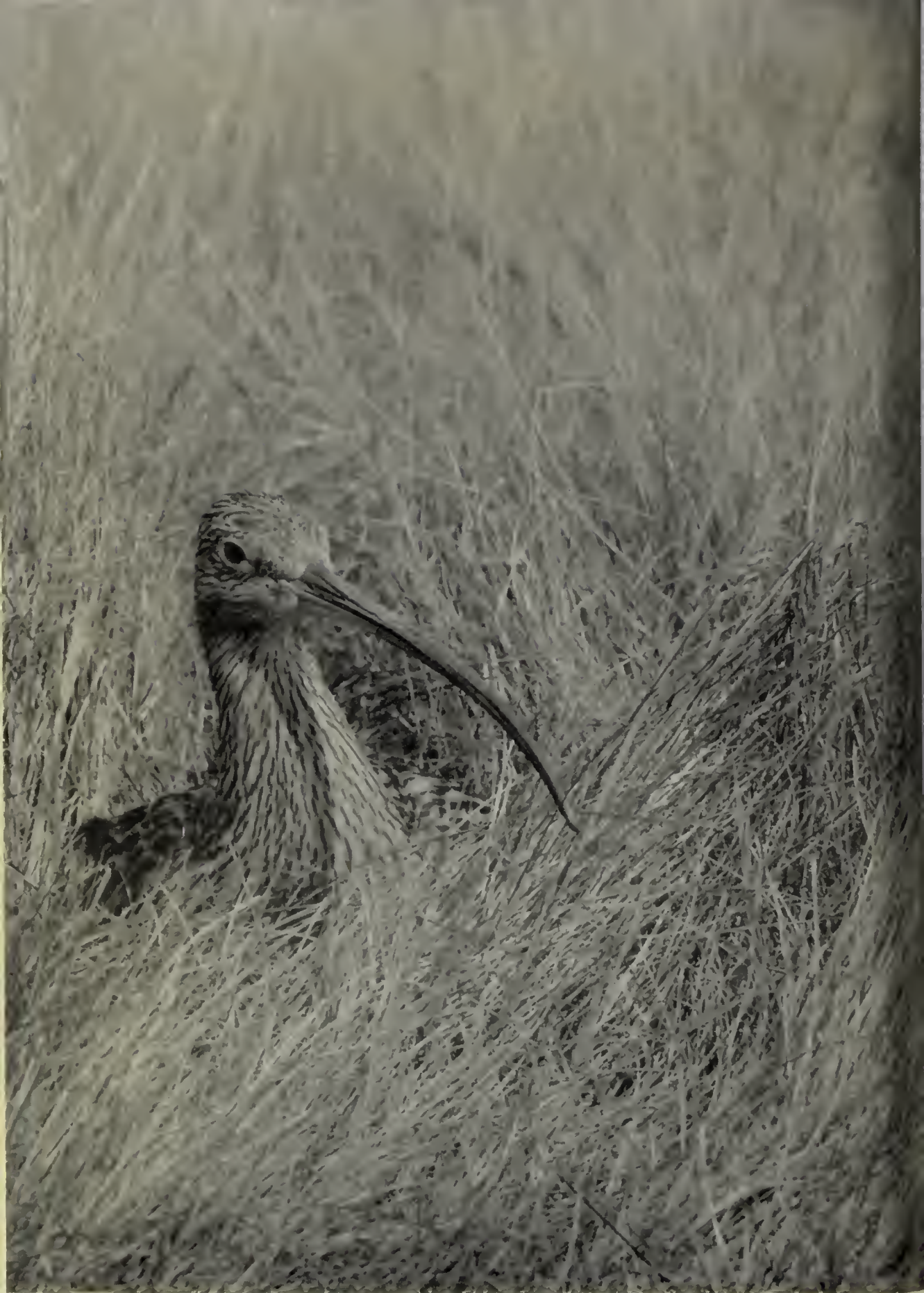
Species	1961	Total since 1949	Total Recoveries	Species	1961	Total since 1949	Total Recoveries	Species	1961	Total since 1949	Total Recoveries
Little Grebe		3	1	Cuckoo	1	18	18	Icterine Warbler	2	7	7
Manx Shearwater		1	26	Barn Owl	1	26	26	Blackcap	3	178	178
Fulmar	8	60	8	Little Owl		8	8	Barred Warbler		9	9
Heron	3	43	7	Tawny Owl	4	28	28	Garden Warbler	2	92	92
Bittern		4	6	Long-eared Owl		6	6	Whitethroat	50	797	797
Mallard	1	21	5	Short-eared Owl		10	10	Lesser Whitethroat	3	51	51
Teal		2	5	Nighthawk		5	5	Subalpine Warbler	2	2	2
Wigeon		3	2	Swift	1	26	26	Willow Warbler	15	556	556
Scaup		3	8	Kingfisher		2	2	Chiffchaff	6	64	64
Eider		8	2	Green Woodpecker		2	2	Wood Warbler	1	11	11
Shield-Duck		13	3	Great Spotted Woodpecker		3	3	Raddie's Warbler	15	196	196
Brent Goose	6	11		Wryneck	1	5	5	Firecrest		3	3
Canada Goose	11	11		Woodlark	5	16	16	Spotted Flycatcher		83	83
Mute Swan	6	8		Skyllark		194	194	Pied Flycatcher	22	148	148
Sparrowhawk		1		Shorelark		1	1	Red-breasted Flycatcher		5	5
Montagu's Harrier		2		Swallow	113	582	582	Duncock	1	647	647
Kestrel		21	2	House Martin	9	75	75	Meadow Pipit	5	375	375
Red-legged Partridge	1	1		Sand Martin	26	133	133	Tree Pipit	1	25	25
Common Partridge		1		Carrion Crow		4	4	Rock Pipit		8	8
Water Rail	1	6		Rook		60	60	Pied/White Wagtail	2	74	74
Spotted Crane		1		Jackdaw		23	23	Grey Wagtail		4	4
Corncrake		1		Magpie		12	12	Yellow/Blue-headed Wagtail	2	139	139
Moorhen		1		Jay		17	17	Waxwing		2	2
Oystercatcher	3	15	1	Great Tit	8	246	246	Great Grey Shrike		4	4
Lapwing	35	402	3	Blue Tit	28	580	580	Woodchat Shrike		2	2
Ringed Plover	9	86		Coal Tit	2	38	38	Red-backed Shrike	2	107	107
Little Ringed Plover	2	2		Marsh Tit	18	18	18	Starling	4	488	488
Turnstone		2		Willow Tit		25	25	Greenfinch	40	946	946
Snipe	6	29	1	Long-tailed Tit	31	106	106	Goldfinch	8	57	57
Jack Snipe		2		Bearded Tit	1	6	6	Siskin		3	3
Woodcock		5	1	Nuthatch	1	27	27	Linnets		6	6
Wood Sandpiper	2	6		Treecreeper	43	162	162	Twite	71	485	485
Common Sandpiper	1	6		Wren		1	1	Lesser Redpoll	1	4	4
Redshank	5	49	1	Black-bellied Dipper		49	49	Bullfinch	16	54	54
Knot		3		Mistle Thrush		10	10	Chaffinch	13	746	746
Purple Sandpiper	1	4		Song Thrush	53	823	823	Brambling		297	297
Little Stint		10		Redwing		39	39	Yellow Hammer	49	363	363
Dunlin		20	1	Ring Ouzel	1	6	6	Corn Bunting	3	8	8
Ruff		10	1	Blackbird	60	1,226	1,226	Red-headed Bunting	1	1	1
Grey Phalarope		2		Wheatear		147	147	Ortolan Bunting		1	1
Stone Curlew		10		Stonchat		11	11	Rustic Bunting		1	1
Common Gull		1	6	Whinchat		54	54	Reed Bunting		259	259
Black-headed Gull		265	1	Redstart	13	183	183	Lapland Bunting	5	7	7
Common Tern	5	116	1	Black Redstart		30	30	Snow Bunting		175	175
Little Tern	11	28	5	Nightingale	1	152	152	Tree Sparrow	7	144	144
Sandwich Tern		752		Bluetthroat	1	11	11	House Sparrow	147	839	839
Razorbill		4		Robin	54	801	801	House x Tree Sparrow Hybrid		1	1
Little Auk		2		Grasshopper Warbler		15	15	GRAND TOTALS	1,290	16,946	195
Guillemot		5		Reed Warbler	49	166	166				
Stock Dove		34	2	Aquatic Warbler	31	163	163				
Turtle Dove	2	16	3	Melodious Warbler		1	1				
Wood Pigeon	18	72	4			2	2				
Collared Dove		4	1			11	11				



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D. M. T. Ellinger

Stonechat numbers in Norfolk began declining about 1936 and by 1940 it was almost entirely confined as a breeding bird to the Breck. Even here none was seen in the breeding season after 1945. A welcome return was made in 1958 when three pairs nested and in 1961, five pairs bred.



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R. Jones

Increasing numbers of Curlew have bred in the Breck in recent years. In the Stanford area, in 1961, six pairs were present and two broods of young were found.

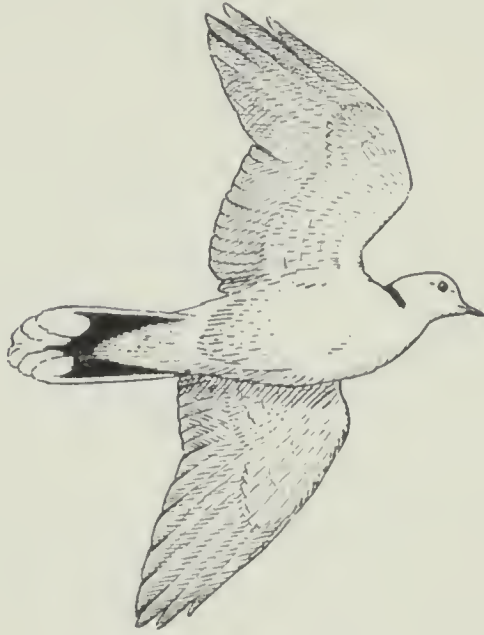
Selected Ringing Recoveries

(Notified in 1961)

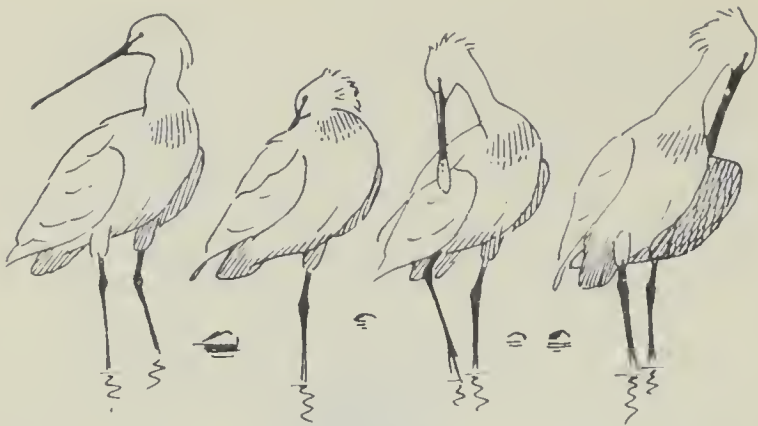
	<i>Ringed</i>	<i>Recovered</i>
Heron	Wiveton. 19.4.59. (as young).	Hazelford Ferry, Newark, 12.2.61.
Heron (3 birds)	Denver. 27.4.59.	Tarbes (Hautes-Pyrenees), France. 14.1.60; Preston (Lancs) 23.5.60. & Crickhowell (Brecon) 6.12.60.
Heron	Denver. 7.5.60.	Reville, Manche, France. 5.1.61.
Mallard	How Hill. 9.2.56.	Holwerd (Friesland), Netherlands. 7.1.61.
Mallard	How Hill. 14.2.56.	Hooge, North Frisian Islands. 9.12.60.
Mallard	How Hill. 15.2.56.	Suglitz, Segexha, Karelian A.S.S.R. 25.1.61.
Mallard	How Hill. 29.2.56.	Sint Anna Parochie (Friesland), Netherlands. 17.11.60.
Mallard	How Hill. 29.2.56.	Ballum near Logumkloster, (Jutland), Denmark. 22.12.59.
Mallard	How Hill. 16.1.60.	Larsmo, Engmo Island (Vaasa), Finland. 18.9.61.
Mallard	How Hill. 17.1.60.	Viborg (Leningrad), U.S.S.R. 14.8.60.
Mallard	How Hill. 18.1.60.	Sainso Island, Denmark. Nov. 1960.
Mallard	How Hill. 18.1.60.	Narva (Leningrad), U.S.S.R. 14.8.60.
Mallard	How Hill. 10.2.60.	Riga, Latvian S.S.R. 21.8.60.
Mallard	How Hill. 14.2.60.	Ostrov (Pskov), U.S.S.R. 14.8.60.
Mallard	How Hill. 15.2.60.	Vastergarn near Masterby (Gotland), Sweden. 10.11.61.
Mallard	How Hill. 18.2.60.	Hortlax (Norbotten), Sweden. 29.9.61.
Mallard	How Hill. 18.2.60.	Berk Plage (Pas de Calais), France. 7.2.61.
Mallard	Meet Kerke, Bruges, Belgium. 8.11.59.	Barsham. Jan. 1961.
Mallard	Vest Stadil Fjord (Jutland), Denmark. 25.7.59 (as young).	Walsingham. 25.7.60.
Teal	How Hill. Feb. 1955.	Lavau-sur-Loire near Corde-mais (Loire - Atlantique), France. 27.10.60.
Garganey	Engwierum (Friesland), Netherlands. Aug. 1958.	Burnham Overy. 3.9.58.
Wigeon	Wieringen (Noord-Holland) Netherlands. 25.1.55.	Norfolk. Feb/March 1957.
Pintail	Haarsteeg (Noord-Brabant), Netherlands. 25.2.57.	North Wootton. 9.1.59.
Sheld-duck	Estuary of river Weser, Germany. 31.8.58 (adult in moult).	Breydon. 28.1.61.
Sheld-duck	Walberswick. 31.8.60 (as young).	Terrington, King's Lynn. 13.9.60.
Lapwing	Gooderstone, Swaffham. 13.5.58. (as young).	Les Sables d'Olonne (Vendee), France. Oct. 1960.
Lapwing	Reerwijk, Netherlands. 21.3.55.	East Winch. 5.2.57.

Lapwing	Reeuwijk, Netherlands. 4.12.55.	Earsham. 8.1.58.
Curlew	Toysa, Finland. 6.6.60 (as young).	Brancaster. 3.10.60.
Knot	Revtangen (Rogaland) Norway. 21.9.52	Snettisham. 4.12.60.
Dunlin (7 birds)	Pori, Finland. 23.8.59. Ledskar, Sweden. 22.7.59 Ottenby, Oland, Sweden. 22.7.52. Ottenby, Sweden. 17.8.52. Revtangen, Norway. 30.9.56. Revtangen, Norway. 9.9.58. Amager, Denmark. 4.7.60.	} Terrington. 24.8.60. All trapped and released
Great Black-backed Gull	Meloyvar (Troms), Norway. 20.7.59.	
Herring Gull	Bass Rock. 23.6.59.	Terrington. 7.8.60.
Herring Gull	Isle of May. 30.8.57. (as young).	Thompson near Watton. 4.1.60.
Black-headed Gull	Lake Engure near Riga, Latvian S.S.R. 29.5.60. (as young).	Swardeston. 10.2.61.
Common Tern	Scroby Sands. 15.6.56.	Scolt Head. 14.6.61. Dead at Nest.
Common Tern	Scolt Head. 7.7.60. (as young).	Keta, Ghana. 17.9.61.
Common Tern	Coquet Island, Northumberland. 20.7.60. (as young).	Gt. Yarmouth. 4.9.60.
Sandwich Tern	Stiffkey. 21.6.59. (as young).	St. Vivienne du Medoc (Gironde) France. 3.9.61.
Sandwich Tern P16043	Stiffkey. 26.6.60. (as young).	Caught and released Porto Amboim, Angola, W. Africa. 26.6.61.
Guillemot	Calf of Man. 19.6.59. (as young).	Winterton. 27.8.60.
Blue Tit	Minsmere. 2.10.61.	Gorleston. 7.11.61. Released.
Fieldfare	Sundsvall, E. Sweden. 2.6.61.	Breydon marshes. 27.12.61.
Song-thrush	Cley. 10.10.59. (as Continental immigrant).	La Puerta de Segura (Jaen), Spain. 13.1.61.
Song-thrush	Blakeney Point. 16.10.60. (as Continental immigrant).	Queyrac (Gironde), W. France. Early Dec. 1961.
Redwing	Near Lake Engure, Riga, Latvian S.S.R. 27.6.60. (as young).	Acle. Early Feb. 1961.
Blackbird	Ytterby (Bohuslan) Sweden. 8.4.56.	Lyng. Jan. 1960.
Blackbird	Cley. 19.4.58. As adult.	Tim, Ringkobing (Jutland), Denmark. Sept. 1960.
Robin	Portland Bill, Dorset. 3.10.59.	Martham. 22.3.60.
Starling	Ventes Ragas, west coast of Lithuanian S.S.R. 21.6.61. (as young)	Inner Dowsing light-vessel. 15.10.61.
Starling	Near Hattula, south Finland. 27.5.61. (as young).	Haisbro' light-vessel. 30.10.61.
Starling	Loosduinen, Netherlands, 7.11.53. Then released in Geneva, Switzerland.	North Creake. Jan. 1956.
Starling	Wassenaar, Netherlands. 25.10.57. Then released in Basle, Switzerland.	Yarmouth Roads. 19.10.58.
Starling	Ventes Ragas, Lithuanian S.S.R. 23.6.61. (as young).	Haisbro' light-vessel. 30.10.61.
Starling	Sheringham. 19.1.59.	Flensted, Lasby (Jutland), Denmark. 1.3.61.

(Greenfinch	Meulebeke (W. Flanders), Belgium. 3.4.60.	Stoke Mill. 17.4.60.
(Greenfinch	Tourcoing (Nord) France. 16.2.60.	Scole. 7.5.60.
(Greenfinch	Fromelles (Nord) France. 31.1.60.	Needham. 4.5.60.
(House Sparrow	Cley. 4.7.52. (as young)	Blakeney. End May 1961.



Collared Dove



Spoonbills

Classified Notes

The Wash and Fen records have been selected 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 may be found in the *Cambridge Bird Club Report* for 1961.

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 1961, unless otherwise stated. Where no initials appear after a record, details have been supplied by many observers. No plumage descriptions are given of rarities accepted by the Rare Birds Committee of *British Birds*.

1 Black-throated Diver: One inland record: Haddiscoe Cut, mid-Jan.–Feb. 15th (RWC). Usual coastal records.

2 Great Northern Diver: East coast: One, Mundesley, Nov. 8th (RB). North: Singly at Wells, Jan. 25th (HH) and off Scolt, Dec. 12th/13th (RC). Wash: 3 winter records of 1–2, Heacham–Hunstanton (CBC).

5 Great Crested Grebe: During May/June, all known sites were visited and there was a county total of over 481 *adults*. 47 sites were occupied. The 1954 count revealed a total of 342 *adults* (see 1954 Report, p. 20).

Broads: Martham, 4 *adults*; Hickling, 14; Heigham Sounds, 8; Barton, 42–60; Alderfen, 1; Rockland, 30; Surlingham, 2–6; Burnt Fen, 4; Filby, 16; Rollesby (including 8 at Lady Broad), 69; Ormesby, 40; South Walsham, 10; Ranworth Inner, 30; Malthouse, 2; Wroxham, 26; Hoveton Great, 45; Black Horse, 10–20; Belaugh, 2; Woodbastwick Old Hall, 2; Upton, 2; Woodbastwick Decoy, 6; Sallhouse, 8; Hardley flood, 10 and river Bure at Woodbastwick, 4 (one pair bred successfully). *Breck:* Stanford Water, 2; Thompson,

2; Mickle Mere, 13-19; Narford, 2-3; Narborough G.P., 2; Saham Tony Mere, 6; West Wretham Hill Mere and Rush Mere, 1-2 and Shadwell Lake, 4. *Fens*: Hilgay G.P., one; Welney G.P., 1-4; Runcton Holme G.P., 2; Downham Market-King's Lynn Relief channel, 2. *Other lakes and gravel pits*: Cawston Manor, 2; Felbrigg Pond, 2; Haveringland lake, 4; Blickling, 4; Sea Mere, 4-9; Holkham, 6; Stradsett, 12; Lenwade G.P., 6; Fustyweed (Elsing) G.P., 2; Taverham G.P., 2; Wortwell G.P., 2; Wolterton, 2; Scoulton, 4 and Melton Constable, 4. Negative reports from Horsey Mere, Buckenham Broads, Didlington lake, Fowl Mere, Stourton Water Cawston, Gunton Park, Reymerston G.P. and Beeston St. Lawrence lake.

Wash: Hunstanton-Snettisham counts include 100, Feb. 13th; 130, Aug. 13th and 250, Dec. 17th (CBC).

6 Red-necked Grebe: North coast: One, Wells, Feb. 2nd (HH) and 2, Brancaster, Nov. 19th (HR). Wash: Hunstanton, 2, Feb. 5th-March 12th and at least 4, Dec. 17th (CBC).

7 Slavonian Grebe: North coast: Singles in winter at Cley, Stiffkey and Wells. Broads: One, Horsey, March 28th (GC). Inland, 2 at Sea Mere, Feb. 6th and 2 at Narford on 16th (CG). Wash: Hunstanton, ones and twos in winter (CBC).

8 Black-necked Grebe: North: Singly, Scolt, Oct. 21st and Nov. 17th (RC); 4, Wells, Nov. 24th (HH). Wash: Recorded to April 8th and from Oct. 28th with 10-15 off Hunstanton cliffs end Nov. to mid-Dec. and 35, Heacham-Hunstanton, Dec. 17th (CBC).

12 Leach's Petrel: North: Cley, one on Oct. 18th and 4 on 19th. Wash: Heacham, 2, Oct. 19th (CBC).

16 Manx Shearwater: North (Cley, Scolt and Holme): 1-6 recorded on 11 dates, July 16th-Oct. 19th. Also 2 off Cley, May 21st.

21 Sooty Shearwater: North: Singles off Blakeney Point, Sept. 16th (DFB); Holme, Oct. 18th/19th (CBC) and Cromer, Nov. 4th (PT).

26 Fulmar Petrel: Recorded Weybourne to Happisburgh. No details of breeding successes but 38 pairs between Cromer and Sheringham. First (2) returned Cromer Nov. 19th then rapid build-up (CDR).

27 Gannet: Inland: An immature found at Hoe 20 miles from coast Nov. 20th (HR). Usual autumn coastal passage.

28 Cormorant: Wash: Remarkable flock of 80 off Snettisham, Sept. 9th (CBC).

29 Shag: North: 2, Cley, Jan. 14th; one, Morston, Feb. 14th (HH) and one, Scolt, May 16th-22nd (PJM). Wash: 1-3, Oct.-Dec. (CBC).

30 Heron: Details of heronries as follows:

Borders of Wash: Snettisham, 15 nests. *Fens:* Islington, 83 and Denver Sluice, 56 (AEV). *Breck:* Thompson Water, 4 (AWK); Didlington, 7 and Stoke Ferry, one (new site 1960 when also one nest—AEV). *Mid-Norfolk:* Kimberley Park, 25 (PRB) and Keswick, one (*per* EAE). *Broads area:* Gen. McHardy's wood, 3; Whiteslea, 3; Heigham Sounds wood, 5 (EP); America wood, Earsham, 13 (JWM); Fishley Carr Acle, 6 (RJ); Upton, 9 (RJ, MJS); Wickhampton, 39 (ETD, MJS); Buckenham, 43; Mautby, 23 and Ranworth, 40 (MJS); Ranworth marshes (Horning Hall), 6 (RB); Heron Carr, Barton Broad, 7 (DS); Belaugh Broad, 2 (RECD) and 3 new sites each with one nest: Wheatfen (EAE), Runham (*per* PRA) and Martham Ferry (*per* RJ). *North:* Melton Constable, 11 (RPB-O); Holkham Park (Obelisk wood), 11; Gunton Park (The Grove), 7 (*per* MJS); Wiveton Hall, 4 (CO) and Cley (The Hangs), 3 (WFB). Total: 430 nests at 29 sites. None nested in Narford Park (DW).

38 Bittern: Yare valley, one pair-bred successfully at Reedham (KP). A new locality.

42 Spoonbill: East: Breydon, the immature which stayed 2 months in late 1960 re-appeared Feb. 15th (RFH) and stayed till April 13th. During the first half of Jan. one, doubtless the same, was on the Suffolk Blyth. Also 2 there June 21st and one, July 10th and 20th (RHH). Broads: Hickling, one on May 28th (EP).

47 Garganey: First, Cley (2 pairs) March 9th and Breydon on 11th (PRA). Breeding season records from Cley (maximum 5), Surlingham Broad (one male), Martham Broad (3), Blackfleet Broad (3); Hardley (2 pairs), Hickling (2 pairs) and Cantley reservoir (one pair). Breck: A pair Lang Mere, June 8th (CBH). Fens: Ouse Washes, spring maximum 11, April 8th (CBC).

49 Gadwall: Maximum counts: Breck: 62 at Narford, Jan. 22nd, 50 on Feb. 22nd and March 1st and 50 at West Acre G.P. Nov. 22nd (DW); 100-120 at Little Cressingham, Jan. 1st (GJ) and 200-220 at Stanford Water, May 30th (WJ *per* GJ). Mid-Norfolk: 40 at Sea Mere, March 16th (CG). Broads: 30 at Hickling, March 15th (EP). North: 30-40 at Bayfield, Jan. 12th-14th (PJW); 40 at Raynham, Sept. 10th (AEV) and 25 at Cley in mid-Dec.

50 Wigeon: Winter counts include 2,000 at Morston third week Jan. with further increase in following week. Summer records include up to 4 drakes at Hickling till end of May and one drake, June 26th (EP); up to 6 at Breydon, May 6th-June 24th (PRA). Fens: Ouse Washes, Welney-Hilgay, maximum of 6,000, Feb. 4th (CBC).

52 Pintail: East: Breydon, peaks of 35, Jan. 28th (PRA) and 80, Dec. 31st (RHH). Breck: 11, Little Cressingham, Dec. 30th (GJ). North: Cley, 44 on April 1st. Fens: Ouse Washes, maximum of 3,000 on March 5th (CBC).

- 53 Shoveler:** Largest counts: Broads area: 300, Hickling, March 15th (EP); 50, Hardley, May 22nd (PRA); 100, Berney Arms, Oct. 28th (RIH). Breck: 50, Narford Lake, Dec. 12th (DW) and 68 Little Cressingham-Bodney, Dec. 31st (GJ). Fens: Ouse Washes, Hilgay-Welney, up to 310, Jan. 1st-early Feb. (CBC).
- 55 Scaup:** North/East coasts: 1-10 in usual areas, with 60 west at Blakeney, Oct. 12th (HH). Breck: One, Narford lake, Feb. 22nd (DW). Broads area: Single drakes at Breydon, May 11th-20th and Aug. 15th (PRA) and at Cantley reservoir, Aug. 14th-18th (PRA, GRS) also a pair, Ranworth, April 30th (MJS). Wash: Heacham-Hunstanton, counts include 600, Feb. 5th; 150, March 5th and 60 by Dec. 28th (CBC).
- 56 Tufted Duck:** Breeding records only are given. Fens: 7 broods Runcton Holme (AEV, DW). Breck (total of 16-17 broods): one brood Lang Mere; one, Fowl Mere; 2, Shadwell lake; one, West Acre G.P.; 2, Stanford Water; 3, Tottington West Mere (AEV); one, Thompson Common (AWK); 2-3, Cockley Cley (CRK) and 3, Rush Mere (PII).
- 57 Pochard:** Broads area: 2 broods Rockland (ETD, WKL) and one brood, Surlingham (CBII). Over 200, Horsey Mere, Dec. 21st (PRA). Breck: 2 broods Stanford Water (AWK, AEV) and one brood, Tottington West Mere (AEV). Winter maximum of 47, Fowl Mere, Dec. 24th (GJ).
- 61 Long-tailed Duck:** Broads: One, Surlingham, Nov. 26th (CBII). East: One, Winterton, Aug. 26th (MJS). North: Cley, 3 through Jan.-Feb. 19th and 4 west, Nov. 4th. Wells, 2, Jan. 12th and Feb. 13th; one, Nov. 10th (HH). Scolt, 2, Jan. 16th and singly Dec. 26th-30th (RC). Wash: Hunstanton-Heacham, recorded up to April 8th and from Oct. 28th with 16, Nov. 12th and 25, Dec. 17th (CBC).
- 62 Velvet Scoter:** North: No party exceeded 7 in number. Wash: Hunstanton-Heacham, 185-200, Feb. 5th-10th; 325 on March 5th and 100 by Oct. 29th (CBC).
- 64 Common Scoter:** North/East coasts: No flocks over 400 reported. Wash: Heacham-Hunstanton, many winter counts 1,500-2,500 with maximum of 3,000 (CBC).
- 67 Eider-Duck:** East: Drake, Waxham, Oct. 14th (MJS). 40 near Corton L.V. (6 miles off Yarmouth) Nov. 3rd (RIH). North: Brancaster area: Present all year with up to 20 in spring summer. Up to 15 at Cley and 20 at Wells in winter. Wash: Heacham-Hunstanton, up to 30 on 3 dates Jan.-March and build-up Nov.-Dec. with 350 by 17th (CBC).
- 69 Red-breasted Merganser:** East: A drake, Breydon, Dec. 16th (PRA). North: Parties up to 15 at usual localities. Wash: Hunstanton-King's Lynn, 50-60 in winter and one summered on Snettisham G.P. minus a wing (CBC). Breck: 4 at Narford, Feb. 5th (CBC).

70 Goosander: Breck: Largest number, as usual, at Narford where 32, Jan. 22nd; 36, Feb. 1st; 24 March 15th and 4, Dec. 12th. Also 4 at Thompson, Jan. 9th (ALB) and 17 there Feb. 5th (CBC). 1-3 at Breydon, Horsey Mere, Cantley, Sea Mere and Wells.

71 Smew: Breck: One, Narford, Jan. 22nd-Feb. 1st. Sea Mere, 2-4, Jan. 26th-31st (CG). No others reported.

73 Sheld-Duck: Moulting migrant records: At Scolt: two distinct movements: a westerly one commenced June 16th and consisted of small groups usually of less than 10 leaving the Island during eve. A light easterly movement commenced June 14th and lasted till July 10th. 250 counted during this period. Movement recommenced July 22nd on much heavier scale, 200 birds being seen during 6 days (PJM). At Cley, 30 east July 22nd with several east next day; 30 west, Nov. 4th and 180 west next day. On Wash, at Wolferton, total of 2,600 headed north shortly before dusk July 23rd in flocks of 100-150. Next weekend, only 50 remained on East side of Wash (CBC). Off Mundesley, 31 coasting NW Nov. 4th and 3 moved NW on 5th (RB). Inland breeding sites include Gunton Park (2 pairs), Hickling, Surlingham and Cantley. Winter counts: Breydon, 559, Feb. 11th and 564, Dec. 30th (PRA). Holme, 1,150, Dec. 17th (CBC).

75 Grey-lag Goose: Yare valley, singly with the bean geese, Jan. 15th and Dec. 26th-31st (MJS). 3 at Breydon, Dec. 27th (PRA, GRS). North: Holme, 16, Dec. 24th (CBC).

76 White-fronted Goose: Breydon area: First 20, Jan. 15th increasing to 140 by early Feb. till end of month and 15 till March 11th. Autumn arrivals (15) Nov. 25th; 150 on Dec. 23rd and 200 by end of year (RHH, PRA).

77 Lesser White-fronted Goose: East: 2 adults in Yare valley, with bean geese, Dec. 26th/27th (MJS *et al*). North: An immature with 91 brents at Cley, Feb. 3rd-8th (RAR). The sixth and seventh fully authenticated county records.

78 Bean-Goose (*A.a. arvensis*): East: Yare valley, 7, Jan. 7th-15th increasing to 30 by the 29th (MJS). Last noted March 2nd (*per* RHH). 52, Dec. 26th-31st. North: Cley, 3, Feb. 28th-March 13th with 4 on 5th.

Pink-footed Goose (*A.a. brachyrhynchus*): Breydon area: 23, Feb. 24th (PRA). Last 17, March 18th. First in autumn (5), Nov. 30th with 16, Dec. 16th (RHH). North: 33, Stiffkey, Jan. 4th (HH).

80 Brent Goose: North: Blakeney, maximum of 1,800, Jan. 1st, declining to 800 by Feb. 4th and to 45 by March 25th; 800 by end of year. Cley, 91 (including 64 immatures) Feb. 3rd declining to 48 by March 1st. Wells, maximum of 1,150 end Jan. and early Feb. and remarkable peak of 2,250, Feb. 17th; only 80, March 11th (HH); 200 by end of year (HR). Brancaster, 550 through Jan./Feb. till March 6th when increase to 600 but down to 400 by 13th; 56, Nov. 5th; 600 by end of month and 400-450 during Dec. (RC).

Wash: Hunstanton, maximum of 400 (CBC). East: Breydon: One, March 11th-18th (PRA) and Nov. 12th and 2, Dec. 9th (RHH).

81 Barnacle-Goose: East: Breydon, one, Nov. 18th-19th (PRA, MJS). North: Salthouse, one, Nov. 17th-18th; Holme, one on 14th and 2 on 18th; Scott, 2 on 20th/21st (RC). Wash: Hunstanton, one with brents, Dec. 28th (CBC).

84 Mute Swan: A second census was carried out in April/May (see 1955 Report, p. 36) and a county total of 904 adults, *including* 105 breeding pairs, was reached. Distribution as follows: River Waveney, 104; Nar, 4; Wissey, 30; Yare, 47; Thurne, 19; Ant, 7; Glaven, 4; Tas, 3; Bure, 107; Wensum, 19. Broads: 381 (including 340 at Hickling). Other waters (lakes, ponds, flooded gravel pits and marshes), 179. Excluded from the census were the Little Ouse, Great Ouse and Fens.

85 Whooper-Swan: North coast: Broads (Horsey, Hickling) and Breck (Lang Mere, Thompson, Rush Mere, West Mere and Stanford) 1-21 up to Feb. 28th and from Nov. 3rd.

86 Bewick's Swan: East: Breydon, 3, Jan. 28th; 24, Dec. 16th (PRA) and 20 on 25th (RHH). Horsey Mere, 12 on Nov. 19th (JB). North: 8 records at Cley with maximum of 35 west, Dec. 16th. Breck: 13 Lang Mere, Dec. 17th (PRB). Fens: Ouse Washes: 100, Jan. 21st-Feb. 4th declining to 30 by March 5th; 17, Nov. 25th (CBC). Wisbech S.F.: 23, Nov. 12th (CBC).

91 Buzzard: North: Singly at Cley, April 19th and Sept. 22nd (CO) and at Blakeney on 29th (HH). A male preserved by HFA had been shot in the county Sept. 13th. Fens: One, Wallington Hall, Aug. 20th (CBC).

92 Rough-legged Buzzard: North: One, Cley, Jan. 1st-22nd. One shot Oulton, March 12th (now in Norwich Castle Museum). Broads: One, Horsey, March 10th (GC).

93 Sparrow-Hawk: Recorded from 21 localities.

95 Kite: North: Singly at Cley Feb. 15th-18th and March 4th (WFB, RAR, BB, RH) and at North Walsham, Jan. 25th-early Feb. and March 22nd (CL). Broads: One at Surlingham, March 22nd (EAE).



97 White-tailed Eagle: North: One, Blakeney Point, Dec. 6th (WE) and 15th (RM) and on beach at Holme, 24th (GMSE).

98 Honey-Buzzard: North: Cley, one east Sept. 14th (DFB, MB, GHL, GHR). Each observer familiar with this species and spent several weeks watching them at the nest in 1961.

99 Marsh-Harrier: None bred although at least 5 (including 2 males) arrived in Hickling/Horsey area in early April. 13 records of 1-2 on North coast marshes with 2 at Breydon, Aug. 23rd (PRA).

100 Hen-Harrier: Breck: One at Gooderstone, from early Dec. (CRK). Broads: 2 at Horsey, Nov. 1st (GC). East: Breydon, a male, Oct. 28th (RHH). North: Blakeney-Morston, singly on 5 dates, Jan. 6th-Feb. 12th (HH). Scolt, one, Oct. 13th (RC).

102 Montagu's Harrier: None bred. North: Singly at Cley May 8th and at Blakeney, Sept. 7th (HH). Broads: A male at Horsey, April 26th; a hen May 10th (GC) and a hen at Winterton on 23rd (RLCW). Central: One, East Bilney, May 25th (DMM). Fens: A pair at one site displaying early June but no nest.

103 Osprey: Singles as follows: North: Weybourne, May 22nd (CWH); Scolt, 24th (RC) and 29th (PJM); Antingham Ponds, 31st-June 6th (JHI); Blakeney and Cley, June 6th (WFB, WE, RP). Central: Sea Mere, May 5th/6th (CG, NL) and Lenwade G.P. 6th (JCC). Breck: Rush Mere, May 7th (PH) and Tottington West Mere, June 30th (WJ *per* GJ). Broads: Hickling, April 20th-28th (EP); Horsey, 27th (GC); Hickling, Sept. 8th (EP) and Ormesby on 9th (CW). An unpublished 1960 Breck record: one at Hill Mere, June 10th (PH).

104 Hobby: North: One at Cley, May 13th. West: One at Middleton, July 29th (CBC).

108 Red-footed Falcon: North: Cley, a male, April 30th-May 1st. Possibly same bird seen well May 16th (RAR, BB, E & TF, DB). Scolt: A female, June 16th (RC).

117 Quail: North: One calling, Blakeney, June 15th (HH). One, Cley Eye, Sept. 20th.

[**Golden Pheasant** (*Chrysolophus pictus*): Breck: Large numbers in Thetford Chase, especially in the Wretham-Hockham-Thompson triangle (ALB). Further records welcomed].

[**Demoiselle Crane** (*A. virgo*): North: One at Holme, Sept. 9th (CBC)].

121 Spotted Crake: Broads: Horsey, one, Nov. 4th (GC). North: Cley, one, Oct. 22nd (ARMB *et al*).

125 Corncrake: East: Winterton, one found dead Oct. 5th and now in Norwich Castle Museum collection; 2 there on 11th (JB). North: Cley, one, Oct. 23rd (WFB). Fens: Wisbech S.F. one, May 23rd (CBC).

126 Moorhen: One of the "hairy" variety caught at Hindringham, May 6th (RS, RPB-O). See 1955 Report, p. 39.

131 Oystercatcher: Breeding records: North: 65 nests at Blakeney Point and 22 pairs on south side of harbour; 3 pairs at Stiffkey, 11 pairs at Wells, 2 pairs at Overy Staithe and 67 nests at Scolt. East: One nest at Runham on arable (PRA). Wash: 3 pairs at Snettisham (CBC). Largest numbers: North: Wells, 1,600, March 3rd (HH) and 1,500, Dec. 7th (ALB). Wash: Snettisham, 10,000, Sept. 24th and 6,000, Nov. 12th (CBC).

135 Little Ringed Plover: West: Birds present during summer at five localities and breeding proved at two: *Site A* (Fen border where bred 1960), first noted May 15th and one pair reared 2 young. *Site B*: 2 pairs from June 4th; on July 5th 3 flying young and a fresh nest with 3 eggs; last noted Aug. 7th. *Site C*: Pair present July 7th-31st. *Site D*: One May 22nd; pair June 24th and pair which drove away a second pair July 6th. *Site E*: Pair July 30th. Passage records: East: Cantley, one Aug. 7th 15th (GRS, MJS). North: Cley, singly April 3rd, Aug. 3rd/4th and Aug. 19th (CO); Burnham Overy Staithe, one, May 20th (HH).

136 Kentish Plover: North: Cley, one, May 8th/9th.

139 Grey Plover: Autumn maxima: East: Breydon, 57, Oct. 7th (PRA). North: Blakeney, 80, Aug. 23rd; 90, Sept. 9th and 60, Oct. 16th (HH). Holme, 800, Sept. 8th and 1,600 on 24th (CBC).

140 Golden Plover: North/East: October peak includes over 500 Martham Holmes (GC) and 600, Blakeney/Morston (HH). Fens: 4,000-5,000, Ouse Washes, mid-March-early April (CBC).

142 Dotterel: North: Cley, 2 west Aug. 15th, 4 west on 23rd (MEMM) and a juvenile on beach, Sept. 16th/17th.

143 Turnstone: North: Larger counts include 100 at Scolt, May 2nd (PJM); 60 at Blakeney Sept. 9th (HH) and 50 at Wells Dec. 29th (ALB). Wash: 300 at Terrington, end Aug. (CBC).

147 Jack Snipe: East: Large influx on lower Bure saltings and marshes Nov. 25th; 67 on wing at one time (RHH).

148 Woodcock: Breeding season localities for years 1959-61 inclusive are given (see also 1957/8 Reports): Broads area: bred Ormesby and Burnt Fen, roding at Upton. In North, recorded at Aylmerton and Hempstead; in the west roding at Marham, Feltwell and E. Winch; and in the Breck roding at Foulden and Cockley Cley and bred Thompson and Roudham.

150 Curlew: Breck: 6 pairs in Stanford area during summer and 2 broods of young found (AWK, GJ).

151 Whimbrel: North/East coasts: Main spring passage from April 21st; peak of 95 heading N.E. at Breydon May 11th (PRA). Autumn return from July 1st with heaviest passage in Aug. when

up to 100 at Blakeney. Late birds at Breydon (2) Oct. 15th (RHH) at Blakeney, 8th–18th (HH) and at Brancaster, Dec. 11th/12th (RC).

154 Black-tailed Godwit: Recorded March–Oct. at usual localities. Largest parties at Breydon (where regular June 10th–Sept. 24th) with peak of 23 Aug. 26th. At Cley, records include 9, Aug. 20th and 8, Sept. 8th.

155 Bar-tailed Godwit: North: Largest autumn counts: 100 west off Weybourne, Aug. 18th (HH) and 1,500, Holme, Sept. 24th (CBC). In winter, 250 at Holme, Feb. 6th (RAR). Wash: 2,800, Hunstanton, Oct. 8th (CBC).

156 Green Sandpiper: Recorded all months except March and Oct. In winter at 8 localities. Maximum 15 at Cantley, Aug. 8th (MJS).

157 Wood-Sandpiper: Passage records from usual localities with up to 7 at Cley in mid-May. Last 2 at Salthouse Sept. 30th (MJS) and 3 at Cley, Oct. 2nd (WFB). Fens: Spring maximum of 7, May 18th and 15, Aug. 11th at Wisbech S.F. (CBC).

159 Common Sandpiper: East: One at Burgh Castle, Jan. 22nd (PRA) is only winter record. Fens: Up to 60, Wisbech S.F. Aug. 17th (CBC).

162 Spotted Redshank: North/East coasts, including Hickling and Cantley: Recorded April and June–Nov. also in Feb. and Dec. (at both Breydon and Scolt). Maxima at Cley where 6, Aug. 28th and 7, Sept. 6th. Fens: Wisbech S.F., recorded May 18th–20th and from Aug. 6th–Nov. 12th with autumn peak of 20 (CBC).

165 Greenshank: Spring passage of 1–4 birds from March 4th. Autumn return from July 1st to Oct. 18th with peak movements mid-Aug. to Sept. 6th when up to 18–20 together.

169 Knot: Wash: 12,000 or more summered at Snettisham. Maximum Hunstanton counts: 30,000, Oct. 28th and 22,000, Nov. 19th (CBC).

170 Purple Sandpiper: North coast (Thornham–Cley): 1–3 (with 8 at Scolt, April 17th–21st) recorded Jan.–May and Aug.–Dec. East: Breydon, one, Aug. 7th (GJ) and Yarmouth harbour, one, Sept. 4th (PRA, RWA). Wash: Heacham–Hunstanton, 1–6 to March 12th and from Sept. 17th (CBC).

171 Little Stint: North/East coasts: Spring passage of 1–2 birds May 7th–June 4th. Autumn return July 28th–Nov. 2nd with peak of 12 at Cley, Sept. 5th. Hickling Broad: 1–2, May 4th, 13th and 17th (EP, MJS). Fens: Wisbech S.F., up to 9, Aug. 9th–Oct. 22nd with 2, Nov. 12th and one on 19th (CBC).

173 Temminck's Stint: North: Cley, singly May 21st and Sept. 8th–11th. Fens: Wisbech S.F. singles May 21st, Aug. 11th and 22nd and Sept. 10th (CBC).

- 175 White-rumped Sandpiper:** North: Cley and Salthouse, an adult, July 28th–30th (RAR, EF *et al*). Third county record.
- 176 Pectoral Sandpiper:** North: Cley, 1–2, Sept. 27th–28th; one, Oct. 4th–11th (WFB). Fens: Wisbech S.F. one, Sept. 17th–21st (CBC).
- 179 Curlew-Sandpiper:** North/East coasts: Only one spring record (one at Cley, May 21st–PJW). Very small autumn passage with adults from July 16th–Aug. 21st (maximum of 6 red birds at Breydon Aug. 11th–PRA) and first juveniles Aug. 22nd; last Sept. 15th. Fens: Ouse Washes, Welney, 4 on May 21st (CBC).
- 181 Sanderling:** Wash: Snettisham counts include 1,200, May 28th; 2,500, July 30th and 1,500, Aug. 13th (CBC).
- 184 Ruff:** North/East coasts, Broads, Breydon and Cantley: Spring passage from Feb. 19th with maxima of 10 at Hickling April 20th and 15 east off Scolt May 29th (PJM). Peak autumn passage during first days of Sept. again coinciding with largest little stint numbers. Maxima 30 at Cley Sept. 3rd and 7 at Breydon on 6th. Fens: Wisbech S.F. up to 20 in spring; 70, Aug. 22nd; 85 on Sept. 8th fewer then (60–70) till Oct. 14th (CBC).
- 185 Avocet:** East: Breydon, one June 9th–Aug. 11th; 2, Aug. 23rd (PRA). North: Cley, one, April 28th/29th.
- 187 Grey Phalarope:** North: Singly at Gun Hill, Scolt, Oct. 22nd (LL-E) and at Holme, Nov. 4th. Wash: One, Snettisham, Oct. 22nd (CBC).
- 188 Red-necked Phalarope:** East: Cantley, one Aug. 27th (MJS)–29th (PRA, GRS). North: Salthouse, one, Sept. 22nd (WFB).
- 189 Stone-Curlew:** North: First 2, Salthouse Heath, March 8th and still present in Oct. Breck: Autumn gatherings include 10 at Weeting Aug. 7th (PN) and 12 at Stanford Heath, Sept. 15th (GJ). Last, Hockham, Oct. 26th (ALB).
- 193 Arctic Skua:** North/East coasts: Autumn passage July 7th–Oct. 18th. Cley maxima include 80, Sept. 7th, 82 east in gale Oct. 18th and 47 east in gale on 19th. Wash area: 4 moving inland (16 present) Terrington, Aug. 19th; 15 moving inland, Holme, Sept. 5th; 27 moving inland Terrington on 7th; 80 moving into Wash and 6 inland, Heacham, Oct. 18th; 38 into Wash and 8 moving inland at Holme to shelter in meadow on 19th; 9 going inland, Thornham, Nov. 4th (CBC).
- 194 Great Skua:** North coast (Holme–Salthouse): Autumn passage of 1–4 birds (with 12 off Cley Sept. 4th and 17 Holme on 8th–CBC) July 16th–Nov. 5th. Wash: 10, Hunstanton–Heacham Nov. 4th and a late bird at Snettisham Dec. 3rd (CBC).
- 195 Pomarine Skua:** North: Cley/Blakeney, singly on 10 dates Aug. 2nd–Nov. 5th, with 2 on Nov. 4th and 9 (including 2 adults) all east, Oct. 18th. Holkham, 2, Aug. 2nd (JSA). Holme, one, Oct. 15th and 27 on 19th (CBC).

- 196 Long-tailed Skua:** North: Cley, singly on 8 dates, Aug. 2nd–Oct. 18th with 2 on Aug. 19th. Scolt, one, Aug. 6th (RC).
- 198 Greater Black-backed Gull:** East: Breydon, maximum of 1,000, Aug. 25th (PRA).
- 199 Lesser Black-backed Gull:** North: Winter records of 3–4, Overstrand–Cromer, Dec. 24th and one on 28th (IFK).
- 200 Herring Gull:** North: Single adults with yellow legs at Scolt, Aug. 23rd (RC) and at Blakeney, Nov. 4th (HH).
- 202 Glaucous Gull:** North (Scolt–Cley) 10 records of 1–2 birds up to Feb. 13th (with one, May 17th) and from Oct. 23rd. East: Mundesley, one, Nov. 5th (RB).
- 203 Iceland Gull:** North: Cley, singly, Oct. 21st (ARMB) and Dec. 30th (GHE).
- 205 Mediterranean Black-headed Gull:** North: Cley, an adult Feb. 19th (RLL, CFM) and a first summer bird May 9th (RAR).
- 207 Little Gull:** North (Wells, Blakeney and Cley): 1–2 (and once 3), Jan. 17th, May 9th–21st and on 9 dates between July 28th and Nov. 5th. East: Singly at Yarmouth Aug. 4th and at Breydon on 29th (PRA).
- 208 Black-headed Gull:** Number of *pairs* at breeding localities: North: Scolt, 40, Overy Staithe saltings, 11, Stiffkey only 18, Morston–Blakeney saltings down to 42 (HH). Broads: Alderfen, 268 (ETD, MJS), Surlingham, 10 (EAE), and Martham, 13 (RLCW). Inland: Scoulton Mere, none nested on Heath and 80–100 pairs on Low Meadows had little success (GJ, AEV). Fens: Wissington B.F. 300–350 (AEV).
- 211 Kittiwake:** North/East coasts: Summer counts: Scroby, 930, June 18th (MJS). Scolt, 60–70, second week of June to early July. Wash area: 800 N.N.E. at Hunstanton and 1,200 moving out of Wash at Holme, Oct. 19th. 2,250 entering Wash passing Holme Nov. 4th. Remarkable flock estimated 7 miles long feeding down centre of Wash Dec. 24th had possibly taken shelter after gales (CBC).
- 212 Black Tern:** Spring passage began early with birds at Cley and Hickling April 19th. Small movement May 13th (including 25 at Breydon in 3 groups, total of 50 at Hickling, 7 at Filby/Rollesby Broads, 5 at Cley and 12 at Scolt) and 14th (including 14 at Hickling, 9 at Stokesby and 8 at Cley). Autumn passage July 30th–Sept. 19th, but apart from 20 at Cley, Aug. 8th, no party exceeded 5.
- 217 Common Tern:** First, Blakeney, April 10th (HH). Last (Common/Arctic) Winterton, Oct. 31st (PRA) with 3 on Wash off Heacham Nov. 12th (CBC). Numbers of *nests* at breeding localities: North: Scolt, 900 and Blakeney Point, 1,000–1,100. East: Scroby



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Not until 1960 did the Little Ringed Plover become an addition to the county list of breeding birds. The site was discovered from the air. In 1961, birds were present at five localities and breeding was proved at two. On passage, they have appeared annually since 1949 when two were identified at Salthouse.

H. A. Hems



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A. Gilpin

Above: During May and June over 480 adult Great Crested Grebes were counted on 47 sheets of water. Largest concentration was 69 at Rollesby Broad. Considerable numbers winter in the Wash and 250 were noted between Hunstanton and Snettisham in December.

Below: Little grebes breed on many small lakes and ponds in the county and also on Breckland meres. This photograph was taken at the Cat-pits, Kelling, a regular breeding haunt for at least half a century.

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J. High



Sands, 200. Broads area: Ranworth, 12; Hickling, 5; Ormesby 7 and Hardley flood, one pair almost certainly bred; Surlingham, 2 pairs summered.

218 Arctic Tern: North: Recorded April 28th–Aug. 28th. None known to have bred.

219 Roseate Tern: North: None bred, but 1–2 at Blakeney/Scolt, May 11th–Sept. 10th.

222 Little Tern: Recorded April 15th (HH)–Sept. 26th. Breeding records of *pairs* include: Wash, Snettisham, 2–3 (CBC). North: Scolt, 21; Overy Staitlie, 2; Wells and Stiffkey, 2 each; Blakeney Point, 120 and 10 on south side of harbour; Cley–Salthouse, 8. East: Winterton area, 2 colonies totalling 33 nests (RLCW).

223 Sandwich Tern: First March 15th. Last (4) Oct. 30th off Scolt (RC), Nov. 3rd (when one dying at Stiffkey–HH) and Nov. 12th when 2 off Heacham (CBC). Spring peak at Cley was 200, April 5th. Breeding records: Scolt, 472 nests and Scroby Sands, 95 nests.

226 Little Auk: North: Cley, 1–2 passing Oct. 19th; 13 passing Nov. 4th with a few more on 5th; 4 Holme and 5 Gore Point (one with starling flock), Nov. 4th; 5 Hunstanton–Holme on 5th (CBC). East: Yarmouth, one, Nov. 4th (PRA).

229 Black Guillemot: North: One off Cromer, Nov. 4th (PT).

230 Puffin: North: Singly at Cley/Blakeney, Aug. 26th (HH), Sept. 3rd and 16th.

235 Turtle-Dove: Summer flocks include 100 at Titchwell, first week July (*per* RH), 50–60 at Sea Mere mid-July increasing to 200 by early Aug. (CG) and 250 at Stow Bridge, Aug. 27th (CBC).

Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): Breeding season distribution: North: 10–12 pairs, Cromer–Overstrand area, also present Hunstanton and one pair at Blakeney. East: Yarmouth–Gorleston: Recorded during summer at 8 sites and at least 6 pairs bred (including 3 pairs in St. George's Park). At one site 40 present (32 in one chicken run) on July 26th, with parties of 9–15 and once 21 at other sites in autumn and winter (PRA, RHH *et al*). E. Somerton, a pair, end of April (RLCW).

248 Long-eared Owl: North: A nest on Salthouse Heath April 2nd held 4 eggs and a newly hatched young one, but was robbed soon afterwards. No other breeding records received. 2, Blakeney, Sept. 29th (HH). Wash area: One, Sandringham, April 30th (CBC).

249 Short-eared Owl: East: One pair bred successfully Halvergate (RHH). North/East coasts: Usual winter records with maximum of 23 at Scolt, Nov. 21st. Fens: 12–13 together W. Walton, Jan. 27th (HPC).

252 Nightjar: Recorded May 13th–Oct. 4th when one on road by Buxton Heath (JML).

255 Swift: First, Cley, April 19th, but scarce till 30th. At Scolt, westerly passage June 16th with 100 increasing daily till peak of 700 on 22nd and held till 25th (PJM). Last, Cley, Oct. 3rd.

261 Hoopoe: North: Singly at Salthouse Heath April 23rd (DB), Fakenham, May 6th (WMM), Mundesley, Oct. 30th (RB) and Ridlington Common, Nov. 18th (CA).

263 Greater Spotted Woodpecker: North: One, Blakeney Point, Sept. 24th.



265 Wryneck: Central: One, Taverham, July 23rd (GAG). North: 2, Blakeney Point, Sept. 2nd and one on 5th. One, Holkham, Sept. 3rd (HPC, CNA). Singly at Scolt, Sept. 4th-8th (RC).

271 Wood-Lark: Central: Recorded at Horsford (PRA, GRS) and Felthorpe (ALB). Decreasing and all records welcomed.

273 Shore-Lark: North coast: Recorded at usual sites between Holme and Cley up to April 22nd (maximum 19 at Scolt Jan. 2nd) and from Oct. 8th (maximum 16-18 Blakeney Point in Dec.).

274 Swallow: First, Burgh Castle, March 27th (PRA). Eight Nov. records with latest at Briston on 22nd and at Caister, Yarmouth and Cley on 24th.

276 House-Martin: First April 6th. Young still in nest at Thorpe Oct. 12th (MJS). Six Nov. records with latest at Cley on 26th.

281 Hooded Crow: Again scarce in North coast area. East coast: 69 near Caister Jan. 15th, over 50 Caister airfield March 4th and a straggler there May 21st (RCM).

294 Long-tailed Tit: North: Cley, a party of 10 some, at least, of which had white heads Oct. 22nd (WFB). Blakeney, at least 2 with white heads Oct. 21st/22nd and Nov. 9th/10th (HH).

295 Bearded Tit: Broads area: Breeding records from Hickling/Heigham Sounds area (at least 75-85 pairs), Martham Broad (5 pairs), Barton (2 pairs), How Hill, Rockland Broad (one pair) and Waveney valley (7 pairs). Wintering birds remained at Surlingham Broad till April but no proof of breeding; also a male at Filby Broad Feb. 19th (AGH) and 2 at Hardley March 28th (PRA). High numbers again wintered at Surlingham and several at Hardley 1961-62 (PRA, MRR). At Haddiscoe during first few days of Oct.

many observed moving up river Waveney and on 3rd (when peak emigration from Minsmere, Suffolk) 6 parties totalling 25 counted in an hour (RWC). North: Cley/Salthouse, 30 breeding pairs. Blakeney Point, 2, Oct. 5th. Titchwell, party, Nov. 19th (HR). Holme Broadwater, 2, March 12th; 2 moving west Oct. 8th, 6 on 29th and frequently 3-4 up to Dec. 24th (CBC). Brancaster: 20, Dec. 6th (RC).

302 Fieldfare: North: Very late records of singles at Blakeney, May 25th/27th and June 8th/9th (HH).

307 Ring Ouzel: North: Singly at Cley, March 24th and 31st, April 1st and May 1st and at Scolt, May 1st (RC) and 2nd (PJM). 4 at Blakeney Point, Sept. 19th and one there Oct. 20th. East: One at Gorleston, Oct. 3rd (PRA). Wash: 2, Wolferton, May 14th (CBC).

308 Blackbird: A most spectacular arrival Nov. 4th/5th. See page 380.

311 Wheatear: Coastal records March 16th-Oct. 31st and in Breck March 19th-Oct. 8th.

317 Stonechat: North: 2 pairs bred successfully at Blakeney/Morston (HH). East: One pair reared two broods at Horsey (GC) and 2 pairs bred successfully Hemsby-Winterton (JES, RLCW). Many autumn/winter records of 1-5 birds along North coast (8 localities) and on East coast at Haddiscoe, Halvergate, Breydon, Winterton and Horsey. Breck: A male, Didlington, Feb. 19th (CNA, HPC). Wash: 7 records including 4 at Snettisham, Feb. 5th (CBC).

320 Redstart: North: Breeding pairs at Cley Park, Kelling and Weybourne Woods. Central: A pair bred at Marsham (CAW). Breck: Bred at Merton, Little Cressingham, Stanford, Tottington and West Tofts (GJ). North: Single late birds at Cley Oct. 29th and at Sheringham Nov. 7th.

321 Black Redstart: Only breeding records from Yarmouth where a nest near Southtown Road (*per* PRA); mummified remains of a young bird found in warehouse near Power Station in early Oct. (CA). North coast (Scolt-Cromer): Single birds at usual sites March 10th-April 23rd with one at Scolt ternery July 12th (RC, PJM) and at Kelling Heath on 16th and 1-3 birds from Sept. 4th-Dec. 28th. Elsewhere, singles at Norwich Feb. 8th (EWM) and at Breydon, Sept. 23rd (PRA).

322 Nightingale: Spring arrival from April 10th.

324 Bluethroat: North: Cley/Blakeney Point, 1-3, Sept. 4th-6th and singly 19th-20th. Scolt, one, Sept. 6th (RC).

327 Grasshopper-Warbler: Broads: Spring arrival from April 11th.

337 Sedge-Warbler: Spring arrival from April 6th.

- 338 **Aquatic Warbler**: North: Singles at Cley Aug. 11th (RAR, BB, RH *et al*) and at Holme, Sept. 17th (CBC).
- 340 **Icterine Warbler**: North: Single immatures, Blakeney Point, Aug. 11th and Oct. 3rd. Both ringed.
- 343 **Blackcap**: Early birds at Blakeney from March 16th (HH) and at Cley next day. A late female at Yarmouth, Nov. 18th (PRA).
- 344 **Barred Warbler**: North: Single juveniles at Cley, Aug. 31st (CO) and at Blakeney, Sept. 19th–20th (HH).
- 348 **Lesser Whitethroat**: First, Kelling, April 10th. A bird of the Siberian race *blythi* at Blakeney Point, Sept. 9th–22nd was ringed by CO.
- 354 **Willow Warbler**: Spring arrival from April 2nd. A bird of the Northern race *acredula* at Blakeney Point Sept. 5th.
- 356 **Chiffchaff**: Winter records, singly at Cley, Jan. 7th and 22nd and Feb. 12th–20th (3 birds). Spring passage from March 1st at Cley and from 12th in Breck. A late one singing, Blakeney, Oct. 16th (HH).
- 357 **Wood-Warbler**: North: First, Kelling, May 3rd. Breeding season records of single pairs at W. Rinton, Upper Sheringham, Glandford, Hempstead and Holkham. One, Blakeney Point, Sept. 14th. West: Sandringham woods, one, April 36th (CBC). Decreasing, all records welcome.
- 363 **Radde's Bush-Warbler**: North: A first winter male ringed at The Hood, Oct. 3rd. Last seen on 5th (BRS, RH, RAR, HGA, KW *et al*). First county and second British record of this central and east Siberian species. Full details and a photograph appear in *British Birds*, Vol. 55, pp. 166–168.
- 365 **Firecrest**: North: 2 at Walsey Hills, Cley, Nov. 11th (*per* RAR). Holme, singly April 9th and Nov. 12th–14th (CBC).
- 368 **Pied Flycatcher**: North: Blakeney, 2, April 16th; one on 27th (HH) and 29th/30th; also one, Holkham, May 2nd. Autumn passage noted Holme–Salthouse, Aug. 11th–Oct. 7th. Maxima: Up to 100 in Holkham pines Sept. 3rd (CNA, HPC) and 30 on Blakeney Point on 4th. East: Yarmouth: Maxima of 12 Sept. 5th (MJS), and 18 on 9th with 2 on Oct. 1st (PRA).
- 370 **Red-breasted Flycatcher**: North: One at Blakeney, Sept. 19th–25th (HH) and a first winter bird on Point, 25th–29th. Holme firs, one, Sept. 4th–5th (CBC).
- 379 **Water Pipit** (*A.s. spinoletta*): North: Cley, one, Jan. 1st–Feb. 20th and again from Nov. 12th.
- 381 **Grey Wagtail**: In June, GRS visited 23 water-mills including 6 along Wensum, 4 along N. Walsham to Dilham canal, 5 along Bure, 3 along Yare, 2 along Waveney and Hapton Mill on Tas. Observer found single pairs breeding at Taverham and Hellesdon; birds also present at Bintree, Briggate and Marlingford. Additional

breeding season records: Whitwell Mill near Gt. Witchingham (male mid-June RAR), Blickling Mill (pair with young-JML), Hilborough Mill and Narborough Mill (single pairs bred), Gressenhall (pair summered-SCP) and Tottington (adult feeding young June 5th-GJ).

382 Blue-headed Wagtail (*M.f. flava*): Fens: Wisbech S.F., one trapped Aug. 20th (CBC).

383 Waxwing: Jan. 1st-31st: Parties of 1-6 (and once 12) at Blakeney, High Kelling, Ridlington, Corpusty, Norwich and Wheatfen. Nov. 5th-mid-Dec.: Well over 40 records of 1-13 birds (with 30 at Wheatfen) at 29 localities.

384 Great Grey Shrike: Singles as follows: North: Salthouse Heath, Jan. 1st-April 9th and Nov. 26th to end of year; Blakeney/Morston, Jan. 17th-Feb. 14th and Blakeney, Dec. 25th (III); Brancaster, Feb. 16th (*per* RC); Holme, Oct. 21st-22nd (CBC). Broads area: High Mill Ludham, Feb. 22nd (*per* EAE); Horsey, Jan. 1st for a few days and again April 5th (GC); Hickling, March 6th (EP) and Brundall, Dec. 25th (PRA). Also one dead at Winterton, March 20th (JB). Breck: Foulden, Feb. 19th (CBC) and Two Mile Bottom, Nov. 19th (CNA, HPC). Wash: Snettisham, Nov. 14th (CBC).

388 Red-backed Shrike: Breeding season distribution: West: One pair bred near King's Lynn (CBC). North coast: Total of 12 pairs at 8 localities. Breck: Recorded at 4 sites, but breeding only proved at one (GJ, HFK). East: 2 pairs bred at one site (RLCW).

East: An immature at Walcott, Sept. 10th-14th ringed and photographed by MJC showed the characters of one of the *isabellinus* group of central Asia, known as the red-tailed shrikes.

391 Hawfinch: North: Records from Salthouse Heath, Cley, Blakeney, Wiveton, Holt, High Kelling and W. Runton. Central: Ringland, Eaton Park, Norwich and Cranworth.

394 Siskin: For third year in succession unusual numbers recorded from some 35 localities up to April 17th and from Sept. 19th. Largest numbers in Breck including 75, Fowl Mere, Jan. 1st and 50 Saham Mere on 15th; 60, Watton, Feb. 5th; 150, Fowl Mere, Dec. 24th; 200, Stanford Water on 25th (GJ) and 50 Narborough on 31st (CNA, HPC). Central: Ringland, 2 adults and 3 fully fledged young Aug. 9th (RAFC) may refer to wild birds but siskins are still commonly kept as cage birds.

397 Redpoll: Singles showing the characteristics of the Continental race, *C.f. flammea*, in Upper Sheringham woods April 2nd (ECD), Blakeney Point Oct. 21st (ARMB), Wootton, Dec. 17th (GMSE) and at Taverham on 18th (NL).

401 Bullfinch: As in 1959-60, marked increases at many localities in Breck, central and North districts. Parties of 10-20 frequently reported with 45 on Salthouse Heath end Dec. One west Norfolk fruit grower claims to have destroyed some 300 bullfinches a year on 10 acres in the last 3 years (*per* EAE).

- 404 Crossbill:** Breck: Records from 4 localities. North/West: 9 spring/summer records of 1-7 at Holkham, Wells, Blakeney, Salthouse Heath, Dersingham and Sandringham. Central: 2, Ringland, March 16th (RAFC).
- 408 Brambling:** Recorded up to April 2nd and from Oct. 3rd with a late male near Walsingham, June 16th (HH). Largest winter flocks totalled 100-120 apart from 500 in Breck at St. Helen's well, Jan. 8th (CBC) and 300 at Rockland St. Mary early Dec. (EAE).
- 413 Red-headed Bunting:** North: Single males at Cley, May 2nd/3rd (ringed by co and no sign of having been in captivity) and Salthouse, May 13th/14th (AGH, sw). East: Breydon, a male May 13th and 20th (PRA). See 1960 Report, p. 246.
- 416 Ortolan Bunting:** North: Blakeney, a male, May 19th (HH). Cley, 3, Aug. 31st and singly Sept. 4th and 17th.
- 422 Lapland Bunting:** North coast: Parties up to 11 till March 4th. First in autumn Sept. 17th with singles at Mundesley, Nov. 2nd-7th (RB). East (Halvergate/Breydon): Singly Dec. 28th/30th (PRA, GRS).
- 423 Snow Bunting:** North/East coasts: Recorded up to April 9th and from Sept. 14th. Large total of 300-350 near Breydon, Nov. 19th (MJS). At Mundesley 55 came from sea and 235 coasting NW, Nov. 5th (RB).

The following, not mentioned in the Classified Notes, were also recorded in 1961 (breeding species in italics): Red-throated Diver, *Little Grebe*, *Mallard*, *Teal*, *Golden-eye*, *Canada Goose*, *Peregrine Falcon*, *Merlin*, *Kestrel*, *Red-legged Partridge*, *Partridge*, *Pheasant*, *Water-Rail*, *Coot*, *Lapwing*, *Ringed Plover*, *Common Snipe*, *Red-shank*, *Dunlin*, *Common Gull*, *Razorbill*, *Guillemot*, *Stock-Dove*, *Wood-Pigeon*, *Cuckoo*, *Barn-Owl*, *Little Owl*, *Tawny Owl*, *Kingfisher*, *Green Woodpecker*, *Lesser Spotted Woodpecker*, *Skylark*, *Sand-Martin*, *Carrion-Crow*, *Rook*, *Jackdaw*, *Magpie*, *Jay*, *Great Tit*, *Blue Tit*, *Coal Tit*, *Marsh Tit*, *Willow Tit*, *Nuthatch*, *Tree-Creeper*, *Wren*, *Mistle-Thrush*, *Song-Thrush*, *Redwing*, *Whinchat*, *Robin*, *Reed-Warbler*, *Garden Warbler*, *Whitethroat*, *Goldcrest*, *Spotted Flycatcher*, *Hedge-Sparrow*, *Meadow-Pipit*, *Tree-Pipit*, *Rock-Pipit*, *Pied Wagtail*, *White Wagtail*, *Yellow Wagtail*, *Starling*, *Greenfinch*, *Goldfinch*, *Linnet*, *Twite*, *Chaffinch*, *Yellowhammer*, *Corn-Bunting*, *Reed-Bunting*, *House-Sparrow* and *Tree-Sparrow*.

Selected 1961 Light-Vessel Notes

Compiled by R. A. RICHARDSON

Leach's/Storm-Petrel: Haisboro', one, Nov. 7th/8th.

Heron: Haisboro', one, Dec. 14th/15th.

Sheld-Duck: Inner Dowsing, one, Nov. 7th.

Birds of Prey: Early Sept. brought a number of interesting reports of various hawks as follows: Haisboro', two "buzzards" on 4th; Corton a "buzzard" on 3rd; Cross Sands, a sparrowhawk on 1st; Smith's Knoll, two sparrowhawks on 4th preying on small migrant passerines including a robin, with a third bird on 5th. What was presumably another was on the Haisboro' on 4th. Cross Sands claims an osprey on 2nd and there was a kestrel on the Newarp on 3rd/4th.

Water-Rail: Haisboro', five between Oct. 16th and 20th, three there Nov. 7th/8th and one, Dec. 15th/16th.

Moorhen: Haisboro', one, Oct. 16th, two Nov. 7th/8th and one, Dec. 15th.

Lapwing: Inner Dowsing, Dudgeon, Haisboro' and Newarp all shared in the big immigration of Nov. 6th/7th. Cross Sands reported several passing westward, Sept. 24th and Haisboro' had a number on Nov. 14th/15th and Dec. 14th.

Jack Snipe: Haisboro', one, Nov. 5th/6th.

Woodcock: Haisboro', one, Nov. 6th/7th and four, Dec. 15th/16th.

Barn Owl: Haisboro', one, Nov. 6th.

Skylark: Newarp, Haisboro' and Lynn Well all report a movement on Sept. 3rd and the latter station again had a number passing on Sept. 19th and 24th. Early Oct. brought numbers to Lynn Well, Outer Dowsing and Haisboro', the latter crew observing a resumed immigration between Oct. 13th and 22nd. It is puzzling that the big influx in early Nov. was remarked upon only in the Haisboro' diary.

Mistle-Thrush: Haisboro', singly Nov. 6th and 15th.

Fieldfare: Haisboro', a number between Nov. 1st and 7th and a few, Nov. 14th-16th. Newarp, a few, Oct. 3rd and several on 31st and Nov. 14th/15th.

Redwing: Haisboro', several, Sept. 23rd, Oct. 2nd, Nov. 5th-7th and Dec. 14th.

Blackbird: Lynn Well and Haisboro' both had a few on board on Oct. 4th/5th, the latter reporting several more on Oct. 21st/22nd. Between Nov. 1st-9th however Lynn Well, Inner Dowsing, Dudgeon and Haisboro' all had very large visitations

especially between 5th and 7th. Doubtless all other vessels were similarly invaded during the "avalanche" of Continental birds which descended on the East Coast at this time.

Redstart: Records include a late bird on Haisboro' Nov. 6th/7th. It is of great interest to note that a male was also seen at Sheringham on Nov. 7th, a remarkable date.

Starling: First autumn arrivals appeared at the Haisboro' on Sept. 23rd and all vessels reported recurrent arrivals from early Oct. till mid-Dec. and experienced the memorable "tidal waves" of birds on Oct. 20th, 29th/30th and Nov. 5th/6th.

Hawfinch: Haisboro', two, Oct. 7th.

Reed-Bunting: Haisboro', one, Dec. 15th/16th.

Snow-Bunting: Haisboro', two, Nov. 15th.

The following were also recorded in 1961: Cormorant, Common Scoter, Golden Plover, Snipe, Curlew, Knot, Jackdaw, Song-Thrush, Wheatear, Robin, Spotted Flycatcher, Pied Flycatcher, Meadow-Pipit, Pied Wagtail and Chaffinch.

Contributors

H. G. ALEXANDER
 P. R. ALLARD
 R. W. ALLARD
 C. APPLETON
 C. N. ARNOLD
 J. S. ASH
 H. F. ASHTON
 W. AUSTIN
 R. P. BAGNALL-OAKELEY
 J. BANE
 P. R. BANHAM
 P. G. R. BARBIER
 MRS. K. BARHAM
 L. A. BATTEN
 D. G. BELL
 T. H. BELL
 D. F. BILLETT
 G. E. BISHOP
 W. F. BISHOP
 E. Q. BITTON
 B. BLANILL
 D. BODDINGTON
 M. R. BOARDMAN
 K. A. BREWSTER
 D. BRITTON
 K. BROOD
 B. BROUGHTON
 P. W. BROWNE
 A. L. BULL
 M. BURNOP
 B. BURTON
 D. V. BUTT
 J. BUNTON
 C. J. CADBURY
 M. J. CARTER
 G. W. CAWSTON
 R. CHESTNEY
 G. H. CLAY
 B. COATES
 M. COATH
 R. W. COLFMAN
 J. R. COLMAN
 J. C. COMER
 R. A. F. COX
 H. P. CRAWLEY
 G. CRES
 A. L. CRESSWELL
 E. T. DANIELS
 MISS S. DAY
 E. C. DICKINSON
 E. DIMFLOW
 G. DOUGLAS
 E. DUFFEY
 R. E. C. DUNBAR
 G. DUNMORF
 R. DURMAN
 N. DYMOND

R. EADE
 W. EALES
 G. M. S. EASY
 C. ELLIS
 E. A. ELLIS
 S. EMPSON
 G. H. EVANS
 J. T. FENTON
 MISS E. FORSTER
 E. & T. FORTY
 R. M. GARDNER
 R. M. GARNETT
 P. GARRETT
 G. A. GARROD
 S. S. GEORGE
 T. GLADWIN
 M. GOODMAN
 C. GOSLING
 M. GOSLING
 C. B. HARMER
 R. HARRIS
 R. H. HARRISON
 J. HASWELL
 L. HAWKINS
 P. HILL
 D. HOLLANDS
 A. G. HOLMES
 P. HOLNESS
 C. W. HOLT
 G. HOWE
 H. HUNT
 R. F. HURDING
 A. G. HURRELL
 J. H. IREMONGER
 G. JESSOP
 R. J. JOHNS
 J. JOHNSON
 A. JONES
 R. JONES
 W. JONES
 P. N. KEARNEY
 A. W. KERRIDGE
 I. F. KEYMER
 P. D. KIRBY
 C. R. KNIGHTS
 C. LACEY
 F. LAMBERT
 N. LANGHAM
 J. M. LAST
 R. L. LEAVETT
 W. K. LEIGHTON
 L. LLOYD-EVANS
 C. L. MAINGAY
 MRS. M. MAINGAY
 W. M. MAKINS
 C. F. MANN
 R. C. MANSFIELD

MISS D. M. MAXEY
 T. MCLLOY
 J. W. MEADE
 MRS. M. MEIKLEJOHN
 M. F. MEIKLEJOHN
 C. MOORE
 A. C. MORRIS
 G. NALL
 W. NALL
 B. NAU
 G. NICKERSON
 R. NORTH
 K. OSTHOLM
 E. PACKINGTON
 MRS. R. PALMER
 D. PARKER
 K. PATTERSON
 N. PAUL
 J. C. PEITYT
 E. PIGGIN
 G. PROCTOR
 MISS S. C. PUDDY
 C. D. RABY
 H. RAMSAY
 G. H. REES
 R. A. RICHARDSON
 MISS M. R. RICHES
 J. ROBERTS
 M. J. ROGERS
 D. ROWLANDS
 J. E. SANDFORD
 K. G. SAUL
 COL. D. SCOTT
 D. A. SCOTT
 R. SCOTT
 M. J. SEAGO
 MISS E. SERVANTE
 M. E. SMITH
 G. R. SOUTH
 J. H. TAVERNER
 P. THOMPSON
 A. D. TOWNSEND
 A. G. VERRALL
 A. E. VINE
 R. WALKER
 MRS. WATTS
 P. J. WILKINSON
 P. J. WILLIAMS
 R. L. C. WILLIAMSON
 MRS. C. WILSON
 R. WILSON
 P. WOLSTENHOLME
 A. R. WOOD
 W. J. WOOLSTON
 C. A. WRIGHT
 D. WRIGHT

Norfolk Mammal Report

1961

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to present to our members the eighth report on Norfolk mammals. The number of records that come in each year is now quite impressive. When they are all sorted out, the picture given is likely to be reasonably accurate with regard to trends in population, effects of seasonal change, the impact of disease and the effectiveness of control. We hope that the report reflects these changes adequately. By keeping a finger on the pulse of animal life in the county, we shall, over a period of years, have a much clearer idea of when and where a species has extended its range or, conversely, follow the steps by which it has approached near extinction. Norfolk naturalists are in the vanguard of those maintaining this form of watchfulness over our wild life. There is no doubt at all that this is necessary. While landowners, keepers and sportsmen continue to wage war on badgers and otters in the mistaken belief that they are a serious menace to game and fish, these species remain in peril of becoming lost to the county.

A National Badger Survey is about to be launched and it is to be hoped that we shall be able to report that the badger is sufficiently well established on Norfolk estates where it is protected that we may regard it as safe for the future.

The decrease in stoats is to be deplored. They are the natural enemies of rabbits and one would have thought it well worth while to enlist their help now that rabbits are increasing again; yet the destruction of stoats continues unabated.

The mammal distribution maps which have been in course of construction for a number of years now are beginning to show their value. During the last few years, for example, the outward movement of the fox from central and west Norfolk to the north, south and east has become very apparent. Concentration of the muntjac records in a rather restricted area in North Norfolk suggests the possibility that we may discover, as did Warwickshire and Huntingdonshire, that this species of deer has become established on a breeding basis without it being realised that it had gained ground so strongly. Although the muntjac may never achieve pest proportions owing to its sensitivity to winter conditions, and its damage potential is far less than that of the coypu or the rabbit, the outward migration from Bedfordshire is an interesting one, and most important to control properly.

The other deer—red, fallow and roe—are being adequately controlled in the county. A special supplement on Norfolk deer is given at the end of this Report.

It is encouraging to be able to report that effects of the use of toxic chemicals appear to have been very limited this year. Seed dressings containing dieldrin, aldrin and heptachlor may no longer be used at all for spring sown grain, and will in future only be used for autumn and winter wheat when there is real danger from the wheatbulb fly. No further records of deaths of foxes have been sent in. Instead, foxes seem to be reaching a peak in their numbers. There appears to have been a very general increase, and foxes have been killed in many places in the county where they had not been seen for half a century or more. The coypu still continues to figure prominently in the reports from the Rabbit Clearance Societies, and it is obvious that its suppression is not going to be an easy matter. Rabbits have returned to many of their old haunts, and re-established themselves despite control. Many of them are now almost immune to the effects of myxomatosis. The Hare population is now steadily declining. Meanwhile an enormous increase in the number of Brown Rats has been causing consternation in almost every part of the county. The general impression is that bats are present in greater numbers than for some years past, but this may be due to the increasing attention given to them by observers. It is specially important that those interested in these small mammals should make every effort to catch specimens and have them properly identified. We still need many more people prepared to do regular trapping of mice, voles and shrews. A preliminary investigation using break-back traps (protected inside containers) might yield valuable details of distribution. We have no evidence for a more northerly range of the Yellow-necked Mouse beyond the south-eastern border of the county, and we lack information on the present status of the common House Mouse.

We thank all who have contributed records for inclusion in this report, and would welcome the help of many additional observers. There is ample scope for original work on mammals to be undertaken by young people in schools as well as for more experienced naturalists. The important thing is that detailed records should be kept as regularly as possible. Those for the 1962 Report should be sent *by the end of January* 1962 to F. J. Taylor Page, Flat 5, "Fairmile", 98, Newmarket Road, Norwich, NOR 27D. *Tel.*: 53365.

Classified Notes

INSECTIVORA

Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)

At the end of 1960, there were indications that the population of the hedgehog was declining slightly in some parts of the county, and this trend appears to have been maintained in a fairly general way throughout the county. Records of sightings and road

casualties have been fewer compared with those of the previous year. Nevertheless, where woodlands and copses, parkland, thick hedgerows and garden shrubberies afford food and protection, considerable numbers exist, despite gamekeepers and fast traffic. In the Horstead area, for example, about 50 were trapped, and about as many were killed on the roads in the neighbourhood (LGC).

The motor car seems to be the greatest enemy of the hedgehog, and many continue to meet their doom at night, particularly after rain, when they become very active and seem to be attracted on to the roads in their search for food. Continued observation of a known stretch of road is very valuable in providing information about movements of hedgehogs in relation to weather, periods of greatest activity and regularly used "crossings". It is a fairly reliable method of sampling the population in any area. On the Holt-Norwich road, the count made showed a mortality rate of 12 per mile per week. 75 per cent of the victims were concentrated at points where woodlands came down to the road on either side (RPB-O). On the 7 miles between Thetford and Brandon 56 were killed in June and 45 in December (ws), while on a similar length of road between Watton and Brandon with less woodland on either side, only 18 carcasses were noted between January and October (GJ). During the year, on the road between Surlingham and Norwich, only 6 were counted, of which three were in Surlingham itself (EAE). The five-mile stretch from Yarmouth to the Stracey Arms yields an interesting comparison in distribution in marshland areas; a report of only 4 carcasses suggests that the hedgehog finds this unsuitable terrain (PJLH). It is equally uncommon on the Breckland heaths (JCT), and around the coastal marshes.

The existence of hedgehogs on Blakeney Point has always been something of a mystery, but recently it has been revealed that during the early days of the first world war, one was observed being carried along on top of a floating door in the tidal channel. It was found on shore a few days later. It is just possible that others have made a similar journey, or managed to swim across at a period of low tide (EAE).

The relative scarcity of badger and fox in many parts of the county has given the hedgehog the advantage of building up its population without natural control. As the fox ranges more widely, some effect on the number of hedgehogs may be noticeable in a few years time. It is unusual to report any form of colour variation or disease in hedgehogs, but this year two specimens, one from Kelling and another at Weybourne were noticeably affected by what might be a form of ringworm. Both had completely bare pink patches on the back, each about 1½ inches in diameter (RPB-O).

Common Shrew (*Sorex araneus*)

The small mammals always provide us with something of a problem. Few people notice them, and our estimate of their status is very much dependent upon observations of carcasses resulting either from natural mortality or from the activities of domestic animals or owls. The study of owl pellets is a piece of regular investigation that rural schools would find of absorbing interest to young people.

Often an increase of short-eared owls is indicative of the presence of a high population of small mammals. Increased numbers of shrews were believed to account for the increase of owls reported from Scolt Head this year (RC). Higher populations were also apparent near Reepham (EI), North Walsham (JBB), Corpusty (JL) and Witton (FRW). Regular live trapping throughout the year in Longworth traps or fall traps in jam jars would be most useful if conducted by small groups all over the county.

Pigmy Shrew (*Sorex minutus*)

As with the Common Shrew, we have very little direct evidence of any changes in population. The species appears to be common in the heather on some of the Breckland heaths. Five were taken together in a jam jar trap on Tuddenham Heath in December, probably because they were travelling nose to tail, in caravan (JCT). A high population was recorded at Scolt Head (RC), but farther east, around Holt, numbers have declined, and only two skulls were taken from pellets of Barn Owls (RPB-O). Both Common and Pigmy shrews are regular inhabitants of the house at Wheatfen (EAE), and Pigmy shrew was also reported from Calthorpe Broad Nature Reserve, Corpusty, Caister (Gt. Yarmouth) and East Bilney.

Water Shrew (*Neomys fodiens bicolor*)

Two new stations for Water Shrew were recorded this year. One was at Whitwell Hall, Reepham, but the animal here was unfortunately found drowned in the valve of an hydraulic ram (EI). The second was observed feeding on tadpoles in the upper Wensum, at West Raynham (RPB-O). An unusual sidelight on the natural history of this species came from the marshes at Horsey Mere (AB) where, owing to the high level of water in the reed beds a Water Shrew was able to attack and remove several young birds from the nests of bearded tits, reed buntings and sedge-warblers. Small numbers were recorded at Wheatfen (EAE), and one was also noted in the lake at Brinton (RPB-O). No records of this species have ever come in from the south and south west of Norfolk.

Mole (*Talpa europaea*)

Considerable variation occurs in the estimates of the status of the mole in different parts of the county, but in general it can

be stated that moles are found commonly almost everywhere except in very wet marshes. They become very common in low grazing meadows which have dried out to some extent (JL), especially in August and September, but a somewhat dramatic change takes place in the latter part of the year when activity suddenly becomes very noticeable in higher, drier ground. This took place at Langham and Cockthorpe in November (RFB-O), and Surlingham in December (EAE).

A good deal of surface burrowing occurs in poor sandy soils (JCT), often resulting in damage to seedlings in the Breck. One observer (CG) reports that the main feeding times appear to be around midday and at 3 p.m., and that the male is the main traveller. Winter hills become more numerous suddenly at the onset of cold weather (EAE).

Much more adequate reports concerning the seasonal variation in population of moles could be made if our observers would get into touch with mole catchers all over the county and collect the details of the numbers killed in each month. Decreases are reported where spraying is done (GC), and increases have been noted in the south, south-west and north-east. 35 specimens were taken from a single run near Thetford during January and February (ws), and 19 carcasses were noted on the Thetford-Watton road during the year (GJ). It is unusual to find moles as road casualties.

An orange-coloured variation was reported from Thurlton, a cream one from Costessey, and a brownish-grey one from Hethersett (NCM). The fairly rare white form made an unusual appearance in the south at Bressingham, the first ever reported from south Norfolk. White moles have been taken fairly frequently in the north in previous years (EDP).

CHIROPTERA

For some years we have been concerned about the very few records of Norfolk bats, but since 1960 not only have more of our observers taken an interest in collecting information; also, there are signs of a revival in the populations of several species. We welcome the formation of a Bat unit under Mr. John Woolston, and the work that he and his team are doing on the survey of bat roosts in the eastern part of the county.

Large colonies of the Pipistrelle bat (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) are reported from a number of Norfolk churches. One has about 500 individuals (WJW). Several observers record that this species is more numerous than for several years. The colony in a pile of railway sleepers at Great Moulton is again flourishing (UR). First flights were noted at several places during the second week in February, and hibernation appeared to set in during the first week in November. The mild autumn allowed occasional flights during the early days of December, and a few were actually seen on the wing in the very cold weather at the end of that month (RFB-O).



right

J. High

Long Tailed Field Mouse is common everywhere in woods and on heaths. Woodlands containing chestnut, hazel and oak support an abundant population. At Thetford, one entered a beehive and was stung to death.



right

H. A. Hems

Bank Voles were reported from only three localities. Observers are requested to do systematic live trapping in various parts of the county to enable the status of this mammal to be determined. Bank Vole remains are frequent in Tawny Owl pellets.



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R. P. Bagnall-Oakley

1961 saw a large-scale campaign against Coypu throughout the county. Despite this there has been a westerly spread into the Fens and the southerly movement has continued as far as Roydon in Essex.

During the year, Long-eared Bats were observed at Martham, Surlingham and in Holt woods.

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W. J. Woolston



A PRELIMINARY NOTE ON THE PIPISTRELLE COLONY
AT WORSTEAD CHURCH, 1961

A large colony of pipistrelle bats was known to be inhabiting the fourteenth-century church at Worstead, and by arrangement with the church authorities who wished to clear the church of bats it was decided to make use of this opportunity for some experimental work on pipistrelles. Nine visits were made between the 5th July and the 11th September, 1961; those taking part included: R. F. Barnes, R. M. Barnes, H. E. Jenner, S. C. Puddy, J. M. Taylor, P. G. W. Trett and W. J. Woolston who was responsible for organising the project.

Over 250 bats were removed from the church, marked in various ways with different colour dyes and released at Norwich, Caister, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Benacre and Sheringham.

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Released</i>	<i>Recovered at Worstead</i>	<i>Min. dist. travelled</i>
Female			
(lactating)	Norwich, July 10th	July 31st	10½ miles
Two, sex ?	Lowestoft, July 17th	July 25th	25 miles
Male	Caister, July 17th	August 9th	16½ miles
Female			
(lactating)	Caister, July 20th	July 31st	16½ miles
Female	Caister, July 20th	August 14th	16½ miles
Male	Benacre, July 25th	August 9th	30 miles

It is hoped to return to Worstead church during 1962 and carry out further investigations on the pipistrelle colony.

The Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) was frequently reported, mainly during the months of April to August. 3 or 4 were at Little Ormesby on April 26th (WJW), 8 occupy a roost in an ash tree at East Somerton (WJW) (JB), 24 were reported flying at 9 p.m. at Stawbridge gravel pits on July 29th (RB), and 20 at the Harford tip on August 17th (RMB). The small colony of the Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentoni*) at Eaton chalk pits has unfortunately been much reduced by human interference during the year, and when last visited in June, only two individuals were found (WJW). It is possible that another roost exists in the neighbourhood, but it has not been discovered. In the same way, the Whiskered bats (*Myotis mystacinus*) at Grimes' Graves have declined probably owing to the increased number of visitors in the past few years (FJTP). A small roost exists at Brinton (RPB-O), and a few Natterer's Bats (*Myotis nattereri*) still inhabit the roof of Brinton Hall. They fly over the lake in the early evening, and can also be seen over Selbrigg and Hempstead mill ponds.

Long-eared bats (*Plecotus auritus*) were seen at Martham (NCM), and Surlingham (EAE), and are common in the Holt woods (RPB-O). The Lesser Horseshoe Bats (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*), reported from Ellingham in 1960, have not been reported again this year.

LAGOMORPHA

Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

Almost everywhere in the county, sporadic increases in the rabbit population are now frequent. Myxomatosis in either a virulent or attenuated form almost as frequently breaks out, and reduction of numbers follows. Recovery, however, now seems to be more frequent. Rabbit Clearance Societies have done good work in maintaining a systematic and humane control, but despite this there remain many places, often difficult of access, where breeding populations thrive unhindered. In consequence, reports have been coming in of increases, though some observers continue to note either the complete absence of rabbits, or their scarcity, mainly at places around the coast. Once again rabbits outstrip hares in the number appearing in road casualty lists in the Breck areas (GJ). There appear to be far more there than for the past six years. This is substantiated by the records of control from Elveden which we have been privileged to use as an excellent reference for comparable figures for Hare and Rabbit in the last few years (VAH). During the two years 1960 and 1961, the totals are: Hares 9,176, Rabbits 11,304. In previous years, the total number of hares killed far outstripped that for rabbits, and it is now obvious that rabbits are rapidly regaining ground, while the population of hares is declining. Actually for 1961, the figures are almost equal (4,340 Hares to 4,211 Rabbits), but the latter figure does not include the many that were killed by myxomatosis. The problem of control is now much increased by the fact that larger numbers of adults lie out rough in the hedgerows, where gassing is impossible.

Hare (*Lepus europaeus occidentalis*)

Although numbers remain high, the general inference from the records of the county as a whole is that the decline from the peak population in 1961 is very noticeable, and reports of considerable decrease in numbers in open fields are quite frequent. High populations remain on the drier soils of the Breck (JCT) and in North Norfolk. In the latter area, the road casualties were nearly equal to those of the 1961 peak year—1 per 6 miles per week (RPB-O). At Barningham, a total of six guns bagged 140 hares during the annual shoot (EDP). At Binham, 31 were shot on 130 acres, and 19 on 17 acres (RS).

Hares continue to spread in the marsh areas of the Yare and Bure. They were seen increasingly in the woodland and reed marsh at Surlingham (EAE), and on the Yarmouth-Stracey Arms road, they figure prominently in the casualty list (PJLB).

RODENTIA

Bank Vole (*Clethrionomys glareolus*)

Very few records are ever sent in for this mammal in Norfolk, and one can only suspect that despite the fact that it is undoubtedly very common, few people ever see it or identify it. We badly need a few naturalists who would get enthusiastic enough to do some systematic live trapping in various parts of the county, and give us the results of their investigations. We should very much welcome rural schools doing such work which is well within the scope of senior pupils. It involves the regular setting and visitation of a trap line, and the recording of the small mammals taken.

In the three areas where Bank vole is reported—Calthorpe Broad (FT), Wheatfen (EAE) and Bawdeswell (RPB-O), the species is stated to be common, and at times in large numbers. Bank voles are active day and night, and their remains are frequent in the pellets of tawny owls.

Field Vole (*Microtus agrestis*)

The increased numbers in marshes and grassy roadside verges in 1960 seem to have been maintained. At Breydon, they were the prey of Barn owl, Short-eared owl and Kestrel (RHH), and at Attlebridge they were frequently taken by domestic cats (MES). Larger numbers were noticed crossing the road at East Bilney (DM), though it is unusual to find them in any road casualty list.

Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius amphibius*)

Though not abundant, water voles are fairly plentiful in most of our Norfolk rivers where there is little human disturbance of their activities, and in some mill ponds, notably those at Selbrigg and Hempstead, numbers are unusually high (RPB-O). Damage was caused to maize at Loddon, and there are fairly large colonies in the south-west of the county (RYE).

Of those observed in north Norfolk, up to 50 per cent are of the black variety. Black specimens were also common at Aylsham (CDR), in the lake at Bolwick Hall, Marsham (NCM), and in the Yare (EAE). Very dark brown specimens were sent to the Norwich Castle Museum from Brooke, Wroxham, Trunch and Hethersett (RMB).

An interesting piece of behaviour was noted in the river Bure at Blickling during July. A water vole, under observation, appeared deliberately to remove a leaf of a water plant and to carry it over its head as it swam, apparently using it as a defensive camouflage.

Long Tailed Field Mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*)

This small mammal is undoubtedly very common everywhere in woods and on heathlands in the county. Pine woods are less frequently used, but deciduous woods containing sweet chestnut, hazel and oak support an abundant population. *Apodemus* is even found in wet alder carrs along the Yare valley (FJTP). Numerous burrows were made in sugar beet fields at Binham (RS). On the Breckland heaths it is common, feeding on heather shoots (JCT). At Thetford, one entered a beehive and was stung to death. The bees covered the carcass with propolis (WS).

During the winter, field mice became more plentiful in houses at Beetley (DM), Merton (RG), Caister (DAJB), and North Walsham (IWC), and at Great Moulton where outdoor trapping was carried out, specimens were taken during the months from January to the end of May (HR). Although occasionally seen on roads at night, no road casualty list included a single field mouse.

Yellow-necked Mouse (*Apodemus flavicollis*)

Our only known station is at Ellingham Hall, near Bungay, where it is found outside in the garden and in the greenhouse. One was again caught this year on February 17th (ECS).

Harvest Mouse (*Micromys minutus*)

Only a few reports of this small mammal have come to hand. Some have been making nests in woods at East Bilney (DM), and have been found regularly during every month in the marshes at Surlingham (EAE).

House Mouse (*Mus musculus*)

Although the pest control officers report a slight increase, most of the reports from our observers state that house mice are fewer in number and in some instance, scarce. This is put down to the efficacy of rodent poisons and their rapid effect on mice. We have very little knowledge of the present status of the species in the county as a whole.

Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*)

At present the county seems to be clear of this species. It is certainly at the point of extinction or near extinction.

Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)

Considerable increase in numbers occurred from about mid-summer. It appeared to start on the west side of the county in the Fens and gradually spread eastward. There seem to be many possible reasons for this, though the most important was the long period of mild wet weather following the long dry summer of 1959, when the rat population was at low ebb. There have been two

good breeding seasons since. Coupled with them was the difficulty of gathering in the 1960 harvest. On the heavier lands less autumn ploughing took place, and there was food and cover in abundance in many places. It was not realised how swiftly the rats were spreading, and little was done to control the increasing numbers (ATP).

Sugar beet provides regular winter feed. Carcasses of coypus left by trappers provide another source of food as do the dead starlings in the Norfolk roosts and spawning toads in north Norfolk. The decrease of ferreting, the ban on the use of the gin traps, the decline in the stoat population, the increase of large-scale chicken rearing, and the moving of huts after fowl pest, may all have played a part in the mass spread of rats about the countryside. One poultry farmer picked up 2,000 dead rats when his chickens were gassed to control fowl-pest (ATP).

Movement by night was evident from the larger numbers found dead on the roads, particularly after harvest. Flooding also caused movement to higher ground. In one area, the kill was 5 per mile for a distance of 27 miles.

Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris leucurus*)

Although there was an indication last year that the red squirrel had reached a peak in its cycle of abundance and was on the decline, good breeding conditions have enabled it to hold its own. Norfolk has always been an important stronghold for the species, and it is interesting to find it even now spreading into new areas. Newly maturing pine woods are being colonised both in the Breck (FJTP), and in north Norfolk (RPB-O). Small numbers have managed to continue to live in Norwich in the Newmarket Road area (FJTP), and at Thorpe (MJS). Bird tables are frequently visited in the Holt area, at North Walsham and in the south at Ellingham.

The rare very dark variety is still to be seen at Ellingham Hall (ECS). There appears to be no evidence for the introduction of any dark coloured squirrels of the central European race, and as far as is known, these black-looking squirrels are natural melanistic mutants. Road casualties are high only in Breckland. On the Watton-Brandon road, 32 were killed between January 1st and October 31st.

Coypu (*Myocastor coypus*)

This year has seen a large-scale campaign against coypu throughout the county. While there has been a considerable decrease in numbers in the east, in places where trapping has been intensive, as, for example, the Broads region, there is some doubt as to whether the control is adequate. As forecast last year, there has been a spread in a westerly direction into the Fens of

Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely, and the southerly movement has continued as far south as Roydon in Essex. The figure of 70,000 is given for the number destroyed in Norfolk alone in 1961 (RYE).

The marshland areas still support large numbers. Almost everywhere where streams and wet places provide food and shelter, the coypu has become resident, sometimes in plague proportions. The number of carcasses noted on the Acle New Road was as high as ever. On the 5 mile stretch from Yarmouth to the Stracey Arms 7 were killed in one night alone between 6.30 and 9.30 (RPB-O). Over a period of 35 days 18 were recorded, and during the year 115 (PJLH). Yet in the Acle area alone, the Rabbit Clearance Society dealt with nearly 14,000 (EDP). 500 were killed in the Cley and Salthouse marshes between August and December (RPB-O). Serious effects on nesting bitterns have been reported (WFB).

Even on large areas of waterless country as at Horsford, Harling and Kelling Heaths, they manage to survive. One at Castleacre was three miles from the nearest water (HB). Considerable numbers have been attracted to the waste sugar beet in Cantley sludge settling ponds, and during the flooding of the Yare many took to visiting riverside gardens to feed on vegetables. Plants which appear to be particularly favoured are: polyanthus, young osiers, the bark of grey willow, kale and water lilies. A suggestion was made during the year that coypus should be introduced into the Kariba dam area to control the water cabbage (*Salvinia auriculata*) which threatens the commercial fishing in the lake. The grazing habits of coypu have also been much in evidence; it is said that 20 coypu can eat as much grass as a single bullock. In the Broads rivers, it has been noticeable that purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is generally avoided by these animals, and in consequence it has colonised on a large scale many places, where other types of vegetation have been cleared by coypus (EAE).

A female bearing eight young was reported from Didlington (WJW); she weighed only 6 lb. (HFA), and another from Caister marshes, containing nine embryos, weighed 16 lb. One specimen from the Trowse meadows was 3 ft. 4 in. in length, and a 3-ft. long female killed at Middleton weighed nearly 2 stone (EDP). Litters appear to be large in recently colonised areas. At Salthouse, a female was seen with nine young ones, and a newly caught female at Brinton gave birth to eight young in captivity (RPB-O).

CARNIVORA

Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

The very noticeable increase of foxes is one of the outstanding points of this year's report, though it seems to be associated with areas far from the fox hunting country of mid-Norfolk. Indeed,

in this latter area reports state that there are fewer than in the last few years. Farther south, at Seamere, there were also fewer, and for the first time no action was taken against them (CG). However, farther west, north and north-east towards the coast, in the east in the Broads areas, the Yare valley, and in the south-east, foxes have been recorded for the first time for many years. A vixen with seven cubs was killed at Repps (YM); a dog fox weighing 18 lb. was shot at Blofield (ST); 4 young foxes were killed in a large-scale shoot at Carleton Rode (EDP); a full-grown dog fox and vixen were killed at South Elmham (EDP);—all these are from areas where foxes were stated not to have been seen for forty or fifty years or more.

In north Norfolk foxes are very much more numerous. At least thirty were destroyed in the Holt area alone, and four earths containing cubs were also gassed. A very large dog fox in fine condition was found at West Beckham. It measured 4 ft. 1 in. from nose to tail and weighed 28½ lb. Seven foxes were shot during a drive through a small wood at Thursford (RPB-O).

No further disease has been reported. All the foxes killed by the hunt were in excellent condition and exceptionally large and strong (TUB). This may be attributable to the increase in rats and rabbits. Another brush minus fox was picked up, this time at East Bilney (DM).

Badger (*Meles meles*)

Last year we reported that the re-establishment of badger in the county had been going on encouragingly. Sets are known to be occupied in north, central and west Norfolk. One just over the border in King's Forest in west Suffolk may eventually make possible the return of the species to some suitable parts of the Breckland forests (FJTP).

A set containing cubs was unfortunately disturbed during road-making at Selbrigg woods. The cubs were later seen about two miles away, and two were senselessly destroyed. Two adults were also killed at Letheringsett (RPB-O). A new station in the north-east was located in January following a sighting of a badger crossing the road (HE).

An unconfirmed report of a dead badger seen on the Stoke Holy Cross—Caister road may indicate that there is a set in the vicinity. Badgers are known to have existed in the Shotesham area about 25 years ago.

The main stronghold at the moment is on the boulder clay in mid-Norfolk, and several occupied sets are known which at the moment are safe from interference (FJTP). Elsewhere badgers have little chance of becoming established since they are so consistently destroyed in the interests of game preservation. This persecution is almost certainly needless, since badgers have little effect on game,

as is shown in counties where both are numerous. Fortunately foresters are taking a much greater interest in the wild life around them, and in one place at least in the county, badger gates have been set in the fences, and as these are now used regularly the fences suffer no damage (FJTP).

Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

The former distribution of the otter seems to have been much modified in recent years. Around Horsey (AB), Aylsham (SS) and Castleacre (HB), very few are now seen. Elsewhere they have been observed more frequently than for some time. Six were watched in the Deepdale freshwater marshes off Seolt Head (RC). A few live in the coastal marshes between Stiffkey and Weybourne, where they feed on eels, and shore crabs, and in the shooting season, wounded wildfowl (RPB-O). One was seen at Burnham Overy marshes, and one was found dying on the road at Thursford at a crossing point regularly used for the last six or seven years (RPB-O). An increase in north Norfolk is also supported by observations between Thornage and Gunthorpe.

In the south-west there are a few in the Little Ouse (JCT); two were observed in the lake near Santon Downham (ELS), and others at Thompson Water (RG). In the south and east, a few have been seen singly or in pairs in the Waveney valley (DAJB), the Yare valley (EAE) and the Wensum valley (SP).

Stoat (*Mustela erminea stabilis*)

There seems no doubt at all that stoats have decreased in number almost everywhere in the county. Only at Calthorpe Broad (FT) and Watton (JD) have slight increases been noted.

Gamekeepers continue to destroy stoats as steadily as in former days when they were numerous, though one would have thought their natural use in maintaining a control over rabbits and rats would be taken into account. At Larling, 10 were shot in June, and 18 in December (WS). The marshlands no longer seem to harbour very many (EAE).

A few with black and white striped faces were seen at Taverham (MES), one brown and white one was noted at Glandford in late December (RPB-O), and one in ermine was observed in the Bure-Breydon marshes (PT). Road casualty lists show that only two were seen in north Norfolk (RPB-O), two on the Yarmouth-Stracey Arms road (RHH), and three on the Watton-Brandon road (GJ).

Weasel (*Mustela nivalis*)

In contrast to the stoat, the weasel is now seen much more frequently and an increase in road casualties has been recorded, particularly in the spring. Seolt Head produced its first records for ten years (RC), and at least sixteen recorders made mention of apparent local increases.

A completely white weasel, but not albino, was seen on several occasions at Swaffham forest (RPB-O), and a very light ginger, almost cream-coloured specimen was recorded at Shipdham in April (DMM). Another not quite so light was seen at Brisley on May 7th. A white blaze on the forehead was an identification mark of one at Brinton (RPB-O).

Mink (*Mustela vison*)

A number of counties in England are reporting increases in feral mink. This year the Aylsham and District Rabbit Clearance Society operating over some 16,000 acres caught two (EDP). Another entered a coypu trap at Oxnead (RVE). This may indicate that we can expect further evidence of the existence in the wild of this introduced mammal.

Feral Domestic Cat (*Felis domesticus*)

Evidence exists for an increasing number of semi-wild domestic cats. At Witton and Thetford they live in holes on refuse tips (RVE). They also inhabit thickets and woodlands at Aylsham (SS), North Walsham (MARM), East Bilney and Bylaugh (DM), and the Horsford-Swardeston area (FRDB). They appear to manage very well on the available small mammals and rabbits. When disturbed, they go to ground if possible.

Seals

The Common Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) on Scroby Sands has a fairly stable population in July each year of about 150 adults. On July 2nd, however, there were only 80 with six pups all rather less than a week old. On July 4th a N.W. gale brought up an abnormally high tide which completely covered the Sands, but when a visit^t was paid by members of the Yarmouth Naturalists' Society on July 14th, two separate herds were found hauled out, despite the storm, and the usual 150 or so were counted. 16 pups were noted, 11 of which were not more than a week old. As last year, the first week of July proved to be the peak period for the birth of the pups. Only two newly born young were found dead.

On July 21st, three separate herds had been formed, but the total number of adults remained the same. Most of the pups were in the sea, and only two, a few hours old, were ashore.

During the early part of November, after an easterly gale, three common seals appeared at the entrance to Breydon Water. They stayed together until the cold spell at the end of the year, diving in the main stream for flounders and smelts. At low tide they hauled out on a mussel-covered knoll below Breydon bridge despite considerable human activity on the bridge, railway and barges (RHH).

Common seals have also been seen in small numbers at Scroby Island during the year (RC). Stranding of pups or young beasts has occurred at Horsey (JW), Cley (HFA), Yarmouth South Denes, Caister, Winterton, Hopton and West Runton (EDP). One adult again ventured up the Yare as far as Surlingham in the autumn (EDP) and a young one hauled out on the river bank at Reedham on November 3rd (EDP).

Even as long ago as fifty years, the Eastern Sea Fisheries Board was concerned with the number of common seals in the Wash. The *Eastern Daily Press*, March 22nd 1911, reported that it had been suggested that a cruiser should be sent to the Wash to destroy the seals with its guns, in order to prevent the seals from destroying the fish. At that time there were only about 200. Numbers to-day are considerably higher.

The Grey Atlantic Seal (*Halichoerus grypus*). A small herd of 18, separate from the herds of Common seals, was seen on Scroby July 14th. On July 21st, the number had increased to 47—one herd of 27 and another of 20 (RHH).

Births of pups were recorded as follows: November 19th 2 males, 1 female; November 26th 4 males, 1 female; December 3rd 1 male, 1 female; December 10th 1 male.

There has been no significant increase in the size of the adult colony.

No. 6262 marked at Staple Island (Farnes) on December 1st, 1960 at 3 weeks was seen at Cley on December 31st, 1960 and again on January 1st, 1961. It appeared to have gunshot wounds and a catarrhal infection of eyes and nostrils. Though lively enough to be hostile, its condition was described as "not good".

No. 6283 marked North Wamses (Farnes) on December 24th, 1960. A young male in its first coat. Found at Hemsby on November 19th, 1961 and returned to the sea (GH).

A stranding was also reported at Sea Palling in mid-December. It was a young animal, 3 ft. long and weighing about 40 lb. It had been wounded in the back as though struck by a ship's propeller (EDP). Another was at Scott Head early in January; it was about 2 ft. long and weighed 20-25 lb. (RC).

ARTIODACTYLA

Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*)

In the opinion of those responsible for control of the deer in Thetford Chase, at least twenty red deer stags exist in the Forestry Commission plantings, together with an unspecified number of hinds. They are moved about to some extent by forestry operations, but the rutting areas which have been used in the past are still favoured whenever possible. Fine specimens of these deer may

sometimes be seen. Late in the year, two were observed alongside the road at Mundford, and showed no fear as a car passed them at a distance of only four yards (EDP). It is now possible to cycle or walk through the forests, and watch these animals. One observer came within 200 yards range of two between Fowlmere and Langmere on 23rd November, and he was able to witness a sparring match for ten minutes (ALB).

There now appears to be some danger in Thetford Chase that deer may cross roads in front of vehicles. Ten incidents have been reported during the year (EDP). Control involved the shooting of 3 stags and 9 hinds (FC). There is a tendency to exaggerate numbers, but there is no doubt that increase in the herds is taking place (FJTP).

Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*)

The only area where this species now exists in Norfolk so far as is known is in the range of woodlands in the Horsford-Stratton Strawless district (PRP). Small parties of three or four have been seen during nearly every month of the year (FEDB). They are of the dark variety. A single white one was reported in October.

Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*)

Control of the roe deer has been rather severe. 45 bucks and 73 does have been removed at Thetford (DW), (FC). This compares with a total of 103 last year. The deer have become much more widespread where once they were localised, and they can now be found almost everywhere in Thetford Chase and even beyond. One female was shot at Gressenhall (HFA), and certain observations suggest that the species may now have spread as far as Horsford (GCR), (PRP), (FJTP).

Muntjac Deer (*Muntiacus reevesi*)

Late in January, a single buck was killed by dogs on the Norfolk border at Elveden. This is the most obvious line of country through which these small deer would reach us from Huntingdonshire or Cambridgeshire, where they are now believed to exist in fair numbers and on a breeding basis. Muntjac bucks tend to wander at harvest time through standing crops, and then later on they are cut off when the fields stand bare after harvest. Thetford Chase probably does not provide quite the type of shelter these deer prefer, as on sandy soil the herb and shrub layers are not usually profuse. On the boulder clay farther north, the woodlands have abundant brambles, and it is from this area that most of the 1961 records have come, not far from Holkham where the 1960 specimen was shot.

One was seen at Thursford in early January (WMM) and another near Crowland Wood, Binham. Another, or possibly the same one, was seen at Coldmoor Plantation, Hindringham on

June 7th (RS). A gamekeeper at Reedham, who identified a deer seen near Cantley on January 28th as a roe, was probably mistaken. An article on Muntjac deer in the *Eastern Daily Press* brought in a letter from a lorry driver. In it he identified, from the description in the article, a deer he had seen at Cantley. There seems little doubt it was a muntjac (FJTP). It made for the Yare marshes, but no further reports have come from that area where the animal was certainly in inhospitable territory.

CETACEA

Common Porpoise (*Phocaena phocaena*)

A large school of porpoises appears to have been inshore on more than one occasion. On June 23rd it was so big, that it took between ten and fifteen minutes to pass. It was going east, off Cromer, and observation was easy as the animals were only fifty yards from the beach (IFK). Several strandings took place. A female was ashore at Sheringham on July 5th (BM). Another was washed in at Cley in September (HFA), about the time when the several small schools appear to have moved round the coast towards Holkham. They were offshore there during August and September, and two beasts feeding on mackerel ran aground temporarily in shallow water (RPB-O).

On October 3rd, at least six were again off Sheringham, all full grown animals, and about three were within 100 ft. of the shore (IFK). Towards the end of the year, on December 5th, a 5-ft. specimen was stranded on the North Beach, Great Yarmouth (BM).

White-beaked Dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*)

Only one was reported this year; the British Museum recorded an unconfirmed identification of a juvenile, 6 ft. in length at East Runton beach on April 29th. We should again like to make a special appeal for records of all strandings and offshore sightings of whales and seals.

Norfolk Deer Records

There are no records as to when the last indigenous red deer was killed in Norfolk, nor when red deer became feral in the county. It is possible that there may always have been a few in the south and west where there were large parks at Euston, Shadwell, Didlington and Ampton. Winfarthing also has an ancient park which was "full of deer" in 1759. Melton Constable park in the north dates back to the thirteenth century, and Houghton in the north-west had a famous herd in the eighteenth century. William Lowen, chief huntsman of Windsor forest was paid £166 10s. 0d. "for taking one hundred red deer at Houghton Park and conveying forty of them to Windsor forest".

In view of the fact that red deer jump into and out of parks to-day, there is no reason to think they behaved differently in past centuries. In modern times, a 17-pointer jumped into Melton Constable park. It came from elsewhere, possibly Gunton park. In the 1930's, a large stag was known to the foresters. It was sometimes seen at Mundford, sometimes at Croxton. It was described to me as being a very large beast. There could easily have been more than one of them about at that time, for these older stags are very wily creatures and rarely seen.

When Diddington park was used for military purposes during the war, a stag used to swim across the lake to an island. Leslie Paul describes this in *Heron Lake*, and says that it was reputed to be an outlier from the Stag Hunt. Outliers are probably only part of the explanation of the origin of the red deer herds in Breckland to-day, though they were known as far back as the late nineteenth century.

In 1950, the Norwich Stag Hunt had about ten known outliers, among them a hind. Two calves were born out. From that time, the records of red deer in the Chase steadily increased, though very few people had until that time any idea that red deer were about. I saw signs of them in Santon forest and West Tofts in 1952, and I stalked my first red stag in 1953 at West Harling. In 1954 I watched two hinds and three stags in their rutting area in the same forest, and in 1955 I saw for the first and last time an exceptionally fine 21-pointer, with seven hinds and a calf, on September 29th, during the rut.

This stag was shot by a member of the St. Hubert Club on September 25th, 1956. On the following day another, a 13-pointer, was taken. Since then, the following have been removed:

- 1957 .. A 13-pointer, killed by a farmer with a shot gun. By control, 1 stag, 3 hinds.
- 1958 .. By control. 2 stags—a 21-pointer and a 13-pointer.
- 1959 .. By control. 5 stags, 6 hinds. Among these a 20-pointer and three 13-pointers.
- 1960 .. By control. 1 stag, 9 hinds.
- 1961 .. By control. 3 stags, 9 hinds. Among these a 19-pointer.

Total: 14 stags, 27 hinds.

The roe deer are known to have been introduced about 1884. They were confined mainly to the old forests of five estates. From 1922 onwards these forests were clear felled in most instances for replanting. Between that time and 1950 there was regular driving and snaring in an attempt to control damage. Much of the danger to forest trees by fraying and browsing had passed by 1956, and

sporting rights were granted for roe stalking. The Commission also commenced control in view of the need to prevent damage at the time when clear felling of mature pine stands commenced and replanting took place.

Since 1956, 166 bucks and 115 does have been removed from the whole area of Thetford Chase. This information is given by courtesy of the Forestry Commission.

F. J. T. P.

Contributors

- H. F. ASHTON
 D. C. ASKEW
 H. W. BACK
 R. P. BAGNALL-OAKELEY
 J. BANE
 P. R. BANHAM
 T. H. BARCLAY
 MISS R. M. BARNES
 SIR RICHARD BARRETT-LENNARD
 H. W. BIRKBECK
 W. F. BISHOP
 LT.-COL. F. E. DRAKE-BRISCOE
 BRISLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
 BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)
 J. B. BROOKS
 A. L. BULL
 R. BURT
 MAJ. A. BUXTON
 D. A. J. BUXTON
 LT.-COL. H. J. CATOR
 L. G. CHAPMAN
 R. CHESTNEY
 CITY OF NORWICH SCHOOL
 G. COOPER
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 FORESTRY COMMISSION, EASTERN CONSERVANCY
 C. GOSLING
 GREAT YARMOUTH NATURALISTS' SOCIETY
 GRESHAM'S SCHOOL
 R. DE GREY
 MISS C. GURNEY
 MISS K. HALL
 R. H. HARRISON
 MRS. G. W. HICKLING
 P. J. L. HUNTER
 A. H. IVINS
 H. JEFFREY
 G. JESSUP
 I. F. KEYMER
 MISS J. E. KING
 J. LAST
 W. K. LIGHTON
 MRS. M. A. R. MAINGAY
 W. M. MAKINS
 D. F. MARSHALL
 MISS M. E. MARSTON
 MISS D. M. MAXLY
 MINISTRY OF AGR. FISH. & FOOD
 NATURE CONSERVANCY
 J. D. NORRIS
 NORWICH CASTLE MUSEUM
 MISS B. OAKES
 F. J. TAYLOR PAGE
 P. R. PAGE
 CAPT. F. B. PALMER
 A. T. PATON
 E. PIGGIN
 MISS S. PUDDY
 C. D. RABY
 MRS. B. RAE
 W. F. RAYNER
 R. A. RICHARDSON
 MISS M. R. RICHES
 H. RILEY
 R. SCOTT
 M. J. SEAGO
 S. SINDAR
 DR. S. SHEPPHEARD
 MISS M. SHORTEN
 MISS W. SIMPSON
 MRS. E. C. SMITH
 M. E. SMITH
 C. J. SNOWDON
 MISS W. M. SPINKS
 THE MISSES STEARN
 E. L. SWANN
 D. TAYLOR
 J. C. TAYLOR
 F. THAIN
 P. G. TRETT
 P. WAYRE
 D. WENHAM
 WEST RAYNHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL
 C. P. H. WILSON
 W. J. WOOLSTON
 D. WRIGHT
 A. R. WYLAM
 "YARMOUTH MERCURY"

