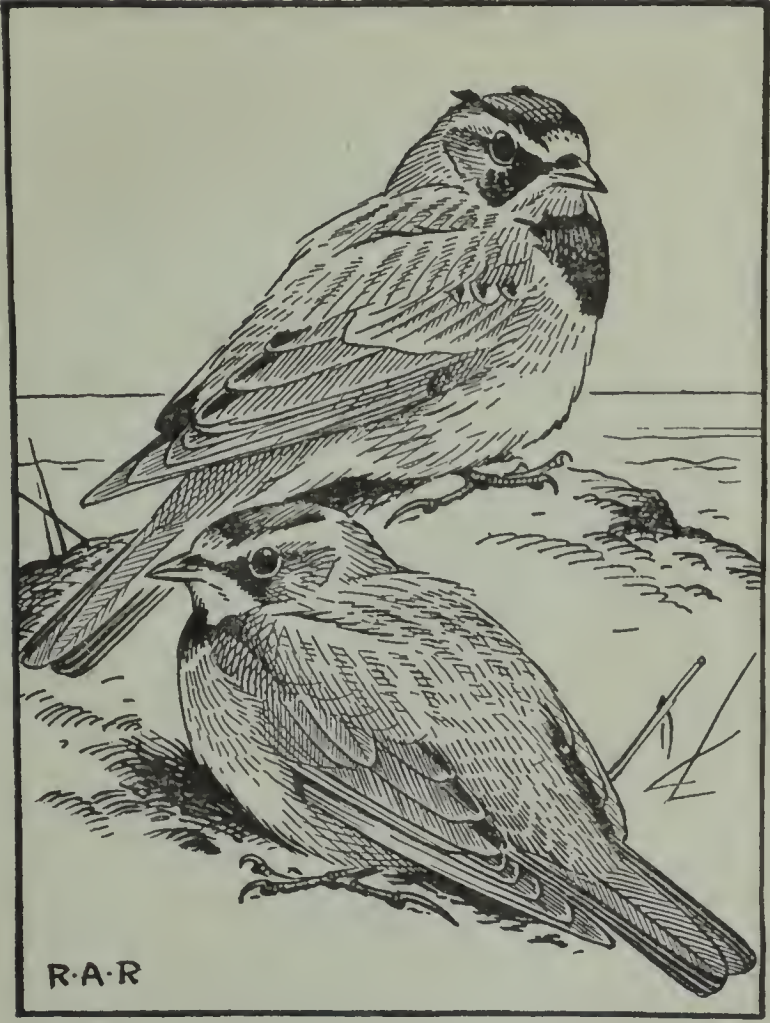


BRITISH MUSEUM
17 JAN 1957
NATURAL HISTORY

THE NORFOLK BIRD REPORT



1954

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THE NORFOLK BIRD REPORT

1954

Compiled by

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Assisted by the Records Committee :

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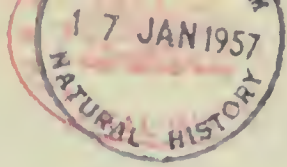
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The Norfolk Bird Report

1954

INTRODUCTION

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

The winter of 1953-54 was an open one, except for a short but intensely cold spell during the last week of January and the first of February. During this time the Broads, most of Breydon Water and stretches of the rivers Bure, Yare and Waveney were frozen. A red-throated diver was frozen into the ice of Horsey Mere and mute swans suffered the same fate in the rivers and broads. Stonechats and many redwings were picked up dead at Horsey and water-rails and moorhens fed in farmyards there. At Blakeney, numbers of starlings, knots and redshank succumbed to the cold. Many wildfowl appeared, including smew and exceptional numbers of wigeon. Fortunately there was very little snow and for this reason the bearded tits were not badly affected.

The spring was remarkable for the late arrival of most of the summer migrants. In May, however, there was a rise of temperature, with south-easterly winds which brought in many birds, including black terns in unusually large numbers. Other spring visitors of special interest were ospreys, hoopoes, Temminck's stints, avocets, a Kentish plover and an ortolan bunting.

During the summer, exceptional numbers of spoonbills were seen both on the coast and the Broads.

A feature of the early autumn migration was a "rush" of small birds during the last week of August. Among these were barred warblers, bluethroats, black redstarts and an unusual number of wrynecks. On October 17th and 26th there were big influxes of blackbirds, fieldfares, redwings, song-thrushes,

skylarks, starlings and other small birds. Another noticeable movement along the coast on November 1st was marked at the North Sea light-vessels, when thousands of birds struck the lanterns during the night. Autumn rarities included an aquatic warbler, short-toed larks, a Scops owl and a red-breasted snipe.

During the year, a survey of Norfolk heronries was undertaken and a census of great crested grebes was made. Information on the breeding distribution of bitterns was collected.

The charming drawing of a pair of shore-larks, replacing the bittern on the cover of this report, will be much appreciated by members. We are indebted to Mr. R. A. Richardson for this; also to Mr. R. P. Bagnall-Oakeley and Mr. Philip Wayre for their interesting photographs; to Mr. A. E. Vine for drafting the Breckland notes and to all contributors, including the Cambridge Bird Club (particularly Mr. I. C. T. Nisbet), whose records have helped to increase the interest of this report. Mr. Michael J. Seago is to be congratulated on his excellent work of preparing the classified list. The magnitude of this task, undertaken in his leisure time, will be well understood and contributors are asked to help him by sending in their records as early in the New Year as possible.

Notes on Breeding Birds of the Norfolk Nature Reserves.

(COMPILED BY MISS C. E. GAY)

The breeding season for almost all of the shore-nesting birds was an exceptionally poor one. The very cold northerly winds in April continued well into May and the summer was unusually wet, windy and sunless.

Terns were late in arriving at both Scolt Head Island and Blakeney Point and were slow to settle down. Food was obviously short inshore and the high winds and constantly blowing sand made nesting difficult. There were fewer common and little terns than usual at both places; no Sandwich terns succeeded in breeding on the Point, and of the fifty-three young hatched on the Island only five survived to fly. Bad weather, high tides and lack of food also accounted for the loss of a large proportion of the eggs and young of common and little terns and also of ringed plovers.

In every case, with the exception of oystercatchers and red-shanks, the number of young birds reared bore no relation to the number of breeding pairs and nests counted.

SCOLT HEAD ISLAND

(Leased to The Nature Conservancy)

WARDEN : R. CHESTNEY

MALLARD.—Only one pair seen and no nest found.

SHELD-DUCK.—The usual large numbers, approximately 200 pairs, were on the island during the spring and early summer, but only two broods were subsequently seen in the creeks.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE.—One nest found in the Hut hills.

OYSTERCATCHER.—Seventy-four nests counted of which twenty-four were near the ternery. Only two dead chicks were noted.

RINGED PLOVER.—The first nest was found on April 19th. A total of fifty-four was counted, half of them near the ternery. A number of the young in the early nests were the victims of black-headed gulls, a colony of which bred on the marsh on the south side of Norton creek. A fair proportion of young survived from later nests and the season was somewhat prolonged. Three chicks were noted in early October.

REDSHANK. Twenty-two nests found, most of which were in the ternery area.

COMMON TERN.—The first birds arrived on April 29th and the first nest with eggs was found on May 16th. A total of 900 nests was counted. A large proportion of the young died in the nests and it was estimated that only 250–300 survived to fly. A late nest hatched on July 25th.

ROSEATE TERN.—One bird was heard calling and seen on May 28th and on almost every day throughout June and July. Two were noted on July 5th and 22nd. Similar records during past years point to the possibility of a nesting pair in the locality. The foreshore east of Wells lies within the area from which public access is prohibited by the R.A.F.

LITTLE TERN.—The first arrivals were seen on April 30th. The first nest was not found until May 29th. A total of twenty-eight nests was counted on the foreshore between the ternery and the gap made by the 1953 surge near the Overy end of the Island. Hardly any of the young survived and only five were seen flying.

SANDWICH TERN.—Birds arrived on April 30th and the first nest with eggs was noted on May 29th. In a total of 131 nests, fifty-three chicks hatched, of which only five lived to take wing. The colony nested on an exposed spit half-way between the main ternery and the Far Point.

SKYLARK.—Seven nests.

SWALLOW.—A pair again nested in the open shed adjoining the Hut.

MEADOW-PIBIT.—Fourteen nests found.

LINNET.—Seven nests.

BLAKENEY POINT

(The National Trust)

WARDEN : W. EALES

SHIELD-DUCK.—Sixty-five pairs were estimated in the dune areas between the Point and the Hood. Twelve of these were seen making preparations to nest in the first week of May. Very few broods were noted in the harbour or creeks during the summer.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE.—Two nests found from which a total of eleven young were reared.

OYSTERCATCHER.—Ninety-three nests marked. These birds appear to be able to withstand the adverse conditions which affect other shore-breeding birds so badly, and a high proportion of the young hatched were reared. The Warden moved nineteen nests which were threatened by high tides to a safer place thirty feet away and in all but one the eggs hatched successfully. Twenty young were ringed.

RINGED PLOVER.—The first nest was found in bitterly cold weather on April 21st. A total of eighty-five nests was counted, in which it was estimated that less than a third of the young survived.

REDSHANK.—Seventeen nests were found and a normal number of young were reared. These obtain good protection from the tough marram grass of the sand-hills in which they nest.

COMMON TERN.—The first arrival was seen on April 19th, but there was no large number of birds until the second week of May. The first egg was found on May 14th. A total of 1,574 nests was counted. Hatching was fairly good at the outset, but bad weather and blowing sand, together with shortage of food caused the death of a great number of young and it was estimated that less than a quarter lived to fly. Forty chicks were ringed.

ARCTIC TERN.—One pair bred on the East point and reared young.

LITTLE TERN.—Fifty-four nests were marked, considerably less than in previous seasons. The first arrivals were seen on April 26th and the first nests found on May 16th. At an

estimate only about a third of the young hatched reached the flying stage.

SANDWICH TERN.—A small party arrived on May 18th and nineteen eggs were laid almost immediately. Soon after, on a very bad day of almost continuous rain with high wind, these birds left their nests and none returned or made any further effort to breed on Blakeney Point.

CLEY

(The Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

WARDEN : W. F. BISHOP

The marsh, by the spring of 1954, had not fully recovered from the effects of the sea-flooding at the beginning of 1953, but later the wet summer helped to improve it.

It was probably due to the slightly salt condition still prevailing that neither garganey nor shoveler stayed to breed and that only one pair of snipe did so. Later, during the summer, two broods of shovelers came down to the marsh from upland nests. Bearded tits which had established themselves so well before the 1953 surge did not return to breed, although a few birds were heard and seen later in the year.

BITTERN.—Preliminary booming was heard on February 19th and later four males were heard from different parts of the marsh and one in the Salthouse reed-beds. Two nests were found and in spite of the abnormally cold wet weather three young were reared in each.

MALLARD.—The number of breeding pairs at the beginning of the season was estimated at from forty-five to fifty. The first brood was seen on May 1st but there were fewer broods than usual and the season was not a good one.

SHELD-DUCK.—The number seen in the Cley/Salthouse area in late April was estimated at about seventy pairs, but it is obvious here, as at Scolt Head and Blakeney Point, that a very large proportion of them are non-breeding birds. Several broods were seen during the summer on the open water of Salthouse and the pools of Cley marsh.

- WATER-RAIL.—These appear to be increasing on the marsh judging by the number frequently heard. Two broods were seen, one on May 13th and another on June 2nd and 3rd.
- OYSTERCATCHER.—Ten to twelve pairs nested on the outskirts of the marsh and adjoining shingle. One pair again nested on arable land nearly a mile inland.
- LAPWING.—Twenty to twenty-five pairs nested on and around the marsh—a big increase on last year's numbers. The young, like those of the oystercatcher, were in no way affected by the poor weather conditions.
- RINGED PLOVER.—These nested in their usual numbers, but owing to the wet season very few young were reared.
- COMMON SNIBE.—One pair bred on the marsh. The male was the only snipe heard "drumming" throughout the summer.
- WOODCOCK.—There is evidence of an increase in the breeding birds on the uplands although no nests were found.
- REDSHANK.—There were between fifty and sixty pairs in the area and the young hatched normally.
- STONE-CURLEW.—Two nests were found. Several former nesting grounds have been ploughed in accordance with the agricultural policy of cultivating marginal land.
- COMMON TERN.—More pairs nested on Arnold's marsh than in any season since the war. Unfortunately, heavy rain and big tides at a critical time resulted in the loss of at least 75 per cent of eggs and young.
- REED- AND SEDGE-WARBLERS.—There were as many pairs as usual nesting in all the larger reed-beds.
- YELLOW WAGTAIL.—From fifteen to twenty pairs were estimated, far fewer than in the previous season.

RANWORTH

(The Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

KEEPER: R. BROWNE

The small colony of common terns, which started with one pair which nested at Ranworth in 1949, showed a considerable increase this season and a good proportion of the young were

reared. The breeding season was also a successful one for mallard and shoveler, of which there was an unusually large number. It is interesting to note that the number of breeding pairs of great crested grebes remains practically constant both here and at Hickling. At both places, and elsewhere in the Broads area, it has been established that grebes are frequently robbed of their eggs by coots and moorhens which wait until the birds leave their nests to feed and then eat their eggs.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE.—Eight pairs nested, the usual number for the broad.

HERON.—Eight nests were occupied in the Big Carr.

MALLARD.—Approximately 100 pairs bred on the surrounding marshes.

TEAL.—Twenty to thirty pairs nested in the area.

GARGANEY.—One pair bred.

SHOVELER.—There were up to fifty pairs on the marshes during the breeding season, well above the average number for Ranworth.

COMMON TERN.—The first arrivals were noted on May 2nd. Thirteen pairs nested, some on the two rotting wherries as in former years and others on "hovers"—floating masses of reed-roots. A number of young reached the flying stage although some were lost following a heavy thunderstorm on June 13th, which caused the water to rise, washing out some of the nests.

HICKLING

(The Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

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

The very cold weather at the end of January and early February did not last unduly long. There was not a great deal of snow and although the Broad was frozen hard enough for skating the ice had gone by February 22nd. Two days later a bittern was heard booming, a preliminary to the successful breeding season which followed—in spite of the abnormally wet summer. There were rather fewer pairs of herons nesting in the



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Bewick's Swan and Whooper Swan
Arnold's Marsh

P. Waite



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Immature Bewick's Swan
Arnold's Marsh.

P. Wayre



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Short-toed Larks
Cley, 16th September, 1954.

R. P. Bagnall-Oakeley

The spotted breast-band of the immature bird is clearly seen and may be compared with the light, almost unstreaked breast of the adult behind. The adult also shows the way in which the pale eye-stripes extend round the forehead. See page 37.

adjacent woods and this may have been the result of shortage of food during the cold spell. The colony of bearded tits did not appear to suffer ill effects due to the hard weather and it was fortunate for them that the snow was not deep enough to cover their normal food supply in the reed-beds.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE.—Eight pairs nested out of a total of fourteen pairs in the area. The first nest, with three eggs, was found on May 27th.

HERON.—Eight nests were occupied in Sounds wood and three in General McHardy's—seven less than last season.

BITTERN.—Booming was first heard on February 24th and by March 5th six males were booming from different parts of the Broad. No search was made for nests but it appeared from later observations that an average number of young were reared. As many as eight birds were seen flying at one time.

An interesting record is of a bittern with a broken leg which was caught on January 1st. An attempt to splint the leg was unsuccessful and so it was set in plaster by a local expert. A month later it had completely healed and as soon as the plaster had been removed the bird was released and immediately flew away. During captivity it was fed on live fish and would eat as many as fifteen a day, some of them the size of a sprat; it always seized the largest fish in the bucket first. The bird never became in the least tame and in spite of constant attention it always presented a formidable open beak when approached.

MALLARD.—These returned to the Broad as soon as the ice began to break up in February and a count of close on 500 birds was made on March 6th. Twenty pairs bred on the marshes.

GARGANEY.—No nests were found, although a number of birds were seen on the reserve and six pairs were noted on Rush Hills.

SHOVELER.—Two pairs bred and both broods were reared.

MUTE SWAN.—A large herd of up to 300 birds was feeding on the Broad throughout the summer. Five pairs nested.

MARSH-HARRIER.—A few birds again spent the winter in the area. Three pairs bred on the reserve. Nest building was seen to be in progress on March 19th and the nest, with five eggs, was found on April 13th. The first young in this nest was hatched on May 12th. A second nest, with six eggs, was found on April 29th. Each of these pairs reared three young. A search was not made for the nest of the third pair.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER.—A nest, with four eggs, was found on June 13th. Only one young was hatched and the remaining eggs were addled. The male of this pair, by its behaviour, was judged to have mated with a second hen and to have another nest on the reserve, although this was not found.

LAPWING.—These again showed a preference for the marsh-meadows near the Lodge and twelve pairs nested on them. Others bred on the marsh by Stubbs Mill and also on Rush Hills. The first nest, with three eggs, was found on April 20th.

REDSHANK.—These also nested in company with the lapwings near the Lodge and on the Stubbs Mill marsh. The first nest of an approximate total of eighteen was found on April 20th.

COMMON TERN.—Two pairs nested, both of them rather late in the season. One nest, with two eggs, was found near the Warbush by the boundary bank on June 23rd. In spite of its exposed position two young were reared in this, and two in the other nest on Rush Hills.

HOUSE-MARTIN.—The breeding colony had arrived by April 20th and all the nests round the Lodge were occupied.

LONG-TAILED TIT.—A nest was found in Sounds wood on April 25th.

BEARDED TIT.—The colony showed an increase in numbers and the population on the reserve and in Heigham Sounds was estimated at thirty pairs. Twenty nests were found and only two broods of young were lost, in spite of the wet season. The first nest was found on April 7th in the Warbush and there were eight in this area alone. Others

were well distributed at Swim Coots, the Pleasure Island, Whiteslea and the Sounds. A late brood of six, still in the nest, was found on July 13th. Early in July parent birds could be seen feeding young all over the area—as many as twenty-seven at a time, including seven young perched on a single reed.

GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER.—These were well distributed and were heard “reeling” on the adjacent banks and marshes. No nests were sought.

REED-WARBLER.—First arrivals were noted on April 18th. Several nests were found but the population of the area was considered to be rather less than in former seasons.

SEDGE-WARBLER.—A bird was heard singing near the Lodge on April 8th. An average number of breeding pairs was estimated for the area.

YELLOW WAGTAIL.—The first to be seen was noted on April 14th. Several nests were found on the marshes near the Lodge and Stubbs Mill.

REED-BUNTING.—These were not quite so numerous as in previous years.

NOTES FROM HORSEY

BY MAJOR ANTHONY BUNTON

The pumping of salt water through Waxham Cut, following the breach in the sea defences at Palling in January 1953, still appears to affect Horsey Mere and the adjoining dykes. Lambstail weed has become very prevalent in the Mere to the exclusion of other plants and the result was shown in the winter of 1953-54 by the large number of surface feeding duck and scarcity of diving duck and coot. The largest collection of wigeon I have ever seen occurred at the beginning and again at the end of the frost in late January and early February. The ice caught and pulled up great quantities of lambstail on which the wigeon fed and while the Mere was freezing up they also fed on the surrounding marshes. Two other factors may have accounted for the presence of such large numbers of surface

feeding duck on the East Coast—the prevalence of orach on the high-water mark of the sea-flood, the seed of which is very attractive to them ; and the freezing up of the Baltic.

There were no breeding shoveler or garganey again this year, possibly due to the salt conditions. A pair of great crested grebes nested for the first time since the 1938 flood, but no young were seen. There seemed to be an incursion of bearded tits late in the spring making an increase in the number of breeding pairs for the season.

BITTERN.—Ten males were heard booming, the first on February 22nd. Two nests were found, one with four eggs on April 18th and the other with three eggs on May 12th. The eggs in the earlier nest had hatched on May 2nd and in the second one on May 10th. The young were reared in both.

MARSH-HARRIER.—Two pairs nested and nine young were reared. One nest contained an unusually large clutch of seven eggs. The other had four eggs, three of which had hatched by June 2nd. Several marsh-harriers remained at Horsey for the winter.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER.—The first male was seen on April 18th and a female on the following day. Two pairs nested but only one of these succeeded in rearing the three young.

WATER RAIL.—The usual number wintered at Horsey but most of them appeared to leave in the spring. This is very exceptional. No eggs were laid in the only nest found.

OYSTERCATCHER.—None nested by the Mere for the first time since 1949.

MAGPIE AND JAY.—Magpies have increased and jays have practically vanished from the parish.

BEARDED TIT.—Five nests were found.

NIGHTINGALE.—One pair nested successfully. This is the first breeding record for Horsey during the past twenty-three years, and during that period a nightingale has only been heard on two occasions and then only for a few hours.

SCROBY SANDS

(ROBIN H. HARRISON)

The first visit to Scroby Sands in 1954 was made on June 6th when the island again appeared almost completely flat, the only slight rise being on the east side. Along this narrow strip of raised sand were sixty nests of the common tern and twenty-four nests of the Sandwich tern. All the eggs appeared freshly laid, their numbers being about half of those found on the first visit in 1953. The same morning two black terns and thirty kittiwakes were seen.

A second visit was made on June 20th, when plenty of scrapes with eggs were found. Again they were all on the east side. It was obvious, however, that recent spring tides had washed away many common terns' eggs as a number were found along the high water mark. One large group of eighty-seven Sandwich terns' nests was found. The number of common terns' nests had increased to eighty.

Adverse weather prevented any further visit until July 4th, when once again it was clear that recent high tides and strong north-westerly winds had destroyed the big colony of Sandwich terns' eggs and practically all the common terns' nests had met with a similar fate. Five common tern chicks were found, however, and a few eggs were on the point of hatching. This proved that the sandbank had not been completely covered during the past twenty-eight days.

On July 11th it was found that the common terns had started to lay again and one hundred and fifty nests were counted; also eight new Sandwich terns' nests. The five chicks ringed the previous week could not be found. That morning, about two hundred kittiwakes were seen, and several young guillemots and razorbills were swimming and diving in Yarmouth Roads.

Bad weather prevented any further visit until August 1st, when it was found that rough seas had again covered the bank and there was no sign of any eggs or chicks. It is most disappointing that the breeding season on Scroby again proved a complete failure.

CLEY BIRD OBSERVATORY

(Fifth Annual Report : Nov. 1st, 1953—Dec. 31st, 1954)

WARDEN : R. A. RICHARDSON

The chaos resulting from the sea-flood of 1953, with the removal of all covert for birds and serious structural damage to the Observatory building, made the continued use of the site on Cley beach quite impracticable. It was therefore decided to ask the consent of the National Trust for the Observatory to be re-built at the Hood on its Blakeney Point property—an ideal site two miles to the west. Permission was given for the use of temporary buildings and a well-equipped wooden hut was at once erected and two traps were in use by the end of April.

The weather during 1954 was not favourable for large-scale "falls" of migrants and the number of birds caught was less than had been anticipated. However, as a promise of things to come, bluethroat, aquatic warbler and barred warbler were among the interesting species added to the ringing register. Valuable experience was gained during this first season on the new site and, with modified traps, some introduced cover and reasonable periods of drift-migration weather, the possibilities of the Observatory should approach those of Fair Isle. Blakeney Point has long been known as a special landfall for off-course migrants.

During the year 211 full species were recorded in the Observatory area, and in the fifteen months ended December 31st, 1954, 1,782 birds of seventy-six species were ringed and released and an unusual number of most interesting recoveries reported.

The Heligoland trap on the Salthouse boundary was in constant use during the season, and although fewer birds than usual were captured it contributed greatly to the ringing work. Turtle-doves and red-backed shrikes continue to nest near this trap.

Netting by torchlight was carried out in the vast communal winter roost in the rhododendron coverts on Salthouse heath and over 600 blackbirds and finches were captured and ringed.

Portable spring-nets baited with mealworms also proved highly effective and accounted for many birds including

purple sandpiper, black-bellied dipper, fieldfare, black redstarts, pied flycatchers, stonechat and rock pipit.

The Warden of Cley marsh, W. F. Bishop, caught several species in his duck-trap, including a pair of scaup. His son Bernard also caught over fifty greenfinches in a small trap in the garden of Watchers Cottage, and all these were ringed. A few of the voluntary helpers at the Observatory with experience of ringing, also carried out work in their own localities and Peter Clarke ringed forty-five nightingales and thirty-six red-backed shrikes, a remarkable achievement.

There is accommodation at the Hood for two men students from April to October inclusive, at a charge of 4s. each per day. Priority is given to those with ringing experience and ability to recognise birds in the hand, but the Warden is willing to give tuition in the handling and ringing of birds. Applications should be made to R. A. Richardson, Hill Top, Cley, Holt, Norfolk.

The Council of the Trust is grateful to all who have helped to make the Observatory a success, and especially to Miss Judith Ferrier for her work as Treasurer ever since it was started in 1949.

RINGING PROGRESS—CLEY BIRD OBSERVATORY.

Species	Seasons 1949-53	Season 1953-54	Grand Totals	Species	Seasons 1949-53	Season 1953-54	Grand Totals
Little Grebe	1	0	1	Mistle-Thrush	7	4	11
Manx Shearwater	1	0	1	Fieldfare	3	1	4
Fulmar	1	0	1	Song-Thrush	187	43	230
Heron	0	3	3	Redwing	9	2	11
Bittern	2	0	2	Ring-Ouzel	1	0	1
Mallard	3	8	11	Blackbird	324	94	418
Wigeon	0	1	1	Wheatear/Greenland			
Scaup	0	2	2	Wheatear	80	5	85
Sheld-Duck	3	2	5	Stonechat	6	1	7
Kestrel	1	0	1	Whinchat	23	0	23
Water-Rail	1	1	2	Redstart	41	4	45
Moorhen	3	0	3	Black Redstart	16	3	19
Oystercatcher	11	3	14	Nightingale	71	46	117
Lapwing	34	12	46	Bluethroat	0	1	1
Ringed Plover	52	2	54	Robin	331	21	352
Snipe	1	0	1	Grasshopper-Warbler	2	0	2
Woodcock	3	0	3	Reed-Warbler	40	12	52
Wood-Sandpiper	3	0	3	Sedge-Warbler	42	16	58
Common Sandpiper	3	0	3	Aquatic-Warbler	0	1	1
Redshank	23	2	25	Blackcap	13	1	14
Purple Sandpiper	1	1	2	Barred Warbler	1	1	2
Dunlin	7	0	7	Garden-Warbler	11	12	23
Grey Phalarope	2	0	2	Whitethroat	281	110	391
Stone-Curlew	1	0	1	Lesser Whitethroat	16	4	20
Black-headed Gull	42	29	71	Willow-Warbler	154	90	244
Common Tern	17	5	22	Chiffchaff	14	11	25
Little Tern	5	1	6	Wood-Warbler	7	3	10
Razorbill	3	0	3	Goldcrest	18	4	22
Guillemot	2	1	3	Firecrest	1	0	1
Stock-Dove	5	6	11	Spotted Flycatcher	20	4	24
Wood-Pigeon	3	2	5	Pied Flycatcher	39	17	56
Turtle-Dove	7	17	24	Hedge-Sparrow	164	31	195
Cuckoo	2	1	3	Meadow-Pipit	229	30	259
Barn-Owl	12	0	12	Tree-Pipit	8	2	10
Little Owl	6	0	6	Rock-Pipit	5	1	6
Tawny Owl	2	0	2	Hed Wagtail/White			
Long-eared Owl	1	3	4	Wagtail	30	11	41
Short-eared Owl	0	5	5	Yellow Wagtail	71	10	81
Nightjar	3	0	3	Great Grey Shrike	1	0	1
Swift	11	1	12	Red-backed Shrike	43	37	80
Green Woodpecker	0	1	1	Starling	177	97	274
Wryneck	1	1	2	Greenfinch	200	221	421
Wood-Lark	12	0	12	Goldfinch	19	1	20
Sky-Lark	125	18	143	Linnet	197	94	291
Swallow	102	33	135	Bullfinch	5	1	6
House-Martin	15	3	18	Chaffinch	188	277	465
Sand-Martin	3	0	3	Brambling	46	187	233
Jackdaw	4	0	4	Yellow Bunting	43	16	59
Great Tit	51	18	69	Corn-Bunting	4	0	4
Blue Tit	181	30	211	Reed-Bunting	164	5	169
Coal-Tit	9	0	9	Snow-Bunting	149	0	149
Long-tailed Tit	8	0	8	House-Sparrow	346	33	379
Treecreeper	3	6	9	Tree-Sparrow	27	3	30
Wren	34	11	45				
Black-bellied Dipper	0	1	1	GRAND TOTALS	4,797	1,782	6,579

ANNUAL RECORD

(1949-50 : 1,254 birds of 60 species
 1950-51 : 1,060 birds of 57 species
 1951-52 : 1,466 birds of 71 species
 1952-53 : 1,017 birds of 76 species
 1953-54 : 1,782 birds of 76 species
 1949-54 : 6,579 birds of 106 species

SELECTED RINGING RECOVERIES

(Notified in 1954)

	<i>Ringed</i>	<i>Recovered</i>	
MALLARD	... Mileham, King's Lynn. 12.12.52.	... Bravik (Ostergötland), Sweden. 13.8.53.	<i>British Birds.</i>
MALLARD	... Ludham. 3.12.50.	... Garding (Schleswig-Holstein), Germany. 12.10.53.	<i>British Birds.</i>
MALLARD	... Mileham, King's Lynn. 19.11.52.	... Stenlille (Zealand), Denmark. 13.8.53.	<i>British Birds.</i>
MALLARD	... Cley. 1.3.54.	... Lake Ilmen, Novgorod, U.S.S.R. 23.9.54.	W.F.B. for C.O.
MALLARD	... Cley. 26.2.54.	... Kalmar, S. Sweden. 5.6.54.	W.F.B. for C.O.
GARGANEY	... Colchester. 25.8.53.	... Salthouse. 5.9.53.	<i>British Birds.</i>
PINK-FOOTED GOOSE	... Central Iceland. 25.7.51.	... Norfolk. 31.1.53.	Wildfowl Trust.
KESTREL Smith's Knoll Lightship (25 miles off Yarmouth). 27.9.53.	... St. Vaast en Cambresis (Nord), France. 13.10.53.	<i>British Birds.</i>
OYSTERCATCHER	... Holkham. 4.8.51 (as young)	... Baie de Somme, France. 24.5.53.	<i>British Birds.</i>
OYSTERCATCHER	... Scolt Head. 10.4.54 (as young)	... Brittany, France. Mid- October 1954.	E.D.
KNOT Midnes, S.W. Iceland. 8.9.53 (as passage migrant).	... Breydon. 5.1.54.	H.D.
DUNLIN South of Stavanger, Norway. 9.9.51	... Blakeney. 30.1.54.	G. Bullard <i>per</i> C.O.

	<i>Ringed</i>	<i>Recovered</i>	
GREATER BLACK-BACKED GULL	Island of Rott, near Stavanger, Norway. 14.6.53 (as young).	Caister-on-Sea. 1.3.54.	R.H.H.
GREATER BLACK-BACKED GULL	Near Florø, between Sogne Fiord and Stat, Norway. 22.6.53 (as young).	Harford Bridges, Norwich. 20.2.54.	Miss N. H. Benn.
BLACK-HEADED GULL ...	Oosterwolde, Friesland, Holland. 16.6.54 (as young).	Holkham. 2.9.54.	P. Edwards <i>per</i> C.O.
SWALLOW...	Cley. 31.7.53 (as adult).	Nested where ringed, 1954.	C.O.
SONG-THRUSH ...	Cley. 15.11.53.	Solihull, Birmingham. 4.2.54.	C.O.
BLACKBIRD ...	Heligoland. 23.10.53.	West Somerton, early February, 1954.	M.J.S.
BLACKBIRD ...	Sheringham. 23.1.54.	Skien, South Norway. 22.4.54.	C.O.
STONECHAT ...	Cley. 28.10.52 (as adult).	Seen Cley repeatedly, January 1954.	C.O.
WHITETHROAT ...	Salthouse. 26.8.53 (as juvenile).	Re-trapped Salthouse. 9.5.54.	C.O.
WHITETHROAT ...	Cley. 6.7.52 (as juvenile).	Dead below Cromer light-house. 4.5.54.	C.O.
MEADOW-PIPIT ...	Cley. 30.5.53 (as nestling).	Bidart, Basses-Pyrenees, S.W. France. 3.10.53.	C.O.
MEADOW-PIPIT ...	Cley. 16.5.54 (as nestling).	Faro, S. Portugal. 8.11.54.	C.O.
PIED WAGTAIL ...	Cley. 21.5.53 (as nestling).	Scratby, Gt. Yarmouth. 6.5.54.	C.O.

	<i>Ringed</i>	<i>Recovered</i>
YELLOW WAGTAIL	...	Nested same territory, 1954. C.O.
STARLING	...	Malmö, Sweden. 20.9.54. A.G.H.
STARLING	...	Light vessel Newarp (10 miles N.E. of Caister). R.H.H. 8.11.54.
STARLING	...	Gorleston-on-Sea. 9.5.54. H.D.
STARLING	...	Earsham. 3.2.54. E.A.E.
STARLING	...	Briston, Melton Constable, 26.1.54. E.A.E.
STARLING	...	West Raynham. February 1954. H. Nelson, <i>per</i> C.O.
LINNET	...	Vicenza, Venice, Italy. 10.11.54. C.O.
LINNET	...	Cadiz, S. Spain. 22.10.54. C.O.
LINNET	...	Souprosse, Landes, W. France. 1.4.54. C.O.
CHAFFINCH	...	Caught and released Deurne, Antwerp, Belgium. 31.10.54. C.O.
CHAFFINCH	...	Captured, Deurne, Antwerp, Belgium. 11.11.54. C.O.
BRAMBLING	...	Captured near Antwerp, Belgium. 26.10.54. C.O.
STARLING	...	Latvia (record of date and locality missing).
STARLING	...	Meldorf, Holstein, Germany, 30.5.53.
STARLING	...	Island of Mellum off Jade Bay, Heligoland Bight. 27.9.53.
STARLING	...	Reeuwijk, Gouda, S. Holland. 23.12.52.
LINNET	...	Cley. 29.11.53 (netted at roost).
LINNET	...	Cley. 6.6.54 (as nestling).
LINNET	...	Cley. 29.7.53 (as juvenile).
CHAFFINCH	...	Cley. 11.11.53 (netted at roost).
CHAFFINCH	...	Cley. 11.11.53 (netted at roost).
BRAMBLING	...	Cley. 24.2.54 (netted at roost).

CLASSIFIED NOTES

The Wash and Fen records, which have been highly selected (principally for comparison with records from other parts of the Cambridge Bird Club area), have been taken from the draft of the C.B.C. Report. Fuller details of these records, and of many others, may be found in the *Cambridge Bird Club Report* for 1954.

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 are for 1954, unless otherwise stated. The initials following records refer to the observer responsible.

1 Black-throated Diver

North coast: Blakeney, single birds January 6th (HH), March 10th (CO) and December 18th (MFMM). 1-2 Sheringham January 17th (MJML, ICTN) and one, Kelling, November 25th (HH). Wash: One, Snettisham, February 28th-March 14th (CBC).

2 Great Northern Diver

North coast: Single birds on coast between Brancaster and Salthouse on 12 dates up to April 6th and from October 27th (12 observers). One, Taverham gravel pits, January 30th (LWL); one, Breydon, December 8th (EBG). Wash: Single birds at Snettisham, January 17th and Heacham, December 30th (CBC).

4 Red-throated Diver

North coast: Reported almost daily in small numbers up to April 19th and again from early September to end of year. Inland: One, Seamere, January 4th-17th (CG). Breck: One, Stradsett Lake, March 14th (JUC).

5 Great Crested Grebe

During May and June, a count was made of the total number of adult Great Crested Grebes. On waters where it was found that the birds fluctuated even at the height of the breeding season, minimum and maximum numbers are given. In the 1931 survey, 53 waters in the county held about 202 *pairs* (*British Birds*, Vol. XXVI, pp. 78-9). In 1954, the total number had decreased to about 342 *adults*. 44 waters were occupied. Those nesting (unsuccessfully) at Horsey Mere were the first to do so since the 1938 sea flood.

Breckland waters: Didlington Lake, 2 (one pair); Mickle Mere, 7-12; Narford Lake, 6 (3 pairs); Saham Tony Mere, 6-14 (but only 2 pairs bred); Stanford Water, 4; Stradsett Lake, 2 (one pair); Thompson Water, 2 (one pair); West Acre gravel pits, 2 and West Wretham Hill Mere, 2 (one pair).

Mid. and North Norfolk waters: Beeston St. Lawrence Lake, 4; Blickling Lake, 4; Felbrigg Lake, 2; Gunton Great Water and Pond, 6; Hingham Seamere, 9; Holkham Lake, 6; Lenwade gravel pits, 6; Lyng (Elsing) gravel pits, 2; Melton Constable Lake, 2; Scoulton Mere, 4; Taverham gravel pits, 8, and Wolterton Lake, 2.

Broads : Alderfen, 4 ; Barton, 26-34 (11 nests found in a day) ; Burnt-fen, 2 ; Decoy Broad, Woodbastwick, 4 ; Filby, 24 ; Heigham Sounds, 6 ; Hickling, 22 ; Horsey, 4 ; Hoveton Great Broad, 12, and Little Broad, 6 ; Ormesby, 24 ; Ranworth Inner, 16, and Outer, 4 ; Rockland, 24 ; Rollesby, 44 ; Salthouse, 4 ; South Walsham Inner, 10, and Outer, 2 ; Surlingham, 2 ; Upton, 4 : Woodbastwick Old Hall Broad, 2 and Wroxham, 8.

Between July and October, the majority desert their breeding quarters. Numbers appear in autumn and winter off the North coast between Holme and Cley. To the Wash, outside the breeding season, it is a common visitor to the channels and the coast north of Wolferton, and at times considerable concentrations have been seen—e.g., 50 on November 14th, 1952 ; 60 on August 30th, 1954 and 50 on December 30th, 1954. However, most records, even from careful surveys at high-tide, refer to small numbers (up to 12) only, and it seems probable that the birds spend most of the time too far offshore for convenient observation. It seems to be rather more numerous in autumn (August-October) than in winter and there are no recent records for May or June. It is a scarce autumn/winter vagrant to the Fens, recorded recently (August-March) from Wisbech Sewage Farm, the Ouse at Hilgay and the Ouse Washes.

The return to inland waters begins in February (occasionally by the end of January), with peak numbers during March. (Information from 21 observers. Breckland summary by AEV, other waters by MJS, Wash and Fen accounts by ICTN).

6 Red-necked Grebe

Single birds on north coast at Cley, January 23rd (MM) ; Blakeney, February 26th (HH) ; Overy Staithe, March 6th (GMSE) ; Cley, October 24th (PRC) ; Salthouse, October 31st and November 21st (AW) ; Blakeney, December 13th (DGWH, DGB). Wash : Snettisham, one on February 28th and March 14th (CBC).

7 Slavonian Grebe

North coast : 19 records up to March 22nd and from November 17th. Largest number was 10 flying west off Cley, December 5th (CO). Broads : Hickling, 2 on March 5th (EP). Horsey : 2 on March 8th ; one on April 4th (GC). One, Blickling Lake, March 22nd (RP) to April 2nd (RPB-O). Wash : 3 records, January-March 14th (CBC).

8 Black-necked Grebe

North coast : 1-2 noted on 12 dates during January-March and November-December. Broads : One, Heigham Sounds, March 6th and 16th (EP). One, Gunton Pond, January 24th (MJS), and one, Blickling Lake, March 16th-26th (RPB-O). Wash : 5 winter records of 1-5 birds (CBC).

14 Storm-Petrel

One caught in a Scottish drifter's net and brought to Yarmouth, October 23rd (RHH). Either a Leach's or Storm-Petrel was captured and killed by a large immature gull off Cley, October 17th (CO).

16 Manx Shearwater

North coast : One off Cley, July 27th (BB) ; one, Blakeney Point, September 20th, 4 on 21st (WHD) and 4 on October 6th (MR) ; singles at

Scolt Head, September 20th, 21st and October 4th (RC), and off Holme, September 12th (*per* AEV). Wash : Single birds found dead, Snettisham beach, February 28th and March 13th (CBC).

26 Fulmar Petrel

North coast : First observed displaying on cliffs January 12th (RAFC). About 20–25 pairs present during summer between Weybourne and Mundesley. One pair successfully reared a young one in a rabbit hole 300 yards inland from the cliff edge (RPB-O).

27 Gannet

North coast : Occasional throughout year, but especially in September and in winter following northerly gales (CO). East coast : Winterton, up to 24 during October–November (I.MCL).

28 Cormorant

Largest numbers reported were 45 at Breydon, April 4th (RIIH) and 77 flying down River Yare at Buckenham, February 6th (PDK, MJS). Single birds considered to be of the Southern race (*Phalacrocorax c. sinensis*) reported from the Wash (Snettisham) on February 28th and July 25th (CBC), at Cley, January 31st, and at Hickling, April 10th (PRC, PDK).

29 Shag

An immature at Breydon, September 7th (GMSE). An injured bird caught near Reedham Ferry, February 6th (RIIH). An immature obtained at Bunwell (25 miles from the sea), December 24th (O. LEBBELL *per* EAE). 3, Sheringham, February 6th (PRC). One dead adult and one live immature at Cley, February 21st, and another there on March 7th (CO). One, Scolt Head, December 2nd (RC). Wash : One, Hunstanton, December 15th (CBC).

30 Heron

All known heronries (except Upton) were visited :

Borders of Wash : Snettisham, 16 nests. *Fenland* : Islington, 127 ; Denver Sluice, 23. *Breckland* : West Bilney Warren, 2 ; Black Dyke, Feltwell, 6 ; Didlington Park, one (probably 3) ; Thompson Water, 5, and Wrettenham Park, 8–9 (AEV). *Mid-Norfolk* : Kimberley Park, about 20 (EQB). *Broads area* : General McHardy's Wood, Hickling, 3 ; Whiteslea, one ; Heigham Sounds Wood, 8 (EP) ; America Wood, Earsham, 14 (JWM) ; Ditchingham, one (MS) ; Fishley Carr, Acle, 7 ; Wickhampton, 37 (RJ) ; Decoy Carr, Reedham, 3 (a new site—PWPB) ; Calthorpe, 2 (*per* ED) ; Catfield, one (DSM) ; Buckenham, 40–43 ; Mautby, 18 ; Ranworth, 8 (MJS) ; Horstead, 2 (JFP) and Ranworth marshes (Horning Hall), one (RB). *North Norfolk* : Melton Constable, 11 (RPB-O) ; Holkham Park, at least 15 (RAR) and Wiveton Hall, one (RGB). Total, 381 nests.

None nested at Hardley (*per* EAE), or Oxborough, where about 6 nests up to 1953 (AEV).

38 Bittern

It is difficult to assess the numbers of this species with accuracy, but there were probably some 60 booming males in the county in 1954. All

are in the Broads district (the majority in the Barton, Hickling and Horsey areas), except 5 boomers on the North coast at Cley and Salthouse.

The male Bittern is markedly polygamous (Lord W. Percy, *Three Studies in Bird Character*, p. 24). Evidence of polygamy has also been noted at Hickling (the late J. VINCENT and EP) and at Cley (WFB).

Breck : Single birds at Thompson Water, January 24th (ETD) and December 26th (AEV) and also at Diddlington on December 6th, 1953 (LBC).
Fens : One found exhausted in cold weather in early February at King's Lynn Beet Factory was later released at Narford Lake (*per* AEV).

42 Spoonbill

Scolt Head : 16, May 9th (RC). Cley : 2, June 10th ; one, June 26th-27th, July 15th, 18th-29th ; and August 10th (WFB, AHD, CO). Breydon : 2, May 1st-11th ; 2, 29th ; 5, June 16th ; 9, July 4th and on 10th they were joined by tenth bird. By July 24th, 4 remained and these stayed until August 12th (RHH). Hickling Broad : 2, May 15th ; one, 29th ; 4, June 6th ; 2 3, June 7th-18th ; 11, July 7th and 7, 17th (GB, EP, MJS).

45 Mallard

Breck : Largest number at Narford—1,000 on October 12th (AEV). Wash : (Wolferton-Heacham) : Largest estimate was 2,000 on January 11th (CBC).

46 Teal

Broads : Largest flock was 300 at Ranworth Broad on December 26th (HJC). Breck : Numbers rather low. Maximum flock, 68 at Hillington on November 28th (AEV).

47 Garganey

First, Cley, March 23rd (AHD, RP) and noted on passage at Breydon, Horsey and Blickling Lake, March 28th-April 20th. Present in summer at Hickling (6 pairs), Ranworth (one pair bred) and Cantley Reservoir. Breck : A pair at Thompson Water, May 11th (DEP).

49 Gadwall

Broads : Bred Hoveton Great Broad (TRCB) ; 2, Hickling, May 9th and 18th (EP, GT).

One pair bred Scoulton Mere (GJ, JFP).

Breck : Maximum winter flocks of 30 (ETD) and 22 (GJ) are far below normal.

50 Wigeon

During third week of February an estimated total of 11,000 present on north coast, Broads and Breydon. Last spring birds noted at Breydon May 22nd (RHH). A "pricked" drake spent the summer at Cley, where 2 noted, July 15th-16th (CO). First autumn birds at Hickling, August 20th (EP) and at Blakeney and Breydon on 22nd (ETD, RHH). Breck : Most records are in February and March ; maximum 70 on floodwater at Little Cressingham (DEP).

Wash (Wolferton-Heacham) : 4,500 on November 21st was largest estimate (CBC).

52 Pintail

Parties of 20–40 not often exceeded except at Breydon, where maximum of 173, March 21st (MJS), and the Wash (Wolferton-Heacham), where 90 February 13th (CBC). No definite breeding records, but up to 6 flying young at Cley, July 2nd–8th (WFB, CO). First autumn birds at Holme, August 29th (MJS).

For an account (by ICTN) of the status of Pintail in the Fens see *British Birds*, Vol. XLVII, pp. 395–97.

53 Shoveler

Largest number was 500 at Ranworth, end of January (RB); otherwise no records of more than 40 together. Nesting reported at Ranworth (50 pairs—HJC) and Hoveton Broads (TRCB) and at Cley (2 pairs—WFB). Breck: Small numbers at all seasons.

54 [Red-crested Pochard

A drake at Blickling Lake, March 16th–26th (7 observers), at Hickling Broad, April 22nd–May 20th (EP), and at Rockland Broad, May 26th–27th (MJS) may have been an escape. This species and other ornamental waterfowl are reared at Great Fransham near Dereham, and the young are not pinioned (SIR S. RENSCHAW).]

55 Scaup

Unusually numerous on North coast, Breydon and Broads following the cold spell in early February. The records include at least 100 flying east at Sheringham, January 29th; 30 flying east at Cley on 30th and at least 60 moving west at Cley on 31st. 60, Blakeney harbour in early February; 32, Breydon, February 2nd; 20 on river Yare at Buckenham on 6th and 23, Rockland Broad on 20th. Up to 9 in river Yare almost in centre of Yarmouth, February 2nd–3rd. Last spring birds (4) at Cley, May 8th. Autumn records from August 21st (one, Cley) and 9 at Breydon on November 28th was largest number reported in latter part of year (many observers). Scaup at Seamere on May 28th and August 25th (CG) may have come from Great Fransham (11 miles away) where the species is kept with other waterfowl; the young are not pinioned (SIR S. RENSCHAW). Breck: A drake on Thompson Water on February 28th, March 10th and 17th (DEP). Wash (Snettisham area): A maximum of 100, January–April (CBC).

56 Tufted Duck

Broads area: Largest flocks were 150 on river Yare at Buckenham on February 6th (PDK, MJS) and 250, Hickling Broad, on 21st (MJS). Breck: Broods seen at Rush Mere (3) and Fowl Mere (2) and birds also present at Thompson and Didlington in summer. Largest winter flock, 34, at Stanford on December 26th (DL, FJT-P, AEV).

57 Pochard

Broads: Largest numbers were 250, Horsey Mere, January 24th (GC) and 360, Rockland Broad, February 20th (MJS). Only breeding locality in East Norfolk was Hoveton (TRCB). Breck: 3 broods at Rush Mere

(AEV). Maximum winter flocks, 85, Fowl Mere, February 21st (AEV) and 90, Mickle Mere, March 28th (ALB).

60 Golden-eye

Usual winter records from the north coast, Broads and Breydon, with maximum of 90 at Hickling Broad on March 6th (EP). Breck: 3 at Thompson Water, March 10th (DEP) and one at Tottington West Mere, December 26th (AEV). Wash: Largest number 40 at Snettisham, January 30th (CBC).

61 Long-tailed Duck

North coast: Single birds at Cley, January 3rd (PRC, PDK); Holme, October 10th (PN, AEV); Blakeney, February 9th and December 20th (WE) and Scolt Head, November 15th (RC). Wash: 6 drakes, Hunstanton, December 15th (CBC).

62 Velvet Scoter

North coast: 1-3 reported on 13 dates in January, March and October-December. East coast: 1-2 off Yarmouth, September 6th-9th, with 6 on 5th (GMSE). Wash: Hunstanton, 2 on August 27th and 30 on December 15th (CBC).

64 Common Scoter

Present in varying numbers off North and East coast all year. Wash (Snettisham-Heacham): Maximum of 1,000, October-December (CBC). Inland records from Seamere (one, May 19th - CG) and Ranworth Broad (7, November 2nd - HJC).

67 Eider-Duck

Recorded on North coast between Brancaster and Cromer in every month. Parties did not exceed 5 except at Scolt Head, where maxima were 18 on January 24th (AEV); 40-45 on April 11th; 15-20 on 13th and 14 on June 25th (RC). Wash: 6, Hunstanton, December 15th (CBC).

69 Red-breasted Merganser

North coast (Brancaster-Weybourne): 1-7 noted on 43 dates up to April 1st and from September 17th. Adult drakes reported on 5 occasions only (many observers). East coast: One, Breydon, October 30th (MJS). Wash: Many winter records with maximum of 20 at Snettisham, March 13th (CBC).

70 Goosander

10 records for North coast (Brancaster-Sheringham), 10 for Gunton, Holkham and Taverham Lakes, 6 for Horsey and Rockland Broads, one for Breydon and 2 for Breck (Thompson Water). Numbers did not exceed 6 in any one locality. Records up to March 20th and from November 21st. Adult drakes reported on 10 occasions (many observers). Wash: Singles on February 28th and November 21st (CBC).

71 Smew

Between January and March 25th, 5 records for North coast (Overy Staithe and Cley), 3 for Holkham and Taverham Lakes, 17 for Hickling,

Horse, Ranworth and Rockland Broads and lower reaches of river Yare. Largest numbers were 21 (8 drakes) on Yare, February 6th (PDK, MJS, SFS) and 32 (10 drakes) on Rockland Broad on 20th (MJS). Fens: Welney-Denver Washes, 35 on February 7th and 4 on 27th (CBC). Only record for latter part of year is of 2 at Ranworth Broad on December 8th (HJC).

73 Sheld-Duck

Largest number reported from Wash (Wolferton-Heacham) where 1,000 on January 30th and March 14th (CBC). Very few young successfully reared at Breydon (RHH), Scolt Head (RC) or Blakeney (WE). New breeding localities include old quarries and pits at Langham and Wiveton (HH) and Ormesby Broad (EGS). (See *Norfolk Bird Report*, 1953). One pair bred successfully at Cantley reservoir (MJS).

76 White-fronted Goose

Breydon area: Further decrease noted. 150 present until February 20th when increase to 250 noted. Last observed (gaggle of 70) on March 9th. 200 arrived December 11th, remaining until end of year (RHH). The greatest numbers of White-fronts and Pink-feet were reached in the Breydon area during the period 1939-46, with a peak of 3,000 (RHH). North coast: 6, Cley, January 6th (JWD, NHP); 10, Holme, March 14th (AEV). Wash: 17, Snettisham, December 14th (CBC).

78 Bean-Goose (*Anser a. arvensis*)

North coast: One flying west off Sheringham, January 3rd (WHD) and one, Blakeney Point, October 1st (MM). Details supplied. Buckenham: 1954-55 winter: None arrived. The first Bean-Goose was shot at Buckenham in 1924 and the largest number seen there was 1,000 in 1937 (RHH). The numbers appearing in recent winters at this locality are supplied by RHH:

1939-40: 180	1944-45: 250	1949-50: 54
1940-41: 196	1945-46: 187	1950-51: 120
1941-42: 200	1946-47: 227	1951-52: None
1942-43: 158	1947-48: None	1952-53: 75
1943-44: 250	1948-49: 150	1953-54: None

Pink-footed Goose (*A. a. brachyrhynchus*)

Breydon area: Further decrease in numbers. Up to 60 on the Bure marshes, January-March 6th. First autumn record, 22 on October 6th and 40-50 from November 13th onwards (RHH). North coast: Cley, 2 on February 21st (PDK) and 17 on 22nd (CO). Fens: Largest flocks reported were 250-300 (CBC).

80 Brent Goose

North coast: Blakeney: Maximum of 300 at end of February (WE) and last recorded on April 22nd (5-co). First in autumn November 18th increasing to 500 by December 10th (WE). Brancaster: Up to 250, January-February 8th and last observed on March 31st. First autumn birds November 15th (RC) and by end of year 120-160 present (JFP). Smaller numbers (40-50) noted until April 4th at Wells and Cley and parties totalling 85 heading west off Cley, November 7th (PDK, RAR).

East coast : 12, Horsey marshes, February 17th-19th (AB, GC). 2, River Bure near Four Mile House, January 27th. 6, Breydon, February 6th-March 21st (RHU). Those seen close enough were all of the dark-breasted form (*Branta b. bernicla*), except 29 pale-breasted birds (*B. b. hrota*) at Blakeney, December 5th (BPP).

82 Canada Goose

Largest numbers at Holkham Lake, where 475 (including goslings) on June 30th (RAR). Breeding records from Scoulton Mere (2 pairs-GJ), Lenwade Gravel Pits (one pair-ETD), Melton Constable Lake (2 pairs-RPB-O), and Cringleford (one pair *per* MJS). Breck summer counts : Narford, 6-7 pairs (one brood ; 28 birds on September 12th-AEV) ; West Acre Gravel Pits, 1-2 pairs (one brood-AEV) ; Diddlington, one pair (LBC) ; Lynford Lake, one brood hatched under hen (LBC) ; Mickle Mere, one pair (bred-FJT-P), also seen at Fowl Mere (ALB, AEV) and 6 birds at Ring Mere in March (rcs) ; Shadwell, one pair bred (DL, *per* AEV) ; Riddlesworth, 4 pairs (one brood-AEV) and Saham Toney Mere, one bird (AEV). This gives a total of 15-19 pairs attempting to breed in the Norfolk Breck, but only 6 broods were seen (AEV).

85 Whooper-Swan

North coast : Cley, 16 on January 8th (JWD, NHP) ; 3, February 8th (WFB) ; one, February 28th-March 25th and one from October 2nd (an early date) till end of year (co). Blakeney, 3, March 2nd and single birds on 12th, 17th and 20th (HU). Herd of about 100 flying east, Blakeney Point, December 26th and 38, Holkham Bay, next day (mw). Holme, 6, March 14th ; one, October 24th-December 5th (EJC, PN, AEV) ; one, December 15th (MJML) ; one, Selbrigg Pond, March 9th-10th (RPB-O). Broads : Wheatfen, 6, January 31st (EAE). Horsey, 18, January 7th and 47, February 19th (GC). Hickling, 2, February 4th ; 3 on 21st (EP). Breydon : 6, January 30th ; 2, March 7th-20th (RHU). Breck : Stanford Water, 7, December 26th (AEV). Also 2, November 15th, 1953, and 4, December 20th, 1953 (LBC).

86 Bewick's Swan

North coast : Cley, 2, January 6th (WFB, co) ; 3, February 21st-March 26th, when they left with a passing herd of 26 (co). Blakeney, 13 flying west, January 7th (HU). Breydon : 6, January 30th (MJS, GT). Fens : Welney-Denver Washes, up to 11, February 14th-March 21st (CBC).

91 Buzzard

Singles at Holt Hall, March 3rd (RPB-O) ; Salthouse Heath, July 29th (RAR) ; Blakeney, August 4th (HH) ; Northrepps, early September (Lord Templewood) and Acle marshes, September 14th (CRT, BWJ).

99 Marsh-Harrier

Broads : 5 pairs bred and at least 15 young were successfully reared. A number of records from coastal marshes, May-September.

100 Hen-Harrier

Odd birds in coastal areas up to April 20th (co) and from October 28th (EP). Breck : One, Weeting Heath, February 22nd (JG) and 2, Lopham Fen, November 23rd (RRS). Adult males noted on 6 occasions.

102 Montagu's Harrier

Broads : 3 pairs bred but only 4 young were successfully reared. 1-3 reported from three coastal areas between April 28th and August 23rd (several observers). Wash : Snettisham area, one on June 27th and July 13th and 4 on August 8th—suggesting possible breeding somewhere on the Sandringham Estate (CBC).

103 Osprey

One, Hiekling Broad, May 16th-22nd (GB, EP, GT).

104 Hobby

North coast : One, Blakeney, May 11th (HH) ; one, Sheringham on 12th (PRC) and a pair at Cley (one seen to take a Swift-AHD), 25th-27th (CO). This pair was seen in zooming courtship flight (RAR). One at Cley, June 29th and July 25th (CO). One came in from sea, Cromer, July 24th (MM) and one, Hempstead, on 28th (HH). Breck : Singles on July 28th (LBC) and August 6th (FJT-P).

105 Peregrine Falcon

Frequent coastal records up to April 30th (AHD) and from September 25th (WHD).

106 Gyr Falcon

One in the Cley area, January 1st, 6th-8th (RPB-O, WFB, AHD, NHP). (See *Norfolk Bird Report*, 1953). One, Blakeney Point, October 1st (MM). "A very large pale grey falcon with no 'moustaches.' Pale greyish underparts."

107 Merlin

Records, mainly single birds, up to May 9th (RAFC) and from September 15th (AHD).

110 Kestrel

Westerly passage, Cley, August 8th, and September 1st-3rd with some coming in from sea (CO). Similar movement, Blakeney, August 12th-13th (HH). A pair bred in Norwich Cathedral Tower (*per* RMB). An albino recovered at Attlebridge, mid-September (JHW).

117 Quail

Only reported from Raynham Park where a pair and a single bird flushed, and another heard calling, June 16th (ICTN).

120 Water-Rail

Breeding season records from Raynham Park Lake (one heard June 16th-ICTN) ; Seamere (one nest-CG) ; Strumpshaw (one nest-*per* EAE) ; Cley and Hiekling. One seen to fly in from sea, Salthouse, October 4th (CMV). Usual winter records from North coast and Broads. During hard weather in early February, one observed eating a dead dunlin at Cley (PJ) and 20 together at an open pool at Surlingham Broad (*per* EAE).

121 Spotted Crake

Broads area : Single birds at Bargate, near Surlingham, during January. 2, Wheatfen, January 24th (EAE) and one, Horsey on 22nd (AB). One near

Rockland, February 6th (PDK, MJS). One heard, Horsey, June 25th (GC). Singles at Brinton, February 6th-12th (RPB-o), Salthouse, October 10th (HH) and Cley, third week of December (WHD).

125 Corncrake

Broads: One, Horsey, June 11th (GC). A female was killed through striking wires at Billington, near Dereham, October 12th (A. J. PARFITT *per* EAE). Wash: Single birds at North Wootton, August 26th and at Terrington, September 9th (CBC).

131 Oystercatcher

Breeding records from Breydon (2 pairs, but only one pair successful-RHH), Cley, Blakeney and Scolt Head. Broads: Horsey. Returned March 9th, but none bred (GC). Hickling. 4, April 22nd; 2, May 8th and 16th and August 15th (EP, MJS). Estimates of largest winter flocks on North coast include 350 at Blakeney (WE), 5-600 at Scolt Head (AEV), and 2,000 at Wells (HH). Wash: Snettisham area. One pair bred. Winter maxima as usual around 2-3,000. Autumn counts include 4,000, August 30th. The high-tide roost north of Hunstanton (see *Norfolk Bird Report*, 1953) is at times at Gore Point (where 2,000, August 21st), but at times further east-3,500 flew east at Holme as the tide rose on October 10th (CBC).

133 Lapwing

North coast: Westward passage noted June 20th-July 10th and September 19th-November 20th. Peak movements on September 23rd, October 8th and November 9th (CO and other observers).

135 Little Ringed Plover

North coast: Cley, one on May 11th-13th and 24th; 2 on August 31st; one on most dates between September 1st and October 2nd (many observers); one, October 11th (MJR). Blakeney Point, 2, May 10th-14th and 2, October 4th (HH).

Broads: Hickling, 2, June 5th and one, August 13th (JCC, EP). Wash: Single birds, June 27th, August 26th and September 1st (CBC).

136 Kentish Plover

A female at Cley, May 26th (PRC, RAR).

139 Grey Plover

Recorded in every month on North coast. Largest number was 60 in Blakeney harbour, November 18th (HH). Broads: Hickling, one, May 20th (GT) and June 20th (EP, MJS), 4 August 18th (JCC). Wash: Largest winter flock 300, Snettisham, December 30th (CBC).

140 Golden Plover

Winter and passage records up to May 8th and from August 23rd. Largest number reported was 154 at Horsey, September 18th (GC). Single birds of the Northern race (*Charadrius a. altifrons*) at Cley, May 12th and 16th-19th (CO).

142 Dotterel

One, Cley, April 11th (AHD).

143 Turnstone

Recorded in every month on North coast with maximum of 150 at Blakeney, January 28th (HH). Broads: Hickling, 2, May 20th (GT); one August 12th-20th and a small party on 21st (JCC). Wash: Largest number, 600, Snettisham-Heacham, December 30th (CBC).

144 Red-breasted Snipe

One, Scolt Head, October 14th (REP). Full details appear in *British Birds*, Vol. XLVIII, p. 138. This is the fifth record for the county.

147 Jack Snipe

Small numbers reported from suitable localities up to April 16th (CO) and from October 2nd (RHH).

148 Woodcock

Noted, usually in vicinity of coast, up to March 31st and from September 22nd. Many arrived at Cley, November 6th (CO). Records of breeding localities are being retained for a summary in a future Report.

150 Curlew

North coast: Largest counts include 400, Blakeney harbour, September 18th and 23rd (HH) and 1,000 Scolt Head, July 18th (RC). Several heard over Thorpe End, near Norwich, after dark on July 31st and August 1st (PDK). Wash: Wolferton-Snettisham area, 8-10,000 on October 24th (CBC). The largest count yet recorded here.

151 Whimbrel

4 early birds at Cley, March 20th (CO). Main spring passage from April 28th to May 30th. Birds most numerous May 6th-14th, when records include 47 at Horsey (GC) and 40-50 at Breydon (RHH). Return passage July 6th (RHH) to October 21st (HH), with peak numbers during August. Wash: Maximum 100, Wolferton, August 15th and 22nd. Late birds Snettisham, November 2nd (CBC).

154 Black-tailed Godwit

29 records from North coast and Broads (Hickling and Horsey), between March 25th and November 21st. Largest numbers were 30 at Hickling, May 5th and 20-30 in Blakeney harbour, August 25th (MM). Wash: Lynn Point-Snettisham, 1-4 on five dates, May-August (CBC).

155 Bar-tailed Godwit

North coast: Largest counts, Blakeney, 47, April 19th (BLS); Wells, 50, January 3rd (PDK) and Brancaster, 200, December 30th (JFP). A westerly movement noted at Cley on September 4th with one flock of 55 birds (CO). Broads: Horsey, 8, January 23rd; one on August 23rd and 6 on 26th (GC). Wash: Maximum number, 1,500 on October 10th, roosting east of Holme with the Oystercatchers (CBC).

156 Green Sandpiper

Winter and spring records from Cley (April-May, with maximum of 10 on May 10th); Wiveton (December); Horsey Mere (November); Breydon (November-December); Rockland Broad (February); Taverham Mill (January-April, November); Runhall (January, March-April); Kimberley Lake (February, May); Barford (April) and river Wensum at Tatterford (March).

Main passage from July 9th to October 24th (many observers).

157 Wood-Sandpiper

Spring passage noted at Cley, Blakeney and Horsey between April 27th and May 25th. Small peak of 6 on May 18th when one bird was in full song-flight (co).

Autumn passage records from Holkham, Blakeney, Cley, Hickling and Cantley reservoir between July 22nd and September 9th. Largest number was 10-15 at Cley, September 9th (WFB).

159 Common Sandpiper

Passage records, April 19th-June 8th and July 10th-October 25th. One winter record: 2, Horsey Mere, January 26th (GC).

162 Spotted Redshank

North coast: Cley, single birds on many dates between January 6th and May 4th. Up to 3 between August 2nd and September 24th and one remained until end of year (co). Blakeney/Morston area, singles on September 6th-8th and 18th (HH); October 14th (PRC) and December 22nd (PK). Burnham, one, November 28th (EJC, AEV). Broads: Hickling, up to 5, April 16th-26th; one on May 21st. Up to 6, August 18th-25th (JCC, EP). Horsey, one, August 19th (GC). Breydon area: Singles on May 11th (RHH) and December 30th (PWPB).

165 Greenshank

Passage records from Breydon, Broads and North coast, March 8th-June 12th and July 11th-November 7th. Maximum, 25 at Breydon on September 8th (GMSE). Winter records from Blakeney harbour (February 23rd and December 23rd-WE). Wash: Largest number, 50, Wolferton roose, August 26th (CBC).

169 Knot

Largest numbers reported from Breydon (2,000 end of January-RHH), Blakeney (2,000 December 31st-HH), Wells (1,500-2,000 November 24th and several thousands December 29th-HH), Scolt Head (1,000 January 24th-AEV), and the Wash (Snettisham area, 20-25,000 at high tide, November 7th-CBC). Broads area: Hickling, 1-2, August 20th and 24th (EP); 2 parties, August 23rd (JCC). Horsey, 32 on a flooded marsh, August 26th (GC). Berney Arms, 4 on a flooded marsh, December 30th (PWPB).

170 Purple Sandpiper

North coast: One ringed Cley, August 1st, remained till the 8th (co). 1-3 in Blakeney harbour on January 4th and 25th, March 2nd, July 28th,

October 4th, December 13th and 31st (DGB, WE, DGWH, HH). 3, Burnham Overy, October 28th (HH). 2, Scolt Head, October 2nd (RC). East coast : 3, Yarmouth harbour entrance, January 3rd (RHH).

171 Little Stint

Spring : 2 at Cley, April 7th (RAR) ; 1-2 at Blakeney harbour, Cley and Hickling Broad, May 16th-29th (HH, CO, EP). Autumn : Up to 4 at Cley and Salthouse, Blakeney harbour and Hickling Broad, July 21st-October 19th (many observers). Wash : Largest concentrations were 40, Terrington, August 27th and 100, Lynn Point, August 26th-27th (CBC).

173 Temminck's Stint

Cley : 2, May 18th, one on 26th and 2 on 27th (CO) and one, August 4th (E.McE). Fens : One, South Lynn Beet Factory, September 1st (CBC). Wash : One, Lynn Point, August 28th (CBC).

176 Pectoral Sandpiper

One at Cley, October 2nd (WFB, AHD).

178 Dunlin

During cold weather in early February small numbers driven well inland up rivers in Broads area (EAE) and 2-3,000 at Breydon (RHH). Wash : Largest concentration 10,000, Wolferton roost, January 30th—an unusually large number (CBC). First juvenile noted at Cley on July 7th (CO).

179 Curlew-Sandpiper

Only two spring records : Single birds at Breydon on May 8th (RHH) and at Blakeney on 17th (HH). Autumn passage from August 21st to October 19th when small parties on North coast (Blakeney, Cley, Salthouse) and at Breydon, with 25-30 at Salthouse on September 3rd (WFB). Fens : 50, South Lynn Beet Factory, August 30th-September 1st (CBC). Wash : 50, Terrington, August 27th, was largest number (CBC).

181 Sanderling

Recorded in every month. Passage and winter records from thirteen localities on North and East coasts. Largest numbers : 85 at Winterton, October 13th (I.McL) ; 100 at Scolt Head, January 24th and October 3rd ; 100 at Holme, September 26th and October 10th (AEV). Broads : 2 at Hickling, April 22nd (EP). Wash : Wolferton Heacham, maximum of 1,500 on August 21st (CBC).

184 Ruff

North coast : Cley area, one, February 14th (PDK), 4 on 15th (WFB) and one on 28th (BWJ). Spring passage, March 4th-June 6th, when up to 8, including 3 birds in full breeding plumage. Autumn passage, August 25th-September 26th with 30 on August 25th and September 9th (WFB, AHD). Winter : One, Overy Staithe, November 21st (GMSE). Broads : Hickling and Horsey. Spring passage, April 6th-May 27th, when up to 15, including birds in almost full plumage. Autumn passage up to 11 noted July 23rd-August 30th (many observers). East coast : Breydon,

one, May 8th (RHH) ; 2, September 5th and one heading south at Yarmouth on 8th (GMSE). Wash : Maximum 12 at Wolferton, August 26th (CBC).

185 Avocet

Breydon : 14 on March 11th (RHH), 2 on April 25th (ABMM), 6 on 28th and 2 on May 2nd (RHH). Single birds at Yarmouth South Denes, March 18th-20th (RHH), Horsey, March 21st (GC) and Brancaster harbour, November 21st (HAC, FP) and December 30th (RC, JFP).

187 Grey Phalarope

Singles at Blakeney on September 27th (CO) and at Cley on September 30th (WFB) and December 5th-6th (WFB, CO).

188 Red-necked Phalarope

Cley : One in breeding plumage, June 27th (PRC, GM, RAR, GS), one on August 23rd (WFB, RPB-O, AHD), 3 on 25th (AHD, MM) and one on 31st (MM).

189 Stone-Curlew

First, Gayton, March 23rd (JSA).

193 Arctic Skua

Singly at Cley, January 3rd (PRC, PDK) and June 27th (PJ). 2 at Cley, July 27th (BB) and 2 at Holkham on 31st (JSA). Main autumn passage (most records from North coast) began last week August, with up to 20 passing in a day. 12 on October 25th (CO) and one on November 4th (WE) were last dates. Wash : Snettisham-Hunstanton, up to 6 between August 6th and November 7th. At Lynn Point (Ouse mouth), 34 flew inland up the Ouse before a N.N.W. gale in the course of an hour on August 24th ; in the same period two other parties flew N.N.W. down the river and 4 flew N.E. up the coast without passing inland (CBC).

194 Great Skua

North coast : Single birds on ten dates off Blakeney, Cley and Salthouse, August 26th-October 6th (several observers). East coast : One off Eccles, August 26th (EH). Wash : One off Old Hunstanton, August 6th (CBC).

195 Pomatorhine Skua

One at Cley, September 27th (PRC). Satisfactory details supplied.

196 Long-tailed Skua

One at Cley, September 22nd (RAR). Full details have been received.

198 Greater Black-backed Gull

Maximum number roosting on Winterton beach during late autumn was 550, October 19th (I.McL). Up to 450 at Wells, October and 400, Blakeney, December (HH). Breck : 400 roosting at Mickle Mere and 100 at Fowl Mere, January 10th (AEV).

199 Lesser Black-backed Gull

Largest passage movements noted at Gore Point, Holme, where 80 on August 21st (60 per cent dark mantled *Larus f. fuscus*) and 100 on October 10th and at Brancaster where 100 on October 3rd (AEV). Winter records : Singly at Blakeney, January 4th (HH), Postwick, February 6th (PDK), Cley, December 9th (BPP) and Reedham, December 26th (PWPB). 5 at Wells, December 29th (HH).

200 Herring-Gull

Largest numbers : Holme, 1,300 at roost, August 21st (AEV). Breck : 300 roosting at Mickle Mere, January 10th (AEV). Wash : Snettisham high tide roost, maximum of 3,000, October 3rd and 31st (CBC).

202 Glaucous Gull

1-2 reported on eighteen dates at Brancaster, Burnham Overy, Blakeney, Cley, Salthouse and Sheringham up to April 20th and from November 6th (many observers). East coast : Singles at Yarmouth harbour, March 6th (DIMW) and first week of April (RHII). One at Breydon, April 22nd (RHH). Wash : One, Snettisham, February 28th (CBC).

203 Iceland Gull

North coast : Sheringham. The bird first noted December 16th, 1953, remained until January 16th ; another there (probably first winter) on February 1st-3rd (PRC). Single immatures at Blakeney, January 28th (HH) and Cley beach, March 7th (CO).

205 Mediterranean Black-headed Gull

The adult which arrived at Sheringham, December 7th, 1953, remained until January 21st (PRC).

207 Little Gull

North coast : Cley, 2 on January 3rd and 31st ; one on February 7th ; 2 on August 23rd and 28th ; 2 on September 7th and one on 20th ; 3 on December 5th. Blakeney, singles on January 28th, May 7th, June 4th, August 14th, September 21st and 27th, and November 16th. Sheringham, one, December 26th. West Runton, one, November 27th (12 observers). Wash : One, Heacham, September 19th (CBC).

208 Black-headed Gull

Breeding localities : North coast : Scolt Head, 250-300 pairs (RC) ; Morston, about 150 pairs (HH) ; Cley and Salthouse, several hundred pairs (RAR). Broads area : Cantley reservoir, 130 pairs (MJS) ; Alderfen Broad, 5-600 pairs (MJS). Fens : Wissington Beet Factory, 150 pairs (AEV).

211 Kittiwake

Coastal records throughout the year, with maxima of 200 on Scroby Sands, July 11th (RHII) and 183 passing west off Cley in two hours, December 6th (BPP).

212 Black Tern

Unusual numbers appeared during passage seasons at Scolt Head, Overy Staithe, Blakeney, Cley, Salthouse, Palling, Scroby Sands, Breydon, Horsey, Hickling, Rockland, Blickling, Taverham, Scoulton, Mickle Mere and Thompson Water. *Spring*: Recorded on many dates between May 1st and June 19th. On May 9th there were 70, Scolt Head (RC); 50, Rockland Broad (EAE); 40-50, Taverham (ETD, LWL); 50, Thompson Water (GJ); 32, Cley and 30, Blakeney harbour (CO). On May 10th: 114, Rockland Broad (MJS); 35, Hickling (EP) and 36, Taverham (T. EASTER). *Autumn*: Recorded on many dates from August 3rd to October 5th. Usually not more than 5 birds observed (except in the Wash) but 20-30 at Blakeney harbour, August 11th and 25-30 there on the 25th (WE). *Wash*: Ouse mouth, 50 on August 28th increasing daily to 140 on September 1st; at least 220 on September 9th—a substantial proportion (up to 53) of these flew inland at each tide. Last record, October 24th (CBC).

213 White-winged Black Tern

Wash: Lynn Point, an adult still in partial summer plumage flew inland on August 24th (CBC—to whom full details supplied).

217 Common Tern

First, Cley, April 25th (CO). Last (Common/Arctic) October 16th (AW). Breeding records: *Wash*: Snettisham gravel pits (about 45 pairs nested—CBC). North coast: Scolt (900 nests), Blakeney (1,574 nests), Arnold's marsh (about 50 nests). East coast: Scroby Sands (150 nests). *Broads*: Ranworth (13 pairs nested), Hickling (2 pairs nested) and Ormesby (one pair, which also nested, 1952-53—EGS).

218 Arctic Tern

One pair nested at Blakeney Point. 2 identified at Cley, May 4th, and others May 30th and 31st during a sudden influx of Common and Arctic Terns (CO).

219 Roseate Tern

North coast: No breeding records, but 1-2 noted on many occasions, May 28th-July 30th between Scolt Head and Blakeney (RC, HH). Singly at Cley, July 18th (PRC) and at Salthouse, September 8th (BWJ, CRT).

222 Little Tern

First, Blakeney and Cley, April 26th (WE, CO). Several September records and a straggler at Blakeney, October 3rd (AW). Largest North coast breeding colonies at Scolt Head (28 nests) and Blakeney (54 nests). *Wash*: 15 pairs nested at Snettisham (CBC).

223 Sandwich Tern

Breeding colonies: 131 nests at Scolt Head, 19 eggs at Blakeney and 87 nests at Scroby Sands. Owing to bad weather very few young reached the free-flying stage. First, Cley, April 1st, increasing to 100 first week of May. Flock of 100 with some juveniles appeared there mid-July (CO). Last, Blakeney, October 19th (HH). Largest numbers

reported at Gore Point, Holme, where 5-600 at high tide on August 6th and 21st (CBC). Broads: Horsey, 3 on May 9th; 2 on June 11th (GC). Hickling, 5 on May 8th (EP).

224 Razorbill

The commonest auk during year off North coast (CO).

226 Little Auk

Single birds off Cley on January 3rd (PRC, PDK) and 31st (RAR), March 13th (PJ), November 7th (PJ) and 15th (MM).

227 Guillemot

A dead "bridled" variety at Cley, March 21st (PDK).

229 Black Guillemot

Single birds off Cley on January 3rd (PRC, PDK); September 13th, 15th, 18th-19th, and 22nd (AHD, BWJ, RAR) and November 13th (MM, DS).

230 Puffin

North coast: A few "oiled" and dead, mid-May (CO); 2 at Scolt Head (one oiled), April 17th and 2 on August 5th (RC); singles at Blakeney Point, September 21st (MEC, WHD) and at Cley, November 21st (PDK).

234 Wood-Pigeon

Very great numbers flew in from sea at Scolt Head on December 1st (RC) and at Cley on December 2nd-3rd (WFB).

235 Turtle-Dove

First, Cley, April 18th (MM); last, Blakeney, October 6th (HH).

237 Cuckoo

First, Blakeney, April 10th (HH), but not in any numbers until the 26th-27th. A juvenile at Blakeney Point, August 4th (MM).

241 Barn-Owl

A bird of the Dark-breasted race (*Tyto a. guttata*) found dead at Horsey, November 10th (AB), is now in the collection at Norwich Castle Museum.

242 Scops Owl

A female found exhausted at Horsey on August 27th (DG) died the following day and is now in the collection at Norwich Castle Museum. Full details appear in *British Birds*, Vol. XLVIII, p. 90. This is the tenth record for the county.

248 Long-eared Owl

Single pairs nested successfully at Salthouse Heath and at Kelling (CO). Singles at Cley, June 30th and November 8th (CO). Breck: One picked up, dying, on Lynford-Thetford Road, June 12th (FJT-P).

249 Short-eared Owl

1-4 (and once 7) reported in many coastal areas during the winter months. Only inland locality was Buxton Heath, where singles on February 2nd (ED) and December 19th (ETD). A pair bred near Cley and the nest, with 6 eggs, was found on May 14th. On June 4th nest held 5 young (last just hatched) and one addled egg. A week later the youngest owlet, which was being neglected, was adopted by RAR and hand reared at home for ten days. Parents then re-adopted it, but on June 29th it was trampled on and killed by cattle on the breeding marsh. The other 4 young were ringed and successfully fledged (PRC, W. R. COLTON, PDK, RAR, I. W. SMITH). Another pair were, by their behaviour, considered to be breeding near Stiffkey (HH).

252 Nightjar

First, Salthouse Heath, May 3rd (HH). Last, Cley, September 22nd (RH-C).

255 Swift

First, Cley, April 24th (CO), but main arrival not until May 8th-9th. Last, Weybourne, September 26th (AW).

261 Hoopoe

Single birds at Cromer, May 3rd-4th (RAFC) and at Cringleford, May 7th (MRS. AYTON *per* CEG).

265 Wryneck

Spring: One, Holkham Park, April 26th (RC). Autumn: A small "rush" noted August 20th-September 1st and the records are given in detail. Singles at Waxham, August 22nd (DG), Happisburgh, August 28th (ELP), Cromer, August 25th-26th (RAFC), and Kelling Street, August 26th (PRC). Blakeney/Cley area: 11, August 22nd; 2 on 23rd; 2 on 25th-26th (one ringed on 25th); one on 29th (PRC, AHD, CO, MISS SWANN); and singles on September 20th and 22nd (DGB). One at Warham, August 20th-24th (FN). Scolt Head: 2, August 25th; singles on the 26th-27th, 30th and September 1st (RC). 2-3 at Hunstanton, August 22nd (CBC).

269 Short-toed Lark

2 at Cley, September 16th (RPB-O and other observers). One was also seen on the following three days. Full details appear in *British Birds*, Vol. XLVIII, pp. 36-38. This is the first record for the county.

272 Skylark

Westerly passage noted on several dates, October 3rd-29th and on November 1st and 6th.

273 Shore-Lark

Cley: 11, February 21st (CO), one, November 16th (JS) and 5, December 13th (DGWH, DGB). Blakeney Point: Few, January 23rd (WE); 25, from March 13th to 27th, thence steady decrease till 6 there, April 18th; 3-5

there, May 7th–8th and one on the 11th (co). First autumn birds (3) on October 4th (wE); one on November 21st (co) and small party on the 25th (wE). Overy Staithe: 2, December 11th (GMSE). Scolt Head: One, March 7th; 3, April 24th and one, November 2nd–3rd (RC). Wash: Snettisham, 2 on March 14th; one on November 7th (CBC).

274 Swallow

First, Toft Monks, March 30th (*per* EAE) and a number of records from April 1st; main arrival and westerly passage started April 26th and was heaviest at Cley on the 30th (co). In autumn, westerly movement was heaviest, August 30th–31st; swarms roosting in Cley reed-beds during last half of September (co). Most had left by October 29th, but stragglers at Cley until November 7th (AHD, PJ). Albinos reported from Ormesby (EGS), Norwich and Burgh St. Peter (*per* EAE) and Cley (co).

276 House-Martin

First, Norwich, April 18th (PDK), but main arrival not until May 10th. In autumn, small westerly movements noted, August 31st and October 15th (co). Several late records during October; last, November 6th (PDK).

277 Sand-Martin

First, Wroxham, April 1st (JFP), but no large numbers until May 12th. In autumn, last noted October 10th (HH).

278 Golden Oriole

Pair at Horsey, May 26th (AB) and a male there, June 5th (GC).

281 Hooded Crow

Coastal records up to May 23rd and from October 2nd with 3 at Horsey, August 1st–15th (AW). Scarcer than usual and very few inland records.

282 Rook

Westerly passage at Cley and Blakeney, October 28th and November 8th (HH, co) and at Winterton, October 30th and November 2nd (I.McL).

290 Coal-Tit

3 arrived Cley beach, September 19th (PJ).

293 Willow-Tit

Records from Hoveton (MJS), Catfield (JCC), Beacon Hill near Sheringham (BLS), Felbrigg (RAFC) and Gayton (JSA).

294 Long-tailed Tit

8 seen from Cley East Bank moving rapidly inland through the reeds, October 5th (MJR), may have been migrants.

295 Bearded Tit

North coast: One in a reed-bed near Burnham Overy in April (JFP). Cley, one, February 1st (WFB); a male, April 11th–13th and a pair on

16th (CO) ; 2 on August 27th (RFB-O) and up to 12 from October 9th until end of year (WFB, CO). Broads area : Breeding records only from Hickling (30 pairs-EP), Horsey (several pairs-AB, GC) and river Waveney (one pair bred successfully-MJS). Birds more widespread in winter and about 30 appeared in the Ranworth area, early December (RB), whilst a small party wintered (1954-5) in the vicinity of Rockland Broad (MJS).

298 Tree-Creeper

One at Holme, October 10th (AEV) and one found dead on Cley marsh on the 26th (RH-C) may have been migrants.

299 Wren

Blakeney Point, odd birds at end of September and from end of October onwards (CO).

300 Dipper (Black-bellied race) (*Cinclus c. cinclus*)

The first-winter bird ringed at Aylsham Mill pool in November, 1953, remained there until March 30th (RAR, MR. AND MRS. RUST).

301 Mistle-Thrush

Arrivals from sea at Cley on February 7th (2-PDK) and November 7th (few-PJ).

302 Fieldfare

About 60 in from sea at Sheringham, January 25th (PRC, RAR). Late spring records include 150 at Thurne, April 29th (ABMM), over 100 at Horsey next day (GC), large flock at Grimston (DC), one at Cley, on May 3rd (CO), one at Cromer on 4th (RAF), 8 at Hockham on 7th (GJ), one at Blakeney Point on 8th (CO), and a straggler at Blakeney, May 23rd (HH). First in autumn, October 1st (CO). Large influxes, October 16th-17th, and 26th-28th, November 1st-3rd, and 7th-9th.

303 Song-Thrush

Blakeney Point, 2 on September 8th (BS) and several there, September 16th and 25th (PDK). Small numbers arrived at Cley, October 17th (CO).

304 Redwing

Spring : Considerable passage movements during last week of March, with peak on 28th. Last noted April 13th (PDK). First in autumn, October 2nd (PRC, HH), with peak movements October 15th-17th, 26th-27th and November 1st-4th. Large numbers also on October 3rd, 8th-9th, 21st and November 6th, and 14th.

307 Ring-Ouzel

Spring : Cromer, one April 24th then daily to May 8th with maximum of 15-20 on the 4th (RAF); singles, Kelling Street (PRC) and Salthouse Heath, April 11th (CO); one, Scolt Head, May 8th (RC); one, Gunton Park, May 7th (MM). Autumn : One at Cley, September 27th (PJ); 4 at Blakeney, September 19th and one there, October 21st (HH); one at Holme, September 19th (*per* AEV).

308 Blackbird

Spring : Many heard over Sheringham, after dark, March 28th (PRC). Autumn : Very large influxes during latter half of October and first half of November, with peaks on October 17th and 27th and November 1st-8th. At Horsey, November 2nd, 260 counted in a single field (GC). On the Wash, extremely large numbers present, November 7th. At sunset, a very large W.S.W. passage noted crossing the Wash from Snettisham beach ; over 2,000 in large straggling flocks were counted in eight minutes over a narrow front. Calls increased after dark (CBC).

311 Wheatear

On the coast, first noted March 19th. Thence a few daily until the 28th. Main movement began April 23rd. Between April 28th and May 17th most were of the Greenland race (*Oenanthe o. leucorhoa*). A further small influx of typical Greenland birds on May 23rd. Return passage July 17th-October 17th was heaviest in last week of August (many observers). One pair bred at Salthouse (HH, RAR). Breck : First, March 12th (CEG) and fair numbers by the 28th (ALB). A late bird on October 21st (GJ).

317 Stonechat

14 reports from coastal localities up to March 10th and from August 28th. No breeding records.

318 Whinchat

Spring passage April 30th-May 23rd, with a small peak on May 3rd-4th ; autumn passage August 9th-September 19th, with maximum numbers August 22nd-28th (CO and other observers). Breck : Records from Barnham Cross Common and Ring Mere (CWB, GJ).

320 Redstart

Spring passage in coastal areas, April 27th-May 22nd ; autumn movements August 20th-October 10th, with largest numbers in last week of August (CO and other observers). Breeding records will be summarised in a future Report.

321 Black Redstart

A single male singing at Yarmouth, May 5th, but no breeding record (RHH). Spring passage : 1-2 birds between March 19th and May 6th at Horsey, Cromer, Sheringham, Salthouse, Cley and Blakeney Point (AB, PRC, RAFC, PJ, CO). A male and a "grey" bird at Wiveton, June 8th (RGB). Autumn movement, August 22nd-November 29th with single birds on five dates at Cley and Blakeney Point (AC, WE, JJ, CO, MWW) and one on the Wash (Snettisham beach), November 7th (CBC).

322 Nightingale

First, April 17th (LBC) with main arrival April 29th-May 1st. Last, September 7th (HH).

324 Bluethroat

Spring : A male of the white-spotted race (*Cyanosylvia s. cyanecula*) at Brinton, April 18th (RFB-O). Full details appear in *British Birds*,



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Grey Plover
Cley

R. P. Bagnall-Oakeley



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Red-spotted Bluethroat
 Blakeney Point, 2nd June, 1954. See page 41



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Waxwing
 Cley



Copyright R. P. Bagnall Oakeley
White-spotted Bluethroat
 Brinton, 18th April 1954. See page 40

Vol. XLV11, p. 273. A male of the red-spotted race (*Cyanosylvia s. svecica*) at Blakeney Point, June 1st-2nd (RAR) was ringed on the 2nd. Autumn: 3-4 in the Cley/Blakeney area daily between August 22nd and 26th (WFB, AHD, WE, HH, CO). One, Holkham, August 24th (RFB-o) and one, Blakeney Point, September 5th-6th (CO). Wash: One, Terrington sea wall, August 27th (CBC).

325 Robin

Single birds at Blakeney Point, March 17th and 20th; 2-6 there, May 4th-9th (CO).

327 Grasshopper-Warbler

First, Hickling, April 29th (EP). One at Yarmouth South Denes, July 25th (PDK) may have been an early departure.

333 Reed-Warbler

First, Hickling, April 18th (EP); next recorded May 1st (CO) and plentiful from May 10th onwards. A juvenile was still being fed by parents, Cley, early October (CO). One was captured and ringed on Smith's Knoll lightship, 25 miles off Yarmouth, November 4th, 1953—a very late date (*British Birds*, Vol. XLV11, p. 407).

337 Sedge-Warbler

First, Hickling, April 8th (EP). Further arrivals April 16th-18th and plentiful from May 1st onwards.

338 Aquatic Warbler

One trapped and ringed at The Hood, Blakeney Point, on August 6th (RAR). Detailed description received.

339/340 Melodious/Icterine Warbler

2, Blakeney Point, August 25th (MM) and one, Scolt Head, October 10th (REP). These were more likely to have been Icterines, but 3 Melodious Warblers were trapped during the autumn at Portland, Lundy and Bardsey (*per* I. J. Ferguson-Lees).

343 Blackcap

First, Cley, April 12th (MM), but not widespread until May 1st. In autumn, singles at Blakeney Point, September 23rd and October 10th (CO, MR, AW) and a straggler at Horsey, October 31st (GC, I.MCL).

344 Barred Warbler

Blakeney/Cley area: In August, 2 on 19th (one ringed-PRC), 2 different birds on 22nd (CO), one on 23rd (CO), 2-3 on 24th-25th (AHD, HH, MWW) and one on 28th (HH). In September, 1-2 on 22nd (PRC, RAFC, WHD). Also one at Holkham, August 24th (RFB-o). All records are of immature birds.

346 Garden-Warbler

First, April 22nd (HH), but not widespread until May 13th. Autumn passage from August 4th with peak numbers August 20th-25th; last on October 3rd (CMV).

347 Whitethroat

First, April 14th (HH), but no numbers until April 27th–30th. Heavy movements May 1st–2nd and 8th–9th (co). Autumn passage, August 20th–September 14th with peak numbers August 22nd–24th and a straggler on October 5th (co and other observers).

348 Lesser Whitethroat

First, April 29th (IWC). Autumn passage was heaviest during last week of August; one ringed at Blakeney Point on the 26th had the wing-formula of the Siberian race, *Sylvia c. blythi* (co).

354 Willow-Warbler

First, Blickling, March 27th (co). Small but widespread arrivals April 27th–29th and heavy influxes May 1st–5th and on the 8th. Birds characteristic of the Northern race (*Phylloscopus t. acredula*) at Blakeney Point May 9th (one) and 12th (4) (co). Autumn passage from August 6th to October 3rd with peak on August 20th–22nd.

356 Chiffchaff

First, Blakeney Point, March 19th (co) and a number of records from the 29th to 31st. Last autumn record, October 5th (HH).

357 Wood-Warbler

Breeding season records from West Runton and Glandford (HH), Sheringham (one pair bred–PRC), and Kelling area (4 singing males and 2 nests found–GHCB, PRC, PDK, RAR).

364 Golderest

Single birds on spring passage in Blakeney/Cley area, March 21st–22nd and April 17th (co). Autumn movements on coast from September 5th; most marked October 10th–11th.

366 Spotted Flycatcher

First, Cley, May 1st (co) with most arrivals from May 11th. Autumn passage August 20th–October 3rd (co and other observers).

368 Pied Flycatcher

Spring: Up to 3 at Blakeney Point and Cley on six days between May 5th and the 25th (HH, co); one at Trimmingham, May 5th (RAF). Autumn: Passage records, August 6th–October 3rd; large influx, August 21st–23rd with many at Hunstanton (CBC) and on Blakeney Point (co), and over 100 at Horsey (GC).

370 Red-breasted Flycatcher

One at Blakeney, August 25th–28th (HH). Full details submitted.

371 Hedge-Sparrow

One on Blakeney Point, May 7th–9th was, by wing-formula, of the Continental race, *Prunella m. modularis* (co).

373 Meadow-Pipit

Cley : Westerly passage March 21st, 26th-27th and April 5th. Influxes noted September 8th and October 17th ; westerly passage, October 23rd, and 28th (co).

374 Richard's Pipit

One at Cromer, May 1st (RAFC). Full details appear in *British Birds*, Vol. XLVIII, pp. 187-8.

376 Tree-Pipit

First, Kelling, April 11th (PRC). Small passage at Cley, April 30th-May 26th ; one, Blakeney Point, August 20th (co).

378 Red-throated Pipit

One at Cley, June 8th (MWW, WFB). Full details appear in *British Birds*, Vol. XLVII, pp. 443-4. This is the first record for the county.

379 Rock-Pipit (*Anthus s. petrosus*)

Usual coastal records up to April 3rd and from September 22nd. Again noted in Yare valley, at Reedham (PWPB) and Buckenham (PDK, MJS). Birds of the "grey" type resembling *A.s. littoralis*, seen frequently at Cley, March 23rd-April 3rd (co). Wash : Usual records of small numbers, but 50 at Lynn Point, October 23rd (CBC).

380 Pied Wagtail/White Wagtail

Westerly spring passage of Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla a. yarrelli*) at Cley, March 18th-April 4th (co). Only three spring records of White Wagtail (*M.a. alba*) : Hickling, April 29th (ABMM) and Cromer, April 19th and 30th (RAFC). In autumn small numbers of White Wagtails at Blakeney and Holme, August 22nd-October 5th (WRPB, PRC, HH, CO).

381 Grey Wagtail

Breeding season records from seven water-mills in the Wensum, Yare, Tas and Bure valleys, but proof of nesting was only obtained at Taverham (LWL) where the hen disappeared after laying 4 eggs. At most sites the birds are resident throughout the year (EQB, MJS and other observers).

382 Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla f. flavissima*)

First, Cley, April 7th (co) and main influx April 25th. Autumn peak of passage birds, September 8th (co) ; last, October 4th (MJR).

Blue-headed Wagtail (*M.f. flava*)

Single males at Cromer, May 5th (RAFC) and at Blakeney, September 8th (HH).

383 Waxwing

Up to 10, January 2nd-17th at Wheatfen (EAE). Up to 8 together on nine dates between January 15th and March 14th in gardens in Norwich (MISS G. BEESON, RMB, TM, per MJS). 4 at Norton near Loddon, December 31st (GJ).

384 Great Grey Shrike

One, Salthouse Heath, April 14th–18th (co). Breck : One, Barnham Cross Common, Thetford, March 12th (rcs). No autumn records.

388 Red-backed Shrike

First, Cley, May 9th (co). Most abundant in North Norfolk where 10 pairs in Kelling and Salthouse Heaths and Cley area; all reared young successfully (PRC). Breck : Singles at Mundford, May 9th (LBC) and at Wretham on 14th (GJ) are the only records. During last week of August, an immature at Blakeney Point, 22nd–23rd (co), another on Cley beach, 22nd–25th (PJ) and 5 in the Wash area between Snettisham and Old Hunstanton on 22nd (CBC).

389 Starling

Westerly passage observed on many days in North and East Norfolk, October 8th–November 14th, and was heaviest October 27th–29th and on November 1st (co and other observers). A pale fawn variety shot at Briston, near Melton Constable, January 25th, is now in the collection at Norwich Castle Museum (*per* RMB). A bird with an abnormally long decurved lower mandible regularly visited a Norwich garden until early August (SFS).

394 Siskin

Noted at Taverham, January 7th and February 28th (LWL), 12 at Binham, January 31st (RS), 10 on Salthouse Heath, December 18th and for several days afterwards (MFMM, CO), 15 at Buxton Heath, December 19th (ETD). Breck : One at Mundford, November 8th, 1953 (LBC).

395 Linnet

Spring : Marked westerly passage, Cley, April 5th (co). Autumn : Some in from sea at Cley, then turning west, October 17th (co).

396 Twite

North coast : One at Scolt Head, December 31st (JFP), 5 at Burnham, October 28th (HH) and 2 at Wells, February 7th (PRC, PDK). At Cley, 6–12, January 17th (ICTN), 30, February 14th (PDK) and 3, December 18th (MFMM). Wash : 20, Snettisham, March 14th (CBC).

397 Redpoll

Breeding season records from Cromer (one pair bred–RAFC), Sheringham (PRC) and High Kelling (PRC, RAR). Elsewhere, 15 in Holkham Park, February 21st (PRC, PDK), one at Morston, December 20th (PRC). one flying west at Cley, October 26th (co), 12 at Wheatfen, January 31st (EAE, MJS) and 1–3 at Taverham, January 10th–17th (LWL). Wash : Usual summer records from Wolferton area. 4–5 at Snettisham, March 14th and November 21st (CBC). Birds considered to be Mealy Redpolls (*Carduelis f. flammea*) at Taverham, February 12th (LWL) and at Blakeney, February 17th (HH).

404 Crossbill

North Norfolk : Frequently noted in one locality up to mid-May with maximum of 27 together (GUCB). One at Holkham, July 31st (JSA).

Breck : Very few breeding records—details of only 3–4 pairs (many observers).

407 Chaffinch

Huge winter roost of Chaffinches, Linnets and Bramblings in rhododendrons, Salthouse Heath (co). A few coasting eastward, Blakeney Point, March 21st (co). Very heavy westerly passage, October 15th–23rd ; few passing on November 1st (co).

408 Brambling

Widely reported, especially in North Norfolk, January–March, with large flocks of hundreds in several localities (many observers). Last spring dates : Singles at Kelling, April 28th and at Sheringham, May 10th (PRC). First seen in autumn, October 2nd, at Morston (PRC), but heaviest passage through coastal areas October 15th–16th, with smaller numbers, November 1st (co). Very few reported, November–December.

410 Corn-Bunting

Largest flock reported was 22 at Cley, March 28th–31st (co).

415 Cirl Bunting

One at Morston, October 5th (III).

416 Ortolan Bunting

A female at Cley, May 17th (RAR). Full details received.

420 Little Bunting

One at Stiffkey, October 5th (III). A detailed description has been submitted.

421 Reed-Bunting

Flock of 50 at Cley, October 10th (PJ)—an unusual number.

422 Lapland Bunting

Cley/Blakeney area : The autumn 1953 birds did not winter this year. 2, February 28th and one, March 20th (co) are only records until the first autumn bird, at Blakeney Point, September 18th–19th (BS). First at Cley, September 21st and 6–12 remained there at end of year (co). Morston : 2–9 between November 3rd and December 10th (PRC). Overy Staithe : One, December 11th (GMSE). Holme/Thornham area : At least 35, January 10th (EJC, PN), 3 (2 males), April 19th (HFD, TCS), singles, March 14th and October 10th (EJC, AEV).

423 Snow-Bunting

North and East coasts : Reported from a number of localities, January–March and October–December. Last spring record was a single bird at Salthouse, April 14th (co) ; first in autumn, at Cley, September 9th (SCB, KD). Largest number, 350–400 at Cley during December (co). Wash : Largest flock 80, Snettisham, January 30th (CBC).

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