

THE NORFOLK BIRD REPORT



19 AUG 1957
PRESENTED

1955



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1955

Compiled by

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Assisted by the Records Committee :

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INTRODUCTION

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

The first three weeks of 1955 were very cold and there was a further period of hard weather in the second half of February. Considerable numbers of wildfowl, including smew and Bewick's swans, visited the county. Among the white-fronted geese wintering in East Norfolk, one lesser white-front was detected.

Features of the spring migration in May were the large influxes of wheatears on the 9th and 10th and, on the north coast, a heavy westerly passage of hirundines and swifts during the first week. Migrants of special interest included little egret, white-winged black tern, ashy-headed wagtail, woodchat shrike and ortolan bunting.

Although June was cool and rather wet, real summer weather made amends in July and the breeding season was a successful one for most species. Exceptional numbers of golden orioles were noted. Fewer spoonbills than usual visited Norfolk and no short-eared owls are known to have nested in the county.

The early autumn migration was of great interest. The impressive list of rare birds of passage included bluethroats, icterine and barred warblers, red-breasted flycatchers, tawny pipits and a notable number of ortolan buntings. A subalpine warbler appeared at The Hood, Blakeney Point. Visiting waders of particular interest seen in the autumn were two pectoral sandpipers and a white-rumped sandpiper.

During October, there were heavy passage movements and a number of great grey shrikes arrived. Unusual numbers of little auks frequented inshore waters in the autumn, over seventy being counted on one day. After being scarce in the winter of 1954-55, hooded crows returned to the coast during the autumn in above-average numbers. Inland, they have been replaced by increasing numbers of greater black-backed gulls. Towards the end of the year, exceptional numbers of eider-ducks appeared in The Wash, while bean-geese made a welcome return to the Yare Valley after a two-year absence. During 1955, 233 species of birds were observed in the county.

We are indebted to Mr. R. A. Richardson for the cover drawing of lapwings and other delightful sketches. Thanks are due to Mr. Philip Wayre and Mr. R. P. Bagnall-Oakeley for their interesting photographs ; to Mr. A. E. Vine for drafting the notes from Breckland ; to the Cambridge Bird Club (in particular Mr. I. C. T. Nisbet) and to all other contributors.

Once again, members are requested to send in their records early in the New Year to Mr. Michael J. Seago, 33 Acacia Road, Thorpe, Norwich.

Notes on Breeding Birds of the Norfolk Nature Reserves.

The exceptionally cold winds of April, frequently accompanied by heavy rain, continued well into May and the breeding season started very late particularly on the coastal reserves. In spite of early set-backs however, it proved to be a most successful one because it continued until the late summer.

There were losses among the early nesting ducks, notably the mallard, due to lack of cover. Bad weather was mainly responsible but carrion crows, which appear to have increased in Norfolk in recent years, are becoming a nuisance, and in spite of the vigilance of the Wardens succeed in taking eggs and young from outlying nests of exposed areas such as Scolt Head and Blakeney Point. However, the loss of early broods of duck in most cases was made good by the success of later ones.

The high mortality rate so common among newly-hatched chicks on the terneries was evident this season among the black-headed gulls of Alderfen Broad. The news that research into the causes of this will be carried out on some of the large bird communities in Norfolk in 1956 is therefore most welcome.

All species of Broadland birds had a successful season and this was most apparent among the bearded tits at Hickling and Horsey. An estimate of forty pairs nesting round Hickling Broad and Heigham Sounds is the highest number on record since 1935. At Horsey a party of a hundred to a hundred and fifty was feeding round the Mere in the early autumn.

SCOLT HEAD ISLAND

(Leased to the Nature Conservancy)

WARDEN : ROBERT CHESTNEY

Sandwich terns were seen in early April and a few pairs arrived at the usual time at Scolt Head but breeding was long delayed. Common terns did not really start to nest until the third week in May and the Sandwich terns in the first week of



June. By this time, food was plentiful inshore and the first chicks did well and were on the wing in three weeks. Those in later nests were hatching in the cold wet spell of the second week of June and mortality among them was very high indeed. However the breeding season went on until the end of July and chicks were hatched in early August. There were very few losses from vermin, but outlying nests were frequently robbed by gulls and carrion crows. A peregrine falcon was seen taking young terns on the wing on two occasions in early August.

MALLARD.—Twenty to twenty-five pairs were seen in the area early in the season but none of the early broods survived, many being washed out by high tides. This was the fate of a nest with nine eggs found on the Hut marsh on April 18th.

SHELD-DUCK.—An estimated number of 150 to 200 pairs. These were distributed on both sides of Norton creek during March, but as in former years very few broods of young were seen at the end of the breeding season. For this reason, at the end of July, the Warden dug out several sites known to have been used by nesting birds. He found that only two of the seven nests investigated had hatched normally. The young in the other five had died in the eggs, the shells of which were abnormally hard and thick. A suggested explanation is that due to the persistent strong winds (often from the east) the adult birds are completely dry when they return to the nest after feeding and washing so that the eggs do not receive sufficient moisture. A few

young were seen in late July, and a pair of adults with a brood in Norton Creek on August 4th.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE.—No nest was found but a brood of seven chicks judged to be a week old was seen. Only three of these reached the flying stage.

OYSTERCATCHER.—Eighty-nine pairs were well distributed on all the usual sites by the end of March, but nesting did not begin until the second week of May although a few scrapes were made much earlier. The first of fifteen nests in the ternery area hatched on June 5th. A few eggs were washed out by the high tide on June 20th and some in outlying nests away from the ternery were robbed by gulls and carrion crows.

RINGED PLOVER.—The number of pairs was estimated at 170 to 185. The first nest with eggs was found on Beach Point on April 17th but the breeding season was not in full swing until the second week in May. The first nest to hatch was noted on June 1st.

REDSHANK.—A hundred pairs were estimated of which thirty nests were in the dunes between the Hut and the ternery. The first with eggs was found on April 26th.

BLACK-HEADED GULL.—Up to 200 pairs nesting on the marshes were washed out by high tides on five occasions. In a further attempt by twenty-six pairs the nests were robbed by carrion crows.

COMMON TERN.—A count of 1,118 nests was made. The first birds were seen on April 27th. The number fluctuated from day to day until May 16th, when it was estimated that a thousand were on the ternery. On May 18th a gale with rain caused another set-back by covering the nests with from six inches to a foot of sand. The birds finally settled down on May 25th and the first eggs were laid next day. These were hatching in the third week of June and with plenty of food and fine weather the mortality rate among the chicks was very low. Three weeks later, following cold winds and rain on July 10th, a large proportion of the newly-hatched chicks died. The last 200 nests started to hatch on July 6th.

ROSEATE TERN.—Single birds were seen and heard on May 30th and June 15th, and on three occasions in July but none nested.

LITTLE TERN.—Twenty-seven nests were counted. The first arrivals were seen on April 26th; the first nests on June 20th. The majority of these were on the beach between the terney and the Hut dunes but others were on the ternery, Smugglers Gap and at the eastern end of the island where a gap was made by the surge in 1953.

SANDWICH TERN.—There were ninety-three nests from which eighty chicks were reared. Birds were first seen on April 3rd and fourteen pairs were on the ternery on May 9th, but after laying a few eggs these left. On June 2nd fifteen to twenty pairs started to nest in two groups, one on the ternery and the other on the Far Point. On June 10th there were eighty-seven nests in three groups. The first chicks hatched on June 23rd. A number in the free flying stage were noted during the first week of August.

SKYLARK.—Fourteen nests found.

SWALLOW.—One pair nested by the Hut and reared a brood of three. The adults left as soon as the young were on the wing and made no attempt to nest a second time.

MEADOW-PIBIT.—Seven nests found.

LINNET.—Five nests.



BLAKENEY POINT

(The National Trust)

WARDEN : W. EALES

Mr. Eales describes the breeding season as the latest he has known since he followed his father as Warden of the Point in 1938. Visitors at Whitsun, often the busiest week-end of the

summer, were astonished to find that the terns had scarcely begun to nest ; there were only a few nests of ringed plover and oystercatcher to show them.

SHELD-DUCK.—A large number returned to the Point during March and from forty-five to fifty breeding pairs were estimated. Although rather fewer than in recent seasons this number again bore no relation to the very few broods seen later and following investigation the Warden found that roughly half the eggs were infertile. The first young were seen on July 21st, but only five or less were seen in any one brood. Nesting on the Point is likely to become increasingly difficult for sheld-ducks following the extermination of the rabbits by myxomatosis.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE.—Two pairs nested. This number appears to have remained constant for several years. Eleven young were reared.

OYSTERCATCHER.—Ninety-two nests were marked. Breeding birds began to pair in April, and a few preliminary scrapes were made but the first nest was not found until May 11th, a fortnight later than the average date.

RINGED PLOVER.—Seventy-two nests were marked, not quite as many as in 1954. They were also late in breeding and only six nests had been found by mid-May. Three of the four eggs hatched in a nest found at the beginning of August on the Far Point and the young reached the flying stage.

REDSHANK.—Fifteen nests were found. Those on the Morston marshes also did well and were not washed-out as in previous years. When this happens the birds move on to the Point making a considerable increase in the number of breeding pairs there.

COMMON TERN.—A count of 1,164 nests was made during July. Although the first birds arrived on April 27th there were only two nests on May 15th (Whit Sunday). Breeding began in earnest at the beginning of June and there was plenty of food inshore by the time the chicks were hatched. The number which reached the flying stage was as high as in the best season remembered, in spite of the loss of a good many chicks which were washed from the Far Point in the

bad weather and high tides of August 7th. Sixty nestlings were ringed. Two recoveries of these were recorded in September 1955; one found dead at Spalding in Lincolnshire and another on Clacton beach.

ROSEATE TERN.—None nested but one was heard frequently throughout the season from May 30th.

ARCTIC TERN.—Two pairs bred, one on the Far Point and the other on the site on the old ternery which has been used by these birds for some years. Both pairs were very aggressive and would "stoop" at visitors approaching within 500 yards, sometimes drawing blood. The two chicks hatched in the nest on the Far Point on July 22nd and were ringed in the flying stage.

LITTLE TERN.—A total of sixty-seven nests counted. Birds were first seen on April 20th, but were very late in breeding and the first nest was not seen until May 26th. The season appeared to be a good one on the whole. Very few chicks were found dead except during the bad spell of weather at the beginning of August, but as they leave the nest within about twelve hours of hatching the number of survivors to reach the flying stage is difficult to assess. Eggs in some very late nests on the Old Ternery hatched on August 9th.

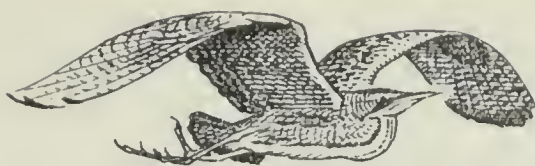
SANDWICH TERN.—The behaviour of these birds in 1954 was repeated in 1955. A small party laid one or two eggs but left them and did not return to the nests. Following the erosion of all the higher shingle ridges in the 1953 surge there is at present no suitable nesting ground for them.

CLEY AND SALTHOUSE

(The Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

WARDEN: W. F. BISHOP

The breeding season proved to be one of the best on record. A few early nesting mallard lost their first clutches due to lack of cover, but reared very good broods in their second attempt. Shoveler and garganey returned to nest on the marsh again, an indication that it has completely recovered from the salt condition left by the 1953 surge. Bearded tits which were lost to



the reserve following that flooding did not return in time to breed but were seen again in the autumn. In order to provide additional cover for them during the winter, some reed-shelters were built and the birds have made use of them and of the food provided there by Mr. Bishop during very bad weather.

BITTERN.—Four nests were found, the first—with four eggs—on April 13th. Thirteen young were reared. A further four nests believed to be on the marsh were not looked for. At the beginning of the season fifteen adults were estimated, but only four were boomers.

MALLARD.—Sixty-five to seventy pairs were estimated, a very considerable increase. Good broods were reared in all the later nests. Young birds on the wing were first seen on June 22nd.

GARGANEY.—One pair bred and reared a brood of seven.

SHOVELER.—Four pairs bred and reared good broods, the first to nest on the marsh since 1952.

SIELD-DUCK.—Sixty pairs were estimated in the surrounding area. The first brood of young was seen on June 10th.

WATER-RAIL.—The number is always difficult to assess, but they were frequently heard and there is no doubt that they flourish on the marsh. Three pairs at least were known to have bred.

OYSTERCATCHER.—There were fewer nests than usual on the beach and outskirts of the reserve, and none was found on arable ground this season.

LAPWING.—Forty pairs estimated, an increase for the second year in succession.

RINGED PLOVER.—A good average number of pairs nested in the area and were successful in rearing more young than in the previous very wet summer.

COMMON SNIPE.—Two birds were heard “drumming” over the marsh throughout the summer and almost certainly bred, although nests were not found.

WOODCOCK.—Two males were seen “roding” in the adjoining upland but no nest was found.

REDSHANK.—These were as plentiful as usual, an estimated number of from sixty to seventy pairs having nested.

STONE-CURLEW.—Three nests were found in which young were reared. Anxiety is felt for the future of the birds in this area owing to the cultivation of so much of the ground suitable for them.

COMMON TERN.—Sixty-three nests counted on Arnold’s marsh. Earlier ones were washed out in stormy weather, but the successful rearing of later broods made up for this.

LITTLE TERN.—These also suffered loss of their first nests, but subsequently reared second broods. Twenty-six pairs were counted along the beach between Cley and Salthouse.

REED- AND SEDGE-WARBLED.—These were well distributed over the marsh and were as numerous as usual.

YELLOW WAGTAIL.—There were more on the upland than on the marsh this season, but taken on the whole the number of nests was a good average.

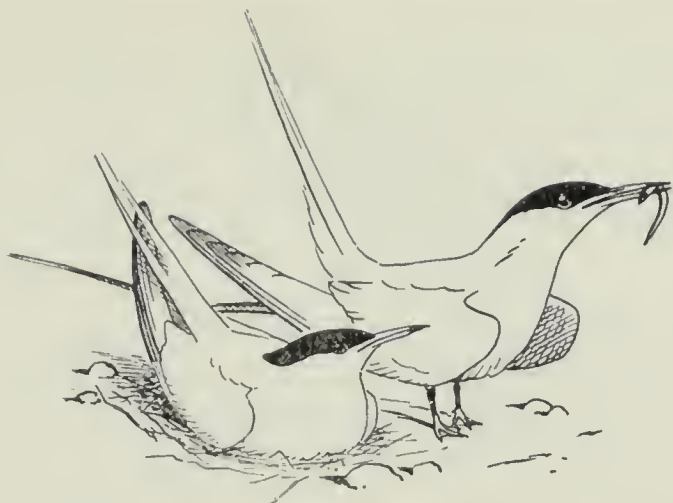
REED-BUNTING.—A small increase in the number of nests noted.

RANWORTH

(The Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

KEEPER: R. BROWNE

For the second year in succession there was a marked increase in the number of pairs of mallard and shoveler. It is unfortunate that every year, mallard return to their nesting sites at Ranworth before there is sufficient covert or food, with the inevitable loss of a number of the first broods. The number of teal was about the same as in 1954, but there were no garganey. The small colony of common terns met with misfortune; some of their nests were washed out during a very heavy storm and



others were robbed by carrion crows. There is no doubt that the nests of great crested grebes were also robbed either by crows or coots.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE.—Eight pairs nested and seven young were reared.

HERON.—Thirty nests were occupied in the Big Carr, a big increase on last year's number.

MALLARD.—150 pairs were estimated on the surrounding marshes. The nests are widely distributed over so large an area that it is impracticable to count them.

TEAL.—An estimate of from twenty to thirty pairs.

SHOVELER.—An estimate of at least seventy pairs.

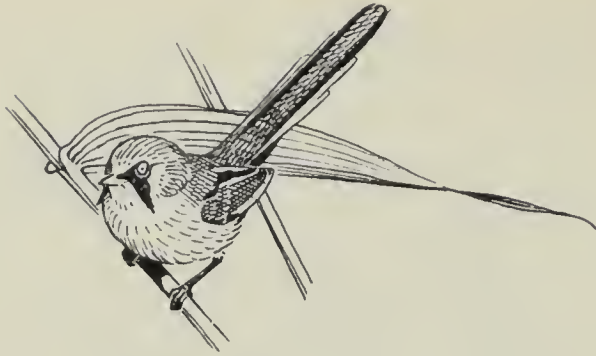
COMMON TERN.—These were seen first on April 26th. Six nests on the old wherries were found to contain full clutches on June 9th. Three nests were washed out by heavy rain on June 12th and others were robbed by crows. A few of the birds laid again, but none of the young reached the flying stage.

HICKLING

(The Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

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

The season was an excellent one with a record number of pairs of bearded tits. A few nests were lost in the cold wet weather of April and, as at Cley, the first broods of mallard suffered at this



time. All later nesting birds flourished in the warm dry summer.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE.—There were fourteen pairs on the Broad and Heigham Sounds. Eight nests were found, including one with a clutch of four eggs near Ling's Mill on June 15th.

HERON.—Nine nests were occupied, five in Sounds wood, two in General McHardy's and two in Whiteslea wood.

BITTERN.—There was evidence of an increase in the number of breeding birds and there were at least seven males. Booming began on March 4th and was last heard on June 26th. Three nests were found, the first on May 14th with three young and one egg; another on May 16th had five young and the third found on May 26th had two young and two eggs.

MALLARD.—Many of the first broods of ducklings died in the cold wet weather of the early spring. The first of the second brood nests was found on Deary's marsh on May 9th.

GARGANEY.—No nest was found although a number were seen during the season from April 4th onwards.

SHOVELER.—One nest was found on the Lodge marsh on May 7th and the brood was successfully reared.

SHELD-DUCK.—A brood of eight was seen on Rush Hills on June 13th. No nest was found but it may have been in an adjoining plantation where on a former occasion it was under a bramble bush.

MUTE SWAN.—A large herd of 210 birds was feeding on the Broad throughout the summer. Six nests were found, the first with three eggs on June 15th.

MARSH-HARRIER.—A cock was heard calling on April 15th and nest building was in progress on April 25th. The first nest, with six eggs was found on May 12th. Three pairs bred and young were reared successfully by two of them. The eggs in the third nest were infertile. Seven nestlings were ringed.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER.—Two pairs bred on the reserve and four young were ringed. The first nest, with three eggs was found on Whiteslea marsh on May 23rd, and had hatched on June 20th. The second nest with young ready to fly, was found on July 25th.

KESTREL.—Two nests were found, one in Town wood on May 10th and the other in Whiteslea wood on May 15th.

WATER-RAIL.—A number of birds were seen and heard during the breeding season and were considered to be as many as usual although nests were not looked for.

LAPWING.—There were rather more than the average number of pairs with at least twenty nests on the marshes near the Lodge. The first nest was found on May 15th.

REDSHANK.—These returned to Whiteslea on March 15th. There were fifteen to twenty pairs nesting on the marshes by the Lodge and there were others on Stubbs Mill marsh. The first nest was found on April 25th.

COMMON TERN.—Three pairs nested on Rush Hills, but only one pair was successful in rearing their two chicks.

BARN-OWL.—A pair nested on the gable of the Lodge. Two other pairs nested in hollow trees outside the reserve.

HOUSE-MARTIN.—Although the first arrival was seen on April 8th the birds nesting under the eaves of the Lodge did not return until May 4th. Seventeen nests were occupied.

BEARDED TIT.—Forty pairs nested round the Broad and Heigham Sounds. The season was an excellent one and numbers were seen throughout the autumn and early winter. The first nest with five eggs, was found on April 12th, the last with six young, on July 13th.

GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER.—Reeling was first heard on April 22nd. Ten pairs estimated.

REED-WARBLER.—First heard on April 18th. There were as many as ever on the reserve.

SEDGE-WARBLER.—These were first seen on April 14th and were as numerous as usual.

YELLOW WAGTAIL.—The first arrivals were seen on April 11th. A good average number of pairs nested on the marshes near the Lodge and Stubbs Mill. Three nests were found.

REED-BUNTING.—These continue to be common in the area. One nest with a brood ready to fly was found on June 1st.



NOTES FROM HORSEY

BY MAJOR ANTHONY BUXTON

Although the spring and migratory birds were late in coming, the summer made up for the backwardness of spring. To our certain knowledge twelve golden orioles passed through Horsey Hall garden, a record number in my time.

The most interesting event for me was the return of the pair of nightingales which reared a brood in 1954. Up to that time only two had been heard at Horsey since 1931 and in each case had passed through on the same day. Our pair came to the same place as in the previous year and we found the nest before the eggs had hatched. Five young flew. It was interesting to watch the change in colouring of the young; in the downy stage they look quite black but turn to nightingale brown before they fly. The following incident was one of many of interest: The cock bird was sitting in a broom bush by Mr. Crees' house swearing hard apparently at the retriever, which was with us as we

watched from the garden gate. On looking round, Mr. Crees found his cat on the other side of the house only a few yards from the bird. The nightingale only swore at the cat, never at a dog.

There were no great crested grebes or water-rails nesting at Horsey this year.

BITTERNs were booming from March 19th. A nest with four eggs was found on April 28th and three young were reared.

MARSH-HARRIERS were particularly entertaining: One pair hatched six young, but the last to arrive which was several days younger than number five was killed in a day of pouring rain. The rest all flew and within a month were expert at taking a "pass" in the air. A second pair, unattractive and immature, laid three eggs and hatched only one chick which died the following day. Another superb pair, very easy to recognise were apparently scared by reed-cutters working about 400 yards away and went elsewhere. The hen was not seen again but the cock reappeared in mid-summer courting a pretty young red-brown hen. He seemed not to find time to feed her in the middle of the day having, no doubt, another hen or hens somewhere else, probably at Hickling. She finally left him, but not before we had seen some of the best aerial courting displays that I have ever witnessed from a cock marsh-harrier.

MONTAGU'S HARRIERS did not nest at Horsey this season. A hen was seen on April 25th followed by two cocks next day. A pair settled in Brayden, but left again.

OYSTERCATCHERS returned to the marshes on March 30th and later were joined by a second pair, but no nest was found.

BEARDED TITS.—1955 was the second of two great bearded tit years that I have known. From nine pairs whose nests were found we reckon about 150 young flew. All the pairs we knew hatched three broods. In one nest the second brood consisted of nine. These had to be arranged in two layers, some at the bottom of the nest and the others round the rim. All nine flew. In the autumn, aerial flights were seen frequently. To give a typical instance: A party of bearded tits went aloft from the reeds just by me and my

son, and flew so high that I could no longer see them, but he could still do so. Starting from half way along the south shore of the Mere, they flew almost to Horsey Mill, then turned and came back along the north shore, crossed over the Mere to us, and we both heard and saw them descend twittering to the reeds from which they had started. I am convinced that these aerial flights are made simply for fun and have nothing to do with migration. They only go aloft on a fine sunny day.

In the autumn duck were late in taking to Horsey Mere, but when they did come there was a large mixed company of mallard, gadwall, wigeon, teal, pintail, shoveler, pochard, tufted, golden-eye and scaup.



SCROBY SANDS

(Robin H. Harrison)

The first visit to Scroby Sands in 1955 was made on June 26th when the island appeared to have made up a little during the past winter, particularly at the north-east and south-east corners. 230 nests of the common tern, sixteen nests of the Sandwich tern and nine nests of the little tern were found. Despite the cold, wet weather of the previous three weeks, some common tern chicks were found and twenty-two were ringed. The same morning, seven cormorants were seen on the rigging of the wrecked trawler *Yarmouth*. A small party of these birds spent the summer at Scroby.

Adverse weather prevented any further landing until July 17th when thirty-five common tern chicks were ringed. Some were almost ready to fly. There were still many common terns' nests, but no sign of the Sandwich terns' nests.

A third visit was made on July 24th when there were hundreds of young terns, some of them safely on the wing. Further nests were found, including four Sandwich terns' nests each with two eggs. Forty-three young common terns were ringed, also six young little terns. The little terns were the first to be ringed on Scroby. That morning, some 150 kittiwakes were on the sands, together with small parties of sanderling.

A final visit to the sandbank was made on July 31st when a further seventy-five young common terns and a single little tern were ringed. Other birds seen that morning were 300 kittiwakes and an Arctic skua.

1955 is the best breeding season the terns have enjoyed at Scroby since records were commenced in 1947. On the final trip it was gratifying to observe so many juvenile terns flying above the sands. Of a total of 182 young terns ringed, seven were little and the remainder common terns. No young Sandwich terns were ringed.

THE EGMERE STARLING ROOST

BY R. P. BAGNALL-OAKELEY

This huge roost is in a square plantation of larches surrounded by a treble row of Scots pines. It is some six acres in area and is situated in a depression next to the Egmere—South Creake road on its north side. Within two or three hundred yards are three ponds from one of which flows a small stream which continues past the east side of the roost.

Origin of the roost

Starlings first began to use this spinney in November 1951, and it has been used every year since that time for at least three months in each winter. In the winter of 1953-54, the birds left it during the last week of February, and in 1954-55 it was evacuated between February 1st and 14th. In no instance has

the roost been occupied by more than a few hundred birds before the beginning of November and the maximum build-up of numbers has always occurred round about the start of the New Year. The winter of 1954-55 was certainly the period when the roost contained its greatest number of starlings, but estimation of these vast numbers of birds is difficult and inevitably subject to inaccuracies.

In describing the beginnings of the Egmere roost, it should be observed that before 1951 the birds had used a somewhat similar larch plantation about three-quarters of a mile to the east and adjacent to the main Fakenham to Wells road, where for two winters large numbers had roosted. These numbers had never reached the proportions of the Egmere roost, though they formed a very substantial nucleus for it. The older roost stands higher and in a much more exposed situation than the newer one, and that may have been the reason for the move. Local farm workers have told me that during February in very cold weather the starlings moved from the old to the present roosting site before finally dispersing.

Estimation of numbers

It was only when numbers had reached their maximum that their astronomical proportions seemed to demand that some kind of estimation of the total should be made.

All attempts to assess numbers coming in to the roost by the estimation of the sizes of flocks converging on Egmere, were rendered useless by the fact that the birds tended to become canalized into three main streams which flowed in varying densities from south, south-east and north-east for about twenty-five minutes each evening. Moreover, these streams were formed about one and a half or two miles from the roost, so that any reckoning of numbers coming in by flock estimation and counting would have required a large number of expert observers stationed on the perimeter of a circle at least two and a half miles in diameter and so placed and briefed that flocks would neither be missed nor counted twice.

Roosting density

A different method was therefore adopted. On various nights—preferably cloudless—I took up a position in a rough

canvas-topped hide from which I could make an estimate of the number of birds roosting in each visible tree. By this means—though numbers varied greatly with the nature of individual trees—an idea of average roosting density could be obtained for different parts of the roost. This density varied, at the period of maximum occupation, from between 850 per tree to a minimum of about 250 per tree. The stability of roosting density in different parts of the roost was remarkable. The south-east corner—the lowest lying part of the roost—was always occupied first each season and each night and always contained about 850 birds per tree, except in very cold weather, when the whole company of birds would steadily become concentrated more and more heavily towards this south-east corner. On January 27th, 1954, when my thermometer at Egmere showed 9° F. of frost, the roosting density in the south-east corner was about 1,300 birds per tree and several trees had their tops broken off by weight of starlings that night.

The plantation is divided down the centre by a ride running north and south. Only twice have starlings roosted on the west side of this ride (in January and February 1954 and 1955), and the extension of roosting area beyond this line of demarcation has not taken place until a density of about 350 birds a tree has built up to the very edge of the ride. Reverting to the question of stability of roosting density in the various parts of the roost, it is interesting to note that on February 16th, 1955, the last day on which the roost was occupied that year, there were about 800 birds in the extreme south-east corner, all in one tree.

It follows from what has been said that in a regularly planted copse like that at Egmere, it is a simple matter to count the number of trees in a row and the number of rows or parts of rows occupied and then, by relating the appropriate roosting densities to the number of trees in the various areas, a computation of the total number can be made. An estimate of this kind gave the maximum number for 1955 (early January) as about three and a half million.

Area from which the roost draws its birds

In assessing the area served by this roost I must acknowledge the assistance of numerous friends and helpers in various parts of

Norfolk who have watched the flight lines of "homing" starlings in the late afternoons. The greatest distance from which birds return to roost regularly is about thirty miles, though one or two records seem to indicate that on occasions the starlings come back from as far as thirty-two or thirty-three miles. Egmere draws all starlings—except the regular odd roosters in specially favoured places, e.g. barns, church towers, sheltered evergreens, etc.—from up to twenty-four miles round, except from the west. From this direction no regular flight line to roost was observed beyond four miles, though every night in December and January when the roost was watched, a steady stream of small flocks—up to two hundred—came in from the west after most of the birds in the roost had settled down. This suggested an overflow from a smaller roost not very far away to the west, but this I never found.

Proportion of Continental birds

It seems probable that most of the Egmere birds are wintering immigrants. Although hundreds of corpses have been examined, not a single ring has been recovered so far, but most of the specimens were found to have the long beaks usually associated with Continental races.

Methods of return to the roost

The ways in which the starlings flight back to the roost each evening depends upon the weather. If the day is windy, with or without rain, the birds fly low from about three to ten feet according to the severity of the conditions. In a strong head or side wind the flocks keep very low, skimming the fences and rising only just high enough to clear trees, buildings and other obstacles.

When foggy conditions prevail, fewer birds come in to the roost and those which do fly at between forty and sixty feet. Under these conditions I have commonly seen rooks and jackdaws flying in a variety of directions up to 90° off course for their roosts and gulls going vaguely coastwise, while the starling flocks have continued one after another to "home," as nearly as I could estimate, right on course. Their speed varies only between thirty and thirty-six miles per hour under all circumstances.

In calm, clear weather the flocks usually come in at over 100 and up to 500 feet, cascading down in wonderfully co-ordinated spiral movements as they arrive over the roost.

Flock control and reaction to air currents

In watching flocks returning to roost I have frequently observed that flock after flock will suddenly lift as much as fifty or sixty feet over a completely invisible "obstacle," and always in exactly the same place. Large flocks will undulate in the middle like a traditional sea-serpent. These movements are presumably reactions to local pockets of disturbed air.

The problem of flock control has always been of great interest. While it is hardly true to say that flocks twist and turn *as one*, movements do originate from one part of a flock—not always at the front—and spread quickly and precisely through the whole body of birds. The fact that distant flocks may be observed to swirl like smoke, now dark, now almost invisible, shows that a movement spreads through the flock. Are such evolutions initiated by one bird? It is certain that most if not all "homing" flocks of starlings contain an individual which emits at intervals a vibrant sound, like that made when there is a loose pinion in a wing. This high-pitched whirring is particularly audible on days when the humidity is high or when drizzle is falling; moreover, the sound, which is discontinuous, is best heard where a flock is about to undertake some manœuvre to avoid an obstacle.

Assembling for return to the roost

The methods of assembling before returning to the roost vary considerably with local conditions. Normally the birds, which feed vigorously up to within a few minutes of "zero hour"—a time fixed according to the length of daylight and distance from the roost—fly up to regular vantage points, such as power cables, trees and buildings. From these they can observe passing flocks and join up with them, so that as the flocks proceed they build up like a snowball. If, through poor visibility or the failure of a flock to pass within close range, no homing birds are seen on the move, the waiting birds will only delay their departure for a few minutes before setting off on a course about 45° from the "homing" line—that is, diagonally across the path of flights

returning to roost. In this way they are almost certain to link up with a "homing" flock. Pastures, stubbles and newly ploughed fields often serve as assembling areas for huge numbers of birds. Flock after flock will drop in for a final feed, before a mass departure for the roost takes place.

Bathing and drinking before going in to roost

Every evening great numbers of the returning starlings indulge in a short and violent spell of bathing in one of the three ponds and in the stream at Egmere. Some flocks seem to arrive early for this purpose and collect in the trees and hedges and on the meadows round about the ponds. Suddenly they pour into the water at the edges of the ponds and bathe with that vigour so characteristic of starlings. It is not unusual to see a couple of acres of starlings steadily advancing towards the perimeter of a pond, while those which have finished washing rise from the edge as if erupted from the crater of a volcano. I have often seen 10,000 starlings bathing at once.

Those which want to drink go to special places where no bathing occurs, and here they find clear water.

Nightly mortality

Assuming that the life of the average starling is six years, that twice as many die in winter as in summer, and that twice as many die away from the roost as in it, then the nightly mortality for two million birds should be about 300 a night, due simply to old age. Though large numbers certainly die every night and at least twenty-five may be seen hopping feebly about every day, it would not appear that more than about seventy-five die each night, judging from the remains that are found.

Association of rats

Within a few weeks of the occupation of the roost, large numbers of rats move into the surrounding banks and they even burrow through the layer of guano—in places over a foot deep—to establish their quarters. These rats patrol the roost all night and dispose of any starling almost as soon as it falls. On moonlight nights especially when snow is on the ground, their numbers can be appreciated as they move about or rush to the sound of a fluttering bird. They almost always carry their

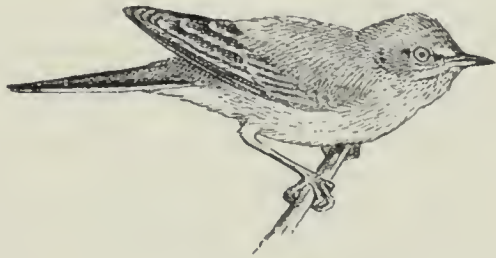
victims away to the perimeter wire, or if they can get the body through it, to special places, usually under cover, when they devour all but the skin and bones. They do not, however, live exclusively on starling corpses. In hard weather, when many of the birds have been raiding food troughs of domestic animals, the rats can be seen feeding on the mealy excreta, usually from boughs or on fallen timber.

Predation by hawks

During November 1954 a young male peregrine lived in an adjacent ruined church tower and fed entirely on starlings, one of which he took each morning and evening. So definite was his "starling fixation" that he could frequently be seen sitting with tame pigeons in the tower awaiting the incoming evening flocks.

Effect of roosting on trees

The damage to the larches and the few deciduous trees which separate them in some places from the surrounding Scots pines, is very extensive. Only the upper branches are used for roosting, but the sheer weight of accumulated droppings has broken down very many of the lower boughs.



Subalpine Warbler

CLEY BIRD OBSERVATORY.

WARDEN : R. A. RICHARDSON

The decision of the Bird Ringing Committee of the British Trust for Ornithology to abandon the long-established ringing year of from October 1st to September 30th in favour of the calendar year, dispenses with the tiresome overlap of dates from one year to the next.

During the year 1,237 birds of seventy-three species were ringed. Of this total 786 birds were trapped and 451 ringed as nestlings. On the whole this was quite a satisfactory result but one that it is hoped to improve upon in the future.

Most of the initial problems which had to be faced during the first year of the Observatory's establishment on the new site at the Hood have been resolved, but by far the greatest challenge is the narrow three-mile stretch of foreshore with suaeda bushes which offers suitable covert for migrants along most of its length. At times the whole of this is alive with birds after a large-scale influx and the two small Heligoland traps on the Hood are quite inadequate. It is obviously impracticable to erect permanent traps every few hundred yards but we devised, and had much success with a portable funnel net of small mesh thread netting on six circular hoops of stout galvanised wire, each hoop decreasing in size from the entrance to the detachable catching box. It is now possible to work any area of the suaeda covert with this simple trap.

The big trap on the Salthouse boundary continued to play an important role. The original structure, weakened in the 1953 flood, collapsed under the weight of snow in February and was re-designed and rebuilt soon after Easter.

The bad weather during the early part of the year interfered with nocturnal expeditions to the rhododendron thickets on Salthouse Heath where, in previous winters, many roosting blackbirds and finches have been netted by torch-light and ringed. Some of these yielded interesting foreign recoveries. It will be seen from the accompanying statistics that the recovery rate is less than one per cent even when sight records of colour-ringed birds are included. This illustrates the importance of reporting every ring found and to do so with as little delay as possible.

Seven species appear on the ringing list for the first time. These are teal, turnstone, little auk, marsh tit, icterine warbler, subalpine warbler and five Lapland buntings. Among other unusual captures are a water rail, a purple sandpiper, two black redstarts, two barred warblers, a great grey shrike and a snow bunting.

A number of students stayed at the Observatory Hut and gave valuable help with the ringing. Applications from those able to ring and wishing to give their assistance should be made to Mr. R. A. Richardson, Hill Top, Cley, Holt, Norfolk.

The Council of the Trust appreciates the interest shown in the Observatory by so many visitors and is grateful to all who have contributed to its success ; especially to Miss Steinthal for her work as Honorary Treasurer and to Mrs. Meiklejohn whose generous gift of materials for the portable traps has widened the field for ringing.

CLEY BIRD OBSERVATORY—RINGING PROGRESS.

Species	1949-1954	1955	Grand Totals	Total Recoveries*	Species	1949-1954	1955	Grand Totals	Total Recoveries*
Little Grebe ...	1		1		Mistle Thrush ...	11	4	15	
Manx Shearwater ...	1		1		Fieldfare ...	4	1	5	
Fulmar ...	1		1		Song Thrush ...	230	52	282	2
Heron ...	3	3	6	1	Redwing ...	11	1	12	
Bittern ...	2		2	1	Ring-Ouzel ...	1		1	
Mallard ...	11	5	16	4	Blackbird ...	418	134	552	7
Teal ...		2	2		Wheatear/Greenland				
Wigeon ...	1	2	3		Wheatear ...	85	23	108	1
Scaup ...	2	6	8		Stonechat ...	7		7	2
Sheld-Duck ...	5		5		Whinchat ...	23		23	
Kestrel ...	1		1		Redstart ...	45	13	58	
Water Rail ...	2	1	3		Black Redstart ...	19	2	21	
Moorhen ...	3	1	4	1	Nightingale ...	117	6	123	
Oystercatcher ...	14	7	21	1	Bluethroat ...	1		1	
Lapwing ...	46	8	54	1	Robin ...	352	44	396	2
Ringed Plover ...	54	5	59		Grasshopper Warbler ...	2	6	8	
Turnstone ...		1	1		Reed Warbler ...	52	5	57	
Snipe ...	1		1		Sedge Warbler ...	58	11	69	
Woodcock ...	3		3	1	Aquatic Warbler ...	1		1	
Wood Sandpiper ...	3		3		Icterine Warbler ...		1	1	
Common Sandpiper ...	3		3		Blackcap ...	14	10	24	1
Redshank ...	25	2	27	1	Barred Warbler ...	2	2	4	
Purple Sandpiper ...	2	1	3		Garden Warbler ...	23	9	32	
Dunlin ...	7	1	8	1	Whitethroat ...	391	105	496	11
Grey Phalarope ...	2		2		Lesser Whitethroat ...	20	8	28	
Stone Curlew ...	1		1		Subalpine Warbler ...		1	1	
Black-headed Gull ...	71	24	95	1	Willow Warbler ...	244	130	374	1
Common Tern ...	22	15	37		Chiffchaff ...	25	5	30	
Little Tern ...	6	3	9		Wood Warbler ...	10	1	11	
Razorbill ...	3		3		Goldcrest ...	22	3	25	
Little Auk ...		1	1		Firecrest ...	1		1	
Guillemot ...	3		3		Spotted Flycatcher ...	24	13	37	
Stock Dove ...	11		11	2	Pied Flycatcher ...	56	16	72	
Wood Pigeon ...	5		5	1	Hedge Sparrow ...	195	35	230	
Turtle Dove ...	24	2	26	1	Meadow Pipit ...	259	20	279	8
Cuckoo ...	3	2	5		Tree Pipit ...	10		10	
Barn-Owl ...	12		12		Rock Pipit ...	6		6	
Little Owl ...	6		6		Pied Wagtail/White				
Tawny Owl ...	2		2		Wagtail ...	41		41	1
Long-eared Owl ...	4		4		Yellow Wagtail ...	81	15	96	1
Short-eared Owl ...	5		5		Great Grey Shrike ...	1	1	2	
Nightjar ...	3		3		Red-backed Shrike ...	80	1	81	
Swift ...	12	3	15		Starling ...	274	46	320	6
Green Woodpecker ...	1		1		Greenfinch ...	421	60	481	1
Wryneck ...	2		2		Goldfinch ...	20	7	27	
Wood Lark ...	12		12		Linnet ...	291	42	333	6
Sky-Lark ...	143	11	154	3	Bullfinch ...	6		6	
Swallow ...	135	51	186	3	Chaffinch ...	465	56	521	2
House-Martin ...	18	3	21		Brambling ...	233	4	237	1
Sand-Martin ...	3	41	44		Yellow Bunting ...	59	12	71	
Jackdaw ...	4	1	5	1	Corn Bunting ...	4		4	
Great Tit ...	69	15	84		Reed Bunting ...	169	11	170	
Blue Tit ...	211	47	258	1	Lapland Bunting ...		5	5	
Coal Tit ...	9	1	10		Snow Bunting ...	149	1	150	1
Marsh Tit ...		7	7		House-Sparrow ...	379	39	418	
Long-tailed Tit ...	8		8		Tree-Sparrow ...	27	5	32	
Tree-Creeper ...	9		9						
Wren ...	45		45	1	GRAND TOTALS ...	6,579	1,237	7,816	80
Dipper (Black-bellied race)	1		1						

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

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
 1955 : 1,237 birds of 73 species
 1949-55 : 7,816 birds of 113 species

SELECTED RINGING RECOVERIES

		(Notified in 1955)			
		<i>Ringed</i>	<i>Recovered</i>		
SHAG	Blakeney Point. 20.2.54.	<i>British Birds.</i>
HERON	Grinton, Richmond, Yorks. 24.1.55.	C.O.
MALLARD	Lake Ladoga, Leningrad, U.S.S.R. 24.10.54.	W.F.B. for C.O.
MALLARD	Malmö, Sweden. 27.9.54.	<i>British Birds.</i>
MALLARD	Zwischenahner Meer, Oldenburg, Germany. 22.10.55.	M.R.B. & C.B.
MALLARD	Vännäs, Västerbotten, Sweden. August 1955.	M.R.B. & C.B.
MALLARD	Bray-Dunes, between Dunkirk and La Panne, France. 14.7.55.	M.R.B. & C.B.
MALLARD	Gemeinde Oldensort (Schleswig- Holstein), Germany. 26.11.55.	M.R.B. & C.B.
MALLARD	Near Orford, Suffolk. 2.11.55.	M.R.B. & C.B.
MALLARD	L. Sodra Horken. Nr. Grangesberg (Orebro), Sweden. 18.5.55.	M.R.B. & C.B.
MALLARD	Fischerhude, Near Bremen, Ger- many. 6.12.55.	M.R.B. & C.B.
MALLARD	Neuenbrook, Glückstadt, (Holstein), Germany. 29.10.55.	M.R.B. & C.B.
MALLARD	Sormack, Varmland, Sweden. 27.9.55.	M.R.B. & C.B.
TEAL	Darum Enge, Esbjerg (Jutland), Denmark. 2.9.55.	M.R.B. & C.B.
TEAL	Sestrotetsk, Leningrad, U.S.S.R. 15.10.53.	M.R.B. & C.B.

	<i>Ringed</i>	<i>Recovered</i>	
TEAL	How Hill, Ludham. 26.9.53.	Tubber, Near Gort, Co. Galway, Ire. 29.12.55;	M.R.B. & C.B.
TEAL	Piaam Decoy, Friesland, Holland. 15.12.54.	Wells. 20.2.55.	J. Cox.
WIGEON	Abberton Reservoir, Colchester, Essex. 19.2.54.	Cley. 6.12.55.	W.F.B.
MARSH-HARRIER	Hickling Broad. 14.6.54 (as young).	Near King's Lynn. 4.8.54.	E.D.
MARSH-HARRIER	Hickling Broad. 19.6.55 (as young).	Near Newbury, Berkshire. 30.7.55.	E.D.
MONTAGU'S HARRIER	Hickling Broad. 15.7.55 (as young).	Montdidier, Somme, France. 1.10.55.	E.D.
COOT	Abberton Reservoir, Essex. 14.2.54 (as adult).	Hickling Broad. 28.1.55.	E.P.
OYSTERCATCHER	Cley. 17.9.55 (as chick).	N. Cotes, Lincs. 22.10.55.	C.O.
WOODCOCK	Cley. 14.10.52 (as migrant).	Sedgeford, King's Lynn. 22.1.55.	C.O.
CURLEW	Hultsjö, Sweden. 27.6.54 (as young).	Breydon. 15.1.55.	R.H.H.
DUNLIN	Cley. 11.9.53 (as migrant).	Triaise, Vendée, N.W. France. 6.5.55.	C.O.
BLACK-HEADED GULL	High Kelling. 7.2.54 (first winter).	Hortlax, Pitea, Sweden. 30.6.55.	G.H.C.B.
BLACK-HEADED GULL	Lake of Takern, East Götland, Sweden. 13.6.55 (as chick).	Whitlingham, near Norwich. 29.8.55.	per E.A.E.
BLACK-HEADED GULL	Cley. 24.6.52 (as chick).	Alderfen Broad. 17.6.55.	C.O.
BLACK-HEADED GULL	Alderfen Broad. 11.6.55 (as chick).	Stiffkey. 31.7.55.	per M.J.S.
BLACK-HEADED GULL	Alderfen Broad. 11.6.55 (as chick).	Hemsby (9 miles E.S.E.). 3.7.55.	A. G. Hurrell.
COMMON GULL	Sokndal, S. Norway. 1.7.55 (as young).	Weybourne. 17.11.55.	G. A. Young, per R.A.G.
STOCK DOVE	Cley. 19.10.54 (as nestling).	Drayton, near Norwich. 25.2.55.	C.O.
SWALLOW	Cley. 24.9.54 (as adult).	Nested where ringed, 1955.	C.O.
SWALLOW	Cley. 29.7.54 (as adult).		

	<i>Ringed</i>	<i>Recovered</i>	
BLACKBIRD	Dersingham. 17.1.55.	<i>per</i> E.A.E.
BLACKBIRD	Alveringhem, W. Flanders, Belgium. 5.1.55.	C.O.
BLACKBIRD	Münster, Westphalia, Germany. 28.6.55.	C.O.
BLACKBIRD	Stegeborgs, Söderköping, Östergötland, Sweden. 14.8.55.	P.R.C. for C.O.
BLACKBIRD	Melton Constable. 4.11.55.	R.P.B-O.
BLACKCAP	Gt. Snoring, Fakenham. 11.6.55.	C.O.
WHITETHROAT	Re-trapped, Bradwell Bird Observatory, Essex (80 miles S.). 22.5.55.	C.O.
WHITETHROAT	Nested where ringed, 1955.	C.O.
WILLOW-WARBLER	Dollar, Clackmannan. (280 miles N.W.). 11.6.55.	C.O.
STARLING	Thurlton, Haddiscoe, near Norwich. 28.2.55.	R.H-C. for C.O.
LINNET	Souprosse, Landes, W. France. 5.12.55.	C.O.

CLASSIFIED NOTES

The Wash and Fen records, which have been highly selected, have been taken from the draft of the Cambridge Bird Club Report. Important records from Wisbech Sewage Farm, part of which is on the Lincolnshire side of the county boundary, have also been included. Fuller details of these records, and of many others, may be found in the *Cambridge Bird Club Report* for 1955, which also contains sections on migration in the Wash area; observations at Wisbech Sewage Farm; and an article describing regular flighting of pintail from a day-time resort at North Wootton, 40 miles inland along the Ouse Washes.

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 1955, unless otherwise stated. The initials following records refer to the observer responsible.

1 Black-throated Diver

North coast: One at Salthouse, January 13th (HH); 2, Blakeney Point, April 10th (BLS); one, Cley, November 27th (CDTM). East coast: One, River Yare near Buckenham Ferry, February 20th (JTF). Wash: Snettisham, 4 (and one dead), March 20th; one on December 4th. Heacham, singles, November 13th and December 19th (CBC).

2 Great Northern Diver

North coast: Singles at Scolt Head, May 23rd (RAOH, REP); Salthouse, September 27th and West Runton, December 10th (HH); Cley, December 4th (CO). Also 3 at Cley, April 11th (IWC). Field notes received. Wash: 5 winter records of single birds (CBC).

4 Red-throated Diver

Coastal records throughout year, except midsummer. Largest numbers at Cley: Over 50 flying west singly, January 11th–12th (RPB-O); over 35, September 28th (CO) and 20, December 17th (PJ). Broads: Singles at Potter Heigham, April 16th (AW), at Horsey, January 6th and December 20th (GC) and at Hickling, December 23rd (GB). Other inland records: Singles, Hillington Park Lake, March 7th (*per* EAE) and Seamere, December 31st (CG).

5 Great Crested Grebe

The only new locality reported was Reymmerston pits by the River Blackwater where one pair nested (EQB). See 1954 Report, pp. 20–21.

6 Red-necked Grebe

North coast: Singles at Scolt Head, October 8th–10th (RC); Wells, March 9th (HH) and Cley, September 23rd (LS, CMV), 29th (LS) and October 13th (RAR). Wash: One at Snettisham, March 20th; 2 at Hunstanton, October 9th (CBC).

7 Slavonian Grebe

North coast: One at Weybourne, January 1st (PRC); 1–2, Wells, January 28th–April 4th (RPB-O, who filmed one of them), and one at Cley,

May 20th (EMCE). Broads: Singles at Horsey, February 13th and December 9th (GC). Breck: 1954: Singly at Fowl Mere, March 14th-17th and at Mickle Mere on 17th (EPT). Wash: Hunstanton, 10 on November 13th (CBC).

8 Black-necked Grebe

North coast: Singles at Scolt Head, January 27th-30th; February 7th and December 14th (RC). Wash: Maximum of 11 at Hunstanton, March 20th (CBC).

9 Little Grebe

The only known breeding locality in the Broads area is Cantley Reservoir, where 2 pairs bred successfully (MJS).

14 Storm-Petrel

One dead, Cley, November 27th (CB).

16 Manx Shearwater

North coast: Holme, 3 flying west, September 10th (CBC) and Scolt Head, one, on 19th (RC); Blakeney Point, 2, May 10th (CO); Cley, westerly movement September 14th and 16th; one, 27th (CO) and a few passing, October 15th (ACC); Sheringham, one, July 4th (DFM).

A bird of the race *Procellaria p. mauretanicus* was seen off Blakeney Point, August 7th (PRC). Full details received and the following points were included: Size as Manx Shearwater; brown upper-parts; paler brown under-parts; no sharp contrast between upper- and under-parts as bird veered from side to side.

26 Fulmar Petrel

North coast: Reported between December 23rd, 1954 and September 14th at Weybourne, Sheringham, West Runton, Cromer, Overstrand, Sidestrand and Mundesley. Estimated 25-30 pairs, but not all breeding (RPB-O). First bird had returned to Cromer, December 18th (CDR) and 2 at Sheringham, on 25th (PRC). A blue phase bird between the Runtons, June 25th (HH). East coast: One picked up dead at Breydon, November 5th (RHH).

27 Gannet

North coast: Recorded throughout year, but especially during September-October and in winter during onshore gales. The records include 30-35 off Holme, September 10th (CBC); 20, Scolt Head, October 15th (RC); many off Cley, October 21st (PJ); 30 there on 26th (LS) and many again on 28th (JI, MM). East coast: A juvenile found exhausted on Gorleston beach, August 27th, was later returned to the sea (photograph in *Eastern Daily Press*). Fens: One found at Clenchwarton about October 24th (CBC).

28 Cormorant

Usual Broads and coastal records during greater part of year. Up to 7 reported in summer from Ranworth Inner Broad, Breydon, Scroby Sands and Scolt Head.

A bird of the Southern race (*Phalacrocorax c. sinensis*) was recovered from the river Yare at Reedham, September 4th (PWPB). The skin is in the collection at Norwich Castle Museum. Single birds considered to be of the same race at Blakeney, July 25th and August 4th (HH).

29 Shag

East coast: 3 at Breydon, March 21st (EQB). North coast: One off Cley, November 27th (GMSE). Wash: One at Hunstanton, December 18th (CBC).

30 Heron

Details of heronries as follows:

Borders of Wash: Snettisham, 15 nests. *Fenland*: Islington, 116; Denver Sluice, 20. *Breckland*: Black Dyke, Feltwell, 3; Diddlington Park, one (AEV); Thompson Water, 6 (GJ) and Wretham Park, 7 (AEV). *Mid-Norfolk*: Kimberley Park, 19 (EQB). *Broads area*: General McHardy's Wood, Hickling, 2; Whiteslea, 2; Heigham Sounds Wood, 5 (EP); America Wood, Earsham, 11 (JWM); Ditchingham, one (MS); Fishley Carr, Acle, 7 (RJ); Wickhampton, 28; Decoy Carr, Reedham, 3 (PWPB); Calthorpe, 2 (*per* ED); Buckenham, 32; Mautby, 21 (MJS); Ranworth, about 30 (RB); Horstead, 5 (TE); Ranworth marshes (Horning Hall), 2 (RB); Gowing's Farm, Buxton, 2 and Carr's Farm, Lamas, one (both apparently new sites—EQB). *North Norfolk*: Melton Constable, 13 (RPB-O); Holkham Park, at least 15 (RAR); Wiveton Hall, one (RGB). Total, about 370 nests.

None nested at Catfield (*per* MJS), West Bilney or Oxborough (AEV).

A report on the 1954 national census of heronries appears in *Bird Study*, Vol. 3, pp. 42-73.

Migration: 12 in from sea at Blakeney Point, September 24th (CO).

32 Little Egret

Cley: Single adults April 23rd and May 23rd (WFB, AHD). Full details of the first record appear in *British Birds*, Vol. XLVIII, p. 320. These are the third and fourth records for the county.

38 Bittern

One booming May 24th-26th on a marsh at Holkham (RAOH, REP)—a new locality. See 1954 Report, p. 22. Breck: One at West Acre gravel pit, January 9th (AEV).

42 Spoonbill

Fewer reported than usual. Broads: 2, Hickling, May 26th (GB, EP). North coast: One, Cley, June 8th (RAR). Wash: 2 off Heacham, May 22nd (CBC).

45 Mallard

An increasing number of breeding birds in Breydon area and 2 pairs bred successfully on one salting (RHH). Breck: Largest number was 1,000 at Narford, September-October (AEV).

Copyright

Brent Geese feeding on the salttings of a Norfolk estuary (1954-55 winter). Most are pale-breasted, but a dark-breasted bird appears on the extreme left of the upper picture.

Philip Waver





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Philip Wayne

White-winged Black and Black Terns at Cley, May-June 1955. See page 45. These photographs show that the Black Tern (centre) has a longer bill and grey instead of black under-wing. The striking white "shoulders" of the White-winged Black Tern (on left and right) can be clearly seen.



Copyright

Greater Black-backed Gulls quarrelling over a dead wader.

Philip Wayne



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Egmere Starling Roost
showing the density
of the roosting birds
(above) and mass
bathing (left). See
page 17.



46 Teal

Broads : Largest number 500 at Hickling, October 21st (GB).

47 Garganey

First, Cley, March 16th (SK) and 5 pairs there April 14th (WFB) ; last, Hickling, September 8th (THB). Also noted on passage at Taverham, Hoveton and Alderfen Broads and Wiveton, March 27th–April 25th. Present in summer at Hickling (4 pairs), Cley (one pair) and Cantley reservoir (one pair).

49 Gadwall

Small numbers reported from North Norfolk (Holkham, Cley, Bayfield, Brinton and Holt) and from Hickling, Rockland and Hoveton Broads, Gunton Lake, and Seamere. Maxima : 24, Seamere, January 29th (CG) and 10, Cley, August 30th (RT). Breck : Over 100 at Mickle Mere, November 6th (EPT), but no flocks over 32 seen otherwise.

50 Wigeon

Largest numbers : North coast : Holme, 800, January 30th (CBC) ; Blakeney, 2,000, early January (WE) and 3,000, November 25th (JFP) ; Scolt Head, 1,500–2,000, January 12th and 2,000, December 2nd (RC). East coast : Breydon, 1,500, January 30th (RHH). Broads : Horsey, 200, January 23rd (GC) and Hickling, 300, February 7th (GB). Summer records include one, Cantley, May 7th (MJS) ; 2, Scolt, 16th (RC) ; one, Morston, 17th (PRC) ; 3, Blakeney, 18th (HH) and 2, Taverham, 22nd (LWL). First autumn birds : 5, Blakeney, August 4th (HH) and 2, Breydon, 14th (RHH).

52 Pintail

North East coasts and Broads : Parties did not exceed 7 except at Breydon, where maxima of 78, February 20th (RHH) and 36, March 20th (MJS). Wash : Largest number, 70, January 30th (CBC).

Details of the very large numbers of Pintail in the Fens in the 1954–5 winter appear in a paper by ICTN in *British Birds*, Vol. XLVIII, p. 321 (5,000 were estimated on the Ouse Washes on March 13th, 1955).

53 Shoveler

Records include 25 at Hickling Broad, February 22nd (GB) and 30–40 displaying on Holkham Lake, February 13th–15th (RPB-O, RAR). Freck : 160 at Narford, January 9th and up to 30 in September (AEV), but scarce in Wretham area during 1954–5 winter, although 40 there in December (EPT).

55 Scaup

North coast : Recorded up to March 13th and from October 3rd at Scolt, Wells, Blakeney, Cley and Salthouse. No parties over 10 reported. Also one at Blakeney, May 29th (EAC). East coast : Breydon, 7, January 18th and 3, November 20th (RHH). Broads : One, Rockland, January 15th (MJS) ; 2, Hickling, March 14th and one there December 2nd (GB).

56 Tufted Duck

Broads : Largest numbers : Horsey, 150, January 30th (CC) ; Hickling, 300, February 11th (GB) ; Rockland, 160, February 27th (MJS). Breck :

Up to 40-50 in Wretham area, February-April 23rd. Bred as usual—Rush Mere (4-6 broods, AEV, PH); Hill Mere (2 broods, EPT—but perhaps from Rush Mere); Fowl Mere (3 broods, AEV) and Didlington (one brood, AEV).

57 Pochard

Largest numbers: Broads: 62, Horsey, January 30th (GC); 50, Hickling, February 9th (GB); 60, Rockland, February 27th (MJS). Inland: 60, Taverham, November 26th (LWL). Breck: Up to 60-70 in Wretham area, February-March (EPT, AEV). One brood on Rush Mere (EPT). 1954: Up to 500 on Fowl Mere in March (EPT).

60 Golden-eye

Recorded up to April 23rd and from end of October; also one at Cley, June 11th (PJ). Usual records from North coast (Holme-Weybourne); Broads (Hickling, Horsey and Rockland), Taverham and Seamere. Maxima: 20 at Hickling, November 25th (GB), 50-60 at Scolt, February 13th (RC). Breck: 1-6 at Narford in January, Thompson in March and Rush Mere from November 15th onwards (PH, GJ, AEV).

61 Long-tailed Duck

North coast: Singles at Scolt Head, October 18th-20th and November 3rd (RC) and at Blakeney, March 21st (WE). One at Cley, October 28th; 2 on 29th (JI) and one, November 18th (MM, DS). Wash: Up to 6 recorded January-March and December (CBC).

62 Velvet Scoter

North coast (Scolt Head-Weybourne): Parties up to 8 reported on 29 dates during January-April, August and October-December. Wash: Largest number 40, December 4th (CBC).

64 Common Scoter

Recorded off North and East coasts throughout year. Large "rafts" off Cley end January and early February (PJ) and 600 off Salthouse, January 28th-31st (HH). Maximum off Scolt Head: 700, July 4th (RC). Wash: Hunstanton: 1,000-1,500 in December (CBC). Inland: One shot River Bure near Six Mile House, January 22nd (RHH); 4, Ranworth Broad, April 26th (MJS) and 2, Seamere, April 22nd and 26th (CG). Breck: 6 at Thompson Water, January 6th (EPT).

67 Eider-Duck

North coast (Scolt Head-West Runton): Up to 5 on many dates, January-April, August and December. Wash: Hunstanton: About 200, December 4th, declining to 88 on 11th. No previous record in the Wash has exceeded 6 birds (CBC).

69 Red-breasted Merganser

North coast (Scolt Head-Salthouse): Up to 5 noted on many dates, January-March and October-December, with 13 at Scolt, November 22nd; also singly there, May 4th, 12th, 25th-26th (RC). East coast: One, Breydon, March 20th (MJS). Wash: Many winter records of small numbers, but 40 on March 30th (CBC).

70 Goosander

North coast : Wells : 2, November 21st (PRC). Cley : 8, January 8th (CO) ; one, 23rd ; 2, February 16th ; one, March 6th (PRC) ; one, December 16th (PJ). Broads area : Horsey Mere, 2, March 6th (GC) ; one, River Yare at Buckenham, January 2nd (MJS). Other inland records : Seamere, 2, December 26th and one, 31st (CG) and Taverham, 2, January 2nd (LWL). Breck : 2 at Narford, January 9th (AEV).

71 Smew

North coast : 4, Scolt Head, January 19th (RC) ; 5, Wells, January 26th (HH) ; one, Blakeney, November 14th (JFP) ; singles at Cley, January 6th (ACC, RWD) and October 29th (JI). East coast : 6, Breydon, February 20th (RHH). Broads : 7, Horsey, February 24th (GC) ; 2, Hickling, February 22nd–March 4th and 4 there, December 8th (GB) ; singles at Rockland, February 27th and at Ranworth, December 18th–31st (MJS). Breck : One at Hill Mere, March 13th (EPT). Fens : Ouse Washes : Maximum of 13, January 23rd (CBC).

73 Sheld-Duck

North coast : Largest numbers : Scolt Head, 4–500, January 12th and 350, December 14th (RC) ; Blakeney, 5–600, January 9th (AEV) ; 400 adults and young, June 30th (HH). First to return from autumn moult : 3, Cley, October 28th (JI). East coast : Breydon : Largest number 350, January 30th ; average number of pairs bred in vicinity ; first autumn arrivals : One, October 22nd increasing to 50 by 29th (RHH). One pair during summer at Cantley Reservoir. Single pairs bred at Hickling Broad (EP) and Reedham (AWT). Wash : Wolferton–Heacham area : 1,000, January 30th ; at least 200 pairs, April–May (CBC).

For notes on inland breeding in the Fens see *British Birds*, Vol. XLVIII, p. 362.

76 White-fronted Goose

Breydon area : 200 throughout January. Peak numbers seen on February 6th when 750–800 came in from sea. Last noted March 12th when 32 on Bure marshes. 150 returned December 28th (RHH). Broads : 4, Horsey, January 17th (GC) and 9, Hickling, December 12th (EP). North coast : 12, Holkham Fresh marshes at end of January (RAR).

77 Lesser White-fronted Goose

An immature shot on Bure marshes near St. Benet's Abbey, January 17th. (See *British Birds*, Vol. XLVIII, p. 411). One shot on Breydon marshes, January 24th, 1949, was the first fully authenticated county record (*British Birds*, Vol. XLII, p. 295). Both specimens are in the collection at Norwich Castle Museum.

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

Buckenham : 101 had arrived by December 24th (MJS), the first to be seen there since the 1952–3 winter.

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

Breydon area : 40–50 throughout January and peak of 72 on February 6th. Last seen February 20th when 42 flying out to sea. First autumn

arrivals were 4, September 25th and 8, October 9th. 100 present by end of year (RIH). North coast : Cley : 6, March 6th (CDTM) and 8 heading west, September 26th (LS) ; Blakeney : 3, April 9th (HH) ; one, October 30th (JFP) and 40, December 5th (WE). Fens : Largest Norfolk flock recorded was 100, Ouse Washes, January–February (CBC).

80 Brent Goose

North coast : Blakeney : 150 on January 1st increasing to 400 by 11th (WE). Peak of over 1,000 on March 8th and many considered to be pale-breasted (*Branta b. hrota*) ; last recorded April 15th, when 12 present (PRC). First in autumn, October 28th and 12 next day : 70–80, December 6th and 200 by end of year (PRC, WE). Brancaster : 140, January 1st, increasing to 400 by 19th. This number remained until March 15th, with peak of 500 on February 10th ; 200 present April 4th ; 80–100 on 5th and 25 on 12th. A straggler, June 14th. First 3 autumn birds, October 31st, increasing to 50 by November 25th ; 120, December 5th and 200 from 12th onwards (RC). Wells : Over 200, January 12th (RAR) to end of March (RPB-O, ETD). Cley : Up to 30, January–April 16th, with 350–400 travelling east, February 6th (PJ). Single pale-breasted birds February 12th (BJ) and March 2nd–5th (co) and 4 pale-breasted birds, March 20th–25th (PDK). Small parties passing most days last week of October (JI). 10 offshore, all dark-breasted (*B. b. bernicla*), December 18th (MFMM). East coast : Breydon : 5, January 15th ; 8, 30th (RHH). Wash : Records include 60 at Heacham, January 30th (CBC).

81 Barnacle Goose

One, Blakeney Point, September 16th (RAR). Wash : One, Snettisham, December 19th (CBC).

82 Canada Goose

Largest number at Holkham Lake where about 600, September 8th (RAR). One pair bred Taverham (LWL) and another pair at Ketteringham Lake (DAL)—both new sites.

84 Mute Swan

During the spring and early summer, a census of mute swans gave a county total of 914 adults, including 129 breeding pairs. The birds were distributed as follows : *Rivers* : Ant, 10 ; Bure, 51 ; Burn, 2 ; Chet, 29 ; Glaven, 11 ; Little Ouse, 91 ; Tas, 13 ; Thet, 4 ; Thurne, 8 ; Tud, 2 ; Waveney, 53 ; Wensum, 81 ; Wissey, 21 and Yare, 51. *Fens and Great Ouse* : 44. *Broads* : 276, including 200 non-breeders at Hickling. *Lakes and Ponds* : 90. *Flooded gravel pits, marshes and other small waters* : 77 (71 observers).

85 Whooper-Swan

North coast : Cley, 16, January 9th (ACC, PRC, RWD) ; Morston, 27, January 6th (PRC) ; Blakeney, 5, January 15th and March 2nd (HH). East coast : Breydon : 17, January 8th ; 9 on 30th (RHH). Broads : Horsey : 7, January 13th and 12 on 25th (GC). Hickling : Up to 17, January 2nd–30th ; 14, February 15th ; up to 5 from November 27th onwards with 20 December 30th (GB, EP). Other inland records : Hardley : one, April 15th (HCW). Taverham : 3, January 30th–31st ; 7, March

19th ; one, May 1st (LWL) and one, November 27th (TFM). Breck : 6 at Stanford, January 1st (AEV). 4 in Wretham area, October 24th (PH) to end of year (EPT). Wash : 11 at Snettisham, January 16th (CBC).

86 Bewick's Swan

Unusual numbers reported from North coast : Cley : 20, January 9th (AEV) ; 45, 14th (PG, MM) ; 16, 16th (RAR, ES) ; about 50 heading south-east, 20th (PJ) ; on 23rd, a herd of 34 from the south met one of 23 from the east and left westward without alighting (RAR, AW). One, March 6th (PRC). Blakeney, over 100, January 24th (WFB) ; 4, February 23rd (IHH). Salthouse : 9, January 30th (CDR) ; 2, March 6th (RH-C).

Broads : Horsey : One, February 24th and 5, November 28th (GC). Breck : Stanford : 12, February 20th and 13 (5 immatures), March 2nd (DDBS). Thompson : 13 (5 immatures), February 20th (AEV), 24, March 11th and 21 on 17th (DDBS).

Fens : Ouse Washes : An increase to 100-110 prior to January 14th and further increase to over 250, February 2nd-6th. Complete counts of 254 on February 11th and 252 on March 15th (CBC). Most were usually in Cambridgeshire, but occasionally the majority were seen in Norfolk (ICTN).

An account by ICTN of the spread of Bewick's swans into the Fenlands appears in *British Birds*, Vol. XLVIII, pp. 533-537.

91 Buzzard

Singles at Taverham, February 27th (LWL) ; Holkham, March 5th (GMSE) ; Cley, September 19th (MG) and Holt, November 25th (RPB-O). Breck : 2 in Wretham Park, April 6th and 11th (EPT).

92 Rough-legged Buzzard

One adult at Cley, June 7th (AHD, WFB). Field notes received.

94 Goshawk

Breck : Satisfactory details received of one near Langmere, July 31st (BLS) and one, probably the same bird, at Lynford, August 1st (FJTP). Also seen during autumn by J. Gibb and M. Betts. BLS is familiar with species in Germany.

98 Honey-Buzzard

A "buzzard" with rather long, narrow wings, long tail banded heavily and irregularly darker, soaring over Bolwick Hall, Marsham, on afternoon of August 2nd (MW). Observer familiar with species abroad.

99 Marsh-Harrier

Broads : 5 pairs bred and 12 young were successfully reared. Up to 4 birds in Hickling-Horsey area during winter months and one at Rockland, December 24th (MJS, GT). A number of records from coastal marshes, March-May and July-September. Other notes of interest : one at Cley, March 3rd, arrived from sea and made off westerly over the waves $\frac{1}{2}$ mile offshore (RAFC). One in from sea at Cley, September 4th (SCB).

100 Hen-Harrier

A number of records of single birds from North coast marshes and Hickling-Horsey area of Broads up to April 7th and from November 3rd.

102 Montagu's Harrier

Broads : 2 pairs bred and 4 young successfully reared. First, a male, at Surlingham, April 18th (*per* EAE) ; last, a male, at Rockland Broad, September 6th (REL, TFM). Single birds reported from three coastal areas, April 24th–August 5th.

103 Osprey

One, Hickling Broad, June 14th—22nd (GB, EP).

104 Hobby

North coast : Cley : Singles, April 15th (MM) ; May 14th ; and June 5th (RAR) and September 20th (MG) ; 2 there June 10th (WFB). Cromer : Singles, September 24th–25th (ACC) ; October 4th (RAFC). Blakeney : Singles, May 9th and 18th (HH).

105 Peregrine Falcon

Frequent coastal records as usual up to May 7th (RC, CO) and from August 28th (RT). Breck : One at Narford, January 30th (TCS).

107 Merlin

Many coastal records of single birds up to May 19th (HH) and from August 2nd (JSA).

110 Kestrel

Cley : Small westerly passage, September 26th (CO) ; 3 in from sea together, October 25th (HH). The prey of a male kestrel included a male snow-bunting and a common tern chick (CO). Breydon marshes : A few pairs again nested in the top structure of old windmills. Unusually large numbers during November (RHH).

117 Quail

North coast : One calling daily in first half of June near Blakeney Church ; 2 between Bayfield and Glandford, July 26th (HH). One, Wiveton, July 22nd (PJ). Singles at Salthouse, September 8th and 12th (RH-C). Pair of adults and 4 young flushed at Cley, August 8th (WFB).

120 Water-Rail

Usual winter records from North coast, Broads and river valleys. Breck : One in Wretham Park, March 13th (EPT). On October 23rd one at Blakeney Point (CO) and another in a Cromer street (ACC).

121 Spotted Crake

One found dead near Redgrave, September 26th (Roland Green and RRS).

125 Corncrake

Cley : 2 on May 3rd (PE) ; one on 18th (MM). Blakeney Point : One, September 8th (DDH). Scolt Head : Singly on October 28th, November 15th and December 13th (RC).

126 Moorhen

A bird of the "hairy" variety obtained at Fundenhall, December 17th, 1954, was presented to Norwich Castle Museum by Mr. Gardiner Wilson (*per* EAE). It was golden orange on crown and mantle, with sooty sides of head and greyish-white underparts. The plumage resembled hair rather than feathers owing to the absence of the barbules.

127 Coot

Largest number was 1,500 at Hickling Broad, February 18th (GB).

131 Oystercatcher

Breeding records : Breydon : 2 pairs, but only one pair successful (RIII) ; Runham : One pair bred in a potato field about 4 miles from Breydon (RIII) ; Fishley near Acle : One pair bred unsuccessfully in 1954 and 1955 (RJ) ; Cley : A few pairs (WFB) ; Blakeney Point : 92 pairs (WE) also 10-12 pairs on south side of harbour (HH) ; Scolt Head : 89 pairs (RC) ; Thornham : One pair a mile from the sea (HBB) ; Wash : 2 pairs probably bred at Snettisham (CBC).

Broads : Horsey : 2 pairs during summer but none bred (GC) ; Hickling : 2, April 22nd-23rd ; 5, May 11th ; 2, September 16th (GB).

Estimates of largest numbers : East coast : 26 at Breydon in October (RIII). North coast : Blakeney : 500, January 9th (AEV) and 300, September 19th (HH) ; Scolt Head : 450-500, March 28th and May 12th, also 3-4,000 flying in from west (probably from the Wash), October 1st (RC) ; Wells : Over 2,000 December 14th and 21st (HH). Wash : 5,000, August 29th (CBC).

A brood of very young chicks which had been ringed at Cley were, a day or so later, found in a young conifer plantation (trees 6 inches high), surrounded by a rabbit-proof fence. Parents must have carried chicks over fence (RAR).

133 Lapwing

North coast : Westerly passage, January 28th-31st, March 23rd-26th, June 21st and 28th, July 5th-7th and 23rd, September 24th, 28th-30th, October 1st, 8th-31st, November 2nd-5th, 18th, 28th-30th, December 2nd and 13th. Peak movements last week September, October 8th and 20th-26th (CO and other observers). More plentiful than for many years, Breydon marshes, 1954-5 winter.

134 Ringed Plover

Coastal breeding reports : East coast : 2 pairs during summer, Winterton (PT). North coast : Considerable number Salthouse—The Hood and 72 nests marked on Blakeney Point (WE) ; also 8-10 pairs on south side of harbour (HH). 170-185 pairs, Scolt Head (RC). Breck : One at Ring Mere, March 13th (CDTM). Seen at Lang Mere, June-July and young seen at Thorpe Great Heath (AEV).

Migration : 30 heading west at a great height along Blakeney Point, May 25th, may have been of the Arctic race, *Charadrius h. tundrae* (RAR).

135 Little Ringed Plover

North coast : Cley : One, May 4th (CO). This bird displayed and made nest-scrapes on territory behind the beach for some weeks, but failed to

attract a mate. A probable female, June 24th (PRC) and 25th (RAR) ; singles July 9th (AW) and August 20th (RT). Salthouse : One, April 11th (BLS). Blakeney-Stiffkey : One, May 27th ; 1-2, June 2nd-16th and one on 30th ; 2 on August 22nd (HH). Scolt : One, September 7th (RC).

East coast : Breydon : 2, August 7th (TCS). Broads : Hickling, one, May 7th (JCC). Wash : Snettisham, one, May 21st (CBC).

136 Kentish Plover

2 at Cley, May 11th (RAR).

139 Grey Plover

Coastal records throughout year. Maxima : 80, Breydon, March 5th (RHH) and over 200, Wells, December 21st (HH). Broads : Hickling : One, April 23rd-25th ; 2, September 23rd (GB, EP). Horsey : One, August 12th (GC).

140 Golden Plover

Winter and passage records up to May 25th and from July 25th. Largest numbers : 70-80, Fincham, April 2nd (ETD) ; 80, Morston, September 30th (PDK) ; 200, Heydon, November 12th and 300, Binham, March 30th (RPB-o). Also large numbers at Breydon during October with 60 on 2nd increasing to 200 by end of month (RHH). A bird of the Northern race (*Charadrius a. altifrons*) at Holme, August 30th (ICTN).

142 Dotterel

2 at Breydon, May 14th (RHH). 2 at Cley, October 3rd (RPC, HH, FJ, RAR).

143 Turnstone

Coastal records throughout year. Largest numbers : 40-50, Scolt, May 3rd (RC) ; 84, Blakeney, May 11th (HH) and 50, Morston, October 19th (JFP). Broads : Horsey : 5, May 3rd (GC). Hickling : 2, May 1st ; 9, 15th and 20th ; one, 25th ; 8, August 20th (GB, EP, MJS).

147 Jack Snipe

Small numbers up to April 3rd (CO) and from September 14th (WFB).

148 Woodcock

Most records from the coast or its vicinity up to April 18th (EMcE) and from October 23rd (CO). A number appeared during last week of October and 4 were seen to arrive from sea at Cley on 29th (CO).

150 Curlew

Recorded throughout year. Largest numbers : North coast : Scolt, 900 on September 12th and 1,000, November 15th-25th (RC) ; Blakeney : 400, October 12th-13th (HH). East coast : Breydon, 120, October 9th (RHH). Marked westerly passage at Cley first week July : 20 daily 1st-4th, 50 on 5th and 100 daily, 6th-8th (WHD). Passage also noted at Blakeney and 100 passed on July 5th (HH). Breck : A pair bred near Lang Mere and young seen there till August (EPT).

151 Whimbrel

Spring passage in coastal areas began April 21st, but mainly in period May 2nd-19th. Return migration July 6th-September 28th; largest numbers passing during latter half August and first week September, with 250 at Scolt, September 1st (RT).

154 Black-tailed Godwit

40 records from North coast, Hickling and Horsey Broads and Breydon, between April 7th and November 2nd. No party over 8 recorded except 30 flying west at Cromer, August 29th (RAFC).

155 Bar-tailed Godwit

North/East coasts: Records throughout year. Both spring and autumn passage on a small scale and no flock exceeded 23 in number. Larger numbers in winter when 200 at Blakeney, January 9th (AEV), 80 there, February 27th (PDK); 300 at Wells, December 21st (HH).

Wash: Snettisham area, 2,000-3,000, January to March—an unusual number. Later counts include 1,300 on May 22nd (CBC).

156 Green Sandpiper

Single birds on spring passage in seven localities, April 6th-May 25th. Main passage June 25th-October 25th, with maximum of 10 at Whitlingham Sewage Farm, August 15th (MJS). Winter records from Wells (November-December), Cley (January), Aldborough, near Gunton (November), Horsey (January), Breydon (January-February) and Taverham (November-December).

157 Wood-Sandpiper

Noted at Blakeney, Cley, Salthouse and Hickling. Spring passage between April 27th and June 14th and all records of single birds except 3 at Cley, June 8th (WFB). One at Cley, July 2nd (WFB) and autumn passage between August 6th and September 21st, with maximum of 7 at Cley, August 25th (WFB).

A paper by ICTN on the passage of wood-sandpipers in Britain in the autumn of 1952, when at least 60 at Cley, appears in *British Birds*, Vol. XLIX, pp. 49-62.

159 Common Sandpiper

Passage records, April 22nd-June 3rd and July 10th-October 1st. No winter records.

162 Spotted Redshank

Single birds reported at Brancaster, Overy Staithe, Blakeney, Morston, Cley and Salthouse in all months except June and November-December. Maximum: 5 at Cley, September 5th (WFB). Hickling Broad: 1-2 on 4 dates April 27th-May 22nd and 2 on September 5th (GB, EP, MJS).

165 Greenshank

Reported from North coast (Holme-Salthouse), Broads (Hickling and Horsey), Breydon, Cantley Reservoir, Whitlingham Sewage Farm and Breck (Rush Mere). Spring passage began March 17th, with most passing

between April 25th and May 25th. Up to 4 in Blakeney harbour on 6 dates between June 6th and 19th (HH). In autumn, records mainly in period mid-August–end September, but a number of birds until end of October. Maxima : 9, Breydon, August 29th (RHH) ; 14, Scolt and 15, Cley on September 1st (RC, THB). Winter : 3, Scolt, November 14th (RC) ; singles, Breydon, November 19th (RHH) and Blakeney, January 7th (HH). Wash : Records include 30–40 between Lynn Point and Snettisham, August 31st (CBC).

169 Knot

Coastal records throughout year. Largest estimates : 1,500, Scolt Head, February 10th (RC) ; 4,000, Blakeney, March 2nd and over 10,000, Wells, November 30th onwards (HH).

170 Purple Sandpiper

North coast : One at Cley, August 27th (RS) and 1–3, October 24th–27th (one ringed on 27th—JI, CO). One at Sheringham, July 6th (DFM). 1–2, Blakeney/Morston, January 11th–12th, February 1st, March 31st, August 17th–29th, September 15th and December 13th (RPB-O, PRC, WE, A & DH, HH). One at Wells, October 4th and 2 there December 6th (HH). 2 at Holme, October 16th (CBC).

Wash : Heacham–Hunstanton, one, March 30th and up to 3 from November 22nd (CBC).

171 Little Stint

North coast : Spring records : One at Cley, April 8th (WFB, MM, BLS) ; 1–2, Cley/Blakeney, May 4th–25th (WFB, HH, CO) and 2, June 8th (WFB). Autumn passage between August 7th and October 29th, when up to 4 reported from Blakeney, Cley and Salthouse mainly in period August 29th–September 28th.

East coast : 3 at Breydon, August 7th (TCS).

173 Temminck's Stint

Singles at Cley, May 24th (GMI) and June 8th (WFB). Fens : One, South Lynn Beet Factory, August 1st (CBC).

175 White-rumped Sandpiper

Fens : Wisbech Sewage Farm : One trapped and ringed on November 13th, remained until 17th (CBC). Full details and photographs will be published in *British Birds*. There is one previous record for Norfolk (Cley, October 1st–2nd, 1948).

176 Pectoral Sandpiper

One at Cley, September 5th (WFB). Fens : Wisbech Sewage Farm : One, October 30th–November 12th (CBC—to whom full details submitted).

178 Dunlin

Wash : 6–10,000 at Snettisham, March 20th (CBC). First juvenile at Cley, July 7th (CO).

179 Curlew-Sandpiper

North coast : Spring : Singles on May 11th (PRC, RAR), 19th and 25th (HH). Small autumn passage July 19th–October 2nd with 7 at Cley, September 11th (WFB, CO). East coast : 2 at Breydon, August 7th (TCS).

181 Sanderling

North/East coasts : Records throughout year. Largest numbers : 144, Thornham, July 24th (MJS) ; 200, Blakeney Point, August 22nd (MM) ; 4-500, Scolt, May 29th and 150 there, August 20th (RC). Hickling Broad : 4, April 27th ; 2, 30th and 2, May 5th (GB, EP). Wash : Over 2,000, Snettisham-Heacham, May 22nd (CBC).

184 Ruff

North coast : Cley area : One January 25th-31st and 4 on 29th. Spring passage March 24th-May 19th, when up to 7, including birds in breeding plumage. Small autumn passage August 24th-September 29th and no parties exceeding 3 (WFB, AHD, HH, MM, CO). One at Burnham, March 17th (HH) ; 4 at Weybourne, September 6th (PRC).

Broads : Hickling and Horsey : Spring passage April 9th-May 31st, when up to 16 including one in breeding plumage. Autumn passage up to 7 from August 1st to September 19th (GB, GC, PDK, EP). East coast : 4, Buckenham, January 2nd (MJS). Breydon : 3, August 20th-31st ; one, September 3rd (RHH). One, Cantley Reservoir, August 19th ; singles, Whitlingham Sewage Farm, August 15th-September 7th (MJS).

185 Avocet

Cley : One, June 6th-10th (AES, CLO and other observers) ; 2, December 15th (WFB, MHP). Breydon : One, June 25th (RHH).

187 Grey Phalarope

One at Sheringham, January 19th (PRC). Singles at Cley, October 8th (MM), 19th (WJ) and 27th-31st (MM, JI).

188 Red-necked Phalarope

One at Scolt, September 20th, swimming at the edge of a creek taking insects from flowers of sea-lavender (RC).

189 Stone-Curlew

Breck : First, Wretham, March 17th (PH).

193 Arctic Skua

North coast (Holme-Salthouse) : 2 chasing Sandwich terns, Cley, April 23rd (EMCE). 3 at Scolt, July 29th (RC) and singles at Holkham and Overy Staithe, 30th (JSA). Main autumn passage, mid-August to end September when seen almost daily. Maximum : 40 off Cley, September 26th (LS). 14 off Scolt, October 15th (RC) and 2 off Cley, on 28th (JI) are last dates. One pursuing an immigrant wheatear over sea, August 25th (CO).

East coast : One, Scroby Sands, July 31st (RHH). Wash : Snettisham-Hunstanton : Up to 8 in September ; one on October 30th (CBC).

194 Great Skua

North coast : 1-2 on eight dates off Scolt, Blakeney and Cley, July 29th-October 29th (EAC, PRC, RC, HH, IFK, PDK). East coast : One, Bure marshes near Yarmouth, October 22nd (PGT).

195 Pomatorhine Skua

One at Cley, January 2nd (RB) and one, Blakeney Point, September 7th (HGA, MM).

198 Greater Black-backed Gull

North coast : Largest estimate 400 at Brancaster, October 10th (HH).
 East coast : Far fewer resorted to Breydon during 1955 herring fishing season. It appears that great numbers now roost on Scroby Sands off Yarmouth. Largest number of gulls (this species and herring-gull) recorded roosting at Breydon was over 5,000 on October 23rd. On this occasion, a north-westerly gale no doubt made conditions too unpleasant for them on Scroby (RHH). Breck : 150-175 roosting at Mickle Mere, January 1st (AEV).

199 Lesser Black-backed Gull

Largest passage movements noted at Stiffkey where 80-100 on August 17th (majority dark mantled, *Larus f. fuscus*—HH). A few winter records.

200 Herring-Gull

Breck : 800 roosting at Mickle Mere, January 1st (AEV).

202 Glaucous Gull

North coast : 1-2 reported on 27 dates at Brancaster, Blakeney, Cley, Salthouse, Thornage, Kelling, Weybourne, Sheringham and Cromer up to April 7th and from October 15th (many observers). Also the following interesting late summer records : An immature, Sheringham, August 10th (PRC) and 26th (ED) ; an adult, Cley, on 30th and an immature, Salthouse on 31st (PRC). 2 at Cley throughout September from the 11th (CO).

203 Iceland Gull

North coast : Single immature birds at Cromer, January 13th (RPB-O) ; Sheringham, February 23rd and April 16th-17th (PRC) and at Weybourne, March 17th (BLP).

205 Mediterranean Black-headed Gull

An adult first seen at Sheringham, January 1st (PRC) remained until the 20th and was also seen by several other observers. This is the third winter in succession this species has appeared at Sheringham.

207 Little Gull

North coast (Blakeney-Sheringham) : Recorded in all months except May-July. Most records of one or two birds, but 5, January 2nd (PRC, PDK) ; 3, February 13th (PJ) ; 4, August 31st (MM) and 4, November 13th (CO)—all at Cley.

Broads : Singly at Hickling, April 24th (*per* EP) and May 7th (JCC).
 Wash : One at Hunstanton, October 16th (CBC).

208 Black-headed Gull

Breeding localities : North coast : Large colonies at Cley/Salthouse (CO) and Wells (JFP), but no estimates available. 200 pairs, Scolt Head, but high tides washed many clutches away (RC). Broads area : 150 pairs Cantley Reservoir ; 450 pairs, Alderfen Broad (MJS) ; 100 pairs attempted to breed at Hickling (EP) and 10 pairs at How Hill (MRB—a new locality).
 Fens : 300 pairs, Wissington Beet Factory (AEV).

209 Sabine's Gull

An adult at Morston, November 17th (PRC). Satisfactory details received.

211 Kittiwake

Usual coastal records. Many passing west off Cley, September 26th–30th (LS), and October 28th–29th (JI); similar passage at Holme and Hunstanton, October 30th with well over 1,000 birds seen in 4 hours (CBC). Maxima at Scroby Sands: 150, July 24th and 300 on 31st (RHH).

212 Black Tern

Records from usual coastal localities and Broads. Main spring passage May 6th–June 6th with peak numbers May 26th–June 3rd when up to 10 at Cley, 8 at Blakeney, 18 at Scolt and 11 at Hickling. Several June records including 2–3 at Cley, 6th–23rd; one at Weybourne, 10th; one at Blakeney, 17th; 3 at Salthouse, 18th; 2 at Scolt, 27th–29th. Also singly at Scolt, July 4th and 16th. A female at Cley, June 22nd watched appealing to a male for food several times, but without result (CO).

Autumn passage July 29th–September 24th. Parties usually not exceeding 5 (except in the Wash), but over 60 counted in 2 hours passing off Weybourne, August 17th (RPB-O). Wash: Ouse estuary: 11–25, August 3rd–September 10th (CBC).

Fuller summaries of the 1954 passage movements of black terns appear in *British Birds*, Vol. XLVIII, pp. 148–169 and 300–307.

213 White-winged Black Tern

Cley: One assuming breeding plumage, May 26th–June 4th (RAR and many other observers). Full details appear in *British Birds*, Vol. XLVIII, p. 419.

217 Common Tern

First, Cley, April 2nd (CD). Last (Common/Arctic), Scolt, October 16th (RC). Very large numbers (4–5,000 estimated) at Scolt during second half of July (RC).

Breeding records: Wash: Snettisham gravel pits (about 70 nests—CBC). North coast: Scolt (1,118 nests), Blakeney Point (1,164 nests), south shore of Blakeney harbour (about 8 pairs—HH), Arnold's marsh, Cley (63 nests). East coast: Scroby Sands (over 230 nests). Broads: Ranworth (6 nests, but no young reared), Hickling (3 nests), Ormesby (3 nests and 6 young reared—EGS) and How Hill, Ludham (one nest—a new locality—MRB).

218 Arctic Tern

2 pairs nested, Blakeney Point (WE). 1–2 birds at Scolt, June 10th–July 27th (RC); singles at Cley, May 9th, August 14th, 24th–27th and September 27th (HH, PDK, CO, RT).

219 Roseate Tern

North coast: No breeding records, but 1–2 noted on many dates, May 27th–July 31st between Scolt Head and Blakeney (RC, WE, HH). One at Cley, September 9th (PE).

222 Little Tern

First, Blakeney, April 20th (WE, HH). Last, Blakeney, September 26th (HH). Inland : 4 at Taverham gravel pits, May 18th and one next day (LWL).

Breeding records : Wash : Few pairs at Snettisham (CBC). North coast : About 40 pairs at Holme, Thornham, Titchwell and Brancaster ; 27 pairs at Scolt Head ; a few pairs at Holkham ; over 67 pairs from Blakeney Point to The Hood ; about 26 pairs from The Hood to Salthouse Little Eye. East coast : 6 pairs at Horsey ; 10 pairs at Winterton, but breeding success very low ; few pairs present at Caister, but not known if they bred ; 9 pairs on Scroby Sands—a new locality (many observers).

223 Sandwich Tern

At Cley, first noted (3) on March 24th (AMB, RAR), with 7 on April 5th, 160 on 26th and 230 on 29th. Dispersal followed, but sudden influx on evening of June 19th (CO). Maximum number was 560 at Scolt, July 26th where last noted on October 8th (RC).

Breeding records : 93 nests and 80 chicks reared at Scolt ; few clutches at Blakeney but all deserted ; 16 nests on Scroby but no young seen.

224 Razorbill

North coast : Again the commonest auk throughout the year with hundreds passing off Cley, September 26th and 28th after N.W. gales (LS). First young noted August 4th when an adult with half-grown chick off Blakeney Point (PJ). Fewer oiled this year.

226 Little Auk

Wash : One, Hunstanton, January 14th (CBC).

Unusual numbers appeared from October 22nd onwards and the records are given in detail : Wash : Snettisham : One, December 19th ; Hunstanton : One, December 3rd and 19th, and 24 on 18th (CBC). North coast : Little Massingham : One recovered about October 24th (*per* MJS). Scolt Head area : 2 off Scolt, October 29th ; one dead at Brancaster, November 2nd ; 2 in Norton Creek on 3rd ; 5 flying in from sea at Scolt, 7th ; one found alive at Brancaster fresh marshes on 7th, died 2 days later ; one found dead, December 7th ; one found at Brancaster was released in the harbour on 17th (RC). Warham : One picked up alive and released at Cley, December 21st (RPB-o) ; Binham : One found dying, December 22nd (RPB-o). Blakeney : One picked up dead, Blakeney Point, October 29th (CWH) ; 2 off the Point, November 13th (PRC) ; one inland at Blakeney on 25th (RAR) and one dead on the Point on 27th (WE). Blakeney Point to Cley : 3, October 23rd–24th (HH). Cley : 7, October 24th ; one on 7th ; 15 on 28th and 21 on 29th ; one on 31st ; one, November 1st ; 4 on 3rd ; 6 on 13th and one on 26th ; 2, December 4th (WFB, IWC, EMCE, JL, CO). 71 passing east in 1½ hours on December 18th, including flocks of 10 and 12 ; singles on 19th and 21st (MFMM, PJ). Hindringham (6 miles inland from Blakeney) : One dead, November 30th (WE). High Kelling : One ringed, November 14th (CO). Sheringham : One, October 22nd landed on beach for a short period (PRC). Cromer : One dead, November 6th (ACC).

East coast : Felmingham (6 miles inland) : One found alive (died next day in a hen's nest in a shed, October 30th (EAE). Waxham : One alive

in a sugar beet field, October 31st (EAE). Horsey : One off the beach, October 4th ; one on Horsey Mere, November 7th (GC). Yarmouth : One north end of Scroby, November 18th (*per* PGT). Gorleston : One on a garden pond, November 10th-12th (RHH).

227 Guillemot

Fewer this year owing to less oiling. Marked easterly passage off Cley, November 13th (CO). One of "bridled" variety caught at Burnham, March 17th (HH).

229 Black Guillemot

Cley : 3, October 6th (PK, MM) ; one on 27th (MM) and one on 31st (CO).

230 Puffin

Cley : 2, October 16th (PJ). Blakeney harbour : A juvenile, August 25th (HH). Scolt : 150-200 passing east, October 15th ; one oiled, November 22nd ; 3 on 23rd and another oiled on 26th (RC).

234 Wood-Pigeon

2, Scolt Head, April 27th (RC) and, one, Blakeney Point, same day (CO). A juvenile arrived from sea at Cley, October 13th (CO). 16 flew in from sea at Scolt, November 21st (RC). Considerable numbers arrived from sea at Blakeney, November 22nd-23rd and many passing west on 28th (HH).

235 Turtle-Dove

Singles at Ashby St. Mary, April 21st (*per* EAE) and at Hickling on 22nd (EP) are earliest reports. Migrants passing west at Cley, April 28th, May 3rd-12th and June 5th (CO).

237 Cuckoo

First, Cley, April 7th (PJ). Most arrivals April 22nd-26th.

248 Long-eared Owl

Single pairs in breeding season in plantations at Wiveton, Salthouse and Kelling (ACC, CO). An immigrant at Cley, November 2nd (HGB). One at Surlingham, April 18th (*per* EAE).

249 Short-eared Owl

1-2 (occasionally 3-4) in many coastal areas up to April 30th and from September 16th. No breeding records, but singles at Cley on July 24th (PDK) and at Scolt on July 23rd and August 2nd (RC).

252 Nightjar

First, Salthouse, May 6th (HH). Few, if any, young reared on Salthouse and Kelling Heaths owing to ceaseless military manoeuvres (CO).

255 Swift

First, Cley, April 9th (PJ) and next recorded April 28th (CO). Main arrival noted May 2nd-6th with heavy westerly passage almost daily until May 16th. Marked westerly movements at Cley, June 20th when 3-400

passed in an hour (IFK) and at Scolt, June 21st-22nd (RC). Late autumn birds at Cley, September 20th-21st (LS) and at Weybourne on 21st (AB). Also 12 at Brinton Lake, October 12th (RPB-o) and several at Brancaster next day (*per* RPB-o).

261 Hoopoe

One at Neatishead, May 30th (Dr. D. C. Lavender *per* EAE). One at Beechamwell Hall, December 2nd (EAE) had been there about a week and was last noted on December 7th. Filmed by RPB-o. The first county record for December. Wash : One, Snettisham beach, April 9th (CBC).

262 Green Woodpecker

North coast : Customary movement to beach and marshes noted in winter (CO).

265 Wryneck

A pair bred successfully near Massingham (RW). The only other recent breeding record is from Cringleford (one pair regularly until at least 1942—*per* RJ).

One at Salthouse, May 18th (AW). One, first heard then seen, Hempstead Woods, June 14th (HH). Autumn passage : One, Holkham Gap, August 29th (RF) ; singles at Blakeney Point, August 25th (EMCE), 27th (RAR) and September 8th (CO). Other Blakeney records : 3, August 26th, one on 27th and 2 on 29th (HH).

271 Wood-Lark

Appears to be decreasing in North Norfolk : Only one pair on Salthouse Heath in breeding season (CO). Single migrants at Cromer, March 28th, April 6th and 11th (RAFC) and at Horsey Gap, October 16th (MAJ.AB).

272 Skylark

Small westerly passage at Cley, March 16th (CO). In autumn, westerly movement noted at various points along North coast, October 8th-12th, 24th-25th and on November 7th (several observers).

273 Shore-Lark

North coast : Cley : 5 on January 9th (AEV), 28th (JB) and February 13th (AW) ; 3, March 6th (CDTM) and 20th (PRC) ; 2, April 8th-9th (WHD). First autumn bird October 23rd (JI) and singles on 25th (CO) and 27th (MM) ; 6, November 15th (EMCE) ; 12 on 18th (CO) ; 35 on 27th (CN) till end of year (CO).

Blakeney Point : About 12, February 2nd (WE) ; 2, November 2nd ; 24 on 21st and 6 on 22nd (JFP). Scolt Head : 5, February 11th-25th ; 3, 28th ; 9, March 19th. First autumn birds (2) on October 16th ; 6 on 24th, one on 31st ; 3, December 2nd-5th (RC). Other records : 20, Salthouse, November 13th (PRC) and one there, December 24th (HH). 15, Morston, November 25th (PRC) and one at Stiffkey, December 3rd (HH).

274 Swallow

First record was party of 6 at Breydon, March 26th (RHH), but main arrival, April 15th-20th. Westerly passage at Cley, April 23rd, 27th,

May 1st–11th (co). Strong westerly passage also noted at Scolt, April 27th–30th and May 7th–13th (rc). Late birds reported through October with stragglers at Surlingham till November 6th (EAE), Thornage on 7th (RPB-O), Taverham on 27th (TFM) and Costessey on 29th (*per* EAE).

Albinos reported from Buxton, Coltishall, Raynham, Cley and Thornham (RPB-O, PDK, *per* MJS).

276 House-Martin

First, Cley, April 2nd (CD), but only small numbers until April 22nd. Westerly passage at Cley, May 2nd, 4th, 11th and 15th and September 14th (co). Several late records during October. Last 2 at Cley (PJ) and 4 at Burgh St. Peter, November 4th (*per* EAE), 2 at Holt on 19th (RPB-O) and one near Swaffham on 27th (CDTM).

39 nests counted on a house at Waxham (*per* MJS). Hunstanton cliff-breeding site (mentioned in the 'sixties by Stevenson in *Birds of Norfolk*, but not by Riviere, 1930): Site visited after breeding season by RAR and one nest located.

277 Sand-Martin

First, Salthouse, March 24th (PRC). Further arrivals, March 27th and April 8th with westerly passage at Cley, April 27th, May 1st, 4th and 11th (co). Similar passage at Scolt, May 7th, 9th (rc). Last noted, Holt, October 16th (RPB-O).

278 Golden Oriole

A record year at Horsey where a male, May 28th; pair, 30th; a male, June 14th; a male on 15th; a male and a pair later in day on 25th and a pair, 27th (MAJ.AB, GC). Also 2 others before May 28th, but exact date lost (MAJ.AB). A male at Surlingham, July 15th (E. M. Nicholson *per* EAE). Most of the Horsey birds were reported early in the morning and soon passed on, but the pair seen June 27th stayed all afternoon. The cock was seen to present caterpillars to the hen and chase away a cuckoo (AB).

An unpublished record for 1954 is of a male seen and heard in a pine plantation behind Wells beach, June 11th (JJW). Satisfactory details submitted.

281 Hooded Crow

One Breck and a few coastal records up to April 9th (PRC) with one at Scolt Head, June 15th (rc, REP). First autumn record, October 8th (HH) and abundant on coast from October 24th till end of year in contrast with 1954–5 winter. Maximum 173 at Wells, November 9th (HH).

282 Rook

North coast: Spring: Westerly passage, at Cley and Blakeney, March 23rd–24th. Autumn: Westerly movement at Scolt, Blakeney and Cley on several dates October 24th–November 25th, with largest numbers passing during last week of October (rc, HH, co).

293 Willow-Tit

Cley Park (MFMM) and Salthouse Heath (MG) are only new localities—see 1954 Report. At South Wootton 4 small colonies each of 4–5 pairs until 1946. The birds never recovered from the severe 1946–7 winter and only 2 nests have been found since then (NT).

295 Bearded Tit

North coast : Cley : A male, February 28th and March 2nd was seen walking on ice like a wagtail, but with tail held steady though uptilted (RAR) ; up to 4 (2 males) from October 29th (WFB) until November 27th (HGB, EF, CO, CDR). East coast : Pair on a Breydon salting, October 1st (a new locality—RHH). Broads : Breeding records only from Hickling and Heigham Sounds (40 pairs) and Horsey (150 young fledged). Winter records from Ranworth area (about a dozen—RB) and near Rockland Broad (MJS, GT).

299 Wren

Several on Blakeney Point during autumn (co) ; 2, Scolt Head, October 18th and small number there on 24th (rc).

302 Fieldfare

Spring records include 100, Seamere, April 19th (CG) ; 30, Rackheath, 24th (PDK) and one at Blakeney, May 2nd (HH). At Salthouse, April 5th, one resting on sea, 6 yards out, before flying wearily over beach (PJ). First autumn records : 2 at Scolt Head, October 2nd (rc) and one at Cley, October 5th (co). Large influxes during second half of October with peak numbers, October 16th and 23rd-24th. Further arrivals throughout November. At Cley, these immigrants arrive from north-east and turn west along coast on reaching land (co). At Holme and Hunstanton, October 16th, large westerly passage including 2,000 birds in 4 hours, nearly all crossing the Wash to W.N.W. (CBC).

303 Song-Thrush

Blakeney Point : Singles, September 7th (THB), 18th, October 10th and 16th ; 2-3, 23rd (co). Holme dunes : Singles, September 25th and October 11th (CBC).

304 Redwing,

Peak spring passage movements March 31st-April 1st and last record 3 at Coltishall, April 24th (PDK). First in autumn, 2-3 on Blakeney Point, September 24th (LS). Large movements October 15th-November 7th with peaks on October 16th, 23rd-25th and 29th-30th. At Cley these birds arrive from north east and many turn west along coast on reaching land. Some move inland (co).

307 Ring-Ouzel

Spring : Singles at Blakeney, April 13th (HH), Horsey and West Runton, 21st (GC, GM) and Kelling, 22nd (RPB-o). Autumn : Cromer : 2, September 17th (ACC), one, October 9th (IFK) and one, 22nd (ACC). Cley : One, September 20th (MM). Blakeney : One, September 14th and 2, October 12th (HH).

308 Blackbird

2, Blakeney Point, January 9th (AEV). Spring : Small flocks arriving from sea at Cley, March 24th (PJ) and 5 at Blakeney Point, 31st (co). Autumn : First noted at Blakeney Point, September 2nd (co). Numbers arriving on coasts during October, first week of November and again on November 30th. Largest numbers, October 28th-29th and November 30th.

311 Wheatear

First noted on North coast, March 24th (PRC), with 15 at Cley on 27th (RAR) and 10 of the Greenland race (*Oenanthe o. leucorhoa*) there April 10th (AG, BPH). An increase April 27th at Cley with one Greenland bird. Main movement began April 28th, but only a few left May 6th (co). Many at Scolt Head and Cley, mostly Greenland birds, May 9th-10th (RC, co) when large numbers along E. Norfolk coast (EQB). Still a few at Scolt Head and Cley, May 18th (RC, co). First juvenile at Cley June 30th (co); main autumn passage August 21st (CBC) to October 11th (RC). A juvenile with a white head at Scolt, July 18th-23rd (RC) was later seen at Blakeney Point (MM). Pair bred as usual, Gramborough Hill, Salthouse (co). Breck: First, March 25th (EPT).

317 Stonechat

Cley: 9 records of 1-3 birds at a time from January 1st-March 26th and October 16th-December 23rd (RH-C, PJ, MFMM, CO). Blakeney Point: Single males, September 16th and October 10th (co). Hickling marshes: 2, January 6th (IWC); Horsey: One, March 28th (GC) and one, Buckenham, February 20th (JTF). No breeding records.

318 Whinchat

Spring passage on North coast, April 26th (RC)-May 28th, with small peak, May 8th-9th (co). Autumn passage, August 7th (PRC)-October 3rd with one at Cley, October 10th-11th (co). Marked arrival from sea, at Cley, during afternoon of September 24th (co). Fens: Ouse Washes: Records suggest a density of 2-4 breeding pairs per square mile (CBC). Breck: Nested Barnham Cross Common and Rondham Heath (GJ, AEV). No other breeding records.

320 Redstart

Small spring passage in coastal areas, April 17th-May 26th. Autumn movements, August 16th-October 23rd, with peak numbers at Cley and Blakeney Point, August 21st-31st, September 7th-8th and 24th. On last-mentioned date marked arrival from sea during afternoon (co).

Summary of recent breeding records:

Several pairs breed regularly in North Norfolk in an area bounded by Glandford on the west, West Runton on the east and extending inland to Holt. Few nests known before 1939, but apparently regular since 1946. The localities include Glandford, Letheringsett, Kelling, Cley, Weybourne, Bodham, Sheringham, West Runton and Holt.

To the west, a pair bred at Weasenham, 1954, but none seen next year. 3-4 pairs continue to breed regularly at South Wootton and a few are noted annually at Sandringham and Dersingham.

The species is most abundant in parts of the Breck. Localities recorded since 1948 include Stanford Water, Croxton, Santon Downham, Wretham, Weeting, near Brandon, Fowl Mere, West Tofts, Shadwell and Thorpe Great Heath. Also Two Mile Bottom, where 8 singing males in 1949, and 6-8 pairs in 1954.

There are no recent breeding records from other parts of the county, but pairs were seen at Colney Park in May 1952 and at Ringland in July 1955 (many observers).

321 Black Redstart

Spring : Single birds at Cley/Blakeney Point, March 25th (MM) ; 29th (RPB-O) ; April 3rd (WFB) ; 26th (CO) ; and May 26th (ringed—CO). Also singles at Blakeney, April 5th (HH) and Cromer, 6th (RAFC). Autumn : Singles at Blakeney, September 15th, October 2nd (HH) and 23rd (ringed—CO), at Holkham, October 10th (HH) and at Holme on 11th (CBC).

322 Nightingale

First noted at Kelling and Horsford, April 16th (RPB-O, PRC). 2 newly arrived migrants at Cley, April 26th and singles on 27th and 29th and May 3rd (CO).

324 Bluethroat

Singles, Blakeney Point, September 8th (CO) ; Cley beach road, October 1st (AHD) ; Holme sea-wall on 11th (CBC).

An unpublished record for 1954 is of one at Cley, August 25th (EMCE).

325 Robin

Blakeney Point : 2 arrived, October 11th (PRC). Many of Continental race arrived, October 23rd, though fewer than in October 1951. At least 500 estimated to be present on the Point alone (CO).

327 Grasshopper-Warbler

First, Hickling, April 22nd (EP). One ringed on Blakeney Point, September 17th (CO).

333 Reed-Warbler

First, Hickling, April 18th (EP). In usual numbers from May 6th. One on Blakeney Point, September 20th (CO). 1-2 still present in Cley reed-beds in early October (CO).

337 Sedge-Warbler

First, Cley, April 10th (AG). Further arrivals April 21st-23rd. One newly arrived at Blakeney Point, May 12th (CO) ; another there, September 7th (THB). Last, at Holme, September 10th (CBC).

340 Icterine Warbler

Singles at Blakeney Point, August 14th (PRC, PDK, RAR) ; 15th and 16th (MM) ; 23rd (RAFC, CO—this bird was ringed) ; and 24th (RJJ, CO). All different birds and none was a melodious warbler, as all had pale " willow tit " edgings to secondaries which K. Williamson of Fair Isle Bird Observatory asserts melodious does not show (RAR).

343 Blackcap

First, Brinton, April 5th (RPB-O), but not widespread until end of month. Single migrants at Scolt, April 29th-30th (RC) and Cley/Blakeney Point on April 25th, 29th, May 6th with 2 on 9th (CO). Last recorded October 10th (CO).

A male, hand-reared from age of 6 days, became excessively tame. It first bathed at 10 days, first uttered sub-song at 14 days, slept inside

my cupped hand and later on bed-rail or among flowers in vase. It would forage for aphides among the broad beans and come when called. Despite this confiding behaviour it began to show restlessness during the night early in October and on the 5th departed with scarcely a backward glance (RAR).

344 Barred Warbler

Blakeney Point: One on August 28th (ringed—co); 2 on 29th and singly on 30th (co); September 7th (THB); 16th (MM, co); October 24th (WE) and 25th (DS). Also one at Warham, August 20th (RPB-O) and one ringed at Cley, October 24th (JI, co). All records are of different immature birds.

346 Garden-Warbler

First, Thorpe End, April 26th (PDK). 1-2, Scolt Head, April 29th-30th (RC) and singles at Cley, April 30th, May 3rd and 8th (co). Small autumn passage on North coast, July 21st (MM)—October 10th (co).

347 Whitethroat

First, Salthouse, April 9th (PRC). Heavy influxes at Cley, April 26th and 30th and May 1st-3rd; also a smaller movement May 8th with some seen arriving from sea, continuing on 9th (co). Autumn passage, Cley/Blakeney Point, August 14th-October 1st with small influx on September 10th (co).

348 Lesser Whitethroat

First, Sharrington, April 13th (RPB-O). Up to 4 on 4 dates between May 1st and 9th at Cley (co); also 3 on Scolt Head, May 9th (RC). In autumn, at Blakeney Point, singles on August 28th, September 16th-18th and 20th (AB, CO, CMV).

351 Subalpine Warbler

A first-winter male at The Hood, Blakeney Point, September 29th-30th was ringed on 29th (GHA, CO, JS, RALS). Full details appear in *British Birds*, Vol. XLIX, p. 86. The second record for England; the first, an adult male, was seen at Cley, June 11th 1951 (*British Birds*, Vol. XLV, p. 262).

354 Willow-Warbler

Spring: First, Santon, March 26th (EPT) and Brinton, April 2nd (RPB-O). Small arrival April 5th-6th and very large movement noted at Scolt (RC) and Cley on 26th with birds still arriving on 30th and May 1st (co). Smaller influxes at Scolt and Cley, May 8th and 9th. 1-2 birds of the grey Northern race (*Phylloscopus t. acredula*) at Cley, May 8th and another there on 27th (co, PRC).

Autumn: Passage movements August 13th-September 24th with peak numbers August 21st-31st (RC, ICTN, CO).

356 Chiffchaff

First, Cley, March 16th (WFB) and High Kelling next day (GHCB). Small but widespread arrival March 27th-28th. Last, Blakeney Point, October 2nd (co) and Brinton on 15th (RPB-O) with a straggler seen and heard singing at Stoke Holy Cross, November 6th (*per* CEG).

357 Wood-Warbler

First, Kelling, May 4th (PRC). One ringed on Blakeney Point, May 9th ; another there, August 27th–29th (CO).

Summary of recent records : In North Norfolk, a few pairs breed regularly in the Holt area and at least 10 singing males and 4 nests there in 1954. The localities include Sheringham, West Runton, Glandford and Kelling. Also Plumstead until 1953 when woods felled. At Blickling breeding still continues : 2–3 singing males there in 1947 and 4 males in 1953. One pair bred at Aylsham in 1947 and a singing male reported from Oulton in 1942.

In West Norfolk, none reported at Snettisham (Ken Hill wood) since 1935 when 4 pairs. At South Wootton (where 8 singing males 1944, but only one breeding pair) one singing in mid-May 1954, but none appeared in 1955.

Near Norwich, records include single singing males at Little Plumstead, 1942 ; Thorpe End, 1943 and Felthorpe, 1952 ; whilst a pair bred at Sprowston in 1945. The only recent Breck records are from Shadwell—where single singing males observed 1950 and 1952—and Kilverstone (many observers).

364 Goldcrest

Singles on Blakeney Point, September 20th, 27th and October 1st with 2–3 on 11th. Main autumn movement, October 22nd–24th when many arrived at Scolt, Blakeney and Yarmouth (RC, PJ, CO, JFP, PGT).

366 Spotted Flycatcher

First, Brinton, May 4th (RPB-O) with most records from May 8th, and a newly arrived bird at Cley on 31st (CO). Single migrants at Blakeney Point/Cley, August 25th, 27th, September 20th, 21st, 24th–25th (CO). Last (2) at Hunstanton, October 11th (CBC).

368 Pied Flycatcher

Spring : 8, Cley, May 1st (WFB), 2, Scolt, 9th (RC), one, Blakeney, 26th–27th (HM) and one, Cley, 28th (AMB). Also one on Salthouse Heath, June 20th (CO).

Autumn : One, Blakeney Point, July 21st (MM). Large influx noted at Cley, Blakeney, Scolt and Holme, August 12th–31st (RC, HM, CO, ICTN) ; also 1–2 at Horsey, August 19th and 21st (AW) with 5 there on 26th (GC). Smaller movements at Blakeney, September 7th–8th and 20th–24th (HM, CO, CMV). Last, one at Holme, October 11th (CBC).

370 Red-breasted Flycatcher

One, Blakeney Point, August 28th–29th (PRC, PDK, RAR). An adult male, Holme, August 30th (ICTN).

371 Hedge-Sparrow

One, Blakeney Point, October 23rd (CO).

373 Meadow-Pipit

Cley : First spring migrants returned March 16th ; increase noted on 24th with many passing west on 25th and for several days after ; further

westerly passage, April 27th (co). Cromer (Lighthouse hills) : About 200, April 28th, but only a dozen next day (acc). Blakeney Point : Influx, September 16th (co). Up to 100 an hour passing west at Holme, September 25th (cbc).

375 Tawny Pipit

Blakeney Point : 2, August 23rd and one on 24th. "Zeep" call-notes heard (RAR). Observer familiar with bird in Camargue. These are the third and fourth records for the county.

376 Tree-Pipit

First, Weeting, April 11th (AEV). Several single birds moving west at a high altitude over Cley, April 29th (co). Last, Holme, September 25th (cbc).

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

Usual coastal records up to April 16th (RAR) and from September 22nd (LS), with many arriving at Cley, October 2nd (co). Again noted in Yare valley at Reedham (PWPB). Single birds of the Scandinavian race (*A. s. littoralis*) at Cley, April 3rd and 18th (RAR).

380 Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla a. yarrelli*)

Westerly spring passage at Cley, March 20th-25th (co, rj).

White Wagtail (*M. a. alba*)

North coast : Small spring passage, April 15th-May 16th and in autumn, August 31st-September 29th (HH, IFK, MM, CO).

381 Grey Wagtail

Bred successfully at Coston Bridge on river Yare and 5 young reared (EQB); another pair nested at Taverham Mill, but the eggs failed to hatch (LWL). Usual winter records. A male at Honing Lock on Dilham Canal, August 19th (EQB)—a new locality.

382 Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla f. flavissima*)

Spring : First coastal records, Cley, March 31st (WFB) and April 2nd (RAR). Other arrivals and increases noted on April 10th-11th, 14th and 23rd. Westerly passage at Cley on 27th and first females arrived there on 29th with more on May 5th (co). Over 150, Cromer Lighthouse hills, April 28th; only 6 there next day (acc).

Autumn : Influx Blakeney Point Cley, September 16th (co) and last noted, September 26th (HH). One of unknown race at Cley, October 29th (RAR).

Breck : First, Ring Mere, March 24th (GJ).

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

A typical male at Cley, April 14th (AMB, RAR).

Ashy-headed Wagtail (*M. f. cinereicapilla*)

A male with 2 tawny-looking females at Cley, May 16th (PRC, RAR). Full details appear in *British Birds*, Vol. XLVIII, p. 459. The first record for the county and the second for Britain.

383 Waxwing

One at Cley, January 14th and 3 at Wiveton on 19th (AHD). One at Gorleston, November 18th (*per* EAE); 10 at Wheatfen, November 26th (EAE); 9-12 in a Norwich garden, December 3rd-4th (*per* PDK) and 6-8 at Wheatfen, December 21st (*per* EAE).

384 Great Grey Shrike

Fens: One at Tottenhill, April 1st (CBC).

Unusual numbers during last quarter of year: *North coast*: 5 (one ringed) between Cley and Blakeney Point, October 23rd, preying on migrant robins and goldcrests (CO); one, Blakeney Point on 24th (JFP); and singly at Cley on 25th (AHD), 26th, 30th, November 7th-8th (WFB), and on 9th and 15th (EMCE). One arrived from sea at Cromer, October 28th (ACC). Singles at Salthouse, November 2nd-4th (seen to kill pied wagtail—LC, RH-C) and on November 22nd; also 2 there, December 13th (*per* PRC). 2 Kelling Pines, November 20th (RPB-O) and one at Salthouse, December 20th till end of year (R. Cooke). Prey of last-mentioned bird included redwing, meadow-pipit, linnet, chaffinch and brambling (RPB-O). *Broads*: One, Hickling, December 15th-19th (GB, EP). *Wash*: Singly at Snettisham, December 11th and at Sandringham Warren on 19th (CBC).

386 Woodchat Shrike

Muckleburgh Hill, Weybourne: One watched for half an hour at close range and under good conditions at noon on May 19th (RAG). Points noted include shrike-like bill; chestnut crown, white scapular patches, whitish underparts, black forehead and cheeks. Shrike-like habits. Sketch supplied.

388 Red-backed Shrike

First, Hellesdon, May 8th (JTF). Again most abundant in coastal area between Morston and West Runton (HH, CDR); up to 6 pairs on outskirts of Norwich (MJS). Breck: Records from Wretham, Thetford and Weeting. Single juveniles on Blakeney Point, September 8th and 10th (CO); also at Cley on 17th (EF); 2 at Holme, September 10th (CBC).

389 Starling

Migration: Heavy westerly passage observed on many dates between October 8th and November 25th on North and East coasts. Peak movements October 22nd-29th and November 1st-3rd (CO and other observers). At Cromer, total of 24,000 estimated passing west in 2 hours, October 22nd (ACC).

Roosts: For an account of the Egmere roost see page 17. Many thousands at Ketteringham Hall (DAL) and at Vernon Wood, Suffield, during the 1955-6 winter (*per* MJS). *Fens*: A roost estimated at 100,000-150,000 birds at Welney, November 10th (CBC).

391 Hawfinch

Summary of recent records: In 1930, B. B. Riviere described this bird in his *Birds of Norfolk* as a rather uncommon resident, nesting regularly but sparingly in the county and its status does not appear to have greatly

changed since then. There are a number of records from Norwich (a pair bred in a city garden, 1954) and the surrounding areas—including Salhouse, Coltishall (bred 1945), Crostwick, Mousehold Heath, Sprowston, Thorpe End (bred 1944), Little Plumstead, Postwick, Crown Point (bred 1950), Yelverton (bred 1953), Framingham Pigot, Stoke Holy Cross, Cringleford (bred 1952), Taverham (one nest 1948) and Tacolneston. Also reported from Dereham (one pair breeds regularly), near Wymondham (bred 1955) and Kimberley.

North of these areas, 2 pairs bred at Blickling in 1947 and single pairs at Aylsham in 1947 and 1954. Single pairs breed regularly near Holt and at Brinton and a newly-fledged young was ringed at Cley in June 1949. Occasional records from Salhouse Heath, Stiffkey and East Lexham; also Raynham (bred 1954). Westwards, a few pairs in South Wootton—Castle Rising area. To the greater part of the Broads area the species is unknown.

In the south, reported only at Ellingham where one pair probably bred 1955 and steady decline in recent years. In south-west Norfolk, regular breeding records from the Beechamwell area, whilst it is common in many localities in the Breck, especially in parks near Thetford. Seen several times near Feltwell, Weeting, Rushford, Didlington, Mundford, Croxton, Kilverstone and Thompson Water. Regularly at Stanford and Stanford Water. Bred Merton Park 1952 and also known to breed at Shadwell Park (where 4 nests in one small area, 1949) and Wretham Park (many observers).

This species is worth searching for in woods favoured by redstart and wood-warbler. Young fledge early June and have distinctive hunger-call (RAR).

392 Greenfinch

An albino at Witchingham, December 1st (PJ).

393 Goldfinch

Large flock of over 250, Blakeney, September 13th (HH).

394 Siskin

Small party at Taverham, February 12th (LWL), 15-20 at Wroxham on 22nd (IWC), 8 at Wells, March 13th (PRC) and 2 at Holkham on 28th (JSA), 6 at Sheringham, November 10th (JM), 2 at East Lexham, December 4th (WGB) and 4 at Buckenham on 31st (ETD).

395 Linnnet

Cley: Easterly passage, March 1st-2nd and 11th; slight westerly passage, October 12th (CO).

396 Twite

North coast: Holme: 100, February 13th (CBC); Scolt: One, January 1st, 3 on 3rd and 31 from 5th to 7th (RC); Burnham Overy: 5, March 17th (HH); Morston: 3, November 5th and 12 on 7th (PRC); Cley: Singles, November 5th (CO) and 10th (PDK). Wash: Only recorded in October: 150 at Terrington on 23rd (CBC).

397 Redpoll

Taverham : Small party, February 12th ; 6, November 27th and 2 on December 4th (LWL). Present in breeding season at High Kelling, Holt, Hempstead and Bodham (GHCB).

404 Crossbill

North Norfolk : Small party on several dates in January, High Kelling (GHCB) ; singles at Blakeney, April 12th (HH) and at Cley, October 3rd (AHD). Breck : Only records are of 2 pairs regularly at one site ; April–August (FJTP).

407 Chaffinch

Cley : Many passing west, October 8th–10th and many arriving, October 22nd–23rd (co). Westerly movement, Scolt, November 7th (RC).

408 Brambling

Usual winter records especially from North Norfolk, but in rather small numbers (largest flock 100 in Brinton–Melton Constable area, February 18th–28th—RPB-o). Last spring records : 2, Salthouse Heath, April 12th (RP) and 5 at Holt, May 15th (GHCB). First in autumn : 2, Blakeney Point, September 28th (co). At Cley : 4, October 5th (MJR) ; many passing west, October 8th–10th and many arriving, 22nd–23rd (co). 3, Blakeney Point, October 25th (JFP) ; 4 at Scolt same day, 16 there on 28th and 11 on 31st (RC). Largest winter flocks were 200 at Morston throughout December (HH, co) and 300 at Rougham on November 14th (WGB).

409 Yellow Hammer

3, obviously migrants, at Blakeney Point, October 23rd (co).

410 Corn-Bunting

Over 40 going to roost in reeds at Cley, December 20th (MFMM).

416 Ortolan Bunting

Spring : One killed by traffic, Salthouse Heath, May 6th (EMCE, ES), is now in the collection at Norwich Castle Museum. Autumn : 13 different birds at Blakeney Point, as follows : 3, August 16th, one, 27th–30th (2 on 29th), one, 31st ; 5, September 7th and one on 21st (co and other observers). Wash : One at Wolferton, August 31st (ICTN).

421 Reed-Bunting

Flock of 40, Buxton Fen, October 12th (DWHA).

422 Lapland Bunting

North coast : Holme : 20, February 13th ; 10, September 25th and 2 or more on October 2nd (CBC). Cley : 12 still present, January 24th (co) ; 17, February 5th (PJ) ; 4 ringed on 20th and 5 there on 27th, none of which was ringed (PRC, PDK). Last spring date : 2, April 8th (AG). Autumn : 12 passing west on September 26th and 4 next day ; 3–4, November 5th, then favourite stubble ploughed-up and birds apparently moved to

Morston (co). Salthouse : 3, October 4th (FJ) and singly on 10th (PRC) and November 12th (EMCE). Blakeney Point : One, September 7th-8th (co) ; 2 on 21st (HH) ; one on 23rd ; 3 in from sea on 24th (co). Singles, September 25th, October 25th (co), November 2nd and 21st (JFP) and 2, December 19th (MFMM). Morston : One, January 21st ; 2 on 28th ; 3, February 3rd-4th and 2 on 27th ; 2, November 3rd, 4 on 5th ; one on 13th and, 5 December 23rd (PRC). Wiveton : One, December 19th (MFMM).

Wash : Singly at Snettisham, January 30th and December 22nd (CBC).

423 Snow-Bunting

Records from usual localities on North and East coasts. Present in greatest numbers in first quarter of year with 5-600 at Cley during January (co), several hundred estimated between Kelling and Salthouse, January 12th (HH) and up to 100 at Scolt (RC). Last record for spring : A pair at Cley, April 3rd, the male being killed by a kestrel same day (co).

First in autumn at Blakeney Eye, September 21st (HH) and at Scolt and Cley on 26th (RC, LS). Flocks built-up slowly during October, reaching peak numbers by end of year. The December records include 200 at Cley (co) and over 200 at Blakeney (WE, JFP).

1955 LIGHT-VESSEL NOTES

Summarised by R. A. RICHARDSON

In November 1954, the crews of nine light-vessels off the Norfolk coast were furnished with recognition books and diaries and asked to keep a record of birds observed. Yarmouth Naturalists' Society purchased the books for seven vessels, while the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society supplied those for two vessels. A summary of the more interesting records is given below.

Storm-Petrel

One, Cromer, November 12th ; 2, Inner Dowsing on 18th and 3, Outer Dowsing, same day.

Moorhen

One, Newarp, March 16th ; 10, Haisboro', November 19th.

Wood-Pigeon

Few, Outer Dowsing, November 12th.

Barn-Owl

2, Newarp, October 14th.

Jackdaw

One, Cross Sands, October 29th ; 2, Outer Dowsing, November 3rd.

Jay

One, Haisboro', November 19th.

Redwing

Several, Outer Dowsing, October 20th-21st, and 1-2 there, November 10th.

Ring-Ouzel

One, Newarp, April 10th.

Blackbird

Several passing west, Inner Dowsing, March 22nd ; several, Outer Dowsing, October 20th-21st ; 10, Haisboro', November 12th.

Redstart

2, Cross Sands, April 12th.

Chaffinch

Several, Outer Dowsing, November 1st.

Brambling

Several, Outer Dowsing, November 1st ; few, Smith's Knoll, on 9th.

LAPWINGS AT NORFOLK LIGHT-VESSELS, 1955

Dates	Inner Dowsing	Outer Dowsing	Haisboro'	Newarp	Smith's Knoll
Jan. 25	—	—	10	—	—
Mar. 15/16	—	—	100's	—	—
" 26	—	—	—	20	Several
" 27	—	—	—	—	300
Apr. 2	—	—	50	—	—
Nov. 9	—	—	10	—	—
" 11	Several	—	—	—	—
" 12	—	Few	25	—	—
" 18	—	—	—	—	Several

None reported from other stations.

SKYLARKS AT NORFOLK LIGHT-VESSELS, 1955

Dates	Outer Dowsing	Haisboro'	Newarp	Smith's Knoll
Jan. 30	—	100 W.	—	—
Mar. 16	—	—	3-400	—
" 26	—	—	Several	Several
" 28	—	50	—	—
Apr. 3	—	Several	—	—
Oct. 29	—	100 E.	—	Few
Nov. 2	—	—	—	Few
" 10	Several	—	—	—
" 12	—	20	—	—
" 15	—	—	—	Several
" 18	Few	—	—	—

None reported from other stations.

"CROWS" (? ROOKS)

Dates	Haisboro'	Cross Sands	Smith's Knoll
Oct. 29	—	—	—
Nov. 3	—	Several W.	—
" 6	—	—	100 S.W.
" 7	—	—	10 S.W.
" 8	—	—	Several
" 10	10	—	Several W.
" 12	5	—	—

None reported from other stations.

STARLINGS AT NORFOLK LIGHT-VESSELS, 1955

Dates	Inner Dowsing	Outer Dowsing	Haisboro'	Newarp	Smith's Knoll
Jan. 10	—	—	Few	—	—
" 21	—	—	10	—	100
" 22	—	—	60	—	—
" 23	—	—	50	—	—
" 25	—	—	Several	—	—
Mar. 14	—	—	—	500	—
" 15	—	—	—	Several	—
" 16	—	—	20	—	—
" 23	—	—	—	Several	—
" 26	—	—	Several	—	—
" 28	—	—	100 W.	—	—
Apr. 3	—	—	—	—	—
" 10	—	—	—	—	—
Oct. 14	—	Several	—	50	—
" 21	—	—	100 E.	—	—
" 29	—	Many	Several W.	—	—
Nov. 1	—	200	100's	—	Few
" 2	Many	—	100's	—	Many
" 3	Many	—	—	—	—
" 4	Many	—	—	—	Several
" 6	—	—	50	—	—
" 8	—	—	20	—	—
" 9	—	—	—	—	—
" 10	—	Several	—	—	—
" 11	—	—	50 W.	—	Several
" 12	Several	1,000	12	—	Several
" 13	—	200	—	—	Many
" 14	—	—	—	—	Several
" 15	—	1,000	—	—	Several
" 18	—	40-50	—	—	Several
" 19	Many	—	100	—	—
" 20	—	—	—	—	Several
" 21	Many	Many	—	—	Few
" 22	—	20-30	—	—	Few
" 25	—	—	—	—	—
" 30	—	—	100 W.	—	—

None reported from other stations.

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