

NATURAL HISTORY

# THE NORFOLK BIRD REPORT



1956

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PART 6

# THE NORFOLK BIRD REPORT

1956

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COLLARED DOVE (*Streptopelia decaocto*), ADULT AND YOUNG,  
Norfolk, 1956



# The Norfolk Bird Report

## 1956

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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 the annual report on the birds of Norfolk.

Unusual numbers of wildfowl were reported during the cold spell in February, particularly Bewick's swans, scaup, golden-eye, velvet scoters, red-breasted mergansers and snew. Many redwings died in the hard weather and fieldfares were reduced to pecking frozen carrots in the fields. The pink-footed and white-fronted geese in the Breydon area again showed a decline in numbers. This annual decrease has taken place during the last ten years and less than 200 were seen in the 1956-57 winter compared with 3,000 in 1946. Among bean-geese in the Yare valley was an adult lesser white-fronted goose.

Spring visitors of special interest included purple heron, woodchat-shrike, cranes, white-eyed pochard, hoopoe and golden orioles. Black terns appeared in numbers during the last week of May and Rockland Broad was again their favourite haunt, fifty-one being seen there on May 22nd. Drift-migrants were arriving at Cley and Blakeney Point as late as May 29th. A lesser grey shrike, the fifth recorded for Norfolk, remained for a week during June at Snettisham.

The gales and rain of the disappointing summer accounted for the loss of young terns at Blakeney, Scolt Head and Scroby Sands. In the Broads area, at least six pairs of short-eared owls bred and bearded tits at the Hickling reserve had a most successful season. Six pairs of marsh-harriers are known to have nested in the county; but only three young Montagu's harriers were reared.

Other interesting breeding records are of twenty pairs of fulmar petrels, black redstarts at Yarmouth for the first time since 1953, and a brood of six pochard—a scarce breeding duck in east Norfolk—was reared at Wheatfen. Pintail again attempted to nest on the Breydon marshes but the clutch of eggs was taken by rats or carrion crows. Many lapwings' and redshanks' eggs there shared a similar fate. Among the very late nests recorded were two song-thrushes' and a blackbird's all of which contained young in early September. At Thetford a nest of young house-martins was noted on October 1st.

The event of the year was the discovery of the collared dove—a bird new to the British List. Two or possibly three pairs bred in north Norfolk and at the end of the season sixteen birds were seen. Since 1952, a single collared dove has appeared annually at Manton in Lincolnshire but there is a possibility that this is not a genuine wild bird. Both the B.O.U. List Committee and the Editors of *British Birds* preferred to await further evidence of this species arrival in this country in a free state. This evidence has now been provided and there is no suggestion that any collared doves have been imported into Norfolk. The coastal location and the number of birds strongly support the belief that they are genuine immigrants from the Continent. Members are asked to keep a special look-out for these birds spreading from the north coast of Norfolk as they increase in number.

The first part of September was an exciting time on the Norfolk coast when a wave of unusual and rare migrants was recorded. During a night of north-easterly wind and rain on September 1st many migrants moving down the coast of the Continent were drifted off-course and the following day was a remarkable one of drift-migration at Blakeney Point. During this period the interesting birds included bluethroats, wrynecks, ortolan buntings, wood-warbler, crossbills, buzzards, red-breasted flycatchers, barred warblers and a tawny pipit. Considerable numbers of Lapland buntings arrived towards the end of September and well over a hundred remained in the Morston area at the end of the year.

Other rare birds of the autumn included several ospreys, a Sabine's gull, a sooty shearwater, a little bittern and, among the waders, Temminck's stints, red-necked phalarope, great snipe and Kentish plover. At Wisbech Sewage Farm over a hundred ruffs and thirty-four spotted redshanks were seen. 236 species of birds were recorded in the county during the year.

We are indebted to Mr. R. A. Richardson for the collared dove frontispiece, the cover drawing of an osprey and other charming illustrations; also to Mr. R. Jones, Mr. Philip Wayre, Mr. P. R. Clarke and Mr. R. P. Bagnall-Oakeley for their photographs; to Mr. A. E. Vine for drafting the Breckland notes; to the Cambridge Bird Club, to the editors of *British Birds* and to all other contributors.

Records for the 1957 Report should be sent as early in the New Year as possible to Mr. Michael J. Seago, 33 Acacia Road, Thorpe, Norwich.

# Notes on Breeding Birds of the Norfolk Nature Reserves.



## SCOLT HEAD ISLAND

(Leased to the Nature Conservancy)

WARDEN : R. CHESTNEY

Ground-nesting birds in such an exposed area as Scolt Head Island must obviously be affected by bad weather in the breeding season and the gales and rain during the summer of 1956 accounted for the loss of young terns and waders. These were offset to a considerable extent by the low mortality among the tern chicks from disease and in the circumstances the number of young that survived to fly was much larger than might have been expected.

**Mallard.**—An average number of about twenty pairs was seen on the island and adjacent marshes but only one nest, with nine eggs, was recorded. This was a late nest found in early June in an unusual site in the marram of the ternery and was almost certainly a second attempt following the loss of an earlier clutch. The brood of nine was reared.

**Sheld-Duck.**—The number of pairs seen was estimated at 200 but only a small proportion of these appeared to be breeding birds. There are still plenty of open holes in spite of the absence of rabbits and nesting seems to have been more successful than in the previous season judging by the number of young seen in the creeks. On July 19th five broods of eleven, five, eighteen, six and three young were seen between Beach Point and House Hills.

**Red-legged Partridge.**—One pair nested and reared a brood which was seen later as a covey of nine.

**Oystercatcher.**—The total number of breeding pairs was judged to be between eighty and ninety of which thirty were in the ternery area. A large number lost their young in the severe gale and resulting high tide of June 8th which covered all the beaches and reached to the foot of the sand dunes.

**Ringed Plover.**—The number of pairs nesting on the island remains fairly constant and was estimated at about 170. Early in the season scrapes were seen on all the usual sites and the first nest with eggs was found on April 19th. A large number of eggs in the second nests were lost and later-hatched young drowned in the gale of June 8th. A very late nest was found in September. There were a few losses due to black-headed gulls and one young bird was seen being picked up by a kestrel which carried it off to the Long Hills.

**Redshank.**—Although the number of pairs in the area was estimated at about eighty, a good average, only seventeen nests were found on the ternery. Most of these were successful in rearing young, but a few on lower ground succumbed to high tides and blowing sand which was very bad during a gale on July 5th.

**Black-headed Gull.**—A colony of some sixty pairs nesting on the marsh south of the "break-through" was washed-out by the high tides. No further attempt was made to breed on the island.

**Common Tern.**—900 nests were counted and an estimated number of 700 young reached the flying stage. Birds were seen on April 26th and the first nests, with eggs, on May 16th. The colony's first set-back was in the northerly gale of June 8th when the eggs and young from 250 to 300 nests were lost. However, with very little delay the birds began to lay again—this time in two distinct groups. On July 2nd there were 500 nests in one group and 300 in the other and hatching was in full swing.

Further losses were experienced on July 5th in a gale from the south west with blowing sand, but these were comparatively light. The third disaster was a severe storm with very heavy rain on July 17th just at the time a number of later nests were hatching. The chicks became very wet while the parents were trying to find food and a number died from chills. It is remarkable that in such weather conditions, described by the Warden as "like November," such a fair proportion of young survived to fly.



**Roseate Tern.**—A single bird was frequently heard and seen flying over the island during the summer but none are known to have nested in Norfolk in recent years.

**Little Tern.**—These arrived in the third week of April but there were fewer pairs than usual and only fourteen nests were found. Those on the open beach completely exposed to the gales, blowing sand and rain stood little chance of rearing young and only six of the chicks survived.

**Sandwich Tern.**—Seventy-four pairs nested of which thirty deserted their eggs. Nine dead chicks were picked up and fifty-eight were reared. The first birds to arrive were seen over the harbour entrance on April 23rd. The first eleven nests, counted on May 25th, came to grief in the early June gale. On June 26th a count of forty-four nests and twenty-six young was made and a few days later the colony was increased by the arrival of another eighteen to twenty pairs. Most of the young were on the wing in mid-July and by the end of the month the later-hatched birds were flying. An interesting note was made of a company of up to 500 Sandwich terns resting on the Far Point on July 12th.

**Skylark.**—These appeared to be more numerous than usual but no attempt was made to look for nests.

**Swallow.**—The usual pair nested in the shed of the Hut and reared a brood. A second clutch hatched but the young did not survive and the parent birds left at once.

**Linnet.**—Nests were not looked for but the number of pairs was considered to be less than usual.



BLAKENEY POINT  
(The National Trust)  
WARDEN: W. EALES

Sandwich terns returned to nest on the Point for the first time since the levelling of the shingle by the surge of 1953 and a colony of considerable size was established during May. There was an increase in the number of little terns which would appear to correspond with their decrease at Scolt Head Island. The shingle

bank extending from Blakeney Point to Salthouse affords shelter on its south side on which most of the little terns nest, whereas the beach on the Island is fully exposed to gales and blowing sand along its whole length. Losses of common tern chicks were considerably less this season than for some years; the dead ones examined were found to have had congestion of the lungs.

**Sheld-Duck.**—Birds began to return from their winter quarters in January and several hundred were on the beachway in the middle of February. At the end of March twenty-five pairs were observed looking for nesting sites but only a few were successful in finding holes because many of the burrows formerly kept open by the rabbits have become blocked with sand. The result was a considerable increase in the number of pairs breeding on the mainland.

**Red-legged Partridge.**—Two pairs nested, one in the main hills and the other on the beachway. The wet summer was a disastrous one for young partridges and of the twelve young hatched in the two broods only two were reared.

**Oystercatcher.**—Eighty-three nests were found, the first of them on May 5th. There were scarcely any full clutches and in many nests only one egg. Some were known to have been robbed by carrion crows and black-headed gulls but at the beginning of the season the Warden noticed also a good deal of interference by unmated birds.

**Ringed Plover.**—Forty-eight nests with young were counted. The Warden's usual practice has been to record the number of nests with eggs but this year most of the first clutches on the beaches were lost. The second nests were nearly all in the sand-hills and in these the birds were successful in rearing young.

**Redshank.**—Twenty-seven nests were found—a considerable increase. An unusual number nested in the marram of the old ternery, one within a foot of a Sandwich tern's nest. The first young were hatched on June 7th.

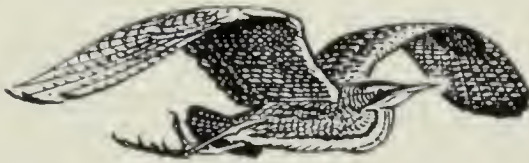
**Common Tern.**—A count of 1,600 nests was made. The first birds were seen on April 28th and a few days later numbers were calling and wheeling over the ternery. At sunset on May 1st hundreds were seen flying east in company with Sandwich terns. The first nest with one egg, was found on the Far Point on May 17th and the birds in the colony on the old ternery were laying in the first week of June. Some of the young were flying on July 7th.

**Roseate Tern.**—A single bird was occasionally seen but none nested.

**Arctic Tern.**—Two pairs were again noted, one in the usual site on the old ternery and the other on the beachway. The two eggs in the ternery nest hatched on June 15th and the young were on the wing on July 7th.

**Little Tern.**—126 nests were counted, a considerable increase. The first arrivals were fishing in the channel on April 29th. A nest with three eggs was found on May 19th and the majority were marked by June 6th. The Warden was surprised by one bird which repeatedly "stooped" at him; it is very unusual for little terns to be so aggressive.

**Sandwich Tern.**—There were 103 nests on the Far Point. The first bird was seen on April 7th but the breeding colony did not arrive until the middle of May and the first chicks were hatched on June 13th. The young were encouraged by the parents to leave the nests at an early age and a company of about forty was fed on the beach half a mile from the ternery.



CLEY AND SALTHOUSE  
(The Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

WARDEN : W. F. BISHOP

The breeding season on these marshes taken as a whole did not fulfil its early promise, for although those birds which nested in the dry fine weather of April and May did well the later species, including some of the migrants, suffered from the very wet summer. The high-light at Cley was the return of bearded tits to breed for the first time since they were decimated in the surge of 1953.

**Bittern.**—One was heard "grunting" in the spring-like weather of early January but booming did not start until the end of the cold spell, at the beginning of March. Four males occupied four areas of Cley marsh and another one was booming on Salthouse marsh. Two nests were found in which six young were reared. The number of young birds which were being fed by the parents after they had left the nests was evidence of a successful season.

**Mallard.**—Fifty pairs were estimated, a good average for the marshes. The number and size of the broods seen later was very satisfactory.

- Garganey.**—These were first seen on marsh pools near the road on March 9th, a good deal earlier than usual. No nests were found, but in early July a brood of young birds was seen in the Glaven Valley.
- Shoveler.**—A party of six drakes on the marsh throughout May was an indication that their mates were probably sitting nearby, but no nests were found.
- Sheld-Duck.**—Breeding pairs in the Cley and Salthouse area appear to be steadily increasing each year. A number of broods were seen in July.
- Water-Rail.**—These were not so numerous as usual and it is probable that some were killed in the very severe weather in February. A few were heard in the reed-beds but no young were seen.
- Oystercatcher.**—Six pairs nested on the northern boundary of the marsh and a few young were also seen on Arnold's marsh.
- Lapwing.**—It was estimated that at least fifty pairs bred on the marshes and the nearby arable land to the south of them. There has undoubtedly been an increase in the number of breeding birds since it became illegal to shoot lapwings.
- Ringed Plover.**—The number of pairs remains fairly constant in the area but there were losses of eggs and young as the result of the wet season and those nesting on the "muds" were washed out several times.
- Common Snipe.**—Evidence of breeding was again given by two and sometimes three birds drumming over the marshes—one continuing well into August, but no nest was found.
- Woodcock.**—There would seem to be an increase in the birds which breed on the uplands behind Cley and Salthouse. During the season it was calculated that ten to twelve pairs were nesting in a five-mile area.
- Redshank.**—A small annual increase has been noted and an estimate of seventy pairs was made.
- Stone-Curlew.**—The first of the season was seen on April 11th. Five pairs bred but two clutches were robbed by carrion crows. Concern is still felt for the future of stone-curlews in this district with so much marginal land coming into cultivation.
- Common Tern.**—The usual small colony of about fifty pairs nested on the islands at Salthouse marsh, but the season was a disastrous one for them and only one chick was reared. A large number was drowned and others were killed by vermin; on one day a stoat, a rat and a hedgehog were caught.
- Little Tern.**—A few nests were found on the beach between Cley and Salthouse in most of which the young were reared.

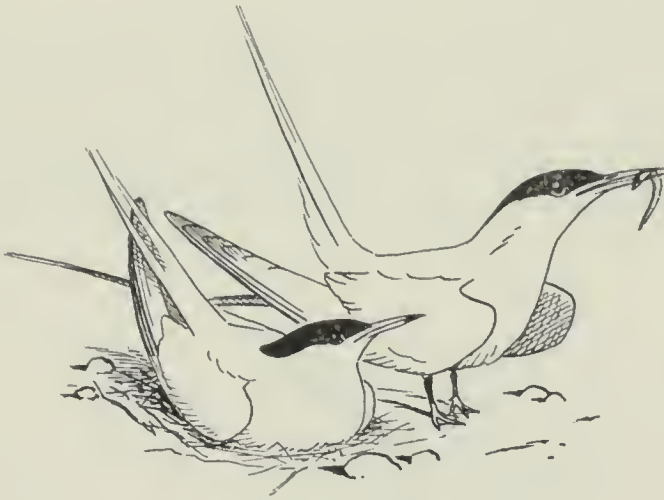
**House Martin.**—These were very late in arriving and did not return to the Warden's house to nest until May 5th.

**Bearded Tit.**—Two pairs nested, one of which reared three broods. A party of eighteen was counted in the late summer—an encouraging start for their return to Cley as a breeding species.

**Reed- and Sedge-Warblers.**—Both species were considered to be rather more numerous than usual and were present in every larger reed-bed.

**Yellow Wagtail.**—Six nests were found on the marshland but many more pairs were on the nearby heaths and uplands. It is obvious that these birds prefer the drier country in this district.

**Reed-Bunting.**—An increase in the number of nests, considered to be almost double the number of former years, is attributed to the benefit the birds obtained from the shelter and food provided by the Warden for the bearded tits during the cold spell in February.



## RANWORTH

(The Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

KEEPER: R. BROWNE

Ranworth is essentially a reserve for wildfowl and the breeding season for duck was a very good one. The cold spell in February did not last long enough to affect them and the fine dry weather which followed and lasted all through the spring provided excellent conditions for rearing the ducklings.

It is an interesting fact that although bearded tits regularly winter here they have not been known to nest in the area for many years. Conversely the birds which breed in such numbers in the

Hickling area are very scarce there in hard weather and it seems highly probable that they move temporarily to such sheltered waters as Ranworth.

The little colony of terns had to contend with another very wet summer and from the depredations of carrion crows. In the circumstances it is doubtful whether it will increase—or indeed survive.

**Great Crested Grebe.**—The usual eight pairs nested—probably the maximum number for this area of water.

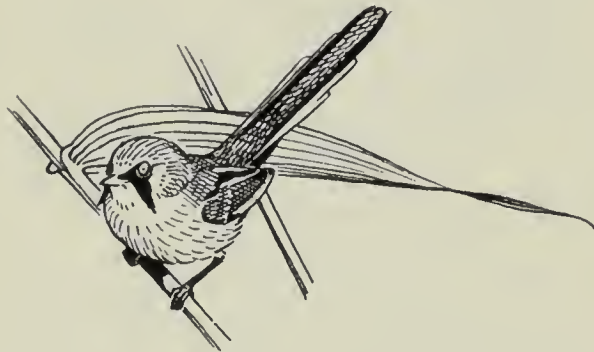
**Heron.**—The heronry in the Big Carr continues to show an increase of a few pairs each year. Thirty-four nests were counted.

**Mallard.**—An estimate of 200 pairs nesting over the wide area of rough marshland was considered a conservative one. The season was a very favourable one and good broods were reared.

**Teal.**—An average number of from twenty to thirty pairs appears to vary very little and must to some extent be controlled by the comparatively small area of the grassy marsh preferred by teal for nesting.

**Shoveler.**—These also prefer marshland which is not too rough. An estimate of sixty breeding pairs was made.

**Common Tern.**—Only two pairs returned to nest on the old wherries and of these one pair was unsuccessful in rearing young. Three eggs were hatched in the other nest and one young bird reached the flying stage.



## HICKLING

(The Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

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

Hickling Broad was almost completely frozen during the very hard frosts in February and the only open water was a small pool kept so by wildfowl. The large herd of swans was unable to feed

and as they could not be approached over the ice they were fed from a helicopter at the expense of the R.S.P.C.A. The breeding season was a very satisfactory one; the birds in such an area are not affected by summer gales and the continuous heavy rain on June 17th was too late in the season to do much damage.

**Great Crested Grebe.**—There were eight nests the first of which was found on May 21st. These breeding pairs were well distributed on the Broad and Heigham Sounds.

**Heron.**—There was no increase in the number of pairs nesting in the three small woods which they have occupied for the last few years. Nine nests were counted, five in Sounds Wood, two in Whiteslea Wood and two in General McHardy's Wood.

**Bittern.**—Several were seen in the shelter of Whiteslea Wood during the severe weather in February. One dead bird was picked up; another which was hand-fed for three weeks completely recovered. Six birds were booming from early March until June 22nd, but they were left undisturbed and no nests were found.

**Mallard.**—An estimated number of some twenty pairs bred in the area. Ten nests were found and good broods were reared.

**Garganey.**—Six birds, in two groups of three, were seen on Rush Hills and Deary's marsh on April 10th. Two pairs were observed on April 21st and on May 12th and although no nest was found a brood of eight ducklings was seen on Neale's marsh on May 30th.

**Shoveler.**—Twenty pairs were counted on Swim Coots on March 26th. Two nests were found on Rush Hills one on May 14th with seven eggs and another, with nine eggs on June 1st.

**Mute Swan.**—A herd of up to 350 birds was resident on the Broad throughout the year, most of them immature birds. Eleven pairs of mute swans nested, seven on the Broad and four on Heigham Sounds.

**Marsh-Harrier.**—Three wintering birds, one male and two females were seen at Hickling during January and February. Three pairs nested on the reserve. The first nest with five eggs, was found on Ball's rand by Heigham corner on April 26th. Four young were reared and these were ringed on June 21st. A second nest, with six eggs was found on Bell's marsh on April 30th. Two of the five young were ringed but the others flew from the nest and could not be caught. In the third nest found on May 13th on the Poor-law rand near Heigham corner, two young were reared and later ringed. The cock of this pair was considered to be one of the pair on Ball's rand and unable to find sufficient food for both broods.

- Montagu's Harrier.**—A single cock was first seen on May 6th. On May 8th a pair was observed building a nest on Perrin's marsh. Three young were reared and were later seen on the wing. Another pair was observed on May 20th carrying nesting material between Stubbs Mill and Eastfield. This nest was not looked for but the birds were frequently seen in flight.
- Water-Rail.**—A considerable decrease in last year's numbers was apparent from the very few seen or heard during the breeding season. Rather more were present in the late autumn.
- Lapwing.**—The first three nests were found on April 22nd on Chapman's marsh. An average number nested on the meadows near the cinder-track leading to the Lodge.
- Redshank.**—These were heard calling on March 8th. The first nest was found on April 22nd on Rush Hills and the number of pairs was considered to be a good average.
- Common Tern.**—Three pairs nested on Rush Hills. The young were seen flying on July 29th.
- Barn-Owl.**—There were three pairs. On March 16th the nesting box at the Lodge was occupied; another nest with six eggs and one chick was found at Stubbs Mill on May 7th and the third pair used one of Mr. Piggin's buildings.
- Long-eared Owl.**—A nest with two eggs was found on the ground in the Old Meadow Wood on May 21st.
- Short-eared Owl.**—Two nests were found, one with four young on Perrin's marsh; and another also with four young on Bell's marsh on May 21st.
- House-Martin.**—These were rather late in arriving and were not seen at Hickling until April 26th. Birds were inspecting the eaves of the Lodge on May 15th and the old sites were all occupied.
- Bearded Tit.**—These were seldom seen during the latter part of the winter, but a few were in evidence very soon after the thaw set in at the beginning of March. In spite of the cold wet summer about twenty-five pairs nested round the Broad and Heigham Sounds and at the end of the season birds were well distributed over the reserve. The first two nests were found on April 22nd both with young ready to fly. The last, with six young was recorded on June 29th.
- Grasshopper-Warbler.**—No nests were found but frequent reeling during the summer indicated an average number of pairs. The first bird was heard on April 26th.
- Reed-Warbler.**—These did not appear to be as numerous as usual. Five nests with eggs were found on June 10th.



**Sedge-Warbler.**—The first record is of one singing on April 21st. The number was estimated to be about the same as usual.

**Yellow-Wagtail.**—Three nests were found on the meadows but, in common with other ground-nesting birds, they suffered from the very wet summer.

**Reed-Bunting.**—The number of these birds seems to remain fairly constant. Three nests were found on Miss Turner's Island on May 28th, one with eggs and the other two with young.



## NOTES FROM HORSEY

By MAJOR ANTHONY BUXTON

A good many ducks were seen on or near Horsey Mere during the winter but there was nothing approaching the concentration of wigeon on the mere in January and February 1955. There were less goldeneye but more pochard than in recent years; the latter, however, never reached anything like the numbers seen before the 1938 flood. The large number of great tits and blue tits which spent the winter in my garden and feeding on the bird table survived the hard weather; yet in the spring all the nesting boxes, with one exception, were occupied by tree-sparrows.

The spring and summer were disappointing as a breeding season in contrast to that of the previous year. There were plenty of reed-warblers but far fewer sedge-warblers and whitethroats. I never heard a garden warbler or a lesser whitethroat and a nightingale sang for only one day before moving on. There were fewer lapwing and redshank nesting on the marshes. The number of jays in the district has diminished but in contrast the magpies have increased enormously and with the carrion-crows account for the loss of eggs and young of ground-nesting birds.

**Bitterns** were booming from March 12th but the number of breeding birds seemed to be much reduced due perhaps to the severe frost in February when three dead birds were seen. One nest, with four eggs, was found on April 30th and all the young were reared.

**Marsh-Harriers** bred successfully. There were two pairs and the nest of one, with six eggs, was found on April 23rd. The cock of this pair disappeared soon after the young were hatched, but they were reared by means of hand-feeding. The first to leave the nest was flying on June 24th. The nest of the second pair was found on June 24th. Three of the five eggs hatched and the young reached the flying stage. Three marsh-harriers, a hen and two juveniles remained in the district until the end of the year.

**Montagu's Harriers** did not nest at Horsey this season—for the second successive year.

**Water-Rails** were rarely seen or heard throughout the spring and summer.

**Oystercatchers** were not successful in rearing young. A nest with three eggs found on April 21st was robbed by carrion-crows.

**Short-eared Owls** returned to nest for the first time since 1949. This may be due to the large increase of short-tailed voles, but these are by no means their only diet; I found one owlet with the remains of a very young rabbit. Two nests were found, one on the Warren near Horsey Gap and the other on Mere Farm marshes and young were reared in both.

**Bearded Tits** which bred in such numbers in 1955 seemed to disappear in mid-winter and the only pair seen in the spring did not apparently stay to nest. The large stock produced in the previous year may have been killed by the hard frost or migrated elsewhere.

Only two golden orioles, as against twelve in 1955, were heard in the hall garden—both presumably single cocks.

## SCROBY SANDS

(ROBIN H. HARRISON)

The first visit of the season was made on July 8th. It was obvious then that the recent high tides and heavy rain had destroyed numbers of eggs and chicks which were seen all along the high-water line. Notwithstanding there were hundreds of young terns on the sandbank and also many nests of both common and Sandwich terns as well as fifteen little terns' nests. Thirty-five young Sandwich and thirty young common terns were ringed.



A week later, on July 15th, when a second inspection was made there were further losses due to the exceptionally high tide of the previous day. However, a large number of Sandwich tern chicks was seen and others were hatching in the 153 nests counted. A further fifty-one young Sandwich and three young common terns were ringed. On this occasion a number of sanderlings were feeding on the water's edge and fourteen cormorants were resting in the rigging of the wrecked trawler "Yarmouth."

The final visit on July 22nd proved disappointing for no Sandwich tern chicks or eggs were to be seen. During the week there had been a big increase of greater and lesser black-backed gulls on the sandbank and these may well have accounted for them; pieces of egg-shell littered the nesting ground and there had been no high tides. A small number of common terns were still feeding their young and a party of some hundred kittiwakes was resting on the sands.

It was estimated that 400 pairs of Sandwich terns nested on Scroby this season although a large number of nests were destroyed. Common terns were not as numerous as usual and probably did not exceed 100 pairs.

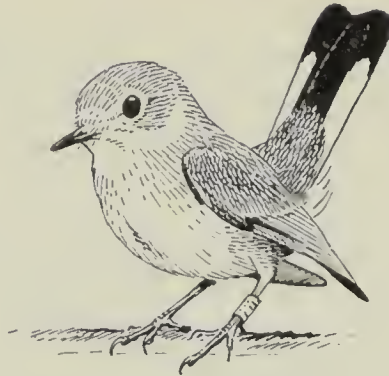
## CLEY BIRD OBSERVATORY

(The Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

WARDEN: R. A. RICHARDSON

During 1956 the Observatory completed its seventh year and the third at the Hood—half way between the old site and Blakeney Point.

The season was a very successful one. During the year 221 species were recorded in the area and 1,293 birds of seventy-eight species were ringed, 500 as nestlings and 793 trapped.



*Red-breasted Flycatcher*

Seven species are included in the ringing list for the first time ; a brent goose, sparrow-hawk, knot, jay, red-breasted flycatcher, common gull and a collared dove. Other records of special interest are of nine fulmars, a black redstart, two bluethroats, a Siberian lesser whitethroat, a hybrid tree x house-sparrow and seventy-seven lapwings ringed in Breckland.

A variety of trapping methods were used. The Heligoland trap on the Salthouse boundary being the most accessible was responsible for the majority of captures. A second full-size trap which intercepts the opposite line of drive was built during the year and proved very useful.

The small double Heligoland trap and sectional one at the Hood were augmented by a portable funnel net (described in the 1955 report), a simplified Fair Isle yeoman net, a small wooden trap, meal-baited spring nets and a Japanese mist net. The latter is made of fine black nylon mesh stretched between bamboo poles and can be used in hedges, thickets, or on open stubble with much success.

Several students stayed at the Observatory during the year and helped with the routine work. In February Mr. Eric Simms spent two nights in the hut making sound recordings of brent geese, knot, grey plover and other waders for the B.B.C.

A gift of surplus skins from Norwich Castle Museum proved useful and is much appreciated ; also the helpful advice given by Miss E. P. Leach and Mr. R. Spencer with regard to methods of ringing.

There is accommodation at the Hood hut for two men students—preferably with ringing experience—from April to October. Applications should be made to the Warden at Hill Top, Cley, Holt, Norfolk.

CLEY BIRD OBSERVATORY—RINGING PROGRESS.

Species	1949-1955	1956	Grand Totals	Total Recoveries*	Species	1949-1955	1956	Grand Totals	Total Recoveries*
Little Grebe ... ..	1		1		Dipper (Black-bellied race)	1		1	
Manx Shearwater ... ..	1		1		Mistle Thrush ... ..	15	17	32	
Fulmar ... ..	1	10	11		Fieldfare ... ..	5	4	9	
Heron ... ..	6	2	8	1	Song Thrush ... ..	282	81	363	2
Bittern ... ..	2		2	1	Redwing ... ..	12	1	13	
Mallard ... ..	16		16	4	Ring Ouzel ... ..	1		1	
Teal ... ..	2		2		Blackbird ... ..	552	146	698	10
Wigeon ... ..	3		3	1	Wheatear/Greenland Wheatear ... ..	102	15	123	1
Scaup ... ..	8		8		Stonechat ... ..	7		7	2
Sheld-Duck ... ..	5		5		Whinchat ... ..	23	3	26	
Brent Goose ... ..		1	1		Redstart ... ..	58	22	80	
Sparrow Hawk ... ..		1	1		Black Redstart ... ..	21	1	22	
Kestrel ... ..	1		1		Nightingale ... ..	123		123	
Water Rail ... ..	3		3		Bluethroat ... ..	1	2	3	
Moorhen ... ..	4		4	1	Robin ... ..	396	28	424	2
Oystercatcher ... ..	21	3	24	1	Grasshopper Warbler ... ..	8		8	
Lapwing ... ..	54	77	131	1	Reed Warbler ... ..	57	3	60	
Ringed Plover ... ..	59	1	60		Sedge Warbler ... ..	69	18	87	1
Turnstone ... ..	1		1		Aquatic Warbler ... ..	1		1	
Snipe ... ..	1	1	2		Icterine Warbler ... ..	1		1	
Woodcock ... ..	3		3	1	Blackcap ... ..	24	4	28	1
Wood Sandpiper ... ..	3		3		Barred Warbler ... ..	4		4	
Common Sandpiper ... ..	3	1	4		Garden Warbler ... ..	32	6	38	
Redshank ... ..	27	4	31	1	Whitethroat ... ..	496	76	572	13
Knot ... ..		3	3		Lesser Whitethroat ... ..	28	7	35	
Purple Sandpiper ... ..	3		3		Subalpine Warbler ... ..	1		1	
Dunlin ... ..	8	1	9	1	Willow Warbler ... ..	374	69	443	1
Grey Phalarope ... ..	2		2		Chiffchaff ... ..	30	5	35	
Stone Curlew ... ..	1	2	3		Wood Warbler ... ..	11		11	
Common Gull ... ..		1	1		Goldcrest ... ..	25	3	28	
Black-headed Gull ... ..	95	90	185	5	Firecrest ... ..	1		1	
Common Tern ... ..	37		37		Spotted Flycatcher ... ..	37	2	39	
Little Tern ... ..	9		9		Pied Flycatcher ... ..	72	16	88	
Razorbill ... ..	3	1	4		Red-breasted Flycatcher ... ..		1	1	
Little Auk ... ..	1		1		Hedge Sparrow ... ..	230	43	273	
Guillemot ... ..	3	1	4		Meadow Pipit ... ..	279	5	284	9
Stock Dove ... ..	11		11	2	Tree Pipit ... ..	10		10	
Wood Pigeon ... ..	5	1	6	1	Rock Pipit ... ..	6		6	
Turtle Dove ... ..	26	7	33	2	Pied Wagtail/White Wagtail ... ..	41	5	46	1
Collared Dove ... ..		2	2		Yellow Wagtail ... ..	96	9	105	1
Cuckoo ... ..	5	3	8		Great Grey Shrike ... ..	2		2	
Barn Owl ... ..	12	2	14		Red-backed Shrike ... ..	81	5	86	
Little Owl ... ..	6		6		Starling ... ..	320	22	342	7
Tawny Owl ... ..	2	8	10	1	Greenfinch ... ..	481	93	574	3
Long-eared Owl ... ..	4	1	5		Goldfinch ... ..	27	1	28	
Short-eared Owl ... ..	5		5		Linnet ... ..	333	9	342	6
Nightjar ... ..	3		3		Bullfinch ... ..	6	3	9	
Swift ... ..	15	1	16		Chaffinch ... ..	521	46	567	2
Green Woodpecker ... ..	1		1		Brambling ... ..	237	21	258	1
Wryneck ... ..	2		2		Yellow Bunting ... ..	71	40	111	
Woodlark ... ..	12	3	15		Corn Bunting ... ..	4	1	5	
Skylark ... ..	154	2	156	3	Reed Bunting ... ..	170	4	174	
Swallow ... ..	186	29	215	4	Lapland Bunting ... ..	5		5	
House Martin ... ..	21	1	22		Snow Bunting ... ..	150		150	1
Sand Martin ... ..	44	16	60		House Sparrow ... ..	418	71	489	1
Jackdaw ... ..	5	3	8	1	Tree Sparrow ... ..	32	3	35	
Jay ... ..		6	6		House x Tree Sparrow Hybrid ... ..		1	1	
Great Tit ... ..	84	32	116						
Blue Tit ... ..	258	48	306	1					
Coal Tit ... ..	10	9	19						
Marsh Tit ... ..	7	3	10						
Long-tailed Tit ... ..	8	1	9						
Treecreeper ... ..	9		9						
Wren ... ..	45	3	48	1					
					GRAND TOTALS ... ..	7,816	1,293	9,109	99

\*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  
 1956 : 1,293 birds of 78 species  
 1949-56 : 9,109 birds of 120 species

## SELECTED RINGING RECOVERIES

(Notified in 1956)

	<i>Ringed</i>	<i>Recovered</i>
CORMORANT	Puffin Island, Anglesey. 9.7.52.	Wells. 1.3.55.
SHAG	Bardsey Island, Caerns. 27.6.54.	Near Horsey. 24.5.56.
MALLARD	How Hill, Ludham.	Recoveries notified from France (2), Holland (2), Germany (3), Denmark (1), Sweden (3) and Finland (1).
MALLARD	Hedemora (Kopparberg), Sweden. 18.5.49.	North Creake, 29.12.51.
MALLARD	Pori, Ruutukuopat, West Finland. 23.7.55 (as young).	Happisburgh. End January. 1956.
TEAL	Piaam Decoy (Friesland), Holland. 1.11.54.	Wells. End Feb. 1956.
TEAL	Peakirk, Peterborough. 13.12.49.	Gooderstone, Swaffham. 22.12.56.
GADWALL	Zwartemeer (Overijssel), Holland. 14.7.50.	Thetford. 26.1.52.
GADWALL	Doornspijk (Gelderland), Holland. 28.9.51.	South Pickenham. 31.1.52.
WIGEON	Amager, Denmark. 5.10.51.	Horsey. 23.9.52.
WIGEON	De Koog Decoy, Texel, Holland. 3.12.53.	Wells. January 1956.
WIGEON	Cley. 14.2.55.	Ust Usa (Komi), U.S.S.R. 17.5.56. (About 2,000 miles north-east).
GOOSANDER	Uniskanpunkki, S.W. Finland. 18.6.55.	Breydon. 16.2.56.
SHELD-DUCK	Estuary of River Weser, Germany. 17.8.52. (Caught while in moult).	Burnham. 2.6.54.
PINK-FOOTED GOOSE	Annan, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. 26.10.54.	Breydon marshes. 4.1.56.
HOBBY	Alvkarleo (Uppsala), Sweden. 20.7.53	Hickling. 23.9.53.
COOT	Abberton Reservoir, Essex. 3.11.54.	Hickling Broad. 14.1.56.
LAPWING	Korsor (Zealand), Denmark. 13.5.51.	South Elmham St. Peter. 29.11.52.
LAPWING	Laholm (Halland), S. Sweden. 21.6.55 (young).	Warham, Wells. 23.1.56.

	<i>Ringed</i>	<i>Recovered</i>
GOLDEN PLOVER	Kollumerpomp (Friesland), Holland. 29.9.51.	Downham Market. 29.1.52.
BAR-TAILED GODWIT	Revtangen (Rogaland), Norway. 19.8.55. (As juvenile migrant).	Breydon. 16.1.56.
KNOT	Revtangen (Rogaland), Nor- way. 3.9.50.	Wells. 10.1.51.
DUNLIN	Revtangen (Rogaland), Nor- way. 24.9.56 (as migrant).	Breydon. 5.10.56.
SANDERLING	Revtangen (Rogaland), Nor- way. 26.8.51 (as adult).	Yarmouth beach. 4.2.56.
GREATER BLACK- BACKED GULL	Orrevann (Rogaland), Nor- way. 31.5.53.	South Pickenham. 11.2.54.
GREATER BLACK- BACKED GULL	Guleskar (Bohuslan), Sweden. 7.7.52.	King's Lynn. 9.2.54.
HERRING GULL	Langeroog, E. Frisian Is. 24.7.53.	Gt. Yarmouth. January 1954.
COMMON GULL	Hauho, Finland. 19.6.55 (as young).	Breydon. 15.2.56.
BLACK-HEADED GULL	Rhulen, Radnor. 25.6.54.	King's Lynn. 15.2.55.
BLACK-HEADED GULL	Alderfen Broad. 23.6.56.	Cambridge. 29.12.56.
BLACK-HEADED GULL	Alderfen Broad. 11.6.55.	Waberthwaite, near Raven- glass, Cumberland. 28.9.56.
BLACK-HEADED GULL (344820)	Cley. 21.6.53 (as nestling).	Breeding where ringed, 1956.
COMMON TERN	Blakeney Point. 12.7.55.	St. Osyth, Essex. 6.9.55.
COMMON TERN	Estuary of River Oste, Germany. 8.7.49.	Sheringham. 30.11.52.
(Although a late date, the body was described as "quite fresh").		
COMMON TERN	Scolt Head. 6.7.56 (as chick).	Cleethorpes, Lincs. 21.8.56.
COMMON TERN	Scolt Head. 6.7.56 (as chick).	Bargstall, near Rendsburg, (Schleswig-Holstein), Germany. 16.8.56.
TURTLE DOVE (383787)	Gooderstone, Swaffham. 10.6.56 (nestling).	Mindelo, Vila do Conde, (Douro Litoral), N. Portugal. 1.9.56. (Released 8 days later with Portuguese ring on other leg).
SWIFT	St. Osyth, Essex. 9.6.55.	Stow Bridge, King's Lynn. 26.6.55.
SWALLOW (B64159)	Cley. 24.9.54 (adult male).	Nested where ringed, 1953- 1956 inclusive.

	<i>Ringed</i>	<i>Recovered</i>
SWALLOW	Gt. Plumstead, Norwich. 7.8.55.	Norwich. 15.7.56.
ROOK	Giethoorn (Overijssel), Holland. 5.5.50.	Gaywood. 13.4.51.
ROOK	Giethoorn (Overijssel), Holland. 6.5.50.	Lexham. 14.1.51.
JACKDAW	Humlum (Jutland), Den- mark. 11.6.50.	Kilverstone. 15.4.51.
FIELDFARE	Oster Lovsta (Uppland), Sweden. 6.6.52.	Beechamwell. 15.11.52.
BLACKBIRD	Cley. 12.11.54 (migrant).	Bannow (Co. Wexford), Eire. Early January 1956 (300 miles W.S.W.).
BLACKBIRD	Cley. 31.10.55 (migrant)	Boras, Alvsborg, Sweden. 7.5.56 (540 miles N.E.).
BLACKBIRD	Holt. 8.7.55 (nestling).	Wymondham, Norwich. 24.1.56 (24 miles S.).
SEDGE-WARBLE (A12375)	Cley. 1.5.55 (adult).	Nested where ringed, 1955 and 1956.
WHITETHROAT (B34868)	Cley. 8.8.53 (juvenile).	Nested where ringed, 1955 and 1956.
WHITETHROAT (A56898)	Cley. 31.7.55 (juvenile).	Where ringed. 18.5.56.
MEADOW-PIBIT	Cley. 1.6.55 (nestling).	Near Gijon, N. Spain. 10.2.56 (740 miles S.S.W.).
STARLING	High Kelling. 30.1.54 (adult).	Staraya Russa (Novgorod), U.S.S.R. 5.6.56.
STARLING	Nummi, Finland. 3.6.52.	Downham Market. 14.12.52.
STARLING	Hameenlinna, Finland. 25.5.53.	Martham. January 1954.
STARLING	Loosduinen, The Hague, Holland. 11.11.53 (as immature).	Haisboro' Light-vessel. 17.11.56.
CHAFFINCH	High Kelling. 7.4.51 (adult).	Where ringed. 8.7.56.





Philip Waver

Common Snipe at nest

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## COLLARED DOVES IN NORFOLK

R. A. RICHARDSON, M. J. SEAGO, A. C. CHURCH

On 3rd July, 1956, M.J.S. was attracted by the unfamiliar trisyllabic cooing of two doves, one of which was seen, in the trees of a large walled garden near the sea in North Norfolk. Later, on consulting published descriptions and an illustration of the collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), he found they tallied very favourably with his field notes.

In the weeks that followed either R.A.R. or A.C.C. were able to visit the site for varying periods almost daily and their observations, necessarily restricted owing to the very public nature of the site, are summarised below. Meanwhile, reports of similar birds were received from a locality a mile and a half away on the outskirts of a small coastal town, all of which proved to be *decaocto* and not the domesticated Barbary dove (*S. risoria*) nor any hybrid.

Intensive enquiries within the county and an appeal for information in the regional press have so far failed to produce evidence of "escapes" or liberated birds and there seems no reason to suppose that these Norfolk specimens are anything but genuine wild colonists from the Continent.

It is now known that birds were present at two of the sites in 1955 and that young were reared at one of them. By the end of the 1956 breeding season at least sixteen birds, adults and young, were known to have been in the area, at least seven wintering.

**Site A**

A large walled garden near the sea with extensive lawns, shrubberies of laurel and privet, evergreen oaks, pines, Spanish chestnuts, etc., and a poultry run.

1955: Two or three doves resembling *decaocto* are reported independently by two reliable local people (though with limited ornithological knowledge) to have been present in 1955, but it is not known whether breeding took place or if any birds wintered.

1956: After initial "discovery" on 3rd July it became apparent from frequent visits to the garden that there were at least two males and one female in residence. Sexual and territorial pursuits occurred several times daily and cooing "song" by both males could be heard at almost any time of the day, though falling off somewhat in the early afternoon.

Suspicion that the female was in fact paired with one of the males was confirmed on 29th July by the appearance with them of a fully-fledged juvenile.

On 12th August the male of the breeding pair was heard cooing from the depths of a *Cupressus macrocarpa* and was found to be incubating "hard set" eggs on a nest of typical dove construction about 25 feet from the ground. Both eggs hatched, the nestlings were ringed by A.C.C. for Cley Bird Observatory on 26th August and safely fledged.

Early on the morning of 14th September, while Eric Simms and Bob Wade of the B.B.C. were making sound recordings of the birds, the existence of this pair's third nest was suspected when the male was seen to call the female from the nesting tree. It was not until the afternoon of the 20th, however, that the male was heard cooing in the *macrocarpa* and the slight rhythmical movement of his white-tipped tail betrayed the location of a very well-concealed nest about five feet above that in which the second brood was reared.

Both the third brood nestlings reached the flying stage, thus bringing to five the total of young birds reared by this pair during the year. Four birds were still present during the second week of November and two on 7th December.

**Site B**

1956: At the end of March a pair arrived in a garden on the eastern outskirts of the town; the nest was found in early April, 25 feet up in one of a belt of pines that flanked the garden on two sides and the shells of hatched eggs were later picked up beneath the tree.

Two young were reared before the site was deserted and it is possible that their parents were the birds which later nested a few hundred yards away at Site C.

(N.B.—We did not hear of this pair until after it had left site B).

### Site C

1955: A pair first appeared in a small garden in April and is known to have reared two young. Four birds wintered (1955/56) and in snowy weather came down to the lawn to feed on grain supplied for them by the lady of the house.

1956: One pair bred again in a 50-foot umbrella-shaped ilex tree and reared at least one youngster. An egg, near hatching, was found beneath the tree after a gale in August.

(N.B.—The presence of birds at this site was not made known to us until the third week of September).

Within half a minute's flying time of sites B and C is a small poultry run in the middle of a new Council housing estate where, despite the presence of numerous dogs, cats and children, up to eight collared doves were seen feeding together on many occasions in early September. Seven were still present at the end of the year.

### Cley

1955: One day during the late summer P. R. Clarke saw a "fawn-coloured" dove on an electric cable beside the coast road and understandably dismissed it as a *turtur* × *risoria* hybrid which had been at large in the neighbourhood a couple of years before.

1956: On two occasions during the late summer an unmistakable *decaocto* was seen in exactly the same place; firstly on August 18th by T. C. Smout and secondly on September 9th by Miss E. McEwen, both of whom had seen the breeding pair at Site A.

It seems likely that these birds were Norfolk-bred juveniles perhaps spreading along the coast from sites A, B or C, rather than newly-arrived birds from overseas.

## 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 1956.

The number preceding the name of each bird refers to the B.O.U. *Check-list of the Birds of Great Britain and Ireland* (1952) where the scientific name may be found. All records refer to 1956, unless otherwise stated. The initials following records refer to the observer responsible; many notes are incorporated in Cley Bird Observatory Log and appear under (co).

**1 Black-throated Diver**

North coast: 1-2 (and once 3) reported on 13 dates at Scolt, Blakeney and Cley up to March 13th and from September 9th (many observers). Broads area: Singles at Whiteslea, February 23rd (EP) and Horsey, March 13th (GC). Also one found dead by River Bure near Yarmouth, January 21st (PGT). Wash: Snettisham: Up to 5 present on gravel pit, February 19th-May 20th (CBC). Breck: One, badly oiled, shot on River Wissey at Ickburgh, February 1st (GOV).

**2 Great Northern Diver**

North coast: 1-2 (and once 3) reported on 14 dates at Holme, Blakeney, Cley and Salthouse up to March 8th and from September 9th (many observers). Wash: 6 records up to January 22nd and from September 10th onwards with 3 on October 23rd (CBC).

**4 Red-throated Diver**

Coastal records all months except June-August. Largest numbers at Cley where 32 passing west in 30 minutes, January 5th (HH) and over 20 several times during November (co). Broads: Singles at Horsey, March 11th and December 31st (GC) and at Hickling, January 15th-17th, February 7th, March 3rd and November 12th (GB, EP). Other inland records: Singles at Seamere, January 1st-4th (CG) and at Blickling Lake, February 11th (CDR). One found dead at Sall near Reepham, March 12th (*per* RMB) and another dead in a field at West Barsham, March 19th (JSA).

**5 Great Crested Grebe**

New localities: Single pairs bred on flooded gravel pits at Wortwell and Weybread (RHG). Summer counts of *adults*: Broads: Rockland, 24; Ranworth, 16; Alderfen, 2; Ormesby,

16; Rollesby, 40 and Filby, 18 (MJS). Breck: Narford, 8; Stradsett, 2; Mickle Mere, 8 and Hill Mere, 2 (*per* AEV). See also 1954-5 Reports.

## 6 Red-necked Grebe

North coast: 2, Brancaster, March 16th-17th (RC); singles at Wells, February 29th (HH); at Blakeney, February 17th (EAC, JFP), March 8th-11th and October 28th (CO); and off Cley, March 4th (ICTN). Wash: Records include up to 3 at Hunstanton, February 19th-March 10th (CBC).

## 7 Slavonian Grebe

North coast: Singles at Brancaster, January 9th (RC); Wells, February 23rd (RPB-O); Stiffkey, March 20th (JFP); Cley, February 17th (RPB-O); March 1st, 3rd and 11th and 2 on February 15th (CO). Also one at Cromer, February 22nd (CDR). Broads: One, Heigham Sounds, March 22nd-28th and April 16th (EP). Wash: Winter records include 7 at Snettisham, November 18th and 5 at Hunstanton, December 23rd (CBC).

## 8 Black-necked Grebe

North coast: Singles at Brancaster, October 25th (RC); Morston, October 14th (RAR) and Cley, March 1st (CO). Broads: One, Rockland, January 19th (REL, TFM). Wash: Maximum of 8 at Hunstanton, March 10th-11th (CBC).

## 12 Leach's Petrel

North coast: Cley: Singles, September 6th (RJJ) and 16th (CO). One at Blakeney, October 15th (PK) and 5 at Morston on 29th (PRC).

## 16 Manx Shearwater

North coast: Cley: Autumn passage of small numbers from September 8th-October 6th (8 records—CO) and one east, December 21st (DVB).

One of the race *Procellaria p. mauretanicus* off Blakeney Point, August 29th (R. BROCK) was described satisfactorily by observer familiar with this form off coasts of Dorset and Devon.

## 21 Sooty Shearwater

One off Salthouse beach, September 14th (KID, MJW, EMCE). Satisfactory details. The third record for the county. The first is recorded in Riviere's *Birds of Norfolk* and a second bird was seen by RAR off Yarmouth on August 31st, 1947 (*British Birds*, Vol. XLI, p. 314).

**26 Fulmar Petrel**

Reported between December 18th, 1955 and September 9th at Weybourne, Sheringham, the Runtons, Cromer, Overstrand, Side-strand, Trimingham and Mundesley. Estimate of 40-50 pairs and at least 20 nests reported. First eggs seen June 16th and first young July 22nd. 5 juveniles swimming together off Cromer, September 9th; 4 adults and 5 young ringed for CO by ACC. First 4 birds returned December 6th and included a blue phase bird. Seen prospecting cliffs at Happisburgh in April (many observers). Blakeney—Salthouse: Frequent during winter gales and in summer (CO).

**27 Gannet**

North coast: Recorded all months from May to November. Records include 40 off Cley, September 24th (HH) and again on October 21st (ICTN). East coast: Yarmouth: One, May 19th; 3, July 15th (PGT) and a juvenile found exhausted on the beach September 10th (*per* MJS).

**29 Shag**

More reports than in 1955. North coast: Cley: One April 4th. Autumn passage August 18th-September 1st (maximum 4 together). Singles September 29th, October 8th and November 24th (CO). Sheringham: 2, August 27th (PRC) and one dead, January 24th (GM, JM). Cromer: One, September 6th (CDR). Wash: One, Hunstanton, April 22nd and 2, Terrington, May 16th (CBC).

**30 Heron**

Details of heronries as follows:

*Borders of Wash*: Snettisham, 13 nests. *Fenland*: Islington, 98; Denver Sluice, 21. *Breckland*: Black Dyke, Feltwell, 3 and Wretham Park, 6 (AEV). *Mid-Norfolk*: Kimberley Park, 17 (EQB). *Broads area*: General McHardy's Wood, Hickling, 2; Whiteslea, 2; Heigham Sounds Wood, 5 (EP); Catfield, one (DSAMCD); America Wood, Earsham, 13 (JWM); Fishley Carr, Acle, 4 (RJ); Wickhampton, 21; Decoy Carr, Reedham, 5 (PWPB); Calthorpe, 2 (*per* ED); Buckenham, 33; Mautby, 17; Ranworth, 34 (MJS); Horstead, 2-3 (DL); Ranworth marshes (Horning Hall), one (RB); Nine Acre Plantation, Buxton (described as Carr's Farm in 1955 Report), 2 (PCN). *North Norfolk*: Melton Constable, 12 (RPB-O); Holkham Park, about 20 (RAR); Wiveton Hall, 2 (RGB). Total, about 334 nests.

None nested at Ditchingham (MS), Thompson Water or Diddlington (AEV).

**31 Purple Heron**

Cley: One, May 11th (RAR). A juvenile, August 6th-8th (DEK and other observers). One, August 21st-22nd (EMCE—who



had seen the juvenile). Also one flying N.W. over the Holt-Norwich Road at Felthorpe, June 30th (RAR). Full details will be published shortly in *British Birds*.

### 32 Little Egret

An unpublished record for 1955 is of one at Cley, May 21st (IFK). Satisfactory details submitted.

### 37 Little Bittern

A female at Cley, August 7th-24th (RAR and many other observers).

### 38 Bittern

See *Notes on Breeding Birds of the Reserves*.

Breck : Singles, Buckenham Tofts, January 18th (LWL); Narford, March 4th (DKB) and Thompson Water, December 27th (DVB).

### 42 Spoonbill

Breydon : 6, March 16th and 2, July 7th (RHH). Broads : Rockland : One, May 21st (*per* EAE); Hickling : One, May 20th and 30th, 1-2, June 6th-7th and 2, July 4th-5th (GB, EP). North coast : Scolt : One, May 19th and 2 passing W., July 3rd (RC). Wash : Terrington marsh : One reported to be present in 1955-6 winter until cold weather in January (CBC).

### 47 Garganey

First, Cley, March 9th (CO) and 2 on flood-water below Glandford next day (RPB-O). Breeding season records from Deepdale Broad (2 drakes, May 8th); Glaven valley (one successful nest); Hickling Broad (3 drakes May 15th, at least one breeding pair); Rockland Broad (a drake, May 5th) and Cantley Reservoir (2 drakes, June 2nd).

### 49 Gadwall

Reported in small numbers from North Norfolk (Bayfield, Brinton, Kelling, Holkham and Cley); Broads area (Ranworth, Hickling, Horsey, Rockland, Strumpshaw, Hardley and Cantley Reservoir) and Seamere and Taverham Lake. No records of more than 12.

Breck : Maxima : 80 at Thompson Water and 40 at Mickle Mere, November 25th (AEV).

### 50 Wigeon

Largest numbers reported during the February cold spell including 1,000 at Blakeney on 9th (JFP) and 3,000 at Breydon on

5th (RHH). Summer records include one at Blakeney, May 21st (EAC). First autumn birds were 2 at Breydon, August 12th (RHH). Breck : Maximum, 50 at Narford, March 4th (CDTM).

### 52 Pintail

At Breydon, maxima of 88, March 11th (RHH) and 75 on 18th (MJS). At least one pair again attempted to nest on the same Breydon marsh where previous nesting had taken place each spring from 1949-52. A nest with 3 eggs was found April 29th and the clutch made up to 11 by May 8th. By the 12th the eggs had been destroyed by rats or carrion crows (RHH). Up to 12 reported from North coast (Cley, Brancaster) and Broads (Horsey, Ranworth, Hickling). Also 1-2 at Seamere, January 12th and November 29th-December 17th.

Fens : Ouse Washes : About 2,000, March 8th (CBC).

### 53 Shoveler

Broads records include 60 at Ranworth, February 7th (HJC) and 40 at Hickling, March 26th (EP). Maximum at Cley : 35, August 20th (CO). Breck : Up to 30, January and March, Wretham and Narford (many observers).

### 55 Scaup

More records than usual, including : North coast : 80 at Wells, January 18th and 60 at Brancaster, March 9th (HH). Up to 30 at Cley from early February until mid-April ; one, August 2nd and up to 4 from October 7th till end of year (CO). 17 off Sheringham, February 16th (PRC). East coast : Large numbers during February and up to March 19th at Breydon and in the River Yare as far as the harbour mouth. Maxima at Breydon : 60, February 26th and 150, March 3rd ; also one at Breydon, September 15th (RHH). Broads : One, Horsey, March 31st (GC) ; 6, Hickling, September 9th-11th (EP). A number of records from Rockland and the River Yare at Buckenham, February 4th-March 11th, with a maximum of 14 on February 26th (MJS). Breck : One, Rush Mere, January 22nd-25th (PH). Wash : Snettisham : Up to 250 from March 4th-11th with 400 on April 15th (CBC).

### 56 Tufted Duck

Broads counts : Ranworth, 300, February 28th (HJC) ; Hickling, 300, January 18th (GB) ; Rockland, 300, February 21st and 600 on 26th (PDK, MJS). Breck : 60, Hill Mere, March 12th (PH). Broods : Hill Mere, one ; Rush Mere, 2 and Fowl Mere, 3 (EPT).

### 57 Pochard

Broads : Large numbers include 160 at Rockland, February 18th (PDK, MJS) and 150 at Horsey, March 4th (GC). A pair bred successfully at Wheatfen and reared 6 young (EAE). Breck : Up to 60 in March at Wretham (ALB, PH, EPT) ; one brood at Fowl Mere (EPT).

**58 White-eyed Pochard**

Cawston : One with pochard on the Manor lakes, April 29th (PT). Satisfactory details and sketch received.

**60 Golden-eye**

More reports than in previous years. Maxima noted on North coast : Brancaster : Up to 200 between mid-February and mid-March and 150 during latter half December (RC) ; Blakeney : 69, March 11th (CO) ; Cley : up to 25, February-March (CO). Elsewhere, up to 4 at Taverham and Blickling lakes (LWL, CDR). Up to 40, Hickling Broad, February-March (EP) and during same period numbers in Yare Valley with maximum of 46 at Rockland Broad on March 1st (MJS). Not recorded between May 13th and October 10th. Breck : In January, March and November, 1-2 at Wretham, and 5-6 at Narford and West Acre (many observers).

**61 Long-tailed Duck**

North coast : Holme, one, October 23rd (ICTN) ; Brancaster, one, November 8th-29th (RC) ; Blakeney, one, February 4th (WE) and 2, March 8th-April 25th (JFP) ; Cley, one, February 23rd ; 2, October 25th till end of year, with 5 present November 3rd-10th (CO). Wash : Records up to April 4th and from October 23rd, with 18 at Hunstanton on December 23rd (CBC).

**62 Velvet Scoter**

More records than usual. North coast (Brancaster-West Runton) : Recorded January-April, July-August and October-November. Maxima : Blakeney, 90 on February 26th (HH) ; Cley, 95 on February 25th gradually declined till by mid-March only 1-2 remained. 50 re-appeared on March 31st-April 1st and 40 were off Blakeney Point on the 8th, where 2 remained till the 25th (CO). West Runton : 120, March 25th (HH). East coast : 9 off Scroby, July 15th (PGT). Wash : Largest number was over 100 at Hunstanton, April 1st (CBC).

**64 Common Scoter**

Coastal records in every month. Inland : Horsey Mere, singles on March 4th (GC) and June 3rd (ICTN) ; Hickling, one on November 12th (EP) ; Ranworth, 3 on August 2nd (HJC) ; Rockland, one February 21st-March 4th (PDK, MJS) and Seamere, one on April 2nd, 3 on the 25th and one on July 7th (CG). Also noted at Fowl Mere, March 31st (PH, AEV). Wash : Peak of 4,000, May 13th, between Hunstanton-Snettisham ; still 2,500 off Snettisham, June 18th (CBC).

**67 Eider-Duck**

North coast (Brancaster-West Runton) : Up to 18 recorded all months except February and April (many observers). Wash : Records include up to 150 off Hunstanton, January 22nd and first half of April (CBC).

**69 Red-breasted Merganser**

Most plentiful on North coast during and shortly after February cold spell. Cley : Up to 20 throughout February and first week of March (co). Blakeney : Maximum, 40, March 11th (JFP). Other records of smaller numbers from Brancaster, Wells, Sheringham and West Runton. In latter part of year, reported from usual localities from September 10th with maximum of 16 at Brancaster on November 29th (RC). East coast : 4 at Breydon, February 19th (RHH) ; one found with a damaged wing at Hickling on 20th and one found newly dead at Bacton on 24th (*per* EAE). Inland : A drake at Postwick, February 25th (MJS) and a pair, Taverham Lake, March 13th (LWL). June records from Blakeney (one on 9th—JFP) and Brancaster (11 on 19th—RC). Fens : Ouse Washes : Large influx of 70, Welney, February 25th with 35–40 still present on 27th (CBC). Wash : Largest numbers : 55 at Hunstanton, December 23rd and 60 at Snettisham, March 4th (CBC).

**70 Goosander**

Small numbers (up to 3) reported from North coast (Holme-Salthouse and Felbrigg and Gunton lakes). Broads area : (Buckenham, Rockland and Postwick), Breydon, Seamere and Breck (Thompson Water, Wretham and Rush Mere). Records up to early May and from October 23rd. Fens : Ouse Washes : Unusual numbers after cold spell, including 47 at Welney, March 11th (CBC).

**71 Smew**

Reported from North-East coasts and Broads up to March 18th and from November 12th, with most during the hard weather in February. The records include : Cley, 7 (3 drakes), February 1st (WFB, co) ; Breydon, 32 (12 drakes), February 11th, 14 drakes on 19th and 9 on 26th (RHH) ; Rockland, 16 (6 drakes), February 26th (PDK, MJS). Smaller numbers at Deepdale, Horsey, Hickling and Ranworth Broads.

Fens : Ouse Washes : Maximum of 35–40, February 12th and 19th (CBC).

**73 Sheld-Duck**

North coast : Largest numbers : Blakeney, 500, February 4th (co) and 300 (mostly young), July 20th (HH). At Scolt Head, from the beginning of July, small numbers (up to 16) passing east, two or three parties daily. Between July 14th–17th, large flocks (up to 80, average 30) passing east and total of over 3,000 estimated (RC). At Blakeney Point on both July 13th and 17th about 150 observed flying east well out at sea (JFP). It was at first considered that these moult migrants (which were making for the N.W. coast of Germany) had come from the Mersey and Dee estuaries, but the peak movement observed from the Mersey was not until July 20th–21st. Prior to these dates less than 300 had been seen to depart (R. H. ALLEN, E. HARDY).

East coast : Breydon : 4-500, February 5th ; usual number of pairs bred in vicinity and first young seen May 13th. First to return from moult-migration October 20th (RHH). Recorded as far inland as Cantley Reservoir, where 2 pairs summered (MJS).

### 76 White-fronted Goose

Breydon area : Up to 200 during January. The peak number was reached early in February when 500 present. These stayed on Halvergate marshes until March 16th. 5 returned December 8th and 100 present by end of year (RHH). North coast : Cley, up to 21 from February 3rd-March 30th (CO). Fens : Ouse Washes, up to 60, February 26th-March 11th (CBC).

### 77 Lesser White-fronted Goose

An adult identified in the Yare Valley, January 22nd (H. BOYD, RHH) and March 5th (MJS, SFS). A small goose seen at this locality on January 1st was almost certainly the same bird and it seems probable that one lesser white-front spent some ten weeks in the locality. Full details appear in *British Birds*, Vol. XLIX, p. 228. The third fully authenticated county record.

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

Yare Valley : The flock of 101 which had arrived by December 24th, 1955, remained throughout the cold spell in February. They departed March 6th or 7th (MJS, RHH). 29 arrived during third week of December (MJS).

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

Breydon area : 100 throughout January. They appear to have left during the severe weather in February as none was seen after the 12th (RHH). First autumn birds were 30 on October 1st (PGT) and 28 on the 6th, but as usual these early arrivals did not stay and no others were seen until the 20th, when 7 appeared. At end of December, only 19 in area (RHH). North Norfolk : 9 records up to April 11th and from November 7th. Maxima, 40 at Blakeney, March 18th (HH) and 30 flying west at Cley, February 1st (CO). Wash : 329, Snettisham saltings, January 21st (CBC).

### 80 Brent Goose

North coast : Blakeney : Increase to 1,000 by January 10th and peak of 2,000 by end of month. Up to 1,500 till third week of March (PRC, JFP) and then steady decline till last 4 seen on April 12th (HH). First 2 autumn birds, October 8th (HH), 100 by November 21st and 200 by 27th. Still only 300 December 29th, but at least 1,000 on last day of month (PRC). Brancaster : Up to 250 throughout January, increasing to 600 by February 13th and to peak of 700 by end of month. Only 100 remained by March 26th and last 7 seen April 4th. First in autumn, October 12th ; 170 by

end of November, 300 by December 24th and 800 by end of year (RC). Wells : 68, March 21st (HH). Cley : Small parties till last week of April and from October 6th (CO).

East coast : One at Breydon, April 21st (RHH).

Wash : Parties, usually of 25-40 birds (maximum 51) regularly flighted from Brancaster to feed at Hunstanton (occasionally down to Snettisham) until April 1st (CBC).

## 82 Canada Goose

Largest number at Holkham Lake was 750 during February. Known to have bred on 12 different waters in North Norfolk including Deepdale Broad—a new site. Breck : Summer distribution : Narford, 22 birds (2 or more broods—AEV) ; Stradsett, one pair bred (DWHA) ; Didlington, 3 birds (AEV) ; Scoulton Mere, one pair (RKN) ; Rush Mere, one pair bred (PH) and Shadwell, 4 pairs (2 pairs bred—NH).

An account of the 1953 census appears in *Bird Study*, Vol. 3, pp. 153-169.

## 85 Whooper-Swan

Recorded up to May 6th (MJS) and from October 31st (PH) on North coast (Blakeney, Cley, Salthouse, Sheringham) ; East coast (Breydon and adjoining marshes) ; Broads (Horsey, Hickling, Ranworth, Rockland and Wheatfen) ; Breck (Ring Mere, Fowl Mere, Rush Mere, Mickle Mere, Thompson and Stanford) and other lakes (Ketteringham, Taverham and Seamere). Largest numbers appeared during February cold spell and include : Horsey, 16 on February 5th and 60 on 7th (GC) ; Hickling, 45 on 2nd and 22nd (GB, EP) ; Breydon, 14 from 4th-11th (RHH).

## 86 Bewick's Swan

Reported from practically all 1956 whooper-swan localities up to April 13th and from November 4th, with one at Hickling until at least May 21st (MJS). The larger herds are detailed : Cley : 10 west, February 3rd ; 53 west, on 7th ; 12 on 8th ; 23 on 17th ; 19 west on 18th and 21 on 20th (CO). Blakeney : About 50, February 7th (PRC) and 54 between 24th-26th (HH). Breydon : 51 arrived March 31st, 17 remaining until next day (RHH) ; 8 on April 13th (EEJ). Horsey Mere : 12 on January 4th (GC). Rockland Broad : 26, February 18th ; 8 on 21st (MJS) ; 35 on 25th (EAE) ; 41 on 26th and 6 on April 1st (MJS, PDK). Gunton : 10 by the mill pond April 2nd-9th included a presumed albino (filmed by RPB-O) with white plumage, flesh-pink legs and feet and mahogany-coloured bill. Yellow patch was normal (PT, RAR, MM).

Fens : Ouse Washes : Remarkable numbers from January 27th to April 22nd with maximum of 677, February 26th (CBC).

Wash : Hunstanton : 50 flying N.E., March 17th (CBC).

**91 Buzzard**

One at Cley, February 2nd-9th (WFB, RAR), 2 passing west, September 4th (CO) and one on 25th (PCJ). Singles at Ken Wood, Snettisham, July 15th (JFP) and in Glaven Valley, December 9th (AHD).

**92 Rough-legged Buzzard**

One being chased by a marsh-harrier at Hickling, May 20th (GB). Singles at Templewood, September 20th and December 9th (LORD TEMPLEWOOD).

**94 Goshawk**

Fens: One, Ouse Washes at Welney, March 4th (CBC). Full details appear in *British Birds*, Vol. I., p. 164. Wash: One, North Wootton, August 6th (CBC).

**99 Marsh Harrier**

Broads: 5 pairs bred in Hickling-Horsey area and 20 young successfully reared. Up to 6 in this area during winter months. Another pair bred successfully in the Yare Valley. A number of records from coastal marshes, April-May and August-September, with one at Gunton Great Water, August 20th (EMCE).

**100 Hen-Harrier**

Usual records of single birds from North coast marshes, Hickling-Horsey area of Broads and Halvergate marshes up to March 27th and from October 16th.

**102 Montagu's Harrier**

Broads: At least 2 pairs present but only one pair bred (3 young reared). First, at Hickling, April 19th (EP, GB). 1-2 birds reported at 4 coastal areas April 22nd-early September. A melanistic bird at Cley, August 29th (many observers) and at Scolt Head, September 3rd-8th (RC, MJS, GT).

**103 Osprey**

More records than usual. Wash: Hunstanton: One flying westwards mobbed by black-headed gulls, May 4th (PCJ). North coast: Holme: One, May 20th (CBC); Brancaster harbour: One flying west, June 4th (RC); Blakeney harbour: Singles, June 14th and September 30th (WE); Cley: One heading N.E., April 2nd (EAC); one arrived from sea, September 5th (THB). Broads: Singles at Hickling, May 16th (GB, EP); at Horsey, September 7th (GC); at Hoveton, 4th-25th (TRCB); at Ranworth on 4th (RHH, PGT) and at Wheatfen on 24th (EAE). Other inland records: One at Gunton Great Water, August 15th-28th had evidently been present for at least a week before being identified (PT and other observers); one, Wretham Park Meres, September 5th (PH).

**104 Hobby**

North coast : Cley : Singles May 11th, 15th, June 7th, August 20th and 24th with 2 on May 13th (WFB, CO). Blakeney : One, May 8th (HH) ; Overstrand : One flying west, September 4th (JHW). Wash : Hunstanton : One flying west, August 10th (CBC).

**105 Peregrine Falcon**

Usual coastal records, generally of single birds, up to May 28th and from August 21st.

**107 Merlin**

Many coastal records up to May 8th and from October 2nd till end of year, with one at Scolt Head ternery, July 14th-17th. Breck : One at Fowlmere, December 27th (DVB).

**119 Crane**

2 flying west along Blakeney Point, April 25th (JFP). Details supplied.

**120 Water-Rail**

Winter records from usual localities with small influx at Cley, November 17th (CO). Considered to be decreasing as a breeding bird at Cley and Hickling and again no nests found at Horsey.

**121 Spotted Crake**

One calling regularly each evening on Surlingham marshes during last week of April (EAE).

**125 Corncrake**

Cley : One calling in Glaven river-meadows, April 8th (AHD).

**127 Coot**

Up to 300 at Breydon during February cold spell (RHH).

**131 Oystercatcher**

Breeding records : Breydon, at least 2 pairs (RHH) ; Horsey, one pair (GC) ; Cantley Reservoir—a new locality, 2 pairs summered and almost certainly bred (GN) ; Cley, a few pairs (WFB) ; Blakeney Point, 83 pairs (WE) also 14 pairs on south side of harbour (HH) ; Scolt Head, 80-90 pairs (RC) and Wells, a pair (AEV). Wash : Snettisham, 2 pairs (CBC).

Estimates of large numbers : East coast : Becoming more abundant at Breydon with maximum of 47, September 1st (RHH). North coast : Blakeney, 600, October 17th and Wells, 2,000, January 18th-25th (HH) ; Brancaster, 4-500, February 6th (RC) ; Thornham, 1,000, August 5th (JFP) and Holme, 3,300 at high spring tide, October 23rd (ICTN).



**133 Lapwing**

North coast : Westerly movements noted at Cley/Blakeney on January 10th, March 1st-2nd and 15th, June 1st-2nd, 6th, 10th, 12th, 18th, 25th and 28th, July 7th and 14th (juveniles), August 11th and 20th, October 8th-9th, 16th, 21st and 28th, November 5th, 7th, 10th and 15th-17th, December 7th, 10th and 26th (co, HH). East coast : Very large numbers again present in Breydon area during winter months (RHH).

**134 Ringed Plover**

An all-cream bird, Blakeney Point, frequently during summer (co).

**135 Little Ringed Plover**

North coast : Singles at Cley, April 22nd, May 11th (co) and July 24th (WFB) ; at Blakeney, September 6th and 10th (co) and at Salthouse, August 16th and September 3rd (HH). Fens : One, Wisbech Sewage Farm, June 23rd (CBC).

**136 Kentish Plover**

Blakeney Point : One, October 3rd (MM). Full details supplied.

**139 Grey Plover**

Coastal records in every month. Maximum : 300 at Wells, January 18th (HH).

**140 Golden Plover**

Winter and passage records up to May 19th and from August 2nd. Largest numbers : 450 flying west at Cley, January 9th (WFB) and over 200 flying west at Scolt on 10th and 11th (RC). Horsey, 200 on January 7th and 250 on October 26th (GC). Swannington area : spring peak of 300, April 28th and many were of the Northern race (*Charadrius a. altifrons*), but only 30 remained, May 1st (RPB-O, CG, REL, TFM). Up to 200 there in November (ETD, MJS).

**142 Dotterel**

Blakeney : One, September 25th (HH).

**143 Turnstone**

North/East coasts : Records each month, with maximum of 84 at Brancaster, September 4th (MJS). Broads : One at Hickling, May 20th and 3 on August 20th (GB, MJS). Wash : Winter records of up to 300, Hunstanton (CBC).

**146 Great Snipe**

One shot on Bure marshes at Stokesby, November 5th (PGT). Satisfactory details supplied.

**147 Jack Snipe**

Small numbers recorded as usual up to April 30th (EP) and from September 3rd (CO).

**148 Woodcock**

Usual autumn and winter records with coastal arrivals from October 16th. One flying in from sea at Overstrand, February 26th (IFK).

**150 Curlew**

A nest with 4 eggs (3 hatching) found on Roydon Common, May 26th; another 3 pairs in the same area were also considered to be breeding (ICTN). Largest numbers include 1,000 at Brancaster during first week September (RC, MJS) and 400 at Blakeney on September 16th and October 2nd-3rd (HH). Westerly post-breeding passage at Cley/Blakeney from June 11th-September 18th (CO, HH).

**151 Whimbrel**

Spring passage in coastal areas from March 29th (HH), but mainly in period April 30th-May 14th. Autumn passage from July 6th with largest movements from end of July and during August; singles at Blakeney on October 7th, 10th and 25th (CO).

**154 Black-tailed Godwit**

32 records from Brancaster, Stiffkey, Blakeney, Cley and Salthouse, Hickling Broad and Breydon, between March 24th (MJS) and October 8th (HH, BPP, PJM). No parties exceeded 8 in number except 14 at Hickling, May 6th (GB). Fens: Wisbech Sewage Farm: Up to 19, April 14th-29th (CBC).

**155 Bar-tailed Godwit**

North/East coasts: Spring and autumn passage again on small scale and no flocks exceeded 28 in number. Winter counts include: Holme, 1,600 on October 23rd when high spring tide (ICTN); Brancaster, 80, February 6th (RC); Wells, 300 January 18th (HH); Blakeney, 200, February 13th and 600, March 21st (JFP). Wash: Largest number: 1,000 at Heacham, February 5th and at Snettisham, March 25th (CBC).

**156 Green Sandpiper**

Records for every month, except January. One on June 18th at Wheatfen (MJS) was only report between May 7th-July 17th.

**157 Wood-Sandpiper**

North/East coasts: Records from Overy Staithe, Morston, Cley, Hickling and Breydon. Small spring passage, April 29th-May 26th with 3 at Cley, May 17th (CO). Autumn passage between





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Left : Juvenile Little Stint, Cley.

Right : Adult Mediterranean Black-headed Gull between Greater Black-backed Gull and Herring-Gulls, Sheringham. See page 40.



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R. P. Bagnall-Oakeley

Juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit, Cley

July 14th (when 4 at Morston—PRC) and September 12th. Maximum: 12 at Cley, August 21st and 28th (WFB). Fens: Maximum of 20–25, Wisbech Sewage Farm, July 19th–20th (CBC).

### 159 Common Sandpiper

One at Cley, March 18th (CO). Passage records, April 26th–June 4th and July 10th–October 6th. Peak movement second week of August: 16 at Deepdale Broad and parties of 26, 7, 18 and 3 flying west at Brancaster on 10th (RC).

### 162 Spotted Redshank

North coast: Single birds at Brancaster, Overy Staithe, Stiffkey, Morston, Blakeney and Cley, April–May and July–October, with one at Cley from December 10th till end of year (WFB). Maximum 5–6 on August 19th and September 8th (CO). Broads: Hickling, one, August 30th; 3, September 3rd and 2 on 5th (EP). Fens: Wisbech Sewage Farm: Frequently reported, June 16th–November 3rd with 34 on September 29th (CBC).

### 165 Greenshank

Spring passage began April 11th, with most passing in first 3 weeks of May. Return passage, July 6th–October 25th during which period many records from usual areas. Largest numbers: 12, Cley, August 12th (CO); up to 16, Blakeney, September 3rd–10th (HH) and 17, Breydon, August 25th (RHH). Inland: One, Bolwick Hall Lake, August 21st–22nd (WEB). Wash: Records include 35 at Wolferton, August 16th (CBC). Winter: One at Horsey, December 27th (GC).

### 169 Knot

Highest numbers: 4,000 at Holme, October 23rd (ICTN); 2,000 at Brancaster, March 2nd (RC); 4,000 at Blakeney, February 10th (JFP) and 2,000 at Breydon, March 10th (RHH). Wash: 15–20,000 at Snettisham, March 25th (CBC).

### 170 Purple Sandpiper

North coast: 2 at Wells, February 29th (HH). Singles at Blakeney, February 12th, September 2nd, 5th and 18th, October 16th and 3 on March 23rd (CO, HH). One at Cley, November 24th (CO). 2 at Salthouse, January 5th (HH). 1–4 at Sheringham, February 4th–March 11th (PRC, ETD, ICTN) and 2 there, December 7th (JM). 4 at West Runton, March 30th (GM, JM). Wash: Heacham–Hunstanton, 10 on January 22nd and March 4th (CBC).

### 171 Little Stint

North coast: Spring passage: Singles at Salthouse, May 2nd (HH) and at Cley on 10th, 15th, 21st and 22nd (CO). Autumn passage between August 17th–October 25th when reported from

Cley, Blakeney and Brancaster. Maximum of 20, at Cley, September 10th (WFB). Also 2 at Scolt, July 17th (PB, RC). Broads: One at Hickling, May 28th (EP).

### 173 Temminck's Stint

North coast: 1-2 at Cley, July 22nd-24th (WFB, AHD). Singles at Cley, September 3rd (JI, HPM, RJJ) and at Morston the same day (PRC). Fens: One, Wisbech Sewage Farm, July 24th (CBC). Wash: 2, Wolferton, August 16th (CBC).

### 176 Pectoral Sandpiper

Fens: One, Wisbech Sewage Farm, June 11th-15th (CBC).

### 178 Dunlin

Wash: 10,000 at Snettisham, April 4th (CBC).

### 179 Curlew-Sandpiper

North coast (Brancaster, Blakeney and Cley): Autumn passage between August 12th-September 20th with 2-3 "red" adults at Cley throughout August. 2 flocks totalling about 90 passed west at Cley, August 23rd (CO). A late bird, October 21st (DIMW). East coast (Breydon): 1-3 on 4 dates between August 13th-September 16th (PB, PWPB, RHH).

### 181 Sanderling

Largest assemblies on North coast: 250 at Holme, October 14th (DF); 350 at Wells, March 4th (ICTN); 250 at Blakeney, July 16th (JFP) and 200 there, August 21st-22nd (HH).

### 184 Ruff

North coast: Blakeney/Cley area: Small spring passage, March 22nd-June 3rd. One on July 19th and autumn passage, August 4th-September 24th when up to 12 recorded. 4, October 1st-10th and 5 on 11th (CO, WFB). 2 throughout December on Glaven fresh-marshes (LB).

Broads (Hickling): Spring passage: Up to 4, March 31st-May 28th. Autumn passage up to 10, August 12th-September 4th (GB, EP). East coast: Breydon: 3, August 4th; 5, September 1st (RHH) and 16 on 19th (PB). Cantley Reservoir: One, August 22nd (MJS).

Fens: Wisbech Sewage Farm: Up to 30 in January and March; 100, September 30th-October 2nd; up to 60, November-December (CBC).

### 185 Avocet

North coast: Cley: 4, March 27th and one passing west, May 2nd (RAR); one, June 4th (MHP). East coast: Breydon: 2, April 12th (EEJ) and 2 on 28th (RHH). Fens: Wisbech Sewage Farm: 2, June 1st (CBC). Wash: Singles at Wolferton, March 25th and at Lynn Point, May 13th (CBC).

**188 Red-necked Phalarope**

North coast : One at Cley, June 11th (DS). Fens : One at Wisbech Sewage Farm, August 30th (CBC).

**189 Stone-Curlew**

Breck : First, Wretham, March 20th (*per* PH).

**193 Arctic Skua**

North coast (Holme-Overstrand) : Autumn passage, July 20th-October 25th. Maxima : 16 together at Scolt, August 30th (RC) and 14 at Morston on 27th (PRC). East coast : 4 off Winter-ton, September 1st (RKN) and one at Martham Broad on 13th (CGC). Inland : One found dead at Sprowston, September 18th (*per* RMB).

**194 Great Skua**

North coast (Scolt-Salthouse) : Autumn passage : 1-2 on 21 dates between July 20th-October 14th (many observers). East coast : One off Yarmouth, October 12th (LL).

**195 Pomatorhine Skua**

North coast : Cley : Singles on September 8th (co) and 19th (PDK, PRC). Details satisfactory. Wash : Hunstanton : 3 flying S.W., October 23rd (CBC—to whom details submitted).

**196 Long-tailed Skua**

North coast : Cley : An immature flying west, August 31st (RAR, MG, RJJ, JI) and an adult, September 7th (co). Details received. Wash : One, Holme, September 3rd (CBC).

**198 Greater Black-backed Gull**

North coast : Largest estimate 700 at Stiffkey, October 17th (HH). Breck : 200 roosting at Mickle Mere, November 18th (AEV).

**199 Lesser Black-backed Gull**

Only large numbers : 60 at Blakeney, July 20th, 80 at Stiffkey, August 3rd (HH) and 250 at Holme, August 23rd (CBC).

**200 Herring-Gull**

Breck : Nearly 1,000 roosting at Mickle Mere, January 2nd (EPT) and 600, November 18th (AEV).

**202 Glaucous Gull**

North coast : 1-2 reported on 22 dates at Brancaster, Wells, Blakeney, Cley, Salthouse, Weybourne, Sheringham and Cromer up to April 29th and from October 10th (many observers). Also the following summer records : Singles at Cley, May 19th and August 6th (co) and at Blakeney, May 7th, July 6th and September 17th (HH).

**203 Iceland Gull**

Singles at Weybourne, June 2nd (M. MACFARLANE) and at Sheringham, October 29th (PRC). Satisfactory details received. An immature at Holme, November 4th (CBC).

**205 Mediterranean Black-headed Gull**

An adult at Sheringham, February 28th (PRC). The fourth winter in succession this species has appeared at Sheringham.

**207 Little Gull**

North coast (Holme-Overstrand) : Recorded January-March, May, and July-October. Most records of 1-2 birds, but 4, September 19th and 6 on 20th at Cley (CO) and 5 at Blakeney, July 27th (HH). Inland : One at Taverham, February 10th-25th (LWL).

**208 Black-headed Gull**

Breeding localities include : North coast : 60 pairs, Scolt Head, but all nests washed-out (RC). 150 pairs, Morston marshes ; 20-30 pairs, Stiffkey marshes ; 100 pairs, Wiveton-Blakeney fresh-marshes (HH). Broads area : 640 pairs, Alderfen Broad (ETD, MJS) ; 40 pairs, Cantley Reservoir—a great decrease (GN). Fens : 350 pairs, Wisington Beet Factory (CBC).

**209 Sabine's Gull**

An immature at Cley and Salthouse, October 6th-7th (PJM and many other observers).

**211 Kittiwake**

Coastal records in every month. At Scolt, up to 40 on the Far Point during summer and 2 adults carrying pieces of weed on July 3rd (RC). 80 at Sheringham, October 29th (PRC) and 100, Scroby Sands, July 22nd (RHH).

**212 Black Tern**

Records from usual coastal localities, Broads and lakes. Spring passage : One, Rockland Broad, April 15th (EAE) and main passage, May 5th-28th, with one at Cley, June 9th (CO) and 2 at Seamere on 18th (CG). Peak numbers in last week of May and on 22nd : 51 at Rockland Broad (MJS) ; 2 at Taverham Lake (LWL), 9 at Hickling Broad (EP) and one at Scolt (RC).

Autumn passage July 16th-October 16th. Two main movements : August 25th-September 11th and September 19th-28th (many observers).

Wash : Lynn Point/Ouse mouth : Over 200 moving west, September 7th (CBC).

**213 White-winged Black Tern**

An unpublished record for 1955 is of an adult moulting from summer plumage flying west off Cley beach, August 8th. Satisfactory details and sketch from PCJ including black under-wing coverts.



**215 Gull-billed Tern**

One in the ternery at Scolt Head, June 2nd-4th and July 13th (RC). Full details received.

**217 Common Tern**

First, Cley, April 26th (HH, CO). Last (Common/Arctic), October 21st (ICTN). Several interesting movements recorded at Scolt: Over 2,000 arrived July 9th and remained 2 days before departing in a westerly direction; 5,000 adults and young, July 24th-31st; over 3,000 collecting to roost, August 7th, then only small numbers until 27th when over 500 arrived and stayed 2 days; 250 arrived, September 8th (RC). At Cley, westerly passage, August 11th-28th; a few east, September 8th and 23rd (CO).

Breeding records: Wash: Snettisham gravel pits (25 pairs—CBC). North coast: Scolt (900 nests), Blakeney Point (1,600 nests), Arnold's marsh Cley (50 pairs but only one chick reared). East coast: Scroby Sands (100 pairs). Broads: Ranworth (2 nests), Hickling (3 nests) and Ormesby (3 nests). None nested at How Hill.

Migration notes refer to Common/Arctic terns.

**218 Arctic Tern**

A number of coastal records of 1-2 birds between May 24th-September 7th. 2 pairs nested, Blakeney Point (WE).

**219 Roseate Tern**

No breeding records, but several records of 1-2 birds at Cley, Blakeney and Scolt Head, May 24th-September 23rd (CO and other observers). Also 2 passing west, Cley, July 15th (PRC, RAR).

**222 Little Tern**

First, Scolt, April 26th (RC). Most left second week of August, but one remained on Blakeney Point until September 24th (CO) and a straggler there, October 9th (HH).

Breeding records include: Wash: 25 pairs at Snettisham and 4 pairs at Heacham (CBC). North coast: 15 pairs at Holme (CBC); only 14 nests at Scolt; 126 nests at Blakeney Point and 2 pairs on south side of harbour. East coast: Several scrapes and 2 eggs, Yarmouth north beach, June 6th, but site much disturbed; 15 nests on Scroby Sands (many observers).

**223 Sandwich Tern**

First, at Cley, April 2nd (WFB) where assembly peaked at 400 at end of month. Rapid dispersal during May and by the last week only 1-2 remained. After breeding season, adults and young again assemble at Cley prior to departure. This flock peaked at 210 on August 12th and began to decrease during third week of August. Most had left by end of September, but 5 October records and last seen at Cley and at Weybourne on October 22nd (HGA, RP).

At Scolt : 74 breeding pairs, but not all successful ; over 400 new birds arrived July 9th and stayed at least 3 days ; total of 550 on July 19th and up to 600, including young, during last week of July ; still 200, August 5th, but only 20 by 10th ; sudden increase to over 350 on 27th, but majority had left by end of month ; further 100 arrived, September 8th ; last, October 12th (RC).

About 400 pairs breeding (not all successful) at Scroby (RHH). 103 nests at Blakeney Point (WE).

Broads : 3, Ormesby, May 4th (PGT) and 6, Hickling, August 9th (EP).

#### 224 Razorbill

Parents with half-grown and still flightless chicks swimming with them began to pass along north coast from July 14th (CO).

#### 226 Little Auk

Sculthorpe : One found alive January 2nd (*per* EAE). Scolt : One found alive November 1st, died same day (RC). Cley : One, January 1st and 8 on 2nd ; a few appeared during last week of October and one, November 4th (CO). Sheringham : One dead in a town garden, mid-February (CO). Cromer : 2 dead, February 18th (PT). Wash : 2, Snettisham, February 19th ; 2, Hunstanton, October 23rd (CBC).

#### 229 Black Guillemot

One dead, Blakeney Point, February 10th (JFP) and one at Cley, October 7th (CO).

#### 230 Puffin

Cley : 6 records from September 7th till end of October (CO). Sheringham : An immature, October 30th (PRC).

#### 235 Turtle-Dove

Recorded between April 25th (HH) and September 23rd (CO). 15 passing west at Hunstanton, May 11th (PCJ) ; 3 west at Cley, June 3rd and 2 west next day (CO). Wash : 70-80 along Snettisham sea-wall, June 23rd (CBC).

#### Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

See page 21.

#### 237 Cuckoo

Recorded between April 16th (HH) and September 11th (WGB).

#### 248 Long-eared Owl

Breeding season records : A nest on the ground at Hickling (EP) ; one nest at Martham and one shot at Honingham end of June (*per* RJ). One nest, which came to grief, on Salthouse Heath (CO).

Cley : 2 immigrants, October 31st (CO).

**249 Short-eared Owl**

Broads: At least 6 pairs nested in the Hickling-Horsey-Martham area (GB, GC, RJ, EP). Other breeding season records include 2 on Bure marshes near Six Mile House, June 23rd (RHH) and one at the Scolt ternery on 4 dates in July (RC). Winter records from usual areas with maximum of 6, Breydon marshes, January 28th (RHH, PGT).

**252 Nightjar**

First, May 13th (CO). Singles at Blakeney Point, May 21st and September 3rd (RG).

**255 Swift**

First, April 22nd (CO). Main arrival began May 6th. Westerly passage at Cley, May 6th-11th, on 16th and August 11th, 18th and 26th, with 10 arriving from sea, September 3rd (CO). Westerly movement noted at Blakeney May 11th (HH) and at Scolt, May 7th and 14th (RC). Last noted September 30th (CDR, MJS).

**261 Hoopoe**

One at Horsey, April 25th-26th (GC). One at Old Lakenham Hall, August 10th-20th (*per* RMB).

**263 Greater Spotted Woodpecker**

One, Blakeney Point, September 6th (WE). One on Cley marshes, December 27th, may have been an immigrant (CO).

**265 Wryneck**

September passage records: Single birds at Blakeney Point, 1st and 2nd (CO); at Wiveton on 2nd (CO); at Coltishall on 3rd (WRFA); at Aylsham between 3rd and 6th (CLM) and at Swainsthorpe on 4th (*per* EAE). One at Holme on 2nd and 2 others next day (CBC). Singles at Scolt Head, September 3rd (MJS, GT) and 6th; 2 on 10th and one on 12th (RC). No breeding records.

**272 Skylark**

Westerly passage noted at Cley on March 3rd, October 14th and 26th and November 4th (CO).

**273 Shore-Lark**

North coast: Cley/Blakeney Point: A flock fluctuating between 6-30 was present till first week of May (CO). Also 2 at Wells, March 21st (HH); 4 at Scolt on 28th and 3 there April 17th (RC).

Scarce in autumn: One at Stiffkey, October 5th (HH). 2-3 at Cley on 28th (CO) and up to 4 at Scolt from October 27th (RC).

East coast: 4, Breydon marshes, June 16th (E. L. ROBERTS, GB). An exceptionally late date. See *British Birds*, Vol. XLIX, p. 502.

Wash: Records include 3 at Snettisham, March 10th-23rd (CBC).

**274 Swallow**

An early bird at Cley, March 24th (PCJ), but main arrival from April 10th. Westerly passage commenced at Cley, April 9th and continued most days till third week of May. Heaviest passage May 6th (CO) and large movement also observed at Blakeney and Scolt same date (HH, RC). Westerly passage resumed, August 26th-27th (CO). Several at Blakeney and Holkham, November 4th (CDR) and last at Blakeney on 10th (CO).

**276 House-Martin**

First, Cley, April 10th (CO), but only small numbers until April 26th. Westerly passage at Cley from May 1st (CO). 2 young still in nest at Thetford, October 1st (*per* MJS) and late birds at Cley on November 3rd (WFB) and 8th (EMCE) and at California on 15th (PGT). 68 nests at Oxborough Hall (HH).

**277 Sand-Martin**

First, Cley, April 8th, with further arrivals April 10th-11th at several localities. Not widespread until first week of May. Last, October 14th (CO). Cley: A pair laid eggs in an underground nesting box at the end of a wooden "tunnel," but the young died (PRC). Gooderstone: 5-6 pairs nested below ground-level in the side of a silage pit (CRK).

**278 Golden Oriole**

Single males at Horsey, May 14th (AB) and July 4th (GC). A male at Aylmerton, May 20th-23rd (DR) and a male at Aylsham on the 22nd (MRS. M. A. BUCKINGHAM). Details supplied.

**281 Hooded Crow**

Many more seen in coastal regions winter 1955-6 than in previous winter. Easterly passage noted at Cley, March 22nd and April 6th (CO). Late birds on 5 dates in May and one at Cley, June 16th-17th (CO). First autumn records from October 8th, but main immigration to North coast October 27th-November 4th (CO, HH). Maximum: 66 at Stiffkey, November 19th (HH).

**282 Rook**

Spring emigrants at Cley, moving east with hooded crows, March 22nd (CO). Autumn arrivals at Cley and Blakeney, October 22nd-November 10th (CO, HH).

**283 Jackdaw**

Many arriving with rooks at Cley and Blakeney, November 4th-7th (CO, HH).

**293 Willow-Tit**

Records from Hempstead Woods, Salthouse Heath, Holkham, Gressenhall, Hanworth and Rollesby Broad.

**295 Bearded Tit**

Broads area : Breeding records only from Hickling Broad and Heigham Sounds (about 25 pairs) and Waveney Valley (at least one successful pair—MJS). Birds more widespread in autumn and winter when again present at Ranworth (RB). North coast : Cley : 2 pairs bred. Birds still present at end of year (WFB, CO).

**299 Wren**

Present in *Sueda* bushes at Blakeney Point in February, April and October (CO) and 7-8 at Scolt, October 9th-10th (RC).

**302 Fieldfare**

Late spring records include 100 at Horsey, May 2nd (PRC), singles at Blakeney on 7th and at Cromer on 12th and 19th (PT). Autumn records from October 7th (MSJS), but very few till end of month.

**303 Song-Thrush**

Migrants at Blakeney Point, September 17th and 20th-25th, October 8th-14th and 27th-28th (CO, III).

**304 Redwing**

Last recorded in spring on April 20th (CO) at Holt. First in autumn on September 24th, at Scolt Head (RC), and Blakeney Point (CO). Main influxes October 7th-8th, 14th-16th, 21st and 29th. Noticeably scarce this autumn.

**307 Ring Ouzel**

Spring : Cley : One, April 17th (RAR) ; Cromer : 1-2 (mostly males) daily on cliffs, April 21st-28th (ACC, JHW) ; Horsey : 2, April 27th and 3 on 28th (GC).

**308 Blackbird**

2-3 appear to have wintered (1955-6), Blakeney Point (CO). Autumn : First arrivals on North coast, September 22nd, with main movements October 15th and especially 16th. Small influxes last week of October and November 10th (CO and other observers).

An all cream variety at Yarmouth from mid-October till end of year (RHH).

**311 Wheatear**

North coast : First, March 21st when one at Cley (CO) and 34 at Cromer (JHW) ; another on 26th, but first main movement not till April 3rd-15th with an increase on 11th. Second influx began May 1st with most on 5th, dying out in mid-month (CO). Autumn passage began on August 7th and lasted till September 25th, with a peak on September 11th (CO, RC). Late single birds at Scolt and Cley on October 25th (RC, CO) and at Cromer on the 26th (CDR).

First bird of Greenland race (*Oenanthe o. leucorhoa*) at Cley, April 20th with several on 27th. Main movement, May 8th–22nd. In autumn, a few between September 8th–17th (co and other observers).

Breck : First, March 23rd (EPT). Only known breeding localities (apart from Breck) : Roydon Common, 2 pairs (ICTN) ; Salthouse, a pair on Little Eye and another pair probably bred as usual on Gramborough Hill (PRC, co) ; Snettisham, 2 pairs (CBC).

### 317 Stonechat

Wash : Pair at Snettisham, October 14th (CBC). North coast : One at Holme, October 14th (CBC). A pair at Cley throughout January, but only the female appeared to survive the cold spell and was last seen February 18th (co). 2 at Scolt, May 6th (RC) and one at Wiveton on the 10th (co). One, Blakeney Point, September 16th (JFP) ; one at Cley, September 9th, 2 on the 15th and 3 from October 7th till end of year (co). Singles at Blakeney–Stiffkey, October 16th–17th (HH) and at Morston, December 31st (PRC). Broads : 2 at Horsey, October 21st (GC).

Summary of recent breeding records : Although described by B. B. Riviere in 1930 in his *Birds of Norfolk* as common in suitable localities throughout the spring and summer, the stonechat has apparently disappeared as a breeding species in the county. A decline began in the greater part of Norfolk about 1936 and by 1940 it was almost entirely confined as a breeding bird to Breckland. Even here its habitat was greatly reduced and the hard winters of the early 1940's apparently killed-off almost the last of the breeding stock. In North Norfolk, it bred abundantly on the heaths round Holt, especially on Salthouse Heath, up to the early 1930's, but by 1937 it was described as much less common. In 1938, single pairs bred at Cley and at Blakeney Downs. At Briston, three pairs bred annually on heathland up to 1940. It was common for the furze to be burnt in May in that district, which was most discouraging for the birds. Westwards, stonechats bred regularly at Dersingham up to 1939 ; a pair was present in 1943, but no nest was found. In the east, between 3–5 pairs nested at Waxham until 1932 when a pair bred there for the last time. At Horsey, breeding was recorded up to 1937 ; whilst 3–4 pairs were seen each summer on coastal common-land between Winterton and Scratby up to 1938. It was also seen, but less frequently, on common-land near the Broads and a nest was photographed at Hickling about 1931. The picture is less clear in mid-Norfolk, but at Taverham the last nests were found in 1933 and 1936. In the Breck, it was widespread but none was seen in the breeding season after 1945, when it was reported at Santon (many observers).

At the present time, the stonechat is a passage migrant and winter visitor to the county appearing regularly—often in pairs—in coastal areas. Inland records at former breeding sites are very few

in number. A male at Taverham in December 1951 is the only one seen there since the severe winter of 1939. Occasional single juveniles at Cley in July of recent years suggests possible breeding in the county.

### 318 Whinchat

North coast: Spring passage, April 25th–May 23rd with increases noted on May 14th and 22nd (CO, RC). Autumn passage August 16th–September 25th with peaks on September 2nd–6th, 10th–12th and on 18th (CO, RC, HH, MJS). Also single birds, October 8th (HH). East coast: Recorded at Horsey and Hickling, September 4th and at Reedham from 13th to 15th (PWPB, GC, EP). Breck: Nested, Roudham Heath (GPD), but not proved elsewhere.

### 320 Redstart

North coast: Spring passage, April 27th–May 30th, with main influx May 3rd–8th (CO). In autumn noted between August 6th–October 21st with drift-migrants August 22nd–September 26th and peak on September 2nd (CO and other observers). Broads: Spring passage at Hickling and Horsey, April 18th–27th (GB, GC, EP).

### 321 Black Redstart

2 pairs (one being double-brooded) nested at Yarmouth. The nests were in brickwork at the old Power Station and in a maltings building along Southtown Road (RHH). At least one pair in centre of Norwich, May 3rd–July 20th (PDK, REL, TFM), but no proof of nesting.

Other records: Cromer: Singles, January 1st–14th; February 4th–6th and November 10th (IFK, CDR, JHW) and 2 on April 24th (CO). Cley/Blakeney Point: Singles, March 24th and 30th/31st; April 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th and 8th, September 6th and 13th, October 21st–24th and 25th; also 6–8 on October 16th (CO, HH). Holme: One, October 23rd (ICTN). Hickling: One, April 14th (EP). Thurning: One, April 16th (*per* EAE).

### 322 Nightingale

Spring arrival from April 19th (CO).

### 324 Bluethroat

Cley/Blakeney Point: Occurred in three "waves": up to 4 daily, September 1st–9th; up to 7 daily, 10th–18th; 3 on 24th and one on 27th (CO, HH). Holme: One trapped, September 9th (CBC).

### 325 Robin

Cley/Blakeney Point: One hopping and flying west along foreshore of Blakeney Point at height of cold spell, February 4th (CO). Birds probably of the Continental race (*Erithacus r. rubecula*) as follows: singles, April 23rd, September 1st–2nd (CO); 6, October 15th (EMcE) and one at Morston on 27th (PRC).

**327 Grasshopper-Warbler**

First, Wheatfen, April 16th (EAE). Singles, Blakeney Point, September 5th and 12th (CO).

**333 Reed-Warbler**

First, April 30th (HH, CO). 2 still present at Cley, October 11th (BPP). Blakeney Point: 1-2, May 20th (JFP), August 27th, September 2nd and 25th (CO). Scolt Head: One, September 6th (MJS, GT).

**337 Sedge-Warbler**

First, Hickling, April 17th (EP). Main arrival at Cley, May 6th with others on 13th and 29th. Singles on Blakeney Point, August 27th (CO) and September 10th (HH).

**343 Blackcap**

First, Brinton, March 29th (RPB-O), but no others until April 17th. Last noted, September 16th.

**344 Barred Warbler**

Blakeney Point: Immatures as follows: One, August 30th; 2 on 31st and one, September 1st-2nd (CO). Morston: An immature, September 6th (HH). Holme: 1-2, September 1st-2nd, 9th-10th and 2 on 23rd (CBC).

**346 Garden Warbler**

First, Hickling, April 23rd (EP). Cley/Blakeney Point: Spring arrivals from May 7th; another influx, probably drift-migrants, May 29th-30th (CO). Autumn (mostly drift-migrants), August 24th-September 25th, with peaks on September 2nd, 10th and 23rd (CO).

**347 Whitethroat**

First, Blakeney, April 8th (HH), but very few until the 27th. Cley/Blakeney Point: Main influx, May 6th and others arriving on 13th, 21st and 23rd. Drift-migrants on 29th-30th and again in autumn from August 21st-September 24th, with peak days on August 27th, September 3rd, 10th, 15th and 23rd (CO). Last, October 2nd (HH, PJM).

**348 Lesser Whitethroat**

First, Cley, April 26th (CO). Cley/Blakeney Point: Main spring arrival, May 4th-9th with single drift-migrants on May 29th-30th and, in autumn, on 7 dates between August 21st-September 9th with one on September 25th (CO). A bird with wing formula of the Siberian race *blythi* trapped and ringed on Blakeney Point, September 16th (BRS, CO). A late bird there, October 28th (CWH).



**354 Willow-Warbler**

Spring: First, March 27th (RPB-O). Slow increase during latter half of April, with main movements at Cley from May 3rd-17th (CO). Autumn: Cley/Blakeney Point: Juveniles passing through in small numbers from August, this movement merging towards end of month with the first drift-migrants. During September these occurred in four well-marked "waves": September 2nd-5th; 8th-10th; 15th-16th and 24th-25th (CO). Birds of the two colour-phases of the Northern race *acredula* recorded at Cley: 2 "brown," April 26th-27th and again on May 3rd; single "grey" birds, May 6th and 29th (CO).

**356 Chiffchaff**

First, Wymondham, March 24th (PB) with marked influx, March 25th-April 1st. 25, Blakeney Point, August 27th is the most recorded in autumn (CO). Last, Blakeney, October 2nd when one singing (HH).

**357 Wood-Warbler**

First, Kelling, April 25th (HH), Snettisham on 29th and Hanworth on 30th (CO, MM). Breeding season records from Kelling (2-3 males), Holt, West Runton, Glandford (one nest) and Upper Sheringham (HH, CO). Migrants on Blakeney Point: Singles, August 20th and 26th; 2 on 27th and one on September 2nd (CO).

**364 Goldcrest**

Cley/Blakeney Point: 1-2 spring migrants, March 18th and April 12th-21st (HH, CO). Small autumn movement between August 30th-October 24th with up to 7, October 8th-12th (CO). Scolt: 1-2, September 7th-8th, October 3rd and 20th (RC, MJS). Yarmouth: Up to 60, St. George's Park, October 16th (PGT).

**366 Spotted Flycatcher**

First, Kelling, May 5th (CO). Drift migrants at Blakeney Point and Cley, May 29th-June 1st and again in autumn from September 2nd-24th (maximum of 5-CO). Up to 9 at Scolt, September 10th-12th (RC).

**368 Pied Flycatcher**

Spring: Singles at Holkham, April 27th (BHC) and at Blakeney Point, May 1st (JFP) where 20 on 3rd (RG). Singles at Wiveton, May 11th (CO) and at Scolt and Kelling Lowes on 21st (RC, CB). Singles at Blakeney, May 8th and 26th (HH). Also one at West Runton, June 29th (HH).

Autumn passage from August 6th, mainly on North coast from Holme to Salthouse, was heaviest in first half of September when up to 20 between Cley-Blakeney Point (CO) and 26 at Wells on 10th (AEV). On East coast, large movement at Horsey, September

8th (GC) ; one at Hickling on 3rd (CJC) ; one at Reedham on 12th and 1-3 at Yarmouth, 15th-17th (PWPB). Also 1-2 in a Norwich garden, September 5th-8th (TC-s). Last records : Singles at Scolt and Cley, October 16th (RC, CO) and at Wells on 17th (DG).

### 370 Red-breasted Flycatcher

Autumn : Single birds at Cley, September 3rd (RJJ) and 9th (MAC) and at Blakeney Point on 18th (JFP, BRS, CO), on 26th (JS) and on October 8th (HH). Details supplied : none was an adult male.

### 373 Meadow-Pipit

Cley : Autumn influxes noted August 20th-21st, 25th, 27th, 29th and September 10th, 12th-14th and 19th (CO).

### 375 Tawny Pipit

One, Blakeney Point, September 6th (THB). The fifth record for the county. Details will be published shortly in *British Birds*.

### 376 Tree-Pipit

First, Cley, April 13th (PRC) where one west May 2nd and one arrived from N.E. during marked drift movement, May 30th (CO). Autumn : During drift migration weather in September, birds occurred in two "waves" : 2nd-10th and 23rd-25th (CO). One in an isolated tree group on Reedham marshes, September 13th (PWPB).

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

Coastal records up to April 12th and from September 9th. A rather grey bird at Gunton Lake. April 7th, resembled the Scandinavian race *littoralis* (RAR). Wash : 60 at Lynn Point, October 21st (CBC).

### 380 Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla a. yarrelli*)

Spring passage at Cley, March 8th-April 18th with most between March 18th-27th (CO).

#### White Wagtail (*M. a. alba*)

North coast : Small passage movements April 25th-May 12th and August 29th-October 3rd (HH, JFP, CO). East coast : One, Cantley, April 21st (MJS).

### 381 Grey Wagtail

Breeding season records : Lyng Mill : A pair June 11th, the male carrying food (MM). Little Ouse at Euston : One successful nest (GJ). Taverham Mill : One pair nested but the 3 clutches of eggs failed to hatch (LWL). Coston Bridge on River Yare : 2 fledglings April 22nd, but no nest found (EQB).

Single migrants at Cley and Salthouse on 5 dates between August 20th–September 17th with 2 on September 4th (CO). Usual winter records, including one at Pull's Ferry, Norwich, October 12th (PDK).

**382 Yellow Wagtail** (*Motacilla f. flavissima*)

First, Cley, April 9th (CO) and in Broads area on 13th (GC, EP). Last, one at Blakeney, October 3rd (HH).

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

A male at Salthouse, April 18th was typical except for yellow throat (RAR). A male at Wiveton, April 28th (SMDA, JEF) and another at Salthouse, April 30th (PRC).

**383 Waxwing**

Singles at Litcham, January 3rd–31st (*per* WGB), Blakeney on February 17th (LB) and Cromer on 23rd (CDR). Norwich: Up to 6 in Earlham Road, January 8th–February 14th (TE and other observers); 2, Castle Meadow, February 28th (*per* RMB) and 2 at Hellesdon on 23rd (*per* EAE). Wheatfen: 20 on December 29th and 12 next day (EAE).

**384 Great Grey Shrike**

North coast: Singles at Morston, January 30th (PRC) and at Blakeney, February 13th–15th (HH); 2–3 wintered in the Kelling, Salthouse area and one was heard singing before all had left by mid-April (CO). One at Morston, October 20th and one on Salthouse Heath from October 28th till end of year (CO). One, Kelling Heath, November 5th (HH).

Breck: One, Barnham Cross Common, January 28th–29th (JFB, TCS) and one at Tottington, April 7th–8th (CG). Wash: One at Heacham, February 19th and one at Snettisham, October 14th (CBC).

**385 Lesser Grey Shrike**

One at Snettisham, June 18th–24th (CBC), was heard singing on the 24th (RAR). Details will shortly be published in *British Birds*. The fifth county record.

**386 Woodchat-Shrike**

One on roadside trees between Gunton and North Walsham, May 14th (ACC). Satisfactory details.

**388 Red-backed Shrike**

First, Salthouse Heath, May 12th (CO). Most abundant in North Norfolk: at least 3 pairs bred on Salthouse Heath, 3 pairs bred at Blakeney and single pairs bred at Wiveton, Cley and Stiffkey (several observers). Wash: A pair bred at Snettisham (CBC). Single migrants at Scolt, September 3rd–9th (RC, MJS, GT) and on October 12th (CO); at Cley on September 4th (CO) and at Horsey on 10th (GC).

**389 Starling**

North coast : Westerly autumn passage on many days from October 8th, with largest numbers on 16th (co).

An unusual number of varieties reported : Single all-white birds at Geldeston in early December and at Thorpe, Norwich, from mid-October onwards. A creamy-buff bird in the Wells area during December. One with a white tail and rump at Binham, December 7th (*per* EAE). One with white wings, tail and upper tail coverts at Blakeney, September 9th (HH).

**392 Greenfinch**

Small parties moving west at Cley, October 23rd (co).

**394 Siskin**

Taverham : Up to 30 between January 18th–February 12th (LWL, REL, TFM). High Kelling : 2–3, April 17th (co). Cley/Blakeney Point : One arrived from sea, September 25th and 2 seen on 26th ; another on October 2nd (co). Breck : 3 at Brandon and one at Thetford, March 12th (ICTN).

**395 Linnet**

Small westerly passage at Cley, March 3rd and April 10th (co). A flock of at least 400, Blakeney, September 14th (HH).

**396 Twite**

North coast : Recorded up to March 19th and from September 26th at Scolt, Blakeney Point, Morston and Cley with maximum of 40, Blakeney Point, October 12th (JS, BPP). Wash : 20–100 regularly, Holme–Hunstanton, from October 23rd (CBC).

**397 Redpoll**

Breeding season records from Hempstead, Selbrigg Pond, Holt Lowes area (3–4 pairs). Upper Sheringham (3 pairs), Overstrand, Syderstone, Watton, Taverham and Ellingham (several observers).

**404 Crossbill**

Wash : 2 at Wolferton, October 28th (CBC).

North Norfolk : A female, Salthouse Heath, May 23rd (ACM). A juvenile at High Kelling, June 30th where small party seen on several occasions during summer (GHCB). One at Holkham, August 4th (JSA) and one found dead on tide-line at Scolt on 16th (RC). One flying S.E. over Cley, September 3rd (co) and one at Holme on 10th (CBC).

East coast : 3 interesting September records : about 20 on Newarp light-vessel on 2nd (*per* MJS) ; 3 at Hickling on 3rd (CJC) and one feeding on thistles, Breydon marshes, on 4th (HCB). Norwich : 5 over observer's garden, November 18th (MJS).

An account of the 1953 "invasion" appears in *British Birds*, Vol. XLIX, pp. 289–297.

**407 Chaffinch**

Cley/Blakeney Point: Autumn immigrants noted September 24th–25th, October 8th and from 11th–23rd (co). Holme–Hunstanton: Very large westerly passage, October 23rd and over 4,000 birds counted in an hour (ICTN).

**408 Brambling**

Usual winter records from North Norfolk with largest numbers in February–March including 200 at Morston, February 7th (PRC) and 150 at Holkham, March 16th (RPB-O). Last, 5 at Kelling, May 3rd (PRC). First in autumn, 20 at Brinton, September 30th (RPB-O). Most arrivals, October 15th–17th (co and other observers).

In East Norfolk, records include 20 at Scratby, February 19th (PGT), 40 at Whitlingham, March 31st (AGH) and a male at Horsey, July 19th (GC)—an unusual date. In the Breck, 80–90 near Thetford, March 12th (ICTN), one at Ring Mere, April 21st (PB) and 2, St. Helen's Well, May 5th (EPT).

**416 Ortolan Bunting**

Blakeney Point, Cley and Salthouse: Autumn migrants occurred in three "waves": Up to 8 daily from August 30th–September 4th; up to 5 daily from 8th–14th and 2 between 22nd–24th. One, October 4th (co). Also 4, Morston–Stiffkey, September 21st (HH).

**422 Lapland Bunting**

East coast: 2 at Breydon, February 11th (MJS).

North coast: Cley, Blakeney Point and Morston area: Up to 8 on odd dates between January 1st–March 16th. A male with 9 females, April 2nd and last noted on the 15th. Autumn: First, September 7th, increasing to 13 on the 14th. At least 50 arrived September 20th with over 30 moving west next day. Westerly movements continued from October 14th–28th. Many remaining in the area at end of year, including a flock of over 100 at Morston (co, PRC and other observers). Scolt: First autumn birds, September 17th (RC). Holme/Hunstanton area: First two, September 26th (CJC) and over 50 on October 23rd (CBC). Holkham: 12 flying over the lake, January 22nd (PRC, PDK). Wash: Maximum of 57 at Snettisham, October 21st (CBC).

**423 Snow-Bunting**

East coast: 60, Breydon marshes, January 21st (PGT).

North coast: Blakeney Point to Salthouse: Up to 250 till spring departure began in March. Extreme dates April 6th and September 15th. 100 present, mid-October; over 300 moving west, November 4th and 250–300 present till end of year (co).

Scolt Head : Largest winter flock, 180 ; autumn records from September 24th (RC).

Wash : Winter records of up to 100 (CBC).

#### 424 House-Sparrow

Cley : Westerly movements of flocks, with chaffinches and bramblings, noted October 15th, 22nd-25th and December 2nd-3rd (CO).

#### 425 Tree-Sparrow

Cley : Small westerly movements noted October 15th and 23rd (CO). A hybrid tree x house-sparrow was trapped and ringed with tree-sparrows at Cley, April 19th (RAR, PRC). Full details and a photograph appear in *British Birds*, Vol. L, p. 80.

The following, not mentioned in the Classified Notes, were also recorded in 1956 (breeding species in italics) : *Little Grebe*, *Cormorant*, *Mallard*, *Teal*, *Mute Swan*, *Sparrow-hawk*, *Kestrel*, *Red-legged Partridge*, *Partridge*, *Pheasant*, *Moorhen*, *Common Snipe*, *Redshank*, *Common Gull*, *Guillemot*, *Stock-dove*, *Wood-pigeon*, *Barn-owl*, *Little Owl*, *Tawny Owl*, *Kingfisher*, *Green Woodpecker*, *Lesser-spotted Woodpecker*, *Wood-lark*, *Carrion-crow*, *Magpie*, *Jay*, *Great Tit*, *Blue Tit*, *Coal-tit*, *Marsh-tit*, *Long-tailed Tit*, *Nuthatch*, *Tree-creeper*, *Mistle-thrush*, *Hedge-sparrow*, *Hawfinch*, *Goldfinch*, *Bullfinch*, *Yellowhammer*, *Corn-bunting* and *Reed-bunting*.

## 1956 LIGHT-VESSEL NOTES

Summarised by R. A. RICHARDSON

The crews of nine light vessels off the Norfolk coast are keeping a record of birds observed. Seven vessels have been supplied with recognition books and diaries by Yarmouth Naturalists' Society, while the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society purchased them for two vessels. The more interesting records are given below. Attention may be drawn to an interesting paper published in *British Birds* entitled "Migration at the Smith's Knoll Light-vessel, Autumn 1953" (Vol. XLIX, pp. 373-388).

**Heron.**—One, Smith's Knoll, February 16th.

**Brent Goose.**—20, west, Lynn Well, November 4th.

**" Wild Swans."**—2, S.S.W., Corton, February 19th; 4, W.N.W., Newarp, on 21st.

**Water-Rail.**—Several, Outer Dowsing, October 16th, and Smith's Knoll, December 6th.

**Moorhen.**—Few, Smith's Knoll, December 6th.

**Oystercatcher.**—Smith's Knoll, March 29th-30th; 2, April 1st-2nd.

**Snipe.**—Few, Smith's Knoll, March 7th, and Newarp, December 26th.

**Curlew.**—Few, Smith's Knoll, February 16th, March 25th-26th, April 1st-2nd; Newarp, April 7th and December 26th.

**Wood-Pigeon.**—One, Smith's Knoll, October 16th.

**Swallow.**—6-8, Inner Dowsing, June 16th.

**" Crows "** (? Rooks).—Many, Smith's Knoll, January 29th and a few east, March 13th. Many N.N.W., Lynn Well, October 28th.

**Blue Tit.**—One, Corton, October 15th.

**Redwing.**—Few, Smith's Knoll, December 6th.

**Blackbird.**—Few, Haisboro', November 14th; Smith's Knoll, December 6th, and Newarp, on 26th.

**Goldercrest.**—Few, Smith's Knoll and Corton, October 15th-16th, and Smith's Knoll on 18th.

**Crossbill.**—20 of both sexes arrived Newarp at 1900 hours, September 2nd and left S.W. after 30 minutes' rest. Wind E.

**Chaffinch.**—Few, Newarp, March 30th. Many, Smith's Knoll, March 25th-26th, 31st, April 1st and April 1st-2nd. Many there October 9th-18th. Several Corton October 15th; small flocks (mostly females) Outer Dowsing, October 16th and a few Haisboro' same day.

**Brambling.**—Few, Smith's Knoll, January 29th and several there October 16th.

## LAPWINGS AT NORFOLK LIGHT-VESSELS, 1956

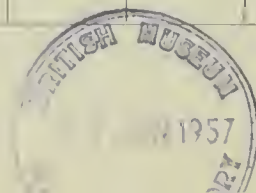
Dates	Inner Dowsing	Outer Dowsing	Haisboro'	Newarp	Smith's Knoll
Feb. 28	—	—	Few	—	—
Mar. 5/6	—	—	Few	—	Many
" 7	—	—	—	—	Many
" 14/15	Many	Few	—	—	—
" 29/30	—	—	—	—	Many
Apr. 1/2	—	—	—	—	Many
" 7	—	—	—	Few	—
Nov. 8	—	—	Few W.	—	—
Dec. 6/7	—	—	—	Many	Many
" 8/9	—	—	—	—	Many

## STARLINGS AT NORFOLK LIGHT-VESSELS, 1956

Dates	Lynn Well	Outer Dowsing	Haisboro'	Newarp	Corton	Smith's Knoll
Jan. 29	—	—	—	—	—	Few
Mar. 5/6	—	—	100's	—	—	Many
" 7	—	—	—	—	—	Many
" 14/15	—	Few	—	—	—	—
" 25/26	—	—	—	—	—	Many
" 29/30	—	—	—	250	—	Many
" 30/31	—	—	—	—	—	Many
Apr. 1/2	—	—	—	—	—	Many
" 7/8	—	200 W.	—	2,000	—	1,000's
" 8/9	—	—	—	—	—	1,000's
Oct. 9/10	—	—	—	—	—	Many
" 12	—	Few	—	—	—	—
" 14	—	—	Few	—	—	Many
" 15	—	Many	—	—	Many W.	Many
" 16	—	V. Many	—	—	Many W.	Many
" 17	—	—	Few	—	—	—
" 18	—	—	—	—	—	Several
" 23	250 N.N.W.	—	—	—	—	—
" 25	Many N.W.	—	—	—	—	—
" 28	Many N.W.	—	—	—	—	—
Nov. 3	Few N.N.W.	—	—	—	—	—
" 14	—	—	Few	—	—	—
" 18	—	300	—	—	—	—
" 30	—	1,000	Few	—	—	Many W.
Dec. 6/7	—	Many	Few	100's	—	Many
" 8/9	—	—	—	—	—	Many
" 26	—	—	—	Many	—	—

## SKYLARKS AT NORFOLK LIGHT-VESSELS, 1956

Dates	Lynn Well	Outer Dowsing	Haisboro'	Newarp	Corton	Smith's Knoll
Feb. 1	Many S.E.	—	—	—	—	—
" 2	Many	—	—	—	—	—
" 16	—	—	—	—	—	Few
Mar. 5/6	—	—	Few	—	—	Many
" 7	—	—	—	—	—	Many
Apr. 1/2	—	—	—	—	—	Many
Oct. 9/10	—	—	Few	—	—	Many
" 11	—	Few	Few	—	Few W.	Many
" 14	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 15	—	—	Few	—	—	—
" 16	—	Few	Few	—	Few W.	Many
" 25	Many N.W.	—	—	—	—	—
Dec. 6/7	—	—	—	100's	—	Many
" 8/9	—	—	—	—	—	Many





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