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NORFOLK

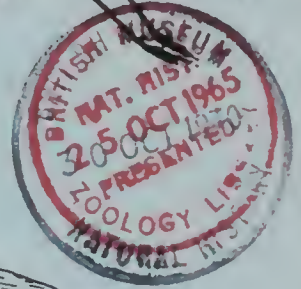
BIRD

&

MAMMAL

REPORT

1964



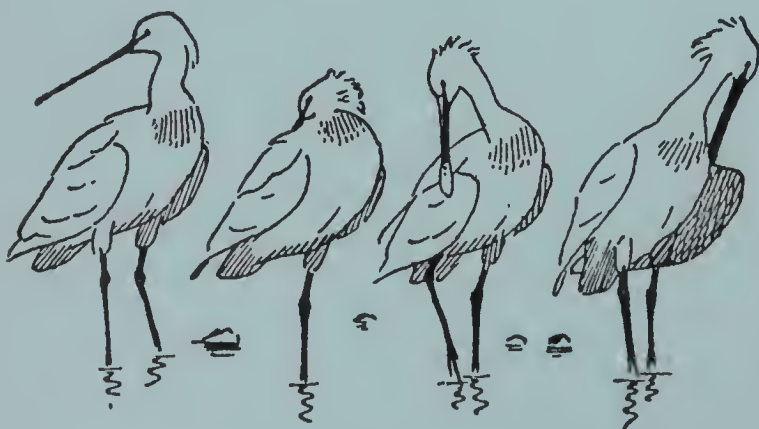
Published by The Norfolk Naturalists Trust
 and The Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists Society
 Transactions 20 (ii)

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Details of membership may be obtained from the Secretary, 4 The Close, Norwich, Nor 16P (*Telephone: 25540*).

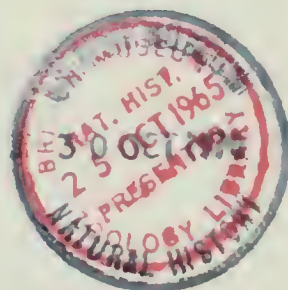
*The *NORFOLK & NORWICH NATURALISTS SOCIETY* was founded in 1869. Monthly meetings are held between October and April and between May and September excursions are arranged to areas of natural history interest on the coast, Broads, heaths and woodlands. The Society publication *Transactions of the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society*, containing papers and notes relating mainly to the natural history of Norfolk, is supplied free to members. Normally, two parts of *Transactions* are published annually, one of these being the *Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report*.

Details may be obtained from the General Secretary, Chalet 72 Wymondham College (*Telephone: Wymondham 3285*).



NORFOLK BIRD AND MAMMAL REPORT

1964



Published by

THE NORFOLK NATURALISTS TRUST

4 The Close, Norwich, NOR 16P

Telephone: 25540

and

THE NORFOLK & NORWICH NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

Castle Museum, Norwich



*Transactions of The Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society,
Volume 20 Part 4*

Norfolk Bird Report - 1964

Edited by

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Assisted by

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Norfolk Mammal Report - 1964

Edited by

P. R. BANHAM

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Norfolk Bird Report

1964

INTRODUCTION

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

Review of the Year: Compared with 1963, wildfowl totals during the opening weeks were not spectacular. The only exception was the abundance of long-tailed ducks and 65 to 70 were at sea off Hunstanton until early April, a unique total. Goose numbers in the Breydon area again declined: only 320 white-fronts, 38 beans and 13 pink-feet. As recently as 1958 the Breydon white-fronts peaked at 1,200, while 102 beans were present in 1959 and 100 pink-feet in 1956. Lesser white-fronted geese were again identified, making a total of at least 13 birds for Norfolk since the first was shot over Breydon marshes in 1949. 2,250 brent geese wintered between Blakeney and Brancaster.

Other winter highlights included rough-legged buzzard and 70 shore-larks in the Cley area, 50 Lapland buntings at Halvergate and frequent parties of waxwings until mid-April. During the first week of March remarkable numbers of Bewick's swans moved eastward through Norfolk. If, as seems likely, the herds were all different then they totalled over 1,100 birds. At this time, East Norfolk beaches were littered with oil victims: guillemots, razorbills and divers. Many were cared for by the R.S.P.C.A. Inspector at Yarmouth.

An outstanding feature of the spring was a succession of southern and eastern vagrants and a remarkably large movement of turtle doves. There is no precedent for the record of 300 turtle doves westward at Cley May 12th. Among these spring rarities were crane, green-winged teal, blue-headed, ashy-headed and grey-headed wagtails all at Cley; buff-breasted sandpiper at Salthouse; red-breasted flycatcher, honey-buzzard and an early woodchat shrike at Holme; Alpine swift at Blakeney; hoopoe at Weybourne; golden orioles at Crostwight and Surlingham; tawny pipit on Blakeney Point and ospreys, Kentish plovers, Temminck's stints and Mediterranean gull.

Notable breeding records included 1,560 pairs of Sandwich terns and 1,800 pairs of common terns on the coast. 220 pairs of herons nested compared with 181 pairs following the Arctic winter. Little ringed plovers were first known to nest in the county in 1960 and this year 7 pairs arrived. Well over 100 pairs of bearded tits nested very successfully and the population at the end of the summer must have been an all time record. No Montagu's harriers have reared young since 1958 and the last nestling

marsh-harriers were recorded in 1959. Black redstarts began breeding in Norfolk, at Yarmouth and Gorleston, in 1950. This year 8 pairs, or singing males, were in residence at Yarmouth with another pair at Cromer—a record number.

Collared doves made history by colonising Cromer and Overstrand in 1955. In a decade this new British bird has spread in a spectacular manner and by the end of 1964 breeding has been proved in 34 English counties, in 8 Welsh counties, in 20 Scottish counties and in 12 Irish counties. In addition, collared doves have been recorded in a further 21 counties in Britain and Ireland (*British Birds*, Vol. 58 pp 105–139). In early autumn, impressive feeding concentrations of collared doves at East Runton, Hunstanton, West Lynn and Little Cressingham totalled 460 birds.

Quail were a summer feature and for the first time many observers became familiar with their calls. Records were received from 35 localities and breeding proved at three sites. Autumn waders reappeared early and a surprisingly large flock of 60 spotted redshanks, mostly in breeding plumage, was at Snettisham throughout July. Other wader highlights were Temminck's stint, white-rumped sandpiper and pectoral sandpiper all at Wisbech S.F., and red-necked phalaropes at Cley, Holme and Snettisham.

The autumn was rather quiet for passerine migration due to long periods of fine weather and relatively low numbers of night-migrants halted on the coast. Among the surprises, however, were Richard's pipits, ortolan buntings, icterine and barred warblers all at Blakeney Point, yellow browed warbler at Holme and little bunting at Cley. Eight red-breasted flycatchers were identified. Sea watching was again rewarding and spectacular numbers of Arctic, great and pomarine skuas were seen off Hunstanton and Cley during the autumn.

Towards the end of the year very large groups of short-eared owls hunted over Halvergate and Breydon marshes; the total of at least 100 exceeded any previous figure. The year closed with large herds of Bewick's swans heading west off Weybourne, Runton and Blakeney Point.

240 full species were recorded in the county during the year.

Unusual nest sites included a great tit's in a post-box at Hethel in daily use; eleven young were reared despite letters being dropped on them. At Little Ellingham, blue tits reared young in a water-pump, six feet from a cottage door; other blue tits nested in an old wooden pump at Bunwell for the eighth year in succession. A wood-pigeon's nest of straw, containing eggs, was found in nettles at Wisbech S.F. At Brockdish, house martins, after setbacks, erected a nest on a single telephone line six inches from the front wall of the Greyhound Inn. Young were reared. A similar site is illustrated in the 1960 Report, page 209. At the same inn, wrens reared young in a discarded cap hanging on a nail near the stable door. A Blakeney blackbird's nest was almost on the ground in a sprout plant, whilst at a Gorleston garage this species nested on a radio set

directly above a work-bench. A persistent pair of Wymondham black-birds nested on the exhaust manifold of a tractor, and at Sheringham another pair reared young for the second year within a foot of the dust, sparks and heat of a blacksmith's forge.

Road casualties along a five-mile stretch of A47 between Gt. Yarmouth and "Stracey Arms" totalled 51 birds, as follows: 12 black-headed gulls, 15 moorhens, 4 rooks, 2 house sparrows, 3 kestrels, 2 lapwing, 3 barn owls, 4 mute swan cygnets and single goldfinch, starling, tawny owl, water-rail, reed bunting and partridge.

Acknowledgements: We are indebted to R. A. Richardson for the cover drawing of black-tailed godwits, for other illustrations and for an excellent 86 page summary covering migration and distribution in the Cley district; also to P. R. Clarke, H. A. Hems and Dr. R. Vaughan for photographs; to Holme Bird Observatory; to the Norfolk Naturalist Trust Wardens at Cley/Salthouse (W. F. Bishop) and at Hickling (E. Pigginn and G. E. Bishop); to R. H. Harrison (Scroby and Breydon); to the National Trust (Blakeney Point); to the Nature Conservancy (Scolt Head) to G. Crees (Horsey); to Cambridge Bird Club (particularly G. M. S. Easy); to Gt. Yarmouth Naturalists Society (light-vessel notes); to Trinity House Depot at Gt. Yarmouth; to D. R. Andrews for valuable assistance and to all other contributors.

Recording: Records for the 1965 Report should be sent by the end of January to Michael J. Seago, 33 Acacia Road, Thorpe, Norwich, NOR 71T. Contributors are requested to submit notes in Check-List order (giving serial numbers based on the 1952 B.O.U. Check-List) using separate sheets for distinct areas (e.g. the Breck, Fens and Wash). In order to minimise the work involved, records will not normally be acknowledged. The names of all contributors will be included in the Report. It is requested that records of rarities should be reported to the Editor (telephone Norwich 34351) without delay.

Recent Publications: Attention is drawn to the following affecting Norfolk: "Aspects of autumn migration at the bird observatories, 1963" (*Bird Study*, Vol. 11, pp. 77-122); "Aspects of spring migration at the bird observatories, 1964" (*Bird Study*, Vol. 11 pp. 198-223); "Breeding distribution of the Stonechat in Britain and causes of its decline" (*Bird Study*, Vol. 12, pp. 83-89); "Aspects of passerine migration at the bird observatories, autumn 1964" (*Bird Study*, Vol. 12 pp. 108-127) and "The spread of the Collared Dove in Britain and Ireland" (*British Birds*, Vol. 58, pp. 105-139).

Scroby Sands

The first landing was made June 25th, when 160 Sandwich terns' nests and 150 common terns' nests were counted; the first young common terns were ringed. Some 250 kittiwakes were present. Exceptionally high tides towards the end of June washed away a number of common terns'

eggs and caused the death of several chicks, but a visit on July 2nd revealed scores of newly hatched common terns and 110 were ringed, together with the first six young Sandwich terns.

Another spring tide July 12th caused further casualties among the common terns and scores of eggs and drowned chicks littered the tide-line. The Sandwich tern colony was on higher ground and although it escaped high tides, it suffered from human interference. Over 50 eggs were removed from the nest scrapes and left in heaps.

On Aug. 4th the kittiwakes had increased to between 600 and 700 and most of the surviving young terns were on the wing. Six late common terns' nests still held clutches of eggs. A week later the last three common tern chicks were ringed. A total of 206 young was ringed: 133 common and 73 Sandwich terns and a good proportion reached the free flying stage.

Many cormorants roost on Scroby and 116 were counted there Jan. 19th. 25 gannets were fishing off the sandbank Sept. 19th with 9 there the following day.



Breydon Water

147 full species were recorded in the area, highlights being 160 Bewick's swans in March and a unique concentration of short-eared owls towards the end of the year:

January: Up to 280 white-fronted geese remained in the Halvergate area throughout the month; a remarkable passage movement occurred on 25th when skein after skein crossed the estuary from the east. Over 4,000 white-fronts were involved. Noteworthy was an adult lesser white-front at Halvergate on 15th and an immature on the estuary on 5th. Pink-feet were again scarce and no gaggle exceeded 13. The bean geese normally wintering higher up the Yare valley, visited the adjoining marshes and on several occasions roosted on the estuary. At least one was shot.

Wildfowl counts included 509 shelduck, 1,450 wigeon and 52 pintail; also 13 scaup, 14 goldeneye on the lower Bure and a scoter on 19th. 5 brents were noted 3rd-5th and up to 17 Bewick's swans. Other visitors included peregrines, short-eared owls (11 in one locality), 44 Lapland buntings, 130 snow buntings and 65 twites.

February: 5 pink-feet remained till the 5th and by 22nd, white-fronts were down to 150. Wildfowl included 456 wigeon, 28 pintail, 355 shelduck, 6 scaup and 31 pochard. Surprises on 2nd were long-tailed duck and goosander. Waders included 1,500 knot and 26 grey plover. 52 cormorants were present, also male hen harrier and single peregrines. On 9th, over 50 Lapland buntings were on a single marsh with 120 snow buntings.

March: 40 white-fronts headed east on 12th, with 21 on 15th and 3 remained till 22nd. Bewick's swans were the highlight and on 1st 2 herds totalled 61 birds. A large herd of 164 stayed from 5th to 7th. On 8th, 154 were in the area in several groups and at 4.30 p.m. 50 headed due east; 32 passed east over Yarmouth next day. 22 were present on 22nd.

Other wildfowl counts included 319 wigeon, 16 pintail, 27 shoveler, 42 teal, 6 scaup, 5 goosanders (22nd) and a brent (21st). Single black-tailed godwits were noted on 15th and 27th with an early avocet on 18th. 14 Lapland buntings remained on 1st with 2 till 7th. 50 twites were still present on 30th when 37 whimbrel arrived.

April: Among the wildfowl were several pintail, 5 gadwall, single mergansers and 4 scoters on 5th. Whimbrel were present from 11th; also 1-2 greenshank, spotted redshank and ruffs (including a male in breeding plumage) from 17th. Curlew peaked at 140 and jack snipe remained till 25th.



An immature spoonbill arrived on 30th and black terns on 3 occasions from 17th. A peregrine was chasing teal on 5th and a male Montagu's harrier passed west on 26th. Also interesting was black redstart on 4th/5th, twites till 18th, ring ouzel on 17th, 12 hoodies north on 5th, snow bunting till 5th and Lapland bunting on 12th.

May: 20 species of waders appeared including little ringed plover on 14th and Kentish plover on 25th. Bar-tailed godwits peaked at 14 with 6 black-tailed godwits. Greenshank in ones and twos with 11 east on 17th were followed by 1-3 spotted redshank from 16th and 23 grey plovers on 18th. 3 ruffs came on 12th and single little stints on 12th and 16th.

The spoonbill which arrived 30th April remained till 18th, another arrived on 21st and was joined by a second bird on 28th increasing to 3 on 31st. An avocet appeared on a lower Bure salting on 29th and 2 black terns on 14th. A fulmar headed east on 23rd.

June: Spoonbills were a feature with 4 present from 4th till the 10th when one departed eastwards; only one remained by 14th. This was joined by another on 21st and they both stayed till 28th. An avocet appeared on 4th/5th and one (perhaps the same) was on a Bure salting at this time. Late Northern waders included common, wood and curlew-sandpipers, knot, both godwits, greenshank and little stint. Spotted redshanks passed on 4 dates. Whimbrel had returned by 23rd and green sandpiper and little ringed plover were both new on 27th. 8 black terns passed east on 2nd with 4 on 14th and one on 27th. 2 barnacle geese on 27th were undoubted "escapes".

Among breeding birds, redshank showed an increase with a small number of lapwing. 3 pairs of oystercatchers bred with a fourth pair on arable at Runham. Mallard had a good season, 4 nests being found on one salting and 3 pairs of shoveler nested. Gadwall summered. First broods of shelduck appeared May 24th and 186 young were counted July 19th. Short-eared owls nested at Halvergate, Tunstall and Berney. 4 pairs of kestrels are known to have bred and stonechats nested unsuccessfully.

July: 2 drake scaup stayed from 19th to 23rd; 2 spoonbills arrived on 9th with 2 more over Berney on 27th. A probable "escape" was a white pelican which arrived on 15th (it was at Scroby on 9th/10th) remaining here, apart from visits to the beaches at Caister and Yarmouth and to Scroby, till 31st Jan. 1965 when it departed westwards at a great height. It was found dead on the Thet at East Harling 20th February 1965.

Bar-tailed godwits, greenshank, knot and golden plover all arrived on 5th followed by black-tails, ruff and common sandpiper. Little terns peaked at 45.

August: Another fulmar was over Breydon on 15th, an immature spoonbill stayed 11th-20th and an avocet was on a Bure salting on 10th/12th. Bar-tailed godwits increased to 58 by 31st. No black-tails were seen. 16 knot on 1st increased to 58 next day, many were still in breeding plumage. Waders included 21 common sandpipers, 9 greenshank, 3 spotted redshank, 27 ruffs (on 15th) and 8 green sandpipers. 1-2 curlew-sandpipers appeared on 2nd, an early purple sandpiper on 11th and wood sandpiper on 20th. Marsh harrier was new on 4th, peregrine on 8th and black tern on 15th.

September: 5 curlew-sandpipers were among the dunlin and 4 little stints came on 26th. Bar-tailed godwits peaked at 70 on 7th with 11 black-tails on 13th. Single spotted redshank came on 4 dates. The twelfth spoonbill of the year stayed from 8th-13th. Wigeon returned on 7th and pintail on 20th (2 juvenile pintail were shot on 2nd). 2 adult shelduck were back as early as 13th.

October: Waders included 3 curlew-sandpipers on 25th, black-tailed godwit on 11th and ruff on 13th. Greenshank were noted on 3 occasions with 11 spotted redshanks west on 11th. A dotterel appeared on 4th; grey plovers peaked at 38 same day. 10 pink-feet came on 28th and a drake scaup on 31st. Birds of prey during the first week were marsh and hen harriers, 2 sparrowhawks, merlin, kestrels and 11 short-eared owls. A Chilean flamingo joined the white pelican 10th-13th.

Twites arrived on 10th soon increasing to 60, Lapland buntings from 4th and snow buntings from 22nd. 4 bearded tits were in a small reedbed near the former swing bridge on 5th with 8 there on 11th.

November: Surprises included merlin on 15th and red-necked grebe on 29th. Greenshank appeared on 1st with spotted redshank till 17th. Sharp frost on 29th resulted in 181 mute swans collecting on the estuary with others on the frozen marshes. 150 wigeon, 217 shelduck and 19 pintail were present. 10 pink-feet came on 8th with 15 on 15th. Two day-time short-eared owl roosts contained a total of 45 birds by 30th. Black redstart was new on 8th with 3 bearded tits at Berney on 29th.

December: Wildfowl counts remained low: only 200 wigeon, 303 shelduck and 44 pintail with small numbers of teal and shoveler. The first 12 white-fronted geese arrived on 5th soon increasing to 112. 5 pink-feet were seen on 19th and 8 next day. 3 brents joined the wigeon. Small herds of up to 12 Bewick's swans were present from 6th and a green sandpiper on 24th.

Exceptional numbers of short-eared owls were on Breydon marshes. On 27th, the larger roost in a ruined cottage and its garden had a maximum of 52 owls; the other roost, in a derelict marsh garden, held 25. It is likely as many as 100 short-eared owls were in the Breydon area by the year end.

Cley and Salthouse

(Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

Spring migration was spectacular at Cley and Salthouse when the unusual visitors included green-winged teal, crane, osprey, Kentish plover, Temminck's stint, buff-breasted sandpiper, Mediterranean gull, white-winged black tern, ashy-headed and grey-headed wagtails, and woodchat shrike. The year's highlights appear in the following summary:

January: New Year's Day brought a ruff (which stayed until early March), red-necked grebe, 10 Lapland buntings, 8 great Northern divers and 2 hen harriers. A rough-legged buzzard appeared on 3rd and 14th; 7 waxwings headed east on 18th when a Scandinavian chiffchaff arrived (staying till March 1st); 2 black-tailed godwits were new on 23rd and water pipit on 24th.

February: A male blackcap was at Salthouse on 1st; 5 Bewick's swans and a peregrine on 2nd; 2 bean geese on 4th (remaining till March 8th), 12 white-fronted geese west on 13th and glaucous gull on 17th. A little gull was noted on 23rd and another peregrine on 28th. 60 shore-larks at the beginning of the year were still present at the end of this month.

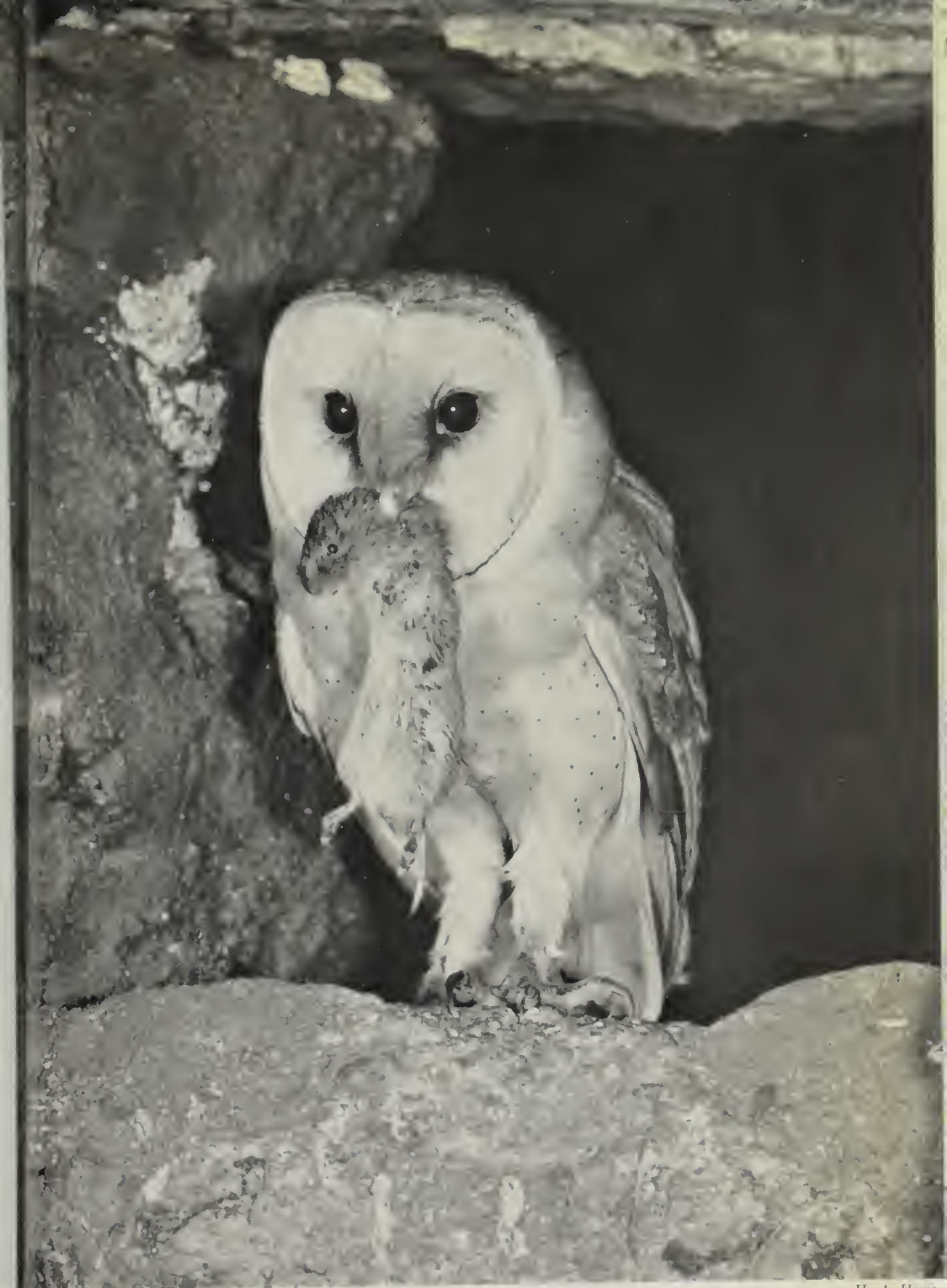
March: 40 Bewick's swans departed on 6th and 20 more left on 7th, a spotted redshank was new on 8th and a little gull stayed 8th-12th. The first garganey arrived on 16th and 2 new chiffchaffs next day. By 20th blackbirds, fieldfares and redwings were assembling, the latter in sub-song. 8 more Bewick's swans headed east on 21st and stone-curlews reached Kelling. Scandinavian rock pipits in breeding plumage were noted on 25th. Sea fog and north-east winds on 27th diverted a great number of emigrants back to the Norfolk coast including many starlings, chaffinches and bramblings, several goldfinches, hooded crows, 4 stonechats, blackbirds, redwings and 2 woodcock. 5 wheatears were recorded, 2 great grey shrikes on the Heath and an Iceland gull inshore. A ring ouzel was at Kelling on 28th with another on the Point in company with 3 black redstarts. The first Sandwich terns came on 31st.

April: Six ruffs arrived on 2nd soon increasing to 18 and over 30 were present for a short time; during the last week of this month almost continuous display. Spotted redshank appeared on 4th with a little gull next day (and again on 6th), rough-legged buzzard on 6th and 2 little gulls and a drake green-winged teal on 7th (staying till 11th). Highlight on 8th was a crane heading west; also first yellow wagtail followed by swallows and a very early swift next day.



Black-tailed godwits were present from 10th until mid-July with 2 pairs from April 22nd and 15 on May 8th. Willow warblers came on 10th with sand martin and Montagu's harrier next day when 15 shore-larks remained. Tree pipit was also new on 11th and next day came whimbrel, blackcap, house martin, green sandpiper and avocet. On 13th, 4 whoopers, nightingale and 3 drake garganey were noted, with white wagtail next day and long-tailed duck at sea on 15th when 2 Lapland buntings east, 4 shore-larks and sedge warbler.

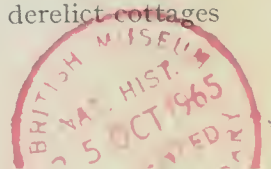
The first grasshopper warbler, common sandpiper and little tern all came on 16th followed next day with 2 black terns, marsh harrier, common tern and whitethroat. Cuckoos and turtle doves arrived on 18th when 100 Sandwich terns, ring ouzel on Point, 2 black redstarts, male blue-headed wagtail and another marsh harrier. Whinchats were new on 19th



pyright

H. A. Hems

Observations for 1963/64 indicate that Barn Owls are most widespread in Broadland and were recorded in 13 parishes. Nesting sites there include church towers, derelict cottages and drainage mills, cattle sheds and barns.





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Dr. R. Vaughan

Red-breasted flycatchers were again recorded in the county in 1964 and this one stayed at Holme two days. Once a great rarity, these vagrants from Eastern Europe (which winter in India) have appeared annually in Norfolk since 1951. All occurrences have been in autumn, apart from one at Holme May 24th, 1964.

Many observers became familiar with Fieldfares in their gardens during the severe weather in 1963; apples were a favourite diet. In 1964, very late Fieldfares were noted at Horsey May 30th and at Cley and Hethersett July 10th.

Copyright

P. R. Clarke



with 2 black redstarts. Next day another ring ouzel and Greenland wheatear were seen. Sandwich terns totalled 250 on 20th when a whimbrel singing and first lesser whitethroat.

The most fascinating feature of 21st was a "fall" of *flava* wagtails which arrived after a morning of steady rain: amongst the first party was a well-marked blue-headed and an even more obvious ashy-headed. 2-3 of the females were very grey and white with the barest hint of lemon round the vent. A second wave of at least 50 *flava* wagtails again contained a majority of male *flavissima*, but there were numbers of grey and white females and 1-2 with no yellow at all. 2-3 very curious males pale silvery-green above and moderate yellow beneath were seen and a very striking male of the type breeding in Camargue (K. Williamson suggests *flava* x *cinereocapilla*).

Another Montagu's harrier appeared on 23rd (and 26th); reed warblers arrived and on 24th an adult male and a first summer female little gull were displaying and feeding over Round Pond. 4 greenshank and a spotted redshank passed on 25th and redstart on 26th. An osprey passed high over the Heath on 27th with a pair of marsh harriers, black tern and wood sandpiper on 28th. A red curlew-sandpiper came on 30th and the Sandwich tern assembly totalled 400.

May: 2 marsh harriers appeared on 1st with grey plovers, spotted redshank, 5-6 greenshank and 2 wood sandpipers. Next day came male blue-headed wagtail and 4 white wagtails and on 7th a wood sandpiper was singing and 2 little gulls and 500 Sandwich terns were noted. Another marsh harrier (the seventh this year) appeared on 5th, also male merlin. Buzzard and sparrowhawk were new on 6th also 2 curlew-sandpipers and 7 greenshank with 23 turnstones and little stint, also 25 turtle doves and a collared dove west. Among new arrivals on 7th was a wood warbler in hawthorn beside the coast road. Enormous numbers of swifts, many sand martins and swallows and a few house martins passed through on 8th and another male blue-headed wagtail and nightjar arrived. 5 drake garganey were chasing a duck. An osprey headed west on 9th, also a Montagu's harrier and a Temminck's stint were new. The first spotted flycatcher was at Blakeney. A buff-breasted sandpiper was an exciting visitor on 11th/12th feeding at Salthouse with greenshank, ruff, spotted redshank and wood sandpipers.

A three-hour early morning watch produced 287 turtle doves flying west in 25 parties (maximum 35 in a party). An osprey headed west on 13th and waders included 9 wood sandpipers; 96 turtle doves passed west, the first red-backed shrikes appeared on the Heath and a dead roseate tern was at Salthouse. A curlew-sandpiper was new on 14th, a spoonbill next day and a Kentish plover on 16th when a wood warbler was on the Heath and 130 turtle doves passed west. An influx of wood sandpipers (some singing) took place on 17th and little stint and Temminck's stint arrived.

Wood sandpiper arrivals continued on 18th with 14 together coming in from sea; 5 black terns arrived, also 18 northern-bound ruffs and reeves.

A hobby passed westward on 19th. Next day the pair of little gulls mentioned April 24th reappeared (staying 7 days) and a first summer Mediterranean gull joined a breeding colony of black-headed gulls for a week; it was frequently watched in display flight. A corncrake was in Walsey Hills on 22nd; 6 black terns and woodchat shrike on Heath on 23rd; 1-2 male grey-headed wagtails on 25th and roseate tern on 26th. A peregrine passed east on 27th and an avocet arrived next day (staying till June 2nd). 2 Temminck's stints and a male grey-headed wagtail were new on 30th; also 3 black terns while a spoonbill came on 31st.

June: Wood and common sandpipers and greenshank passed through during the first week and another avocet came on 12th with 3 little stints next day. 2 black terns appeared on 24th.

Breeding birds included 4 pairs of Canada geese, mallard, shoveler, teal, garganey, gadwall and shelduck. Common terns had no success on Arnolds, but 3 pairs reared young on the marsh; little terns and ringed plover nested on the beach; lapwing and redshank both showed an increase. No bitterns nested although singles were seen between mid-July and end of September and 2 together Sept. 2nd. 15 pairs of bearded tits nested; at the end of the year as many as 100 were following the reed-cutting machine.

July: 2 little gulls were noted on 9th, 14 garganey together on 5th and a small influx of terns on 16th included 3-4 first summer common terns and a few Sandwich terns with fully-grown juveniles. A Kentish plover was the highlight on 19th when 4 avocets passed west and other waders included both godwits, 14 whimbrel and 3 greenshank. The first 5 autumn Arctic skuas arrived on 25th when a crossbill headed west followed by 2 red curlew-sandpipers, little stint and kingfisher next day. On 29th 5 little stints passed through and 350 kittiwakes had assembled on Point, also an adult long-tailed skua.

August: 39 Manx shearwaters at sea on 1st and many Northern waders were passing west including 100 whimbrel on 2nd when 100 little terns present and 600-700 kittiwakes west inshore. A pomarine skua was new on 4th and a second summer Mediterranean gull and 2 curlew-sandpipers on 6th. A black redstart was on the Point on 9th. Next day 20 species of waders seen including 3 spotted redshank, red curlew-sandpiper and golden plovers, also a juvenile black tern. At least 5 of the young Sandwich terns carried Northumberland yellow plastic rings. With north-east winds on 13th many common terns passed west with 2 juvenile little gulls, 7 juvenile black terns and a juvenile white-winged black tern. A spoonbill was at Stiffkey on 14th; another little gull appeared and an early wryneck was on the Point. Next day the white-winged black tern was feeding off Salthouse beach with a little gull and 4 black terns. A purple sandpiper was new. A peregrine came on 16th, a second wryneck on Point on 17th and 20 black terns and a pied flycatcher on 18th.

With north-westerly gales on 19th a great many terns and kittiwakes passed inshore and at least 100 Arctic skuas in attendance; also single pomarine and long-tailed skuas, 4 sooty and 4 Manx shearwaters. A great

skua was at sea on 20th, 50 whimbrel and a marsh harrier on 21st and a male bearded tit on the Point. A long-tailed tit was in the reedbeds on 22nd and a buzzard over the Heath on 25th.

Wader movements re-commenced on 26th including 12 greenshank; also little gull and a Montagu's harrier which stayed a week. Northern waders on 28th included red-necked phalarope, wood sandpipers, little stints and 4 spotted redshank. Sea birds inshore on 29th included many Arctic skuas, 2 pomarines, 2-3 great skuas, 8 sooty and several Manx shearwaters, many kittiwakes and another little gull. Single sooty shearwaters and pomarine skuas appeared again next day. On 31st 3 great and a long-tailed skua were noted.

September: Among passerines on 1st was a wryneck and 2 ortolans; single fieldfares appeared 2nd and on the Point were 20 pied flycatchers and a bluethroat; a Manx shearwater of the Balearic race was at sea. An icterine warbler was on the Hood on 3rd and an immature barred warbler and 30 pied flycatchers on Point. The 5th was interesting with first juvenile curlew-sandpiper, an immature Mediterranean gull, a Richard's pipit on Point and 3 ortolans.

At sea on 6th were the following skuas: 150 Arctic, 3 great, 4 pomarine and 2 long-tails; also 3 black terns, 150 gannets, 4 Manx and 5 sooty shearwaters. A wryneck was on the Point. An escaped Chilean flamingo came to Arnold's Marsh on 7th remaining till 18th. The first autumn snow bunting arrived on 12th when another sooty shearwater passed. The first 2 Lapland buntings came on 17th.

7 great skuas and 2 sooty shearwaters passed on 21st and on the Point were single red-breasted flycatcher, long-eared and short-eared owls. A late swift was noted on 26th, a quail came in from sea and a black redstart was on the Point. The first autumn hen harrier arrived on 29th with bramblings next morning.

October: There was quite a large "fall" of Continentals on 3rd with 200 robins on the Point, lots of song thrushes, redstarts, wheatears, a black redstart and 3 ring ouzels. A peregrine was chasing skylarks on the Point and great grey shrike reached the Heath. Another great grey shrike was at Walsey Hills next day, with robins and goldcrests arriving and 2 red-breasted flycatchers on Point. The first shore-larks came on 8th, glaucous gull on 9th, 2 whoopers and a Chilean flamingo on 11th and a late lesser whitethroat on 17th.

Hundreds of thousands of starlings passed west on 19th, with lapwings, skylarks, tree sparrows and linnets; a male hen harrier and the first hoodie arrived. A Richard's pipit was seen on 23rd, with 4 great skuas and a late curlew-sandpiper on 24th. Next day another great skua was at sea with 3 little auks and a Richard's pipit on the Point. Features of the 27th were little bunting and water pipit; 8 velvet scoters passed on 30th and a late garganey was recorded on 31st.

November: Many hundreds of duck arrived, the majority teal, also wigeon, mallard and shoveler and 20 gadwall. Several twites moved west on 1st

with redpolls, rooks, jackdaws and larks. 30 shore-larks were at Salthouse; also a peregrine. Snow buntings totalled 200 by 11th. A very big concentration of lapwings on fresh marshes on 18th with thousands streaming west all day on 19th. A purple sandpiper was present on 20th, glaucous gull on 28th, also long-tailed duck and red-necked grebe on 29th.

December: A grey phalarope was at sea on 5th; a ruff was of interest on 6th and 17 Bewick's swans headed west on 24th. Severe frosts on 26th and a very big westward weather movement of skylarks, starlings, field-fares, redwings and lapwings with smaller numbers of song-thrushes, blackbirds, yellowhammers, greenfinches, goldfinches, chaffinches, meadow pipits and bramblings. A spotted crane was by East Bank. 50 divers, mostly red-throated, were travelling west inshore on 27th, a hen harrier appeared on 28th and at the year-end there were 25 shore-larks and 2 reeves at Salthouse.



Blakeney Point

(The National Trust)

A summary of nests appears below. 600 common tern chicks are estimated to have reached the free flying stage and 214 were ringed. No Sandwich terns nested. In addition, reed buntings, skylarks, meadow pipits and linnets bred as usual:

Mallard	..	..	..	1	Oystercatcher	..	..	76
Sheld-Duck	..	..	..	65	Ringed Plover	..	..	45
Partridge	..	..	..	1	Redshank	..	..	9
Red-legged Partridge	..	..	..	5	Common Tern	..	..	960
					Little Tern	..	..	73



Scolt Head Island

(The Nature Conservancy)

The Breeding Season

At least 17 species attempted breeding, with Canada Goose the only recorded failure. Sandwich terns increased to 1,400 breeding pairs and common terns to 600 pairs. A roseate tern arrived May 10th and up to 3 stayed all season. On July 19th, 2 Arctic terns were seen with a flying juvenile.

Very high tides in early May caused heavy losses including 80-100 black-headed gulls' nests, 2 Canada goose nests and an unknown number of nests of ringed plover, redshank and oystercatchers. Blown sand in early June smothered 50 Sandwich terns' nests and 8 little terns' nests, burying some young of the latter species. Short-eared owls were constant predators; most seriously affected were common terns which lost most of their first hatch. Second clutches were also unsuccessful, and only 130 young reached the flying stage. 10 per cent of the Sandwich tern young were similarly lost, although 1,200 young flew. 30 pairs of little terns brought off some 20 flying young. Small numbers of terns were lost to a kestrel, and 20-30 common terns' nests were destroyed by oystercatchers in early July, although black-headed gulls did none of their customary damage, even though 35 pairs nested close to the ternery. Unlike previous years, no large concentrations of terns were recorded after the breeding season. Other nesting species included short-eared owl (one pair), mallard, ringed plover, sheld-duck, oystercatcher, redshank, lapwing, swallow, hedge sparrow, linnnet and reed bunting.

The Year

Jan.—March: Mild weather in the opening weeks contrasted with Arctic conditions of the previous year, with lower wildfowl and wader numbers and earlier dispersal of the flocks. Jan. 23rd saw peak numbers of many with 800 wigeon, 300 mallard, 250 sheld-duck, 1,000 knot and dunlin, 500 scoter and 105 goldeneye. Wintering flocks of brent geese and oyster-catchers remained at 550 and 3–400 respectively, and 150 turnstones were recorded into early March. Up to 40 grey plovers and 70 bar-tailed godwits were noted. A spotted redshank was present from mid-Jan. until the end of March. Variable numbers of ciders were seen with a peak of 150 Feb. 11th.

Twites peaked at 40 but, remarkably, only one snow bunting was recorded, on Jan. 6th. Hooded crows appeared in ones and twos. 17 short-eared owls Jan. 1st was the largest count, while a merlin and a hen harrier remained throughout the period. 70 Bewick's swans were in the harbour March 5th and 7 purple sandpipers on 9th with 5 next day. A few scaup and mergansers were noted.

April—May: Sandwich terns arrived April 5th and on 10th scoters peaked at 150; the last 2 goldeneye left next day. Little and common terns arrived April 17th, when the first chiffchaff was heard. Next day saw 2 lesser whitethroats and the first 2 whimbrel were on 20th, with others until May 19th. The hen harrier was last seen April 22nd. The first 5 black terns April 27th were followed by 3 east on May 24th and 4 on 30th.

A peregrine May 1st was followed by nightingale on 5th and the first Arctic tern, while on 6th a marsh harrier and spotted redshank were new. Next day willow warblers, whinchats, whitethroat and yellow wagtails were all new. Velvet scoter and roseate tern on 10th were followed by stonechat on 11th, redstart on 16th, sedge warbler on 18th and spotted flycatcher on 22nd. Sanderling peaked at 200 on 25th.

A little gull stayed from May 18th–24th and an osprey from 25th–28th. A great skua passed on 30th and 3 gannets next day. Up to 2,000 immature herring gulls and greater black backed gulls had gathered by mid-May; red-breasted merganser records included 5 April 27th–29th. Short-eared owls were regular visitors.

June—Aug.: All the sheld-duck had departed by the end of July with easterly movements totalling 51 on 14th, 70 on 23rd June, 14 on 30th and 31 on July 23rd, all indicating moult migration. Lapwing westerly passage peaked at 742 June 5th and 500 on 13th, passage continuing to July 31st. Single black terns were travelling east on June 2nd, 5th, 13th and 25th and again on July 4th. Whimbrel passage began July 9th with maxima of 72 on Aug. 4th, 50 on 5th and 60 on 26th.

Kittiwakes built up in numbers: 500 in late June and 900 July 23rd reaching 1,200 in early Aug. A rapid decline left only 60 by mid-Aug. Single hobbies appeared June 3rd and July 3rd and an injured brent goose June 16th. Other visitors included 2 black-tailed godwits June 3rd, a spotted redshank on 12th, 2 little gulls on 16th and 18th and a collared

dove on the Hut July 13th. August waders included little stint, spotted redshank, wood sandpiper, ruffs, curlew sandpiper, 80 grey plover, 200 bar-tailed godwits and 200 turnstones.

Sept. Dec.: Sept. 3rd brought wheatears and yellow wagtails and waders included 116 westbound bar-tailed godwits, 25-30 whimbrel, spotted redshank and 70 grey plover. The 4th was good with 18 pied flycatchers, wheatears, whinchats, redstarts, willow warblers, whitethroat and tree pipit. Pied flycatchers and whinchats were recorded until 14th. 10 greenshank were also seen on 4th when 1,000 oystercatchers had gathered. The first snow bunting arrived on 8th and on 11th a wood sandpiper appeared. The last black tern passed east on 14th.

A peak of 150 bar-tailed godwits was reached Oct. 2nd when the first Lapland bunting arrived, followed by twites on 9th. A spotted redshank stayed from 19th-23rd. On Oct. 26th a peregrine, 8 red-breasted mergansers and 2 late house martins were noted. The first goldeneye arrived on 29th. By the end of Oct. brent geese totalled 40; bar-tailed godwits had declined to 40. A merlin was seen most days in Oct.

Woodcock arrived Nov. 3rd and on 9th a great skua flew east; a late whimbrel same day stayed until the 16th. A peregrine on 11th was followed by a water-rail on 13th while a black-necked grebe was new on 16th. 7 purple sandpipers were seen on 26th and eiders peaked at 150 on 27th. Up to 5 short-eared owls were present from the end of Nov. onwards. Wildfowl and wader totals included 1,000 wigeon, 500 brents, 80 teal and 1,000 each of knot and dunlin by the end of Nov. 2 hen harriers, 2 merlins and a spotted redshank were recorded regularly at this time.

Two long-tailed ducks were new on Dec. 10th, also 200 turnstones and 6 purple sandpipers. A little grebe Dec. 24th was the only Scott record. 60 twites had gathered on the saltings by the 28th when the variety included 600 teal, 100 goldeneye, 3,000 wigeon, 850 brents, 400 sheld-duck, 70 each of bar-tailed godwit and sanderling, 4 red-breasted mergansers, a spotted redshank, hen harrier and merlin.

Holme Bird Observatory

During the year, 1221 birds of 56 species were ringed at the Observatory, including 4 water-rails, jack snipe, 10 bearded tits, 69 fieldfares, icterine warbler, 3 red-breasted flycatchers, 143 hedge sparrows and 104 robins.

Shore nesting birds had a disappointing season. Nests on Thornham Island on May 24th included 10 ringed plovers, 8 little terns and 3 oystercatchers but several nests were trampled on by cattle and all except one were destroyed or buried during strong winds and heavy rain in early June. A few repeat nests were successful, but others were lost owing to disturbance. A pair of stonechats nested, but the eggs were taken. Single pairs of bearded tit, red-backed shrike, grasshopper warbler and common tern all reared young.

Since Sept. 1962, 210 species have been recorded in the Observatory area and a total of 2171 birds ringed. The following monthly summaries are taken from the Observatory Annual Report:

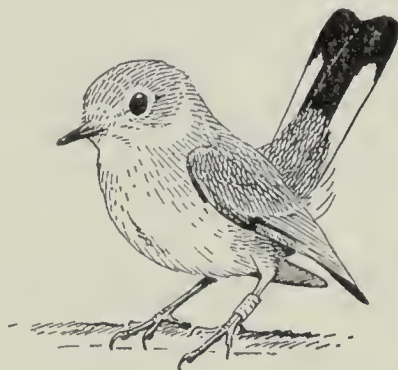
January: Hen harriers were seen several times, also 2 short-eared owls, 3 shore-larks and 2 Lapland buntings. Single waxwings were noted on 5th and 27th, merlins on 19th and 29th, 3 velvet scoters and single Bewick's and whooper swans.

February: 10 Lapland buntings were present on 1st; also immature glaucous gull and 3 long-tailed ducks. 2 short-eared owls stayed all month. A great grey shrike appeared on 28th, also 16 Bewick's swans with 30 long-tailed ducks next day. 60 snow buntings and 150 twites were recorded.

March: The great grey shrike was seen several times. Bewick's swans on spring passage appeared as follows: 16 on 1st, 10 on 4th, 18 on 7th, 25 on 8th, 3 on 15th and 16th and 2 on 20th. 10 long-tailed ducks were recorded on 8th and another 8 on 18th. A hen harrier was new on 22nd and little ringed plover on 29th with ring ouzel on 30th. Also of interest was another glaucous gull (8th) and 1300 bar-tailed godwits.

The first wheatear came on 22nd with chiffchaff on 28th. The last 2 snow buntings were noted on 18th.

April: The 2 short-eared owls present since Feb. stayed till the third week and hen harrier was last seen on 9th. A woodlark was new on 17th. A woodchat shrike arrived on 24th and stayed until 26th. Up to 5 white wagtails appeared and a black redstart arrived on 27th.



Red-breasted Flycatcher

First arrivals included willow warbler on 6th, sand martin on 11th, house martin on 12th, swallow on 15th, blackcaps and sedge warbler on 16th, cuckoo and grasshopper warbler on 17th and a host of firsts on 18th with redstart, lesser whitethroat, tree pipit, common sandpiper, yellow wagtail, whitethroat and Sandwich terns. Garganey, whimbrel and common terns all came on 19th, whinchats and little terns on 23rd, swift on 26th and turtle dove on 27th.

Rock pipits lingered till 2nd, brambling till 6th, brent geese till 20th and hooded crow till 26th.

May: A short-eared owl was seen on 1st and 15th, white wagtails passed through on 7 dates with a sparrowhawk west on 6th. Marsh harriers were frequent visitors. A stone curlew was in the dunes on 8th. A pair of Montagu's harriers arrived on 15th and 2 more passed through on 25th/26th. A black tern headed east on 18th, a honey buzzard west on 20th and a Northern willow warbler was present on 23rd. The 24th was a red-letter day with red-breasted flycatcher and woodchat shrike. This shrike stayed 3 days. A quail and a black redstart were new on 27th and another black tern headed east on 30th.

Also interesting were 3 collared doves on 9th, 20 turtle doves west on 11th, 10 cuckoos on 14th, pied flycatcher and wood warbler on 18th, 30 cuckoos on 24th, further pied flycatchers on 26th and 28th. Waders included 30 grey plovers on 13th, 1-2 black-tailed godwits, 5 wood sandpipers on 18th, spotted redshank on 28th and 124 sanderling on 12th. The first reed warbler came on 6th, spotted flycatcher on 13th and red-backed shrike on 19th.

June: Surprises included little stint and black tern on 1st, icterine warbler on 2nd (which was ringed), 2 marsh harriers on 3rd and one on 4th when a Northern willow warbler arrived and a dead quail was found on tideline. 4 little gulls (one adult) were on the Broad on 10th and another adult came on 19th. A hobby headed west on 23rd when black-tailed godwit and green sandpiper arrived.

July: 50 grey plover were present on 8th, a black redstart on 11th and up to 11 Arctic skuas from 19th.

August: A spoonbill circled the marsh on 8th before leaving eastwards. Black terns passed through on 19th and 28th with a buzzard on 25th. A wood warbler was new on 26th. Among the waders were 4000 oystercatchers on 26th, 3 black-tailed godwits on 25th, green, wood and common sandpipers, up to 3 spotted redshanks, up to 15 greenshank west daily, 2 little stints on 20th and single ruffs. Largest numbers of whimbrel passed through towards the month-end and on 25th three flocks of 70 were noted, with 80 on 26th and 161 on 27th.

At dusk on 25th a short-eared owl was pursuing bats over the dunes.

September: Rather a quiet month, but 15 pied flycatchers and a wryneck arrived on 2nd and a Continental hedge sparrow was identified on 3rd. Another wryneck appeared on 11th and 7 great skuas were seen on 17th. 11 bearded tits were noted on 28th. A red-breasted flycatcher was ringed on 30th and stayed next day. Small migrants appeared in much lower numbers than usual.

22 species of waders were identified including 2 spotted redshank, up to 18 greenshank almost daily, 6 little stints, 9 curlew-sandpipers, ruff, red-necked phalarope on 3rd, 300 grey plovers, 8,000 knot, 50 snipe, 8,000 oystercatchers, 270 sanderling and 500 bar-tailed godwits.

First arrivals: 2 water-rails on 8th, rock pipit on 13th, twite and snow bunting on 17th, fieldfare on 24th and redwing and brambling on 30th. Last departures: lesser whitethroat on 23rd, 3 swifts on 24th, yellow wagtail

on 12th, turtle dove on 26th, whitethroat on 27th and juvenile little tern on 29th.

October: A yellow-browed warbler stayed briefly on 1st and next day 2 velvet scoters and a merlin were seen. A great grey shrike was on the golf course on 3rd. Another red-breasted flycatcher arrived on 4th staying next day. Also a great grey shrike which stayed until end of Nov. A welcome sparrowhawk was seen on 5th and next day the first bittern to be seen here in two years slowly flapped up the Broad and pitched into the reeds. 40 bearded tits were present by 13th. 2 black redstarts arrived on 15th. On 24th 2 great skuas, merlin and ring onzel were all observed.



Woodchat Shrike

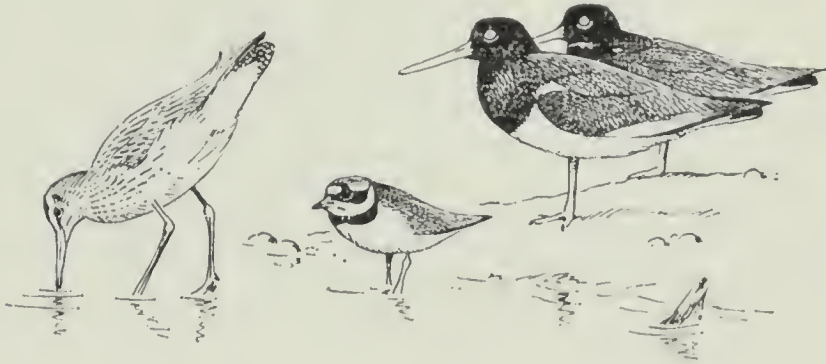
The best influx of the autumn was recorded on 3rd with 20 of an estimated 30 hedge sparrows ringed. Song thrushes, blackbirds, redwings and bramblings arrived from the north all day. During the late morning many robins and a few redstarts began arriving and this movement continued until dusk with the peak period in mid afternoon. Most birds quickly passed through. Numbers estimated were 200 robins (60 ringed) and 20 redstarts (8 ringed). Other birds in the firs were great grey shrike and a blackcap.

The first big influx of starlings occurred on 16th and next day 3,000 were passing each hour till mid-day. On 19th, 3,000 per hour were heading west all morning reducing to 2,000 per hour after mid-day. 150 twites were present during the month.

First arrivals: hooded crow on 22nd, brent geese on 25th and jack snipe on 31st. Last departures: 2 pied flycatchers on 1st, spotted flycatcher and 2 wheatears on 3rd, whinchat on 5th, Sandwich tern on 9th, garden warbler on 4th, sedge warbler on 10th, reed warbler on 11th, sand martin and whimbrel on 15th, blackcap on 27th and house martin on 26th.

November: Bearded tits were present throughout the month. A waxwing and 7 Bewick's swans arrived on 8th, 3 Lapland buntings on 9th and 2 on 12th, 7 Bewick's swans were again present on 14th/15th and long-tailed duck on 15th. 140 snow buntings were noted at the month-end. Redstart on 3rd and swallow on 20th were late records.

December: 2 short-eared owls and 6 Lapland buntings were present all month. Notable were merlin on 17th, goosander and 22 Bewick's swans west on 19th and black-necked grebe on 20th. On 26th, many thousands of skylarks and hundreds of redwings headed west all day on a broad front of a mile. Also starlings, song thrushes, chaffinches and fieldfares. Large flocks of lapwing were on the move, westward, too, with many parties of 300.



The Wash

Duck totals early in 1964 were generally far below the figures for the previous year, and the maxima seem very small by comparison: 60 scoter, 50 velvet scoter, 50 goldeneye, 90 scaup and a mere 70 wigeon. Eiders were seen on only 4 occasions and no party exceeded 5. There were, however, several counts of up to 40 long-tailed ducks off Hunstanton between Jan. and early March and 65-70 were there April 4th. Flocks of brent geese were present, the largest count being in the region of 200. 20 brents lingered at Snettisham until April 2nd. Pink-feet reached 300 at Snettisham Feb. 8th and 2 late ones were still present April 19th. 4 white-fronts were seen March 16th. Up to 10 Bewick's swans were in the area until March 1st with 18 at Snettisham March 7th. A single Bewick's was noted April 11th.

Up to 5 slavonian grebes and 8 black-necked grebes were recorded on the sea between Heacham and Hunstanton until Feb. 9th and 22nd respectively, but it was a disappointing year for divers and only small numbers of red-throats were reported, the last April 4th. A first-winter glaucous gull near Hunstanton Jan. 7th remained until March 8th when 2 Arctic skuas appeared—an unusual spring record. 2 little gulls were at Hunstanton April 4th and a second-year glaucous gull appeared there next day. Single hooded crows remained till early April. A kingfisher appeared at Snettisham Jan. 26th.

Knot numbers reached 20,000 at Snettisham Feb. 8th. The only unusual wader at this time was a grey phalarope Feb. 19th, first seen at

Snettisham and later at Heacham. Migrant whimbrel passed through from April 26th when a black-tailed godwit was at Wolferton. 20 pairs of redshank bred in the area between Wootton and Snettisham.

Spring migrants, arriving during April, included ring ouzel on 2nd, black redstart on 16th, corncrake on 19th and blue-headed wagtail on 26th. A male Montagu's harrier was at Wolferton and Terrington April 26th and May 18th. Other records during the breeding season were of pairs of garganey, sparrowhawk and stonechat, and immature crossbill at Sandringham. Up to 1,500 pairs of black-headed gulls and 100 pairs of common terns bred on Wolferton saltings. Short-eared owls, however, were not reported until autumn apart from a single bird in late April.

Waders were on the move again by mid-July with good numbers of whimbrel, curlew (3,500 on 26th), grey plover, oystercatcher, greenshank (40 on 26th), knot and sanderling (1,400). Spotted redshank numbers at Snettisham reached 60 during the month, most of them still in black summer plumage. Two interesting counts were of 800 golden plover at Ouse Mouth Sept. 6th and 87 black-tailed godwits between Nene Mouth (Lincs.) and Terrington on 12th, the same day 2 marsh harriers appeared there. Curlew-sandpipers in ones and twos passed through between Sept. 20th and Oct. 4th.

As in 1963 there were considerable skua movements with a dozen great skuas in company with upwards of a hundred Arctics Aug. 19th, off Hunstanton. 27 great skuas were counted Aug. 29th. At Terrington in Sept. 17 Arctic skuas headed inland on 6th, 25 were present (11 ventured a short way inland) on 12th and again on 18th when 19 moved inland only to return later. There was another skua movement Oct. 23rd when 70 great skuas, 20 or 30 pomarines and about 45 Arctics were seen. Up to 7 Maux shearwaters were noted from Aug. 13th including one at Terrington Sept. 12th. A total of 180 fulmars flew north up the coast Aug. 19th.

Some years large gatherings of black terns have been seen to the west of Terrington, but in 1964 no party exceeded 4. Once again terns were seen flying inland from the coast at a great height. Flocks of 15 Sandwich terns Sept. 6th and 40 Sandwich and 30 common/Arctic terns on 18th are noteworthy.

Small numbers of migrating passerines were noted throughout the autumn on the coast, but it was Oct. 3rd that the most spectacular movement was apparent at Hunstanton golf course. This included redstarts, wheatears, blackcaps, reed and garden warblers; on the same day the first winter visitors arrived: redwing, robins, rock pipits, twites and bramblings. Pied flycatchers and whinchats were not part of this movement, the latest reports of these being on Sept. 18th.

Other records for the weekend Oct. 2nd to 4th were of a red-necked phalarope at Snettisham and a great grey shrike at Hunstanton. The latter part of Oct. produced late ring ouzels and the first hoodies and Lapland buntings. Merlins passed through Oct. 18th and 24th and the pleasing number of 20 little gulls on 16th. Gannets totalled about 300 on

16th and 23rd. 5,000 oystercatchers were estimated in Oct. and 7,500 in Dec. Earlier in autumn, 1,200 grey plovers were at Terrington Sept. 12th.

Red-throated divers returned Sept. 18th. They reached their maximum of 11 on Nov. 8th when single black-throated and great Northern divers were seen. Great crested grebes totalled 90 the same day, 7 Bewick's swans arrived and 1,200 bar-tailed godwits were present. 22 pintail were at Snettisham Oct. 24th, the day the last great skua was there. 2 late Arctic skuas were spotted Nov. 29th. Two other interesting winter visitors appeared in Nov.; 7 purple sandpipers on 14th and 7 long-tailed ducks on 29th. Little stints remained at Snettisham until Nov. 15th.

During Dec. 3,000 to 3,500 scoters were present between Heacham and Holme. At the year end there were flocks of 500 twites at Terrington and 300 at Snettisham where there were 150 snow buntings. Nov. 23rd produced 8 Lapland buntings and a hen harrier at Terrington. Further reports of this species came from the King's Lynn area Dec. 4th and 20th. Another kingfisher was at Snettisham Dec. 2nd and a great grey shrike was at Dersingham on 31st. 52 Bewick's swans arrived at this time; also 50 goldeneye, 30 mergansers and 500 turnstones between Snettisham and Hunstanton.



Hickling

(Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

Marsh and hen-harriers and short-eared owls were all frequently observed during Jan. and Feb. In the first week of March remarkable numbers of Bewick's swans passed through the county. 60 Bewick's were over Hickling Broad March 1st followed by 46 on 2nd, 38 on 3rd, herds of 94 and 50 on 4th, 40 on 5th and 20 on 6th. A hundred shoveler had collected on Rush Hills March 11th.

Yellow wagtails arrived April 9th, 12 black-tailed godwits and ruffs on 12th, swallows and sand martins on 14th, cuckoo on 17th, 9 ruff and

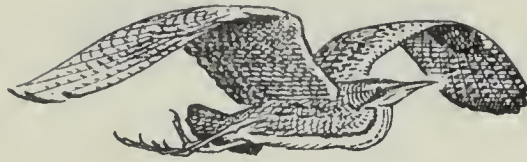
2 black terns, sedge and grasshopper warblers all on 19th, reed warblers, turtle doves and a green sandpiper on 22nd, common terns on 26th, a blue-headed wagtail next day and a little gull May 1st.

During May waders passing through included ruffs, grey plovers, spotted redshank, greenshank and wood sandpiper. Bearded tits had a successful breeding season despite low temperatures and rain and 60-70 pairs nested round the Broad, at Whiteslea and in Heigham Sounds. A late nest, with eggs, was found Aug. 6th. A brood of garganey was noted June 14th; earlier 3 drake garganey fed regularly on Rush Hills. Numbers of redshank and lapwing breeding remained low.

A pair of marsh harriers appeared from time to time during the summer and although none bred a juvenile appeared July 28th. 2 pairs of herons nested in Sounds Wood, and single pairs in Whiteslea and the General's wood. No bitterns nests were found, but birds were booming from the end of March until July 7th. Three pairs of common terns bred.

Greenshank returned July 1st, with ruffs, ringed plovers and dunlin all on the 7th, followed by green sandpipers two days later. 8 spotted redshanks came on Sept. 1st with 7 more a week later when 300 teal, 50 shoveler and 20 gadwall had assembled on Rush Hills. 17 great crested grebes in flight Aug. 20th was an unusual sight.

Tufted duck returned Oct. 2nd and were joined by goldeneye and pochard next day. Swarms of starlings began roosting in the reedbeds at this time. Four hooded crows were noted Oct. 29th with a marsh harrier Nov. 5th.



Horsey

(*Mr. John Buxton*)

Compared with 1963, the opening months of the year were mild, but interesting visitors included 11 hooded crows Jan. 27th and a marsh harrier Feb. 3rd. A herd of 44 Bewick's swans headed east on March 1st, whilst another herd of 82 Bewick's remained at Horsey March 7th-23rd. A black redstart was new March 14th, a great grey shrike stayed three days from the 18th and 8 white-fronted geese appeared on 21st. A hen harrier was last noted April 1st.

Spring migrants included a Kentish plover on a flood pool April 3rd/4th, first cuckoo and swallows on 8th, ring ouzel on 9th, 2 pairs of garganey on 18th and an early black tern (found dead) on 19th.

A male Montagu's harrier appeared May 1st and was followed by another male on 6th and a female on 7th, but none stayed. Up to 5 marsh harriers (including 3 males) were present in April and May, but none nested. Three bitterns were booming including one in Starch Grass. 25-30 pairs of bearded tits bred round the Mere; as usual, the majority departed in autumn. Bearded tits also nested successfully on Horsey Warren where at least one pair of short-eared owls and 2 pairs of stonechats reared young. Water-rails bred and an oystercatcher's nest was found with 2 eggs. These failed to hatch.

A dotterel came May 16th with a late fieldfare on 30th and a redwing on the remarkable date of July 18th. Two pairs of black-tailed godwits stayed several weeks. Three hooded crows were noted July 22nd: an unusual time of year.

Autumn observations included 4 ruffs Aug. 27th, a late swift Sept. 22nd, sparrowhawk Oct. 19th, male and female hen harrier from Nov. 12th, 6 ruffs from mid-Dec. and a kingfisher on 28th.



Breckland

The year opened with frequent reports of a golden eagle (possibly an escape) in the Battle Area. It remained until 28th March and was seen at Tottington, Bodney, East Wretham, Sturston and Buckenham Tofts. There were fewer rarities reported than in recent years, but bitterns appeared at Mickle Mere and Stanford in Jan. with 2 at Tottington on April 6th. Single birds were again at Shadwell Park Oct. 18th and Stanford on Nov. 8th.

A firecrest was identified at St. Helen's Well April 5th. Great grey shrikes were reported at Narborough on Dec. 21st and Foulden on Nov. 22nd and Dec. 22nd. A pied flycatcher was at Diddlington on 5th July and another spent five days there from Sept. 9th. Interesting winter records

include 5 red-breasted mergansers (3 drakes) at Thompson Water on Jan. 7th. Goosanders were present at Stanford and Thompson Waters and Narford Lake until March with maxima of 34 at Narford, 24 at Stanford and 12 at Thompson. Whooper swans were recorded in Jan. and Feb. with a maximum of 6 at Thompson. Bewick's swans were frequently seen and in large numbers with a total of 72 at Thompson on March 8th. 2 late Bewick's visited Didlington April 8th. A female hen harrier was reported from Sturston on Feb. 22nd and a male on the northern border for a week in April. Another male hen harrier was at Stanford in Dec. Hooded crows were noted at Bodney on March 28th and two days later at Stanford. 2 bearded tits were in the reeds at Thompson on Jan. 5th with at least 4 there in early Feb. A long-eared owl was at Lang Mere on March 8th, and a snow bunting at Frog Hill, Dec. 6th, following north-west gales the previous day.

Spring passage commenced with a wheatear at Sturston on March 22nd and stone curlew at Bridgham next day; also during March a black-tailed godwit was at Little Cressingham. A redwing was heard in subdued song at Stanford April 5th. Breeding success is difficult to assess from the reports received but the typical Breck species were present during the summer months in varying strength. Great crested grebes were reported from seven stretches of water at different times. A total of 11 pairs of herons nested at Eastmoor, Didlington and Thompson. Reports of breeding duck included broods of tufted at 6 sites and pochard at 3. Canada geese bred as usual.

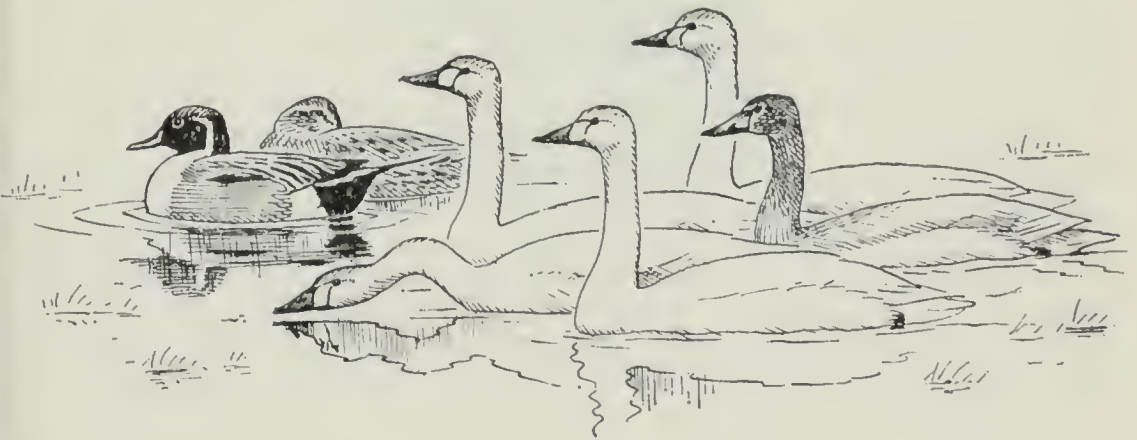
Curlew were displaying at three sites, and nesting proved at another. 2 pairs of ringed plover bred in the Battle Area and woodcock were seen in a number of areas. Stone curlews were present in small numbers with nests or young reported from some—the largest flock was 12 near Tottington July 12th. Nightjars were heard in a few areas and small numbers of woodlarks were reported. Wheatears were present in reasonable numbers and whinchats were seen with young in two localities. Stonechats summered at Barnhamcross Common and Tottington with a male at Smokershole in July. Redstarts were present at 10 Breckland parishes and grasshopper warblers were singing in at least five sites. Red-backed shrikes appeared at 8 localities. Hawfinches with juveniles were seen at Grimes Graves in early June. No party of siskins exceeded 10, but a pair was collecting nesting material near Santon Downham.

The area contributed to the year's reports of quail with birds calling at Shadwell, Didlington, Little Cressingham and Gooderstone. Collared doves again concentrated at Little Cressingham with a large flock of 150 at a duck farm there during Sept. A pair bred at Thetford. A flock of 250 turtle doves was seen also near a duck farm. Barn owls nested at Stanford and others were reported through the year. 4 little owls were seen at Frog Hill July 11th. Kingfishers made a welcome reappearance in spring and summer at 3 areas and were reported early and late in the year at 2 other sites. A hobby circled over Hockham Fen July 10th. There were only 2 records of sparrowhawks in spring and summer, but 5 others were reported

in winter. Lesser spotted woodpeckers were seen at Didlington and Thompson.

The autumn wader passage produced single spotted redshanks at West Mere and Thompson on Aug. 16th, and 2 and 8 respectively at these sites on Sept. 27th. 4 greenshanks were at Thompson on Aug. 16th and singly there on Aug. 29th and Sept. 27th and West Mere on Sept. 19th. A green sandpiper was at Buckenham Tofts on Aug. 2nd and a black tern at Thompson on the 16th.

Wildfowl counts included 700 mallard at Narford Lake on Nov. 29th. Teal numbered 100 there Jan. 4th with 55 at Thompson on Oct. 17th. Gadwall totalled 200 at Stanford on Oct. 18th with 160 at Mickle Mere and 126 at Stanford on Oct. 17th. 60 shoveler were at Bodney in Oct. and Nov. 2 or 3 pintail were reported from several waters in Feb. with 10 at Narford on 25th Oct. 12 wigeon were at Mickle Mere Feb. 15th and 22 at Shadwell on March 27th. The largest number of diving ducks was 100 tufted at Stanford in Sept., 66 having been reported at Mickle Mere on Feb. 2nd with 90 pochard. 6 goldeneye were at Stanford on March 30th where 1-2 shelduck occurred. Water-rails were reported at Thompson, Stanford and Mickle Mere.



Fenland

Fenland Washes

Wildfowl counts for the complete length of the Ouse Washes, extending from Denver Sluice to Earith appear in the *Cambridge Bird Club Report* for 1964.

Interesting records during the first months of the year include 3 scaup March 22nd to 29th at Welney where odd white-fronted geese appeared until April 5th and a brent goose was present March 22nd. 4 scoters were on the Relief Channel Jan. 12th when 3 were noted at Denver with 2 smew near Hilgay Feb. 9th. Bewick's swans remained until April 18th with a count of 139 on March 22nd; 7 whoopers were at Hilgay on 17th.

Among spring-time waders at Welney were 6 ruffs in breeding plumage and a spotted redshank April 12th; turnstone on 18th, grey plover May 10th and wood sandpiper on 18th. A late goosander was present May 15th on which date a spoonbill arrived. It remained 9 days.

Notable breeding records include 9 broods of tufted ducks at Runcton Holme G.P. A pair of little ringed plovers nested near King's Lynn. Among autumn waders at King's Lynn B.F. were 15 green sandpipers, wood sandpiper, spotted redshank in ones and twos, little stints, eurlw-sandpipers, ruffs, 4 greenshank and 3 little ringed plovers. Towards the end of Nov. over 2,000 golden plover had collected at West Walton. Among the wildfowl arrivals in Dec. was a smew at Hilgay on 6th.

Wisbech Sewage Farm

Very few observations were made before April, but a merganser Feb. 16th was notable. Up to 300 golden plover were present during April and 4 oystercatchers between April 26th and mid-July.

Frequent visits during May made the picture of spring migration fairly complete. Dates of arrival were: 2nd, little ringed plover; 3rd, eommon sandpiper; 6th, whimbrel; 8th, greenshank (noted regularly until June 4th) and a Temminek's stint (remaining till 10th); 9th, wood sandpiper (with up to 4 until 30th and one or 2 summering); 26th, an unexpected Kentish plover and 30th, a marsh harrier heading northwards.

In June a little stint arrived on 4th and on 7th a hobby and the first green sandpipers. Among wildfowl, 120 adult shelduck were counted on 2nd; 4 pintail and small numbers of garganey were present throughout July and Aug. 60 shoveler were frequently counted in Aug./Sept. July was quiet, but surprises included turnstone, spotted redshank and black-tailed godwit all on 4th, with eurlw-sandpiper on 8th. Greenshank returned on 10th, little ringed plover on 19th and spotted redshank from 26th when a pectoral sandpiper appeared. A little stint came on 31st. 35 eommon sandpipers were counted on 30th. A blaek tern stayed from early June until the end of Aug.

Through the early autumn the pattern ehanged almost daily and there was always something of interest. Although black-tailed godwits were seen only singly in July and Aug., 8 were present Sept. 24th. The party of spotted redshanks built up steadily to reach 30 at the end of Sept.; curlew-sandpiper numbers likewise reached 22 on Sept. 28th and then dwindled to 5 on Nov. 1st with the last one on 21st—a late date. Little stints were also late in reaching peak numbers with 24 during Oct.; 3 remained until Dec. 19th. 100 ruffs were eounted Aug. 16th, but 50 was the more usual number from early July until the end of Oet. Green sandpipers peaked at 20, Aug. 3rd; wood sandpipers at 13 on 19th and greenshank at 17 on 29th. 5 little ringed plovers were present Sept. 6th and 12th and 120 snipe on 24th. Unusual visitors inland included grey plover on Aug. 20th and Oct. 4th and bar-tailed godwits Aug. 9th and 14th. Another Temminck's stint paid a visit Sept. 19th. A few black terns were seen, mainly in Aug. with 8 on 22nd. An Arctic tern was picked up exhausted on 29th.

The outstanding rarity was a white-rumped sandpiper which remained from Oct. 24th to Nov. 7th. This is the second record for Wisbech Sewage Farm; the previous one being caught and ringed in Nov. 1955. Of the wintering waders, golden plovers arrived in force rather late, no more than 60 being counted in Sept. However, 1,500 were estimated Nov. 23rd. Dunlin reached a total of 320 in Nov. Jack snipe were first noted Aug. 30th with 9 Nov. 1st. A merlin was present Oct. 11th and a Lapland bunting Nov. 1st.



1964 was a remarkable year for Quail with records from thirty-five localities.

Selected Light-Vessel Notes

For the tenth year in succession the crews of light-vessels off the Norfolk coast maintained diaries. Entries were, however, disappointingly scanty for 1964.

A **little grebe** was at Smith's Knoll Oct. 28th, several **moorhens** at Haisboro' Oct. 15th and Nov. 11th and single **oystercatchers** at Lynn Well Sept. 6th and Haisboro' on 8th. **Lapwing** passage extended from mid-July until Nov. 11th; a **ringed plover** was at Smith's Knoll Aug. 28th and a few **curlews** at Newarp Oct. 31st.

A **collared dove** appeared at Haisboro' May 8th; 3 **swifts** at Smith's Knoll Aug. 28th when 7 were at Smith's Knoll. **Long-eared owls** were again recorded at the end of Oct. when 2 at Lynn Well on 30th/31st, singles at Dudgeon 29th and 30th/31st and at Haisboro' on 31st. **Skylarks** and **blackbirds** appeared as usual at all stations as late autumn immigrants; a hundred **rooks** were recorded at Smith's Knoll Oct. 19th and several **redwings** at Haisboro' Oct. 18th. A **robin** was at Smith's Knoll Oct. 28th and a few at Newarp on 31st.

Parties of up to 20 **goldcrests** were at Lynn Well, Smith's Knoll and Corton Oct. 28th-31st with several **goldfinches** passing west at Smith's Knoll Oct. 20th and several **chaffinches** at Newarp Oct. 20th and 31st. The usual late autumn invasion of **starlings** began in mid-Oct., peak nights being Oct. 14th, 17th, 18th/19th, 19th/20th, 26th/27th and 30th/31st with smaller arrivals Nov. 4th, 14th, 20th, 23rd and Dec. 5th/6th. Most surprising was male **red-headed bunting** on board Corton June 17th.

Visits to Cley Marsh Sanctuary

Bird-watching facilities at the Trust's Reserve at Cley are open to a limited number of permit holders daily, except Mondays. Day permits, including use of Observation Hut and Hides 10/- per adult and 5/- per child up to the age of 18. Applications, accompanied by fees and giving alternative choice of date, should be sent to The Secretary, Norfolk Naturalists Trust, 4 The Close, Norwich, NOR 16P. Any unsold permits of a day's quota may be obtained from the Cley Warden after 10 a.m. on the day concerned. A Trust Car Park is available.

Classified Notes

The Wash and Fen records have been selected from the files of the Cambridge Bird Club. Important records for Wisbech Sewage Farm, part of which is on the Lincolnshire side of the county boundary, have also been included. Fuller details may be found in the *Cambridge Bird Club Report* for 1964.

The order used is that of the *B.O.U. Check-List of the Birds of Great Britain and Ireland* (1952) and English names follow current practice. Observations refer to 1964, unless otherwise stated. To save space, all but the most essential initials have been omitted. Records are of *single* birds unless otherwise stated.

6 Red-necked Grebe: North: Overy Staithe, Nov. 15th; Wells, Jan. 15th; Blakeney harbour, Aug. 25th/28th; Cley, Jan. 1st and Nov. 29th and West Runton, Jan. 3rd. East: Breydon, Nov. 29th.

7 Slavonian Grebe: North: Titchwell, Nov. 29th; Wells, 2, Jan. 15th; Cley, 27th; West Runton, 3rd. Wash: Hunstanton, up to 5, Jan. 7th to Feb. 9th.

8 Black-necked Grebe: North: Holme, Dec. 20th and Scolt, Nov. 16th. Wash: Hunstanton, 3 to 8, Jan. 7th to Feb. 22nd and singly Dec. 20th.

14 Storm-Petrel: East: Waxham, Aug. 31st (FJW).

16 Manx Shearwater: North: Cley, 39, Aug. 1st and others till Oct. 4th; Titchwell, 2, Nov. 15th. Wash: Hunstanton, 1 to 7, Aug. 13th, 19th, Sept. 18th and Oct. 23rd; Terrington, Sept. 12th. Inland: Burlingham, killed striking overhead wires Sept. 13th (skin shown to MJS).

A bird of the Balearic race off Cley, Sept. 2nd (RB).

21 Sooty Shearwater: North: Cley, 4, Aug. 19th; 8 on 29th; 4, Sept. 6th, one on 12th and 2 on 21st.

26 Fulmar: North: Breeding cliffs at Weybourne, Sheringham, West Runton, Cromer and Overstrand occupied as usual but no information as to breeding success available. First birds returned Nov. 20th. Wash: Hunstanton, 180 passing north, Aug. 19th.

27 Gannet: Wash: Hunstanton to Snettisham, high totals in Oct. with 300 on 16th and again on 23rd.

28 Cormorant: East: Scroby, 116, Jan. 19th. Broads: Ranworth, 104, March 21st and 66, Dec. 5th. Greatly increased in Yarmouth area and Broads in recent years, but small numbers only along North coast and in Wash.

30 Heron: Details of heronries as follows:

Borders of Wash: Snettisham, 8. *Fens:* Islington, 41 and Denver Sluice, 21. *Breck:* Thompson Water, 4; Diddington, 5, Eastmoor, 2;

Shadwell, 4 and St. Helen's Well, one. *Mid-Norfolk*: Kimberley Park, 5 and Lyng Easthaugh, one. *Broads Area*: Gen. McHardy's wood, one; Whiteslea wood, one; Heigham Sounds, 2; America wood Earsham, 6; Fishley Carr Acle, one; Upton, one; Wickhampton, 28; Buckenham, 22; Mautby, 3; Ranworth, 26; Ranworth Marshes (Horning Hall), 6; Heron Carr Barton, 5; Belaugh Broad, 7; Wheatfen, 4; Martham, one and Ditchingham, one. *North*: Melton Constable, 5; Holkham Park (Obelisk wood), 4 and Cley (Cop Hill Plantation), 4.

Total: 220 nests at 29 sites. None nested at Gunton Park or Wiveton.

The numbers of herons' nests in Norfolk in previous years appear below:

1954	..	381	1957	..	357	1961	..	430
1955	..	370	1958	..	322	1962	..	360
1956	..	334	1959	..	430	1963	..	181
			1960	..	376			

42 Spoonbill: East: Breydon, April 30th; immature May 2nd to 18th; one on 21st joined by a second on 28th and a third on 31st. A fourth June 4th all remaining until 10th; 3 on 11th, one remaining until 21st when it was joined by another and both stayed until 28th; single immatures Aug. 11th to 20th and Sept. 9th to 13th. Berney Arms: 2 south July 27th. North: Cley, May 15th and 31st; Holme, Aug. 8th and Stiffkey on 14th. Fens: Ouse Washes at Welney, May 15th to 23rd.

46 Teal: North: Salthouse/Cley, a drake showing the characters of the American race, known as the Green-winged Teal, April 7th to 11th (NJP *et al*).

47 Garganey: Only recorded away from usual breeding areas at Ebridge Mill (near Honing) where pair reared 9 young (CA). A late bird at Cley, Oct. 31st.

54 Red-crested Pochard: North, Brinton Hall lake, drake during Sept.

56 Tufted Duck: Breeding records: Breck (at least 18 broods): one brood, West Acre G.P.; one at Thompson Water; 8 at Stanford Water; 2 ducks and 5 young at Didlington; 3 broods at Fowl Mere; one brood at Buckenham Tofts; 2 broods at Gooderstone and one brood at Bagmore Farm. Fens: 9 broods at Runcton Holme G.P.

57 Pochard: Breeding records: Breck: 6 broods at Stanford and single broods at Thompson Water and Fowl Mere. Broads: Rockland, one brood.

61 Long-tailed Duck: East: Breydon, Feb. 2nd. North: Holme, 10, March 8th and single Nov. 15th; Scolt, 2, Dec. 10th. Wash: Hunstanton, recorded up to April 5th and from Oct. 18th with 30 through Feb., 40 on March 1st and 65-70, April 4th. Inland: Ebridge Mill (near Honing), Jan. 4th (CA).

62 Velvet Scoter: North: 2 drakes inland at Selbrigg Pond, May 12th is noteworthy. Wash: Hunstanton to Heacham, present till April 11th and from Nov. 22nd with maximum of 50.

- 64 Scoter:** North: Brancaster, 3,000 Jan. 11th and 1050 on March 1st. Wash: Hunstanton to Heacham, 3000 to 3500 during Dec. 6 (4 drakes) on passage noted inland at Seamere, April 7th.
- 67 Eider:** Numbers lower than in recent years. East: Mundesley, 2, Feb. 20th and Yarmouth, Nov. 27th. North: Cley, 40, Feb. 20th and 7 from mid-July till end of Sept. Scolt, peak of 150 on Feb. 11th and again on Nov. 27th. Titchwell, 250 on Jan. 25th. Wash: Only up to 5 on 4 dates.
- 69 Red-breasted Merganser:** Numbers low. Wash: maximum of 30, Dec. 14th. Fens: Wisbech S.F. Feb. 16th. Breck: Thompson Water, 5, Jan. 7th (ALB).
- 70 Goosander:** Breck: Maxima include 34 at Narford March 8th, 24 at Stanford Feb. 9th and 12 at Thompson Water Jan. 11th. Broads area: Rockland, 3, Jan. 3rd and at Burlingham one struck overhead wires on Oct. 9th. North: Cley, maximum of 9, Jan. 1st.
- 71 Smew:** East: Breydon, Jan. 19th. North: Cley, Jan. 16th. Fens: Hilgay-Wissington Cut, 2, Feb. 9th; Hilgay, Dec. 6th. No other records received.
- 73 Shelduck:** Moulting migration records: Cley, 18 eastward at sea July 27th. Scolt: Easterly movements totalling 51 June 14th, 70 on 23rd, 14 on 30th and 31 on July 23rd.
- 74 Ruddy Shelduck:** North: Holkham Park, Jan. 31st (see 1963 Report, p. 157).
- 76 White-fronted Goose:** East: Breydon area, peak of 320 during Jan. with 150 till Feb. 22nd; 40 remained March 12th and 3 on 22nd. First (12) returned Dec. 5th and 112 by 13th. North: Holkham-Burnham Overy, 50 on stubble, Feb. 20th.
- 77 Lesser White-fronted Goose:** East: Breydon Water, immature, Jan. 5th (PRA, GIM); Breydon marshes, adult on 15th (RHC).
- 78 Bean-Goose (*A.a. arvensis*):** East: Yare valley, up to 38 in usual area at beginning of year were disturbed and moved to lower Bure marshes, roosting regularly on Breydon at night. 18 returned to usual haunt by Dec. 28th. North: Cley, 2, Feb. 4th to March 8th.
- 78 Pink-footed Goose (*A.a. brachyrhynchus*):** East: Breydon area, parties up to 13 until Feb. 5th and autumn arrivals from Oct. 28th with 15 at Halvergate, Nov. 15th. North: Cley records include 40 in from the north March 16th; the party of 35 at Morston/Stiffkey Dec. 1963 moved to Holkham and then Burnham Overy, staying till Feb. 28th. Wash: Snettisham, Jan. max. 113, 300 on Feb. 8th and 200 on Dec. 7th.
- 80 Brent Goose:** North: Blakeney, maximum of 1500 first half of Jan.; 600 remained March 21st; 9 on May 3rd and one on 22nd. First in autumn (26), Oct. 3rd. Brancaster, 550 Jan. to March; 60 still present April 4th

and 850 by early Dec. Wells, 700 in Jan., still 380 by end of Feb.; 180 on March 12th and 400 by Dec. 18th.

Wash: Hunstanton to Snettisham, 200 in Jan., 170 in March and 20 till April 2nd. Fens: Welney, March 22nd. East: Breydon, 5, Jan. 3rd/5th, one on March 21st and 3, Dec. 20th.

81 Barnacle Goose: North: Cley, April 26th and Burnham Deepdale, May 18th—both possibly escapes from a collection.

85 Whooper-Swan: Parties up to 7 recorded at usual sites up to April 13th and from Oct. 11th.

86 Bewick's Swan: Unusual numbers passed through Norfolk during the first 8 days of March. If, as seems likely, the herds were all different, then they totalled over 1100 birds. Records at that time include: Hickling, 60 on 1st, 46 on 2nd, 38 on 3rd, 94 and 50 on 4th, 40 on 5th and 20 on 6th. Horsey, 44 east on 1st and 82 from 7th to 23rd. Breydon, 61 on 1st, 164 on 7th, 154 in 4 herds on 8th (50 of which headed east and a further 32 east on 9th). Snettisham, 18 on 7th. Corpusty, 28 N.E. on 1st. Brancaster, 51 on 4th, 70 east followed by 26 on 5th and 25 east on 8th. Thompson Water, 70 on 7th and 72 on 8th. Holme, 16 on 1st and 25 on 8th. Wells, 37 N.E. on 1st. Cley, 40 S.E. on 6th and 20 east on 7th.

On the Ouse Washes (Denver to Welney) 84 present March 17th, increasing to 139 on 22nd, but down to 33 on 29th and to 15 April 5th. Other late birds at Burnham Deepdale April 5th (3 birds), Didlington on 8th (2) and Cley on 24th.

At end of year, westward passage at Cley on 24th (17), Weybourne on 26th (40) and Runton on 28th (70), also 52 on Wash on 29th and 70 at Blakeney Point on 31st. Many smaller herds also reported Nov.–Dec.

91 Buzzard: Found dead at Santon Downham, March 23rd; Cley May 6th and Cranworth on 16th; Blakeney, Aug. 6th; Holme on 25th and Cley on 25th/26th.

92 Rough-legged Buzzard: North: Blakeney/Cley, from beginning of year (see 1963 Report, p. 159) until April 6th.

93 Sparrowhawk: Records from 32 localities, *but not a single record of successful breeding.*

98 Honey-Buzzard: North: Holme, May 20th (*RAR et al*).

99 Marsh Harrier: Broads: None bred although 2 pairs and an odd male in Horsey/Hickling district April–May and a juvenile appeared July 28th. Many coastal records of ones and twos during spring and autumn; at Cley 10 different birds passed through between April 17th and May 18th.

100 Hen Harrier: Coastal records from Cley, Holme, Horsey and Terrington and 2 Breck sites (Stanford and Sturston) up to April 10th and from Oct. 1st. As many as 3 ring-tails at Cley Jan. 1st.

102 Montagu's Harrier: None bred, but spring and autumn records (of at least 19 individuals) at Terrington, Wolferton, Holme, Warham, Cley, Blakeney, Walcott, Horsey, Breydon between April 11th and Sept. 14th.

103 Osprey: North: Holkham, April 25th and Salthouse Heath and Blakeney harbour on 27th; Cley area (also Gunthorpe) May 9th to 14th; Overstrand on 13th and Scolt, 25th-28th; Sheringham, June 6th; Holkham again, Aug. 23rd. South: Ditchingham, May 31st.

104 Hobby: North: Overstrand, May 25th; Cley, May 19th; Blakeney, May 30th, June 1st and July 30th; Scolt, June 3rd and July 3rd and Holme, June 23rd. Broads: Barton, Sept. 3rd. Fens: Wisbech S.F. June 7th. Breck: Hockham, July 16th.

105 Peregrine: Coastal records from Breydon, Cromer, Cley, Blakeney and Scolt; also South Walsham. An enormous juvenile female attacked a greenshank at Cley Aug. 16th; it was as big as a gyf falcon (RAR).

117 Quail: A remarkable year with males calling at 35 localities, as follows: Holme, Cley, Blakeney, Salthouse, Kelling (2), Upper Sheringham, Sheringham, West Runton, Bodham, Langham, Binham (2), Morston, Wiveton, Glandford, Saxlingham, Walsingham, Quarles, Wereham, Middleton (5), Little Cressingham (2), Rockland St. Mary, North Walsham, Felthorpe (5), Oxborough, Brancaster, Fishley, Burlingham, Rushford, Burnham Market, Gooderstone, Didlington, Great Snoring, Shadwell, Drayton Drewray and Stratton Strawless.

First birds calling May 17th; last, Aug. 23rd. Successful breeding at Brancaster (2 adults and one young, Aug. 25th), at Walsingham (2 adults and 3 young at harvest-time) and at Glandford (covey of 12 on stubble). One found dead on tideline at Holme, June 4th and one in to Cley beach from N.E., Sept. 26th.

119 Crane: North: Cley, west, April 8th (RAR, MJS *et al.*).

120 Water-Rail: East: Yarmouth, passage birds found dead, April 6th and 10th.

121 Spotted Crake: Broads: Wheatfen, Feb. 10th. North: Cley, Oct. 24th and Dec. 26th.

125 Corncrake: North: Cley, May 22nd; Holkham, April 19th and Old Hunstanton, calling from April 19th (H1).

131 Oystercatcher: Breeding records: East: Breydon marshes, 3 nests and one on arable at Runham. Horsey, one nest. North: Blakeney Point, 76 nests and 22 pairs on south side of harbour (including nests in carrots, sugar-beet and sprouts); Stiffkey, 8 pairs; Wells, 8 pairs; Burnham Overy, 9 pairs; Scolt (no count available) and Titchwell, 2-4 pairs. Wash: Snettisham, 4-6 pairs.

- 135 Little Ringed Plover:** West: Total of 6 pairs during summer at 5 sites, but no known breeding successes. Fens: Pair bred at site where summered 1963. Passage records include an early bird at Holme, March 29th and 3 at Cantley July 12th.
- 136 Kentish Plover:** East: Breydon, May 25th (PRA); Horsey, April 3rd/4th (DG). North: Cley, May 16th/17th and July 19th; Wells, 2 males, May 15th (HH). Fens: Wisbech S.F. May 26th.
- 139 Grey Plover:** Wash: Counts at Terrington include 1200 on Sept. 12th.
- 142 Dotterel:** East: Breydon marshes, Oct. 4th (ETD). Broads: Horsey, May 17th (GC, DG).
- 150 Curlew:** Breck: 3-4 pairs bred near Frog Hill and another pair nested at Weeting Heath. West: 2 pairs summered at Roydon Common and one nest found.
- 154 Black-tailed Godwit:** N./E. coasts and Broads: Passage records from usual areas with maximum of 11 at Breydon, Sept. 13th. Winter records from Cley (Jan. 23rd), Blakeney (Feb. 7th) and Wells (Feb. 28th). During spring and early summer pair present at Horsey and up to 15 at Cley regularly from April 10th. Wash: Unusual total of 87 between Nene Mouth (Lincs.) and Terrington, Sept. 12th.
- 162 Spotted Redshank:** N./E. coasts and Broads: Passage records from usual haunts, maximum of 11 at Breydon, Oct. 11th and winter reports from Burnham Overy (Jan. 16th and Feb. 6th), Blakeney (Feb. 7th) and Wells (Feb. 28th). Wash: Snettisham, flock of up to 60, most in summer plumage, through July from 5th; Terrington, maximum 18 on Sept. 12th. Fens: Wisbech S.F. maximum of 30, Sept. 27th. Breck: Tottington West Mere, 2, and Thompson Water, 8 on Sept. 27th (when peak numbers in Fens).
- 170 Purple Sandpiper:** East: Yarmouth harbour entrance, Aug. 20th and Sept. 3rd North coast (Cromer, Salthouse, Cley, Wells, Burnham Overy and Scolt) up to 7 reported Jan. to March, Aug. and Nov./Dec. Wash: Hunstanton, up to 7 in Nov.
- 173 Temminck's Stint:** North: Cley, May 9th/10th, 17th and 30th when 2 present. Blakeney, May 17th (2), 19th and 30th (2). Fens: Wisbech S.F. May 8th-10th and Sept. 19th.
- 174 Baird's Sandpiper:** Fens: Wisbech S.F. July 22nd to Aug. 6th 1963 (CBC). Now accepted by British Birds Rarity Committee. The only previous county record is of one reported shot at Hunstanton Sept. 16th, 1903, and set-up by G. Bristow "The Hasting Rarities" taxidermist and gunmaker. . . .
- 175 White-rumped Sandpiper:** Fens: Wisbech S.F., Oct. 24th to Nov. 7th (CBC). Caught and ringed. The fourth county record.
- 176 Pectoral Sandpiper:** Fens: Wisbech S.F. July 26th to 31st (CBC).

- 182 Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** North: Salthouse and Cley, a male repeatedly displaying to a reeve May 11th–12th (CR, RAR *et al*). Sixth county record and the first since 1899.
- 184 Ruff:** North: Cley/Salthouse, present throughout year and 18 (12 males in breeding plumage) by April 26th. During last week of April displaying birds were continually watched.
- 185 Avocet:** East: Breydon, March 18th and June 4th/5th; lower Bure near Five Mile House, May 29th–June 4th and Aug. 10th–12th. North: Cley, April 12th, May 28th–June 2nd, June 12th/13th and 4 west July 19th; Morston, July 18th.
- 187 Grey Phalarope:** North: Cley, on sea, Dec. 5th. Wash: Snettisham–Heacham, Feb. 19th (sc).
- 188 Red-necked Phalarope:** North: Stiffkey, on river, May 21st; Cley, Aug. 28th; Holme, Sept. 3rd. Wash: Snettisham G.P. Oct. 2nd/3rd.
- 193 Arctic Skua:** N./E. coasts: Autumn passage July 19th to mid-Oct. with peaks noted at Cley, Aug. 19th (over 100 including first juveniles) and Sept. 6th (about 150). Wash: Hunstanton, a spring record, 2, March 8th; 91 heading north and later 54 in reverse direction, Aug. 19th; 45 west Oct. 23rd and 2 late birds, Nov. 29th. Terrington, 17 inland and 3 to sea, Sept. 6th; 25 (11 heading inland but returning later) on 12th and 25 (19 moving inland temporarily) on 18th.
- 194 Great Skua:** North coast (Holme to Salthouse): A spring record at Scolt, May 30th. Customary autumn passage Aug. 2nd to Oct. 24th (with one Nov. 9th) and Cley maximum of 7, Sept. 21st. Between Hunstanton and Holme 12 on Aug. 19th, 27 on 29th and most impressive total of 70 on Oct. 23rd. Wash: Terrington, Sept. 12th and Snettisham, Oct. 24th. East: Mundesley, Feb. 20th (ADB) and Walcott, Sept. 20th.
- 195 Pomarine Skua:** North: Cley, autumn passage as follows: Aug. 4th, 19th, 29th (2) and 30th, Sept. 1st, 6th (2), 9th, 17th and 19th. Wash: Hunstanton, remarkable number of 20 to 30, Oct. 23rd (CBC).
- 196 Long-tailed Skua:** North: Cley, July 29th, Aug. 19th and 31st and Sept. 6th (2).
- 202 Glaucous Gull:** North coast (Holme, Thornham, Wells, Cley and Salthouse) on 9 dates up to March 8th and from Oct. 11th. Wash: Hunstanton, Jan. 7th to March 8th with a second-year bird on April 5th and another immature Nov. 7th till end of year.
- 203 Iceland Gull:** North: West Runton, Feb. 13th; Sheringham on 16th/17th and at Cley on 18th; Weybourne, March 26th and at Cley again on 27th.
- 205 Mediterranean Gull:** North: First summer bird at Cley May 20th–26th watched frequently in display flight with breeding colony of black-

heads (PJT, RAR *et al*); a second summer bird west at Cley Aug. 6th (RAR) and an immature Blakeney Point on Sept. 5th (AL). East: Yarmouth, Sept. 21st (PJS).

207 Little Gull: North coast (Holme to Cromer), 1-4 on 48 dates in all months except Jan. An adult male and first-summer female were in vociferous aerial display (tape-recorded by RAR) over Cley Marsh April 24th, the female remaining till 29th. This pair was rediscovered at Salthouse May 20th where they remained till 26th, frequently displaying and tentatively mobbing intruders. They were in a black-headed gull colony.

Wash: Hunstanton, 2, April 4th; 20, Oct. 16th and singles Oct. 24th and Nov. 2nd. East: Yarmouth: a dead adult, April 22nd and an immature, Oct. 11th. Broads: Hickling, May 1st.

208 Black-headed Gull: Numbers of *pairs* at breeding stations include: North: Scolt, 80-100; Burnham Overy, 37; Stiffkey, 32 and Blakeney to Morston, 17. Broads area: Cantley, 90. Fens: Wissington B.F. 125 (but all left as water dried-up) and Wisbech S.F. 100. Wash: Wolferton, 1500. None nested at historic Scoulton Mere site.

211 Kittiwake: N./E. coasts: Summer counts include 250 on Scroby Sands, June 25th and 600-700 there Aug. 4th; at Scolt, 500 in late June, 900, July 23rd and peak of 1200 early Aug. An unusual westward movement inshore at Cley July 28th/29th when 350 assembling on Blakeney Point; this movement continued till Aug. 3rd when 600-700 passed west. During northerly gale Nov. 2nd 600 headed east off Cromer in 45 minutes.

212 Black Tern: Small-scale spring passage from April 17th, no party exceeding 8. 1-2 summered at Wisbech S.F. Autumn migration (largely over the sea) until end of Sept. with peak of 20 on Aug. 18th.

213 White-winged Black Tern: North: Juvenile at Cley, Aug. 13th (RAR *et al*) and at Salthouse on 15th (RJJ).

217 Common Tern: Number of *pairs* at breeding stations: North: Holme Broadwater, one; Scolt, 600; Blakeney Point, 960 and Cley Marsh, 3. East: Scroby, 150. Broads: Ranworth, 22; Hickling, 3 and Ormesby, 8. Wash: Snettisham-Wolferton, 100. Total: 1847 pairs.

218 Arctic Tern: North: One successful nest at Scolt.

219 Roseate Tern: North: None bred, but 3 summered at Scolt where arrived May 10th. Salthouse, one dead, May 13th. Cley, May 26th and 31st.

222 Little Tern: Breeding records of *pairs* include: North: Holme 8; Titchwell, 6-8; Scolt, 30 and Blakeney Point, 73. East: Winterton, 6.

223 Sandwich Tern: N./E. coasts: 1400 pairs bred on Scolt and 160 pairs at Scroby. Customary spring assembly at Arnold's Marsh, Cley, peaked at 500, May 3rd. During greater part of Aug., many juveniles arrived there among them a number of yellow-ringed birds marked on Coquet and Farne Islands.

226 **Little Auk**: North: Cley, 3, Oct. 25th and 2, Nov. 6th; Overstrand, oiled, March 27th and Cromer, Nov. 18th.

235 **Turtle Dove**: Breck: Cockley Cley, 140 with domestic ducks, June 21st—a regular gathering/feeding area. Spring arrival at Cley April 18th was followed almost daily till May 21st by a spectacular and unprecedented westward passage peaking at 300 May 12th and 130 on 16th; a few were still moving till June 13th.

Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): Five centres of abundance: (1) Original Cromer area, breeding from Sheringham to Overstrand with the largest feeding concentration at Broom Hill, East Runton, where following monthly maxima: Jan. 110; Feb. 110; March, 136; April, 108; May, 95; June, 73; July, 71; Aug., 110; Sept., 116; Oct., 121; Nov., 142 and Dec., 127. 24 pairs nested at Broom Hill, one pair rearing 3 broods. None roosted during the winter at this site. (2) Yarmouth/Gorleston area with 34 pairs in summer including 6 pairs in St. George's Park. During winter, feeds at a maltings (78, Jan. 7th) a riverside corn store (42, Feb. 16th) and in several gardens at Southtown and Newtown where food provided daily. Has spread to Caister, Winterton, Filby and Mautby. (3) Hunstanton area, with 20–25 pairs at Hunstanton, 20 pairs at Ringstead and 2 pairs at Holme. A feeding flock of 83 at Hunstanton cliff allotments in autumn. (4) King's Lynn area, 10 pairs located, but a feeding flock of 110 at West Lynn in Sept. indicates there are more. (5) Little Cressingham (Breck) where feeding concentration of 150 on cables over duck field in Sept.

A few pairs breed at Wells, Morston, Downham Market and Brandon.

248 **Long-eared Owl**: Bred successfully on Salthouse Heath and Kelling Heath. Only other reports: Sheringham, Aug. 24th and Lang Mere, March 8th.

249 **Short-eared Owl**: Single pairs nested at Scolt and in Broads area at Horsey, Halvergate, Tunstall and Berney Arms. At beginning of year largest parties were 12 at Halvergate and 17 at Scolt. In Breydon area remarkable numbers throughout Nov./Dec.; on Dec. 27th a day-time roost in a ruined cottage and its garden held 52 whilst a second roost in a derelict marsh garden contained 25. It is estimated 100 short-eared owls were in the area between the lower Bure and Berney Arms/Breydon marshes at the end of the year. At least 2 were found shot.

In other parts of county very few noted at this time, 5 at Scolt being largest party.

255 **Swift**: Early arrival with first at Cley, April 9th and at Sheringham on 10th; others at Cley on 16th and 19th with main arrival commencing on 26th. Late birds at Blakeney Oct. 2nd and 12th and at Gorleston on 15th.

256 **Alpine Swift**: North: Blakeney, May 30th (HH).

258 Kingfisher: Remains very scarce and although reported at 27 localities only proved to have nested successfully at one site. Majority of records relate to period Oct. to Dec.

261 Hoopoe: North: Weybourne, May 12th (JW) is the only record.

265 Wryneck: North: Wiveton, May 6th. Blakeney Point, Aug. 14th and 17th and Sept. 1st and 6th; Holme, Sept. 2nd and 11th; Roman Camp, West Runton, Sept. 27th. Breck border: Boughton, one dead on road, May 2nd (shown to MJS)—previously a pair present (PR).

273 Shore-Lark: North: Holme, 3 during Jan. Cley/Salthouse, 60–70 during Jan./Feb. decreasing during March till last 4 seen April 15th. First of autumn were 2–3, Oct. 8th increasing to 30 by Nov. 1st; 25 still present end of Dec.

274 Swallow: Nov. reports include Diss on 10th, Wisbech S.F. on 12th, Snettisham on 15th and Stiffkey on 16th.

276 House Martin: Nov. records include Stiffkey on 16th, Gorleston on 18th and Bramerton on 24th.

278 Golden Oriole: North: Crostwight Heath, male, May 17th and 31st (CA). Broads: Surlingham, May 21st–23rd (EAE).

295 Bearded Tit: Broads area: Breeding records from Hickling/Heigham Sounds/Horsey/Marham areas (85 to 100 pairs estimated); Ranworth (20–30 including young at end of June) and Cantley (family party). Wintering flock of 50 at Surlingham and 60 at Wheatfen Jan.–Feb. and at least 100 in Wheatfen/Surlingham/Rockland area Dec. Others at Wheat-acre (Nov. 8th), Buckenham (12, Dec. 24th), lower Bure by Five Mile House (2, Nov. 28th), Cantley (3–4, Feb. 8th), Berney Arms (3, Nov. 29th) and Breydon where 4 in tiny reed-bed almost in station yard Oct. 5th and 8 there on 11th. At Horsey over 100 at end of year. Breck: Thompson Water, 2–4 Jan. 5th to Feb. 23rd. Also isolated record from Cawston, Oct. 22nd.

North: Cley, 15 pairs bred and up to 100 present at end of year. Post-breeding restlessness noted Sept. 5th and daily during second half of month, when, on 24th, 6 headed west high over Cley village; birds again very restless last week Oct. Blakeney Point, male Aug. 21st (on 22nd a long-tailed tit was in Cley reedbeds). Holme, pair bred, up to 40 from end Sept. onwards and 2 pairs feeding on saltings there Dec. 14th. Titchwell, 2, Feb. 22nd; Gun Hill, 1–2, Oct. 25th.

302 Fieldfare: Late birds at Blakeney and Yarmouth May 3rd, Sheringham on 6th and Horsey on 30th. Very unusual July observations at both Cley (3) and Hethersett on 10th. Early autumn birds on Blakeney Point and Salthouse Heath Sept. 2nd.

304 Redwing: Horsey, July 18th (DG), a surprising date.

307 Ring Ouzel: North coast: Customary small spring (March 28th to May 2nd) and autumn (Oct. 3rd to Nov. 3rd) passage of 1-3 (and once 5) birds at regular haunts. East: Waxham, April 9th and Breydon on 17th.

317 Stonechat: 2 pairs reared young Horsey Warren; one nest (eggs eaten) at Holme (pair later moved to golf course); successful nest at Waxham and pair with juveniles at Wolferton July 26th. Single pairs present during summer at Salthouse Heath, Lessingham, Burnham Overy and Barnham Cross Common. Usual autumn/winter coastal records; also 4 males Blakeney Point March 27th.

320 Redstart: Apart from Breck, breeding season reports from Holt Hall (nest with 7 eggs), Swanton Novers, Felthorpe Heath and Leziate. Usual passage records.

321 Black Redstart: East: Yarmouth, a survey in May/June revealed singing males (or pairs) at 8 sites including the new Power Station and the Pleasure Beach. Successful breeding took place at 2 sites, 2 other pairs probably bred and at a fifth site the nest was apparently deserted (PRA *et al*). North: Cromer, pair bred successfully (CDR). Usual spring/autumn passage from March 14th.

324 Bluethroat: North: Blakeney Point, Sept. 2nd—the only record.

325 Robin: North coast: Big arrival of Continental birds Oct. 3rd when at least 100 on Blakeney Point and 200 (60 ringed) at Holme.

340 Icterine Warbler: North: Blakeney Point, immature, Sept. 3rd (many observers); Holme, June 2nd (ringed by HBO).

344 Barred Warbler: North: Blakeney Point, immature, Sept. 3rd (many observers).

356 Chiffchaff: North: Cley, a bird of the Scandinavian race *abietinus* at Walsey Hills, Jan. 18th-March 1st (grey and white type). First of spring, Sheringham, March 7th; last 2, Cley, Oct. 18th/19th.

357 Wood-Warbler: North: Quite unexpected arrival of singing males from May 2nd, singles being seen at Cley, West Runton, Holt, Kelling and Salthouse Heath with 2-3 in Sheringham area and at least one in the historic Blickling haunt. All appeared to pass on after 2-3 weeks (apart from one at Sheringham) as no evidence of breeding received. Only other record: Holme, May 18th.

360 Yellow-browed Warbler: North: Holme, Oct. 1st (HBO). Twelve previous county records.

365 Firecrest: Breck: St. Helen's Well, April 5th (CAEK).

368 Pied Flycatcher: North: In spring, single males at Holkham, April 19th and at Blakeney on 27th and 30th. In Breck, one at Didlington, July 5th; coastal autumn passage Aug. 14th to Oct. 4th when late birds at Yarmouth and Cley. Peak movement Sept. 3rd/4th when 30 at Cley and 50 in Holkham pines.

370 **Red-breasted Flycatcher**: North: Blakeney Point, Sept. 24th and 2, Oct. 4th. Holkham, Oct. 3rd. Blakeney, Sept. 29th/30th and 1-2, Oct. 2nd/4th. Holme, May 24th, Sept. 30th-Oct. 1st (ringed) and a third stayed Oct. 4th/5th.

374 **Richard's Pipit**: North: Blakeney Point, Sept. 5th/6th (RJJ, JW *et al*); Cley, Oct. 23rd (RAR) and Blakeney Point on 25th (PW, JB).

375 **Tawny Pipit**: North: Blakeney Point, June 9th (AKS).

379 **Water-Pipit** (*A.s. spinoletta*): North: Salthouse, Jan. 24th, at Cley Oct. 27th-29th (RAR) and at Morston, Nov. 28th-Dec. 6th (HH).

381 **Grey Wagtail**: Decreasing and none apparently bred. Only records: Stratton Strawless, March 17th; Cley, April 10th; Norwich Castle Museum roof, May and Hillborough (2), July 20th.

382 **Blue-headed Wagtail** (*M.f. flava*): North: Cley, males, April 21st and May 2nd; Beeston Common, April 26th. Broads: Hickling, April 27th. Wash: Wolferton, April 26th.

382 **Ashy-headed Wagtail** (*M.f. cinereocapilla*): North: Cley, male April 21st (RAR) with an intermediate male *flava* (blue-headed x *cinereocapilla*.)

382 **Grey-headed Wagtail** (*M.f. thunbergi*): North: Cley, 1-2 males, May 25th and another on 30th.

383 **Waxwing**: The large influx which began Nov. 2nd, 1963, continued and parties of 1-9 (with 16 at East Runton) were reported between Jan. 1st and mid-March at Holme, Sheringham, Cromer, Cley, Brancaster Staithe, Wiveton, Gt. Plumstead, Thorpe-next-Norwich, Reephham, Framingham Earl, Eaton, Hainford, Ormesby, Bramerton and Sprowston. Late birds lingered at Thorpe till April 6th (with one on 19th), there were 15 in Norwich April 2nd and 4 at Sheringham on 16th.

Towards end of year reported at Holme Nov. 8th, Blakeney on 28th, Norwich (5), Dec. 14th and Holt (2) on 29th.

384 **Great Grey Shrike**: East: Horsey, March 18th-21st and Neatishead, Nov. 4th. North: None apparently wintered (1963-4) on Salthouse Heath, but 2 appeared briefly March 27th; one remained there Oct. 3rd to Dec. 31st. Cley; Oct. 4th; Holkham, Oct. 17th; Stiffkey and Weybourne, Oct. 24th. Holme, arrived Feb. 28th and remained till end of March and again present Oct. 3rd (same date as arrived Salthouse) to Dec. 31st. Muckleborough Hill, Oct. 24th. Breck: Foulden, Nov. 22nd and Dec. 22nd and Narborough G.P. Dec. 21st. Wash: Hunstanton, Oct. 3rd and Nov. 8th and Dersingham Heath, Dec. 31st.

386 **Woodchat-Shrike**: North: Holme, April 24th-26th and another May 24th-25th (HBO).

388 **Red-backed Shrike**: Breeding season distribution: North coast, 11 pairs at 8 localities; Breck, 11 pairs at 9 sites and a pair bred successfully Norwich outskirts.

391 Hawfinch: Records from Cranworth, Didlington, Thompson, Hillborough, Watton, Shadwell Park, Lynford Hall, Grimes Graves, Salthouse Heath, Wiveton, Blakeney, Weybourne, Kelling, Holkham and Beeston Regis.

397 Redpoll: Lesser Redpoll continues to increase as a breeder and must now be as common in some areas as the linnet. 5 showing the characteristics of the Continental race, *C.f. flammea*, Northwold Lodge, Feb. 14th.

404 Crossbill: North: 18 at Wells, March 1st. Several at High Kelling breeding site April and early May. Flock of 35 arrived there from the east May 16th with 15 at Sheringham next day. The latter party increased to 50 by 19th and the 30-odd birds were still at High Kelling on 21st. 25-30 remained at Sheringham till June 7th. Singles west at Cley July 18th and 25th and a juvenile at Walsey Hills Aug. 7th.

Wash: Wolferton, 2, April 6th; Snettisham, 5 on 11th; Sandringham Woods, maximum of 10, May-June and an immature there April 21st. Breck: Very few records received.

408 Brambling: North: Late male, High Kelling, May 9th.

416 Ortolan Bunting: North: Blakeney Point, 2, Sept. 1st with 3 there between 3rd and 5th; Cley on 5th; Holkham, 4th and Blakeney, 2, on 25th.

420 Little Bunting: North: Cley beach road, Oct. 27th (JB—who had been watching 3 on Holy Island immediately before).

422 Lapland Bunting: Wash/North coasts: Small parties at usual haunts up to April 15th and from Sept. 17th. East: Breydon marshes, 44 on a single marsh Jan. 12th with 50 present, Feb. 9th; 12-15 on March 1st and last 2 on 7th; first in autumn Oct. 4th but only 5 by end of year (PRA *et al*).

423 Snow-Bunting: North: Most favoured haunt is shore-line between Blakeney Point and Salthouse where 240, Jan. 1st, 100 by Feb. 9th, 12 by end of March and singles April 8th and 11th. First of autumn here Sept. 12th with large arrival of 200 Nov. 11th increasing to 300 by 17th. Holme, maximum of 150, Dec. 14th.

East: Breydon marshes, maximum of 150 in Jan. when 40 on Yarmouth beach and a late bird stayed at Breydon till April 5th; first autumn arrival Sept. 20th and 60 on Yarmouth beach at end of Nov.

Wash: Maximum 150 at Snettisham Dec. 2nd and 2 late birds April 11th. Breck: Frog Hill (Stanford Battle Area), Dec. 6th, after N.W. gales (HPC).

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The following, not mentioned in the Classified Notes, were also recorded in 1964 (*breeding species in italics*): Black-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, Red-throated Diver, *Great Crested Grebe*, *Little Grebe*, Shag, *Bittern*, *Mallard*, *Teal*, *Gadwall*, Wigeon, Pintail, *Shoveler*, Scaup,

Goldeneye, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Merlin, Kestrel, Red-legged Partridge, Partridge, Pheasant, Moorhen, Coot, Lapwing, Ringed Plover, Golden Plover, Turnstone, Snipe, Jack Snipe, Woodcock, Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit, Green Sandpiper, Wood-Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Redshank, Greenshank, Knot, Little Stint, Dunlin, Curlew-Sandpiper, Sanderling, Stone-Curlew, Great Black-backed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring-Gull, Common Gull, Razorbill, Guillemot, Puffin, Stock-Dove, Wood-Pigeon, Cuckoo, Barn Owl, Little Owl, Tawny Owl, Nightjar, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Wood-Lark, Skylark, Sand Martin, Carrion Crow, Hooded Crow, Rook, Jackdaw, Magpie, Jay, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Marsh Tit, Willow Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Nuthatch, Tree-Creeper, Wren, Mistle-Thrush, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Wheatear, Whinchat, Nightingale, Grasshopper-Warbler, Reed-Warbler, Sedge-Warbler, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Whitethroat, Lesser White-throat, Willow Warbler, Goldcrest, Spotted Flycatcher, Hedge-Sparrow, Meadow-Pipit, Tree Pipit, Rock Pipit, Pied Wagtail, White Wagtail, Yellow Wagtail, Starling, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Siskin, Linnet, Twite, Bullfinch, Chaffinch, Yellowhammer, Corn-Bunting, Reed-Bunting, House-Sparrow and Tree-Sparrow.

*Selected Ringing Recoveries**(Notified in 1964)*

	<i>Ringed</i>	<i>Recovered</i>
Cormorant	Farne Islands. 20.6.61.	Surlingham 27.6.63. Ring only found in water.
Bittern	Minsmere, Suffolk 1.6.61.	Hickling 23.1.63.
Mallard	How Hill 17.2.60.	Lake Spetebysjon, Skoldinge (Sodermanland), Sweden 25.9.64.
Mallard	How Hill 20.2.60.	Vernantes (Maine Et Loire), France 23.4.64.
Mallard	How Hill 11.1.63.	Langli Island, Ho Buet (Jutland), Denmark 21.12.63.
Mallard	How Hill 14.1.63.	Ems Estuary near Emden, Ostfriesland, Germany 2.8.63.
Mallard	How Hill 25.1.63.	Frillesas, Loftadalen (Halland), Sweden 15.11.64.
Mallard	How Hill 18.2.64.	Avno Fjord (Sjaelland), Denmark 15.8.64.
Mallard	Dersingham 16.12.63.	Skoelskor Fjord, Denmark 1.11.64.
Mallard	Dersingham 3.1.64.	Steenfeld, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany 19.11.64.
Mallard	Dersingham 24.1.64.	Gur'evska (Kaliningrad), U.S.S.R. 2.9.64.
Mallard	Dersingham 9.11.63.	Sanktklemens, Odense (Fyn), Denmark 17.12.64.
Mallard	Dersingham 17.12.63	Ollerup, Svendborg (Fyn), Denmark 15.8.64.
Goldeneye	Forby, Sarkisalo (Turku & Pori), Finland 26.5.63.	Hickling 31.1.64.
Shelduck	Weser Estuary, N.W. Germany 29.7.56 and released at Blythburgh (Suffolk) where breeding 1.7.60.	Terrington Marsh 10.1.63.
Shelduck	Wisbech S.F. 21.7.62.	Bayonne, France 26.12.62.
Lapwing	Wisbech S.F. 28.6.59.	Guipuzcoa, Spain 23.12.62.
Lapwing	Wisbech S.F. 22.10.61.	Sevilla, Spain 20.2.63.
Lapwing	Meldorf Sommerkoog (Schleswig-Holstein), Germany 30.5.64 (as young).	South Walsham 27.7.64.
Snipe	Wisbech S.F. 15.10.61.	Ribatejo, Portugal 26.2.63.
Woodcock	Rijsterbos (Friesland), Netherlands 7.11.61.	Cromer 6.4.63.
Redshank	Terrington 18.8.59.	Manche, France 13.1.63.
Knot	Midnes, Iceland 27.5.60.	Hunstanton 17.2.63.
Little Stint	Paarp, Tronninge (Halland), Sweden 2.9.64.	Breydon 26.9.64.
Dunlin	Amager, Denmark 18.10.52 (as young).	Terrington Marsh 5.9.63. <i>Note age.</i>
Dunlin	Wisbech S.F. 14.10.61.	Ottenby, Sweden 29.7.63.
Dunlin	Terrington 7.8.63.	Beira Litoral, Portugal 22.9.63.
Dunlin	Sukajoki (Oulu), Finland 20.8.61.	Terrington 5.9.63.
Dunlin	Heligoland, Germany 7.9.60.	Terrington 7.8.63.
Dunlin	Ottenby (Oland), Sweden 4.8.62.	Breydon 23.1.63.
Dunlin	Ullerup, Amager (Sjaelland), Denmark 8.10.63.	Bure marshes near Yarmouth 23.11.63.

Ruff	Wisbech S.F. 14.10.61.	Silla (Valencia), Spain 19.11.63.
Ruff	Wisbech S.F. 14.10.62.	Ponte a Buriano (Arezzo), Italy 3.9.63.
Common Gull	Halandsvatnet, Rogaland, Norway 3.7.60.	Bacton 13.8.64.
Common Gull	Porvoo, Soderskar, Finland 6.7.60.	Halvergate 19.1.64.
Black-headed Gull	Vilsando Island (Saaremaa), Estonian S.S.R. 23.6.61 (as young).	Bunwell 1.2.64.
Black-headed Gull	Skyttenskar, Sipoo (Uusimaa), Finland 17.6.62 (as young).	Breydon 27.1.64.
Black-headed Gull	Norwich 12.12.62.	Endrup, Ibramminge, Jutland, Denmark 1.8.64.
Black-headed Gull	Purmerend (Noord Holland), Netherlands 17.2.64.	Wells 15.4.64.
Sandwich Tern	Scolt 26.6.63.	Near St. Louis, Senegal 31.1.64.
Sandwich Tern	Scolt 24.6.63.	Port Bouet, Ivory Coast 15.5.64.
Sandwich Tern	Scolt 24.6.63.	Tema, Ghana 6.4.64.
Sandwich Tern	Scolt 2.7.62.	Dusseldorf, Germany 22.8.64.
Sandwich Tern	Stiffkey 21.6.59.	Darling, Cape Province Jan. 1964.
Sandwich Tern	Stiffkey 23.6.63.	Accra, Ghana 18.2.64.
Sandwich Tern	Stiffkey 23.6.63.	M'Bour, Senegal 25.6.64.
Sandwich Tern	Salthouse 27.6.31.	Porto Alexandre, Angola sometime between 1931 and 1936. <i>Only recently reported.</i>
Sandwich Tern	Salthouse 8.6.33.	Porto Alexandre, Angola sometime between 1933 and 1936. <i>Only recently reported.</i>
Sandwich Tern	Scroby Sands 16.7.63 (as young).	Kortgene, Noord Beveland (Zeeland), Netherlands, early Oct. 1963.
Sandwich Tern	Scroby Sands 3.7.63 (as young).	Den Oeker (Noord Holland), Netherlands 11.9.63.
Guillemot	Farne Islands 24.6.61.	Bacton 15.3.63.
Guillemot	Heligoland, Germany 7.7.62.	Scolt Head 15.1.63.
Turtle Dove	Gooderstone 4.7.63.	Tarnos (Landes), France 18.9.64.
House Martin	Wiesbaden (Hesen), Germany 13.5.62.	Hilborough 20.6.63.
Sand Martin	Middleton 28.6.61.	Los Palacios (Sevilla), Spain 5.4.63.
Fieldfare	Brancaster Dec. 1962.	Angermanalven, Swedish Lapland May 1964.
Blackbird	Valkeakoski (Hame), Finland, 8.10.62.	Gimingham 27.1.63.
Robin	Scolt Head 18.4.62.	Auderghem, Brussels, Belgium 10.1.64.
Sedge Warbler	Colour-ringed Cley, 27.5.62	Singing at Cley, 4.6.64
Sedge Warbler	Cley, 28.5.62	Nested where ringed, 1963 and 1964
Starling	Fair Isle 27.3.63.	Blakeney Point 9.4.63. <i>An interesting reverse movement.</i>
Starling	Ullerup, Amager, Denmark 19.9.64.	Haisbro' light-vessel 20.10.64.
Starling	Thorpe-next-Norwich 5.1.62.	Mecklenburg, Germany 10.3.64.

Starling	Norwich 22.2.64.	Hockensbull, Husum, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany 12.3.64.
Starling	Gentofte, Copenhagen, Denmark 16.2.62 and 30.5.63.	Colney 22.3.64.
Goldfinch	Brancaaster 15.9.63.	Tontelange (Luxembourg), Belgium 6.10.63.
Goldfinch	Near Roubaix (Nord), France. 1.5.63.	Stalham 23.5.63.
Goldfinch	Wisbech S.F. 3.8.62.	Rouvray, St. Denis, France 5.1.63.
Linnet	Cantley 8.8.64.	Linares, Jaen, Spain 28.10.64.
Brambling	Thorpe-next-Norwich 25.1.64.	Merksem, Antwerp, Belgium 27.10.64.

Norfolk Mammal Report

1964

INTRODUCTION

The editor is pleased to present the eleventh annual report on Norfolk mammals. It would not be fitting to begin without recording the debt owed to F. J. Taylor Page who left the county last summer to take up a post in Sussex. The initial conception of the scheme was his and he was editor in chief for the first ten reports, the excellence of which has been recognised far beyond the County boundaries. We thank him for making his records for previous years available, and wish him every happiness in his new habitat!

1964 was marked by a continued and virtually complete recovery from the effects of the hard winter of 1962/63. Some species of course, such as moles, did not appear to suffer much in any case, and have continued to increase steadily. The most surprising features of the year were the apparent increasing resistance of the rabbit population to myxomatosis, the number of stranded porpoises on Norfolk beaches, and the incidence of stoats in full or partial ermine. There was also a mild plague of short-tailed voles, always of interest to Ornithologists as well as Mammalogists because of the large numbers of short-eared owls which appear on such occasions.

Members sometimes enquire how they can help with the compilation of this report. I would like to suggest two ways: firstly, by acquiring (or reading) the *Handbook of British Mammals*, published by Blackwell, which is both interesting in itself and contains many suggestions; secondly, by collecting owl pellets. From the bones, especially skulls, that they contain one can obtain an excellent picture of the local small mammal population.

We would like to thank all who have contributed to this report, and are grateful to H. A. Hems for valuable assistance with photographs.

Classified Notes

Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)

It would seem possible that the considerable decrease noted up to last year is beginning to ease off. Although some observers again recorded smaller numbers, the road casualties between Attlebridge and Norwich were slightly up on the previous year, and there was a noticeable increase in live records in the Corpusty/Saxthorpe area. During the year, a total of 48 were brought to P. Trett in Yarmouth, most of which had dropped off pea lorries going to the Bird's Eye factory.

One female is known to have raised two litters of four and three at Gt. Witchingham. A tame hedgehog in Norwich came out of hibernation on 28th Feb., and retired again on 10th Oct. A dead female with five young inside, found in Norwich, "weighed 3 lb. the lot".

Common Shrew (*Sorex araneus*)

The effects of the hard winter of 1962/63 would seem to have worn off. Several localities report this shrew as increased or plentiful, but at Cranworth it is believed to react unfavourably to intensive agriculture. Several were seen stranded by floods on roadside banks at Coldham Hall on 10th Nov.

Analysis of Barn Owl pellets (we could do with much more of this!) from around Holt and near Norwich gave Common shrews ranging from 14 per cent to 27 per cent.

Pigmy Shrew (*Sorex minutus*)

Very little information was sent in about this species. One was found dead at Taverham, and a possible one at Hethersett. The owl pellet analysis mentioned above showed that pigmy shrews were present in all four areas studied, ranging from 1.1 per cent to 6.6 per cent. An independent analysis near Norwich revealed about 3 common to 1 pigmy shrew.

It may be helpful for future observers to note that the pigmy shrew can be identified by the fact that the tail is always more than two-thirds of the combined length of head and body, i.e. at least as long as the actual tail length of the Common shrew.

Water Shrew (*Neomys fodiens bicolor*)

Here again, not much information has been received. Specimens have been seen at Horsey and Stubb Mill Dyke, Hickling, where in June two very tame and pugnacious individuals were first seen on the path, then swimming with the head held beneath the water.

Remains in Barn Owl pellets from four localities ranged from 1.1 per cent to 4.0 per cent, and bones of three individuals were found in other pellets from Caistor St. Edmunds.

Mole (*Talpa europaea*)

The general impression is that moles are still increasing, or at least maintaining the large numbers of last year, except where there has been deep ploughing and fences have been pulled out (Bawdeswell). On the Acle marshes the population is reported constant for the past few years. In the Broads, at Surlingham and Calthorpe, it has been noticed that moles have moved into the marshes, even reed-grounds, presumably because of the low rainfall during 1964.

A mole was caught in a Breckland ride and transferred to another, where it immediately dug in. After 15 minutes there was a loud squeaking and it emerged again at speed. It is well known that moles are aggressive for most of the year.

A few colour variations have been reported, including an orange one. Old-time mole-catchers are reputed occasionally to have caught sufficient albino moles to make themselves a white moleskin waistcoat.

Bats

Several Long-eared Bats (*Plecotus auritus*) were picked up dead in various parts of the County, some of which had been killed by cars. They are reported as still numerous around Holt, and three were found hibernating in Whitlingham, with one Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentoni*). The latter were also present in mills on the lower Bure marshes from June onwards. Pipistrelles (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) are still widely distributed, though still not fully recovered from the hard winter of 1962/63 in the Yarmouth area.

The Noctule Bat (*Nyctalus noctula*) still appears to be showing a decline over most of the County, though they have been seen at Garboldisham and a few other localities. Only two other species have been recorded: the Whiskered Bat (*Myotis mystacinus*), which has a small colony in North Norfolk, and is managing to survive, though in very small numbers, at Grimes Graves; and the Serotine Bat (*Eptesicus serotinus*), three specimens of which were found dead in the Yarmouth area.

Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

An analysis of the many records sent in for this species reveals that numbers are increasing and that myxomatosis is still present. If the observations are accurate, this can only lead to the conclusion that rabbits are at last building-up a resistance to the disease. One observer reports: "Many of them that get it now, however, recover after a while", and I have heard the same opinion expressed elsewhere.

There have been no reports of albino specimens, but a black rabbit was shot at Binham on Nov. 4th. These melanistic forms must at one time have been fairly regular in Breckland, where there is at least one heath known as "Black Rabbit Warren".

Hare (*Lepus europaeus occidentalis*)

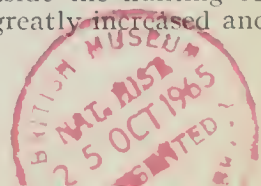
The general concensus of opinion is that Hares are now as numerous as they were before the startling increase that followed the early years of myxomatosis. In the Hoe/Gressenhall area they are reported as more plentiful than rabbits, and hare drive kills in North Norfolk in February showed a marked increase. Over 1,000 were shot around Great Snoring. However, a decline was recorded in the Aylsham, Witchingham, Garboldisham, Horsey and North Walsham areas. From Watton, the road casualty figure was 23, compared with 26 in 1963 and 78 in 1962.



wright

H. A. Hems

Until the early 1960's it was unusual to hear of Foxes outside the hunting country of central and west Norfolk. Since then, however, they have greatly increased and become widespread.





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H. A. Hems

Norfolk is a county with very few Badger sets. In addition to shooting and gassing, some become road casualties. In 1962 an extensive set was gassed when terriers, which had been turned in after a Fox, were themselves killed by the Badger occupants. Another large set was gassed in 1963 when at least two Badgers were shot for no good reason. This picture is of a cub and sow collecting bedding.

A fleeting view of what appeared to be an unusual colour variation was had from a train on the Norfolk/Suffolk border. This was "basically white, with a large black mark on the back, slightly left of its mid-dorsal line".

Bank Vole (*Clethrionomys glareolus*)

Some interesting records were sent in, but by only a small number of observers. This species can be distinguished from the Short-tailed Vole by its warm chestnut colour and the fact that the tail is about half the length of the head and body.

The owl pellet analysis referred to under Shrews revealed percentages of Bank Voles ranging from 0·8 per cent to 10·5 per cent. They were "really swarming" at Wheatfen, where one was found eating a shallot in April. 29 were caught in a fruit store in Watton in the eight weeks before Christmas. When many small mammals were stranded by floods in Nov. at Coldham Hall, the Bank Voles remained (this seems singularly appropriate!) when the Shrews and Moles had swum away.

Field Vole or Short-tailed Vole (*Microtus agrestis*)

1964 was, at least in some districts, a plague year for this species. Around Docking Short-eared Owls were present in some numbers (up to 20 in one roost), which is always a sign of abundance of these Voles, which were present almost exclusively in the Short-eared Owls' pellets. Even larger number of Owls were present on Breydon Marshes towards the end of the year.

Field Voles were exceptionally abundant in the marshes, including the reed-grounds, at Surlingham, where many were overtaken by tidal floods in Oct. and Dec. One female was observed rescuing young from a hedge which was being bull-dozed at Happisburgh in Oct. Two unusually large specimens were caught on the outskirts of Norwich in late July and are now in the Castle Museum collection. The owl pellet analysis already referred to showed this as the most frequent species, from 16·3 per cent to 51·6 per cent.

Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius amphibius*)

These are reported from suitable waters in most parts of the County. They are described as common in the Glaven Valley and increasing in the Yare Valley. Both brown and black forms are seen at Corpusty, and two black specimens were found dead at Wymondham College in July some distance from water. Water Voles were seen barking the roots of pear and apple trees at Stow Bedon in March.

A big increase in numbers in the lower Bure Valley has followed the near-extirmination of the Coypu. It would be interesting to determine how far the two species are antipathetic.

Long-tailed Field Mouse or Wood Mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*)

In general this species seems to be maintaining its numbers, though a decrease is recorded from some areas around Norwich (though Keswick reports an increase) and at Cranworth.

The above-mentioned owl pellet analysis (see Shrews and Voles) gives a maximum of 35 per cent and a minimum of 3·5 per cent, while other work on Barn Owls and Tawny Owls in the Holt area shows this species as the commonest of all. 18 were caught in a fruit store at Watton (see Bank Vole).

Harvest Mouse (*Micromys minutus*)

The records are mainly, though not entirely, from North Norfolk and the Broads. A nest with six young was found by a dog on the edge of a salt marsh. Five or six specimens were seen in cornfields near Watton during the harvest. One was found in a water tank near Attlebridge, was revived and kept in captivity. Harvest Mice were present (up to 7·9 per cent) in some of the Barn Owl pellets analysed from North Norfolk.

House Mouse (*Mus musculus*)

Not many observers sent information on this creature. My impression is that they are not such a pest as they used to be, though still present in most places. They occurred in Barn Owl pellets—from the country, it should be noted—up to 10·7 per cent.

One recorder came across a House Mouse stuck in a ventilator grate after having a meal. "It stuck so fast a large pull had to be applied before it came out".

Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)

This animal is still very common in most areas, but the numbers dropped in the early months of 1964 from the almost plague proportions of 1963, recovering somewhat in the autumn. There was a sudden and widespread increase in road casualties in the Norwich–Surlingham area in early Dec. Rats were present in the Barn Owl pellets referred to above (Shrews, Voles and Mice), and at Caister they represented 57 per cent. It is not known why they should have formed such a large proportion there.

In Jan., rats were found gnawing reed shoots in the stubble after mowing both at Wheatfen and Horsey. A piebald female was found in Norwich in January. There have been no reports of the Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*) from the old habitats in Yarmouth.

Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris leucorus*)

There is no shortage of Red Squirrels in Norfolk. They are reported from sites too numerous to mention, and in only one has there been any sign of a decrease. Around Holt they are more common than for many years—perhaps because several areas of Forestry Commission pines

produced large supplies of cones for the first time. More than one observer has commented on the number run over by cars in Breckland; 19 were noted by one. At Caistor St. Edmunds five dreys of various sizes were seen, all in pines (this is, of course, the usual site for a Red Squirrel drey—Grey Squirrels prefer deciduous trees). There have been no substantiated records of the latter species (*Sciurus carolinensis*) this year.

Coypu (*Myocastor coypus*)

There is no doubt that there has been a moderate recovery from the near-extinction at the beginning of 1963. In central Norfolk several contributors saw none during the year, but a few have survived in the upper Yare and its tributaries. The main stronghold is still, of course, the Broads, where there has been a small encroachment into areas which had been cleared, e.g. the marshes between Breydon and the Bure. There was renewed intensive trapping in the autumn, however, and by the end of the year there were few left in the Yare valley. Seven were found dead during the year on the road between Yarmouth and the Stracey Arms.

In other parts of the County there has also been some sign of recovery. Coypus have been moving back into disinfested parts of North Norfolk, including Cley and Holkham.

Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

Foxes were plentiful in 1964. They moved into areas where they had been either rare or absent before, especially north of Yarmouth. Tracks were abundant in the snow around Holt. Farmers in various parts of the County organised shoots and dug out earths; 40 were shot at Great Snoring between the end of pheasant shooting and April, and a number of shot foxes were handled by a Norwich taxidermist. Increased populations are reported from Witchingham, Stoke Holy Cross and Stanford Battle Area.

A fox shot near Yarmouth was found to have the left hind leg $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. shorter than the right, and half the pad was missing. The bone had broken, impacted and reset itself. A 21 lb. dog fox, 4 ft. 2 in. long from nose to tip of tail, was run over near Horsford in October. The stomach contents of one shot near Thornage included several species of fungi.

Badger (*Meles meles*)

This animal maintains its somewhat precarious existence in the County. A dead boar had been hung up on a tree near Pretty Corner on 15th March, and another was killed on the road at Northrepps. However, sets were reported as inhabited in at least four localities, and others may well be closely guarded secrets. It would seem that this is still necessary, as many hands are turned against our tiny population.

Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

Two observers report that otters have increased at Horsey, where three were seen playing in January. There are a few records, including

successful breeding, from other parts of the Broads, and also the Wensum, where an adult male was caught in a coypu trap on 10th Oct. and subsequently released. Another region where they are occasionally seen is Stanford Battle Area. In North Norfolk there were fewer records than in 1963, one was fishing Holme Broadwater July 9th.

A 20 lb. young male otter was found dead on the Buxton–Aylsham road in January, and the tracks of a wild one were seen in the snow near Oxnead Hall, where a female otter was in captivity.

Stoat (*Mustela erminea stabilis*)

Stoats in ermine were one of the highlights this year. Several perfect or near-perfect ones were seen in North Norfolk, where the keepers report that numbers are increasing generally. Ermine specimens were also seen at Attlebridge, Aylsham and in Thetford Chase in Jan., and at Wramplingham, Swannington and Haddiscoe (hunting rats) in Feb.

Although they were scarcer than for many years at Wheatfen, the general impression is that there has been some recovery from the very low numbers following myxomatosis. Eight were seen on a keeper's gibbet at Tattersett, and a further eight were counted dead on the Acle New Road during the year.

Weasel (*Mustela nivalis*)

These are still much commoner than stoats in North Norfolk, and probably elsewhere. Most contributors report seeing a few during the year; in Watton the road casualties were down to six. There were no records of any unusual colour forms.

Mink (*Mustela vison*)

Only one was reported during the year: at Santon Downham.

Feral Domestic Cat (*Felis domesticus*)

The one record of wild cats comes from Horsford, where they are stated to be continuing to increase, living in trees and old rabbit holes. There may well be others—there are certainly many cats about which live lives only tenuously connected with a human habitation.

Seals

The number of Common Seals (*Phoca vitulina*) on Scroby Sands was variously estimated as between 120 and 200 in June, and on 25th nine pups were seen. There was, however, a high rate of mortality. It is reported that there is now a process whereby the skins of this species can be used commercially. There was some attempt at shooting on Scroby, but the gunners shot only six animals, being deterred by naturalists and boatmen, who take visitors there to see the seals. At Hunstanton, on the other hand, 8 adults and 30 pups were washed ashore dead on July 24th.

Common seals can, of course, be seen at many points on the Norfolk coast, especially where there are inaccessible sand banks where they can haul out, as at Blakeney Point.

The Atlantic Grey Seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) again bred on Scroby, where 12 pups were seen for certain. The population peak in the winter months was estimated at 300, but observation was made difficult by the weather. A Grey Seal pup was born on Gorleston Beach in Dec., but did not survive.

Deer

Only a few records were sent in. The Red Deer (*Cervus elephus*) and the Roe (*Capreolus capreolus*) can both be seen, and apparently much more easily than formerly, in the Thetford Chase area. One of the latter was noticed crossing the Norwich-Fakenham road on the outskirts of Hellesdon by P. Wayre, who assures me that it was not one of his own! A possible Red Deer was seen grazing with a herd of cows at Great Snoring, and another was killed on the road at Kilverstone on Nov. 30th.

The Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*) lives and is occasionally shot around Felthorpe and Horsford. Two large bucks of the dark variety which were shot early in the year both had one antler broken off. There have been no records of the Muntjac Deer (*Muntiacus reevesi*).

Common Porpoise (*Phocaena phocaena*)

These were numerous from Aug. onwards off Cley and Yarmouth. Most records, however, are of dead specimens including two very young, one 3 ft., the other 2 ft. 4 in., with no evident external injuries, on Yarmouth Beach in early Dec.; one at Breydon, Dec. 29th; one about 3 ft. long, badly gashed, on Hunstanton Beach, Dec. 28th; and singly at Sea Palling, Jan. 5th; East Runton, Mar. 12th and Holkham, Aug. 24th.

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Norfolk Naturalists Trust

Properties, 31st December, 1964

<i>Date Acquired</i>		<i>Acreage</i>		<i>Status*</i>
<i>On the Coast</i>				
1926	Cley Marshes	435	Gift	S.S.S.I.
1937	Duchess's Pightle, Burnham Overy..	1	Gift	—
1937	Great and Little Eye, Salthouse ..	10	Purchased	S.S.S.I.
1945	East End of Scolt Island	76	Purchased	N.N.R.
1955	The Eye, Salthouse	21	Purchased	S.S.S.I.
<i>Broadland</i>				
1928	Starch Grass, Martham	26	Purchased	S.S.S.I.
1930	Alderfen Broad	72	Purchased	S.S.S.I.
1945	Hickling Broad	715	Purchased	N.N.R.
1945	" "	500	Leased	N.N.R.
1945	Barton Broad	347	Half Gift &	S.S.S.I.
1952	" "		Half Purchased	
1948	Surlingham Broad	253	Purchased	P.N.N.R.
1949	Ranworth Broad	124	Gift	N.N.R.
1949	Cockshoot Broad	12	Gift	N.N.R.
<i>Breckland</i>				
1938	East Wretham Heath	362	Purchased	S.S.S.I.
1942	Weeting Heath	343	Gift	N.N.R.
1949	Thetford Heath	243	Gift	N.N.R.
<i>Other Areas</i>				
1929	'Blo Norton Wood	$\frac{1}{2}$	Gift	S.S.S.I.
1929	Dial House and Allotment, Brancaster	1	Gift	—
1957	Woods at Thursford	25	Gift	—
1960	Hethel Old Thorn	$\frac{1}{8}$	Gift	—
1961	Scarning Fen	$10\frac{1}{2}$	Gift	S.S.S.I.
1962	Hockham Fen (Cranberry Rough) ..	20	Purchased	S.S.S.I.
1963	Roydon Common	140	Purchased	S.S.S.I.
1964	Firs Marsh, Burgh St. Peter.. ..	$2\frac{1}{2}$	Leased	—

In addition, the Trust shares with the National Trust in the management of the coastal reserve at Blakeney Point (1,335 acres), and it manages Arnold's Marsh, Cley (29 acres) on behalf of the National Trust.

By agreement with the Nature Conservancy, Scolt Head Island, Ranworth Broad, Hickling Broad, and the Breckland Heaths now form part of the National Nature Reserves.

*Status: N.N.R. denotes National Nature Reserve
 P.N.N.R. ,, Proposed National Nature Reserve
 S.S.S.I. ,, Site of Special Scientific Interest

Norfolk Naturalists Trust

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