

NORFOLK

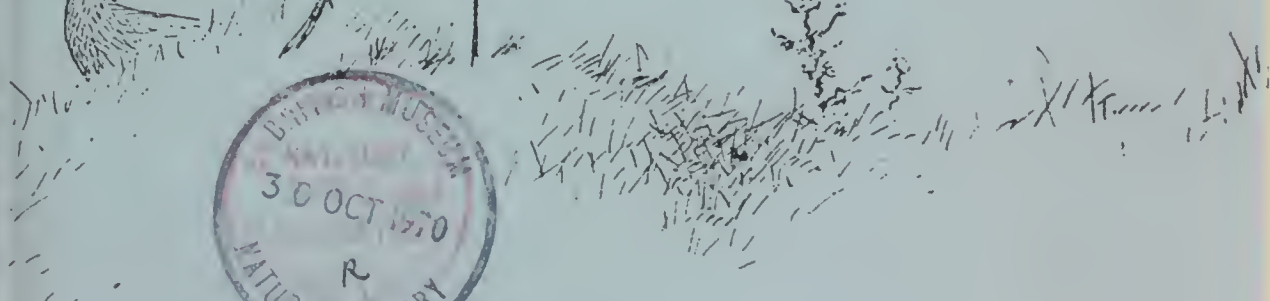
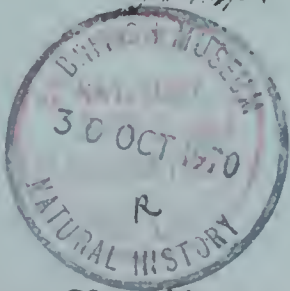
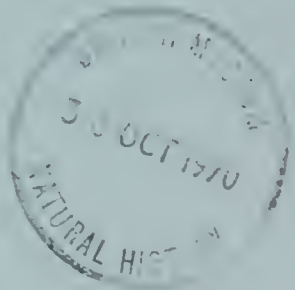
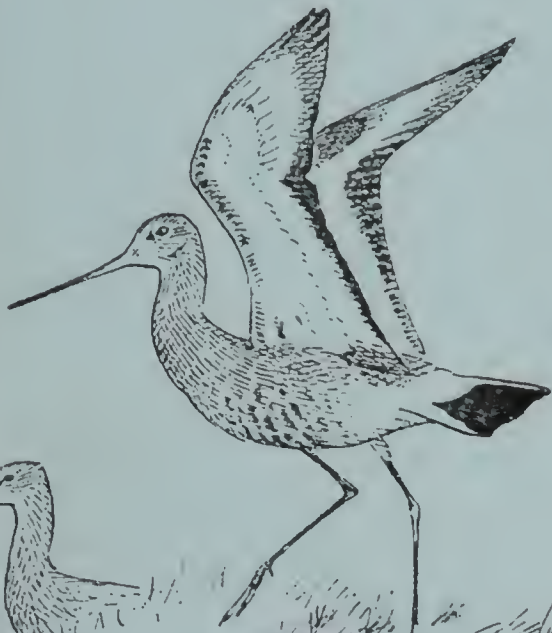
BIRD

&

MAMMAL

REPORT

1965



Published by The Norfolk Naturalists Trust
and The Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists Society
Transactions 20 (5)

*The *NORFOLK NATURALISTS TRUST*, the first of its kind in Great Britain, was founded in 1926 for the purpose of acquiring by purchase or gift, those properties in Norfolk and on the Suffolk border, requiring protection as nature reserves, and to hold these in perpetuity. Amongst the properties now administered are Hickling, Barton, Ranworth and Surlingham Broads, Cley Marshes, and parts of Breckland. A full list of Trust properties appears on page 312.

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 & Manual Report*.

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



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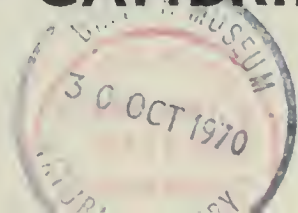
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MAMMAL REPORT
1965***

Published by

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Telephone: 25540

and

THE NORFOLK & NORWICH NATURALISTS' SOCIETY
Castle Museum, Norwich

*Transactions of The Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society,
Volume 20 Part 5*



Norfolk Bird Report - 1965

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Norfolk Mammal Report - 1965

Edited by

P. R. BANHAM

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Norfolk Bird Report

1965

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: January was relatively mild compared with the two preceding years, particularly 1963. As a result, wildfowl totals were not impressive apart from an assembly of 200 eiders at Brancaster. 25 bean geese returned to the Yare valley, but white-fronted geese further declined to a maximum of 207. A total of 2,400 brents wintered between Morston and Brancaster.

As in 1964, southern and eastern vagrants again attracted attention in spring. Among the rare and scarce migrants were purple heron, green-winged teal, red-crested pochard, Kentish plover, 8 avocets, blue-headed and grey-headed wagtails all at Cley; red-footed falcon at Mundesley; hoopoe, grey-headed wagtail and woodchat all at Holme; crane at Hickling; hoopoe and woodchat at Holkham; dotterel at Scolt Head and black-winged stilts in Broadland and at Holme. The first four days of May were also notable for a movement of black terns. Weather maps indicate that these birds were deflected to the west of their normal route in light easterly winds and overcast.

Among the more interesting breeding records were 2,750 pairs of Sandwich terns and 1,500 pairs of common terns on the coast; 365 adult great crested grebes and 290 pairs of herons. Little ringed plovers summered at four sites, but no black redstarts are known to have reared young. Montagu's harriers made a most welcome return and four young reached the free-flying stage. At Blakeney Point, common gulls nested, unsuccessfully, for the first time. Quail records, though fewer than in 1964, came from 13 localities. Corncrakes bred at Wrampingham.

Autumn wader highlights were a second stilt-sandpiper and 3 red-necked phalaropes at Wisbech S.F; another red-necked phalarope and 2 pectoral sandpipers at Cley; buff-breasted sandpiper at Thornham; and also dotterels and Temminck's stints. The last week of August produced two outstanding rarities: the first black-eared wheatear for the county and the first serin since 1922.

The early days of September were exciting and remarkable numbers of exhausted Scandinavian migrants reached the Norfolk coast. The weather situation was typical of the conditions coastal bird-watchers hope for at this season when the southward movement of the north European migrants reaches a peak: a depression in the southern North Sea and fine anticyclonic conditions dominating Scandinavia. Leaving the Continent in good weather, an "avalanche" of migrants then met overcast skies, heavy rain and east to north-east winds which swept them westwards, towards our eastern seaboard. The main "fall" was on the 3rd and every coastal parish in the county became populated with great numbers of redstarts and wheatears. There were also many whinchats and garden

warblers but—on the north coast—comparatively few pied flycatchers. At least 20 bluethroats, several barred warblers and siskins, 2 aquatic warblers and 2 icterine warblers were reported together with over 130 wrynecks which were the main feature of the movement. Another feature of this great “fall” was that many migrants were slow to move on, remaining in the coastal areas several days. Pied flycatchers spread inland to Norwich. Many birds were killed by traffic. Full details of the “rush” in the Cley and Holme areas appear on pages 259 and 267. Daily observations during this period are also available from Winterton Nature Reserve where several hundred wheatears were present at dawn September 4th, almost all departing that night. Vast numbers of redstarts were present well over 1,000 being estimated with over 500 pied flycatchers, 150 spotted flycatchers, good numbers of garden warblers and lesser whitethroats, up to 5 wrynecks daily between 3rd and 13th and a barred warbler. A feature of the 5th at Winterton was a large southerly movement of house martins, accompanied by some sand martins and swallows. A total of 138 birds of 19 species was ringed at Winterton (by GRS) including 44 willow warblers, 24 redstarts, 15 pied flycatchers and 6 spotted flycatchers.

Bearded tits made news in the autumn when Dutch ringed birds were caught in other parts of the country. “High flying” was observed at Winterton Dunes Sept. 14th when 6 flew south at good height. They soon returned (calling continuously) and flying at some 300 feet following the coastline in a northerly direction until out of sight. Much restlessness was noted at Cley in mid-Sept.

Interesting October migrants included Alpine swift, yellow-browed warbler, red-breasted flycatchers, tawny pipits, honey buzzard and woodchat; a wave of goldcrests descended on the coast on the 19th. Fieldfares arrived early and in large numbers. But the main feature was the waxwing invasion, one of the earliest and certainly the largest for a great many years. November was notable for a small inland invasion of shags (6 arrived in the centre of Norwich) and an immense passage of kittiwakes along the north coast on 21st. The year closed with reports of 2 black-bellied dippers.

244 full species were recorded in the county during the year. Since 1955 this figure has only been exceeded once (245 in 1960).

Unusual nest sites: included a red-legged partridge's 14 feet from the ground in a large box bush at Tottington; 13 chicks hatched and reached the ground safely. A wood pigeon was also nesting in the same bush. At Hethersett, great tits nested in a petrol pump whilst a pair of robins built a nest in a house at Hellesdon using the lounge pelmet as a platform. A moorhen at Brundall laid 5 eggs on the stern drive of a Broads cruiser. Hedge sparrows at Horsey built their nest in an old bullfinches' nest. At a Surlingham garage a wren furnished an entirely new swallow's nest with dead leaves and moss forcing the swallows to make a fresh start elsewhere. House martins again reared late broods: at Swannington young were still in the nest Oct. 10th and at Dereham a brood took wing on the 24th. On this late date a nest of young song thrushes was photographed at Neatishead.

Road casualties along a five-mile stretch of the A47 between Gt. Yarmouth and “Stracey Arms” totalled 55 birds, as follows: 10 black-headed gulls, 2 partridges, 4 mallard, 2 rooks, 4 swallows, 4 barn owls, 2 redwing, 18 moorhens, 2 mute

swans and single lapwing, fieldfare, common gull, goldfinch, house sparrow, sand martin and brambling.

Acknowledgements: We are indebted to R. A. Richardson for the cover drawing of black-tailed godwits, for other illustrations and for his annual summary covering migration and distribution in the Cley district; also to R. Jones and the *Yarmouth Mercury* for photographs; to Holme Bird Observatory; to the Norfolk Naturalists Trust Wardens at Cley-Salthouse (W. F. Bishop) and at Hickling (G. E. Bishop and the late E. Piggin); to R. H. Harrison (Scroby and Breydon); to the National Trust (Blakeney Point); to the Nature Conservancy (Scolt Head); to G. Crees (Horsey); to the 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. A. Dorling for compiling the annual record cards; to Miss A. Goff for valuable assistance and to all other contributors.

Recording: Records for the 1966 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 (c.g. the Breck, Fens and Wash). In order to minimise the work involved, records will not normally be acknowledged. The names of all the 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: "Breeding status of the black redstart in Gt. Britain" (*British Birds*, Vol. 58 pp. 481-492); "Aspects of spring migration, 1965" (*Bird Study*, Vol. 12 pp. 319-345); "The fulmar population of Britain and Ireland, 1959" (*Bird Study*, Vol. 13 pp. 5-76) and "A census of the great crested grebe in Britain, 1965" (*Bird Study*, Vol. 13 pp. 163-203).

Scroby Sands

Attempts at landing on Scroby during June and the first half of July by the ringing group were unsuccessful owing the strong winds and rain. However, between 250 and 300 Sandwich terns' nests were reported. A visit to the sandbank July 19th revealed a number of young terns some of which had almost reached the free flying stage despite a summer of largely adverse weather with very high tides during late June. On this occasion 62 young Sandwich terns and 40 young common terns were ringed. Several nests containing eggs of both species were still in evidence. No further landings in July were possible.

Scroby Island is rapidly diminishing in size, decreasing by at least half between mid-summer 1964 and 1965. The original island had become circular by July 1965 and a sandbank had formed to the north-west with a quarter-mile channel between the two islands. This new section was estimated as being 3½

miles long at low tide and extending from Yarmouth to California. By the end of the year the main island had shrunk to an area only 150 yards long and 60 yards wide at high tide. At low water it was double this size.



* *Breydon Water*

Although the year was rather uneventful, surprises included over 80 short-eared owls throughout January, a total of 6 spoonbills, avocets and considerable herds of Bewick's swans:

January: The impressive short-eared owl population remained all month with at least 80 using the two roosts discovered the previous autumn. White-fronted geese again frequented Halvergate marshes but the maximum of 207 recorded on 17th was the smallest for many years. Bewick's swans were seen on several dates, both to the north and south of the estuary where they found flooded marshes much to their liking. A peak of 48 were on Burgh Castle level on 11th. On the 10th 16 kestrels were seen and 5 smew were on the Bure. On the 17th 9 pink-footed geese were noted and wigeon reached a peak of 427, shelduck 384 and pintail 52 with 2 goosanders on the Bure. In the last days of the month 25 bean geese which had been feeding higher up the valley paid a short visit to Breydon. A bittern was at Berney on 31st.

February: A green woodpecker was on the North wall on 5th and 15 short-eared owls remained on 6th. Next day a maximum count of 50 Lapland buntings was made. The last 62 white-fronted geese departed on 21st and the same day 14 whooper swans put in an appearance. 35 Bewick's swans remained on Burgh Castle marshes until the 11th. On the 5th, over 75 cormorants were present.

* The following noteworthy Breydon observations were received too late for inclusion in the above summary: Up to 180 snow buntings and 30 corn buntings until the end of Feb., 31 pink-footed geese Jan. 31st, 96 cormorants Feb. 5th and 2 scoters between 23rd and 28th. Pintail peaked at 77 March 7th when hen-harrier, ruff and red-throated diver were all noted. 2 bearded tits were at Berney March 13th with kingfisher and avocet next day and black-tailed godwit and spotted redshank both on 28th. On April 3rd 2 black-tailed godwits, 12 ruffs and black redstart were recorded with 18 ruffs next day and another avocet with a pair of garganey on 6th.

March: 7 short-eared owls remained at Berney on 6th and a great spotted woodpecker paid a visit to a garden there. Noteworthy on 10th were 8 garganey on the Bure and on 14th 34 Bewick's swans passed through. An avocet arrived on 25th followed by the first wheatear three days later. A short-eared owl was being mobbed by lapwings on 31st.

April: Among the interesting wildfowl were 38 Bewick's swans on 4th and pintail, tufted and pochard all on 8th. On the same day 20 ruffs arrived remaining until 14th. During this period greenshank arrived and a jack snipe was present on 13th. The first swallow passed on 10th with yellow wagtail on 11th. By the 25th 3 spoonbills had arrived and on the last day of the month 30 bar-tailed godwits and 3 black-tailed godwits were present.

May: On the 2nd 9 black terns were seen and 4 were over the Bure, 30 late fieldfares had gathered at Stokesby, 3 garganey arrived with 12 ruffs (3 in breeding plumage), 6 grey plover and 20 whimbrel. Next day 16 black terns were noted. The first swift arrived on 6th and the ruffs remained until the 7th. Another avocet appeared on 9th and the following day an escaped Chilean flamingo departed when flooded off by the tide. Bar-tailed godwits were present all month with a peak of 41 on 2nd. On the 11th 10 turnstones and 51 whimbrel passed through followed by 11 black-tailed godwits and 24 grey plover (16 in breeding plumage) on 12th. 7 turnstones were noted next day together with wood sandpiper, 4 black-tailed godwits, 16 greenshank and a late hooded crow. Over 250 ringed plover were present on 16th when 22 oystercatchers were counted. The first brood of shelduck was afloat on 29th.



June: A spoonbill remained a week from the 8th and late Northern waders were little stints and 9 grey plover on 13th. A pair of barn owls reared young in a derelict mill. Little terns were present all month; mute swans again enjoyed a good year. Fewer mallard bred on the marshes and broods were smaller than usual doubtless due to the cold, wet, spring. Shoveler continued to increase as breeding birds and the first nest was found April 4th. A duck shoveler with 9 ducklings was seen early in the month. There was a further decrease in breeding lapwing and redshank again outnumbered them. An attempt by oystercatchers to nest on Duffel's Rond was unsuccessful, but nests on the fresh-marshes included 2 at Burgh Castle.

July: This was a very quiet time apart from spotted redshank and whimbrel both on the 8th.

August: An unusual visitor on 9th was an Arctic skua and on the same day 4 great crested grebes appeared. 4 green sandpipers arrived on 16th with 2 grey plovers still in breeding plumage. Single spoonbills were noted on 4 occasions and greenshank were frequently seen with 10 on 5th. On 22nd the first wigeon arrived with 3 spotted redshank. 20 herons were counted on 25th when 11 ruffs were present and 27 oystercatchers were noted 2 days later. A single scaup on 28th and short-eared owl ended an interesting month.

September: A white wagtail appeared on 5th. Dunlin, ringed plover and curlew were down in numbers, but among them were 2 curlew-sandpipers and a spotted redshank on 2nd, little stint on 4th and 3 more little stint on 12th. A spoonbill arrived on the same day. Up to 12 common sandpipers were present. 30 grey plover on 16th had decreased to 24 on 26th when an avocet was new and the first 6 adult shelduck returned.

October: The first jack snipe and twites arrived on 3rd whilst a late wheatear was present for 3 week-ends. The first 16 white-fronted geese came on 19th; over 100 golden plover spent most of the month on the adjoining marshes. On 23rd 35 grey plover were counted and cormorants totalled 47 by 23rd. 9 Bewick's swans were new on 27th.

November: An exceptionally late whimbrel was present on 7th. Jack snipe were found in good numbers along the Bure and dunlin reached 3,000 by 15th. 300 shelduck and 160 mute swans had assembled and 200 snow buntings fed on stubble close to the estuary.

December: Numbers of white-fronted geese were extremely low and 65 on 12th was the maximum. Mute swans peaked at 195 on 26th. 60 Bewick's swans arrived on 14th remaining over a week. 100 snow buntings were still present and a spotted redshank stayed from 14th to 21st. Shelduck reached a peak of 316 and 300 great black-backed gulls frequented the nearby refuse tip. More golden plover than usual were seen, but despite frosty weather the numbers of wigeon failed to pass 400.

Spare Reports

Members of both the Norfolk Naturalists Trust and the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists Society are requested to pass their second copy of the *Norfolk Bird and Mammal Report* to a friend in the hope of interesting more people in the work of both organisations and perhaps encouraging them to join either the Trust or the Society.



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Although the Yarmouth herring fishing industry has suffered a disastrous decline great numbers of greater black-backed and herring gulls continue to arrive here from late summer onwards. Terneries and gulleries provide easy food and throughout the autumn and winter a great many scavenge on refuse tips returning to the coast to roost. With the disappearance of Seroby Sands, however, many of these large gulls will be forced to roost either on Breydon Water or the larger Broads. Information on new roosting sites will be welcomed. This Yarmouth fish wharf scene may soon be only a memory.

Yarmouth Mercury



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Increasing numbers of woodcock breed in woodlands in north Norfolk (especially between Overstrand and Holkham); at ten Broadland localities; in certain central districts including Ringland and Honingham and in the west between Wormegay and Sandringham. In the Breckland stronghold "outskirt" localities include Snetterton, Thompson, West Acre and Feltwell. A recent nest at Thorpe St. Andrew was within a mile of the city of Norwich boundary.

R. Jones

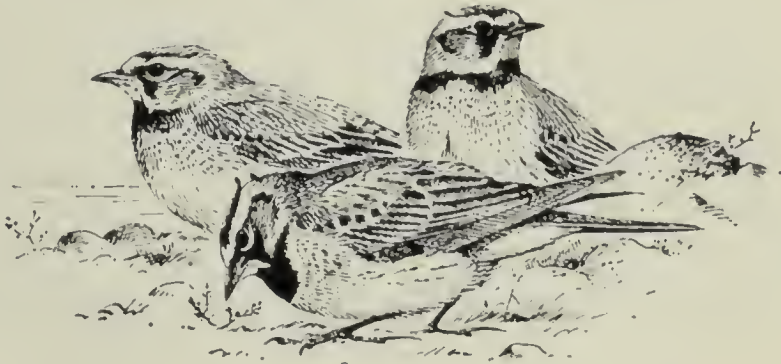
Cley and Salthouse

(*Norfolk Naturalists Trust*)

The event of the year was the large-scale influx of Scandinavian "drift" migrants early in September. The Western black-eared wheatear which obligingly remained at Salthouse for a fortnight was an addition to the County List. Details of the year's highlights appear in the following summary:

January: The great grey shrike which arrived Oct. 3rd, 1964, remained on Salthouse Heath until almost the end of April: 2 ruffs were present all month: a puffin was dead on the beach on 23rd and next day a long-tailed duck appeared, remaining until June 5th.

February: Surprise waders included little stint on 7th, greenshank on 22nd and spotted redshank on 23rd. Further dead puffins were found on 7th and 10th. A great grey shrike had a linnet impaled on a thorn at Walsey Hills on 14th. A merlin was new on 16th and an adult Iceland gull between 14th and 24th.



March: Notable were velvet scoters on 6th and peregrine at Morston on 9th. During the second week many presumed Scandinavian blackbirds were in coastal fields. The first drake garganey arrived on 20th, with 2 black-tailed godwits and 5 ruffs on 23rd, wheatear on 25th, chiffchaff on 28th and sand martins, Sandwich terns and swallow all on 29th. An avocet appeared on 30th.

April: The month began with 4 (3 drake) garganey and a new white ruff. A marsh harrier appeared on 2nd, black-tailed godwit on 3rd and 6 pink-footed geese, white wagtails and an early sedge warbler on 4th. An influx of ruffs on 5th made a total of at least 40 including a lame reeve; 4 black-tailed godwits were on view. The first willow warbler and yellow wagtail arrived on 6th. A marsh harrier was over the sea pool on 6th. A spectacular influx of ruffs (at least 60 to 70) arrived on 10th/11th alternating between the marsh and the newly-sown cornfield on the south side of the coast road. 100 Sandwich terns had assembled by 11th and 200 next day. A redstart was new on 11th, house martins on 13th, nightingale (at Wiveton) and Manx shearwater eastward on 14th and common terns on 15th (when 6 ring ousels at Kelling) and the first 2 green sandpipers.

Sandwich terns had increased to 250 by 16th, 5 Brent geese headed west, a tree pipit was at Kelling Heath and a black redstart at Salthouse. A drake green-winged teal was identified on 17th (perhaps the same bird which stayed 5 days in April 1964); also first reed warblers. Wood sandpiper, late redwings and snow bunting were all recorded on 18th; an escaped Chilean flamingo and red-necked grebe on 19th, 500 Sandwich terns on 20th and whitethroat on 21st. The first whimbrel headed west on 24th, little terns and a little gull arrived whilst 19 shore-larks lingered at Weybourne. A spotted redshank was new on 25th, also white wagtail and 2 Continental robins were identified on 27th when 6 black-tailed godwits present. An early nightjar reached Salthouse Heath on 30th when an osprey was over The Hood.

May: The first swift and 12 black terns appeared on 1st; also 3 late fieldfares. Next day with continuing south-east winds an osprey headed east, the first common sandpiper, curlew-sandpipers (2) and turtle doves arrived; 100 black terns moved east and late shore-lark and hooded crow were noted. The osprey reappeared on 3rd, also 5 bar-tailed godwits, 2 wood sandpipers and 3 curlew-sandpipers (one in full red); only 3 to 4 black terns remained.

A marsh harrier headed west on 4th when 3 wood sandpipers, Greenland wheatears and 4 black terns were recorded. Grey plover, curlew-sandpiper and spotted redshank were new on 5th, also a "hepatic" cuckoo west. Among the ruffs was one in perfect black and ginger plumage. 18 whimbrel arrived on 7th leaving north-east soon afterwards. Next day there was an immense westward passage of linnets, sand martins and swifts (the latter concentrated along the shingle ridge). A hen Montagu's harrier passed through and 2 avocets were in the Glaven New Cut.

Arrivals on 9th included merlin, corncrake on Salthouse Heath and shore-lark at the Point. The very heavy westward passage of swifts, swallows, sand martins and linnets continued on 10th when a red-backed shrike arrived at Muckleburgh Hill; 2 vagrants arrived: an immature purple heron and a female red-crested pochard. The first garden warbler was not recorded until the 11th. A marked passage of Northern waders on 12th included grey plovers, 6 black-tailed godwits, 7 "black" spotted redshanks, greenshank and over 50 ruffs. The first little stint arrived on 13th with 2 black terns; a collared dove and a pied flycatcher was on the Point. A male red-headed bunting was seen on 14th—the hen Montagu's harrier's seventh day here. The 15th was interesting with red-necked grebe, little ringed plover, little stint, 30 reeves, spotted redshank, little gull and 80 turtle doves west; a further 50 turtle doves moved west in the early morning on 16th when a late fieldfare and a wryneck noted. Another little gull and 2 Northern golden plovers appeared on 19th and on 21st 2 female Kentish plovers were on Arnold's marsh, a very heavy westward passage of turtle doves till 10.00 hours and a black redstart was picked up dead on the Coast Road.

A spoonbill headed west on 26th, another little stint on 27th, the red-crested pochard was still present on 30th with a little gull on 31st.

June: A male grey-headed wagtail graced Cley on 1st, with a drake scaup on 3rd, 8 avocets on 8th/9th and a spoonbill and an escaped Chilean flamingo on 9th. One avocet remained on 10th (but 7 at Gibraltar Point). The spoonbill re-

appeared on 12th and the 7 avocets returned. Two more flamingos arrived on 14th, but only 4 of the 8 avocets were present. A spoonbill was again present on 15th. The 4 avocets departed eastward on 19th and one of the 3 flamingos moved westward on 20th. Three avocets were back on 21st, with a "black" spotted redshank on 24th, hen Montagu's harrier on 25th and an osprey west on 28th.

Although one or 2 bitterns appeared from time to time including one June 4th, none nested. A large number of bearded tits spent Jan. and Feb. following the reed-cutting machine; over 20 pairs bred and by the end of the summer young were abundant. Restlessness was first noted Sept. 11th and a rapid decrease began in the first days of Oct. Breeding ducks were mallard, shoveler, gadwall, garganey, teal and 2 pairs of wigeon. Redshank, 12 pairs of common terns, 14 pairs of little terns, 10 pairs of oystercatchers, ringed plovers and snipe nested, together with 120 pairs of black-headed gulls on the North Drain marsh.

July: 29 shelduck headed east (doubtless on moult migration) on 6th and the first Arctic skua was over the Point next day. A little ringed plover was new on 8th, whimbrel from 10th and a first-summer common tern on 14th (the same time as last year). Scandinavian lesser black-backed gulls arrived on 16th. Next day a spectacular arrival of Sandwich terns was recorded, including many juveniles totalling at least 300 birds. At least 300 kittiwakes assembled on Arnold's Marsh on 18th, a Mediterranean gull headed west and the last flamingo departed westward. The first curlew-sandpiper reappeared on 24th and other waders arriving during the last week of the month were 40 red knot, 30 golden plovers, whimbrel, 4 red curlew-sandpipers, greenshank, 7 black-tailed godwits, little stint, wood and green sandpipers and 3 purple sandpipers (on 31st). The first razorbill with its half-grown chick was fishing off Cley on 31st.

August: 14 Arctic skuas appeared on 1st with 15 immigrant kestrels over the marshes next day, a Montagu's harrier on 3rd, 2 black-tailed godwits on 7th, 3 spotted redshank on 9th with 5 more on 13th when a dotterel arrived. An arrival of Scandinavian passerines included whinchats, redstarts, pied flycatchers, garden and willow warblers occurred on 14th when 2 little gulls appeared and an adult Scandinavian lesser black-backed gull with a juvenile soliciting energetically for food. The 15th was good for waders with avocet, red-necked phalarope, purple sandpiper, 16 greenshank, wood sandpiper and 5 spotted redshanks. A big westward passage of Northern waders took place on 17th. 3 little gulls and a purple sandpiper were new on 22nd.

After a north-westerly gale in the night at least 25 Manx shearwaters and several gannets were at sea on 25th, the first great skua was seen, chasing a gannet. The 28th saw an increase in Arctic skuas and gannets including 2 long-tailed skuas at the Point. A heavy westerly passage of whimbrel was noted on 30th and a juvenile spoonbill arrived from the east. Pride of place goes to the male Western black-eared wheatear (black-throated form) discovered at Salt-house on 30th; it remained until Sept. 14th.

September: Rain squalls and a strong northerly wind on 1st brought 6 sooty shearwaters inshore with many gannets and Arctic skuas and 2 little gulls. A good "fall" of Scandinavian drift-migrants occurred on 2nd including 6 wrynecks, icterine and barred warblers, 21 redstarts, 40 wheatears, 4 pied flycatchers, 30 garden warblers and a red-backed shrike all on the Point; also 5 great skuas inshore and a little gull.

The 3rd was a classic day of drift-migration from Scandinavia: mist, drizzle, complete cloud cover and a moderate north-east wind. The Point was alive with migrants, among them 6 bluethroats, 7 wrynecks, a second barred warbler, well over 200 redstarts, many garden warblers and wheatears, also whinchats, pied flycatchers, willow warblers, lesser whitethroats, whitethroats, robins, siskins and tree pipits. 5 black terns and several great skuas were reported, too.

Most of these migrants remained on 4th to recuperate. "New" species were 5 to 7 dotterel on the beach, an aquatic warbler at the Watch-House and 4 bluethroats on Gramborough Hill making the day's total 11. At least 25 to 30 wrynecks between Salthouse and the Point and 3 new barred warblers (2 at Walsey Hills and one in the middle of Cley Marsh). Redstarts and garden warblers were everywhere (500 of each), but very few pied flycatchers and willow warblers involved in this movement. A peregrine headed west and several more black terns; also 4 spotted redshank, 2 ring ouzels and a red-backed shrike.

A hoopoe was on East Bank on 5th and a spotted crane at Salthouse; wrynecks still everywhere—quite unprecedented and still lots of migrants on the Point and in the hinterland. New ruffs and black terns came in. Whinchats arrived in force on 5th and were everywhere along the coast; 2 or 3 red-backed shrikes were on the Point. A sparrowhawk was chasing wheatears on 7th.

A large shoal of small fish close inshore between the Coastguard's Station and East Bank attracted hundreds of terns of 5 species on 9th. They literally gorged themselves into immobility on the shore-line. Most were Sandwich, with a good sprinkling of common, a few Arctic and one roseate; 2 or 3 black terns and 2 little gulls were also present. Between 35 and 40 ruffs appeared on 10th.

A long-tailed skua was new on 11th, 4 little gulls, ring ouzel, wryneck and a little bunting on 12th, another little gull on 15th and 5 more next day. A big influx of swallows was noted on 17th and the first snow bunting arrived next day. 20 great and 20 to 30 Arctic skuas appeared on 19th also the first Lapland bunting with rock pipit next day, when a barred warbler in Walsey Hills (possibly there since Sept. 3rd).

A late swift appeared on 21st and the first goldcrests and many gannets on 23rd. Next morning a heavy house martin passage to south-east into the wind, bearded tits more in evidence than ever before—parties of 15 to 30 and the first immigrant water-rail heard. An immature icterine warbler came in from the sea on 25th, the first autumn hen harrier arrived, 30 black terns headed east and a late swift was recorded. A red-breasted flycatcher was on the Point on 26th when many lapwings arrived from the north-east with bramblings and jack snipe; 70 to 80 black terns passed at sea (mostly westwards but some east), also a late little tern, 11 herons came in from the north-east, a second

icterine warbler was by the Watch-House and a wryneck at Salthouse. Among surprises on 27th were red-necked grebe off the beach, dotterel, Richard's pipit, grasshopper warbler, a third icterine at The Hood, a wryneck, several Arctic, a few great, 4 pomarine and a long-tailed skua and 3 little gulls. New on 28th were 2 little gulls, great and pomarine skuas, redwings and fieldfare. The month ended with 2 little gulls and an adult glaucous gull.

October: Several thousand song thrushes arrived on 1st with many redwings, 4 ring ouzels and 120 bramblings. A black tern and 6 little stints came on 2nd. Excitements on 3rd were 4 late swifts and an Alpine swift and 2 pectoral sandpipers; also present was a ring ouzel and 2 male and 3 to 4 female *flava* wagtails which may have been *thunbergi* or *cinereocapilla*. The males had very slight eyestripes giving a "capped" appearance and with oily yellow underparts and whitish malar area; the females were very creamy-white below and greyish-brown above with whitish eyestripes and throat.

A hoopoe and a short-eared owl came in from the sea on 5th and next day a tawny pipit was on Cley beach with a honey-buzzard on the Heath. One pectoral sandpiper remained until the 7th when 3 to 4 little gulls put in an appearance. A very big arrival of goldcrests and bramblings (700 to 800) occurred on 9th; on the Point were yellow-browed warbler and red-breasted flycatcher and 1 or 2 firecrests. On 10th a great grey shrike was on the Point (catching goldcrests) and another red-breasted flycatcher was found dead on the Point; 2 shore-larks and 1 or 2 merlins appeared. A black redstart was new on 11th and on 12th a great number of young kittiwakes were feeding round the wreck of the "Vera". At sea were 3 velvet scoters, 3 eiders and a black guillemot; a hooded crow moved west. A strong westerly passage of skylark and starlings was noted on 13th; also 2 black-necked grebes at sea and 13 Lapland buntings moved west. The first 9 waxwings arrived at Wiveton, with 2 little gulls on 15th, great skua and Mediterranean gull on 16th and a juvenile spoonbill on 17th when 12 shore-larks were present. 3 Bewick's swans flew west on 18th, an early date. 26 shore-larks had collected by 19th and a Temminck's stint was new; also 5 Bewick's swans eastward and another big arrival of goldcrests with a woodlark at Walsey Hills. A bluethroat was reported on 21st, a great grey shrike on 25th and 7 waxwings came in from the north-east on 29th when there were 7 little gulls.

November: A juvenile common tern appeared on 1st, 2 or 3 little gulls and purple sandpiper on 2nd and 50 snow buntings and 6 to 8 Mealy redpolls on 4th when many starlings and lapwings west. Woodcock arrived on 7th/8th and a spoonbill reappeared on 9th/10th. 11 Bewick's swans were reported on 10th, also 3 ruffs and surprises on 13th included grey phalarope, 4 barnacle geese which came in from the east, and a woodlark on the Point. 17 Bewick's swans headed west in the evening of 14th with 21 more on 15th when a very big arrival and westward passage of lapwings. 2 grey phalaropes were at Salthouse on 16th and late wheatear and chiffchaff on 19th. The 21st was very good with 6 great skuas, 9 Leach's petrels, 2 sooty shearwaters and very many hundreds of kittiwakes passing east inshore all day at 2,000 to 3,000 per hour and comprising 80% immatures. Other birds seen included avocet, 2 little gulls, whooper swan

and peregrine. Thousands of gulls (mostly common gulls) were feeding in the surf as far as the eye could see on 26th. Shag, merlin and red-necked grebe were all new on 27th and the marshes were teeming with ducks—mostly wigeon, with a great many teal and mallard and also shoveler and pintail; 2 long-tailed ducks moved west, also a first-winter Mediterranean gull.

December: Thousands of gulls (again mostly commons) were feeding once more in the breakers on 1st; 5 Bewick's swans appeared on 3rd, 4 velvet scoters on 4th, 18 goldeneye on 6th, 30 white-fronted geese on 8th, great skua and hen harrier on 11th and 8 shore-larks on 19th. A strange gull considered to be of the Siberian race of herring gull *heuglini* was observed on 14th and 19th/20th. 19 Bewick's swans moved east on 28th when 35 shore-larks at Salthouse.

The year closed with a chiffchaff near Walsey Hills and great grey shrike on the Heath.

Blakeney Point

(The National Trust)

During the nesting season a succession of high tides and sand storms resulted in many losses of both nestlings and eggs. Less than a hundred common tern chicks reached the free-flying stage. Ringed plovers, however, produced a number of young. A pair of short-eared owls reared young at Morston. According to the Warden they were responsible for taking "150 adult birds, mainly common terns, and at least 200 chicks".



Sandwich terns arrived April 6th followed by little tern on 8th. The first ringed plover's nest was found April 27th and an oystercatcher had a full clutch by May 2nd. Between 150 and 200 Sandwich terns settled nightly on the New Bank during late April and early May, but storms swept the sea over the shingle and all the birds left.

On the Far Point were 150 nests of common tern, with 100 more on the New Ridge and over 450 nests in the Old Ternery. At the last named site, a pair of common gulls nested and although the three eggs hatched, the chicks later disappeared. This is the first occasion this gull has attempted breeding in the county. Arctic terns reared one young.

High tides in July resulted in many common terns' nests being washed out for the second time. By the end of the month, the surviving young common terns were about to fly when late eggs on the point of hatching were all lost following storms and high tides which swept the ridges for the third time. Through July large numbers of kittiwakes built up to a maximum of 3,000. They favoured the New Ridge. During August late chicks were still being fed; one youngster was being attended by a dozen adults presenting it with fish. By Sept. 1st, three common tern nestlings remained in the ternery; all fledged successfully. A summary of nests appears below:—

Mallard	..	..	..	1	Ringed Plover	..	..	67
Sheld-duck	..	..	..	50	Redshank	..	..	15
Partridge	..	..	..	1	Common Gull	..	..	1
Red-legged Partridge	..	..	..	4	Common Tern	..	..	800
Oystercatcher	..	..	..	84	Arctic Tern	..	..	1
				Little Tern	..	..	..	91



Scolt Head Island
(The Nature Conservancy)

The Breeding Season

If a pair of gadwall thought to have nested did in fact do so, the total of breeding species is 19. The 18 known to have bred comprised short-eared owl (3 chicks reared on The Nod), shelduck, mallard, Canada goose (2 pairs), hedge sparrow, linnnet, skylark, meadow pipit, lapwing, black-headed gull (60 nests), redshank (40 nests), cuckoo, reed bunting, ringed plover and oystercatcher together with common, Sandwich and little terns. 160 ringed plover nests and 240 fledglings were estimated and 110 oystercatcher breeding pairs produced

about 115 chicks, some 6% of the eggs being addled. The greatest number of little terns' nests was 23 and up to 14 chicks were counted. A kestrel was seen to take chicks on nine separate days.

Common terns began nesting on May 13th and nest numbers reached an estimated 460. There were over 600 pairs present, but the cold, wet, weather of early June caused heavy desertions. Predation by short-eared owls and some egg-eating by oystercatchers took place. The first Sandwich tern nests were noted on May 5th; thereafter, numbers increased to 2,000 nests by the end of the month. Some destruction of eggs by oystercatchers was noted but the season was very successful. By early July 4,000 adult Sandwich terns with about 2,400 young were present, and with 3,000 new arrivals between 1st and 8th the total population on Scolt (including flying young) rose to between 8,000 and 9,000 birds. The new arrivals remained in a separate group from the nesting birds and contained no juveniles. Numbers remained at this high level until the 14th. By the 17th the population was down to 4-5,000.

The Year

January-March: Wildfowl numbers generally were up on 1964. Wigeon peaked 3,000 by Jan. 18th after which numbers dropped rapidly to a mere dozen by mid-Feb. Other totals were 200 mallard, 600 shelduck, 100 goldeneye, 800 brent geese while the maximum for eider was 200 on Jan. 29th. Mergansers appeared in ones and twos; a single velvet scoter appeared March 10th. By the end of Jan. knot numbers rose to 1,500. Dunlin remained constant at 1,000 and oystercatchers reached 1,000. Maxima for turnstone, grey plover and bar-tailed godwit were respectively 200, 34 and 70. A slavonian grebe appeared Jan. 15th.

A single spotted redshank was noted constantly until it finally departed April 16th. Another was seen Feb. 6th. 4 snow buntings were present from mid-Jan. increasing a month later to 18. Singles of hen harrier, merlin and short-eared owl appeared at various times, 3 of the latter were seen on three occasions. Hooded crows were mostly singles, but occasional twos and threes were noted. The greatest number of purple sandpipers was 7 (Feb. 26th). March 23rd brought 3 Sandwich terns—an early date when there were 200 turnstones in the harbour.

April-May: 40 Sandwich terns appeared at sea on 1st, on the same day a swallow was flying west and 3 snow buntings remained. Next day brought 5 purple sandpipers. Eider numbers reached 150 in early April. The first common tern and little tern appeared on April 24th and 22nd respectively and 2 roseate terns were seen at sea resting on a piece of wood on 24th. First arrivals included wheatear on 6th, cuckoo on 30th, with a light westerly passage of swallows, sand and house martins on 30th. The 12th brought a pair of gadwall and the 28th an influx of 30 Continental robins.

May opened with 3 black terns flying east on 1st and a single on 2nd. A spotted redshank in breeding dress appeared on 5th, with whitethroats on the two following days. The 11th saw a light passage of swallows to the west and by May 14th 200 birds per hour were passing through. A dotterel was new on 14th. Other notable visitors were 2 Arctic skuas May 5th, a Montagu's harrier

on 7th, 2 buzzards flying west on 21st, a spoonbill on 28th, an immature little gull on 27th and roseate tern on 26th. The greatest number of immature herring and great black-backed gulls was 200.

June-August: The first Arctic skuas arrived July 3rd with a great skua on 5th. Lower numbers of kittiwakes than in 1964 were noted and the peak was 700 July 18th. A roseate tern was seen on four occasions and up to 3 Arctic terns summered but none nested, a spoonbill was flying west June 8th with single black terns on July 3rd and 20th. 2,000 oystercatchers were seen June 6th but only a few hundred were present for the rest of the period until Aug. 28th when 1,000 had assembled. Eastward evening flights of shelduck on moult migration were recorded June 20th (total of 37) and July 2nd (45). Aug. produced only the more common waders including up to 600 curlew, 20 to 30 whimbrel, 180 bar-tailed godwits (on 27th), single greenshank, 150 turnstones, 40 sanderling and 50 grey plovers.

September-December: The first few days of Sept. brought a marsh harrier, followed by wheatears, whinchats, many redstarts, whitethroats, lesser white-throats, willow warblers, spotted and pied flycatchers. Other arrivals were 2 wrynecks, 2 bluethroats, siskin and barred warbler. 15 whimbrel appeared on 2nd, 3 spotted redshank on 3rd with 5 black terns on 20th and a pomarine skua on 24th. 2 short-eared owls were present on 4 days and 2 red-breasted mergansers appeared on 26th. The first brent geese (5) arrived Sept. 27th. Fieldfares, song thrushes and redwings arrived in numbers during the last few days which also witnessed a further passage of wheatears, whinchats, redstarts, whitethroats and 2 ring ouzels. These movements continued into the first days of Oct.

A snow bunting appeared Oct. 1st with a single marsh harrier and 3 short-eared owls on 3rd and 4 ring ouzels on 6th. Interesting Nov. visitors included over 400 kittiwakes off-shore on 2nd, woodcock on 3rd and Lapland bunting, merlin, 3 shore-larks, 3 mealy redpolls and 15 snow buntings (increasing to 20 on 22nd) all on 8th. Wigeon peaked 3,000 on 19th and 29th, brent geese 600, teal 2,000, goldeneye 30 and shelduck 300. Red-breasted mergansers appeared occasionally in small numbers.

December saw arrivals of shag, snow buntings (maximum of 35) and singles of spotted redshank, purple sandpiper and great skua (on 30th). Up to 7 short-eared owls appeared, eiders peaked 30 and brent geese 600.

Holme Bird Observatory

A total of 1,505 birds of 70 species were ringed at Holme during 1965, including 2 greenshank, 17 dunlin, long-eared owl, 7 wrynecks, 3 bearded tits, 51 fieldfares, 188 blackbirds, 89 reed warblers, aquatic and barred warblers, 3 icterine warblers, 55 garden warblers, 151 goldcrests, 2 firecrests, waxwing and woodchat shrike. Since Sept. 1962, a total of 3,676 birds have been ringed.

Shore-nesting birds again had an unsuccessful season, only one pair of oystercatchers rearing young and although several pairs of little terns attempted nesting, no young were seen. At least one pair of bearded tits reared young.

Other nesting birds at Holme included 30 pairs of shelduck, one pair of kestrels, also lapwing, ringed plover, snipe, redshank, chiffchaff (first Observatory breeding record), red-backed shrike, lesser redpoll, gadwall and shoveler.

The following monthly summaries are from the Observatory Annual Report:

January: The year opened with 6 Bewick's swans on 1st and 2 stonechats on 5th.

February: Another Bewick's swan arrived on 6th with 2 woodcock on 10th; 2 short-eared owls, 2 bearded tits and 200 brent geese remained all month.

March: A great northern diver stayed from 12th to 14th and 9 Bewick's swans were new on 13th. A great grey shrike was seen on several occasions until 28th



and a male hen harrier appeared on 30th. 2 short-eared owls and 2 bearded tits were present all month. Very mild weather led to the early appearance of several migrants with wheatears on 24th, house martin and swallow on 28th, chiffchaffs and sand martin on 29th and Sandwich terns on 30th.

April: Among the uncommon visitors were firecrest from 1st to 4th, black redstart from 2nd to 4th, 3 white wagtails on 25th/26th and merlin on 28th. First arrivals included sedge warbler on 5th, yellow wagtail on 13th, blackcap on 15th, nightingale on 17th, garganey on 18th, cuckoo on 19th, redstart and little tern on 25th, common tern on 27th and ring ouzel on 29th.

Brent geese lingered until the 4th, fieldfares till 25th and redwing till 29th. Among the waders were greenshank on 3 dates, green sandpiper on 4 dates and whimbrel from 25th.

With easterly winds on 27th over 30 robins arrived, among them a Swedish ringed bird; further influxes followed and one robin ringed at Holme on 29th was retrapped there May 1st and then 5 days later was caught yet again on an island at the mouth of the Elbe, obviously back on course.

May: Surprises included 3 grey-headed wagtails on 1st/2nd, black redstart on 1st, 8 black terns on 1st, 6 on 2nd and 5 on 13th, marsh harrier on 2nd, black-winged stilt on 3rd, male Montagu's harrier on 9th, hoopoe on 13th, another marsh harrier and an avocet on 23rd whilst a woodchat shrike on 26th was the Observatory's third spring record.

Among the month's influxes were over 50 yellow wagtails and a whinchat on 1st, a large westerly passage of sand martins and swallows on 2nd, several swifts and turtle doves west on 6th, Northern willow warblers and grasshopper warbler on 7th, large numbers of hirundines west on 11th, 4 Northern willow warblers on 12th, spotted flycatcher on 15th, nightjar (the first Observatory record) on 23rd and a heavy westerly passage of swifts all day on 30th.

Interesting waders were up to 4 greenshank on 9 dates, 1-2 little stints on 2nd and 25th/26th, 200 grey plover and 500 sanderling on 2nd and 4th and several whimbrel east between 1st and 4th.

June: A spoonbill headed west on 5th and a quail was calling on 12th. 4 greenshank arrived on 11th and lapwing were moving west all day on 28th; next day 2 black-tailed godwits arrived.

July: A red-necked phalarope arrived on Broadwater on 3rd, the first curlew-sandpiper on 18th and an escaped Chilean flamingo was present on 19th/20th. A Montagu's harrier was new on 22nd with juvenile little ringed plovers on 24th and 27th. The first 7 Arctic skuas appeared on 15th with 40 kittiwakes on 27th, goosander on 28th and hundreds of Sandwich and common/Arctic terns with dozens of little terns on 30th when 100 sanderling had collected.

August: Most unusual was a male serin singing in the fir trees on 23rd. Also of considerable interest was a dotterel west on 17th, and a marsh harrier on 24th/25th. The first 6 autumn pied flycatchers appeared on 13th, 300 common gulls were present on 20th, a kingfisher on 22nd with water-rail and ring ouzel on 30th. Among sea birds up to 10 Arctic skuas were seen on 12 days, also 4 great skuas on 25th and another on 29th. 2 short-eared owls were seen regularly.

Waders were often plentiful with 2,000 oystercatchers by the month end and 300 grey plovers on 23rd, main whimbrel passage between 5th and 16th, 2 black-railed godwits on 3rd, 100 bar-tailed godwits on 17th, up to 8 green sandpipers, 1 to 3 spotted redshank between the 10th and Sept. 11th, up to 12 greenshank daily and single little stints and curlew-sandpipers both on two dates.

September: Among the exciting visitors were icterine warblers on 2nd, 3rd and 13th, 2 barred warblers on 3rd, 3 wrynecks on 3rd and 17 from 4th to 5th with up to 5 daily till the 9th, bluethroat on 3rd, aquatic warbler trapped on 5th, marsh harrier on 26th, Montagu's harrier on 12th, 2 little gulls on 19th, a company of 160 black terns on 26th and a tawny pipit for four days from the 30th.

The big influx began at 09.30 hours on 3rd with the peak period between 13.30 and 14.00 hours. Maximum numbers in the firs were over 100 redstarts, 50 garden warblers, 10 pied flycatchers, 4 goldcrests, 2 wrynecks, 2 ring ouzels, 2 barred warblers, an icterine warbler, bluethroat and 9 siskins. Uncountable numbers were in the surrounding dunes and outlying bushes but they passed on quite rapidly despite driving rain from the north-east.

The rain continued overnight, but few birds were left in the bushes at first light on 4th. They did, however, include 20 siskins, ring ouzel and 2 wrynecks. A further influx was observed in the afternoon when 17 wrynecks were in the area, also 20 whinchats, 15 redstarts, lesser whitethroat and a red-backed shrike.

On 5th an aquatic warbler was trapped and 17 wrynecks, ring ouzel and 2 red-backed shrikes were recorded. Between 6th and 9th, 5 wrynecks remained together with small numbers of redstarts, garden warblers, pied flycatchers, wheatears, whinchats and goldcrests and single ring ouzels.

A large influx of over 50 whinchats was noted at mid-day on 13th; also another icterine and the first rock pipit. Interesting on 20th were 2 siskins and 3 Lapland buntings. Yet another influx of redstarts and pied flycatchers on 26th contained one of the latter ringed in Germany and the first snowbunting was recorded. A late swift was new on 27th. Over 30 bearded tits arrived on 28th with the first fieldfare followed by tawny pipit on 30th (till Oct. 3rd), 30 redwings, 15 twites, 6 coal tits, 3 ring ouzels and bramblings.

Sea bird observations included 28 great skuas on 1st when scores of Arctic skuas and gannets appeared. Over 200 lesser black-backed gulls passed through on 9th. Among Sept. waders were 1,500 grey plover on 24th with 2,000 to 3,000 on 26th, a peak of 20 common sandpipers on 26th, 18 greenshank on 8th and 28 on 26th, 3,000 knot on 24th and 2 curlew sandpipers on 2nd and 11th.

October: Uncommon or rare visitors were an immature glaucous gull and purple sandpiper on 2nd, juvenile woodchat shrike on 4th which was ringed, great grey shrike on 10th until the year-end, five parties of 4 to 6 Bewick's swans from 19th and another purple sandpiper on 31st.

Movement of swallows, redstarts, sedge warblers, blackcaps, goldcrests, pied and spotted flycatchers, willow and reed warblers, whinchats, wheatears and chiffchaffs were recorded daily until the 10th whilst ring ouzels in ones and twos appeared until the 28th.

The 9th was notable for a big influx of thrushes from the north-east and 200 goldcrests were in the firs. Next day, 20 hooded crows and a shore-lark arrived whilst woodcock and collared dove were both new on 12th. 3 shore-larks appeared on 13th and the first 9 waxwings headed west on 16th. Starlings were moving west all day on 18th. The next day 77 waxwings flew south and parties of fieldfares were arriving from the north all day. Over 200 waxwings headed south on 20th when there was another big influx of fieldfares, blackbirds, redwing and song thrushes arriving all day from the north. On 24th, 17 waxwings moved south and over 300 blackbirds came in from the north-east; 120 bramblings moved west on 26th.

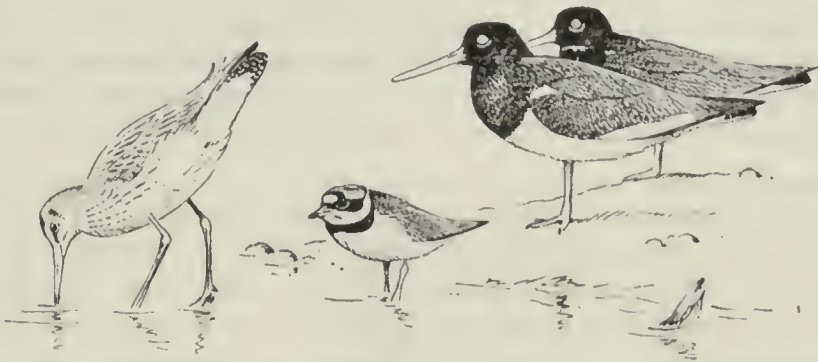
Up to 5 short-eared owls were seen during the month, with the first 3 brent geese on 2nd. Late migrants included 2 swifts on 3rd/4th, sand martin on 1st, house martin on 28th and yellow wagtail on 5th. 5,000 oystercatchers were present in mid-Oct. when 10,000 to 15,000 knot were estimated.

November: 2 Bewick's swans were present on 9th/10th and 23rd, firecrest on 6th, 3 mealy redpolls on 4th and hen harrier on 20th. A notable arrival on 1st was a long-eared owl with 2 ring ouzels on 2nd, 40 waxwings on 3rd, 24 waxwings on 4th, 100 snow buntings and a late chiffchaff on 7th, 400 golden plovers on 9th and 3 Lapland buntings and 11 short-eared owls on 13th.

December: 60 bramblings moved south on 11th followed by a waxwing next day when 300 bar-tailed godwits, 8 eiders, 2 red-breasted mergansers and 5 golden-eye were recorded. 60 snow buntings were present all month.

The Wash

January and February usually provide records of most of the divers, grebes and sea ducks in small numbers and 1965 was no exception. The year got off to a fair start on Jan. 2nd with single great northern diver and slavonian grebe at Hunstanton and the estimated total of 1,500 wigeon near the Babingley river made up for the very low numbers of the previous winter. Other species found the same day were a great grey shrike at Dersingham; and at Hunstanton, a glaucous gull which remained in the area until mid-March. In addition, there was a south-westerly movement of at least 2,000 kittiwakes between Heacham and Hunstanton and the totals of 30,000 knot, 11,000 oystercatchers and 2,000 bar-tailed godwits were the highest for the whole year.



Single black-throated divers were seen throughout Jan. and again on March 14th with small numbers of red-throated divers from time to time. There were up to 140 brent geese off the coast during Jan. and smaller numbers remained until late March. At Snettisham there was another great northern diver on Jan. 22nd, 2 barnacle geese on 24th and a whooper swan on 31st. Other reports included a scattering of black-necked grebes, red-breasted mergansers, pintail and Bewick's swans and at the end of the month counts of 100 scaup, 100 golden-eye and 30 long-tailed ducks were made, together with the only record of eider (a single bird). Although 500 to 600 scoter remained until early June, velvet scoters were again very scarce and no party exceeded 3.

The early months also produced up to 7 purple sandpipers and the usual records of snow buntings and rock pipits; later, a female hen harrier appeared at Terrington March 14th when a puffin was picked up dead at Snettisham.

Spring migration is not particularly marked on the Wash. Waders are occasionally noted on their way north and spotted redshank and ruff in April and May are evidence of this. The first week in May saw the arrival of a few little stints and 2 avocets were at Snettisham at the same time. The Hunstanton area provided further passage records with a black redstart April 30th and in May a ring ouzel on 2nd and 3 black terns on 12th. At Snettisham a hobby was seen on 16th and the only garganey recorded was one there on 22nd. On April 18th 2 fulmars flew steadily inland from Snettisham until lost to sight and this species bred successfully at Hunstanton. A single gannet flew north

past Snettisham May 22nd. A great grey shrike stayed at Snettisham between May 16th and June 3rd.

At Terrington, a female yellow wagtail was paired to a well marked male of the "Sykes" variety. 2-3,000 knot summered on the Wash as did an immature marsh harrier and a few short-eared owls. About 60 pairs of common terns attempted breeding among 3,000 pairs of black-headed gulls at Wolferton, but without much success. Redshank numbers were thought to be up again with 25 pairs at Snettisham and 10 pairs at Terrington.

Autumn wader passage followed the usual pattern. Maximum numbers were not generally as impressive as in 1964 (only up to 9 spotted redshank and 30 greenshank for example), but in early Aug. a total of 90 black-tailed godwits was reported, also 5,500 curlew, 800 sanderling and 600 grey plovers. There was again visible evidence of movement inland in Aug. with 3 green sandpipers at Lynn Point on 15th, and at Terrington, 80 whimbrel on 7th. 20 curlew sandpipers were at Lynn Point Sept. 1st. A movement of 160 black terns heading inland at Lynn Point took place Sept. 26th, doubtless the same birds had been seen earlier in the day moving into the Wash past Holme and Hunstanton.

Observers during the weekend of Aug. 28th/29th saw 15 fulmars, 76 gannets and 13 Manx shearwaters out over the Wash, but numbers were up Sept. 1st with 48 fulmars, 220 gannets and 105 Manx shearwaters including one of the Balearic race. Most impressive skua observations were made Aug. 25th when over 100 Arctic skuas moved past Hunstanton; 10 great skuas were among them.

A variety of birds of prey appeared in autumn with hobby July 4th at Wolferton, osprey Aug. 15th and merlin Sept. 9th both at Snettisham whilst possibly as many as 6 marsh harriers and up to 30 kestrels complete the picture.

The Hunstanton area had its share of the unprecedented fall of migrants in early Sept. when parts of the East Coast were flooded with redstarts and other species. Wrynecks formed part of this movement. 120 redstarts together with 40 wheatears and 50 garden warblers were estimated on 3rd when 2 barred warblers were also most welcome. Ring ouzels were first seen the same day with 1-2 remaining until Oct. 21st. Further migrants continued to arrive and many species did not reach peak numbers until the end of the month, when there were 45 whinchats and 25 pied flycatchers with 60 redstarts. Several of these species were seen well into Oct. Not surprisingly this movement included the first wintering species such as redwing, fieldfare, rock pipit, brambling, Lapland buntings and snow bunting.

In Oct. the first 10 brent geese were off Hunstanton on 2nd when a white-fronted goose passed north-east over Snettisham. The following weekend, with high winds, witnessed the arrival of the first shore-lark, hooded crows and over 80 goldcrests near Hunstanton. 75 gannets were moving up the coast and some 150 red-breasted mergansers were watched riding out the storm just offshore between Heacham and Hunstanton. In mid-Oct., 5,000 knot were estimated in Lynn Channel with 1,000 roosting on buoys. Bewick's swans and eiders arrived on 19th, numbers of the latter rising from the initial 12 to 34 before the end of the year. Nov. 7th brought the first reports of other maritime species: scoter, single black-throated diver and long-tailed duck and a

pack of 39 scaup. An unusual sight was a gadwall off Hunstanton cliffs. Other species followed in the next few days: great northern diver and slavonian grebe on 9th, 2 red-necked grebes and 2 goosanders on 12th when fair numbers of shags arrived. Great crested grebes reached a total of 60 between Heacham and Hunstanton. 1-2 black-necked grebes were present between 13th and 21st when 2 storm petrels and single Leach's petrel and Manx shearwater were identified near Hunstanton. 4 Bewick's swans were at Terrington on 26th.

Turnstones reached 400 on Nov. 7th and at Snettisham 1-2 black-tailed godwits still remained, 1,000 bar-tailed godwits were roosting inland and a great grey shrike was noted. Mid-Nov. also produced several records of a single glaucous gull and of little gulls with 30 of the latter on 19th between Heacham and Holme.

By the beginning of Dec., most of the irregular species had gone and the only unusual birds were a merlin at Hunstanton on 1st, a party of 5 slavonian grebes and a single black-necked grebe at Snettisham on 4th and a long-tailed duck from 4th to 19th.



Hickling

(Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

During the first months of the year interesting visitors at Hickling included a female hen harrier, nine smew (including 5 drakes) Feb. 11th, three ruffs on 13th and a red-throated diver March 12th.

January wildfowl maxima were 300 pochard, 1,000 teal, 1,000 mallard, 500 tufted, 50 gadwall, 200 wigeon, 100 shoveller, 25 goldeneye and 4 pintail; also 2,500 coot.

Unusual numbers of ruffs and reeves arrived April 6th and there were 45 on Old Meadows with a further 40 on Rush Hills. They remained in the area for two weeks. Spring arrivals included swallows, sand martins and sedge warblers April 5th, yellow wagtails on 8th, house martins on 27th, 20 golden plover on 29th, black, little and common terns all on May 2nd, reed warbler on 3rd, swift on 7th, Montagu's harrier on 9th, 3 black terns and 2 black-necked

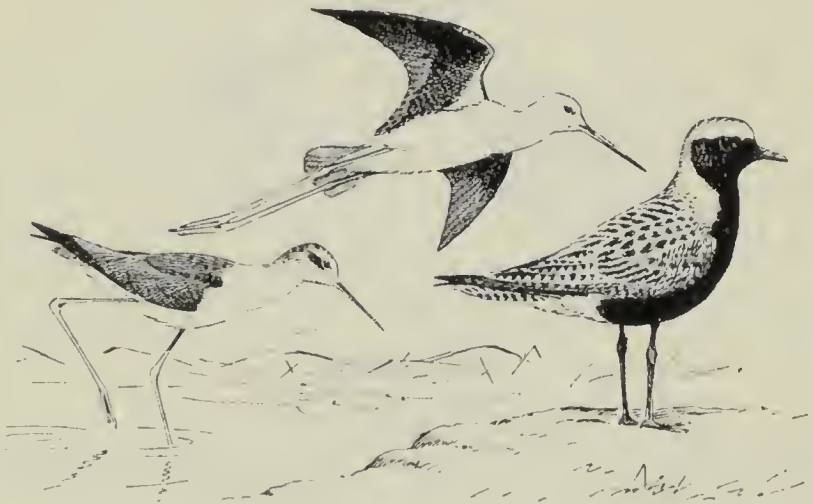
grebes (in breeding plumage) from 11th to 13th and 20 ruffs on 12th. 3 reeves and 2 little stints arrived on 15th with 2 more little stint on 22nd when several spotted redshank arrived. 3 black-tailed godwits came in on 23rd. Only one wood sandpiper was recorded in spring (May 15th).

During May up to 14 drake shoveler, 4 gadwall and a drake garganey fed on Rush Hills. Among the year's highlights was a crane heading seawards May 15th and 2 spoonbills on Swimcoots June 2nd/3rd and again on July 2nd.

Bearded tits had a successful breeding season; the first young were on the wing May 11th. An estimated total of at least 70 pairs nested round the Broad and at Whiteslea and on Heigham Sounds. A pair of marsh harriers frequented Hickling throughout the year, but there was no attempt at nesting. 2 bitterns began booming March 12th. 3 pairs of common terns bred; also a total of 7 pairs of herons.

Waders began returning at the end of July when ruffs, greenshank and dunlin were present. During August the variety included greenshank, 3 spotted redshank, 17 ruffs, green, common and wood sandpipers and a red-necked phalarope on 13th. 5 ruffs were still present Oct. 10th.

Pochard and tufted returned Oct. 8th when 300 teal had assembled, with fieldfares on 18th, hen harrier on 20th, goldeneye on 27th, whooper swans Nov. 14th and a stonechat on 23rd.



Horsey

(John Buxton)

Apart from a pair of stonechats and a male hen harrier in mid-January, the opening weeks of the year at Horsey were uneventful. A group of nine ruffs and reeves arrived Feb. 8th remaining on arable land until the spring. A short-eared owl was noted March 15th, but none nested.

Spring migrants included yellow wagtail April 8th, redstart on 11th, grasshopper, sedge and willow warblers all on 13th, 20 ruffs and reeves on 14th, collared dove and two drake garganey on 18th, ring ouzel on 25th, 5 black terns

on May 2nd (when 40 at Blackfleet), a late redwing on 3rd, hen Montagu's harrier on 4th, swift on 5th and an osprey on 26th.

May 13th was an exciting day for waders and one flood pool attracted 2 black-winged stilts, grey plover, 10 ruffs and reeves, spotted redshank, green-shank and 4 black terns. Two black-tailed godwits arrived April 25th and remained until May 11th. Other surprises included a flamingo (assumed an escape) May 10th, a male golden oriole in the Hall gardens June 15th and a kingfisher from the end of June onwards.

Three female marsh harriers came in from the sea at a great height May 20th and 2 alighted on Horsey marshes. A pair of marsh harriers summered but when the nest was visited June 29th it was found to be empty. No marsh harriers have reared young in the county since 1959. A second hen marsh harrier remained in the vicinity of Starch Grass from May until the end of June. Five bitterns (including one at Starch Grass) were booming and young hatched successfully in the nest which was found. A water-rail's nest was also discovered. Bearded tits had another successful breeding season with over 25 pairs nesting round the Mere, and others on Horsey Warren and at Starch Grass; eruptive behaviour was again observed during Sept. A pair of oystercatchers nested on an adjoining marsh and two pairs of stonechats were successful too.

During the Sept. "rush" of Scandinavian migrants Horsey was alive with redstarts, wheatears, whinchats and pied flycatchers. Two wrynecks were noted Sept. 8th, 4 siskins and 3 ring ouzels on 10th and a red-backed shrike on 12th. The first fieldfares arrived Sept. 19th with wood sandpiper on 24th, greenshank on 25th and a late whinchat Oct. 17th. Interesting arrivals Oct. 15th included several hundred fieldfares, very large numbers of redwing, 200 black-birds, 2 ring ouzels and 3 waxwings. Nine hooded crows came in from the sea Nov. 2nd and 3 hen harriers (including a male) arrived on 7th. Five Bewick's swans were present Dec. 9th with 15 on 18th.

Breckland

The most interesting event of the year in Breckland was the appearance of ospreys—one at Narford May 30th and 2 which stayed at Stanford Water between Sept. 10th and 27th. Also in the Tottington area at this time were 2 buzzards, at least one of which stayed until Oct. 9th. On Sept. 1st a peregrine was reported at Buckenham Tofts and amongst other raptors during the year were Montagu's and hen harriers—the former at Bodney Warren on July 11th and hen harriers in the winter months at both ends of the year in at least five localities. Sparrowhawks were reported occasionally.

Once again bitterns appeared, an injured bird at Tottington Feb. 3rd and one was at Didlington in Feb. Another bittern flew along the Little Ouse at Brandon June 1st and 2 were at Stanford Water during Dec. A surprise visitor at Stanford sluice Dec. 28th was a black-bellied dipper. Also unusual was a shag which was seen at Mickle Mere Nov. 28th and roosting at Ickburgh Bridge Dec. 7th. Goosanders appeared in winter with small parties at Mickle Mere Jan. 2nd and Stanford the following day, but as usual their principal haunt

was Narford Lake with a maximum of 19 there Feb. 14th; they were last reported April 4th. Bewick's swans were present until Feb. 20th with 17 at Mickle Mere on Jan. 2nd, 16 at Thompson and 7 at Stanford on Feb. 13th. A pair of pintail was at Stanford Feb. 20th, 3 drakes there Feb. 7th and another at Narford on 28th. Single goldeneye appeared at Mickle Mere in Jan./Feb.

A great grey shrike was at Narborough until Jan. 18th, another spent the winter in the Stanford area and yet another was at Santon Downham Jan. 23rd. At the end of the year a great grey shrike was again at Stanford, another on the southern side of the Norfolk Breck on Nov. 14th and others at Mundford on 21st, Didlington on Nov. 29th and Dec. 11th and on the north-west border of Breckland Christmas Day.



Winter duck assemblies included 120 tufted at Buckenham Tofts in Jan., 56 shoveler at Mickle Mere Jan. 3rd and 45 at Stanford in Feb., 85 teal on Thompson Water Jan. 24th and 60 there March 28th. A party of 20 wigeon was at Shadwell Jan. 24th. The largest party of gadwall was on Sept. 12th with 70 on Stanford and 63 there a week later. The largest mallard flock numbered 1,000 at Narford Feb. 28th and Dec. 28th

Other interesting winter records include 50 bullfinches at Shouldham Jan. 4th, 20 short-eared owls on the Breckland border Feb. 2nd, water-rails at Thompson on 13th and 100 woodcock which were flushed from an area of bracken at Frog Hill March 7th.

The first spring arrival was a stone-curlew at Black Rabbit Warren March 7th followed by wheatear on 13th and chiffchaff on 31st. A redstart was at Sturston April 3rd, cuckoo on 14th and 7 curlew at Frog Hill on 17th. Two late bramblings remained at Two Mile Bottom until May 2nd. 2 greenshank were at Little Cressingham May 13th. 2 hawfinches were in Watton at the end of March with singles at Shadwell April 11th and Stanford May 8th. A grey wagtail was at Santon Downham May 2nd.

The breeding season brought reports of woodcock roding from a number of areas; woodlarks were recorded singing at Sturston and Bagmore Farm and seen at two or three other areas, but a family party at Bagmore in July was the only proof of breeding success. Stone-curlews were again present at several localities. Curlews bred—2 family parties being seen at West Tofts June 6th and another pair with young at Stanford on 19th. Wheatears were present in good numbers in many areas. Redstarts occurred at their usual sites in a number of parishes; small numbers of whinchats were reported and 10 pairs of red-backed shrikes summered.

A pair of little ringed plovers remained at one site in the "Battle Area" for six weeks, but a rise in water level prevented successful breeding. 7-8 pairs of ringed plovers bred, 4 nightjars were calling in the Tottington and Thompson area with another at Didlington. Kingfishers were known to nest at Threxton and along the Little Ouse at Gasthorpe; 2 were reported at Shadwell and Tottington with singles at Stanford. Barn owls bred successfully and amongst the breeding ducks gadwall raised a number of broods; 3 family parties of pochard were seen at Stanford and another at West Mere, Tottington. 4 broods of tufted ducks were at Stanford, 2 others at Didlington and breeding was also reported at Gooderstone. A report of 53 mistle thrushes at Bodney July 11th was of note.

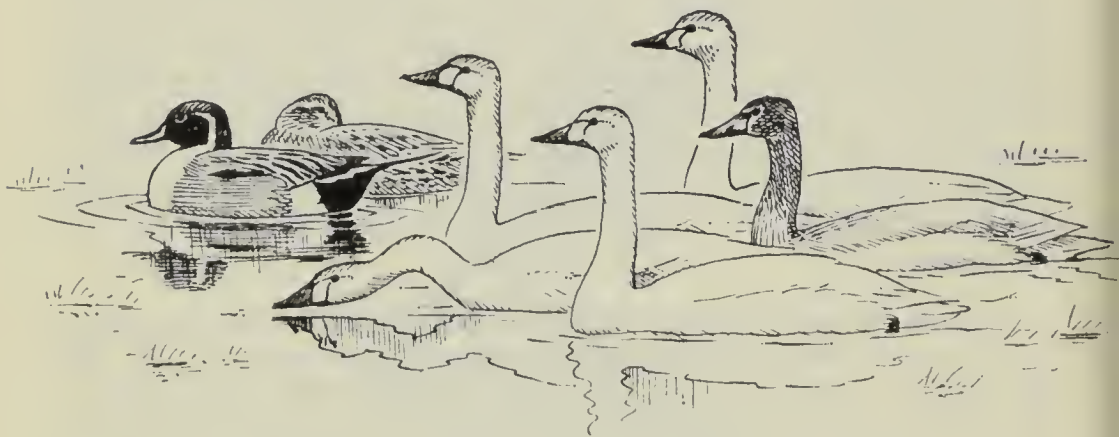
Autumn brought a common tern to Stanford Sept. 19th and single green sandpipers at Tottington West Mere Sept. 19th and 26th and Oct. 2nd. The first fieldfares arrived Oct. 2nd with 50 at Weeting, numbers soon increased with an estimated 10,000 in two miles between Little Cressingham and Tottington by the 9th. On the following day a chiffchaff was in late song. Breckland did not escape the waxwing invasion and a party of 12 was in the Tottington/Sturston area Nov. 7th with another in Watton two days later. 3 hooded crows appeared at Robins Lodge Nov. 7th and brambling were present in large numbers at the end of the year with 2,000 in the Hillborough area. 8 siskins were at Stanford Dec. 19th and 10 at Lyndford on 28th whilst a flock of 50 to 100 redpolls were feeding at Stanford in Dec. Bearded tits appeared at Stanford in the autumn, 5 being reported Oct. 18th and a maximum of 8 on Dec. 28th. Mickle Mere had 2,500 black-headed, 250 herring and 250 greater black-backed gulls roosting Nov. 28th, and 1,400 black-headed, 120 greater black-backed and 12 herring gulls gathered at Shadwell at dusk Dec. 28th. There were 30 gadwall at West Acre Nov. 9th and a maximum of 200 at Stanford during the month where 2 pairs of wigeon, 5 goldeneye and 8 Bewick's swans were seen on 14th with a further 5 Bewick's at Didlington on the same day, 6 at Stanford on 21st and 6 at Narborough on 30th. An unusual gathering of 75 mute swans collected on the Little Ouse in Thetford during a cold spell at the end of the year.

Golden pheasants were seen in small numbers at a number of localities and one almost white male pheasant was at West Tofts. Collared doves were present all year—records coming from Downham Market, Wereham, the Brandon area and Little Cressingham with a peak of 40 in a duck field at Bodney Dec. 28th.

Fenland

Fenland Washes

During the early months there were far fewer wildfowl on the Washes than usual, with the water at an unsuitable level. There were, for instance, no more than 30 Bewick's swans on the whole length of the Ouse Washes. Surprise visitors at Hilgay, however, included goldeneye from Jan. 3rd to 9th, 9 ruffs Feb. 14th and 2 to 4 whooper swans between Feb. 12th and March 6th. Wildfowl counts for the complete length of the Ouse Washes (from Denver Sluice to Earith) appear in the *Cambridge Bird Club Report* for 1965. Lynn Beet factory had 2 goldeneye Jan. 3rd.



The first garganey were noted March 21st and as usual a few pairs stayed to breed. Shoveler increased in number as the breeding season approached. Spotted redshank reappeared by March 27th remaining until April 25th. A considerable influx of ruffs in mid-April was noted throughout the Fens and at Wisbech S.F. especially on 11th when the first wood sandpiper was seen on the Washes. Four little terns were at Welney May 13th and short-eared owls summered in the area. Late winter visitors were a scaup April 18th and 10 fieldfares May 2nd both at Welney.

The highlights of the return passage were single Temminck's stint and spotted crane at Lynn Beet Factory both on Spt. 22nd. 8-9 bearded tits were at Welney from the end of Oct. until Nov. 14th. In Dec. with the Washes in a more suitable state, duck began arriving in larger numbers than usual. Bewick's swans, in particular, were more numerous than in recent years with 87 on the Norfolk stretch Dec. 19th. On Dec. 5th 2 shags were at Hilgay.

Wisbech Sewage Farm

There are no outstanding records for Jan. and Feb., except for 300 dunlin Jan. 31st. Spring wader passage included records of the influx of ruffs in mid-April with up to 55 on 11th and 85 golden plover on 25th. A visit May 18th produced sanderling and Temminck's stint with common sandpiper on 19th and oystercatcher on 23rd.

Early July saw the return of greenshank and common sandpiper, with little ringed plover and an avocet on 3rd. Later in the month, the first green, wood and curlew-sandpipers joined the now expected ruffs on 22nd. Little stints arrived on 28th. Redshank numbers were still below the pre 1963 figure with a maximum of 15 in Aug.

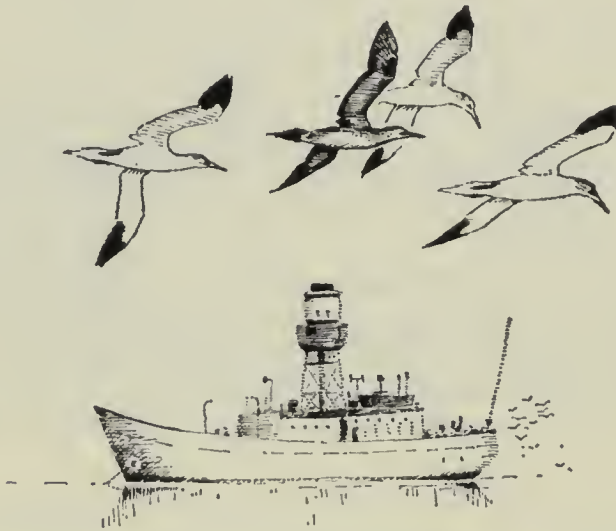
Common sandpiper numbers varied between 30 and 46 in Aug. There were 9 turnstones present Aug. 15th, 11 little ringed plover next day and 40 ringed plover on 26th. It was in Aug. that the year's rarity was discovered—a stilt sandpiper which stayed from 12th to 19th. A red-necked phalarope was also first noted on 12th and up to 3 were present until Sept. 16th; 2 were caught and ringed. Greenshank numbers built up to 10 by Aug. 30th and in Sept. there were 15 wood sandpipers between 5th and 11th, 24 spotted redshanks and 9 bar-tailed godwits on 9th and 31 curlew-sandpipers on 11th. There were 300 to 500 dunlin and 120 ruffs at this time and 500 golden plover in the area by Sept. 14th. Little stints built up much later with 25 Oct. 11th. By mid-Oct. most species had moved on, but greenshank and curlew-sandpipers lingered till the end of the month. The last spotted redshank was seen Nov. 6th and common sandpiper and little stint on 20th. The first jack snipe came Sept. 18th.

Small numbers of garganey were present in July and Aug. with another Oct. 9th. In Aug. and Sept. single gadwall and fair numbers of shoveler were seen with up to 5 black terns in Sept. Single quail were reported July 17th and 30th and 4 Arctic skuas were chasing dunlin early on Aug. 27th. At the end of the year there were 2 waxwings Nov. 20th and 90 pintail Dec. 27th.

Selected Light-Vessel Notes

For the eleventh year in succession the crews of light-vessels off the Norfolk coast maintained diaries. The following summary includes the more interesting observations.

A **heron** was recorded at the Dudgeon Aug. 23rd with both **water-rail** and **moorhen** at Haisbro' Nov. 18th. Autumn waders include an **oystercatcher** at Inner Dowsing Oct. 2nd, **golden plover** at Haisbro' Sept. 29th, eight **redshank** heading east at Smith's Knoll Aug. 18th and a **stone-curlew** on Dudgeon Sept. 3rd. The usual westward movement of **lapwings** was reported on several dates between Sept. 30th and Nov. 30th.



A **swift** was recovered on Newarp July 13th and Dudgeon had one Sept. 3rd. Autumn **skylark** arrivals were noted between Sept. 25th and Nov. 18th and a dozen **swallows** headed south at Lynn Well Oct. 1st. **Fieldfare** arrivals began Sept. 29th continuing until mid-Nov. with the majority in Oct. **Redwing** were recorded at Inner and Outer Dowsing and Haisbro' between Sept. 29th and Oct. 8th. Both Haisbro' and Outer Dowsing each had six **ring ouzels** Sept. 29th. The main **blackbird** arrivals took place in the first and fourth weeks of Oct. and the first week of Nov.

Early Sept. observations are meagre, but Inner Dowsing had a few **wheatears** Sept. 6th (arriving from the *west* three days after the big "fall" from the east), a few **redstarts** were at Cross Sands Sept. 4th and a **robin** at Newarp on 3rd.

Autumn **goldcrests** were at most stations between Oct. 3rd and Nov. 5th. Spring **starling** records include a great many at Dudgeon on the night of March 8th/9th and again on April 5th. In autumn, "big nights" for **starlings** occurred at the end of Sept., the first week of Oct., Oct. 24th and Nov. 5th to 10th. The main arrival of **chaffinches** was between the end of Sept. and mid-Oct. and between Nov. 5th and 7th. Of particular interest were six **bullfinches** at Cross Sands Sept. 3rd and four **snow buntings** at Haisboro' Nov. 14th with another there on 18th.



A male black-eared wheatear which remained at Salthouse for the first half of September was an addition to the county list.

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 1965.

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 1965, unless otherwise stated. To save space, all but the most essential initials have been omitted. Records are of *single* birds unless otherwise stated.

4 Red-throated Diver: Inland: Banham, April 2nd later released on lake at Old Buckenham; Hickling Broad, March 12th.

5 Great Crested Grebe: A census in May/June gave a county total of 365 *adults* on 47 waters. This figure may be compared with 404 *adults* in 1931, 342 in 1954 and 481 in 1961. The localities are detailed below:

Lakes and Meres: Blickling, 4 *adults*; Cawston Manor lakes, one; Didlington, 2; Gunton Park, 2; Holkham, 5; Melton Constable, 2; Narford lake, 4; Saham Toney, 2; Scoulton, 4; Seamere, 10; Shadwall, 2; Stanford, 2; Stradsett, 4; Thompson, 2; Mickle Mere, 2 and Hill Mere, 2.

Broadland: Hardley flood, 10; Bure at Woodbastwick, 5; Alderfen, 2; Barton, 28; Belaugh, 2; Burnt Fen, 4; Filby, 9; Hickling, 16; Heigham Sounds, 6; Hoveton Great Broad, 54; Black Horse (Hoveton Little Broad), 24; Martham, 4; Ormesby, 15; Ranworth, 24; Rockland, 26; Rollesby, 18; Salthouse, 5; South Walsham, 10; Surlingham, 1; Upton, 1; Woodbastwick Decoy, 9; Woodbastwick Old Hall, 2; and Wroxham, 9.

Flooded gravel pits: Fustyweed, 4; Lenwade, 2; Lyng, 2; Narborough, 6; Runcton Holme, 2; Taverham, 2; West Acre, 2 and Earsham, 1.

6 Red-necked Grebe: Wash: Heacham to Hunstanton, 1-2, Nov. 12th-17th. North: Thornham, Jan. 24th; Cley, April 19th, May 15th, Sept. 27th/28th and Nov. 27th. Wells, Nov. 14th.

7 Slavonian Grebe: Wash: Hunstanton, 1-2, Jan. 2nd-30th, Sept. 19th, Oct. 17th, Nov. 9th-21st; Snettisham, 5, Dec. 4th. North: Scolt, Jan. 15th and Wells, Feb. 26th.

8 Black-necked Grebe; Wash: Heacham to Hunstanton, 1-2, Jan. 9th-30th and Nov. 13th- 21st; Snettisham, 4, Nov. 16th and one, Dec. 4th. North: Blakeney, Nov. 26th. Broads: Hickling, pair in breeding plumage May 11th-13th.

12 Leach's Petrel: Wash: Hunstanton, Nov. 21st. Cley, 9 inshore, Nov. 21st.

14 Storm Petrel: Wash: Hunstanton, 2, Nov. 21st. East: Yarmouth, one found dying at this time.

16 Manx Shearwater: Wash: Hunstanton to Snettisham. high total of 105 including one of the Balearic race moving N.N.E. Sept. 1st. with others between Aug. 25th and Nov. 21st including 30 south Sept. 18th. North: Cley, April 14th and several in last week Aug. East: Winterton, Sept. 20th.

21 Sooty Shearwater: North: Cley, 6, Sept. 1st and 2, Nov. 21st when one off Cromer.

26 Fulmar: Wash: Hunstanton cliffs, one pair bred for the first time; Hunstanton, maximum movement of 48 going N.E. Sept. 1st. North: Breeding cliffs between Weybourne and Overstrand occupied as usual.

29 Shag: A small invasion inland began Nov. 24th. Wash: Parties up to 6 from Nov. 6th. Fens: Hilgay Relief Channel, 2, Dec. 5th. Breck: Mickle Mere, Nov. 28th and Ickburgh Bridge, one roosting, Dec. 7th. Other inland localities: Norwich, one present Nov. 24th onwards with 6 on Wensum at Riverside Dec. 11th; Bodham, end Nov. and Hales, Dec. 7th.

30 Heron: Details of heronries as follows: *Borders of Wash:* Snettisham, 13 nests. *Fens:* Islington, 42 and Denver Sluice, 34. *Breck:* Thompson Water, 5; Didlington, 6; East Moor, 2; Shadwell, 5 and Narford, 12. *Mid-Norfolk:* Kimberley Park, 8 and Lyng Easthaugh, 1. *Broads Area:* Gen. McHardy's Wood, 2; Whiteslea, 2; Heigham Sounds, 3; America Wood, Earsham, 4; Fishley Carr, Acle, 2; Upton 1; Wickhampton, 38; Buckenham, 26; Mautby, 7; Ranworth, 30; Ranworth Marshes (Horning Hall), 9; Heron Carr Barton, 6; Belaugh Broad, 6; Wheatfen, 4 and Ditchingham, 1. *North:* Melton Constable, 9; Holkham Park (Obelisk Wood), 6; Cley, 4, Wiveton, 2 and Gunton Park, 1.

County total: 290 nests at 30 sites.

- 31 Purple Heron:** North: Cley, a first summer bird, May 10th (RAR).
- 42 Spoonbill:** East: Breydon, 3, April 25th; June 8th/9th; Aug. 9th-31st and Sept. 12th. Broads: Hickling, June 6th; 2, June 2nd/3rd and 2, July 2nd. North: Cley, May 26th; June 9th, 12th and 15th; Aug. 30th (very young with bill still pink); Oct. 17th-26th and Nov. 9th/10th. Scolt: May 28th and June 8th; Holme, June 5th.
- Spoonbills breeding in Holland attained a maximum of at least 500 pairs between 1950-54. During this period parties of between 5 and 11 and once 16 frequently visited Norfolk. Since then, however, most occurrences have been of ones and twos corresponding with a reduction in the Dutch colonies (380 pairs in 1962 and 1963).
- 46 Teal:** North: Cley, a drake showing the characters of the American race known as the green-winged teal, April 17th-19th (RAR *et al*).
- 47 Garganey:** Recorded between March 10th (when 8 on Bure near Stokesby) and Nov. 12th (at Holme). Usual breeding season localities including Ouse Washes where a few pairs bred.
- 50 Wigeon:** North: Cley, 2 pairs bred (WFB).
- 54 Red-crested Pochard:** North: Cley, female, May 10th-30th (RAR *et al*).
- 56 Tufted Duck:** Breeding records only are given: Breck (total of 7 broods): 4 broods at Stanford Water, 2 at Didlington and one at Gooderstone (Crow Hall Farm). Central: 3 broods at Marsham Bolwick.
- 57 Pochard:** Breeding records: Breck: 3 broods at Stanford Water and one brood at Tottington West Mere.
- 61 Long-tailed Duck:** Wash: Hunstanton to Snettisham, recorded up to March 21st and from Nov. 7th with 30 in Jan. and 10 in Nov. North: Wells, 2, Dec. 4th-12th. Cley, Jan. 24th-June 5th and 2, Nov. 28th.
- 62 Velvet Scoter:** North coast/Wash: Only 12 records, Feb.-March and Sept.-Dec. and no party exceeded 4.
- 64 Scoter:** Largest numbers reported from Wash (Heacham to Snettisham) where 600 between Jan. and early June and from Nov. 7th.
- 67 Eider:** East: Waxham Sept. 11th is the only record. North: Largest assembly at Brancaster where 200 in Jan., 150 in early April and 30 at end of year; elsewhere parties up to 10. Wash: Snettisham to Hunstanton, Jan. 30th and up to 34 from Oct. 19th onwards.
- 69 Red-breasted Merganser:** Wash: Present in usual numbers with high count of 154 Oct. 9th off Heacham during gale. North coast: No party exceeded 3.

70 Goosander: Breck: Up to 19 at Narford Lake till Feb. 28th; singles at Stanford and Narborough G.P. and 7 at Thompson (Nov. 28th). Elsewhere no party exceeded 4.

71 Smew: East: 5 on Bure near Four-mile House, Jan. 10th. Broads: 9 at Hickling, Feb. 11th. No other records.

73 Shelduck: Moulting migration records: North: Cley, 28 east, July 4th. Scolt, 37 east June 20th and 45 east July 2nd.

76 White-fronted Goose: East: Breydon area, peak of 207 through Jan. until mid-Feb. and last noted (62) Feb. 21st; first (16) returned Oct. 19th and 65 by Dec. 12th. North: Wells, 50, Feb. 26th.

78 Bean-Goose (*A.a. arvensis*): East: Yare valley, 25 in usual area between Jan. 1st and Feb. 13th; 12 returned by Dec. 27th.

78 Pink-footed Goose (*A.a. brachyrhynchus*): East: Breydon area, parties of 9 and 20, Jan. 2nd-17th. North: Cley, 6, April 4th and 20 west Nov. 21st. Wash: North Wootton, 3,000, Jan. 6th.

80 Brent Goose: North: Blakeney maximum of 1,200 in early Feb. with 3-400 March 24th, 98 on April 10th and 15 on 30th. A few very early arrivals from Sept. 27th and 400 by Dec. 28th. Brancaster, up to 800, Jan. to March and 600 at end of year. Wells, 400 in Jan., 300 in Feb., 200 March 7th, 50, Nov. 21st and 150 by Dec. 11th. Wash: Hunstanton to Snettisham, 100-140 between Jan. and March 8th and first in autumn (10) Oct. 2nd with 80 at year end.

81 Barnacle Goose: Wash: 2 at Snettisham, Jan. 24th. North: 4 which arrived at Cley from the east Nov. 13th (with grey phalarope and preceding snow) remaining in area till Nov. 30th.

85 Whooper-Swan: Only 7 records and apart from 14 at Breydon Dec. 14th no party exceeded 4.

86 Bewick's Swan: East: Breydon, up to 48 between Jan. 9th and March 14th with 38 again April 4th; present from Dec. 10th with 60 on 14th. Broads: Horsey, 5, Dec. 9th and 15 on 18th. Breck: Maximum of 16 at Diddlington, Thompson, Stanford and Narborough. Central: 2 at Costessey, Dec. 26th.

North: Cley, autumn passage from Oct. 12th (3) and total of 66 passing west until Dec. 28th. Holme, 9, March 13th and total of 25 passing Oct. 19th-30th. Fens: Ouse Washes, very low numbers at beginning of year (only 30 for the whole length); in Dec. 87 between Denver and Welney. Wash: Heacham, 6, Oct. 31st.

91 Buzzard: Breck: 1-2 in Stanford area from Sept. 10th (one was chased by 2 ospreys Sept. 18th).

- 93 Sparrowhawk:** Records from 22 localities, but only one successful breeding record.
- 98 Honey-Buzzard:** North: Salthouse Heath, Oct. 6th (AH, DH).
- 99 Marsh-Harrier:** Broads: None bred successfully, but at least one pair in the Hickling-Horsey district throughout year with 2 at Barton in Oct.-Nov. Again many coastal records (Terrington to Cley) of 1-3 birds between April 2nd and Oct. 11th.
- 100 Hen-Harrier:** Coastal records from Horsey, Hickling, Cley-Blakeney Point, Brancaster, Holme, Roydon and Terrington and Breck records from Gooderstone, Lang Mere, Fowl Mere, Rush Mere, Stanford and Tottington. Extreme dates March 21st and Sept. 25th. 3 were at Horsey Nov. 7th.
- 102 Montagu's Harrier:** For the first time since 1958 a pair bred successfully in west Norfolk rearing 4 young. Elsewhere coastal passage records of singles at Hickling, Horsey, Waxham, Beeston, Cley-Salthouse Heath, Scolt and Holme; also in Breck at Bodney Warren, between May 3rd and Sept. 12th.
- 103 Osprey:** Broads: Horsey, May 26th; Ormesby on 30th; river Yare between Buckenham and Cantley, Sept. 13th-19th and Upton, mid-Sept. to end of Oct. Central: Lenwade G.P. Sept. 2nd and 24th. Breck: Narford, May 30th and 2 at Stanford Water, Sept. 10th-27th. North: Blakeney Point, April 30th; Cley, May 2nd/3rd; Overstrand on 23rd; Cley, June 28th and Holt, Sept. 9th. Wash: Snettisham, Aug. 15th.
- 104 Hobby:** North: Holkham dunes early June; Blakeney Point and Cromer in second week of July. Wash: Snettisham, May 16th and Wolferton, July 4th.
- 105 Peregrine:** 7 coastal records from Salthouse, Cley, Morston and Scolt. Also one in Breck at Buckenham Tofts.
- 107 Merlin:** Coastal records up to May 9th and from Sept. 17th at Sheringham, Weybourne, Cley, Blakeney, Burnham Overy, Holme and Hunstanton.
- 108 Red-footed Falcon:** North/East coast: Mundesley, female, May 26th (AJH).
- 110 Kestrel:** Much more frequently seen on North coast, Brecks, Broads and Wash. At Cley, autumn passage peaked at 15 birds hovering over the marshes Aug. 2nd with similar autumn totals at Wolferton and Snettisham.
- 117 Quail:** Although not to be compared with the previous year, 1965 was notable with males calling at 13 localities: Wells, Salthouse Heath, Binham, Weybourne (2-3), Wisbech S.F., Holme, Marsham, Thornham, Ringstead, Docking, Burnham Market (bevy of 7), Walsingham and Wereham. First birds calling May 6th.

- 119 **Crane**: Broads: Hickling May 15th (MJS, GRS).
- 121 **Spotted Crake**: North: Salthouse, Sept. 5th. Fens: King's Lynn beet factory, Sept. 22nd.
- 125 **Corncrake**: North: Salthouse Heath, May 9th and Oct. 7th (latter calling 5 minutes); Old Hunstanton, calling from end of April. Central: Wrampingham, adult and 7 chicks July 6th (*per* EAE).
- 131 **Oystercatcher**: Breeding records: East: Breydon marshes, 3 nests; Horsey, one nest. North: Blakeney Point, 84 nests and 25 pairs on south side of harbour; Stiffkey, 8 pairs; Wells, 8 pairs; Burnham Overy, 9 pairs; Scolt, 110 nests; Titchwell, 2 pairs and Holme, 2 nests. Also a pair bred successfully at Sculthorpe aerodrome.
- 134 **Ringed Plover**: West: Pair bred successfully at a gravel pit also containing a breeding pair of little ringed plovers.
- 135 **Little Ringed Plover**: West: Total of 5 pairs during summer at 4 sites and 3 of the pairs known to have bred. Breck: Pair present at one site April 10th to May 23rd doubtless intended nesting on islet but water level became too high. Passage records include 2 at Cantley Aug. 6th and another there on 12th. In Fens, at Wisbech S.F. up to 11 between July 3rd and Sept. 23rd.
- 136 **Kentish Plover**: North: Cley, 2 females, May 21st.
- 142 **Dotterel**: North: Cley, Aug. 13th; 5-7, Sept. 4th and another on 27th. Scolt, May 14th and Holme, Aug. 17th.
- 150 **Curlew**: Breck: At least 4 pairs nested in Stanford "Battle" Area. West: Roydon Common, a pair summered.
- 154 **Black-tailed Godwit**: North/East coasts: Passage records at usual areas from March 23rd including 11 at Breydon May 12th. During spring 3 at Horsey for 3 weeks from May 1st and up to 6 at Cley till first half of May. Winter records from Wells (11, Dec. 1st) and Blakeney (9, Dec. 14th). Wash: 60 at Terrington Aug. 1st increasing later in month to 90 with 1-2 lingering through Nov. and 5 at Hunstanton Dec. 31st.
- 156 **Green Sandpiper**: Dec. records at Taverham (3), Blakeney, Wells, Burnham Overy, Glandford Mill and South Creak.
- Stilt Sandpiper** (*Micropalama himantopus*): Fens: Wisbech S.F. Aug. 12th-19th (CBC). The second county record.
- 162 **Spotted Redshank**: North/East coasts: Recorded each month except Jan. Central: Reymerston, 2 remained at a roadside pond, Sept. 7th-13th (ALB).

170 Purple Sandpiper: North coast: 1-3 (and once 7) recorded at usual localities each month except May-June. Wash: Snettisham to Hunstanton, maximum of 9 up to March 26th and from Sept. 9th.

173 Temminck's Stint: North: Salthouse, Oct. 19th. Fens: Wisbech S.F. May 18th and King's Lynn B.F. Sept. 22nd.

176 Pectoral Sandpiper: North: Cley, 2, Oct. 3rd-5th with one remaining till 7th.

182 Buff-breasted Sandpiper: North: Thornham to Holme, Sept. 26th to Oct. 3rd (CBC). The seventh county record.

184 Ruff: Numbers during April were unusually high: Broads: Hickling, flocks of 45 and 40 arrived April 6th. Horsey, 10, May 13th. Breydon, 20, April 8th-14th, 12, May 2nd and 11, Aug. 25th. North: Cley, again present throughout year with influxes of 25 April 5th, 70-80 on 11th (followed by a rapid decrease); 40 on 17th; 50, May 12th and 30 more on 15th. Much display as in 1964 but birds seemed restless and easily disturbed. Fens: Wisbech S.F. arrival of 55, April 11th and autumn peak of 120 Sept. 11th. West Walton. 120 in stubble, Oct. 1st.

185 Avocet: East: Breydon, March 25th, May 9th and Sept. 26th. North: Cley, March 30th; 2, May 8th; 8, June 8th/9th only 1 on 9th (when 7 at Gibraltar Point) all 8 back again on 12th/13th when steady decrease till all had gone on 22nd; 1, Aug. 15th and another Nov. 21st. Holme, May 23rd. Thornham, Nov. 28th. Fens: Wisbech S.F. July 3rd. Wash: Snettisham, 2, May 3rd.

186 Black-winged Stilt: A miniature invasion took place in May: Broads area: Martham Holmes, May 11th (JB); Horsey, 2, on 13th (AB, GC, DG) and near Reedham, 2, on 25th (MJS, DAD). North: Holme, May 3rd (HO).

187 Grey Phalarope: Broads: Hickling (Eastfield Farm), Nov. 8th-12th. North: Cley, immature, Nov. 13th-15th and Salthouse, 2 on 16th.

188 Red-necked Phalarope: North: Holme, July 3rd and Cley, Aug. 15th. Broads: Hickling, Aug. 13th. Fens: Wisbech S.F. up to 3, Aug. 12th-Sept. 16th.

193 Arctic Skua: North/East coasts: Gore Point, Jan. 2nd; Holme, 3, April 18th and Scolt, 2, May 5th. Autumn passage July 7th to Nov. 21st. Wash: Hunstanton to Holme peaks include 90 east and later 60 west Aug. 25th and 50 south and 22 north, Sept. 1st. Lynn Point, up to 40 gathering Aug. 1st to Sept. 11th, but none observed moving inland. Fens: Wisbech S.F. 4, Aug. 27th.

194 Great Skua: North coast (Holme to Salthouse): Winter records at Brancaster Jan. 2nd and Dec. 30th and at Cley Dec. 11th. Autumn passage Aug. 23rd to Nov. 21st with maximum of 10 off Holme Aug. 25th and 28 there Sept. 1st and 20 off Cley Sept. 19th with 6 there Nov. 21st. Wash (Hunstanton to

Lynn Channel) present Aug. 25th to Nov. 21st with maximum of 34 south and 7 north Sept. 1st.

195 Pomarine Skua: North/East coasts: Gore Point, Sept. 1st and Scolt on 24th; Winterton, Sept. 20th.

196 Long-tailed Skua: North: Cley, 2, Aug. 28th and 1, Sept. 11th.

200 Herring Gull: North: Cley, an adult considered to be of the Siberian race, *heuglini*, Dec. 14th-20th (MFMM, DL, RAR); very dark mantle, ochre legs, little black on primary tips and dusky winter head—streaking very pronounced.

201 Common Gull: North: Blakeney Point, a nest with 3 eggs found in the ternery June 26th. Unfortunately the chicks later disappeared. First breeding attempt in the county.

202 Glaucous Gull: North coast (Holme, Titchwell, Wells, Blakeney and Cley) on 6 dates up to April 2nd and from Sept. 30th. Wash (Hunstanton) Jan. 2nd to March 21st and Nov. 7th to 12th.

203 Iceland Gull: North: Cley, single adults Feb. 14th, 17th and 24th.

205 Mediterranean Gull: North: Cley, a second summer bird July 18th (RAR); adult, Oct. 17th and a first-winter bird Nov. 28th (MC, KE).

207 Little Gull: North: Scolt, May 27th. Holme, 2, Sept. 19th. Cley-Blakeney, May 7th, 15th and 19th and autumn passage between Aug. 14th and Nov. 21st (15 dates with peaks of 5 Sept. 16th and 7, Oct. 29th). Broads: Hickling, Sept. 3rd. Wash: Hunstanton to Heacham, 2, Nov. 17th; 30 on 19th and 4 on 21st.

208 Black-headed Gull: Number of *pairs* at breeding localities include: Wash: Wolferton, 3,000. Fens: Wissington B.F. 250. North: Scolt, 60; Burnham Overy, 22; Morston/Stiffkey, 37; Blakeney/Morston, 14; Cley (North drain marsh only), 120. Broads: Alderfen, 100 and Cantley, 100-150.

211 Kittiwake: North/East coasts: Non-breeding July concentrations include 3,000 at Blakeney Point and 700 at Scolt. At Cley a repetition of the remarkable 1964 influx took place between July 17th and 21st with 300 on Arnold's marsh on 18th and many west on 21st; another westward movement noted there July 31st. A really immense eastward passage took place Nov. 21st with birds passing Cley all day at the rate of 2,000 to 3,000 per hour (80% immatures). The same movement was noted off Cromer. Wash: Heacham to Hunstanton, over 2,000 W.S.W. Jan. 2nd was maximum movement.

212 Black Tern: Main, short-lived, eastward spring passage May 1st-4th when peak of 100 at Cley (2nd), up to 8 at Holme, 3 at Scolt, 50-60 at Hickling, 40 at Blackfleet Broad, 1 at Rockland, 5 at Horsey, 4 at Filby, 16 at Breydon,

4 at Stokesby and 15 at Acle Bridge. A further movement took place May 12th/13th when a total of 17 off Hunstanton, at Holme, Cley, Welney and Horsey.

In autumn coastal records Aug. 12th to Oct. 2nd with several passing west off Cley daily Sept. 3rd-9th and 12 on Horsey beach on 5th. Notable movement Sept. 26th when 70-80 west off Cley in 1-2 flocks and 160 in two flocks entering Wash at Hunstanton and same 2 flocks later headed S.W. at Lynn Point. Additional Wash records include 30 at Terrington Aug. 20th and 30 Lynn Point Sept. 20th.

217 Common Tern: Numbers of *pairs* at breeding localities: West: Wolferton saltings, 60. North: Scolt, 600; Blakeney Point, 800 and Cley/Salthouse, a few. East: Scroby, no count available, but 40 young ringed. Broads: Ranworth, 19; Hickling, 3 and Ormesby, 8.

218 Arctic Tern: North: Blakeney Point, one nest; Scolt, 3 summered.

219 Roseate Tern: North: None bred, but one at Scolt May 26th and on 4 occasions in July, with a first-year bird at Cley Sept. 9th.

222 Little Tern: Breeding records of *pairs* include: North: Holme, several; Scolt, 23; Titchwell and Wells, 2 pairs each, Burnham Overy, 4; Stiffkey, 100; Blakeney Point, 91 and Cley-Salthouse, a few. East: No figures available.

Only notable early autumn concentration 50 at Holme, Aug. 15th and 100 at Lynn Point on 1st.

223 Sandwich Tern: North/East coasts: 2,500 pairs bred on Scolt, 250 pairs at Scroby and 4 pairs at Stiffkey. Usual spring assembly at Arnold's marsh, Cley, peaked at 500, April 20th. A few colour-ringed Northumberland juveniles appeared at Cley during first week Aug. By early July, 4,000 adults, with 2,400 young, were present at Scolt and with 3,000 new arrivals between 1st and 8th the total population on Scolt (including flying young) rose to between 8,000 and 9,000 birds.

226 Little Auk: North/East coasts: Gorleston, Jan. 6th (later died); Wells, Nov. 6th (dead) and Salthouse, mid-Nov.

229 Black Guillemot: North: Weybourne, Sept. 26th and Cley, Oct. 12th.

230 Puffin: All records are of dead birds: Wash: Snettisham, March 11th/14th. North: Holme Point, Feb. 13th; Brancaster, May 20th and Cley, Jan. 23rd and Feb. 7th/10th.

235 Turtle Dove: North: Cley, peak days of westward spring passage were May 15th (80), 16th (56) and 21st (very many); also 50 at Glandford, May 25th.

Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): The 5 centres of abundance are as described in 1964 Report (p. 231). Breeding localities include Blakeney, 8 pairs; Morston, 4 pairs; also Burnham Overy, Burnham Deepdale, Titchwell,

Ringstead; King's Lynn, over 30 pairs; Downham Market, 7 pairs and Brandon. Among the autumn/winter flocks were 42 at Blakeney, 40 at Ringstead, 30-40 at Hunstanton, 25 at Downham Market, 20 at Wells and 40 at Bodney. One of the largest feeding concentrations remains at Broom Hill, East Runton (14 pairs nested here) where the following monthly maxima: Jan., 127; Feb., 126; March, 125; April, 110; May, 64; June, 84; July, 82; Aug. 109; Sept., 94; Oct., 72; Nov., 100 and Dec., 91. 2 melanistic birds were present at East Runton from Aug. 21st onwards.

237 Cuckoo: Very early arrival at Blakeney and Surlingham, March 29th.

248 Long-eared Owl: Single pairs bred successfully at Salthouse Heath, Kelling and Kelling Heath. Only other reports: Langley Abbey (injured) March 2nd and Holme, Oct. 1st.

249 Short-eared Owl: Single pairs nested at Scolt and Morston. Large concentrations on Halvergate-Berney Arms marshes throughout Jan. with the 2 roosts (described in 1964 Report) totalling 50 on 2nd and 80 (46 and 34) on 24th. Elsewhere, largest winter groups included 20 at Weasenham, 21 at Docking and 11 at Holme.

256 Alpine Swift: North, Cley, Oct. 3rd (RAR *et al.*). Sixteenth county record.

258 Kingfisher: Reported at 54 localities, but only known to have bred successfully at 2 sites.

261 Hoopoe: Wash: Snettisham, Sept. 25th. North: Holkham, May 2nd and Holme on 13th; Cley, Sept. 5th and another there Oct. 5th came in from the sea. Broads: Barton Turf, May 25th.

265 Wryneck: *Spring:* Cley May 16th.

Autumn: Unprecedented numbers arrived between Sept. 2nd and 28th, mostly between 4th-6th and the county total was at least 130 birds. Coastal observations were reported from King's Lynn, 1; Hunstanton golf course to Holme Firs, 24 (7 at former and 17 at latter); Thornham, 1; Brancaster Common, 1; Scolt Head, 2; Burnham Overy, 4-6; Holkham-Wells, 12; Blakeney Point to Salthouse, 25-30; Sheringham, 9 (including 4 dead); Beeston, 4; West Runton, 5; East Runton, 1; Cromer, 4-9; Mundesley, 2; Bacton, 2; Eccles, 4; Waxham, 1; Horsey-Winterton, 5-7; Scratby, 2; Yarmouth, 4-5 and Gorleston, 6.

Inland autumn occurrences: Walsingham, 1; Holt, 1; Stalham, 1; Hickling, 3; Horstead, 1; Brundall, 1; Thorpe-next-Norwich, 2; Norwich, 2; Old Costessey, 1; Honingham, 1; Old Buckenham, 1; Brinton, 1; Snoring 'drome, 1 and Briston, 1.

271 Wood-lark: Brecks: A few sites still occupied, particularly in Stanford "Battle" Area. Central: Singing at Felthorpe, July 2nd. North: 9 at Thornham, Oct. 9th-11th; Cley on 19th and Blakeney Point, Nov. 13th.

273 Shore-lark: North: Holme, Oct. 10th; Scolt, 3, Nov. 8th and Weybourne, 20, April 24th but only 8 next day. Cley, 5-6, Feb. 21st/22nd and last at Blakeney Point, May 9th; in autumn first recorded (2) Oct. 10th with a maximum of 35, Dec. 28th.

276 House Martin: Wash: Hunstanton cliffs, one occupied nest. At Dcreham, 3 young left the nest Oct. 24th all remaining in area until Nov. 15th when one found dead after severe frost. Very late birds at Snettisham Nov. 27th and at Blakeney, Dec. 14th.

278 Golden Oriole: Broads: Horsey, male, June 15th (GC). Wash: Sandringham, July 7th (PA).

295 Bearded Tit: Broads area: Breeding records from Hickling/Heigham Sounds/Horsey/Martham areas (over 100 pairs estimated), Ranworth and Barton. Outside breeding season several at Rockland end Nov. with numbers at Cantley in Jan. where 2 caught (and released) Dec. 26th had been ringed at Walberswick (Suffolk) as juveniles Aug. 5th.

Breck: Stanford, 5, Oct. 18th and 8, Dec. 26th-28th. North: Cley, over 20 pairs bred and "restlessness" first noted Sept. 11th when large influx noted. Holme, present all year and at least one pair bred; influx of 30, Sept. 28th. Also bred at another site (probably 3 pairs) where flock of 13, Oct. 21st. Wells, 6, Oct. 8th and Holkham, 14, same date. Central: Ringland G.P. pair, March 28th. Fens: King's Lynn B.F. 2, Oct. 24th; Welney, 8-9 end Oct. to Nov. 14th.

300 Black-bellied Dipper: Central: Gressenhall mill, Jan. 7th (SCP). Breck: Stanford Water, Dec. 28th (CAEK, ORM, HPC). Broads: Ormesby water-works, end Dec. (EGS).

302 Fieldfare: Extreme dates May 16th (Salthouse Heath), June 8th (Briston) and 29th (Hickling); Sept. 2nd (Cley) and 9th (Holkham).

307 Ring Ouzel: North coast: Usual spring (April 15th to May 11th) and autumn (Sept. 3rd to Oct. 29th) passage; largest party was 12 at Salthouse Heath Oct. 3rd. Inland: Blofield, Oct. 1st. East: Horsey, April 25th and 2-3 there, Oct. 15th.

313 Black-eared Wheatear: North: Salthouse, an adult male black-throated form of the Western race, *hispanica*, Aug. 30th-Sept. 14th (PT *et al*). An addition to the county list.

317 Stonechat: East: Horsey, 2 pairs bred. Breck: Brettenham Heath, 2 pairs bred. Usual autumn/winter coastal records.

321 Black Redstart: No breeding records but a male singing in Cromer, May 28th to first week July. Usual passage records of single birds.

324 Bluethroat: North: Holme, 1; Thornham, 2; Titchwell, 2; Scolt, 2; Blakeney Point to Salthouse, at least a dozen and Cromer, 1. All observations between Sept. 2nd and 5th.

338 Aquatic Warbler: North: Blakeney Point, Sept. 4th (DIMW) and Holme, trapped, on 5th (HO).

340 Icterine Warbler: North: Holme, Sept. 2nd, 3rd and 13th (HO).

343 Blackcap: Central: A wintering bird visited the editor's garden at Thorpenext-Norwich, March 6th-20th (MJS).

344 Barred Warbler: North: Holme, 2, Sept. 3rd (HO); Scolt, Sept. 4th (RC); Blakeney Point, 1, Sept. 2nd with 2 on 3rd (1 ringed), 5 between the Point and Salthouse on 4th and 2-3 in same area on 5th; Cley, 1 at Walsey Hills on 20th. East: Horsey (Bramble Hill), Sept. 4th (GRS).

356 Chiffchaff: Nov. records from Thornham on 7th and at Cley on 13th and 20th and again on Dec. 30th/31st.

357 Wood Warbler: North: Between May 8th and June 7th singing males at Weasenham, Blickling, Kelling (2), Weybourne and South Raynham.

360 Yellow-browed Warbler: North: The Hood, Blakeney Point, Oct. 9th/10th (MR, MC *et al*).

365 Firecrest: North: Holme, April 1st and 4th and Nov. 6th; Thornham, Oct. 10th; Blakeney Point, 1-2, Oct. 9th and Blakeney, long dead, May 18th. East: Yarmouth, Oct. 20th.

368 Pied Flycatcher: In spring: North: Holkham, May 2nd and 15th; Cley, 2 on 13th and Blakeney, May 5th, 7th and 18th. Heavy autumn passage Aug. 14th to early Oct.

370 Red-breasted Flycatcher: North: Blakeney Point Sept. 26th and 1-2 there Oct. 9th/10th. Holkham, Oct. 10th (HR).

374 Richard's Pipit: North: Cley, Sept. 27th (RAR).

375 Tawny Pipit: North: Holme, Sept. 30th-Oct. 3rd (HO) and Hunstanton golf course, Oct. 3rd (CBC). Cley beach, Oct. 6th (MR).

381 Grey Wagtail: Nested unsuccessfully at Stiffkey; only other spring records: Glandford April 9th and Santon Downham May 2nd. Autumn/winter records from Bintree, Gressenhall, Trowse, Cranworth, Cley and Winterton.

382 Blue-headed Wagtail (*M.f. flava*) and Ashy-headed Wagtail (*M.f. cinereo-capilla*): North: Cley, 2-3 *flava* May 2nd and a probable *cinereo-capilla* on 7th;

2 male and 4 female probable *cinereocapilla* Oct. 3rd (occurred with Alpine swift at Cley and woodchat at Holme).

382 Grey-headed Wagtail (*M.f. thunbergi*): North: Holme, 3, May 1st-2nd (HO). Cley, male, June 1st.

383 Waxwing: Only 3 records were received at the beginning of the year: 4 at Surlingham Feb. 26th, 1 at Attleborough on 28th and 2 in Norwich on March 5th.

The autumn invasion which was on an unprecedented scale began on 14th Oct. when 9 were reported at Wiveton and 12 at Hunstanton. On the following day Holme Observatory recorded 9 heading S.W. and 3 arrived at Horsey. The 17th brought a party of 6 to Happisburgh and by the 18th larger numbers were reported: 100 at Muckleborough Hill, 100 at Holkham and 28 at Snettisham. On the following day the Holkham flock had risen to over 200 with 77 at Snettisham, 35 at Holme where a further 77 were seen going south, with parties of 30, 14 and 20 in the Cley, Salthouse and Weybourne areas, respectively. On 20th Oct. 204 were flying south over Holme and in the next few days large flocks were reported: 300 at Beeston, well over 100 in the Horning/Ranworth area, 40 at Weybourne and 300 at Wiveton by the 26th. There was a party of 300 on Roydon Common on Oct. 31st, but by Nov. 1st, the Beeston flock was down to 100, with 300 still at Wiveton, 100 along the Wash, 100 near South Creake, 35 inland at Wheatfen and 8 at Grimston between Oct. 27th and Nov. 3rd.

Dispersal of the large flocks began during the first week of Nov. with the Wiveton number down to 100 by the 5th, flocks of 50 at Runton and 70 at Cromer from the 8th. Brancaster Staithe had a party of 30 on 2nd increasing to 60 by 12th where they remained until the 21st. A flock at Heacham numbered 300 between 6th and 9th, but was down to 40 by the 13th. At King's Lynn, however, between 90 and 120 were present from 7th to 14th. At this time small parties appeared along the county's east coast with a flock of between 50 and 100 at Gorleston on 21st, and in many inland localities extending from Breckland to Swardston and Stratton Strawless in the south. This pattern of small flocks being reported from widespread areas continued throughout Dec., the larger ones being 34 at King's Lynn on 10th, 17 at Blofield and 35 on Thetford golf course on 19th, 50 at Burgh Castle on 20th, 20 at Crostwick on 26th and 40 in the Dereham Road area of Norwich during the last 2 weeks of the year.

Although there was still a large number present in the county at the end of the year, the peak was undoubtedly during the last week of Oct. and beginning of Nov. At this time with at least 3 large flocks of up to 300 each, the total present in the county must have been between 1,000 and 1,200, the largest number of waxwings recorded in Norfolk at one time.

Over 200 individual records were received and to give an idea of the extent of the invasion in Norfolk the localities from which waxwing records were received are listed below:—

Acle, Attleborough, Aylmerton, Aylsham, Babingley, Beeston, Bingham, Blakeney, Blickling, Blofield, Brancaster Staithe, Burnham Thorpe, Catton,

Cley, Colney, Cromer, Crostwick, Drayton, Earlham, East Dereham, East Harling, East Runton, East Winch, Fakenham, Gayton, Gorleston, Great Ormesby, Great Snoring, Great Walsingham, Great Yarmouth, Grimston, Happisburgh, Heacham, Hellesdon, Holkham, Holme, Holt, Horning, Horsey, Hoveton St. John, Hunstanton, King's Lynn, Little Melton, Ludham, North Walsham, North Creake, North Wootton, Norwich, Overstrand, Overy Staithe, Potter Heigham, Ranworth, Roydon, Salthouse, Saxlingham, Snettisham, South Creake, South Wootton, Stalham, Stiffkey, Stratton Strawless, Surlingham, Swardeston, Taverham, Thetford, Thornham, Thorpe St. Andrew, Toftwood, Tottington, Sturston, Watton, Waterden, Waxham, Wells, West Lynn, West Runton, Weybourne, Wisbech S.F., Wiveton, Woodton and Wroxham.

384 Great Grey Shrike: North: Salthouse Heath wintering till April 28th; Walsey Hills, Cley, Feb. 14th; Kelling Pines, April 20th. Blakeney Point, Oct. 10th-12th (eating goldcrests); Salthouse Heath, Oct. 25th to Dec. 31st; Trimmingham, Oct. 26th; Holme, up to March 21st and from Oct. 10th and Shereford, March 13th. Wash: Heacham, Jan. 30th; Snettisham, May 16th-June 3rd; Snettisham G.P. Nov. 7th and Dersingham, Jan. 2nd. Breck: Santon Downham, Jan. 23rd; St. Helen's Well, Dec. 26th/27th; Ickborough, Nov. 21st; Boughton Fen, Dec. 25th; Knettishall Heath, Nov. 14th; Stanford and Sturston Warren, up to March 28th and Dec. 25th-28th; Didlington, Dec. 10th/11th and Narborough G.P. up to Jan. 18th. Central: Eaton golf course, Jan. 13th. West: Leziate, Nov. 7th and Roydon, Oct. 10th. East: Little Ormesby, end Dec.

386 Woodchat-Shrike: North: Wells, April 29th/30th (FT, TD); Holme, May 26th and Oct. 4th (HO). East: Happisburgh Mill Farm, May 19th (MF).

388 Red-backed Shrike: Breeding season distribution: North coast, 10 pairs at 8 localities. Breck: 10 pairs at 7 sites. In autumn, up to 5 juvenile migrants in Cley area Sept. 2nd-5th with singles at Burnham Overy and Holkham, 2 at Titchwell and 5 in Holme/Thornham area in same period.

391 Hawfinch: Records from Blakeney, Wiveton, Holkham, Weybourne, West Runton, Hunstanton, Blickling, Stanford, Cockley Cley, Watton, Shadwell, Ring Mere, Cranworth and Letton Park.

394 Siskin: In autumn, noticeable arrival between Sept. 3rd-5th when several at Cley, 50 at Beeston, 10 at Cromer, 35 at Holme and 1-2 at Winterton, Gorleston, Morston, Burnham Overy, Wells and Scolt.

397 Redpoll: Birds showing the characteristics of the Continental race *flammea* as follows: Saxlingham Thorpe, 12, March 12th; Holme, 3, Nov. 4th; 3 at Scolt on 8th; 8 at Holkham 7th-14th when others arriving at Cley among them a few very grey and white and slightly larger birds very close to *exilipes*.

400 Serin: North: Holme, male singing, Aug. 23rd (HO). Seventh county record and the first since 1922.

408 Brambling: Late spring birds at Burgh Castle May 1st and at Blakeney on 8th. Considerable numbers in some areas towards end of year with 7-800 at Cley, many hundreds at West Barsham, 2,000 at Hilborough, 1,000 at Colney and flocks of 500 in the Thornham/Burnham Market/Docking areas.

413 Red-headed Bunting: North: Cley, male, May 14th-June 7th was considered an "escape".

422 Lapland Bunting: North coast: Parties up to 13 till March 11th and from Sept. 20th. East: Halvergate, up to 50, mid-Feb. (PRA).

423 Snow Bunting: Wash/North/East coasts: Recorded up to April 22nd and from Sept. 17th, but apart from 500 at Stiffkey (Dec. 14th) no flock exceeded 200.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The following not mentioned in the Classified Notes, were also recorded in 1965 (*breeding species in italics*): Black-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, *Little Grebe*, Gannet, Cormorant, *Bittern*, *Mallard*, *Teal*, *Gadwall*, *Pintail*, *Shoveler*, Scaup, Goldeneye, *Canada Goose*, *Mute Swan*, *Red-legged Partridge*, *Partridge*, *Pheasant*, *Water-Rail*, *Moorhen*, *Coot*, *Lapwing*, Grey Plover, Golden Plover, Turnstone, *Snipe*, Jack Snipe, *Woodcock*, Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit, Wood-Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, *Redshank*, Green-shank, Knot, Little Stint, Dunlin, Curlew-Sandpiper, Sanderling, *Stone-Curlew*, Greater Black-backed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Razorbill, Guillemot, *Stock Dove*, *Wood Pigeon*, *Barn Owl*, *Little Owl*, *Tawny Owl*, *Nightjar*, *Swift*, *Green Woodpecker*, *Greater Spotted Woodpecker*, *Lesser Spotted Woodpecker*, *Skylark*, *Swallow*, *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*, *Redwing*, *Blackbird*, *Wheatear*, *Whinchat*, *Redstart*, *Nightingale*, *Robin*, *Grasshopper*, *Warbler*, *Reed Warbler*, *Sedge Warbler*, *Garden Warbler*, *Whitethroat*, *Lesser Whitethroat*, *Willow Warbler*, *Goldcrest*, *Spotted Flycatcher*, *Hedge Sparrow*, *Meadow Pipit*, *Tree Pipit*, *Rock Pipit*, *Pied Wagtail*, *White Wagtail*, *Yellow Wagtail*, *Starling*, *Greenfinch*, *Goldfinch*, *Linnet*, *Twite*, *Bullfinch*, *Crossbill*, *Chaffinch*, *Yellowhammer*, *Corn Bunting*, *Reed Bunting*, *House Sparrow* and *Tree Sparrow*.

*Selected Ringing Recoveries**(Notified in 1965)*

	<i>Ringed</i>	<i>Recovered</i>
Fulmar	Fair Isle 9.8.62	Winterton 30.3.64
Cormorant	Puffin Is. (Anglesey) 30.6.62	Hickling Broad 12.1.65
Cormorant	Farne Is. 31.7.61	Loddon 1.1.64
Cormorant	Farne Is. 13.7.64	North Wootton 19.12.64
Shag	Farne Is. 16.6.65	Hales 7.12.65
Heron	Near King's Lynn 3.5.59	Chirk, Wrexham (Denbigh) 8.12.64
Heron	Amsterdam (Noord Holland) Netherlands 19.4.61	Caister 24.12.61
Mallard	How Hill 16.1.60	Lake Kolungen (Alusborg) Sweden 23.8.65
Mallard	How Hill 22.2.60	Stora (Jutland) Denmark 28.12.64
Mallard	How Hill 25.2.64	Nijeholtwolde (Friesland) Netherlands 1.12.64
Mallard	How Hill 28.10.64	Dromore, Ballybay, Eire 26.12.64
Mallard	How Hill 12.11.64	Near Kola (Murmansk) U.S.S.R. 25.4.65
Mallard	How Hill 26.1.65	Kalvebod Strand (Sjaelland) Denmark 12.10.65
Mallard	How Hill 5.2.65	Nyborg (Fyn) Denmark Aug. '65
Mallard	Dersingham 21.12.63	Styding, Hammeley (Jutland) Denmark 3.11.65
Mallard	Dersingham 31.12.63	Noyelle sur Mer (Somme) France 15.2.65
Mallard	Dersingham 31.12.63	Aurtinusau (Friesland) Netherlands 23.4.65
Mallard	Dersingham 1.1.64	Zuidloader Meer (Groningen) Netherlands 24.8.65
Mallard	Dersingham 9.1.64	Vaasa, Finland 6.9.65
Teal	Dersingham 8.11.64	Fleury d'Aude, France 9.1.65
Teal	Copenhagen, Denmark 28.11.64	Dersingham 2.1.65
Wigeon	Haarsteeg (Noord Brabant) Netherlands 29.2.64	Hickling Broad 12.1.65
Moorhen	Nakskov, Loll, Denmark 28.8.64	Erpingham 6.1.65
Oystercatcher	Scolt 4.7.63	Den Helder (Noord Holland) Netherlands 18.4.65
Lapwing	Elbergen (Niedersachsen) Germany 31.5.55	Swaffham 12.12.64
Ringed Plover	Scolt 3.7.64	Cap Ferry (Gironde), France 1.9.64

Snipe	Wisbech S.F. 23.8.61	Badajoz, Spain 8.12.64
Snipe	Wisbech S.F. 24.9.64	Near Oristano, Sardinia 12.11.64
Jack Snipe	Holme 31.10.64	Near Tunis, North Africa 9.12.64
<i>The first recovery in Africa of a British-ringed jack snipe</i>		
Woodcock	Rijsterbos (Friesland) Netherlands 11.11.65	Yaxham 23.11.65
Woodcock	Tred (Jutland) Denmark 20.12.63	Morston 21.12.64
Curlew	Terrington 18.8.59	Wateren (Drenthe) Netherlands 26.4.64
Redshank	Scolt 21.5.64	Le Conquet (Finistere) France 15.11.64
Redshank	Scolt 21.5.64	Agon (Manche) France 28.3.65
Redshank	Wisbech S.F. 31.8.61	Amager (Sjaelland) Denmark 4.7.64
Dunlin	Revtangen, Klepp (Rogaland) Norway 24.8.55	Burnham Overy 14.3.65
Dunlin	Griend, Netherlands 20.12.62	Thornham 10.2.63
Dunlin	Getteron, Varberg, Sweden 31.8.64	Wisbech S.F. 25.9.64
Arctic Skua	Fair Isle 18.7.56 and 14.6.60	Winterton 19.8.64
Herring Gull	Texel (Frisian Is.) Netherlands 1.7.59	Winterton March '64
Common Gull	Jarnaskar, Brakne-Hoby (Blekinge), Sweden 23.6.62	Breydon 17.5.64
Black-headed Gull	Norwich 29.12.64	Gylling, Aarhus (Jutland), Den- mark 8.8.65
Black-headed Gull	Harford 9.1.65	Venslev, Dalmose (Sjaelland) Denmark 18.9.65
Black-headed Gull	Matsalu, Estonian S.S.R. 18.6.64	Harford 9.1.65
Black-headed Gull	Jokijarvi, Hauho (Hame) Finland 24.6.64	Swaffham mid-Nov. '64
Black-headed Gull	Farholmen, Braviken (Ostergot- land) Sweden 6.6.64	Bacton 6.8.65
Black-headed Gull	Lippitsch, Bautzen (Sachsen), Germany 5.6.57	Norwich 29.12.65
Kittiwake	Farne Is. 14.7.60	East Rudham near Fakenham (killed against wires) 23.6.64
Common Tern	Scolt 28.6.61	Cap Vert (Dakar), Senegal 9.1.62
Common Tern	Scolt 30.6.64	Areia Branca (Estremadura), Portugal 2.9.64
Sandwich Tern	Scolt 6.7.65	Near Keta, Ghana 20.11.65
Sandwich Tern	Scolt 24.6.64	Shama near Sekondi, Ghana 4.12.65
Sandwich Tern	Scolt 23.6.64	Fatick, Senegal 16.2.65
Sandwich Tern	Scolt 26.6.64	Pointe-Noire, Congo 11.5.65
Sandwich Tern	Scolt 23.6.64	Luanda, Angola 26.3.65

Sandwich Tern	Scolt 23.6.64	Dakar, Senegal 28.3.65
Sandwich Tern	Scolt 11.7.62	Schiermonnikoog (Frisian Is.), Netherlands 31.7.65
Turtle Dove	Gooderstone 3.7.63	Le Verdon (Gironde) West France 7.5.65
Turtle Dove	Gooderstone 25.6.63	Ste Foy-la-Grande, (Gironde), W. France 12.9.65
Turtle Dove	Gooderstone 3.7.61	Lesparre, Medoc (Gironde), W. France 4.5.65
Swallow	Wood Dalling 8.9.63	At sea south-west off Ireland (48 53 N., 11 46 W.) 6.6.64
Swallow	Wiggenhall 1.9.64	Kempton Park, Johannesburg, South Africa 29.12.64
Sand Martin	Sparham 20.5.65	St. Pryve-St. Mesmin (Loiret), France 8.9.65
Sand Martin	Buckenham 26.6.65	Artix (Basses Pyrenees), France 5.9.65
Sand Martin	Aldeby 26.7.65	St. Pryve-St. Mesmin (Loiret), France 11.9.65
Sand Martin	Middleton 5.7.64	Villanueva de Gomez (Avila), Spain 12.9.64
Sand Martin	Wiggenhall 30.8.64	La Chapelle-sur-Erdre (Loire Atlantique), France 17.9.64
Sand Martin	La Chapelle-sur-Erdre (Loire Atlantique), France 30.8.63	Wolferton 6.6.64
Sand Martin	Casbrook Common, Hants. 13.7.63	Buckenham 3.6.65
Sand Martin	Sandwich, Kent 28.8.63	Sparham 9.6.65
Sand Martin	Coates, Petworth, Sussex 19.7.64	Keswick 17.7.65
Sand Martin	Ashley Heath, Hants. 10.6.65	Cantley 6.8.65
Bearded Tit (2 juveniles)	Walberswick (Suffolk) 5.8.65	Cantley (both released) 26.12.65
Fieldfare	Brancaster 4.1.64	Hamar (Hedmark), Norway 6.9.64
Song Thrush	Holme 4.10.64	Palma del Rio (Cordoba), Spain 20.11.64
Song Thrush	Cley 15.10.59	Baena (Cordoba), Spain Jan. '64
Redwing	Fair Isle 17.10.64	Trunch, North Walsham 21.12.64
Blackbird	Brancaster 8.12.63	Valmiera, Latvian S.S.R., 16.4.64
Blackbird	Holme 1.12.63	St. Folquin, Dunkerque (Pas de Calais), France 6.12.64
Blackbird	Holme 10.11.63	Heligoland, Germany 28.3.65
Blackbird	Holme 19.10.64	Schortens, Wilhelmshaven (Niedersachsen), Germany 29.7.65

1 Blackbird	Holme 4.11.63	Nynashamn (Stockholm), Sweden 5.7.65
1 Blackbird	Holme 28.2.65	Bocholt (Nordrhein Westfalen), Germany 14.6.65
1 Blackbird	Helsinki, Finland 22.10.62	Burnham Market 8.12.62
1 Robin	Holme 29.4.65 and 1.5.65	Insel Scharnhorn, River Elbe, Germany 5.5.65
1 Robin	Falsterbo (Skane), Sweden 4.10.62	Holme 27.4.65
1 Pied Flycatcher	Westerland, Sylt, Frisian Is., Germany 21.9.65	Holme 26.9.65
1 Starling	Norwich 18.1.64	Den Helder (Noord Holland) Netherlands 1.12.65
1 Starling	Ketteringham 30.12.63	Tijnje (Friesland), Netherlands 4.6.65
1 Starling	Norwich 16.1.64	Ureterp (Friesland), Nether- lands 28.5.65
1 Starling	Norwich 24.1.64	Perseri, Voru, Estonian S.S.R. 21.5.65
1 Starling	Norwich 15.1.65	Mill (Noord Brabant), Nether- lands 10.4.65
1 Starling	Rybatschi (Kaliningrad), U.S.S.R. 16.10.61	Neatishead 26.4.65
1 Greenfinch	Le Zoute (W. Flanders), Belgium 21.2.62	Norwich 7.3.64
1 Goldfinch	Le Zoute (W. Flanders), Belgium 12.1.64	Woodbastwick 26.4.64
1 Tree Sparrow	Cambridge 12.2.64	Newarp light-vessel 9.4.64

Ringling Sand Martins : A Preliminary Report

(J. F. W. Bruhn)

Colonies in East Norfolk

Sand martins clearly prefer sand quarries that have recently been excavated to those that are derelict. They require a firm sand face for their nests, and where these conditions exist, pairs are highly concentrated. Sites may be grouped as follows:—

Sand pits being worked: Sparham, Aldeby and Strumpshaw all held over 1,000 pairs in 1964, and with the exception of the latter, in 1965 also. Many smaller pits also hold fair-sized colonies, and newly exposed sand faces are readily colonised, in spite of disturbance.

Old sand quarries: Derelict ones, Lenwade, Marlingford and Broome Heath, for instance, usually hold a few pairs where banks are suitable.

Temporary sites: The U.E.A. site at Earllham, and the new County Offices site in Norwich held a few pairs in 1965, where the foundations had been dug into the sand layer.

Holes in brickwork: Several such sites exist especially along the rivers in Norwich, where there are drainage holes.

Other sites: Happisburgh and California, for instance, in coastal cliff, and Wolferton, a thriving colony in a railway embankment.

When nest sites are destroyed, our birds appear to move to other colonies in the neighbourhood the following year. Strumpshaw and Brooke became partly unsuitable in 1965, and the following movements of 1964-ringed birds were recorded: 60 from Strumpshaw to Buckenham, one mile south; two were traced to Keswick, and another two to Aldeby; five from Brooke turned up at Buckenham and one each at Sparham and Keswick. Certain colonies also appear to be used as roosts, and in July 1965, several adults were roosting in holes under Trowse Bridge, Norwich, where some 10 pairs had nests. Colonies are sometimes already occupied by a few pairs in late April and desertion of colonies is almost complete by mid-August.

Little owl, jackdaw, kingfisher, coal tit, house and tree sparrow and muscovy duck have been reported breeding at sand martin colonies, and both little owl and kestrel have been netted as they searched colonies for prey.

Roosts

Sand Martins must roost in the Broads area in some numbers, although a regular site has yet to be located. Temporary roosts form at such places as Cantley, where 15,000 were estimated in early August 1965, but these are easily disturbed. Cantley, visited twice in 1965, contained 12 birds, out of 13 already carrying rings, from Norfolk and Suffolk colonies (Sparham, Thetford and Bawdsey near Felixstowe). The exception was an adult from Ashley Heath, Hants., on 10.6.65, controlled there 6.8.65.

The large roost at Wiggshall in the west of the county was first occupied in 1962, when birds deserted an earlier roost on the Ouse Washes. Wiggshall was first worked by ringers two years ago, and of 329 birds controlled there in 1965, 27 came from Scotland and more than 100 from English counties north of the Wash—Mersey line. 75 came from Norfolk, mainly from the west of the county, and 18 from coastal Suffolk. Daily estimates of the size of the roost in 1965 varied from 15,000 in late July to 40,000 in the second part of August, with a marked peak of 75,000 around August 7th.

Out of 400 handled at a roost a few miles outside Norfolk, at March, Cambs., in late August 1965, 12 had been ringed at colonies in other parts of the country, principally from Scotland and the north-west, and no movement was less than 50 miles, apart from birds that had come from Wiggshall earlier in the month. Thus it appears that in the east of our area, we are unlikely to come across birds deviating from the south-easterly migration stream that has been shown to exist in this country.

Roosts are, as is to be expected, mainly composed of juveniles. The Cantley and March roosts gave 18% adults to 82% juveniles, although the numbers handled at each was too small to give a reliable ratio. The figures for Wiggshall over two years, with nearly 12,000 birds handled, are 22% and 78%, but this varies, and peak passages of adults are apparent when the figures are examined in detail. These roosts also contain a percentage of swallows, and swallow roosts usually hold a few sand martins.

Movements of Sand Martins

There is no guarantee that a bird seen at a colony is breeding or has been bred there. A juvenile from Dorchester, Oxon., 10.7.64, was at Strumpshaw 16.7.64, and an adult from Scarborough, Yorks., 18.7.64 was at Sparham 28.7.64. A juvenile ringed at Aldeby 30.7.65 was found at the Wiggshall roost, 52 miles away, two days later. Thus dispersal of adults and young can happen quickly, and start well before the colonies are deserted.

Roughly 10% of adults ringed at East Norfolk colonies have been controlled in later years, the majority of them returning to the same place. The controlling of an adult at a different colony does not, however, mean that a change of colony has taken place, as the above examples show. A much smaller proportion of fledged juveniles have been controlled at the same colony in subsequent years, others showing movement of up to 50 miles. This lower percentage may be partly attributed to the early dispersal of young and to the greater mortality rate among first year birds.

Throughout the country as a whole there is a marked south-east movement in autumn. Many thousands of sand martins have been caught at a roost at Chichester, Sussex, and birds from the Midlands are well represented among their controls, but few birds from Norfolk and Suffolk seem to reach so far west along the south coast. Two from Strumpshaw 24.6.64 were caught there in August 1964, and a few others have come from west Norfolk and coastal Suffolk. Conversely, few autumn-ringed birds from Chichester find their way to our area. There are some movements between Kent and East Anglia, but as there is

a time lapse between ringing and recovery dates in these cases, they prove nothing conclusively. But it still seems likely that a more easterly route is taken by our birds, and it is worth noting here that two freshly-ringed Belgian birds were found at Suffolk colonies in 1965.

The controlling of two birds from East Norfolk colonies at St. Pryve-St. Mesmin (Loiret) and another at Artix (Basses Pyrenees) in 1965 shows that they had joined the usual migration route through France by early September, when they were handled by French ringers*. In addition, 7 of the Wigenhall birds have already been controlled on the Continent, six in France, and one in Spain.

*Even then, the first two are among the most easterly of British controls in France.

Norfolk Mammal Report

1965

The editor has pleasure in presenting the twelfth annual report on Norfolk mammals, and has as usual given details of the various species in the classified notes. There are, however, a few matters of particular interest which deserve mention in this introduction.

Foxes are now undoubtedly very numerous in many parts of the County, and continue to demonstrate their ability to thrive in spite of constant trapping, gassing and hunting. In some thickly populated parts of the country they are beginning to move into even quite small pockets of waste land in urban areas, but I have yet to receive any reports from Norwich. Myxomatosis still breaks out regularly, and this year many contributors have sent me the dates when the disease was noted. This could be of some interest, and details are given below. The Harvest Mouse, now rare or absent over much of England, seems, if anything, to be extending its range in Norfolk. This is particularly surprising in view of the fact that it might be expected to do best under now out-dated methods of agriculture.

I have introduced one change this year: there have been such a large number of reports of Red Squirrel that I thought members might be interested to see a map of the distribution of positive sightings in 1965. This might also be considered as a challenge to some observers to fill in the gaps! Two matters of regret and dismay respectively; Noctule Bats (our largest) seem to be much reduced, and there was one definite report of mink during the year.

I should like to thank all members who have helped to make this report possible, and hope I may be forgiven for singling out three of them here. They are R. P. Bagnall-Oakeley, who made all his North Norfolk records available to me, and J. Buckley and J. Goldsmith of Norwich, for their painstaking and most valuable observations mainly from the area south of the City. W. J. Woolston kindly supplied the excellent photographs.

Classified Notes

Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)

On average there seem to have been fewer seen than in the previous year, except in the Watton, Holt, Great Snoring and Attlebridge areas. Between the latter and Norwich, 15 were seen killed on the road compared with 10 in 1964.

A "fat female" found at the City of Norwich School on the 17th July gave birth to three young on the 18th and ate them on the 19th.

Common Shrew (*Sorex araneus*)

Numbers of this species are apparently not much changed, though the increase after the bad winter of 1962/63 was continued around Holt. It may not be widely realised that shrews quite frequently come in to houses; how far they come in may be seen from the fact that one was caught in a trap *upstairs* at Brisley. They were also seen indoors from October to December at Gressenhall.

Pigmy Shrew (*Sorex minutus*)

Perhaps as a result of my appeal last year, more members have sent in reports of this species. The ratio with *S. araneus* in Barn Owl pellets at Caistor Common was 1.3 and at Brinton and Edgefield 1.8. The latter figure represents a decrease.

One was seen eating a large worm in a trench at Dereham, and dead specimens were found in beehives at Aylsham. It is reported fairly common at Wells.

Water Shrew (*Neomys fodiens bicolor*)

The stronghold of this species in Norfolk would appear to be the Glaven valley, where it has been seen frequently, and has represented up to 6% in barn owl pellets in the summer months. Single specimens were also noted in pellets from Caistor in February and Cantley in July. Water shrews were also seen at East Bilney and Horsford.

Mole (*Talpa europaea*)

"Abundant" and "numerous" are still the commonest description for this animal. Over 200 were trapped on a farm at Setch, and a density of one fortress per 5 acres is reported from Cranworth.

Two methods of crossing water were observed: one swam across the bottom of a stream at Horsford, and another crossed a bridge at Bawburgh. An albino with a bright ginger patch underneath was caught at Thetford, and a silver-grey specimen at Binham.

Bats

The most frequently recorded species are the Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), still about as widespread as ever, and the Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*), one of which was killed by a cat in the Cathedral Close, another 30 being disturbed during the re-tiling of a roof at Thurning.

Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentoni*) comes next, with reports from various river or lake localities. A tame one lived 220 days in captivity. Noctules (*Nyctalus noctula*) were recorded definitely at four localities, but it is no longer seen over much of the County. There have been two separate reports of Barbastelles (*Barbastellus barbastellus*), one dead from a felled tree at Stody; this species was not recorded last year. Another possible is Natterer's Bat (*Myotis natterii*) from two areas; bats are, of course, notoriously difficult to identify on the wing. The one known colony of the Whiskered Bat (*Myotis mystacinus*) in North Norfolk is now apparently extinct.

Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

The pattern of outbreaks of myxomatosis and recovery (at least of numbers, if not individual animals) is now, it seems, firmly established. In areas such as Breckland—including the Stanford Practical Training Area—where it was abundant before the disease appeared, it is now reasonably plentiful again. There is at least one report that it is “living underground again”. I mention this because there was some evidence, in the years immediately following the original outbreak, that rabbits were tending to live above ground.

Myxomatosis was noted in the following months:—January: Tunstall and Massingham; March/April: Dereham; May: Swannington and Alderford; June: Binham; September: East Bilney, Ringland and Stoke Holy Cross; October: Swannington, Aylsham, Ingworth and Foulden. Yet another black rabbit was caught at Binham.

Hare (*Lepus europaeus occidentalis*)

Many contributors have reported that there were fewer Hares seen during 1965, and at Bawdeswell many leverets died. In a January shoot on the Breydon Marshes which produced 29 in 1964, only 7 were killed in 1965. However, one would not describe the Hare as uncommon, but simply reduced from its abundance of five or six years ago. A black specimen was shot at Langham.

Bank Vole (*Clethrionomys glareolus*)

As usual with the smaller voles there have been fluctuations in numbers reported with this species, from Holt, Hethersett and Watton, where only six were trapped in a fruit store compared with 29 in 1964. One was caught in a house at Redgrave.

At Attlebridge this species was believed to have been responsible for the destruction of parsnips and fodder beet, which were hollowed out from the crown downwards, leaving a shell about an eighth of an inch thick.

Short-tailed Vole (*Microtus agrestis*)

These animals were greatly decreased on the Aele Marshes and around Holt after the almost plague proportions at the end of 1964. Even so, this is probably the most generally distributed of small mammals in Norfolk. At Caistor and Trowse they represented up to 83% of the contents of Barn Owl pellets analysed.

Some quite large tape-worms were found in three specimens from the Norwich area.

Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius amphibius*)

Water Voles are maintaining their numbers in all their usual habitats, with the usual sprinkling of black (or blackish) specimens, and “gingerish” colour varieties were seen at Tasburgh and Whitlingham. There have been some comments on Water Vole feeding habits: Iris and Reedmace in a water-garden at Seteh; Pond Snail on two occasions at Brinton; and at Sutton, near Wymondham, a short-lived plague of these animals in a garden burrowed under Tulip bulbs and Sweet Williams, and stored “great numbers” of Tulip bulbs in their burrows.

Wood Mouse or Field Mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*)

On the whole there does not seem to be much change in the numbers of this species. Trapping at unofficial rubbish-dumps and roadside stopping-places around Holt showed this to be the commonest mammal in such habitats. Items of this animal's diet noted in 1965 included Tulip shoots, buds and flowers of Christmas Rose, and wall-paper.

Harvest Mouse (*Micromys minutus*)

A rather larger number of reports of Harvest Mice were sent in this year, including some from Brooke, Colney, East Bilney, Sparham and Corpusty, in addition to the expected ones from the Broads and North Norfolk. Owl pellet analyses from the latter area gave up to 8.5% for this species. Around Wells they are known as "Ginger Mice".

House Mouse (*Mus musculus*)

Most observers, it seems, have little to say about this creature. This is a pity, since there is evidence that its distribution has changed substantially in the last decade or so. At Wymondham College, for example, we have seen hardly any in recent years, where in the early 'fifties they were quite plentiful. This year they have been reported as increased at Attlebridge and Cranworth, and one isolated specimen turned up in an owl pellet at Cantley—a marsh dweller?

Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)

Two separate reports have been received, from Didlington and Attlebridge, of rats becoming resistant to warfarin; this phenomenon has recently been given great prominence in Montgomeryshire, and it is interesting, and perhaps sinister, to find evidence of it here as well.

Reports of increased numbers have been much less frequent than last year, but the Rat is still abundant everywhere. One observer noted 147 killed during the year on roads around Watton. They are known to inhabit the north coast salt marshes, where they hunt the shoreline for anything edible. At Hainford about twenty were seen "feeding and playing" in a wood on a heap of sugar-beet pulp.

Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris leucorus*)

The known distribution of this species in 1965 is shown on the map on page 307. As implied in the introduction, it was almost certainly present in many more localities.

At Framingham Chase a pair tame enough to eat from the hand raised young. Two interesting behaviour observations: at Thorpe, a squirrel made a small platform as a base of operations for collecting sweet chestnuts from the ground; and at Foulden Common one was watched while foraging on the ground which climbed every tree it came to for two or three feet before hopping down again.

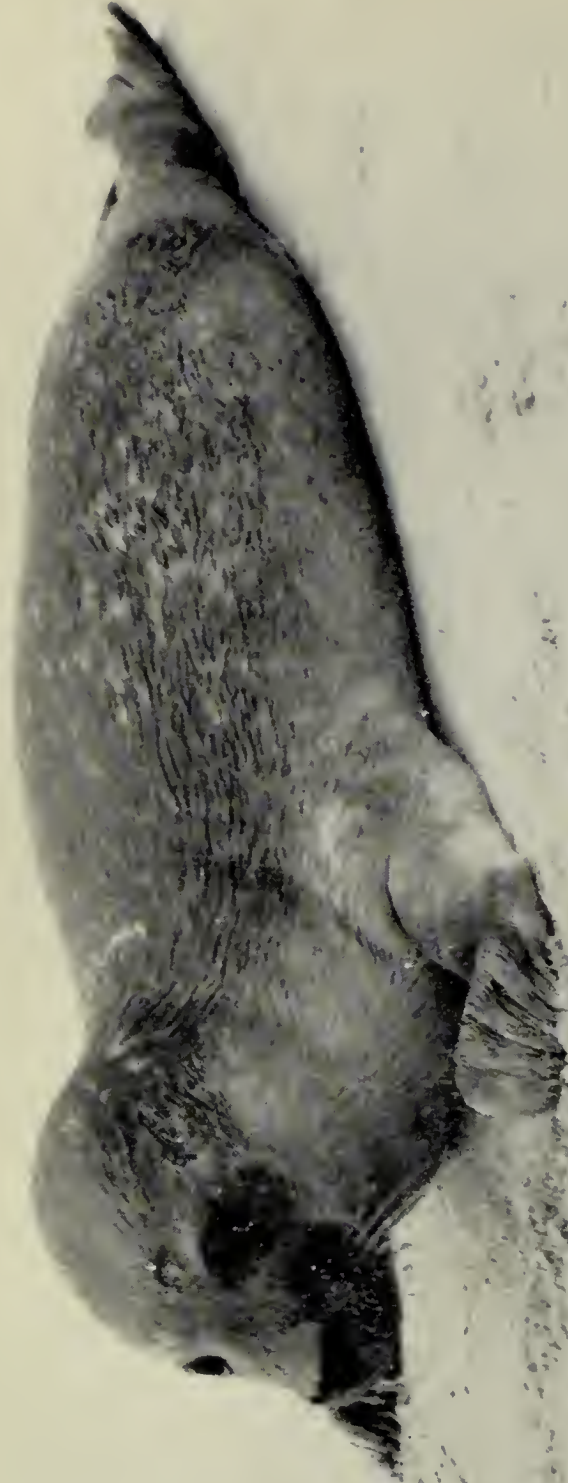
It is reported that the Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) is increasing in the Euston area, not very far over the border into Suffolk.



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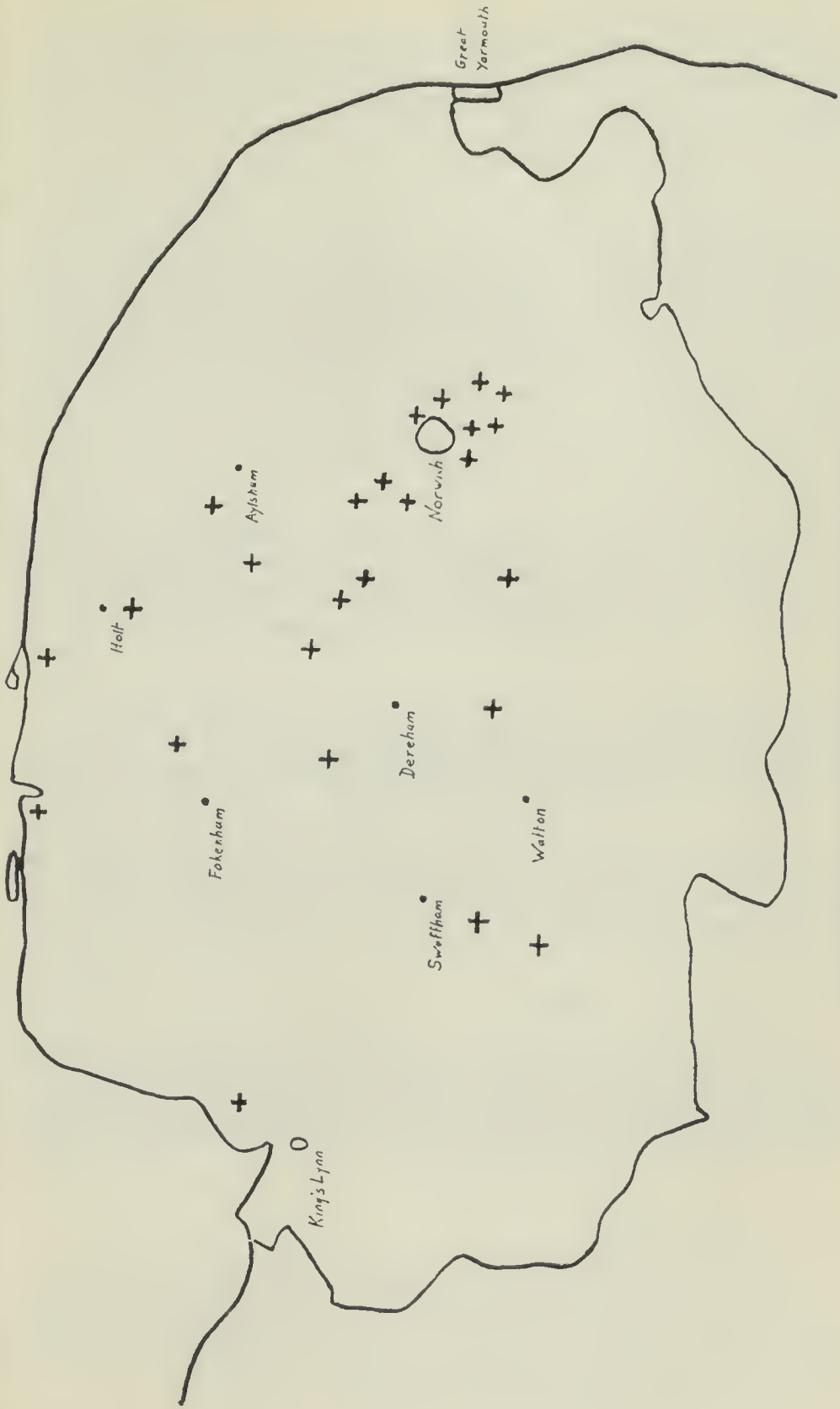
On the left, a newly-born Atlantic grey seal; on the right, a common seal aged five or six months. This picture taken on Scroby Sands clearly shows the differences in head shape. Grey seals were first recorded breeding at Scroby in 1958 when ten pups were discovered; further pups were born there each winter until 1964.

H. J. Woodston



Copyright
A newly-born common seal on Scroby Sands. This once large sandbank was a safe nursery ground for seals from about 1917 until 1965. Now, it is submerged long before high water and the seals have been forced to depart.

W. J. Woolston



Positive sightings of Red Squirrels in Norfolk in 1965

Coypu (*Myocastor coypus*)

As last year, scattered sightings have been recorded in various old haunts; a dozen were trapped early in the year at Aylsham, and a further dozen at Lenwade. One was seen near Acle, which, prior to the 1962/63 winter, was one of the most thickly populated areas. There have been some signs of recovery in the Glaven valley and in the Northern coastal marshes.

Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

The extension of Foxes into new areas which was apparent last year has continued. One was seen running through flooded carrs at Tunstall, where they were almost unknown until recently. At Hethersett a Fox killed a swan and some geese. They are still fairly common around Witchingham in spite of much snaring. At Burlingham a Fox and a live Hare that it had in its mouth were both shot.

Badger (*Meles meles*)

A rather larger number of Badgers has been seen than last year, including some young ones, but this must still be classed as a rare animal in Norfolk. Allowing for possible duplication by observers who are naturally reluctant to give precise locations, there could be at least eight occupied sets in the County.

Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

Otters have been seen in substantially the same areas as last year, and it seems that they are holding their own in the Broads, the Wensum valley, near the North Coast, and in the Stanford Battle Area.

At Horsey a family of two adults and three cubs were frequently seen in the Staithe Dyke, where they took no notice of the millman; one cub actually sat on his boot! They seemed to be driving fish up towards the Mill and trapping them in the end of the dyke.

Stoat (*Mustela erminea stabilis*)

With (though not necessarily because of) the steady recovery of the Rabbit, the Stoat is building up its numbers again. Six were found dead on the Acle New Road; they had apparently been feeding on the carcasses of other victims. Ermines or partial ermines were reported from Bawburgh, Surlingham, Strumpshaw, Didlington, Great Snoring and Holt.

Weasel (*Mustela nivalis*)

No contributors have reported any change in the occurrence of this species. One was seen scavenging from the remains of a dead Hare near Ringmerc, taking advantage of gaps in the traffic to feed on the carcass, which was about four feet from the verge. A young one caught in the hand at Great Snoring was not at all fierce, but died the same evening.

Mink (*Mustela vison*)

One definite specimen was seen to dive from an overhanging branch into the Yare at Colney. Another possible was reported from the Wensum near the Gate House—well within the Norwich boundary.

Feral Domestic Cat (*Felis domesticus*)

Many more reports than last year have come in. At Brooke they are “far too numerous”; the “great number” at Horsford are mainly tabby. They are now living in the banks of railway cuttings at Caistor, where they probably derive from the nearby Norwich housing estate. Others are reported from Blakeney, Great Snoring, Attlebridge and Aylsham.

Seals

On July 19th 100 Common Seals (*Phoca vitulina*) and 27 Grey Seals (*Halichoerus grypus*) were seen on Seroby Sands. The latter species can also be seen from time to time from any beach—reliable sightings were reported from Weybourne and Winterton.

Common Seals ringed on Seroby are known to have reached Norwegian fjords in five weeks, and some were recovered in West Africa.

Deer

Both Red Deer (*Cervus elephas*) and Roe (*Capreolus capreolus*) were seen more widely in 1965. Up to eight Red Deer were reported from Cranwich; they can of course be seen almost anywhere in the Forestry Commission areas. Odd Reds were seen at Thorpland and Wymondham College and Roe at Billingford and Calthorpe Broad.

This year there were several definite or possible records of Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*); one was shot at Walsingham, a male was seen at Bylaugh Woods on the 29th August, and others at Swanton Novers and possibly at Barsham. The only report of Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*) again comes from Horsford.

Common Porpoise (*Phocaena phocaena*)

These have been seen occasionally, up to six at a time off the North Coast. There were two in a decomposed state between Baeton and Mundesley on the 2nd December.

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Norfolk Naturalists Trust

Properties, 31st December, 1965

<i>Date</i>			<i>Acreege</i>		<i>Status*</i>
<i>Acquired</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.
1965	Holme	.. .. .	400	Purchased, Gift & Agreement (part)	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 & Half Purchased	S.S.S.I.
1952	" "				
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, Bran- caster	.. .. .	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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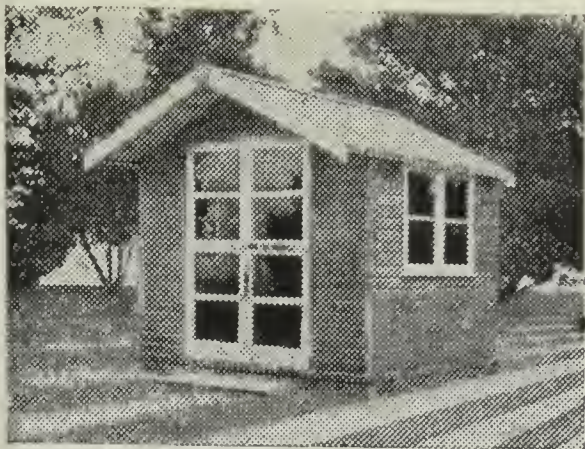
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MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Members of the Norfolk Naturalists Trust will be glad to know that since the request in the last Annual Report of the Trust for their help in the membership campaign, over 150 new members have joined. This shows what can be done, and the Trust Council is most grateful to those whose efforts have contributed to the increase. It remains vital for the membership to go on increasing if the Trust is to fulfil its growing responsibilities. Therefore, all members are again urged to continue helping in the important task of persuading others to join.

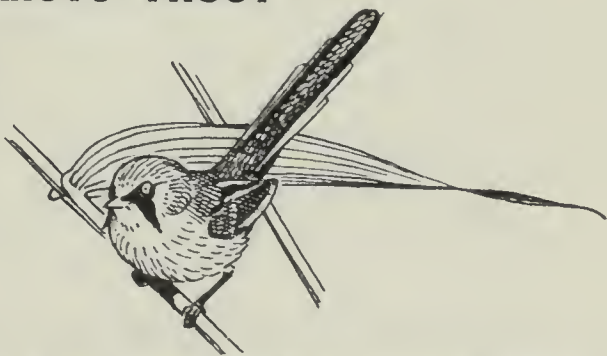
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