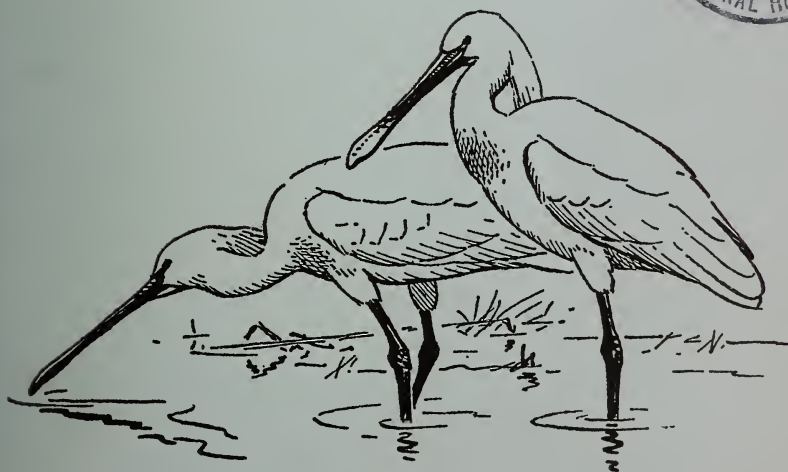
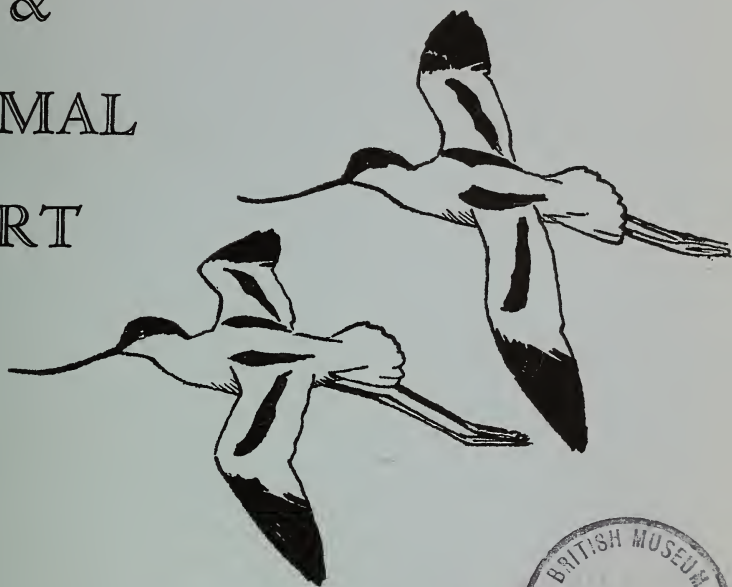


NORFOLK BIRD & MAMMAL REPORT 1966



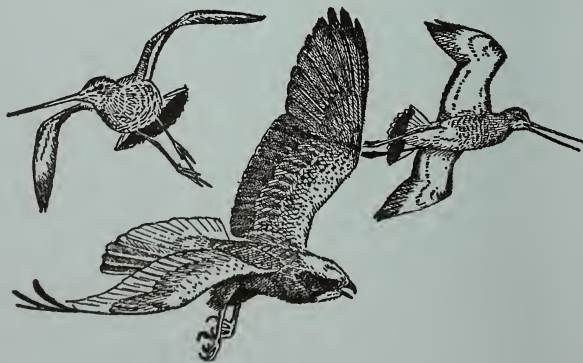
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Transactions 21 2

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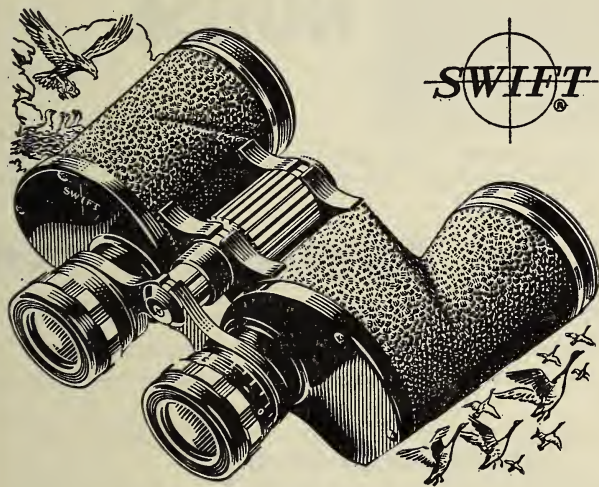
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*The *NORFOLK & NORWICH NATURALISTS SOCIETY* was founded in 1869. Monthly meetings are held between October and April and between May and September excursions are arranged to areas of natural history interest on the coast, Broads, heaths and woodlands.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

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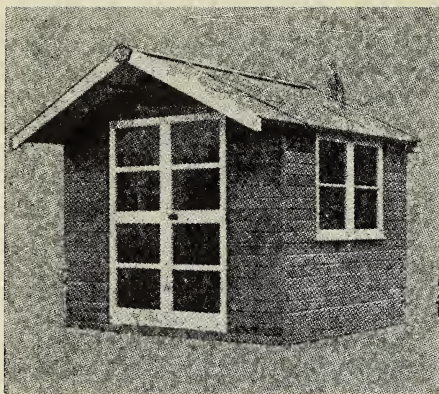
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Members of the Norfolk Naturalists Trust will be glad to know that membership of the Trust now stands at well over the two thousand mark. The continuing increase is mainly due to the enthusiasm of existing members introducing friends to the Trust. The Council wish to thank all who have helped in this way and to express the hope that members will continue their efforts in persuading others to join. As has previously been stressed, the Trust depends largely on the support of members in order to fulfil its growing responsibilities.

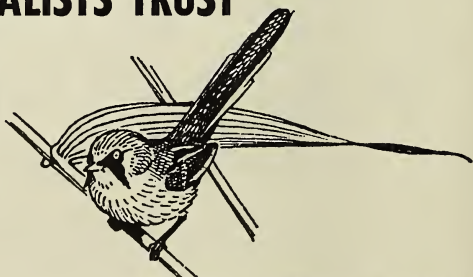
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*Transactions of The Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society,
Volume 21 Part 2*

Norfolk Bird Report · 1966

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Assisted by

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Norfolk Mammal Report · 1966

Edited by

P. R. BANHAM

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Norfolk Bird Report

1966

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. Publication of the Editor's *Birds of Norfolk* has resulted in a late appearance of this Report, but future issues should appear in September as in previous years.

Review of the Year: For the benefit of wildfowl enthusiasts, a table of duck counts covering the Norfolk stretch of the Ouse Washes has been included in the Fenland section. Among the hundreds of ducks at Welney was a drake red-crested pochard. In N.W. Norfolk, Dersingham Decoy caught and ringed a total of 289 ducks (175 mallard, 110 teal and 4 gadwall). An account of the restoration of this old decoy will appear in the 1967 Report. In the east, white-fronted geese again declined. Bean geese peaked at 36, but were greatly disturbed at times by inconsiderate watchers. No lesser white-front accompanied these bean geese, but one of the former remained at Holme ten days in March. A surprise at the beginning of the year was a Cory's shearwater found at Salthouse—the first for Norfolk.

A succession of vagrants appeared in the late spring and early summer. Among them black kite and black-winged pratincole (both additions to the county list), Alpine swift, Temminck's stint, Kentish plover, Caspian tern and little egret all at Cley; lesser grey shrike at Morston; ospreys at nine localities and sooty tern at Blakeney and Scolt Head terneries. A feature of the last days of May was a late black tern movement.

Among the more notable breeding records were 2,300 pairs of Sandwich terns and 1,600 pairs of common terns. 301 pairs of herons nested with over 130 pairs of bearded tits in the Broads area. Three pairs of Montagu's harriers reared young and single pairs of black redstarts and common gulls bred.

During the last week of Aug., following N.E. winds, Scandinavian drift migrants reached the Norfolk coast; largest numbers were found at Blakeney Point and between Wells and Holkham. Highlights were blue-throats, icterine and barred warblers and ortolans. At the same time, crossbills began irrupting; some remained to over-winter at Wells, subsequently nesting in 1967. New World autumn wader surprises were lesser yellowlegs (first record for Norfolk) and semi-palmated sandpiper both at Wisbech S.F., Baird's sandpiper at Thornham and pectoral sandpiper at Cantley B.F. In addition, great snipe were found at Salthouse and Wiveton. Spectacular sea-bird movements were reported including 120 Arctic and 300 great skuas entering the Wash at Hunstanton, Sept. 15th. A Sabine's gull visited Cley Oct. 7th. Other autumn strangers were white-winged black tern at Cley, gull-billed tern off Weybourne, bee-eater at Surlingham, 9 hoopoes, 2 yellow-browed warblers, 7 or 8 red-breasted flycatchers, 2

Richard's pipits and 2 woodchats. Best showpiece was a two-barred cross-bill (the first for Norfolk) at Wells two months; another surprise was a parrot crossbill there in mid-Nov.

The closing months of 1966 will be remembered for unusual numbers of four very attractive Scandinavian visitors: rough-legged buzzards, wax-wings, shore-larks and great grey shrikes. Rough-legged buzzards visited a number of coastal localities and also hunted in Breckland where common buzzards remained almost all year. Great grey shrikes were more widespread than ever before.

At the year end, over 200 cormorants were roosting in Ranworth woods; their former roost at Scroby Sands being no longer suitable. 254 full species were recorded in the county during the year, the highest on record.

Unusual nest sites included a great tit's in a drain pipe lodged in a hedge at Stoke Holy Cross; in Norwich a pair reared young in an old watering-can. At Cranworth, a persistent pair of robins built a nest in a cavity of a tractor and 2 eggs were laid. The nest and contents were then transferred to a nest box the size of the original slot on the tractor. Third egg was laid in the box, placed on the tractor. Nest and box were then fixed to a nearby wall, 3 more eggs laid and all 6 young fledged successfully.

Robins at Barton Turf laid 5 eggs in a nest built between the radiator and front grille of a lorry; at Necton another pair reared young at one end of a carpentry bench in regular use. Blackbirds, too, chose strange sites. At Necton, a nest was constructed on the top of a paint tin on a garage shelf. A pair of Costessey blackbirds reared young in a flower-holder in a house porch. At Yarmouth, blackbirds built a nest under the bonnet of a lorry awaiting repairs and another pair there nested in a wooden crate in a busy fruiterer's yard. A bicycle basket was used for nesting by blackbirds at Carleton Rode.

B.T.O. Common Bird Nest Census: Central Norfolk claims few rarities, but in 1966 ALB logged a record total of 440 pairs of 50 species at Cranworth. The study area contained 230 acres of an 850 acre farm. A wide habitat range was provided by arable land and grass, tall hedges, 20 acres of rough marsh with blackthorn thickets and a dense plantation of firs edged with mixed woodland.

The number of *pairs* was as follows: mallard 3, red-legged partridge 5, partridge 2, pheasant 9, moorhen 14, lapwing 2, snipe 1, stock dove 6, turtle dove 10, cuckoo 2, tawny owl 1, great spotted woodpecker 1, skylark 12, swallow 5, house martin 1, jackdaw 4, jay 1, great tit 9, blue tit 13, coal and marsh tits 1 each, willow tit 2, long-tailed tit 2, treecreeper 2, wren 21, mistle thrush 1, song thrush 18, blackbird 51, nightingale 1, robin 30, sedge warbler 7, blackcap 3, whitethroat 16, lesser whitethroat 1, willow warbler 5, chiffchaff 1, goldcrest 2, spotted flycatcher 5, hedge sparrow 52, pied wagtail 1, starling 13, greenfinch 8, goldfinch 4, linnet 6, redpoll 1, bullfinch 6, chaffinch 33, yellowhammer 20, reed bunting 3 and tree sparrow 21 (wood-pigeon, rook and house sparrow are all excluded from the census).

Road casualties along a five-mile stretch of the A47 between Yarmouth and "Stracey Arms" totalled 49 birds, as follows: 26 moorhens, 7 black-headed gulls, 5 rooks, 2 mute swan cygnets, 2 blackbirds, 2 lapwings and single barn owl, heron, skylark, reed bunting and house sparrow (RHH).

Acknowledgements: Thanks are due to R. A. Richardson for the new cover drawing of avocets and spoonbills. These attractive migrants are particularly associated with Breydon Water, due to become a Local Nature Reserve in 1968. The Breydon Wild Birds Protection Society formed in 1888 was one of the first of its kind in this country.

We are also indebted to R. A. Richardson for other illustrations and for his excellent summary covering migration and distribution in the Cley district; also to Dr. K. J. Carlson and *Eastern Daily Press* for photographs; to Holme Bird Observatory; to the Norfolk Naturalists Trust Wardens at Cley-Salthouse (W. F. Bishop) and at Hickling (G. E. Bishop); to R. H. Harrison (Scroby and Breydon); to the National Trust (Blakeney Point); to the Nature Conservancy (Scolt Head); to G. Crees (Horsey); to the Cambridge Bird Club (particularly G. M. S. Easy); to Great Yarmouth Naturalists Society (light-vessel notes); to Trinity House Depot at Great Yarmouth; to D. A. Dorling for compiling the annual record cards; to Mrs. A. Colchester and Mrs. S. F. Seago for valuable assistance and to all other contributors.

Recording: Records for the 1967 Report should be sent **by the end of January** to Michael J. Seago, 33 Acacia Road, Thorpe, Norwich, NOR 71T. Contributors are requested to submit notes in Check-List order (giving serial numbers based on the 1952 B.O.U. Check-List) using separate sheets for distinct areas (e.g. the Breck, Fens and Wash). In order to minimise the work involved, records will not normally be acknowledged. The names of all contributors will be included in the Report. It is requested that records of rarities should be reported to the Editor (telephone Norwich 34351) without delay.

Recent Publications: Attention is drawn to the following affecting Norfolk: "Inland wintering of gulls in England, 1963" (*Bird Study*, Vol. 14, pp. 104-113); "Eruptions of bearded tits during 1959-65" (*British Birds*, Vol. 59, pp. 513-543); "The great immigration of early Sept. 1965" (*British Birds*, Vol. 59, pp. 353-376 and "Red-headed buntings in Britain and Ireland" (*British Birds*, Vol. 60, pp. 344-347).

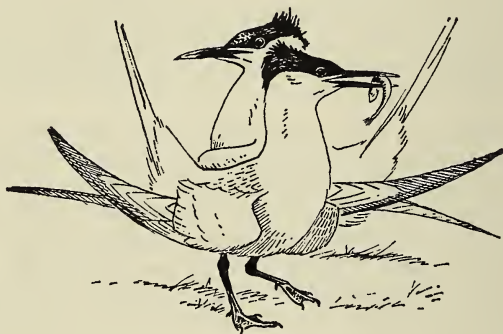
Scroby Sands

Throughout 1966 Scroby was completely submerged long before each high tide. During the previous summer a dramatic change was noted when the sandbank (once more than a mile long and half a mile wide at low tide and always with a large part above water whatever the tide) split into two separate islands; seals occupied one island and terns the other. Between these two islands there was almost a quarter mile of clear water and through this gap the fast tides raced scouring away the sand on either side.

Early in June, scores of common terns assembled on the highest Breydon saltings known as the Lumps, but none appeared to nest and by mid-June all had departed.

The last occasion when Scroby almost disappeared was at the time of the East Coast floods (31st January 1953) when thunderous seas swept away the top sand and the island was reduced almost to sea level. At no time since then did the sands build up to more than three feet above sea level at high water.

Adverse weather has from time to time taken a heavy toll of both eggs and young terns especially when summer storms have washed away the entire colony. The first of these disasters occurred in 1948 when gales caused abnormally high tides. Further disasters took place in 1949, 1953 and 1960. Between 1947 and 1965, RHH ringed a total of over 3,500 common and Sandwich terns at Scroby; recoveries have been very low being rather less than one per cent.



Breydon Water

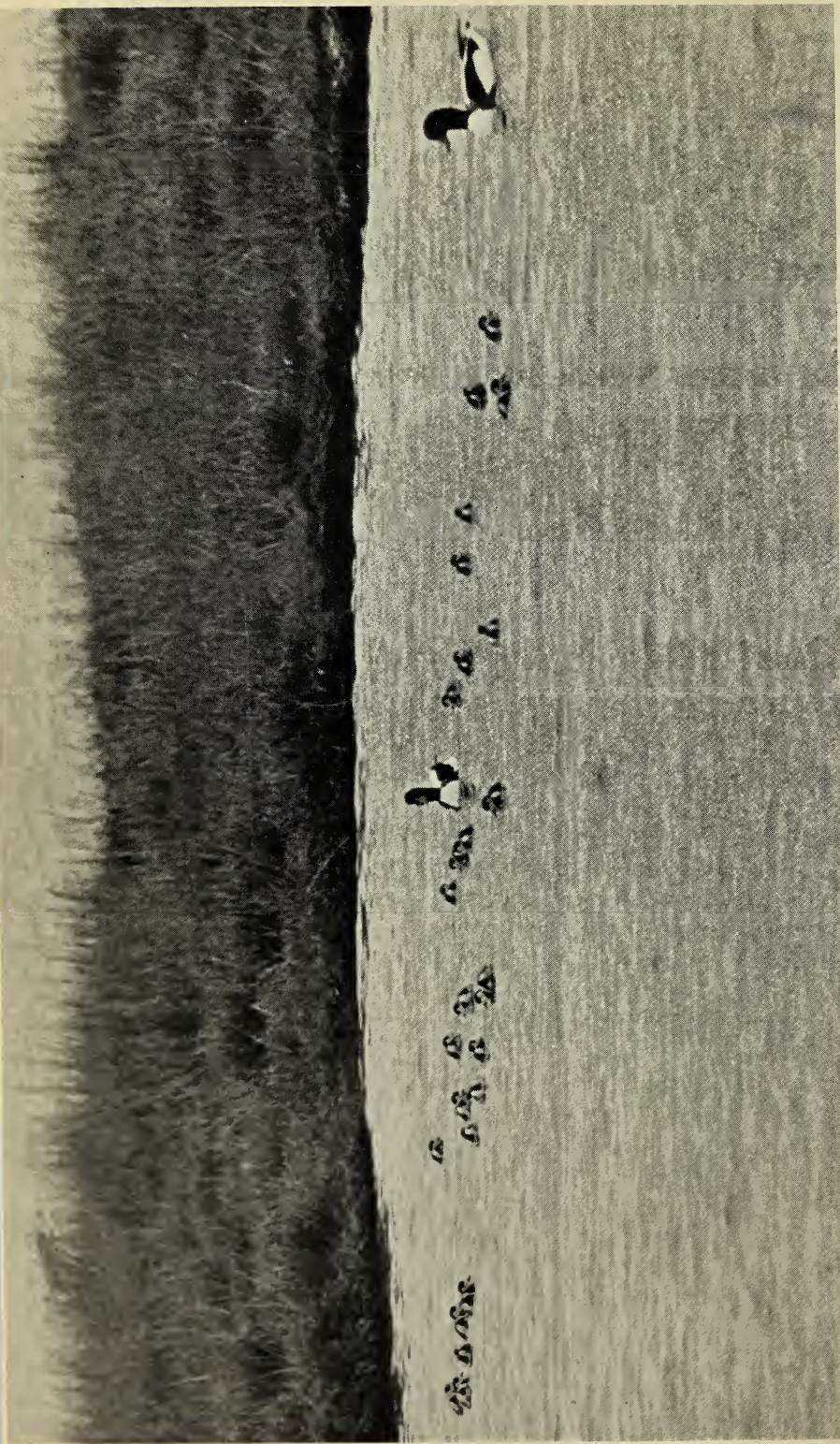
January: The month opened with a spotted redshank, but the most interesting visitor was a female long-tailed duck which was unfortunately shot on 8th; a herd of 24 Bewick's swans arrived next day. The winter figure for wigeon remained at 450 with an influx to 3,000 on the last day of inland shooting. Mute swans peaked at 96. Bean geese normally wintering higher up the Yare valley moved around the district at this time and 27 were at Tunstall on 22nd and 18 over the estuary on 30th.

At the fall of the month, 76 pintail, 460 shelduck, 12 Bewick's swans, 15 oystercatchers and 40 curlew were noted; 3 brent geese stayed a week being last seen on the same day. 200 snow buntings frequented the northern area of the estuary until the end of Feb.



Dr. K. J. Carlson

total of 301 pairs of herons nested in Norfolk in 1966. This may be compared with a peak 430 in 1959/61 and 181 pairs after the 1963 Arctic winter. Diddington heronry is one of the oldest still occupied. First established about 1808, a century ago it contained 60 to 70 nests.



February: The numbers of wigeon dropped rapidly, but 1,600 remained until 13th when 3 goldeneye arrived and remained for a month. 120 white-fronted geese grazing close to the north wall on 13th was the highest count for the winter.

March: The last white-fronted geese were seen on 1st when 50 were close to the estuary; present-day conditions on the marshes are not to their liking. 14 tufted ducks were new on 5th and 20 scaup arrived on 6th. A brent goose was recorded on 13th and the month closed with 3 snow buntings.

April: Large numbers of fieldfares and redwings were gathering in the Stokesby marshes on 3rd. 21 Bewick's swans were on the lower Bure marshes on 4th and 57 cormorants were counted on 10th. A hen harrier crossed Stokesby marshes on 13th. The breeding season saw another drop in the lapwing population, the first nest and eggs being found on 16th. Redshanks easily outnumbered them. A ruff in breeding plumage appeared on 20th. The first whimbrel arrived on 21st with at least 20 on 26th. On the same day a jack snipe was recorded. An avocet arrived on 25th with 5 black-tailed godwits on 29th. Mallard had a good breeding season with 8/9 broods seen and gadwall and shoveler (but not pintail) also bred successfully.

May: 31 whimbrel appeared on 1st with garganey next day. On 8th 5 spotted redshanks arrived with black tern, spoonbill, late hooded crow and 12 black-tailed godwits. Another spoonbill came on 13th. A Montagu's harrier headed up the lower Waveney valley on 10th and a highlight on 14th was a Kentish plover. On the following day another avocet was noted. 17 bar-tailed godwits were new on 13th together with 5 black-tailed godwits. The first brood of shelduck was on the estuary on 17th, but there was a decrease in breeding pairs. 2 little stints were reported on 21st, 6 grey plovers on 22nd, wood sandpiper on 27th and a family of 8 garganey at Stokesby on 28th. The month closed with the largest numbers of passage waders: 22 bar-tailed godwits and 18 grey plovers.

June: A late pair of wigeon was present on 3rd. This month was dominated by spoonbills, 2 arriving on 2nd and another on 11th. At least one spoonbill was present until 19th, with 4 on 18th. 5 grey plovers appeared on 5th. 3 tufted were seen on 20th and spotted redshank on 21st. A pair of oystercatchers again nested on the adjoining marshes.



July: The month opened with 3 black-tailed godwits (on 5th) and a pair of wigeon on 9th. A spoonbill appeared on 16th and one on 22nd stayed five weeks. 9 greenshank came on 22nd and 19 oystercatchers were present on 27th. A count of waders on 31st produced 2 little ringed plovers, 50 ringed plovers, 9 greenshank, 20 redshanks, 15 knot, 10 whimbrel, 4 curlews, 100 dunlin, 7 bar-tailed godwits and 10 common sandpipers.

August: A little gull visited the estuary on 3rd and on the evening of the 8th a crane was on a north wall marsh. This proved an interesting time for waders and greenshank were present throughout the month with a peak of 25 on 7th. 2 black-tailed godwits arrived on 14th. An Arctic skua passed through on 12th and 2 great crested grebes on 13th. On the same day noteworthy waders included 8 turnstones, a ruff, 2 spotted redshanks, 12 bar-tailed godwits and 20 whimbrel. 68 curlew were present on 21st, but autumn numbers failed to reach those of 1964/5. Whimbrel however were more plentiful than usual. 2 green sandpipers came on 21st and 2 curlew-sandpipers on 28th. Ruffs were seen on several dates peaking at 7 on 30th when 18 species of waders were identified on The Lumps.

September: The numbers of waders remained high well into the month. 4 black terns passed through on 3rd and 14 wigeon had returned on 1st. Of the waders present on 11th, curlew-sandpiper, 5 ruffs and spotted redshank were interesting. An early snow bunting returned on 18th. Waders present on 22nd were greenshank, bar-tailed godwits and 9 grey plovers. 12 herons were scattered on the flats the same day and 14 cormorants had returned. An unusual visitor was a black redstart on 22nd. Several juvenile shovelers fell to gunners during the month.

October: The first little grebe appeared on 2nd when spotted redshank and green sandpiper were seen. On the 8th a wood sandpiper (which remained a week), 2 curlew-sandpipers and 43 grey plovers were on the estuary and green sandpiper and kingfisher were on the lower Bure marshes. Another kingfisher appeared on Breydon on 9th (the first since the 1963 freeze). Shelduck began returning on 9th. Another black redstart appeared on 15th; also 12 twites. A scaup came on 15th with curlew-sandpiper and 2 greenshanks on 17th at the same time as 2 bearded tits. 20 snow buntings appeared on 22nd, but numbers remained low. 4 great crested grebes passed through on 22nd. A small party of 5 pink-footed geese arrived at the month-end, together with 3 hooded crows.

November: A green sandpiper was at Stokesby on 5th and a rough-legged buzzard appeared from the west on 6th. 11 pink-footed geese arrived on 12th, but did not stay. The first 9 Bewick's swans came on 13th, increasing to 13 by 26th. Hooded crows increased to 10 by 13th. 20 Lapland buntings were present from 24th and 2 sanderlings were noted on 25th. Jack snipe were plentiful with wisps of a dozen or more and a water-rail was disturbed from the Bure on 18th.

December: A bittern was flushed from the Bure on 3rd. On a flooded marsh nearby were 200 teal and 14 pintail; 10 short-eared owls were in the vicinity. 2 goldeneye were on Breydon on 3rd. 22 Bewick's swans

were noted on 10th remaining until the month-end with a peak of 45 on 18th. A wisp of 67 common snipe was on one marsh on 10th and a black-necked grebe was recorded. Peak number of 60 pintail was reached on 4th; wigeon, however, were few with only 100 by the end of the month. R.H.H. familiar with the area for many years recalls that in the late 1920's a favourite feeding ground for wigeon extended for over a mile along the Halvergate Fleet between the winter and summer flood walls. In places it was only 20 yards wide and the water less than two feet deep. Yet at dusk each winter afternoon hundreds of wigeon flighted here. Flooding is seldom allowed nowadays.

A brent goose came on 17th. 7 short-eared owls and a peak of 400 shelduck were present on 26th, also green sandpiper and goosander on the Bure. White-fronted geese were slow to arrive with 5 on 11th and 32 by 24th. The year closed with a fine gathering of over 1,000 golden plover on ploughed marshland adjacent to the lower Bure.

Cley and Salthouse

(Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

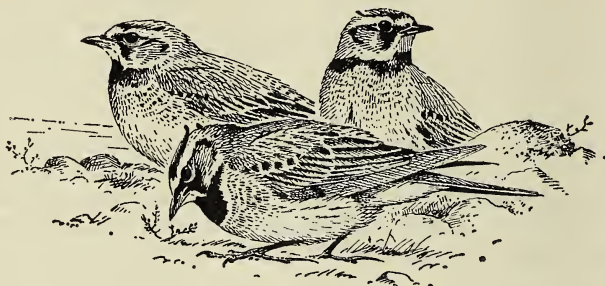
1966 was remarkable for a succession of vagrants among them Cory's shearwater, Mediterranean gull, black kite, Alpine swift, Caspian tern, little egret, black-winged pratincole, woodchat shrike, Richard's pipit and Sabine's gull. Details of the year's highlights and movements appear in the following summary. As in previous Reports, the migratory records extend from Salthouse to Blakeney Point:

January: The first 35 Bewick's swans for the year moved west at sea on 9th followed by 32 eiders and 20 shelduck west on 15th. Next day, 90 snow buntings were on Walsey Hills fields with 16 shore-larks at Salthouse. A whooper swan was new on 23rd with hen harrier and 2 glaucous gulls on 29th when a dead Cory's shearwater was found on Salthouse beach. Many hundreds of wigeon were present and bearded tits were following the reed-cutting machine.

February: A waxwing appeared on 2nd by which date oystercatchers had returned to their breeding sites and ringed plovers were display flighting. A bittern was disturbed on 7th. 10 more waxwings arrived on 8th with another on 14th when a great grey shrike was at Glandford and 40 brent geese at Salthouse. A spotted redshank and a ruff were present at the month end and a pale phase Arctic skua on 23rd.

March: The great grey shrike which wintered on Salthouse Heath was watched spiking a redpoll on a thorn. Next day a sparrowhawk was eating a fieldfare, many of which were assembling near the coast. The first wheatear arrived on 9th and chiffchaff on 16th. 4 short-eared owls were present on 19th; also spotted redshank, hen harrier and 9 shore-larks. 15 ruffs came on 20th and the first black-tailed godwit on 22nd; also

garganey. Next day, a great grey shrike flew up the Glaven and a migrant woodcock was in Cley village on 25th. The first black redstart and Sandwich terns came on 26th.



April: Over 40 ruffs arrived on 2nd, followed by avocet, merlin and little gull on 3rd and white wagtail on 4th. Yellow wagtails arrived on 5th with sand martins on 6th. Next day, wind and sea fog grounded a scattering of migrants on the beach and marshes including song thrushes, blackbirds, black redstart, and blue-headed wagtail; also a Scandinavian rock pipit in breeding plumage and the first blackcap and ring ouzel.

Swallows were new on 8th; also 3 ring ouzels, willow warbler, snow bunting and merlin. The wintering chiffchaff (which remained in the *same bush* for weeks) still present on 9th. A westward passage of gulls took place on 10th (lesser black-backed, herring and common), also little gull and the first little tern and common tern, 5 black-tailed godwits (2 were seen constantly until the end of May), redstart, green sandpiper, 18 shore-larks and an early swift. Another avocet headed east on 11th when a blue-headed wagtail was recorded; also sedge warbler. The first wood sandpiper came on 15th with whitethroat on 16th and a Mediterranean gull on 17th. Next day an osprey was fishing over the Glaven at Cley and whimbrel and common sandpiper passed through on 19th when 8 dark and dingy chiffchaffs (possible Siberian *tristis*) were in the same tiny patch of reeds. Marsh harrier was new on 21st with 2 the following day when the first turtle dove and tree pipits were noted and ruffs in full breeding plumage. The first house martin moved west on 23rd and the following day, in warm settled conditions, thousands of swallows passed west with many sand martins. The first nightingale, grasshopper warbler and reed warbler also arrived on 24th, together with little stint.

Sand martins took over the westward flyway on 25th and a Kentish plover arrived. Cuckoo and lesser whitethroat were new on 26th. Quite 40 per cent of the Sandwich terns passing at this time had their ventral region smeared with oil. The wintering great grey shrike on Salhouse Heath was last reported on 30th.

May: Northern waders included a dozen ruffs, 6 spotted redshanks, 2 greenshanks, 11 bar-tailed godwits, whimbrel and grey plovers. A wood warbler was singing at Kelling and 40 ruffs were present next day, also little stint and 2 shore-larks at Salthouse. An immense westward passage of swifts took place on 3rd and a Montagu's harrier headed eastward, followed by a fifth marsh harrier on 4th when the first whinchat was noted. 2 marsh harriers were present on 5th, also white wagtail, blue-headed wagtail and wood sandpiper.

The 6th brought Kentish plover and Montagu's harrier, the 7th little gull and the 8th merlin and black redstart. A sedge warbler singing on territory at the north end of East Bank on 9th had been ringed at Blakeney Point a week earlier. The first red-backed shrike reached Salthouse Heath on 9th, followed by little gull on 10th, the first spotted flycatcher on 11th and a flock of 40 turtle doves west on 12th. The 13th was interesting with avocet and corncrake and on 14th the most exciting visitor was a first-summer black kite hunting for a couple of hours over the coastal fields between Salthouse and Cley. It was watched eating a wood pigeon close to Walsey Hills. 3 different marsh harriers were also recorded on 14th, together with spotted redshanks, the first nightjar and a late redwing. The 15th was also good with Alpine swift, osprey and 3 marsh harriers. Small numbers of Northern waders (including 4 greenshanks, 5 ruffs and 2 wood sandpipers) were present at this time, with a spoonbill west at sea on 19th. Notable on 22nd were avocet, Temminck's stint, Kentish plover and the first 2 black terns of the year; 50 turnstones, 200 Sandwich terns (14 per cent ringed) and roseate tern all arrived during the evening. A marsh harrier was watched carrying bunches of reed in its feet to various parts of Cley marsh as if engaged in tentative nest-building. The 25th was notable for a quail on Blakeney Eye and also another Temminck's stint. Next day came spoonbill (staying until 6th June), hobby, another quail and late fieldfare. A first-summer little tern was noted on 28th. A passage of black terns took place between the 30th and 3rd June, peaking at 30 to 40 on 3rd.

June: 15 ruffs and 6 wood sandpipers were watched on 1st. Many turtle doves moved west in the early mornings between 2nd and 5th; a little gull was new on 3rd, roseate tern on 7th and red-headed bunting at Blakeney on 13th. A new bird for Cley—Caspian tern—arrived on Arnold's marsh on 10th, followed by a white ruff on 11th, 14 avocets eastward on 12th and 2 avocets and a little gull on 14th.

A little egret in full breeding plumage with long double ribboned crest and lacy "osprey" plumes arrived at Cley on 15th (staying until 19th) when roseate, Arctic and first-summer common and little terns were all present in addition to a little gull. New arrivals on 18th included 3 spoonbills, Kentish plover and avocet, with spotted redshank on 19th and green sandpiper on 21st. Curlew were moving west daily during the last week. On 30th, another little gull arrived (joining the bird present since the 14th) and the pair indulged in repeated display on a sandbank in Arnold's marsh.

July: 2 black terns appeared on 3rd also an addition to the county list: a black-winged pratincole. It ran swiftly, snapping at flies in the grass and when flying swerved from side to side doubling back with a graceful agile flight. Often it climbed steeply into the air like a black tern to take a high-flying insect. At dusk it made repeated flycatching sallies from the ground at the rate of between 6 and 8 sorties per minute (it was last observed on 5th).

The first 2 Arctic skuas of the autumn passed on 6th and a black ruff was noted on 8th. Among the terns passing west on 10th was an adult roseate and a first-summer Arctic. Mid-month waders included spotted redshank, whimbrel, sanderling and 7 bar-tailed godwits. Further single roseate terns appeared on 12th-14th and 31st. A spoonbill passed west on 21st with little gull and 3 little stints on 23rd and 4 avocets west on 24th. Terns (mainly Sandwich and common) continued to increase on 27th, among them 50 little terns.

August: A Chilean flamingo was new on 4th when the westward passage of Northern waders was gathering momentum. 25 whimbrel, 20 golden plovers and 11 ruffs passed through on 7th and 3 juvenile little gulls, a big influx of kittiwakes and a passage of terns (including a party to the south-west inland) were all noted on 8th when passage waders included 2 little stints, "red" curlew-sandpiper and juvenile spotted redshank. 2 roseate terns came on 9th with another on 14th when 20-30 Arctic skuas, a long-tailed skua and 2 great skuas. 2 little gulls were recorded on 19th, also a European flamingo. The first 3 pied flycatchers of the autumn reached the Point on 20th and next day a hoopoe was there followed by black redstart, woodchat shrike and woodlark all on 22nd. 3-4 little gulls and 10 black terns were new on 23rd when a red-necked phalarope was on the Point.

On 25th (with N.E. winds) the Point held wryneck, barred warbler, wood warbler, redstarts and whinchats. A second wryneck was there next day besides several garden warblers, lots of wheatears and a few spotted flycatchers, willow warblers, redstarts and lesser whitethroats. Pied flycatchers were virtually absent. 5 black terns were inshore on 27th when Scandinavian passerines on the Point included 75 redstarts, 30 garden and 20 willow warblers, 100 wheatears, 5 wrynecks, 2 icterine warblers and bluethroat; also a marked arrival of crossbills (34 on the Point). A "trip" of 7 dotterels moved inland on 28th when an adult curlew-sandpiper, little gull and 70 black terns were recorded. At the Point were 5 wrynecks (also one on East Bank), 2-3 icterine warblers, bluethroat (at The Hood) and ortolan. Many pied flycatchers arrived, also red-backed shrike at Walsey Hills where 7 crossbills (one a fine red male) were feeding in the pine plantation. Early brambling and redwing were reported.

A bittern was on the marsh on 29th when another dotterel and 10 black terns east; the Point produced 4 wrynecks, bluethroat and barred warbler. 12 swifts came in from the sea on 30th and the first rock pipits arrived. 8 spotted redshanks were present on 31st.

September: The month opened with 2 long-tailed skuas and 30 ruffs. 4 wrynecks and 1-2 bluethroats remained on the Point on 2nd with a scattering of the usual Scandinavian night-migrants. 12 black terns moved west on 3rd, also 8 greenshank with 9 wood sandpipers next day. 4 Manx shearwaters (including 2 of the brown Balearic race) were noted on 6th and many terns (mostly Sandwich and common) moved west at this time. Pomarine and great skuas were both seen on 7th, 2 juvenile marsh harriers and red-necked grebe on 8th, 4 black terns on 9th and the first Lapland buntings on 10th. A red-necked phalarope was reported on 11th and a first-winter great snipe was shot on Wiveton marsh on 12th when a black guillemot was new.

Sea-watchers on 13th had little gull, 50 Arctic skuas, 6 great skuas, 21 Manx shearwaters, 4 sooty shearwaters and 41 gannets passing in strong westerly winds. 2 adult pomarine skuas passed on 14th. The following day heavy rain squalls and strong N.W. winds brought 20 great skuas close inshore; also 1-2 sooty shearwaters. Interesting on 16th were glaucous gull, Leach's petrel, Manx shearwaters and a young shag; also purple sandpiper. At dusk on 17th a bittern circled the marsh for 15 minutes before disappearing to the west. The first snow bunting reached the Point on 18th followed by 3 very smart coal tits (undoubtedly Continentals) on 19th, and grey wagtail eastwards on 20th. Bearded tits were very active and restless during the third week.

A jack snipe was on the Point on 22nd with 2 purple sandpipers on Arnold's marsh and an avocet. Also on the Point were fieldfares, redwings, 13 bramblings, siskin and a few snow buntings; 7 Lapland buntings were on Cley Eye. 15 pink-footed geese headed west on 24th. Bramblings increased to 300 by the 26th; many gannets moved east at sea with several great skuas and black redstart on the Point. A big arrival of redwings and bramblings with siskins, song thrushes and redpolls was evident on 28th; 18 pintail and 2 little gulls were noted on 29th. Among the 11 Lapland buntings in Cley Eye barley stubble was a Richard's pipit on 29th. The first shore-lark arrived on 30th when bearded tits in great numbers and very restless, towering up to a height at which they were lost to the naked eye and barely visible through $\times 9$ binoculars.

October: The month opened with an immense westward passage of immigrant starlings with many lapwings. The first great grey shrike arrived on the Point, followed on 2nd by the first hen harrier, masses of bramblings, an increase in Lapland buntings to 17; also purple sandpiper and red-necked grebe. A red-breasted flycatcher was at Beach Road car park on 4th and 2 ring ouzels were reported. 3-4 short-eared owls came in from the sea on 5th, 20 shore-larks were noted also many goldcrests, 8 ruffs, 3 ring ouzels and 4 great grey shrikes (2 on the Point, one at Glandford and one on the Heath).

Enormous numbers of lapwings, skylarks and starlings arrived from the N.E. on 6th; also bramblings, fieldfares and redwings. Another short-eared owl came in from the sea and a honey buzzard circled the marsh; 25 shore-larks had assembled, a bluethroat was new and 2 red-breasted



flycatchers were on the Point. A first winter Sabine's gull, in company with a little gull, made the 7th a red-letter day. Many starlings, skylarks, chaffinches and lapwings moved west on 8th and another great grey shrike was reported. A few reed warblers and a very late sedge warbler remained on 9th. Next day great numbers of fieldfares and redwings arrived from the sea in morning. Most carried on inland out of sight. A few of the redwings were unsuccessfully pursued by big gulls. Black redstart and corncrake were on the Point and a red-breasted flycatcher on 11th, a juvenile marsh harrier appeared and at least 10 great grey shrikes were present in the area.

4 black redstarts and a little auk were noted on 13th, 2 marsh harriers on 16th and several ring ouzels arrived on 13th with the first major influx of blackbirds. 40-50 shore-larks were in the vicinity. Surprises on 14th were woodchat shrike and pomarine skua. A late swift was reported on 17th also little gull with grey phalarope and black tern on 19th; slavian grebe and 17 ruffs on 20th; 4 black terns on 21st and late Sandwich and 2 common terns on 22nd. A glaucous gull, 50 snow buntings and the first hooded crow came in on 23rd and the following day starlings and fieldfares headed west in great numbers. A late black tern was seen on 27th and starlings were pouring westward; the first woodcock arrived. As many as 100 shore-larks were present on 29th and a hen harrier passed west on 30th.

November: Snow buntings totalled 150 on 1st and 500 by 8th and a rough-legged buzzard remained between 5th and 7th. Greenshank and spotted redshank were present until the 10th; also hen harrier. 4 little gulls appeared on 10th, peregrine on 11th, rough-legged buzzard again on 15th, glaucous gull on 18th and merlin and Iceland gull both on 20th when a spotted crane was reported and long-tailed duck arrived. 45 Bewick's swans headed west on 24th and a late turtle dove on 26th.

December: The month opened with merlin and hen harrier; 40 Bewick's swans moved west on 3rd with others on 5th/6th. Early on 7th many hundreds of wood pigeons moved south-west inland and 5 ruffs remained on 12th. 8 waxwings were at Blakeney on 14th and on 21st shelducks were passing west at sea. An adult Iceland gull was new on 22nd and on 26th 3 "ring-tail" hen harriers were hunting as a party over Salhouse reedbeds. A spotted redshank was still present on 31st also 40-50 shore-larks, 8 bean geese and a bittern.

Blakeney Point

(The National Trust)

Over 2000 Sandwich terns had assembled on the new ridge by May 1st and the first ringed plover's nest held a complete clutch. On the 11th, 60 kittiwakes were present. Some 200 Sandwich terns finally settled in and each evening they were joined by a further 2-300 more; the first five nests were found May 27th. A common gull's nest with five eggs was recorded June 1st and the tern colony had become well established.

At the end of June foam covered the outer beaches and several nests were engulfed. Fortunately, the common gull's nest and the Sandwich tern colony of just over 100 nests were on the highest point and avoided disaster. However, a number of common and little tern chicks were lost. High tides around June 18th swept nestling Sandwich terns to the inner point, but within a few days the survivors had returned. Late-hatching terns were recorded in August and the breeding season was considered above average, particularly for little terns. Gadwall nested for the first time. Two young common gulls were reared—the first breeding success for this species in Norfolk.



A total of 523 birds of 43 species was ringed on Blakeney Point during the year by R.G.H.C. This total included 56 goldcrests, 52 robins, 37 redstarts, 18 pied flycatchers, 5 ring ouzels, 2 wrynecks, 2 great grey shrikes and single barred warbler, red-breasted flycatcher and siskin.

A summary of nests appears below:

Mallard	2	Redshank	12
Gadwall	1	Common Gull	1
Shelduck	30	Common Tern	950
Red-legged Partridge	5	Arctic Tern	1
Oystercatcher	92	Little Tern	150
Ringed Plover	90	Sandwich Tern	105

Scolt Head Island

(The Nature Conservancy)

The Breeding Season

Sandwich terns had very much the same breeding success as in 1965. Thus, from an estimated 2,400 nests, approximately 3,000 eggs were counted. About 450/500 were destroyed by blown sand and 150 were added or unhatched. Some 350 dead chicks were found, including some 200 taken by short-eared owls and the number of fledged chicks was between 2,300 and 2,500. Nest-scraping by this species began April 29th and a single egg, found May 1st, and thought to have been laid the previous day, was the earliest recorded date for the Island.

500 breeding pairs of common terns laid 600/650 eggs and produced an estimated 100 fledged chicks. As usual there was some egg-predation by oystercatchers. A toll of both tern species was exacted by short-eared owls, which however did not nest at Scolt. Much of this predation occurred at night, when owls were seen to land and walk towards nesting adults which flew away. Chicks were then taken by seizure in the talons.



One pair of Arctic terns nested, but their single chick was killed by human trampling. A third Arctic tern was observed displaying to a common tern. Nestling black-headed gulls also suffered from owl attacks. A kestrel took a number of little tern chicks. Further casualties were caused by stoats and weasels before these were destroyed.

Other nests in the ternery area only were 16 little tern, 30 ringed plover, 6 redshank, one mallard, 3 shelduck, 4 linnets and 40 oystercatcher. An estimated total of 150 pairs of shelduck nested on the Island and 200 young were present at the end of July—the highest total for several years. Other breeding totals for the Island (*including* the ternery area) are as follows: mallard (30 pairs), Canada goose (2), oystercatcher (120), lapwing (1), redshank (40), ringed plover (150), black-headed gull (300), little tern (40), wood pigeon (5), cuckoo (1) and swallow (1).

The Year

January–March: Wildfowl and wader numbers were substantially less than in 1965; wigeon, for example, never exceeded 400/500. Other peaks were mallard 200, teal 300, shelduck 300, goldeneye 40, brent goose 650 and eider 72. Among the waders maximum numbers were knot 300 (3,000 on Feb. 7th was exceptional), dunlin 500, oystercatcher 1,000, turnstone 150, grey plover 40, bar-tailed godwit 60 (apart from a high-tide peak of 800 also on Feb. 7th) and curlew 1,000.

Singles were noted of whimbrel on the remarkable dates of Jan. 3rd and 6th, merlin, velvet scoter, long-tailed duck, hen harrier, peregrine and Lapland bunting. A spotted redshank was recorded continuously. Up to 400 twites, but only 11 snow buntings and 7 purple sandpipers were seen. Three Sandwich terns arrived at the Far Point March 23rd. Hooded crows were scarce, the maximum number being 4. Two short-eared owls were usually to be seen, with up to 5 in mid-March.

April-May: The last 3 brent geese stayed until the 1st and next day the first common tern appeared followed on April 7th by wheatear and redstart. The spotted redshank was last observed April 6th. Next day 5 red-breasted mergansers were in the harbour; also 7 purple sandpipers. Singles were seen of hen harrier (April 14th), merlin (until May 13th), marsh harrier (May 13th-15th), short-eared owl and 5 goldeneye until April 27th.

A roseate tern was displaying on May 26th. Thirty pairs of little terns were present by the end of April and 8 gannets appeared at sea May 9th. Whimbrel began passing through from April 23rd and during May up to 80 turnstones, 32 sanderling, 5 purple sandpipers (10th) and 9 grey plovers were recorded; also single greenshank.

June-August: June opened with six parties of black terns (totalling 71 birds including 32 together) and a buzzard. A spotted redshank was new June 11th. Between June 14th and July 11th a sooty tern was seen (and filmed) on several occasions in the ternery. Once it was observed displaying to a common tern. Three spoonbills were on the Far Point on 17th and another spoonbill and buzzard passed through June 18th. The next day was exciting with a little egret; that evening a flight of 18 shelduck on moult migration headed east. A Manx shearwater was new on June 26th/27th and also a great skua on the latter date. On several occasions during the month a pair of roseate terns was displaying; they were last recorded July 24th.

During the afternoon of June 29th a total of 28 shelduck moved westward, followed by 55 more next afternoon. Again on July 10th, 48 shelduck headed east in the late evening followed by 27 in the same direction on 23rd. Early July brought a black tern (4th) and a total of 75 eiders (some of which were flightless). Arctic skuas were present from July 6th. Kittiwakes, which began assembling early in May reached 60 by June 3rd, 350 by the 27th and a peak of 1,200 on July 11th, when a purple sandpiper was new.

August was rather dull, enlivened however by a spotted redshank (12th and 30th) and up to 11 Arctic skuas daily, 300 scoters on 14th (the year's highest figure), up to 60 eiders, 1,200 curlew, 40 whimbrel west on 22nd, 40 sanderling and 2 great skuas on 31st. The latter half of the month saw arrivals of passerines: wheatears, willow and garden warblers, with a small "rush" on August 24th when wheatears, whinchats, redstarts, whitethroats, lesser whitethroats, spotted and pied flycatchers and a wryneck all appeared.

September-December: Early Sept. saw a light westerly movement daily of golden plovers until the 9th when 3 spotted redshanks headed west and 3 great skuas at sea. A red-necked phalarope stayed from 9th to 11th, 4

great skuas passed on 12th and a marsh harrier was new on 19th. A light westerly passage took place between 27th and 30th of song thrushes and redwings, with small numbers of redstarts and pied flycatchers. 14 pintail moved east October 4th.

A moderate passage of skylarks, fieldfares, redwings, song thrushes, blackbirds, meadow pipits, rock pipits, starlings, linnets and twites—all flying west—took place between Oct. 3rd and 7th. The 5th also brought single red-breasted flycatcher, great grey shrike, siskin, hen harrier and short-eared owl.

Single long-tailed duck and velvet scoter were new on 17th when 150 eiders were present. 25 brent geese arrived at this time, numbers reaching 300 by 30th. Notable Oct. observations included 60 bramblings west and 4 ring ouzels on 19th, 4 late whimbrel on 20th and 2 more on 25th, 2 long-tailed ducks 25th to 30th, 5 short-eared owls and little gull on 27th, 4 woodcock on 28th and 12 snow buntings, 2 hooded crows and spotted redshank on 29th. 4/5,000 oystercatchers were present during the first week, decreasing to 1,000.

Interesting November visitors were 8 short-eared owls and rough-legged buzzard on 1st, 2 to 4 shore-larks at the ternery all month, 12 red-breasted mergansers and 2 spotted redshanks on 4th, purple sandpiper on 5th, the rough-legged buzzard and 8 bearded tits on Norton fresh-marsh on 7th, late whimbrel and 10 short-eared owls on 10th, velvet scoter on 17th and 2 very late whimbrel on 17th. Snow buntings peaked at 80 and brent geese reached 700 by 21st.

200 turnstones were present by early Dec. with a ruddy shelduck (perhaps from Holkham Park) on 6th. Single smew (8th), hen harrier and merlin also put in an appearance. A spotted red shank reappeared on 16th and remained until the year end. 7 purple sandpipers were recorded on 23rd. Wildfowl peaks were wigeon 800, eider 7, mallard 120, goldeneye 25, shelduck 350 and brent goose 700.

Holme Bird Observatory

During 1966, a total of 2035 birds of 77 species were ringed at the Observatory, including 3 wood sandpipers, 6 greenshank, 3 collared doves, long-eared owl, wryneck, 41 long-tailed tits, 5 bearded tits, 147 song thrushes, 9 ring ouzels, 222 blackbirds, 79 redstarts, 2 black redstarts, 183 robins, 54 reed warblers, 41 sedge warblers, 55 garden warblers, 134 goldcrests, firecrest, 68 pied flycatchers, great grey shrike and 4 crossbills.

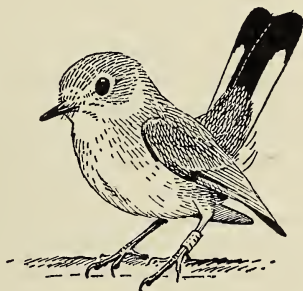
Since September 1962, 5709 birds of 99 species have been ringed in the Observatory area. The following monthly summaries are taken from the Observatory's Annual Report:

January: The year opened with 2 ruffs on 1st. An easterly weather movement of redwings took place on 16th when 11 Bewick's swans moved westward and 5 bearded tits were recorded. 50 Bewick's swans passed

through on 18th and 100 bramblings came on 20th. Masses of fieldfares moved east on 23rd; all were tired and some rested briefly on the saltings. At the end of the month, 19 pink-footed geese and small numbers of wood pigeons moved west.

February: A fine herd of 100 Bewick's swans travelled westward on 3rd; jackdaws were heading eastward on 27th and 28th.

March: Jackdaws continued passing through until the 5th and the first spring migrant—a chiffchaff came on 7th. Birds wintering in the area included great grey shrike, purple sandpiper, short-eared owls, 120 golden plovers, 10 long-tailed ducks, 40 red-breasted mergansers, goldeneyes, velvet scoters, snow buntings, 150 brents and twites. Highlight was a lesser white-fronted goose which stayed from March 20th till 31st.



April: Black redstart, 3 Sandwich terns and sparrowhawk were all new on 1st, followed by wheatears and sand martin on 2nd, blackcap on 3rd, 5 short-eared owls on 4th and water-rail on 5th. The first swallows and willow warblers were noted on 6th; black redstart, sedge warblers and long-eared owl on 7th and another black redstart with redstart and 4 ring ouzels next day. House martin was new on 9th with grasshopper warbler, ring ouzel, black redstart, yellow wagtails, common sandpiper, stone curlew and 2 Bewick's swans east all on 10th.

Two white wagtails arrived on 11th when whooper and Bewick's swans, goldeneye and 2 ring ouzels were recorded, followed by marsh harrier next day. Cold easterly winds then forced migration to a standstill apart from common tern on 17th, waxwing on 18th and whimbrel on 19th. Movement was resumed on 21st with the first garden warblers, white-throat and little terns, followed by 2 more ring ouzels, tree pipit and collared dove on 23rd when swallows and sand martins streamed westward all day.

Lesser whitethroat came on 24th; also reed warbler and 6,000 swallows headed west. The 25th brought cuckoo and 2 velvet scoters; the 26th, greenshank, Northern willow warbler and Greenland wheatear and the 27th pied flycatcher, a fourth black redstart, marsh harrier and whinchat. 20 redpolls headed west on 28th and the first swift was recorded with turtle dove next day and a third marsh harrier on 30th.

May: Easterly winds on the first two days brought 2 black terns and 2 blue-headed wagtails. At least 7 marsh harriers and 2 Montagu's harriers passed through this month; one of the former carried out mock nest building. A late hooded crow was recorded on 2nd, swifts moved westward on 3rd/4th and 2 greenshank were new on 6th. A late fieldfare was noted on 8th; spotted flycatcher, Greenland wheatear and pied flycatcher all on 9th. Highlight on 10th was a hobby, followed by 39 turtle doves westward, avocet, little stint and spotted redshank all on 12th. Other North European waders in mid-May included 2 grey plovers, 40 sanderling, common and wood sandpipers, knot and turnstones. A red-backed shrike was new on 17th and 12 spotted flycatchers appeared on 22nd.

June: Arctic waders continued to pass through with 60 sanderling, 25 grey plovers, 6 turnstones on 2nd; spotted redshank and 2 greenshank on 3rd; ring ouzel on 5th and black redstart on 6th. A Montagu's harrier stayed between 3rd and 8th.

Mid-month interesting visitors included spotted redshank, greenshank, and 20 eiders. A little egret, the first for the Observatory, stayed for a short while on 19th before flying off westwards. Curlew moved west all day on 30th; together with whimbrel, lapwing and black-headed gulls.

July: 4 crossbills on 5th heralded a widespread irruption. Among sea birds were 2 scaup and 400 kittiwakes on 7th with the first Arctic skuas. 2 roseate terns, black tern and 20 eiders were reported next day. Hundreds of kittiwakes moved east on 19th. The 23rd was interesting with hobby, garganey and 2 juvenile bearded tits; 35 shelduck (on moult migration) moved east next day and 12 Arctic skuas were pursuing terns by the month-end.

Waders included little ringed plover on 9th and 27th, whimbrel from 20th, common sandpiper from 8th, green sandpiper from 12th, wood sandpiper from 22nd and up to 10 greenshank on 9 dates.

August: The first two weeks were quiet, apart from parties of Arctic skuas and wheatears and 20 crossbills on 8th. The first kingfisher to be seen for nearly three years was reported on 15th. A juvenile black tern passed through on 21st, with little gull next day and stone curlew on 23rd.

Twenty pied flycatchers arrived on 18th with wryneck on 26th and there was a fair-size influx at midday on 27th when the area held 25 redstarts, 15 garden warblers, 16 pied and 8 spotted flycatchers; also willow warblers, lesser whitethroat, wheatears, whinchats, whitethroat and wryneck. The following day, there were fresh arrivals between midday and dusk: blackcap, 15 whinchats, 40 wheatears, 3 wryneck, song thrushes, robins, 10 spotted and 30 pied flycatchers, 20 redstarts, 10 garden warblers, whitethroats, lesser whitethroats, black redstart, icterine warbler and tree pipits.

New arrivals continued on 29th including 4 wrynecks, 2 barred and an icterine warbler and 3 crossbills. A black tern added interest on 31st. Wader passage continued with up to 8 wood sandpipers and 20 bar-tailed godwits. Greenshank were present almost daily with a maximum of 30 on 30th.

September: No spectacular influxes took place although there was a steady passage of warblers, flycatchers and chats throughout the month. Notable were 1-2 wrynecks on 3rd and 5th; up to 4 crossbills, bluethroat and red-backed shrike on 5th; Lapland bunting on 16th; spotted crake and black redstart next day; little gull and 2 siskins on 18th; an influx of a dozen bearded tits on 20th; an early fieldfare next day and the first redwings on 22nd.

A ring ouzel and 20 bramblings added variety on 22nd. Rock pipits arrived the following day with 11 snow buntings and 11 long-tailed tits on 25th. The 26th was interesting and in addition to ring ouzel and barred warbler (staying ten days), firecrest, grey wagtail and 8 crossbills were recorded. 2 firecrests were present next day; also stonechat and 2 little gulls. A red-breasted flycatcher was the highlight on 28th.

Peak numbers of waders were reached including 4000 oystercatchers, 4000 grey plovers, 35 to 40 greenshank (on 13th), 4000 knot, little stint on 3rd and 19th and up to 3 curlew-sandpipers on three dates.

October: The most exciting month with a big influx on 5th/6th when 232 birds of 16 species were ringed. These included 79 robins and 70 goldcrests. At first light on 5th numbers of redwings were calling and moving inland. Many robins began arriving mid-morning continuing until mid-afternoon. Goldcrests came in from late morning until mid-afternoon. Bramblings moved south-west in flocks up to 50 strong; swallows moved eastward most of the day with 1000 an hour on a narrow front. 3 great grey shrikes were present, one beheaded a blackcap and plucked a chaffinch. At the peak of the movement there were, for example, 100 chaffinches, 20 redpolls, 100 goldcrests, 3 blackcaps, 100 robins, ring ouzel, scores of redwings and 50 song thrushes. The movement continued on 6th with many bramblings travelling south-west in flocks of up to 500. More song thrushes, robins and goldcrests arrived during the morning, with blackbirds during the afternoon. By the late afternoon of the 6th few remained. Peak numbers included 12 bearded tits, 30 robins and 80 goldcrests.

The second influx took place on 10th when flocks of 50 to 60 fieldfares and redwings moved south; also blackbirds, a few of which alighted in the bushes. Flocks of as many as 50 bramblings passed through and chaffinches were moving all day. Also recorded were 4 ring ouzels, whinchat, 8 redstarts, black redstarts, 3 blackcaps, yellow-browed warbler (the third Observatory record), pied flycatcher, waxwing, bullfinch and 5 crossbills.

The final large influx took place on 13th/14th when 171 birds of 20 species were ringed including 54 blackbirds, 50 robins and 20 goldcrests. Hundreds of blackbirds began arriving in the early morning until midday; similar numbers of redwings came in, together with smaller numbers of fieldfares, starlings, bramblings, chaffinches, song thrushes, robins, goldcrests, stonechat, blackcap, Lapland bunting, 8 ring ouzels, 2 pied flycatchers, magpie, 200 twites and hooded crow.

Other interesting October visitors included shorelarks from the 2nd when another firecrest put in an appearance; 2 kingfishers, hen harrier and ring ouzel on 7th; 15 shorelarks and stonechat on 9th and 12 greenshank,

sparrowhawk, magpie and 30 to 40 bearded tits flying high to the west on 11th. 3 ring ouzels were new on 12th, together with 20 bearded tits and great spotted woodpecker. A rough-legged buzzard moved north on 14th. Further arrivals on 15th were 9 ring ouzels, black redstart, chiffchaff, red-breasted flycatcher and crane. 16 crossbills were present on 17th with 2 late blackcaps on 21st. Late migrants on 22nd included swift, garden warbler and 2 Sandwich terns with wheatear and swallow next day. 2 waxwings passed through on 25th and on 26th large numbers of starlings moved west all day; another waxwing arrived. 13 brent geese, woodcock, 4 hooded crows, blackcap and chiffchaff all appeared on 27th with long-eared owl next day, followed by rooks and jackdaws westward on 29th; a waxwing flew south. Starlings moved west all day on 30th, among them 7 more waxwings.

November: A stonechat was present on 2nd, with 1-2 waxwings on 4th, jay and blackcap on 9th and whoopers on 10th. 2 more waxwings arrived on 11th; also jack snipe, with hen harrier on 20th, 150 snow buntings on 27th, together with 200 twites, 150 brents and 14 shorelarks.

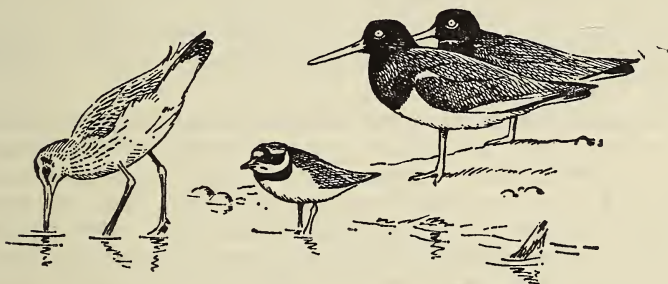
December: 8 short-eared owls were present at the beginning of the month, but only 2 wintered; another was found shot. The first 5 Bewick's swans passed through on 15th when 2 wintering blackcaps (including one found dead). The year closed with 3 crossbills.

The Wash

With mild weather prevailing during the early months, ducks were fewer than usual off Hunstanton and along the Wash coast. Thus no more than 700 each of mallard and wigeon were recorded. Scoter reached 600 or so in Jan., much as in 1965, and "large numbers" passed south at Hunstanton March 1st. 50 goldeneye and 70 eiders were at Hunstanton late in Jan., numbers of the latter falling to 46 on March 1st when there were 50 scaup off Snettisham. 3 or 4 long-tailed ducks stayed until March 12th, with a late drake April 9th. Further south at Snettisham, single velvet scoter and 5 red-breasted mergansers were on the pits Jan. 16th with a single merganser March 1st, and again for much of April, during which time 2 or 3 scaup were also noted. In Lynn Channel a drake pintail and 4 mergansers were present Feb. 4th. In the area as a whole, mergansers reached a maximum of 25 April 12th. 3,000 shelduck had assembled off Snettisham March 19th.

Of the divers, only red-throated was seen, and the only unusual grebes were occasional slavonsians, the last April 17th. The only record of gannets was a count of 10 March 12th. Few records of brent geese came in, the largest party being 15 at Hunstanton March 1st. Pink-footed geese in the North Wootton area peaked at 1,500 towards the end of Jan., with 100 still there Feb. 20th. On March 19th, 2 grey-lag geese were at Snettisham where 2 Bewick's swans, present throughout Feb., were replaced by 2 juvenile whoopers during March and until April 20th. Cormorants

were present as usual, and at Lynn Point, there were up to 40 in Feb. with a single shag on 16th. A few hooded crows stayed until March 20th with single records April 5th and 23rd and May 9th. Turning to predators, there were short-eared owls at Terrington, Hunstanton and Heacham; merlins were noted until March 12th with 5 Jan. 23rd and there were scattered reports of hen harriers, referring to 3 or 4 different birds, until April 3rd. An immature glaucous gull appeared briefly at Hunstanton April 12th.



Three winter wader counts were sufficiently complete to be of interest. In Lynn channel Feb. 4th: 1,500 oystercatchers, 20 grey plover, 50 bar-tailed godwits, 200 knot and 700 dunlin. At Terrington Feb. 19th: 1,000 curlew, 1,000 dunlin and 400 knot. At Hunstanton March 1st: 150 oystercatchers, 80 turnstones, 30 sanderling and 6 purple sandpipers. 7 of the latter had been in the area since Jan. and were last seen March 13th. At Wolferton, April 20th, a Kentish plover was identified.

There was a late red-throated diver at Hunstanton April 24th. This was in breeding plumage as was a dead bird at Terrington July 29th. In May there was a good selection of Northern waders on 13th: grey plover, whimbrel, turnstone, sanderling and some 500 knot, all in Lynn Channel. Of the breeding species, 2,800 pairs of black-headed gulls and a few common terns at Wolferton suffered disastrously, being completely washed-out June 4th. A pair of shoveler bred at Wootton. At Hunstanton fulmars were again in evidence and 2 pairs of swifts and 11 pairs of house martins nested on the cliff face. Other noteworthy reports were of a male blue-headed wagtail at Snettisham May 14th when 400 grey plover were counted at Wolferton and a hobby came in off the sea at Hunstanton June 14th.

Some 700 oystercatchers summered on the Wash in addition to the breeding population. Although good numbers of black-tailed godwits (peaking at 110) and curlew (and the first arrivals of other waders) were noted in July, pride of place must go to 3 avocets heading east at Terrington July 1st with another there Aug. 6th. A further record came from Wootton Aug. 14th. Interesting among the other Aug. records were curlew-sandpiper at Terrington on 4th and 2 at Wootton on 14th, the same day as a little stint and an albino bar-tailed godwit were seen. There were 500 sanderling on 20th when the highest count of 45 greenshank was also made.

At sea there were 1,000 kittiwakes in the Hunstanton area July 17th, but apart from 130 gannets counted Aug. 23rd, this species was scarce during the autumn. Eider, scaup and scoter were all recorded in July. Arctic skuas, first noted July 31st, were seen up to Nov. 20th with the largest estimate of 120 (together with the unprecedented total of 300 great skuas) entering the Wash at Hunstanton on Sept. 15th. Black tern numbers were again low with no more than 25 in late Aug. and early Sept. At least 2 individuals were involved in the records of marsh harriers between late June and mid-Sept. and there were occasional Montagu's harriers in July and 2 hobbies at Lynn Point Aug. 14th. The autumn was noteworthy for impressive gatherings of kestrels over the saltings with 40 to 50 birds involved.

Pied flycatchers were regular among returning migrants with small numbers from Aug. 15th to early Oct. and a total of 7 in a Hunstanton garden Aug. 30th. Other migrants there in Aug. included black redstart on 25th and up to 5 wrynecks near the dunes from 27th, one remaining until Sept. 5th when a red-backed shrike was noted. After a fortnight's lull, the first winter migrants: 3 fieldfares, were at Snettisham Sept. 17th. Redwings and bramblings followed soon; 2 of each were found dead between 22nd and 26th at Heacham.

Early in Oct. new arrivals were 2 grey wagtails over Hunstanton. Several other species reached Hunstanton on 5th: great grey shrike, 2 siskins and 40 goldcrests with a single pied flycatcher. Another party of 20 goldcrests appeared at Heacham the same day. At Snettisham there was another great grey shrike and a kingfisher on 9th, and on 11th a ring ouzel. Further ring ouzels appeared on Hunstanton golf course on 19th and 25th. In the meantime, 9 shore-larks had arrived at Snettisham on 9th and the first snow bunting was found 2 days later. A late whinchat was reported Oct. 22nd and 3 house martins on 26th at Heacham. The last Sandwich tern was noted on 25th. On 27th a flock of 25 hooded crows flying south-west at Hunstanton coincided with a marked movement of rooks out over the Wash. The same day, more than 50 blackbirds an hour had been passing Hunstanton and just before dusk some 750 more headed across the Wash in the space of 20 minutes. Further movements of corvidae including some hoodies were noted on 29th. In Nov., a late hoopoe stayed at Snettisham from 3rd to 6th and a shore-lark was at Old Hunstanton on 13th.

Autumn numbers of red-throated divers reached a maximum of 17 on Oct. 2nd and the wintering birds were joined by 2 or 3 slavian grebes from 16th. The first merlin appeared Oct. 9th and from 22nd one or two hen harriers were seen occasionally. Other predators were a marsh harrier at Heacham Nov. 13th and a rough-legged buzzard from the 26th. Oct. 23rd saw the first jack snipe and singles were present until late Nov. Knot reached an estimated total of 20,000 to 25,000 at high tide at Hunstanton Oct. 27th and purple sandpipers arriving from Nov. 5th reached a total of 9 by Dec. in the Hunstanton area. A single shag was at Snettisham pits Oct. 30th where on Nov. 15th a dead black-throated diver was found. At

the same place, scaup numbers reached 40 in Nov. and the usual snow bunting flock was 30 strong from Mid-Nov. onwards. 2 pomarine skuas with 5 Arctic and 10 bonxies were identified at Hunstanton Nov. 16th. Unusual visitors Dec. 11th were 2 bearded tits at Snettisham and welcome visitors between Heacham and Hunstanton were single stonechats Nov. 27th and again in Dec.

Apart from an Iceland gull which frequented the cliffs at Hunstanton Dec. 3rd and 4th remaining records concern birds at sea. Of the less numerous species there were 3 to 5 long-tailed ducks and up to 50 eiders during Nov. and Dec. 23 Bewick's swans off Hunstanton Dec. 4th were in addition to the odd ones frequenting the Snettisham area since early Nov. and the 7 that wintered at Terrington. Both brent geese and pink-footed geese were present at the end of the year, with maximum numbers of about 250 of each in December.



Hickling

(Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

Marsh and hen harriers were frequently quartering the marshes adjoining the Broad throughout January. At the month-end 3000 ducks were estimated in Heigham Corner including teal, mallard, 100 shoveler, 100 goldeneye, 200 wigeon, 200 tufted, pochard and pintail.

A hen harrier remained until March 2nd, bitterns began booming on 7th and 14 goldeneye remained until the 14th. Spring arrivals began April 2nd with 2 pairs of garganey and sand martin. Twelve ruffs were new on 4th, swallows on 8th, whimbrel and yellow wagtail on 12th (when 200 golden plovers at Martham Holmes), sedge warbler on 17th and cuckoo on 22nd. Common terns arrived April 28th, black tern May 1st and swifts on 5th. Following north-easterly winds a party of 14 black terns appeared June 1st.

Spring passage waders included spotted redshank between April 21st and May 12th, up to 12 ruffs almost daily throughout May and until June 6th and common sandpiper and greenshank until June 2nd. The first whimbrel (22) returned as early as June 28th with ruffs again from July 3rd.

An osprey stayed May 11th to 13th and was briefly joined by a second bird on 11th which soon headed towards Barton Broad. Another osprey put in an appearance September 8th and again on 17th. Other surprise visitors were spoonbill June 8th to 15th and a crane feeding in wheat close to Whiteslea August 5th (it moved to Breydon later the same day). A flamingo (doubtless an escape from a collection) was noted August 23rd; it remained until September 5th.

Young bearded tits were on the wing May 11th and the species had another excellent breeding season; a party of 20 was watched on a single bush June 18th. The breeding population at Hickling, Whiteslea and Heigham Sounds was of the order of 85 pairs. A female marsh harrier was present for most of May and two remained between 9th and 12th. None nested, however. One and sometimes 2 were observed regularly between early September and the end of the year.

Surprisingly, the mute swan population greatly decreased: 100 present May 1st had dwindled to 20 by Christmas. Four bitterns were booming at Hickling and Heigham Sounds and 8 pairs of herons nested. Seven pairs of great crested grebes nested on the Broad with a further 5 pairs on the Sounds. Four pairs of common terns bred on Rush Hills with a fifth nest at Swimcoots. Barn owls nested at Whiteslea Lodge. Other breeding birds included gadwall and garganey.

Large numbers of lapwing were present on Swimcoots July 27th together with the first autumn green and common sandpipers. Other autumn waders included ruffs (until October 8th), spotted redshank, dunlin, ringed plovers, greenshank, curlew and whimbrel.

A ring ouzel was of interest October 10th, fieldfares and redwings next day, short-eared owl on 12th, another ring ouzel on 26th and hen harrier again from the 29th. Early in November very large flocks of starlings were roosting in the reedbeds. By mid-November wildfowl numbers included 20 goldeneye, 100 pochard, 300 tufted duck and several hundred teal. By Christmas over 2,000 ducks and 1,000 coot had assembled in Heigham Corner. The year closed with a great grey shrike December 29th.

Horsey

(John Buxton)

Most interesting winter visitor at Horsey at the beginning of the year was a great grey shrike on Jan. 3rd. It was disappointing for birds of prey: only one sparrowhawk was recorded (April 6th) and one Montagu's harrier (June 8th). A pair of marsh harriers began nesting in Brayden marshes

but as in 1965 no young were hatched. Five male bitterns were booming in the spring and over 20 pairs of bearded tits nested successfully round the Mere. Water-rails and a pair of oystercatchers also summered.



Two pairs of stonechats spent the summer at Horsey, one pair rearing young. No short-eared owls are known to have bred. A pair of black-tailed godwits arrived early in May, remaining several days. A rough-legged buzzard was observed Oct. 31st and next day a dead little gull was found on the Mere. Kingfishers were seen on several occasions in the autumn. The rough-legged buzzard was again present Dec. 25th.

Breckland

For the second year in succession the occurrence of ospreys proved to be the most interesting observations of the year in Breckland. One was reported at Snetterton April 22nd and at Thompson Water two days later, 2 were again at Snetterton May 14th and single birds at Thompson and Stanford May 15th and again in the autumn at both localities Sept. 9th and Oct. 15th.

Other uncommon visitors included blackbellied dipper at Shadwell March 27th and grey wagtail at Ickburgh on four occasions between Oct. 9th and Dec. 25th. Bitterns appeared at Stanford Water Jan. 2nd, Sturston Carr on 22nd with 2 there Feb. 10th and at Rush Mere Oct. 16th. Two bearded tits were at Stanford until March 6th with 4 there on Oct. 30th.

A great grey shrike was at Stanford Feb. 6th and March 6th and at West Mere April 11th with another singing on Dec. 18th. Other great grey shrikes were found at five localities between Nov. 6th and the end of the year. One or two buzzards were regularly seen in the Tottington area from Jan. until Oct. A rough-legged buzzard passed north-east over West Mere Nov. 13th and hen harriers were present until March and again from Oct. onwards. A male Montagu's harrier was at Foulden for two weeks to June 1st and at Ring Mere July 25th with females at Barnham Cross Common Aug. 15th and Sept. 3rd. Sparrowhawks were reported occasionally with at least one pair raising 3 young.

The opening months of the year also brought their share of interesting wildfowl including 2 goldeneye at Stanford Feb. 27th and singles there March 6th and 12th; another was on the Little Ouse at Two-mile Bottom Nov. 6th. Goosanders appeared at Stanford between Jan. 1st and March 20th with a maximum of 7 on Feb. 6th; their stronghold however remained at Narford Lake with a peak of 33 on Jan. 31st, 12 still being present March 16th. The largest gatherings of duck occurred in autumn, but 77 pochard were at Stanford March 6th with 50 at Mickle Mere the same day, 75 being seen there again in mid-Nov.

The first spring arrival was a stone-curlew Feb. 26th, followed by wheatear at Tottington March 6th, redstart at Frog Hill April 3rd and yellow wagtails at Little Cressingham on 17th. The following day 2 green sandpipers passed through South Pickenham and common sandpiper was new on 20th. At this time the spring departures had not been completed and fieldfares lingered at East Wretham until April 24th with 500 golden plovers at Bodney the same day and 20 bramblings at Hilborough and Gooderstone until the month-end. A single black tern stayed briefly at Lang Mere May 30th.



Records of breeding success are not numerous, but it appears that those species whose Norfolk breeding range is largely confined to Breckland maintained their numbers. Ten pairs of red-backed shrikes were present throughout the summer and redstarts were seen in ten areas. Stone curlews had a good breeding season, several young being noted, with the largest gathering numbering 26 at Sturston on Sept. 17th. Two pairs of ringed plovers nested at Cranwich, a single bird was at Lang Mere May 1st and the usual small colony bred at Gooderstone. At least 5 pairs of curlews bred, two being heard in song at West Wretham from March 6th. Woodlarks remained scarce but breeding was proved at 2 sites and singing males were reported from 3 other areas. Whinchats were noted with fledged young near Frog Hill and wheatears were unusually abundant in the "Battle Area". Grasshopper warblers were singing at 3 localities in May and a wood warbler at Brandon.

Parties of siskins were present throughout spring and summer in a number of areas, although proof of breeding has yet to be recorded. At least 6 pairs of collared doves bred at Little Cressingham with a flock of 40 to 50 there in autumn. Golden pheasants were present throughout the year.

Great crested grebes bred at Narborough, Rush Mere, Saham Toney, Stanford and Thompson Waters, a total of 7 pairs being involved. Tufted ducks were seen with broods on seven waters and pochard on at least three. Gadwall also bred and Canada geese had a successful breeding season.

Kingfishers are known to have nested at Merton, Threxton and Thompson and were recorded at 12 localities later in the year.

Barn owls bred in Wretham Park and at Watton where a very young one fell from its nest Nov. 12th. Young and adult long-eared owls were seen near Lang Mere June 2nd. Hawfinches and crossbills were seen occasionally and willow tit's nests were found at 3 sites. Reed buntings nested in heather near Ring Mere and swallows in underground shelters at Stanford.

The autumn passage began with common sandpiper at Stanford Sept. 4th, the only other wader reported being a total of 60 woodcock in the "Battle Area" in late Oct. Thousands of fieldfares were present from Oct. 2nd. Surprisingly, a snow bunting was at Watton Oct. 29th, 6 having been reported there the previous week. October duck gatherings included a maximum of 130 teal on Stanford Water with 325 gadwall and 130 tufted ducks there, a flock of 400 mallard at Shadwell on 16th, 4 pintail at Mickle Mere the same day and 4 again at Stanford Dec. 22nd. The largest company of ducks was 1,000 mallard at Narford Dec. 18th, a similar number having been seen there Jan. 31st. In mid-Dec., 40 shoveler visited Ring Mere.

November brought reports of at least 1,000 linnets feeding on mustard seed at Bodney Warren with a similar number of bramblings on 11th. An estimated total of 25,000 wood pigeons was in the "Battle Area" two days later. Up to 200 Canada geese were reported between Little Cressingham and Bodney. Whooper and Bewick's swans appeared in Dec., 5 of the former at Mickle Mere on 11th, at Stanford on 27th and at Thompson on 30th; 3 were at Ring Mere on 17th with 9 Bewick's. The largest party of Bewick's numbered 13 at Mickle Mere Dec. 11th.

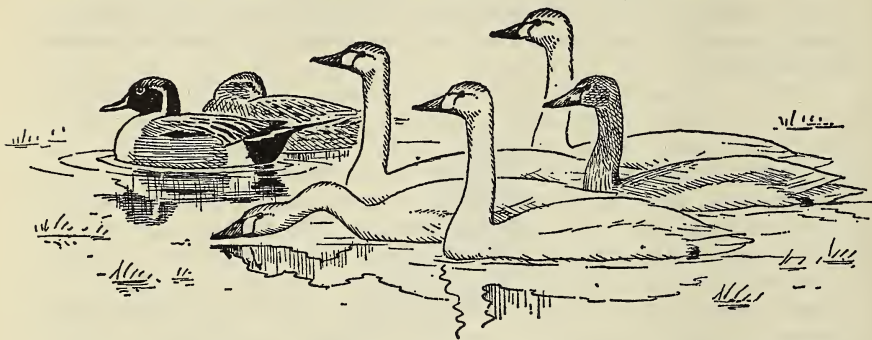
Gulls were using Mickle Mere as a roosting site on Dec. 11th when there were 150 great black backed, 10 herring and 800 black-headed gulls present. Other records covering the winter months at the beginning and end of the year include 3 hooded crows near Swaffham Dec. 26th (3 having been seen at Stanford between early Jan. and March 12th), water-rails in 5 localities, 40 crossbills in poplars at Bodney Dec. 27th, parties of 7 magpies at Fowl Mere and Stanford and flocks of 40 to 45 siskins at the latter locality and at Didlington.

Fenland

During Feb. and March, the duck population of the Ouse Washes was largely concentrated in the county of Norfolk, and so the numbers tabulated on page 126 are unusually high. They represent counts between Welney and Denver Sluice.

Apart from the species mentioned in the table, there was a goldeneye at Denver Jan. 16th, 2 white-fronted geese on 20th and red-crested pochard on 30th. Black-headed Gulls roosted just inside the county with 25,000 estimated Jan. 31st. Goosander numbers on the Washes at Hilgay and Welney reached 10 in both Feb. and March. A red-throated diver was at Welney March 6th.

Elsewhere in the Fens parties of up to 6 waxwings were recorded in Jan., but at King's Lynn beet factory there were 12 in late Jan. and one or two remained until March. Also at the factory, 6 bearded tits appeared Feb. 27th. Further north, siskins were recorded at North Wootton and later in the year there, crossbills were noted from May onwards.



The first summer visitor, a chiffchaff, was at North Wootton March 10th. In April, 2 late goosanders flew north at Welney on 8th, while the last 2 Bewick's swans lingered until 19th. The following month, half a dozen ruffs, some in breeding plumage, 20 ringed plovers and a similar number of dunlin were seen on 7th. Further ringed plover records and one or two wood sandpipers marked the spring passage on the Washes. These were followed by a spoonbill May 22nd. At Lynn beet factory 5 or 6 pairs of redshank bred and one or two ringed plover were noted there in May with a pair of garganey on 21st.

The wader passage in autumn was marked by a few records: 3 little stints at Lynn beet factory July 31st and 2 spotted redshank at Welney Sept. 4th. Golden plover flocks between Aug. and Oct. reached 600 in the West Walton area and 800 to 1,000 on the Washes. Late in Oct. 2 or 3 greenshank appeared at Welney on 30th and 6 ruffs in mid-Nov. On Oct. 20th, a flock of blackbirds, which had been very numerous during mid-Oct. at West Walton, contained a single ring ouzel.

As the table shows, ducks were again abundant by late Oct. In Nov. a drake goldeneye was at Hilgay on 20th and in Dec. 2 more at Welney on 18th. Single whooper swans were noted Dec. 14th and 18th. Waxwings returned to the King's Lynn area early in Nov. with 7 on 2nd and one or two during the following weeks. A great grey shrike was picked up dead at Northwold at the end of Nov.

Wisbech Sewage Farm

There were few records for the early months of the year, and they show nothing unusual apart from 3 whooper swans Feb. 27th. Garganey—singles and occasionally a pair—were noted in April and on 17th a pair of pintail was present. Wader numbers during the various months of the year are shown below in table form, but noteworthy among the May arrivals were grey plover, wood sandpiper, spotted redshank and 2 greenshank on

29th. The latter were seen again the following day and 4 black terns passed through. One or two little stints stayed from May 21st until June 3rd. 160 pairs of black-headed gulls bred successfully.

At the beginning of July, returning black terns were first seen on 2nd. The variety of waders increased considerably and by the end of the month, most of the usual species had been recorded. Ruff numbers built up to a total of 170 by the 23rd. A pleasing feature of the Aug. counts was the maximum number of 110 redshank. Other autumn records include a maximum of 140 shoveler, marsh harrier Aug. 23rd and spotted crake Sept. 18th. Black terns reached 16 on Sept. 11th, but were not seen after the 14th.

Numbers of most species dwindled rapidly in Oct. The last little ringed plover was noted on 3rd, but several species remained until Nov., with wood, common and curlew-sandpipers last seen on 5th and the last little stint, possibly injured, remained until 26th. The rarity of the year, a semi-palmated sandpiper, gave many observers excellent opportunities of studying it until the end of the year when its only companions were a handful of dunlin, redshank, snipe and ruffs.

There was a party of 3 bearded tits Oct. 15th and 2 twites Nov. 20th. Bewick's swans arrived in mid-Nov. and with birds coming and going, numbers fluctuated considerably; the largest party recorded before the year end was 28 Dec. 16th.

WISBECH SEWAGE FARM SELECTED WADERS
(Monthly maxima)

	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Ringed plover ..	1	10	11	4	80	38	38	1	
Little ringed plover..			1	5	16	4	1		
Grey plover ..		1			1	6	2		1
Turnstone ..				2	9	5		1	
Snipe ..				6	60	140	15	2	18
Jack snipe ..							43	50	2
Bar-tailed godwit ..					1	5	1		
Black-tailed godwit..					17	15	1		
Green sandpiper ..			4	3	31	7	1		
Wood sandpiper ..		1		7	20	9	1	1	
Common sandpiper ..	1	3	1	23	64	29	4	1	
Redshank ..			10	7	110	43	14	30	30
Spotted redshank ..		1	2	4	19	45	7		
Greenshank ..		2		10	19	12	2		
Dunlin ..				160	520	1200	1600	900	30
Knot ..					1	14	4		
Little stint ..		1	2	2	15	14	11	1	
Curlew sandpiper ..				1	10	15	6	1	
Ruff ..		3	21	170	170	120	80	60	4

NORFOLK OUSE WASHES WILDFOWL TABLE

	Jan.	Jan.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb.	Feb.	Mar.	Mar.	Oct.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Dec.
	8th	25th	31st	6th	13th	20th	5th	13th	23rd	30th	13th	11th	22nd
Mallard ..	300	350	300	530	350	850	600	600	800	250	850	400	950
Teal ..	80	45	65	1100	300	850	500	750	60	135	200	230	250
Shoveler ..	2	5	2	100	50	120	100	260	120	75	21	150	75
Pintail ..	300	25	220	1300	1600	3100	1560	1000	43		94	60	290
Gadwall ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tufted ..	15	1	100	100	80	14	130	70	10		34	30	4
Pochard ..	..	50	420	220	1180	194	145	415	25	15		87	50
Bewick's swan ..	53	194	134	176	325	295	23	6	6		10	33	40
Whooper swan ..	5	..	9	12	13	4	..	6	..	..	..	..	..
Wigeon ..	2500	1200	3050	4900	5450	7750	3650	3450	..	200	730	2700	3000
Coot ..	100	165	280	328	460	425	150	225	..	..	210	230	240
Mute swan ..	60	37	27	28	35	38	27	31	..	40	50	20	42

Selected Light-Vessel Notes

For the twelfth year in succession the crews of light-vessels off the Norfolk coast maintained diaries. In addition to the usual late autumn visitations of immigrant starlings, skylarks, blackbirds, chaffinches, etc., the following species were identified:

Leach's petrel: Dudgeon, one, Nov. 8th.

Heron: Newarp, one, Sept. 30th.

Teal: Newarp, one dead, Dec. 20th.

Moorhen: Inner Dowsing, one dead, Sept. 25th.

Coot: Corton, one, Nov. 11th.

Curlew: Inner Dowsing, one, Sept. 24th.

Knot: Inner Dowsing, two, Feb. 12th.

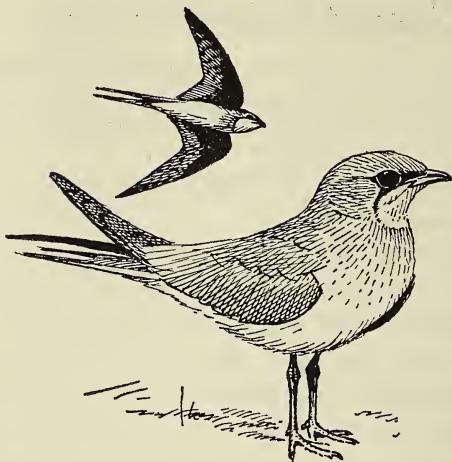
Turtle-dove: Corton, two, June 13th.

Long-eared Owl: Inner Dowsing, one, Oct. 29th and Dudgeon, one, Oct. 25th.

Magpie: Smith's Knoll, twenty, Oct. 18th.

Crossbill: Corton, 4 females or young, July 4th/5th and an adult male on 12th.





A black-winged pratincole remained three days at Cley in July 1966

Classified Notes

These Notes are based on *Birds of Norfolk* (1967) where fuller details regarding status, distribution, migration and ringing recoveries may be found. The Wash and Fen records have been selected from the files of 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 1966.

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 1966, unless otherwise stated. To save space, all but the most essential initials have been omitted. Records are of *single* birds unless otherwise stated.

6 Red-necked Grebe: Wash: Hunstanton, Oct. 21st. North: Holme, Sept. 18th and Nov. 13th; Wells, Feb. 10th; Morston, Dec. 4th and Cley, Sept. 6th/9th and Oct. 2nd and 7th. Broads: Rockland, Jan. 23rd to March 6th and Seven Mile House near Reedham, Jan. 1st to Feb. 2nd.

7 Slavonian Grebe: Wash: 2-3 up to April 17th and from Oct. 16th. North: Brancaster, 2, Feb. 6th.

8 Black-necked Grebe: Wash: None recorded. North: Holme, Oct. 2nd and Wells, Feb. 28th and Nov. 14th. East: Breydon, Dec. 10th.

12 Leach's Petrel: North: Cley, Sept. 16th.

14 Storm-Petrel: East: Winterton, Dec. 2nd and Yarmouth (dead) on 6th.

16 Manx Shearwater: Wash: Sept. 9th and 11th. North: Holme, 93, Sept. 15th; Scolt, June 26th/27th; Cley, 2, Sept. 6th and 21 east on 13th.

One of the Balearic race off Holme Aug. 23rd and 2 off Cley, Sept. 6th (RAR).

20 Cory's Shearwater: North: Salthouse Jan. 29th had been dead about a week (BS, AKR, AM, RAR). It was of the North Atlantic race *borealis* and is the first to be specifically identified here since both the Mediterranean and North Atlantic races were deleted from the British List at the time of the Hastings Rarities (*British Birds*, 60, p. 312).

Now at Norwich Castle Museum.

21 Sooty Shearwater: North: Holme, 2, Sept. 15th; Salthouse, Aug. 29th and Cley, 4 east, Sept. 13th and one on 15th.

26 Fulmar: North: Breeding cliffs between Weybourne and Sidestrand occupied as usual, but no information available on breeding success. 2 inland over Gresham School woods, Holt, May 5th. Birds returned to Cromer cliffs by Nov. 9th and 60 present between Sheringham and Cromer by year end. Wash: Hunstanton, pair summered and 2 had returned Dec. 23rd.

28 Cormorant: More abundant than usual on North coast with 22 together off Cley Sept 9th. On the Wash, unusual numbers in Lynn Point area: Feb., 40; March, 15; June, 10; July, 10; Aug., 20; Sept., 50; Oct., 25 and Nov., 40. Broads: When Scroby Sands was abandoned early in 1966, Ranworth woods became the new roost with over 200 roosting there at the end of Dec.

29 Shag: Coastal records of singles. Inland: Norwich, river Wensum, Jan. 2nd-May 17th with 4, March 9th.

30 Heron: Details of heronries as follows:

Borders of Wash: Snettisham, 12 nests. *Fens:* Islington, 43; Denver Sluice, 50 and Feltwell, 1. *Breck:* Didlington, 4; Shadwell, 9 and Narford, 13. *Mid-Norfolk:* Kimberley Park, 12 and Lyng Easthaugh, 1. *Broads Area:* Gen. McHardy's Wood, 3 Whiteslea, 2; Heigham Sounds, 3; America Wood Earsham, 4; Upton, 1; Wickhampton, 34; Buckenham, 17; Strumpshaw (new site), 20; Mautby, 6; Ranworth, 28; Ranworth Marshes (Horning Hall), 10; Heron Carr, Barton, 3; Belaugh Broad, 6 and Wheatfen, 2. *North:* Melton Constable, 3; Holkham Park (Obelisk Wood), 8 and Cley, 6.

County total: 301 nests at 26 sites. None nested at Thompson Water, Eastmoor, Fishley Carr Acle, Gunton Park, Wiveton Hall or Ditchingham.

32 Little Egret: North: An adult in full nuptial plumage alternating between Cley and Blakeney, June 15th-19th, departed westwards in early evening of 19th, later in the day being seen crossing Scolt Head, landing briefly on Holme Broadwater and leaving towards the Wash (RAR *et al*). It was flying north at Minsmere on the Suffolk coast June 14th.

35 Cattle Egret: Broads: Rollesby, one filmed by JB end of July. It stayed 3 days.

42 Spoonbill: Fens: Ouse Washes, May 22nd. North: Scolt, 3, June 17th and one on 18th; Morston, May 2nd; Cley, May 19th/20th, May 26th-June 6th, 3 on June 18th (at Scolt the previous day) and one west, July 21st. East: Breydon, May 8th and 13th; 1-2, June 2nd-19th with 4 on 18th; July 16th-Aug. 13th. Broads: Ranworth, May 10th and Hickling, June 8th-15th.

47 Garganey: Usual breeding season records from Hickling (2 pairs) and Cley (3 pairs).

49 Gadwall: Breck: Autumn counts include the high total of 325 at Stanford Water, Oct. 15th. Continues to breed in Broadland (family of 8 at Stokesby) and on North coast one nest at Blakeney Point.

52 Pintail: Broads: Ranworth, 60 early in Jan. is an unusual number.

54 Red-crested Pochard: Fens: Welney, drake, Jan. 30th (CBC).

56 Tufted Duck: Breeding records: Breck (a record total of at least 23 broods): West Tofts, 3 broods; Stanford, 6; Tottington West Mere, 4; Thompson Water, one; Buckenham Tofts, 3; Narford, 2; Cockley Cley, 2; Lynford, one and Thompson Common, one. Central: Marsham Bolwick, 3 broods. North: Cley, brood of 6 on Glaven.

57 Pochard: Breeding records: Breck (total of 8 broods): Rush Mere, one brood; Thompson Water, 2; Mickle Mere, one; Tottington West Mere, 2; Stanford, one and Ring Mere, one. Broads: Cantley, 2 broods and Buckenham, one (for third year in succession).

61 Long-tailed Duck: Wash: Hunstanton, 3-5 up to March 12th and from Nov. 1st apart from 10 on one occasion. North: Holme, Scolt, Wells and Cley, up to 10 until March and from Oct. 17th. East: Breydon, shot, Jan. 8th.

62 Velvet Scoter: Wash/North coast: No parties exceeded 10.

64 Scoter: Wash: 600 between Snettisham and Hunstanton in Jan., and up to 350 off Hunstanton at year end.

67 Eider: Wash: largest assembly off Hunstanton where 70 in Jan. (and still 46 on March 1st) and 50 at end of year; in November one at Snettisham and 12 at Terrington. North: Holme area, 30 in autumn. Brancaster, up to 86 in Jan./Feb., 75 in early July (some flightless), 60 in Aug., 150 in Oct. but only 11 in Dec. Wells, 10, Dec. 2nd. Blakeney Point, 5, April 10th. Cley up to August onwards apart from 32 west, Jan. 15th. East: Horsey, Oct. 30th-Nov. 6th is only record.

70 Goosander: Breck: Narford remains most favoured locality and maximum of 33 there Jan. 31st, 20 still present March 5th; 18 at nearby Narborough G.P., Feb. 13th doubtless from Narford. Fens: Maximum of 10 on Ouse Washes, March 20th and 2 north at Welney, April 8th.

71 Smew: Broads: Postwick, Jan. 3rd; Rockland, 2 on 15th and Horsey, shot, on 18th. North: Scolt, Dec. 8th.

- 73 Shelduck:** Eastward movement moult migration records: Scolt, 18, June 19th; 48, July 10th and 27 on 23rd. Holme, 35, July 24th. Cley, 7, Aug. 25th.
- 76 White-fronted Goose:** East: Breydon area: maximum of 120 on Feb. 13th and last recorded (50) March 1st; first 5 returned Dec. 11th and 32 present by 24th. North: Holkham, 45, Feb. 22nd and 23, March 6th.
- 77 Lesser White-fronted Goose:** North: Holme, March 20th–30th, a new locality.
- 78 Bean Goose (*A.a. arvensis*):** East: Yare valley, up to 36, Jan. 1st–Feb. 26th; 19 had returned by Dec. 26th. North: Cley, 8, Dec. 31st.
- 78 Pink-footed Goose (*A.a. brachyrhynchus*):** East: Breydon area, 11 at Halvergate, Nov. 12th is the only record from this once favoured area. North: Cley, 15 west Sept. 24th. Wash: up to 1,550 present in one area until Feb. 20th with 250 from Dec. 4th.
- 80 Brent Goose:** North: Salthouse, 56 throughout February and early March including 1–2 pale-breasted birds. Blakeney/Morston, up to 2,000 till mid-February and last, 15, April 12th; 800 by end of Nov. increasing to 1,000 by year end. Wells, 700, Jan. 31st to March 5th and 480 from Nov. 14th. Brancaster, up to 650 till April 1st; 25, Oct. 17th, 300 by 30th and 700 by end of Dec. Wash: Hunstanton, up to 80 till Feb. 28th and maximum of 245 Dec. 30th with 6 early birds Sept. 29th. East: Breydon, 3, Jan. 29th and one at year end. Winterton, 78 in eight groups, Nov. 19th.
- 85 Whooper Swan:** Apart from a party of 5 visiting four Breck meres Dec. 3rd to 30th, 1–3 recorded at Cley (April 11th), Snettisham G.P. (March 1st–April 20th), Wisbech S.F. (Feb. 27th) and Welney (Dec. 14th–18th).
- 86 Bewick's Swan:** East: 10 at Postwick, Jan. 2nd/3rd; 24 at Breydon on 9th, 5 at Stumpshaw March 20th, 21 along lower Bure April 4th and up to 45 at Breydon, Halvergate and Haddiscoe from Nov. 26th. Broads: 38 in from sea at Winterton Nov. 29th and 13 at Ranworth at end of Dec. North: (All westerly movement records): Cley, 35, Jan. 9th and 45, Nov. 24th; Blakeney, 50, Feb. 4th and 50, Nov. 9th; Holme, 50, Jan. 18th and 100 on Feb. 3rd. Wash (Hunstanton to Snettisham): 1–8 present until March 20th and from Oct. 13th with 23 Dec. 4th. Terrington, 7, from Nov. 20th onwards. Fens: Wisbech S.F., up to 17 from Nov. 12th to year end. Ouse Washes, peak of 325 between Denver and Welney, Feb. 13th; 2 remained until April 19th. First 10 returned to Welney Oct. 30th and 50 by Dec. 18th. Breck: 10 at Fowl Mere, Nov. 11th, followed by up to 14 at West Acre floods, Mickle Mere, Thompson and Ring Mere between Dec. 11th–31st.
- 91 Buzzard:** North: Beeston Common, April 30th; Holt, May 24th; Scolt Head, June 1st and 18th; Blakeney Point, Aug. 20th and Selbrigg, Oct. 10th. Breck: 1–2 remained in Tottington area between Jan. and Oct.
- 92 Rough-legged Buzzard:** An unusual number of records from Oct. 6th onwards. East: Breydon, Nov. 6th. Broads: Horsey/Winterton Dunes/Marham Broad area, Oct. 30th–Dec. 25th. North: Aylmerton, Oct. 6th;

Sidestrand, early Nov.; Cley/Blakeney Point, Oct. 31st–Nov. 15th; Burnham Market, Oct. 21st; Scolt, Nov. 1st and 7th and Holme, Oct. 14th. Wash: Snettisham, Nov. 26th–Dec. Breck: West Mere, Nov. 13th.

93 Sparrowhawk: Records from 26 localities, but only known to have nested at two sites.



Black Kite

96 Black Kite: North: An immature at Salthouse/Cley, May 14th (RAR *et al*) was earlier seen heading west at West Runton (DVB). An addition to the county list.

98 Honey Buzzard: North: Bodham Forest, Oct. 5th (RPB-O) and Cley on 6th in from the sea (RAR *et al*).

99 Marsh Harrier: No young reared, although a pair began nesting at Horsey. A female at Cley, May 23rd, was carrying nest material to various parts of the Reserve and 2 immatures spent the summer on the Ouse Washes. One wintered at Hickling.

Many coastal records from the Wash and North coast of ones and twos in both spring and autumn; at Cley at least 8 different birds involved including 3 (one an adult male), May 14th.

100 Hen Harrier: Coastal records from Winterton, Waxham, Cley, Blakeney Point, Morston, Scolt, Holme, Snettisham and Terrington. Broads records from Cantley, Stokesby, Horsey and Hickling, and Breck observations from Weeting, Foulton, Tottington and Stanford. Recorded up to April 13th and from Oct. 2nd. Majority of records relate to single "ring-tails" but adult males at Winterton and Stokesby. 3 together at Cley, Dec. 26th.

102 Montagu's Harrier: In west Norfolk 5 males present at various localities and 3 pairs bred. At least 2 of the broods reached the free-flying stage. Elsewhere, coastal passage of singles at Haddiscoe, Horsey, Cley, Blakeney, Holme, Wolferton and N. Wootton (and in Breck at Ring Mere and Barnham Common).

103 Osprey: Broads: Hickling, April 8th, May 11th–13th (and a second bird on 11th), Sept. 8th and 17th. Barton, May 14th. North: Cley (fishing in Glaven), April 18th/19th, at Stiffkey on 22nd, Morston on 24th, Blakeney, May 1st and Cley again on 15th. Breck: Snetterton, April 22nd and 2 there May 14th, one at Thompson, April 24th and at Stanford, May 15th. One again at Thompson, Oct. 15th.

104 Hobby: North: Blakeney, May 16th and Cley on 26th; Holme, May 10th and July 23rd and Walsingham, Sept 8th. Wash: Hunstanton, in from sea, June 14th and Lynn Point, 2, Aug. 14th.

105 Peregrine: Single winter records from West Runton, Cley, Wells, Scolt, Terrington, Wheatfen and Hockham Fen.

107 Merlin: Autumn/winter coastal records from East (Winterton-Horsey), North (Cley-Holme) and Wash areas. All relate to ones and twos apart from 5, Jan. 23rd, on Wash shore.

117 Quail: Single males calling as follows: North: Binham, Walsingham, Ringstead, Burnham Market, Blakeney Eye, Walsey Hills and Briston. Central: Wymondham and Marlingford. Fens: Wisbech S.F.

119 Crane: East: Bacton, Aug. 3rd moving to Hickling on 5th (*per* GEB) and later that day at Breydon (RHH). North: Holme, Oct. 15th (MTB).

121 Spotted Crake: North: Cley, Nov. 19th/20th; Holme, Sept. 17th. Fens: Wisbech S.F., Sept. 18th.

125 Corncrake: North: Cley, May 13th and Blakeney Point, Oct. 11th. Beeston Common, calling daily, May 14th-June 3rd.

131 Oystercatcher: Breeding records: East: Breydon Marshes, one nest. North: Arnold's Marsh, 3 nests; Blakeney Point, 92 nests and 27 pairs on south side of harbour (extending to coast road fields of sugar-beet, carrots, etc.); Stiffkey, 8 pairs (also 4 pairs on The Binks); Wells, 9 pairs; Burnham Overy, 9 pairs; Scolt, 120 nests and Old Hunstanton, 2 pairs.

135 Little Ringed Plover: West: Some sites used in previous years not visited, but at least one pair bred.

Passage records include 1-3 regularly at Cantley B.F., July 30th-Oct. 23rd and 2 at Breydon, July 30th. Fens: Wisbech S.F. autumn maximum 16 in Aug. Wash: July 31st, 2 at Wolferton and one at Wootton.

136 Kentish Plover: East: Breydon, May 14th (TEB). North: Cley, May 6th-7th, May 22nd-23rd and June 18th (RAR). Blakeney, 2, April 26th; one, May 9th and 2 on 12th (HH). Wash: Wolferton, April 20th (WNG).

142 Dotterel: North: Cley, a "trip" of 7 S.W. over the beach and inland out of sight, Aug. 28th (RAR); also one west there next day. Overy Staithe, Sept. 23rd (RAFC).

146 Great Snipe: North: Salthouse, Aug. 27th (REE, DIMW). Wiveton, first winter bird shot and now in Norwich Castle Museum, Sept. 12th (PL, RAR).

150 Curlew: Breck: At least 5 breeding pairs in Stanford "Battle Area". North: 7, Roydon Common, May 22nd but no information on nesting.

151 Whimbrel: North: Autumn movement began July 5th, with most passing through in early Aug. (on 9th, for example, 185 over Ringstead) and extending to first days of Oct. with stragglers at Blakeney on 14th and Dec. 5th, and at Brancaster, Oct. 20th (4), 25th (2), Nov. 10th (one) and 17th (2).

154 Black-tailed Godwit: N./E. Coasts/Broads: Usual passage records with maximum of 12 at Breydon, May 8th. At Horsey, a pair arrived early May, staying several days. At Cley, one arrived March 22nd with 5, April 10th–16th, and 1–2 till end of May. Winter records from Wells (5) Feb. 28th and Morston (one) Dec. 10th. Wash: Terrington, maximum of 110, July 31st; still 30, Aug. 31st; Hunstanton, 10, Jan. 7th.

159 Common Sandpiper: North: Winter records from Titchwell, Jan. 2nd, and Stiffkey, Dec. 3rd. Usual passage records including high total of 24 on Bure at Buxton, July 19th.

162 Spotted Redshank: N./E. Coasts: Small numbers recorded each month; one wintered at Cley. Interesting records include 2 at Cantley B.F., Sept. 20th–24th; an autumn maximum of 45 (Sept.) at Wisbech S.F. and one over Holkham Park, Oct. 29th.

164 Lesser Yellowlegs: Fens: Wisbech S.F., Sept. 17th (CBC). An addition to the county list.

170 Purple Sandpiper: N./E. Coasts: 1–7 recorded each month, except June, at usual localities. Most regular at West Runton and Scolt. Wash: Hunstanton, up to 11 till March 13th and up to 9 from Nov. 5th; Snettisham, Nov. 11th.

171 Little Stint: North: Cley, small spring passage, April 24th–May 18th. Autumn movement on very small scale, ending Oct. 20th. East: Cantley B.F., 1–2, Sept. 20th–Oct. 15th.

173 Temminck's Stint: North: Cley, May 22nd and 25th (RAR); Blakeney, 2, May 17th–21st (HH).

174 Baird's Sandpiper: North: Thornham, Sept. 18th–25th (CBC). Third county record.

176 Pectoral Sandpiper: East: Cantley B.F., Sept. 18th–28th (BWJ, MJS). Its call tape recorded.

180 Semi-palmated Sandpiper: Fens: Wisbech S.F., Nov. 13th (when ringed) until end of Dec. (CBC).

181 Sanderling: North: Most numerous between Holme–Titchwell and at Stiffkey; at latter site flocks of 100–150 end Aug. and early Sept. Wash: Snettisham, maximum 500, Aug. 20th.

184 Ruff: North: Cley/Salthouse, present all year and first spring influx of 18, March 20th, followed by 12 on April 4th, 13 on 6th, 10 on 8th and 18 on 19th. 25 appeared May 2nd, with a few regularly till 8 reeves appeared with Arctic ringed plovers on 23rd. 2–3 remained all summer, autumn passage beginning end of July. Between then and Oct. 19th frequent parties up to 12, decreasing during Nov. and leaving 3–4 to winter. Wells, flooded football pitch marshside, 12, March 5th and 20, April 4th. Holkham, 16, Oct. 12th. Broads: Hickling, see page 120. Fens: Wisbech S.F., maximum 170 in July–Aug.; further details appear in Wader Table.

185 Avocet: East: Breydon, April 25th/26th and May 15th. North: Cley, April 3rd and 12th, May 13th/14th and 22nd/23rd; 14 east June 12th; pair on 14th; singles on 18th and 21st; 4 west July 24th and one, Sept. 22nd; Morston, May 12th; Holme, May 12th. Wash: Terrington, 3 July 1st and one, Aug. 6th; Wootton, Aug. 14th.

187 Grey Phalarope: North: Cley, west inshore, Oct. 19th. The only record.

188 Red-necked Phalarope: North: Blakeney Point, Aug. 23rd and Cley, Sept. 11th (RAR); Scolt, Sept. 9th-11th (RC).

189 Stone-Curlew: South: Roydon near Diss, remarkable concentration of 50, on plough, April 14th (*per* EAE). North: Breeding continues at Holt and Bayfield. Breck: Sturston Warren, autumn concentration of 26, Sept. 17th. Central: Still present in Ringland area and one pair at Marlingford, July 2nd.

191 Black-winged Pratincole: North: Cley, July 3rd-5th (WFB, RAR, *et al*). An addition to the county list.

193 Arctic Skua: N./E. Coasts: A solitary winter observation: off Cley, Feb. 23rd. Autumn passage, July 6th to Nov. 9th with highest estimates at Cley, Sept. 13th (50 east) and Oct. 28th (50 east). Wash: Hunstanton, 36 moving N.E. out of Wash, Aug. 23rd; 120 entering Wash during gales, Sept. 15th and late birds Nov. 16th (5) and 20th (1). Terrington, 13 heading inland Aug. 31st. Lynn Point, 3 inland Aug. 14th and again on 31st (CBC). Central: Holt-Norwich Road at Heydon, one feeding on dead rat, Oct. 13th (*per* RPB-O).

194 Great Skua: North coast (Holme to Cley): Autumn passage Aug. 14th to Nov. 9th, with peak of 20 west off Cley, Sept. 15th. Wash: Hunstanton, unprecedented total of 300 moving into Wash, Sept. 15th, with others till Nov. 16th when 10 south (CBC).

195 Pomarine Skua: North: Cley-Blakeney Point, 4-5 records during first half Sept. (RAR) and singles Oct. 20th and Nov. 9th (HH). Thornham-Holme, Sept. 6th (1) and 8th (3) (CBC). Wash: Hunstanton, 2, Nov. 16th (CBC).

196 Long-tailed Skua: North: Cley, singles Aug. 13th and Sept. 14th with 2, Sept. 1st (RAR). Blakeney, party of 4, Aug. 29th (HH).

201 Common Gull: North: Blakeney Point, a successful nest and 2 young reared.

202 Glaucous Gull: North (Holme, Wells, Cley and Blakeney): Singles (and once 2) on 10 dates up to May 3rd and from Sept. 16th. Wash: Hunstanton, April 12th.

203 Iceland Gull: North: Thornham-Holme, Jan. 9th (CBC) and Cley, Nov. 20th and Dec. 22nd. Wash: Hunstanton, Jan. 28th (HH) and Dec. 3rd/4th (HR).

205 Mediterranean Gull: North: Blakeney, Jan. 18th to Feb. 25th (HH). Cley, April 17th (RAR).

207 Little Gull: North coast (Holme to Salthouse): 1-4 recorded each month *except* Feb., March and Dec. At Cley, records include observations on 11 dates in June. In addition, 10 at Holkham, Nov. 1st. East: Yarmouth, Aug. 3rd and 2 on 4th. Broads: Horsey, dead, Nov. 1st.

208 Black-headed Gull: Numbers of pairs at breeding stations include: North: Scolt, 300; Burnham Overy, 11; Blakeney to Stiffkey via Morston Saltings, 24 and Cley (North Drain Marsh), 200-250. Broads area: Cantley, 150; Alderfen, 100 and How Hill, 200. Fens: Wisbech S.F., 160. Wash: 2,800 but almost completely washed-out and less than 100 chicks reared.

209 Sabine's Gull: North: Cley, immature Oct. 7th (AH, DH, RAR *et al*).

211 Kittiwake: North: Scolt, non-breeding assembly began early in May, with 350 present by June 27th and a peak of 1,200 July 11th.

212 Black Tern: Spring passage began May 1st, but only notable movement May 29th to June 3rd, when records include total of 71 passing Scolt in 6 parties, 30-40 at Cley, 20 at Lenwade G.P., 14 at Hickling, 6 at Blakeney and singles at Seamere, Rockland Broad, Lang Mere and Martham. In autumn, first noted (2) at Blakeney Point, July 3rd/4th, with largest numbers in late Aug. including 70 off Cley on 28th, with 10 next day, all passing east. Maximum of 25 on Wash at this time. 1-4 late birds at Cley, Oct. 19th-27th.

213 White-winged Black Tern: North: Cley, adult, Sept. 2nd, 4th and 6th (PFT, SCV).

215 Gull-billed Tern: North: Weybourne, adult, Aug. 27th (RJJ).

216 Caspian Tern: North: Cley, Arnold's Marsh, June 10th (MJR).

217 Common Tern: Numbers of *pairs* at breeding localities: West: Wolferton, 40, and Snettisham G.P., 4. North: Scolt, 500; Blakeney Point, 950; Stiffkey, 67 and Cley, Arnold's Marsh, 12-15. Broads: Ranworth, 24; Hickling, 5; Ormesby, 8 and How Hill (new site), 3.

218 Arctic Tern: North: Single pairs bred at Blakeney Point and at Scolt, with 2 pairs at Stiffkey. At Cley, recognised in very small numbers on at least 8 dates during June, July and Aug., both adults and first summer birds; also a few juveniles west here daily, Sept. 7th-13th.

219 Roseate Tern: North: None bred but ones and twos on a number of occasions at Holme, Scolt, Stiffkey, Blakeney and Cley between May 11th and Aug. 25th.

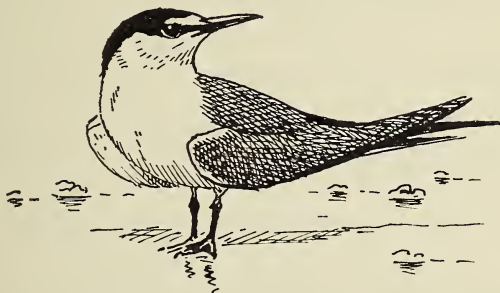
220 Sooty Tern: North: Scolt and Blakeney Point terneries, June 14th to July 11th (RC, RPB-O *et al*). Second county record.

222 Little Tern: Breeding records of pairs include: North: Scolt, 40; Stiffkey, 70 and Blakeney Point, 150. East: No counts available.

Interesting observations at Cley include a first-summer bird daily, May 29th till mid-July (first ever seen in this plumage by RAR) and post-breeding concentration of 50 there, July 27th.

223 Sandwich Tern: North: 2,200 pairs bred at Scolt, with 105 nests at Blakeney Point and a single nest at Stiffkey.

Spring passage began March 26th at Cley and during a big influx April 26th quite 40% had their ventral regions black with waste oil; assembly peaked at only 200 on May 2nd.



Sooty Tern

226 Little Auk: Only 2 records: Cley, Oct. 13th and Ludham, Oct. 30th (died next day, now in Norwich Castle Museum).

229 Black Guillemot: North: Cley, Sept. 12th and 16th.

230 Puffin: North: A very few autumn/winter coastal records including one in forestry at Letheringsett, Nov. 21st. East: Singles dead at Horsey, Oct. 30th and at Winterton, Dec. 11th.

235 Turtle Dove: A very late bird at Cley, Nov. 26th.

Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): Main centres of abundance described in 1964/5 Reports. By the end of 1966, had spread to over 80 villages and towns in the county. Bred 1966 for the first time at Wiveton and Salthouse; at Blakeney, maximum count of 108, Dec. 5th; flocks of 50 at Walsingham, 40 at Wells, 40 at Hunstanton, 60 at Ringstead, 30 at Castle Rising, 40 at Swaffham, 30 at Dereham and 47 at North Elmham. At Broom Hill, East Runton, monthly maxima as follows: Jan., 99; Feb., 150; March, 118; April, 94; May, 70; June, 69; July, 75; Aug., 77; Sept., 100; Oct., 100; Nov., 98 and Dec., 86. In Breck, Sept. peak of 40-50 at Little Cressingham. At a Yarmouth maltings, 53 in Jan. and 79 in Dec. In Norwich, 6 summered.

241 Barn Owl: Recorded during year at 40 localities.

248 Long-eared Owl: Single pairs bred on Salthouse Heath and East Wretham Heath. Only other observations are of singles at Scoulton, Feb. 27th and Holme, April 7th, with 2-3 immigrants at Cley, Oct. 31st.

249 Short-eared Owl: N./East coastal areas: Usual autumn/winter records

of up to 7 with 10 at Scolt in Nov. In Dec. 3 day-time roosts near Docking contained up to 30, 25 and 18 birds respectively. Wash: 3-4 pairs bred.

255 Swift: Early records at Blakeney Point, April 10th, with 3-4 west at Cley on 24th. Main arrival and passage began May 1st. In autumn, late birds at Cromer, Oct. 2nd, at Blakeney on 8th, 14th/15th, at Walsingham and Cley on 17th and at Morston on 22nd, with an exceptional bird at Calthorpe, Nov. 13th (CDR). Hunstanton, 2 pairs nested in the cliffs (HR).

256 Alpine Swift: North: Cley, west, May 15th, day after black kite and lesser grey shrike (KE, RB, AG). Aylsham, July 1st (CLM).

258 Kingfisher: Recorded at 89 localities, but only known to have bred at 11 sites. At Taverham a pair bred successfully in a dry gravel pit some distance from River Wensum.

259 Bee-Eater: Broads: Surlingham Wood, Oct. 21st/22nd (EAE).

261 Hoopoe: A remarkable year: Wash: Snettisham/Dersingham, Nov. 3rd-6th. North: Cockthorpe, May 28th; Blakeney, Aug. 10th; Blakeney Point on 21st; Brinton, Sept. 3rd; East Runton on 26th and Sculthorpe, Oct. 26th. East: Haddiscoe, April 7th and Waxham on 27th; and Ingham, Aug. 30th to Sept. 8th. Central: Norwich (Ipswich Road), Sept. 2nd and Stoke Holy Cross on 4th.

265 Wryneck: No spring records. In autumn, total of at least 21 birds: North: Hunstanton, 1 to 4, Aug. 27th to Sept. 5th; Holme, 1 to 4, Aug. 26th to Sept. 6th; Scolt, Aug. 22nd to 24th; Holkham to Burnham Overy, 2, Aug. 28th; Blakeney/Cley/Salthouse, 1-6, Aug. 25th to Sept. 3rd; West Runton, Aug. 27th-31st and Cromer, Sept. 3rd. East: Hickling, Aug. 23rd (injured and released later). Horsey, Sept. 3rd.

271 Wood-lark: North: Migrant records at Blakeney Point, Aug. 22nd and Holme, Oct. 9th.

273 Shore-lark: Wash: Hunstanton, Nov. 13th; Snettisham, up to 9, Oct. 9th to Nov. 3rd. North: Cley, 12-16 in mid-Jan.; 6 in mid-Feb.; 9-10, March 20th to 26th; up to 18, April 8th to 12th and 2, May 2nd. In autumn, arrived Sept. 30th, increasing rapidly to 40-50 by Oct. 11th and to 100 by month end. Decrease apparent from mid-Nov., but present daily till end of Dec. when 40 at Salthouse and probably a second flock of 40 at Blakeney Point. Holkham, 8, Oct. 29th and 20 in late Dec.; Scolt, 2-4, Nov.; Holme/Thornham/Titchwell, present from Oct. 2nd (2) till year end, with monthly maxima of 15 in Oct., 19 in Nov. and 60 in Dec.

274 Swallow: Nov. records from Cley and Hunstanton on 5th; Cranworth on 9th and Holkham on 12th.

276 House Martin: Wash: Hunstanton, 11 nests on cliffs. Nov. observations from Sheringham and West Runton on 6th, Cranworth on 9th and Ludham on 13th.

281 Hooded Crow: Apart from one at Loddon and 3 near Swaffham, all observations from coastal areas (up to May 4th and from Oct. 23rd). Most observations relate to singles or parties up to 10, apart from 25 heading S.W. past Hunstanton, Oct. 27th and 24 collecting to roost at Winterton Dec. 18th.

294 Long-tailed Tit: North: Blakeney, party of 11-13 white-headed birds with the characters of the north European race, *caudatus*, Oct. 8th (HH). Cromer, small parties moving over roof-tops westward during second half Oct. and in Nov.; party of 9 rested on a TV aerial.

295 Bearded Tit: Broads area: Breeding records from Hickling/Whiteslea/Heigham Sounds area (at least 84 pairs), Horsey (20 pairs), Martham, Barton (12 pairs) and Filby (one pair—recolonised this year). In addition bred for first time at a Yare Valley locality where up to 60 between Oct. and Dec. Outside breeding season recorded at Surlingham, Reedham (20), Buckenham (5), Breydon (2 on an adjoining marsh, Oct. 17th), Horsey Gap (4, Oct. 30th), Stokesby (2-3) and South Walsham (20).

North: Cley, over 20 pairs bred; Wells, 7 flying high over town, Oct. 12th; Norton fresh-marshes, 8, Nov. 7th; Titchwell, 2, Oct. 23rd onwards; Holme, 2 immatures, July 23rd, 12, Sept. 20th and Oct. 6th, and 30-40 west on 11th.

Breck: Stanford, 1-2, Jan. 2nd to March 6th and 4, Oct. 30th. Wash: Dersingham Decoy, 15 (5 trapped, one originally ringed at Holme 2 years earlier), Oct. 22nd; Snettisham, 2, Dec. 11th. Fens: King's Lynn B.F., 6, Feb. 27th; Wisbech S.F., 3, Oct. 15th.

300 Black-bellied Dipper: North: Aylsham Mill, Jan. 7th-16th and again Dec. 29th onwards. Letheringsett Mill, April 13th (CR). Broads: Ormesby water-works filter beds, Jan. 1st to early March (EGS). Breck: Shadwell, March 27th (CEAK).

302 Fieldfare: Extreme dates May 26th (Cley), Sept. 17th (Snettisham) and 22nd (Blakeney Point).

304 Redwing: North: Cley, a late bird, May 14th (WFB) and an early one, Aug. 28th, with autumn arrival from Sept. 22nd.

307 Ring Ouzel: Spring passage began April 7th with up to 4 together at Cley and at Holme and 5 at Waxham. One was at Holme June 5th, an unusual date.

In autumn many more than usual appeared in coastal areas, until Oct. 28th, including up to 9 on 18 dates during Oct. at Holme. Other Oct. localities include: North: Thornham, Scolt, Brancaster Common, Burnham Overy, Holkham (20 on 16th), Wells, Blakeney, Cley and Weybourne. Wash: Hunstanton and Snettisham. Fens: West Walton. East: Cantley, Yarmouth, Horsey and Hickling.

317 Stonechat: A pair bred at Sheringham and 2 pairs summered at Horsey, one of them rearing young. Other breeding season records at Thornham Heath (pair, June 3rd) and Old Hunstanton (family party, Aug. 9th).

Usual autumn/winter coastal records including 4 between Winterton and Horsey, Nov. onwards.

318 Whinchat: Late birds at Snettisham, Oct. 22nd and at Thornham, Nov. 6th.

321 Black Redstart: East: Yarmouth, at least one pair bred successfully. North: Cromer, male singing, May 28th to mid-June. Usual spring/autumn passage from March 26th with birds most noticeable in mid-Oct. when 4 at Cley (13th), 2 at Yarmouth (15th) and 3 at Hunstanton light-house (16th).

324 Bluethroat: North: Cley/Blakeney Point, 2-3, Aug. 27th to Sept. 2nd; Blakeney, Sept. 5th; Cley East Bank, Oct. 6th; Sheringham, Sept. 29th and Holme, Sept. 5th/6th.

340 Icterine Warbler: North: Blakeney Point, 2-3, Aug. 27th/28th; Holkham pines, 3, Aug. 28th and Holme, Aug. 28th/29th.

Additional 1965 records: Blakeney Point, Sept. 2nd and 2 on 26th/27th; Cley, one in from sea, Sept. 25th.

343 Blackcap: In addition to one at Blakeney, March 15th-29th, an unusual number of winter records when birds at the following localities: Holme (Nov. 9th and Dec. 15th, when another found dead), Bacton (Dec. 19th-27th), Happisburgh (mid-Nov.), Wells (mid Dec. onwards), Brundall (Dec. 18th, when killed through striking window) and Hellesdon (Dec. 4th-6th).

344 Barred Warbler: North: Blakeney Point, 2-3, Aug. 25th-31st; Burnham Overy, 2, Aug. 26th (RPB-o); Holme, 1-2, Aug. 27th-29th, Sept. 26th to Oct. 6th.

356 Chiffchaff: North: A dark brown bird of the Siberian *tristis* type wintered in 20 ft. reed-clump in a roadside ditch at Salthouse, being last seen there with 7 identical birds, April 19th. One of indeterminate race at Walsey Hills, Nov. 6th and one singing at West Runton next day.

357 Wood Warbler: Singing males as follows: North: Kelling, Holt Hall (2), Sheringham and Blickling. Central: Cranworth. Breck: Near Brandon. Also a migrant on Blakeney Point, Aug. 25th.

360 Yellow-browed Warbler: North: Holkham Pines, Oct. 2nd (PJO) and Holme on 10th (HBO).

365 Firecrest: North: Holme, Sept. 26th, with 2 next day and one, Oct. 2nd.

370 Red-breasted Flycatcher: North: Blakeney, Sept. 3rd-5th and 26th (HH); Cley beach/Blakeney Point, 2-3, Oct. 4th-10th; Wells, Oct. 28th (RPB-o); Scolt, Oct. 5th (RC) and Holme, Sept. 28th and Oct. 15th (HBO).

374 Richard's Pipit: North: Cley Eye, Sept. 29th (RAR) and East Bank on 30th (JW).

379 Water Pipit (*A.s. spinoletta*): North: Cley, April 21st (ALB).

380 Pied/White Wagtail: North: From June 14th till month-end RAR repeatedly met a family of *alba* wagtails near Cley Hall. The male was a typical Pied and the female such a handsome White Wagtail that at first mistaken for a male White. They were feeding 2 fledged young whose upper-parts were of a noticeable *paler* grey than normal juvenile Pied Wagtails with which they were compared. Record suggests a late-in-the-season displacement of migrant White Wagtails in full breeding condition, as a male White was in song on a stack of reed bundles by East Bank, May 5th.

381 Grey Wagtail: No breeding records, although present Shenfield Mill, Fakenham, June 12th. Autumn/winter records from Holme, Titchwell, Morston, Cley and Ickburgh/Stanford.

382 Blue-headed Wagtail: North: Cley, typical males, April 7th and 12th and May 5th; Holme, 2, May 1st. Wash: Snettisham, May 14th.

383 Waxwing: Following the large-scale irruption which began Oct. 14th, 1965, parties up to 12 (with 20 at both Wiveton and Norwich) frequently reported until end of March, with late birds at North Walsham (7), April 7th, Hellesdon (12) on 12th and Taverham (5) on 14th. In addition, HH records interesting roost details at Blakeney. Here flocks totalling 60 birds (comprising parties of 5/6 to 9/10) roosted Feb. 3rd—14th at heights between 8 ft. and 30 ft. Sites included myrobella hedge, hawthorn, sycamore, beech and conifers.

A further irruption began Oct. 9th (Terrington St. John), 10th (Holme) and 14th (Holkham) and between then and Dec. 26th many parties up to 16 recorded. During the year waxwings were recorded at: Attleborough, Blakeney, Boughton, Catton, Cley, Cromer, Costessey, Dereham, Emneth, Gorleston, East Harling, Heacham, Hellesdon, Holkham, Holme, Holt, Hunstanton, King's Lynn, Marsham, Norwich, Ormesby St. Margaret, Postwick, Salthouse, Sheringham, Stalham, Stiffkey, Taverham, Terrington St. John, Thetford, North Walsham, Wells, Weybourne and Yarmouth.

384 Great Grey Shrike: A remarkable year, being recorded at 37 localities (compared with 25 localities in 1965 and 13 in 1964) up to April 30th and from Sept. 30th.

Localities are as follows: Fen borders: Northwold, Grimston and Setch. Wash: Sandringham, Snettisham, Wolferton and Hunstanton G.C. North Holme, Scott, Holkham, Wells, Morston, Glandford, Wiveton, Blakeney Point, Blakeney, Cley and Salthouse Heath. East: Winterton. Broad: Cantley, Hickling, Horsey, Little Ormesby and Hoveton. Central: Ringland, Crostwick and Scarning. Breck: West Tofts, Bodney, Lang Mere, Mickle Mere, Stanford, Tottington, Two-mile Bottom, Bridgham Heath, Weeting and West Mere.

Some birds made an extended stay including one at Salthouse Heath, Oct. 25th, 1965 to April 30th, and another at Little Ormesby, Jan. 1st to April 1st. One at Stanford was in song ten minutes, Dec. 18th; another was caught in a bullfinch trap (and later released) at Setch; at Weeting one was shot "in mistake for a jay" and at Hoveton another met an untimely end "in mistake for a stoat".

There was a remarkable influx in early Oct. when at least 10 in Blakeney-Morston-Cley-Salthouse area, 1-2 in Wells-Holkham area and 3 at Holme.

385 Lesser Grey Shrike: North: Morston, male, May 14th (H. HEMS). Same day as black kite and day before Alpine Swift.

386 Woodchat Shrike: North: Blakeney Point, male, Aug. 22nd (BF) and Cley Beach Road, adult, Oct. 14th (ALB).

388 Red-backed Shrike: Breeding season distribution: North: 11 pairs at 7 localities. Breck: 10 pairs at 6 sites. East: One known pair.

In autumn, immature at Cley, Aug. 28th-Sept. 2nd and at Hunstanton G.C., Sept. 5th.

391 Hawfinch: Recorded at Raveningham, Cranworth, Fowl Mere, Shadwell, Watton, Stanford and North Pickenham.

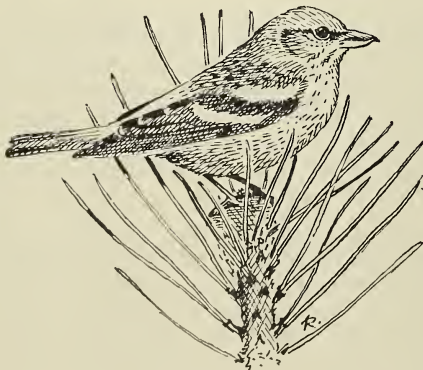
394 Siskin: Spring records include 100 at Dersingham, April 3rd, 8 at Wickhampton on 7th and 4 at Buckenham on 11th. Autumn arrival from Sept. 22nd.

398 Arctic Redpoll: North: Holme, Sept. 29th (CBC); Wells, one showing the characters of *hornemanni*, Sept. 28th to Oct. 10th (filmed by RPB-o).

404 Crossbill: North: Invasion began in Cley area last week Aug. and observations include 12 at Cley and 30 on Blakeney Point, Aug. 27th, with parties up to 7 appearing till end Oct. In Wells/Holkham locality arrived Aug. 25th with 70 present on 27th, and 45 together there Oct. 2nd. Several stayed to winter. At Holme, 4 arrived July 5th and records include 20, Aug. 3rd. Wash: Wootton, few present from mid-May, 7 on July 31st and 6, Aug./Sept.; Sandringham/Wolferton, 3, Sept. 25th and several dozens in early Dec. Breck: Noted Buckenham Tofts and Bodney Warren, Sept. 20th; Two Mile Bottom, Nov./Dec. and Bodney, 40, Dec. 27th.

405 Parrot-Crossbill: North: Wells, immature male, Nov. 10th (RAR) and 12th. Enormous bill immediately apparent; silent; common crossbills nearby for close comparison. First county record since 1907.

406 Two-barred Crossbill: North: Wells, adult male, Sept. 21st (BS, MS) till at least Nov. 25th. First county record.



Two-barred Crossbill

408 Brambling: Late spring departure and 350 roosting at West Runton, April 20th with 300 at Thornham on 26th. Remarkable totals at Mintlyn including over 8,000 in mustard field, Oct. 15th (gw).

413 Red-headed Bunting: North: Blakeney Village, male, June 6th (cæ), probably an "escape".

416 Ortolan: North: Weybourne, male, April 28th (*per* RAR) and again May 1st (DVB). Blakeney Point, 1-2, Aug. 28th.

422 Lapland Bunting: Wash/North coasts: Parties up to 19 in autumn, from Sept. 10th, at usual haunts but only a very few at year end; only one spring record: Snettisham, March 20th. East: Breydon marshes, up to 20, Nov. 24th onwards.

423 Snow Bunting: North: Largest numbers at Cley/Salthouse where up to 110 till April 7th and first autumn bird Sept. 18th, peaking at 500, Nov. 8th. At Scolt, maximum of 80 in Nov. East: Breydon, 200, Jan.-Feb. Broads: Cantley, Nov. 9th and Buckenham, Dec. 27th. Breck: Watton, Oct. 29th.

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The following, not mentioned in the Classified Notes, were also recorded in 1966 (*breeding species in italics*): Black-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, Red-throated Diver, *Great Crested Grebe*, *Little Grebe*, Gannet, *Bittern*, *Mallard*, *Teal*, Wigeon, *Shoveler*, Scaup, Goldeneye, Redbreasted Merganser, *Canada Goose*, *Mute Swan*, *Kestrel*, *Red-legged Partridge*, *Partridge Pheasant*, *Water-Rail*, *Moorhen*, *Coot*, *Lapwing*, *Ringed Plover*, Grey Plover, Golden Plover, Turnstone, *Snipe*, Jack Snipe, *Woodcock*, Bar-tailed Godwit, Green Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, *Redshank*, Greenshank, Knot, Dunlin, Curlew-Sandpiper, Great black-backed Gull, Lesser black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Razorbill, Guillemot, *Stock Dove*, *Wood Pigeon*, *Cuckoo*, *Little Owl*, *Tawny Owl*, *Nightjar*, *Green Woodpecker*, *Great Spotted Woodpecker*, *Lesser Spotted Woodpecker*, *Skylark*, *Sand Martin*, *Rook*, *Jackdaw*, *Magpie*, *Jay*, *Great Tit*, *Blue Tit*, *Coal Tit*, *Marsh Tit*, *Willow Tit*, *Nuthatch*, *Tree Creeper*, *Wren*, *Mistle Thrush*, *Song Thrush*, *Blackbird*, *Wheatear*, *Redstart*, *Nightingale*, *Robin*, *Grasshopper Warbler*, *Reed Warbler*, *Sedge Warbler*, *Garden Warbler*, *Whitethroat*, *Lesser Whitethroat*, *Willow Warbler*, *Goldcrest*, *Spotted Flycatcher*, *Pied Flycatcher*, *Hedge Sparrow*, *Meadow Pipit*, *Tree Pipit*, *Rock Pipit*, *Yellow Wagtail*, *Starling*, *Greenfinch*, *Goldfinch*, *Linnet*, *Twite*, *Redpoll*, *Bullfinch*, *Chaffinch*, *Yellowhammer*, *Corn Bunting*, *Reed Bunting*, *House Sparrow* and *Tree Sparrow*.

Selected Ringing Recoveries

(Notified in 1966)

	<i>Ringed</i>	<i>Recovered</i>
Fulmar	East Runton 23.8.58.	Cromer 7.7.66.
Shag	Farne Islands 30.6.64.	Holme 10.3.66.
Shag (4 birds)	Farne Islands 1.7.65.	Gt. Ryburgh 23.11.65. Pickenham 24.11.65. Wiggenhall St. Germans 4.12.65. Heacham 5.12.65.
Heron	Rennesoy, Norway 23.6.63.	Hardingham 13.2.64.
Mallard	Lumijoki (Oulu) Finland 29.6.64.	Downham Market 1.1.65.
Mallard	Dersingham 3.1.64.	Segegka Marelian, S.S.R. 20.5.66.
Mallard (9 birds)	Dersingham Decoy.	France (3), Germany (1), Den- mark (3), Netherlands (1) and Sweden (1).
Teal	Dersingham 31.12.64.	Landes, France 17.1.66.
Teal	Dersingham 5.11.66.	Lisburn, Antrim 7.12.66.
Pintail	De Koog, Netherlands 28.10.65.	Dilham 9.12.65.
Tufted Duck	Lake Dubovec (Trebic), Czecho- slovakia June 1966.	Rockland Broad 26.12.66.
<i>Only one previous British recovery of this species from Czechoslovakia.</i>		
Shelduck	Knechtsand, river Weser estu- ary, Germany 7.8.65.	Breydon 14.2.66.
Moorhen	Oudesluis (Noord Holland), Netherlands 22.10.62.	Billingford Dec. 1962.
Moorhen	De Kook (Texel), Netherlands 29.9.64.	Haddiscoe 24.12.64.
Lapwing	Wisbech S.F. 10.8.64.	Morocco 25.1.65.
Lapwing	Gooderstone 25.7.58.	Carentan (Manche), France 3.1.66.
Ringed Plover	Wisbech S.F. 6.10.64.	Morocco 8.11.64.
Curlew	Snettisham 8.2.64.	Ostra Norrskar, Finland 13.7.65.
Curlew	Terrington 18.8.59.	Kjaergard (Jylland), Den- mark 5.8.65.
Curlew	Terrington 18.8.59.	Ringkobing Fjord (Jylland), Denmark 1.8.65.
Curlew	Snettisham 8.2.64.	Ostra Norrskar, Finland 13.7.65.
Green Sandpiper	Wisbech S.F. 13.10.63.	Landes, France 1.2.64.
Common Sandpiper	Wisbech S.F. 30.8.64.	Sandouville, Seine Maritime, France 30.8.66.
Dunlin	Pori, Finland 27.5.62.	Cley 12.4.64.
Ruff	Wisbech S.F. 23.8.64.	Casablanca, Morocco 17.1.65.

Ruff	Wisbech S.F. 15.9.62.	Tagus estuary, Portugal 2.3.65.
Black-headed Gull	Griend, Waddenzee, Netherlands 19.7.66.	Breydon 1.9.66.
Black-headed Gull	Norwich 15.1.66.	Roskilde Fjord, Sjaelland, Denmark Sept. 1966.
Black-headed Gull	Gannarve, Frojel, Gotland, Sweden 2.6.61.	Norwich 21.1.66.
Common Tern	Scolt 30.6.64.	Tema, Ghana 29.9.66.
Common Tern	Scolt 30.6.65.	Monrovia, Liberia 16.6.66.
Common Tern	Scolt 1.7.65.	Dakar, Senegal 5.5.66.
Common Tern	Gamlakarleby (Vaasa), Finland 4.7.63.	West Lynn 30.8.65.
Common Tern	Scroby Sands 2.7.65.	Lisbon, Portugal 18.11.65.
Sandwich Tern	Scroby Sands 19.7.65.	Keta, Ghana 17.3.66.
Sandwich Tern	Scolt 18.7.62.	Oosterzee (Friesland), Netherlands 25.8.66.
Sandwich Tern (4 juveniles)	Scolt 25.6.63.	Coquet Island, Northumberland 14.6.66-9.7.66 (one breeding).
Sandwich Tern (3 juveniles)	Scolt 23.6.64.	Coquet Island, Northumberland 20.6.66-8.7.66.
Sandwich Tern	Scolt 23.6.64.	Quend-Plage (Somme), France 28.7.66.
Sandwich Tern	Scolt 26.6.64.	Freetown, Sierra Leone 9.4.66.
Sandwich Tern	Scolt 9.7.65.	Dakar, Senegal 5.12.65.
Sandwich Tern	Scolt 1.7.66.	Rufisque (Dakar), Senegal 20.11.66.
Puffin	Farne Islands 3.7.59.	Cley 25.2.65.
Swallow	Woumen, West Flanders, Belgium 26.5.66.	Billington, Diss, mid-July 1966.
Sand Martin	La Chapelle sur Erdre, France 30.8.63.	Wolferton 1964 and 1966 and Dersingham 19.7.66.
Sand Martin	Gatteville (Manche), France 1.5.65.	Horstead 17.5.66.
Sand Martin	La Chapelle sur Erdre, Loire Atlantique, France 5.9.65.	Horstead 25.5.66.
Sand Martin	Benouville, Calvados, France 9.4.66.	Keswick 7.6.66.
Sand Martin	De Blankaart, Woumen, West Flanders, Belgium 7.5.65.	Bawsey 26.6.66.
Sand Martin	Cantley 6.8.65.	Stapleton, river Tees, Yorks., 180 miles N.W. 21.5.66.
	<i>(Obviously breeding well north of Cantley)</i>	
Sand Martin	Cantley 6.8.65.	Griggion, Welshpool, Mont., 190 miles W. 10.7.66.
	<i>(An unexpected movement)</i>	
Sand Martin	Cantley 6.8.65.	Storrington, Sussex, 140 miles S.S.W. 3.7.66.

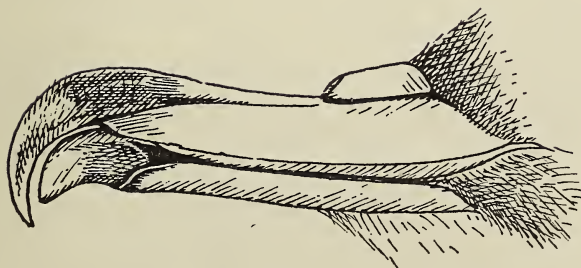
Sand Martin	Chichester, Sussex 7.8.65.	North Walsham, 165 miles N.E. 30.5.66.
Sand Martin	Whittington, Carnforth, Lancs. 7.6.65.	Horstead, 190 miles E.S.E. 31.5.66.
Sand Martin	Bessels Green, Kent 29.8.65.	Leziate, 100 miles N. 19.6.66.
Sand Martin	Ashley Heath, Ringwood, Hants. 17.7.64.	Sparham, 175 miles N.E. 7.7.66.
Sand Martin	Whittington, Lancs. 20.6.66.	Sparham, 183 miles S.E. 23.7.66.
Sand Martin	Ellesmere, Salop 25.6.66.	North Walsham, 175 miles E. 6.8.66.

(Last two recoveries indicate movements of juveniles well to the east)

Long-tailed Tit	Holme 20.10.65.	Bacton 14.4.66.
Bearded Tit	Holme 1.11.64.	Dersingham 22.10.66.
Bearded Tit (pair)	Cantley 26.12.65.	Minsmere 25.9.66 (recovered together).
Fieldfare	Thorpe-next-Norwich 2.1.65.	Maglio di Pontecchio, Marzabotto, Bologna, Italy 27.12.66.
Fieldfare	Brancaster 22.10.62.	Givry (Saone et Loire), France 26.12.65.
Fieldfare	Oulu, Finland 1.7.65.	King's Lynn 5.12.65.
Fieldfare	Sundsvall (Vaster Norrland), Sweden 2.6.61.	Norwich 26.11.61.
Song Thrush	Genappe (Brabant), Belgium 10.10.65.	Suffield 5.10.66.
Song Thrush	Holme 5.10.66.	Audenge, France 15.11.66.
Song Thrush	Heligoland, Germany 8.3.66.	Gorleston 17.4.66.
Redwing	Dersingham 9.10.66.	Pau, Basses Pyrenees, France. 12.11.66.
Blackbird	Stauso, Henne, Jutland, Denmark 27.3.66.	Holme 26.10.66.
Blackbird	Holme 25.10.64.	Krakeland, Fjotland, Norway 6.10.66.
Blackbird	Newton St. Faith's 14.2.65.	Huis ter Heide, Zeist, Utrecht, Netherlands 10.4.66.
Robin	Holme 12.5.65.	Tavora, Tabuaco, Portugal 10.10.65.
Robin	Holme 10.10.66.	Villanueva de la Reina, Spain 17.11.66.
Reed Warbler	Wiggenhall 22.8.65.	Mayenne, France 1.9.65.
Sedge Warbler (H66311)	Cley (as adult) 28.5.62.	Nested where ringed 1962-66 inclusive.
Blackcap	Eastbourne, Sussex 20.9.61.	Wymondham 18.5.65.
Goldcrest	Blakeney 9.10.65.	High Halstow, Kent 17.10.65.
	<i>(105 miles in eight days)</i>	
Goldcrest	Gibraltar Point, Lincs. 25.10.66.	Holme 28.10.66.
Starling	Lammi (Hame), Finland 4.6.64.	Gt. Ryburgh, Fakenham 25.2.66.
Starling	Pyarnu, Estonian S.S.R. 3.6.64.	Costessey 8.2.65.

Starling	Norwich 20.1.64.	Klazienaveen, Drente, Netherlands 1.9.66.
Starling	Norwich 22.2.64.	Wormerveer, Noord Holland, Netherlands 10.1.66.
Starling	Norwich 16.1.65.	Pushkin, Leningrad, U.S.S.R. 5.6.66.
Redpoll	Leziate 25.9.66.	Barbencon, Hainaut, Belgium 25.10.66.
Redpoll	Leziate 18.9.66.	Nimy near Mons, Hainaut, Belgium 15.10.66 (now caged).
Redpoll	Bicknor, Kent 11.12.65.	Leziate 25.9.66 and Balatre, Onoz, Namur, Belgium 13.11.66.
Redpoll	Haslemere, Surrey 21.10.64.	Norwich 18.8.66.
Chaffinch	Wageningen (Helderland), Netherlands 17.10.64.	Swannington 16.4.66.
Brambling	Leziate 12.3.66.	Texel, Netherlands (dead some time) 22.5.66.

* * * * *



Cory's Shearwater was added to the county list in January 1966 when one was found dead at Salthouse. It was of the North Atlantic race.

Norfolk Mammal Report

1966

The editor is pleased to present the thirteenth annual report on mammals in Norfolk. The most notable events of the year concerned mammals of the sea: the seals and the Cetacea (whales, porpoises and dolphins). The former have been in the news for two reasons: the considerable changes at Scroby Sands, and the mushrooming of the seal shooting industry, especially in the Wash. The economic justification of seal-shooting (when it is not just a blood sport) will no doubt be debated for a long time by fishermen and pelt-hunters on the one hand, and conservationists on the other. What, in our opinion, is inexcusable, is the haphazard methods of slaughter leading to frequent reports of bullet-holed seal corpses being washed up on our beaches. Seals are now held to be at about the same level of intelligence as dogs; one does not hear of many dogs being allowed to wander about with bullet wounds until they die.

The number of sightings and strandings of porpoises was the highest for some years, and two dolphins were also found dead. Perhaps the most surprising report was of the porpoise seen in the Great Ouse, and eventually found dead some 16 miles from the sea. The Cetacea are a group often neglected by naturalists; information and illustrations of all whales likely to be met with in British waters are given in the *Handbook of British Mammals*.

My appeal for further details of squirrel localities in the County has produced evidence that this animal is very widespread, though perhaps not over common, except in one or two favoured areas. I should still like to complete our picture of the distribution of the Red squirrel; the Grey has not yet established itself as a resident here.

We have had further reports this year of badgers being shot or trapped. It is very doubtful if the small number of badgers which manage to survive in Norfolk constitute any real menace to game-keeping or agricultural interests; could they not be left in peace? A more pleasing report is that there is strong evidence of an occupied set within three miles of the centre of Norwich.

I should like to thank all contributors for again enabling this Report to be produced, and would also invite other members of either the Trust or the Society to send in their mammal records, however scanty, by the end of January each year.

Classified Notes

Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)

Much of our information about this animal is unfortunately provided by dead specimens on the road. Twenty-one corpses, for example, were counted on a 100 mile journey in the County on Aug. 4th. In North

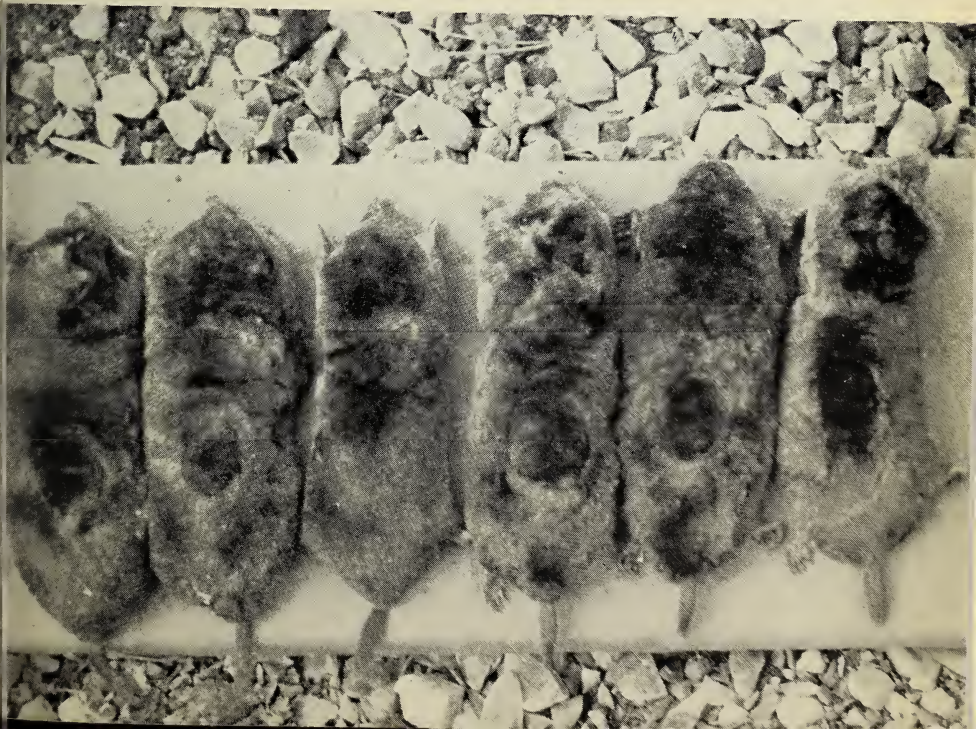


Above: In north Norfolk, several colour variant moles were reported including this white variety with a ginger belly; it was kept alive for a week with some 250 worms daily.

Below: These six moles were all caught in the same run at Brinton. All except one have a patch of much shorter fur, possibly a form of ringworm.

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R. P. Bagnall-Oakeley





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The hedgehog is one of the most widespread animals in the county. Road traffic is responsible for heavy mortality. Many meet their doom at night, particularly after rain when they become very active.

Eastern Daily Press

Norfolk, road casualties indicate that September was the peak breeding month. A new corpse on Feb. 2nd at Stoke Holy Cross indicates an early emergence from hibernation. A nest with eight new-born young was uncovered in June at Hunstanton.

Shrews

The Pigmy shrew (*Sorex minutus*) seems to be fluctuating, with a partial recovery noted in North Norfolk, barn owl pellets giving 1.8 per cent in 1965 and 5.2 per cent in 1966. However, at Caistor the ratio with the Common shrew (*Sorex araneus*) dropped from 1 : 3 in '65 to 1 : 8 in '66.

The Water shrew (*Neomys fodiens bicolor*) seems to be more widespread than formerly thought. Several were seen in the Glaven and upper Wensum valleys. A total of four was trapped at Costessey, at distances up to 300 yards from the river Tudd.

Mole (*Talpa europaea*)

In general, the reports are of great abundance. Some 325 were seen impaled on a fence at Gunton Park. Many were seen above ground at Cranworth in June, perhaps because of the dry weather. In the North, there were many colour variants—chocolate brown, light brown with orange underside, and a white specimen with a ginger belly which was kept alive for a week with 250 worms per day, but died, apparently of starvation! Six from the same area at Brinton had an oval patch of short fur on the back. A dead mole was seen at Horsey being buried by numerous burying beetles.

Bats

The main changes from 1965 are that very few Long-eared bats (*Plecotus auritus*) were reported—one was found dead at Attlebridge—and that the Noctules (*Nyctalus noctula*) are tending to build up again, after their relative scarcity in recent years. The largest colony recorded was 19 at Chedgrave. Two were seen hawking round a street lamp in drizzle on May 23rd in Norwich. The only other species mentioned are Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentoni*), the Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and the Barbastelle (*Barbastellus barbastellus*), of which a dead specimen was found in a building being repaired at Brinton.

Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

1966 was marked by extreme fluctuations of rabbit numbers, caused by continued outbreaks of myxomatosis. As in 1965 these occurred at any time of year, but there does seem to have been a peak in the autumn. Two observers reported that the Breckland population was free of the disease and bred well until August, and at Scolt Head the numbers dropped from around 3000 in May to about 700 in August. Both here and in Breckland some recovery from the disease was noted, and the recovery rate is believed to be increasing round Holt.

A black rabbit was seen at Weston Longville, and a white one, probably wild, at Honingham. Remains of a small specimen were found in a tawny owl pellet at Caistor.

Hare (*Lepus europaeus occidentalis*)

Most observers note a continuance of the decrease reported for 1965, though there were more road casualties than in the previous two years round Holt. Disturbing reports come from two different sources of emaciated dead and dying specimens on Breydon Marshes. One theory is that this might be connected with the spraying of the grazing marshes to kill thistles; apparently cattle should be kept off these sprayed fields for ten days. Another contributor found a hare running feebly at Limpenhoe which, when caught, showed symptoms similar to myxomatosis.

A hare was seen on Scolt Head Island on Feb. 7th.

Voles

The Short-tailed vole (*Microtus agrestis*) continues to decrease after the plague of two years ago. A winter/summer fluctuation was noticed in owl pellets at Brinton (8 per cent summer : 35 per cent winter) and Edgefield (9 per cent : 15 per cent). Another report is of the relative scarcity of this species in North Norfolk compared with the rest of the County. At Attlebridge, no Short-tailed voles were taken in Longworth traps, but plenty of Bank voles (*Clethrionomys glareolus*).

Both black and brown forms of the Water vole (*Arvicola amphibius amphibius*) have been reported from several areas. A five-minute fight between a black and a brown specimen was watched at Skeyton, apparently over territory; the black won. A Water vole was seen to climb five feet up a willow, fall and climb again at South Wootton.

Mice

A "minor plague" of Wood mice (*Apodemus sylvaticus*) was noted in the early part of the year at Cranworth. Six were caught in one pantry in forty-eight hours. One was seen on the beach at Scolt Head Aug. 4th and they have apparently replaced the Short-tailed vole on former allotment land in Bluebell Road, Norwich. Several food-stores were found in birds' nests near Holt; one contained 250 haws and 70 hips, as well as other seeds.

Further reports continue to come in that the Harvest mouse (*Micromys minutus*) is much more widespread in the County than previously believed. There is also some evidence that they tend to be found in the same localities as the Water shrew. Two were kept in captivity by the Editor from December to June and then released. They proved to be exemplary pets—no smell, no biting, and they lived the whole six months on two packets of wild bird food!

Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)

Every year seems to bring even greater numbers of rats. More than one observer has spoken of seeing rats in daylight much more frequently than before. They were seen on Breydon mud flats on summer evenings foraging for shellfish. Owl pellet analysis showed up to 35 per cent for Barn owls, but up to 80 per cent for Short-eared owls in North Norfolk, where at one locality there was a communal roost of over 30; but even here a large population of rats survived. At Caistor, a Great tit was seen to pull hairs from a dead rat for nest building.

Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris leucoriscus*)

There is no doubt that one of the most thickly populated squirrel areas is the Cringleford-Colney-Newmarket Road (Norwich) triangle. This is, of course, a well-wooded suburban district where protection and food are equally available.

A drey was blown down in a March gale at Cockley Cley, killing four young. A very dark, almost black specimen was seen at Horsford. One report suggests that squirrels may not take the trouble to open hazel nuts which contain no kernels—an interesting idea which merits further investigation.

Coypu (*Myocastor coypus*)

There have been a few minor infestations, notably in North Norfolk. Three or four specimens were seen during the year around Watton, and one at Brancaster Staithe in March. They are still present on the Broads, but almost completely absent on the marshes North of Breydon.

Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

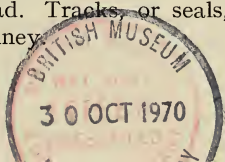
Foxes continue to thrive throughout the County. It is as well to remember that the presence of foxes can often be detected by smell, as I pointed out recently to the Common Keeper at Bookham, in Surrey, who was uncertain whether they were present on the Common. They certainly were! A fox rooting for grubs was seen to be followed by 14 pheasants at Rollesby in December, and one was killed by a dog in Norwich.

Badger (*Meles meles*)

Three dead specimens were reported: shot, at Brockdish (a significant name!); trapped, at Honingham; and found dead—a female—near Scole. The latter was probably a road casualty, which is a pretty frequent occurrence in parts of the country where badgers are common. As mentioned in the introduction, there is good evidence of at least one set quite close to Norwich.

Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

There has been no significant change in the incidence of otters since last year. It is perhaps interesting to note that, although they were seen on the North coast (including one with three cubs at Cley) there was no evidence of any at Scolt Head. Tracks or seals, were seen as near to Norwich as Bawburgh and Colney.



Stoat (*Mustela erminea stabilis*)

More stoats, but fewer in ermine or partial ermine, were noted than last year. They are now rated as quite common along the Breydon North Wall, and there were an estimated twelve during the year at Scolt Head. Round Watton they are greatly increased, and there was an increase in both sightings and road casualties in North Norfolk.

Two were seen attacking the same rabbit at West Tofts, and then dragging it away "at a fast walking pace". One was seen feeding on myxomatosis rabbit corpses with rats at Holme, and another swimming in the river Yare at Bawburgh.

Weasel (*Mustela nivalis*)

This species, too, has been building up its numbers, especially in West Norfolk, where it is estimated to be three times as numerous as in 1965, and in the North, where 27 road casualties were reported around Holt during the year. At Scolt Head four were destroyed, an estimated third of the population. One was eating a 10 day old Common tern chick.

One female melanistic **Mink** (*Mustela vison*) was killed at Broome, and feral **Domestic Cats** are reported as being still numerous at Horsford.

Seals

Both Common Seals (*Phoca vitulina*) and Grey Seals (*Halichoerus grypus*) had a difficult year, partly for reasons already referred to in the introduction, and also because Scroby Sands underwent a dramatic change, with hardly any sand left showing. By late December an official of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries had been able to find no evidence of breeding by the Grey Seal. Common Seals do not, of course, depend so much on being able to "haul out" for breeding, and were present in their usual haunts round the coast.

Deer

The regular three species have been seen in the usual areas. A group of five Roe (*Capreolus capreolus*) was seen crossing a road near Didlington. No Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*) were reported in 1966.

Cetacea

Many small schools of Porpoises (*Phocaena phocaena*) were reported, once in company with a basking shark (Oct. 9th). Some were even seen between some swimmers and the shore.

Two Dolphins were found dead: one at Horsey in April, and another at Scolt Head in July, tentatively identified as *Tursiops truncatus*, the Bottle-nosed Dolphin.

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For the guidance of new correspondents, information on the following (in addition to records of scarce species and of migratory movements) is particularly requested:

- ★ Breeding season distribution of kingfisher, fulmar, crossbill, stone-curlew and ringed plover and of all birds of prey including owls.
- ★ Details of unrecorded heronries, gulleries and terneries.
- ★ Inland breeding of oystercatcher.
- ★ Observations at flooded gravel pits.
- ★ In 1968 it is felt that it would be of interest to make a special study of the breeding of sand martin and house martin. The Editor welcomes records of colonies, showing location and number of nests.

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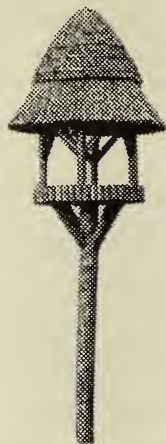
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Circular Bird Table

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Norfolk Naturalists Trust

Properties, 31st December, 1966

Date Acquired						Acreage		Status*
<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	S.S.S.I.				
<i>Broadland</i>								
1928	Starch Grass, Martham	26	Purchased	S.S.S.I.				
1930	Alderfen Broad	72	Purchased	S.S.S.I.				
1945	Hickling Broad	715	Purchased	N.N.R.				
1945	" "	500	Leased	N.N.R.				
1945	Barton Broad	347	Half Gift &	S.S.S.I.				
1952	" "		Half Purchased	S.S.S.I.				
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	250	Gift	N.N.R.				
<i>Other Areas</i>								
1929	'Blo Norton Wood	$\frac{1}{2}$	Gift	S.S.S.I.				
1929	Dial House and Allotment, Brancaster	1	Gift	—				
1957	Thursford Woods	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	—				
1966	Stoke Ferry Fen	25	Agreement	S.S.S.I.				

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

