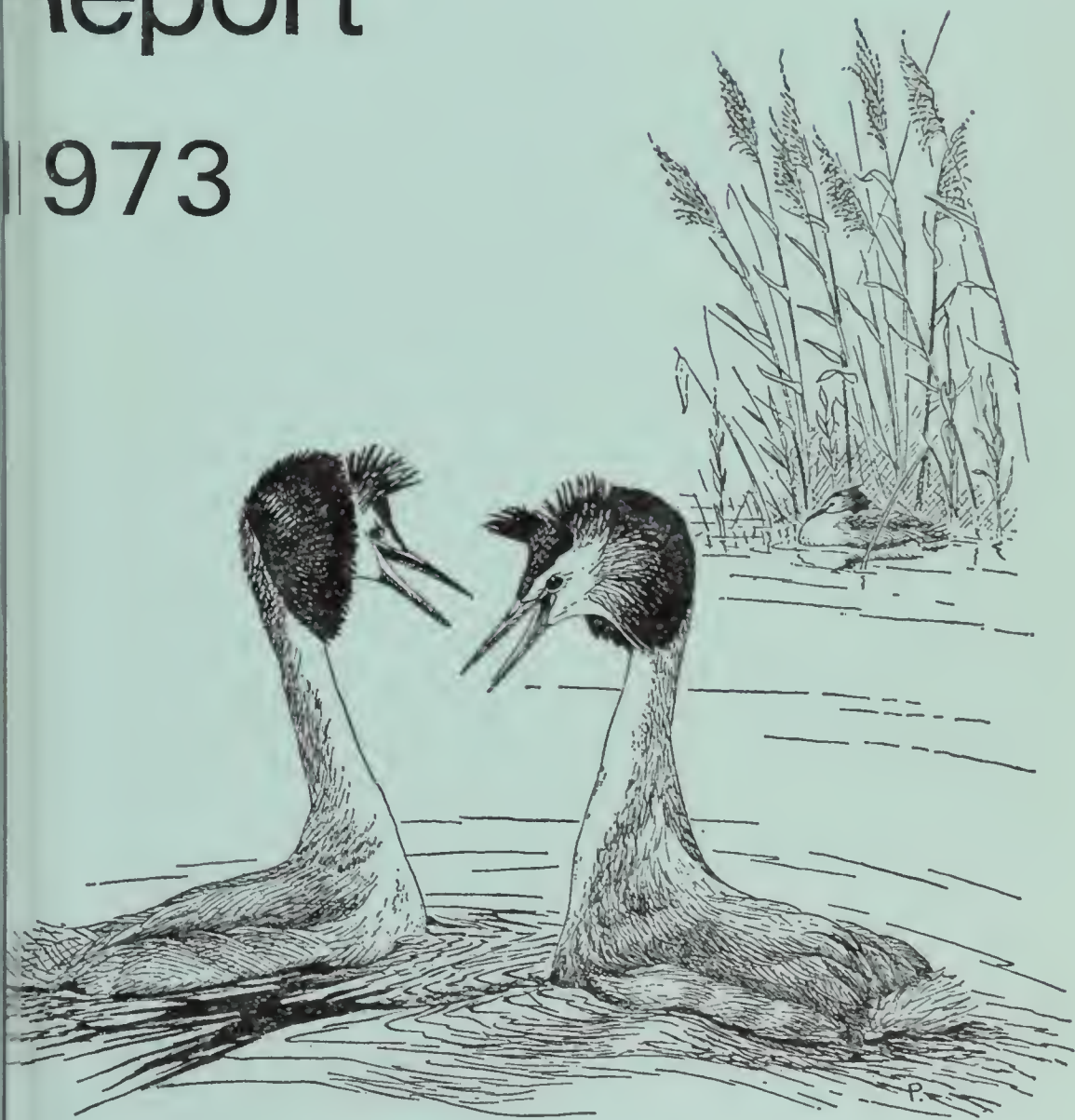


NORFOLK

Bird

Report

1973



# Norfolk Bird Report - 1973

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# Norfolk Mammal Report - 1973

Editor: JOHN G. GOLDSMITH

The Editor regrets the delay in publication.  
A double issue will appear in the 1974 Report.

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## THE NORFOLK NATURALISTS TRUST

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# NORFOLK BIRD REPORT 1973

## Editorial



Weather . . . Review of The Year . . . Road Casualties . . . Acknowledgements  
Recording.

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

**The Weather:** A noticeable feature was the dry winter and early spring sunshine was well above average with June and the late Autumn months (particularly Nov.) being much above normal. March, in fact, was the driest since 1961 and anticyclonic weather predominated for most of the month.

Depressions at the beginning and end of the month resulted in April being the wettest for eight years. May began with unsettled weather and heavy rain but an anticyclone developed after the 11th. June was very sunny, but July cool and wet with numerous fronts bringing thunderstorms. The pattern was repeated in the following two months: August was the sunniest since 1939, and September the wettest since the notorious September of 1968.

October was the coldest for 9 years, followed by the sunniest November since 1925; the latter month also contained some of the lowest November temperatures experienced for many years. December was largely unsettled.

**Review of the Year:** 1973 will be remembered for its large-scale autumn invasion of Rough-legged Buzzards from Northern Europe. It is not possible to indicate the number involved, but as many as 9 appeared at Cley in a single day. Among May surprises bound for the Far North were Red-throated Pipit and 5 Grey-headed Wagtails. At the same time and perhaps surprisingly, was a Black-headed Wagtail. This form breeds in the Balkans, but many authors have described yellow wagtail sub-species of different geographical origin mixing freely on their wintering grounds as well as on migration. Among other Northern surprises was a spring-time Broad-billed Sandpiper and an autumn Arctic Warbler. A total of 10 Sabine's Gulls from the Arctic tundra delighted observers during September.

Eastern Europe provided a succession of exotics: 7 Red-footed Falcons, 2 Rollers, White-winged Black Tern, Gull-billed Tern, 12 Barred Warblers, 13 Red-breasted Flycatchers and Scarlet Rosefinch. From the Baltic came 2 magnificent Caspian Terns.



Wanderers from Southern Europe were less plentiful, but included Alpine Swift, Bee-eaters and Lesser Grey Shrike. Two 'regular' species from Asia beyond the Urals again featured: 8 diminutive Yellow-browed Warblers and 3 Richard's Pipits.

Eleven North American birds provided exciting days for fortunate observers: Lesser Yellowlegs (3), 3 White-rumped Sandpipers (13), 5 Pectoral Sandpipers (63), Buff-breasted Sandpiper (9) and Wilson's Phalarope (4). County totals for these New World vagrants, including those published in *Birds of Norfolk* (1967) are given in brackets.

There were two additions to the county list: Cetti's Warbler, which had been ringed in Belgium and Sardinian Warbler from the Mediterranean.

Notable breeding birds included over 50 pairs of Tufted Ducks, Montagu's Harrier (unsuccessful due to disturbance), 15 pairs of Little Ringed Plovers, Black-tailed Godwits, 2 pairs of Herring Gulls, Common Gull, 316 pairs of Little Terns, 4300 pairs of Sandwich Terns, Short-eared Owl, 17 pairs of Black Redstarts and 12 pairs of Red-backed Shrikes.

**Road Casualties:** Along a five-mile stretch of the A47 between Yarmouth and "Stracey Arms" totalled 111 birds as follows: 51 Moorhens, 36 Black-headed Gulls, 2 Barn Owls, 6 Lapwing, 3 Blackbirds, 6 House Sparrows, 2 Meadow Pipits and single Kestrel, Mallard, Mute Swan, Redwing and Common Gull.

**Acknowledgements:** Thanks are due to R. Powley for the cover drawing and for text illustrations; also to D. Avon, the late R. P. Bagnall-Oakeley, Dr. K. J. Carlson, *Eastern Daily Press*, G. M. S. Easy, Mrs. P. Harrison, S. C. Porter, C. P. Robinson and T. Tilford for photographs and vignettes; to Holme Bird Observatory/N.O.A. for access to their records; to the Norfolk Naturalists Trust Wardens; to R. H. Harrison (Breydon); to the National Trust (Blakeney Point); to the Nature Conservancy (Scolt Head, Holkham, Bure Marshes (Woodbastwick) and Hoveton Great Broad); to J. Buxton (Horsey); to the Cambridge Bird Club (particularly to G. M. S. Easy); to Gt. Yarmouth Naturalists Society; to Heacham and West Norfolk Nat. Hist. Society; to D. A. Dorling for compiling the annual record cards; to Mrs. M. Dorling, J. T. Fenton, Mrs. P. A. Rix, Mrs. S. F. Seago, C. & R. Seago for valuable assistance and to all other contributors.

**Recording:** Records for 1974 Report should be sent by the end of February to Michael J. Seago, 33 Acacia Road, Thorpe St. Andrew, Norwich, NR7 0PP. Contributors are requested to submit notes in the order followed in B.T.O. Guide 13 (*A Species List of British and Irish Birds*). In order to minimise the work involved, records will not normally be acknowledged. The names of all contributors will be included in the Report.

Original articles are also welcomed. They should be submitted, type-written if possible, to the Editor, who reserves the right to revise such papers for publication in accordance with current editorial policy. Proofs of all contributions will be sent to authors before publication.

New members may be assured that their observations are appreciated and are recorded on an annual card index. However, as the normal pattern of events has been well established after a lengthy series of Reports, there is more opportunity for summary and not so much need to document less unusual occurrences. Observer's initials are normally reserved for the really unusual contributions.

# Migration

## BREYDON WATER

### Local Nature Reserve

January wildfowl totals were low following mild weather: 600 Wigeon, 362 Shelduck, 120 Pintail, 41 Scaup, 6 Goldeneye, 3 Goosanders (on 27th) and 10 Pochard. Grey geese again declined and 30 White-fronted Geese on 30th and 8 Pink-feet (accompanied by a Barnacle Goose on 14th) were peak totals. A single Brent Goose remained three days.

500 Golden Plovers and a Ruff were noted on 14th, 36 Hooded Crows on 2nd and up to 80 Short-eared Owls at Halvergate during the first half of the month. The same area produced 11 Lapland Buntings and 22 Corn Buntings on 17th and Stonechat on 7th. A dead Black-throated Diver was picked up on 21st.

February opened with Hen Harrier when Short-eared Owl numbers had declined to a dozen. Wildfowl included 153 Pintail, 550 Wigeon, 12 Goldeneye, 35 Scaup and a Goosander. Bewick's Swans were much in evidence on the adjoining marshes: 59 on 5th, 73 on 12th and 61 on 18th. 32 White-fronted Geese fed on the fresh marshes south-west of the estuary. Several Lapland Buntings stayed until 23rd.

March also opened with Hen Harrier. The White-fronted Geese departed on 4th when a Water Pipit appeared. Diving ducks were in evidence: 20 Pochard, 27 Goldeneye, 18 Tufted and 22 Scaup. 100 Pintail were estimated on 14th when 20 Great Crested Grebes were present. Among surprises were 4 Bearded Tits (one carrying a ring) in an adjoining dyke on 22nd and Black Redstarts in ones and twos from 26th.

Early April was quiet apart from 2 Water Pipits on 2nd. First Swallows appeared on 16th, Yellow Wagtails on 17th and Sand Martins on 21st. Avocet was new on 15th followed by 3 on 23rd. Waders included 40 Bar-tailed Godwits on 24th, Whimbrel from 22nd, Greenshank and Spotted Redshank in twos and threes and single Black-tailed Godwit. An immature male Black Redstart was regularly singing on buildings at the eastern end of Breydon during the month.

Highlight of May was 3 Avocets which stayed all month and were observed displaying on several occasions. Arctic-bound waders were a feature of the opening week: up to 7 Greenshank, 3 Spotted Redshank, 24 Whimbrel, 62 Bar-tailed Godwits and 16 Black-tailed Godwits. Two red Curlew-Sandpipers made the 20th notable. Also of interest were 2 Spoonbills on 11th (with one on 22nd), Hobby and Little Ringed Plover on 13th and 2 Little Gulls on 26th. Up to 6 Black Terns passed through on several dates; Marsh Harriers were noted on 20th and 27th.

June, as usual, was quiet apart from single Spoonbills between 9th and 28th (with 2 on 13th). 2 more Avocets came in on 11th, Hooded Crow on 9th, 2 Wigeon on 11th and 2 Black Terns on 13th. Breeding birds included two new species for



Breydon: Little Tern and Bearded Tit; 2 pairs of each bred, the former rearing one flying young. Other breeders included 8 - 10 pairs of Little Grebes, 5 pairs of Oyster catchers, 2 pairs of Ringed Plovers and declining numbers of both Redshank and Lapwing. A pair of Gadwall nested; also a pair of Barn Owls. Among new features were 3 pairs of Corn Buntings in the area and up to 24 summering Great Crested Grebes.

July opened with Spotted Redshank, Whimbrel and Green Sandpiper followed by Spoonbill on 2nd. 3 very tired Spoonbills came in from the sea on 7th. Common Sandpipers had returned by 10th and Greenshank and Turnstone on 14th. 5 Avocets were welcome visitors on 20th with 56 Dunlin including birds of the year on 25th.

An adult male Marsh Harrier was notable on 2nd and the first 3 Curlew-Sandpipers arrived on 3rd; parties up to 16 were on the muds all month. Another Avocet was spotted on 3rd with 7 west on 11th. Other waders were scarce although 2 Black-tailed Godwits came on 8th with 6 more on 28th. Up to 3 Ruffs passed through and Curlew peaked at 70. The first 11 Wigeon returned on 28th.

September produced few surprises apart from Avocet on 16th and Grey Wagtail on 27th. Among the month's waders were 9 Greenshank, 12 Curlew-Sandpipers, 86 Curlew, 9 Bar-tailed Godwits and Spotted Redshank. The first autumn Rock Pipit arrived on 14th.

Early October arrivals were Scaup and Twite on 4th and Jack Snipe, Richard's Pipit and Shorelark all on 7th. Among wildfowl were 339 Wigeon and 53 Pintail. Single Spotted Redshank passed through until 21st with Greenshank and 10 Bar-tailed Godwits on 31st. 2 Stonechats were new on 25th, 3 Bearded Tits at Berney Arms on 28th and Hen Harrier on 30th. 60 Twites and 6 Snow Buntings were present at the month end.

November 1st saw the first 9 Bewick's Swans of the winter (5 were immature); 3 Pink-footed Geese also arrived. An Avocet was an interesting arrival on 3rd, it remained during a cold spell until 8th December. 12 Bewick's Swans came on 17th followed by Sparrowhawk on 20th and Peregrine on 22nd. A late Swallow headed south on 9th. 4 late Greenshank lingered until 17th and other notable birds were 6 Hooded Crows on 25th and 21 Shovelers on 30th.

December wildfowl counts were high: 2,000 Wigeon, 682 Shelduck, 141 Pintail, 154 Mallard, 120 Teal, 33 Goldeneye, 5 Scaup, 14 Tufted and 5 Gadwall; also 37 Brent Geese (for several weeks), 2 White-fronts and 2 Bean Geese on 9th. Bewick's Swans were again in evidence with 72 on 16th and 2 herds totalling 118 on 30th.

Peregrine was new on 8th and female Blackcap in a dykeside on 9th. Cormorants peaked at 131 on 2nd when 30 Little and 13 Great Crested Grebes were counted. 10 Jack Snipe and Common Sandpiper were reported on 9th. In contrast to the beginning of the year only single Short-eared Owls were found. 60 Snow Buntings were in evidence at Christmas, but only a single Lapland Bunting.

## CLEY AND SALTHOUSE

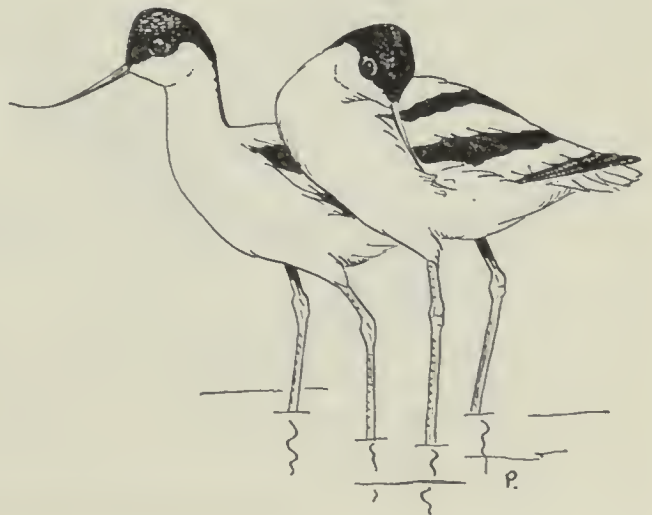
Highlight of the early part of the year were up to 80 Shorelarks and 300 Snow Buntings which were often accompanied by 14 Lapland Buntings. Despite mild weather, there were several reports of grey geese in early *January*. These included a Bean Goose, present at the end of 1972 which remained until the 4th, when 35 Pink-footed Geese flew west and 20 White-fronted Geese fed on the reserve. The following day 4 Whooper and 27 Bewick's Swans passed along the coast.

A party of 25 Golden Plover arrived *February* 17th later increasing to 350.

The first male Black-tailed Godwit appeared *March* 3rd and was joined by a female two days later. Display was taking place by the month end at which time 5 birds were present. The Bittern was first heard booming on 11th and on the same day a pair of Garganey arrived. A male Marsh Harrier arrived on 19th and two days later was carrying nesting material; subsequent breeding did not take place. *March* 23rd saw the arrival of the first Sandwich Tern, Chiffchaff and Wheatear; also the highlight of the month: a Red Kite. The first Sand Martin came on 24th and next day a Firecrest was located in Walsey Hills. By the month end 4 wintering Ruffs had been joined by at least another 20.

Migrants were slow to arrive in *April*, the first Yellow Wagtail not appearing until 15th and the first Swallow on 16th. Fifty Bramblings were still on Salthouse Heath on 17th and a Great Grey Shrike remained until 22nd. The first Little Tern arrived on 20th on which date an Iceland Gull was observed. On 23rd a party of 14 Ring Ouzels, including 12 males, was in a field near Walsey Hills and a late Hen Harrier was over the Heath. The first House Martin and Sedge Warbler arrived on 27th and Black Tern on 30th.

*May* started well with Kentish Plover on 1st and a second bird the following day, which was recorded intermittently until 24th. A Temminck's Stint also arrived on 2nd staying nearly two weeks. South-westerly winds predominated from 4th to 13th and many interesting reports were received. On 4th at least 100 Turtle Doves moved west as well as single Marsh and Montagu's Harriers. The first Little Ringed Plover appeared on 5th and next day a male Little Bittern was found in a small reedbed at nearby Kelling. This bird graced the area for four days together with 2 Avocets. New arrivals at Cley on 7th included 2 Spoonbills, 3 Little Gulls and an Osprey. At least 25 Shorelarks were still present on 8th and a single bird lingered until 24th. Fifteen Black Terns passed through on 18th associated with a light easterly wind and in addition to a movement of Swifts and Hirundines, 2 Avocets passed west. *May* 19th was a red-letter day with Red-throated Pipit, 4 Grey-headed and a Blue-headed Wagtail at Kelling, a second Osprey at Cley and 4 Manx Shearwaters offshore. A Hobby flew west next day. New arrivals on 21st included 5 Avocets and 4 Little Stints while 2 Temminck's Stints were recorded on 27th. The Black-tailed Godwits hatched on 28th and a second pair was observed mating. On



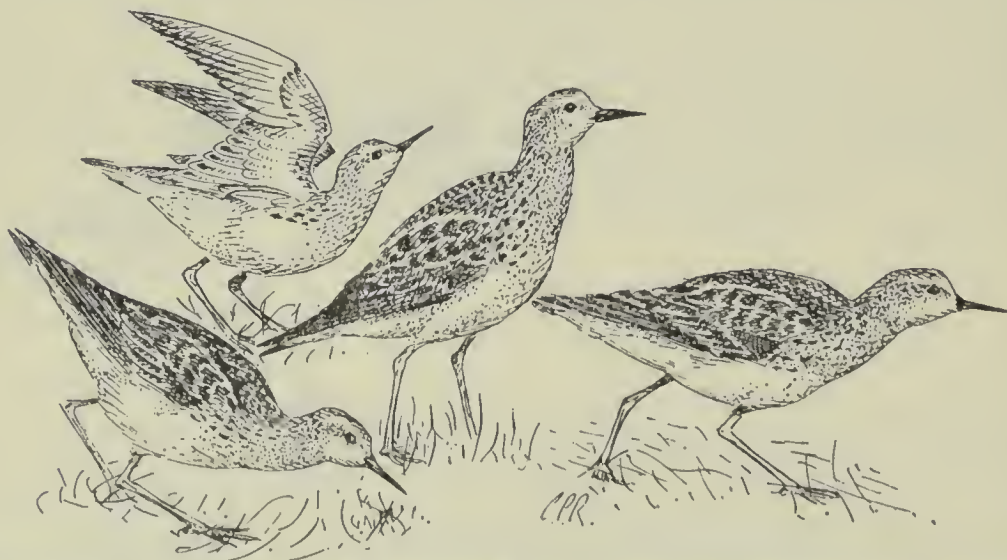


the same day 9 Little Gulls were in the area, representing the highest count of the year. The month ended with two surprises: Broad-billed Sandpiper and Alpine Swift.

Two Avocets which had arrived at the end of May remained until *June 6th* and 1-2 appeared daily from the 24th until early July. 2 Buzzards were soaring over the Heath on 6th, by which time up to 4 Nightjars could be heard churring. Single Marsh Harriers appeared from time to time throughout the month; a Spoonbill was present on 9th/10th and the third Kentish Plover of the spring was reported on 10th and 17th. By the fourth week of June the first "autumn" waders were on the reserve. including 2 Spotted Redshanks and 2 Greenshanks. A Hobby passed through on 27th when a Little Gull was new.

A female Golden Oriole was seen briefly on *July 1st* on wires near Carter's Scrape and 3 young Bitterns were found. Equally surprising was a Tawny Pipit next day. A Honey Buzzard was watched over the Heath on 14th, 2 Manx Shearwaters were offshore and another Little Gull arrived. Single Roseate and Arctic Terns were new on 21st with 3 Little Stints next day. During the next four days waders increased with up to 7 Spotted Redshanks, 14 Ruffs and single Wood and Green Sandpipers. A heavy westerly movement of Bar-tailed Godwits took place on 27th, associated with strong northerly winds.

By early *August* Ruffs had increased to 50 and the first Little Ringed Plover and Curlew-sandpiper of the autumn had arrived. A White-rumped Sandpiper which appeared on 11th for five days was the first of four American waders to turn up this autumn. It favoured the North Pool, but the second of the American quartet, a Pectoral Sandpiper, was discovered on 13th at Salthouse. The first Purple Sandpiper was recorded on 13th and on the following day at least 16 Green Sandpipers were on the reserve. The first "fall" of autumn drift-migrants occurred over the 15th/16th and Blakeney Point held small numbers of Pied Flycatchers, Whinchats, Wheatears and Willow Warblers, as well as a single Icterine Warbler. A Long-tailed Skua flew west on 15th and at least 60 Whimbrel passed through during 17th. A Barred



Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Cley September 1973 (from field sketches by C. Robinson)



Warbler was found by the Beach Road on 18th and the following day an immature Searlet Rosefinch was located on the Point. On 24th the first of 2 Spotted Crakes arrived (it was joined by the second on 30th). One was subsequently watched until mid-October. Light easterly winds on 24th/25th resulted in Bluethroat, Ortolan, Icterine and Barred Warblers reaching the Point. The 26th saw an increase in Little Stints and Greenshank, a Honey Buzzard came in from the sea and an Osprey passed west. On the same day Quail were reported and 2 Barred Warblers were in Walsey Hills. A further "fall" of drift migrants occurred on 27th/28th and amongst the birds on the Point were 2 Wrynecks, 2 Icterine Warblers and single Barred Warbler, Bluethroat and Red-breasted Flycatcher. The fourth Kentish Plover of the year arrived on 30th.

*September*, as usual, was an exciting month, commencing with the third American visitor: a Buff-breasted Sandpiper. It was present from 1st until 19th and delighted many hundreds of bird-watchers by feeding close to East Bank during the greater part of its stay. A Dotterel appeared on 4th with 2 next day and an increase in Curlew-sandpipers on 6th. A few Manx Shearwaters and Great Skuas were recorded on several dates while strong northerly winds on 10th resulted in a heavy easterly passage of Gannets (300 in a single hour) and Kittiwakes, 7 Puffins and a Sooty Shearwater. In addition 2 Ortolans and a Red-breasted Flycatcher were on the Point. The following day saw the arrival of the first Snow and Lapland Buntings and another Glaucous Gull. A "fall" on 13th/14th, associated with easterly winds, involved the usual Scandinavian semi-rarities as well as single Richard's Pipit and Long-eared Owl. A Yellow-browed and a Barred Warbler were new arrivals on the Point on 24th when 17 Shorelarks had returned. The September passage of Sooty Shearwaters in 1973 was heavier than usual with 10 on 19th and 21st and 15 on 23rd; while the 30th saw one of the heaviest sea-bird passages recorded on the north Norfolk coast. The gale-force north-westerly winds, choppy seas and spray, however, made identification and estimation of numbers extremely difficult. Nevertheless, at least one Great, 10 Manx and 20 Sooty Shearwaters, 150 Gannets and 300 Arctic, 150 Great and 15 Pomarine Skuas were recorded. In addition, 3 Sabine's Gulls and a Long-tailed Skua passed close inshore.

A White-winged Black Tern, no doubt a gale victim, was located on *October* 1st remaining in the area ten days. On the same day an adult Whooper Swan arrived staying until mid-December. Easterly winds during the night of the 3rd resulted in a massive "fall" of Scandinavian thrushes and the following day over 1,000 Robins were estimated to be in the Cley area alone. At least 250 were found on the Point, together with large numbers of Blackbirds and Redwings which continued arriving from the sea throughout the day. The Point also held 3 Ring Ouzels, Great Grey Shrike and single Pied and Spotted Flycatchers. A further large movement of Redwings as well as Bramblings occurred on 7th and a Red-breasted Flycatcher was found in some bushes on Cley marsh on 9th. Strong north-easterly winds on 11th brought Storm Petrel, 12 Great, a Pomarine and 40 Arctic Skuas. Next day there was a heavy westerly movement of Lapwings and Starlings. A Grey Phalarope, which arrived on 13th, remained until early November. The fourth and rarest of the American waders of the autumn, a Wilson's Phalarope, was identified on Carter's Serape on 21st. The same day saw the start of an unprecedented passage of Rough-legged Buzzards, with a maximum count of 9 on 26th most of which headed west. A pair of Long-tailed Ducks grazed the Sea Pool for several days at the month end, while a late Spoonbill passed west on 27th.

In addition to single Rough-legged Buzzards on several dates, other *November*

raptors included Hen Harrier and Merlin. A Firecrest was found on the Heath on 10th, by which time 2 Great Grey Shrikes had taken up winter quarters. The month ended with 5 Smew, including 2 drakes.

*December* was generally mild but despite this hundreds of Wigeon were feeding on the reserve. A single Bean Goose, which had arrived in mid-October, remained throughout the month and was joined, for a short spell, by 6 Pink-footed Geese. By the 15th, 250 Snow Buntings were present and the year ended with a count of 109 Pintail on the marsh.

## HOLME

During *January* wintering species included 31 Shorelarks, 43 Snow Buntings, 200 Brent Geese, 2-3 Short-eared Owls, 4 Velvet Scoters and 5 Long-tailed Ducks. Hen Harrier appeared on 26th and Bittern on 31st.

A female Blackcap was discovered in the village *February* 4th. Spotted Redshank were observed on a number of dates from 25th until mid-March.

Two Grey Wagtails *March* 3rd heralded the coming spring passage and Blackbirds, Pied Wagtails and 200 Golden Plovers began passing through. 5 Stonechats appeared on 17th and Goldcrests on 20th. Flying west on 22nd, a Little Ringed Plover was spotted. Redwings began moving eastwards, with some apparently reversing the direction of movement, until the end of the month. On 24th 2 Firecrests, 3 Chiffchaffs, White Wagtail and Hen Harrier were all noted. Wheatear arrived on 27th and Black Redstart on 29th.

*April* was very cold and consequently movements were disappointing. Swallow and Wheatear braved the weather on 7th and 2-3 Hen Harriers were seen on several occasions between 7th and 27th. Some wintering birds were in no hurry to depart: Brambling and Rock Pipit lingered until 10th with Merlin on 21st. 7 Black Redstarts appeared on various dates between 10th and 26th. Ring Ouzels were noted between 18th and 30th with a maximum of 8 on 26th. 3 Sandwich Terns were noted on 14th, 3 Sand Martins on 16th and House Martin and 2 Black-tailed Godwits on 17th. A Crossbill stayed 3 days from 18th when Yellow Wagtail arrived. Little Tern and Common Tern on 20th/21st respectively were followed by 2 more Crossbills on 23rd. The 24th brought Greenshank, Whimbrel, Black-tailed Godwits and Cuckoo. The 25th saw the arrival of Sparrowhawk, Sedge and Grasshopper Warblers and Redstart. Lesser Whitethroat, Whinchat, Tree Pipit and 12 Whimbrel were noted on 27th. Marsh Harrier and Reed Warbler arrived on 28th with Wryneck next day.

As if waiting for better weather, Swallows, House Martins and Sand Martins arrived in better numbers up to *May* 15th, with 900 Swallows west on 4th and 250 House Martins and 50 Sand Martins per hour. 6 Swifts flew east on 3rd with 6 Turtle Doves on 4th. Most notable May arrivals were Firecrests on 1st, Black Tern, 2 Avocets and Grey Wagtail on 4th. Dotterel were found on the golf course on 6th and 12th. Osprey and Marsh Harrier appeared on 12th, the latter being noted until 25th. A Red-footed Falcon was watched on 21st. Lesser Grey Shrike added its name to the Bird Observatory's List. Black Tern and late Brambling were present on 27th. Also late Brent Goose and Hooded Crow on 30th.

Ring Ouzels were noted between 1st and 10th, Black Redstarts on 5th with 2 on 6th, one on 7th and 2 again on 16th and another on 19th. Roseate Tern was a good spot on 1st, 50 Yellow Wagtails passed through on 5th with Green Sandpiper on 21st and Nightingale on 27th.





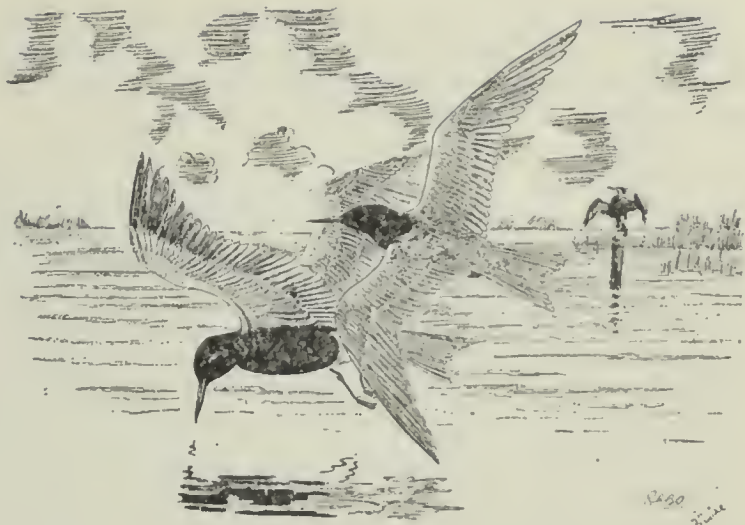
The late Dick Bagnall-Oakeley generously contributed photographs to this Report for well over two decades. His "away from the nest" studies recorded vividly so many exciting events in Norfolk ornithology. Waxwings were certainly one of Dick's favourite subjects.







East Wretham is a Hawfinch stronghold and as many as 45 were present in hornbeams there in early February. The species was also known as an irregular winter visitor by 19th century ornithologists; on occasions large flights of exhausted birds being reported at Yarmouth, particularly during severe weather.



By the beginning of *June* with temperatures in the 70's migration dwindled away. Marsh Harriers were observed on two occasions whilst 2 Avocets appeared on 2nd and 10th. An immature Little Gull on 21st and young Crossbill on 22nd were also notable.

*July's* best bird was a Red-footed Falcon winging over the marsh on 12th. At sea 12 Great Crested Grebes were in company with 60 Common Scoters on 9th whilst 2 Little Gulls headed west. A Great Skua appeared on 27th. Among the first waders to arrive were 4 Greenshank on 6th with 8 on 30th, Little Ringed Plover on 17th, 160 Sanderling on 22nd, Curlew-Sandpiper on 27th and 3 Little Stints on 30th.

Among more notable *August* sightings were Avocet and 90 Whimbrel west on 10th. Daily passage of Whimbrel was unusually heavy with highest numbers of 300 on 21st and 200 on 23rd. Wood Sandpipers however were scarce with only singles in August and one on 11th October. Little Stint and Curlew-Sandpiper were also scarce and only present in ones and twos. Up to 6 Green Sandpipers were seen most days. Greenshank peaked at 30 birds.

By the 11th passerines were beginning to return and 10 Pied Flycatchers were found. A Black Tern offshore on 5th with Great Skuas and Arctic Skuas made sea-watching interesting. On 13th 5 Black Terns and Little Gull were noted. A Manx Shearwater flew in from the sea passing over the beach on 20th. 3 Long-tailed Ducks were new on 26th with Roseate Tern and 2 Velvet Scoters on 31st. An Osprey headed east on 22nd and Wryneck was present from 26th to 31st. The first Fieldfare arrived on 22nd preceded by Rock Pipit on 16th. During the two-day period 29th/30th 30 Whinchats, 20 Wheatears, 10 Willow Warblers, 6 Pied Flycatchers, 2 Spotted Flycatchers, 6 Garden Warblers, 20 Chiffchaffs and 6 Robins were all counted.

During *September* Wrynecks were noted on five dates. Barred Warblers were also noted singly on 3rd and 10th. Spoonbill appeared on 3rd, 2 Marsh Harriers on 4th (with another on 16th) when the first Snow Bunting appeared. A Red-backed Shrike stayed briefly on 10th and a very late Nightingale was present on 23rd. 4 Brent Geese came on 26th with 6 Bearded Tits next day. During gale-force conditions on 30th many Gannets, Kittiwakes, Great and Arctic Skuas, Pomarine Skua, Little Gull, 2 Sooty Shearwaters and Manx Shearwater battled with rough seas.



The first Redwing arrived on 23rd when the month's sole Ring Ouzel was found. Whinchats, Wheatears, Chiffchaffs, Garden Warblers and Pied Flycatchers were all present in average numbers during the month. Lesser Whitethroats were scarce with only singles; a Grey Wagtail was new on 24th.

*October* was the most rewarding month of the year, especially after a rather quiet September, and opened with Spotted Crake on 1st and Yellow-legged Herring Gull next day. A Red-breasted Flycatcher and Little Ringed Plover stayed on 4th/5th. On the latter date a Great Grey Shrike and Wryneck appeared. 3 Crossbills and the second Observatory record of a Nuthatch were reported on 11th. Another Great Grey Shrike appeared on 17th. Rough-legged Buzzards became an autumn highlight and ones and twos were present on several occasions from 22nd. A late Spoonbill headed east on 27th. Black Redstarts were regular from 16th until 23rd with a further bird on 28th. Sea-watching continued to be rewarding: north-westerly gales on 21st producing Storm Petrel, Puffin and Great Skuas. Only 3 Shorelarks and 11 Snow Buntings were present during the month. Large numbers of Skylarks headed west on 1st also as many as 50 Rock Pipits per hour. Totals of 20 Dunnocks, 10 Blackcaps, 4 Wheatears, 2 Redstarts, 30 Blackbirds, 50 Song Thrushes, 15 Bearded Tits, 10 Coal Tits, 20 Blue Tits, 10 Great Tits, 20 Chaffinches, 6 Siskins, 4 Redpolls, 4 Bullfinches, Reed and Garden Warblers, Whitethroat, Red-breasted and Spotted Flycatchers and Ring Ouzel were all accounted for during two periods of continuous watching on 4th. Next day another Great Grey Shrike appeared and a Wryneck headed east without staying. 2 Ring Ouzels, 6 Blackcaps, Pied Flycatchers, together with a steady influx of Robins, Thrushes, Tits, Goldcrests and Chaffinches were also noted. Redwings and Starlings, at times in parties of up to 200, continued arriving. 3 Pied Flycatchers and Ring Ouzel were noted on 6th with 20 Blackcaps, 2 Ring Ouzels and Pied Flycatcher next day. The bulk of the movement during the next three weeks was on a similar pattern with Thrushes, Robins and Goldcrests most abundant. Other notable arrivals included single Short-eared Owls and Ring Ouzels until 10th. Up to 10 Blackcaps were seen on many days and Goldcrests reached peaks of 200 between 17th and 22nd. Grey Wagtail and Stonechat were both new on 18th. Fieldfares arrived in a steady flow from mid-month and on 22nd were passing at the rate of 50 per hour. Carrion Crows and Jackdaws passed over on 24th at rates of 20 and 10 per hour respectively. Bewick's Swans, with 25 west on 25th and 16 next day made a welcome sight. A late Swallow was recorded on 27th and a very late Turtle Dove on 30th.

Migratory movements continued during the first half of *November*. On 1st Lapwings and Starlings moved westward at 200 per hour while Fieldfares at 300 per hour were coming south accompanied by Bramblings and Chaffinches. A Pied Flycatcher was very late for this date and 200 Twites arrived. 2 Blackcaps, Ring Ouzel, Lapland Bunting and Short-eared Owl were observed up to 6th. 2 more splendid Rough-legged Buzzards put in an appearance on 3rd remaining to grace the area. 3 Short-eared Owls, 4 Shorelarks, 3 Crossbills, 3 Lapland Buntings, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (a rare visitor to Holme) and Blackcap all made it a memorable day. 300 Golden Plover arrived by mid-month. 2 Greenshank were notably late on 10th; Shorelarks totalled 16 by 18th. By the month-end Snow Buntings still only numbered 30. Waxwings were observed on only two dates: 2 heading south on 17th and one on 30th. Red-necked Grebes were found on 11th/12th. Twites peaked at 400, a late Great Skua was at sea on 19th and Goosander arrived on 21st.

Highlights for *December* included Hen Harrier, Waxwing on 5th, 6 Short-eared Owls and Blackcap on 10th. A Bittern and 3 Shorelarks were on show on 27th and the year came to a close with the welcome arrival of 250 Snow Buntings.



## SNETTISHAM RESERVE

R.S.B.P.

Warden R. Berry

Most exciting visitor at Snettisham during the first part of the year was a Red Kite which remained between *January* 14th and March 1st. Pink-footed Geese reached maximum numbers on 12th when 1816 were at Wolferton. Also in the area were 1800 Shelduck, 6 Shorelarks and 50 Snow Buntings. A Hen Harrier appeared regularly and 3 Goosanders arrived on 11th. Wintering Wildfowl included 256 Scaup at sea, 147 Brent Geese, 2-300 Common Scoters, 32 Eiders, 3 Whooper Swans (which departed February 22nd), 40 Goldeneye, 60 Pochard and 50 Tufted Duck. 2 Purple Sandpipers were noted on two occasions.

At sea off Snettisham on *February* 17th were 36 Velvet Scoters, 139 Common Scoters, 190 Scaup and 47 Eiders. 982 Pink-footed Geese were at Wolferton, while 17 Red-breasted Mergansers and 42 Goldeneye were on the Reserve. Among 893 Pink-footed Geese on 25th were 3 Bean Geese and a Barnacle. 8 Shorelarks and 60 Snow Buntings spent the first half of the month at Snettisham.

*March* birds of prey included male Hen Harrier, Sparrowhawk and, on 18th, 2 Rough-legged Buzzards. 167 Pink-footed Geese remained at Wolferton on 12th; also the 3 Beans and single Barnacle. 79 Bewick's Swans passed through on 19th. Off Wolferton on 19th were 144 Eiders, 136 Common Scoters, 82 Scaup, 8 Velvet Scoters and 102 Great Crested Grebes; in addition 62 Velvet Scoters were off Snettisham. Migrants on 26th included Black Redstart, Grey Wagtail, Wheatear and Chiffchaff. The last 22 Pink-feet left on 27th when 4 Purple Sandpipers and a Bittern were noted.

A flock of 57 Velvet Scoters remained on *April* 11th when Black Redstart and Greenshank were new. The 19th was interesting with Great Skua while Ring Ouzels appeared on 24th/25th.

Two late Purple Sandpipers were observed *May* 2nd followed by a Black Tern next day. Two Montagu's Harriers and Little Gull passed through on 9th, Little Ringed Plover on 11th, 12 Black Terns and male Red-footed Falcon on 19th, Osprey on 22nd/23rd and 2 Marsh Harriers on 27th. During the first three weeks up to 40 Little Terns roosted on the beach; one pair remained to breed—the first for 10 years, but was flooded out. By the end of May 48 pairs of Common Terns were breeding, a record number; 60 young reached the flying stage.

The first week of *June* saw Sanderling reaching a spring peak of 632 birds. A female Marsh Harrier was regularly noted until the 9th; also 3 Black Terns and a single Red-breasted Merganser. 18 pairs of Ringed Plovers bred on the Reserve rearing 20 young (total number of pairs between Heacham and King's Lynn was 31). Also nesting on Wolferton saltings were 2 pairs of Common Terns and 3 pairs of Oystercatchers (a total of 14 pairs of Oystercatchers bred between Heacham and King's Lynn).

Over 1500 Shelduck had assembled off Wolferton by early *July* and moult migrants began departing on 14th with groups of between 50 and 70 leaving each evening until 27th. Between 28th and 31st 25 Greenshank, 20 Common Sandpipers and 2 Curlew-Sandpipers roosted on the Reserve. Also present were Flamingo and Marsh Harrier.

At high water, roosting birds during early *August* included 3 Curlew-Sandpipers, Little Ringed Plover, 16 Greenshank, 40 Little Terns and 70 Sandwich

Terns. 9 Green Sandpipers and 22 Greenshank appeared on 12th. Between 2,000 and 3,000 Swifts were feeding on flying ants rising from the beach on 13th. The first 2 Arctic Skuas arrived on 16th. At the month end interesting birds included 16 Whinchats, 3 Little Stints and 27 Greenshank.

A Spoonbill made *September* 7th notable, followed by 4 Marsh Harriers on 12th, 27 Greenshank and 28 Curlew-Sandpipers on 16th, 2 Fieldfares and 4 Little Stints on 17th, Black Tern on 23rd and 3 Spotted Redshank on 26th. Gales on 30th brought 100 Gannets, 140 Arctic Skuas, 26 Great Skuas and 12 Manx Shearwaters into The Wash at Wolferton.

Little Gull and Redwing were noted *October* 1st, with Sparrowhawk, 15 Greenshank and 48 Little Grebes on 12th and 8 Bewick's Swans on 14th. 98 Pink-footed Geese had returned to Wolferton on 19th when Great Grey Shrike and Stonechat were on the Reserve; also 3 Shorelarks and Black Redstart. A Waxwing was noted on 20th and Rough-legged Buzzard on 23rd. Crows were a feature with a peak on 28th when 120 Carrion, 11 Hooded, 22 Rooks and 33 Jackdaws came through; 7 Bewick's Swans appeared, also 8 Short-eared Owls, a late Wheatear and 2 Kingfishers.

The first week of *November* brought 2 female Hen Harriers and 7 Bewick's Swans. By mid month 70 Little Grebes, 50 Pochard, 40 Tufted, 20 Goldeneye and several Red-breasted Mergansers were on the Reserve. 4 Goosanders were new on 14th, 400 Pink-footed Geese at Wolferton on 20th, 9 Whooper Swans on 22nd and 2 Stonechats on 25th. Pink-footed Geese had increased to 726 by 27th, together with 13 Red-breasted Mergansers. A further 12 Bewick's Swans passed through on 29th and the month ended with a Red-necked Grebe at Wolferton.

Wildfowl at the beginning of *December* included 2 drake Goosanders, 36 Bewick's Swans, 56 Brent Geese and Long-tailed Duck (which remained till the end of the year). A further 46 Bewick's Swans came in on 3rd; also a Flamingo which stayed until the New Year. Over 1,000 Pink-footed Geese were present by 4th and a total of 26 Bewick's Swans passed through between 4th and 15th; also 2 more Long-tailed Ducks. From 15th onwards between 25 and 30 Red-breasted Mergansers were a feature; also 2 Hen Harriers. 11 more Bewick's Swans and a Great Grey Shrike appeared on 20th and at the month end 1158 Pink-footed Geese were at Wolferton.

#### TITCHWELL NATURE RESERVE (N.O.A.)

#### TITCHWELL MARSHES (R.S.P.B.)

A Hen Harrier wintered in the area remaining until *April* 18th. April passage migrants included single Black Redstarts on 10th and 22nd, Swallow and Willow Warbler on 18th, 2 Ring Ouzels and Yellow Wagtail on 23rd, Cuckoo on 24th, Blackcap, Sedge and Reed Warblers all on 27th and Turtle Dove on 28th.

Over 100 Golden Plovers remained *May* 1st when large numbers of Swallows moving west with the first House Martins. Common Sandpiper, White Wagtail, 2 Marsh Harriers, Firecrest and Lesser Whitethroat all arrived on 8th. Other Marsh Harriers passed through on 10th, 12th, 13th and 20th (the first appeared April 25th). Spotted Flycatcher was new on 12th with 2 Dotterel on 20th, Black Redstart on 27th and Little Ringed Plover on 30th.

Among *July* birds of note were Marsh Harrier and the first "autumn" Pied Flycatcher on 26th. A Swallow roost of up to 3,000 birds lasted from mid-*August* until early September. Greenshank peaked at 18 in mid-*September*, Yellow-browed



Warbler was ringed on 24th and Arctic Warbler next day. Neither of these rarities was observed before or after netting.

A Red-breasted Flycatcher was present *October* 4th and Shorelarks arrived on 14th (increasing to 30 by late December). Large numbers of Blackbirds, Redwings and Fieldfares arrived on 22nd with the first Hooded Crow on 24th. Over 60 Bearded Tits were present in *November* when a Hen Harrier returned, followed by 2 Rough-legged Buzzards on 25th. At this time wintering flocks of 100 Twites, 25 Corn Buntings and 20 Snow Buntings were on show.

## WAXHAM

D. J. Frost and E. L. Williams

Highlight of the year at Waxham was a male Sardinian Warbler trapped April 28th and seen by a number of observers the following day. This is the first county record. Other interesting species recorded in spring included Long-tailed Duck, Shorelark and Sparrowhawk.

Although few birds were trapped on spring passage good numbers were handled during the autumn, among them 2 Firecrests and an immature Great Grey Shrike the same day. Notable autumn species included 2 Rough-legged Buzzards, Marsh Harrier, Wryneck, Black Redstart and Jack Snipe.

Ringling records reveal some marked changes compared with 1972 results with a general decrease in the number of warblers and chats, though Whitethroats surprisingly showed an encouraging increase. Most notable was an increase in the number of tits ringed, especially Long-tailed Tits with 135 ringed compared with none the previous year. A similar situation was recorded at most British observatories.

Interesting foreign recoveries of Waxham ringed birds included a Redwing caught in the autumn 1972 and found dead on Heligoland in September 1973. A Song Thrush ringed at the same time was caught and caged in Southern Spain and finally a Reed Warbler caught this September was found dead 16 days later near Lisbon, Portugal.

966 birds of 43 species were handled in 1973. The ringling totals included 3 Kingfishers, 24 Swallows, 3 Whinchats, 26 Great Tits, 103 Blue Tits, 2 Willow Tits, 135 Long-tailed Tits, 99 Blackbirds, 40 Hedge Sparrows, 74 Robins, Sardinian Warbler, 15 Garden Warblers, 26 Blackcaps, 14 Whitethroats, 7 Lesser Whitethroats, 13 Redstarts, 6 Spotted and 7 Pied Flycatchers, 81 Goldcrests, 2 Firecrests, Great Grey Shrike, 49 Wrens, 15 Goldfinches, 17 Bullfinches, 35 Yellowhammers, 34 Reed Buntings and 26 Tree Sparrows.

## WELNEY WILDFOWL REFUGE

The Refuge held considerable numbers of ducks during both winters but mild weather probably kept the totals for some species down. Wigeon reached a peak of 25,000 in mid-January, dropped suddenly to 12,000 in early February but climbed again to 17,000 on 17th before a rapid departure in March. Mallard fluctuated between 800 and 1500 while both Pintail and Shoveler topped 300. Pochard reached a peak of 200 in February.

As usual it was the swans that provided the greatest spectacle with 600 Bewick's in late January, together with up to 23 Whoopers and just over 100 Mutes. The



Bewick's stayed in good numbers through February and early March before departing in the middle of the month. Unusual visitors included a Smew, present for most of January, a Hen Harrier in February and up to 60 wintering Ruffs. 16 White-fronted Geese were observed in January and February.

The breeding season started very early with the first Mallard nest found February 17th. First broods mostly perished in the cold weather that followed, but later hatchings were more successful with at least 7 broods of Tufted Ducks, while Shoveler and Shelduck also bred well. 4 pairs of Black-tailed Godwits bred successfully, after one early clutch had been taken by Jackdaws. Ruffs were not proved to breed but a lek was established at the end of March and it is thought that as many as 4 pairs may have bred. A pair of Black Terns stayed a while, but did not nest. A Hoopoe put in an appearance May 18th and a Spoonbill the following day.

During September Mallard built up rapidly to a peak of 3,000 and after a fall in November reached this level again in December. Wigeon increased steadily through the autumn to about 18,000 at the year end. Shovelers were especially numerous in September and October with a peak of 600, but these had mostly left by December. The first Bewick's Swans arrived in mid-October and there were 800 feeding on the lagoon by the end of the year. Whooper Swans totalled 30. A single Smew was present from mid-November onwards, while a Bittern was frequently seen in the second half of October.

## WINTERTON DUNES

J. G. Goldsmith

Observations and a ringing programme were again carried out at Winterton. Unlike 1972 however, when observations did not start until September, most of the year was covered with visual observations and ringing was carried out on 26 different days. 1973 spring migration at Winterton was, in common with other British Bird Observatories, rather poor and only 107 birds were ringed during this period. The autumn too, did not compare with the previous year and only 603 birds were ringed. 710 birds of 52 species were ringed in 1973, making a total of 1,384 birds of 58 different species in two years. Only on a single day were treble figures obtained: October 6th with 123 ringed.

Recoveries of ringed birds are now beginning to come in. Most interesting was a Song Thrush, ringed in France and controlled at Winterton in the autumn; the same day 2 Long-tailed tits were ringed which moved 211 miles south-west in 15 days, constituting the longest movement recorded so far in Britain.

143 species were recorded on the reserve during the year, including 2 Bee-eaters, Tawny Pipit and an impressive Rough-legged Buzzard passage.

The first date any time was spent at Winterton was April 29th when a Cuckoo was calling as were 3 Grasshopper, Sedge and several Willow Warblers. A Swallow flew through the reserve, but the only migrants caught were 2 each of Goldcrest and Willow Warbler.

Four Little Terns had returned on May 3rd and a few Willow and Garden Warblers were present. A pair of Stonechats had taken up territory, and House Martin arrived off the sea. Best bird of the day was a Ring-tail Hen Harrier. May 7th produced Reed Warblers, Whitethroat, Blackcap and Chiffchaff, a female Marsh Harrier was new. The 12th brought Turtle Doves, Swifts, Redstart and Whinchat.

Autumn wader passage was in full swing by August 18th and a dozen Snipe, 3 Green and Common Sandpiper were seen with Little Ringed Plover and several

Dunlin. On 25th a very early Redwing was noted, together with 5 Wheatears and 1 - 2 Whinchats. Four Gannets were at Sea. Best birds of the day were 2 Bee-eaters flying north over the reserve. By 27th numbers of Pied Flycatchers had arrived and 7 were ringed during the day; very few appeared in September. Wheatears, Redstart, Whinchat and Lesser Whitethroat were found as well as Whimbrel.

By September 1st things were unusually quiet—the only true migrant ringed was a Garden Warbler. On 9th plenty of Meadow Pipits and Reed Buntings were present; one of the latter was controlled in Devon two months later. The 15th/16th were similar with unprecedented numbers of Long-tailed Tits. A female Marsh Harrier was seen twice during 15th. The following day a juvenile Great Skua flew inland mobbed by Swallows; a Wryneck was ringed.

The 23rd was surprisingly poor for netting and no chats or flycatchers were present. Waders included Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, four Sanderling, five Knot, Little Stint, 15 Dunlin and 2 Curlew Sandpipers. At sea were Wigeon, Cormorant and Arctic Skuas. Raptors included Hen and Marsh Harrier, Kestrels and Hobby. Long-tailed Tits were still plentiful and at least 15 Wheatears were observed. A Turtle Dove was seen on 25th, but only 14 birds were caught for ringing.

October is traditionally good at Winterton and 55per cent of the birds ringed were caught that month. Long-tailed Tits were numerous during the first week. On 2nd a big flock of Tree Sparrows came off the sea, Goldcrests were increasing and an Arctic Skua flew by; 4 Bearded Tits, Turtle Dove, Little Stint, and 2 Hen Harriers were also seen. The only real "fall" of the autumn was on 6th/7th when 184 birds were ringed including 46 Robins. Long-tailed Tits and Goldcrests were numerous as were Reed Buntings and Redpolls, although only a small proportion were "Mealy" in character. Two Hen Harriers, Great Grey Shrike and Black Redstart were all new on 6th, while 7th produced a Hen Harrier, at least 2 Great Grey Shrikes, Whinchat, "Northern" Chiffchaff (which was ringed) and a French-ringed Song Thrush (which was controlled).

The 14th was disappointing for catching but a few tired Blackbirds came in off the sea all morning. By the 27th/28th movement was declining amongst the passerines, although 16 Chaffinches were captured on the latter date. During the week end at least three Rough-legged Buzzards were sighted as were single Hen Harrier and Great Grey Shrike. Five Bewick's Swans passed through.

The weather maps were watched carefully at this time for south-easterly winds to bring Firecrests. A first-light visit on 1st Nov. showed at least five Firecrests behind the dunes and near the "tank-traps". Three were caught and ringed, all weighing just 5gms. A Rough-legged Buzzard was the only other notable bird. Another Firecrest was ringed on 4th which produced a most interesting day's watching: Blackbirds were numerous and a number of Bramblings, Redpolls, Siskins and 2 Collared Doves were present. 350 Golden Plovers were on the fields and a late Turtle Dove sped southwards. Raptors included Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, 2 Hen Harriers and 4 Rough-legged Buzzards. Best bird of the day was a Tawny Pipit in the sand dunes making an excellent end to a most interesting year's observations.

The year's ringing total included 9 Dunlin, Kingfisher, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Wryneck, 15 Swallows, 16 Great Tits, 57 Blue Tits, 9 Willow Tits, 73 Long-tailed Tits, 20 Wrens, 9 Treecreepers, 11 Redwing, 29 Blackbirds, 74 Robins, Grasshopper Warbler, 17 Blackcaps, 3 Whitethroats, 6 Lesser Whitethroats, 41 Goldcrests, 4 Firecrests, 11 Pied Flycatchers, 31 Redpolls, 21 Bullfinches, 23 Chaffinches, 22 Yellowhammers, 57 Reed Buntings and 16 Tree Sparrows.



# Short-eared Owls and their prey

John Buckley

SHORT-EARED Owls wintering in Norfolk are present from late October to the end of March; most birds being recorded during the months of December, January and February. (*Norfolk Bird and Mammal Report 1967-71*).

The main wintering areas are the lower reaches of the Bure, Yare, and especially the grazing levels near Breydon, the arable farmland of N.W. Norfolk near Docking and to a lesser extent, the salt marshes of North Norfolk. Short-eared owls do breed in Norfolk, but only in small numbers, the annual number of recorded nests varies between 0 - 5.

The number of wintering owls or the number of breeding pairs might be expected to fluctuate in relation to the prey species population cycle, but the Norfolk records show no regular pattern.

## Methods

To determine the prey of wintering owls, collections of regurgitated pellets were made from a communal roost at Summerfield near Docking, and from roosts in East Norfolk; Hardley near Loddon, Haddiscoe Island and Halvergate Marshes near Breydon Water.

The pellets were analysed by carefully pulling them apart and identifying the skulls found amongst the matted fur and feathers of the prey. The results are given in the table. The number of skulls of each prey species, found in the pellets, is shown, together with the percentage each species forms of the prey, and the percentage each species contributes to the diet of the owl. To estimate the contribution of each species to the diet the number of skulls of each species is multiplied by a conversion factor which is based upon the average weight of the prey species. (*Southern 1954*).

*Continued, p87*



## *Opposite page :*

Henry Stevenson's *Birds of Norfolk (1870)* contains much detail regarding local heronries; at that time only eight heronries were in occupation in the county and of these all but two: Kimberley and Didlington have since fallen into disuse. Didlington, dating to the beginning of the 19th century contained 60 to 65 nests a century ago. Earlham Park heronry (finally deserted in 1928) held between 80 and 100 nests in the 1850's but following a severe gale in 1860 the majority of the birds moved to Costessey where 60 nests were built in 1866. The Didlington herons provided "sport" for a thriving falconry club until the 1830's. A Heron taken by a falcon near Hockwold was found to be carrying a thin copper plate attached to the leg indicating it had been caught at the same locality 15 years previously.







## Results

Glue (1970) observed that the diet of Short-eared Owls in Britain is dominated by Brown Rats, Field Voles or birds. The Norfolk pellet analyses reveal diets of the first two types. The Summerfield owls fed mainly upon the Brown Rat *Rattus Norvegicus* and the East Norfolk owls took mainly Field Voles *Microtus agrestis*.

The Summerfield owls hunt a locality where most of the land is used for arable farming and it is not surprising that Rats form the bulk of the prey. It is interesting that the percentage of Brown Rat in the diet decreases from January to March and other species, notably the Wood Mouse and birds become more important. Vernon (1972) noticed that at Fulbourne Fen, Cambs., the percentage of Brown Rat in the diet of the Short-eared Owls decreased throughout the winter and also that Wood Mice and birds became more important in the Owl's diet.

The Short-eared Owls at East Norfolk roosts hunt low lying grazing meadows and, as was observed with Barn Owls in these localities the Field Vole forms the bulk of the diet. (Buckley & Goldsmith 1971). This is because the Field Vole is a species which abounds in open rough grassland. The results of pellet analysis show that the Short-eared Owl takes fewer prey species than the Barn Owl, it tends to specialise on one small mammal species and birds at each site. Other prey species are probably taken when the vulnerability of the main prey species, to predation, becomes less.

## Summary

Short-eared Owl pellets were analysed from four communal roosts in Norfolk. The Brown Rat was the main prey species in an area of arable farmland. The percentage of this species decreased during the period January to March, as Wood Mice and birds became more important in the diet. At the three other sites the owls hunted over grazed meadowland and the Field Vole was the main prey species forming over 70 percent of the prey. (See table on p.88)

## Acknowledgements

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### Opposite page:

A company of 60 Black-tailed Godwits assembled at Vinegar Middle in The Wash March 24th. The first birds had returned to the Ouse Washes (Cambs/Norfolk) March 5th and some 55 pairs reared over 100 young. Early autumn peak at Wisbech sewage farm was 155 on July 15th. Very occasionally odd Black-tailed Godwits visit Norfolk in mid-winter.



The prey taken by Short-eared Owls wintering in Norfolk

(See article; p.86)

	Summerfield 2 Jan 1967 28 pellets			Summerfield 14 Jan 1967 70 pellets			Summerfield 1 Feb 1967 75 pellets			Summerfield 24 Mar 1967 90 pellets		
	NO.	%	PU%	NO.	%	PU%	NO.	%	PU%	NO.	%	PU%
Mole												
Common Shrew							1	1.5	0.2	1	1.6	0.3
Bank Vole							1	1.5	0.4	1	1.6	0.6
Field Vole				2	4.4	1.2				2	3.2	1.3
Wood Mouse				5	11.1	3.1	16	24.8	7.3	21	33.3	14.0
Brown Rat	16	80	95.2	29	64.4	90.1	37	57.7	84.8	22	34.9	73.2
Bird	4	20	4.8	9	20.0	5.5	9	14.5	7.3	16	25.4	10.6
	Haddiscoe 2 Feb 1970 115 pellets			Hardley 2 Feb 1970 64 pellets			Hardley 28 Mar 1970 128 pellets			Halvergate 19 Feb 1973 70 pellets		
	NO.	%	PU%	NO.	%	PU%	NO.	%	PU%	NO.	%	PU%
Mole							1	0.4	1.9			
Common Shrew										2	1.7	0.8
Bank Vole	1	0.3	0.3				1	0.4	0.4			
Field Vole	304	94.1	90.8	118	79.7	73.7	231	90.3	86.2	117	98.3	99.2
Wood Mouse	1	0.3	0.3	9	6.1	5.6	4	1.6	1.5			
Brown Rat				3	2.0	9.4	2	0.8	3.7			
Bird	17	5.3	8.6	18	12.2	11.3	17	6.6	6.3			

# Great Crested Grebe

census

A census was carried out early in June giving a county total of 498 adults. Details appear below; for the sake of completeness counts relating to the Lothingland district of north-east Suffolk are also given (but excluded from the Norfolk total). It is interesting to note that as long ago as 1890 Thomas Southwell claimed Lothingland as belonging, for ornithological purposes, to Norfolk! (*Birds of Norfolk* III: 171):

**Broads:** Rollesby 13 adults, Filby 4, Ormesby 16, Lady 2, Hickling 10, Heigham Sounds 10, Horsey 4, Rockland 10, Surlingham 2, Martham 4, Barton 19, South Walsham 7, Salhouse 12, Hoveton Great 30, Black Horse 20, Wroxham 18, Hardley Flood 6, Alderfen 2, Belaugh 0, Burnt Fen 2, Ranworth Inner 12, Upton 1, Woodbastwick Decoy 6, Woodbastwick Old Hall 2, Malthouse 2, Whiteslea 2, Hudson Bay 2 and Sutton 2.

River Yare between Whitlingham and Reedham, a distance of 16 miles: 26 adults as follows:

Whitlingham to Coldham Hall 9  
Coldham Hall to Buckenham Ferry 7  
Buckenham Ferry to Reedham 10.  
Breydon Water (Berney end) 21 adults

River Bure between Yarmouth and Wroxham Bridge, a distance of 24 miles: 13 adults as follows:

Yarmouth to Acle Bridge 0  
Acle Bridge to Thurne Mouth 1  
Thurne Mouth to Ranworth Dyke 2  
Ranworth Dyke to Salhouse Broad 3  
Salhouse Broad to Wroxham Broad 2  
and Wroxham Broad to Wroxham Bridge 5  
River Ant (Ant Mouth to Irstead Shoals) 3  
Stalham Dyke 2

**Lakes and Gravel Pits:** Weybread G.P. 10, Hainford G.P. 0, Sparham G.P. 6, Lenwade G.P. 12, Felbrigg Lake 0, Lyng/Fustyweed/Elsing G.P. 6, North Shropham G.P. 5, Swanton Morley G.P. 8, North Elmham Lake 0, Seamere 16, Snetterton

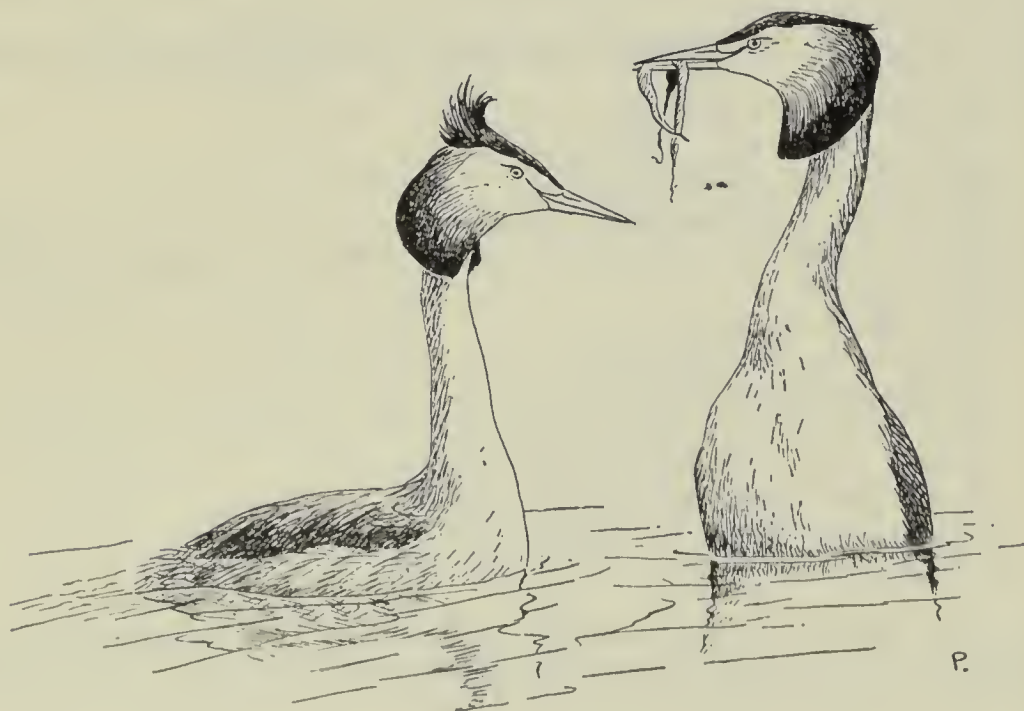


G.P. 9, Taverham Corporation/Costessey G.P. 8, Haveringland Lake 0, Blickling Lake 4, Cawston Manor Lakes 0, Gunton Park Lakes 3, Holkham Lake 0, Earsham G.P. 2, Melton Constable Lake 6, Wortwell G.P. 2, Reymerton G.P. 0, Pentney G.P. 2, Beeston St. Lawrence Lake 0, Homersfield G.P. 2, Blackboro' End/East Winch/Foster's End G.P. 2, Ditchingham G.P. 0, Bawburgh/Colney G.P. 4, Wolterton Lake 2, Worthing G.P.2, Broom Heath G.P. 4, Middleton G.P.2, Stowbridge/Runcton Holme G.P. 4 and Tottenhill G.P. 1.

**Brecks:** Stradsett Lake 2, Narborough G.P. 4, Narford Lake 6, Thompson Water 0, Shadwell 0, Lang Mere 0, Saham Toney Mere 4, Stanford Water 1, Scoulton Mere 2, Mickle Mere 4, West Acre G.P. 0, Didlington 0, Fowl Mere 0 and Tottington 0.

**Fens:** Great Ouse between Ship Inn (Brandon Creek) and Denver 14. Relief Channel between Denver and King's Lynn 32, Cut-off Channel between Feltwell and Denver, 22 adults as follows: Feltwell Black Dyke 2, Feltwell Fen 2, Feltwell Southery Road 2, Stoke Ferry 4, Wretton 2, Wissington Road, 2, Hilgay Pit 2, Methwold Hythe 2, Methwold Thornham 2 and Middle Level Main Drain 2, Welney No. 1 Pit 2, Welney No. 2 Pit 1 and Wissington Pits 4. Lothingland: Fritton Lake 12, Lound Waterworks 6, Flixton Decoy 6 and Blundeston Lake 2.

During the previous two decades counts of Norfolk Great Crested Grebes were made in 1954 (342 adults), 1961 (481 adults) and 1965 (365 adults). The only earlier census (carried out in 1931) gave a total of 420 adults (made up of 201 breeding pairs and 18 non-breeders). It should however be borne in mind that previous counts have almost entirely neglected the Great Ouse basin. Extensive new drainage schemes here in recent years have created new grebe habitats. The Cut-Off Channel (completed in 1964) runs a distance of 27 miles round the edge of the Fens from the river Lark at Barton Mills to Denver Sluice. The Relief Channel runs from Denver to the outskirts of King's Lynn.



A dramatic decline in numbers has taken place on the Flegg Broads. On 17th April 1937 for example Ormesby alone had 26 *pairs*. As recently as 1961 the total for Filby, Rollesby, Lady and Ormesby Broads was 125 adults, compared with only 33 in 1973. Fritton Lake, too, has declined as a haunt of Great Crested Grebes with only 12 adults in 1973. This Suffolk stronghold contained 56 adults in 1931 and 40 in 1960 and in 1965 (W. H. Payn's *Birds of Suffolk*).

The Breck population was disappointingly low and no young were reported. At Mickle Mere many fish and eels had died in 1972 so presumably the feeding remained poor for grebes in 1973 (the high total of 23 Great Crested Grebes was found here on 7th March 1971). Rush Mere had all its phragmites cleared making it unsuitable for nesting; Tottington and Thompson were both very low and Lang Mere dry. Didlington has become too shallow.

At Breydon Water non-breeding grebes began summering in 1968, particularly at the Berney Arms end of the estuary. In 1973, 28 were present in late March and between 16 and 24 until the end of July. For the first time birds remained here until the end of the year with 13 in December.

During August the majority of Great Crested Grebes depart from breeding waters (at Swanton Morley G.P. however 2 juveniles remained to the end of the year). Family parties reach The Wash by mid-month and peak numbers are reached in November/December. Recent counts have not exceeded 40 to 60 birds, but until 1961 up to 250 spent short winter days in the channels between Snettisham and Hunstanton. In the main the birds scatter, ebbing and flowing with the tide, but occasionally they come together in compact groups especially near the end of their stay. On 14th March 1971 for instance 27 assembled off Hunstanton whilst on 19th March 1973 an unprecedented total of 102 was found off Wolferton. Some linger on The Wash until late spring; 6 remained off Bull Dog Sand on 21st April 1973, whilst 10 were still present at Hunstanton on 22nd May 1969. Also, near the end of the stay nuptial plumage is assumed and display between pairs takes place; this includes penguin dance, head twisting and neck shaking.

The decline in The Wash grebe population could be partly explained by the creation of Grafham Water in Hunts. Largest lake in the south of England and 1570 acres in extent, it was full early in 1966. Great Crested Grebes winter annually with a maximum of 105 in 1970/1 (*Cambridge Bird Club Report* 1972).

Clearly neither The Wash nor Grafham Water winter observations account for the whole of the population summering in Norfolk. The answer may well be the giant Essex and London Area reservoirs. At Abberton alone 500 had assembled on 17th September 1971 and as many as 551 on 18th October 1970 (*Essex Bird Reports*). Staines attracted 135 by the end of August 1972 increasing to 180 the following month. In the early autumn of 1973 Staines held 250 on 4th August. The same year King George VI had 221 by 28th August and this gathering remained until early October with 225 on 7th October—by the month-end only 62 remained. High numbers elsewhere in the London Area in 1973 included 174 at Wraysbury in mid-September when 150 at Queen Mary and 112 at Walton and Queen Elizabeth II (*L.N.H.S. Bulletins*)

**Acknowledgements:** Observers' names appear on page 110. Particular thanks are due to R. Powley and G.M.S. Easy (Great Ouse, Relief Channel and Cut-Off Channel), C. A. E. Kirtland and A. E. Vine (Brecks), H. Dolman (Bure Valley Reserves) and M. Jenner (extensive coverage along the Yare, Bure, Thurne and Ant).



# Bird Ringing Report

The style first adopted in the 1969 Report has been continued. Recoveries extend to eleven European countries (including Russia in Europe), and also to Iceland, Greenland, Canada, Morocco, Mauritania and South Africa. Two species call for special attention: Cetti's Warbler from Belgium (the first county occurrence) and Knot from Ellesmere Island (Canada) north of Baffin Bay where the ring was found in a Gyr Falcon pellet. The *Wash Wader Ringing Group* have again supplied many details.

## Fulmar

Fair Isle, Shetland 2.9.69

Mundesley (dead, fish hook through wing)  
25.4.73

## Heron

No very distant recoveries reported, although individuals did reach Yorks, Bucks (2), and Oxon. Some are apparently shot, including locally.

## Mallard

Recoveries followed the usual pattern: autumn or winter-ringed in Norfolk: summer reports from Scandinavia.

## Teal

One from Dersingham was shot in Denmark, and birds from Netherlands and Essex were shot at Salhouse and near King's Lynn respectively.

## Wigeon

Three recoveries come from Russia, two during the breeding season. Others were shot in Salop, Lancs, Essex (2) and in France and Netherlands, the last two being useful additions to the list of Wigeon moving south-east to the Continent between December and February, a movement not yet satisfactorily explained. All were shot.

Snettisham 10.2.70

Ust-Kulom, Komi A.S.S.R. 20.2.72

Snettisham 19.2.73

Nar'yan Mar, Archangelsk, U.S.S.R. 24.5.73

Snettisham 19.2.73

Ust-Tsil'ma, Komi A.S.S.R. 20.5.73

Snettisham 26.1.72

Challerange, Ardennes, France 16.12.73

Snettisham 8.12.72

Staphorst, Overijssel, Netherlands 15.12.73

## Shoveler

Eilandspolder, Netherlands

(pullus) 11.6.70

Irstead (killed) 11.12.71

Werken, W.Flanders, Belgium

(pullus) 25.6.71

Norwich (killed) 18.9.71

## Pochard

It is possible that this bird was reared in the Leningrad area.

Zagub'ye, Leningrad, U.S.S.R.

17.8.71

Snettisham (found dead) 2.1.73

## Moorhen

Kogleakso, Jutland, Denmark

(pullus) 25.7.71

Hickling (traffic casualty) 3.1.73

## Oystercatcher

Eighteen recoveries in Norway, and a scattering of others from nearer parts of Europe have been reported; also single birds found on the breeding grounds in Shetland and the Faeroe Islands.

## Turnstone

A bird from Snettisham, 26.8.72 was found dead in May 1973 on the Humber Estuary, Lincs. The other report is of one reaching the most northerly land mass in the world.

The Wash 5.8.67 Pearyland, N.E. Greenland (killed) 4.7.73

## Redshank

The following recovery adds to the list of birds of Icelandic origin (see Norfolk B.R. 1972)

Wolferton (1st year) 31.8.72 Tjarnir, Iceland (dead) 17.6.73

## Knot

Systematic ringing of the species on the Wash has again resulted in reports from Denmark, Germany, Netherlands and France. Fifteen controlled on Vlieland and at Schiermonnikoog were part of the first major catches of the species to be made in the Netherlands. Other recoveries came from further north during the breeding and late summer.

The Wash 7.3.70 Hafnorfjordur, Iceland (dead) 8.8.73  
The Wash 25.2.71 near Julianhaab, Greenland (killed) 28.7.73  
The Wash 19.2.72 N. Atlantic Ocean, off S.E. Greenland 5.8.73  
N. Wootton 27.8.68 Eureka, Ellesmere Is., Canada (ring in Gyr Falcon pellet) Summer 1973  
Wolferton 5.5.69 Jameson Land, E. Greenland (killed) 30.6.73

## Dunlin

Recoveries followed the usual pattern, with two moving to Africa, and others to various parts of the British Isles and Europe.

N. Wootton 4.8.73 Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania 24.10.73  
Terrington 28.8.72 Casablanca, Morocco 14.4.73

## Herring Gull

Nigg, Ross-shire (adult) 2.8.68 Snettisham (dead) 29.10.73  
Isle of May 9.7.66 Titchwell (ring found on beach) 22.6.73

## Common Gull

Winter ringing of this species suggests that our population comes from Norway or Finland. Note the age of this individual.

Holme 15.1.63 Greaker, Ostfold, Norway (hit wires) 19.5.73

## Black-headed Gull

As recoveries accumulate, there is little to suggest that any of our winter population in Norfolk is of native stock. Birds ringed here in winter went to Sweden (3), Finland, Netherlands, Germany during Summer and Autumn. A Norwich ringed bird, Jan. 1966, was dead at Rackheath, Jan. 1973. The other recovery reported was a Dutch immigrant:

Hilversum, N. Holland,  
Netherlands 18.6.73 King's Lynn (dead) 20.8.73

## Woodpigeon

The British population has the reputation of not moving far, although there are French recoveries of pulli ringed elsewhere in the British Isles.

Peakirk, Northants (adult) 7.4.71 Framingham Earl (corpse) Summer 1973



## Barn Owl

Boughton (pullus) 5.8.68

Bintree, Fakenham (dead) 5.4.73

## Kingfisher

There is little positively known of the movements of the Kingfisher, and these two, though interesting, do not add much to our knowledge. They are the first proved to have crossed the County borders.

Salthouse 7.11.72

Buckenden, Hunts. (dead at Gravel Pit)  
3.4.73

Abberton, Essex 31.8.72

Anglia Square, Norwich (skeleton in gutter  
below window) 8.10.73

## Swallow

Little Plumstead (pullus) 10.6.72

Firgrove, Cape, S. Africa 20.2.73

Boughton (pullus) 14.8.71

March, Cambs. 26.9.71

## Long-tailed Tit

The movement from Winterton to Dorset refers to *two* birds, BTO rings 801023 and 801027, that travelled the 340 km in two weeks, presumably together.

Winterton 15.9.73

Upper Sheringham (control) 29.11.73

Winterton 7.10.73

Brownsea Is., Poole Harbour, Dorset  
(control) 22.10.73

## Bearded Tit

Recent recoveries support the theory that there is a northerly dispersal along the east coast of birds from Kent and Suffolk, with sight records and recoveries suggesting an extension of the movement westwards along the Norfolk coast towards the Wash. Besides the following there are numerous others from Suffolk in autumn to the usual Norfolk localities in winter.

Murston, Kent (juv.) 5.6.72

(i) Salthouse 31.10.72 (see *Norfolk B.R.* 1972)

(ii) Murston (breeding) 29.5.73

Salthouse 19.9.72

Ely, Cambs. (control) 27.2.73

Salthouse 2.10.73

Hornsea, Yorks. (control) 13.10.73

## Fieldfare

Holme 16.11.72

Spalding, Lincs (dead) 28.2.73

## Song Thrush

This recovery may usefully be compared with the series in the *Norfolk B.R.* 1972 p.26

Salthouse 5.10.71

Stokholm, Denmark (dead) 14.10.73

## Redwing

The tendency is for this species and the Fieldfare to move further to the south during subsequent migrations.

Salthouse 2.11.70

Vila Vicosa, Portugal (caught) 26.12.72

Mintlyn 27.2.72

Andelain, Aisne, France (killed) 5.10.73

## Blackbird

There are recoveries from various parts of Scandinavia, and from elsewhere in the British Isles, the most distant being given here in full.

Boughton 20.2.72

Hajala, Turku ja Pori, Finland 27.4.72

Holme 13.10.72

Delgany, Wicklow, Eire 31.1.73

## Redstart

This individual lived to a considerable age.

Holme 25.9.65

Bonskaret, Harnosand, Sweden (dead)  
Summer 1972

## Robin

Skegness, Lincs 14.10.72

Wiveton 16.10.73

Titchwell 5.6.72

Huddersfield, Yorks 26.3.73



The earliest Norfolk ornithologists recorded large numbers of Common Terns nesting on islands in Hickling Broad, but these sites were deserted in the last Century. The species returned in 1953 and up to eight pairs breed annually on the wader grounds at this National Nature Reserve.





Bearded Tits continue colonising new reedbeds; in 1973 two pairs reared young in a dyke adjoining Breydon estuary wall. Other breeding localities are known in the lower Waveney and Yare valleys.

### **Cetti's Warbler**

A remarkable occurrence, the first foreign recovery from the Belgian breeding stock, and the first official record for the county. It was found dead in the centre of Norwich after apparently hitting a window.

Hensies, Hainaut, Belgium

(juv.) 23.8.70

Norwich 28.6.73

### **Sedge Warbler**

Holme 5.8.71

El Khemis Negga, Safi, Morocco 24.11.73

### **Spotted Flycatcher**

It is strange that this bird should be in S. France during the breeding season.

Stow Bedon 4.9.69

Menton, Alpes Maritimes, France (dead)

22.6.71

### **Pied Wagtail**

Earlham 21.9.70

Snettisham (decomposed) 7.5.73

### **Starling**

No remarkable recoveries were received. Birds went to Germany and to the Netherlands (4), and came from the Netherlands (4). There were some more distant movements within E. Anglia and one to St. Albans, Herts.

### **Greenfinch**

Several more local movements within E. Anglia and into Lines. and Humberside were notified. The following are more distant than usual.

Hollington, Sussex 16.1.72

Sheringham 21.1.73

Holme 19.12.72

Egham, Surrey (control) 1.5.73

Whitlingham 6.3.71

Sutton Valence, Kent (dead) 5.7.73

### **Goldfinch**

Gorleston 24.6.73

San Agustin de Guardaliz, Madrid, Spain  
7.12.73

### **Bullfinch**

Another species not known to travel very far.

Gibraltar Point, Lines. 20.12.70

Holme, (control) 15.12.72

### **Chaffinch**

Netherlands 27.10.69

Holme (control) 11.12.72

Boughton 6.3.71

Ingatstone, Essex 25.2.73

### **Yellowhammer**

Salthouse 10.10.71

North Somercotes, Lines. 28.1.73

### **Siskin**

Wiveton 14.11.72

Woodbridge, Suffolk 21.4.73

### **Linnet**

Jaixkibel, Guipuzcoa, Spain

29.4.73

Upper Sheringham 28.8.73

### **Redpoll**

The list contains certain unprecedented movements. The bird from the Netherlands seems to be a late migrant, and the movement to Devon is in sharp contrast to the pattern we have come to expect. All the following were controlled

Ash, Surrey 27.2.72

Upper Sheringham 12.6.73

Netherlands 5.5.73

Holme 31.5.73

Leziate 3.9.72

Rollogem, Flanders, Belgium 9.10.73

Leziate 18.8.73

Castricum, N. Holland, Netherlands 2.11.73

Leziate 17.10.73

Ottery St. Mary, Devon 28.12.73



# Classified notes

These notes are based on *Birds of Norfolk* (1967) where fuller details regarding status, distribution, migration and ringing recoveries may be found. Important records for Wisbech Sewage Farm (part of which is on the Lincolnshire side of the county boundary) have been selected from the files of Cambridge Bird Club. Fuller details of Wash and Fen records may be found in the *Cambridge Bird Club Report* for 1973.

The order used is that of the B.T.O. guide *A Species List of British and Irish Birds* (1971) and English names follow current practice. Observations refer to 1973, unless otherwise stated. To save space, all but the most essential initials have been omitted. Records are of *single* birds unless otherwise stated.

**Great Northern Diver:** Usual autumn and winter records of singles with one off Winterton Ness June 3rd.

**Great Crested Grebe:** See separate feature for the results of a full county survey.

**Red-necked Grebe:** Wash/North coast: Ones and twos at seven localities up to Feb. 11th and from Sept. 16th.

**Slavonian Grebe:** Wash/North coast: Ones and twos at six localities up to March 9th and from Oct. 21st. Inland: Sparham GP Dec. 11th.

**Black-necked Grebe:** North: Wells Abraham's Bosom Sept. 29th. Broads: Salhouse April 26th.

**Little Grebe:** Few breeding records received but surprising total of 8 pairs along Breydon South Wall dyke. More widespread in winter when 2 in Wensum in centre of Norwich at Quayside.

**Fulmar:** North: A total of 54 young was counted by JM Aug. 14th - 16th on cliff ledges between Weybourne and Cromer as follows:

Weybourne - Sheringham 18

Sheringham - West Runton 9

West - East Runton 11

East Runton - Cromer 16

At least 8 returned Nov. 6th. Wash: Hunstanton: 20 pairs by early March and 4 young left the ledges; 7 returned Dec. 9th.

**Manx Shearwater:** North coast: Apart from one off Sheringham May 4th and 4 off Cley on 19th, all observations between mid-July and Oct. 21st; no party exceeded 15. Peak day was Sept. 30th when gale-force winds and records included 12 in Wash off Wolferton.

**Great Shearwater:** North: Cley/Sheringham Sept. 30th (DFM, JM, MPT). East: Happisburgh Oct. 6th (BMEU).

**Sooty Shearwater:** North coast: Sept. total of over 60 with majority passing on 30th during gale. Also 4 off Hunstanton Oct. 21st.

**Storm Petrel:** North: Cley Sept. 23rd and Nov. 13th; Holme Oct. 21st

**Leach's Petrel:** North: Weybourne and Holme Sept. 30th.

**Gannet:** North: September movements include 300 east off Cley on 10th and 150 on 30th when 125 off Holme and 200 off Hunstanton.

**Cormorant:** East: Continues to increase at Breydon where maximum of 131 Dec. 2nd; majority roost at Ranworth but some have moved to Fritton Lake.

**Grey Heron:** Following heronries were counted:

*Borders of Wash:* Snettisham 24 nests. *Fens:* Hilgay 12, Islington 58 and Denver Sluice 13. *Brecks:* Didlington 10, Shadwell 3 and Narford 8. *Mid-Norfolk:* Beetley Hall 1, Horningtoft (new) 3, Shipdham (new site) 3, Sparham 1 and Elsing 3. *Broads:* McHardy's Wood 6, Heigham Sounds 22, Waggonhill Wood 4, Wickhampton 16, Buckenham 30, Strumpshaw 2, Ranworth Marshes (Horning Hall) 10, Barton (Heron's Carr) 8, Wheatfen 10, Upton 4, Belaugh 12, Wroxham 1, Ranworth 23 and Woodbastwick Marshes (occupied since 1972) 6.

*North:* Cley 6.

*South:* Billingford (Thorpe Wood) 3.

**Little Bittern:** North: Weybourne male May 6th to 10th (AJLS *et al.*)

**Bittern:** North: Cley pair bred successfully. Brecks: singles in winter at Stanford, Sturston and Thompson.

**Spoonbill:** Fens/Wash, North/East coasts/Broads: 1 - 3 at Welney, Snettisham, Holme, Cley, Breydon and Hickling between March 25th and Oct. 27th. Two remained at Martham Broad between June 16th and July 15th.

**Garganey:** Spring arrival from March 11th and subsequently at 8 localities.

**Gadwall:** Largest Breck counts include 61 at Didlington Jan., 202 at Stanford Water Sept. and 150 at Thompson Water, 49 at Shadwell and 58 at Mickle Mere all in Oct.

North: Gunton Park 165 Oct. 22nd and 200 Nov. 5th. Broads: Horsey Mere over 100 in Jan.

**Wigeon:** East: Yare valley floods attracted up to 3200 at a single marsh in second half of December.

**Pintail:** Breck: Up to 15 at Stanford, Mickle Mere and Narford. East: Breydon, maxima 153 Feb. 9th.

**Shoveler:** Breck counts include 69 at Mickle Mere. East: Buckenham 57 Dec. 20th.

**Red-crested Pochard:** North: Weybourne immature Sept. 24th (BWJ).

**Scaup:** Wash: Snettisham maximum of 256 Jan 11th.

**Tufted Duck:** Breeding records: 24 pairs bred in Brecks at 9 sites; elsewhere a minimum of 27 pairs at 10 sites.

**Pochard:** Breeding records: none received for Brecks, but elsewhere total of 14 pairs at 7 sites.

**Ferruginous Duck:** East: Hardley Flood drake Jan 21st (CRG).

**Longtailed Duck:** Wash: Hunstanton monthly maxima as follows:

Jan. 65, Feb. 20, March 97, April 28, Nov. 11 and Dec. 19.

North coast: Occasional records of up to 11 till March 11th and from Oct. 11th.

East: Gorleston up to 12 till April 7th and a pair assuming summer plumage on 11th: 1 - 5 from Nov. 1st onwards. Waxham drake May 7th.

Wash- Snettisham 1 - 2 from Dec. 2nd. Inland: Swanton Morley GP 1 - 2 Nov. 4th to 17th and Stanford Dec. 26th.

**Velvet Scoter:** Wash/North coasts: Recorded each month except June. No party exceeded 17 apart from 36 off Snettisham in Feb. and 55 - 75 off Heacham in March/April.

East: Gorleston monthly maxima Jan. 17, Oct. 5 and Dec. 11.



**Common Scoter:** Largest assemblies include: Wash, Hunstanton 600 second half of December and East: Gorleston 200 Oct. 23rd.

**Eider:** Recorded each month. Largest flocks for main localities only are given: East: Gorleston 25 Dec. 31st.

North: Scolt Head 40 Dec.

Wash: Wolferton/Snettisham/Heacham 144 mid-March.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** No large numbers reported. Wash: Hunstanton, maximum of 20 in Jan. and Dec.

**Goosander:** Winter observations from usual localities including 10 at Sparham GP, 26 at Swanton Morley GP, 5 at Gunton Park, 7 at Stradsett, 5 at Narford and 5 at Holkham.

**Smew:** Winter records at 4 sites including 5 at Cley (2 drakes) Nov. 30th.

**Shelduck:** Wash: Total of 200 young assembled off Ouse Mouth Aug. 31st. 1500 at Wolferton in early July; moult migration commenced on 14th with groups of 50 to 70 departing each evening until 27th. Winter maximum 1800 at Wolferton in Jan.

East: Yarmouth, a family party at sea failed to enter the harbour due to presence of small craft, June 24th,

**Egyptian Goose:** Reported at Barton, Cley, Holkham, Hoveton, Lenwade, Lyng, Narford, Swanton Morley, Sparham, Salhouse and Wroxham.

**White-fronted Goose:** East: Breydon area, maximum of 32 between Jan. 14th and March 4th and 2 - 7 from Dec. 9th. Elsewhere in Yare valley 7 from Dec. 4th.

North: Cley 32 in January; Holkham 132 till March 11th and 85 from Dec. 9th.

Fens: Welney 16 in Jan.-Feb.

**Bean Goose:** East: Up to 77 in usual area till March 8th; 16 returned Nov. 13th (earliest arrival date recorded) increasing to 71 by 27th and 104 from Dec. 20th. Interesting coastal observation of 14 in wheat at Winterton Feb. 25th.

North/Wash: Singles at Cley and Holkham with 3 at Snettisham.

**Pink-footed Goose:** East: Breydon parties of 8 (Jan.) and 3 (Nov.)

Wash: Snettisham area, Jan. maximum 1816 and last 22 on March 27th. 98 returned Oct. 19th with 726 by end Nov. and 1158 by end December.

North: Cley, 35 Jan. 4th.

**Snow Goose:** East: Single amongst Bean Geese from Nov. 13th onwards.

**Brent Goose:** Maximum numbers at regular localities as follows: Breydon 37, Blakeney - Morston 1500, Wells 350, Brancaster 1200 and Hunstanton/Heacham 305.

**Barnacle Goose:** East: Breydon Jan. 14th and with Bean Geese in Yare Valley from Nov. 27th.

North: Weybourne Nov. 18th.

Wash: Snettisham Feb. 25th and March 15th.

**Whooper Swan:** Winter records at 10 localities with an early Cley arrival Oct. 1st. Largest herds at Welney where 23 in Jan. and 30 by end of year.

**Bewick's Swan:** Recorded up to March 19th and from Oct. 14th. Largest concentration at Welney Washes where 600 by late Jan. and 800 present by year end. Elsewhere largest assemblies at Haddiscoe/Thurlton (73 Feb. 12th), Breydon (95 Dec. 9th) and Muck Fleet (76 Feb. 25th). In addition total of 118 in Breydon area at end of year (75 on Breydon and 63 at Stokesby).

Easterly spring exodus most noticeable March 9th (40 Earlham) 17th (53 Stoke Ferry) and 19th (79 Snettisham and 72 Costessey). Westerly passage from late Oct.; on Dec. 2nd for example 37 over Norwich and later Hethersett, 43 over Thorpe St. Andrew and 40 over Breydon.

**Buzzard:** Ones and twos at 12 localities between Feb. and August; also 6 soaring together over Ebridge Mill April 25th (a group of 10 appeared at Minsmere April 29th *S.B.R.*).

**Rough-legged Buzzard:** Wash: 2 in the Wolferton - Sandringham - Snettisham area until March 21st.

In autumn an invasion commenced Oct. 20th and between then and the end of December birds reported at Billockby, Beeston Common, Blakeney Point, Cley, Coltishall, Croxton, Hickling, Holme, Kelling, Morston, North Wootton, Overstrand, Sandringham, Salthouse Heath, Stiffkey, Sheringham, Somerton, Snettisham, Titchwell, Waxham, Weybourne, Wells, Winterton and Wolferton.

Majority of observations related to singles, but 4 at Winterton Nov. 4th and totals of 9 at Cley Oct. 26th (including 6 moving west) with 6 there on 28th.

**Sparrowhawk:** Records from 40 localities but no breeding successes reported.

**Red Kite:** Wash/N/E coasts: Snettisham Jan. 14th to March 15th, Happisburgh and Winterton March 22nd and Cley on 23rd/24th. All observations could relate to same individual.

**Honey Buzzard:** North: Single at 3 localities between July 14th and Sept. 24th.

**Marsh Harrier:** Broads: Hickling, Horsey and Martham up to 3 throughout year. Frequent coastal observations (including Wash and Wisbech SF) of ones and twos in spring/autumn.

**Hen Harrier:** Late Spring birds at Salthouse Heath, April 23rd, Holme on 27th and Itteringham on 28th. Autumn return from Sept. 27th (Cley). Usual localities and mainly singles, but 3 each at Winterton, Salthouse Heath and Holme and 4 at Snettisham.

**Montagu's Harrier:** North: At the site occupied 1970-72 a female present April 26th to mid-June, but no breeding attempt. Broads: Pair present but nest with 4 eggs later deserted.

Passage birds during May at Winterton, Brancaster, Thornham and Snettisham.

**Osprey:** Single birds at Alderfen, Blakeney Point, Barton, Catfield, Cley, Holme, How Hill, Hoveton, Mickle Mere, North Wootton, Snetterton, Snettisham and Wroxham. Extreme dates May 7th and Sept. 17th.

**Hobby:** Total of 13 between May 13th and Sept. 23rd at 10 localities.

**Peregrine:** Total of 7 at 7 coastal localities.

**Red Footed Falcon:** At least 7 records of this summer visitor to eastern Europe: Snettisham May 19th (RB), Burnham Overy Staithe on 20th (JAWM), Holme on 21st (PRC), Salthouse on 26th (MAB, WEF, PTS), Wells June 1st (HE), Holme July 12th (PRC) and Aylmerton Aug. 4th (GED).

**Quail:** Summer records from Ditchingham, East Wretham, Longham, Santon Downham, Titchwell and Warham.

**Golden Pheasant:** Brecks: Recorded at Langford, Shadwell, Santon Downham, St. Helen's Well, Thompson Common, Two Mile Bottom, Weeting, West Tofts, and West Harling.

West: Recorded at Sandringham.

**Lady Amherst's Pheasant:** Successful breeding at Guist and Quidenham.

**Water Rail:** Breck: Winter records at Stanford, Buckenham Tofts, Mickle Mere, Foulden and Langford. Interesting November observations from Sheringham (one in town centre during cold spell on 29th) and from Smallburgh (one entered a house and was captured in a pantry on 24th).

**Spotted Crake:** Broads: Woodbastwick Jan. 4th - 18th.

North: Holme Oct. 1st; Cley one Aug. 24th to Oct. 14th with 2 between Aug. 30th and Sept. 2nd.



**Oystercatcher:** Breeding records of *pairs*:

East: Breydon area 5 (3 on north wall marshes and 2 on south side).

Broads: Repps 2, Cold Harbour Ludham one and Horsey 2.

North: Blakeney Point 70, Wells (Lodge Marsh) 12, Scolt Head 150 - 160, Brancaster golf course 3 and Titchwell 13.

Inland: Binham one.

Wash: Wolferton Saltings 3 and total of 14 between Heacham and King's Lynn.

**Ringed Plover:** Breeding records of *pairs*:

Wash: King's Lynn to Wolferton 3 and Wolferton to Heacham 30.

North: Hunstanton to Thornham Channel 13, Thornham to Brancaster 65 (including 25 on Titchwell RSPB Reserve and 2 on Brancaster golf course), Scolt Head 150 - 160, Gun Hill to Wells 2, East Hills and Bob Hall Sand 10, Stiffkey Binks 10, Blakeney Point 140, Cley to Weybourne 2 - 3, Mundesley one and Bacton area 2.

East: Waxham one, Horsey to Winterton 5 and Breydon 2.

Broads: Hickling 2 (including one in sugar beet).

Fens: Stoke Ferry one.

Breck: East Wretham one and Santon Downham 2.

West: Gravel pits near King's Lynn 3. (Summary by JGG.)

**Little Ringed Plover:** Breeding: Total of 15 pairs summered at 10 sites; 19 young reared. First breeding birds arrived April 8th. At one former site (extensive gravel workings) the presence of 5 pairs of Ringed Plovers may well explain the disappearance of Little Ringed Plover.

**Passage birds** at usual localities between March 22nd (Holme) and Oct. 11th (Wisbech SF). In autumn up to 8 at Cantley, 5 at Hickling and 25 at Wisbech SF.

**Kentish Plover:** North: Cley, singles (male and female) on 10 dates in May from 1st and on 3 dates in June; another Aug. 30th.

**Golden Plover:** Largest assemblies at Cley (3 - 400 March 26th), Halvergate (500 Jan.) Welney (1000 March), Wells (1000 Feb.), West Runton (700 Nov.) and St. Benet's Level (1000 Dec.).

**Dotterel:** Total of 15 in spring as follows: Swanton Morley aerodrome April 30th, Hunstanton May 6th, Panxworth 10 on 7th, Hunstanton on 12th and Titchwell 2 on 20th/21st.

In autumn total of 9 as follows: Blakeney Point Aug. 12th and 15th, Salthouse 2, August 25th, Cley Sept. 2nd, 4th and 19th with 2 on 5th.

**Snipe:** Bacton: total of 100 tightly packed on green turf at Gas Terminal Dec. 3rd (*per* EAE). At this time 3 observations of Snipe feeding in Sheringham town gardens.

**Whimbrel:** Westerly passage very noticeable during August. At Holme 90 passed through on 10th with peak of 300 on 21st and 200 on 23rd. At Blakeney Point 50 on 16th with 60 passing Cley on 17th and 58 at Weybourne and 80 at Holkham on 18th. Late birds (2) at Holme Oct. 11th.

**Black tailed Godwit:** Breeding: Fens: Ouse Washes at Welney 4 pairs bred successfully.

North: Cley, pair arrived March 3rd and 2 young reached flying stage.

Passage movements include 60 at Vinegar Middle, Ouse Mouth March 24th (DLO), 16 at Breydon May 12th and peak of 155 at Wisbech SF July 15th (where 90 July 13th and still 130 on 18th).

**Bar-tailed Godwit:** Fens: Unusual Sept. passage at Wisbech SF where up to 26 between 6th and 14th.

**Green Sandpiper:** Peak numbers at Cley where 16 Aug. 14th when 15 at Wissington BF.

**Wood Sandpiper:** Spring passage May 11th to June 8th and autumn return July 13th to Oct. 17th. No party exceeded 9.

**Common Sandpiper:** Fens: Wisbech SF, autumn passage July 13th to Oct. 23rd with peak during second half of Aug. when 40 most days. Wissington BF 4 late birds Nov. 18th.

East: Hardley Flood, excitable flock of 40 alighting on waterside trees Aug. 21st. Breydon winter record on Dec. 9th.

**Spotted Redshank:** Recorded each month. Most favoured locality was Wisbech SF where present in autumn from July 5th to Oct. 26th with peaks of 50 Aug. 18th, 24 Sept. 24th and 40 to 45 Oct. 23rd to 26th. Inland, an interesting observation of one at Costessey Aug. 11th.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Fens: Wisbech SF Oct. 11th (BWJ) and 26th (JAWM).

**Greenshank:** Largest assemblages at Holme (30 Aug. 12th and present till Nov. 10th, and at Snettisham (25 end of July and 27 from end Aug. until mid-Sept.). At Wisbech SF present July 5th until Oct. 5th but no party exceeded 12.

**Purple Sandpiper:** North coast/Wash: Recorded all months except April, June and July. Localities as follows: Blakeney Point 1, Brancaster 1, Cley 1, Heacham 3, Hunstanton 5, Salthouse 1, Sheringham 4, Snettisham 2, West Runton 1, Weybourne 3 and Yarmouth 1.

**Little Stint:** North coast: Cley, spring passage of 1 - 4 between May 1st and June 8th. In autumn up to 12 together at Cley and 7 at Holme.

Fens: Wisbech SF; present between July 26th and Nov. 24th; no August party exceeded 9, but increase to 34 by Sept. 17th and peak of 80 on 28th with still 60 Oct. 5th.

**Temminck's Stint:** Fens: Wisbech SF May 19th, Aug. 18th and 26th and Sept. 6th to 19th. Wissington BF Aug. 22nd.

North: Cley May 2nd to 21st with 2 on 27th/28th and singly Aug. 23rd and Sept. 2nd and 25th.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** North: Cley, Aug. 11th - 15th (SCJ, JE *et al*) and Thornham Oct. 24th (BLS).

Fens: Wisbech SF July 28th to Aug. 10th (KA, JAWM *et al*).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Fens: Wisbech SF Aug. 18th - 26th, Sept. 5th - 17th and 24th - 30th.

North: Cley Aug. 13th - 17th and Sept. 8th - 13th.

**Curlew Sandpiper:** East: Breydon 2 May 20th and up to 16 in autumn between Aug. 3rd and October 21st.

Wash: Snettisham, peak of 28 Sept. 16th.

Fens: Wisbech SF present July 13th to Oct. 26th with peaks of 16 in August (2nd), 35 in Sept. (28th) and 28 in Oct. (3rd).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** North: Cley Sept. 1st to 19th (MRA, PC *et al*).

**Broad-billed Sandpiper:** North: Cley May 28th to 31st (WEF, DS, MT *et al*).

Additional 1972 record: Salthouse Aug. 25th (MW).

**Ruff: Breeding:** Fens, Ouse Washes 4 Reeves believed to have bred at Welney.

*Wintering* birds at Welney (60) Hickling and Cley. Usual *passage* records including up to 50 at Cley in Aug., 45 in Sept. and 55 in Oct. At Wisbech SF autumn monthly maxima as follows: July 110, Aug. 130, Sept. 100, Oct. 70 and Nov. 40.

**Avocet:** For the first time, records of this former rarity have been summarised.

North/East coasts: Recorded at Breydon, Kelling, Salthouse, Cley, Brancaster and Holme between April 15th and Sept. 16th. Mostly between 1 and 3, but also parties of 5 and 7. Also of interest 2 south at Gorleston during gales April 2nd, and at Breydon one remained from Nov. 3rd to Dec. 7th.



**Grey Phalarope:** North: Cley, Sept. 29th/30th with 2 between Oct. 13th and Nov. 6th and another Dec. 15th.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** Broads: Hickling Aug. 23rd/24th.

Fens: Wisbech SF Aug. 8th to 11th with another Aug. 18th to 20th and a third between Sept. 8th and Oct. 11th.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** North: Cley Oct. 21st/22nd (AGD, PML *et al*).

**Stone Curlew:** In Brecks returned from March 12th.

North: A pair bred successfully on a disused aerodrome.

**Great Skua:** East: Winterton one heading inland mobbed by Swallows Sept. 16th.

Inland: Swanton Morley GP Sept. 29th.

North coast: Autumn passage between Aug. 15th and Dec. 14th with largest movements Sept. 30th (when force 8 N.W. gale resulted in 50 off Weybourne, 150 off Cley/Salthouse, 81 entering Wash off Holme and 111 at Hunstanton), Oct. 21st (28 off Sheringham) and Nov. 6th (21 off Sheringham and 57 off Hunstanton).

Wash: Ouse Mouth 8 Sept. 19th and Snettisham 26 on 30th.

**Pomarine Skua:** East: Gorleston Dec. 5th.

North: Autumn passage between Aug. 7th and Dec. 8th; largest numbers during gales on Sept. 30th when 27 off Weybourne, 15 off Cley, 5 off Holme and 1 off Hunstanton.

**Arctic Skua:** N/E coasts: Autumn movements between July 15th and Nov. 6th with impressive storm movement Sept. 30th when 135 off Weybourne, 200 off Cley, 26 off Holme and 36 off Hunstanton.

Wash: Snettisham 140 Sept. 30th and Ouse Mouth 16 Nov. 6th.

Fens: Wisbech SF June 14th and Sept. 30th with 2 picked up dead next day.

**Long tailed Skua:** North coast: Singles on five dates between Aug. 15th and Sept. 30th.

Fens: Wisbech SF one dying Oct. 3rd (CBC).

**Herring Gull:** *Breeding:* North: Blakeney Point, 2 nests but no young reared.



Storm-driven Little Gulls followed by a Great Skua.



Above: Attracted by Norfolk's broads, meres, estuaries and flooded pits, Ospreys are regular passage migrants. Most records are of singles, but occasionally two appear together.

Below: Although greatly decreased as a breeding bird, Continental Lapwings visit Norfolk in large numbers each autumn and winter.







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Singles with yellow legs at Hickling Broad Aug. 23rd (MJS) and at Holme Oct. 2nd (HBO). Additional 1964 yellow-legged Herring Gull record at Yarmouth harbour entrance Aug. 15th (PRA).

**Common Gull:** North: Blakeney Point a pair bred rearing 3 chicks.

**Glaucous Gull:** North coast (particularly Blakeney Point to Sheringham) ones and twos up to April 25th and from Aug. 22nd.

East: Winterton Nov. 18th.

Inland: Aylmerton Nov.

**Iceland Gull:** North: Following probably all relate to the same immature: Sheringham April 10th, Kelling on 12th and Cley on 20th.

**Mediterranean Gull:** North: only 2 records: Weybourne Aug. 6th (DFM) and Cley Sept. 29th (TH).

**Little Gull:** North/East coasts, Wash, Broads (Hickling, Martham, Ormesby), Fens (Wisbech SF and Lynn BF). Recorded all months except Jan. and March with numerous May and Aug. - Oct. observations. Mostly either singles or small parties up to 11, but 16 off Hunstanton Sept. 30th and 14 there Oct. 21st.

Inland record of one at Swanton Morley GP May 2nd.

**Black-headed Gull:** Numbers of *pairs* at breeding sites include:

East: Cantley 50.

Broads: Horsey 30 - 40, How Hill 50 and Hickling 5.

Fens: Wisington 21 and Wisbech SF 170 - 200.

North: Lodge Marsh Wells 1,000, Titchwell few, Morston 500, Blakeney Point 200, Salthouse Broad 20, Scolt 200 and Stiffkey 20.

Wash: North Wootton 60. (Summary by JGG.)

1972 Report makes reference to gull casualties when following ploughs. After discussions with 5 local tractor drivers MAB of Corpusty reports total of 4 birds trapped (but released) last season.

**Sabine's Gull:** North: Weybourne 2 adults Sept. 30th and one next day, Cley immature Sept. 19th and 4 (3 immatures and 1 adult) on 30th, Holme adult Sept. 30th and Hunstanton immature Sept. 27th.

**Kittiwake:** Breeding attempt again made at a cliff-site in N.E. Norfolk, but nest containing 2 eggs dislodged and later found on beach.

Weather movements include easterly passage off Weybourne Oct. 11th at the rate of 1,000 per hour for 2 hours.

**Black Tern:** Passage migrants between April 27th and Oct. 15th with a straggler at Hickling Nov. 1st. Largest spring parties May 18th to 20th when 15 at Cley, 12 at Swanton Morley GP and 12 at Snettisham. Autumn movements on a very small scale.

**White-winged Black Tern:** North: Cley/Salthouse immature Oct. 1st to 10th (JM *et al*).

**Gull-billed Tern:** North: Weybourne Aug. 18th (CJ, LM, AJMS).

**Caspian Tern:** Broads: Hickling one July 31st was joined by a second bird Aug. 3rd. Both remained till 8th with one lingering till 12th (RDH, MJS).

**Common Tern:** Numbers of *pairs* at breeding sites:

Wash: Snettisham 48 and Wolferton Saltings 2.

North: Scolt 600, Stiffkey Binks 141, Lodge Marsh Wells 6, Blakeney Point 1400, Brancaster 4 and Cley (Arnold's Marsh) 14.

East: Scroby Sands, small colony but no figure available.

Broads: Ranworth 57, Hickling 3, Ormesby 8, Barton 2, Hardley Flood 9, Hoveton Great Broad 1, Salhouse Little Broad 1, Hudson's Bay 1 and How Hill 3.

Inland: Swanton Morley GP 1 and Lyng GP 2.



**Arctic Tern:** North: Breeding *pairs*: Scolt 1 and Blakeney Point 3.

**Roseate Tern:** North: None bred but 1 - 3 on a number of dates between April 29th and Aug. 31st.

**Little Tern:** Breeding records of *pairs* include:  
 Wash: Snettisham 1.  
 North: Thornham Harbour 6, Scolt Head 40 (3 flying young), Blakeney Point 150, Stiffkey Binks 20, Wells 1 (2 flying young) and Cley 4.  
 East: Winterton/Horsey 87 (9 flying young), Horsey Gap 1 (no young), Horsey/Waxham 2 (1 young), Hemsby/Winterton none bred and Breydon Water 2 (1 flying young—a new site).  
 Broads: Hickling 2.

**Sandwich Tern:** North: Scolt 800 pairs bred rearing 900 young; Stiffkey Binks 3500 pairs bred rearing 3000 young. None nested at Blakeney Point. Spring arrival from March 22nd.

**Little Auk:** North: Cley Sept. 6th and 30th and Weybourne Oct. 11th.

**Black Guillemot:** North: Total of 23 in Jan., Feb., Oct. and Nov.

**Puffin:** North: Total of 41 in May, Sept., Oct. and Nov.  
 East: Yarmouth April 24th.

**Turtle Dove:** Notable passage records include 150 west at Salthouse May 4th. Late birds at Holme Oct. 30th and Winterton Nov. 3rd.

**Collared Dove:** Only concentrations reported were 200 roosting at Carrow Works Norwich in Dec. when 100 at Mill Farm Wells.

**Barn Owl:** Reported from 69 localities.

**Little Owl:** Reported from only 13 localities.

**Long-eared Owl:** Bred successfully at Upton and East Wretham Heath. Singles at Salthouse Heath and Holkham and migrants at Blakeney Point Sept. 13th/14th and at Hunstanton G.C. Aug. 30th.

**Short-eared Owl:** Breeding record of a pair at Haddiscoe (3 young reared). Wintering birds again most abundant in S.E. Norfolk and at Halvergate 80 on several dates in Jan. By contrast virtually absent from this area towards year-end and only a single occurrence reported.

Wash records include 8 at Wootton in Feb. and 5 at Snettisham in Oct. Interesting record from Cley where 3 in from sea Oct. 11th.

**Nightjar:** Spring arrival from May 12th. In Breckland recorded at 34 sites, majority on Forestry Commission clear-fell areas.

**Swift:** Extreme dates: April 17th (Norwich) and Sept. 29th (Cley). 2 pairs nested in cliffs at Hunstanton.

**Alpine Swift:** North: Cley, May 30th (NVA, AGD, GAM.).

**Kingfisher:** Recorded at 66 localities.  
 At Sheringham one visited a garden pool at 1400 hours when it contained some 60 young goldfish about 2 inches long. The pond was covered apart from about 8 square inches. By 0800 hours next morning only 8 fish remained.

**Bee-eater:** East: Winterton 2 Aug. 8th (IL) and again on 25th (RG) and 2 over Caister-on-Sea Sept. 2nd (RG).

**Roller:** Breck: East Wretham Heath May 27th (RAH) and Weeting on 28th (RPB, PN, NJR) doubtless relate to the same bird.  
 North: Wells Aug. 8th to 16th (PRB *et al*).

**Hoopoe:** Total of 4 as follows: Hardwick March 17th/18th, Welney May 18th, Lang Mere May 25th and South Walsham July 16th/17th.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker:** Recorded at 41 localities.

**Wryneck:** In *Spring* total of 4 at Holme, Holkham and Kelling April 29th, May 26th and June 2nd/6th.

In *Autumn* recorded on many dates between Aug. 16th and Oct. 5th with majority between last week of Aug. and mid-Sept. Noted at Blakeney Point, Cley, Holkham, Holme, Hunstanton, Muckleboro' Hill, Paston, Sheringham, Yarmouth, Waxham, Wells, Winterton and Woodbastwick. Minimum autumn total of 32 birds.

**Woodlark:** Breck: Present in breeding season at 4 localities; at main site party of 11 Sept. 9th remained until 23rd.

**Shorelark:** North coast (Holme to Weybourne) monthly maxima: Jan. 245, Feb. 135, March 55, April 41, May 35, Oct. 64, Nov. 29 and Dec. 30. Largest groups at Cley (80 in Jan.) and Scolt (70 in Jan./Feb.). Extreme dates May 24th and Sept. 22nd both at Cley.

**Wash:** Snettisham 8 in Jan./Feb. and 3 in Oct.

**East:** Breydon, Gorleston, Horsey, Paston, Waxham and Winterton. Singles up to April 29th and from Oct. 7th with 10 at Horsey April 1st.

**Swallow:** Late birds at Holkham Nov. 11th, at Stiffkey on 16th, Sheringham on 17th and at Swanton Morley till 24th.

**House Martin:** Concentration of nests at Home Farm Didlington where 56 nests. November birds at Snettisham on 6th and Taverham on 8th.

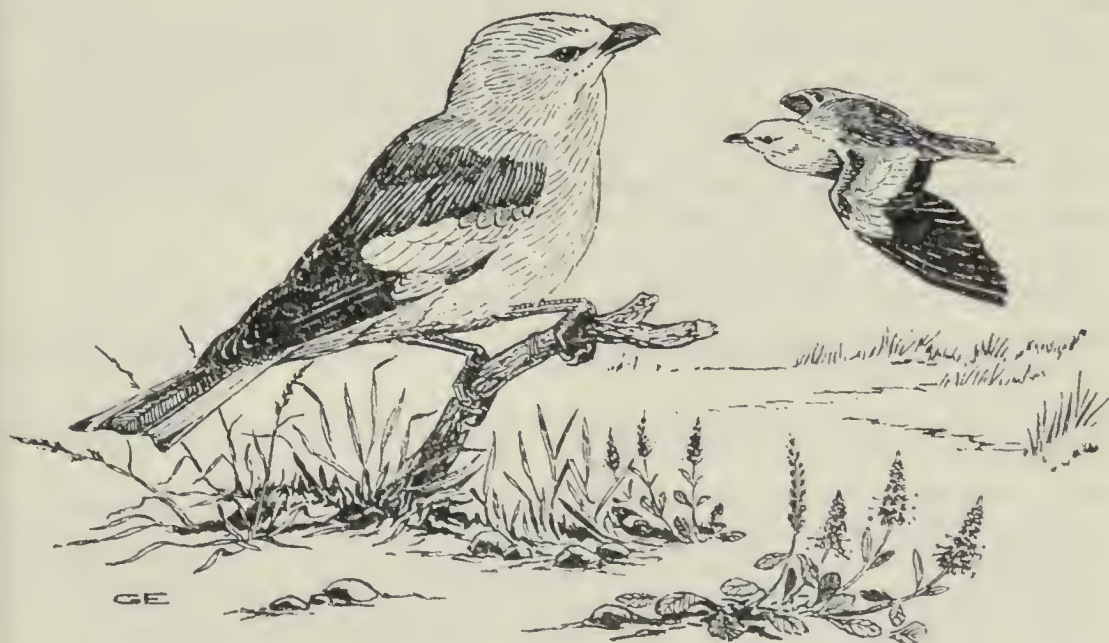
**Sand Martin:** Extreme dates March 24th (Cley and Sheringham), Oct. 24th (Swanton Morley) and Nov. 4th (Cley).

**Golden Oriole:** Breck borders: At the locality first described in 1970 Report male arrived May 19th; no evidence of breeding.

Passage birds at Surlingham May 30th and at Cley July 1st.

**Carrion Crow:** Winter roost at Roydon Common attained a peak of 200 in mid-Nov.

**Hooded Crow:** Peak assemblies of 19 at Bodney duck farm Jan. 18th and 36 at Breydon on 2nd.



Rollers visited East Wretham, Weeting and Wells in 1973.



**Dipper (Black-bellied):** In spring at Narborough March 1st and for some time previously. In autumn singles at Little Walsingham Dec. 23rd, Beeston Regis Oct. 21st, Elsing end Nov. to Dec. 31st, Honingham end Oct. and Thompson Water Dec. 2nd. In addition 1 - 2 at Keswick between Oct. 27th and Dec. 2nd.

**Bearded Tit:** Broads: Bred at Hickling, Whiteslea, Heigham Sounds, Horsey, Starch Grass, Martham, Catfield Fen and Bramble Hill (1 pair - a new site).

North: Bred Cley and Titchwell (10 pairs where over 70 in Nov.).

Unusual occurrence at Gunton Park Lake March 28th. In autumn at least 60 (50 trapped) at Salthouse Sept. 22nd; family party at Weybourne mill pool Aug. 28th and 20 at Holme Oct. 6th.

East: Bred Breydon Water (2 pairs in dyke adjoining estuary wall—a new site); Horsey Sandhills 30 in reeds Oct. 19th and at Hardley Flood present all year with maximum of 30 early Jan.

Brecks: Mickle Mere 2 Jan. 7th.

Central: Earlham 6 between Jan. 16th and Feb. 27th.

Wash: Snettisham 5 Oct. 30th.

**Fieldfare:** Late spring birds at Earlham May 14th and Wells on 16th with stragglers at Whitlingham June 2nd and Holkham on 27th and another at Morley St. Botolph between June 19th and July 5th. First autumn birds Holkham Aug. 26th.

**Redwing:** May birds at Weybourne on 5th, Earlham in full song on 9th and at Oxnead on 10th. First in autumn Winterton Aug. 25th and Cley Sept. 13th.

**Ring Ouzel:** Extreme dates April 5th and Nov. 11th with totals of 90 in spring and 27 in autumn. Largest parties 14 at Cley and 11 at Hunstanton GC.

**Stonechat:** *Breeding:* North: Weybourne, a pair.

East: Winterton - Horsey 3 pairs.

**Whinchat:** Only one breeding locality reported: Beeston Common.

**Redstart:** Breeding season birds at Blickling (2 pairs), Felbrigg (3 pairs), Horsford (pair), East Wretham and Madhouse Plantation Thompson. Sad decline in Stanford area in recent years.

**Black Redstart:** *Breeding:* Yarmouth, spring arrival from March 26th and 3 singing males by April 1st. By mid-June remarkable total of 18 singing males located, including 12 immatures. 17 pairs (probably 18 pairs) bred and a total of 50 young reared. Birds present at one site until Oct. 28th and autumn song recorded at 3 sites (PRA). Sheringham, pair reared 3 young. Norwich present May 9th to Aug. 2nd; at least 2 singing males. A pair raised 2 young from a nest at a height of 90 feet in a partly completed building in city centre.

*Migrants:* Totals of 46 in spring and 28 in autumn.

**Nightingale:** Very scarce autumn migrant, but one at Holme Sept. 23rd.

**Bluethroat:** North: Blakeney Point Aug. 25th - 28th and Sept. 13th - 16th; Holkham Oct. 4th.

**Robin:** North coast: Large scale arrival Oct. 4th when hundreds at Cley, over 200 at Blakeney Point, 200 at Wells and 80 at Holme.

**Cetti's Warbler:** Norwich: One found dead in city centre June 28th—the first county record. Now in collections at Norwich Castle Museum (JGG). The bird had been ringed as a first-year bird at Hensies (Hainaut) Belgium on Aug. 23rd 1970. According to the Belgian ringing office bird ringed at the locality where species first known to breed in that country. Since 1966 over 80 have been ringed there.

**Savi's Warbler:** East: Yare valley one singing May 11th to 15th (MG, MJS).

**Icterine Warbler:** North: Total of 11 at Blakeney Point, Holme, Kelling, Sheringham and Wells/Holkham between Aug. 12th and Sept. 16th.

**Blackcap:** January records from Norwich (16th) and Muckleboro' Hill (21st), Feb. from Holme (4th) and Dec. from Breydon (9th) and Holme (10th).

**Barred Warbler:** North: Total of 12 at Blakeney Point, Cley, Holme, Holkham, Hunstanton and Weybourne between Aug. 18th and Sept. 24th.  
East: Winterton Sept. 15th.

**Sardinian Warbler:** East: Waxham male April 28th - 29th (ELW *et al*). The first county record of this vagrant from the Mediterranean region.

**Wood Warbler:** Spring arrival from April 27th and breeding season records from 6 sites.

Passage birds at Wells/Holkham Aug. 26th and 30th and at Blakeney Point Sept. 25th.

**Arctic Warbler:** North: Titchwell trapped Sept. 25th (HBO).

**Yellow-browed Warbler:** North: At least 8 as follows: Blakeney Point Sept. 24th/25th and Oct. 1st; Titchwell Sept. 23rd and Wells/Holkham singles Sept. 25th and Oct. 28th with up to 3 between Oct. 4th and 11th.

**Firecrest:** Spring: Total of 12 at Cley, Felthorpe, Holme, Titchwell, Wells and Winterton between March 18th and May 8th.

Autumn: Total of 12 at Happisburgh, Holkham, Salthouse Heath, Swafeld, Waxham, Winterton and Yarmouth between Sept. 17th and Nov. 11th.

**Pied Flycatcher:** Usual small-scale spring passage from May 4th. Late autumn birds at Weybourne till Oct. 13th and at Holme till Nov. 1st.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher:** North: Autumn total of 13 at Blakeney Point, Cley/Salthouse, Holkham/Wells, Holme and Titchwell between Aug. 28th and Oct. 9th including 5 on Oct. 4th.

East: Yarmouth Oct. 7th.

**Dunnoek:** North: Singles with the wing formula of Continental race trapped at Salthouse Oct. 2nd and at Wiveton on 16th.

**Richard's Pipit:** North: Cley Sept. 13th and Weybourne Oct. 6th and 12th.

East: Yarmouth Oct. 7th.

**Tawny Pipit:** North: Cley July 2nd (SDH).

East: Winterton, Nov. 3rd (BWJ, JGG).

**Red-throated Pipit:** North: Weybourne May 19th/20th (AJLS *et al*).

**Water Pipit:** Ones and twos at Brancaster, Breydon, Cantley, Colney G.P, Cley/Salthouse, Haddiscoe Island, Sheringham and Winterton up to May 21st and from Oct. 14th.

**Grey Wagtail:** Nested at 10 sites compared with only 4 in 1972. Passage/wintering birds at 43 localities.

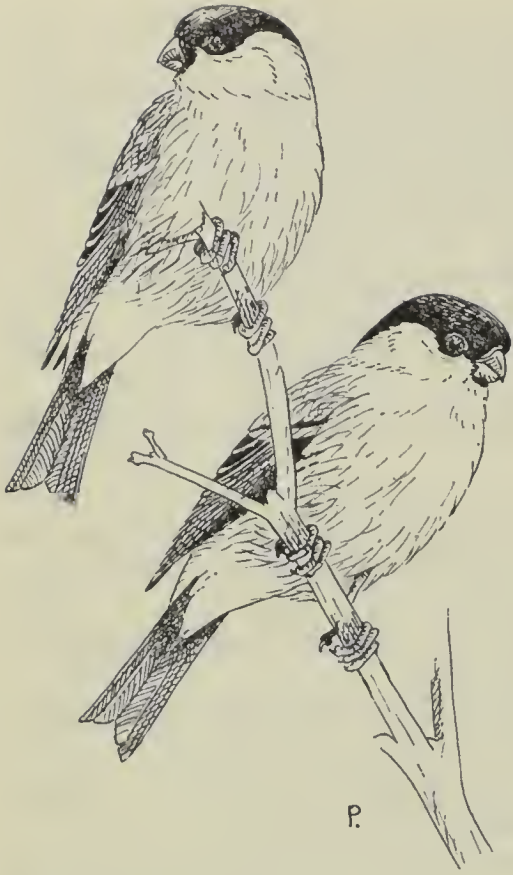
**Blue-headed Wagtail:** (*M. F. flava*) Spring birds at Cley, Kelling and Sheringham from May 2nd.

**Grey-headed Wagtail:** (*M. F. thunbergi*) North: Cley May 19th and 21st; Kelling 4 males May 19th and 2 on 20th.

**Black-headed Wagtail:** (*M. F. feldegg*) North: Cley male May 17th (OL).

**Waxwing:** Between Nov. 13th and end of the year total of over 70 at following localities: Barningham, Blakeney, Cley, Corpusty, Hassingham, Hemsby, Holme, Holt, Hunstanton, Morston, Old Hunstanton, Sheringham, Snettisham, Thetford, Wells and Yarmouth.





**Great Grey Shrike;** Singles recorded at the following localities up to April 24th and from Oct. 4th: Blakeney Point, Bridgham, Cley, Egmere, Fowl Mere, Frog Hill, Sturston, Haddiscoe, Hickling, Hilborough, Holkham, Holme, How Hill, Kelling Heath, Lower Kelling, Lyng G.P., Mickle Mere, Paston, Roydon Common, Salthouse Heath, Santon Downham, Sheringham, Snettisham, Sparham, Stanford, St. Helen's Well, Taverham, Thetford G.C., Upper Sheringham, Waxham, Wells, Weybourne, Winterton, Wolferton, Woodbastwick, Wretton and Yarmouth. One at Wells was singing Oct. 17th.

**Lesser Grey Shrike:** North: Holme May 27th (PRC, HR).

**Red-backed Shrike:** *Breeding season distribution:* North: 4 pairs at 3 sites. East: 3 pairs at one site.

Breck: 5 pairs raised 17 young. Single *migrants* at Cley, Holme, Horsey Gap, Hunstanton and Sheringham between Aug. 18th and Sept. 10th.

**Hawfinch:** Recorded as follows: Caistor St. Edmunds, Cley, East Somerton, East Wretham, Fakenham, Holkham, Horsey, Mickle Mere, Narford, Narborough and Stanford.

Largest parties at East Wretham where maximum of over 45 Feb. 8th.

**Siskin:** Majority of records during spring when hundreds at Wells March 28th presumably delayed by cold northerly winds; species abundant at Felthorpe April 26th. In Brecks 80 at St. Helen's Well March 24th and large numbers singing and displaying between Two-mile Bottom and Santon Downham bridge April 19th; at least one pair bred at Two-mile Bottom. In the Sandringham/West Newton area present throughout April and a female collecting nesting material on 13th.

In Broads largest count 50 at Salhouse Broad March 17th; and an unusual observation at Whcatfen where a flight of 25 roosted in a clump of bamboo April 30th.

**Twite:** Coastal counts include up to 125 at Breydon, 300 at Morston, 300 at Titchwell and 400 at Holme.

**Mealy Redpoll:** Parties up to 8 at Cley, Caistor, Earlham, Snettisham, Sheringham, Wells, Winterton and Wiveton Jan. to March and Oct. to Dec.

**Scarlet Rosefinch:** North: Blakeney Point, Aug. 19th/20th (MRA, DJH, NW *et al*). The second county record of this vagrant from Eastern Europe.

**Crossbill:** Widely distributed in Brecks and records from 13 localities. Smaller strongholds at Wells/Holkham, Sandringham/Snettisham/Wolferton and Sheringham (including 30 in June).

Interesting note on departure at Wells April 15th when flight of 49 headed N.W. to sea after spiralling to a great height.

**Brambling:** More April records than usual. At St. Helen's Well on 13th scores singing, with 500 at Santon Downham on 15th (again males singing), 50 at Salhouse Heath on 17th and 70 at Sandringham on 18th where one remained until May 2nd. Also late were singles at Wells May 5th, at Upper Sheringham on 22nd and at Bexwell near Downham Market July 28th.

**Ortolan Bunting:** East: Waxham Sept. 16th.

North: Weybourne May 5th, Sheringham May 7th, Cley 2 Sept. 10th with one on 11th; Blakeney Point immature Aug. 24th and adult on 25th.

**Lapland Bunting:** North coast: parties up to 18/20 recorded at Cley/Salhouse, Blakeney Point/Morston, Holme, Wells and Weybourne until April 24th and from Sept. 11th.

East: Breydon/Halvergate up to 11 till Feb. 23rd; Winterton 2 Nov. 25th; Horsey (Gap male in summer plumage May 1st.

**Snow Bunting:** Wash/North/East coasts: Reported up to March 16th and from Sept. 11th. Winter maxima include Breydon 24, Cley 250, Holme 250, Scolt 30, Snettisham 50 and Weybourne 110.

Breck: Unusual series of observations at Barnham Cross Common where 1 - 5 between Jan. 7th and March 4th. Other inland sightings at Buckenham Nov. 30th and at Old Catton (Norwich) March 9th.

The following, not mentioned in the Classified Notes, were also recorded in 1973 (*breeding species in italics*): Black-throated Diver, Red-throated Diver, Shag, Mallard, Teal, Goldeneye, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Merlin, Kestrel, Red-legged Partridge, Partridge, Pheasant, Moorhen, Coot, Lapwing, Grey Plover, Turnstone, Jack Snipe, Woodcock, Curlew, Redshank, Knot, Dunlin, Sanderling, Great Black-backed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Razorbill, Guillemot, Stock Dove, Woodpigeon, Cuckoo, Tawny Owl, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Skylark, Rook, Jackdaw, Magpie, Jay, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Marsh Tit, Willow Tit, Longtailed Tit, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Wren, Mistle Thrush, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Wheatear, Grasshopper Warbler, Reed Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Garden Warbler, Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Goldcrest, Spotted Flycatcher, Meadow Pipit, Tree Pipit, Rock Pipit, Pied Wagtail, White Wagtail, Yellow Wagtail, Starling, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Linnet, Bullfinch, Chaffinch, Corn Bunting, Yellowhammer, Reed Bunting, House Sparrow and Tree Sparrow.



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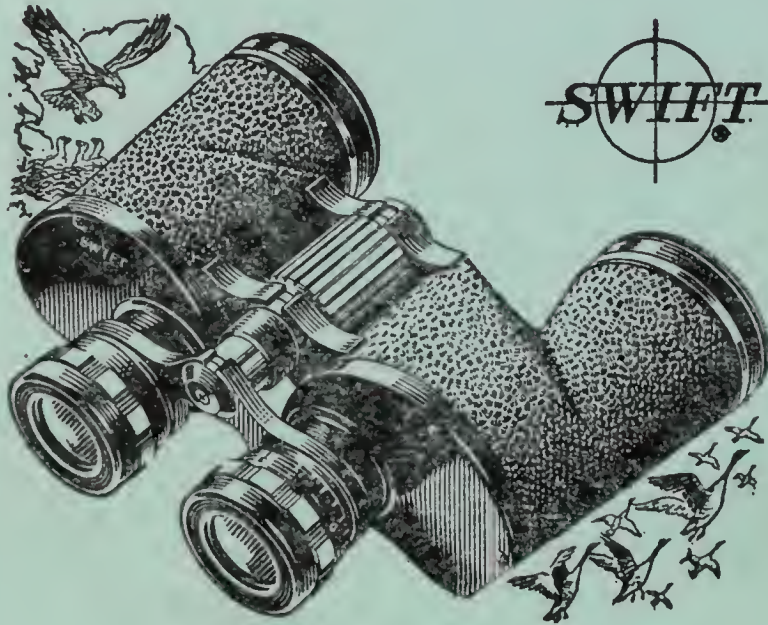
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