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Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report 1995

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Norfolk Bird Report – 1995

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Front cover painting: Crossbills by J.C. Harrison (reproduced by courtesy C.R. Knights).
Back cover photograph: Red Squirrel (D. Mason).

NORFOLK BIRD REPORT – 1995

Editorial

The Council of the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society presents the annual report on the birds of Norfolk. Regular readers will recall that it had been agreed between the Society and the Norfolk Bird Club that the systematic list of species for 1994 would be compiled and edited by Michael Rooney who became County Recorder. The 1995 list has been produced under the same arrangement. However, Michael Rooney has decided for personal reasons, to relinquish his appointment as County Recorder resulting in further changes for the 1996 and subsequent reports.

This Editorial provides an opportunity to acknowledge the considerable effort by Michael Rooney and his team to bring the classified list into line with those of other counties in publishing considerably more detail on migratory movements and the distribution of the more abundant and widespread species. As a result of this and other changes in style and content, the 1994 Norfolk Report was successful in the British Birds Best Annual Bird Report competition, sharing first position with those of Avon and Essex. It is disappointing that delays in the publication of this issue have precluded Norfolk from qualifying for entry to the 1995 awards.

Consequent upon the resignation of Michael Rooney, the following new arrangements for recording have been agreed between the Society and the Bird Club effective from February 1997:

County Recorders: Giles Dunmore and Neil Lawton.

Submission of records: All systematic list records, including those relating to national and county rarities, should be sent on a *monthly basis* to Giles Dunmore at 49 *The Arenues, Norwich, NR2 3QR*. In the case of national rarities details (in duplicate, please) should be sent as soon as possible and not left until the year-end. Observations will not normally be acknowledged but names of all contributors will be published. All records should be listed in the order of species appearing in this issue of the *Norfolk Bird Report*.

Editorial material: All articles for consideration, the Ringing Report, artwork, photographs and transparencies should continue to be submitted to the Editor, Michael Leago, at 33, Acacia Road, Thorpe St. Andrew, Norwich, NR7 0PP.

County Records Committee: Vernon Eve, Steve Gantlett, Phil Heath, John Kemp and Andy Stoddart, with Giles Dunmore as Secretary. Mick Fiszler has completed his five year "term" on the Committee; his assistance and invaluable comments have been much appreciated.

Over 130 records were considered during the year.

As occurs with the national British Birds Rarities Committee, the majority of records rejected by the local Committee are as a result of insufficient details submitted, rarely as a result of an incorrect identification. Obviously the Committee expects a far more detailed description of a species such as Ring-billed Gull (which is not only rare in the county but difficult to identify) than a species such as a White Stork. Written descriptions should consist of a brief note of the circumstances of the observation (weather, distance from bird, any other observers, etc), followed by a description of the actual bird(s) and details of any other species nearby for comparison. Written notes should state clearly how the bird was identified. Observers are also requested to include a note of their previous

experience of the species and, if relevant, a brief outline of how any confusable species were eliminated. Copies of field sketches (however poor artistically) are often invaluable together with written field notes.

The committee has also reconsidered the list of species requiring the submission of written description (and subject to acceptance) prior to publication. The following list relates to all records for 1996 and thereafter (unless amended):

Black-necked Grebe (at sea)	Short-toed Lark
Cory's Shearwater	Tawny Pipit
Great Shearwater	<i>Flava</i> Wagtail (Continental races
Mediterranean Shearwater	except Blue-headed and Grey-headed)
Storm Petrel	Bluethroat (White-spotted only)
Purple Heron	Savi's Warbler
White Stork	Aquatic Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Marsh Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Melodious Warbler
Ferruginous Duck	Dartford Warbler
Surf Scoter	Pallas's Warbler
Spotted Crake	Chiffchaff (<i>Tristis</i> race)
Corncrake	Woodchat Shrike
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Raven
Grey Phalarope (at sea)	Serin
Sabine's Gull	Common Rosefinch
Ring-billed Gull	Ortolan Bunting
Ring-necked Parakeet	Little Bunting
Bee-eater	

It will be noted that Goshawk has been deleted due to the increasing number of records (but this species is still subject to frequent misidentifications, so all records will continue to be analysed and on occasions observers may be asked to submit further details). Conversely, due to continuing problems of misidentification, records of Black-necked Grebes at sea have been included (both Red-necked and Slavonian Grebes have been identified as this species at certain times of the year!) as well as Mediterranean Shearwater and 'fly-by' Grey Phalaropes.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the following artists and photographers: N. Arlott, J. Bhalerao, Mrs Sarah Bhalerao, A. Bloomfield, N. Bowman, N. Borrow, R. Chittenden, N. Clayton, C. Donner, B.W. Jarvis, P. Jones, C.R. Knights, D. Nye, S. Patient, R. Powley, the late R.A. Richardson, A. Tate, R.C. Wilson, G. Wright, J. Wright and S. Young.

Acknowledgment is also due to Birdline East Anglia, BTO, Cley Bird Club, Eastern Counties Newspapers (for providing the county map), English Nature, Gt. Yarmouth Bird Club, Nar Valley Ornithological Society, National Trust, Norfolk Bird Club, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Rare Bird Photographic Library, RSPB, Stanford Training Area Bird Club, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, P.R. Allard (county archivist), Mrs M.J. Dorling, Mr and Mrs D. Paull, Mrs S.F. Seago and all other contributors.

Sponsorship

We are grateful to the Broads Authority and the following Charitable Trusts for generous support: Sarnia Trust, Viscount Mackintosh Trust, and B.G. Cozens Hardy Trust.

Front cover artist: J.C. Harrison (1898–1985)

I first met Jack Harrison at Hainford near Norwich. His studio walls displayed magnificent water-colours of Ospreys and Golden Eagles, Pheasants and Black Grouse, White-fronted Geese and Wigeon. I greatly admired the large collection of hundreds of bird sketches and landscapes ranging from Scottish mountain-tops to the African veldt. Some of these sketches, made years ago, became useful reminders for a particular scene or a view to be used in a new picture. But the greatest surprise were the paintings of African game. At the time I did not know that Jack Harrison was a frequent visitor to southern Africa. He always travelled there aboard a Union Castle mail-liner. A special exhibition of his latest work completed in the game reserves would be mounted before the return voyage. Even when aged 75 he spent three hectic months in South Africa walking and sketching, especially in the mountains.

John Cyril Harrison was born in Wiltshire and showed an early interest in drawing. At the age of six he illustrated a letter to his mother with sketches of animals and birds. He lived in British Columbia for four years from 1912 where his family ran a fruit farm and began collecting birds' skins and – like Roland Green – studied taxidermy. After the First World War Harrison decided to become a bird artist. He studied at the Slade School of Art. A few years later he moved to Norfolk where he worked for the rest of his life. For well over half a century he captured the atmosphere of Norfolk, recording in detail its game-birds, wildfowl and birds of prey. He was brilliant in revealing the power of a soaring bird of prey whether the picture was of eagles in the Highlands or harriers in Broadland.

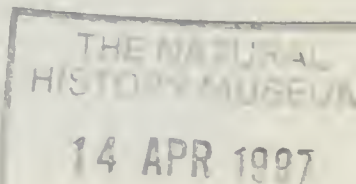
Jack Harrison travelled extensively, regularly enjoying visits to Scotland. As a result he illustrated Seton Gordon's *Days with the Golden Eagle*. He also painted in Norway and Iceland. He began painting Christmas cards for the newly formed Norfolk Naturalists Trust in 1930. Appropriately the first subject was a Breckland scene featuring a fiery male Crossbill. This arrangement continued over several decades and many local naturalists formed a unique and now valuable collection of delightful cards. Early commissions included wildfowl plates in Witherby's five-volume classic *Handbook of British Birds* and the frontispiece to B.B. Riviere's *History of the birds of Norfolk*. The latter depicted the mid-air pass of Montagu's Harrier set against a Hickling Broad background. Fine examples of Harrison's work appeared in *Bird Portraits* and in *Pheasants of the World* by Jean Delacour. In addition he was a principal illustrator for *Eagles, Hawks and Falcons of the World*. More recently he was commissioned for the artwork illustrating *The Birds of Prey of the British Islands*. The publication – which rapidly became a collector's piece – was limited to 275 signed and numbered copies.

As a final tribute, 25 Harrison water-colours were selected for reproduction in another limited edition volume: *Game Birds of the British Isles*. The large-scale plates in this luxurious book reveal great mastery in depicting birds in the wing.

(MJS)



Black-tailed Godwit (R.A. Richardson)



Review of the Year 1995

January started with the coldest temperatures for eight years with north to north-westerly gales bringing a small influx of Glaucous and Iceland Gulls. At the same time there was an interesting selection of birds with Little Egret at Stiffkey, Lesser White-fronted Goose at Holkham, Ring-necked Duck at Wroxham Broad, Black-winged Stilt at Titchwell, 4 Grey Phalaropes along the north coast, Spotted Sandpiper at Welney and Richard's Pipit at Overy Marshes. The next day a *humei* Yellow-browed Warbler was found at Yarmouth. The rest of the month was generally mild producing an unseasonal Lesser Whitethroat, two Woodlarks and a Garganey.

February was very mild and wet with several long-staying birds from the previous month including Mediterranean Gulls at various sites giving close views especially at Yarmouth and 10–15 Rough-legged Buzzards. Up to five Pomarine Skuas off Great Yarmouth livened up a generally uneventful month.

March started very unsettled with a series of deep low pressure areas crossing the county. The month was notable for large-scale movements of both Stock Doves and Siskins. A lull in the weather pattern started on 9th, and by 11th southerly winds caused temperatures to reach 16°C resulting in a widespread influx of Chiffchaffs, several coastal Wheatears and a Spoonbill at Blakeney. Next day Sand Martin appeared at Cley and Great Grey Shrike at Grime's Graves. Apart from a brief anticyclonic interlude on 21st, the rest of the month reverted to west to north-westerly winds, resulting in a lack of large-scale early spring migration. However, there were early records of Swallow, House Martin and Yellow Wagtail. Towards the month end a Richard's Pipit was found at Holme and several Iceland Gulls appeared.

The first half of **April** was dominated by high pressure systems and although warm and sunny the westerly winds were not conducive to mass spring migration. Despite these conditions several interesting birds were found including a Serin well inland at Bawburgh and two more Iceland Gulls in the first few days of the month, which also saw large movements of Buzzards, Corvids and Wood Pigeons on the east coast. An elusive White Stork toured the county from mid-month through to May and there were Hoopoes at Holme, Yarmouth and Morston. The 20th also saw a second large Buzzard movement, this time on the north coast. An area of low pressure over the Channel on the 22nd brought fresh easterly winds and a large arrival of summer migrants. These increasingly warmer easterlies, uninterrupted from well into western Russia, persisted for the following week and migrants continued to arrive including several Spoonbills, Dotterel, Wrynecks and Great Grey Shrikes, along with an obliging Little Bunting at Holme.

May continued where April left off and with pressure building over Scandinavia the east to south-easterlies continued. The first few days of the month saw exceptional numbers of Brent Geese still lingering on the north coast, an Isabelline Shrike at Snettisham, a widespread passage of Black Terns, Collared Flycatcher at Cley on 5th, Red-rumped Swallow and Subalpine Warbler at Sheringham on 7th with another Subalpine Warbler at Blakeney Point on the same day. The winds moved between north-west and easterly over the next ten days or so and exciting migrants continued to arrive: Bee-eater at Burnham Norton, and Greater Yellowlegs at Breydon/Berney on 15th. Breydon/Berney in a true purple patch also hosted American Wigeon and Red-throated Pipit on the same day. Elsewhere a Sardinian Warbler was at Holme on 18th, while a Cattle Egret near Gunton Park on the same day later moved to the Upper Thurne area of the Broads where it commenced a prolonged stay until bitter weather in November brought about its departure or demise. High pressure crossing Norfolk on 21st and into

the Baltic by the 23rd established a flow of warm south to south-easterly winds for several days. A surge of colourful southern European vagrants appeared during this period with Hoopoe, 3 more Subalpine Warblers, another 4 Red-throated Pipits, Woodchat Shrike, Great Reed Warbler and, taking pride of place for many, a superb male Rock Thrush at Holme.

June was unseasonably cool for the first half of the month, with predominantly northerly winds, and it was a quiet month compared to all the activity of May. Nevertheless the month got off to a good start with Laughing Gull at Salthouse, the Cattle Egret attracting many observers throughout the month, and a Lesser Yellowlegs appeared erratically at Burnham Norton. As pressure built to the west of Britain from the 10th the winds veered towards the north-east, bringing a mini influx of Scarlet Rosefinches on the east coast, raising false hopes that they might stay and breed. Continuing its run of good birds Breydon was visited briefly by both Terek Sandpiper and Whiskered Tern on 15th. Two Bee-eaters flew over Old Hunstanton on 16th, and a Serin resided at Potter Heigham at the month end. Quail were much in evidence, as were Mediterranean Gulls with as many as 27 present around the county.

July was generally hot and sunny with only brief isolated thundery outbreaks. As usual waders stole the show with a Collared Pratincole returning to the north coast for the second year running, Terek Sandpiper at Snettisham 14th/15th, Baird's Sandpiper at Cley on 30th and White-rumped Sandpiper at Snettisham on 31st (staying into August). Other highlights included a number of passing Mediterranean Shearwaters, Woodchat Shrike alongside the Peddars Way at Great Cressingham and an early Icterine Warbler at Cley on the last day of the month.

The sunny weather continued for much of **August**. Following a Lesser Yellowlegs at Holme on 2nd, three Marsh Sandpipers appeared together at Cantley BF on 4th, remaining until the 13th. Otherwise, however, the wader passage was one of the poorest in recent years. Little Egret numbers continued to increase at Titchwell reaching 9 – exceeding the previous county site total. Odd passerines, including 2 Greenish Warblers, were seen in mid-month but a cold front moving south-east on 22nd/23rd resulted in a small fall of Scandinavian migrants in the following northerly drift. Species included Barred and Icterine Warblers, Red-backed Shrikes and Wrynecks. Towards the end of the month a build-up of high pressure to the north of Britain took place resulting in strengthening northerlies in the North Sea. This period saw some of the year's best sea-watching from the 28th–30th, with many skuas, including notable numbers of Long-tailed Skuas and an accompanying "cast" of species such as Sooty and Cory's Shearwaters, Leach's Petrels and Sabine's Gulls.

An influx of Greenish Warblers (several of which have not been submitted and documented) took place in early **September** associated with an area of low pressure over eastern Europe passing westwards. On the 4th a Pectoral Sandpiper was found at Cantley BF, the first of three there during the month. This site also attracted a Black-necked Grebe, up to three Spotted Crakes and a Red-necked Phalarope in September. One wonders if other inland sites such as this would turn up as many interesting birds if as well watched. A deep low moved east along the Channel on the 7th and the resultant easterlies over the North Sea produced in the next three days Hoopoe, an early Richard's Pipit, two Red-throated Pipits, Siberian Stonechat, three Ortolan Buntings and a very confident Red-necked Phalarope on a pond near Little Walsingham. Following several days of light south/west winds from the 10th a thundery low tracked along the Channel on 15th/16th; the resultant light north-easterly flow produced a small influx of migrants on 16th/17th, including Citrine Wagtail at Kelling Quags. Another low moved from Biscay into the North Sea on 18th, with light cloud, reduced visibility and light rain

arriving in the afternoon. Along with a strengthening easterly wind this produced a massive arrival of drift migrants, the largest fall since 1965. Thousands of Redstarts and Willow Warblers appeared along the coast, with hundreds of Wheatears and many other species in smaller numbers including Wrynecks, Red-breasted Flycatchers and Red backed Shrikes. Surprisingly the only uncommon bird found was a Little Bunting at Yarmouth. Many birds remained over the following days, allowing observers to enjoy the abundance of migrants, often in strange locations. Small numbers especially Redstarts were also seen inland. As the low moved away eastwards the wind backed north-easterly on 19th/20th driving several interesting seabirds onshore. Despite the presence of north west and west winds for the rest of the month two Bluethroats and another Siberian Stonechat appeared.

October was very warm and sunny with winds mainly between south and west. It was hence a very disappointing month for rarities, although there was some compensation in a well-watched and very obliging Buff-breasted Sandpiper on the cliff top at Weybourne, a Spotted Crake at Cley, several Sabine's Gulls, and a Marsh Warbler trapped at Sheringham. The "unproductive" spell suddenly changed on 25th when a Pine Bunting was found just over the county boundary at Hopton. In the afternoon, however, after several false starts it finally crossed over the boundary, adding a new species to the county list. The next day the sea was completely calm with a light easterly wind. To the amazement of coastal observers Little Auks began passing in large numbers and several were seen to fly inland, either on their own or accompanying flocks of Starlings. It is likely that this major displacement occurred as a result of strong north-easterly winds through the Denmark Strait a few days previously. The afternoon of the 29th also saw the arrival of a small number of Passerines and 2 Pallas's Warblers and a Radde's Warbler in Yarmouth cemetery in the afternoon. Another Pallas's Warbler was found at Holme.

November started with a large fall of Redwings at Holme and Hunstanton and many Blackbirds at most coastal sites. Little Auks were still stranded in the North Sea and vast numbers passed on 2nd-4th in northerly winds as a low developed and deepened over Central Europe. This weather system also produced north-easterly winds over southern Scandinavia resulting in not only a series of late seabird records, but also large numbers of geese and duck arriving, together with other typical late autumn immigrants such as Long-eared Owls and Woodcock; a Pallas's Warbler was well watched at close range at Warham. Large numbers of Redpolls started to arrive; many were increasingly identified as Mealy's as the month progressed. A Red-breasted Goose appeared at Welney on 12th. Further suitable sea-watching conditions occurred on 18th/19th and a Storm Petrel was off Sheringham. Two Arctic Redpolls were seen in the Redpoll flocks. The month was generally dry and mild, producing several records of late summer visitors, and ended with another Red-breasted Goose, this time at Sea Palling.

December is normally a quiet month birdwise, but 1995 proved to be the exception. High pressure to the north and east was dominant for much of the month giving east or north-easterly winds and cold temperatures, with more frequent snow than in recent years. Despite the weather 2 Quail were seen, and 1-2 Stone Curlew and 37 Woodlarks remained. Some impressive counts of more typical winter species were made: 750 Red-throated Divers passed Sheringham on 2nd; 37 Slavonian Grebes at Titchwell on 10th; 954 Whooper Swans at Welney on 11th; over 50,000 Pink-footed Geese were in the NW of the county on 22nd, and nearly 300 Scaup passed Sheringham on 31st. In addition there was an influx of Barnacle Geese. Fieldfares which had been virtually absent earlier in the autumn began arriving from 17th, and thousands were in evidence by the year's end; they were accompanied by 5 Ring Ouzels – surprise Christmas presents. Woodcock also increased and many shooting estates reported their largest numbers for 20 years.

Mealy Redpoll numbers continued to rise and increasingly Arctic Redpolls were identified amongst the Redpoll flocks. Up to 4 were well scrutinised at Cromer, where a Serin was also discovered. Waxwings started to arrive in small numbers from 7th and a flock of 23 at Pretty Corner at the end of the month was just a taste of the year to come.

Giles Dunmore, Phil Heath and Steve Wakeham

Pine Bunting – A First for Norfolk

Ricky Fairhead and Robert Wilton

The weather during the greater part of October had been dominated by south-westerly winds resulting in an almost complete dearth of migrants. However, on the 28th light north-easterly winds offered a good chance of interesting migrants. We decided to visit Corton where a large finch flock had become established at the Ministry of Defence complex on the county boundary.

Despite regular visits Corn Bunting had been the most notable bird this site had produced all year so 5 Twite was an event. We then noticed several Yellowhammers on the fence and among them a stranger displaying a white facial patch. We quickly realised it was a Pine Bunting, an extremely rare vagrant to north-west Europe. After a couple of minutes viewing the prize headed off in a westerly direction escorted by 2 Yellowhammers. All three landed near the road, but a brief scan of the kale revealed nothing. We decided to spread the news.

Arriving back at mid-day the Pine Bunting was again on the perimeter fence. But as might be expected it quickly dropped into the kale just as the first birders arrived. A nail-biting 2¼ hour wait followed. Then Ian Metcalf and John Oates spotted it amongst a group of Yellowhammers. It then crept into kale before showing at close quarters finally giving the assembled crowd excellent views.

For the remainder of the afternoon this Pine Bunting performed from time to time – mainly on the Suffolk side of the boundary. Fortunately it was later observed very well in the county of Norfolk before flying south to roost with Yellowhammers.

This Pine Bunting was a text-book individual, most probably a first-winter male. It lacked any yellow colouration and, most importantly, the fringes to the primaries were white. The latter feature excludes the possibility of a hybrid. Pine Buntings breed in similar habitat to Yellowhammers and hybridisation occurs in one area of western Siberia. In fact a hybrid appeared at Sizewell in Suffolk in April 1982. The origin of Siberian buntings are always open to debate particularly following the increase in the wild bird trade. This Pine bunting was undoubtedly wild; the following day 3 Siberian migrants (2 Pallas's and a Radde's Warbler) appeared at Yarmouth.

The Corton Bunting becomes a county first for both Norfolk and Suffolk. Pine buntings breed in Siberia, south of the Arctic Circle, west to the Urals and in Mongolia, favouring forest clearings in wet valleys. In winter they may be found in northern and north-eastern China, north-west India and Afghanistan.

Breeding waders in the Broads ESA

Dave Weaver, RSPB

The Broadland grazing marshes form one of the largest remaining areas of lowland wet grassland in Britain, a valuable wildlife habitat that has been drastically reduced by drainage and agricultural improvement nationally during the last 40 years. The importance of these marshes to breeding and overwintering wildfowl and waders was highlighted in the early 1980s with the threat of major drainage schemes allowing continued arable conversion supported by flood alleviation proposals. Concern for the conservation and traditional landscape value of these extensive marshes led to a major controversy surrounding a core area of Broadland, the Halvergate Marshes, heralding a gradual change in agricultural policy. The immediate outcome was the setting up of a pioneering voluntary incentive scheme, the Broad Grazing Marshes Conservation Scheme in 1985. This was a successful forerunner to one of the first Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) to be launched by MAFF in 1987, covering a much larger area.



(R.A. Richardson)

The Broads ESA

Since 1987, the Broads ESA scheme has been widely accepted by livestock farmers and landowners and has been extended further into the tributary valleys, including the River Wensum. The ESA lies largely in Norfolk, the exception being the marshes along the Suffolk side of the River Waveney. The ESA currently offers grassland management agreements to farmers under three increasingly stringent tiers:

Tier 1 specifies a relatively extensive regime with restrictions on stocking rates, mowing and fertiliser use, and prohibition in the application of agro-chemicals.

Tier 2 imposes further restrictions on winter grazing and mowing dates, and fertiliser use. A key requirement is the maintenance of summer dyke levels to within 45cm of marsh level.

Tier 3 in addition to the lower tiers restricts spring grazing and stocking rates, and requires maintenance of the water table at marsh level during winter and early spring so as to create shallow pools.



and retiring. Golden Orioles winter in sub-Saharan Africa. A few pairs have summered in
uk since 1967 and breeding was first proved in 1971 (*C.R. Knights*).



Upper: Each Kingfisher has regular perches from which it fishes. It sits upright, tail pointing downwards as it watches the water. Suddenly it drops with a splash usually returning with a struggling captive (*C.R. Knights*). Lower: Largest nesting groups of Little Grebes are to be found at Holkham NNR and close to Breydon Water along the south bank dyke and the RSPB Breckland Reserve (*A. Bloomfield*).





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Holme/Hunstanton GC male Rock Thrush provided these splendid portraits. It survived a close encounter with a hunting Sparrowhawk, remaining four days to the delight of the ranks of rvers. (Upper: *D. Nye*; both lower: *R. Chittenden*).





British Birds celebrated its half-century in 1957. The June issue that year contained an article on *Collared Doves in Norfolk: A bird new to the British List*; Richard Richardson specially painted the illustration.

Collared Doves are abundant nowadays. But breeding was not proved in this country until 1956 when a pair nested at Cromer followed by successful nesting at Overstrand in 1956. Within the space of a very few years the birds became widespread and locally numerous resulting in them being taken for granted by birders. Yet it is salutary to remember that at the time Witherby's *Handbook of British Birds* appeared in 1938–41, Collared Doves were breeding no nearer than Hungary, Slovakia and Austria. Yet by 1949 the species had reached Holland, Denmark and Sweden. A decade later it was resident in all European countries except Iceland, Finland, Spain and Portugal. By 1974 these countries, too, had each been colonised.

The 'superwet' Tier 3 agreements were introduced as part of a revised scheme in 1992, aimed specifically at providing suitable conditions for wintering wildfowl and breeding waders, principally on the alluvial grazing marshes. In addition, eligible capital works include the construction of water control measures such as bunds, sluices and culverts, and even the creation of scrapes and the reinstatement of dykes for the benefit of wildlife.

The most recent information from MAFF on agreement uptake throughout the Broads ESA indicates nearly 60% under Tier 1, 40% under Tier 2, and 3% under Tier 3 of the total area of about 150km² within the scheme. The earlier trend to arable conversion has been reversed through an additional tier promoting reinstatement of permanent grassland.

Within the ESA, there has also been considerable expansion of nature reserves in recent years, especially at Berney and Buckenham/Cantley (both RSPB), Ludham Marshes (English Nature) and Heigham Holmes (National Trust). Most of these reserves are now being managed with high dyke level control and traditional grazing, making optimum use of ESA Tier 2 and Tier 3 agreements.

Breeding wader surveys

The purpose of the 1995 survey was to provide up-to-date information for an ESA Review in 1996, and Water Level Management Plans (WLMPs) currently being compiled by internal drainage boards (IDBs) in consultation with statutory bodies.

Breeding bird surveys have concentrated on the three key wader species of wet grassland: snipe, redshank and lapwing. All have undergone major declines on lowland farmland, largely as a result of habitat change, with snipe and redshank being particularly sensitive to the effects of improved drainage. Oystercatchers, in contrast, have increased inland throughout several parts of Britain. The Broadland grazing marshes hold large though dispersed populations of all four species and also good breeding numbers of little grebe, mute swan, shelduck, gadwall, shoveler, pochard, tufted duck, skylark, meadow pipit, yellow wagtail, sedge warbler and reed bunting. These marshes also provide extensive foraging areas for herons, kestrels, marsh harriers and barn owls.

Previous bird surveys of the Broads include those contributing to the nationwide Breeding Waders of Wet Meadows Survey in 1982, prior to introduction of the ESA scheme (Murlitt & Weaver 1982, Smith 1983), and by RSPB in 1988 shortly after its designation (O'Brien & Buckingham 1989). The first survey attempted full coverage of all suitable sites by three visits while the latter provided a more intensive baseline on grassland sample sites representing approximately 40% of the original area of the ESA. These were surveyed on a field-by-field basis using the methods of the 1989 national survey (O'Brien & Smith 1992). The comprehensive 1995 survey aimed to cover all suitable habitats in the Broads ESA, mainly grazing marshes but including arable land, river ronds and some grazed fens. This included the 1988 baseline sample sites, to obtain comparable results from two visits between mid-April and early June. The survey was achieved through partnership funding and the collaboration of a five-member survey team, field staff of six conservation bodies, ADAS staff and volunteers. Two detailed, complementary reports were produced (Weaver 1995a&b).

Current populations and distribution

Table 1 summarises the estimated total number of pairs of the four species by river valley, and Table 2 lists some of the key sites. The 'lower valleys' combined the majority of the wide coastal floodplain of the rivers Bure, Yare and Waveney, forming part of the Yare Basin and known as the 'Halvergate Triangle'.

Table 1. Breeding wader populations of the Broads ESA in 1995, summarised by river valley

	Area (km ²)	No. of pairs (density prs/km ²)			
		Snipe	Redshank	Lapwing	Oystercatcher
Wensum	18.5	29 (1.6)	0	66 (3.6)	20 (1.1)
Ant	8.6	1 (0.1)	12.5 (1.5)	33 (3.8)	8 (0.9)
Thurne	23.8	10 (0.4)	35.5 (1.5)	58 (2.4)	14 (0.6)
Bure	23.4	18 (0.8)	18.0 (0.8)	62 (2.6)	10 (0.4)
Yare	27.6	25 (0.9)	41.0 (1.5)	118 (4.3)	25 (0.9)
Waveney	54.3	12 (0.2)	65.5 (1.2)	145 (2.7)	24 (0.4)
Lower valleys	57.9	0	129.0 (2.2)	211 (3.6)	89 (1.5)
ESA overall	214.1	95 (0.4)	301.5 (1.4)	693 (3.2)	190 (0.9)

Note: The Norfolk side of the Waveney held 10 pairs of snipe, 46 pairs of redshanks, 86 pairs of lapwings and 13 pairs of oystercatchers.

Table 2. Summary of some key sites/areas for breeding waders in the Broads ESA in 1995

	Snipe	No. of pairs		
		Redshank	Lapwing	Oystercatcher
Fakenham to source (Upper Wensum)	24	—	28	5
Heigham Holmes (Upper Thurne)	—	7.5	12	2
Hickling Marshes (Upper Thurne)	9	4.5	8	2
Wroxham-Coltishall (Mid/upper Bure)	11	—	5	—
Oby/Clippesby Marshes (Mid Bure)	—	12.5	42	4
S. Walsham Marshes (Lower Bure)	—	31.5	75	20
Strumpshaw/Buckenham Cantley (Mid Yare)	13	23	57	7
Belton/Fritton Marshes (Lower Waveney)	1	38.5	30	5
Berney Marshes (Lower Yare)	—	15	15	3
Chedgrave Marshes (Haddiscoe Island)	—	41.5	83	37

The results confirm the distribution patterns found in previous surveys. The 95 pairs of snipe were mainly on the rough, rushy pastureland associated with waterlogged peaty soils along the upper valleys and floodplain fringes. The Upper Wensum and mid-Bure and mid-Yare valleys supported the main concentrations. Due to the groundwater action of valley-edge springs and flushes, many such areas were already poorly-drained and have consequently attracted Tier 2 and small-scale Tier 3 agreements which appear to be helping to maintain these localised

populations. In general, Broadland reserves such as Strumpshaw and Hickling Marshes (both under Tier 2 agreements) supported above average densities.

The 301–302 pairs of redshanks were found entirely in Broadland, the highest numbers and densities occurring on the alluvial grazing marshes of the coastal floodplain, particularly around the lower Bure and Waveney, and around Breydon Water. These included the extensive Tier 2 land on Haddiscoe Island, South Walsham, Belton and Fritton Marshes, and the Tier 2/Tier 3 Berney Marshes Reserve. The mid-Yare and Thurne catchment reserves also held important concentrations. Redshanks were virtually absent from the upper valleys and the Wensum. High-level dykes with shallow, poached edges, footdrains and pools on the marshes complemented by brackish pools on adjacent cut reed ronds and intertidal areas provided important feeding areas.

The 693 pairs of lapwings were distributed throughout the ESA on short grassland, especially where bare ground remained from winter flooding. There were some notable concentrations, but also a remarkable absence on some extensive, and apparently suitable marshes in the lower valleys. Damp pasture also provided feeding opportunities for many arable-nesting pairs adjacent to the upper valleys especially along the Wensum. The two most important sites were Haddiscoe Island and South Walsham Marshes, both essentially Tier 2 marshes although the latter also included some recently-tilled arable. These two sites together accounted for over 20% of the ESA population. However, the Buckenham Marshes reserve held by far the highest density of any single site (31.7 prs/km²).

The 190 pairs of oystercatchers were also spread widely throughout the ESA, though as would be expected with an essentially coastal species, about 50% were found on the coastal floodplain. Although absent from the upper Bure and Waveney valleys, several pairs scattered along the Wensum demonstrate the continuing inland spread that this species has undergone locally in recent years, reflecting a long-term national trend (see also Murfitt & Weaver 1982). Haddiscoe Island and South Walsham Marshes were again the main sites both in terms of population size and density, together supporting over 30% of the ESA population. The drier habitat requirements of oystercatchers were reflected in a wider distribution across the ESA tiers, less dependence on reserves than other species, and opportunistic use of recently-tilled land, gravel workings, dyke spoil banks and other locations with bare ground.

On privately-owned agreement land, between 33–42% of all breeding wader territories, and over 40% of the grassland populations of the four species were found on Tier 2, about twice as many pairs as on Tier 1 (and in a smaller overall area). Correspondingly, breeding densities on grassland ranged from below average on Tier 1 (even lower than on non-agreement land), to above average on Tier 2, the exception being snipe. However, there was considerable variation between sites under Tier 2. On Tier 3 land, high densities for snipe were found, although very small areas were involved.

Grassland managed as nature reserves supported almost a quarter of snipe and redshanks, and overall densities were well above average and higher by far for snipe, redshanks and lapwings than privately-owned ESA grassland. Importantly, the majority of land under Tier 3 agreement is also under reserve management, made possible by water level control, often in combination with Tier 2 land managed at water levels exceeding the minimum qualifying requirements. An even higher overall density of redshanks was found on the ronds adjacent to grazing marshes along the lower rivers.

Population changes since 1982

Breeding population estimates obtained from the results of the full surveys in 1982 and 1995 and the 1988 sample survey are summarised and compared in Table 3.

Table 3. Number of territories of breeding waders recorded in three surveys of the Broad's grazing marshes: (a) overall results from areas covered in 1982 and 1995 survey (b) results from sample sites where data also available in 1988 (c) results from all sample sites covered in both 1988 and 1995

	1982		1988			1995		
	a	b	a	b	c	a	b	c
Snipe	78	57	131	81	83	62	48	50
Redshank	198	79	302	126.5	159	301.5	133	155
Lapwing	722	407	767	318	374	627	277	321
Oystercatcher	123	36	?	42	46	170	50	63

Note: The figures given under (a) for 1988 were estimates extrapolated from sample site densities.

There were some gaps in coverage during the 1982 survey that could account for population levels up to 15% higher, particularly for redshank. In addition, the revised interpretation of results used in subsequent surveys could have increased estimated numbers of redshank by up to 34% during that survey (O'Brien & Smith 1992). Sample sites (column c in Table 3) selected for the 1988 baseline survey represented approximately 40% of Tier 1, Tier 2 and non-agreement grassland, and all nature reserves and SSSIs at the time. There were no sample sites in the Wensum valley which was added to the ESA later.

Overall results indicate increases for all species between 1982 and 1988 and subsequent declines for lapwing and particularly snipe, while redshank appear to have remained stable and oystercatchers have further increased. The changes on sample sites between 1988 and 1995 account for decreases in snipe by nearly 40%, redshank by 2.5% and lapwing by over 14%, while oystercatchers increased by 37%. Although large, these changes were not found to be statistically significant due to wide variation in changes between sites. However, even against the minimum figures presented for 1982 it is evident that there has been a long-term decline in both snipe (over 20%) and lapwing (13%), and an increase in oystercatchers (38%). These results are consistent with national trends for these species.

Examining changes on sample sites between 1988 and 1995 revealed mixed fortunes for each species. There were decreases for snipe in all ESA and conservation categories, including some nature reserves using Tier 3 prescriptions. Suitable habitat was still available in some marginal sites, but drumming birds were often not recorded where formerly present. Changes in redshank numbers reflected management status more closely, and in general there were declines or losses on non-agreement and Tier 1 sites, stable numbers on Tier 2, and compensating increases on recently developed Tier 3 nature reserves and SSSIs. Lapwing numbers showed similar trends to redshank, but despite notable concentrations on the extensive Tier 2 grazing marshes of Haddiscoe Island and the lower Bure, losses especially in the Halvergate Triangle and along the lower Thurne resulted in a net decline. Oystercatchers increased or were stable on all sites and across all ESA and conservation categories.

Discussion

Weather conditions may be a contributory factor in annual fluctuations of breeding wader populations. In both 1982 and 1995, April was a particularly dry month with rainfall below average, and in 1995 May continued dry. In 1988 by contrast, the area of grassland with surface flooding was noted as unusually large, providing favourable conditions for breeding waders (O'Brien & Buckingham 1989). Furthermore, a serious drought has occurred during

intervening years. Snipe are particularly sensitive to changes in soil surface moisture at breeding sites, and this may partly explain the wide fluctuations in numbers over the period of this difficult species to census.

Some indication of weather-related changes across ESA management categories has previously been demonstrated (O'Brien & Self 1994). A comparison of breeding density indices in the Broads between 1988 and small samples during the drought conditions of 1990/91 showed losses on Tier 1 land, and stable or increasing numbers on Tier 2 marshes. This suggests that in dry years, there is an increased concentration of breeding waders on wetter grazing marshes (then Tier 2). However, in all surveys there was a substantial differential between wader numbers on Tier 1 and Tier 2, in both wet and dry springs, and the 1995 results show even higher densities on Tier 3 marshes.

The survey again showed that Tier 1 grassland is poor for breeding waders, while Tier 2 is extremely variable, depending largely on the water level control exercised, allowing considerable latitude in dyke levels. Previous research has shown that a water table within about 20cm during the breeding season is necessary for snipe (Green 1986). On the alluvial grazing marshes, concentrations of birds occurred where dyke levels are maintained close to field level, whereas water levels at minimum requirements (45cm freeboard) were poor for birds. On such marshes, where field surfaces were dry by May, small-scale surface features such as wet footdrains and depressions and redundant dykes were important features to support feeding waders.

The much higher water level Tier 3 prescriptions inevitably provided the best conditions. It is therefore of little surprise that in a dry spring, stable or increasing populations of species such as snipe, redshank and lapwing would have been concentrated on the wetter reserves adopting these prescriptions. Elsewhere, with few exceptions, it would appear that such prescriptions have been either too radical or not provided with enough incentives to attract uptake other than from conservation bodies.

It has been widely acknowledged that there has been a trend to undergrazing in the Broads and there is an indication, though no direct evidence, that this may have adversely affected lapwing numbers. Several areas where lapwings were formerly abundant, such as the Thurne valley, were found to hold very few in 1995, and swards were relatively tall in this area.

Conclusions

The ESA appears to be working in principle and has helped significantly to ensure the maintenance and management of the Broadland grazing marshes. Certainly it has proved enormously attractive with landowners. However, the long-term decline of breeding waders in lowland Britain, particularly snipe and lapwing in the Broads in recent years, is of some concern.

The results of this survey contribute to the current ESA review which provides the opportunity to fine-tune the structure of management prescriptions to balance the requirements of wildlife interests with traditional and viable grazing systems and achieve more positive environmental benefits over the ESA as a whole. The objective of restoring breeding wader and other bird populations should be widely achievable, and not only on nature reserves. The full potential of ESA prescriptions may also be realised by a more integrated approach through the statutory requirement of WLMPs which are currently being prepared by IDBs for their catchments with input from various interests. A good example has recently been introduced for Heigham Holmes, under a range of ESA management, and already the results are encouraging.

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The Little Auk 'Wreck'

Moss Taylor

The Little Auk or Dovekie, as it is more attractively known in North America, is probably the most abundant Atlantic auk. Despite this, its appearance in Norfolk is, to say the least, erratic.

Little Auks breed in large colonies in the High Arctic, extending further north than any of the other Atlantic auks. They normally overwinter in the pelagic waters of the Lovén Sea, often remaining near the edge of the pack ice, where the greatest abundance of oceanic zooplankton is to be found.

To Norfolk, the species is an annual autumn and winter visitor to coastal waters, but in very variable numbers. In some years they are extremely scarce. In 1976 only four were recorded with seven in 1979 and 1994. In other years, well documented 'wrecks' have occurred when hundreds of Little Auks have been found. Since the first recorded 'wreck' in 1841, there have been about fourteen 'wreck' years, but that in 1995 will long remain in the memory.

A scattering of records along the north Norfolk coast from October 18th hardly prepared observers for the record numbers that were to pass many coastal sea-watching sites in late October and early November.

October 29th dawned calm and sunny but clear skies produced a heavy overnight frost. Despite the lack of a northerly wind sea-watchers were rewarded with good numbers of Little Auks flying west. Peak counts were 250 at Cley, 190 at Sheringham and 120 at Mundesley. Smaller numbers continued to pass offshore over the next two days, with a few along the east coast of Norfolk, including seven seen flying over Yarmouth cemetery.

On November 1st the weather changed to a light northerly wind, overcast skies and drizzle and the numbers of Little Auks increased with a maximum count of 150 west at Overstrand. By the following day the wind had freshened and spectacular numbers were recorded, many sites in both north and east Norfolk exceeding their previous highest day counts. As in other 'wreck' years, birds were flying north along the east Norfolk coast and west along the north facing coast. Therefore considerable duplication of records was inevitable, but it appears that about 2,000 Little Auks passed Norfolk on this day alone. The major counts made on November 2nd, starting in the south of the county were Yarmouth 302, Mundesley 1,688, Overstrand 570, Sheringham 1,375, Cley 1,200 and Holme 625.

A strengthening wind on the 3rd ensured a continued passage of Little Auks, albeit in smaller numbers, but with still over 100 recorded from sites as far apart as Overstrand, Weybourne and Holme. The first exhausted birds were being found and by the 4th, the weather was beginning to take its toll with Little Auk corpses appearing on the tideline. At Holme 20 were found dead on the beach, while between Horsey and Winterton 27 corpses were counted on the 5th. Many were blown inland where they were discovered dead or moribund in gardens and on roads, one even being found as far inland as Diss Mere.

With a return to calmer weather, a lull occurred in the passage of Little Auks, but a further significant movement was recorded between November 13th and 18th. On these dates the majority of birds were flying east along the north Norfolk coast, presumably in an attempt at reorientation. Peak counts were made at Sheringham with 420 on the 13th, 120 on the 14th, 100 on the 17th and 60 on the 18th.

Many exhausted Little Auks remained in the lower reaches of the North Sea until the following February while at Snettisham pits the species was present continuously from October 30th to February 16th, peaking at 9 in mid-November. As in previous years, Little Auks were often passing offshore in the company of the smaller waders, Puffins and Starlings; many of the weaker birds fell prey to marauding Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls.

Exactly what caused the 'wreck' of Little Auks in autumn 1995 is uncertain, but it may have been related to severe storms around Iceland at the time. Although Little Auks are able to withstand storms at sea under normal conditions, prolonged gales prevent the zooplankton, on which they feed, from making their daily vertical migration to the surface waters. Hungry and weakened birds are thus driven before the storm and move further south than normal in their search for suitable feeding areas. Just how many successfully make the return journey is a matter for speculation.

As Bannerman said: "A dovekie's life seems to be one long fight against the odds, but that it has managed to overcome them to the extent it has in its Arctic home, its stupendous numbers bear witness; how long can this last?"

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Buzzards in Norfolk

John R. Williamson

Historical status

The Buzzard has long been a scarce bird in Norfolk. Ancient 19th century breeding records from Hethel and Ashwellthorpe were traced by M.J. Seago (*Birds of Norfolk* 1977), who recorded the species as a scarce visitor, usually singly in spring and autumn and less regularly in the winter months, on some half a dozen occasions each year. A total of 16 were noted in 1963 and a notable immigration took place in 1931–2 when 10 were recorded on Holkham Park with others at Cley, Rackheath and Burnham Overy; four were received by a Norwich taxidermist at this time.

When large tracts of forest covered Britain, it was likely that the Buzzard was widespread in many counties. However, forest clearance, agricultural endeavours and keeping activities combined to produce the demise of the species, notably in southern and eastern lowland areas. This led to the generally held belief that the species is a 'upland' bird in Britain nowadays. This is not a true representation of the distribution of the Buzzard in Europe. Indeed, *Birds of the Western Palearctic* considers it a 'lowland' raptor which only avoids very large wet or arid areas and is common up to 1,000m above sea level. It is therefore, probably safe to assume that the current British distribution is governed by the geographical location of the remaining stands of woodland (particularly sessile oak), combined with large areas of short vegetation which are preferred for hunting (e.g. sheep pastures). The lack of upland areas in Norfolk is not the reason for scarcity in the county.

Recent changes in status

The last few years have seen a marked change in occurrences in the county, though this is somewhat clouded by birds from a current licensed release scheme (see below), and possibly by other not so *bona fide* schemes and falconer's escapes.

There is a current upsurge in the number of localities recording Buzzards. The actual number involved, however, is very difficult to determine. There is often duplication at nearby sites, and more importantly, coastal sites are regularly recording birds on successive days in the migration period which could be the result of one lingering bird or more than one passing through.

Migrants: Records indicate an increase in migrant birds in both spring and autumn.

Autumn 1993 was notable for an arrival of continental drift-migrants in mid-September, in conjunction with an unprecedented passage of Honey Buzzards through the county. This movement included 5–6 Buzzards and was mirrored in East Suffolk.

The total of at least 40 Buzzards in 1994 was swollen partly by the arrival of a small number associated with the well-documented influx of Rough-legged Buzzards from the third week in October, with at least 8 records between October 20th and November 6th. It is possible that some of these birds remained to over-winter with the Rough-legs.

The spring of 1995 produced an immense passage of Buzzards through the county, commencing mid-to late-March, including 4 south at Winterton on 23rd, 4 at Salthouse Heath on 26th and 3 at Wroxham at this time lured by a photographer's carrion bait. At least 15 moved through before the month-end. April saw an avalanche of records, mainly during the third week. Six were on the county border at Lound on 2nd, with 7+ at Winterton the same day and 5 there on 9th. Five were at Felbrigg Wood on 14th before a

huge westerly passage commenced on 20th when 4 passed Mundesley/Paston, 32 (in groups of 21, 9 and 2) passed Sheringham, 11 (in ones and twos moved through Holkham NNR in under 3 hours in the afternoon and 20 passed over Thornham. The paucity of records from east coast localities at this time indicates an arrival from the north-east, with birds continuing in a westerly direction along the north Norfolk coast. Eight were at Hickling on 23rd, but generally numbers declined after this with the odd birds in May.

By comparison, autumn 1995 was unspectacular, although concentrations of up to 6 at Cley and West Acre were noteworthy.

It is clear that unusual numbers of raptors are capable of crossing the North Sea should favourable conditions prevail during both spring and autumn passage periods.

Breeding: Supposed 'pairs' of unknown origin summered at Swaffham and Westacre in 1991 and it is more than likely they accounted for the 1-2 present at Massingham Heath in early 1991. Birds were seen here on and off throughout the summer, remaining to the autumn, when 7 appeared in the air together there in September. It was possible this constituted first breeding in the county since the last century. More likely, however, it was an illegal release.

During 1992 a pair raised 2 young at a site in central Norfolk. The origin of these birds is unknown and they may be linked to the events of the previous year. The nest was in typical habitat: large stands of mixed woodland interspersed with open meadows and agricultural land. Discussions with the landowners resulted in a decision that location of the site should not be revealed, partly for the safety of the birds and partly due to the fact that viewing is available only from private land. This situation remains, as do the birds which have bred successfully each subsequent year.

A further 2 pairs raised a total of 5 young in 1993, and at least 2 birds were present at a further 2 sites during the summer.

In 1994 two pairs each raised a single young. A third pair was thought likely to have bred, but with unknown success. Two further sites held pairs seen in display during the breeding season, but no evidence of breeding was forthcoming. An additional site held 2 birds often soaring together but not seen in display. These two birds subsequently proved to be juveniles from the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology release scheme.

In 1995 'pairs' summered at a minimum of 3 localities, but breeding could only be proved at one site where the long-standing resident pair again fledged one young.

Wintering: Most Buzzards breeding in Britain have a wintering range associated with the breeding site, but usually extending over a greater area. There is no evidence to suggest that those breeding in Norfolk behave differently.

These residents have therefore helped to swell wintering numbers in the county in recent years. Separation from visiting birds is often possible as the residents' ranges are now fairly well established.

The tendency is for about 40% of first calendar-year birds to remain close to the natal area during their first winter, usually being driven off by parents at the onset of breeding activity the following spring.

The Institute of Terrestrial Ecology release scheme

Since 1994, under a licence by *English Nature*, and with the assistance of *Game Conservancy*, the ITE has been undertaking a Buzzard release scheme in Norfolk.

Much information is already available on behaviour in natural populations, including data from 136 radio-tagged birds in Dorset over a period of 5 years. Hopefully, the scheme will reveal how much information on habitat availability and suitability can be

gleaned from a few releases in unpopulated areas.

The release sites are confidential to avoid disturbance and persecution becoming a unknown factor in the equation. A similar scheme is in operation in Sussex,

Methods: With landowner's permission, wild Buzzards are removed from nests outside the study areas. The numbers are supplemented with captive-bred birds, bred by member of *The British Falconer's Club*. All young are well feathered and capable of feeding themselves, though none are at a stage where they are ready to leave the nest. Each bird is fitted with a radio transmitter, capable of being located from land or air, pinpointing the position to within 100m.

Artificial nests were constructed from conifer clippings on a solid wooden base 1–1.5m in diameter, secured about 10m up a tree next to the main trunk and about 20–25m from the edge of the chosen wood. The Norfolk site was surrounded to a distance of 1 km by 50% woodland, 14% pasture and 36% arable, carefully selected to reflect the agricultural bias of the county when directly compared to the average Dorset site, which was 19% woodland, 40% pasture and 28% arable. A dustbin lid was secured about 1m above the nest for protection from heavy rain in the absence of brooding parent birds. In 1994 in Norfolk, 2 nests were constructed, each containing two siblings, one with an additional unrelated bird.

The nests were rigged with a pipe-and-plunger feeding system, for operation from below, to avoid human imprinting. Feeding took place at least once a day with various fresh carcasses until all the young had left the nest. Once all young were flying, feeding continued on a platform, 20–70m from the nest until all young had dispersed.

Having left the nest, the young Buzzards were found once a day and their position recorded. If on the ground, they were lifted to a low perch for protection from predators. Between 60–74 days of age, their positions were recorded twice a day for a period of 4 days, to provide social interaction data. Subsequent location was once a day until dispersion, then once every 2 weeks. On 2 occasions, a Cessna 172 light aircraft was used to locate tagged birds across the country. Flights at 2,000m are capable of locating all radio-tagged birds up to distance of 80 km.

Results to date: Initial results in Norfolk and Sussex are that the survival rate of released birds is very similar to that of the natural population up to the point of dispersion, that is about 10% losses.

In the case of the 5 Norfolk releases in 1994, one bird died and somewhat surprisingly, all four surviving birds dispersed from the release area together as a group. Dispersal was at an early age with none remaining to overwinter in the release area. As with the natural population, early dispersal tended to be over a greater distance than later dispersal. Three of these birds settled to winter together, about 15 km from the release site, the other being lost during dispersal.

A further 8 birds were released in Norfolk in 1995, with two new release sites being adopted, one of which encountered problems with predation and releases were curtailed at that site. Again dispersal was early from successful releases, though apparently not as large as in 1994.

No data is at present available on the tracking of 1995 released birds, nor on the tracking of second calendar-year birds in Norfolk during 1995, notably on whether they returned to their natal area in their first spring. Hopefully, this data will be available for publication at a later date.

Discussion: As expected, more enlightened keeping techniques nowadays have not

apparently posed a threat to the released birds and this is no longer considered likely to severely jeopardise the outward spread of the natural population in the country.

The early dispersal of released birds is of interest. Could it be the absence of parent birds leads to the early departure? Possibly assessment of prey available in the release areas was not surveyed from a 'Buzzards viewpoint' and lack of natural food forced early dispersal to more suitable feeding grounds.

In wild populations, first calendar-year Buzzards regularly return to their natal areas in the first spring, probably because feeding in these areas is known to be adequate in the summer months whereas this is an unknown quantity in areas occupied during their first winter. It will be of interest if released birds follow the same pattern.

Summary

To date research suggests that the British population of Buzzards is artificially restricted in range by historical persecution and changes in land usage. In today's more enlightened times an eastwards expansion of the native population would be expected. This, however, appears to be hampered by the regularity with which young birds return to their natal area. Subsequent searching for breeding territories is thus governed by availability of territories through older birds becoming casualties. Thus, only a slow eastwards spread is occurring.

There is considerable scope for expansion in the current range, with apparently suitable areas as far east as Norfolk. Meanwhile, a small population of escaped/immigrant Buzzards is making attempts to gain a tentative foothold as a breeding species in the county. At present, both breeding and release sites are confidential, hopefully ensuring no undue threats. Should the release scheme prove successful, it may just provide the boost that the county breeding population needs to stabilise and expand its numbers.

A note of caution: Two of the released Buzzards wandered to Swanton Novers Great Wood taking up extended residence there during the summer of 1995. It is, however, unclear if their arrival has had or is likely to have a disruptive effect on the summering Honey Buzzards. The latter moved to a nearby wood where their behaviour clearly indicated young were being fed in the nest. There were no sightings of flying young, but past experience suggests they seldom appear above the wood, preferring to remain below the canopy.

Acknowledgement

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Buzzard data since breeding recommenced in Norfolk in 1992

	1992	1993	1994	1995
Confirmed breeding pairs	1	3	2	1
Probable breeding pairs	—	1	1	—
Possible breeding pairs	1	1	2	1
Maximum breeding pairs	2	5	5	2
Minimum fledged young	2	6	2	1

Note: Confirmed breeding pairs: fledged young; Probable breeding pairs: summering adults, food carrying and display; Possible breeding pairs: adults in suitable location during breeding season.

Locations recording Buzzards in Norfolk, 1988–1994

1988	14	1992	34
1989	26	1993	35
1990	25	1994	44
1991	32		

Note: Data omitted for 1995 as ITE release scheme clouds true records of migrant wintering individuals.

The Origins of Rock Pipits in Norfolk

Moss Taylor

“Owing to the fact that the Scandinavian Rock Pipit can be distinguished from the Rock Pipit only when in summer plumage, it is impossible to say whether, or how often, it occurs in Norfolk in autumn and winter, all records being necessarily confined to birds obtained sufficiently late in the spring to have acquired the buffish pink feathers on the throat and breast which are characteristic of this race.” Thus wrote B.B. Riviere in his description of the Scandinavian Rock Pipit in *A History of the Birds of Norfolk* published in 1930.

Sixty-four years later in the *Norfolk Bird Report* 1994, the entry for Rock Pipit in the systematic list concludes “With virtually no ringing evidence to suggest that British Rock Pipits make regular long distance movements, it would seem logical to suggest that the majority of our passage and winter birds are Scandinavian”. Is there any other evidence to support this view and if so, what could be done in future winters to confirm it?

There are now considered to be only two subspecies of Rock Pipit: *Anthus petrosus petrosus* which breeds in Britain, Ireland and northwest France, and *A.p.littoralis* breeding in Fennoscandia and the Baltic countries (Knox 1988).

Despite advances in field identification, Rock Pipits appear to have been passed over and there is still no reliable method of separating the two subspecies in the field in autumn or winter plumage. In *petrosus* the winter plumage is largely retained and the birds are dark and heavily streaked as the breeding season approaches. However, the partial late-winter body moult of *littoralis* results in a distinctive spring plumage, to a degree which varies between individuals. The better marked birds showing a lavender-grey crown, nape and mantle, a whitish supercilium behind the eye, a creamy throat, and breast with fewer markings and often a pinkish tinge. Indeed, well marked birds can be confused with Water Pipit *A. spinoletta*.

The appearance of these spring-plumaged birds in Norfolk, mainly in March and early April, would seem to indicate that *littoralis* is only a spring passage migrant (Seago 1977). Current evidence, however, suggests that they are in fact the same birds which have over-wintered in Norfolk, but have not been recognised as such.

In autumn, Rock Pipits are regular migrants along the north Norfolk coast, always flying in a westerly direction, with the peak passage in October. The majority of records involve no more than 2–3 birds together (unlike Meadow Pipits which migrate in flocks of 10–20 birds or more) and daily counts at Sheringham and Weybourne rarely exceed about 20. But as long ago as 1884, a total of 400 were recorded at Blakeney on October

21st/22nd. More recently on October 8th 1990 an impressive total of 350 were counted at Sheringham trickling west in small parties throughout the day, all of which were considered to be *littoralis*.

For most species, visible diurnal passerine migration in autumn involves birds passing in a westerly direction along the north Norfolk coast. In particular this applies to other Fennoscandinavian winter visitors to Britain, such as Chaffinch and Brambling.

The only passerine which regularly migrates eastward along the north Norfolk coast in autumn is the Twite. Ringing recoveries have demonstrated that those Twite wintering in East Anglia and southeast England are from breeding populations in the southern Pennines. It is clearly these birds which are recorded flying east in autumn. If the Rock Pipits wintering in East Anglia were also from the breeding areas in northern England and Scotland, surely they too would be recorded flying east in autumn.

To date, no foreign-ringed Rock Pipits have been found in Norfolk, although birds ringed in Sweden and Norway have been recovered in Suffolk, in the southern North Sea and in Essex. Of particular interest was an adult male ringed on Malon Island, Sweden, March 27th 1990, seen at Benacre, Suffolk, January 20th 1991 and found back at Malon Island, June 15th 1992. It would be interesting to know if the bird was recognised as a Scandinavian Rock Pipit when seen in Suffolk in January. Other Scandinavian-ringed Rock Pipits (mainly from Sweden) have been found in Anglesey, Devon and Hampshire (including two which returned to the same winter site in subsequent years). Unfortunately the origin of a colour-ringed Rock Pipit at Breydon in two successive winters in the early 1970s could not be ascertained, but it definitely had not been ringed on Fair Isle (R. Riddington verbally).

Compare this with the recoveries of Scottish-ringed Rock Pipits, the majority of which have been ringed on Fair Isle. Movements over 100 km are exceptional and only one has been recovered in and that on the border in Northumberland. Another bird, a nestling from Fair Isle was found in The Netherlands. The recoveries also indicate that movements away from the breeding areas invariably involve only first-year birds.

Does *petrosus* ever visit Norfolk? One which was watched in full song on a factory roof at Yarmouth South Denes close to the harbour entrance, July 3rd 1989, was given in the *Norfolk Bird Report* 1989 as "An individual of typical British race...". John Mather in *The Birds of Yorkshire* states "Southerly passage is recorded at Spurn every autumn from September to November, and will include both British and Scandinavian birds." Unfortunately he does not say why he believes that British birds are involved.

The question therefore remains unanswered, but from the information to date, it appears that *petrosus* is an extremely rare visitor to Norfolk. In order to confirm the origins of Norfolk's Rock Pipits, observers need to establish methods of separating *petrosus* and *littoralis* in non-breeding plumage, perhaps with the aid of good quality photographs and videos. While Norfolk ringers should be encouraged to target winter Rock Pipits and to consider a county-wide colour-ringing programme.

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The County Rookery Survey

Bill Landells and Michael Seago

During 1994 a national rookeries survey was organised jointly by the RSPB's Young Ornithologists Club and Watch – the junior branch of the Wildlife Trusts. Over 1,600 young people took part in Rookwatch. The survey did not look at every rookery in the country, but concentrated on sites close to rook-watchers' homes.

Results of the 1994 survey suggested it was desirable to collect information for each rookery in the county during the following spring to ascertain if rooks – like many other farmland birds – are in decline. Details of the 1995 counts appear below. Thanks are due to all the observers who took part including many school children. Among observers who visited extensive areas of Norfolk mention needs to be made of Stuart and Jill Ellis (16 sites), Jonathan Hall (22 sites), Derek Ovenden (17 sites) and Lionel Wilkinson (18 sites). Counts were requested during a two-week period coinciding with the spring holiday. But a rapid rise in temperature resulted in foliage cover concealing nests before counts had been completed. Another hazard were clusters of nests concealed in lofty pines.

The largest complexes were recorded at Reedham (edging Halvergate Marshes) with 522 nests, Docking (Magpie Plantation) with 500 nests and Larling with 444 nests. The smallest was at Thorpe St. Andrew Hospital: 2 nests. The lowest was in overgrown hawthorn hedge at Bunwell (44 nests). The most unusual: a group of 4 nests over the centre of the A11 at Snetterton and 12 nests on giant pylons along the Norwich Southern bypass at Intwood/Keswick. In the circumstances it was essential to extend the survey for a further season and springtime 1996 counts feature in brackets. Additional abbreviations: nr: not relevant; nc: not counted and nf: not found.

The county total is of the order of 15,200 nests contained in 306 counted rookeries. A full analysis of Norfolk's rookeries is in progress and will feature in the next issue of the *Report*.

Acle Station	39	Barningham Hall	(50)
Alby Rookeries listed as Erpingham	nr	Bawdeswell	5
Aldeby – Church Farm	62	Bawdeswell Hall – S side	(72)
Antingham – The Moat	7	Bexwell	12
Ashby St Mary 1	(24)	Billockby Hall	110
Ashby St Mary 2	(56)	Blackborough End	(11)
Ashwellthorpe – The Barn	5	Blackborough End	(1)
Ashwicken Church	63	Blofield Church	36
Ashwicken Hall	20	Booton Church	47
Attleborough – Church/Vicarage area	43	Booton Hall	(166)
Attleborough – Station Road	9	Boughton	296
Attleborough Bypass	25	Braconash Church Wood	243
Attlebridge – River Bridge	35	Braconash Hall	60
Aylsham	25	Bramerton Church	66
Aylsham – Burgh Road	15	Breckles/Stow Bedon	138
Aylsham – Woodgate House	51	Brettenham 1	(37)
Banham – Grove Farm	66	Brettenham 2	22
Banham – Park Common Lane	16	Briningham	(60)
Banham – Pound Farm	(12)	Brinton	115
Barnham Broom – Bush Green	10	Brisley	41

Briston	11	Etling Green 2	34
Brooke	108	Fakenham School	6
Brumstead	25	Feltwell – Blackdyke Farm	38
Brumstead	58	Feltwell – East Hall	(61)
Buckenham	81	Feltwell – Manor Farm	(18)
Bunwell	(44)	Feltwell – White Dyke Farm	11
Burgh Castle	170	Fersfield Rectory	50
Burgh Castle Church	22	Fincham	60
Buxton – Rippon Hall	157	Fordham	23
Bylaugh	nf	Fornecott St Peter	54
Cantley	39	Foulsham	15
Carlton Rode – Old Hall Farm	(77)	Foulsham – Guist Road	103
Carlton St Peter	71	Foxley Village	(5)
Cawston – Brandiston Church	65	Framingham Pigot	10
Cawston – Docking Farm	(134)	Fransham 1	58
Cawston – Southgate Bridge	10	Fransham 2	12
Christchurch – Upwell Fen	10	Fundenhall	34
Claxton	47	Garboldisham Manor	(73)
Cockhat Corner SPTA	38	Gayton	12
Congham hall	28	Gayton	29
Congham Lane	38	Gissing Common	22
Crimplesham – Coldham's Lane Farm	25	Gooderstone	3
Crimplesham – Grange Farm	6	Great Hockham	(108)
Crimplesham – Home Farm	30	Great Yarmouth	10
Cromer Hall – Holt Road	127	Grimston	30
Denton Bridlepath	33	Griston	(221)
Denton Church	49	Guestwick – next the Church	(30)
Denton House	56	Guestwick – Old Hall Farm	(2)
Denver	12	Guestwick Green – Palgrave Wood	(12)
Dereham	(34)	Gunton Park	22
Dereham	(4)	Hackford Hall	(14)
Dickleborough	20	Halvergate	59
Didlington	73	Harleston Church	12
Diss – Railway Station	3	Haverlingland – Six Acre Plantation	75
Diss – Town Centre	12	Hellesdon – Middleton's Lane	8
Ditchingham Maltings	10	Hethersett complex	278
Ditchingham Park	(18)	Hilborough	(41)
Docking – Magpie Plantation	(500)	Hilgay	9
Downham – Gt Ouse Bridge	15	Hilgay	52
Downham – West Bridge Farm	31	Hockering	10
Downham Market – High School	80	Hockwold-cum-Wilton	(66)
Downham Market – Station Car Park	9	Honingham – Brick Kiln Clump	37
Dunston	73	Horning – St Benet's	36
East Winch	5	Horsford Church	121
East Winch – Church	23	Horsham St Faith's	37
Easton – S end of Bypass	86	Houghton Deer Park	(41)
Edingthorpe Green	5	Houghton Deer Park	(20)
Emneth	20	Hunworth	nc
Erpingham 1	32	Ingham 1	23
Erpingham 2	10	Ingham 2	45
Etling Green 1	23	Intood/Keswick Southern Bypass	(12)

Kenninghall – Guilt Cross Farm	39	North Wotton Church	.
King's Lynn – Reffley Estate	13	Norton Subcourse	
King's Lynn – Walks Park	23	Old Buckenham Stud	(19)
Kirstead	12	Oxborough Hall	(3)
Kirstead Brooke	159	Pentney	(
Knight's Hill	6	Postwick	8
Langham	(80)	Pulham Market	(
Langley 1	38	Pulham St Mary	2
Langley 2	8	Raveningham	
Langley Abbey	110	Reedham – Church	3
Larling – Overa House Farm	(137)	Reedham – Decoy Carr	15
Larling – Overa House Farm	(202)	Reedham – Park Carr	33
Larling – Overa House Farm	(105)	Reepham – Bar Lane	(
Lenwade (Morton Lane)	221	Reepham – Moor Corner	(24
Leziate Fen	36	Reepham – Rookery Farm	(30
Little Plumstead – Witton Lane	36	Reepham Market Hill	(2
Long Stratton	20	Reepham Ollands Road	(18
Ludham NNR 1	82	Reepham Primary School	(5
Ludham NNR 2	15	Reepham Sewage Works	(8
Ludham Surgery	44	Repps Grove Farm	5
Marham Ladywood	100	Repps Staithe	(90
Marsham	30	Reymerston	(34
Marsham – Bolwick Hall	146	Ringland – Slade Hills	6
Mattishall Church	8	Robin's Lodge SPTA	5
Mautby Hall	44	Runham Church	2
Melton Constable	56	Ryston	40
Methwold	63	Saham Mere	4
Methwold – Hall Farm	(26)	Salle Park	(8
Methwold South – The Glebe	(140)	Scarning 1	(19
Middleton Hall	127	Scarning 2	(14
Middleton Towers	15	Scole	30
Mileham 1	(9)	Scottow Hall	163
Mileham 2	(20)	Scratby	40
Mileham 3	(45)	Sculthorpe Airfield	22
Morley Hall 1	66	Sea Mere – Hingham	nc
Morley Hall 2	(46)	Setchy	25
Morley Hall 3	(92)	Sharrington	(26)
Morley St Botolph	70	Shelfanger	(49)
Morley St Peter	nf	Sheringham Park	67
Mortimer's Range SPTA	57	Shipdam	0
Morton on the Hill	26	Shotesham – Skeets Hill	(45)
Mulbarton	22	Shouldham	15
New Buckenham – Shrubbery Farm	(20)	Shropham Hall	69
New Buckenham 1	(47)	Snetterton – Little Chef	4
Newton Flotman	2	Snetterton Wood – by A11	(294)
Nordelph	25	South Wootton – New Inn	4
North Elmham	30	South Wootton – Reffley Spring	15
North Runcton	47	South Wootton – Rising Lodge	6
North Tuddenham 1	8	Southrepps	14
North Tuddenham 2	34	Sparham	27
North Walsham complex	82	Spixworth Church	12

Spooner Row	12	Watton	2
Stibbard – Ashworth's Farm	34	Watton – Whitehall	62
Stibbard – The Lodge	104	Watton E town centre	30
Stody	(46)	Watton RAF	34
Stoke Holy Cross – see Shotesham	nr	Watton South	8
Stokesby Hall	62	Wendling	23
Stradsett	30	West Dereham 1	44
Strumpshaw – S of station	53	West Dercham 2	65
Surlingham	38	West Mere	39
Swaffham – Manor House	(31)	West Somerton 1	52
Swaffham – White Cross Road	48	West Somerton 2	77
Swainsthorpe	26	West Tofts 1	16
Swanton Morley – 1	(59)	West Tofts 2	18
Swanton Morley – North Wood	52	West Winch	23
Swardeston	nc	Weston Green	45
Tacolneston	12	Weston Longville	50
Tasburgh	44	Weybourne – Maltings Hotel	123
Tasburgh – A140	5	Weybourne – Muckleborough Hill	1
Tattersett	(12)	Wheatacre	30
Taverham Church	146	Whinburgh Park Farm	(61)
Taveham Hall Prep School – E end	46	Whinburgh Village	(77)
Taveham Hall Prep School – W end	25	Whitwell – see Hackford Hall	nr
Terrington St Clement	6	Winfarthing – Goose Green	(3)
Terrington St John	106	Winfarthing – Goose Green	(19)
Thorpe St Andrew Hospital	2	Winfarthing – Lodge Farm	(40)
Thorpe-next-Haddiscoc	(50)	Winfarthing – Mill Farm	35
Thorpland Lodge Farm – nr Fakenham	43	Winfarthing Park Farm	57
Thurlton	200	Winfarthing Park Farm	18
Thurning	17	Winfarthing Park Farm	35
Thursford 1	84	Witton – White Gates	189
Thursford 2	22	Wolterton	20
Thurton	nc	Wood Norton – Norton Corner	nc
Tibenham	nc	Wreningham	5
Fivetshall St Margaret 1	8	Wymondham – Back Lane	12
Fivetshall St Margaret 2	25	Wymondham – Feathers	30
Fivetshall St Margaret 3	45	Wymondham – Post Office	8
Tottenhill	43		



(R.A. Hume)

Wetland Bird Survey 1995

Breydon & Berney

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Little Grebe	12	13	12	18	26	14	12	12	15	12	5
Great Crested Grebe	-	-	7	9	26	45	92	82	54	18	29
Cormorant	56	90	187	54	43	56	108	198	153	91	79
Mute Swan	61	110	55	84	54	60	59	55	51	49	47
Bewick's Swan	186	203	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	19
White-fronted Goose	39	100	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	7
Greylag Goose	70	58	47	43	34	48	24	62	40	53	49
Canada Goose	27	11	19	4	6	11	29	65	60	11	21
Barnacle Goose	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brent Goose	8	4	11	2	-	2	3	-	3	15	2
Shelduck	183	143	317	297	416	564	470	43	130	190	241
Wigeon	4900	2700	2000	107	13	4	1	4	205	471	270
Gadwall	11	28	49	51	18	13	-	2	-	2	8
Teal	576	545	925	428	4	30	18	30	60	52	120
Mallard	322	316	107	45	38	58	35	95	81	116	201
Pintail	203	161	82	11	4	1	-	1	36	59	94
Garganey	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Shoveler	49	187	213	52	8	9	2	13	8	15	10
Pochard	4	11	27	3	3	3	-	10	4	24	54
Tufted Duck	4	11	23	8	11	7	10	10	8	4	5
Scaup	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goldeneye	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Oystercatcher	89	203	240	288	149	103	166	224	62	68	56
Avocet	20	13	15	22	20	40	69	66	98	158	24
Little Ringed Plover	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	-	2	-	-
Ringed Plover	104	71	86	16	313	77	32	326	281	207	137
Golden Plover	5900	6000	370	104	-	-	6	600	3000	3000	2000
Grey Plover	92	45	37	16	32	10	2	13	25	32	36
Lapwing	26000	10000	1000	75	39	100	300	240	700	900	12000
Knot	126	127	62	32	12	14	17	27	46	12	36
Sanderling	-	2	24	5	15	1	2	1	1	-	41
Little Stint	-	-	1	1	2	1	2	-	10	2	-
Temminck's Stint	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	1	-	-
Curlew Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	5	-	18	8	21	2	-
Dunlin	3450	3700	1950	2330	2420	22	226	740	1050	1640	2150
Ruff	8	-	4	19	5	10	5	5	4	7	-
Snipe	40	20	5	20	5	1	18	20	25	20	30
Black-tailed Godwit	60	6	162	15	15	1	153	422	343	185	122
Bar-tailed Godwit	20	15	13	35	45	3	2	12	16	8	2
Whimbrel	-	-	-	80	150	2	40	30	1	-	-
Curlew	856	808	725	577	56	191	545	717	739	721	772
Spotted Redshank	1	2	3	4	3	2	-	2	6	7	1
Redshank	523	680	560	668	83	137	487	674	610	740	821
Greenshank	-	-	-	3	26	4	5	12	11	6	-
Green Sandpiper	1	1	-	2	1	3	7	3	6	1	-
Wood Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	2	1	3	-	-	-	-
Common Sandpiper	1	-	-	2	9	1	17	6	4	1	-
Turnstone	3	12	16	27	47	3	7	14	10	17	11
Little Gull	-	-	-	44	1	4	5	8	19	-	-
Black Tern	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	2	5	-	-
Snow Bunting	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

Wetland Bird Survey 1995

North Norfolk Coast

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grebe	41	49	41	40	49	93	51	63	67
onian Grebe	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	13	77
necked Grebe	4	1	-	-	-	-	2	4	19
st Crested Grebe	5	6	12	8	4	15	38	57	61
porant	143	130	146	106	301	390	462	463	222
on	10	23	10	27	23	18	29	43	19
Swan	85	61	78	61	59	49	71	67	59
-footed Goose	13438	722	764	18	-	-	486	10262	7837
e-fronted Goose	137	248	-	-	-	4	9	10	24
lag Goose	464	740	536	404	891	1204	1114	625	1060
da Goose	167	165	120	139	317	204	244	183	174
t Goose	13026	8977	5245	2856	7	7	840	7957	8110
atian Goose	8	46	26	56	52	97	28	50	12
duck	827	784	569	583	181	216	490	657	546
on	16471	9645	2665	60	11	1227	3614	11823	14377
wall	101	112	115	146	157	193	157	99	61
	2,106	1359	663	269	390	1737	1191	2438	2665
ard	917	676	437	409	961	1135	807	1238	1362
il	491	423	195	4	-	144	268	563	907
eler	126	189	92	89	82	131	145	115	206
ard	91	63	39	40	10	23	24	43	95
ed Duck	73	82	96	200	56	42	42	121	120
	147	120	110	107	29	58	73	193	269
-tailed duck	56	57	36	21	-	-	-	17	65
mon Scoter	3057	4750	1370	2351	-	12	88	1626	2649
st Scoter	101	18	-	2	-	-	3	22	108
eneye	146	264	156	3	-	-	1	31	76
breasted Merganser	43	84	50	27	-	-	8	68	141
	800	764	471	328	569	748	635	606	632
ercatcher	1783	3157	2369	2261	2456	2936	3675	2580	3199
et	-	3	194	348	92	1	15	-	1
ed Plover	188	300	350	322	993	923	553	371	181
en Plover	1301	136	90	-	370	47	112	3258	890
Plover	809	1037	1766	881	778	1218	912	850	613
ing	3669	2952	785	486	490	441	1047	4139	1935
	3380	2427	796	417	69	2168	2470	5930	4705
erling	207	385	460	359	602	1618	665	507	303
Stint	-	-	-	-	-	30	8	-	-
w Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-
e Sandpiper	-	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
n	3309	4073	3239	1922	806	1125	2147	3446	3249
	5	35	43	26	68	20	67	9	1
	20	21	92	59	83	66	32	31	61
-tailed Godwit	1	8	45	113	22	14	3	22	3
iled Godwit	457	723	334	366	562	3,679	3092	723	839
ubrel	-	-	-	7	38	14	-	-	-
w	700	573	599	242	1096	288	491	494	450
ed Redshank	4	2	-	1	2	25	10	-	2
ank	788	862	606	502	471	473	629	786	657
ishank	1	2	1	2	79	45	29	3	2
tone	154	177	115	89	155	198	228	204	155

Wetland Bird Survey 1994

The Complete Wash

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Little Grebe	31	29	7	7	2	14	12	29	63	120
Great Crested Grebe	18	13	19	12	18	34	128	94	116	37
Cormorant	155	147	142	84	92	191	294	394	244	114
Shag	6	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grey Heron	19	13	7	10	9	67	43	49	84	38
Bewick's Swan	111	109	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Whooper Swan	70	76	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	120
Brent Goose	22638	20191	17435	9425	14084	6	8	8	2692	7276
Shelduck	14242	9818	3562	2931	1462	6346	1971	1761	7664	5848
Wigeon	1172	334	109	56	1	-	14	68	382	3621
Gadwall	88	112	72	14	3	-	6	19	10	29
Teal	449	295	132	75	-	2	272	227	553	329
Mallard	3518	1485	516	157	230	560	739	1477	2120	903
Pintail	42	109	5	-	-	-	6	51	69	16
Shoveler	8	19	29	10	2	-	6	-	11	-
Pochard	121	65	33	-	-	-	-	-	35	90
Tufted Duck	58	41	63	36	19	16	84	65	70	119
Scaup	3	27	26	22	1	-	6	-	10	1
Eider	200	82	80	15	30	159	117	145	77	24
Common Scoter	-	-	2	-	-	68	27	1	1	-
Goldeneye	63	107	55	15	-	2	-	-	-	52
Red-breasted Merganser	35	74	98	29	2	1	1	-	29	54
Coot	169	261	107	53	42	-	178	163	224	199
Oystercatcher	21353	15563	10154	4631	2879	10570	25369	13778	20040	13814
Avocet	-	26	121	2	-	324	25	94	41	40
Ringed Plover	15	41	330	119	989	398	1858	996	698	100
Golden Plover	4589	916	986	2610	10	826	1502	3547	7436	5465
Grey Plover	3074	4984	6840	2621	12509	2582	10335	11950	11127	4268
Lapwing	12539	6738	116	6	18	513	1285	942	5308	12954
Knot	47370	34652	28999	10676	18676	20210	71118	40296	67042	77794
Sanderling	125	250	233	92	225	2027	1332	223	523	467
Little Stint	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	7	7	1
Curlew Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	23	2	18	5	-
Dunlin	23682	23166	24930	20549	38406	33783	21713	19289	36271	19153
Ruff	-	1	-	-	-	-	12	10	-	-
Black-tailed Godwit	538	650	79	34	-	827	811	1374	932	150
Bar-tailed Godwit	11132	8330	2045	505	1168	5511	6443	8140	4789	6480
Whimbrel	-	-	-	18	90	351	123	50	10	-
Curlew	1809	3079	1365	1949	209	7264	5156	7520	6370	1336
Spotted Redshank	-	-	-	-	4	3	99	89	26	1
Redshank	2046	1815	1738	1739	441	4555	4587	6500	4205	955
Greenshank	-	-	-	-	24	120	138	267	48	-
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	51	49	36	12	-	2
Turnstone	411	367	297	264	246	925	1208	482	803	549
Black-headed Gull	711	545	4138	1582	1456	5002	12355	3498	5199	4266
Common Gull	2281	693	230	170	5	347	1188	252	1076	219
Lesser B-backed Gull	-	3	3	62	220	230	212	17	201	1
Herring Gull	840	1091	1140	1323	630	1266	6538	1000	3647	606
Great B-backed Gull	123	132	203	86	83	715	1275	905	2629	406
Black Tern	-	-	-	-	3	-	4	48	-	1

This table replaces that appearing in 1994 Report following additional information.

Wetland Bird Survey 1995

The Complete Wash

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grebe	65	57	41	4	-	2	34	36	132	145	146
Least Crested Grebe	3	11	15	45	30	37	49	44	96	33	9
Formentor	143	153	105	94	74	244	348	275	178	201	126
Heron	13	25	12	23	38	40	55	42	51	36	30
Wick's Swan	15	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	8
Super Swan	2	20	5	-	-	1	-	-	24	-	22
Goose	19108	15443	18344	14360	12663	22	28	4	9542	16104	20773
Duck	12873	10640	7850	2982	1419	1601	597	1086	8177	12721	14238
Don	3383	475	113	3	-	2	-	487	1236	1711	2580
Wall	48	25	9	11	5	-	-	5	10	17	39
Card	382	182	177	23	-	4	62	257	321	1098	551
Il	3379	2005	804	417	218	169	484	1265	2856	2410	3512
El	152	49	11	-	1	-	-	64	186	51	169
eler	2	3	8	-	-	-	4	-	10	-	2
ard	58	34	5	1	-	1	1	3	42	48	113
d Duck	75	30	22	54	34	50	58	22	35	84	109
p	3	12	14	1	5	1	-	-	4	-	8
mon Scoter	85	193	234	263	112	153	141	38	22	100	269
eneeye	-	-	21	2	9	-	1	31	22	16	16
breasted Merganser	74	75	50	10	1	-	1	1	31	75	64
	43	51	62	67	3	-	-	-	37	104	85
	130	125	113	49	34	83	137	73	137	147	153
arcatcher	20771	22300	18194	4934	5840	5950	20916	24003	13514	10635	14632
et	15	188	98	26	75	279	220	66	11	1	-
ad Plover	272	375	264	209	1087	257	926	1375	139	58	85
en Plover	5268	4716	646	140	3	860	1488	3401	2838	12919	3007
Plover	2724	8712	17513	11935	16405	1599	9011	13803	8166	5569	4543
ing	10075	24225	204	5	16	1571	1083	1377	1553	24773	5990
	38488	56420	32582	31657	5352	7520	80605	73171	75226	47775	20524
arling	283	262	296	58	326	315	2375	712	338	539	161
Stint	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	24	-	-	-
w Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	1	-	-	-
n	17361	32918	39135	45529	33751	19049	24970	34093	16441	41487	16943
	-	-	-	-	-	3	15	13	6	-	-
tailed Godwit	492	438	23	1050	21	1110	2059	2788	2287	1524	40
iled Godwit	7288	8987	4681	942	976	5656	17353	14853	8953	12150	7946
breil	3	-	75	78	82	552	839	459	3	3	-
n	2277	3531	4019	2963	288	10045	12186	8908	5575	2986	2943
ed Redshank	1	1	-	3	1	10	37	68	4	-	-
ank	1927	3814	3367	4091	585	3761	7679	3932	2657	2726	1876
shank	-	-	-	-	27	284	176	195	2	-	-
on Sandpiper	1	-	-	1	8	47	79	13	-	1	-
tone	471	1016	524	436	296	637	1317	1004	491	637	377
headed Gull	1714	1824	3592	1183	3649	6161	9781	12380	2372	2048	2932
on Gull	592	239	193	138	126	1072	1784	443	404	96	948
B-backed Gull	53	-	20	330	110	176	331	265	53	45	133
g Gull	983	785	1405	814	2437	1684	2728	5006	2380	1751	5142
B-backed Gull	115	82	87	254	141	377	1041	1150	1002	851	550
Tern	-	-	-	-	2	-	39	41	-	-	-

Ringed Pink-footed Geese in Norfolk

Carl Mitchell, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

In the early 1950s Peter Scott, founder of the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust embarked on one of the most ambitious bird population studies ever attempted. The species was close to Peter's heart – he had lived at East Lighthouse, Terrington Marsh in the 1930s and had studied, painted and, in earlier days, had hunted the species on the Wash. In order to investigate the movements, migrations and mortality of Pink-footed Geese, Peter Scott and WWT caught birds in Iceland, their principal breeding grounds, and during the winter in Britain. Catches were made during the autumn months using rocket propelled nets usually set in stubble fields. The catches were often large, with over 500 Pinkfeet being caught in a single fire. Two nets were often set and, after a successful catch, the nets were quickly moved to a new site for the following day's catch. The catching team would operate, often for only a week in the autumn, principally in Dumfries, Perth, Lothian, Fife and sometimes in Lincolnshire. The best ever season was 1957–58 when 3,314 birds were caught, including nearly 300 retraps, and, in all, between 1950 and 1959 just less than 14,000 Pink-footed Geese were newly ringed. The autumn catching formed only part of the long-term investigation into the fortunes of the Pink-footed Geese. This also involved the catching and ringing of flightless adults and young Pinkfeet in Iceland. The totals were impressive – 1,153 in 1951 and just over 9,000 in 1953.

The mass marking of individuals opened new insights into the species habits and our knowledge of the migrations and population dynamics were greatly advanced. In a series of reports, scientific papers, lectures and features in the wildlife television programme *Look*, Peter Scott was able to share the fascinating story of the life of the Pink-footed Goose.

Since 1987, WWT began to ring Pink-footed Geese in Britain again. The most successful catches have been made at Martin Mere (a WWT Centre) in Lancashire where the birds are attracted to a site using waste potatoes and carrots. Catches have also been made in the traditional Pinkfoot areas of Aberdeen, Kinross, Easter Ross and Dumfries. To date, more than 2,000 Pinkfeet have been ringed and gradually a pattern of movements and migration is emerging. Although the numbers of birds caught recently is far fewer than those trapped in the 1950s, we now use individually coded plastic leg rings in addition to the metal rings bearing the address of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). Recently, a small number of Pink-footed Geese have been fitted with grey plastic neck collars marked with two letters. While the recovery information provided by the metal rings tells us where and when a bird is shot, the plastic leg rings (or collars) can be read with a telescope, and a lot of patience, thus revealing movements of live birds too. This was not possible in the 1950s unless a bird was caught twice.

There are recognised champions amongst ring readers – three devoted volunteers spend most of the winter month weekends touring Lancashire (Andy Stewart), Dumfries (Dave Patterson) and Kinross (Iain Munro) searching for ringed Pinkfeet. Norfolk has its dedicated observers too, including Edward Cross at Flitcham. The geese are often found in stubble fields during the autumn, making ring reading time-consuming and difficult. They can be wary too, taking to the air if a car stops and a telescope appears out of a window. However, since Pinkfeet can wander during the winter months a successfully read ring usually has an interesting story attached to that particular bird.

Through the goodwill of birdwatchers forwarding sightings of ringed geese and wildfowlers reporting details of shot birds, we are gaining a better understanding of the

movements of Pink-footed Geese around Britain during the winter months. WWT organises two annual counts of Pinkfeet – one in October, the other in November – to determine the distribution of flocks and get an accurate estimation of the wintering population size. Scotland and England support the entire population of Pink-footed Geese that breed in Iceland and Greenland. Britain has a special responsibility for these birds as a Red Data Book species and under international legislation. While the counts give numbers at a particular time we know that some flocks within the wintering population are quite mobile, often staging in Grampian, Tayside or Lothians before heading south to Dumfries, Lancashire and eventually to Norfolk. Others are remarkably site loyal perhaps not straying far from the same roost loch or estuary and feeding at the same fields throughout the winter. We know that some flocks make the trip from Lancashire to the Wash, staying for December and January before heading back north through the route described. A record 68,000 birds (almost a third of all the Pink-footed Geese in the world) were counted in Norfolk in January 1994. There is a degree of site fidelity between winter and staging haunts too. Marked Pink-footed Geese have often been recorded feeding in the same few fields in Aberdeen on the same dates in successive springs, yet having spent the winter months near King's Lynn. Two well known individuals (CAP and CAZ – the letters of their leg rings) have returned to the same field in successive winters. Their breeding habits are monitored too since their goslings will stay with the pair throughout the first winter.

The recent dramatic rise in numbers of Pink-footed Geese in Norfolk has been documented in previous *Norfolk Bird and Mammal Reports*, as has a sympathetic farming regime operated at Flitcham (NBMR 1993, p.115). The build up of numbers of Pinkfeet wintering in Norfolk has coincided with an increase in the numbers of ringed Pinkfeet being observed there. Figure 1 shows the distribution of sightings we have received (open circles) together with the distribution of recoveries reported in the 1950s. The distributions are largely similar, although some flocks presumably moved further inland to feed during the 1950s. Many recent observations have been recorded by Edward Cross at Abbey Farm – there is even a bird hide to get a closer look. Of the 2,111 Pinkfeet marked since 1987, 7% have been seen in Norfolk – this is a very high re-sighting rate since we have yet to catch any birds in the county. Table 1 shows sightings of a selected number of Pinkfeet. These demonstrate the mobility of the species, whilst superimposed on these movements is a degree of between-winter tradition (e.g. ADP).



Figure 1. Sightings of marked Pinkfeet in Norfolk

Table 1. Selected sightings of four ringed Pink-footed Geese recorded in Norfolk

Ring	Date	Site	Region	Observer
ADP	31.01.87	Martin Mere	Lancashire	(First ringed)
	8.01.90	Docking	North Norfolk	
	13.03.91	Nr. Overton	Dumfries	Paul Shimmings
	17.03.91	Ruthwell, Annan	Dumfries	Paul Shimmings
	16.11.91	Plex Moss	Lancashire	Andy Stewart
	22.02.92	Lochar Mouth	Dumfries	Paul Shimmings
	24.11.92	Brancaster	North Norfolk	Jenny Gill
	13.03.93	Lantonside	Dumfries	Paul Shimmings
BX-	3.10.94	Loch Leven	Tayside	(First ringed)
	18.10.94	Cameron Res	Fife	Carl Mitchell
	24.10.94	Cameron Res	Fife	Alan Lauder
	29.10.94	Ribble	Lancashire	Andy Stewart (until 14.12)
	20.01.95	Flitcham	North Norfolk	Edward Cross
	28.01.95	Burnside, Annan	Dumfries	Carl Mitchell
	24.03.95	Loch Leven	Tayside	Richard Hearn
	30.09.95	Martin Mere	Lancashire	Andy Stewart
CSP	20.10.90	Martin Mere	Lancashire	(First ringed)
	26.03.91	Fiddlers Green	Grampian	
	7.12.91	Downholland Moss	Lancashire	Andy Stewart
	4.01.92	Martin Mere	Lancashire	Andy Stewart
	24.12.92	Plex Moss	Lancashire	RSPB
	6.02.93	Fylde	Lancashire	Andy Stewart (until 21.2)
	11.12.93	Flitcham	North Norfolk	Edward Cross
	27.02.96	Loch Leven	Tayside	Iain Munro (until 1.3)
YP-	21.03.95	Loch Leven	Tayside	(First ringed)
	6.04.95	Ruthwell	Dumfries	Dave Patterson (until 8.4)
	17.11.95	Flitcham	North Norfolk	Edward Cross (until 9.12)
	7.01.96	Martin Mere	Lancashire	Andy Stewart

L73, a Pinkfoot originating from the Svalbard-breeding Pink-footed Goose population is now a regular in Norfolk. It appears to have decided to switch between populations and is now probably summering in Iceland. Its sighting details are listed in Table 2. Another Pinkfoot from the Svalbard population (B14) was ringed in Denmark in 1989, recorded in the Netherlands in winter 1993/94, in Lancashire in the spring of 1994 and later that spring had returned to its original flyway and was reported from northern Norway. Surprisingly, B14 was next seen in north Norfolk in January 1996.

The fortunes of this important species have been well monitored by WWT for more than 40 years. The annual counts provide accurate population estimates that have revealed the remarkable increase in numbers from 30,000 birds in the early 1950s to over 250,000 in the mid-1990s. This information, together with annual counts of the proportion of young, their average brood size and the wealth of data gathered through the ringing programme, has contributed greatly to our understanding of the way this population ticks. In addition, through colour-ringing individuals, we now hope to



xx (C. Donner)

improve on this.

There are many questions still to be answered. There are fewer sightings of individually marked Pinkfeet from Norfolk than from other wintering areas, despite the presence of many birdwatchers. Consequently the timing of an individual bird's stay in Norfolk, and movements within the area are both poorly understood. Flocks of Pinkfeet have been observed leaving Lancashire at first light and heading high to the south east – and similar size flocks have returned in the evening. Could some Pinkfeet roosting in Lancashire make a recce to Norfolk for the day to see if feeding conditions are suitable?

Table 2. Sightings of Pink-footed Goose ring number L73

Date	Site	Region	Observer
17.03.94	Vest Stadil Fjord	Denmark	(First ringed)
22.03.94	Nissum Fjord Nord	Denmark	
6.04.94	Harboor Tange, Plet	Denmark	
7.04.94	Vest Stadil Fjord	Denmark	and 17 Apr
23.04.94	Skjern Enge	Denmark	and 1 May
3.05.94	Bovling Fjord	Denmark	
1.10.94	Martin Mere	Lancashire	Derek Forshaw
2.12.94	Flitcham	North Norfolk	Edward Cross
12.02.95	Martin Mere	Lancashire	Andy Stewart
28.02.95	Hatchbank, Loch Leven	Tayside	Richard Hearn
3.10.95	Martin Mere	Lancashire	Chris Tomlinson
22.10.95	Ainsdale	Merseyside	Andy Stewart
10.11.95	Flitcham	North Norfolk	Edward Cross (and 9 Dec)
26.02.96	Vane Farm, Loch Leven	Tayside	Iain Munro (until 1 March)

We have yet to establish if any individuals make the migration from Scotland down the east coast to England. Sightings of marked Pinkfeet at various localities suggest the movement is generally through Dumfries and Lancashire, but it is more direct (and presumably less energetic) to leave Norfolk in February and head north along the east coast to Fife.

The presence in Norfolk of a very few individuals (for example Blue L73) known to have originated from the Svalbard population is also intriguing. Whilst seawatching near Sheringham with a Norfolk birding friend, he informed me that flocks of Pinkfeet occasionally were seen in mid-winter coming in off the sea from the east. Had these originated from the 30,000 or so wintering in the Netherlands, or had they arrived from Scotland, passing along the Lincolnshire coast before crossing east and over-shooting the North Norfolk coast? Hopefully observant birdwatchers may pick up marked individuals and help to address some of these questions.

Send sightings of any wildfowl marked with colour rings to: Colour-ringed wildfowl WWT, Slimbridge, Gloucester, GL2 7BT. We endeavour to forward ringing data back to observers. Send details of any bird fitted with a metal ring which has been found dead to BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU. The author is a Senior Research Officer with The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust.

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R. J. WATERS
D. WHITE
R. WHITE
J. R. WHITELEGG
J. R. WILLIAMSON
L. WILLIAMSON
A. M. WILSON
D. M. WILSON
J. D. WILSON
R. J. WILSON
M. J. WOOD
G. WRIGHT
G. C. WRIGHT
S. A. WRIGHT
T. WRIGHT
M. YOUNG-POWELL

Systematic List

The order used follows the sixth edition of the *Checklist of Birds of Britain & Ireland*, published by BOU in 1992. The English names that are most familiar have been retained. Unless otherwise stated, all observations are of single birds and refer to 1995. The following abbreviations are used in the species accounts:

imm	= immature	GP	= Gravel Pit
juv	= juvenile	NBC	= Norfolk Bird Club
pr(s)	= pair(s)	NBR	= Norfolk Bird Report
BBRC	= British Birds Rarities Committee	NNR	= National Nature Reserve
BBS	= Breeding Bird Survey	NR	= Nature Reserve
BF	= Sugarbeet Factory	Pt	= Point
BTO	= British Trust for Ornithology	RSPB	= Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
CBC	= Common Bird Census	STW	= Sewage Treatment Work
CP	= Country Park	WWT	= Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
ESA	= Environmentally Sensitive Area		
GC	= Golf Course		

Where tables are used in the species accounts these refer to monthly maximum counts for main sites unless otherwise stated. A dash indicates that no count details have been received. For wildfowl and waders, the data used generally derives from the monthly Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) counts although if higher totals are available these are used instead. Observers' initials are given for all national and county rarities and for a few other exceptional records. To save space, no more than three sets of initials are given for any record.

Red-throated Diver

Gavia stellata

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Rare in summer.

Widespread at coastal sites and noted at 8 scattered inland localities during early months of year. Numbers unexceptional though some impressive gatherings and movements: 140 east Sheringham Jan 4th, 140+ Overstrand Feb 23rd, 90 Winterton 25th, 280 east and 50 west Sheringham 26th, 260 east Sheringham March 11th, 100 Mundesley and 500+ west Cromer (BJM) 16th. This westerly movement somewhat unusual, highest counts usually recorded as a result of easterly passage but exact nature of these movements remains obscure (cf 1993 report). None in summer.

Autumn records from Aug 5th (Sheringham) and regularly thereafter in low numbers. A noticeable increase in Nov followed by an excellent series of counts in Dec when 300+ east Overstrand 1st, 750 east Sheringham 2nd, 100 east Sheringham and 100 south-east in 1 hour Sea Palling 3rd, 252 south-east in 1 hour 45 mins Horsey 9th, 150 east Sheringham 10th and 125 east Sheringham 16th. Only one inland record in this period: UEA Broad Dec 1st-6th.

Black-throated Diver

Gavia arctica

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Exceptional in summer.

Usual handful of records at coastal sites in early months of year. In Jan: Overstrand 14th, 2 Titchwell 16th, Cley 22nd, Titchwell 26th and Wells Quay 27th. None in Feb, but 2 March records: Winterton 20th, Yarmouth 27th and a single summer record Sheringham June 24th (SB JRW).

First in autumn Aug 29th when one in summer plumage flying west past Weybourne and Blakeney Point. Two records in Sept: Cley 24th and 2 Sheringham 30th. Higher than usual numbers in final quarter of the year scattered between Hunstanton and Caister. Monthly totals: Oct 20, Nov 22 and Dec 14; mostly singles but 3 Cley-Sheringham Oct 14th-23rd.

Great Northern Diver

Gavia immer

Winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers. Exceptional in summer.

Good numbers in Jan with 14 recorded, widely scattered between Snettisham and Yarmouth (only 5-7 Dec 94). A decrease thereafter with only 4 Feb, 2 March and single April sightings until a series of records off Weybourne in May when singles east 11th, west 15th and east 16th; also east at Sheringham 13th. Recorded twice in June, Sheringham (non-breeding plumage) 23rd (PEB) and east Weybourne 28th (MPT).

Recorded in autumn from Oct 20th (Sheringham). Numbers wintering increased to a level significantly higher than in recent years, as indicated by following totals: Oct 11, Nov 21 and Dec 31. This pleasing build-up included an exceptional passage of 4 east Weybourne Dec 2nd. Only one inland record: a juvenile Denver Sluice Jan 11th-22nd.

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding records (number of pairs in brackets): Holme (7), Brancaster (3), Holkham NNR (46), Holkham Park Lake (7), Breydon/Berney (20), Strumpshaw Fen (2), East Wretham (7), Tattersett (2) and Lynford Aboretum (2). In addition single pairs recorded at a further 14 sites, 110 pairs in total.

Winter maxima at main sites:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Snettisham	60	56	52	34	59	128	135	139
Holme	5	7	6	8	8	9	14	10
Holkham NNR	9	7	-	92	28	6	-	16
Holkham Park Lake	3	3	14	14	41	10	5	7
Blakeney Harbour	9	14	-	-	-	-	9	16
Blakeney Freshes	5	5	-	-	-	-	11	12
Breydon/Berney	12	13	12	12	15	12	9	21
East Wretham	17	-	4	30	16	16	-	-
Welney	-	-	5	2	6	10	6	1

Irregular counts from a variety of other sites: 20 Heigham Sounds Jan, 18 Hickling March, 8 South Acre Aug, 20 Tattersett Sept, 18 Martham Broad Nov and 15 Cley Dec.

An unprecedented 5 records of birds at sea: 2 Sheringham Oct 6th-7th, Holme and Mundesley 7th, 3 Weybourne 10th and Cromer Dec 9th. Clearly all migrants and it is tempting to believe they are of Continental origin. Ringing recoveries indicate there is some immigration from at least Denmark, Germany and Holland: interestingly Oct is the prime time for autumn migrants on Fair Isle.

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

Resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding records (number of pairs in brackets): Hickling Broad (9), Martham Broad (4), Filby Broad (6), Barton Broad (10), Wroxham Broad (12), Surlingham Broad (3).UEA

Broad (3), River Wensum, Norwich (4), River Yare-Brundall Marina to Buckenham, Beauchamp Arms (7) and Sparham Pools (4). In addition, 1 or 2 pairs recorded at further 17 sites; 87 prs in total.

Once again evidence of very early nesting at Horning where a fully grown young F 12th and new clutch in nest the same day.

Winter monthly maxima at main coastal sites:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DE
Snettisham	—	3	3	23	42	27	10	3
Hunstanton	1	1	—	—	14	1	24	3
Holme	4	8	12	5	9	85	30	24
Titchwell	1	—	—	—	—	23	20	21
Brancaster	—	3	2	—	—	—	18	11
Holkham Bay	—	—	—	—	—	22	20	8

Irregular counts from a variety of other sites included 16 Cromer and 16 Paston March.

Winter monthly maxima at main inland sites:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DE
Breydon/Berney	—	—	7	82	54	18	29	8
Filby/Ormesby Broads	10	—	—	—	19	—	16	12
Ranworth/Cockshoot Broads	9	19	20	—	—	14	9	1
Wroxham Broad	15	10	8	12	—	—	5	12
Rockland Broad	8	10	12	8	9	8	7	—
UEA Broad	12	16	18	—	—	—	8	9
Blickling	6	—	—	—	—	—	20	8
Earsham GP	12	6	—	—	—	—	—	21
Sennowe Park	18	2	4	—	—	—	2	2
Pentney GP	9	—	4	—	—	3	—	6
Welney	3	3	19	1	—	1	—	—

In addition a notable count of 28 Hickling Broad in Feb.

Noteworthy coastal movements in Jan, 22 west and 6 east Sheringham 1st and 12 west Mundesley 6th.

Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Unusually high numbers in Jan, a total of 30 reported from coastal sites. Most records were of singles though 5 Cley 1st and 4 west Sheringham 2nd. Fewer recorded thereafter. Monthly totals at coastal sites: Feb 5, March 4 and May 1. Recorded inland at Filby Broad Jan 11th–Feb 17th, River Yare, Postwick Feb 20th–Mar 22nd and possibly same. Surlingham April 9th–14th.

There followed an excellent autumn beginning with a single west past Weybourne Aug 24th. Subsequent monthly totals reveal a surge in numbers arriving in Oct and an increasing number lingering to the year's end: Aug 9, Sept 12, Oct 30, Nov 45 and Dec 53. Notable concentrations at coastal sites: 9 Cley Oct 29th, 7 Titchwell 31st; 9 Holkham

Bay Nov 5th, 8 Sheringham 11th, 7 Holme 25th, 15 Holme Dec 10th and up to 8 there daily till year end. Scattered inland records in this period: Sept 1, Oct 4, Nov 2 and Dec 2.

Slavonian Grebe

Podiceps auritus

Winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly during autumn.

Good numbers in first winter/spring period resulting in following monthly totals: Jan 25, Feb 11, March 11 and April 7. Most records refer to singles at coastal sites, but there was a good count of 6 Walcott March 11th.

First of the autumn an adult in summer plumage Holme Aug 9th–10th and again 28th. Subsequent monthly totals reveal an impressive increase in wintering numbers at coastal sites: Sept 5, Oct 32, Nov 41 and Dec 107. Included in the exceptional Dec total are some impressive counts at individual sites the best being 36 Holme and 37 Titchwell on 10th (RC RQS). This latter figure represents a county record for any single site.

Inland: Pentney GP Feb 17th, Pensthorpe April 12th, Hickling Broad 20th–30th, 2 Colney 22nd–31st and Whiteslea Dec 10th. The pair at Colney were calling and displaying during their stay.

Black-necked Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

Recorded in Jan Blickling Lake 7th and Filby Broad 22nd–24th. Subsequent spring records Hickling Broad April 23rd–27th and Pentney GP May 30th–31st.

First of the autumn, at Cantley BF Aug 25th, heralded an increase in autumn numbers in comparison to recent years: Cantley BF Sept 6th; Holme 14th; Hardley Flood Sept 16th–Oct 3rd; Holme Oct 29th–30th; Snettisham Oct 30th–Nov 14th when it was joined by another, both lingering to Dec 8th; Heigham Sounds Nov 11th and 18th; Wroxham Dec 12th and Snettisham 27th. In addition, an unusual number of records at sea were received; these are currently under review.

Fulmar

Fulmaris glacialis

Breeder some remaining all year. Regular coasting and storm movements.

Hunstanton colony success down on last year with only 83 young from c200 prs. Weybourne/Sheringham colony continues to suffer with only 19 prs; no fledging information. Only other breeding detail from Scrabby where 2 prs failed due to human disturbance.

Most impressive movement 150 west Weybourne Aug 31st.

Blue-phase birds at Holme March 19th; Weybourne April 26th and Sheringham Jan–Feb with another April 18th and 22nd. Inland: Welney Sept 27th and 30th.

Cory's Shearwater

Calonectris diomedea

Vagrant from Mediterranean/North Atlantic. Almost annual in autumn.

Sheringham Aug 8th (M&DS) and Sept 20th (KBS); Horsey Gap Aug 28th (PRA).

Sooty Shearwater

Puffinus griseus

Autumn passage migrant, occasionally large numbers during northerly gales. Rare in spring.

Estimated total of 182 on 21 dates between Aug 8th (Sheringham) and Nov 9th (Holme), the majority during Aug. Largest numbers 15 Sheringham and 17 Horsey Gap Aug 28th.

Manx Shearwater

Puffinus puffinus

Passage migrant with majority during autumn gales.

As usual scarce in spring but 2 Cley April 26th and another Sheringham on 22nd. More typical summer/autumn occurrences May 13th to Nov 19th; the most notable movement 33 Holme Aug 28th.

A late bird off Weybourne Dec 4th.

Mediterranean Shearwater

Puffinus yelkouan

Annual in small numbers, mainly during early autumn.

A fairly typical showing: Cley and later Weybourne 6 east July 9th; Weybourne Aug 28th; Sheringham June 10th, Aug 22nd, 28th, Sept 18th and 19th (2); Mundesley Aug 28th; Horsey Gap 28th (3) and 30th (2).

Storm Petrel

Hydrobates pelagicus

Almost annual late autumn visitor often in stormy weather.

Sheringham east Nov 19th (MPL TW).

During the last century Storm Petrels were regular storm victims between October and December. Stevenson once described them fluttering in King's Lynn harbour "as thick as Sand Martins". On another occasion when the birds became locally abundant several followed the course of the Yare as far as Norwich: "scarcely able to keep on wing they were easily knocked down with sticks near Foundry Bridge". Collector Booth described a north-east gale continuing a full week when many Storm Petrels were swept into Yarmouth harbour with a few making their way to Breydon. Others, hovering over the surf like black marionettes were soon swept inland. Finally the storm abated and Booth, a pioneer enthusiast for pelagic trips, steamed all day offshore between Winterton and Lowestoft noting hundreds of exhausted petrels asleep on a sea as smooth as glass.

Leach's Petrel

Oceanodroma leucorhoa

Gale-blown visitor mainly in autumn.

Holme Sept 27th, Cley Aug 27th, Weybourne Sept 19th (2), Sheringham Aug 27th (2) Sept 19th (2) and Nov 3rd.

Gannet

Sula bassana

Passage migrant, most abundant during autumn gales.

Recorded every month with peak counts as follows: 110 east Sheringham Jan 2nd; 30 east Sheringham Feb 26th; 68 east Sheringham March 27th; 90 east Sheringham April 8th; 200 east Sheringham May 28th; 120 east Mundesley June 10th; 90 east Sheringham July 22nd; 465 north Winterton Aug 28th; 750 east Sheringham Sept 18th; 1,650 east Sheringham Oct 20th; 400 east Sheringham Nov 1st and 50 Cley Dec 4th.

Inland: Welney 5 Sept 18th and singles Oct 3rd and Nov 2nd.

Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

Increasing passage migrant and winter visitor. Has bred.

Peak monthly counts from main roost sites:



A very confiding Buff-breasted Sandpiper attracted many observers to Weybourne during its 2 week stay in October. (Above, R. Chittenden; below, D. Nye).





1995 wader highlights: Top: Red-necked Phalarope, Egmere, September (*N. Clayton*). Centre: of Marsh Sandpipers, Cantley, August (*B.W. Jarvis*). Bottom left: Kentish Plover, Titchwell, (*J. Bhalerao*) and right: Temminck's Stint, Cantley, September (*B.W. Jarvis*).

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Holkham Park	60	50	55	5	—	—	153	212	269	295	310	145
Ranworth	205	462	233	99	—	—	—	—	—	257	295	127
Fritton Lake	200	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Snettisham	17	—	32	20	25	31	138	118	137	—	17	12
Welney	174	171	244	56	40	14	27	35	126	160	159	93

Birds showing characteristics of the Continental race *P.c. sinuensis* continue increasing with up to 4 at 13 sites.

Shag

Phalacrocorax aristotelis

Mainly autumn and winter visitor; occasionally wrecked inland.

Estimated county total of 96 birds. The long-staying Wells example remained till June: probably the same returned in Dec.

Inland: Colney GP Jan 11th, Ranworth Broad 2 Jan 15th and Whitlingham GP Feb 4th.

Bittern

Botaurus stellaris

Rare resident breeder. Also winter visitor in very small numbers.

Present in small numbers in first-winter period, mainly singly, at Burnham Market, Cley, Colney GP, Hickling, Horsey, Hoveton, How Hill, Ormesby Broad (4 in Feb), Rollesby Broad, Sparham, Strumpshaw Fen, Titchwell and Welney. Evidence of leaving wintering grounds when one north-west over UEA Broad March 15th and 3 east over Martham Broad towards coast March 22nd.

Booming from early April at 7 sites. Four nests located, fledging a total of at least 5 young; remaining territories presumably held unmated males.

Nationally, a minimum 12 young fledged from 11 nests, with breeding recorded in Lancashire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The county situation remains stable, if still precarious, whilst national news is encouraging when compared with 8 young from 6 nests in 1994.

Good numbers in second-winter period, presumably swollen by Continental migrants. Recorded away from breeding locations at Brancaster, Catfield, Cantley, Filby Broad, Holme, Hoveton, Ludham, Ormesby Little Broad, Rockland Broad, Rollesby/Lady Broads, Salhouse Broad (5 in Dec) and Strumpshaw Fen. Probably over 20 birds in total, though some duplication is likely in Broadland figures.

At the end of Dec one rescued from a hedgerow where it had become exhausted at Lyng-Easthaugh GP, taken into care and then released.

Night Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax

Vagrant from the Continent. Free-flying colony at Gt. Witchingham causes confusion.

Two records, from Earsham and both adults, May 13th-18th and Aug 6th. Doubtless both relate to escapes from The Otter Trust Centre nearby.

Cattle Egret

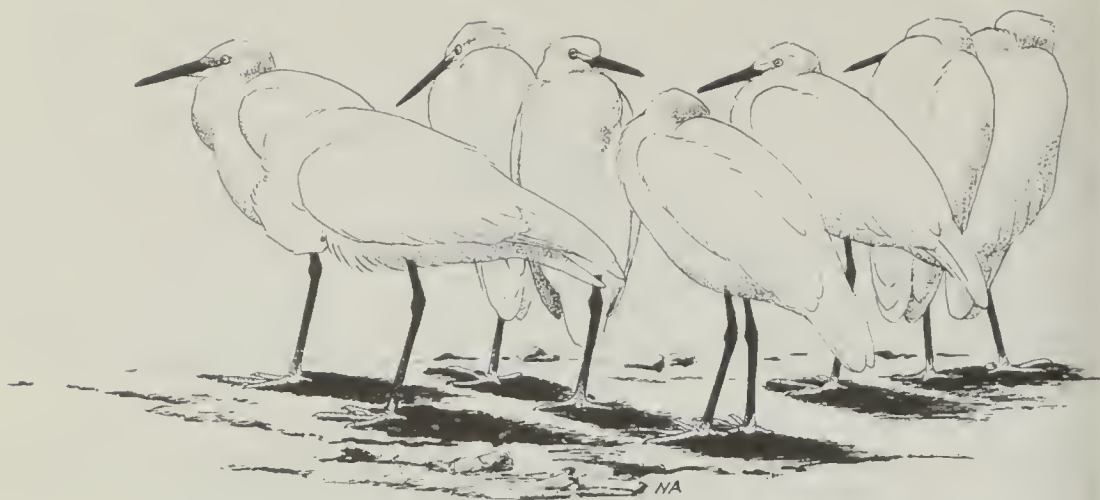
Bubulcus ibis

Vagrant from southern Europe.

One on grazing meadows between Alby and Gunton May 18th (DA BJM) was later that evening seen at roost in Gunton Park.

Doubtless the same bird first noted at Heigham Holmes May 27th (JRW *et al*) lingered in the Martham/Potter Heigham/Hickling area until Nov 18th. It frequented many locations in this area, but most often appeared at Heigham Holmes or Rush Hills.

The 16th county record.



Little Egrets (N. Arlott)

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

Increasing annual visitor now recorded most months; a few over-winter.

One remained from 1994, ranging widely along the north coast at Titchwell, Brancaster Harbour and Stiffkey, and presumably accounting for one on the River Glaven at Cleveley Feb 6th. Another Yarmouth Feb 18th possibly joining the wintering bird in the Titchwell/Brancaster area where 1-2 present in March with at least one remaining in May.

In spring and summer, a scattering of records from Cromer flying west April 23rd, Welney May 7th, 2 Fritton Marshes May 8th, Berney Marshes May 19th-20th, Salthouse/Kelling Quags May 24th and 26th-27th, 3 Cley/Salthouse May 25th later flying west over Blakeney and Titchwell. Also on 25th singles Titchwell and Burnham Overy/Holkham (to 28th). Singles Rush Hills June 5th-6th, Cley June 11th and 19th, Burnham Norton June 12th, Kelling June 13th, Berney Marshes June 19th-20th, Blakeney Freshes July 14th, in from the sea, Sheringham July 15th, north over King's Lynn and later Snettisham July 31st, Cley/Salthouse Aug 1st-2nd and 9th, Lynn Point Aug 3rd-4th, 3 Burnham Norton Aug 4th and 2 on 22nd, presumed same 2 Holme August 22nd, 3 Breydon Aug 12th flying off high south-east and Blakeney harbour Aug 12th.

Titchwell numbers increasing during summer period: single July 7th-28th, 2 July 29th-30th, 3 July 31st-Aug 1st, 5 Aug 2nd-4th, 6 Aug 5th-18th, 7 Aug 19th-22nd and 8 Aug 23rd-31st - a new county site record.

From Sept onwards most activity again centred at Titchwell where up to 8 roosted to Dec 1st, then 3 Dec 2nd-9th with 2 festively decorating roost trees to year-end. Records from Ousemouth, Lynn Point, Snettisham, Holme, Brancaster, Burnham Norton, Scolt Head and Stiffkey Sept-Dec presumed to relate to wandering groups (up to 5) from Titchwell. Other records away from this area and probably relating to different individuals: Breydon Sept 16th, Cley Oct 18th-19th and Heigham Holmes Dec 5th.

Grey Heron

Ardea ardea

Resident and passage migrant/winter visitor.

Concentrations in the first-winter period: 20 Narford Lake Jan and 27 Earsham Feb, with counts exceeding 10 from Welney and Sennowe Park during this period.

Spring and early summer coastal movements at Sheringham where 1-2 on 7 dates in

April and a total of 7 in May, plus 3 west Mundesley June 19th.
Breeding information:

Location	Number of nests	Location	Number of nests
Barton Broad	6	Holkham NNR	14
Burgh Castle	14	Holme	1 pair (No eggs)
Burgh Common	2	Islington	79
Cockshoot Broad	1	Narford	7
Colney Wood	3	North Elmham	5
Crooklegs Plantation	3	Old Hunstanton	2
Denver	0	Quidenham	17
Didlington	5	Ranworth Broad	1
Feltwell (Blackdyke)	5	Snettisham	10
Gt. Witchingham	53	Sounds Wood (Hickling)	8
Hilgay	35	Sturston Carr	11

Again a fairly stable county picture, certainly not reflecting the 21% national increase in 1995 Breeding Bird Survey figures.

A sprinkling of autumn coastal movements at Sheringham where 5 west July 4th, 4 in from sea Aug 21st, a Sept maximum of 4 west on 18th, 4 west Oct 17th, 3 west and 2 east Oct 24th and singles west Nov 20th and 28th. Additionally, 3 west Mundesley Aug 13th, 6 west there Oct 5th, 3 west Blakeney Point Sept 9th and 3 in from sea, Overstrand Dec 28th.

Largest gatherings in second-winter period 11 at both Welney and Holkham NNR.



Purple Herons (J. Wright)

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Almost annual spring and autumn vagrant from the Continent.

Following a blank year in 1994, a sub-adult briefly at Berney Marshes May 2nd (DB RL JR). Two sub-adults flew to the north-east from the reedbed at Colney GP May 3rd (SB JRW), one of which or possibly another sub-adult flew to the north-east from Colney GP on the evening of May 5th (SB JRW).

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Vagrant from the Continent appearing most years.

A number of spring observations, unfortunately eluded by the presence of up to 2 free-flying escaped birds (from Thrigby Wildlife Park), in the Thrigby/Runham area

from March 9th to the year-end.

All records listed: West Lexham April 14th–15th (JP *et al*), north–west over Holt Hall woods April 19th (IGJ), north–west over Holkham Park April 20th (AB AC), one visited rooftops in Hellesdon (Norwich) Apr 24th–25th (LAW) flying low south–west on the latter date. Further singles Titchwell May 7th (PH), Haddiscoe Island May 9th (MT) and Heigham Holmes May 27th (SB JRW).

A first–year bird at Breydon Sept 9th–15th was a known escape from another collection.

The spring 1967 influx of 12 into the county is a now a distant memory.

Spoonbill

Platalea leucorodia

Scarce non-breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Rare in winter.

An early adult Blakeney Freshes March 11th was followed by singles Cley April 3rd, 15th and 20th–21st, 2 Burnham Overy April 5th with another over Holkham departing over Burnham Norton and a different bird west over Burnham Overy and Holme same day. Singles Salhouse and Cley April 9th, Holkham April 9th–10th and 29th–30th. Horsey April 13th, Hickling April 14th–16th and 22nd–25th (when collecting nesting material) and an immature Titchwell April 23rd.

Further arrivals in May: Cley May 2nd and 31st, 3 Hickling May 7th–9th, possibly same 3 briefly Burnham Norton May 9th, 3 east over Salhouse, Weybourne and Sheringham May 10th. Possibly different 3–4 Hickling May 14th–16th, single 18th, 2–3 on 20th–21st then 1–2 May 25th–30th with one remaining to July 24th. Single Breydon May 15th when 2 west over Weybourne and Holkham with one at latter site May 16th and 2 May 18th and 20th. Singles west at Cley and Titchwell May 20th, east at Holme, Cley and Sheringham May 30th, west at Sheringham and Weybourne June 1st when 2 present at Salhouse.

Further arrivals June 10th when 3 Cley, 3 Wootton Marsh, 3 Hickling with 4 there next day. Five adults Holkham remained to June 12th then 3 June 13th, 3 adults and 2 imms June 14th, the imms staying to June 18th when joined by an adult and all 3 present to June 26th when the adult departed leaving 2 imms to July 3rd; single there July 5th, 2 imms July 6th–8th, single imm July 9th–10th and again 12th. At Cley, July singles on 4th–5th, 16th–19th, and 26th–31st. At Rush Hills singles July 4th–5th, 13th, 23rd–26th and 31st.

Far fewer in autumn when noted Cley Aug 2nd–3rd, Berney Marshes Sept 6th, Breydon Sept 27th and 2 Cantley BF Oct 9th.

Mute Swan

Cygnus olor

Resident. The Ouse Washes attract the most important winter concentrations.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Welney	182	158	149	146	221	–	–	–	40	80	82	159
Breydon/Berney	61	110	90	84	54	60	59	55	51	49	42	103
Rockland Broad	–	–	18	33	58	–	45	33	102	51	34	51

Other large gatherings at Sennowe Park 32 July, 34 Aug and 30 Sept; River Bure, Wroxham Bridge 38 Jan; Wroxham Broad 30 Aug, 56 Sept, 52 Oct; Hickling 70 July; Ormesby Broad 38 Nov, 33 Dec; Tunstall Marshes 37 April; St. Benet's Level 33 Oct, 58 Nov; Hardley Flood 40 Oct and Buckenham Tofts 46 Nov.

The only sites to hold more than two breeding pairs were Ken Hill grazing marsh (3

airs), Holme (3 nests), Holkham NNR (8 pairs), Buckenham/Cantley (4 pairs) and Welney (16 nests).

Bewick's Swan

Cygnus columbianus

Passage migrant and winter visitor in internationally important numbers.

	Jan 21st	Feb 19th	Mar 4th	Oct 31st	Nov 26th	Dec 11th
Welney	2906 *(3480)	723 (1028)	184	500	2898 (2930)	2673 (3629)
* Total Norfolk/Cambs figures in brackets.						

Mild weather conditions saw an early departure with relatively few birds remaining at Welney by mid-February and just 9 on March 19th with the last individual April 12th. The first three autumn birds appeared Oct 21st followed by a slow build-up to 84 Oct 27th and no major influx until early Nov. Autumn flocks held 12% young. At Welney a total of 98 colour-ringed birds seen in the 1994/95 winter, these having been marked in Russia 42, Holland 12, Martin Mere, Lanes 28, Slimbridge, Glos 8 and Welney 8. Ten birds killed by striking overhead powerlines in the 1994/95 winter.

Some large gatherings in Broadland though movement of flocks around area complicates the picture. Increases here late in the winter probably due to fenland birds staging on their easterly migration. The largest counts from W. Somerton/Horsey/Waxham 152 Jan 28th, 200 Feb 18th; Breydon/Berney 186 Jan 27th; Halvergate Level/Stracey Arms 103 Feb 10th, 100 March 2nd; Haddiscoe Levels 72 Jan 22nd, 282 Feb 4th; St. Benet's Level 174 Jan 21st; Ludham 284 Jan 29th, 449 Feb 16th, 151 March 4th and 281 Dec 30th; Cat's Common 135 Jan 10th-11th and Wood Street 100 Jan 20th.

Small numbers reported from many other sites particularly coastal areas during passage periods when notable flocks were 203 east over Yarmouth Feb 17th and 43 Holme Nov 5th. The first autumn migrant at Hunstanton and Burnham Norton Oct 19th.

Whooper Swan

Cygnus cygnus

Increasing winter visitor from Iceland in internationally important numbers.

Largest gatherings in the fens at Welney where peak monthly counts were:

Jan 21st	Feb 19th	Mar 4th	Apr 1st	Oct 31st	Nov 26th	Dec 11th
905 *(1034)	732 (1012)	911	163	350	736	954
* Total Norfolk/Cambs figures in brackets.						

Autumn flocks held 15% young compared to 17% in the 1994/95 winter. Five birds killed by striking overhead powerlines in the 1994/95 winter.

A total of 100 colour-ringed birds seen at Welney in the 1994/95 winter. These had been ringed in Iceland 76, Caerlaverock, Scotland 10, Martin Mere, Lanes 8 and Welney 6. Additionally the presence of a small number of Continental birds was proven by the sighting in the autumn of a group of four cygnets ringed in Finland.

Substantial numbers of birds were also present in Broadland particularly Waxham/Horsey/West Somerton where peak counts were 149 Jan 13th, 125 Feb 18th, 58 March 4th, 38 Nov 3rd and 42 Dec 9th.

A scattering of records of small numbers from many other sites. Late migrants

lingered at Welney with 11 May 1st and 6 oversummering, most of these able to fly. Als 2 Lynn Point May 16th with a single present into July. The first autumn migrants arrive Sept 29th when a single at Welney and 3 Horsey.

Bean Goose

Anser fabalis

A.f.fabalis, winter visitor to the Yare Valley. A.f. rossicus, small numbers irregular.

The Yare Valley *fabalis* gaggle peaked at 310 Jan 10th, the lowest winter total since 1986/7. As in 1994 an early departure: 259 remained on 16th, 52 on 24th with last 51 Feb 2nd. First autumn arrivals were 88 Nov 4th with 97 next day, 116 on 18th, 152 on 19th 159 Dec 7th and a maximum of 195 on 30th. Birds also of this race at Welney Nov 11th–Dec 25th and at Holkham March 2nd.

Elsewhere coastal sightings probably all relate to the expanding Russian race *rossicus*. At Welney 9 Dec 20th, 6 on 21st and 3 on 22nd–24th; Titchwell Dec 19th; Burnham Overy Feb 18th; Holkham Feb 2nd–4th with 2 on 17th, March 2nd and Dec 30th; Blakeney 7 Jan 23rd and 6 Nov 14th; Cley 7 Jan 5th and 6 Nov 14th; Heigham Holmes/Horsey maximum of 12 in Jan, 8 Feb with last 2 on 28th, 4 Nov 30th and 2 Dec 15th; Berney 5 Dec 19th and Buckenham 6 Dec 9th.

Pink-footed Goose

Anser brachyrhynchus

Winter visitor from Iceland and East Greenland.

Well co-ordinated roost counts in NW Norfolk at Snettisham, Scolt Head and Wells/Warham during Jan included totals of 53,540 on 5th, 38,096 on 9th, 13,040 on 16th, 9,643 on 23rd and 24,132 on 30th. Highest Feb count: 20,495 on 6th followed by a rapid decrease to 6,000. These totals failed to reach the record counts of over 68,000 during Jan 1994. At Snettisham 3,500 remained March 19th with 550 Burnham Overy April 6th and 479 at Holkham April 21st – then a rapid departure. Last 6 at Holme May 1st. First autumn arrivals Sept 21st and roost counts at the usual localities included 15,045 Oct 30th, 32,370 Nov 20th, 50,615 Dec 22nd and 35,240 on 29th.

In East Norfolk the Heigham Holmes/Horsey contingent continued to increase with 2,000 until early March and 1,000 still present March 11th–21st. First autumn birds Oct 5th with 400 Nov and 1,400 Dec. Elsewhere in Broadland up to 10 in Yare Valley in Jan and 500 west at Cantley on 14th.

Elsewhere maximum of 63 Welney Nov 1st. At Mundesley 500 east Oct 31st and 2,000 east Dec 19th. Examples with blue neck bands from the increasing Svalbard (Spitsbergen) breeding population at Horsey Feb 2nd (2), 5th and Nov 2nd are the first indication that a small proportion of East Norfolk Pink-feet originate from across the North Sea. This population winters in Denmark, Germany and the Low Countries. At least 2 partial albinos and a leucistic bird in NW Norfolk.

Dense fog developed over Norfolk Nov 13th. Over a period of several hours until midnight the constant calls of disorientated Pink-feet were reported from a large area extending from Holkham to Sheringham inland to Fakenham and Dereham. Flocks came down in unusual places including several hundred on a Sculthorpe car park; others alighted on the A148 Fakenham/Holt road.

White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons

Winter visitor and passage migrant from the Siberian tundra.

Totals from traditional localities: Welney 22 Jan 18th–22nd, 8 Nov 12th, 15 Dec 9th increasing to 36 on 24th. Holkham 185 Jan, 270 Feb but only 150 remaining March 10th; 6 had returned Nov 26th and 305 Dec 27th. Heigham Holmes 185 Jan, 165 Feb and 100 remaining March 2nd; 6 returned Nov 8th and 100 during Dec. Buckenham/Cantley 265

Jan decreasing to 155 Feb 7th; 9 returned Nov 4th, 70 Dec 15th and 106 by end of year.

Elsewhere: 48 Cley Jan 30th and 19 Dec 4th. Waxham 38 Dec 3rd. Breydon 39 Jan 3rd, 23 on 16th and 21 Dec 20th. Haddiscoe Island 100 Feb 23rd. Pentney GP 32 Dec 4th and 26 next day. Records between May and Sept refer to feral or injured birds. First in autumn 30 west Kelling Quags Oct 31st.

Greenland White-fronted Goose

A.a. flavirostris

An immature of this race among Pink-feet at Houghton Jan 1st (CD) and almost certainly the same, again with Pinkfeet, at Holkham Feb 8th (JBK).

Lesser White-fronted Goose

Anser erythropus

Vagrant from Northern Scandinavia, but birds of captive origin now predominate.

An adult of doubtful origin among White-fronts and Pink-feet at Holkham/Burham Norton Jan 13th–April 25th (AIB DF JRMCC *et al*). An immature of unknown origin with Beans at Cantley Jan 15th–30th (DJH MP–O MS *et al*) with the same or another at Hardley Flood Feb 2nd (JE DJH).

The following are almost certainly escapes from collections: Buckenham an immature with Greylags during Jan and on Oct 21st; Hardley Flood April 30th–May 1st and July 17th; Ranworth and Cockshoot Broads Oct 8th and Whitlingham GP an adult Jan 9th–21st, Feb 18th–23rd with 2 March 17th–24th.

Greylag Goose

Anser anser

Long established feral population complicates the identity of genuine wild arrivals.

Highest counts at main localities: Welney 310 Oct and 321 Nov; Sennowe Park 360 June; Snettisham 410 Jan and 473 Dec; Pentney GP 327 Nov; Tottenhill GP 480 Nov; Holkham NNR 770 Sept; Holkham Lake 434 Dec; Cockthorpe 500 Nov; Strumpshaw 324 Sept; Buckenham/Cantley 234 Sept; Ranworth/Cockshoot 250 Oct; Heigham Holmes 540 Jan; Hickling 660 Aug; Martham Broad 700 Oct; Wroxham Broad 431 Sept. Wetland Bird Survey counts produced peak totals in Sept when 511 in the complete Wash and 1,204 along north Norfolk coast including 242 at Cley.

Breeding records included 5 pairs Snettisham, 40 pairs Holkham Lake, 27 pairs Holkham NNR, 3 pairs Breydon, 4 pairs Strumpshaw, 15 pairs Hickling, 6 pairs Pentney GP and 5 pairs Swangey GP.

Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

An abundant introduced resident.

Monthly totals at main sites: Jan Swangey GP 130, Lyng Easthaugh GP 350 and Whitlingham GP 288. Feb Holkham NNR 75 and Heigham Holmes 80. March Sennowe Park 54 and Holkham NNR 67. April Surlingham Church Marsh 123. June Snettisham 72 and Titchwell 320. Aug Wroxham Broad 291 and Colney GP 245. Sept West Lynn 150, Holme 160, Wroxham Broad 172, St. Benet's 97. Oct Burnham Norton 144. Nov Snettisham 110, Holkham NNR 142, Blikling 250, Whitlingham GP 223, Wroxham Broad 157 and Broome GP 300. Dec Heigham Holmes 150.

Among the few breeding records received: Thetford Nunnery 11 pairs, Swangey GP 3 broods, Holme 3 broods, Holkham NNR 7 broods, Breydon 2 pairs and Wroxham Broad 34 young.

Barnacle Goose

Branta leucopsis

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Increasingly large feral groups cause confusion.

Only low numbers in the county between Jan and March; in fact Heigham Holmes/

Horseley only area containing double figures: 40 Jan, 18 Feb and 5 March 1st with a single till 9th. Elsewhere 2 Welney Jan 1st–27th; Holkham 1–4 with Pink-feet Jan–Feb with in March. Another with Pink-feet at Flitcham Jan 21st–22nd; 3 Winterton Feb 25th and 3 Breydon Feb 6th.

Doubtful if any autumn occurrences relate to wild birds, but a considerable influx during Dec including the following: Welney 36 Dec 17th–18th increasing to 44 from 19th–31st. Wells 33 west 19th, 17 south 22nd; Cley 6 on 3rd increasing to 11 on 6th, 1 on 22nd; Waxham 55 on 17th; Heigham Holmes/Horseley 55 on 17th and 65 on 19th. Breydon/Berney 34 on 20th, 44 on 23rd, 52 on 28th–31st (one carried a Russian ring) and Haddiscoe Island 36 on 17th.

Origins of the following selected groups doubtful and Yare Valley sightings almost certainly relate to descendants of released birds at Surlingham: Gunton Park 67 Dec 5th–17th; Lound 8 Oct 21st and 28 Nov 22nd–23rd; Fritton 21 April 17th; Ranworth Dec 10th; Strumpshaw 49 Oct 31st; Buckenham 32 Nov 9th and 42 on 11th and Cantley/Limpdenhoe 45 Oct 1st. At Hethersett Hall 3 breeding pairs resulted in an impressive flight of 50 in late Aug with 45 still present Oct 11th.

Brent Goose

Brenta bernicla

Dark-bellied Brent

B.b. bernicla

Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor.

Monthly complete Wash counts: Jan 19,108, Feb 15,443, March 18,344, April 14,360, May 12,663, June 8, July 22, Aug 28, Sept 4, Oct 9,542, Nov 16,134 and Dec 18,926. This estuary contains the most important wintering population in Britain. Of local interest are the Terrington counts including Jan 4,676, Feb 2,064 and Dec 1,794 and the Ousemouth totals including Jan 3,420, Feb 1,580 and Dec 1,255.

North coast maximum counts (Holme to Salthouse): Jan/Feb not complete, March 5,245, April 2,856, Oct 840, Nov 7,957 and Dec 8,110. Maximum counts during Jan Brancaster 3,250, Wells 2,310 and Blakeney 1,900 and during Feb: Holkham 2,980, Blakeney 2,300 and Cley 2,000.

East coast: Breydon Jan 8, Feb 4 and March 11.

Exceptional numbers still present in May including Terrington 2,387, Brancaster 660 on 4th and Blakeney 1,500 on 2nd with still 50 on 26th. Summering birds (June to Aug) Holme 3, Titchwell 3, Brancaster 8, Breydon 3 and Yarmouth 1.

First autumn arrivals 11 west Holme (also at Brancaster) Sept 14th and further 35 west on 16th. Further arrivals on 17th: 200 west at Sheringham and 240 at Wells by 22nd. Increasing numbers during Oct when westerly coastal movements on many dates especially on 29th when 1,850 Holme, 2,330 Sheringham and 1,500 Mundesley. Movements continued into Nov especially on 2nd when 1,600 Weybourne, 2,900 Sheringham and 2,239 Mundesley. Dec totals at selected localities included 2,260 Holkham and 2,000 Blakeney – lower than normal. Also 72 Breydon several days. Following the almost total failure of the 1994 breeding season, the 1995 results were even more disappointing with under 2% young being reported.

Pale-bellied Brent

B.b. hrota

Annual winter visitor/passage migrant in very small numbers.

Single examples of this race at Ousemouth April 16th, Holkham Jan 11th and Feb 8th–15th, Wells March 2nd, Warham Feb 15th and March 13th, Cley Feb 28th and Nov 2nd, Salthouse Feb 8th and Sheringham Nov 2nd.

Black Brant

B.b. nigricans

Vagrant from North America.

The record of a bird at Cley Feb 9th 1994 was published in error and should be deleted.

Red-breasted GooseBranta ruficollis

A vagrant from Siberia.

A first-winter bird at Welney Nov 12th (JBK) and an adult with Pink-feet at Sea Palling Nov 28th-Dec 9th (MH *et al*). Five previous county records.

Egyptian GooseAlopochen aegyptiacus

Long established feral population.

Highest totals: Jan Horning Upper Street 45 and West Acre 22; Feb Holkham Lake 45 and Felbrigg 9; March Neatishead 20; April Holkham Lake 53; May Sennowe Park 30; June Pentney GP 30, Sennowe Park 30, Holkham Lake 99 and Blickling 46; July Holkham Lake 90; Aug Colney GP 33 and Lynford GP 26; Sept Wells 75, Holkham 44, Leziate 30, Sparham 55, Lynford GP 49 and St. Benet's Level 42; Oct West Acre 46 and Wroxham 29 and Nov Pentney GP 51.

Breeding birds in Stanford Battle Area 13 pairs, Sennowe Park 4 pairs, Swangey GP 2 pairs, Beetley GP 1 pair, Briston 1 pair, Lyng Easthaugh 2 pairs, Pentney GP 2 pairs, Holme 1 pair, Holkham 12 pairs, Stiffkey 1 pair, Wroxham 4 pairs and Colney 1 pair.
Early breeding at Wroxham where 5 small young Jan 23rd.

Ruddy ShelduckTadorna ferruginea

Status uncertain. Most are escapees, but a few are probably genuine vagrants.

A scatter of records during first half of year, but none thereafter: One Horning Jan 2nd then Wroxham Broad Jan 3rd; possibly the same Heigham Holmes throughout Jan; Stanford Water Jan 13th-Feb 1st; female in off sea Burnham Norton Mar 30th; Blakeney Harbour May 29th; Berney June 18th; Cley June 18th and July 6th; Snettisham June 19th and 21st; 3 Breydon Water June 26th.

Up to 5 in Melton Constable/Sennowe Park area Feb/March considered certain escapes.

ShelduckTadorna tadorna

Widespread breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Monthly peak counts at selected sites:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
North Norfolk WeBS	-	-	569	583	-	-	-	181	216	490	657	546
Lynn Point	3420	3138	2315	505	-	-	68	174	-	770	395	-
Terrington	-	-	-	-	-	-	816	261	457	2261	3781	4382
Snettisham	1433	946	645	573	339	345	650	122	425	600	-	322
Blakeney Hbr/Cley	264	276	168	151	-	-	-	125	143	214	273	350+
Breydon	183	143	317	297	416	564	470	43	130	190	241	351

Notable counts from elsewhere include 220 Brancaster Hbr Feb; 175 east Holme March 1st, 247 Welney March 25th (site record); 283 Titchwell April; 77 Rockland Broad April/May; 75+ Cantley BF May and 230 Brancaster/Scolt Dec.

Regular summer departure of adults east to moulting sites off NW Germany noted regularly off Holme and Sheringham in July with max of 100 Sheringham July 3rd and 132 Holme July 17th. Raft of 250 moulting adults Bull Dog Sands Aug 15th.

Return westward passage from Aug 31st when 132 Holme and 60 Weybourne. Regular westward movement continued till year-end with highest counts 120 Sheringham Sept 17th, 105 Holme Sept 16th, 100 Holme Oct 10th, 110 Sheringham and 100 north Horsey Nov 4th, 120 Holme Nov 14th and 160 Sheringham Dec 31st.

Breeding data received from only 18 sites and breeding success poor. Counts of 32 young from 6 broods Breydon and 48 young Cantley BF. Predation by Stoats noted at Scolt and only one brood fledged there.

Mandarin

Aix galericulata

Introduced wanderer and escapee. Breeding collection at Sandringham.

Only details received from Sandringham were 4 March 7th and 20+ Sept 28th.

A notable increase in records with 1–5 at Brundall, Castle Rising, Cley, Diss Mere, East Winch, Flitcham, Hickling Broad, Holkham Park, Holme, Ken Hill, Kettlestone Common, Lynn Walks, Ormesby Little Broad, Nunnery Lakes, Salhouse Broad, Sennowe Park, Sheringham, Shouldham Thorpe Pits, Snettisham, Sparham/Lyng Easthaugh, Strumpshaw Fen, Welney, Womack Water, Wroxham Broad. Interesting numbers at Felbrigg where max 1 March, 11 Sept, 20 Oct, 13 Nov and 1 Dec.

Only breeding records from River Babingley where pair with young May 14th and pair displaying from Cromer rooftops April 16th!

Wigeon

Anas penelope

Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor in internationally important numbers. A few oversummer and has bred.

Peak monthly counts at main localities:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Norfolk Washes	15146	9035	16277	–	–	–	–	–
Welney	1510	1620	6009	214	1350	2729	4806	6507
Snettisham	777	247	48	–	133	490	500	580
Holme	2410	2235	950	40	85	550	1300	1300
Holkham NNR	9210	7200	1070	–	1378	3575	4565	1135
Blakeney/Cley	2350	2700+	985	31	–	1748	6000	6300
Breydon/Berney	4900	2700	2000	300+	205	471	270	1400
Ranworth Broad	609	704	96	–	–	12	150	423
Cantley/Buckenham	3996	3096	2505	900	20	2293	6219	6350

Other notable counts elsewhere include 4,000 Burnham Norton, 1,000 Heigham Holmes Jan; 2,500 Brancaster/Scolt Nov; 645 St. Benet's Dec.

Noted in the general wildfowl passage Jan 6th, with 400 west Cley and 675 west Paston. As usual a small number summered at main wetland sites, but no evidence of breeding. Westerly coastal movements from Aug 18th, but generally unremarkable. Peak counts of 500 west Sheringham Sept 9th, 450 west Holme and 400 west Sheringham Sept 16th, 750 west Holme Nov 2nd, 600 west Sheringham Nov 3rd, 400 west Cley Nov 4th and 520 west Sheringham Dec 30th. Numbers generally low at Welney at year-end as little flooding.

American Wigeon

Anas americana

Vagrant from North America.

A drake Berney Marshes May 15th–16th (PRA *et al*). The 13th county record.

adwall

Anas strepera

resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak monthly counts at principal localities:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
North Norfolk WeBS	—	—	—	—	157	193	157	99	—
Welney	154	41	137	50	40+	29	31	6	12
Snettisham	61	53	10	—	—	6	—	—	39
Fitchwell	26	2	84	52	52	—	40	4	22
Holkham NNR	27	28	56	—	—	53	19	31	7
Blakeney	29	36	24	25	—	115	—	—	—
Reydon/Berney	11	28	49	51	2	0	2	8	22
Whitlingham GP	38	49	61	—	—	40	78	49	—
Welney GP	—	42	—	26	—	105	83	135	209
Ranworth Park	64	37	—	—	—	32	21	115	76

Significant counts elsewhere: 84 Fowlmere, 78 Swangey GP Jan; 378 Norfolk Washes March; 39 Surlingham April; 36 Surlingham May; 48 Cranwich GP, 150 Burnham Norton, 104 East Wretham, 52 Holme, 50 Strumpshaw Aug; 65 East Wretham, 49 Holkham Park Sept; 98 Holkham Park, 75 Martham Broad, 86 Stanford Water Oct; 122 Heigham Sound, 74 How Hill, 45 Martham Broad, 40 Ranworth, 142 Stanford Water, 51 Heigham Sound Nov; 75 How Hill and 61 West Acre Dec.

Breeding records from 21 widespread locations with at least 70 pairs and 26 known broods.

Small-scale autumn passage with 10 west Sheringham Oct 6th and 14 west Holme Nov 2nd.

Teal

Anas crecca

Passage migrant and abundant winter visitor; breeds in small numbers.

Peak monthly counts at main sites:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
North Norfolk WeBS	—	—	—	—	390	1737	1191	2438	2665
Welney	945	1127	2302	216	450	735	569	636	498
Snettisham	320	—	34	67	63	305	410	350	94
Holme	395	235	125	15	62	—	123	51	240
Fitchwell	402	184	102	52	220	—	197	440	800
Holkham NNR	1621	640	374	—	130	355	248	715	491
Blakeney	260	215	106	12	—	—	124	370	430
Clay	350	295	128	21	53	963	480	926	1558
Berney	576	545	925	428	30	60	52	120	178
Ranworth/Cockshoot	276	440	53	104	—	125	136	301	259

Coastal movement Jan 6th with other wildfowl with 300 west Holme and 410 west Paston. Higher counts elsewhere in first-winter period: 300 Brancaster, 1,000 Heigham Holmes Jan; 200 Whitlingham Feb.

Summering as usual in low numbers at most wetland sites with single brood of 4 juv Fenmere, 2 broods Holkham NNR and single brood Welney.

High counts in second-winter period include 400 west Sheringham Aug 29th, 20 west Weybourne and 350 west Sheringham Aug 30th; 500 west Sheringham Sept 9th 320 west Holme Sept 9th, 400 west Holme Sept 16th, 210 Cantley BF, 600+ Horsey Mere, 500 Wroxham Sept; 1,100 Cantley BF, 1,000 Horsey Mere Oct; 288 Buckenham/Cantley, 1,300 Cantley BF, 2,000 Horsey Mere, 300 Narford Lake Nov; 54 west Holme and 200 west Weybourne Dec 2nd, 218 Buckenham/Cantley, 400 Hickling Broad, 340 Horsey Mere, 370 Sennowe Park, 200 Sparham Pools and 226 Thornham Dec.

Green-winged Teal *A.c.carolinensis*
A drake of the Nearctic race at Holkham Fresh Marsh April 26th–28th (GCW *et al*).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
Widespread resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
Peak counts at selected sites:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
North Norfolk WeBS	–	–	–	–	961	1135	807	1238	–
Welney	1204	1062	550	143	700	520	614	816	1443
Terrington	386	147	56	–	–	129	263	205	235
Snettisham	871	274	193	105	745	713	200	136	704
Holme	170	63	24	18	142	180	75	97	340
Titchwell	–	–	–	–	295	133	198	39	55
Holkham NNR	198	165	170	100	382	350	110	180	195
Blakeney	138	144	120	90	–	–	115	122	78
Cley	188	54	35	35	216	233	–	234	286
Breydon/Berney	322	316	107	45	95	81	116	201	230
Ranworth/Cockshoot	420	143	35	–	245	154	305	340	658
Sennowe Park	166	–	–	–	115	108	126	208	350

Elsewhere counts of 200 Heigham Holmes, 193 Holkham Park Jan; 160 Hickling, 113 Langmere Aug; 161 Buckenham/Cantley Sept; 212 Buckenham/Cantley, 150 Sparham Pools Oct; 240 Hickling, 342 Holkham Park, 220 Sparham Pools Nov; 367 Buckenham/Cantley, 384 Holkham Park, 250 Sparham Pools, 198 Strumpshaw Fen, 141 Lound Dec. Peak coastal passage counts: 170 west Holme, 92 west Weybourne and 105 west Sheringham all Nov 2nd; 75 west Sheringham Nov 3rd where 40 west Nov 4th.

Pintail

Anas acuta

Passage migrant and winter visitor, but has bred.

Peak monthly counts at principal localities:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
North Norfolk WeBS	—	—	—	144	268	563	—
Welney	336	253	115	700	915	214	216
Terrington	117	45	—	—	100	—	13
Snettisham	—	—	2	36	114	3	—
Holkham NNR	33	50	9	22	15	4	—
Blakeney Hbr	471	374	188	—	240	540	800
Cley	250+	17	2	119	60	775	61
Berney/Breydon	203	161	82	36	59	94	115
Tottenhill GP	147	—	—	—	670+	438	60

Winter westerly coastal movement Jan 6th with counts of 51 Holme, 40 Cley, 50 Weybourne and 205 Paston.

1–3 at Burnham Norton, Titchwell and Welney in May with 2 pairs at Cley all months. 1–3 lingered into June at Berney, Burnham Overy, Hickling, Holkham, Reedham Water (till 25th) and Welney, but no indication of breeding.

Usual autumn passage at coastal localities. Peak counts: 40 west Sheringham Aug 29th, 40 west Sheringham Sept 9th, 50 west Holme and 100 west Sheringham Sept 11th, 305 west Holme and 55 east Blakeney Point Sept 16th, 60 west Sheringham Oct 10th, 80 east Salthouse Oct 16th and 100 west Salthouse Nov 1st. Late winter movement 40 west Sheringham Dec 30th.

Garganey

Anas querquedula

Very scarce breeding summer visitor; scarce passage migrant.

Exceptional winter record of a female Cley Jan 18th–29th (IJ EMPS *et al*).

Early arrivals Cley Feb 24th–25th and Berney March 2nd followed by further March records of 2 Berney 9th–12th, Cley 15th–16th, 2 Strumpshaw 22nd, 2 Lakenheath Flashes 24th and 2 Berney 25th. Further spring records of 1–4 at Berney, Brancaster, Burnham Norton, Burnham Overy, Cley, Hickling, Holme, Kelling Quags, King's Lynn BF, Salthouse, Snettisham, Sparham Pools, Strumpshaw Fen, Surlingham Church Marsh and Syderstone Common. Also 5 regularly at Welney and 6 Titchwell throughout May.

Summering recorded at six localities with failed breeding at one site.

Autumn records of 1–4 at Burnham Norton, Cantley BF, Cley, Colney GP, Holkham Park, Holme, Langmere, Reedham Water, Surlingham Church Marsh, Titchwell and Welney. Latest records: Holkham Park Lake till Oct 8th and 2 Welney Oct 9th with one next day.

Shoveler

Anas clypeata

Passage migrant, summer and winter visitor.

Peak counts at main sites:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
North Norfolk WeBS	—	—	—	—	82	131	—	115	—
Welney	186	61	401	38	50	240	169	66	55
Titchwell	—	—	—	—	64	43	47	42	62
Holkham NNR	33	33	30	—	—	51	62	97	32
Cley	69	114	23	15	—	18	—	36	20
Berney/Breydon	49	187	213	52	13	8	15	27	38
Ranworth/Cockshoot	12	70	63	—	—	55	9	29	85

Light winter passage together with other wildfowl Jan 6th when 7 west Holme, 20 west in half hour Cley and 22 west Paston.

Breeding records: Buckenham/Cantley (1 brood), Dilham (1 brood), East Ruston (1 brood), Horning Upper Street (1 brood), How Hill (1 brood), Hickling Broad (1 pair), Langmere (1 pair), Strumpshaw Fen (9 pairs with 2 broods), Titchwell (3 broods) and Welney (9 broods).

Occasionally noted on autumn passage; highest counts: 77 west Holme Sept 2nd, 18 west Titchwell Nov 2nd, 14 west Titchwell and 8 west Sheringham Nov 14th.

Red-crested Pochard

Netta rufina

An escapee, but with the possibility of genuine vagrants from the Continent.

Ones and twos at Breydon, Cantley BF, Coltishall, Holkham Park, Horning, Postwick, Ranworth, Stokesby, Thorpe, Titchwell, Tottenhill GP, Welney, Whitlingham GP and Wroxham Broad. Some duplication likely. Up to 9 Felbrigg Oct–Dec.

Two at Kettlestone Common April and up to 9 Sennowe Park throughout year no doubt derive from the local Pensthorpe free-flying population.

Pochard

Aythya ferina

Summer visitor breeding in small numbers; passage migrant and winter visitor.

Max monthly counts at the main wintering site at Welney.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Welney	1322	2009	1267	41	165	538	787

Small winter movement noted with other wildfowl Jan 6th with 30 west in half hour Cley and 18 west Paston.

Notable counts elsewhere: 139 Colney GP, 71 Earsham GP, 210 Fowlmere, 70 Holkham Park, 173 Martham Broad, 75 Ormesby Little Broad, 72 Snettisham Jan; 131 Colney GP, 122 Martham Broad, 113 Ranworth Broad Feb; 69 Colney GP, 117 Sennowe Park March; 140 Martham Broad, 89 Snettisham Oct; 50 Heigham Sound, 100 Martham Broad, 95 Snettisham Nov; 88 Colney GP, 50 Leziate, 60 Pentney GP, 480 Ranworth Broad, 83 Sennowe Park, 127 Snettisham and 80 West Acre Dec.

Breeding records from 18 localities with 62–64 pairs known to have hatched 49 broods. Again true county total no doubt higher as Broadland coverage patchy.

Small-scale autumn movements with highest counts 20 west Sheringham Sept 28th, 20 east Cley Oct 10th, 16 west Sheringham Oct 25th, 33 west Holme and 35 west Sheringham Nov 14th and 65 west Holme Dec 10th.

Ring-necked Duck

Aythya collaris

Vagrant from North America.

The regular drake spending its fifth winter in upper Bure appeared at Wroxham Broad Jan 2nd–8th (NB *et al*). This bird failed to return in following winter period.

Ferruginous Duck

Aythya nyroca

Rare visitor from the Continent, or escape from captivity.

A pair Syderstone Common May 21st–22nd (AIB). Although free-flying and unringed the possibility of these being escapes cannot be ruled out.

Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

Summer breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak counts at selected sites:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Welney	83	178	210	–	–	11	12	43	37
Snettisham	111	40	26	48	42	53	93	96	85
Ranworth/Cockshoot	39	85	64	46	–	–	55	159	760
Wroxham Broad	145	21	17	–	–	–	–	30	258
Whitlingham GP	105	–	40	–	–	47	40	65	–
Colney GP	96	102	73	118	145	37	42	85	139
Sennowe Park	78	71	87	113	106	68	44	115	88

Counts elsewhere: 115 Denver Sluice, 140 Strumpshaw Fen, 109 Swangey GP Jan; 736 Norfolk Washes March; 96 Holkham Park April; 133 Sennowe Park July; 145 Colney GP, 106 Sennowe Park Aug; 100 Heigham Sound, 210 Hickling, 109 Horsey, 120 Martham Nov; 162 Earsham GP Dec.

Breeding reported from following sites: Berney (1 brood), Cantley BF (4 broods), Cley (3 pairs 1 brood), East Wretham Heath (5 pairs 1 brood), Filby Broad (1–2 pairs), Flitcham Abbey Fm (1 brood), Little Broad Filby (1 brood), Holkham NNR (16 broods), Hoveton Great Broad (5 broods), Ken Hill grazing marsh (1 brood), Lynford Arboretum (4 broods), Martham Broad (5 pairs), Ranworth Broad (1 brood), River Wissey Ickburgh (2 pairs), Rockland Broad (1 brood), Salthouse (3 broods), Sennowe Park (3 broods), Snettisham (8 pairs), Stiffkey (1 brood), Strumpshaw Fen (8 pairs 3 broods), Surlingham Church Marsh (2 broods) and The Nunnery (6 pairs).

Scaup

Aythya marila

Winter visitor in varying numbers. Scarce inland. Occasional in summer.

Peak monthly counts at Snettisham, the only regular site:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Snettisham	9	16	18	8	6	1	1	1	1	2	–	20

Elsewhere in first-winter period only 1–5 at Holme, Titchwell, Stiffkey, Blakeney Point, Blakeney Fresh Marsh, Cley, Sheringham, Paston and Breydon, with slightly higher counts from Ongar Hill (11 Feb 1st), Titchwell (9) and Sheringham (27 east April 22nd and 6 west May 20th). Mid-summer records away from Snettisham: Titchwell July 26th–30th and possibly the same male Cley Aug 1st.

Autumn passage from Sept 9th when 1 west Sheringham, with subsequent max counts of 8 Holme Oct 11th, 8 Sheringham Nov 1st, 7 Cley Nov 2nd, 14 Holme Nov 12th where 12 west Nov 14th. Additional records of 1–4 at Titchwell, Wells, Blakeney Quay, Cley, Overstrand and Breydon. Some impressive counts at end of the year: 20 Hunstanton and 7 Brancaster Dec 28th; 11 Ongar Hill, 42 Titchwell, 19 east Salthouse, 60 east + 90 west Sheringham Dec 30th; 280 east + 18 west Sheringham and 160 east West Runton Dec 31st.

Inland: Wroxham Broad Jan 8th, Thetford GP Sept 16th, Felbrigg Sept 30th–Oct 2nd, Sennowe Park Oct 1st, Wroxham Broad Oct 1st–15th, 2 Welney Oct 22nd, Cantley BF Oct 22nd and Nov 8th, Ranworth Broad Dec 10th, Gunton Park Dec 19th and UEA/R. Yare Dec 19th into 1996.

Eider

Somateria mollissima

Non-breeders throughout the year, highest totals in winter and early spring.

Numbers from the Wash to Blakeney remain very low. As birds drift round coast with the tides, some duplication is likely.

Max monthly counts at principal sites:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Terrington	–	146	197	88	–	–	–	–	–	–	19	30
Hunstanton	80	80	–	–	–	5	–	22	12	–	–	67
Holme	51	26	48	26	21	–	–	–	–	15	16	54
Titchwell	40	3	7	20	117	84	79	31	12	20	51	181
Brancaster Hbr/Scolt	85	105	90	70	102	86	82	–	–	–	21	150
Blakeney Hbr/Cley	32	36	29	6	–	–	–	–	24	27	11	26

Off the east coast numbers very low at beginning of year with generally only 1–6 Winterton–Yarmouth, but max 28 Horsey Jan. Higher numbers at year-end with max 50 Overstrand, 30 Paston Nov; 24 Waxham, 30 Winterton, 73 Hemsby, 30 Gorleston Dec.

Some good late autumn coastal movements with max counts 119 north Horsey Nov 4th; 197 west Holme, 80 west Cley, 80 west Sheringham Nov 12th; 140 west Holme, 44 west Weybourne Nov 14th; 120 east Overstrand, 31 west Paston Dec 4th; 44 west Overstrand Dec 5th; 85 west Weybourne, 70 west Sheringham and 100 west Overstrand Dec 15th.

Long-tailed Duck

Clangula hyemalis

Winter visitor chiefly to NW Norfolk coastal waters. Occasional inland.

Reasonable numbers in first-winter period at usual localities. Most records of 1–7, but peak counts of 77 Holme, 17 Titchwell Jan; 100+ Hunstanton, 52 Holme, 11 Titchwell Feb; 74 Holme March; 38 Holme April. Off east coast only record Winterton/Hemsby Jan 13th. Majority departed by April 27 when 2 Brancaster Hbr. A late male off Holme May 21st–22nd.

Returning birds from Oct 21st when 5 off Sheringham. Very scarce indeed during second-winter period: the only counts in double figures 12 Titchwell Nov 26th and maxima off Holme 34 Nov and 63 Dec with only 1–7 at other NW Norfolk localities. Off the east coast 2 Bacton Oct 29th, Paston, 3+ Horsey and Winterton all Nov 4th, 6 Winterton Nov 29th and 1–2 Overstrand Nov.

Elsewhere Cley Jan 1st–22nd and Feb 24th. One well inland Bittering GP on odd dates May 15th–18th (BG DM). One Holkham Meals scrape Dec 26th.



Long-tailed Duck (P. Jones)

Common Scoter

Melanitta nigra

Winter visitor in varying numbers, passage migrant, non-breeders over summer.

True numbers difficult to determine as flocks drift round coast and out to sea at times. Again, this is illustrated by a record of 500+ two miles NW of Brancaster Harbour May 6th. Some duplication inevitable.

Max monthly counts at principal coast sites:

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

Holme	2000	450	2000	2000	2500	2000	1000	400	—	40	320	1950
Fitchwell	1000	4500	3000	1200	15	30	10	5	—	290	1500	500
Brancaster	—	235	—	304	—	—	—	—	—	—	1475	500
Holkham Bay	2000	1500	300	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	30	—
Cley/Sheringham	700	1000	—	600	120	90	50	70+	120	200	50	55
Winterton/Hemsby	115	150	250	250	320	—	—	17	—	—	110	—

Some good coastal movements including 100 west Paston Jan 6th; 1500 east Morston May 15th; 160 NW Happisburgh Sept 2nd; 220 west Sheringham Oct 29th; 160 west Weybourne, 150 west Overstrand Nov 1st; 850 west Holme, 650 west Cley, 700 west Weybourne, 1,240 west + 60 east Sheringham, 354 west Paston Nov 2nd; 450 west Holme, 400 west + 35 east Sheringham Nov 3rd; 140 west Holme, 200 west Weybourne, 320 west + 50 east Sheringham Nov 4th; 100 Waxham Nov 13th; 122 west Sheringham Nov 18th and 110 west Brancaster Dec 21st.

No inland records.

Velvet Scoter

Melanitta fusca

Winter visitor, but numbers and localities fluctuate.

Max counts at selected sites. Some duplication likely.

JAN FEB MAR APR OCT NOV DEC

Titchwell	34	40	6	14	3	30	87
Brancaster	76	9	—	2	2	25	70
Cley/Salthouse	5	—	—	—	13	9	3
Weybourne/Sheringham	15	2	—	—	10	12	4
Winterton/Hemsby	20	25	21	20	3	4	1

Reasonable numbers at beginning of year. A few small coastal movements with 7 west Holme Jan 9th, 6 east Sheringham March 12th, 9 west Weybourne March 28th and 3

west Holme March 31st. Latest Titchwell May 6th.

Singles at Paston June 16th and Cley July 29th with 5 there Sept 5th.

Numerous autumn records of 1-4 passing coastal stations Oct and Nov. Max count 14 west Holme, 8 west Cley, Nov 2nd; 18 east Holme Nov 3rd; 7 south Happisburgh Nov 14th and 6 north Horsey Nov 29th.

Goldeneye

Bucephala clangula

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Maximum monthly counts at principal coastal sites:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	OCT	NOV	DEC
Snettisham	45	70	54	10	18	50	53
Brancaaster Hbr	—	30	—	8	—	—	55
Holkham Park	31	63	46	—	6	—	4
Blakeney Hbr	91	177	111	2	—	—	42

Single figure counts in both winter periods from numerous localities. Highest count at start of year: 12 west Sheringham Jan 6th (with many other wildfowl), 12 Hickling Broad Jan; 17 Martham Broad, 15 Sennowe Park Feb; 25 Hickling Broad, 17 Pentney GP, 13 Sennowe Park Mar; 14 Tottenhill GP April.

Most departed by mid-April with latest west Holme May 9th, female Strumpshaw ti May 14th, and imm male Hickling Broad May 30th. Several unusual mid-late summer records with female (possibly same as above) at Surlingham July 29th and Bramerton Woods End Aug 13th. On north coast Titchwell July 15th, Holme July 17th-19th, Titchwell July 24th, Snettisham July 31st, Aug 6th, 13th, 16th and throughout Sept and Brancaaster Hbr Aug 14th. Possibly only 2 birds involved.

Return passage from Oct 20th (Holme) with usual small numbers passing coastal stations. A significant westerly movement Nov 1st-3rd with 40 Holme, 35 Sheringham Nov 1st; 105 Holme, 68 Cley, 31 Weybourne, 98 Sheringham, 10 Overstrand, 31 Paston 36 north Yarmouth Nov 2nd; 30 Holme, 20 Sheringham Nov 3rd. Widespread in usual small numbers in second-winter period with higher counts of 12 Martham Broad, 1 Scolt Nov; 16 Burnham Overy Hbr, 12 Cley, 36 Magdalen Relief Channel, 12 Titchwell and 12 Wells Hbr Dec.

Smew

Mergus albellus

Winter visitor, only appearing in numbers during severe winters.

Low numbers in first-winter period with all records given. Overstrand west Jan 2nd, Cley drake Jan 5th-6th, Wroxham Jan 8th-9th, Lyng GP Jan 12th, Snettisham Jan 12th, Hickling Jan 15th and 2 Jan 22nd-March 5th (with drake Jan 22nd-Feb 28th and 2 drakes Feb 12th), Colney GP drake Jan 23rd-26th, Snettisham Feb 14th-March 25th with 2 there March 26th, imm male Snettisham April 9th-May 3rd. A late female Burnham Overy May 16th-17th.

First in second-winter period 2 on sea Snettisham Oct 29th and Nov 4th. Thereafter Snettisham Dec 1st, Holme 3 (1 drake) west Dec 9th, Snettisham Dec 11th, Cley/Salthouse 2 west Dec 25th, Snettisham Dec 28th-30th, Horsey Mere drake Dec 30th with 2 drakes 31st, Heigham Sound 2 Dec 31st. These late-winter records heralded an impressive influx in early 1996.

Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Occasional in summer.

Some good counts in first-winter period with max of 25 west Cley in half-hour and 10 west Sheringham Jan 2nd, 77 Snettisham, 20 Titchwell, 33 Blakeney Hbr Jan; 23 Snettisham, 18 Hunstanton, 35 Brancaster Hbr, 43 Blakeney Hbr Feb; 53 Snettisham, 43 Blakeney Hbr March; 14 west Sheringham April 10th, 19 Snettisham, 30 Brancaster Hbr April. One to 10 at various coastal localities May-Sept.

Max counts in second-winter period: 48 Snettisham, 33 Hunstanton, 27 Holme, 33 Titchwell, 35 Brancaster Hbr Jan; 50 Snettisham, 72 Hunstanton, 36 Holme, 20 Titchwell, 38 Brancaster Hbr Dec.

Scarce off east coast with records from Yarmouth Hbr March 4th and Aug 28th, Waxham Oct 22nd, Horsey Oct 24th, 3 north there Oct 30th and 2 Nov 4th.

Several inland records, as usual mainly from the Fens: 4 Magdalen Relief Channel Jan 2nd-6th, 4 Denver Sluice Jan 12th, Stowbridge Jan 14th, Saddlebow Feb 6th, Welney March 22nd, Brandon Creek Nov 9th, Welney Dec 2nd, 2 Magdalen Relief Channel Dec 7th-11th with 9 there Dec 29th.

One predated by Scal Titchwell Feb 1st.

Goosander

Mergus merganser

Winter visitor and passage migrant, most abundant in severe winters.

Widely recorded in first-winter period, mainly 1-4 on single dates at inland sites or passing coastal sites. Only regular locality Colney GP/UEA where 6 Jan-March with 8 March 21st. Also 8 Cranwich GP Jan. A pair remained UEA through April till at least May 21st with the female till late Aug. Elsewhere 1-2 lingered in April at Breydon, Burgh Castle and Strumpshaw with a drake Burgh Castle May 15th and a female Stowbridge Relief Channel May 21st. An injured male frequented Breydon/Burgh Castle June 13th-Dec 7th with 5 there June 24th. Even later singles Magdalen Bridge July 15th, and an injured/escaped female which summered Brundall (Aug), moving to Whittingham Oct 5th and R. Wensum Norwich Oct 20th into 1996.

In second-winter period first records 4 west Weybourne Oct 21st, Titchwell Oct 27th and Welney Oct 29th with small numbers (1-5) passing coastal sites on many dates in Nov but very few inland. Numbers in Dec low with 1-3 passing coastal localities on a few dates and a few inland chiefly at Broadland localities. Max counts 4 east 2 west Sheringham Dec 2nd, 4 Strumpshaw Dec 22nd, 4 over Wroxham Dec 29th and again only regular at Colney GP/UEA where 1-4 Nov 21st to year end.

Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

Increasing introduced wanderer, first recorded 1977. Has bred.

A continued increase in records. Numerous observations throughout year of 1-5 at Breydon, Cantley BF, Colney GP, Fowlmere, Hardley Flood, Hickling Broad, Holkham Park, Langmere, Martham Broad, Pensthorpe, Pentney GP, Ranworth Broad, Ringmere, Rockland Broad, Sennowe Park, Snettisham, Southacre GP, Stanford Water, Strumpshaw Fen, Surlingham Church Marsh, Welney and Wroxham Broad. Highest counts from Tottenhill GP where 17 Jan 1st rising to a max 23 Jan 14th, then 10 Jan 22nd and only 3 March 15th.

Breeding recorded at 4 sites: Fowlmere where 3 large ducklings Sept 2nd; Ringmere where pair reared 5 young; Little Broad Filby where female with duckling Aug 9th (a pair noted displaying at this site in 1994); and a central county locality where 11 young reared from three broods.

Honey Buzzard

Pernis apivorus

Rare migrant breeder and scarce passage migrant.

A total of 14 in spring: an early migrant near Ingham May 2nd, followed by single Sheringham/Kelling May 7th, Sheringham May 11th and 29th, Foxley Wood May 13, East Runton May 14th, Letheringsett May 15th, Salthouse Heath May 21st, Holme May 24th, Burnham Market May 26th, Horsey May 27th, Burnham Norton May 28, Strumpshaw May 29th and a late bird Holkham June 16th.

The regular breeding birds returned to Fulmodeston/Swanton Novers May 19th were present all summer. Behaviour of the suspected breeding pair indicated you present but no nest located and no fledglings reported. Successful nesting, though possible, could not be proven. Last bird departed Aug 26th.

Mid-summer reports near Holt and Sennowe Park probably relate to wandering birds from the main location. Additionally, a pale-phase adult on several occasions in June and July at a North coast locality, though breeding not suspected. At Heigham Sounds 2 on July 2nd was unusual in both location and date.

Autumn migrants noted between Massingham and Harpley Sept 3rd, Titchwell Sept 11th and 14th, Welney Sept 19th and Hoveton Sept 20th.

Black Kite

Milvus migrans

Vagrant from the Continent, usually in spring.

None in 1995, but the observer of the Cromer bird May 2nd 1994 should read (BJM).

Red Kite

Milvus milvus

Increasing vagrant. Birds from the Continent and British re-introduction project occur.

Recorded in all months except June and Sept. All records listed (*wing-tagged birds marked with an asterisk*): Early in the year noted at Blickling/Itteringham Jan 11th and Lynford Arboretum* Feb 19th. A few records mid-March: Ringstead Downs and Stiffkey March 16th; Waxham March 17th; Winterton, Caister and Yarmouth March 18th. A single April record from Suffield, then a considerable increase in early May when noted at Buckenham Fen May 1st, Acle May 2nd, 4 East Runton and single Holkham NNR and Holkham Park May 4th, Burnham Overy* May 5th, Buxton Heath* May 7th, Waxham May 27th and Sheringham May 30th.

Summer records: Raveningham Covert (Loddon) July 6th, Cley/Salthouse July 8th, Strumpshaw Fen July 23rd, Titchwell July 24th, Anmer (eating dead Hare on the road July 28th, Woodton* (a female fledged in Southern England in 1994) July 28th–30th, Buckenham Fen Aug 4th, Fring Aug 14th and Titchwell Aug 16th.

Single Oct record: West Runton on 2nd, then another scattering of Nov–Dec singles at Cley and Colney GP Nov 6th, Blakeney/Langham Nov 9th–12th, Docking Nov 25th–26th, Courtyard Farm (Ringstead) Dec 6th and 24th and Rollesby Dec 25th.

The experimental reintroduction project for restoring Red Kites in England and Scotland began in 1989. Nestlings used in the project have come from southern Sweden (most released in northern Scotland) and northern/central Spain (released in southern England). Each bird has been fitted with coloured wing-tags bearing a unique letter/number combination. By 1994 a total of 186 Red Kites had been released (93 in England and 93 in Scotland). Individuals have often ranged over considerable distances. One English bird reached northern France. Scottish birds have appeared as far apart as Orkney, Cornwall and the Republic of Ireland.

First successful breeding attempts were attained in 1992. A major landmark

was reached in 1994 when ‘home reared’ Kites themselves brought off young. In 1995 at least 79 young fledged (53 from 23 nests in England and 26 from 13 nests in Scotland). Since the project began, a total of at least 155 young have fledged. Another development in 1995 has been a new release site in the English Midlands using young Red Kites from central Spain. Eleven were released and some 20 birds will be released in each of the next 4 years. The future of the Red Kite in Britain looks brighter than at any time since the mid 19th century (*British Wildlife* Vol 7 No 1).

Marsh Harrier

Circus aeruginosus

Scare but increasing migrant breeder. Also passage migrant; small numbers winter.

Recorded only in Broadland in first-winter period where the main roost-site held 10 Jan. 9 Feb and 6 March.

Spring arrival commenced early and was both heavy and extended with unprecedented numbers of females and immatures passing through the NW of the county in April and May. Sheringham recorded its earliest ever migrant March 10th when others noted at Halvergate and Titchwell; other early birds at Sheringham March 11th. Cley March 11th and 15th. Snettisham March 14th. Brancaster Harbour March 17th and Holme March 19th. Arrival then widespread at coastal and Broadland sites from third week of March. First inland records away from Broadland at Welney March 25th and 2 Whitlingham GP March 27th.

Many breeding sites occupied in early April, but birds still moving through coastal sites in steady numbers peaking in the third week when maxima 3 Holme April 20th, 4 Cley April 21st and 3 Sheringham April 23rd. Recorded inland away from breeding sites at Holme Hale April 2nd, Felbrigg April 14th, Colney GP April 25th and Rackheath April 28th.

During May bulk of migrants had arrived by the third week, with 15 passing through Holme (maxima 3 May 15th) and 11 through Sheringham (maxima 2 May 6th and 26th). Inland records from Lakenheath Flashes May 3rd and 19th, Fakenham May 19th, 2 Sennowe Park May 21st and 5 Flitcham May 28th. In June, 6 passed over Swanton Novers on 2nd, 2–3 at Welney all month and singles Whitlingham GP June 13th and Breydon June 16th.

Breeding data reveals an explosion of pairs compared with 1994 figures with a total of 66–69 nesting females (43–47 in 1994), plus a summering pair, producing 106–112 young. The total fledged young is the second highest recorded, bettered only in 1992 (114). Breeding numbers increased in both Broadland and the north-west of the county, with good fledging success in Broadland following last year’s disappointing figures.

A female wing-tagged as a nestling in Scotland in 1994 was found breeding in north-west Norfolk.

Numbers of fledged young in recent years are listed below:

1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
33	36	43	60	82	88	90	75	114	105	71	112

Early post-breeding dispersal in Broadland with most gone by mid-Aug and only 3 present in Sept. First returning bird moved through Sheringham Aug 5th. An indication of the routes taken by dispersing birds was given when a distinctive juvenile showing black and white chequered wings and raised at Wicken Fen, Cambs was noted at Flitcham Aug 27th and Holkham Sept 3rd. Another distinctive bird with extensive white

in the wings was tracked through Welney Sept 9th, Holkham 10th-11th and Holme 13 At Welney 1-5 daily in Sept and up to 5 roosting most of the month. Inland recor during Sept from Whitlingham, Syderstone and North/South Creake.

Away from Broadland roosts, singles in Oct-Dec at Titchwell and Burnham Norton Oct 24th, Welney to Oct 10th, Holme Nov 4th-5th and Weybourne and Kelling D 19th.

The main Broadland roost numbered 8 Oct, 11 Nov/Dec. Following the previo year's habit of additional minor roosts becoming established in Broadland, up to wintered in the Waveney valley and roost in the mid-Yare valley held 6 Oct, 3 Nov and Dec, producing an over-wintering figure of around 20 – similar to the end of 1994.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Former breeder, now exceptional in summer.
Numbers roosting at the end of 1994 were maintained in the first-winter period.

Details received from 6 roosts; roost identification as in 1994 Report; roost E n recorded).

	Roost A	Roost B	Roost C	Roost D	Roost F	Roost G	Max tota
Jan	6	10	4	3	4	6	33
Feb	6	9	4	5	4	9	37
March	8	5	–	5	5	2	25

During Jan-March recorded away from known roost sites at both Boughton an Flitcham, and frequently at many sites in proximity to roosts. A female wing-tagged a chick in North Wales in 1993 regularly recorded in Buckenham/Cantley area during Jan.

During April, recorded singly at 10 coastal sites and inland at Strumpshaw, Grimsto Heath, Hempstead and Welney, with 2 Thornham Point April 6th. Singles at Weybourn May 5th, Holme May 11th. Stiffkey May 15th and Burnham Norton/Brancaster Harbou to at least June 26th with a further report there July 19th possibly relating to the sam lingering bird.

First in autumn Salthouse Sept 18th, Brancaster Harbour Sept 22nd and North Creak Sept 29th. Then none until middle of Oct when Horsey Oct 15th, Holme Oct 16th and i from the sea there Oct 22nd and 28th, Snettisham Oct 22nd, Burnham Overy Oct 23r and Holkham and Eccles Oct 24th. Widespread in usual numbers from late Oct.

Recorded inland away from roosting areas during Nov-Dec at Cockthorpe, Fring Fritton, Narborough, South Creake, Syderstone and Welney.

Roosting numbers at more usual levels in second-winter period (again recorded from o roosts; roost E not recorded). Data received tabulated below:

	Roost A	Roost B	Roost C	Roost D	Roost F	Roost G	Max tota
Oct	1	3	–	–	–	2	6
Nov	6	5	1	4	3	4	23
Dec	6	8	2	2	5	–	23

The low Oct roost numbers may be due to late arrivals and/or poor coverage of roost-sites this month.

The communal roost of Hen Harriers and Marsh Harriers in the upper Thurne reedbeds provides a fascinating winter spectacle. Details have appeared in this Report since the 1972 issue. However, the habit was known at

Hickling in 1912 "the birds sleeping amongst the sedge". Unique numbers of Hen Harriers appeared in the 1978/9 winter ranging over arable, marshes, heaths and dunes. They were recorded at 140 localities.

Harrier sp.

A highly controversial and much debated juvenile Harrier was present on saltings and arable at Warham Greens/Stiffkey Nov 24th–27th. Most observers considered it to be Montagu's, but others felt Pallid could not be eliminated. For the sake of completeness it is recorded here.

Montagu's Harrier

Circus pygargus

Rare migrant breeder and scarce passage migrant.

A pair returned to breeding grounds (April 20th) before any migrants recorded. First passage birds at Waxham, Happisburgh, Sea Palling and Sheringham April 23rd and Holme April 25th, followed by reports at Horsey, Hickling and How Hill May 2nd. Winterton May 4th, Beighton May 6th, Stiffkey May 7th, Titchwell, Brancaster, Cley and Winterton May 14th, South Creak May 15th, Titchwell May 20th–21st and 29th–31st. Roydon Common May 21st, Sheringham May 22nd and 25th, Horsey May 25th, Egmere May 26th, Ingham May 27th and Holme May 30th.

June records much fewer, with singles Choseley 11th, Swanton Novers 18th and immature males Warham Greens June 10th–July 27th and another Burnham Norton June 26th. Also summer records of presumed failed – or non-breeders: 2 males Choseley July 4th, ringtail Scolt Head July 14th and immature male Brancaster Harbour July 25th.

A return to more usual breeding numbers in NW of the county. A total of 4 nests (3 males and 4 females) successful, fledging 12 young.

Numbers of fledged young since 1987 tabulated below:

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Young	9	6	13	13	7	10	13	11	12
Nests	3	3	5	5	2	4	4	9	4

Considerably more autumn records than usual: Flitcham Aug 7th, Burnham Norton Aug 13th, Thornham Aug 16th, Heacham, Blakeney, Cley, Salhouse and Sheringham Aug 22nd, Cley (east offshore) Aug 25th, Wells/Warham Greens, juvenile Aug 26th–27th, Snettisham and Hickling Sept 1st, Cley, Salhouse and Weybourne Sept 3rd, Holme and Cley/Salhouse Sept 9th, Holkham NNR Sept 25th, Hempstead Sept 28th and a late ringtail Titchwell and Thornham Point Nov 6th.

A bird ringed as a nestling in NW Norfolk July 12th 1993 was recovered dying in Senegal Feb 3rd 1995 having travelled a distance of 4,591 km. This is the first recovery of a British ringed Montagu's in Africa. The bird unfortunately died 2 days later.

Goshawk

Accipiter gentilis

Rare breeder. Also scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

In the early part of the year recorded only at possible breeding locations.

Unfortunately the persistent threat of human persecution precludes publication of detailed breeding information. It is particularly difficult to observe Goshawks when they are not in display at nest-sites and proof of breeding needs a nest to be located or fledged young to be seen – neither is an easy task. Thus breeding information is confusing and difficult to assess particularly in Breckland. Observers are reminded that details

forwarded to the County Recorder will be treated with discretion.

Pairs were displaying at 5 sites (3 in Breckland), a pair believed to be in residence at a sixth location, and 2 juveniles seen in Aug at a seventh site. At one site where display was noted 2 males and 2 females were in display over suitable habitat in April (JRW) with at least a pair believed present up to a week previous. However, subsequent visits failed to reveal any sightings. At another site 2 males together May 19th–20th (SB P JRW), but no further reports from here either.

Spring sightings away from breeding areas: Pretty Corner (Sheringham) April 11 (DFK SN-V), Horsey April 29th (DFK) and a departing migrant, heading out to sea at Mundesley May 2nd (MF).

Autumn birds at Weybourne Sept 22nd–23rd (MPT), Wereham Oct 9th (CD) and Holme Oct 30th (GMSE).

Sparrowhawk

Accipiter nis

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

This dashing hawk is now widespread throughout the county, with 3–4 regularly being recorded from many locations. Gardens in and around Norwich are increasingly being visited.

An amazing list of 25 avian prey species received, 18 at Holme. The most interesting were Magpie, Water Rail, Cuckoo and 6 species of wader including Woodcock and Snipe.

Westerly spring movements: Holme March 31st, April 5th, 7th, 12th and 21st, Mundesley 3rd and 3 May 4th; Sheringham 3 April 11th.

A total of 19 breeding pairs reported at 14 locations, surely a very small percentage of the numbers in the county.

Many recorded at coastal sites in autumn when migrants in from the sea at Salthouse September 15th and Sheringham September 19th. Also 6 Burnham Overy Dunes October 31st considered likely to be migrants.

A first-year female killed striking a caravan at Titchwell July 27th.

Buzzard

Buteo buto

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Very small breeding population of unknown origin.

Many reports Jan–Feb when recorded singly at 20 widespread localities with multiple records from a further 7 sites. Those not relating to possible breeding localities are as follows: 2 Ringstead Jan 12th, 3 Cockley Cley Warren Jan 22nd and 2 Hickling Feb 13. During March up to 3 Wroxham 1st–23rd (coming to photographer's bait) and Roughton 5th. Otherwise numbers similar to Jan–Feb until March 23rd when a southerly movement occurred on east coast with 5 south Winterton and 3 south Yarmouth then Salthouse Heath March 26th.

Movement continued into April with 3 distinct peaks between 2nd–9th, 14th and 20th–29th. Multiple records during this time as follows: 6 near Lound and 7 Winterton April 2nd, 2 north Snettisham, 2 Houghton Woods and 2 Winterton April 7th, 3 N Yarmouth and 5 Winterton April 9th, 2 west Titchwell, 5 Felbrigg and 5 West Runton April 14th, 4 west Mundesley, 32 west Sheringham (including flocks of 21 and 9), west Holkham and 20 west Thornham April 20th, 8 Hickling April 23rd, 2 East Runton Thornham and 2 Choseley April 29th. The movement on April 20th is unprecedented in the county. With no records south of Mundesley on this date, it appears likely that arrivals from the sea were between Mundesley and Sheringham. Birds then coasted westward.

Another small arrival early May when 6 east Sheringham and 4 west Cromer on 2nd and 2 west Holme on 3rd. Few considered to be migrants after this date. One four-year-old was mortally wounded at Binham April 7th. The total number of presumed migrants in April

exceeds 50.

Reports for June–July indicated a large decrease. Records not likely to relate to breeding birds at Cley June 2nd and 30th, Sheringham June 3rd, Lingwood and Winterton June 18th.

Current breeding and licensed release schemes are discussed on pages 602–606.

The autumn situation is clouded by the release scheme involving radio-tagged birds. Those considered unlikely to relate to released birds involved singles at 13 sites away from known breeding areas during Aug–Oct plus 3 Ringstead Downs Aug 15th, where 2 Sept 22nd and 2 Snettisham Aug 30th. Evidence of incoming migrants from mid-Oct when 2 Burnham Market Oct 12th, 3 Hanworth Oct 15th–16th, 2 Ringstead Oct 18th, singles in from sea at Wells and Salthouse Oct 22nd, 2 west Holme Oct 30th, one east Overstrand Nov 5th and 3 Ken Hill Woods Nov 18th. Single Dec record away from known breeding/wintering areas: Fring Dec 21st.

Rough-legged Buzzard

Buteo lagopus

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Periodic large-scale influxes.

Large numbers still present from the invasion towards the end of 1994. Doubtless some duplication, but all records listed:

Jan: present all month at Flitcham, Horsey/Winterton, Melton Constable Park, Great Snoring (up to 3), Stody, Swanton Novers (up to 2) and Warham/Wells/Walsingham, plus Hindringham 1st–2nd, 2 Flitcham 2nd, 14th and 28th, Wells East Hills, Burnham Norton and New Holkham 2nd, Burnham Overy 3rd, Burnham Market 4th, East Barsham 12th, Choseley 13th, Castle Rising and 4 West Acre 14th, Holkham NNR 15th with 2 there 18th, Burnham Norton 21st, Cockley Cley Warren 22nd, Hickling 25th with 2 on 29th and Massingham Heath 28th.

Feb: all month at Flitcham (up to 4), Great Snoring (2), Horsey/West Somerton and Wells (up to 3), plus Wroxham 1st–7th, Egmere 2nd, Wighton/Warham 4th, Burnham Thorpe 5th, 2 West Acre 11th with one 25th, Burnham Overy Dunes 17th, Choseley 18th–19th and 23rd, 3 Thornham 21st and single there 24th, 2 Grimston Heath 23rd to month-end and Ludham 25th.

March: resident at Flitcham (up to 2) and Horsey/West Somerton plus 2 Grimston Heath to 23rd, 2 Docking/Choseley 5th–19th with 3 there 9th when 3 SE over Holme, also one west Holme 7th, 2 on 11th and 3 on 21st, Titchwell 8th, 12th, 19th and 23rd, Southrepps 9th, Snettisham 10th, 2 Burnham Overy 11th and 16th, Sculthorpe 12th, Holkham and South Acre 19th, 2 Winterton 20th, Docking 26th and Egmere 28th.

April: none lingered, but 2 Flitcham 1st–3rd, 11th and 15th–19th, singles Grimston Heath 1st and 16th, Docking/Choseley 2nd, 16th and 20th with 3 on 18th, Holkham 4th, Breydon and Great Bircham 5th, Repps-with-Bastwick 6th, Holme 9th and 2 on 23rd, Swaffham 15th, Horsey 15th, 20th and 29th, Cley 21st, Fritton 23rd, Snettisham and Kelling Quags/Weybourne 25th.

May: just 3 records; east Sheringham 2nd and south over Hickling and Horsey 6th.

It is remarkable that departing Rough-legs began appearing at coastal sites at the same time as the county was receiving its largest ever arrival of Buzzards.

First autumn arrival Oct 16th at Aylmerton and Pretty Corner (Sheringham), then 2 How Hill Oct 26th and singles Snettisham Oct 28th, Cockthorpe Nov 2nd, Whitlingham, Salthouse and Upper Sheringham Nov 5th, up to 2 Flitcham Nov 6th–30th with one Dec 4th, Chedgrave Dec 17th with up to 2 in the Beccles/Chedgrave/Fritton area Dec 22nd–26th, one remaining to 30th and Cromer Dec 29th.

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

Regular passage migrant in small numbers. Over-summering on occasions.

First spring migrant How Hill April 2nd followed by a further 10 in April; Cley 3rd, Bacton 11th, Burnham Overy 15th and 21st, Holkham 20th and 22nd, Flitcham 20th, Stiffkey and West Acre 22nd, Aylsham 23rd, East Runton and Sheringham 30th.

May produced (allowing for duplication) a further 24 reports: Holme 2nd, Blakeney Point, Cley, Salthouse, Weybourne, Kelling and Sheringham 3rd, when others Sparham and Hickling, Burnham Overy, Holkham and Cley 5th, Titchwell 6th, Colney GP 7th, Winterton 8th, Tottington 12th–14th with another Stanford Water 14th, Ludham and Snettisham CP 15th, daily Cley 15th–19th, Wroxham 16th, East Runton and Northrepps 18th, Snettisham and Wolferton 20th, Holme, Hemsby and Caister 21st, Titchwell and Blakeney Point 22nd, Blakeney 23rd and Pensthorpe 26th.

A single June occurrence, an immature west Hickling Broad 11th, giving an estimated total of 36 spring migrants.

Records from the Yare valley July–Aug indicate over-summering occurred there again this year. Noted at Strumpshaw July 3rd, 17th, 22nd–23rd and Aug 4th–6th, Wheatfen July 9th, Langley July 21st, Brundall July 27th and Aug 1st and Cantley Aug 4th. It is possible those at Breydon Aug 14th and 24th and Potter Heigham Aug 19th also relate to this individual.

Returning passage birds from Aug 12th at Warham, then Pentney GP Aug 29th and Lyng-Easthaugh GP on 30th. Further migrants in Sept–Oct at Horsford Sept 4th, Whitlingham Sept 9th, Welney Sept 12th and 14th–15th, Weybourne Sept 13th, Cantley, Kelling Quags and Wiveton Sept 17th, Barton Broad/How Hill/Catfield Fen area Sept 22nd–Oct 14th, Strumpshaw Sept 29th–Oct 25th, Wroxham Broad Oct 4th, Rockland and Ranworth Broad Oct 8th, West Acre Oct 9th, 2 Wheatfen Oct 14th and Rockland Broad Oct 16th. An autumn estimate of about 18.

Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus

Common resident and passage migrant.

Again, little of value received. Common Bird Census results have indicated a steady decline in Kestrel numbers in the last 25 years. These figures are reinforced by Breeding Bird Survey results in the county, only 23 (45%) of 51 1km squares surveyed recorded this species. National Breeding Bird Survey results indicate a significant decrease of 16% on 1994 figures. Observers are again requested for more information, particularly of breeding pairs including success rates.

Spring passage migrants at Holme March 31st, April 5th, 7th, 12th and 21st, May 3rd and 5th and Sheringham April 2nd, 11th and 12th, May 1st and 3 May 2nd.

Breeding pairs at Burnham Norton (2), East Wretham, Holkham (2–3) and Sennowe Park. No other details received.

In autumn, birds in from sea at Blakeney Point Sept 17th and 2 Sheringham Oct 10th. No large autumn concentrations; maximum 6 Holkham and Welney.

Following previous reports from terneries at Holkham and Yarmouth of Kestrels taking Little Tern chicks, this habit has now spread to Scolt Head where both Little and Common Tern chicks were predated.

Red-footed Falcon

Falco vespertinus

Vagrant, most often in spring. Large influx 1992.

A female Hickling Broad May 3rd–7th (IS), one west Mundesley May 11th (MF), a first-summer male Burnham Overy Dunes May 24th–25th (AIB GCW *et al*) and another first-summer male in the Warren Wood/Gallows Hill area of Thetford June 20th (RB AMW).

Merlin

Falco columbaris

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Exceptional in summer.

First-winter period counts received from 3 roosts only, roost identification as in 1994 report:

	Roost A	Roost B	Roost H	Max total
Jan	2	3	1	6
Feb	8	4	—	12
March	—	2	—	2

During Jan–Feb 1–2 regularly recorded at Breydon with inland sightings away from known roosting areas at Burnham Thorpe Jan 6th, Binham Jan 7th, Hilborough Jan 22nd, Cantley Jan 27th, Massingham Heath Jan 28th, South Creake Feb 18th, Aylmerton Feb 19th, Welney Feb 23rd and Sustead Feb 24th. During this period sightings of 2 birds together (other than roosting) Scolt Head Jan 6th and Morston Jan 18th.

Fewer March records but still noted inland at Binham March 3rd, Sugar Fen and Chedgrave March 12th, Wighton March 19th and Metton March 31st.

First coastal passage migrant at Holme March 24th. Passage well underway in early April with only inland records from Buckenham Fen April 6th and 5 dates at Welney to April 28th.

Over 20 April coastal singles, mainly moving west, with birds in residence at Burnham Overy April 2nd–7th and Blakeney Point all month. Single inland record in May: Berney Marshes 18th. Coastal passage (to 28th) at Holme May 1st and 21st, Breydon May 1st, 9th, 11th and 18th, Titchwell May 7th and 28th, Scolt Head and Mundesley May 7th and Salthouse May 11th.

Returning birds in Aug at Cley 3rd, 4 dates Titchwell from 20th and Sheringham 29th. Sept singles Sheringham 1st, Blakeney Point 9th, Holme 11th and then more widespread from 17th with about 17 coastal sightings and inland at Cantley BF Sept 26th–27th and Limpenhoe Sept 29th–30th. At Breydon, single Sept 19th and 1–2 regularly to the year-end.

Thinly scattered on coast in Oct. Inland away from known roosts: Cantley BF Oct 1st and 4th, Chedgrave Oct 3rd, Repps-with-Bastwick Oct 11th and Welney Oct 23rd. Numbers fairly constant into Nov–Dec on coast, but only 3 inland records: Wiveton Nov 5th, Welney Dec 1st and Wighton Dec 25th. Regular sightings at Titchwell during this period where 2 sitting on the beach Nov 5th and Dec 8th. Other records involving more than one bird from Snettisham where 3 Nov 18th and 2 Dec 8th.

Roosting details for second-winter period from 3 roosts (maximum counts at each roost) displayed below:

	Roost A	Roost B	Roost H	Max total
Oct	4	2	—	6
Nov	5	4	1	10
Dec	6	5	1	12

Hobby

Falco subbuteo

Scarce migratory breeder and passage migrant.

Spring migrants from April 18th (Titchwell). Widespread from April 24th when noted Cley, Yarmouth and Thetford; then Yarmouth and 3 Roydon Common April 25th; Welney April 26th with 2 there 30th; Yarmouth and Holme April 27th; Burnham

Deepdale April 28th; Holme and Grimston April 29th and Burnham Norton and Santon Downham April 30th.

An avalanche of records during May, approaching 100 birds from 42 predominantly coastal sites. Mainly singles but 2 East Runton May 6th, 2 Thorpe St. Andrew, 2 Cley and 2 Welney May 7th, 2 Strumpshaw May 9th-31st, 2 Burnham Norton May 22nd and 2 Holkham NNR May 27th. Records indicate passage peaked in the first and last weeks of May.

Excluding known breeding birds, recorded from 33 sites in June, at least half of which inland. Numbers well down on May, but probably about 40 birds involved; maximum 2 Swanton Novers June 4th.

About 35 birds from 25 sites in July, the coastal records suggesting that passage continued into the third week of the month.



Hobby mobbing Honey Buzzard (N. Arlott)

Numbers of breeding pairs still slowly increasing, the 8 pairs located in 1995 being the highest since nesting recommenced in the county in 1986. A further pair in suitable habitat in July and over-summering at a further 3 sites. Of the known breeding pairs, at least 5 were successful, fledging a minimum of 8 young.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Confirmed prs	3	2	2	1	3	4	7	6	7	8
Possible prs	—	—	—	2	2	4	—	4	1	1
Fledged young	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	10	6	8

Breeding pairs since nesting recommenced in Norfolk.

Aug singles from about 20 sites away from known breeding and summering areas, also 2 Swanton Novers Aug 4th and 2 Flitcham Aug 7th.

Coastal passage noted from Sept 3rd at Sheringham, Waxham and Winterton. One arrived from the sea Yarmouth Sept 6th. Inland in Sept, away from breeding sites, at Berney Marshes 2nd, Scole 6th, Thorpe St. Andrew 9th, Whitlingham 11th, Langley 12th, Acle 13th, Haddiscoe 15th and 2 Barrow Common 21st. Otherwise about 35 recorded at 20 coastal sites, plus 2 Holkham Sept 7th.

Many fewer in Oct, most records relating to lingering over-summering or juvenile birds. Late coastal migrants at Titchwell Oct 4th and 23rd.

Peregrine

Falco peregrinus

Passage migrant and increasing winter visitor.

The now regular wintering bird at Holkham present to March 18th, an additional bird there at least Jan 7th. Another wintered Breydon/Berney Marshes until March 9th and an immature male regularly recorded Heacham, Hunstanton, Titchwell and Brancaster Harbour Feb 5th–March 21st. A considerable number of inland records from mid-Yare valley and lower-Waveney valley Jan 1st–Feb 12th. Inland records from Fritton may overlap with the Breydon/Berney bird, but 2 Fritton Feb 12th and 2 Breydon Feb 19th suggest 2 wintering birds present in this general area with overlapping ranges.

Also recorded Jan–Feb at Horsey Jan 6th, Heigham Holmes Jan 7th, Stiffkey Jan 9th, Welney on 4 dates Jan 9th–19th, Snettisham Jan 12th and Feb 28th, Cley Jan 18th, Feb 14th and 22nd, Blakeney Harbour and Sennowe Park Jan 22nd, West Runton Feb 15th, 1–2 Ongar Hill Feb 19th and Horsey and Wiveton Feb 25th.

March–May records, mainly relating to passage birds, at Flitcham March 3rd, 9th and April 10th, Scolt Head March 16th–17th and 23rd, Welney (2–3 birds) March 20th, 23rd and 29th, April 12th, Cley, Berney Marshes and Thetford (Great Snare Hill) March 24th, Holkham Apr 1st–3rd, Nunnery Lakes April 3rd, Breydon April 6th and 28th, Horsey and Swanton Hill April 17th, East Runton April 23rd, Sheringham May 1st, Titchwell May 2nd and Berney Marshes May 9th.

A falconer's bird complete with jesses and bells Holkham May 2nd to at least June 5th, another there June 16th was a different bird, but the date may indicate another escape. Yet another with bells and jesses Salthouse Aug 16th.

First returning birds at Welney where a sub-adult July 28th was roosting on pylons there Aug 3rd, 6th–7th and 15th with a juvenile there Aug 13th. Singles Clenchwarton Aug 12th, Snettisham Aug 20th, Cley/Salthouse Sept 3rd, Holme Sept 9th with 2 on 12th, Welney Sept 13th, Warham Greens Sept 18th, Ongar Hill Sept 19th and 22nd, Berney Marshes Sept 20th, Blakeney Point Sept 21st, Cley Sept 23rd, Breydon and Snettisham Sept 29th.

A number of wintering birds from end of Sept: King's Lynn BF Oct 27th–Dec 7th, another Welney Oct 19th–Dec 2nd and 6 other wintering individuals (all present at year-end) from following arrival dates: Scolt Head/Brancaster Harbour Sept 30th, Hickling Oct 1st, Wells/Warham Oct 16th, Holkham Oct 24th, mid-Yare valley/lower-Waveney valley Nov 5th and Breydon/Berney Marshes/Waveney valley Nov 28th. Details confusing from the SE corner of the county, but 2 individuals together at Breydon, Fritton and Chedgrave on numerous occasions. Thus at least 2 birds in the area. Additionally, a number of records from Snettisham, Hunstanton, Holme and Titchwell Oct 1st–Dec 28th when one going to roost on Hunstanton cliffs.

Further records Oct–Dec considered unlikely to relate to overwintering birds: Burnham Market Oct 28th, 2 Horsey Oct 30th, Cranwich GP Nov 3rd, in from sea Titchwell Nov 5th, Nunnery Lakes Nov 8th, Chalk Hill Farm (Stanford Battle Area) Nov 12th, Cley Nov 14th–15th, 18th and 23rd, Sheringham and Horsey Gap Nov 18th, Warham Greens (additional to regular bird) adult Nov 25th–28th plus immature Nov 27th when 3 present, and Welney Dec 25th.

Red-legged Partridge

Alectoris rufa

Common introduced resident.

Breeding Bird Survey in the county indicated an average of 5.3 birds per 1 km square surveyed, being recorded in 43 (84%) of 51 1km squares surveyed. Comparison with the national figures, where recorded in only 17% of 1km squares surveyed, illustrates the importance of the county status of this species.

The tabulated data for both this species and Grey Partridge are compiled using the criteria outlined in the 1994 report.

Thanks are again due to The Game Conservancy Trust (Karen Blake) and Norfolk Partridge Group.

Spring density 1995

	Hectares counted	Pairs located	Density pairs/km ²	Percent change '94-'95
<i>North Norfolk</i>				
Site A	918	207	22.5	-19.5
Site B	195	35	17.9	+12.9
Site C	587	24	4.1	+14.3
<i>Central Norfolk</i>				
Site D	1823	83	4.6	+3.8
Site E	394	53	13.5	+26.2
<i>North-west Norfolk</i>				
Site F	790	57	7.2	+1.7
Site G	608	95	15.6	+46.2
Site H	1013	159	15.7	+34.7

Seventeen sites recorded an increase in density, eight sites noted a decline, averaging at a 4.5% increase on 1994 totals in the county – an encouraging sign.

Autumn density 1995

	Hectares counted	Broods	Mean brood size	% chick survival	Density (100 ha)	Total birds
Site A	918	53	4.5	24.1	58.4	536
Site C	486	2	5.5	*	9.1	44
Site D	1822	35	4.3	24.8	16.0	291
Site H	1012	44	4.1	20.6	47.2	478

*Data not available

In a total of 13,235 hectares (17 estates) surveyed in autumn, 458 broods were located, giving a minimum total of 4,773 birds present with an average 29% chick survival.

Additional breeding information: Snettisham (3 pairs), Welney (8), Abbey Farm Flitcham (10), The Nunnery Thetford (6) and Wroxham (7).

Grey Partridge

Perdix perdix

Resident.

Breeding Bird Survey in the county noted this species recorded in 14 (27%) of 51 1km squares surveyed, compared with 11% of the squares surveyed nationally. County figures for 1994 (37% of squares surveyed) and national figures indicate species to be probably in continued decline.

Spring density 1995

	Hectares counted	Pairs located	Density pairs/km ²	Percent change '94-'95
<i>North Norfolk</i>				
Site A	918	505	55.0	+1.0
Site B	195	25	12.8	-40.5
Site C	587	5	0.9	-28.6
<i>Central Norfolk</i>				
Site D	1823	20	1.1	-41.2
Site E	394	28	7.1	+21.7
<i>North-west Norfolk</i>				
Site F	790	7	0.9	-46.2
Site G	608	57	9.4	+16.3
Site H	1013	63	6.2	+43.2

Sixteen sites surveyed recorded increases, nine sites decreases, averaging at a 10.6% increase in density on 1994 totals. Only two sites recorded a decrease in both this and the previous species.

County status may be slowly improving and now considered by some observers to be more common than Red-legged Partridge, at least along the north coast. Survey figures go some way to supporting this, even though it is against the national trend.

Autumn density 1995

	Hectares counted	Broods	Mean brood size	% chick survival	Density (100 ha)	Total birds
Site A	918	132	5.0	20.8	121.8	1118
Site C	474	2	2.5	*	2.7	13
Site D	1822	14	5.9	30.2	6.8	124
Site H	1012	41	5.7	34.2	32.8	332

*Data not available

In a total of 12,995 hectares (18 estates) surveyed in autumn, 434 broods were located producing a minimum total of 3,981 birds present with an average 35% chick survival rate. A tapeworm infestation, previously unrecorded in Grey Partridges, was responsible for large chick losses in some surveyed areas (other areas were unaffected). It would appear that the hot summer was responsible.

Further breeding information: Snettisham (3 pairs), Holme (2), Cley (1), Mundesley (3), Abbey Farm, Flitcham (8), The Nunnery, Thetford (2), East Wretham Heath (3), Snetterton race circuit (2), Fersfield airfield (2), Manor Farm, Briston (15-20), Tattersett (3), Swaney GP (1) and Manton's Farm, Ten Mile Bank where the single pair was the first breeding record for 29 years.

It is clear that both this and the previous species undergo massive population fluctuations in given areas. Reasons for this are complex including crop management, insect density levels, habitat and control of predator levels. The latter, notably fox control, has been a major factor in population increases on some estates, presumably to the benefit of other ground-nesting species.

Quail

Coturnix coturnix

Summer visitor in erratic numbers. Sporadic breeder.

First in spring Wymondham May 1st, further early May records from Thetford (Great Snare Hill) 1st and 3rd–4th, Trimley St. Lawrence 5th, then a pair plus another male Sheringham 5th–18th. Further arrival from May 14th when singles Salthouse and Aylmerton (to 15th), Thwaite Common 17th, Holme 20th–26th, Boyland airfield Winfarthing 20th–21st, Horsey 21st, Salthouse 25th, 3 on 26th and 29th, Ten Mile Bank Wiveton and Ludham 26th, Cley and 5 Titchwell 30th and Kelling 31st–June 1st.

During June and July, noted at a minimum of 33 widespread sites, mainly singly but also 2 Burnham Norton, 2 Holkham Park, 5 Salthouse Heath, 3 Hickling, 2–3 Plumstead 6 Metton, 7 Docking/Chosley, 2 Welney, 5 Ten Mile Bank and 2 Sweetbriar Meadow Norwich.

Predictably fewer autumn reports (difficult to locate when males cease calling). August records from Salthouse Heath 2nd, 2 on Peddar's Way footpath south of Ringstead 7th, Welney 21st and Mundesley 23rd. This month also produced the only sighting of a family party: at Ten Mile Bank. During Sep noted Scolt Head, Mundesley, Paston and Stiffkey where 2 on the A149 east of the village in very heavy rain.

Two unseasonal Dec records: 3 (one a casualty) disturbed by beet-harvesting operations at Antingham 19th (PC) and Cley 25th–26th (MAG RGM).

Common Pheasant

Phasianus colchicus

Common introduced resident.

Breeding Bird Survey results indicated present in 94% of 51 1km squares surveyed comparable with the 1994 figure (95%). An average of 8.9 birds were recorded per 1km square. National figures revealed an average of 4 birds per 1km square, recorded in 58% of 1km squares surveyed.

Breeding data from East Wretham Heath, where 17 territories recorded on the NWT reserve (155 hectares).

A total of 22 pure white birds, Winterton, Sept 24th.



Golden Pheasant (P. Jones)

Golden Pheasant

Chrysolophus pictus

Scarce and local introduced resident.

Little information received with no indication of any range expansion on previous years with only Dersingham–Wolferton–Sandringham holding birds away from the Brecks.

Maximum numbers recorded at each site: 3–5 Dersingham–Wolferton–Sandringham, 1 Croxton Heath, 3 East Wretham Heath, 1 East Harling Heath and 23 Wayland Wood.

The tendency is for year-listers to visit either the first- or last-named sites above. Further fieldwork in the Brecks during Feb–Mar, when the males are extremely vocal, would possibly produce beneficial results.

Water Rail

Rallus aquaticus

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The volume of reports indicates large numbers present in both winter periods, particularly the second one. Reports were scattered throughout most of the county at both inland and coastal localities, reaching the Brecks in small numbers where recorded at Nunnery Lakes (Thetford), Stanford Battle Area and Ringmere.

The more regularly recorded sites are tabulated below:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Snettisham	1	1	1	—	3	2	5
Holme	15	11	8	6	6	36	14
Titchwell	1	1	1	—	2	5	7
Brancaster	—	2	—	—	—	3	1
Burnham Norton	—	1	—	2	4	2	2
Holkham	—	—	1	—	3	—	2
Blakeney Freshes	2	2	1	—	—	1	3
Cley	3	2	—	1	5	2	5
Burgh Castle	—	—	—	—	1	4	1
Cantley BF	—	—	—	6	1	—	—
Catfield Fen	1	—	—	—	2	4	—
Hickling	1	—	2	—	—	3	5
Horsey (including Mere)	—	2	—	—	—	6	3
Martham Broads	3	1	2	—	—	—	—
Ranworth (including Broad)	1	—	—	—	—	1	6
Strumpshaw Fen	—	—	1	—	—	—	6
Burnham Thorpe and Burnham Market	4	—	—	—	—	—	2

In the first-winter period, recorded singly at 12 additional sites plus 2 Burgh Common (Jan), 2 Guist Bridge (Jan), 2 Horsey Marshes (Jan) and 4 Thompson Water (March). During this period one at Titchwell captured a Blue Tit and the first ever was recorded at Holkham Lake.

Evidence of spring migration: Weybourne April 10th.

More breeding information than usual, including proven successful breeding at Burnham Norton; Cley; Horsey; Rush Hills, Hickling; Surlingham Church Marsh; Strumpshaw Fen and Welney. Pairs also at Titchwell (5), Brancaster (1) and Salthouse (4) but success unknown. Calling birds at numerous other localities during the breeding season.

During autumn/second-winter period recorded from 20+ additional sites, most notably: 2-3 Abbey Farm, Flitcham (Sep), 2 Burnham Overy (Dec), 2 Fritton (Dec) and 2 Babingley River (Dec). At this time, one killed by mowing operations at Hickling Aug 2nd and another dead Winterton Beach, presumably a migrant, Nov 5th.

Spotted Crake

Porzana porzana

Scarce passage migrant. Rare in winter. Formerly bred.

The last two years have seen a welcome return to former status for what was becoming an increasingly rare visitor.

At Cantley BF, a juvenile Sept 11th (PJH BWJ), an adult Sept 17th (BWJ) and another Sept 29th-30th (DJH *et al*) — probably 3 birds in total. Another Cley Oct 17th-21st (DJH *et al*).

Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

Abundant resident. Immigrants in autumn.

North coast WeBS count totals: 176 Aug, 120 Sep, 105 Oct, 184 Nov and 240 Dec.

Numbers from more regularly recorded sites appear below. Other sizeable counts: 7 Whitlingham Feb and 50 Hethersett Dec.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Holme	17	13	—	31	11	8	16	11
Titchwell	—	—	—	15	—	11	17	15
Holkham NNR	98	80	—	—	—	57	—	163
Holkham Lake	56	77	32	—	—	—	51	—
Blakeney Freshes	—	18	—	—	—	—	9	13
Cley	—	—	25	56	33	19	30	35
Salthouse	72	36	31	31	—	21	50	71
Wroxham	17	—	—	—	—	26	33	37
Ranworth and								
Cockshoot Broads	6	9	6	—	—	3	4	26
Stanford Battle Area	—	—	—	—	—	53	46	77
Welney	63	143	—	50	—	—	—	—
Colney GP	—	—	—	—	21	17	—	13
Sennowe Park	42	—	32	19	29	11	13	32

An interesting episode at Welney July 8th when a ferret killed a Moorhen; the ferret shortly suffering the same fate!

Breeding data from Snettisham (4 territories), Ken Hill grazing marsh (4), Heigham Holmes (2), The Nunnery, Thetford (17), Langmere (7), Ringmere (4), Fenmere (2) and East Wretham (2).

Breeding Bird Survey results indicated records from 28 (55%) of 51 1km squares surveyed, an average of 1.7 birds per 1km square. Both locally and nationally (26% of 1km squares), species showed no appreciable change from 1994 figures.

A presumed migrant Winterton sea-wall Nov 8th.

Coot

Fulica atra

Common resident and winter visitor.

Breeding Bird Survey results for the county noted species in 14% of 51 1km squares surveyed, compared with 9% of 1km squares surveyed nationally. National results showed a 21% increase on 1994 figures. This increase appears to be reflected in county results where breeding pairs located as follows: Snettisham (4 pairs), Ken Hill grazing marsh (5), Holme (16 broods), Holkham NNR (176 pairs), Holkham Lake (25), Heigham Holmes (13), East Wretham (3), Fenmere (2), Langmere (9), Ringmere (13), The Nunnery, Thetford (3), Sennowe Park (8) and Syderstone (3).

North coast WeBS counts in the second-winter period noted 569 Aug, 748 Sep, 635 Oct, 606 Nov and 632 Dec. In each case the total for Holkham Park represented a large proportion of these figures (see table):

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Snettisham	130	129	101	54	138	112	156	133	152
Holme	122	172	85	47	136	120	93	74	80
Fitchwell	9	—	28	24	130	130	—	—	—
Holkham NNR	96	118	154	—	—	70	67	70	—
Holkham Lake	460	346	108	62	173	409	422	420	409
Blakeney Freshes	33	42	42	34	—	—	—	21	28
Cley	—	33	33	48	—	—	—	—	—
Balthouse	51	45	28	16	—	—	—	—	44
Cockshoot and									
Ranworth Broads	19	19	12	—	—	—	79	57	29
Martham Broads	—	—	—	—	—	—	140	220	200
Rockland Broad	—	—	—	—	270	380	280	230	55
Wroxham	134	25	—	—	—	73	78	126	215
East Wretham	48	14	29	40	38	18	—	—	—
Stanford Battle Area	—	—	—	—	—	—	120	90	81
Welney	1033	1294	818	135	—	133	207	416	442
Colney GP	125	126	—	—	425	685	870	850	1022
Felbrigg Lake	53	34	22	25	—	—	71	84	72
Sennowe Park	128	139	60	80	340	376	426	320	276
Whitlingham GP	260	150	—	—	—	—	97	—	—

Further counts in excess of 100 from less well recorded sites: Buckenham/Cantley 148 Jan, Pentney GP 140 Jan and 298 Oct, Potter Heigham 117 Feb, Hickling 184 July, Ormesby 135 Nov and 153 Dec, Breydon 344 Dec, Lyng GP 200+ Dec and Strumpshaw Fen 356 Dec.

Single record of a migrant on groynes off Sheringham Nov 5th.

Crane *Grus grus*
Resident colony in Broadland since 1979. Some records may relate to Continental vagrants.

The 6 present in Broadland from autumn 1994 remained throughout the first-winter period. In the second-winter period numbers increased to 7 by early Sep and 9 by mid-Sep. On Oct 24th 16 present, but this had reduced to 9 again in Nov and Dec.

Breeding attempts again unsuccessful. One pair was thought to have hatched a single young. Two other pairs made several attempts but all failed.

A considerable number of other observations during spring and summer, at least some of which clearly related to Continental birds. Single adults west at Cley Apr 12th, south at Winterton May 4th and west over Cley and Overy grazing marsh May 5th. Presumably the same Snettisham CP May 5th–6th when it departed east over Holme and Holkham. An immature west at Burnham Overy and south at Winterton May 25th. One headed south at Yarmouth May 29th, 2 west over Swanton Novers June 1st, another east there June 19th, singles at Holme June 11th and west over Holkham grazing marsh July 3rd and 2 high to the south over Ludham Aug 30th.

Oystercatcher*Haematopus ostraleg**Common winter visitor, passage migrant and breeder.*

Table includes all sites holding 500 or more birds (qualifying level for nation importance: 3600):

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Terrington	2045	1706	222	156	555	–	692	540	500	796	670	464
Snettisham	5120	5967	2240	1137	967	646	1800	6600	6150	2750	1650	2951
Holme	1280	1312	110	135	60	44	111	700	485	587	545	730
Warham	–	327	368	286	–	–	–	1150	1562	1300	682	1000
Blakeney												
Harbour	740	630	609	517	–	–	–	316	560	640	570	680
Scolt/Brancaster												
Harbour	–	238	600	69	146	110	126	500	540	298	71	172
Wells	371	176	248	285	–	–	–	–	202	760	608	751

Continues to decline at Snettisham, from 15600 in 1990 to a low of 6600 this year. Other sites with counts over 200: Heacham 253 (Mar), Titchwell 265 (Dec), Stiffkey 34 (April) and Breydon 288 (April).

Breeding data incomplete. The 375–385 pairs along the beaches included 2. Snettisham, 12 Holme, 12 Brancaster (east of GC clubhouse), 71 Scolt Head, 8 Holkham NNR, 170–180 Blakeney Point and 1 Yarmouth. Coastal grazing marsh counts were few, but included 3 Ken Hill, 10 Holme, and 25 Holkham NNR. The Broad ESA survey found 190 pairs – a notable increase from 123 in 1982. At Ludham Reserve pair bred successfully 7 feet above the ground in the crown of a pollarded willow. Inland a total of 36 pairs recorded, including 8 in Breckland and 3 at Welney.

Black-winged Stilt*Himantopus himantopus**Vagrant, mostly in late spring/summer, has bred.*

The lonely resident Titchwell male remained all year, with brief day-trips to Holme in May and Snettisham in Sept. This hardly individual has now been present over 2 years.

Avocet*Recurvirostra avosetta**Breeding summer visitor, and winter visitor in small numbers.*

Again wintered in small numbers. At Ousemouth 5 in Jan, while early in the month 1–2 at Breydon increasing to 14 on 8th. By mid-Feb began to return to breeding sites, largest concentration being 160 at Ousemouth on 22nd. Mid-March saw most breeding birds on territory; however at Terrington 143 late-comers or non-breeders were present on 23rd.

A further slight increase to 214 breeding pairs from 10 sites. A further pair present at one inland site in April, and 1–3 birds at another from late May–June. The total of 153 pairs monitored closely from 4 sites fledged 61 young. Some sites suffered greatly from Fox predation, at Titchwell of 70 clutches laid only 3 hatched. At another site 63 pairs fledged 3 young; however the main culprit here could have been Grey Herons. It would seem the Norfolk coast may be at saturation point; suitable sites inland could soon become colonised.

Post-breeding flocks not as high this year, but as usual highest counts from The Wash with 270 at Snettisham in July and 250–300 at Ousemouth in August. Later than usual numbers peaked at Breydon in Oct with 158 on 6th.

At Breydon birds remained to winter for the first time. In Nov 19 present from

8th–28th and throughout Dec peaking at 72 on 13th.

Breydon monthly maxima

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Breydon	20	13	15	22	20	40	69	64	98	158	19	72

Stone Curlew

Burhinus oedicnemus

Breeding summer visitor, mainly to Breckland.

Probably overlooked early in season as first arrivals at Weeting heath on late date of March 28th, and interestingly along the north coast with 2 in late March at Holkham, and a colour-ringed bird at Choseley on 29th.

A record year in Breckland with 106 pairs fledging 101 young, the Norfolk Breck accounted for 48 pairs fledging 46 young. Success was due to a long dry hot summer providing ideal nesting conditions for a long period of time. This resulted in more relays, second broods, and better fledging success. Two pairs bred elsewhere fledging 2 young. After ten years the RSPB should be congratulated in turning round the fortunes of this fascinating bird.

In autumn at Salthouse Aug 19th. Pre-migratory gatherings impressive in Breckland. At Weeting Heath 20 were present Sept 22nd, and at another site during Oct three groups totalled 52 on 1st, 20 still present on 11th: they remained into Nov with 12–14 mid-month and remarkably 1–2 still present during first week of Dec.

Collared Pratincole

Glareola pratincola

Vagrant from southern Europe.

A very mobile individual toured north Norfolk during July. First seen at Titchwell on 3rd–4th and on last date appearing at Cley and seen daily there until 7th (*per DJH et al*). During this time it flew west on 6th past Blakeney Point (JR McC), making a brief visit to Holkham NNR (VE MESR). After a temporary absence it reappeared at Snettisham on 13th (PF), only to disappear yet again before arriving back at Cley on 22nd–23rd. It seems very likely it was the same bird visiting the area in July 1994.

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Recorded from March 9th with 3 at Whitlingham Lane GP to Oct 2nd at Cantley BF. Visible migration to the west at Sheringham of mostly singles in April on 7th, 11th and 21st and in May on 7th and 8th; Holme 2 west April 21st and 28th. Largest spring concentration at Whitlingham Lane GP; 8 April 5th to 8th.

A total of 26 pairs from 19 sites were found, hatching success only reported from 7 sites, and only 5 young definitely known to have fledged. This either represents a very poor breeding season or under recording. More detailed information would improve our knowledge of the status of this species. Observed at 11 coastal and 24 inland sites.

Number of pairs 1986–1995

1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
31	21	31	30	22	29	31	41	29	26

During autumn visible migration at Sheringham and Weybourne with singles w Aug 18th and 14th respectively. Largest gatherings at Cley where 10 July 12th at Cantley BF 2–5 all Sept.

Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticu.

Breeding summer visitor, passage migrant, and winter visitor.

Table includes all sites holding 250 or more;

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Snettisham	–	48	92	105	241	66	67	330	171	–	7	–
Holme	19	81	47	74	65	90	110	249	263	94	72	13
Scolt/Brancaster												
Harbour	12	26	69	33	76	66	70	200	350	20	11	14
Blakeney												
Harbour	103	91	104	88	–	–	–	119	250	162	94	102
Breydon	104	71	86	16	313	90	32	326	281	207	137	88

In late spring largest concentrations of *tundrae* race in May at Snettisham: 241 o 14th; Holme; 65 on 16th, and Breydon 224 on 19th peaking at 313 on 24th.

A total of 261–268 breeding pairs reported from following sites (1993 NBC Surve counts in brackets); Snettisham–Heacham 56 (59), Holme 45 (32), Brancaster 10 (16), Scolt Head 25 (74), Holkham NNR 68–70 (77), Blakeney Point 45–50 (55), and Winterton 4. Only Holme shows a small increase. Most alarming is the slump at Scol Head. Inland a further 16 pairs found. At Welney WWT 3 pairs, 2 of which fledged young while the third was predated on 3 occasions. In Breckland 9 pairs located elsewhere 2 King's Lynn BF; 1 Abbey Farm Fritcham and 1 Berney Marshes.

Largest autumn concentrations in Aug–Sept with 330 Snettisham, 350 Scolt/Brancaster harbour and 326 Breydon.

During winter only 2 sites exceeded 100 birds: Blakeney Harbour 103 Jan, and Breydon 104 Jan and 137 Nov.

Kentish Plover

Charadrins alexandrinus

Scarce but annual passage migrant, mostly in spring. Rare inland.

Only three records: In spring a male at Titchwell April 23rd (RQS) and another at Cley the same date. In autumn at Breydon Sept 19th (PRA). During the last decade Cley/Salthouse and Breydon/Berney have been the most likely sites to find this wader.

Dotterel

Charadrins morinellus

Scarce but annual passage migrant. Has over-wintered.

The first 3 spring birds passed east over Sheringham April 30th. In May 1 west at Sheringham on 1st, and at Blakeney Point 3 females west on 8th. At Holme GC an obliging female May 24th (which briefly joined the Rock Thrush) was at Thornham Channel in the evening.

During July 2 at Winterton on 14th. In Aug west at Salthouse on 12th. In Sept singles west at Cley on 9th and Wells on 10th, might have been the same individual. A single with Golden Plover at Ten Mile Bank Oct 9th.

Golden Plover

Pluvialis apricaria

Passage migrant and increasing winter visitor.

Table shows most regularly counted sites:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Terrington	298	144	—	—	290	71	333	5923	225
Snettisham	—	256	593	650	380	973	1000	1865	2160
Holme-Titchwell	1200	600	610	—	325	?	580	2960	850
Breydon	6000	6000	370	104	600	3000	3000	2000	5300
Welney	652	10	114	234	33	2	14	195	480

Although there may be some overlap all sites are included for completeness and future reference. To improve this information six-figure grid references would be helpful and if they are feeding or roost sites. A total of 8 sites held 2000 or more in addition to those above. These included; Choseley 2000 Oct; Burnham Deepdale 2000 Sept; Wells 2000 Jan; Ludham 4000 Jan and Sculthorpe Airfield 2000 Feb. A further 10 sites had 1000 or more: Winfarthing 1500 Jan; Narford 1000 April; St Benet's Level 1300 Dec; Blakeney Harbour 1000 Dec; Cley 1000 March and Nov; Watton 1200 Jan; Cockthorpe Airfield 1000 Nov and Potter Heigham 1500 Nov. There has been an increase in the number of 1000+ counts reported during the last ten years; in 1986 only 3 were reported compared with 14 in 1994, and 18 this year. Milder winters may be responsible as Golden Plovers and Lapwing only depart from wintering sites during severe weather. However they normally only move as far as they need soon returning to usual sites as weather becomes milder (Wildfowl & Wetlands Counts 1991–92).

Grey Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Table showing all sites holding internationally important (1500), and counts over 200 birds:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Terrington	1381	2361	1780	1773	2872	99	1616	4661	1987	1148	415
Snettisham	80	600	500	1520	3300	400	600	500	600	600	210
Holme	1400	379	1125	245	180	12	750	715	475	110	290
Titchwell	301	123	83	75	15	—	426	342	62	66	166
Warham	47	201	32	170	—	—	—	355	153	182	109
Stiffkey	164	170	244	138	—	—	—	277	75	144	57

The Wash continues to hold the largest numbers in the country with the roosts at Terrington, Snettisham and Holme being the most important sites.

Recorded from 5 inland sites. In spring at Welney 1–4 from March–May; Lakenheath May 3rd and 9th and Hickling at Swim Coots 2 May 30th. In autumn 1–2 monthly at Welney; Cantley BF in Sept with 2 on 6th and 11th–12th; Whitlingham GP Sept 9th and Hickling Rush Hills Aug 8th.

Cold-weather movements noted at Sheringham including 25 west Jan 1st and 50 west next day. Also 25 east Dec 31st.

Lapwing

Vanellus vanellus

Passage migrant and increasing winter visitor. Declining breeder.

Table shows most regularly counted sites (The qualifying level for national and international importance is 20,000):

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Terrington	4000	3358	–	–	88	10	267	257	6462	215
Holme-Titchwell	1600	500	600	75	300	174	220	350	2500	465
Cley	2000	737	86	–	–	171	107	154	6000	396
Breydon	26000	10000	1000	75	300	240	700	900	12000	24000

All counts (1000+) and sites included for completeness. Request for more flock detail as Golden Plover. During first-winter period at Ousemouth 4000 Jan and 2000 Feb; Well 1200 Jan; Salthouse 1000 Jan; Ludham 1400 Jan; Clippesby 8000 Jan; Thrigby 2000 Feb Colney 1200 Feb and East Wretham 1000+ Feb.

During first-winter period only cold-weather movements noted at Sheringham in Jan with 220 west on 4th and 140 west on 14th.

Breeding data incomplete along coastal grazing marshes although following number of pairs reported: Snettisham 17; Holme 37 (fledged a minimum of 23 young); Holkham 221 – a small decline on last year may mean locality is close to reaching carrying capacity. A very welcome 47% increase at Welney with 122 pairs; the monitoring of 82 nests showed a hatching rate of 81.7%. A season free of serious flooding and continued control of corvids and Foxes benefitted the species. A further 23 pairs recorded at 8 inland sites including 8 at Abbey Farm Flitcham. Inland breeding information undoubtedly incomplete. Could all observers with any data please pass this to the county recorder. The Broads ESA survey found 693 pairs. The Ouse Washes, North Coast grazing marshes and Broads ESA may now hold the only large populations of this once very common breeding bird.

Post-breeding dispersal noted from 13th at Holme, with 300 west on 20th. Largest autumn movements (500+) were noted in Oct/Nov at following sites: Hunstanton Cliffs. movements south from dawn: Oct 959 on 9th (4.5hrs), 870 on 22nd (9.5hrs), and 854 on 30th (7hrs); Holme: Nov west with 600 on 10th, and 850 on 14th; Sheringham: Oct west with 900 on 22nd, 750 on 30th, and 1300 on 31st; Nov 600 on 14th and 750 on 15th.

During second-winter period at Ousemouth 3500 Nov; Snettisham 1200 Nov and 1160 Dec; Heigham Holmes 2000 Dec; and St Benet's Level 1850 Dec. Only movement during this period at Sheringham with 190 west Dec 22nd.

Knot

Calidris canutus

Passage migrant, winter visitor and non-breeding summer visitor.

Monthly maxima from main sites:

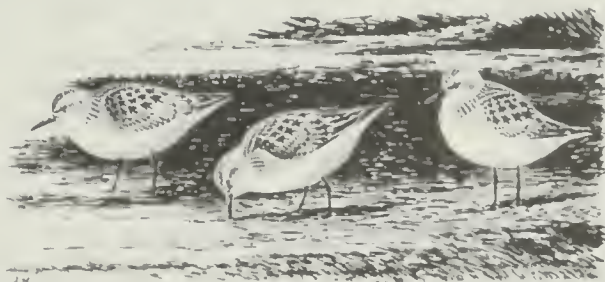
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Terrington	11160	7040	1135	10915	4	45	4057	13600	9015	5230
Snettisham	40000	30910	10000	4575	2600	42500	8800	22000	30000	2284
Holme	241	379	420	175	150	10000	40000	14500	9	350

International importance (winter): 3500. National importance (winter): 2900.

As usual birds feeding in the Wash roosted at Holme during the autumn. The Wash wintering population continues to decline (about 50% of average, 1986-94), reflecting perhaps poor state of cockle productivity and recovery of cockles in the Wadden See. Reduction of numbers in Sept and Oct compared to recent massive peaks implies many birds remaining in the Wadden See at that time. Knot were very hard to find anywhere in May and June (max 22 and 50 at Snettisham, respectively). Hard weather in Jan/Feb led to many reports of flocks leaving mudflats to feed on upper saltmarsh.

Other coastal counts: Titchwell 1500 Jan, 300 Aug, 906 Sept and 200 Dec; Scolt/Brancaster Harbour 1800 Dec; Wells Harbour 375 Feb, 205 March, 200 Apr, 1412 Oct and 1379 Nov; Warham 1900 Jan, 625 Feb, 320 Oct, 2975 Nov and 720 Dec; Stiffkey 650 Jan, 1316 Nov and 2283 Dec; Blakeney 446 Jan, 700 Feb, 200 Nov and 600 Dec. East Coast; highest counts at Breydon: 126 Jan, 127 Feb and 512 Dec.

Early Jan westerly movement noted when 95 on 1st and 350 on 2nd at Sheringham; 100 on 2nd at Overstrand; 116 on 6th at Mundesley with 1 inland at Heigham Holmes on 7th. One at Welney Apr 8th-11th, only inland spring record. Autumn migrants inland: 2 Hickling Broad Aug 6th and 1 Cantley BF Aug 28th. Pronounced easterly movement in Dec when 320 on 7th at Weybourne. Single at Welney Dec 17th - the only other inland record.



Sanderling (J. Wright)

Sanderling

Calidris alba

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Monthly maxima from main sites:

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

Snettisham	92	75	40	-	185	240	1015	295	2	-	6
Heacham	120	140	60	-	12	-	1060	364	6	55	-
Hunstanton	54	-	184	18	39	-	-	48	308	418	140
Holme	58	182	238	305	620	183	330	1273	525	115	195
Titchwell	143	27	30	150	150	20	40	-	-	96	9
Holkham Bay	67	60	48	-	-	-	-	51	45	62	-
Stiffkey	37	68	20	-	-	-	100	128	-	127	101
Blakeney Harbour	28	41	25	34	68	-	61	47	44	31	43

International importance: 1000 (winter) and 300 (passage). National importance: 230.

Strong autumn passage with an exceptional Sept count at Holme. The Aug count for the Wash sites combined is the highest ever.

Many sites produced regular numbers, highest being Thornham harbour 85 March. 100 Aug and 85 Oct; Scolt 99 May; Overy harbour 62 Sept and 101 Oct. Low numbers

only on the East Coast: Mundesley–Happisburgh 34 Jan; Yarmouth 21 Feb and 16 Nov; Breydon 24 March and 47 Nov.

Inland records (all singles in May): Welney 11th–17th; Pentney GP 8th; Boughton Fen 18th. Small numbers in June including 4 Snettisham, 15 Holme and 30 Titchwell. In autumn westerly passage at Sheringham included 90 July 22nd and 40 Aug 28th.

Little Stint

Calidris minuta

Double passage migrant in fluctuating numbers.

Spring: March records at Welney 20th, Breydon 24th and Cley 24th. Singles at Cley April 1st–3rd, 7th, 8th, 11th and at Welney all-month. 1–2 Breydon from April 24th. Main passage during May, but few involved: maximum 3 Cley, 2 Breydon and 2 Buckenham.

Recorded in June at 4 sites with 3 Cley on 7th and 10th and 2 Burnham Norton 14th.

Autumn movement began at Snettisham July 16th. Next recorded at 4 sites during July from 22nd. Highest counts at Cley: 9 on 26th and 7 next day. Small passage continued in Aug with records from 7 localities – most at Titchwell where 5 from 28th to 31st. Reported at 13 sites during Sept with influxes on 10th and 22nd. Highest Sept counts: Terrington 18 on 10th, Snettisham 8 on 10th; Titchwell 11 on 11th and 10 on 24th; Holkham 5 on 5th and 25th, Cley 60 on 22nd, 30 on 23rd/24th and 7 on 28th, Breydon 10 on 11th, Cantley BF 10–12 between 11th and 24th, Horsey Mere 3 on 4th, Welney 4 on 20th. Still present at 8 sites during Oct when 10 at Titchwell on 1st, 7 at Cley between 7th and 12th and 7 at Salthouse on 7th. Last birds in Nov: 2 Snettisham on 5th, 4 Titchwell on 1st and a single on 4th and 2 Cley on 1st and between 5th and 19th.

Temminck's Stint

Calidris temminckii

Passage migrant, more frequent in spring.

A good spring passage involving perhaps 26 individuals. Two April records were unusual: One at Welney (JBK TC) on 12th was the earliest ever for Norfolk and was followed by 1 at Cley (EMPS) 23rd. One at Cley May 2nd–4th, then peak movement between 10th and 24th. Maximum site counts: Cley 4 between 10th and 14th and 4 on 17th; Salthouse 1 on 9th and 17th; Berney 5 on 15th; Breydon 2 on 15th and 2 on 24th. A single at Cley 26th to 28th was the last.

Return passage from July 9th when 1 at Cley, also 11th–12th; Heigham Holmes 2 on 13th. August: Titchwell 7th; Cley and Rush Hills Hickling 8th. One at Breydon Sept 10th probably moved to Cantley BF where it remained until 19th. A late bird at Holkham Sept 29th (VE).

White-rumped Sandpiper

Calidris fuscicollis

Vagrant from North America.

An adult roosted on the pits at Snettisham July 31st–Aug 2nd (PF DJH RQS *et al*). There are 37 previous county records.

Baird's Sandpiper

Calidris bairdii

Vagrant from North America

An adult at Cley July 30th (PFD SG) was the tenth Norfolk record.

1993 addition: the bird at Titchwell Aug 25th was also seen 27th (C&DKL).

Pectoral Sandpiper

Calidris melanotos

Almost annual autumn vagrant from North America/Siberia. Rare in spring.

A similar autumn showing to 1994. First at Cley July 1st–3rd (D&JB) followed by single

there Aug 24th–27th (DJH RGM). At Cantley BF juvenile Sept 4th (PJH) remained to 11th and joined by a second from 5th to 11th (BWJ); another there Sept 29th until Oct 2nd (PJH BWJ JO) and finally a single Oct 4th (PJH *et al*). King's Lynn July 14th (JL).

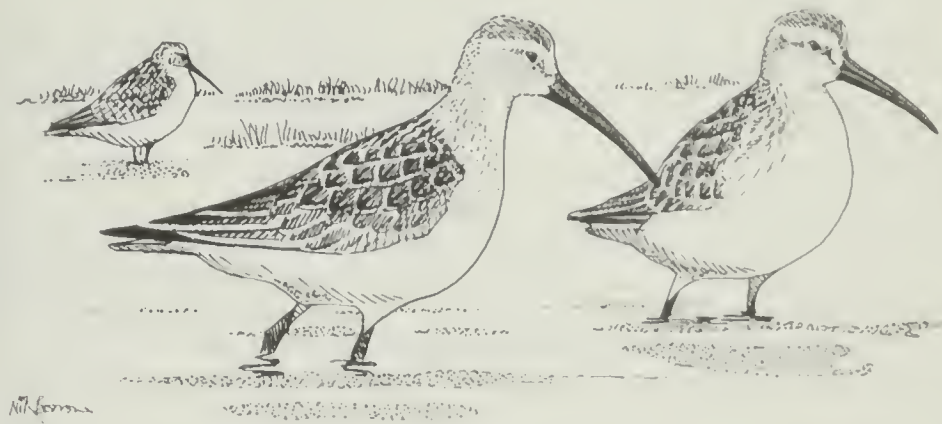
Additional 1992 record: Welney Sept 19th (APJP).

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

Autumn passage migrant in fluctuating numbers; scarce in spring.

Spring: 3 early birds Cley April 12th and 1 Welney April 20th–22nd. Light passage during May from 1st–30th. Maximum site counts: Snettisham 2; Titchwell 1; Burnham Norton 3; Cley 4; Berney 5; Breydon 3; Horsey 2; Welney 1. 1–3 birds still present at Cley June 1st–3rd then a single there June 25th–26th.



Curlew Sandpipers (N. Borrow)

Autumn passage began July 9th at Titchwell. Monthly site maximum counts during July: Snettisham 6, Titchwell 9, Cley 12 and Breydon 18. Also singles' Scolt 27th and Hickling 25th. Light Aug movement with best counts at Snettisham 8; Holme 5; Titchwell 6; Cley 14 and Breydon 5. At Sheringham 4 west Aug 28th with one next day. Reported more widely in Sept, but numbers unexceptional. Site maximum counts: Snettisham 1, Holme 2, Titchwell 1, Burnham Norton 1, Overy Harbour 3, Blakeney 5, Cley 2, Salthouse 2, Sheringham 2, Breydon 14 and Cantley BF 15.

Single at Titchwell Oct 10th; Holme 5 Oct 10th and 6 Oct 11th; Cley Oct 8th, 9th, 18th, 20th–21st; Breydon Oct 7th, 2 Oct 8th; Cantley BF 3 Oct 2nd, 5 Oct 6th and a single until Oct 16th.

Purple Sandpiper

Calidris maritima

Passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

Recorded up to April 25th (Snettisham) and from Aug 26th (Sheringham) when 3 west. The main site (Heacham/Hunstanton) produced monthly peak counts of Jan 14, Feb 12, March 10, April 7, Sept 1, Oct 3, Nov 8 and Dec 9. Small numbers also noted as follows (highest counts): Titchwell 2, Holme 6 – an exceptional count Feb 19th, Holkham 1, Cley 2, Gorleston 1, Sheringham 3, Caister 1, Walcott 1, Happisburgh 1 and Yarmouth 1.

Dunlin

Calidris alpina

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Non-breeders in summer.

Peak counts at main regular resorts:

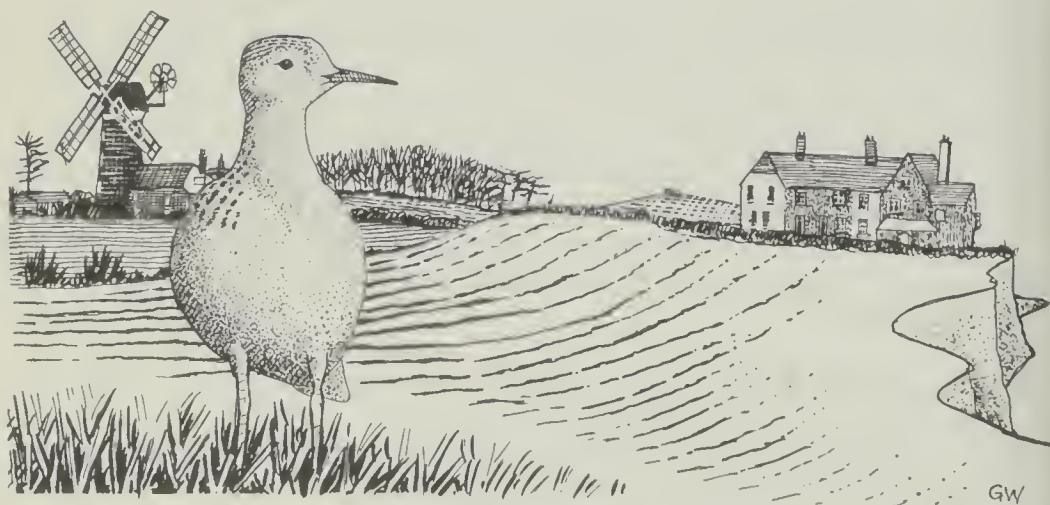
Terrington	5090	6405	8088	7040	5435	1203	1679	1843	1636	8056	2370
Snettisham	700	5000	8400	8330	14397	5658	6830	9900	4000	8206	68
Holme	350	1089	1235	430	170	110	300	505	135	80	310
Titchwell	595	104	456	100	40	31	300	—	167	209	240
Stiffkey	750	261	361	170	—	—	—	309	97	799	328
Blakeney Harbour	630	580	415	193	—	—	235	490	640	590	700
Cley	1500	300	160	112	500	—	152	60	200	115	400
Breydon	3450	3700	1950	2330	4000	226	740	1050	1640	2150	5100

International importance (winter): 14000; National importance (winter): 5300.

Counts from Breydon represent an increase on previous years. Widespread and numerous as following site peak counts show: Ouse Mouth 560 Jan; Heacham 1000 Sept; Thornham 250 Nov; Scolt 276 Feb; Burnham Overy grazing marsh 750 Mar; Holkham bay 490 Jan and 550 Feb; Holkham NNR 278 Jan; Warham 1000 Feb, 610 April, 521 Nov and 551 Dec.

Welney is most notable inland locality where peak counts were 82 Jan, 26 Feb, 130 March, 273 April, 90 May, 6 July, 6 Aug, 2 Sept, 4 Oct, 8 Nov and 21 Dec. Heigham Holmes attracted 500 during Jan. Smaller numbers at following inland sites: Boughton Fen 7, Buckenham/Cantley 10, Cantley BF 14, Colney GP, Cranwich GP, Hickling Rush Hills 18, Langmere East Wretham, Pentney GP 7, Sennowe Park, Thetford Nunnery lakes, West Acre, Whitlingham GP 5 and Wissington BF 7.

Westerly coastal movements at Sheringham: 120 July 22nd, 350 Sept 9th, 130 Oct 9th and 700 Nov 2nd (also 800 east Dec 31st) and off Mundesley 410 west Jan 6th. A partially leucistic bird Breydon March 25th.



Buff-breasted Sandpiper (G. Wright)

Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Vagrant from North America

Tryngites subruficollis

A very confiding and immensely popular individual in Sheringham/Weybourne area Oct 2nd to 15th (KBS *et al*). The 26th county record.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*
Double passage migrant. Small numbers over-winter. Has bred.
 Monthly peak counts at regular localities:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Holme	8	41	63	20	1	8	8	2	–	–	3
Titchwell	62	59	56	45	15	47	150	50	125	117	94
Holkham NNR	2	2	15	39	12	50	–	2	–	–	–
Cley	25	30	28	16	25	33	50	24	11	12	–
Breydon	8	–	4	19	5	2	5	7	6	–	2
Welney	38	11	26	77	20	68	–	100	118	111	117

National importance (winter): 50.
 Recorded at 9 other sites during winter periods. Mostly 1–5 birds, but at Thornham 30 Jan, Brancaster 24 Feb and Heigham Holmes 10 Jan.
 Spring passage: Commenced early March with peaks numbers April 1st–15th and May 1st–7th. At Burnham Norton 54 east April 4th, but only 1– birds at localities away from main sites.
 During June: Titchwell (40), Cley (15) and Welney (12) held good numbers. Otherwise 1–5 at 4 sites.
 Autumn passage: Widespread records from 17 sites other than those in table. Highest counts: Stiffkey 10 Oct. Hickling 13 Aug, Cantley BF 10 July, 23 Aug and 45 Sept. Wisington BF 14 July and Black Horse Drove 10 Oct.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtes minimus*
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Declining.
 First winter period/spring: Reported from 25 localities, all ones/twos except 3 on saltmarsh at Wells in March. Last were singles at Titchwell April 24th, Yarmouth North Dunes May 3rd and Burnham Norton May 17th.
 Autumn/winter: First Glaven Sluice Sept 4th followed by Sheringham Sept 15th. Subsequently noted at further 22 locations. Best counts: Holkham 5 Oct, Wells 4 Sept and 4 Nov, Cley 3 Oct, Cantley BF 4 Oct, 3 Nov and 4 Dec and Wisington BF 3 Nov. An individual picked up on Thames Gas Platform 30 miles NE of Yarmouth Dec 6th was released at Caister.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Declining breeder.
 A total of 204 drummers reported. At Welney first drumming March 19th and first nest April 23rd. Numbers remain stable on Norfolk section of Ouse Washes with 85 drummers. Many young observed later in season. Picture elsewhere is less encouraging with 95 drummers found by RSPB in the Broads ESA, a 40% decline on the last survey, only Hickling and Buckenham showed significant increases with 9 and 5 drummers respectively. Along the North Coast grazing marshes only 19 drummers reported from 3 sites: Ken Hill Marshes 1, Holme 5 and nearby Redwell Marsh 2. Also a further decline at Holkham NNR to 11. A total of 5 elsewhere at West Acre 2, Harling Fen, Bodney and Saham Toney. With all main sites surveyed it is conceivable that a population of under 300 drummers is all that remains of this declining species.
 During rest of the year concentrations over 50 as follows: Holme 65 March and 90 April; Holkham NNR 55 Jan; Cley 100 April and 50 Sept; Heigham Holmes 60 Jan; Buckenham/Cantley 60 Dec; Horsey 100 Oct; Whittingham Lane GP 120 March and 75

Oct; Cantley BF 200 Sept and 140 Oct and Welney 160 Jan and 90 Aug.

Visible movement noted at Snettisham with 40 south-west Jan 5th. Best autumn counts at Hunstanton Cliffs: 35 south Oct 13th; Holme 60 west Sept 11th and Sheringham 50 west Oct 1st.

Woodcock

Scolopax rusticola

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Abundant breeder particularly in Brecks.

Roding birds reported at 21 localities, rather fewer than last year and presumably the species is under-recorded. Notable concentrations: Holkham Park 3 (thought to be low count), Buxton Heath 5+, Wroxham 12, Frost's Common 5, Marsham Heath 5 and Swanton Novers 5. No breeding at Sugar Fen for the first time in 18 years.

First winter period: Widespread reports from 31 sites (mostly 1-3 birds). Holkham Park/Quarles 2-300 Feb and Leziate 10 Jan and Feb.

Autumn/winter: Early record at Snettisham Sept 30th followed by small arrival from Oct 16th. 1-3 birds at 7 coastal localities during Oct. Large influx Nov 1st-3rd when Holme 20, Burnham Norton 6, Wells East Hills 80, Wells Dell 8 and Blakeney Point 10.

Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

Passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder.

Peak monthly counts at main sites:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Welney	170	120	623	673	31	20	55	22	8	1	-	2
Terrington	90	113	200	1050	-	-	705	1019	15	-	1	-
Ousemouth	-	310	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Snettisham	-	-	1	17	50	1	310	25	6	-	-	-
Titchwell	7	4	-	30	32	58	65	16	-	11	16	90
Holkham NNR	2	-	3	64	146	108	110	30	3	5	5	-
Cley	1	8	172	407	100	62	40	45	12	5	9	31
Breydon	60	6	162	15	15	1	153	422	343	185	122	89

During Jan and Feb wintering birds at Welney and in the Wash where numbers generally increased during the period; and at Breydon, where numbers decreased. Very small numbers at several other sites at this time. Mainly on north coast, but 64 at Whitlingham GP Feb 4th was notable.

March and April saw the customary movement of Icelandic birds through the county. As usual this was most evident at Welney and in the Wash, but Cley also held good numbers. Also recorded at 5 sites additional to those in the table with 62 Holme April 29th the highest count. An unusual record at this time was a single at East Harling March 10th. Passage diminished during May and June, but a flock of non-breeding Icelandic birds summered on the grazing marshes at Holkham NNR. May also produced records of small numbers at more widespread sites; these were mainly coastal but among the more unusual inland reports were 2 at Pentney GP May 7th and 1 at Thetford Nunnery Lakes on 29th.

A single pair nested in the county, successfully fledging young.

Return passage evident from early July, peaking in Aug when highest counts were in the Wash and at Breydon. Few lingered into Sept when the only concentration was at Breydon.

During last three months of the year Breydon still held the only regular flock although numbers there slowly decreased. A small influx to north coast in early Dec saw good

winter counts from Titchwell and Cley.

Black-tailed Godwits are known to have nested annually along the Ouse Washes since 1952. Peak number was attained in 1972 when the complete length (Norfolk/Cambs) held 65 pairs and approaching 90 young reached the flying stage. Since then numbers have steadily declined. Odd pairs have attempted nesting elsewhere, particularly at Cley, but with little success and no breeding group has become established.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica

Passage migrant and winter visitor. A few non-breeders in summer.

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Terrington	1847	–	75	–	79	–	119	215	49	255	730	1073
Snettisham	2285	4680	1000	400	560	350	2090	1000	1500	5000	5500	4855
Holme	1685	1667	475	320	1	–	145	270	850	1805	435	1500
Titchwell	386	20	90	–	6	–	94	1700	3350	2605	161	263
Scolt/Branc	n/c	146	136	17	–	–	–	11	n/c	1	65	144
Wells Hbr	80	246	23	9	–	–	–	22	20	15	52	43
Warham	–	7	–	9	–	–	–	24	11	27	133	22
Stillkey	13	70	33	3	–	–	–	77	107	17	84	92
Blakeney Hbr	143	97	51	17	–	–	–	36	46	171	121	92
Breydon	20	15	13	35	45	3	3	12	16	8	2	12

Qualifying levels for national importance 530; international importance 1000.

For the most part counts in the table are from monthly Wetland Bird Survey and relate to high-tide roosts. The importance of the Wash is clearly evident; the high counts at Holme and Titchwell in some months are the result of birds being forced out of the Wash on very high tides. Other coastal sites occasionally holding good numbers were Heacham with 500 July, 1500 Aug; Thornham 150 Oct, 50 Dec and Holkham Bay 41 Feb and 33 Dec.

Birds re-recorded inland as follows: Heigham Holmes 6 Jan; Welney 1 April 17th; Sennowe Park 1 May 7th; Pentney GP 2 May 8th; Wisington BF 3 May 17th and Cantley BF 2 Oct 9th.

Coastal movements, only recorded at Sheringham, unexceptional – very small cold-weather movements of 10 west Jan 2nd, 35 west Feb 20th and evidence of autumn arrival with 160 west July 22nd.

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

Passage migrant in spring and autumn. Rare in winter.

First spring migrants Cley Mar 5th; Cley and Winterton 19th; Sea Palling 21st; 2 west Holme 23rd and 1 Terrington St. Clement 27th. A trickle of records followed, but spring passage didn't really get under way until third week in April. Peak numbers at most sites in first week of May. Recorded at many coastal sites, peak counts: 54 Holme Apr 30th with 75 there May 1st; 36 Holkham NNR May 5th; 26 Cley May 3rd; 150 Breydon May 1st.

Coastal movement peaked during first three days in May when Sheringham recorded counts of 34 east 6 west on 1st, 28 east 1 west on 2nd and 20 east and 2 west on 3rd.

Very few inland reports: Welney Apr 30th and May 1st and over East Wretham May 18th.

A scattering of coastal records in first half of June, all singles except 15 at Sheringham on 12th where the last spring bird flew east on 17th.

Autumn passage began at Holkham June 23rd followed by singles at Holkham, Cley and Breydon next day. Peak period for migrants moving through was from third week in July to end of Aug. Maximum counts: 63 Terrington July; 23 Ousemouth July; at Holme a total of 146 birds west during July with a peak of 38 on 31st and a total of 290 west during Aug including 48 west on 15th, 55 west on 17th; 40 Titchwell Aug 30th; 25 Brancaster Harbour July 26th; 50 Burnham Overy July 22nd; 30 Cley July 27th; 40 west Sheringham July 22nd; 40 Breydon July. Generally a rapid drop in numbers in Sept but still 20 on the Wells/Stiffkey saltmarshes on 14th. Last at Burnham Norton on 29th and a very late bird at Titchwell Oct 27th. Autumn inland records from 6 sites, mostly small numbers but 12 over Old Catton July 15th and 17 over Rollesby on 28th.

Overall, numbers seemed rather low particularly in autumn, but good series of counts were only received from a few sites. More widespread regular counting would be helpful. It would also help analysis in future years if observers specified if records refer to birds on the ground or flying over.

Curlew

Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. Scarce breeder.

Monthly maxima at all main sites:

Numenius arquata

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Terrington	686	847	680	629	106	n/c	1769	2214	2499	1881	233	665
Ousemouth	46	221	112	73	–	n/c	11	7	n/c	2	44	–
Snettisham	390	506	177	350	–	80	1200	130	600	800	950	627
Heacham	250	200	400	–	–	–	250	160	–	35	2	–
Holme	186	70	255	110	12	–	85	65	65	65	43	52
Thornham	138	43	60	5	–	–	–	4	–	5	4	50
Titchwell	9	126	126	9	8	12	95	94	6	110	4	100
Scolt/Branc	n/c	725	460	31	31	10	650	800	n/c	94+	n/c	n/c
Overy Hbr	50	100	30+	10	–	–	–	–	7	34	55	36
Holkham NNR	295	94	91	22	3	1	25	54	49	34	55	93
Wells Hbr	175	40	53	30	n/c	80	n/c	731	400	61	52	25
Warham	38	30	220	30	n/c	n/c	n/c	16	94	50	133	41
Stiffkey	50	7	32	18	n/c	n/c	n/c	4	6	18	84	92
Blakeney Hbr	94	144	87	28	n/c	n/c	n/c	19	33	54	63	98
Breydon	856	808	725	577	56	191	545	717	739	721	772	533

Qualifying levels for national importance 1200; international importance 3500.

Figures in the above table are largely based on the monthly WeBS counts. This leads to a significant element of undercounting in winter at some sites in NW Norfolk where large numbers of Curlews feed inland during the day and are thus missed when counts are carried out. So far only one or two observers are making the effort to incorporate dusk counts of Curlews returning to saltmarsh roosts. It is hoped this type of coverage can be extended. The Jan total for Breydon represents a new record count for the estuary. Only site omitted from the table that occasionally held good numbers was Heigham Holmes where maxima of 119 Jan; 27 Feb; 22 Oct. Inland feeding flocks: Southaere, West Acre, Massingham Heath, Knight's Hill, Anmer, Flitcham, Babingley, Docking and Tattersett. Away from coastal sites and Breckland breeding area regular only at Welney where up to 6 most months with max of 11 Sept 7th; occasional records from Wroxham, St. Benet's



Curlew (*N. Borrow*)

Level, Buckenham/Cantley Marshes and Cantley BF.

Displaying birds back in Breckland from Feb 20th (East Wretham). Breeding data from Thet Valley (8-10 prs.) and East Wretham Heath (1 pr. but breeding not proved). Information from Stanford Battle Area sadly lacking. In NW Norfolk a displaying bird at one site in May, but no proof of breeding.

First autumn westerly movements June 13th (Holme and Weybourne) peaking in last week of month when counts of 95 west Holme on 23rd and 75 west Holme, 70 west Sheringham, 47 west Mundesley all on 24th. Only significant movement in July 50 west Sheringham on 22nd.

Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

Passage migrant. Small numbers over-winter.

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Terrington	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	8	2	3	—	—
Snettisham	—	1	—	2	1	1	4	90	55	15	1	—
Holme	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2
Titchwell	3	4	4	1	1	2	2	2	4	8	5	5
Cley	1	1	1	2	4	12	12	6	4	—	—	—
Breydon	1	2	3	4	4	1	3	1	6	7	2	2

During first-winter period (Jan–Mar) small wintering population centred on Titchwell and Breydon plus a regular single at Cley. Records of a single on 6 dates at Holme could well relate to one of the Titchwell birds. Only other reports during this period: Blakeney Freshes Jan 22nd and Brancaster Feb 2nd, both these could relate to wanderers already listed in the table.

Spring passage Apr 3rd (Burnham Norton) to May 17th (Breydon), but numbers unexceptional. Sites additional to those tabulated: Welney, Holkham, Blakeney Freshes, Weybourne and Hickling with singles at each.

Autumn passage from June 13th (Breydon), but numbers very modest through the rest of this month and during July with Cley receiving most birds. An interesting record was a bird in song at Holkham June 24th – an unfamiliar sound in this part of the world. Movement peaked in early Aug when Snettisham hosted an impressive 90 birds on 6th. As last year numbers away from the Wash disappointing. Sept saw a gradual fall-off in

numbers. By Oct birds confined to the main sites shown above. During the autumn recorded from following additional sites: Burnham Norton, Holkham, Kelling, Sheringham, Hickling, Cantley BF, Whitlingham GP, Welney and Fritcham. Records at these sites involved very small numbers except at Cantley BF where 5 Sept 11th, 6 on 12th and 5 on 13th.

The second-winter period (Nov–Dec) saw a handful at usual sites. Additional records at this time comprised singles at Burnham Norton Nov 7th, Cantley BF Nov 24th and Wells Harbour Dec 9th.

Redshank

Tringa totanus

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Locally declining breeder.

Table shows all sites with regular monthly counts:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Terrington	81	1212	466	775	125	1125	1877	782	664	459	261
Ousemouth	68	295	452	386	–	38	38	n/c	3	166	–
Snettisham	123	560	350	564	–	377	1170	940	1500	72	222
Holme	146	187	105	33	30	12	75	138	123	125	210
Branc Hbr/Scolt	100	435	49	51	17	400	34	36	89	45	41
Blakeney Hbr	181	207	174	116	–	–	130	82	109	72	111
Breydon	523	680	560	668	83	487	674	610	500	821	610

Qualifying levels for national importance 1100; international importance 1500.

Largest remaining coastal gatherings: Hunstanton 120 Jan; Burnham Overy Harbour 250 Feb; Wells 71 Jan; Warham 113 Nov; Stiffkey 96 Nov; Arnold's Marsh Cley 350.

Cold weather movement at Sheringham with 15 west Jan 7th and in Dec 65 west 15 east on 31st.

Breeding data incomplete. A total of 548 pairs recorded. At Snettisham 19 on saltmarsh. On coastal grazing marshes records from only 3 sites: 6 Ken Hill Snettisham 10 Holme and 85 Holkham NNR. At Breydon 14 pairs – this and the first-named site the only counts received from saltmarshes the species' most important habitat! The Broads ESA survey found 301–302 pairs. In the Fens at Welney WWT and Norfolk section of Ouse Washes 114 pairs located. The Welney section increased 30.9% to 72 pairs and of 58 nests monitored hatching rate was 70%, with many young observed later in season.

Autumn visible migration at Sheringham included 25 west July 22nd, 98 east Aug 4th and 24 east Sept 20th.

Marsh Sandpiper

Tringa stagnatilis

Vagrant from south-east Europe.

An exceptional record of 3 juveniles together at Cantley BF Aug 4th to 13th when they flew off southeast at 1830 hrs. (BWJ *et al*). During their stay 2 of the birds paid a brief visit to Buckenham Marshes on 6th (BJR). This is only the second record of 3 together in Britain (the first was in Suffolk in 1947) and they were enjoyed by many observers. There have been fifteen previous county records, the first being at Cley in 1979.

Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

Passage migrant in spring and autumn. Scarce in winter.

Early part of year saw a few over-wintering birds. At Holme singles on several dates in Jan, Feb and Mar; Titchwell had singles Jan 14th and 16th with 2 on 29th and another

single Mar 21st; 3 wintered in Brancaster Harbour through Jan and Feb with 2 still present Mar 16th and 2 at Cley Feb 26th.

Start of spring passage difficult to determine as singles at Holme and Titchwell in first week in April may well have been wintering birds. First obvious new arrivals at Cley and Weybourne on 10th. A more general arrival from 20th onwards and peak numbers in first half of May. Highest counts at this time: 6 Holme May 4th; 5 Brancaster Harbour April 27th; 5 Cley several dates in May; 24 Breydon May 11th; 12 Berney Marshes May 16th; 9 Welney May 5th. Counts of up to 4 birds from a further 18 sites.

As is often the case spring merged into autumn and the scattering of records from a total of 8 sites throughout June are difficult to assign to either passage period. Autumn passage gathered pace during July and peaked at most sites in mid-August. Birds still quite widespread during Sept and a few sites had good numbers early in the month. Maximum counts at this time: Terrington 58 July, 30 Aug, 18 Sept; Snettisham 22 July, 36 Aug, 15 Sept; Holme 6 July, 13 Aug, 4 Sept; Titchwell 11 July, 24 Aug, 4 Sept; Holkham NNR 23 July, 20 Aug, 8 Sept; Cley 9 July, 8 Aug, 10 Sept; Cantley BF 2 July, 20 Aug, 26 Sept; Breydon 7 July, 12 Aug, 12 Sept; Berney 7 July, n/c Aug, 4 Sept. Only additional noteworthy counts: 25 Brancaster Harbour Sept 3rd and a movement of 21 west at Holme Sept 7th. Oct records less widespread but a few coastal sites held reasonable numbers until mid-month, the highest count 15 Titchwell on 8th. By the month-end only Snettisham with 4 on 31st and Brancaster Harbour with 4 on 27th significant.

The second-winter period (Nov-Dec) provided regular records of 1-2 from Holme, Titchwell and Brancaster Harbour to the year-end plus a single at Snettisham Nov 4th and 2 Wells Harbour Nov 2nd with 1 there on 12th.

Greater Yellowlegs

Tringa melanoleuca

Vagrant from North America.

A sometimes elusive but well-watched bird commuted between Breydon, Berney and Burgh Castle May 15th-18th and again from 22nd-25th (PRA *et al*). Only the second county occurrence. The first, also at Breydon and found by the same observer, was in Sept 1975.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Tringa flavipes

Vagrant from North America.

One at Burnham Norton June 10th-12th and 16th-17th (VE MF *et al*) and one very briefly in the early evening at Holme Aug 2nd (GFH NML). The eighth and ninth county records.

1994 correction: The last date for the bird at Cley was May 15th.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

Double passage migrant, most numerous in autumn. Some over-winter.

Jan and Feb produced records from 12 sites giving a combined total of 20 birds wintering. By far the highest count 10 at Cranwich GP Jan 15th.

The first obvious spring passage migrants at Burnham Norton and Cley March 21st. There followed the usual light movement through April and early May with last at Blakeney Freshes May 19th. Records from 23 sites during this period, the great majority of just singles but an impressive 14 at Cranwich GP on April 2nd.

First returning bird Holme June 13th followed by singles at Berney and Holkham on 14th. Ones and twos had been recorded at 8 sites by the month-end. Numbers increased during July with high counts by the last week. Monthly maxima at main sites - 18 King's Lynn BF; 14 Holme; 17 Breydon; 40 Cantley BF; 16 other sites held up to 8 birds.

Slightly more widespread in Aug with records from 31 sites, highest counts this month 12 Holme on 3rd; 12 Holkham NNR on 5th; 30 Cley on 13th and 58 Cantley BF on 22nd. As expected passage tailed off during Sept and very few anywhere after 12th. The main exception was Cantley BF where 38 on 12th and still 17 on 30th. Cantley remained the only regular site during Oct with 20 birds 1st–10th down to 6 by 22nd. Elsewhere this month only 1–2 on a few dates at Heacham, Holme, Titchwell and Whitlingham GP.

Nov and Dec produced records of singles at 13 sites mostly on single dates plus 2 birds at Cantley BF in Nov.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

Passage migrant in spring and autumn.

First spring migrants at Burnham Norton and Cley May 2nd. A rather weak passage continued until June 6th (Welney) with records from 13 mainly coastal sites. Highest counts: 5 Holme May 22nd; 5 Cley 11th and 3 Welney 11th.

Isolated singles June 20th (Holme) and 30th (Holkham) difficult to assign to either passage period. First obvious autumn bird at How Hill July 10th and although 3 at Cley on 16th few other records until last week which produced counts of 6 Holme on 27th and 3 Breydon 27th; five other sites recorded singles. Much more widespread in Aug particularly in first week. Eighteen sites produced records during the month but numbers disappointing, highest counts 6 Holme on 1st; 4 Titchwell 1st–6th; 4 Holkham NNR 4th and 4 Cantley BF 12th. Very small numbers throughout Sept from a total of 10 sites while in Oct singles regular at Titchwell, Holkham and Cantley BF until 19th; 2 at Holme on 16th and a very late bird at Kelling Quags from 18th until Nov 3rd.



Terek Sandpiper (M. Artou)

Terek Sandpiper

Xenus cinereus

Vagrant from north-east Europe/Siberia.

An adult for 10 minutes at Breydon June 15th (PRA PJH). Almost certain this was the bird at Minsmere in Suffolk the previous day. A month later a bird roosted at high tide on the pits at Snettisham July 14th and 15th (PF DM *et al*). These were the first in Norfolk since Wissington BF in 1991 and bring the county total to 10, all since 1975.

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

Passage migrant in spring and autumn. Rare in winter. Has bred.

Wintering birds at Breydon Jan 3rd and on the Gaywood River at King's Lynn on 22nd.

One at Buckenham/Cantley Marshes March 23rd could well have been an early migrant and was followed by singles at Titchwell and Burnham Norton April 6th, but not really widespread until after 21st. Passage continued until June 16th (Breydon and Cley), but although recorded from a total of 32 sites, numbers were unimpressive. Maximum counts: 5 Holme May 4th; 5 Titchwell 4th; 5 Burnham Overy April 29th; 6 Holkham NNR May 4th; 8 Cley 17th; 11 Breydon 18th; 6 Burgh Castle 18th; 6 Colney GP 22nd and 5 Sparham Pools 21st.

Autumn passage commenced with 2 in Wells Harbour June 29th and continued until Oct 29th (Holme). Records from 37 sites with pronounced peaks July 30th–31st and in mid-Aug. Highest counts: Terrington 24 July, 20 Aug; Ousemouth 25 Aug; Snettisham 22 July 31st; Holme 21 July 31st, 31 Aug 20th; Titchwell 12 Aug 2nd; Cley 10 July 15th, 27th, 15 Aug 1st; Breydon 17 July 24th; Berney Marshes 14 July 21st; Cantley BF 22 Aug 19th; Wroxham 10 Aug 26th. Overhead migration from non-wetland sites at Sheringham where 12 west July 30th and Pulham Market where 2 calling at night Aug 23rd.

The year ended with 2 winter records – singles at King's Lynn BF Nov 10th and Burgh Castle Dec 28th.

Spotted Sandpiper

Actitis macularia

Vagrant from North America.

The bird present at Welney since Sept 18th 1994 remained until Jan 27th (JBK *et al*).

Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

Passage migrant and winter visitor. A few oversummer.

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Terrington	81	49	37	n/c	25	n/c	8	8	2	130	273	8
Ousemouth	n/c	47	53	21	n/c	n/c	–	3	n/c	1	13	–
Snettisham	48	480	79	50	192	38	760	761	500	50	15	47
Heacham	84	59	32	n/c	38	n/c	8	–	5	70	20	–
Hunstanton	120	65	n/c	75	n/c	n/c	n/c	30	65	88	123	55
Holme	31	23	18	45	10	–	20	41	42	57	33	36
Thornh./Titch	264	29	21	42	50	n/c	10	8	15	74	18	13
Scolt/Branc Hbr	n/c	35	24	70	70	n/c	50	36	80	n/c	145	n/c
Overy/Holkham	n/c	n/c	n/c	4	n/c	n/c	n/c	8	14	18	6	3
Wells-Stiffkey	33	17	26	3	n/c	n/c	n/c	13	21	17	43	49
Blakeney Hbr.	73	68	33	27	n/c	n/c	n/c	26	94	67	61	43
Cley-Yarmouth	139	90	74	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	25	70	n/c
Breydon	6	9	9	27	47	n/c	7	n/c	7	7	n/c	n/c
Total	879	971	406	364	432	38	863	934	845	604	820	254

Qualifying levels for national importance 640; international importance 700.
The table covers virtually all Turnstones in the county, but some care should be taken when interpreting the data due to the incompleteness of coverage in most months. Numbers in the Wash seem particularly erratic, presumably due to movements between roost sites. The north and east coasts from Cley to Yarmouth were only fully covered in Jan when there was a BTO Survey; more regular counts from east coast sites would be

very helpful. The Jan count for Titchwell was exceptionally high, probably due to birds displaced from the Wash. A count of 40 birds at King's Lynn Docks Dec 30th–31st probably additional data to that in the table.

May produced a few inland records of passage birds: Welney on 4th, 2 on 6th, 1 on 7th and 6 on 17th plus singles at Whitlingham GP 2nd and Pentney GP 15th.

During the autumn inland records from Cantley BF where 2 Aug 9th, 1 on 28th, 5 on Sept 6th and Hickling Rush Hills with 2 Aug 6th. During freezing weather in Dec one at Wroxham Broad on 31st.

Red-necked Phalarope

Phalaropus lobatus

Scarce passage migrant.

An early returning female at Titchwell June 12th–13th (TS *et al*) was followed by a flurry of juveniles in Aug/Sept. During this period singles at Snettisham village Aug 29th–Sept 20th (PF *et al*); Welney Aug 31st–Sept 6th (JBK *et al*); Little Walsingham/Egmere Sep 9th–11th (TMCJ *et al*); Breydon Sept 10th (PRA, JO *et al*); Cantley BF Sept 11th and 16th–19th (PJH BWJ JL *et al*); Whitlingham GP Sept 13th (DJH). Records from the last three sites probably relate to the same individual.

Grey Phalarope

Phalaropus fulicarius

Scarce autumn passage migrant. Rare in winter and spring.

A spell of cold northerly weather in early Jan produced an exceptional series of winter records. On 2nd singles at Burnham Overy Dunes (PH); Cley (MAG) and flying west at Overstrand (BJM) while one at Salthouse on 3rd (JBK JRW *et al*) stayed until next day.

An early autumn bird off Sheringham Aug 28th (RGM KBS) then a two month wait before a rush of late records. One arrived at Titchwell Oct 29th to stay until Nov 5th (RQS *et al*); also at Titchwell an additional bird on the sea Nov 4th (BDH); 3 flew west past Cley Nov 1st (MAG); 1 west at Holme 2nd (NML); 1 west at Sheringham 3rd (PJH); 1 north at Happisburgh 3rd (JDG); 2 south at Happisburgh 4th and 1 west Sheringham 14th (DPA SCV).

Pomarine Skua

Stercorarius pomarinus

Passage migrant during autumn, unusual at other times.

During first-winter period 2 Holme Jan 6th, Cley Jan 1st and 11th, Sheringham 3 east Jan 1st and 2 Jan 12th and Winterton Jan 12th and 18th. Feb records from Cley on 16th; Kelling on 18th and Sheringham on 7th.

From Feb 8th up to 5 lingered in the Yarmouth/Gorleston area until April 19th providing the first records of this species overwintering. Undoubted attraction: large numbers of gulls feeding on sprats.

Only spring record: Winterton April 1st and 2nd.

Autumn passage first noted Hunstanton Aug 1st with a maximum of 10 off Titchwell and Blakeney Pt Aug 28th. Passage continued through Sept/Oct to Nov with highest count of 18 in the South Wash Nov 1st. A final series of sightings from Overstrand Dec 13th and Holme and Holkham Bay both Dec 29th. The last two birds were surprisingly the only immatures reported.

Arctic Skua

Stercorarius parasiticus

Mainly autumn passage migrant, scarce at other times.

Winter records concerned singles at Blakeney Point Jan 7th, Sheringham Jan 1st and in Feb at Weybourne 16th and 18th, Kelling 18th, Yarmouth/Gorleston 15th, 17th, 18th, 20th and 25th (2).

A light spring passage March 1st to April 26th of 17 birds on 12 dates.

Return passage commenced June 8th slowly increasing to reach peaks on Aug 27th when 215 east Sheringham and Aug 28th when 120 Hunstanton, 155 west Holme, 50 Titchwell, 200 east Sheringham, 96 east Mundesley and 100 Winterton.

Numbers then declined. Largest Sept count: 62 east Sheringham with an Oct high of 35 Sheringham on 20th. No Nov count reached double figures. Last bird: Snettisham Dec 29th.

Inland: Cantley Aug 5th and 3 Swanton Novers Aug 29th.

Long-tailed Skua

Stercorarius longicaudus

Scarce autumn passage migrant.

Two adults Weybourne July 26th followed by singles at Holme Aug 6th and Happisburgh Aug 8th with another 4 between Aug 12th and 23rd.

Total of 90 identified between Aug 25th and 29th including 17 east Sheringham on 28th and 34 east (1800–2000 hours) Mundesley Aug 25th. Total of 26 recorded during Sept, the most notable being 10 east Sheringham on 20th.

Late birds Sheringham Oct 29th and Hunstanton Nov 3rd.

Great Skua

Stercorarius skua

Passage migrant mainly in autumn; otherwise scarce.

An above-average showing during first-winter period with total of 37 on 8 dates between Jan 1st and Feb 26th including 7 east Sheringham Jan 1st and 7 Holkham Bay on 2nd.

Sparse spring passage: Snettisham March 26th/27th, Brancaster 2 and Sheringham 2 March 27th and single off Horsey, Winterton and Yarmouth April 2nd. No further sightings until June 25th/26th when one off Cley. Autumn passage from Aug 1st with peak of 110 west Holme Aug 28th. Smaller numbers during Sept, maximum 39 Holme on 28th. Oct reports generally of small numbers apart from 102 Holme on 20th. Holme produced highest Nov count: 133 on 3rd, a few during Dec, the last on 29th.

Mediterranean Gull

Larus melanocephalus

Regular all-year visitor in increasing numbers, often remaining for weeks. Has bred.

Hopes were high, after successful breeding in the County in 1994, that 3 pairs at Blakeney Point might continue that success. Unfortunately all failed.

Continued increase in sightings makes exact numbers impossible to specify. Coastal records are summarised in the table giving approximate totals reported under the three age-groups, as a comparison with 1993 and 1994.

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

First-year	15	11	13	29	39	16	15	4	3	–	1	–
Second-year	2	2	2	6	1	3	1	7	18	12	13	9
Adult	8	8	11	13	15	8	7	11	6	7	1	10

Most favoured sites continue to be Hunstanton, Titchwell, Holkham, Cley/Blakeney, Sheringham, Overstrand, Mundesley and Yarmouth/Breydon.

Mainly ones and twos, but Heacham adult and 2 1st-winter Jan 4th, 2 adults and 1st-winter Nov 8th, Holkham 5 1st-winter Mar 5th, adult and 3 2nd-winter Nov; Wells adult and 2 1st-summer end April; Blakeney Point/Cley 4 adult, 2nd summer and 3 1st-summer April, 11 including 6 adults May; Weybourne adult, 2nd-summer and 1st-summer Jun 29th; Sheringham 3 1st-year May 26th, 3 2nd-winter Oct 14th; Cromer 3 2nd-winter Nov

1st; Overstrand 2 adult and 4 1st-winter Jan 14th–15th, 2 adult and 5 1st-winter Feb, 1st-summer April 6th, 4 1st-summer and adult July 16th, 2 adult and 2 1st-summer on 22nd, 4 adult and 4 2nd-winter Sept, adult and 3 2nd-winter Oct 11th, 2 adult and 4 2nd-winter Nov–Dec; Caister 3 2nd-winter Aug 23rd, 5 2nd-winter Sept 10th; Yarmouth 1 adult, 2 2nd-winter and 5 1st-winter Jan–Feb, 3 adult, 2nd-winter and 5 1st-winter Mar, 1st-summer Aug, 3 adult and 2nd-winter Dec 3rd; Breydon 4 1st-summer April 29th, 1st-summer May 8th, increasing to 10 on the 28th and 14 on the 31st, 12 1st-summer June 1st, 14 on the 19th and 10 on the 30th with an adult on 28th, up to 8 1st-summer until mid-July.

Inland: Wroxham 1st-winter Jan–Feb; Colney Pits 1st-winter Jan 6th; Welney 1st-winter Jan 9th, Feb 24th–28th, Mar 2nd, 9th and 22nd, Oct 24th and Nov 6th; Gt Birchen 1st-winter Feb 4th; Whitlingham GP un-aged Feb 11th–12th, 1st-winter April 1st; Binham 2 March 11th; Hardley Flood 1st-winter March 24th; Strumpshaw 1st-year April 19th; Hickling 1st-summer May 6th and 28th, 2 adult 22nd; Berney Marshes 2 1st-year May 15th, 1 20th and 2 25th; Martham Ferry 1st-year May 21st, 25th and 28th; Martham Broad adult Oct 15th; Buckenham/Cantley 2 adult May 24th, 1st-winter Nov 20th; Egmere sub-adult Sept 3rd; Thetford Nunnery Lakes 1st-winter Dec 21st.

Juveniles at only two sites: Yarmouth harbour July 22nd and Salthouse Sept 3rd and 9th.

Laughing Gull

Larus atricilla

Vagrant from North America.

A first-winter at Salthouse and Blakeney harbour June 1st (CJM *et al*) later visited both Suffolk and Kent. Only the second County record, the first in Dec 1991/Jan 1992, also a first-winter.

Little Gull

Larus minutus

Non-breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor.

As usual recorded monthly with increases in Jan and Dec records over 1994. Coastal movements unspectacular. Best passage in Oct and Nov: 100+ Cley Jan 1st, 12 Sheringham 12th; 10 Heacham Feb 13th; 3 Holme March 2nd; 14 Sheringham April 1st and 43 Breydon including a group of 37 heading down the estuary on 29th; 10 Titchwell May 29th and 12 on the 31st; 9 Titchwell June 4th; 5 Breydon July 11th and 10 there Aug 1st; 19 Breydon Sept 19th; 30 Titchwell Oct 28th, 40 Holme and 28 Winterton on the 29th and 29 Holkham on 30th; 28 Titchwell Nov 1st, 29 Sheringham and 20 Hunstanton 3rd, 85 Holme, 65 Sheringham and 20 Waxham on 13th, 34 Holme and 29 Sheringham on 17th; 10 Titchwell Dec 5th and 19 Holme on 29th.

An increase in inland sightings between Mar and Aug: Singles Welney March 21st and 26th, Hardley Flood 24th; Buckenham/Cantley Apr 2nd, Strumpshaw 13th–26th, Berney Marshes 12th–30th, Rockland Broad 20th with 2 there on the 23rd, 4 on the 25th, 6 on the 29th and 7 on the 30th, 3 Hardley Flood 30th and a single Hickling on the 25th; 15 Hardley Flood, 8 Rockland Broad and 6 Hickling May 1st with 3 remaining at latter site on 2nd and a single on 29th. Singles Colney GP 2nd, King's Lynn BF 12th–18th and Berney Marshes 22nd–23rd with 1 June 14th and 2 there on 16th. Single Cantley Aug 6th.

Sabine's Gull

Larus sabini

Almost annual but scarce autumn vagrant from High Arctic. Extremely rare in spring.

The best autumn since 1988 with 11 records between Aug and Oct, all juveniles with the possible exception of the Sept Winterton bird: Winterton Aug 29th (SB AC JRW).

Yarmouth harbour entrance Sept 6th (PRA SS), Holme Sept 9th (AR *et al*), Mundesley Sept 16th (MF), West Runton Sept 16th (MS), Sheringham Sept 19th (AC EMPS JRW), Winterton Sept 24th (SAW), Cley Sept 30th (SB AC PM JRW), Holme Oct 10th (GFH *et al*), Sheringham Oct 20th (DPA DC) and Horsey Gap Oct 24th (DJH).

Black-headed Gull

Larus ridibundus

Breeds colonially, dispersing in winter when many immigrants from Eastern Europe.

Breeding pairs recorded as follows (success unknown unless otherwise stated): Wash Outer Trial Bank 16, Snettisham 1138, Brancaster Saltmarsh 25 (all failed due to high-tide flooding), Scolt Head 450, Holkham Bob Hall Sands 6, Wells Saltmarsh 1306 (nests were second attempts after first clutches washed out by high tides), Stiffkey Binks 192, Blakeney Point 3000 (moderate success due to flooding and predation), Strumpshaw Fen c70 (fledged c100 young), Hoveton Marsh 200–300 (good success) and Wissington BF c60. A number of sites were not covered.

Monthly Wetland Bird Survey (WEBS) totals for the Wash: 1714 Jan, 1824 Feb, 3592 Mar, 1183 Apr, 3649 May, 3864 Jun, 6161 Jul, 9296 Aug, 12380 Sept, 2372 Oct, 2048 Nov and 2730 Dec.

Monthly roost counts elsewhere: Wroxham 6000, Welney 4600 and Heigham Holmes 2000 Jan, Wroxham 4000+ and Thornham 2500 Feb, Welney 2200 Mar, Scolt Head 455 Jun, Holme 300 Jul, Welney 450 Aug and 720 Sep, Holme 550 Sept, Welney 2200 Oct and 4000 Nov, Wroxham 5000 and Colney GP 2500 in Dec.

Coastal movements included Sheringham 5000 east Mar 11th, Mundesley 1855 west Apr 2nd, Sheringham 500 west June 2nd and 1300 on the 30th, with 600 west there Sept 17th and 1000 west Oct 30th, Holme 1500 west Nov 2nd and 1200 west on the 3rd.

Common Gull

Larus canus

Passage migrant and winter visitor with non-breeders remaining all summer. Spasmodic breeder.

Breeding recorded at 3 sites: Scolt Head 1 pair failed, Stiffkey Binks 1 pair failed (washed out by high tides) and Blakeney Point 7 pairs fledged at least 3 young.

Only notable roost counts: Thornham 2500, Holkham Lake 600, Wroxham 700 and Welney 480 Jan; Thornham 4200 Feb and 2500 Mar; Holme 1000 Sept; Holkham Lake 1500, Wroxham 500 and Tattersett 300 in Dec.

Little visible migration noted other than Sheringham 100 west Jan 1st and 300 west on the 2nd, Weybourne 200 west Feb 17th, Yarmouth 500+ north and Mundesley 360 west April 1st and 640 on the 2nd, Sheringham 300 Jun 30th and Holme 3000 west Nov 2nd and 800 west on 3rd.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

Passage migrant and migratory breeder. Increasing in winter.

Breeding confirmed at 3 sites: Wash Outer Trial Bank 860 pairs success unknown; Wells Saltmarsh 40 nests with poor success and Yarmouth where 5 pairs nested on factory roofs fledging several young. First ever breeding at this locality and on buildings in Norfolk.

Small numbers during winter. Highest counts Sennowe Park 10 Jan 22nd and Sheringham 8 Dec 2nd.

Largest gatherings: Colney Gp 70 Apr 4th, 61 May 17th, 325 Sept 29th and 175 Oct 9th; Lyng-Easthaugh 54 Apr 14th; Holkham Lake 40 in May; Cley 200 June 19th; Weybourne 50 June 27th–28th; Breydon 250 June 27th, 500+ July 26th with 604 on the 30th and 600 Aug 9th; Sheringham 200 Jun 30th and 100 July 1st; Scolt Head 43 in June and 55 July 31st; Snettisham 50 Sept 10th.

At Welney suspected of predating Lapwing nests and seen eating Mallard eggs.

Individuals of the Baltic and Northern Norway race *fuscus* at Blakeney Point (adult July 14th and up to 3 first-summer from 17th) also 1 at Sheringham Dec 2nd.

Individuals of the southern Scandinavian race *intermedius* at Sheringham (1 west Feb 27th, 1 west May 8th and 2 west Oct 1st).

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

Increasing breeder, late summer migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding occurred at 4 sites: Wash Outer Trial bank 574 pairs, success unknown; Wells Saltmarsh 90 nests, poor success; Blakeney Point 60 pairs attempted to breed, c10 young fledged and Yarmouth 6 pairs on factory roofs, several young fledged. First ever breeding recorded here and on buildings in Norfolk.

Wetland Bird Survey (WEBS) totals for the Wash; 983 Jan, 785 Feb, 1405 Mar, 814 Apr, 2437 May, 1298 Jun, 1684 Jul, 2553 Aug, 5006 Sep, 2380 Oct, 1751 Nov and 4986 Dec.

Largest counts elsewhere: Holme 1800 and Thornham 3500 Jan; Thornham 2100 Feb and 900 March; Holme 1000 and Titchwell 2000 April; Snettisham 1077 May and 750 Jun.

Major coastal movements: Burnham Overy 600 west and Sheringham 800 west Jan 2nd; Yarmouth 1000 north Apr 1st; Sheringham 1050 east Dec 2nd and Mundesley 1280 east Dec 16th.

Northern race *argentatus*: Heavy movement west at Holme and Burnham Overy Jan 2nd; Sheringham 10 west Nov 3rd, 10 east Dec 2nd, 200 east 10th, 400 east 24th, 20 west 26th and 40 east Dec 31st.

Yellow-legged birds considered to be the Mediterranean and Iberian race *melanocephalus* recorded monthly with a mid-summer peak. Ones and twos at coastal localities with Colney GP and Hickling main inland sites.

Largest counts: Cley 6 west March 5th and 4 June 9th, Breydon 8 July 21st and 4 Aug 1st and Blakeney Point 5 July 17th.

Iceland Gull

Larus glaucoideus

Annual but very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Burnham Overy 1st-winter Jan 1st; Sheringham and Overstrand 2nd-winter Jan 2nd and Winterton presumed same bird Jan 3rd; Wroxham Broad 1st-winter Jan 7th; Cley adult Jan 11th; Titchwell adult Mar 19th; Cromer 1st-year March 30th, Yarmouth harbour entrance 3rd-summer March 30th–April 8th and 19th, also seen at Breydon Apr 7th; Cromer 2nd-year and an adult Titchwell Apr 2nd.

Glaucous Gull

Larus hyperboreus

Winter visitor in fluctuating numbers. Rare in summer.

Sheringham 1st-year Jan 1st, 1st-winter April 2nd, adult April 6th and 1st-summer May 25th; Cley 2 1st-winter Jan 2nd, 4th-winter Jan 11th, 2nd-year March 3rd, 1st-year May 24th and adult Oct 12th; Overstrand 1st-winter and Stiffkey 2nd-winter Jan 2nd; Breydon 1st-winter Jan 9th, 2nd-winter Jan 25th–Feb 14th, 1st-summer April 14th, 1st-summer June 11th–16th and adult July 26th; Thornham adult Jan 30th; near Runhall 1st-winter March 14th; Blackborough 1st-winter March 29th; Yarmouth 1st-year April 1st and 1st-winter Dec 4th; Cromer 2nd-year April 2nd and 1st-year April 4th; Holme 1st-summer May 20th–22nd; Horsey un-aged Dec 4th; Hunstanton 1st-winter Dec 26th and 2nd-winter Dec 27th, King's Lynn 2nd-winter Dec 29th–31st.

Correction to 1994: 4th-winter Breydon Dec 31st and not Dec 12th as stated in Report.

Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus

Passage migrant, winter visitor and non-breeding summer visitor.

Wetland Bird Survey (WEBS) totals for the Wash: 377 July, 1031 Aug, 1150 Sept, 1002 Oct, 851 Nov and 540 Dec.

Largest counts elsewhere: Thornham 175 Jan 30th and 134 Oct 16th; Colney GP 185 Jan; Sheringham 100 June 30th; Holme 105 July and 125 Aug; Brancaster 190 Aug 16th; Breydon 900 Sept 19th and 880 Sept 20th; Blakeney harbour 150 Sept 28th and 225 Nov 30th.

Coastal movements: Burnham Overy 1000 west and Sheringham 1200 west Jan 2nd; Sheringham 100 west Oct 2nd, 175 west Nov 3rd, 100 west 5th, 110 east 13th, 200 east Nov 18th and 390 east Dec 2nd.

Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla

Mainly passage migrant. Occasional non-breeding concentrations in summer.

Notable gatherings: Cley 150 June 26th and 350 the following day; Holme 280 feeding offshore Aug 10th; Yarmouth harbour entrance 48 Sept 8th and South Wash 3000 Nov 11th and 2750 Nov 16th.

Major coastal movements: Holme 1800 west in 2 hours, Sheringham 1200 west and Cley 600 all Jan 2nd; Yarmouth 1000 Feb 15th; Holme 650 west in 1 hour March 27th; Cley 100 per hour June 25th and 1000 on the 28th; Yarmouth 1000 north in 1½ hours June 26th; Weybourne 500 June 27th and 28th; Mundesley 200 west daily late June; Cley 100 per hour July 1st; Sheringham 450 west in 1 hour Sept 1st and 650 east Oct 20th; Sheringham 1000 Nov 1st, 1900 east 2nd, 850 east 3rd and 1000 Nov 17th; Holme 650 west Nov 3rd and 650 east on the 17th; Hunstanton 400 south Nov 11th; Waxham 300 south Nov 13th; Overstrand 5000 Nov 16th and Mundesley 100 per hour east Dec 15th and 26th.

Inland sightings: Welney March 20th; Holkham grazing marsh April 28th. Breydon June 11th, 12th and 3 on 28th; Cley Arnold's Marsh 33 July 1st and UEA Norwich Dec 1st.

Sandwich Tern

Sterna sandvicensis

Migratory breeder and passage migrant.

Recorded between March 11th (Cley) and Nov 16th (Holme).

Both terneries had a good breeding season with 1580 pairs Scolt Head fledging 1200–1500 young and 1400–1500 pairs Blakeney Point fledging almost one chick per pair.

Some large gatherings/movements away from the colonies as follows – Holme 325 July 31st and 1100 Aug 10th; Cley 400 April 25th; Sheringham easterly movement of 440 April 22nd, 215 July 5th and 400 Sept 19th; Breydon 153 April 26th and 358 July 6th.

A handful of inland records from Wroxham Broad April 23rd, 5 Stanford Water July 14th, Flitcham Sept 21st, Norwich Sept 29th, Acle Marshes Sept 17th and 2 Welney Sept 17th.

Roseate Tern

Sterna dougallii

Rare passage migrant; has bred.

Another good showing with records from Blakeney Point where a pair plus one additional bird present throughout July, Cley May 18th, June 20th–29th with three birds on the latter date, July 9th–19th, Aug 28th and a juvenile Sept 24th; Sheringham one west Aug 13th, Mundesley 3 on both June 9th and July 18th and Breydon where 1–2 around tern platforms July 17th–Aug 5th with 3 birds July 18th and 21st.

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

Migratory breeder and passage migrant at both coastal and inland sites.

Apart from an abnormal winter record from Weybourne Feb 17th/18th (MPT FJC JW) recorded between April 3rd (Breydon) and Oct 31st (Snettisham).

Coastal gatherings mostly small this year though 230 Ongar Hill (Wash) Sept 24th. Sites such as Sheringham recorded monthly peaks of just 65 east Aug 23rd and 35 east Sept 7th while at Paston 106 west Aug 24th and at Holme 260 east Aug 10th.

A minimum of 766 pairs reported breeding though no figures available for some sites.

	No. Pairs	Young Fledged		No. Pairs	Young Fledged
Wash Outer Trial Bank	65	Unknown	Ranworth Broad	16-20	Unknown
Snettisham	59	Unknown	Lyng Easthaugh	1	Nil
Scolt Head	138	4	Sparham Pools	1	Unknown
Holkham NNR	59-61	61	Ditchingham GP	1	2
Blakeney Point	200	Unknown	Barton Broad	11	Unknown
Breydon	165	199	Sennowe Park	2	Unknown
Hickling	4	2	Pentney GP	1	3
Martham Broad	16	12	Wissington BF	1	Unknown
Hoveton Broad	26	6			

In the early years of bird protection in Norfolk local Societies at Blakeney, Wells and Wolferton collected sufficient funds for the employment of a Watcher during the terns' breeding season. However, this situation became increasingly difficult. Blakeney Point was handed over to the National Trust in 1912. Nine years later the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists Society took over administration of the other local Societies.

Peak numbers of Common Terns at coastal Reserves were attained in 1937 (2231 nests at Blakeney Point), 1938 (2470 nests at Scolt Head) and 1952 (2370 nests at Blakeney Point). The first nesting rafts were introduced at Ranworth Inner Broad in 1961 after failed nesting attempts on sunken wherries. The most successful inland colony nowadays is at Breydon where 4 substantial platforms have been constructed by members of a local conservation body.

Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

Double passage migrant; a few pairs breed.

Recorded April 16th (Lynn Point) to Nov 1st (Cley). Spring passage during April reported from twelve sites, generally 1-5 birds though 15 Lynn Point on 16th, 34 north Sheringham on 30th and 42 east Breydon also on 30th. A continuing scatter of records, particularly from north coast during the summer period may refer to wandering breeders from the small colonies at Scolt Head (2 pairs - breeding not confirmed), Blakeney Point (20 pairs but poor success due to a combination of bad weather, high tides and Kestrel predation) and Stiffkey Binks (1 pair fledged 3 young).

An insignificant autumn passage (Aug-Oct) when recorded from nine sites in small numbers (1-7) apart from 8 Holme Aug 27th and 12 Sheringham Aug 29th.

Breydon recorded birds in 2nd-summer plumage June 13/16th and 1st-summer plumage June 24/25th and July 19/20th.

Little Tern

Sterna albifrons

Local migratory breeder

Recorded between April 20th (Breydon) and the extremely late date of Nov 1st (Terrington Marsh) though most birds had departed by mid Sept.

Inland records during May from Colney GP 4 on 1st and Rockland Broad 4 on 4th/5th.

An increase in breeding pairs to 636 but success down to 369 fledged young due to the usual problems of predation, high tides and sand blow. Repeated breeding attempts saw a particularly late chick fledging Aug 26th. The major Yarmouth colony had a successful season even though 147 chicks were seen to be taken by Kestrels between June 14th–July 22nd and it is thought likely a further 124 chicks were taken during unwardened periods. Supplementary feeding in the form of dead mice was provided at two Kestrel nests close to the colony in an effort to reduce predation of chicks.

	No. Pairs	Young Fledged		No. Pairs	Young Fledged
Holme	26	Nil	Hall Meals	10	Nil
Titchwell	20	Nil	Blakeney Point	152	70
Brancaster	24	Nil	Yarmouth	255	180
Scolt Head	44	5			
Holkham NNR	105	104			

Sizeable concentrations of birds away from the colonies included 50 Holme Aug 10th, 45 Burnham Overy Aug 12th, 63 Winterton on beach May 6th and 174 Breydon July 24th.

Whiskered Tern

Chlidonias hybridus

Vagrant from southern Europe.

An adult visited Breydon June 15th (PRA *et al*), the twentieth individual to have reached the county.

Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

Regular double passage migrant in variable numbers; has bred

A handful of April arrivals, with singles, at Kelling Quags and Cantley BF 23rd, and Holme. Titchwell and Hickling Broad 30th.

A disappointing May passage compared to some years with birds moving through in three main waves between 1st–6th, 15–18th and 22nd–25th. The most popular site was Rockland Broad with 29 May 2nd, 19 May 3rd and 12 May 4th. The next highest counts were 9 Titchwell 24th, 8 Sheringham 24th, 8 Filby Broad 3rd, 8 Hickling early May and 8 Barton Broad 4th. Spring passage birds noted at a further 14 sites in small numbers (1–7).

First autumn migrants in July were at Holme 2 on 25th, Titchwell 31st, Cley 2nd and Pentney GP 27th. This was followed by very small numbers, generally singles, at 14 sites during Aug/Sept; the main exception being 11 Terrington Marsh Sept 10th; no other count exceeded six birds. Oct records from Cley on 1st and 11th.

The only breeding attempts by Black Terns in this century have been at Welney Wash. Here 4 pairs built nests in the wet spring of 1969. However, none of the young survived due to the floods drying rapidly leaving them helpless to any predator. A further nesting attempt took place in 1975 when a pair raised a single young.

Guillemot*Uria aalge*

Passage migrant and winter visitor; occasional wrecks.

Generally small numbers during early part of year. Highest autumn counts off Weybourne: 445 east Sept 28th and 300 east Nov 1st. Single inland record: Welney March 11th.

Razorbill*Alca torda*

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Reported only in small numbers apart from 100 east off Sheringham Nov 2nd. A downy young off Cley Aug 6th.

Auk sp

Large numbers moving at too great a range to identify off Sheringham Nov 2nd (3250) and 3rd (3130).

Black Guillemot*Cephus grylle*

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

Singles between Cley and Sheringham Aug 23rd–28th and off Scrabby/Caister on 28th. Another off Cley/Sheringham Sept 19th–Nov 19th. Also 1–2 Holme to Brancaster Nov 2nd–30th and during Dec off Titchwell on 1st; Sea Palling on 3rd and Cley 6th–9th.

Little Auk*Alle alle*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Occasional 'wrecks'.

A handful of records from coastal localities in Jan, mostly ones and twos but 6 at Sheringham on 26th and 3 west at Holme the same day, a monthly total of no more than 15–20 birds. Additionally, 5 fresh corpses at coastal sites during the month. Feb produced one live bird off Salthouse on 9th and one tideline corpse at Titchwell on 12th. None recorded in March but a freshly dead bird on cliff-top fields at Beeston Regis April 1st.

A remarkable passage in the autumn is described on p.600. Up to 3 off several north coast sites Oct 18th–28th, thereafter large movements recorded daily Oct 29th–Nov 4th and Nov 13th–18th. Maximum daily counts 250 Cley Oct 29th, 75 Cley 30th, 60 Holkham 31st, 150 Overstrand Nov 1st, 1688 Mundesley 2nd, 150 Holme & Overstrand 3rd and 235 Sheringham 4th (all moving west); 420 on 13th, 120 on 14th, 100 on 17th and 60 on 18th (all at Sheringham and moving east). On the east coast 302 flying north Yarmouth Nov 2nd and 49 north Caister and Yarmouth 3rd are noteworthy.

Up to 5 on many dates in Dec on north coast. Snettisham pits provided easy ones to



Little Auks (G. Wright)

view: 2 in Oct, 9 in Nov and 5 in Dec, one remaining until mid Feb 1996. Seventeen inland records, the majority Nov 2nd-4th.

Puffin

Fratercula arctica

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

During first winter period seen at Cley Jan 11th; Sheringham Jan 2nd, 11th and 21st with 4 west Mundesley Jan 2nd.

No further sightings until Holme March 8th. The only summer record came from Holme June 8th.

A major movement of 50 east seen at Sheringham Sept 19th, rather scarce during Oct, more numerous during Nov with the best count being 20 east at Sheringham on the 2nd becoming scarce again during Dec with only 5 reported.

Stock Dove

Columba oenas

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Highest counts in early part of year: 70 Flitcham and 51 Wootton both Jan, 45 Billockby Feb and 98 Lynn Point April.

Following good coastal movements in autumn 1994 spring passage exceptional beginning by Feb 14th. Peak counts were 138 west Holme and 27 east Mundesley March 10th, 85 west Holme, 150 east and 28 west Sheringham and 41 east Mundesley 11th, 330 west Holme and 130 west Sheringham 23rd, 80 west Holme 24th, 90 west Sheringham and 82 north Winterton April 2nd and 80 west Holme 5th.

Breeding Bird Survey results: recorded in 26 out of 51 1km squares (51%) with an average of 3 birds per square; compared with 21 out of 41 1km squares (51%) with an average of 4 birds per square in 1994. National results showed no significant numerical population change from 1994 when recorded in 29% of all 1km squares to 1995 when recorded in 30% of squares. A pair on Blakeney Point reared 4 broods.

Only significant autumn movement: 45 west Holme Nov 14th. Counts at end of year included 120 Flitcham and 60 Weybourne Nov and 60 Hickling, 50 Sculthorpe, 80 Terrington and 61 Welney Dec.

Woodpigeon

Columba palumbus

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Peak counts in first quarter included 1200 Ringstead and 1500 Massingham Heath Jan and 750 Holme Feb.

Heavy spring passage. Highest counts were 650 west Holme March 22nd, 1100 west Holme and 390 west Sheringham 23rd, 600 west Holme and 500 east Mundesley 24th, 620 west Holme 30th, 975 west Holme and 310 west Sheringham April 2nd, 900 west Holme 3rd, 430 west Sheringham 21st and 140 west and 80 east Sheringham May 26th.

Breeding Bird Survey results: recorded in 100% of 1km squares with an average of 26.8 birds per square. In 1994 also recorded in 100% of 1km squares but with an average of 30 birds per square. The national results revealed a significant numerical population decrease of 11% from 1994 to 1995.

Only autumn migration data from Mundesley where 350 in off the sea Oct 23rd and 500 in off the sea Nov 5th. Only counts received for end of year were 800 Sennowe Park and 200 Horsey Dec.

An almost pure white bird Massingham Feb 18th and a leucistic bird Weybourne May 10th.

Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto

First bred in Britain at Cromer in 1955. Now widespread and common resident.

In first part of year highest counts included 55 Wereham Jan and 200 Downham Market 35 Holme and 33 Scratby. Coastal movement in spring at Holme where 8 east May 19th.

Breeding Bird Survey results: recorded in 28 out of 51 1km squares (55%) compared with 16 out of 41 (39%) in 1994, both years with an average of 5 birds per square. National situation: no significant numerical population change from 1994 to 1995 with birds recorded in 46% and 47% of squares respectively.

Autumn passage at Hunstanton between Sept 23rd and Nov 13th included 16 south Oct 23rd and 67 north 29th. At end of year peaks of 50 Holme Nov and 56 Blakeney, 120 King's Lynn Docks and 46 Northrepps Dec.

Turtle Dove

Streptopelia turtur

Migratory breeder and passage migrant. Evidence of recent decrease.

First recorded April 22nd Holme and Hilborough with singles next day Sheringham and Beeston. Further arrivals 28th to 30th preceding light coastal passage throughout May. Peak counts of coastal migrants included 23 south Snettisham May 3rd, 30 west and 10 east Sheringham 22nd and 55 west Holme 25th.

Breeding Bird Survey results: recorded in 22 out of 51 1km squares (43%) with an average of 2.8 birds per square, not significantly different from 1994 when recorded in 17 out of 41 squares (41%) with an average of 3 birds per square.

Autumn gatherings included 40 Sparham and 50 Warham Greens both Aug 6th and 8th in *suaeda* Stiffkey Sept 8th. Last records: Sheringham Sept 22nd, Harling (2) (27th) and Overy Dunes Oct 1st.

Ring-necked Parakeet

Psittacula krameri

Introduced vagrant.

A single west at Holme Nov 13th (GFH *et al*) the only record, perhaps a consequence of greater care with identification giving an awareness of other species of parakeets escaping. Apparently 4 males escaped from an aviary in the Sheringham area in Sept.

Cuckoo

Cuculus canorus

Migratory breeder and passage migrant.

First recorded April 11th at Ditchingham, Reepham and Sheringham (2). Further arrivals 12th and 14th; widespread from 21st. Best coastal movement 4 west Burnham Norton May 3rd. Other spring peaks included 10 Holme May 5th and 6 Weeting Heath 21st.

Breeding Bird Survey results: recorded in 34 out of 51 1km squares (67%) compared with 24 out of 41 (59%) in 1994, both years with an average of 2 birds per square. Nationally recorded in 41% of squares; no change from 1994.

A few juveniles in Sept: Burnham Norton and Happisburgh 5th, Morston 7th, Welney 8th, Docking 12th, Yarmouth 14th and last Holme 17th.

Barn Owl

Tyto alba

Resident. Continental race *guttata* has appeared as a vagrant.

Remains a widespread species with records from 148 sites. Most are from the winter periods – perhaps because it is easier for birders to stay active until dusk at this time of year. The 26 breeding pairs reported from 18 sites must surely under-represent the county total, as Norfolk remains one of the bird's English strongholds. A dark-breasted bird of the race *guttata* at Little Melton Oct 15th.



The Hawfinch is a very local resident: a highly elusive and erratic occupant of both nesting sites and winter roosts. Birds take flight at the slightest alarm rocketing silently into the treetops. This pair, in Breckland, formed part of a small colony (*C.R. Knights*).



Top: During 1995 Little Auks driven south in a weakened state by Arctic storms provided exciting sea-watching. Many, completely exhausted, turned up inland. (Left: *D. Nye*; right: *R. Chittenden*). Centre: Over 20 Red-necked Grebes put in appearances at the beginning of the year including the long-stayer at Wells (*R. Chittenden*). Bottom: Twenty or so Slavonian Grebes were reported including this visitor to Beeston (*D. Nye*).



At times elusive this Hume's Yellow-browed Warbler lingered at Yarmouth until April (*R.C. on*). Centre: Bluethroat, Holme, May (*J. Bhalerao*). Bottom left: Sardinian Warbler, Holme, frequented the same bush and was within 2 days of the male there in 1994 (*J. Bhalerao*) and : Little Bunting, Holme, April (*D. Nye*).



A selection of 1995 highlights: Top left: Iceland Gull, Yarmouth, April (R. Chittenden); right: Laughing Gull, Salthouse, June (D. Nye). Centre left: Cattle Egret, Gunton, May (D. Nye); right: Potter Heigham, June to November (B.W. Jarvis). Bottom left: Roseate Tern, Cley, July and right: Mediterranean Gull, Overstrand, August (both J. Bhalerao).

Little Owl

Athene noctua

Introduced resident.

Recorded from a total of 62 sites: almost identical to last year. It was reported from 29 sites during the breeding season (April–July) though pairs were reported from only 5 of these with breeding proven at just three. No reports received from areas known to have supported significant populations in recent years (eg Stanford Battle Area). Bulk of records from Fenland, Breckland and Broadland with only a single record from the north coast.

Tawny Owl

Strix aluco

Widespread resident.

Another year with few records received. Reported from just 36 localities, 18 of them in the breeding season (April–July). Only nine pairs were reported: Holme, Old Catton, Millgate, Swanton Novers, Boyland, East Wretham, Brandon Creek, Potter Heigham and Yarmouth cemetery. Breeding was proven at only three of these sites.

Long-eared Owl

Asio otus

Scarce and local resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A total of just 6 birds at 4 roosts reported in the first-winter period, marginally better than last year. A probable coastal migrant reported at Caister GC on May 6th. 5 pairs, all successful, reported in breeding season, together with sightings of singles at 8 other widespread sites. A scattering of 19 coastal migrants in autumn: in Oct at Holme on 1st, at Sheringham on 9th and 12th and at Stiffkey on 15th and in Nov at Holme on 1st and 4th, Sheringham on 1st, 2nd and freshly dead on 17th, Weybourne and Blakeney point on 2nd, Waxham on 5th, Cley-Walsey Hills on 7th with 2 on 8th, Yarmouth cemetery on 12th, Brancaster on 13th, Berney marshes on 20th and Hunstanton on 24th. 1–2 reported from 3 other sites in Nov. Only one roost reported in second-winter period, holding 3 birds. No other late winter reports.

Short-eared Owl

Asio flammeus

Rare breeder; regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

Scarce in first-winter period and early spring. Monthly totals of 1–2 in Wash Jan–May; along north coast between Holme and Weybourne of 5–7 Jan, 4 Feb, 5 March, 4–5 April and 5 May with last at Holme 1st–2nd June; at Breydon/Berney 1–2 Jan, Feb & March, up to 3 April and 1 until 29th May. Elsewhere singles at West Newton (May), Winterton (March), Cantley (Jan), Halvergate (Jan, Feb), Colney GP (April), Brograve Levels (April), Emneth (April), Gravelbank, Tilney (April) Chedgrave (1–2 Jan–May), West Raynham airfield (April), Denver Sluice (Feb) and Welney (Feb with 2 in March).

2–3 pairs bred in county. Summer records: Acle dead on A47 July 6th, Scolt July 15th and Breydon July 23rd and Aug 31st.

Birds again scarce in autumn and second winter period. Monthly totals along north coast between Hunstanton and Sheringham of up to 5 Sept, up to 14 in Oct (during which marked influx occurred with birds in off sea at Holme on 29th, 2 in at Titchwell on 15th, at Burnham Overy on 21st and at Sheringham on 22nd and 31st), up to 7 Nov (with 2 more in off sea at Holme on 25th) and only 4 reported in Dec. Up to 3 in Wash in Oct, 2 Nov and 1 Dec; at Berney/Breydon/Acle 1 Sept, 3 Nov and a high total of 9 reported in Dec; at Welney 1 in Oct and Nov and a max of 3 in Dec. Elsewhere recorded in Oct at Cantley BF 1st, Sea Palling 22nd and Happisburgh 24th; in Nov at Tattersett on 19th, Ludham 2 on 14th and 1 Horsey/Somerton on 10th; in Dec 2 at Horsey on 9th, Colney GP on 16th and Buckenham on 28th.

Nightjar

Caprimulgus europaeus

Local migratory breeder and rare passage migrant.

First bird reported from breeding sites May 14th. A single migrant noted at Holkham May 26th. 8 churring males reported from 3 sites in Breckland stronghold; presumably many more were unreported. Elsewhere, 65 churring males reported from 13 sites – continuing the recent (and very welcome) expansion of both range and numbers. Latest report concerned a female and a newly fledged bird at Dersingham Aug 21st.

Swift

Apus apus

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant.

First of the spring was 1 west at Sheringham April 20th followed by singles at Yarmouth, Horsey Gap and Sheringham on 23rd; 6 at Colney GP and 2 Rockland Broad on 24th and singles at six other sites between 27th and 30th. Increasingly common in first week of May with about 100 a day moving west at Holme 4th–5th and 360 west at Sheringham on 8th; up to 400 at Colney GP and 800 at Holkham Lake on 11th. Passage continued into late May, though in smaller numbers than in previous years, with ‘hundreds’ passing west at Holme on 28th and 370 west at Sheringham on 29th. Prolonged periods of cold northerly winds prevented passage in early June, but 200+ at Wroxham on 8th and 360 west at Sheringham on 17th and a surprisingly late passage of 600 birds an hour east (0700–1000) at Mundesley on 30th.

Very little breeding season data reported, but the Breeding Birds Survey recorded breeding in 27 of 51 1km squares (53%), an average of 10.6 birds per square: compared to occupancy in 25 out of 41 1km squares (61%), with an average of 11 birds per square in 1994. At Saxlingham very late fledging young noted Sept 13th.

Very few reports of any large-scale movements in autumn except for 3700 west at Sheringham July 4th and 600 west on 6th and 3000 west at Weybourne on 20th. Similarly no reports of any large-scale movements in Aug with max. of 500+ at Cley on 30th. Small numbers continued on passage into late Sept and early Oct with last birds at Titchwell Oct 6th, Mundesley 7th and Sheringham on 8th. Last of all a single at Dersingham Nov 12th.

Swift sp

Apus sp

An unidentified Swift at Blakeney Harbour Nov 13th.

Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis

Resident, numbers fluctuate in response to severity of winters.

Well recorded with reports from 111 sites including coastal estuaries and harbours in winter (up to 4 at Snettisham Nov/Dec). Breeding season records from about 30 sites of which 16 were of pairs or recently fledged juveniles. This continues the trend noted in the 1994 Report and reflects the increase in observer coverage and a continuing run of relatively mild winters.

Breeding suspected or confirmed at Garboldisham, Swangey GP, Pensthorpe, Wes Acre, Tatterford Beck, Scarrow Beck, Holme Hale, Sennowe, Sparham (2 pairs) Lenwade, Lyng-Easthaugh GP, Catfield Lake, Sutton (nr Hickling), Wroxham, Bur Valley Lakes, Buckenham, Strumpshaw, How Hill (2 broods), Colney GP, Attlebridge Hellesdon Bridge, Elsing, East Harling, Thetford Nunnery, Fordham, Ten-Mile Bank Welney and Southery Fen.

Following the note on productivity of one pair at Garboldisham reported in the 1994 Report, this year a total of 11 juveniles trapped and ringed there between June 24th and Sept 25th.

Bee-eater

Merops apiaster

Vagrant from southern Europe.

One flew west over Burnham Norton May 8th (VE MESR) and 2 calling birds high northeast over Old Hunstanton in the evening of June 16th (FPR DB). The fourth year in succession this avian colour chart from the sunny south has put in all too brief appearances.

Hoopoe

Upupa epops

Annual vagrant in very small numbers.

An average showing with 5-6 records; in April one briefly at Holme on 14th; another arrived off the sea at Yarmouth at 1000 hrs then flew off west; Morston on 21st. In May one at Ludham Hall Farm between 10th and 20th.

Surprisingly only one autumn record concerning possibly 2 birds at Holme between Sept 8th and 13th and again, or another, from 18th to 21st.

Wryneck

Jynx torquilla

Former migrant breeder. Now scarce annual passage migrant, mostly in autumn.

Spring passage April 25th to May 22nd. First of the year at Holme where 2 on April 25th, 3 on 26th, 2 on 27th and 1 from 28th to 30th (4 different birds involved). Other April records: Beeston Regis and Weybourne on 26th, Wells on 27th. Blakeney Point and Burnham Overy on 29th and inland at Sprowston on 29th/30th. In contrast only 2 May records: Wells on 1st and Holme on 22nd.

Typical autumn passage involving 38 individuals began August 20th (at Sheringham) and continued to Sept 25th (Winterton). All records of singles apart from 5 Blakeney Point Sept 16th, where also 3 on 18th and 5 again on 19th; 2 at Yarmouth on 18th/19th and 2 at Beeston Regis on 21st. Other coastal records: Cley, Cromer, Holme, Morston, Overy Dunes, Scolt Head, Sheringham, Stiffkey, Warham, Waxham and Winterton. Single inland record: Ludham Sept 6th.

Green Woodpecker

Picus viridis

Resident.

In contrast to last year, when recorded from only 33 sites, more information submitted giving a total of 57 sites scattered throughout the county. Most records came from typical wooded and heathland habitat although during the winter wandering birds noted at many coastal sites. All records of either singles or pairs but 6 together at Holkham Park March 11th. The following sites contained birds in the breeding season: Barney, Bayfield, Belton, Colney, East Harling, East Wretham (4 pairs), Fordham, Garboldisham, Gaywood, Holkham (4 pairs in park, 2 in pines), Holme, Horsford, Kipton, Lound (2 pairs), Lynford, Strumpshaw, Swanton Novers, Thetford, Thorpe St. Andrew, Tottenhill, Weeting, West Harling and Wroxham. Still highly under recorded. Results from the BTO BBS showed 15 of the 51 1km squares (29%) were occupied. Nationally 24% of squares were occupied and showed a decline of 13% since 1994.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos major

Common resident. Birds of northern race occasional in autumn.

A slight increase in records but still too under-recorded for a worthwhile summary. Noted at 43 sites with breeding season observations at 21 sites. All of single pairs apart from 2 at East Wretham, 20 at Holkham Park, 2 at Strumpshaw and 4 at Thetford. With such a high density in Holkham Park it would be most interesting to know if other large estates hold similar numbers. Spring-time visits when drumming regular should shed more light

on distribution. Results from the BTO BBS revealed 17 out of 51 squares (33%) were occupied. Nationally 27% of squares occupied with no significant population change since 1994.

Usual selection of coastal records in Sept/Oct including 1 south over Snettisham Sept 12th, 1 in off the sea at Stiffkey Oct 14th and 1 south over Hunstanton Cliffs Oct 22nd. Drumming noted at Holkham Park Dec 30th – an early date.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos minor

Local resident.

Recorded at 40 sites with most sightings coming from the first-winter and spring periods. Surprisingly, no positive breeding records, although drummers and birds in the breeding season at the following sites: Blickling, Bodney, Brundall, Ditchingham, Felbrigg, Holkham Park (9 pairs), Gunton, Lynford, Narborough, Rollesby, Sandringham, Scout Camp Little Ouse, Stanford, Thetford, Thompson Common, Toftwood, Tottenhill and Tottington. Fine days between late February and May are best for finding drumming birds. There must surely be more pairs in the county than the information suggests. More evidence, however, of a decline comes from Strumpshaw where none bred compared with 3 pairs in the late 1980s.

Short-toed Lark

Calandrella brachydactyla

Vagrant from southern Europe.

1994 additions: Sheringham one arrived from the north-east and flew off west Sept 19th (KBS) and another flew off west there Oct 10th (KBS).

1994 correction: Initials for bird at Sidestrand Oct 21st should read (BJM).

Woodlark

Lullula arborea

Uncommon migratory breeder, recently increasing. Also scarce passage migrant.

Present in Jan for the second consecutive year with 2 on barley stubble at Feltwell 18th. The first singing male returned to Thetford Forest by Jan 29th. Many restock breeding sites were occupied by mid-Feb.

The Breckland population was surveyed for the 22nd consecutive year. The results revealed yet another population increase to a total of 134 singing males in the Norfolk Brecks, 114 of which were on forest sites and 20 on heathland and rabbit/sheep-grazed Breck (a further 115 singing males were in the Suffolk Brecks). Totals of singing males in the Brecks over the last 10 years are given below:



Woodlarks (J. Wright)

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Norfolk Brecks	26	23	20	29	48	53	69	82	108	134
Suffolk Brecks	24	20	23	24	45	39	76	94	112	115

A total of 79 young were colour-ringed in Norfolk Brecks (with a further 47 in Suffolk Brecks). This ringing project commenced in 1986.

The spread throughout Thetford Forest continues, doubtless reflecting the numbers of Woodlarks exploiting the large-scale build-up of first rotation felling. Most blocks now contain an abundance of suitable young restock habitat. The distribution of Forest Woodlarks in relation to planting years is increasingly in favour of younger restocks; 95% of the population was located in planting year 1991 or later. Yet a few pairs continue occupying 7 and 8 year-old crops mainly where inter-row ploughing continues.

The very hot late summer resulted in Woodlarks enjoying a highly successful breeding season. Broods of 5 were more common than usual. Exceptionally, two nests were recorded (each containing 6 eggs of which 5 hatched). Encouraged by the mild autumn birds lingered in Forest breeding localities until Nov 7th. In the Feltwell area at least 37 Woodlarks (in groups of 7, 10 and 20) remained on farmland until the year-end despite severe weather. The birds favoured wheat stubble, autumn drilled rye, weedy remnants of harvested sugar-beet and a failed linseed crop.

The situation away from the Brecks was again encouraging with at least 6 singing males at 6 sites and breeding confirmed at 2 of them.

In spring 6 coastal migrants: singles at Holme March 11th, Overy Dunes 25th, Holkham 29th, Weybourne April 10th, Holkham 26th and Blakeney Point 28th. In autumn coastal migration restricted to north-west of county where a total of 7 flew south at Hunstanton with singles on Oct 22nd, 28th, 29th, 30th, Nov 5th (2) and 11th. Also a single west at Titchwell Nov 5th and at Holme 3 Nov 29th and another 30th. (*Ron Hoblyn/Forest Enterprise kindly provided the Breckland information*)

Skylark

Alauda arvensis

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Highest counts received for first part of the year were 99 Titchwell and 100 Docking/Brancaster Jan and 250 Flitcham March. As usual little evidence of spring passage with no records of coastal movements.

Breeding Bird Survey results: the national results showed no significant numerical population change from 1994 (when recorded in 72% of 1km squares) to 1995 (71%), a situation reflected in Norfolk where recorded in 49 out of 51 1km squares (96%) in 1995 with an average of 10.6 birds per square compared with 100% of squares in 1994 with an average of 11 birds per square. Totals of singing males or breeding pairs are given below for sites from where comparable breeding data received:

	1993	1994	1995
Snettisham	40	51	39
Flitcham CBC plot	25	28	26
Welney	22	26	37*

*no spring flood in 1995

In addition CBC plot at Wheatacre showed no decline this year despite switch from

mainly set-a-side in 1994 to arable crops in 1995.

Autumn passage between late Sept and mid-Nov but concentrated in second half of Oct. Largest movements: 150 west Sheringham, 135 west Morston and 817 south Hunstanton Oct 22nd, 410 west Sheringham 29th, 150 in off sea Horsey, 1000 west Holme and 612 south Hunstanton 30th and 190 west Sheringham and 317 south Hunstanton 31st.

Largest counts received for end of year included 370 Holme Nov (of which 220 on set-a-side and 150 on saltmarsh) and 150 Eccles, 100 Hillington, 4–500 Stiffkey and 300 Waxham Dec.

Shore Lark

Eremophila alpestris

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Exceptional in summer.

At Overy Dunes/Holkham 11 remained from 1994 until end of April. A single east at Titchwell Jan 6th and 7 Scolt Head 3rd were the only other sightings before Feb when 12 discovered on Blakeney Point 11th. Up to 19 continued to be reported here until April 23rd – these birds possibly being responsible for singles at Cley Feb 2nd and March 28th.

In March 1 west Gun Hill 3rd and 3 west Sheringham 18th and in April Holkham flock reached 16 on 20th. Up to 7 remained at Holkham into early May and up to 5 at Blakeney Point until May 8th. A few late migrants in May included birds at Cley 2nd, Salthouse 8th–22nd, Titchwell 15th and 20th (2) and Blakeney Point 14th (2), 18th and 25th–27th.

In autumn first 2 Titchwell Oct 15th with single(s) Sheringham, Weybourne and Cley 16th remaining at Cley until 23rd. Further arrivals in Oct included up to 3 Titchwell from 20th, 2 south Hunstanton and 5 Holme 22nd and singles at Cromer GC 23rd, Weybourne 27th, Holkham 29th–31st and Salthouse 31st. More arrived early Nov with 7 Titchwell 3rd and 1–3 at Sheringham, Weybourne, Cley, Blakeney Point, Burnham Overy and Holme 3rd–6th. Further Nov records included 5 Salthouse 15th, but otherwise restricted to 3 sites where maxima were 5 Holme (where 1 taken by a Merlin), 5 Titchwell and 6 Holkham. Generally scarcer in Dec when Salthouse 2nd, 5 Holkham 16th and 19th, 3 Brancaster 27th and peak of 9 Titchwell 20th (the last report here).

Sand Martin

Riparia riparia

Local migratory breeder and common passage migrant.

First at Cley March 12th and 14th followed by 2 Welney 15th–16th and small numbers elsewhere over next few days. Widespread arrival 24th when 200 UEA, Norwich. Other high counts: 150 Wroxham March 27th, 300 Holme April 11th, 160 Lyng-Easthaugh GP 14th and 300 Pentney GP 17th. Good numbers of coastal migrants included 213 west Holkham and 800 west Holme April 5th, 290 west Sheringham, 250 west Holkham and 350 west Holme 11th and 110 west Holme May 1st.

Breeding data: Sheringham (20 pairs), Whitlingham GP (50 pairs), Pentney (20–25 pairs) and Welney (3 pairs). In addition counts of nest holes, not necessarily occupied, from Happisburgh (80), Sparham (300), Stanford Sand Pit (20–40) and Gooderstone Warren (40).

In autumn coastal movements from early July included 2000 west Weybourne July 17th, 400 west Mundesley, 2000 west Weybourne and 250 west Holme 19th, 3000 west Weybourne 20th; 300 west Weybourne Aug 12th and 80 east and 40 west Sheringham Sept 11th. Several good autumn concentrations: 500 Sheringham July 26th (apparently roosting in barley), 1500 Weybourne Aug 1st, 500 Burnham Norton 14th and 800 Cantley BF Sept 6th.

Oct records at Sheringham 1st, Marham 3rd (20), Mundesley 4th, Cantley 6th (c10).

Weybourne 11th and Burgh Castle 24th.

Swallow

Hirundo rustica

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant.

Following the first at Cley March 22nd a small flurry with records from Burnham Overy, Holme, Morston and Salthouse (2) next day, but no large counts were reported until April 20th when 65 west Sheringham. Coastal movements were generally poor with highest counts 200 west Holme April 23rd, 200 west per hour Mundesley and 110 west Holme May 1st, 175 west Holme 2nd and 200 west Sheringham 20th with smaller numbers continuing until at least mid June.

Breeding Bird Survey results: national results showed a significant numerical population decrease of 17% from 1994 to 1995, this situation being reflected in Norfolk where recorded in 37 out of 51 1km squares (73%) in 1995 compared to 34 out of 41 squares (83%) in 1994. Specific breeding data scarce but evidence of a decline over last few years noted in Stanford Battle Area.

Autumn concentrations: 1200 roosting at Holme Sept 6th, 600 Welney 10th and 2-3000 roosting at Martham Ferry 15th-16th. Coastal movements included at least 2500 south Snettisham Sept 9th-11th, 650 east and 1900 west Sheringham 11th and a remarkable 12000 west Sheringham 12th. Most well-watched sites recorded their last of the autumn around Oct 24th-26th with Nov records from Cley 6th, Salthouse 14th and West Runcton (2) and Cley (3) 15th.

At Ludham Bridge 3 albino juveniles Aug 24th-Sept 3rd.

Red-rumped Swallow

Hirundo daurica

Vagrant from southern Europe.

Only record concerned a single flying west low over cliff-top fields at Sheringham during a passage of other hirundines May 7th (MY-P).

1994 correction: Second set of initials for bird at Winterton Nov 1st should read (BJM).

House Martin

Delichon urbica

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant.

Early records from Yarmouth March 19th and Winterton 29th (2) with a scattering of records April 3rd. A poor spring showing with low numbers present until May 11th when concentrations of 150 Colney GP, 400 Holkham and 300 Wroxham. Coastal movements included 180 west Sheringham May 8th, 280 west per hour Mundesley 15th and 150 west Sheringham 25th.

Breeding Bird Survey results: national results show a significant population increase of 12% from 1994 to 1995, this increase reflected in Norfolk where recorded in 20 out of 51 1km squares (39%) in 1995 compared to only 12 out of 41 (29%) in 1994. However average number of birds per square dropped from 9 in 1994 to 7.3 in 1995 and several sites reported a continuing decline including Pulham Market where once common only 3 pairs bred and Snows Lane, Chedgrave where did not nest for first time in 23 years. Few remain in Norwich and despite the encouraging survey results there is a general impression that former large and successful colonies are much reduced in size. Nest counts received included 20 Welney Suspension Bridge, 18 Longlands (where success very good), 43 Crow Hall Farm, Gooderstone, 13 Burnham Norton and 12 New Holkham Village. Further counts on an annual basis will help to clarify the situation.

In contrast to spring, an excellent autumn passage with high counts of coastal migrants on several dates including 1500 west Weybourne Sept 6th, 1200 south-east and 300 west

Sheringham 7th, 25000 west Sheringham 12th (a site record), 3000 west Overstrand Oct 1st, 3500 west Overstrand and 4500 west Sheringham 2nd, 2000 west Overstrand, 1670 west Holme and 5070 south Hunstanton 3rd and 5000 (both east and west) Overstrand and 33500 east Mundesley (a site record) 4th. Concentrations included 1000 Holme Sep 6th and 1700 Cromer Oct 8th with inland flocks reaching 300 Holt Sept 3rd, 400 Sennowe Park 12th and 320 Harling 13th. Very few remained after mid Oct; latest at Horsey Nov 8th.

Richard's Pipit

Anthus novsaseelandiae

Virtually annual autumn migrant from western Siberia. Rare in spring and winter.

The bird first recorded at Burnham Overy Dunes 29th Dec 1994 remained till Mar 23rd.

A number of spring records were not surprising considering last autumn's record influx. Singles at Holme Mar 20th–Apr 7th, Apr 25th and a third bird west there May 2nd. Elsewhere singles east Sheringham April 23rd and Snettisham May 2nd–3rd. These represent the first spring records for the county since 1989.

In the autumn a good showing, not on the scale of last year but still around 40–45 reported. Autumn passage commenced Sept 9th when one Scolt Head. Others during Sept included 2 Burnham Overy Dunes 19th, 2 Happisburgh 24th and singles Brancaster 18th, Cley 25th, Salthouse 21st, Weybourne 18th, east Sheringham 18th, south Waxham 16th and north Winterton 29th.

As usual most records during Oct best localities Hunstanton Cliffs where a total of 6 south including 2 on 31st, 7–8 at Holme where 3–4 on 10th and 2 29th and Sheringham where singles recorded on 6 dates. Elsewhere 2 Hunstanton GC 30th and singles Burnham Overy Dunes 8th, Cley 24th, Salthouse 26th, Kelling 3rd–8th, Weybourne 3rd–5th and Mundesley 7th. In Nov 2 Cromer GC 1st, where 1 on 2nd and singles Holme 4th and Snettisham 15th–23rd.

Richard's/Tawny Pipit

Singles south Hunstanton Cliffs Oct 11th and 29th considered to be Richard's but remained silent. Another Holkham Oct 31st seen only briefly but was considered to be a Tawny.

Tree Pipit

Anthus trivialis

Migratory breeder and passage migrant.

First returning birds in April when singles Lynford 2nd and Salthouse 10th, but few others until second half of month. Coastal passage daily April 21st–May 31st with a total of 160–200 migrants reported. Highest counts in first few days of May when the following moving west over Holme; 30 on 1st, 42 on 2nd and 12 on 3rd. Best counts elsewhere: 10 west Cromer April 29th and 15 west and 1 east Sheringham May 3rd.

During the breeding season a total of 53 singing males from the following localities: 9 East Wretham Heath, 9 Dersingham Bog, 6 Roydon Common, 4 Wretham Parish, 3 Hockham, 3 Thetford Warren, 3 Thorpe Woods, 2 Kelling Heath, 2 Salthouse Heath, 2 Swanton Novers and singles Holt Lowes, King's Lynn, Muckleburgh and Weybourne. The count from East Wretham is perhaps an indication of how many breeding pairs the Brecks hold.

One of the best autumn showings for several years with c120 birds reported. Influxes occurred during Sept when on 8th–9th 18 Holme, 28 Sheringham and 10 Yarmouth Cemetery and on 18th–19th when 18 Holme, 7 Holkham, 12 Burnham Overy Dunes, 20 Sheringham and 8 Yarmouth Cemetery. More than normal during Oct with 10 birds reported from 4 sites and last at Hunstanton and Holme 21st.

Meadow Pipit

Anthus pratensis

Locally common migratory breeder and passage migrant with small numbers in winter.

In the first-winter period decidedly scarce, best count in Jan 38 Welney and in Feb 32 Welney, 28 Holme and 25 Fritcham. During the winter is obviously much scarcer than many would believe, most of our birds choosing to winter in the milder climes of Iberia. Return passage underway by end Feb continuing to the end of April. At coastal sites westerly passage peaked mid-March to mid-April. In March best counts 800 Holme and 310 Sheringham 23rd and 750 Holme 24th. In April 1200 Holme and 900 Sheringham 1st, 1200 Holme and 800 Sheringham 3rd, 1450 Holme and 650 Sheringham 5th and 4400 Holme 6th. In addition to these overhead migrants, flocks at most sites in March including 170 Burlingham Lodge and 101 Welney and in April 220 Holme, 150 Sheringham and 180 Waxham.

Very few breeding season records but these did include 102 pairs Welney an increase of 18.5% on 94, probably due to no spring flooding. The dune systems along the county's coast-line are known to support good numbers of breeding birds. Census work here would be valuable. Birds were present in 22% of the county's breeding Bird Survey squares – a low figure compared to national average of 33%.

Largest flocks in autumn included 100 Holme Aug; 150 Holme, 300 Sheringham and 130 Cromer GC Sept and 150 Cromer GC and 150 Winterton Oct. Visible migration far less evident than in spring, but did include an exceptional 500 south in 1 hour Snettisham Oct 22nd and at Hunstanton Cliffs an autumn total of 1780 south Sept 23rd–Nov 13th; best days during Oct when 185 on 5th, 145 on 9th and 115 on 22nd.

In second-winter period very few birds once again, highest counts in Nov 46 Welney and 32 Holme and in Dec 27 Welney.

Red-throated Pipit

Anthus cervinus

Vagrant from Northern Enrope.

In May Berney Marshes 15th (PRA), Titchwell 19th (DB LB RW *et al.*), Sheringham 24th (DHS KBS MY-P) and 2 Blakeney Point 23rd–26th (JRMCC AMS *et al.*). In autumn in Sept at Bacton 10th (MF), Breydon 10th (SS JRL) and Holme 20th (ARB). Only in 1992 when 12 were recorded was there a better year.

Rock Pipit

Anthus petrosus

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Most probably of the Scandinavian race littoralis.

In Jan only small numbers with total of around 45 at 8 sites including 12 Warham and 12 Wells. Higher numbers in Feb when 120 at 11 sites including an exceptional count of 80 Wells on 4th. Numbers declined rapidly during March and April with last bird of the spring Yarmouth Harbour April 19th.

As usual in March birds showing characteristics of the Scandinavian race *A.p. littoralis* at 4 sites, best counts 10 Cley 11th, 5 Burnham Norton 11th and 3 Holme 8th–19th.

First birds of autumn Sept 18th at Holme and Sheringham. Coastal passage daily from then to end of Nov. Best site Hunstanton Cliffs where an autumn total of 490 south Sept 23rd to Nov 13th, best counts in Oct when 73 on 26th, 60 on 28th, 47 on 29th and 49 on 30th. Other high counts in Oct included 20 west Holme 29th and 48 west Sheringham 28th. Nearly all occurred on days when good numbers of Scandinavian migrants such as Chaffinch and Brambling moving through and no doubt these pipits came from the same source. In addition to these overhead migrants good numbers reported along coast including in Oct 20 Holme, 15 Titchwell, 20 Wells and 15 Sheringham. Very few in Nov: 17 from 5 sites and in Dec 42 from 6 sites including 20 at Warham.

Inland records during autumn: Cantley BF Sept 30th–Oct 1st, 2 Oct 20th and Nov 11th and Welney Oct 10th–11th and 2 Oct 16th. See page 606.

Water Pipit

Anthus spinoletta

Local winter visitor.

Numbers never very exceptional at any point during year. In Jan 25 reported from 8 sites with 10 Cley 14th the best count. Similar numbers in Feb when 21 at 4 sites including 8 at both Burnham Norton and Cley. Slight increase in March with 36 at 11 sites, best counts 13 Cley 21st and 11 Burnham Norton 14th. Numbers declined quickly during April with last Ludham 20th.

In autumn first Horsey Oct 2nd. During Oct 30 present at 7 sites including 10 Cantley BF 25th, 6 Cley 21st, 5 How Hill 24th and 5 Martham 17th. Numbers declined during Nov with just 24 at 6 sites, Cantley BF the best site where up to 10 through to the year-end with a further 16 noted at 6 other localities during Dec.

Care should be taken in Spring to rule out very similar Scandinavian Rock Pipit which occurs on coastal grazing marshes and wader scrapes especially in March and early April.

Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava

Declining migratory breeder and passage migrant.

Usual early returning birds in March when 3 Snettisham 18th and 2 Holme 23rd. Other records few and far between until an arrival April 21st–23rd. On 21st 35 west Holme and 40 west Sheringham. On 22nd 40 Cley and 40 Horsey and on 23rd 30 Holkham, 30 west Mundesley 30 Waxham and 20 north Winterton. Mass arrival during May and on 1st 40 Snettisham, 350 west and 100 present Holme and 100 Sheringham and on 2nd 50 west Holme, 100 Blakeney Point and 41 Beeston Regis. Other high counts in May: 80 west Sheringham 8th and 50 Berney Marshes 15th. Final passage birds of the spring noted in opening days of June.

Breeding data with pairs at following localities 1 Acle High School, 1–2 Breydon, 1 Buckenham, 4–5 Bure Loop (Yarmouth), 2 Burgh (River Waveney), 1 Burgh Common, 3 Cantley, Chedgrave, 1 Claxton, 2–3 Fritton, 3 Haddiscoe, 14–15 Halvergate, 3 Hickling (Stubbs Mill), 11 Holkham NNR, 1 Horsey Corner, 1–2 Horsey (Hundred Stream), 2–3 Limpenhoe, 1 Sheringham, 3 Strumpshaw, 1 Thorpe, 2 Thurlton, 1 Thwaite Common, 2 Tunstall and 46 Welney (an increase of 70% on last year due to no spring flood). Unless large numbers of breeding birds are unrecorded the county breeding population could be as few as 2–300 breeding pairs. During breeding season this species relies on livestock as an important way of obtaining food. Late grazing agreements on many coastal and Broadland marshes are removing this source at a critical time when combined with over-grazing by wildfowl and the annual cutting of fields in autumn/winter. This is producing a very short sward structure which is perhaps detrimental to this species. Maybe low densities of stock could be introduced early in the season which would not have a massive impact on breeding waders. And if corners and margins were left uncut a better breeding habitat could be created. Otherwise, the future of the Yellow Wagtail as a breeding bird in the county looks bleak.

Return passage noted at coastal sites from July 12th. Largest autumn gatherings: Welney 155 Aug 4th, 290 Aug 25th and 150 Sept 1st; 45 Holme Aug 29th and 60 Cantley Sept 6th. Overhead migration not very inspiring and only small numbers reported. In Oct reported from 8 sites till mid-month with late birds Cley 20th, Burnham Norton 28th Oct–Nov 8th and a very late one Broomsthorpe Nov 15th.

Blue-headed Wagtail *M.f.flava*: Good spring passage with a total of c40 birds from 21 localities, the vast majority from coastal sites. First Burnham Norton April 16th. Most occurred April 21st–23rd when max 3 at Waxham and April 29th–May 2nd when max 4 at Sheringham. Final bird of the spring Sheringham May 6th.

At Mundesley a male paired to an ordinary female during breeding season. In autumn a male Stiffkey July 15th.

Grey-headed Wagtail *M.f.thunbergi*: A poor year with a male Cley April 21st and in May 2 Holme 21st and singles Weybourne 15th and one ringed 20th, Sheringham 5th–6th and 27th, Overstrand 7th and Ludham 21st.

Citrine Wagtail

Motacilla citreola

Vagrant from western Russia and Siberia.

A juvenile Kelling Water Meadows Sept 17th (PM), the second county record. The first was an obliging juvenile Blakeney Sept 1986. The first-winter bird at Welney Nov 1980 has never been submitted to national rarities committee.

Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

Local breeder, fairly common passage migrant, less common in winter.

Good numbers present in first-winter period with a population of around 35–40 at 30 sites, mostly in ones and twos but 3 at Sheringham and Whitlingham Lane GP.

Spring passage better than normal with 30–35 birds between March 5th and May 27th. Mostly singles but in March 3 Sheringham 11th, 4 Burnham Norton 18th, 3 Waxham 24th and in May 3 south Hunstanton Cliffs 27th.

During breeding season single pairs at 21 localities most of which confirmed breeding or attempted breeding. Sites as follows; Briggate, Buckenham Tofts Mill, Buxton Mill, Corpusty Mill, Costessey Mill, Coston, Earsham, East Harling, Ellingham Mill, Hedenham, Hilborough, Narborough, Narborough Mill, Newton Flotman Mill, Norwich (Oak Street Car Park), Oxnead Bridge, Pensthorpe, The Nunnery Thetford and Whitlingham GP. If breeding data of the last ten years is analysed it is possible to estimate that the county breeding population is in the region of 60 pairs. Most are found at watermills and bridges along the rivers. Most favoured: the Wensum, followed by the Yare, Waveney, Nar, Bure and Wissey.

Autumn coastal passage underway from June 17th, but only a handful of migrants until main passage Sept/Oct. Passage continued to end of Nov. A total of 120 coastal migrants with best counts 7 Weybourne Sept 25th, 9 Sheringham Sept 25th and 10 south Hunstanton Cliffs Oct 22nd where an autumn total of 35 south Sept 23rd–Nov 11th. Also at this time a total of 25 birds at 20 inland localities.

At end of year a wintering population of 25–30 birds at 25 widely scattered sites.

Pied Wagtail

Motacilla alba

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

During first-winter period largest roost count was 120 at King's Lynn April 5th. Smaller roosts included in Feb 85 Martham Broad and in Mar 60 Lessingham and 40 Burnham Norton. Winter gatherings included in Jan 40 Holkham Park, 50 Burnham Market, 47 Thompson and 56 Wretham and in Feb 100 Swaffham and 61 Holkham park. Coastal passage underway from Feb 16th peaking in March when at Holme 110 west 11th, 60 west 22nd and 75 west 23rd and at Mundesley 41 east 11th.

Poorly recorded as a breeding species, but was present in 63% of the county's Breeding Bird Survey squares. When compared to the national average of 47% it is clear that Norfolk holds good breeding numbers and it is therefore a common and widespread breeding bird.

Post-breeding gatherings included at Cantley BF 300 Aug 14th and Tattersett 172 Aug 14th. Autumn passage on the coasts as normal – not very impressive but included a total

of 145 south Hunstanton Cliffs Sept 23rd to Nov 13th, best days in Oct when 18 on 11t and 17 on 30th.

Few noteworthy records in second-winter period but 100 Binham Oct and roost of 3 Wayland Prison Nov.

White Wagtail *M.a.alba*: Spring passage from March 11th when an impressive gathering of 20 Waxham. During spring reported from 30 mostly coastal sites. Largest number April 23rd–25th when 8 Titchwell, 8 Burnham Norton and 8 Holkham and last bird of the spring at Sheringham May 5th. Just two autumn records: 1 Titchwell July 31st and 1 Blakeney Point Sept 12th.

Waxwing

Bombycilla garrulus

Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor.

No records until last month of year when 2 at Holme Dec 7th – the vanguard of a mid winter invasion. All records are set out below:

Dec 7th	2 Holme	25th	14 Sheringham Pretty Corner
8th	1 Holme; 5 Yarmouth	26th	12 Sheringham Pretty Corner; 1 Antingham
11th	1 Blakeney	27th	1 Sheringham Heath Rd.
12th	1 Blakeney	29th	4 Cley; 10 Cromer
23rd	5 Sheringham Pretty Corner	30th	2 Holme; 1 Cley; 23 Sheringham Pretty Corner
24th	5 Sheringham Pretty Corner; 5 Sheringham Dead Man's Wood; singles Holkham, Wells, Cromer, Martham Broad	31st	17 Sheringham Pretty Corner; 13 Beeston Regis

Little were we to guess of events to come.

Wren

Troglodytes troglodytes

Very common resident and a passage migrant in small numbers.

CBC results as follows: Welney 22 territories; Abbey Farm (Flitcham) 10 territories; Boyland Wood (Winfarthing) 20 territories; The Nunnery (Thetford) 45 territories; East Wretham Heath 61 territories; Harling Fen 12 territories. All sites monitored regularly show continued population increases since 1993.

The Breeding Bird Survey showed that in Norfolk Wrens were found in 88% of 1km squares surveyed in 1994 and 90% in 1995. This compares well with national figures of 86% and 88% respectively. Nationally the BBS indicated a population increase of c.14% from 1994–1995.

An interesting ringing control concerned a bird ringed at Garboldisham Oct 30th 1993 and caught in Welton-le-Wold, Lincs, April 27th 1995.

Dunnock

Prunella modularis

Common resident and passage migrant, especially in autumn.

As with previous species an encouraging increase in amount of CBC data received. Results as follows: Welney 5 territories; Abbey Farm (Flitcham) 12 territories; Boyland Wood (Winfarthing) 10 territories; The Nunnery (Thetford) 14 territories; East Wretham Heath 25 territories.

BBS results for Norfolk showed this species recorded in 78% of 1km squares covered in 1994 and 84% in 1995. This is markedly higher than national figures of 69% and 71%. Nationally there was no significant numerical population increase from 1994–1995 but

the species seems to have become slightly more widespread. One cannot deduce too much from just two years' data, but the BBS has great potential to provide essential information on common bird species at county level.

Coastal migration not well recorded, bulk of data from Holme where evidence of movement during Sept producing counts of 40 on 2nd, 50 on 18th and 40 between 19th–21st. A small influx Overly Dunes on 16th when 10 present.

Robin

Erithacus rubecula

Common resident and passage migrant, especially in autumn.

Spring passage only noted at Holme with max. of 30 March 11th and same number April 22nd.

Breeding survey results from Belmore Plantation Thorpe St. Andrew found 18 pairs in an incomplete survey, compared to 20 territories in 8 ha. in 1994; Abbey Farm, Flitcham CBC plot 5 pairs (from 1 in 1993 and 2 in 1994); Boyland Wood, Winfarthing CBC plot 9 pairs; The Nunnery Thetford CBC 22 pairs and East Wretham Heath reserve recorded 54 territories in 155 ha. The Breeding Bird Survey results for the county recorded breeding in 42 of 51 1km squares (82%) with an average of 4.7 birds per square compared to 32 out of 41 1km squares (78%) an average of 4 birds per square in 1994.

Very few autumn records except for an influx 18th to 20th Sept reported from nine, mostly coastal, sites (and Welney) with most reporting less than 30 birds, but at Holme 50 on 18th, 75 on 19th and 60 on 20th; 50 at Holkham NNR on 19th and the same number there on Nov 1st.

Nightingale

Luscinia megarhynchos

Local migratory breeder and very scarce passage migrant.

First singing birds April 13th/14th at Salthouse Heath about a week ahead of next arrivals on 23rd at Alderford Common, Boughton, Hunstanton GC, Kettlestone Common, Narborough and Weybourne. By the month end 5 singing birds Salthouse Heath on 25th, 4 Narborough, 3 Alderford and 2 Boughton, Holme (1 remaining to June 3rd) and Roydon; singles noted at 4 other sites. Migrants in May at Titchwell on 1st and Holme on 24th.

Singing males in the breeding season at Alderford Common 2, Boughton Fen 3, Buxton Heath 3, Castle Rising, Crome's Broad, Drake's Marsh, East Harling, East Wretham Heath 2, Kettlestone Common, Leziate, Lopham-Redgrave Fen, Lynford Arboretum, Lynford Sandpit 2, Narborough 2, Salthouse Heath 9, Sparham, Stonepit Heath, Swanton Novers 3, Syderstone Common. In addition a juvenile caught and ringed at Weybourne in early July was considered to be of local origin. Compared to the c80 territories reported in 1994 (which were considered disappointingly low and largely due to under-recording) this year's total of about 35 territories is another low return. It is hoped that the true reflection is closer to, but doubtless less than, the figure of 345 singing males found in the full survey in 1980.

Five autumn records: 4 in Aug at Holme 4th, Weybourne 5th–6th and another on 21st and at Holkham on 9th and one in Sept at Wells Greens on 17th.

Bluethroat

Luscinia svecica

Scarce passage migrant, now more frequent in spring.

In spring a total of four May 18th–25th with different males at Holme on 18th and 19th; a male at Blakeney on 23rd and a female between Cley and Blakeney Point on 24th–25th. More unusual was the late female at Breydon South Wall June 16th.

Only records in autumn: an immature male at Cley Sept 21st and another at Blakeney on 23rd.



Bluethroat (P. Jones)

Black Redstart

Phoenicurus ochruros

Rare migratory breeder, regular passage migrant and occasional in winter.

No overwintering birds as first recorded in March when reported from eleven sites: including Holme, Brancaster and Bacton Gas Terminal on 11th. Most were singles at coastal sites, but also some inland eg East Harling and Little Dunham. Good passage through April and May to 19th (Burnham Overly Dunes). An arrival between April 22nd–23rd was mostly of singles and included up to 3 at Cromer on 1st and 2 Holme April 22nd–24th, Snettisham 2 on April 21st and 2 at Blakeney Point on April 23rd.

In breeding season a male at Blickling Hall June 20th; 3 singing males in Yarmouth and one pair may have bred; at Snetterton one pair bred and raised two young, also one singing male in Norwich early in June at the same site as last year but not seen subsequently.

Only a few late summer/early autumn records – a female at Scolt Head July 14th and a small arrival between Aug 15th–18th with singles at Sheringham 15th, Ormesby 16th, Blakeney Point 17th and Welney 18th–19th. Main autumn passage from Sept 9th (Yarmouth cemetery) to Nov 30th (Brancaster) with some evidence of small numbers arriving between Oct 13th and 15th and again on 30th. Only a few reports of more than one bird: 3 Blakeney Point Oct 9th (2 remaining to 11th), 2 Yarmouth cemetery 13th, 2 Snettisham 15th, 2 Waxham 14th and in Nov: 2 Wells East Hills, 12th and Heacham North Beach 6th–11th.

December records of singles at Brancaster 7th and 13th and Mundford 22nd.

Redstart

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Local migratory breeder (most in Breckland), common passage migrant.

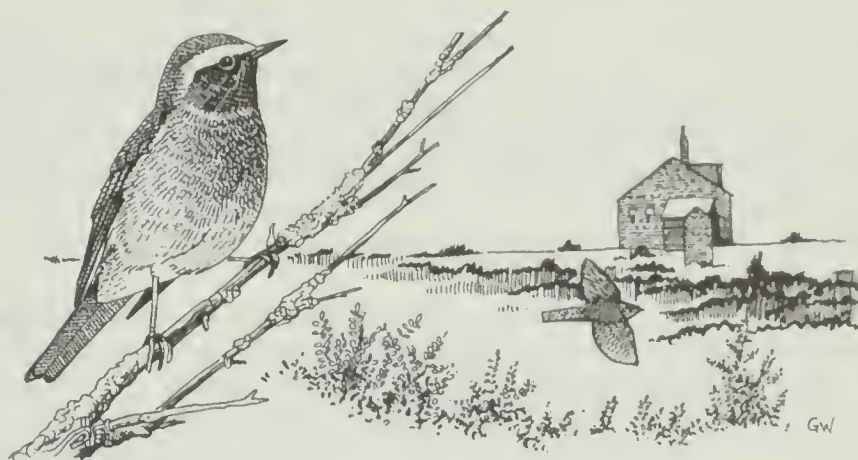
Earliest on April 3rd at Winterton and Yarmouth South Denes, followed by singles on 10th at Waxham, 11th at Morston and 18th at Salhouse before first main arrival on 23rd–24th when reported from 8 coastal sites with max of 6 at Holme and 2 at Holkham NNR, and a smaller arrival at the month end when 5 again at Holme on 30th. In May 12 at Holme on 1st and singles at 9 other sites, including a male at Welney; later in the month a smaller arrival on 18th, max. of 5 at Holme and singles at four other sites.

Apart from singing birds in Sheringham Park Woods at the end of May and early June good breeding-season numbers in Breckland with 41 singing males in Stanford Battle Area (49 in 1994); 3 territories at East Wretham Heath (1 in 1994) and 7 singing males at Brettenham Heath (1 in 1994).

One in Earlham Road, Norwich, July 2nd was exceptional. Autumn migration began Aug 12th (Blakeney Point) and continued to Oct 18th (Kelling Quags) apart from a late bird at Happisburgh Oct 29th. Main feature of autumn was a large fall of continental migrants (perhaps the largest arrival of Redstarts since the great immigration of Sept

1965) along the north coast from Hunstanton to Yarmouth on the night of 17th/18th; many quickly moved on the following night. Highest numbers were at Hunstanton 'hundreds'; Holme 550 on 18th, 300 on 19th, 200 on 20th with about 40 remaining to the month-end; Thornham 230 on 18th; Burnham Overy Dunes – Holkham Gap 500 on 18th and 250–300 on 19th; Wells 200+ on 18th and 300 on 19th; Wells East Hills 300–400 on 18th; Blakeney Point 400 on 18th and 150 on 19th; Cley 100+ on 18th; Weybourne 100 on 19th; Sheringham 700 on 18th and 150 on 19th; Mundesley 200 18th and 250 19th; Yarmouth cemetery 100 18th and 150 19th. Inland records from 15 sites mostly of singles but the large arrival was reflected by 8 at Docking on 19th, 3 at Bircham. Dersingham and Colney Pits and 2 at West Acre and Southacre.

One at Mundesley Sept 13th showed white wing-patches and may have been of the race *samamasicus*. Few Oct records mostly singles but 3 at Holme on 2nd and a small influx on 11th included 3 at both Cromer GC and Overstrand.



Redstarts (G. Wright)

Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra

Rare migratory breeder and common passage migrant.

First to arrive singles at Holme from 21st–30th and at Thornham and Horsey on 30th. More plentiful in May with a widespread distribution at 19 sites with some evidence of an arrival in the first week; maximum numbers 6 at Sheringham on 5th, 5 at Holme on 2nd and 3rd, 2 at Snettisham on 3rd, 2 Holkham on 3rd, 2 Wroxham on 1st, 2 Blakeney Point on 6th. Later in the month 2 Titchwell on 19th and 22nd and 2 at Scolt Head on 25th. Single June record, a female at Winterton on 18th.

No confirmed evidence of breeding, but an adult and juvenile at Breydon July 17th.

Returning birds first noted Aug 12th (Holme 7, Weybourne and Welney) and continued to Oct 24th (Snettisham) with a late bird at Holme Oct 29th. Passage generally of modest numbers in comparison to 1994, but an arrival Aug 20th included 13 at Holme, 14 at Burnham Overy Dunes and 20 at Horsey; elsewhere 6 at Sheringham 22nd–23rd, 5 at Blakeney Point on 23rd, 4 at Burnham Norton on 28th and 12 at Sheringham on 29th. Passage in Sept produced totals of 20 at Horsey on 3rd and 18th, up to 35 Holme 17th–20th, 13 at Holkham NNR 19th, 15 Blakeney Point 8th and 18 Sheringham 18th. Very few inland records, but singles at Welney Sept 14th–20th and 3 at Colney GP on 23rd. Oct reports from 7 sites with max of 12 at Holme on 5th and 10 on 8th.

Stonechat

Saxicola torquata

Very small east coast breeding population; regular passage migrant, local in winter.

Small wintering population of 25–30, mostly pairs or females and first-year birds, again noticeable at scattered sites along the coast from Heacham to Winterton, including 5 at both Holme and Cley. Occasional records of individuals from 7 other sites in Jan and from 10 in Feb. Some passage noticeable in March with increases at most coastal sites – peaks of 6 Holme, 6 Burnham Overy Dunes, 5 Sheringham, 3 pairs Cley and 4 at Waxham. At Winterton-Horsey Gap wintering pair increased to 7 individuals Mar 11th and 5 pairs on 19th but only 1 pair remained the following day. Very few inland records and singles at Roydon Common in Jan and Mar and Grime's Graves in Feb were the most regularly occupied sites.

Very little evidence of continuing passage in April and May, apart from singles at Sheringham and Holme in early May, the north coast wintering sites were deserted by the middle of April. Breeding population on the east coast had a good year with an increase to 7–8 pairs (from 6 in 1994); first juveniles fledged at end of May.

Autumn passage, poor in comparison to previous years, began with a juvenile at Weybourne Sept 8th and continued with singles and pairs at well-watched coastal sites into Nov when wintering birds began to take up territories; very few peaks or arrivals of note, the most being 6 at Cley Oct 22nd. The year closed with records of pairs from 7 sites and occasional individuals at a further 8; most of which were the same sites as last winter; max. 4 at Holme.

1994 correction: 2 at Marham Heath June 26th should read Marham Heath.

Siberian Stonechat

S.t. maura/stejnegeri

A male at Halfway House, Blakeney Point Sept 9th–13th (GED AMS) and a first-winter male at Cley Sept 25th to Oct 5th (TCD RH DJH).

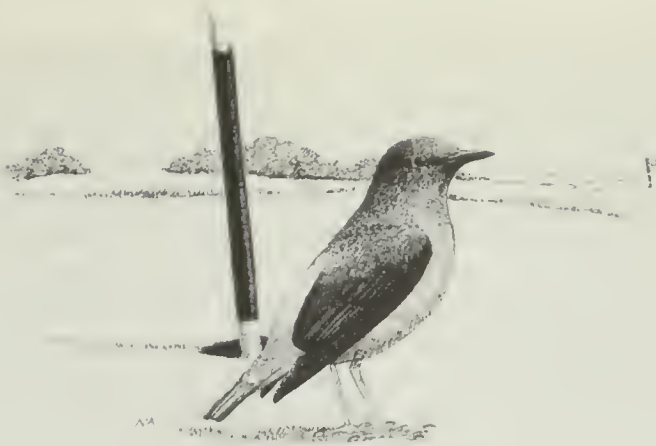
Wheatear

Oenanthe oenanthe

Increasingly rare migratory breeder and common passage migrant.

First of the year at Winterton March 5th, followed by others at Snettisham, Holme and Mundesley on 11th with at least 9 more reported in next 10 days, including first inland bird at Grime's Graves on 12th. Main passage from 22nd with reports from many coastal sites and max. of 7 West Runton, 10 Sheringham and 15 Cley 25th, 6 Winterton 26th, 8 Holme 29th and 7 Burnham Overy Dunes 30th. Steady passage through April with small-scale influxes on 5th–7th, 21st and 23rd–25th with maximum counts of 36 Beeston Regis on 5th, 54 Holkham NNR 6th and 66 there on 21st, 20 Holme 23rd, 50 Blakeney Point 25th and 25 Burnham Overy Dunes on 29th. Passage in May light with most at the beginning of the month (20 Holme and 23 Holkham NNR 1st and 40 Blakeney 2nd) and smaller influx on 22nd. Late passage birds at Burnham Overy Dunes on 2nd and Scolt Head 3rd. Inland passage at 8 sites with peaks of 5 Weeting Heath March 26th and 4 at Swaffham April 1st.

Autumn passage began with a juvenile Salthouse Beach July 14th (which may have been of local origin) and continued to Nov 12th (Horsey Gap). Three other late July records, but most passage commenced mid-August and first small influx on 22nd–23rd. It was not until Sept 18th–19th that main arrival of migrants occurred with high numbers of up to 550 at Sheringham 18th–20th, 200 Blakeney Point 18th, 200 Holme 19th, 130 Holkham NNR 19th, 50 Cley 18th, 150 Mundesley 18th and 70+ Yarmouth 19th. Inland singles at Welney and West Acre and 5 Colney GP in Sept. Passage in Oct very light with reports from only 12 sites with max. of 5 Snettisham on 11th, followed by 10 Nov records all of singles.



Rock Thrush (N. Arlott)

Rock Thrush

Monticola saxatilis

Vagrant from southern Europe.

A colourful male Holme/Hunstanton Golf Course May 22nd–25th (KE *et al*) was for many the bird of the year. On the evening of 22nd it survived an attack by a local Sparrowhawk being saved by birders. Only slightly injured it was kept overnight and released next morning. Only the third county record the last at Horsey 30th April 1989.

Ring Ouzel

Turdus torquatus

Passage migrant in fluctuating numbers. Exceptional in Winter.

First records not until April: Yarmouth Cemetery 1st, Cromer 2nd, Holkham Park and Morston 3rd. Spring passage almost daily from these dates till May 23rd involving around 200 individuals. Peak counts April 21st–30th when 11 Holme, 10 Waxham, 6 Sea Palling, 6 Burnham Overy Dunes, 4 Blakeney, and 4 Waxham. In May best counts 6 Holme 6th, 4 Sea Palling 1st, 3 Sheringham 5th and 3 Wells 1st. Inland records: Abbey Farm Flitcham, Beeston Regis (3 April 21st), Drayton, East Wretham Heath, Edingtonthorpe (5 April 21st), Felbrigg, Gresham, Hempton Moor, Lound, Saham Toney, South Raynham and Welney.

At Burnham Overy Dunes unseasonal birds June 9th–10th, July 7th and August 13th.

Autumn passage restricted to singles Holkham Sept 16th and 22nd, Holme Oct 21st, Ludham Oct 26th and in Nov 3 Holme 1st where still 1 next day and 2 Wells 1st. During Dec exceptional records at Holkham Park 19th, Salthouse 23rd and Wells 24th–31st, Trowse 24th and West Runcton 31st. Most had arrived with a huge influx of Fieldfares with many staying well into the new year.

Blackbird

Turdus merula

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

During Jan influx of migrants on 28th when a noticeable increase along coast. Return migration evident during spring when at Holme 45 March 14th and 30 April 22nd.

Breeding-season data included 22 singing males Welney (an increase of over 50% on last year), 27 pairs The Nunnery Thetford, 8 pairs East Wretham Heath, and 9 pairs Boyland Wood Winfarthing. Breeding birds recorded in virtually all the survey squares (98%) and 12% more than the national figure.

Only significant autumn influx Nov 1st–2nd when 500 Holme and 150 Wells. A smaller influx at the year end when numbers increased including 100 Ringstead, 150 Holme, 100 Thornham and 100 Sea Palling.

Fieldfare

Turdus pilaris

Common passage migrant and winter visitor with occasional summer records.

In first-winter period largest flocks in Jan: 700 Holme, 350 Bintree Mill, 300 Wickmere and 300 Ongar Hill. Fewer during Feb/March. During Feb 330 Felbrigg and 250 Thompson and in March 350 Holme, 225 Postwick and 200 Pentney GP.

Many more reports during April: 550 Northwold, 260 Pentney GP and 200 East Walton. During May reported daily till 10th including 150 Salthouse Heath 1st and 60 Ludham 6th. Final birds Holme 16th, Tatterford 23rd and Weybourne 27th.

In contrast to last year just a single summer record: Holme July 22nd.

First returning birds in Sept: Scolt Head 6th, Yarmouth Cemetery 9th and Warham 9th. Very small numbers throughout Sept/Oct, the only counts in two/three figures Oct 22nd when 500 south in 1 hour Snettisham and 94 south Hunstanton Cliffs. Not until last days of the year did the situation improve when there was a massive influx. Best counts 7000 Anmer/Flitcham, 4800 Holme, 1200 Ringstead, 1000 Kerdiston, 1000 Syderstone. 850 Bridgham Airfield, 850 Welney, 750 Martham, 600 Lenwade, 500 Great Massingham, 400 Hickling, 400 Lynn Point and 400 Stanhoe.

Song Thrush

Turdus philomelos

Resident and passage migrant. Recently decreasing.

Very few records for first-winter period and all indicated only small numbers. Ten at Holme March 11th the maximum count. Some evidence of spring passage at Holme and Wells where 20 April 23rd and 30 May 1st respectively. Again very little breeding information. According to BTO BBS recorded in 67% of 1 km squares in the county compared to 71% in 1994. Nationally recorded in 66% of squares with no significant population change since 1994. Encouraging small increases at a variety of sites: 2 pairs Abbey Farm Flitcham where 1 in 1994, 6 broods in half a mile of woodland at Holkham Park where only 2 in 1994 and 6 singing males at Welney where 4 in 1994. Majority of sites contained only 1 or 2 singing males, but noteworthy concentrations included 4 County Hall Norwich, 6 East Wretham, 5 Holme village, 10 Northwold and 7 The Nunnery Thetford. Autumn passage produced small numbers at coastal sites September 18th to November 1st. Maxima: 150 Blakeney Point October 11th and 120 Holme November 1st.

Redwing

Turdus iliacus

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Exceptional in summer.

Scarce during first 2 months with the only three-figure count at Guist Jan 6th when 120 present. Numbers increased during return passage in March. Largest numbers: 110 Holkham Park and 200 west Blakeney 16th, 300 Stanford 17th and 200 Buckenham Tofts 22nd. Largest April count 170 Heydon on 1st. Then only small numbers (including one in full song South Raynham April 21st) with last 2 at Weybourne May 4th.

In autumn first at Caister and Yarmouth Sept 15th followed by a sprinkling of coastal records to month-end. Passage most pronounced on following dates: Oct 22nd (120 King's Lynn, 2000 south in an hour Snettisham, 860 south Hunstanton, 212 west in 2 hours Eaton with thousands over Norwich); Nov 1st (6000 south Hunstanton, 7500 Holme, 300 Wells, 150 Winterton, 250 West Somerton and 100 West Acre); Nov 2nd (287 Welney and 600 south in 2 hours Wretham); Nov 5th (680 south Hunstanton) and Nov 10th (250 Holme and 300 Wells).

Further arrivals Dec 12th when 300 Holme and 110 Overstrand. Following NE winds and hard frosts from 25th to year-end several large flocks arrived (together with vast numbers of Fieldfares) with peaks of 200 Antingham, 200 Gt Massingham, 100 Lenwade, 300 Ringstead, 150 Syderstone and 100 Tatterford.

Mistle Thrush

Turdus viscivorus

Common resident and partial migrant.

No records submitted for first-winter period. However as stated in 1994 Report Mistle Thrushes remain widespread breeders. Results from BTO BBS showed that 55% of the county's 1 km squares were occupied with an average of 2.5 birds per square. Nationally 45% of squares occupied. The few concentrations submitted included 5 pairs East Wretham, 20 pairs Holkham Park, 4 pairs The Nunnery Thetford and 4 pairs Welney. At Manton's Farm in Fens a pair nested in rafters of an open-sided shed – first time such behaviour noted. Post-breeding concentrations: 50 Sidestrand, 100 Sugar Fen, 40 Syderstone and 26 Waxham. Small numbers of migrants in the autumn including 25 south at Snettisham October 22nd, 12 in off sea at Holme November 3rd and total of 45 south at Hunstanton between September 23rd and November 11th.

Cetti's Warbler

Cettia cetti

Broadland breeding population established since 1974.

During breeding season 51+ singing males at following sites: *River Yare*: Buckenham/Cantley 3, Rockland Broad 5–6, Strumpshaw Fen 7–8, Surlingham Broad 7, Surlingham Church Marsh, Surlingham Marshes 5 and Wheatfen Broad 5–6. *River Bure*: Ranworth 2, St. Benet's and Woodbastwick 4. *River Ant*: Catfield and How Hill. Additional singing males at Catfield Dyke, Hardley Flood, Heigham Sounds, Hickling Broad 2, Martham Broad, Ormesby Broad and Stanley Carrs 2.

Out of breeding season Cantley BF Oct 17th and Langley Dyke Dec 3rd.

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Singing males	18	19	22	24–27	51+

Grasshopper Warbler

Locustella naevia

Summer visitor and scarce migrant

First of the year at Surlingham April 10th. Then small numbers until a widespread influx from third week onwards. Breeding season singing males: Bayfield 1, Beeston Regis 1, Belaugh 1, Burgh Common 3, Catfield Dyke 2, Catfield Fen 1, Cley 2, Cockley Cley 1, Colney GP 1, Cringleford 1, Dersingham 7, Drake's Marsh 2, East Tuddenham 1, Heacham 2, Hickling 9, Holkham NNR 8, Holme 2, Horsey 2, Langford 1, Lopham Fen 1, Overstrand 1, Pensthorpe 1, Potter Heigham 1, Rockland Broad 1, Snettisham 1, Strumpshaw Fen 2, Thorpe St. Andrew 3, Titchwell 6, Wells 1, Whitlingham 1, Whitwell Common 1, Wiveton 1 and Wroxham Broad 1.

Sept migrants at Scolt Head, Blakeney Point and Sheringham: latest Wells Dell on 21st.

Savi's Warbler

Locustella luscinioides

Rare migrant and occasional summer visitor.

Hickling April 22nd (PJH) – the only record.

Sedge Warbler

Acrocephalus schoenobaemus

Summer breeder and passage migrant.

First at Titchwell April 6th followed by small numbers elsewhere until widespread influx from third week onwards. Breeding season singing males: Colney GP 6, Holme 35, Lopham/Redgrave Fen 7, The Nunnery Thetford 11, Thorpe St Andrew 20, Welney 56.

Wissington 8, UEA Broad 8 and Wroxham Broad 6.

Sept counts included 2 Sheringham on 18th, 3 Holme on 19th and 5 Blakeney Point same day. Singles at Welney until Sept 28th; latest Titchwell Oct 8th.

Marsh Warbler

Acrocephalus palustris

Rare in late spring and autumn. An increase in records since 1983.

Sheringham Oct 11th (APB DHS MPL). The county total has reached 24.

Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Summer breeder and passage migrant.

An early bird Burnham Norton April 14th followed by singles Thompson Water 19th, Holme 21st, Hickling 22nd and Cley and Titchwell 23rd. Singing males during breeding season: Holme 65, Pensthorpe 30 and Welney 72. The Welney total compares with 44 in 1994 and 47 in 1993.

Small-scale autumn passage. Highest counts: 8 Holme Sept 16th and 8 Cantley BF on 30th. Oct sightings at Welney on 8th and Holme on 14th with latest Sheringham 13th–15th.

Great Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus arundinaceus

Vagrant from Continental Europe.

Weybourne May 31st to June 4th (MJP *et al*). The county total moves to 13 including 7 during the last 11 years.

Icterine Warbler

Hippolais icterina

Scarce autumn migrant, rare in spring.

An early autumn bird at Cley July 31st was followed during Aug with singles at Cromer on 9th, Hunstanton GC 18th, Waxham and Wells 20th, Cley 21st and Sheringham 22nd. During Sept at Sheringham on 1st, Wells 2 from 3rd–5th, Blakeney Point 2 on 9th and another on 12th, Yarmouth cemetery 9th, 13th–14th and 20th, Snettisham 19th, Warham and Waxham on 20th, Holme 22nd and Stiffkey on 23rd.

Writing soon after the turn of the century Arthur Patterson referred to Yarmouth cemeteries “where hundreds of tombstones are crumbling in the strong air... Here the bird-catchers formerly place their traps... to pull over nets upon wretched Linnets, Twites and Snow Buntings lured to their doom”. Today the bird-catchers have been replaced by ever-increasing numbers of bird-watchers. A variety of trees and shrubs provide shelter for many migrants especially in autumn. All doubtless attracted by the glare of the town lights. A Bonelli's Warbler in 1974 was the first rarity highlight followed 3 years later by Norfolk's first Siberian Thrush. Other exciting warblers in the cemeteries providing red-letter days have included Icterine, Greenish, Arctic, Pallas's, Yellow-browed, Radde's, Hume's and Dusky.

Subalpine Warbler

Sylvia cantillans

Vagrant from the Mediterranean.

A record spring showing with 5 during May: Blakeney Point male on 7th (BS JS); first-summer male trapped Sheringham same day (DHS MY-P); Blakeney Point male 23rd (AMS) with a female there next day (JRMCC) and Kelling Heath another male 26th (MPT). County total moves to 19.

Sardinian Warbler*Sylvia melanocephala****Vagrant from the Mediterranean.***

Holme an adult singing male May 18th/19th (BS *et al*). Present in the same bush and only 2 days later than the male at Holme in 1994. County total moves to 7.

Barred Warbler*Sylvia nisoria****Scarce autumn migrant recorded once only in spring.***

During Aug at Sheringham 22nd and 29th to Sept 3rd; Winterton 23rd–29th with 2 from 24th–26th and Holme 29th/30th.

A good series of Sept occurrences: Salthouse 1st–12th and 20th; Holme 2 on 2nd, singles 3rd, 6th and 10th/11th with 2 on 19th, one between 20th and 22nd, 2 on 23rd and a single on 24th; Waxham 2nd; Snettisham 3rd/4th and 13th; Winterton 3rd/4th and 14th; Sheringham 5th/6th, 7th–14th with 2 on 9th and single on 20th; Wells Dell 9th and 23rd; Blakeney Point 3 on 9th and single 23rd; Happisburgh 10th; Weybourne 13th and 27th; Warham 18th and Thornham 19th. The second best year ever – only surpassed by 1994. One ringed at Sheringham Sept 5th made an extended stay being trapped at Weybourne on 27th.

Lesser Whitethroat*Sylvia curruca****Summer breeder and passage migrant.***

Wintering bird at Hardley Street remained until at least mid-March (JCE).

Spring arrivals late with first at Titchwell April 20th. A widespread influx from 23rd. Highest April counts at Holme where 8 on 25th and 29th. Highest May count at Sheringham where 10 on 6th. Few breeding season details but 10 singing males Holkham NNR.

Autumn peaks: 20 Holme Aug 22nd where 20 Sept 2nd and 20 on 18th. Also 20 at Sheringham Sept 18th. Latest Sheringham and Yarmouth both Oct 14th.

Whitethroat*Sylvia communis****Summer breeder and passage migrant.***

First at Holme Hale and Winfarthing (2) April 12th followed by Holme on 14th and Holkham and Cley on 19th. Widespread arrivals from April 23rd. Highest May counts: 20 Blakeney Point on 2nd and 80 Sheringham on 6th/7th.

Singing males during breeding season included both Holme and Holkham Park 12. The Nunnery Thetford 10 and Winfarthing 20. Autumn counts included 30 Holme and 70 Sheringham Aug 22nd, 45 Sheringham and 20 Stiffkey Sept 3rd and 30 Holme on 18th. Very few remained in Oct; latest Sheringham on 20th.

Garden Warbler*Sylvia borin****Summer breeder and passage migrant.***

First Lynford April 16th and Kettlestone Common on 19th. During May highest counts: 6 Holme on 1st and 15 East Wretham on 11th. Singing males widespread during breeding season with total of 18 at East Wretham.

Light autumn passage from Aug 12th increasing during Sept when 60 Holme, 35 East Hills Wells, 40 Blakeney Point and 20 Sheringham all on 18th (the peak day). Few in Oct, but exceptional series of Nov records at Sheringham: single on 9th, 2 on 12th/13th, 6 on 14th and last 3 on 15th.

Blackcap*Sylvia atricapilla****Summer breeder and passage migrant wintering in very small numbers.***

Winter records of over 47 at 30 sites with highest totals at Cley (7) and Norwich (16). Spring arrival on small scale until early May when 30 Holme on 1st and 16 Sheringham on 3rd. Summer totals include 9 prs East Wretham, 40 prs Holkham Park and 7 Wayland Wood. In autumn noted from Aug 12th. Generally only small numbers apart from 25 at Holme Sept 18th. During Oct no site held more than 8 on any one day.

During second-winter period 20 at 7 localities including 9 at Holme and 6 at Blakeney.

Greenish Warbler

Phylloscopus trochiloides

Vagrant from north-east Europe.

A remarkable series of records commencing in Aug when one in Yarmouth cemetery on 17th (JO *et al*) followed by another at Cley on 19th (DAB JDW RJW). During Sept at Blakeney Point on 2nd (SCJ AMS), Happisburgh 2nd/3rd (RGWH), Cromer (DJH *et al*) and Wells Dell (MDC SG *et al*) on 3rd and Overstrand on 4th (BJM).

Pallas's Warbler

Phylloscopus proregulus

Rare autumn migrant from Siberia.

Four records: Holme Oct 29th/30th (GFH *et al*) with 2 in Yarmouth cemetery (SPD DJH *et al*) on same dates and a fourth at Stiffkey/Warham Greens Nov 2nd/3rd (RJF *et al*). Still a star attraction!

Yellow-browed Warbler

Phylloscopus inornatus

Scarce autumn migrant from northern Siberia.

Following an exceptional year in 1994 autumn 1995 resulted in a reduced total of 17. First at Stiffkey Sept 21st–23rd. Then singles between Oct 13th–29th at Cley, 3 at Holme, 1 Sheringham, 2 Titchwell, singles Waxham and Wells and 2 Weybourne. Further arrivals during Nov at Beeston Common, Happisburgh, Holkham, Wells and Winterton. Last Nov 14th.

Hume's Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus humei*): The wintering bird in Yarmouth cemetery Jan 2nd–April 28th proved very popular (PRA *et al*).

Radde's Warbler

Phylloscopus schwarzi

Vagrant from central Asia.

Yarmouth cemetery Oct 29th/30th (GMC *et al*).

Additional 1994: Holme Oct 10th/11th (GFH NML *et al*). The county total moves to 22.

Wood Warbler

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Scarce summer breeder and passage migrant.

Arrived April 30th when singing males at Holkham (2) and Wells. Noted at Bawsey, Blakeney Point, Eaton Park, Kelling Triangle, Ken Hill Wood Snettisham, Pretty Corner Sheringham and Welney between May 1st–14th. Another How Hill June 12th/13th. Dersingham produced the sole breeding record.

First in autumn Yarmouth cemetery Aug 5th, 10th and 12th followed later in month with singles Blakeney Point, Garboldisham, Holme, Wells and Winterton. During Sept at Happisburgh on 2nd, Cromer 3rd and at Snettisham (2), Blakeney Point, Cley and Wells all on 18th, Sheringham on 20th and Winterton on 21st. Latest Walsey Hills Sept 23rd.

Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita

Common summer breeder. Passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

During first-winter period 24 recorded: Barnham Cross Common, Beeston Regis, Brundall, Burgh Castle, Cley (max 10), Downham Market, Hickling, Holme, Letheringsett, Overstrand, Sheringham (3), Swangey GP and Winterton.

Spring migration commenced in March with large-scale arrival on 11th when 12 at Holme. Most impressive summer count at Wayland Wood where 7 singing.

Autumn: Sept totals included 40 at Wells on 13th, 35 Holme on 18th and 25 at Holkham on 23rd. Second-winter period resulted in 38 birds at 25 sites including 4 at both Wells and Sheringham.

Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

Common summer breeder and passage migrant.

First arrivals Yarmouth cemetery and Winterton April 3rd followed by an influx on 5th/6th. Peak April count at Holme where 50 on 23rd. May totals included 60 at Holme and 30 at Sheringham on 1st and 50 Blakeney Point next day. Only double figure breeding counts at East Wretham where 47 territories and at Welney where 11.

Autumn movement commenced mid-Aug. High counts attained in mid-Sept with main fall on 18th when following estimates: Blakeney Point 200, Brayden Marsh 30, Burnham Deepdale 20, Holkham 600, Holme 200, Horsey village 60, Morston 80, Mundesley/Paston 300, Thornham 150, Wells East Hills 400, Weybourne 40 and Yarmouth cemetery 130. Latest Flitcham Oct 14th and Holme next day.

Goldcrest

Regulus regulus

Resident breeder and passage migrant.

Light spring passage included 20 Holme April 23rd and 18 Sheringham next day. Little breeding data but East Wretham 19 occupied territories.

Autumn arrival on small scale. Up to 40 at Holme and Sheringham during second half Sept and 40 Holme Oct 20th/21st and 29th.



Firecrest (P. Jones)

Firecrest

Regulus ignicapillus

Spring and autumn passage migrant. Scarce in winter. Occasional breeder.

During first-winter period total of 10 recorded at Cley, Holkham (2), Lynford Arboretum (3), Thetford, Trowse, Weybourne and Wroxham. Spring movement March 10th (West Tofts) to May 20th (Sheringham) with following monthly totals: March 14 birds at 7 sites, April 26 at 17 sites and May 7 at 5 sites.

The pair, together with a second male, present in the opening months remained at Lynford in mid-May. But the female appeared to switch allegiance from one singing male to the other. By June 6th a confusing situation had developed and one male was watched feeding young in company with a female Goldcrest. On 11th a Firecrest was displaying to

a Goldcrest with no juveniles in evidence. At the month-end a male Firecrest was singing half a mile from the Arboretum. Both males were in song during first half of July.

In autumn 37 individuals at 17 localities Sept 3rd–Nov 21st. During Dec at Holkham on 19th and Lynford on 30th.

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

Migratory breeder and passage migrant.

First in spring Burnham Overy dunes May 1st followed by arrivals Blakeney Point and Sheringham on 6th/7th. Main passage May 20th–28th when 6 Felbrigg, 5 Holkham, 6 Holme and 5 Sheringham. Breeding detail from 21 sites including Garboldisham 3 prs, Holkham Park 25 prs, Quarles 3, Sheringham 3 and The Nunnery Thetford 4.

Light autumn movement apart from 15 Sidstrand Sept 4th. Impressive numbers on 18th when a substantial fall of Scandinavian migrants: Holme 45, Horsey 10, Sheringham 12 and Yarmouth cemetery 20. Latest Surlingham Oct 8th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher

Ficedula parva

Scarce autumn migrant. Rare in spring.

Good series of Sept records commencing at Warham Greens on 9th. Remainder of sightings during the mid-Sept fall: Thornham, Blakeney Point, Paston and Yarmouth cemetery all on 18th; Holme 19th/20th; Blakeney Point 20th; Kelling, Sheringham and Waxham all on 20th and Blakeney Point new arrival on 21st.



Collared Flycatcher Holme 1969 (R.A. Richardson)

Collared Flycatcher

Ficedula albicollis

Vagrant from central and south-east Europe.

A stunning male at Cley May 5th (SJMG HPM SP) was first located on East Bank before appearing briefly in village gardens. Second county record – the first at Holme May 4th–6th 1969 has become a fading memory (note coincidence of dates).

Pied Flycatcher

Ficedula hypoleuca

Passage migrant, but uncommon in spring. Has bred.

Spring total of 16 at 8 localities with first at Itteringham April 15th. Remainder between April 21st and May 19th at Blakeney Point 2, Cley, Holme 5, Titchwell, Wells 3, Weybourne and Yarmouth cemetery 2.

Autumn passage began Aug 1st when single at Sheringham. Next day 6 at Holme. Single figure totals at 18 coastal sites to month-end; peak of 10 at Sheringham on 20th. During a fall Sept 18th–21st counts included Holkham 26, Holme 35, Mundesley/Paston 40, Wells Dell/East Hills 90 and Yarmouth cemetery 50. Oct sightings at Yarmouth: 2 on 2nd and singles 5th and 8th.

Bearded Tit

Panurus biarmicus

Resident and partial migrant. Periodic influxes from the Low Countries.

In first-winter period numbers again very low with birds at following sites: Holme 2, Titchwell 12, Cley 2, How Hill 6, Chedgrave Marshes 5, Surlingham Marsh 5 and Whitlingham Lane GP 6.

Breeding pairs at the following localities: Titchwell 18, Holkham NNR 8, Cley 5+, Salthouse 1-2, Horsey 5, Hickling NNT 4-5, Hickling Weavers Way 3-4, Reedham Marsh How Hill 1, Martham Broad 5, Mautby Marsh Ronds 1-2, Strumpshaw 2-3 and Ranworth 4-5. Breeding success seems to have been good; at Titchwell over 100 young fledged.

Following dispersal from breeding sites some good numbers recorded. Highest counts in Oct when 5 Snettisham 21st, 20 Holme 11th, 20 Titchwell 11th, 11 Burnham Norton 10th, 25 Burnham Overy 5th, 5 west Wells 10th, 30 Cley 21st, 6 west Weybourne 8th, 22 over Winterton 14th, 6 Horsey 2nd, 15 Martham Broad 12th, 23 Heigham Sounds 5th, 2 How Hill 8th, 11 Chedgrave Marsh 3rd and 100 Strumpshaw Fen in early Oct.

At end of year recorded at following sites 3 Holme, 4 Titchwell, 4 Cley, 6 Horsey, 6 Martham Broad, 3 Burgh Castle, 5 Fritton, 10 Buckenham/Cantley and 4 Surlingham Broad.

The greatest recorded years of abundance for Bearded Tits in Norfolk reedbeds reflected a period when the Flevoland province was being reclaimed in the Netherlands. Following separation from the IJsselmeer (the former Zuider Zee) three vast new polders were initially sown with reeds from the air when each contained soft mud. When established the very extensive reedbeds provided ideal breeding conditions for Bearded Tits.

During early autumn 1965 Dutch ringers were surprised to catch some 2050 birds. One mist-net operator at one site ringed 881 birds in 12 days obtaining only 5% retraps.

The Bearded Tit population at that time may have reached an unprecedented total of 20,000 individuals. At the same time erupting Bearded ringed in the Netherlands were trapped in this country – the very first recoveries from across the North Sea.

Autumn influxes became a regular feature substantially boosting the local population until well into the 1980s. But by that time the greater part of the Flevoland reedbeds had been drained to create new farmland.

Long-tailed Tit

Aegithalos caudatus

Common resident breeder; Scandinavian white-headed race very rare in autumn.

Breeding data included 9 territories East Wretham Heath, 4 pairs Belmore Plantation Thorpe St. Andrew, 4 pairs The Nunnery Thetford and 3 pairs Beeston Regis Common and Boyland Wood. Also reported from 37% of the county's BBS squares; this compares favourably with national average of 31%.

Some good flocks during latter half of year including 50 Holme, 50 Overstrand, 45 Massingham Heath, 40 Wells Dell and 40 Beeston Regis. During both winter periods again reported feeding on peanuts in many gardens.

Marsh Tit

Parus palustris

Common breeding resident.

Reported from 51 sites, confirmed breeding pairs at the following sites: East Wretham Heath 4, Sheringham Woods 4, Pretty Corner Sheringham 2, The Nunnery Thetford 2 and singles Felbrigg and Kelling Triangle. Also following sites during breeding season:

Boyland Wood, Brancaster, Catfield Fen, Ditchingham, Hoe Rough, Martham, Sennowe Park and Strumpshaw Fen. At Holkham Park just 2–3 family groups – a drastic decline where formerly abundant. Similar status comments would be desirable.

Willow Tit

Parus montanus

Breeding resident possibly in decline.

Recorded from an impressive 62 sites with breeding season reports from Bale, Beeston Common, Beeston Regis, Boyland Wood, Burgh Common, Buxton Heath, Catfield, East Harling, East Tuddenham, East Winch Common, East Wretham Heath, Filby Broad, Hickling, Hickling Weavers Bay, Hindolveston, Holme Hale, Horsford, Kettlestone Common, Sennowe Park, Sheringham Woods, South Fen, Sparham Pools, Stonepit Heath Kelling, Swanton Novers and Titchwell. During the last few years this species has been reported from around 50 sites during the breeding season and from a further 30 at other times of the year.

Coal Tit

Parus ater

Breeding resident and passage migrant.

Probably the least recorded species in the county with reports from just 7 sites including in the breeding season 23 prs East Wretham Heath and 7 prs The Nunnery Thetford. It is clear that the Brecks and other areas of coniferous woodlands around the county support good breeding numbers.

Blue Tit

Parus caeruleus

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Few records. Breeding data included 33 prs Redgrave/Lopham Fen where brood size up on last year, 29 prs East Wretham Heath, 17 prs The Nunnery Thetford and 5 prs Welney. In addition recorded in 84% of the county's BBS squares. Few reasonable sized flocks reported but 20 Holme Sept 18th and 26 East Harling Dec 17th.

Great Tit

Parus major

Common breeding resident and occasional passage migrant.

Small numbers on spring passage including 16 west Holme March 11th and 29 north Winterton April 1st.

Several sites reported higher than normal numbers of breeding prs. At Redgrave/Lopham Fen 29 prs, where brood sizes continued to show a decline on the long-term average. Other breeding counts: 22 prs East Wretham Heath, 13 prs The Nunnery Thetford and 6 prs Welney.

Nuthatch

Sitta europaea

Breeding resident possibly in decline.

Reports from 25 sites most probably referring to resident breeding birds. Largest numbers at Holkham where 18 prs represents a decline of 50% over the last decade and subsequently only 5 broods found. Similar declines at Ditchingham and East Tuddenham. At Great Ryburgh and Boyle Wood where formerly a breeding resident it went unrecorded during the year; this was attributed to the removal of hardwoods. Nationally no declines were noted in status 1994/95. In view of local comments a request for all breeding data and status comments is desirable.

Treecreeper

Certhia familiaris

Widespread breeding woodland resident.

Reported from 32 localities, 12 of these during the breeding season. Breeding records included 30 singing males Holkham Park, 8 territories East Wretham Heath, 3 prs Beeston Regis Common, 3 prs The Nunnery Thetford and 2 prs East Tuddenham. Only 6% of the county's BBS squares contained birds – a decline on last year's 12% which was the national average. One Berney Arms Marshes June 14th was well away from any known breeding sites.

Golden Oriole

Oriolus oriolus

Migratory breeder and passage migrant in small numbers.

A disappointing year for migrants with single singing males Swanton Novers Great Wood May 23rd and Holme 24th.

First summering birds returned May 6th. Breeding information provided by the Golden Oriole Group: Five prs bred, 2 predated, 2 family groups seen, one pr probably bred and birds present at 11 other sites. A poor breeding year due to cold weather during June.

Isabelline Shrike

Lanius isabellinus

Vagrant from central Asia.

A splendid male at Snettisham CP, identified May 2nd (AB NML DS BW), but probably present the previous day. The fifth county record and the first in spring. What was it doing singing in Norfolk?

Red-backed Shrike

Lanius collurio

Passage migrant in small numbers. Last bred 1989.

Poor spring passage: male Stiffkey/Morston May 14th–15th, females Holme May 22nd (an interesting grey-headed bird lacking a bold face mask, apparently indicative of an ageing female) and Titchwell May 22nd–23rd. Single June males at Bacton gas terminal 7th and Winterton North Dunes 13th. A late female at Stiffkey July 5th–6th.

A much better autumn showing, with a total of 26 recorded. Four in Aug: Weybourne/Sheringham 9th; Salthouse 21st–22nd; Horsey Gap 21st and Blakeney Point 22nd. The remainder in Sept with main arrival from mid-month: Blakeney Point 1st–4th and 19th; Cley 1st–2nd; Winterton 1st–4th, 10th, 19th and 23rd–24th; Happisburgh churchyard 9th–10th; Walsey Hills 13th; Holme (3 birds) 16th–18th, 2 on 19th, 20th, 2 on 21st; Burnham Overy Dunes 18th, 2 on 19th, 20th; Snettisham CP 19th, 2 on 23rd; Waxham 19th; Holme village 20th–23rd; Holkham Gap 20th–24th and Kelling 23rd.

Great Grey Shrike

Lanius excubitor

Scarce passage migrant and declining winter visitor.

First-winter period singles in Jan at Stiffkey 8th and near Briston 28th. In Feb Grime's Graves 11th and Lynford 19th–28th, then at the former site March 15th, 25th–26th and 31st, April 1st–6th and Brandon/Mundford intermittently March 12th–31st. The series of Breckland observations presumably relates to one wandering individual. Additionally at Flitcham March 20th–21st.

Spring passage migrants Cley April 7th–8th, Titchwell April 23rd–26th, then at Holme April 26th–May 2nd. Another Stiffkey April 30th flew towards Wells East Hills, in mid-afternoon.

Second-winter period records from Grimes Graves Nov 11th and beside the A12 at Attleborough Nov 12th.

Woodchat Shrike

Lanius senator

Vagrant from southern Europe, mostly in spring.

Two well-watched birds: a probable female Waxham May 27th (SB JRW) and a male Great Cressingham July 2nd–5th (AG PN *et al*).

Jay

Garrulus glandarius

Common resident. Periodic influxes from Continent following failure of acorn crop.

Only breeding season records from The Nunnery Thetford where 3 territories and East Wretham Heath where 2. Found in 25% of the county's BBS plots compared to 29% last year. Nationally a numerical population decrease of 26% was recorded.

Magpie

Pica pica

Common breeding resident forming winter roosts.

Only winter roost count from Ringstead common where up to 50 during Jan, More counts needed!

At East Wretham Heath a total of 4 territories and in the county found in 63% of the BBS squares; an increase on last year's 59%.

Jackdaw

Corvus monedula

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Roost/winter gatherings Jan–March included 400 Welney, 140 Cley, 120 Flitcham and 110 Attlebridge.

Exceptional passage in spring with several sites reporting record numbers. Highest counts in March when at Mundesley 42 east 22nd, 93 east 23rd and 215 east 24th and at Holme 22 west 22nd and 30 west 23rd. Passage continued during first three days of April including on 1st 180 south and 80 north Winterton and peaking on 2nd when 278 east Mundesley and 285 south Winterton and on 3rd when 101 east Mundesley and 22 west Holme. Presumably these birds were returning to European breeding grounds.

Breeding season counts included 29 prs East Wretham Heath, 20 prs Blakeney Village and 10 prs The Nunnery Thetford.

Best count of autumn migrants just 15 east Holme Sept 3rd, Largest counts Nov/Dec 400 Overstrand and 250 Northrepps.

During the winter a mixed roost of Jackdaws/Rooks at Buckenham reached an impressive 30,000.

During Dec several birds showing characteristics of one of the eastern races, probably *C.c.soemeringii*, reported as follows Cley 10th–31st and 2 Easton/Bawburgh 17th–31st.

Rook

Corvus frugilegus

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Roosts/gatherings in first-winter period: 1,175 Halvergate Levels, 1,000 south-west over Catfield Fen, 520 Attlebridge, 500 Shouldham, 500 Welney, 420 Rollesby, 400 Rackheath, 375 South Walsham, 250 Crimplesham and 200 West Derham.

Spring passage negligible. Best counts from Holme where March 15 west on 22nd and 23rd and 16 west on 24th.

A breeding survey during 1995/6 resulted in a county total of the order of 15,200 nests contained in 306 rookeries. Full details appear on page 608.

Very small numbers on autumn passage. At Hunstanton cliffs, where a total of 90 south, best days in Oct when 18 on 21st and 23 on 30th. Elsewhere 25 east Holme Sept 3rd.

Carrion Crow

Corvus corone

Increasing resident forming winter roosts; also a passage migrant.

In first-winter period highest roost counts 200 Roydon, 25 Welney and 28 Wroxham. Spring coastal passage more pronounced than normal with highest counts in April when 60 north Winterton 1st, 24 east Mundesley 2nd; on 21st 16 west Holme and 28 west and 10 east Weybourne.

Birds recorded in 84% of the county's BBS plots.

In June a post-breeding roost of 48 East Wretham Heath on 7th. In final months of year largest roosts/gatherings 67 Welney, 49 Hickling and 23 Overstrand.

Hooded Crow *C.c.cornix* In first-winter period one and twos at Aldeby, Browston Green, Choseley, Cley, Great Cressingham, Hopton-on-sea, Horning, Horsey, Potter Heigham, Roydon Common, Salthouse, Winterton and Waxham.

Spring passage March 22nd–June 4th. Best site Winterton where in April 9 north 1st, 7 north 2nd and 4 north 3rd. Elsewhere 1–2 Bodham Hill, Breydon, Burgh Castle, Cromer, Hickling, Horsey, Ickburgh, Kelling, Lessingham, Sheringham, Waxham, Weybourne, and Yarmouth. During June Burnham Overy Dunes 3rd and Holkham 4th.

First in autumn 3 Cley Oct 14th – only record of the month. In Nov singles in off sea Yarmouth 4th, Holme 5th and from 14th at Hickling, Horsey, Overstrand and Warham. In Dec Holkham 11th and 24th – the only record for the month.

In Denmark and Fennoscandia where most of our birds probably summer there has been a decline in numbers. One possible cause is a change to a dryer and milder climate. This has been followed by a northward expansion of Carrion Crows.

Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

In first-winter period very few records. Largest gatherings at Holme where 700 Feb and 1,200 March. Recorded in 82% of the county's BBS squares and obviously common and widespread breeding resident.

Post-breeding movements commenced mid-June. Highest count 1,200 west Holme June 20th. During autumn several roosts especially in Oct when 20,000 Horsey, 10,000 Holme, 7,000 Titchwell, 5,000 Burnham Norton and 3,000 How Hill. Coastal passage from late Sept to mid-Nov. Counts dominated by Hunstanton cliffs results where an autumn total of 514,100 south Sept 23rd to Nov 13th. Best counts here during Oct when 30,090 on 11th, 35,200 on 16th, 21,300 on 17th, 76,300 on 22nd, 107,700 on 23rd and 112,400 on 30th and in Nov 10,250 on 1st and 11,550 on 6th. Most impressive westerly movements elsewhere 11,000 Holme Oct 30th and at Sheringham in Oct where 4,500 on 22nd, 4,500 on 30th and in Nov 3,500 on 5th.

During second-winter period no information. Have the large mid-winter roosts become a thing of the past?

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Common resident.

Little data received. BTO BBS results show no significant numerical population change between 1994 and 1995. Only time will tell whether the evident decline noted by many observers has halted.

Counts of 90 Harling Parish Aug: 75+ Burnham Overy and 60 Holme village Sep. Interesting passage 50 south Hunstanton Cliffs Oct 9th. A leucistic bird Norwich Sept 21st–22nd.

Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus

Scarce resident. Also passage migrant and winter visitor.

Numerous records of 1–40 in Jan–Mar, almost exclusively from west Norfolk, with max counts of 80+ Choseley, 60 Ringstead Downs, 100 Roley Corner, Great Cressingham, 54 Shropham Jan; 100 Choseley, 50 East Walton, 58 Ringstead Downs, 48 West Acre Feb; 70 Choseley, 60 Stow Bardolph, 50 West Acre Mar.

Spring passage in March and April again almost negligible with 1–4 west Holme on 11 dates from Mar 22nd–Apr 24th and 6 west May 3rd. Also 4 Waxham Mar 4th and 2 Mar 11th–12th, 1 west Overy Dunes Mar 23rd and 4 west Weybourne June 11th.

Breeding reported from only 15 localities with total of only 23–25 prs (a couple of these in nest boxes). BTO BBS results for 1995 recorded Tree Sparrows in 11 out of 51 1km squares (22%), with an average of 3.1 birds/square. This compares with 5 out of 41 1km squares (12%) recorded in 1994, with an average of 3 birds/square. Nationally there was no significant numerical population change from 1994–1995, with birds recorded in 7% of squares.

Very poor autumn passage from Sept 6th to Nov 18th with 1–3 birds noted at



Tree Sparrow (S. Patient-Richard Richardson Award)

Snettisham, Hunstanton Cliffs, West Runton, Sheringham, Paston and Waxham, where max 8 Oct 27th. Very few located in second-winter period with max 25 Sharrington Aug, 20 West Acre Sep, 20 Choseley and 16 Ringstead Downs Dec. Apart from a few spring and autumn passage birds at Paston and Waxham again virtually absent from east Norfolk.

Chaffinch

Fringilla coelebs

Common resident. Also passage migrant and winter visitor in varying numbers.

Flock sizes generally low at start of year, with max counts of only 200 Burnham Thorpe, 200 Holt Hall Jan; 300+ East Wretham, 150 Wolferton Feb; 150 Holkham Park March.

Spring passage noted on a few dates with max from Holme of 50 west March 24th, 170 west April 2nd and 160 west April 3rd.

Recorded by BTO BBS in 49 out of 51 (96%) 1km squares, with an average of 9.2 birds/square.

Strong autumn passage from Sept 18th. Highest counts: 719 Hunstanton Oct 17th; 1,500 south in one hour Snettisham, 4,680 south Hunstanton, 350 west Sheringham Oct 22nd; 4,420 south Hunstanton, 110 west Sheringham Oct 23rd. These followed by a further excellent series of late autumn observations from Hunstanton where 2,970 south Oct 28th, 2,100 south Oct 30th, 1,600 south Oct 31st and 1,370 south Nov 5th. Autumn total at Hunstanton 25,220 south Sept 23rd–Nov 13th. Despite this large influx flock numbers at end of year very low with max of only 100 East Harling Nov and 100 Sea Palling Dec.

Brambling

Fringilla montifringilla

Passage migrant and winter visitor in highly variable numbers

Widespread but in small numbers during first-winter period. Best counts: 700+ Hilborough, 250 Pentney GP Jan; 250 Buckenham Tofts, 500+ Holt-Thornage Feb. Coastal spring passage very light. Latest 3 Yarmouth Cemetery May 18th.

Autumn migrants from Sept 17th when single Holme. Peaks of movement Oct 21st–23rd and Oct 29th–Nov 5th. Excepting excellent counts from Hunstanton, passage generally light. Max counts: 875 south Hunstanton Oct 21st; 3,950 south Hunstanton, 500 south Snettisham in one hour Oct 22nd; 350 south Hunstanton Oct 23rd; 1,020 south Hunstanton, 68 west Sheringham Oct 29th; 4,550 south Hunstanton Oct 30th; 50+ west Titchwell Nov 4th; 755 south Hunstanton Nov 5th. Total of 13,130 south Hunstanton Sept 23rd–Nov 13th. Interesting inland observation of 53 west Marston Marshes Norwich Oct 22nd in first 2 hours from dawn.

Very scarce in second-winter period, with records from only 11 localities away from the coast, and maxima of 40 Felbrigg, 40 Potter Heigham Nov and 250 Holkam Park Dec.

Serin

Serinus serinus

Vagrant from Continental Europe.

An early spring record of a male, occasionally in song, Bawburgh April 2nd–3rd (AC SB *et al*). A long-staying though often elusive singing male Potter Heigham Church June 25th–Aug 19th (LB-L *et al*) and an imm male Cromer/East Runton Dec 26th into 1996 (JAO GW *et al*).

Greenfinch

Carduelis chloris

Common resident and passage migrant.

Largest flocks noted: 300+ Grimston, 80 Morston, 60 Overy Dunes Jan; 150 Wolferton Feb; 150 Paston Aug; 70 Holme, 75 Terrington St. Clement, Sept; 150 Burnham Overy Staithe Oct; 80 Hickling Nov; 90 Sennowe Park Dec.

Light spring passage with max westerly movements of 45 on both March 23rd and 24th, 55 April 2nd and 75 April 3rd all at Holme. Better autumn passage with max counts, all from Hunstanton, of 105 south Oct 9th, 175 south Oct 21st, 120 south Oct 22nd, 220 south Oct 23rd and 85 south Oct 30th with a total of 1,360 south Sept 23rd–Nov 13th.

Goldfinch

Carduelis carduelis

A common resident, passage migrant and summer visitor.

Widespread flocks 35–50 in first-winter period, with higher counts of 90 Cley, 300 Kenninghall (on unharvested evening primrose) Jan and 300 Bodney (on burdock) Feb. Spring passage from Mar 24th with max counts 110 west Holme April 22nd; 280 Sheringham Apr 30th; 70 west Holme, 160 east + 35 west + 240 present Sheringham, 20/hr west Paston May 1st; 110 east + 120 present Sheringham May 2nd; 250 west + 60 present Holme, 50 east + 115 west + 180 present Sheringham May 3rd; 120 west Holme May 5th, 90 west Sheringham May 7th and 95 west Sheringham May 8th.

Light autumn passage noted at Hunstanton with max 31 south Oct 9th and 36 south Oct 23rd, with a total of 105 south Sept 23rd–Nov 13th.

Autumn concentrations of 160+ Happisburgh, 150 Holme Aug; 100 West Acre, 150 Terrington St. Clement, 130 Welney Sept; 130 Cley, 150 Welney Oct; 95 Beeston Regis Nov; 120 Welney Dec.

Siskin

Carduelis spinus

Passage migrant and winter visitor in fluctuating numbers. Small numbers breed.

Widespread in good numbers at start of year with max counts 100 Briston, 200 Sparham, 100 Suffield, 180 The Nunnery Thetford, 300 West Acre Ford Jan; 110 Ranworth, 260+ Swangey/Shropham Feb, 400 Hellesdon, 100+ Horsford, 150 Strumpshaw March. Total 650 ringed Jan–Feb in two Sheringham gardens.

A notable departure of migrants with exceptional numbers at coastal localities from March 4th. Highest counts: 120 north Winterton March 4th; 75 west + 45 present Holme March 11th; 450 west Holme and 225 west Overy Dunes March 22nd; 175 west Holme and 65 west Hunstanton GC March 23rd; 1,500 west + 60 present Holme March 25th; 100 Holkham Meals March 26th; 175 west Holme and 300 Holkham Pines April 2nd; 300 west Holme April 3rd; 350 west Holme and 200 Holkham Meals April 4th. Most had departed by last week of April with a few stragglers till end of June.

Only records received indicative of breeding: 2 juvs trapped Sheringham May 27th, singing male in a Northrepps garden late June, pr Wells Woods Aug 6th and 2 ad with 3 newly fledged juvs Wolferton Aug 15th–16th.

Autumn migrants from Sept 5th (Wells) to Dec 2nd (Paston). Numbers very low with few counts reaching double figures. Max counts 1,200 south in one hour Snettisham Oct 22nd (exceptional considering the national scarcity of this species this autumn) also 150 south Hunstanton Cliffs, 20 Holkham, 60 west Sheringham, 31 west Marston Marshes, Norwich all Oct 22nd; 50 south Hunstanton Oct 26th, 30 south Hunstanton Oct 30th. A total of 360 south Hunstanton Sept 23rd–Nov 13th.

Very scarce in the second-winter period with few localities holding more than 20. Best counts: 60 Wroxham Broad Nov and 100 Dec, 120 Letheringsett Mill and 150 Roydon Common Dec.

Total of 604 ringed in Garboldisham gardens in 1995, mostly adults and males. A complete contrast to 1994 when imms and females predominated.

Linnet

Carduelis cannabina

Common resident and passage migrant.

Largest flocks reported in first-winter period: 150 Hilborough, 185 South Lopham Jan; 200 Choseley, 250 Weybourne Feb; 120 Kettlestone, 200 Sheringham March. Usual coastal movements from mid-March to early May. Most notable counts: 150 north Winterton April 1st (2 hours), 475 west Holme and 480 west Sheringham April 3rd, 1,300 west Holme April 5th, 430 west Holme April 7th, 250 Burnham Norton and 480 west Sheringham April 11th, 150 Burnham Overy Dunes April 18th, 300 west Weybourne April 20th, 350 west Holme April 21st and an astonishing count of 700/hr west Paston May 1st.

Little data on numbers over the summer, but flock 210 Snettisham Aug. Impressive autumn coastal movement with many coastal flocks. Higher counts: 100+ Mundesley Sept 6th, 150 Blakeney Point Sept 8th, 450 Snettisham Sept. 13th, 180 Blakeney Point Sept 14th, 100 Holme Sept 22nd, 95 west Sheringham Oct 5th, 140 Holme Oct 8th, 75 south Hunstanton Cliffs Oct 9th (a total 700 south Hunstanton Cliffs Sept 23rd–Nov 13th), 50 east + 50 west Sheringham Oct 16th, 320 Salthouse Oct 19th, 1,500 south Snettisham Oct 22nd in one hour, max 250 Weybourne and 200 Hopton Oct, 120 west Weybourne Nov 14th and max 120 Holme Nov.

Few second-winter period flocks reported with only sizeable counts 500 Winfarthing Sept and 100 Stiffkey Dec.

Twite

Carduelis flavirostris

Local winter visitor



heathland breeding specialities: Upper: Curlew and lower Nightjar (both R. Powley). Radio tracking indicates that Nightjars often roost high in trees as an alternative to occupying a fallen branch.





Top: Broadland flood-marshes attract both Avocets and Spoonbills (*J. Buxton*). Centre-bottom: "The Broads" ESA (and including the Wensum Valley) held 95 breeding pairs of Snipe, 301 pairs of Redshank and 693 pairs of Lapwing (all *C.R. Knights*).

Recorded to April 15th (2 Holme) and from Sept 26th (2 Snettisham). Maximum counts at main localities:

	Jan	Feb	March	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wash	126	30	—	61	1	—
Holme	80	120	45	40	70	85
Titchwell	25	12	13	31	20	80
Brancaster	90	63	195	16	60	70
Burnham Norton/Overy Hbr	75	2	—	25	60	24
Holkham	90	80	40	55	150	180
Wells/Blakeney Hbr	230	68	40	16	190	60

Small numbers occasionally elsewhere: maximum counts 30 Cley-Salthouse Jan 4th and Oct 21st, 20 Beeston Regis Common March 5th, 3 Waxham Oct 17th, 4 Sheringham Nov 5th and 1 Mundesley Oct 28th. Although up to 20 Breydon in Oct, this was first winter in living memory when no Twite overwintered (PRA). No inland records. Note total of maximum counts exaggerates county abundance: a co-ordinated count in Jan found 430 birds in Norfolk, all between Holme and Morston. Movement between sites well demonstrated by birds ringed Brancaster Nov 1994 later found at Morston (1), Burnham Norton (4) and Holkham (10) in Jan and at Holme (15) in Feb and of site fidelity by a bird in both winter periods at Holme. Small numbers on spring passage at Holme with day peaks of 20 March 21st and 32 April 5th. Autumn passage pronounced in last week of Oct, with peak counts at Hunstanton on 26th (18), Holme on 21st (80), Cley on 27th (40), Sheringham on 30th (21) and Waxham on 30th (8) continuing into Nov with 3 Overstrand on 4th and 10 Weybourne on 13th. Autumn passage total of 44 at Hunstanton between Sept 23rd and Nov 3rd. Twites have declined greatly in recent years. Observers are urged to report all sightings and to report periods of absence from traditional sites.

Redpoll

Carduelis flammea

Passage migrant, winter visitor and declining resident. C.f. flammea scarce winter visitor.

Extremely scarce during first-winter period with very few flocks and most records of just 1–2 birds. Highest counts 22 west Burnham Overy Jan 7th, 20+ Garboldisham, 30 Hickling, 35 Potter Heigham Jan; 40 Strumpshaw Fen Feb; 21 Pretty Corner Sheringham and 40 Leziate April. Poor spring passage, with totals of 38 west Holme March, 83 west Holme and 12 west Sheringham April, 27 west Holme May.

Breeding season records of 1–3 prs at only 13 sites and 1–5 singing males at a further 25 sites. All 1996 breeding records are requested.

Initial autumn passage almost non-existent with a total of 5 birds recorded in Sept (Holme + Sheringham) and 5 inland singletons in Oct. A considerable late influx commenced Nov 2nd with subsequent max counts 50 south Hunstanton Nov 4th; 34 north Yarmouth Nov 5th; 32 south Hunstanton Nov 8th; 50 Wells Nov 11th; 31 south Hunstanton Nov 12th (with a total of 170 south there up till Nov 13th). Largest late winter flocks 64 Belton Common Nov, 100+ Babingley River, 175 Ling Common Woods, 100 Ranworth, 80 UEA Dec.

Mealy Redpoll *C.f. flammea*: Very scarce in first-winter period with 2 Swanton Novers Feb 20th and single Holt March 27th the only records. A tremendous late autumn influx (forced out of Scandinavia and eastern Europe by plummeting temperatures and

snow) noted from Oct 24th (when 6 Snettisham), with records of 1–40 at many, chiefly coastal and Broadland, localities. Highest counts: 50 Heigham Sound, 45 Holme, 55 Wolferton Nov; 50–100 Sugar Fen Nov–Dec; 50 Cromer, 90 Holt Lowes, 60 Pretty Corner Sheringham and 50 Tattersford Dec.

Arctic Redpoll

Carduelis hornemanni

Winter vagrant from Scandinavia.

Several accompanied the huge autumn influx of Redpolls with singles at Blakeney Point Nov 18th (MIE) and Wells Dell Nov 19th–20th (AIB *et al*). These heralded many more in the opening months of 1996 among the numerous large flocks of Mealy Redpolls.

Crossbill

Loxia curvirostra

Breeding resident in fluctuating numbers with Thetford Forest the stronghold. Immigrants arrive most years in late summer and autumn. Major irruptions at irregular intervals.

Recorded in small numbers throughout the year at a variety of Breckland sites, with maxima of 15 Lynford Arboretum Jan; 15+ Santon Downham Feb; 50 Great Hockham May; 20 Lynford July. Away from Brecks recorded in first-winter period from Holkham Park, Holme, Holt Lowes, Horsford Woods, Pretty Corner Sheringham and Sandringham (where 50 Jan 1st).

Breeding only confirmed at Pretty Corner and Bagmore Farm Stanford though suspected at East Wretham.

Very small immigration May 27th–Nov 10th with 1–5 at Holme, Holkham, Wells, Paston and Winterton, Elsewhere 4 juvs Baconsthorpe Castle May 29th.

Scarlet Rosefinch

Carpodacus erythrinus

Rare passage migrant. Potential colonist.

A good series of late spring records. A red male trapped Sheringham May 22nd (DHS). One Winterton June 11th (IS), with a minimum of 2 singing 1st-year males and 1 female present there June 12th, a pair remaining till July 5th (JE *et al*) during which time observed collecting nesting material. Also a singing 1st-year male Breydon south Wall June 11th–12th (IS), 1st-year male Cromer June 20th (BJM) and singing 1st-year male Hempstead June 23rd (JH). Single autumn record of an imm trapped Sheringham Aug 31st (AGI MY-P).

Bullfinch

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Resident and suspected immigrant. Scandinavian race P.p.pyrrhula has occurred.

Little information received. Up to 15 Lynford Arboretum in Feb (since Dec 1994) with peak count of 20 March 8th. At least 4 of these considered to be *pyrrhula* race birds. Autumn passage at Snettisham where 20 south Oct 22nd (in one hour) and Holme where 6 west Nov 5th.

Only second-winter flock reported 10 Syderstone Dec 28th. One Overstrand Dec 30th considered *pyrrhula* race.

Hawfinch

Coccothraustes coccothraustes

Elusive and very local resident

Regular winter period records (with max counts) at Holkham Park (4 March), Lynford Arboretum (6 March/April); Lynford Stag (4 Jan); Sandringham (1); Thetford Nunnery (3 April). Elsewhere occasional 1–4 at Costessey (4 at roost Feb), East Wretham, Felbrigg, Hockham Belt, Mundford, Ringland, Thetford and Thetford GP. Also 7

Holkham Pines July 22nd.

Confirmed breeding from Holkham Park (1 pr fledged 3 young and another pr thought to be breeding), Lynford Stag (family party in June), and Wensum Valley (2 prs).

Spring coastal migrants at Holme April 22nd, Blakeney Friary Walks April 23rd, Yarmouth Cemetery April 29th where also 2 May 16th (male in song).

Hawfinches have always been thinly distributed and often highly elusive. The exceptional numbers roosting in hornbeams and birches at East Wretham during most winters for just over a decade from 1973 have not been repeated. The roosting flocks always arrived from the south-east, but it was never discovered where the short winter days were spent. Peak totals included 183 in early Jan 1975 decreasing to 25 by the end of March and 151 on 11th February 1980.

Lapland Bunting

Calcarius lapponicus

Regular, but usually scarce, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Very scarce in the first three months when ones and twos at Brancaster, Breydon, Cley, Holme and Sheringham. In April at Burnham Norton on 21st, 3 at Blakeney Point on 23rd and at Holme on 25th.

First of the autumn at Holme Sept 6th followed by a total of just over 100 in Sept/Oct at 21 coastal sites. Majority were singles or groups of less than 5 with the following exceptions: 7 Holme Sept 22nd, 18 Sheringham Oct 24th and 5-7 Weybourne Oct 18th to 31st. In Nov a total of 61 birds with best numbers again at Holme (10 on 29th) and Sheringham (16 on 9th). Wintering birds (again mainly ones and twos) in Dec at Breydon, Cley, Holkham, Holme (3 all month), Salthouse, Sheringham (5 on 2nd), Stiffkey (15 on 16th) and Weybourne. Two records away from the coast: Buckenham Nov 11th and Martham Broad Oct 25th.

Snow Bunting

Plectrophenax nivalis

Winter visitor in declining numbers. Exceptional in summer.

Very scarce in Jan/Feb with highest numbers Cley/Salthouse where peak of 100. Other double figure counts: 12 Snettisham, 25 Heacham (one taken by a Sparrowhawk), 11 Holme/Titchwell, 25 Holkham, 15 Mundesley, 18 Caister and 10 Breydon. Smaller groups at Hunstanton, Brancaster, Sheringham and Winterton. Most departed by late Feb. At Salthouse the majority (Icelandic) left by Feb 23rd leaving 15 of Greenland/Scandinavian origins. During spring at Holme April 17th, Overy Dunes on 19th with a tame first-summer male at Salthouse April 9th to May 14th.

First autumn record Sept 30th at Weybourne/Sheringham, followed by a handful of records from Holme, Cley and Horsey until late Oct/Nov when more widespread. Recorded at 22 sites peaking during second half Nov when following counts although doubtless duplication: 35 Snettisham, 100 Titchwell, 53 Holme, 50 Brancaster, 75 Holkham, 30 Blakeney Point, 45-65 Cley to Sheringham, 50 Cromer, 40 Overstrand, 46 Mundesley, 35 Caister, and 51 Yarmouth.

During Dec peak total included 41 Snettisham, 88 Holkham and 200 Cley to Sheringham. Inland: Flitcham Oct 30th/31st and Southery Fen Nov 13th.

Pine Bunting

Emberiza leucocephala

Vagrant from Siberia.

A male at Hopton Oct 28th (RF RW *et al*), the first county record. Initially found in Suffolk it crossed the county boundary and became a long awaited addition to the Norfolk list. See page 593.

Yellowhammer

Emberiza citrinella

Common resident, but currently declining.

Very few records. Numbers found in first-winter period very low with the only flocks of over 50 birds as follows: 50 Castle Acre, 200 Choseley, 200 Elsing, 90 Felbrigg, 65 Flitcham, 80 Methwold, 80 Ringstead and 50 Warham. Few breeding season records although results from the BTO BBS showed that Yellowhammers occupied 47 out of 51 1km squares (92%). Nationally 52% of squares were occupied with a decline of 8% noted since 1994. Noteworthy breeding concentrations: 16 prs Abbey Farm Flitcham and 22 prs East Wretham Heath. In second-winter period 50 at Frettenham and 56 Northrepps were largest numbers.

Ortolan Bunting

Emberiza hortulana

Scarce passage migrant.

Four typical Sept records: Sheringham on 8th (KBS), Mundesley from 10th to 16th (MF *et al*), Overy Dunes on 10th (AIB DF *et al*) and Sheringham on 19th (DPA APB).

Little Bunting

Emberiza pusilla

Vagrant from N Scandinavia eastwards, mostly in the autumn.

A singing male at Holme April 25th to 30th (NML *et al*), the first for that locality was appreciated by over 800 observers. Single autumn record; at Yarmouth Cemetery Sept 18th (JO *et al*). The county total now stands at 25.

1994 Correction: Initials for Overstand sighting Oct 11th should read BJM.

Reed Bunting

Emberiza schoeniclus

Common resident and passage migrant.

Very small numbers in first-winter period. Groups of 1–16 at Choseley, Holme, Sheringham, Shropsham, Snettisham, Warham, Wells and Welney. Largest concentration in breeding season at Welney: 50 prs. Little other information submitted although 1–8 prs at Bluebell Marsh Eaton, Castle Acre, Cley, East Tuddenham, East Wretham, Flitcham, Holkham, Lopham/Redgrave Fen, Mannington, Scolt Head (8 males), Snettisham (7 prs), Thetford, Wells and West Acre. Results from the BTO BBS showed that 24% of the 51 squares covered were occupied compared with 17% nationally. Small autumn passage at coastal sites including total of 140 south over Hunstanton between Sept 23rd and Nov 13th. In second-winter period only concentration 31 at Brancaster Dec.

Corn Bunting

Miliaria calandra

Local and declining resident.

Largest concentrations in first-winter period: 114 Black Horse Drove, Hilgay; 50 Brancaster; 120 Choseley; 49 Clenchwarton and 127 Ten Mile Bank. With ones/twos at a further 12 sites. Light spring passage at Holme where total of 10 moving west in April/May. during breeding season most impressive numbers at Choseley/Brancaster/Titchwell 12 prs, Docking 3, Hemsby 3, Risby 3, Sheringham 7 and Welney 5. Elsewhere 1/2 prs or singing males at Aylmerton, Beechamwell, Burnham Market, Cowle's Drove, Hockwold, Feltwell, Fring, Halvergate, Langham, North Wootton, Overy Staithe, Wroxham, Snettisham, Stanhoe, Stowbridge, Tilney St. Lawrence, East Tuddenham, Wells, Wretham, West Somerton and Winterton. Results from the BTO BBS shows that 12% of squares were occupied compared with 8% nationally. In the autumn single migrants at Hunstanton, Waxham and Wells (where 1 arrived off the sea Oct 29th). Fewer records in second-winter period; maxima Brancaster 23, Lynn Point 94, Ringstead 24 and Stiffkey 30.

Ringling Report

Allan Hale

During 1995 no less than 41,144 birds of 144 species were ringed in Norfolk. Both of these numbers are in excess of any previously recorded for the county. As usual, thanks are extended to all Norfolk ringers for submitting the data from which this report was compiled. Particular thanks to Steve and Alison Wakeham for supplying Wash Wader Ringing Group recoveries and their interpretation.

For full details of the codes used, readers are requested to consult the 1994 Ringing Report where a full explanation can be found.

NORFOLK RECOVERIES NOTIFIED DURING 1995

Fulmar

There were three movements of nestlings from the Fife region of Scotland to Hunstanton. The one chosen for full analysis was notable for its age.

I	13.08.75	Inchkeith, Fife, Scotland	
R	05.08.95	Hunstanton	414 km SE

Bewick's Sawn

Seven birds fitted with numbered neck collars were sighted in Norfolk. Such a marking method enables individuals to be identified at considerable distance, building up life histories not otherwise possible. The remarkable example shown below illustrates what can be learned.

27.08.92	Ringed at Zeleni Island, Korovinskaia, Russia
09.09.92	Kos Nos, Gulf of Korovinskaia, Russia
08.11.92	Uithuizerpolder, Uithuizen, Groningen, The Netherlands
13.11.92	Polder Verenigeng, Grijpskerk, Pieterzijl, The Netherlands
21.11.92	Hoekje, The Netherlands
21.11.92	Polder Verenigeng, Grijpskerk, Pieterzijl, The Netherlands
25.11.92	Kollumerwaard, Lauwersmeer, The Netherlands
16.12.92	Westerneerweg, Noordoostpolder, The Netherlands
17.01.93	Sea Salter, Isle of Sheppey, Kent
06.04.93	Lihula Matsalu Bay, Estonia
07.04.93	Tuudi, Laanemaa, Province, Estonia
08.04.93	Kaansoo, Vandra, Parnu Province, Estonia
04.11.93	Welney, Norfolk
10.03.94	Hof Hagen, Kreis Lubnitz, Germany
20.11.94	Welney, Norfolk
25.11.94	Earith, Cambridgeshire
11.12.94	West Somerton, Great Yarmouth
18.02.95	St. Benet's Abbey, Ludham, Norwich

Pink-footed Goose

It would appear that Pink-feet often stop over at Loch Leven on their way to and from Norfolk. Two other marked birds behaved similarly.

4	12.10.94	Loch Leven, Tayside, Scotland	
RR	02.02.95	Winterton, Great Yarmouth	490 km SSE
RR	07.10.95	Loch Leven, Tayside, Scotland	

Gadwall

A normal Gadwall movement, although the last from Norfolk to France was seven years ago.

5M	24.02.94	Pensthorpe, Fakenham	
+	09.01.95	Andres, Pas de Calais, France	228 km SE

Tufted Duck

The longest movement of the year is shown in full. There was another from Pensthorpe to Komi, and one from Pensthorpe to Tayside, Scotland.

3M	02.11.92	Pensthorpe, Fakenham	
+	15.05.95	Lasta Village, Izhemskiy, Komi, Russia	3,296 km NE

Sparrowhawk

Only the second international movement concerning Norfolk since the population crash of the 1950s. The first was from Helgoland Island off the north German coast, and so probably also originated from Scandinavia.

3F	19.10.94	Weybourne, Sheringham	
X	15.07.95	Brodderslev, Jylland, Denmark	740 km NW

Kestrel

Two movements of Norfolk nestlings, both significantly westward.

1	18.06.94	Ickburgh, Mundford	
X	14.05.95	Alcester, Warwickshire	181 km W

1	02.07.95	Barton Turf	
X	26.11.95	Pont-rug, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, Wales	385 km W

Oystercatcher

Only the eighth recovery of a Norfolk Oystercatcher in Sweden. This one was particularly unusual in that the remains were found in a Peregrine's nest, a rare breeding in Sweden, hence the confidentiality.

Additionally a Shetland-bred bird was found wintering on The Wash, and a new longevity record of over 27 years was set (the national record is over 31 years).

8	02.02.75	Heacham, Hunstanton	
R	26.02.83	Heacham, Hunstanton	
XF	05.06.94	Site Confidential, Goteburg och Bohus, Sweden	897 km NE

Woodcock

The last Woodcock movement to appear in this report was as long ago as 1978. British-bred birds are largely sedentary, but this was almost certainly one of the autumn immigrants from the north-east.

4F	30.10.92	Weybourne, Sheringham	
+	03.12.94	Abbey Wood, Lilleshall, Shropshire	236 km W

Knot

It is known that the majority of Knot occurring on The Wash breed in Greenland and north-east Canada, while a few birds from the Siberian population also occur. The main influx takes place in August when they arrive to moult. After moult some birds remain to winter, others disperse to other estuaries around Britain and western European coasts. Not many Knot occur on estuaries away from the North Sea/Atlantic coasts and this is only

the sixth British-ringed Knot to be controlled in Poland (the fourth from The Wash). We cannot be sure of the origin of these birds.

3	27.10.84	Wolferton, King's Lynn	
R	11.08.93	Rewa, Kosakowo, Gdansk, Poland	1,205 km E

Sanderling

The third Wash bird to be recovered in Senegal, dead after having been entangled in fishing nets. Sanderling occurring on The Wash are thought to come from both Siberian and Greenland populations, both arriving around the same time each autumn. It is thought that the Siberian population winters on The Wash, whilst birds from Greenland continue south to African wintering grounds.

4	03.08.80	Heacham, Hunstanton	
XF	??.02.94	Palmarin, Senegal	4,584 km SSW

Dunlin

This is the southernmost ringed Dunlin to be controlled in Britain, ringed by a Portuguese group who were operating in Guinea Bissau during the 1992/93 winter.

5	27.02.93	Ilha Das Areias, Guinea Bissau	
R	23.07.94	Terrington Bund, King's Lynn	4,785 km NNE

Bar-tailed Godwit

The tenth Wash bird to Russia. Shot on the shores of the White Sea, this bird would have been on passage to more eastern breeding grounds.

4M	02.08.81	Terrington, King's Lynn	
+F	07.05.95	Kushereka, Kargaposkiy, Arkhangelsk, Russia	2,456 km ENE

Curlew

A local bird found 22 years 7 months after being ringed set a new Wash longevity record for the species. The national record is only 14 months longer.

Redshank

The only overseas movement concerning a Norfolk Redshank during the year.

3	27.08.88	Terrington, King's Lynn	
+F	18.10.93	La Teste, Gironde, France	914 km S

Black-headed Gull

Curiously, the first recovery shown had the finding date "plus or minus three years"! It was the longest movement of the year. There were other birds from Sweden (caught by hand!), Denmark and The Netherlands (2).

The second shown, although not surprising, is an interesting multiple movement.

6	03.01.79	Sheringham	
+	01.07.91	Taby, Hagby, Stockholm, Sweden	1,265 km NE
5	28.02.93	Rekkem, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium	
RR	24.12.93 until 25.02.94	The Mere Diss	226 km NW
X	26.12.94	Queen Mother Reservoir, Horton, Berkshire	269 km WNW

Sandwich Tern

The first Dutch colour-ringed bird to be seen in the UK, in spite of marking 3,000 nestlings a year in the Isle of Griend alone.

1	25.06.95	Isle of Griend, Wadden Sea, The Netherlands	
RR	11.07.95	Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth	189 km WSW

Common Tern

The brace of movements shown illustrate the timing, the route taken and the final winter destination.

Additionally, no less than four Breydon nestlings were caught again at Teesmouth prior to their first migration southwards (extreme dates at Teesmouth 20th August and 3rd September).

3	13.07.95	Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth	
R	25.10.95	Tarfaya, Morocco	2,996 km SSW

3	27.06.92	Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth	
R	20.01.94	Tagrin, Sierra Leone	5,082 km SSW

Barn Owl

The longest movement of the year is shown.

1	07.07.94	Gooderstone, Swaffham	
X	11.01.95	Kilnsea, Humberside	119 km NNW

Woodlark

There is still much to learn regarding the winter quarters of the Breckland Woodlark. Those shown represent all three movements out of the county, and although all remarkably similar, we should not read too much into this since there was also a movement from North Suffolk south-westward to Hampshire.

3M	26.06.94	Near Santon Downham, Thetford	
RR	08.03.95	Laughton Forest, Lincolnshire	149 km NW

7F	18.05.92	Near Santon Downham, Thetford	
RR	07.04.95	Clipstone Forest, Lincolnshire	142 km NW

3M	24.04.94	Croxton Heath, Mundford	
RR	01.05.95	Scotton Common, Lincolnshire	153 km NW

Swallow

Sadly this bird was trapped for food at a huge, but hitherto unknown, roost. It represents the first record of a Norfolk Swallow from Nigeria.

4	26.08.94	Holme-next-the-Sea, Hunstanton	
+F	06.04.95	Boje Ebok, Cross River State, Nigeria	5,243 km S

Blackbird

The first shows a particularly southerly route for a returning Blackbird to take to its breeding area (unless of course it had migrated further south during the course of the winter). The second is the most distant for the year.

There were also two birds to Northern Germany and another to Sweden.

3F	02.01.94	Weybourne, Sheringham	
X	05.05.95	Steinhagen, Detmold, Germany	504 km ESE

4F	19.11.93	Holme Dunes, Hunstanton	
XF	20.02.95	Svedala, Malmöhus, Sweden	868 km ENE

Reed Warbler

The fifth movement between Norfolk and Djoudj. This was, however, the first in this direction, as well as being the first multiple recovery.

4	18.04.93	Parc National du Djoudj, Senegal	
R	04.06.93	Lopham Fen, Diss	
R	22.07.95	Lopham Fen, Diss	4,279 km NNE

Blackcap

Recoveries of British Blackcaps in north-west Africa are regular, with Algeria and especially Morocco being favoured.

The fourth shows the movement of one of the increasing number of wintering birds in north-west Europe. These are now generally recognised as originating from Central Europe.

Two other Blackcaps ringed in Norfolk were found in south-western Spain completing a series of fine movements.

3	11.08.91	Boughton Fen, Stoke Ferry	
+	18.02.95	Azazga, Tizi Ouzou, Algeria	1,786 km SSE
3J	03.07.94	Garboldisham, Diss	
V	20.04.95	Al Hoceima, Morocco	1,944 km S
4F	30.04.94	Didlington, Mundford	
R	23.02.95	Taouante, Morocco	2,040 km SSW
3M	16.11.94	Sheringham	
X	28.01.95	Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands	223 km ESE

Brambling

A trio of perfectly normal movements. Particularly interesting that the third shown was so far away from its ringing site almost exactly a year later.

3F	22.10.92	Weybourne, Sheringham	
R	23.04.93	Store Rensvikvann, More Og Romsdalsdal, Norway	1,194 km NNE
3F	10.10.94	Slevdalsvatnet, Norway	
R	02.02.95	Hilborough, Swaffham	720 km SSW
5M	11.03.94	Austad, Norway	
R	12.03.95	Hilborough, Swaffham	741 km SSW

Greenfinch

A continuation of the dramatic increase of Norfolk/Norwegian interchanges. Prior to 1989 there had been only one, but these are the sixth to eleventh since. Note also the elapsed time of only 12 days between the two trappings of the first shown.

Movements of British Greenfinches to France are less unusual, yet this is the first concerning Norfolk since 1960 (there have been several to Belgium however).

There was also a movement (yet again from that fortunate ringer in Scratby!) to Denmark.

6M	08.04.95	Sheringham	
R	20.04.95	Ronekilen, Vest-Agder, Norway	688 km NE

3M	26.11.93	Kurefjorden, Ostfold, Norway	
R	09.12.94	Weybourne, Sheringham	987 km SW
5M	18.01.95	Scratby, Great Yarmouth	
R	21.04.95	Ronekilen, Mandal, Vest-Agder, Norway	697 km NNE
3F	12.03.94	Scratby, Great Yarmouth	
R	14.10.94	Sanum, Mandal, Vest-Agder, Norway	695 km NNE
3F	18.10.94	Scratby, Great Yarmouth	
R	15.04.95	Blikshavn, Karmoy, Rogaland, Norway	760 km NNE
3F	14.11.93	Froyland, Sokndal, Rogaland, Norway	
R	12.03.94	Scratby, Great Yarmouth	694 km SSW
3F	24.04.93	Banningham, North Walsham	
X	05.03.95	Provin, Nord, France	279 km SSE

Siskin

Ringling results have shown us that Siskins which wintered in East Anglia during recent years came mainly from populations in Scotland and in Europe from Benelux through to Scandinavia. This year's foreign movements came from Belgium (8), The Netherlands (4), Finland (2), Germany, Denmark and Spain. Regrettably, space only permits limited movements to be shown in full.

Siskins on the Balearic Islands are extremely rare; this bird was kept in captivity for three days for verification before releasing alive.

Only a very few BTO ringed Siskins go further north-east than the second shown (although the other movement to Finland involved a displacement of 1,426 km).

6F	27.02.94	Garboldisham, Diss	
V	24.11.94	Alora, Mallorca, Spain	1,416 km S
6M	14.03.95	Garboldisham, Diss	
R	17.05.95	Karkkila, Uusimaa, Finland	1,686 km ENE

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Norfolk Ringing Totals – 1995

Little Grebe	4	Herring Gull	2	Reed Warbler	878
Fulmar	21	Kittiwake	1	Great Reed Warbler	1
Grey Heron	14	Common Tern	204	Barred Warbler	6
Mute Swan	16	Little Tern	312	Subalpine Warbler	1
Greylag Goose	24	Little Auk	1	Lesser Whitethroat	262
Canada Goose	1	Stock Dove	30	Whitethroat	1179
Egyptian Goose	1	Woodpigeon	53	Garden Warbler	392
Shelduck	1	Collared Dove	74	Blackcap	1268
Wigeon	44	Turtle Dove	4	Yellow-browed Warbler	3
Gadwall	48	Cuckoo	3	Wood Warbler	2
Teal	62	Barn Owl	27	Chiffchaff	786
Mallard	11	Tawny Owl	3	Willow Warbler	1423
Pintail	6	Nightjar	1	Goldcrest	696
Shoveler	7	Swift	354	Firecrest	8
Pocharl	40	Kingfisher	44	Spotted Flycatcher	103
Tufted Duck	282	Wryneck	1	Pied Flycatcher	57
Goldeneye	1	Green Woodpecker	31	Long-tailed Tit	1235
Marsh Harrier	27	Great Sp. Woodpecker	37	Marsh Tit	139
Sparrowhawk	32	Lesser Sp. Woodpecker	1	Willow Tit	94
Kestrel	39	Woodlark	79	Coal Tit	161
Grey Partridge	130	Skylark	23	Blue Tit	3615
Water Rail	3	SandMartin	563	Great Tit	2025
Moorhen	39	Swallow	552	Nuthatch	14
Coot	15	House Martin	86	Treecreeper	138
Oystercatcher	372	Tree Pipit	7	Jay	42
Little Ringed Plover	2	Meadow Pipit	145	Carrion Crow	1
Ringed Plover	76	Water Pipit	1	Magpie	12
Grey Plover	157	Yellow Wagtail	10	Jackdaw	12
Lapwing	38	Grey Wagtail	3	Rook	7
Knot	275	Pied Wagtail	223	Starling	309
Sanderling	86	Wren	1293	House Sparrow	284
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1	Duncock	1236	Tree Sparrow	94
Curlew Sandpiper	1	Robin	1227	Chaffinch	2475
Dunlin	1088	Nightingale	13	Brambling	247
Ruff	4	Black Redstart	2	Greenfinch	4625
Jack Snipe	4	Redstart	355	Goldfinch	427
Snipe	31	Whinchat	12	Siskin	3112
Woodcock	4	Stonechat	11	Linnet	313
Black-tailed Godwit	15	Wheatear	30	Twite	3
Bar-tailed Godwit	23	Ring Ouzel	3	Redpoll	49
Curlew	20	Blackbird	1657	Scarlet Rosefinch	2
Redshank	59	Fieldfare	21	Bullfinch	292
Greenshank	1	Song Thrush	343	Snow Bunting	253
Green Sandpiper	9	Redwing	62	Yellowhammer	435
Wood Sandpiper	1	Mistle Thrush	55	Reed Bunting	250
Common Sandpiper	9	Cetti's Warbler	1	Corn Bunting	11
Turnstone	50	Grasshopper Warbler	24		
Black-headed Gull	114	Sedge Warbler	864	Total ringed	41,144
Common Gull	10	Marsh Warbler	1		

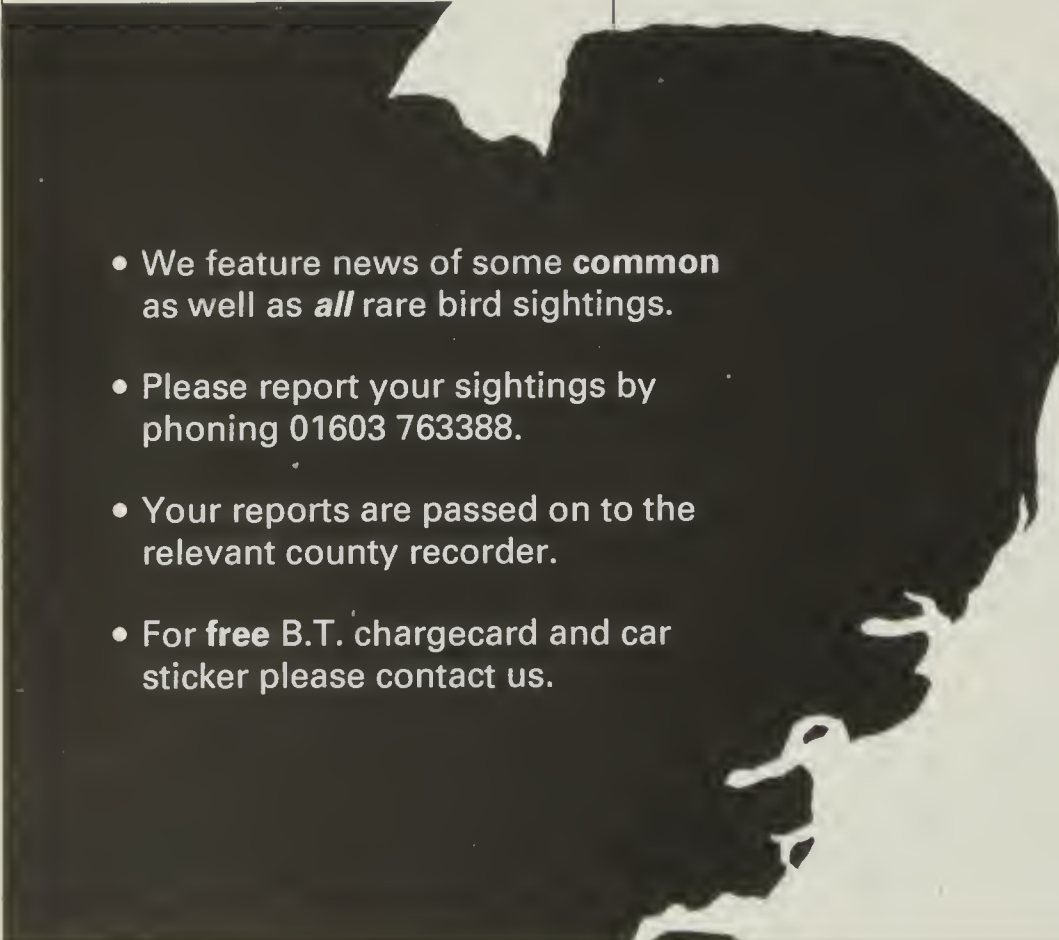
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NORFOLK MAMMAL REPORT – 1995

Editorial

Rex Hancy has edited the Mammal Report for 19 years. I am sure everyone that has read and contributed to the mammal report over the years will wish to pass on good wishes and thanks to Rex for his huge contribution. I was made aware of what a remarkable achievement Rex's has been, when he handed me a blue folder crammed with the records for 1995. These comprised a wide variety of hand written, and typed, short notes as well as lengthy detailed observations and series of records. How he (with Eddy Boosey in the latter years) has managed to compile such diverse material into a meaningful, readable framework in his own inimitable style I am not quite sure.

However, I know that I could not, or would wish to, emulate Rex and so changes in the format of the report are inevitable, although with the basic premise that the highest quality is maintained. I sincerely hope that I can gain support for new ideas and can continue to involve anybody in the Norfolk area with an interest in mammals. This editorial allows me to explain my vision of the future.

In keeping with my training and profession I see the report as an invaluable opportunity to contribute to scientific knowledge and as Bill Flynn mentioned in 1993 *Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report*, 'one of the most important reasons for the production of an annual report is that it provides an historical record for posterity'. For this to be achieved, we have to monitor the status of the populations of our mammals, wherever possible. In turn, this requires a structured and scientifically rigorous way of sampling. Detailed observations and distributional records may then help us to understand any observed changes as well as being of interest in their own right.

There are clearly methodological problems in surveying different species of mammal, which is largely a function of size and habits. For example, it is often easier to record large rather than small mammals. Animals that leave conspicuous sign are always easier to survey than those that don't. So, I propose that the format of recording mammals should be slightly different for different species. To explain further:

Large mammals may be relatively conspicuous, particularly to those who are willing to invest some time into their study. For example, the excellent records that are kept on deer by Ian and Francis Simper in the south-west of the county and Pam and George Taylor in Broadland (see the Chinese water deer feature). Seals may also be counted relatively reliably at breeding sites (Percy Trett, Jo Reed). Useful information could also be generated on the cetaceans utilising inshore waters particularly by bird watchers with telescopes trained on the sea and by strandings (see cetacean feature below). Other largely nocturnal medium-sized mammals such as badger and otter may be covered by recording sign. In the case of these two species by Tony Vine and the Norfolk Wildlife Trust respectively.

Mammals usually readily visible such as rabbit and hare or recorded by sign such as fox (droppings and smell) are typically under-recorded. It is my intention in the future to organise more large-scale counts mobilising people on particular dates to cover such species properly. In addition, more records on species such as weasel and stoat will be provided by the proposed 'flattened fauna' survey (see below).

So, in short, for large and medium sized mammals the same format of people submitting records is adequate to give an impression of population change, distribution, etc. It is my intention to produce distribution maps for all large and medium-sized mammals using information over the last few years, in a future report. This not only relies on more, but also rigorous records. Grid references and the numbers of animals

seen/recorded, what they were doing and the habitat they were in, should be given.

In contrast to the larger mammals, the records on small mammals are generally woefully inadequate, telling us hardly anything. The exception is for bats, which aggregate in roosts making them relatively easy to census. Norfolk has a particularly active bat group and John Goldsmith's detailed contribution is most valuable. Although I will still gladly receive records of rodents and shrews, particularly of unusual sightings and behaviour and particularly in relation to road (see below), cat and owl kills, I am proposing to undertake a series of detailed surveys using live-trapping to cover these groups more effectively. A good example of the scale of the work required to give sound information on population size, density habitat use, etc, is provided in the small mammals in reed-beds feature (see below).

I would like to trap standard grids of 100 ground and 100 aerial traps once annually, in autumn, in a variety of habitats including reed-beds, woodland, permanent grassland and arable land. This will require some funding in order to cover travel and bait expenses and consumables. Perhaps a 'sponsor a trap' scheme, whereby sponsors receive all the information on the mammals from the various sites using their trap, would meet with favour? I will hopefully be launching a scheme through the Society in the near future.

In order to meet the objectives of providing a scientific basis to mammal recording in the county, even more involvement from those already contributing to the report is required. It also needs the involvement of a wider variety of people, who deep down, know they would like to contribute, but just haven't got round to it!

To conclude, if you're interested in mammals and would like to contribute your records of sightings, sign, unusual behaviour, etc, then send them to me: Dr. Martin Perrow, ECON, School of Biological Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ. Tel: 01603 592189, Fax: 01603 592250, e-mail m.perrow@uea.ac.uk. Don't forget to include your name and contact address. I look forward to hearing from you.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Adrian Jowitt for contributing articles to the report. Adrian also harassed people into supplying records. Luis Zambrano Gonzalez assisted in the preparation of the classified list. David Mason kindly provided the photographs and Kim Dyble the artwork.

The 'Flattened Fauna' Survey

Dr. Martin R. Perrow

ECON, Ecological Consultancy, Biological Sciences, UEA

Like it or not roads are an integral part of the English countryside and many mobile species will encounter them frequently, leading to injury and death. For some, such as urban foxes, being hit by a motor vehicle is the most likely cause of mortality (Harris & Lloyd 1991) and it seems that the numbers of mammals killed on the road may be considerably higher than expected (Fehlberg 1994). In addition, roads have a wider-ranging effect, by acting as a barrier to the dispersal of less mobile species and leading to isolation of populations. For birds, traffic noise has been shown to have an adverse effect on breeding density (Reijnen *et al.* 1995). An excellent review of the effects of roads on wildlife is provided by Slater (1994).

However, there are some beneficial spin-offs of roads, in that the habitats alongside them may be important for a diverse array of fauna and flora in the agricultural landscape. There has been some debate as to whether animals should be 'encouraged' to utilise such potentially dangerous habitat through the conservation management of these habitats (British Wildlife 1994: M. Toms 5(6), pp.407; M.R. Perrow, 6(1), pp.66).

The death of mammals on the road is regrettable, but it is a good opportunity to confirm the presence of a particular species in an area (see Chinese water-deer feature) and for some, particularly nocturnal, species it is the time we most often see them. Road casualties have been exploited by some Norfolk recorders in the past, but we clearly are not on the same scale as the Americans who produce guides on identifying road casualties or what they affectionately term 'flattened fauna' (Knutson 1987).

With information on the size of the road, the speed limit and the habitats surrounding the road we can start to assess on what sort of roads mammals get killed. For example, Romin & Bissonette (1996) studying white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) in north-eastern Utah showed that deer were more vulnerable on roads with higher speed limits and where dense vegetation occurred alongside the highway.

In Norfolk if we discover such effects, there may be a management solution to acute problems such as changing the nature of roadside verges. In addition, gathering information throughout the year will determine when some species are most vulnerable. With some recorders surveying known lengths of road, we can also assess the density of road kills for particular road types. With a good set of samples, we then may be able to extrapolate how many mammals get killed in the county. By comparing this with the potential population size, gleaned from Harris *et al.* (1995), we may even be able to get an impression of what proportion of the population of some species dies on the road. If the information collected proves to be of sufficient quality, we may be able to publish the findings in a scientific or more popular journal.

For further information and recording forms contact Dr. Martin Perrow at the address given at the end of the editorial.

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Small Mammals in Reed-beds

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ECON has been monitoring the small mammals in reed-beds at Hundred Acre Marsh at Hickling NNR since 1990. The original aim of the study was to investigate the impact of conservation management through cutting and burning, upon small mammal populations. This followed the original work of Cowie *et al.* (1992) and Dithogo *et al.* (1992) at the site upon plants and invertebrates respectively. Preliminary analysis of the results of live-trapping suggest that although having an influence in the short-term, the regrowth of the vegetation within a few months led to animals recolonising treated areas. For harvest mice the effect may persist into the subsequent winter (Perrow & Jowitt 1995), but as with the other animals there is no evidence to suggest that the impact of management can be detected several years later (Warren & Perrow 1996).

With fifteen trapping sessions and several years' data from the site, we can now begin to get an impression of the annual population fluctuations of the species concerned. The study therefore serves as a model for what may be achieved in other habitats, albeit on a larger scale. For example, the grid at Hickling is 150m by 120m and has 180 trap points 10m apart. Two traps per point, one on the ground and one aerial, gives a total of 360 traps. Trapping is generally conducted over four days and all mammals are identified and individually marked before being released.

Since the study began a total of ten species of mammal have been recorded. These include common shrew, pygmy shrew, water shrew, bank vole, field vole, water vole, wood mouse, harvest mouse, common rat and weasel. Of these, weasel (3 captures) water vole (1 capture) and common rat (1 capture) are accidental, generally being too large to be sampled effectively. Other non-target species include several toads (*Bufo bufo*) and a male reed bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*).

The number of animals at the site generally increases over the summer to a peak in October and November (Fig. 1). Much of this is due to an increase in harvest mice, in turn caused by the recruitment of juveniles into the population. Sampling in autumn therefore gives a good idea of the maximum population size supported by the habitat. Although only five years' data is as yet available, the minimum number alive (MNA) of each species reveals some interesting patterns (Figs. 2–4).

Shrews generally exhibit fairly stable populations (Fig. 2). Common shrew is by far the most abundant of the three species and apart from 1991, the site typically supports 40–50 individuals of this territorial species. Pygmy shrew and water shrew are far less common, with a maximum of 13 and 18 animals respectively. This belies the fact that for water shrew at least, reed-beds are very important habitats (Perrow & Jowitt 1993).

Both vole species and wood mouse appear to be in decline at the site (Fig. 3). Although wood mouse and bank vole are virtually ubiquitous in their distribution, they both reach peak density in woodlands. Field vole is most abundant in meadows and rank grasslands. Reed therefore cannot be considered to be optimal habitat for these species and the populations present may represent overspill from nearby, more suitable habitat.

The limiting factor for these species in reed-beds may be water level. For example, bank vole is known to show a negative relationship with the wetness of a site (Jowitt & Perrow 1994). So, perhaps the decrease of these animals at the site coincides with a general increase in water level? Although this is the opposite to what may be expected from several years with little rain and a lack of management at the site (litter accumulation tends to cause the bed to dry out), it must be remembered that new water controls at the reserve have helped to maintain water levels over the spring and summer months.



Further 1995 highlights: Top: Siberian Stonechat, Cley, October (*D. Nye*). Centre: Red-breasted Flycatcher, Yarmouth, September (*B.W. Jarvis*). Bottom left: Woodchat Shrike, Gt Cressingham, July (*N. Clayton*) and Ortolan Bunting, Mundesley, September (*A. Tate*).



Many of the records submitted for stoats involve conflict with rabbits. Rabbits may prove to be among the commonest victims of road traffic as well as stoats (*D. Mason*).





o b
tjac (upper) appear to be expanding their range in the county. Will they take over from roe deer
er) as Norfolk's best distributed deer species? (*D. Mason*).





Norfolk may be something of a stronghold for the nation's hares (*D. Mason*).



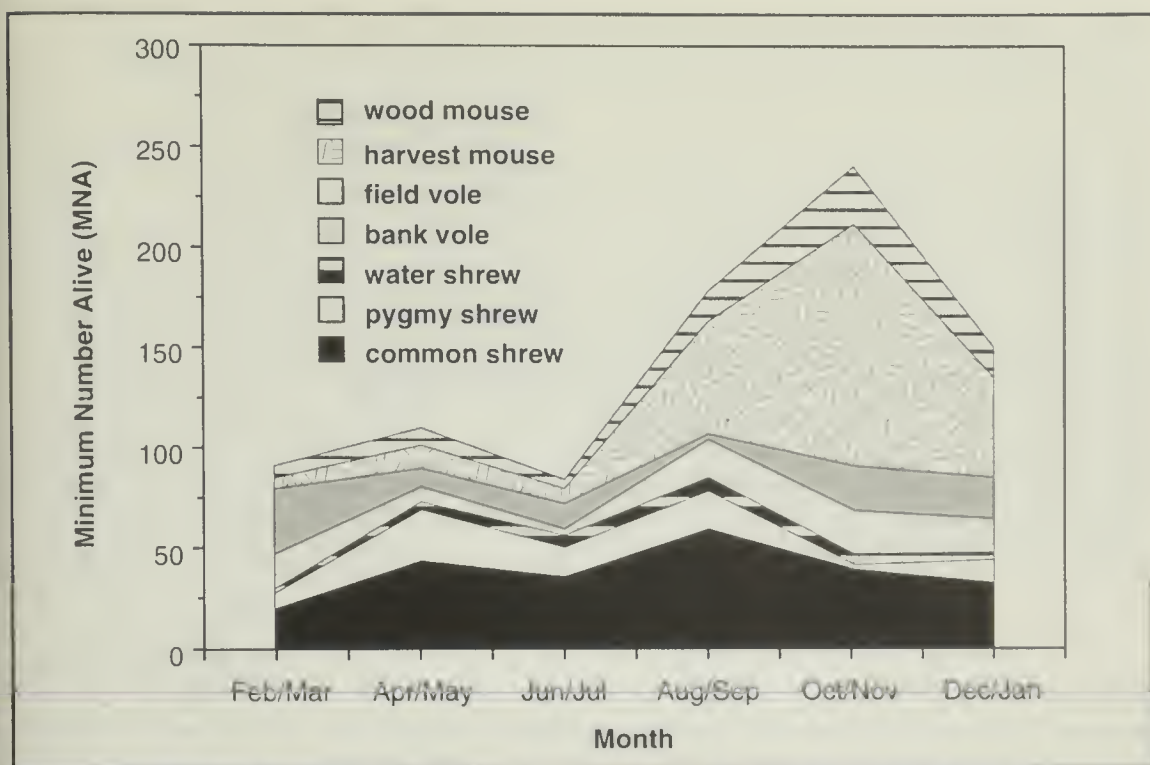


Figure 1. Seasonal patterns of abundance of the different species of small mammal recorded at Hundred Acre Marsh, Hickling. The mean minimum number alive (MNA) in each pair of months from 1990–1994 is shown.

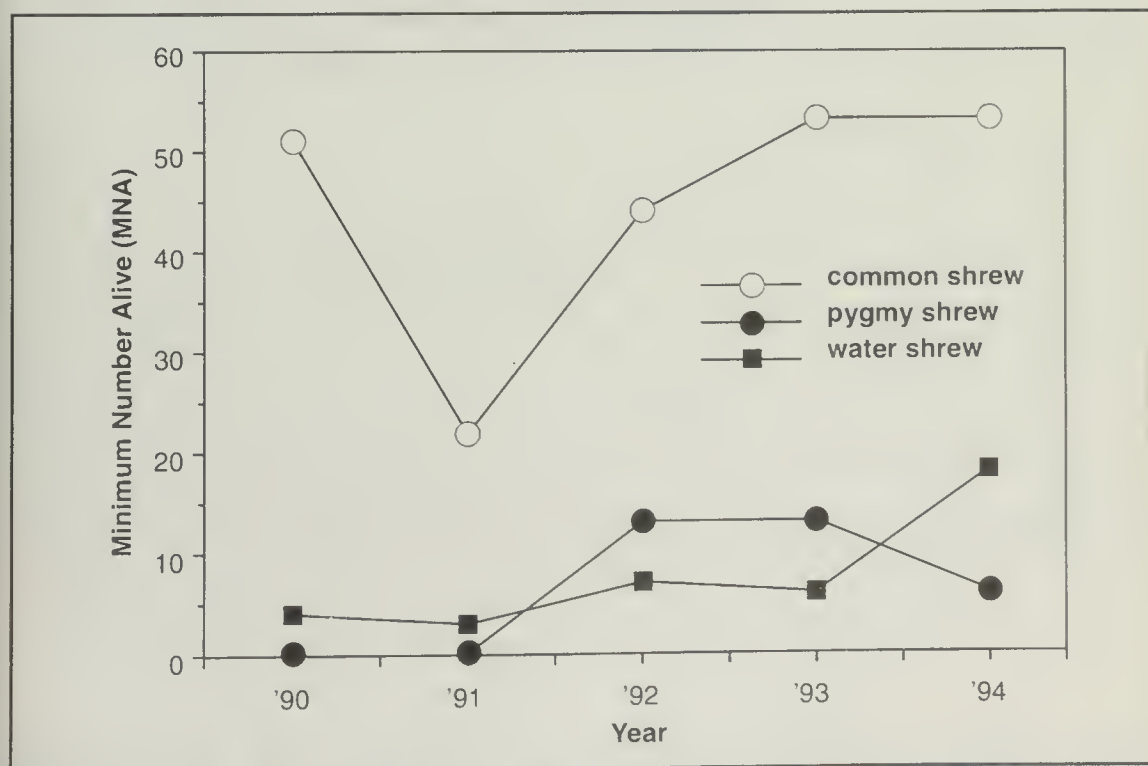


Figure 2. Annual changes in the abundance of the three species of shrew recorded on the study site from 1990–1994. The minimum number alive (MNA) in autumn is shown

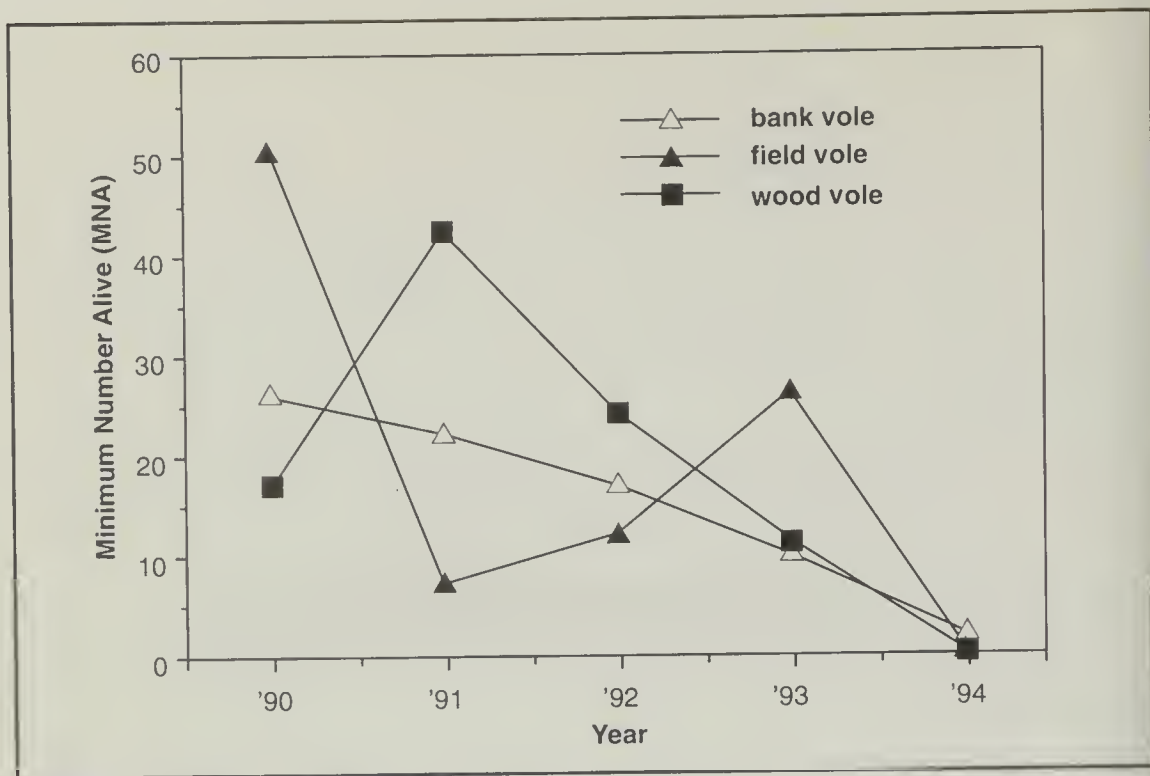


Figure 3. Annual changes in the abundance of voles and wood mouse recorded on the study site from 1990–1994. The minimum number alive (MNA) in autumn is shown.

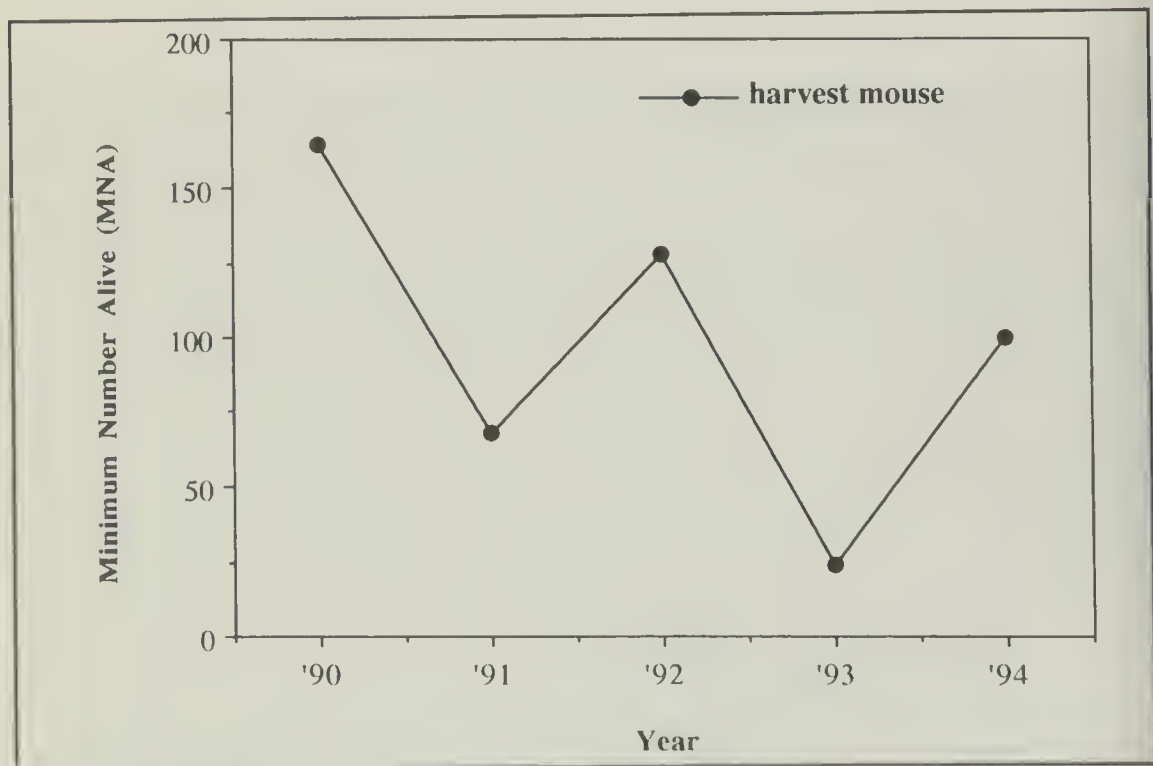


Figure 4. Annual changes in the abundance of harvest mice recorded on the study site from 1990–1994. The minimum number alive (MNA) in autumn is shown.

An increase in water level would not be expected to affect harvest mice. After all, the species is geared to an aerial existence and may be caught over water (pers obs). Therefore the annual fluctuation in harvest mouse populations bears little resemblance to that of the other rodents (Fig. 4). Rather, although more data is needed, there is some evidence that the population at Hundred Acre is cycling. The 'boom and bust' seasonal dynamics, with high mortality over the winter months, and the potential for large differences in population size between years are well known (Trout 1978). However, whether or not the species exhibits population cycles is still unclear (Harris 1979). We may therefore be on the verge of an exciting discovery.

The study at Hickling shows the value of monitoring populations over the long term. For example, something of fundamental relevance to the population biology of a species may become apparent. In addition, by monitoring the habitat variables at the site, the reasons for population change may become clear. This sort of information provides the scientific basis for all species conservation or habitat management plans. Hopefully, with support, similar studies can be initiated in a variety of habitats in the county and give us a true picture of the change in the populations and distribution of some of our smaller mammals.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the many people who have assisted in the field over the years including Tim Holzer, John Howes, Nic Peet, Maureen and Bill Perrow, Dave Showler and Mark Warren to name but a few.

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Water Voles and Mink

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Rob Strachan's national water vole survey in 1989–90, revealed that Norfolk had a fairly high population of water voles compared to other parts of the country. However, we should not be complacent, as water vole is under considerable threat nationally due to loss of habitat and predation by the feral American mink (Strachan & Jeffries 1993).

Although an interesting animal in its own right the mink, which became part of our fauna in around 1960 as a result of escapes from fur farms, does not have a 'happy' relationship with other British wildlife. The water vole is at particular risk as it is the optimal prey size for mink and because mink is also associated with aquatic habitats. There is now considerable evidence to suggest that the mink is having a major role in the decline of water vole numbers (Woodroffe *et al.* 1990a).

Although we are receiving more records of the mink in the county (see classified list), Norfolk does not apparently have a high population when compared to other parts of the country. One reason for the delayed colonisation of mink may be due to the efforts of the coypu trappers who killed over 2,000 mink whilst carrying out their eradication programme (R. Strachan pers comm.). However, mink is likely to increase in the county and consequently it is particularly important that we receive as many records as possible of both mink and water voles so we can get an idea of the nature of the interaction between the two.

Even if you consider the water vole to be common in your area please send in your records describing the habitat (stream or river, pond, etc) and type of bank (steep, shallow, vegetated or not). It's worth remembering to look out for signs of water voles because even if you don't see the animals themselves their latrines are easy to see. As stated by Woodroffe *et al.* (1990b) they consist of 'heaps of droppings deposited at the edge of the water, usually on mud flats or mud banks (or tree stumps at water level in the Broad – pers obs). The droppings are symmetrical and if broken into, show a concentric light green ring of digested vegetation'.

If you are particularly interested in getting involved in monitoring water voles it might be a good idea to contact the NWT (Tel: 01603 625540). The wildlife trusts have a network of otter surveying groups throughout the country and there is growing realisation, particularly at a national level, that these groups should also be involved in monitoring water voles.

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Status of the Otter in Norfolk

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Following its dramatic decline across much of its range in England and Wales from the 1950's the otter is making a comeback (Jeffries 1996). From its representation at only 6% of traditional sites in England in the late 1970s, an increase to 10% was noted in the mid-1980's and in the period 1991–1994 this had risen to 23% (Strachan & Jeffries 1996). The principal factors limiting otter populations – use of pesticides and detrimental management of rivers and riparian land leading to an overall loss of habitat – were prevalent throughout lowland Britain and the situation in Norfolk, a largely intensive agricultural landscape, is likely to have been no exception. With (a) the banning of some pesticides, (b) initiatives to improve river habitats for fish and other wildlife by the former National Rivers Authority (now Environment Agency EA) as well as some private bodies, and (c) the efforts of the Otter Trust; reports in the local press suggested that otter populations in Norfolk are increasing (M. Hickley EDP Jan 12 1996).

A review of the distribution of the otter (as revealed by spraint surveys) by Annie Masson the former otter co-ordinator at the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, commissioned by the EA, suggests this is indeed the case. Early surveys by West (1969–1972) and MacDonald & Mason (1974–1975), confirmed otters at 46 sites within the county, although the population was estimated to only be some 20–33% of the carrying capacity. By 1990, the numbers of sites with otters had dropped to only four, outlining that the species was on the verge of extinction in the county. At this stage, none was recorded in either the Waveney or Bure systems, illustrating a low population in the Broads. From this low point, the number of sites rose rapidly to 37 by 1995. It is clear that this improvement results from increases in the Wensum & Yare, Ouse and Bure systems. The North Norfolk rivers appear to have maintained a relatively stable population and the Waveney continues to be poor (Fig. 1).

There seems little doubt that much of the overall increase is due to the release of captive-bred otters by the Otter Trust in all the river systems outlined. However, looking in closer detail at the site of release relative to subsequent records it is apparent that otters may disperse quickly and into adjacent rivers, perhaps even crossing watersheds. For example, the current wealth of records on the upper Bure may originate from animals released on the Ant (downstream on the same system) or the Glaven (having crossed a watershed). Such movement suggests that the chosen release site may not always be of optimal habitat quality. The Glaven is a case in point. Although of high water quality and superficially of reasonable habitat quality, the Glaven has been modified by impoundment by mills, deposition of fine sediments and channelisation (widening, straightening and deepening) for flood defence purposes (Perrow *et al.* 1996). Such impacts typically reduce the habitat quality for fish, the otter's principal prey. Previous management has also reduced the number of mature trees such as sycamore and ash, whose root systems provide preferred holt and laying-up sites (Mason & Macdonald 1983). It is perhaps no surprise that the use of the Glaven by otter is restricted mainly to the coastal marshes.

Released animals are known to be breeding, adding to the increase. However, there have been a disturbing number of fatalities, 3 and 4 individuals were found dead in 1994 and 1995 respectively. Being hit by a car or drowning in an unprotected fyke net remain the most likely cause of death.

The co-ordinated surveys over the last few years have clearly been valuable in assessing population change and helping to determine the success of the conservation measures adopted. However, it is clear that more complete coverage integrating with information on river habitat quality and fish populations is desirable. This would enable a more targeted approach both to reintroduction and river improvement schemes, ensuring that the upward trend in the fortunes of the otter continues.

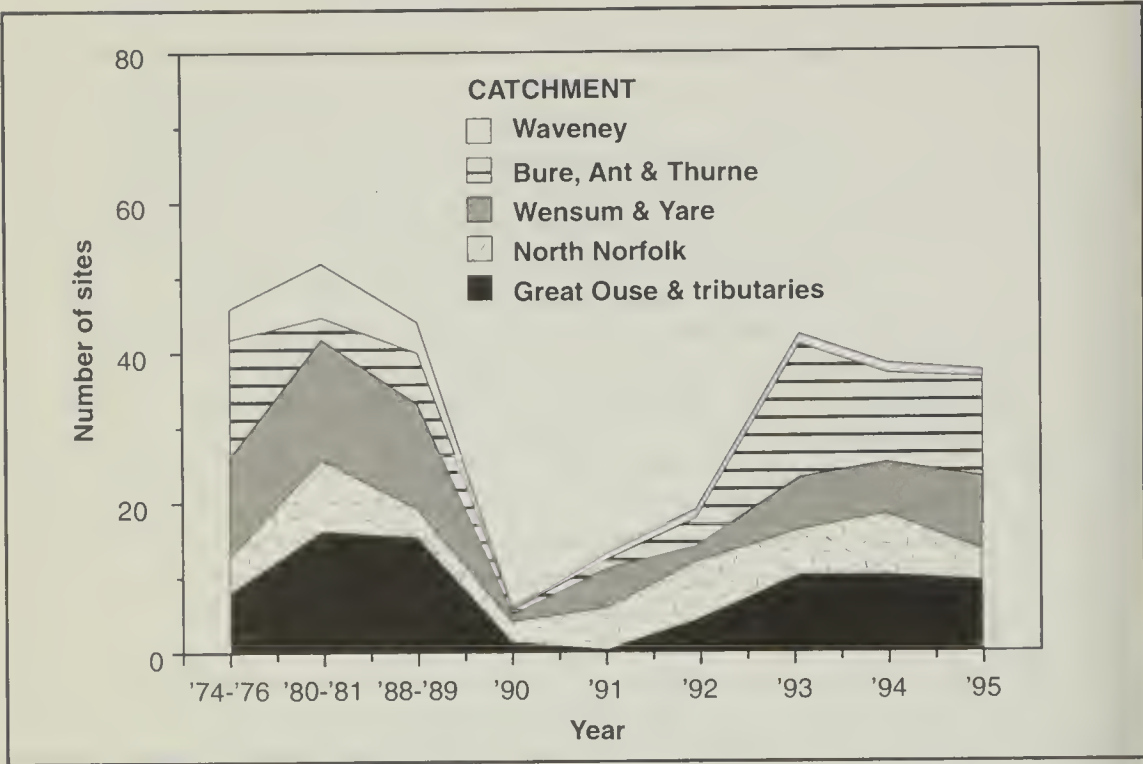


Figure 1. The number of sites in each river catchment from which otter was recorded in surveys over the period 1974–1995.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Dr. Charles Beardall of the Environment Agency for permission to access the information in the report prepared by Annie Masson, then of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

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Chinese Water-deer on the increase?

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The Chinese water-deer was first recorded in the wild in 1945 and is known to have established populations in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. It has also been recorded from Hampshire, Northants, Oxon, Yorkshire and Shropshire (Farrell & Cooke 1991). The national population has recently been estimated at 650 animals (Harris *et al.* 1995).

Chinese water-deer was first identified in Norfolk in 1968 when one was killed on the Stalham bypass (George 1992). Although the origin of the Norfolk population is unclear it seems likely that it originated from specimens kept near Horning in the 1950s. Numbers and range of the species has increased markedly since then, although still largely centred on the Broads. Although water-deer can be seen throughout the Broads some particularly good places to observe them are the RSPB Surlingham reserve, NWT's Hickling reserve and Wheatfen Broad Nature Reserve. Wheatfen is operating a recording scheme and so if you do see any there please add your records to the list in Thatch hide. The best time of day to see water-deer, as with all deer species, is in the early morning or late evening.

Despite the population apparently doing so well we only received records for 1995 from 13 sites. Some recorders, although commenting that they considered them common if not ubiquitous, did not provide site details. If we are to build up a better picture of the true distribution and status of Chinese water-deer in Norfolk we need better records, so please send notes on all sightings (see address at end of editorial). It would be good to know in what habitat you saw the deer. If it was in the open how far was it from the nearest cover? And if feeding could you see what on?

When identifying Chinese water-deer, care needs to be taken not to confuse them with muntjac, another introduced deer of similar size. Unlike Chinese water-deer, muntjac bucks have small antlers and both sexes hold their tails upright when alarmed showing the white underside. Chinese water-deer have large rounded ears, no antlers and only a small tail that is never held erect. The males have long upper canines that can be seen surprisingly easily. In addition, muntjac have very distinct facial markings and often seem hunched unlike the Chinese water-deer which has a straight back. Although muntjac are more normally associated with dry scrubby woodland habitats and Chinese water-deer with wetlands, it is likely that there will be some degree of overlap.

Unfortunately little is known about whether or not Chinese water-deer are having any impact on their wetland environment. In contrast, there is now some evidence that muntjac may be having a detrimental impact on the ecology of the areas in which it lives. At Monks Wood National Nature Reserve in Cambridgeshire there has been concern over damage caused to coppice regrowth (Cooke & Lakhani 1996) and indirectly to White Admiral butterfly (*Lagoda camilla*) by browsing on their egg laying sites – the lower leaves of the Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) (Pollard & Cooke 1994). Rick Southwood, warden at Bure Marshes NNR commented that although on odd occasions he had seen orchids and marsh helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*) with their tops nipped out, he feels that Chinese water-deer generally have very little impact. Indeed, it is possible that, through grazing and trampling, they are having a positive affect on vegetation structure. However, we clearly need to know one way or the other.

Investigating the effects of Chinese water-deer on vegetation may be done quite easily

by monitoring plants inside and outside of enclosures. It would also be essential to get some idea of the population density of the species at various sites in Norfolk and this could potentially be investigated by detailed observation. This approach is often in deer studies and at Thetford Forest where long-term studies on muntjac are being undertaken, this is aided by having some individuals in the population marked with collars. The best time of year for carrying out observations would be in November and December, during the rut, when the males defend territories and the vegetation is not as dense as earlier in the year. As is so often the case, it is relatively easy to come up with the ideas for this sort of project, finding the funding is quite a different matter.

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Classified List

The following contains all mammal species currently found in Norfolk as well as those that have been recorded in the county in recent years or may be recorded in the future; those that have recently become extinct and even those that have escaped from captivity and been at large even for a short period. As a benchmark of the status of any species that may be referred to in future reports, the abundance, distribution and habitat type of each species is summarised in bold italic. Notes on how the species may be distinguished from similar species, where applicable, and characteristic sign or behaviour are also provided in this section. A second section in plain type then follows, detailing the number of records (individuals or groups) received for 1995, along with additional details on selected aspects of ecology and behaviour of particular interest.

Hedgehog

Erinaceus europaeus

Very common in a variety of habitats, including gardens. Most often seen dead on the road after nocturnal forays. Presence may be given away at night when foraging by surprisingly noisy rustling and snuffling. Distinctive black shiny droppings containing beetle carapaces and pieces of other invertebrates also reveal presence.

77 records. The bulk of records were of road casualties or were welcome visitors to gardens. This included one individual noted in a garden on 34 evenings between Apr 18th and Oct 1st (JEG).

Earliest record of one dead on the road on Feb 8th (JEG), otherwise not seen alive until Mar 31st (DLC), Latest dates were Nov 20th (FPIR) and Dec 3rd (JEG) both small

individuals, and Dec 17th (IS/FS). All had been killed on the road. An adult and young were seen in a barn at Marsham (AC) and up to 4 were seen together in one garden in mid-summer (IW). The latter recorder noted that one hedgehog carried on feeding even though cats approached within two feet (IW).

Mole

Talpa europaea

Very common in all types of grassland and woodland. Rarely seen with presence confirmed by characteristic 'hills'. Occasional records above ground as young disperse in late summer when may be killed on roads and perhaps even fall victim to cats.

38 records. Tendency to become abundant in favoured locations leading to conflict with humans, illustrated by the trapping of 153 moles on the permanent pastures of one Huntingfield farm in one month in spring (MJS). Such victims may be seen displayed on fences in some parts of the county (MRP). Fresh molehills were recorded on 17 occasions throughout the year in one garden (PT).

The three species of shrew are relatively easy to separate from each other, particularly when recorders are familiar with common shrew. Brief notes designed to help identify Pygmy and Water shrew on the rare occasions they are encountered are given below.

Common shrew

Sorex araneus

Abundant in grassland, woodland and hedgerows of all types, perhaps >50/ha in favoured habitats. Generally seen only as an unmeted victim of domestic cats, or during late summer mortality of adults. Characteristic shrill calls of territory holders may be heard on any countryside walk.

35 records. Most records record to dead specimens found at all times of year (Apr to Aug) and not entirely restricted to late summer period. Seven recorded from 10 barn owl pellets (MAB).

Pygmy shrew

Sorex minutus

Typically far less common than common shrew, <10/ha in lowlands, (reverse is true in uplands). Favoured habitats appear to be non-wooded wetlands as well as grassland. When found dead, small size relatively uniform brown colour indistinctly fading into paler belly fur and long hairy tail thickened just after narrow base separates from common shrew.

5 records. One attempting to cross the A149 near Cley was assisted by one observer (KKH).

Water shrew

Neomys fodiens

Minor component of small mammal fauna, typically <5/ha. Although may be recorded in almost any habitat, most often along sides of streams and rivers, recent research suggests most abundant in open fens particularly reed-beds. Hence the Broads may be something of a national stronghold. Very rarely seen, but may be heard (lower pitched calls than common shrew) in suitable habitat. Large size and generally black and white pelage separate from other shrews when seen alive. When found dead, short fringe of stiff, pale hairs on hind feet and underside of tail diagnostic.

9 records. In 1994 ECON recorded water shrew in a variety of habitats at Bure Marshes, Hickling, How Hill and Strumpshaw. In 1995, records from the Broads included dead individuals at Sharp Street, Ludham Marshes and Cantley (PJH). Near rivers, one was seen live alongside the River Glaven during reed-cutting on Apr 14th (RM), whilst another was found dead in a lane near the Upper Bure at Corpusty (MAB).

Bats are invariably difficult to distinguish unless seen/in the hand at roost sites. Separation of several species may be achieved with bat detectors. However, some species have distinctive behaviour patterns and jizz which make virtually positive identification of a few possible in flight when seen at dusk.

Lesser Horseshoe Bat

Rhinolophus hipposideros

Extinct in Norfolk. Limited current distribution in south-west England and Wales suggests little chance of recolonising. However, Greater Horseshoe Bat with an even more limited range has recently been found as close as Leicestershire.

Whiskered Bat

Myotis mystacinus

Potentially widespread with wide habitat choice including woodland and open country, often near water. Roots in trees and buildings in summer and known to use bat boxes. Very rare in county, only recorded in very small numbers hibernating in caves in winter, although not for over a decade.

Brandt's Bat

Myotis brandtii

Separated from whiskered bat in 1972. Only possible in hand, with red-brown upper pelage and larger second premolars, less pointed ears with reduced less pointed tragus. Males also have club-shaped rather than thin parallel-sided penis. Perhaps more associated with woodland. Recorded in very small numbers from caves in winter.

1 record. The first since 1992 was provided by a single individual hibernating in the chalk caves within Stanford Training Area Mar 6th (JGG).

Natterer's Bat

Myotis nattereri

Typically an open woodland or parkland species. Recorded in reasonable numbers from cave hibernacula across the county. Recently recognised that old barns and similar buildings are important for breeding.

157 records. One hundred and fifty records of hibernating bats during Jan–March and Oct–Dec surveys (JGG). Breeding colonies reported from Stanford Training Area, Oxborough, Snetterton, Seething and Waxham Barn, with the latter site containing what is probably the largest colony in East Anglia (JGG). Over 100 individuals were present in the holes and fissures within the timbers of the building in the summer. Occupation was only possible after re-thatching demonstrating how sympathetic building preservation/restoration can benefit bats. Elsewhere, a young male found dead on the rim of a well in Binham May 1st with a much decayed specimen found later in year possibly the same species (IGJ). A further individual found roosting in Cley church (PB).

Daubenton's Bat

Myotis daubentonii

Generally common, frequently associated with water. Medium-sized bat with pale underside hawking over water, perhaps within a few centimetres is almost invariably this species. Importance of wetland habitat reinforced by a large colony (one of the top 5 known sites in the country) in the Broads. This may make Norfolk an important area nationally for this species. By far the most common bat in underground hibernacula throughout the county.

304 records. Over 300 records of hibernating individuals in some of the county's underground sites (JGG). In East Tuddenham ice house, up to 3/4 Dec 29th following cold weather. None recorded a couple of weeks earlier (Dec 10th) and only 1 present a few days later on Jan 1st (AB). The breeding colony in the Broads, formerly of about 200 had declined to around 80 females plus young in 1995. Only two other extant breeding sites are known in East Anglia, including one associated with a North Norfolk church.

The latter was severely disturbed by unsympathetic survey and building work in July which may result in prosecution under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). Other records were of bats in flight above the Wensum at Lyng (CS) and the Glaven at Glanford ford (KKH). The latter on the wing until Oct 28th.

Serotine

Eptesicus serotinus

Rare in Norfolk, which may be the edge of the range for this species. Greater abundance in Suffolk and evidence of recent expansion in UK suggests possibility of increase. Habitat includes open pasture, parkland and edges of woodland. Leisurely flapping flight with broad wings using deep wing-beats. Free tip of tail may be visible. Known to favour buildings as a roost/breeding site, although also occurs in tree hollows and bat boxes in summer. Only very occasionally recorded in cave hibernacula in the county.

No records since 1992

Noctule

Nyctalus noctula

Relatively common large bat, although has undergone noticeable decline in recent years. Often first to emerge in evenings when seen flying high and fast and straight with occasional rapid diversions. Also seen flying fast at lower altitudes (to 30m) with repeated steep dives and occasional glides. Loud ultrasonic calls may be heard by some people. Predominant association with holes in mature deciduous trees, often beech, as roost/breeding sites, may concentrate the species to a certain extent in the county. However this may be tempered by the use of bat boxes.

6 records. Largest groups were 5 and 4 recorded over the Glaven near Cley and east of Salthouse, both on Sept 23rd (KKH). Records also supplied for Cley earlier in the year (KKH). Only other records involved singles at Sparham Pools (CS) and Bayfield Estate during mid-summer (DFK).

Leisler's Bat

Nyctalus leisleri

Apparently rare nationally. Not recorded in Norfolk, but as recently recorded in Suffolk within half a kilometre of the boundary, seems to be only a matter of time. Recorded in 1995 from bat boxes in Thetford Forest in both spring and autumn.

Pipistrelle

Pipistrellus pipistrellus

Smallest and most common resident bat. Frequently seen in virtually any habitat. Often forages along 'beat', repeated circling along defined area. Roosts and breeds mainly in buildings, often in large numbers. Solitary individuals, principally males will use bat boxes. Rarely found hibernating in winter. Recent research suggests two recognisable but as yet un-named species of pipistrelle in UK, distinguishable by voice (frequencies of 40 and 55 KHz respectively). In Norfolk the 55 KHz bat is present.

36 records. During the hibernation period, generally following the first frosts, up to 12 were present deep within a crack in timber in a church in south Norfolk during Jan (JGG). Presumably hibernating bats with lucky escapes included two that emerged and were quickly rescued from a hollow log which had been placed on a bonfire (Jan 16th) and one that was found in a sink at Acle High School, but only after the tap had been turned on (Nov 16th). After being dried off in a towel-lined box it was released (PT). Earliest record in flight Feb 6th (GYNS). In summer, the largest breeding colony recorded was >500 (JGG). The average breeding colony in domestic properties increased slightly again, perhaps a result of a series of good summers. Interesting records included over 80 in a long decayed wasp nest in the roof of a Wroxham house (JGG) and 120 seen

emerging from a roof in Ditchingham over a five minute period Aug 20th (DLC). A single male roosted in the ear of the 5m high plywood red squirrel in Thetford Forest over much of the summer (JGG). The success of boxes was illustrated by the 14 found in Bacton Woods Sep 19th, only 3 months after they had been put up. The maximum number recorded in the air was 6 at Stubbs Mill. Hickling in Oct (PJH).

Barbastelle

Barbastella barbastellus

Poorly known species. Generally thought of as rare although widely distributed in England. A recent report shows that almost 25% of all UK records over the last 150 years are from Norfolk and Suffolk, indicating the region is a stronghold of the species. No breeding colonies are known. Apparent association with wooded river valleys. Roosts in hollow trees (suggesting bat boxes may be used); also recorded underground in winter in the county.

6 records. Up to three individuals were recorded during the year, including records during the summer from the usual Snetterton locality which now has more than any other site in the UK.

Brown Long-eared Bat

Plecotus auritus

Relatively common woodland bat. Within county, particularly common in Thetford Forest where outnumbers pipistrelles. Uses bat boxes and buildings and caves in winter as well as tree hollows. Numbers using bat boxes in the area have declined in the last decade, perhaps as the age structure of the forest has changed with the loss of tall mature trees. Slow, fluttering but agile flight interspersed by hovering around trees, often along a 'beat', indicates this species takes the bulk of its prey by foliage gleaning, i.e. detecting prey on tree surfaces and pouncing on it.

5 records. Three records of roosting individuals. One in an unoccupied house in Edgefield (Jan 3rd), (IFK), 1 in a shed in Corpusty (Jan 16th) (MAB) and 1 in East Tuddenham ice house Jan 1st to Mar 2nd which changed position several times (AB). A further unfortunate individual was killed by a cat at Roughton (PB). Only one record in flight, at Glandford Ford Sep 30th (KKH).

Rabbit

Oryctolagus cuniculus

Very common long standing introduction on arable land and grassland especially in areas with light soils. Thus, Brecks have a particularly high density, which in turn promotes characteristic grazed short-grass flora. Frequently seen in groups around colonial burrow systems, warrens, especially nearing darkness. Frequent road casualty in such areas. Characteristic droppings, scrapes and burrows betray presence. Young rabbits are frequent victims of some cats. Individuals with myxomatosis often conspicuous by day.

155 records. Although one of the most frequently recorded mammals, still clearly under-recorded. For example, the largest group recorded during the year was only 10 at Beeston Regis Common (PEB). This included one all-black individual. Two half-grown black individuals were also seen at Beeston Regis and Sheringham (PEB). The close proximity of the sites may indicate that all the black rabbits may originate from the same population with a high expression of black genes. Black specimens were also seen at Burgh Castle Welcome pits (GYNS) and Trowse (MRP). Another colour morph recorded was a cream coloured individual at Bergh Apton, although this was perhaps a cross with an escaped pet (GYNS). There is some evidence that myxomatosis was particularly virulent during 1995 with a large number of casualties even amongst domestic pets (EDP). Certainly, the

period in which rabbits were affected was protracted, virtually over the whole year (Jan 17 (PT) to Dec 24th (JEG)).

Hare *Lepus europaeus*
Associated with open country including arable land, although may be encountered relatively frequently in woodland. Most likely to be seen in open country in early spring as males follow females, leading to male-male chasing and biting and male-female 'boxing'. East Anglia including Norfolk is the current national stronghold, with around one-fifth of the nation's hares.

179 records. The typical seasonal pattern of sightings is well illustrated by the series of records from one observer (JEG):

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	22	38	49	5	12	3	5	1	5	0	14

On Feb 8th, groups of 17, 9 and 7 were seen in separate fields in Cockthorpe (IGJ). Ten leverets were discovered in the Hilborough area on Jul 16th, an area which had held up to 20 adults during April (IS/FS). Most bizarre record was of one that was accidentally trodden on (but fortunately escaped uninjured) in a barley field during bird survey work (PB).

Red squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*
Sadly now confined to Thetford Forest where a small remnant population remains. Most commonly associated with conifers, although occurs in deciduous woodland in the absence of greys.
No records.

Grey squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*
Introduced from the USA around the turn of the century. Subsequent spread throughout lowland Britain included Norfolk. Frequently seen in all forms of woodland and increasingly common in gardens where will visit bird-tables. Particularly conspicuous in autumn when burying nuts on the ground and common road casualty at this time.
52 records. Usually seen singly although up to 5 were seen together in a Ditchingham garden (on Feb 7th (DLC)). A more unusual record of association between individuals is 4/5 living in a semi-derelict farm shed and feeding out in the garden nearby (FPJR). One seen carrying a walnut approximately 100m from the parent tree (DMB).

Small rodents are generally nocturnal and therefore not typically seen. However, voles particularly may be active during the day. The two species, bank and field vole, present some identification difficulties especially if the view is brief as the animal scurries away after being disturbed. This helps explain the relatively large total of 36 records of unidentified 'vole' received for 1995. When seen clearly, the russet-brown back and relatively long tail of bank vole separates it from field vole. The latter tends to have rather plain brown colouring and relatively shorter ears and a more blunted face. The behaviour and habitat of the two species is also rather different. Field vole is a grassland specialist spending much of its time in runways at or just below ground level. Bank vole on the other hand is a woodland or hedgerow species quite adept at climbing and may well be seen above ground in hedges, on bird tables, etc, even during the day. It is also the only species likely to be encountered in buildings.

Bank vole

Clethrionomys glareolus

Abundant in all forms of woodland, but particularly mature deciduous hedgerows and large gardens where at least some ground cover is available. Less common in grassland and wetlands. Common victim of domestic cats and may be the dominant species in tawny owl pellets. Food caches of nuts, berries, etc, may be found in burrows, under litter, etc. Hazel nuts show radial marks on cut surface of entrance hole but no tooth marks on nut surface producing clean edged hole and only flesh of rosehips is eaten.

10 records. Recorded indoors in a feed store in winter (AB) and frequently on a bird table in Bergh Apton (MRP).

Field vole

Microtus agrestis

May be abundant (>100/ha) in rank unmanaged grassland, grassy field margins and roadside verges. More common in grassy wetlands than bank vole. Evidence of frequent fluctuations in density and records in less favoured habitats may sometimes represent overspill when at peak abundance. Common victim of rural domestic cats and preferred prey item of virtually all owl species and kestrel. Principal small mammal prey of all harriers.

36 records. All but 7 records from barn owl pellets sorted by Corpusty school children (MAB).

Water vole

Arvicola terrestris

Declining nationally, although possibility that decline not so marked in Norfolk, perhaps linked to retarded spread of important predator, the mink, in the county. Associated with water, particularly rivers and dykes, but also around stillwaters. Prefers dense riparian emergent vegetation. Relatively easy to see particularly when swimming and often heard diving into water on approach. Burrows at water level and green droppings in piles on bank, tree stumps, etc, also betray presence. The Broads is likely to hold significant populations.

61 Records. Many records from the Broads including Barton (GT), Barton Turf (PJH), Broad Fen, Catfield Fen (GT), Decoy Farm (PT), Hickling (DMM) (PJH) (GT), How Hill (PJH), Horning Marsh Farm (PJH), Ranworth (GT), Whitlingham Marshes, Woodbastwick (PJH). Four or more seen on one date at Woodbastwick and 6+ at Whitlingham Marshes in May (PJH). Away from the Broads recorded on the rivers: Upper Bure at Saxthorpe, Glaven at Wiveton Bridge (KKH), Ingol at Snettisham (FPJR), Tiffey at Wymondham (DS), Tud near Dereham (AB), Wissey between Northwold and Mundford (IS/FS); and stillwaters including Bure valley lakes (MAB) and dykes on Beeston Regis Common (FF), Ditchingham (DLC) and Lessingham (BL). Unusually, one was taken by a cat at Decoy Farm (PT).

Wood mouse

Apodemus sylvaticus

Abundant although never reaches the density of voles or other mouse species even in its preferred woodland habitat. Occurs almost ubiquitously, even in habitats not favoured by other small mammals including arable fields, beaches and sand dunes, gardens, etc, testimony to nocturnal habits and high mobility and escape abilities. Consequently, a less common victim of domestic cats than voles. Only absent in urban areas or wetlands with a very high water table. Food caches of nuts, berries, etc, may be found in burrows, old bird nests, etc. In contrast to bank vole, opened hazel nuts have toothmarks all around entrance hole as well as radial marks on cut surface and pips of rosehips eaten but flesh discarded.

30 records. Most records are cat kills although a few live specimens seen around houses

and gardens. Individuals regularly recorded visiting nut feeders from Reepham (DIR) and Bergh Apton (MRP), typically showing great dexterity and climbing ability. In the former case shinning the pole supporting the bird table and in the latter climbing the tree and down the relevant branch to which the feeder was attached. At Bergh Apton visits were only made under the cover of darkness.

Yellow-necked mouse

Apodemus flavicollis

On the edge of its range in Norfolk, and known from only a few sites chiefly around the Suffolk border. Principal habitat is in mature deciduous woodland, although Norfolk records are from a variety of sites including hedgerows and wet unmanaged meadows. May also be encountered in outbuildings, etc, particularly in winter and may fall victim to cats. Large size and full yellow chest collar joining brown upperparts diagnostic.

2 records. Recorded at Langley and Ditchingham (DLC). At the latter site, individuals were captured indoors in winter.

Harvest mouse

Micromys minutus

Widely but patchily distributed in long grassland. Rarely seen with characteristic spherical breeding nests best indication of presence in hedgerows, roadside verges, waste ground, even overgrown gardens and arable crops particularly wheat. Wetland habitats including reed and sedge beds even over water are preferred habitat with densities >50/lia by autumn, although perversely, nests are not obvious in such habitats. Particularly at peak density, animals may be disturbed by workers engaged in a variety of habitat management and animals may become concentrated in straw bales, field margins, etc. May be a common victim of cats in localised areas when small size, small ears and ginger upperparts and white underparts allow easy identification. May also be common constituent of barn owl pellets in some locations.

25 records. Virtually all records relate to nests, the bulk of them in wetlands including Alderfen and Barton Broads (GT), Breydon, Catfield (PJH), Decoy Farm (PT), Ranworth Broad (GT), Reedham (PJH), Upton Fen (unusually in coppice woodland) (GT) and Wheatfen (DN). In drier habitats recorded only from East Tuddenham (AB) and Corpusty in cocksfoot grass (MAB).

House mouse

Mus domesticus

May be abundant as a commensal in houses, factories, around farms, etc. Rarely encountered away from human habitation although may appear in hedgerows from time to time. Characteristic 'mousey' smell gives away presence when confronted with droppings and damage to foodstuffs, etc, in houses. Disturbed animal 'scuttles' at high speed although can jump. Wood mouse in contrast, with long legs, bounces, with frequent direction changes, like miniature kangaroo in escape flight. When trapped or caught by cats, grey-brown colour, paler on belly, with relatively evenly proportioned front and hindlimbs, narrow pointed face and relatively small eyes, scaly tail (all recalling miniature rat) and smell reveal identity.

89 records. The majority of records were from houses although individuals were also encountered outside, visiting a bird table in a hedgerow (MRP) and one found dead in Asda car park in Yarmouth (PJH).

Brown rat

Rattus norvegicus

As house mouse may be abundant as a commensal, although unlike former may occur in numbers away from habitation in waste land, arable land especially around root

crops, coastlines and river banks. Rarely seen by day unless disturbed. Often seen at night along roads in both urban and rural areas and a frequent road casualty in some areas. Young individuals taken by some cats. Greasy smears along runs in buildings, large pointed droppings and large burrows (6–9 cm) confirm presence.

34 records. A succession of mild winters and perhaps increased immunity to poisons and an increase in rubbish from fast food outlets, have led to an increase in rat infestation. One in 20 households in the UK is reputed to be affected. King's Lynn and West Norfolk mirror this pattern with a 58% increase in problems last year, a 116% increase since 1991 (EDP). Most records received were of individuals in gardens including visiting bird tables (MRP). This usually generated disgust in the observers and several were trapped or shot. Away from habitation at Hickling Broad, one rat took evasive action from its human observer by swimming across a dyke and disappearing into reeds (GT). More such records would be welcome.

Black rat

Rattus rattus

Last recorded on a wharf at Great Yarmouth in 1979. Rare nationally and restricted to ports. Chance of becoming established again when shipped in, particularly from Asia. Larger ears and eyes, longer, thinner tail and sleek fur separate from brown rat. Nominate black colouration not diagnostic as many brown rats are black and many black rats are brown.

Common dormouse

Muscardinus avellanarius

Presumed extinct in Norfolk, although currently present in Suffolk as well as in odd locations further north. Thus conceivably still present. Often associated with hazel and honeysuckle in deciduous woodland but also occurs in hedgerows and wet woodland. Presence most likely to be shown by characteristic opening of hazel nuts producing smooth edged round hole with oblique toothmarks around cut edge.

Coypu

Myocastor coypus

Escapee from fur farms, became abundant particularly in Broads. Subject of MAFF eradication campaign begun in 1981. Last confirmed record was an individual trapped in December 1989. Unconfirmed odd reports since.

Most cetaceans are vagrants to inshore waters and are thus rarely seen. In Norfolk, the harbour porpoise, which is generally an inshore species, found within 10km of the coast, is the only exception. Even when whales and dolphins do venture close enough to be seen, identification of individuals at sea presents some problems. Justice cannot be given to the subject here and interested parties are directed to publications of the Mammal Society. For several species, strandings are still the only realistic way in which they may be encountered. The following lists those species which have been recorded in Norfolk waters.

Minke whale

Balaenoptera acutorostrata

Sperm whale

Physeter macrocephalus

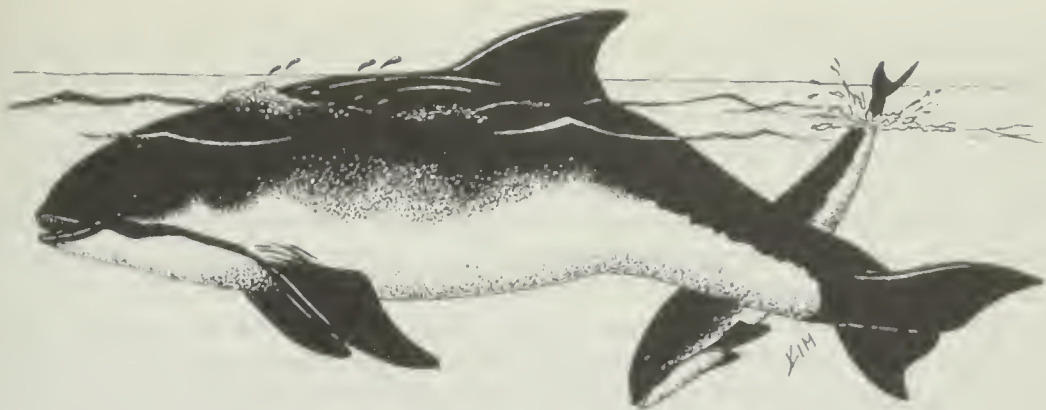
Northern bottlenose whale

Hyperoodon ampullatus

Harbour porpoise

Phocoena phocoena

12 records. Seen at several locations throughout the year including 2/3 in the entrance of Yarmouth harbour on April 19th (GYNS), up to 3 seen on 4 occasions during July from Yarmouth's North Beach (PFF) (the same observer also saw a basking shark during the



Porpoises (Kim Dyle)

same period), a group of 10+ seen off Cley Beach on July 23rd (IGJ), 2 Weybourne (Oct 29th) (PRL) and 1 Hapton (Oct 29th) (GYBC). Also 4 at Waxham on a unspecified date (BL).

Common dolphin

Delphinus delphis

1 record. A single individual seen off Great Yarmouth beach on Jun 7th (NM).

Bottle-nosed dolphin

Tursiops truncatus

White-beaked dolphin

Lagenorhynchus albirostris

Long-finned pilot whale

Globicephala melas

Fox

Vulpes vulpes

Very common in virtually all habitats, although does not appear to have penetrated town and cities as in other parts of the country. Relatively infrequently seen, usually at night crossing roads. Distinctive droppings (like dog but containing fur, etc, and with pointed and twisted end), smell and 'screaming' during mating season (December–February) most often reveal presence.

55 records. The bulk of records were of single animals although a pair with 3/4 cubs were seen regularly at Lound Waterworks (GYNS) and a vixen with 4 cubs was reported from Beeston Back Common (AWH). Closest record of the year was of a large dark male nearly run over by a recorder on a bike on Marriot's Way near Norwich in Jan at dusk in wet and windy weather (PB). Incredibly, the same observer had a further close encounter with another individual, this time on a hot day in June. The fox approached to about 3m before realising a human presence and beating a hasty retreat. Large numbers are killed in the county. For example, 70–80 are removed each year from a 2,000-acre Breckland farm and 30 were taken from a nature reserve in 1995, where they were a threat to ground nesting birds.

Stoat

Mustela erminea

Reasonably common and widely distributed being found in virtually any habitat. Most frequently seen in association with rabbits and rabbit warrens and either crossing or dead on road.

52 records. Records involving conflict with rabbits included one dragging a rabbit across

the track at Roydon Common (RM), one with a young rabbit (Mar 29th) (IGJ) and another chasing and taking a rabbit at Ditchingham (DLC). In the latter case, the rabbit went into shock and lay still before the stoat could deliver a killing bite, which caused it to abandon the prone rabbit, which died anyway. An even more interesting record was of a stoat that was seen investigating the tunnels in a rabbit warren (NC). After several unsuccessful forays the stoat appeared with a young rabbit in its mouth, closely followed by an adult rabbit. The rabbit chased the stoat for 30m before giving up and returning to the warren. Two were seen chasing a small rabbit in Saxthorpe (MAB). The only other record of more than one, was two at Whitlingham Lane in June (RJ). Other prey items included: a young hare which was seen being dragged across the Foulenden/Hilborough Road (IS/FS); a water vole which was chased by a stoat along a dyke bank at Catfield Fen (GT); unidentified small prey at Broom Green (IFK) and at Potter Heigham (GT) a song thrush. The climbing ability of this formidable predator was illustrated by one seen climbing up and over several wire fences at Great Witchingham Wildlife Park (AB). The tables had clearly been turned on one stoat which was found dead with its mid-body missing in a Rockland garden (DMB). An individual in partial ermine was seen on Jan 15th (CS), whereas one in full ermine was recorded on Breydon North Wall on Mar 12th (GYNS). Perhaps the same individual was recorded at the same location on Mar 25th (PA).

Weasel

Mustela nivalis

Although may be found in any habitat, has a closer association with cover than stoat partly linked to availability of small mammal prey and own vulnerability to predation. Consequently less frequently seen and then only as a fleeting glimpse as the animal crosses a road or woodland ride. However, likely to be more common than stoat. Occasional road casualty and rare victim of some cats and tawny owls.

19 records. Recorded singly apart from one record of two together (DFK). One seen at Bradwell on Aug 20th had a light sandy coat with several darker patches. The coast in winter/spring seem a good place to see weasels with individuals seen at Caister on Jan 23rd (GYNS), on Breydon North wall (Mar 11th) (GYNS) and Cley Beach seawall (IGJ) Dec 11th. Unusual observations included one swimming in a pond on Beeston Regis Common (FF) and another foraging, closely attended by a wren.

Feral ferret

Mustela furo

Domesticated form of polecat (M. putorius) and/or steppe polecat (M. eversmanni) used to capture rabbits. Repeated records in recent past from Corpusty area may indicate presence of feral population rather than a succession of escapes.

1 record. Away from usual site, dead on road at Hedenham (DLC).

American mink

Mustela vison

Escapee from fur farms from 1930's onwards. Generally associated with aquatic habitats. Evidence that colonisation of favourable habitat such as Broads retarded by mink being a by-catch of coypu trappers. Increase in number of records suggests range expansion and population increase imminent.

18 records. Sites include the Brettenham Estate (3 trapped) (DM), Bure marshes (RS), Caistor St. Edmund (dead on the road) (MRP), Hickling (4) (DMM) with fish and bird kills also seen, one possible at Holme (GH), Pensthorpe (4 trapped) (WM), Strumpshaw (BR). The rest of the records were received from Welney (JK), which judging from trapping records over the last few years has an established population.

Badger

Meles meles

Uncommon with only around 65 occupied setts in whole county. At an average of six per sett <400 animals present. Central Norfolk contains bulk of population. Woodland, particularly deciduous and sand pits in fields commonest sites for setts. Evidence for recent population increase (double number of setts since 1980 and range expansion particularly northwards). Presence most often shown by discovery of sett (typically 3–10 large, >25cm diameter, entrances with spoil heaps of bedding, etc., outside), distinctive hair on barbed wire, on low fences or road casualty.

Otter

Lutra lutra

Formerly common, underwent dramatic decline, now increasing. Population considerably boosted by introductions by Otter Trust in a number of locations across the county. Aquatic, but more often associated with rivers and coast than stillwaters. Very rarely seen, sign often only indication of presence. This includes: diagnostic spraint with characteristic smell, deposited under bridges, on prominent stones and vegetation, etc; rounded four/five toed footprints, sometimes showing claws and webbing; and more rarely slide down bank or partly eaten fish (although latter two signs need to be reinforced by footprints and/or spraint).

12 records. Sites included Buckenham Tofts (IFK), Catfield Fen (GT), Iutteringham, Ingworth, Stanford, Tottington (IFK), Upton Fen (GT) and the River Wissey (IS/FS). At Belaugh Broad footprints and droppings were found next to dead pike. The location of the fish was traced as it had been fitted with a radio tag in order to investigate the behaviour patterns of pike within the Broad. That is until the otter had changed its home range somewhat (AJDJ). Actual sightings of otters consisted of a pair observed playing on Hickling Broad at dusk by anglers in March (DMM), one at How Hill on Jun 17th (JB) and two young at Buckenham Tofts (IFK).

Raccoon

Procyon lotor

One intriguing record of an escape during the 1980s, although no details available.

Feral cat

Felis catus

Domestic cat living independently of humans. Habitats most likely to be farmland or urban factories/warehouses, etc. Rounded four-toed footprints without claws separate from fox, dogs and mustelids.

2 records. Surprisingly few records perhaps outlining the difficulties of separating pets from feral specimens.

Common seal

Phoco vitulina

Much more abundant of two common seal species with concentrations around Wash and North Norfolk coast, indicating preference for sandbanks, mudbanks and estuaries. Generally resident although pattern of occurrence may vary between birthing period (June/July) and winter. Readily seen from boat trips around North Norfolk, either in water or hauled out on sandbanks depending on state of tide. May also be seen inland in rivers. Norfolk population appears to be recovering from crash following outbreak of virus in late 1980's.

On the North Norfolk coast a maximum of 320–330 recorded (JR). In the Wash, the main herd on Daseley Sand was around 150 strong with small herds of 20/30 animals also recorded on Breast Sand, Pandora Sand and Bulldog Sand. Peak count of 120 at Scroby Sands, with 15 pups successfully reared (PT). Single animals were also present in the Outer Lynn Cut all year (DLO). Odd ones and twos at Hopton (GYNS). Horsey (CS). Lynn Point (DLO) and Winterton (CS, DFK). Recognisable individuals included one

long-haired pup at Scroby and one seal with a rope mark around its neck which ranged from Mundesley to Southwold (PT).

Harp seal

Phoca groenlandica

Vagrant from the Arctic. Breeding in Newfoundland, Greenland Sea and the White Sea. One seen on Blakeney Point of Mar 27th 1988 was presumably the same as that found dead in the Wash later the same year.

Grey seal

Halichoerus grypus

Generally a west-coast species associated with rocky shores when giving birth in October–December. However, a breeding colony is usually present on Scroby Sands, which may represent overspill from the Farne Islands. This has declined radically from up to 850 to tens of animals following a tidal surge which reduced the area of the sands from around 20 to 5 km². As grey seals disperse to sea after breeding, sightings less predictable than common seal, although usually some hauled-out in mixed herds in north Norfolk. Less likely to be encountered inland than common seal.

A maximum of 70–80 recorded on the north Norfolk coast (JR). Two old bulls remained on Scroby Sands during the summer (PT). As high tides covered the sands for much of the winter, the breeding colony of 20–25 cows and 2 bulls hauled out on the beach in the Horsey-Winterton area. Two pups seen Nov 25th (JH). Tragically, three pups were found fatally shot on Boxing Day and the two bulls had deserted (PT). In the winter of 94/95, when up to 6 females and 1 bull had been swimming in the shallows with 1 female common seal (CS), four pups had been born by Dec 1st. Of these, the previous three grew well and survived although the fourth had disappeared by the end of the second week of Jan (CS). This coincided with disturbance by heavy machinery during beach defence work. Clearly, the loss of safe habitat on Scroby may have severe implications for the future breeding success of grey seals in Norfolk waters. The only other sighting involved one in the Bure at Yarmouth Feb 7th. A late, rather remarkable record was also received of an immature male grey seal in the Wensum, along Riverside Road Norwich Feb 6th–8th 1994 (PJH).

Horse

Equus caballus

A small group of relatively ancient horse, konik pony, has been introduced into the Broads as an experiment to test their effectiveness as a management tool in promoting floral diversity. Distinctively small and stocky with stripy knees.

Red deer

Cervus elaphus

Probably feral, originating from escapes or deliberate sporting introductions. Patchily distributed with main concentrations in Thetford Forest, Wensum Forest and north-east Norfolk around Hickling-Horsey, underlying typically association with woodland, although most often seen on arable land at dusk. The Hickling group may range widely and frequent a variety of habitats including reedbeds. Most conspicuous in rut in late autumn when roaring stags heard over considerable distances. Most frequently seen in groups, occasionally up to 40 individuals.

40 records. Seen in 18 tetrads in the Thetford area. Here, the largest herds were 12 (11 hinds and 1 young stag) in Feb and 13 (all stags) in Mar (IS/FS). At Hickling reserve, deer were seen almost daily at the end of the rut (DMM). Away from these usual concentrations, records were received of a stag and hind in woodland at Ditchingham (DLC), 7/8 at Edgefield (IFK), one at Fellingham Wood (BB), 4 stags in a field near North Walsham (SB) and 1 at Saxthorpe (MAB). The largest group seen during the year

was at one of these alternative sites consisting of 20 near Holt Country Park in Mar (CP). Breeding was confirmed in this area with two hinds each with single calves seen on Sep 16th (KKH).

Sika deer

Cervus nippon

Introduced into Britain around the beginning of the century. Only odd single records in Norfolk mainly from north, presumably escapes from parks. No apparent established population as yet.

No records.

Fallow deer

Dama dama

Originally native, became extinct and re-introduced in 11th century. Norfolk population almost certainly originates from park escapes. Main groups in extensive woodlands in west Norfolk around King's Lynn with small numbers in Thetford and Wensum forests. Patchy records from elsewhere indicate that the species may be more widespread than is generally thought. However, fallow is clearly far less common than roe or even red.

5 records. In Thetford the population seems to favour the Suffolk side of the border and fallow were recorded from only one tetrad in the area during 1995. This was in the Devil's Punchbowl and sightings included a menil coloured young buck (IS/FS).

Roe deer

Capreolus capreolus

Native species, widely distributed in Norfolk. Typically associated with woodland, although most often seen in arable land at dusk. Inhabits a greater range of habitats, including small stands of trees, scrub, wet woodland and heath than other larger species. Generally singly or in pairs (often doe and offspring).

118 records. Recorded from 49 tetrads around the Thetford/Breckland area (IS/FS), although widely recorded elsewhere, where they may be seen regularly (e.g. Buxton Heath (AW)). Most records of singles, although eight (two bucks, three does and three immatures) were seen together grazing in a carrot field in Thetford during Sep. Five were seen on winter wheat near Lyng Easthaugh on several dates in Mar (SB). Close encounters included one that passed close to moth traps at East Walton Common (PRC) and one that was discovered by a cleaner in a ladies toilet in Sheringham near the sea-front (EDP). A roe buck was seen last year on Weybourne beach apparently licking salt from pebbles. Perhaps the errant individual had been doing the same thing before getting disorientated? Partly melanistic roe were seen in Thetford including one buck with a black face and antlers, the right of which was distinctly larger than the left (IS/FS). Following last year's report of many roe in Thetford having poor or deformed antlers, the opposite was reported in 1995 with several very large bucks with six-point heads seen (IS/FS).

Muntjac

Muntiacus reevesi

Originates from deliberate introduction from Woburn Abbey in Bedfordshire early in 20th century. Now recorded throughout Norfolk although stronghold is Thetford Forest. Prefers woodland with dense understorey such as bramble, but will frequent small stands of trees and may even be encountered in suburban gardens. Most frequently seen along woodland rides at dusk or on verges alongside even busy roads when briefly caught in headlights at night.

56 records. Recorded from 38 tetrads in and around Thetford stronghold by one pair of observers (IS/FS) and appears to be expanding its range. This is illustrated by records from a diverse array of sites including Alderford Common (DIR), Cranwich Heath (JEG),

Ditchingham (DLC), Felthorpe Woods (PJH), Langley, Langmere (DIR), Lound Waterworks (GYNS), Ranworth (GT), Roydon Common (DLO), South Lopham Fen (GR), Stody (NF) and Wayland Wood (PJH). Generally seen singly but up to four including one group of three bucks have been recorded (IS/FS). In Thetford, several specimens with entirely black faces (thus without characteristic black 'V' facial markings on a tan background) have also been recorded (IS/FS). The strangest record is of one individual repeatedly barking in response to the sound of a chainsaw (PRC).

Chinese water-deer

Hydropotes inermis

Likely to have escaped from captivity. First recorded in 1968, now widespread and seemingly common throughout favoured wetland habitat in the Broads. This may constitute the bulk of the UK population. Occasionally recorded elsewhere. May be seen at dusk especially on certain nature reserves. Most often seen singly. Relatively distinctive droppings (black/dark brown, pointed at one end round at other and generally not sticking together) may be commonly found in suitable habitat.

78 records. Appears to be common throughout the Broads with sightings or sign (droppings and/or tracks) noted during 1994 and 1995 at Alderfen, Catfield Fen (PJH), Cockshoot Broad, Decoy Farm (GT), Drakes Marsh, Hickling, High Fen, Horning Hall, Horning Marsh Farm, Horsey, How Hill, Mallow Marsh, Mills Marsh, Martham (PJH), Potter Heigham, Ranworth (GT), Sutton, Sharp St. Strumpshaw (PJH), Wheatfen (DN), Whitlingham Marsh (PB), Woodbastwick and Wroxham Home Farm (PJH). At Wheatfen alone, there were 20 records in 1995 (DN).

Outside the Broads recorded at Hempstead (JH) and on the outskirts of Thetford in Aug, a road casualty at the A11/A1075 junction (IS/FS). The majority of records are of single animals, with around 25% involving two or more. The largest number seen together was three in Sep (PT). Young are seen rarely with only two records. One seen during habitat management (GT) and the other a 2/3 day-old calf brought into the visitor centre at Hickling. Unfortunately it died after two weeks despite an initial favourable response to an attempt to hand rear it (DM).

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The County's senior natural history society. It has for its principal objectives the practical study of natural science, the conservation of wild life, the publication of papers on natural history, especially those related to the county of Norfolk, arranging lectures and meetings and the promotion of active fieldwork. Specialist Groups cover most aspects of the county's flora and fauna.

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Norfolk Bird Club

The NBC was established in 1992 to provide a forum for all those interested in the county's birds and their conservation and to promote improved communication and exchange of ideas among birdwatchers throughout the county. The Club publishes six Bulletins during the year, holds indoor meetings and organises bird survey work.

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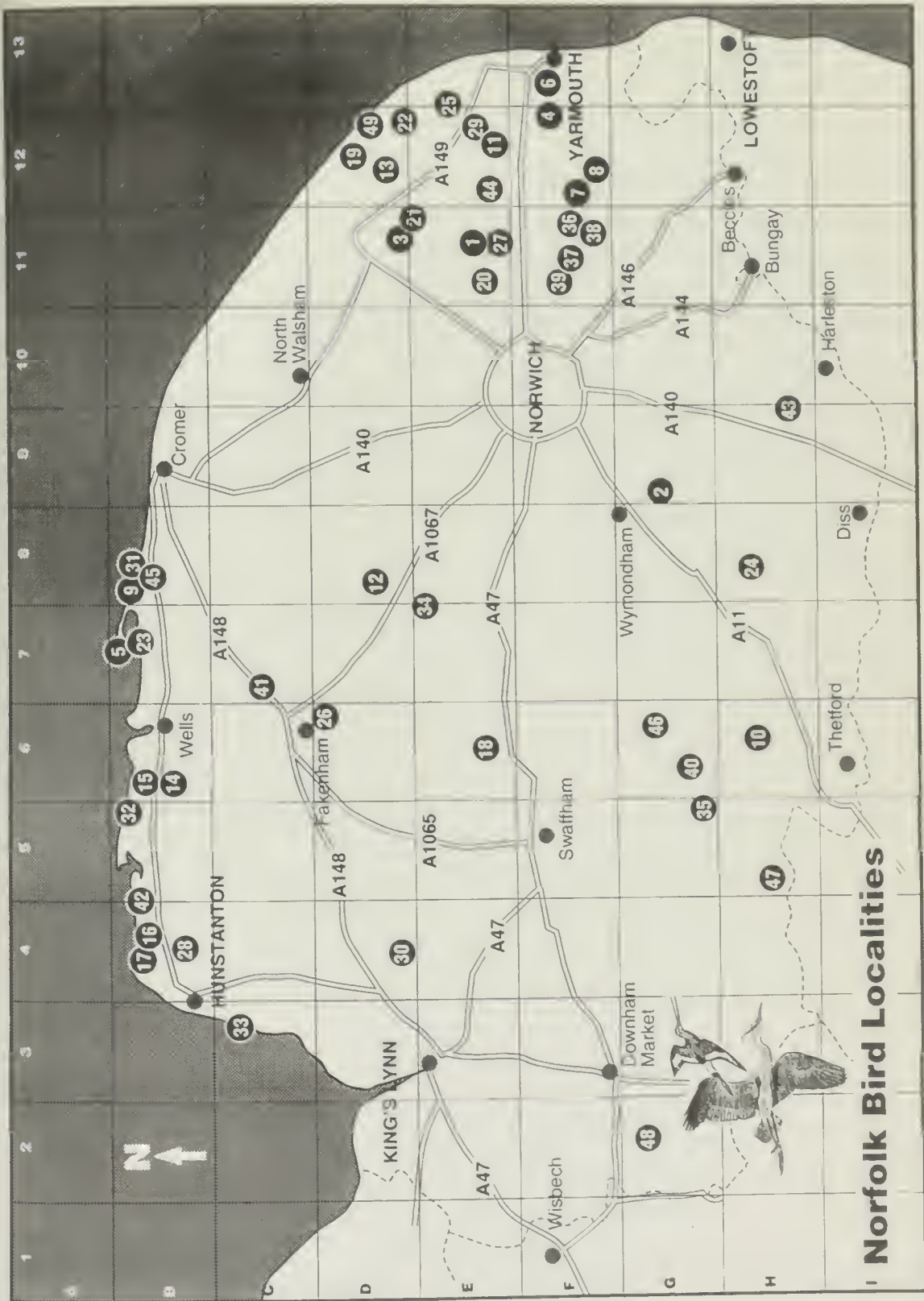
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Individual: £8.50
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Key to Location Map

1 Alderfen Broad	NWT	14 Holkham Lake	HE	27 Ranworth/Cockshoot Broad	NWT	40 Thompson Water	NWT
2 Ashwellthorpe Lower Wood	NWT	15 Holkham NNR	EN	28 Ringstead Downs	NWT	41 Thursford Wood	NWT
3 Barton Broad	NWT	16 Holme Bird Observatory	NOA	29 Rollesby Broad	NWT	42 Titchwell Marsh	RSPB
4 Berney Marshes	RSPB	17 Holme Dunes	NWT	30 Roydon Common	NWT	43 Tyrrell's Wood	WT
5 Blakeney Point	NT	18 Honeyput Wood	NWT	31 Salthouse Marshes	NWT	44 Upton Fen	NWT
6 Breydon Water	LNR	19 Horsey Mere	NT	32 Scolt Head Island	EN	45 Walsey Hills	NOA
7 Buckenham/Cantley Marshes	RSPB	20 Hoveton Great Broad	EN	33 Snettisham Pits	RSPB	46 Wayland Wood	NWT
8 Cantley Reservoir	BS	21 How Hill	BA	34 Sparham Pools	NWT	47 Weeting Heath	NWT
9 Cley Marsh	NWT	22 Martham Broad	NWT	35 Stanford Training Area	RSPB	48 Welney Washes	W&WT
10 East Wretham Heath	NWT	23 Morston/Stiffkey Marshes	NT	36 Strumpshaw Fen	NWT	49 Winterton Dunes	EN
11 Filby Broad	NWT	24 New Buckenham Common	NWT	37 Surlingham Broad	RSPB		
12 Fovley Wood	NWT	25 Ormesby Broad	PWT	38 Surlingham/Roekland Marshes	TET		
13 Hickling Broad	NWT	26 Pensthorpe Waterfowl Trust		39 Ted Ellis Trust			
BA	=	Broads Authority		NWT	=	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	
BS	=	British Sugar		PWT	=	Pensthorpe Waterfowl Trust	
EN	=	English Nature		RSPB	=	Royal Society Protection of Birds	
HE	=	Holkham Estate		TET	=	Ted Ellis Trust	
LNR	=	Local Nature Reserve		WT	=	Woodland Trust	
NDA	=	Norfolk Ornithologists Association		W&WT	=	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust	
NT	=	National Trust					

Full details of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust sites including how to get there feature in the Trust's *Reserves Handbook* obtainable from 72 Cathedral Close, Norwich NR1 4DF.



Norfolk Bird Localities





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