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Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report 2001

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Volume 35 part 2

Norfolk Bird Report – 2001

Editor: Giles Dunmore

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Back cover photograph: Grey Seal (Graeme Cresswell)

NORFOLK BIRD REPORT - 2001

Editorial

On behalf of the Society I am pleased to present the annual report on the Birds of Norfolk.

Acknowledgements

The Editorial Team continues to function and comprises:

- myself - Editor and Joint Recorder
- Neil Lawton - Joint Recorder,
- John Williamson - liaison with Norfolk Bird Club and the printers,
- Julian Bhalerao - co-ordinating photographs and sketches,
- Justin Lansdell - co-ordinating articles and writing Review of the Year.

I am grateful to them for their encouragement, help, and support.

The Report continues to be very much a team effort and without help from many people its production would not be possible. My thanks go to:

- the other compilers of the monthly and annual Record Cards - Dave and Jacquie Bridges, Vince Hanlon, Justin Lansdell, Neil Lawton, Mick Saunt and John Williamson;
- the other authors of the Systematic List - Peter Allard, Chris Baker, Andy Benson, Andrew Bloomfield, Dave and Jacquie Bridges, Andy Brown, Pete Clement, Keith Dye, Mick Fiszer, Vince Hanlon, Phil Heath, Gary Hibberd, Ian Johnson, John Kemp, Justin Lansdell, Neil Lawton, Ben Murphy, Mick Saunt, Enid Stanford, Andy Stoddart, Peter Wilson and John Williamson;
- members of the County Records Committee;
- authors of the articles in the Report, in particular Peter Wilson and Dawn Balmer on Yellow-legged Gulls, and Neil Lawton and Gary Hibberd on migration at Hunstanton Cliffs.
- the artists and photographers who have made their work freely available;
- Moss Taylor for supplying breeding details of the ongoing Norfolk Bird Atlas;
- Steve Wakeham for the meteorological information;
- Mike Rogers, Secretary of the British Birds Rarities Committee;
- all the many individual contributors and clubs/societies. and in particular Birdline East Anglia, who have contributed records;
- finally my wife Judy for her continued help in typing, layout and in many other ways.



Waders and seals (*Martin Woodcock*)

The County Records Committee (Mick Fiszer, Steve Gantlett, Phil Heath, John Kemp and John Williamson) considered a total of 98 records in the year; 18 of these were rejected, mostly as a result of insufficient detail and not owing to an incorrect identification. The Committee also reviewed the list of species needing submission of a written description or photographic evidence (and subject to acceptance) prior to publication and decided to retain the present list. The list is as follows:

Black-necked Grebe (at sea)	Dark-breasted Barn Owl
Cory's Shearwater	Bee-eater
Great Shearwater	Short-toed Lark
Balearic Shearwater	Tawny Pipit
Storm Petrel	Flava Wagtail (continental races except Blue-headed and Grey-headed)
Night Heron	Bluethroat (White-spotted only)
Purple Heron	Aquatic Warbler
White Stork	Marsh Warbler
Greenland White-fronted Goose	Melodious Warbler
'Vagrant' Canada Goose	Dartford Warbler
American Wigeon	Pallas's Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Chiffchaff (<i>tristis</i> race)
Surf Scoter	Woodchat Shrike
Spotted Crake	Raven
Corncrake	Rose-coloured Starling
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Serin
Grey Phalarope (in flight at sea)	Common Rosefinch
Sabine's Gull	Ortolan Bunting
Ring-billed Gull	Little Bunting
Caspian Gull	
Ring-necked Parakeet	

With regard to the submission of details, obviously the Committee would expect 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 a 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. It should be noted that on occasions observers may be asked for further details of species not contained in the above list - if records relate to unusual dates, localities, etc.

Editorial Material: Articles for consideration, artwork, photographs and transparencies should continue to be submitted to mc at 49 Nelson Road, Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8DA.

Submission of Records

All records for the Systematic List should continue to be submitted to me at 49 Nelson Road,

Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8DA. Preferably these should be submitted on a monthly basis or, if this is not possible, on a 3-monthly or 6-monthly basis. Obviously records can be accepted annually after the end of the year but all observers are requested to submit their notes within a shorter time scale if possible to reduce the pressure of recording in January/February the following year. Receipt of late records causes a major problem in drafting the Systematic List *and observations received after February of the following year cannot be guaranteed for inclusion in the Report*. All records should be listed in the order of species appearing in this Report. Notes will not normally be acknowledged but names of all contributors will be published. To obtain as complete coverage as possible records 'phoned-in' to Birdline East Anglia have been frequently used in the compilation of the List. However, records of national and local rarities have only been included where considered and accepted by the appropriate Committee.

During the year I spend a considerable amount of time 'chasing' descriptions of both county and national rarities. I would request that finders of such birds should submit details to me as soon as possible and certainly not left to the end of the year. In the case of national rarities these should be submitted in duplicate. Obviously if other observers have particularly good views of a rarity for example, but were not the finder, then additional descriptions would be gratefully received.

As far as I am aware there are still several outstanding records awaiting a decision from the British Birds Rarities Committee, mainly as a result of late submission of descriptions.

At the time of writing this editorial (August 2002) considerable progress has been made on the computerisation of records. The monthly records for January-April 2002 have been inputted onto the new system but owing to the time factor involved, especially in the short term, it is clear that additional help is needed to input records. Volunteers are therefore requested, the only initial requirements being an interest in bird recording and the availability of a home computer.

Giles Dunmore

Review of Year 2001

Justin Lansdell (with weather patterns provided by Steve Wakeham)

An unsettled start to **January** failed to deter keen observers from enjoying the now familiar crop of special birds remaining from before the New Year celebrations. Among familiar friends, Common Cranes strutted serenely around the Broads, a mobile band of Shore Larks roamed Holkham Bay, the (by now elderly) Black-winged Stilt continued to draw admiring glances at Titchwell and a Rough-legged Buzzard once again took up residence on the vast marshes of Haddiscoe.

However, it was hoards of every layman's favourite, the Waxwing, which drew most attention and it soon became obvious that we were at the forefront of the largest influx since 1996. Less high profile, but no less dramatic, thousands of Guillemots accumulated off the north coast culminating in an estimated 20,000 in the Cley area; whatever caused this unusual build-up, few other species responded, although a number of Pomarine Skuas were unable to resist an opportunistic meal.

The mild start to the year both in Norfolk and further east kept numbers of wildfowl, and particular Taiga Bean Geese and Whitefronts, at modest levels although sawbills were widespread and in the case of Red-breasted Mergansers plentiful. By the 9th a building high pressure to the north and strengthening winds from the east dragged increasingly cold air from the continent for ten days. With them came quality birds with a brief Arctic Redpoll at Swanton Novers, a White-billed Diver off Titchwell and an inland Slavonian Grebe (the first of four at Hickling during the year) the most notable, before milder weather returned.

Despite a period of very windy and unsettled conditions, the last few days of the month confirmed it as the sunniest January since 1959. With the resultant quiet period and decent weather, observers cast the net widely and the breadth of Norfolk avifauna was demonstrated by more observations of unobtrusive species; returning Black Brants from the 1998 influx, a steady increase in Pale-bellied Brent Geese, a scattering of Water Pipits and a welcome increase in the Brecks Hawfinch population all boded well for the future at a time when concern for our avian gems is widespread.

February began with persistent and freezing fog and, unusually for the time of year, the sea took centre stage with an unseasonal Sooty Shearwater off Sheringham followed by a record 278 Pochard west at Mundesley. The harsh snap was to be short-lived however, and soon south-westerlies dominated. A Garganey at Berney was only the second winter record in the last 50 years and the second Stone Curlew in as many months were both exceptional and symptomatic of the weather in a largely uninspiring spell.

Pinkfeet are a dominant feature of Norfolk winters, providing a wonderful sight and sound on dull winter days. In recent years a huge surge in numbers and the location of scarcer species in their midst has increased scrutiny of the large flocks particularly on the vast tracts of arable in the north west of the county and this year was no exception. A combined count of 82,100 at three roosts represented a new county record and throughout the first three months a smattering



Red-throated Diver (Steve Cale)

of Tundra Bean Geese, Barnacles, Greenland Whitefronts, wild Greylags and at least one Red-breasted Goose emerged from the hoards only to blend back into the melée just as quickly.

Elsewhere high numbers of Red-throated Divers again used the shallow, sandy waters confirming the county's importance for this species and a massive 13,280 Golden Plovers at Breydon was a county record and the third there in successive years.

Strengthening north-westerly winds which concluded a quiet month for bird movement saw an impressive movement of Fulmars on the last day.

Early **March** saw little change with very cold weather and consequently little avian movement until milder south-westerlies arrived with Atlantic fronts in the second week. The effects were immediate and Norfolk's earliest-ever Swallow arrived to hawk over Barton Broad with the more expected Sand Martins, White Wagtails, Black Redstarts, Wheatears, Chiffchaffs and the first of a good passage of delightful Firecrests. As always high pressure building to the north, coupled with strengthening easterlies, brought spring to a shuddering halt and the only bird of note, a male Dartford Warbler at Cromer, may not have come far. By the 21st rain, sleet and snow was falling but amazingly a Sandwich Tern struggled north and Barton Broad's sheltered waters gave necessary sanctuary to an early House Martin. Not ahead of time milder south-westerlies finally dominated from the 22nd and a 'stop-start' month concluded with a popular male White-spotted Bluethroat at Cley and the first returning Yellow Wagtails and Willow Warblers.

Warm temperatures continued into early **April** and a male Penduline Tit was enjoyed by the fleet-footed few who made it to Weybourne before its premature departure. A Ferruginous Duck at Fowlmere made fools of most by disappearing for nearly three months almost as soon as it had been found. Despite a series of Atlantic depressions during 3rd-10th and the resultant unsettled conditions, migrants arrived over a broad front and most appeared on schedule before a brief spell of high pressure and northerlies cut off the supply. Typically of April, observer optimism of spring overshoots was dampened mid-month with a cool unsettled spell complete with a north and north-westerly blow and wintry showers, a trend which was to last through to the 20th. It was time for the unorthodox and keen birders diverted their attention to the sea and were rewarded with Norfolk's first-ever spring Long-tailed Skua and two unseasonal Leach's Petrels, while a Great Grey Shrike at Wells was doubtless stalled on its northern migration by the inclement conditions.

A disturbed month finished with yet another depression moving slowly east by the 25th but at last the flow of migrants from Europe and beyond resumed with Kentish Plover, Bluethroat and two Serins making landfall amongst good numbers of expected songbirds. From further afield, two Richard's Pipits added to the species growing status as more than a late autumn drift migrant reliant on easterly winds and hinted at a wintering range much further west than was thought previously.

A ridge of high pressure building from the west on **May** 1st set the scene in what was to become a largely dry, sunny and warm month. With most breeding birds back in situ it was to be a typical May of quality birds everytime favourable conditions existed and, after a few days of cool north-easterlies and cloudy weather early on, a sudden change brought the first pulse of birds from the 9th. By then the wind had veered through south-east and brought an influx of Wood Sandpipers (peaking at an impressive 16 at Salthouse), the best of a light spring passage of Black Terns and the first Grey-headed Wagtails, but it was the southerly flow which followed that finally ignited what is always a much-anticipated month. Temperatures during 10th-13th climbed and birders donned shorts and t-shirts to enjoy two Hoopoes and a Tawny Pipit before Scolt Head produced the cream of the spring with first

an adult Long-tailed Skua and then Norfolk's first (and Britain's fourth) Marmora's Warbler.

Two days later a singing Savi's Warbler lit up an unsettled spell of frontal systems from the west by choosing to settle a very viewable north coast reedbed; the first of a good showing of four singing males in the county.

The last ten days of the month saw anti-cyclonic conditions re-established and the trend of brief birds and inaccessible locations continuing with a string of good birds seen by few fortunate observers. A female Sardinian Warbler at Bacton sadly didn't linger and two fly-over Bee-eater likewise. Scolt Head enjoyed an Ortolan and a Short-toed Lark leaving a cracking male Subalpine Warbler on Blakeney Point as chief compensation for expectant local and visiting birdwatchers alike.

June began with west to north-westerly winds bringing cooler, showery conditions and three Sooty Shearwaters off Sheringham amidst the first major Manx Shearwater passage of the summer, continuing a year of unseasonal seabird sightings. Despite high temperatures on the 5th this respite was to be short-lived and a further five days under the influence of north-westerlies included overnight ground frost in some places. The accompanying showers grounded a popular female Red-necked Phalarope at Cley although a Rose-coloured Starling in a Frettenham garden was typically only seen by its finders and had more to do with the migratory urge of a species prone to eruptions than any weather systems. An active depression mid-month was to bring heavy downpours and localised thunderstorms and, often influenced by such conditions, a rare tern - this time a Caspian which spent two days in the Yare Valley.

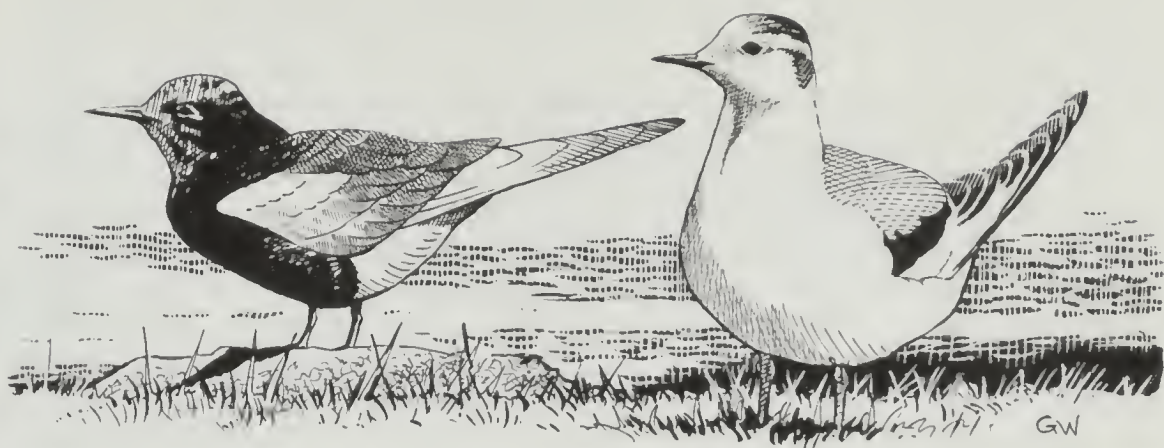
With spring over attention moved to breeding birds. Amongst high profile and sought after specialities, Honey Buzzards again performed in central Norfolk and records suggested more than one pair, Bitterns clung to their precarious position and our unique Cranes, although elusive at this season, were busy raising young. Elsewhere Sandwich and Little Terns enjoyed contrasting fortunes while those two most fickle waders, Black-tailed Godwit and Ruff, gave cause for optimism. However, it is easy to forget the depth and diversity of our breeding avifauna in the sultry, tourist-thronged days of mid-summer. Amongst these, Spotted Crakes and Common Gulls had improved showings and Mediterranean Gulls, Garganey and Pintail all bred successfully.

Warm southerlies brought the month to a close and only thunderstorms on the night of the 26th broke the pattern, although a Black Kite over Welney and the best Swift movement of the summer provided proof that migrants do occur, even at this time of year.

July started hot and sunny with high pressure dominating before falling pressure and more thunderstorms brought an end to the hot spell by the 7th. Only a 1st-summer female Red-footed Falcon briefly at Cley on the 9th would interest the rarity hunters but with more records emerging there was time to reflect on another breeding season.

At a time when much is written about decline in our native species, Montagu's Harriers again failed to breed within the county boundary, no Roseate Terns tried for the first time since 1995 and Golden Orioles continued to decline, clearly struggling to maintain a toehold here. However, maybe just maybe, this is part of the continual change in climate, distribution and avifauna as on the plus side Cormorants at Holkham increased, Hobbies again hawked wetlands in numbers, Common Buzzards and Marsh Harriers enjoyed record years, and Spoonbills once more spent long spells at favoured wetlands.

A deep area of low pressure across southern Britain mid-month brought a change and the first scawatching of autumn. Manx Shearwaters provided the bulk with a colossal 600 at Sheringham while six Balearic, a Cory's and two Storm Petrels were chief reward for hours



White-winged Black Tern and Little Gull (*Gary Wright*)

of persistence at Mundesley and Sheringham. The rain which came with the low pressure was widespread and an adult White-winged Black Tern and waders typically dropped out of the sky. An adult Terek Sandpiper found amongst the throngs of Redshank already returned to the Wash tormented observers by appearing erratically at the Snettisham roost on just six dates in a 23 day period; more expected the first of seven Pectoral Sandpipers arrived and once again Cantley Beet Factory assumed the mantle of Britain's premier Green Sandpiper locality.

A ridge of high pressure heralded **August** and calm and sunny conditions set the tone for a quiet month in avian terms. An unsettled week quickly followed and westerly winds brought spells of rain, a further White-winged Black Tern and a White-rumped Sandpiper to Cley, prompting the annual discussions of whether it had crossed the Atlantic in the previous autumn or made direct landfall. By the 13th increasingly hot and humid south-easterlies had pushed up temperatures and the first of six Dotterel was reward for observers trudging the length of Blakeney Point in sultry conditions. Still observers toiled away and it was that special breed, the Gull-fanatics, that came up trumps with an impressive 44 Yellow-legged Gulls at Saddlebow and 32 Mediterranean Gulls at Breydon, both county records and reward for many hours persistence.

Until the 25th light mainly southerly winds and clear skies maintained the status quo of hot and humid conditions before thunderstorms and cooler air from the north-west allowed favourable winds to drop the first Wrynecks and Barred Warblers of the autumn with a pulse of drift migrants, and brought another Rose-coloured Starling to the Broads, before a disappointing month had departed.

If August was slow and relaxing, **September** was frenzied and exhausting with impressive seawatching until mid-month replaced almost immediately with a two week spell dripping with drift migrants and major rarities leaving us with a vintage month which will linger long in the memory.

The first half of the month was dominated by weather systems revolving around a persistent mid-Atlantic anticyclone and bringing first strong then near galeforce north-northwesterly winds by the 9th. Seawatching was productive on a near daily basis with the

4th and 9th standing out exceptionally. High counts of Sooty Shearwaters, an above average showing of Leach's Petrels, Sabine's Gulls and Long-tailed Skuas and an unprecedented number of that most elusive of Norfolk birds, the will-of-the-wisp Storm Petrel, provided the highlights, but just as impressive were the best counts of Gannets, Arctic Skuas and Bonxies of the entire autumn.

Not surprisingly little attention was focussed anywhere other than the sea but another White-rumped Sandpiper appeared at Cantley Beet Factory and a juvenile Rose-coloured Starling replaced the adult at Waxham to begin a three month sojourn.

By the 17th a ridge of high pressure was building to the west and winds from the eastern sector and heavy rain sent temperature gauges plummeting over the next few days. This pattern was to continue until late in the month with high pressure over Scandinavia feeding 'drift migrant-friendly' easterlies of varying strengths into East Anglia for eight consecutive days.



Wryneck and Red-backed Skrike (*Gary Wright*)

As always the birds responded and what followed was an avalanche of rarities amongst common birds with Wheatears, Redstarts and Robins prominent, but it was the sheer volume of scarcities that made remarkable viewing then and reading now. Star of the show was Norfolk's second Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler on the 22nd, which true to form at this hallowed site, arrived on a day of few other migrants at Blakeney Point, and remained for three days allowing its subtle features to be admired by many. Elsewhere over the next four days Rustic Bunting, Olive-backed Pipit, Radde's Warbler and three very early Dusky Warblers made landfall adding to a total for the second half of the month which included two Hoopoes, 10 Wrynecks, 26 Richard's and two Tawny Pipits, three Bluethroats, 17 each of Barred and Yellow-browed Warblers, three Wood Warblers, 18 Red-breasted Flycatchers, 12 Red-backed Shrikes and a showy Ortolan. All too soon it was over and south-westerly winds brought warmer temperatures and lower pulse rates, although a Squacco Heron at Bacton Gas Terminal on the 27th and a Lesser Yellowlegs at Welney next day showed that all was not quiet, before unsettled conditions and strong winds from the Atlantic ushered out a dramatic month.

October continued in a similar vein with south-westerlies for the first week dumping a fresh juvenile Lesser Yellowlegs at Cantley and perhaps more surprisingly a huge influx of Ruff at Welney. High pressure over the near continent for four days around the 12th did little to stir the pot but the settled spell with warmer temperatures must have been appreciated by a record 45 Little Egrets roosting at Titchwell.

Fortunately by the 16th the picture was changing and low pressure to the west of Britain ensured strengthening south to south-easterly winds and, just like turning on a tap, not for the first time this autumn birds from eastern Europe and beyond were prompted in our direction. Where it had been warblers and chats in September, Thrushes and Goldcrests arrived en masse over a broad front bringing with them Short-toed Lark, three Pallas's Warblers, Dusky Warbler and a Rosefinch. Pride of place, however, must go to the Pallid Swift which spent the horrendous afternoon of the 20th banking up and down Cromer seafront with a late Common Swift for company.

By the time a Subalpine Warbler was found at Holkham Meals on the 22nd the weather was changing once more, and a series of Atlantic weather systems stemmed the flow of birds before fresh north-westerlies brought a high count of seven Great Northern Divers west at Mundesley on the last day.

November started with an anticyclone over southern England which encouraged two typically late autumn prizes at opposite ends of the county, with a Serin at King's Lynn and a Red-rumped Swallow on the east coast, replaced by an equally unusual extremely late Sand Martin two days later.

Frontal systems from the west soon snapped the door shut on autumn however, and with strong to galeforce northerlies came simultaneously both the first snow showers of winter and the last meaningful seawatching of a productive autumn for this addictive pursuit. The bulk was made up of thousands of Kittiwakes streaming along the coastal strip but late Cory's Shearwaters, the last Storm Petrels and the early forbearers of a heavy Little Auk passage received more acclaim as an intermittent cold northerly blast lasted through to the 14th. Next day the anticyclone transferred eastwards to settle over the south of the country for three days and the resulting light northerly breeze gave us the last meaningful moment of the month. An early influx of Iceland Gulls was perhaps understandable but Norfolk's first long-staying Gull-billed Tern since 1980 was both very late and hugely unexpected, given the prevailing winds, but equally well received.

The rest of the month was something of an anticlimax with front after front arriving from the Atlantic with mild north-west to south-west winds and rain, with most observers happy to spend time in the north-west of the county enjoying the tern and sifting Pinkfoot flocks. The Broads, not to be outdone, still had the Squacco Heron to enjoy and a peak of 500 Snipe in the mid-Yare valley must have been impressive.

The mild, changeable conditions continued into **December** with overnight temperatures remaining high, doubtless helping an unseasonal Turtle Dove at Ormesby. Atlantic fronts have been a feature of recent winters but anticyclonic conditions with east or north-east winds dominating through to the 18th saw a well-watched, but often elusive, flock of Redpolls at Titchwell hiding up to three Arctic Redpolls, and the food-rich North Sea was holding above-average numbers of Scaup, Velvet Scoter and Red-breasted Merganser. Amongst them a wandering Surf Scoter visited three different scoter flocks before disappearing prematurely but cloudless days made birding a welcome distraction from Christmas preparations and ensured December's place in the record books as the sunniest on record. Records were not restricted to the weather, with Whooper Swans on the Ouse Washes and both Wigeon and Teal at Breydon/Berney reaching new levels while the

changing make-up of our over-wintering waders saw new standards set by Curlew, Black-tailed Godwit and Little Stint.

The year concluded with a north-westerly airflow, wintry showers and widespread overnight frosts. The continued presence of Common Cranes, Black-winged Stilt, a long-staying Rough-legged Buzzard, twinkling Shore Larks and Snow Buntings and a sprinkling of splendid Waxwings gave a familiar feel to the festive period, although a surprise 'tristis' Chiffchaff at Sea Palling from the 23rd hinted that we still have much to learn and that our avifauna is far from static.



Gull-billed Tern (*Gary Wright*)

Wetland Bird Survey 2001

The Complete Wash: *Dave Bingham*

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Little Grebe	36	9	3	27	65	36	51
Great Crested Grebe	20	2	151	33	44	100	44
Cormorant	157	73	232	220	125	183	187
Grey Heron	17	13	49	34	34	49	22
Mute Swan	29	48	7	9	21	31	43
Pink-footed Goose	14777	906	1	-	1236	18687	7954
Greylag Goose	305	88	967	66	181	409	387
Canada Goose	145	49	98	240	190	209	213
Dark-breasted Brent Goose	21102	19868	11	76	5143	11977	14378
Shelduck	10230	7855	1171	1758	2513	11149	5345
Wigeon	1982	1564	12	935	692	2287	785
Gadwall	105	92	-	-	9	8	18
Teal	808	772	384	685	390	1193	299
Mallard	3266	845	913	1781	818	1445	1380
Pintail	48	70	2	84	27	112	32
Shoveler	6	12	3	11	7	2	-
Pochard	19	24	-	-	12	16	43
Tufted Duck	45	61	17	11	50	68	68
Scaup	-	7	2	4	3	4	28
Eider	1374	338	31	65	40	217	736
Common Scoter	2650	5	8	-	1	13	12
Goldeneye	43	60	-	-	11	87	71
R B Merganser	14	5	-	-	34	46	39
Moorhen	7	8	8	8	8	9	11
Coot	67	38	41	55	53	59	76
Oystercatcher	13477	10601	11176	10749	6805	13371	10108
Avocet	1	6	267	-	-	1	2
Ringed Plover	40	33	1519	1299	193	186	85
Golden Plover	5104	6812	12394	7168	19424	7660	6584
Grey Plover	7572	6623	4631	1809	4038	8223	4594
Lapwing	15908	31165	650	1380	7886	23019	31961
Knot	73089	63781	43624	42221	72295	80452	36091
Sanderling	157	58	4216	492	1286	182	504
Dunlin	33296	35080	15013	22631	24790	24399	15718
Ruff	1	-	2	7	19	14	-
Snipe	27	-	23	6	55	21	4
Black-tailed Godwit	2031	1036	3736	6611	2414	9163	1732
Bar-tailed Godwit	17224	5660	12313	9626	6695	13282	8158
Whimbrel	1	-	82	60	2	-	2
Curlew	4156	2836	10304	3742	2462	2895	1906
Spotted Redshank	-	-	21	21	22	-	-
Redshank	3566	3564	7034	4036	3379	3231	1551
Greenshank	-	-	347	109	21	3	-
Turnstone	460	515	875	527	367	253	270
Black-headed Gull	3894	4180	10363	16136	2375	4373	4996
Common Gull	1439	1290	884	832	400	799	39
L B B Gull	25	37	315	582	129	37	358
Herring Gull	10005	1709	1026	7603	3758	2738	848
G B B Gull	490	109	332	3317	4515	1009	491
Sandwich Tern	-	-	512	495	2	-	-
Common Tern	-	-	435	62	-	-	-

Wetland Bird Survey 2001

Breydon and Berney: *Peter Allard*

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Little Grebe	4	5	5	3	10	8	9	7	4	4	4	6
Great Crested Grebe	4	3	2	5	7	20	33	33	22	19	10	5
Cormorant	76	74	79	39	36	38	95	106	103	81	81	214
Spoonbill	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	6	6	-	-	-
Mute Swan	79	77	83	55	116	73	57	53	47	31	22	79
Bewick's Swan	186	69	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	23	34
Pink-footed Goose	5500	5100	2400	-	-	-	-	-	90	360	800	3090
White-fronted Goose	112	54	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	52
Greylag Goose	75	32	42	18	52	52	56	54	77	340	129	113
Canada Goose	63	17	27	7	5	12	40	61	200	200	61	14
Barnacle Goose	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Brent Goose	-	7	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	8	5	2
Egyptian Goose	6	1	2	7	2	25	33	48	37	30	22	24
Shelduck	213	173	217	244	340	356	308	31	87	160	160	102
Wigeon	13160	13100	3700	180	13	8	2	118	2100	3480	6900	21700
Gadwall	53	117	107	50	36	23	8	5	5	20	30	39
Teal	2132	2790	1119	533	11	42	35	237	1900	1850	2440	6487
Mallard	406	218	126	68	97	159	91	67	211	180	259	402
Pintail	356	160	183	5	-	3	-	8	316	318	228	302
Garganey	-	1	1	4	4	3	-	1	1	1	-	-
Shoveler	283	445	542	140	23	24	2	21	118	379	336	471
Pochard	15	31	19	12	11	13	5	2	4	13	2	16
Tufted Duck	42	25	12	9	15	9	6	6	5	8	4	19
Coot	1143	610	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	220	763
Oystercatcher	47	154	229	153	102	81	204	154	22	25	17	18
Avocet	99	272	219	122	108	72	426	855	582	242	68	104
Lt Ringed Plover	-	-	-	1	2	2	4	1	-	-	-	-
Ringed Plover	24	84	53	43	486	43	39	222	219	166	94	94
Golden Plover	8470	13280	2000	3	5	3	400	1900	1150	3300	8800	8100
Grey Plover	29	23	21	4	64	8	3	10	13	34	28	38
Lapwing	18300	16900	4520	264	240	62	257	450	600	3200	14700	17250
Knot	408	365	314	69	42	7	14	23	21	16	20	328
Sanderling	12	4	6	16	14	8	2	2	1	4	1	2
Little Stint	-	-	-	-	10	1	-	12	-	19	1	3
Curlew Sandpiper	-	-	-	2	6	2	27	21	15	7	-	1
Dunlin	3810	3520	2570	2559	1944	42	433	497	879	1806	2631	6280
Ruff	52	40	11	10	23	13	35	35	37	21	39	42
Snipe	138	14	216	65	1	9	6	26	44	60	60	93
Black-tailed Godwit	1376	922	811	736	40	48	1001	1134	1184	840	1331	1607
Bar-tailed Godwit	30	30	33	14	67	4	5	24	6	12	24	46
Whimbrel	-	-	-	25	11	2	10	50	-	-	-	-
Curlew	1029	981	747	432	24	210	738	1037	1097	993	911	1366
Spotted Redshank	4	5	6	4	2	3	2	2	3	6	3	5
Redshank	1034	1011	1119	1207	158	174	904	1120	1257	970	1181	1207
Greenshank	-	-	-	2	13	2	6	16	9	5	-	-
Green Sandpiper	-	-	1	-	-	4	4	8	2	1	-	-
Wood Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	5	-	2	3	-	-	-	-
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	6	34	-	4	20	7	1	-	-
Turnstone	9	12	8	21	18	10	10	12	7	6	7	10
Little Gull	-	-	-	2	5	12	63	83	-	-	-	-
Black Tern	-	-	-	-	5	-	1	16	-	-	-	-

Norfolk Bird Atlas

Moss Taylor

In common with very many other bird surveys, fieldwork for the Norfolk Bird Atlas (NBA) was severely curtailed by the foot-and-mouth outbreak during 2001. However, despite the inevitable restrictions imposed on visiting farmland, 85 tetrads were surveyed during the summer of 2001, largely by counting from public footpaths and roads.

As the project continues the value of the data gathered will increase, as a larger proportion of the county is covered year by year. It has therefore been decided to present the combined results from the first two years of summer fieldwork. During 2000 and 2001, a total of 256 tetrads (18% of the county) was surveyed twice, once between the beginning of April and mid-May, and once between mid-May and the end of June. Some results from these two 'set' visits are given below; they do not include any supplementary records. A total of 62 species has been selected, of which 57 are reasonably common and widespread. The remaining five (Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Willow Tit, Tree Sparrow, Lesser Redpoll and Corn Bunting) are species that have declined noticeably in recent years. It is proposed that these same 62 species will be analysed each year.



Song Thrush (*Steve Cale*)

The figures given in the table represent the percentage of tetrads in which that species was recorded on at least one of the two visits in 2000 or 2001, and the overall percentage of tetrads occupied by that species during fieldwork for the first Norfolk Atlas in 1980-85 (Kelly 1986). It should be stressed that these figures (from both the atlas recording periods) relate to the presence of birds during the breeding season and do not necessarily indicate breeding within the tetrad. This applies, in particular, to Swift and Rook, two species that are highly mobile during the breeding season. Of those species showing an apparent increase since 1980-85, that for Garden Warbler may be related to an improvement in observers' skill in separating their song from that of the Blackcap.

Percentage of tetrads in which each species was recorded on at least one of the two visits in 2000 or 2001 compared with the summers of 1980-85.

<i>Species</i>	<i>% 00-01</i>	<i>% 80-85</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>% 00-01</i>	<i>% 80-85</i>
Mallard	86	71	Garden Warbler	42	25
Sparrowhawk	50	9	Blackcap	84	45
Kestrel	73	72	Chiffchaff	80	52
Red-legged Partridge	82	90	Willow Warbler	79	77
Grey Partridge	37	37	Goldcrest	58	40
Pheasant	91	93	Spotted Flycatcher	37	47
Moorhen	82	82	Long-tailed Tit	74	46
Lapwing	37	53	Marsh Tit	25	21
Feral Pigeon	39	16	Willow Tit	4	16
Stock Dove	72	50	Coal Tit	51	36
Wood Pigeon	96	96	Blue Tit	94	93
Collared Dove	87	47	Great Tit	91	90
Turtle Dove	59	81	Nuthatch	23	27
Cuckoo	55	75	Treecreeper	32	34
Swift	77	75	Jay	62	50
Green Woodpecker	61	23	Magpie	83	43
Great Sp Woodpecker	67	37	Jackdaw	84	36
Lesser Sp Woodpecker	3	18	Rook	63	33
Skylark	95	97	Carrion Crow	88	40
Swallow	92	95	Starling	91	95
House Martin	78	85	House Sparrow	88	95
Meadow Pipit	38	27	Tree Sparrow	10	36
Pied Wagtail	91	53	Chaffinch	94	93
Wren	95	93	Greenfinch	90	86
Dunnock	93	95	Goldfinch	84	86
Robin	93	93	Linnet	80	83
Blackbird	95	98	Lesser Redpoll	4	31
Song Thrush	85	96	Bullfinch	43	60
Mistle Thrush	82	65	Yellowhammer	82	89
Lesser Whitethroat	36	20	Reed Bunting	34	33
Whitethroat	90	54	Corn Bunting	5	8

Additional fieldworkers for future years would be most welcome and anyone interested in taking part in either the winter or summer surveys should contact Moss Taylor at 4 Heath Road, Sheringham, NR26 8JH or by email on mosstaylor@care4free.net

Systematic List

Introduction

The order used follows the sixth edition of the *Checklist of Birds of Britain and Ireland* published by the BOU in 1992, as amended 1998 and 2000. The English names that are most familiar have been retained. Unless otherwise stated, all observations are of single birds and refer to 2001. The following abbreviations are used in the species accounts:

BO = Bird Observatory
BBRC = British Birds Rarities Committee
BF = Sugarbeet Factory
BOU = British Ornithologists' Union
BTO = British Trust for Ornithology
CP = Country/Coastal Park
ESA = Environmentally Sensitive Area
FM = Fresh Marsh
GC = Golf Course
GM = Grazing Marsh
GP = Gravel Pit

NBA = Norfolk Bird Atlas
NBC = Norfolk Bird Club
NBR = Norfolk Bird Report
NNR = National Nature Reserve
NR = Nature Reserve
RSPB = Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SM = Saltmarsh
STW = Sewage Treatment Works
TA = Training Area
WeBS = monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts
WM = Water Meadows
WWT = Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

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 or none present. For wildfowl and waders, the data used derives generally from the monthly WeBS counts although if higher totals are available these are used instead; readers are also referred to the tables giving composite counts for the Wash and Breydon/Berney which should be read in conjunction with the individual species accounts in the Systematic List. Unfortunately the figures for the North Coast were not available when the Report went to the printers. WeBS thresholds for International/National importance have been inserted for all relevant species.

Readers will note that the Wash WeBS counts do not include figures for March-July. This was a result of the foot and mouth restrictions which also prohibited access to many other sites in the county during this period. This applied particularly to the Stanford TA where access was restricted from 27th February until the end of the year.

Whilst many records to the west of Sheringham town are in the Sheringham Bird Observatory recording area, for the sake of simplicity most records are referred to as 'Sheringham' only. The area previously referred to as 'Lakenheath Washes' is henceforth called 'Hockwold Washes' to avoid confusion with the adjacent Lakenheath Fen RSPB Reserve situated in Suffolk. Where details of breeding birds are given at Holkham NNR for example these refer, unless otherwise stated, to the grazing marshes at Burnham Norton, Burnham Overy and Holkham.

Whilst a considerable proportion of the county's coastline to the north-east runs on a north-west/south-east axis to simplify matters movements have been quoted as east/west and north/south. Hence records to the west of Happisburgh are listed east/west as appropriate and those to the east as north/south.

Observers' initials are given for all national and county rarities and for a few other exceptional records. Normally the initials of the finder(s) are given (where known), and if applicable initials of observers who have also submitted detailed descriptions.

Red-throated Diver

Gavia stellata

Common passage migrant and winter visitor; rare in summer

Recorded all months. Monthly max (including birds in flight and on sea) continue to show importance of north-east and east coasts:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Hunstanton-Scolt Head	59	20	6	3	19	98	104
Burnham Overy-Blakeney Hbr	13	-	-	-	16	6	20
Blakeney Point-Happisburgh	110	514	55	15	5	228	101
Eccles-Hopton	70	150	363	7	25	43	75

National importance (winter): 50



Red-throated Diver (*Andy Benson*)

Movements or parties on sea involving 100 or more in first winter period: at Mundesley 300 Jan 1st, 10th and 16th with 200 on sea and 50 west Jan 3rd, 247 Feb 5th, 492 8th and 514 west 9th; elsewhere 110 east Cromer Jan 1st, 100 Happisburgh Feb 15th, 150 Horsey Feb 5th and 363 north Winterton March 3rd. Last double-figure count of winter 51 Walcott March 21st.

Thereafter in April 2 Happisburgh 1st, 2 Horsey 3rd, Mundesley 5th, Holme 6th, 27th and 31st with 2 19th, 2 Winterton 7th, 3 Overstrand 8th, 4 Cley 9th with one 20th, 4 Horsey 14th, 2 Salhouse and singles Scolt Head and Sea Palling 19th, 5 Sea Palling 20th, Beeston Bump 20th and 21st, and Sheringham 23rd. More summer records than usual: *May* 4 Blakeney Point 6th with 3 15th, Cley 11th with 2 19th, and Winterton 20th; *June* Blakeney Point 4th, Cley 9th, Winterton 10th and Beeston 18th; *July* Yarmouth 15th.

Autumn records from late Aug when Cromer 23rd and 25th, Cley 28th, Winterton 29th, Overstrand and Sheringham 31st; first double-figure count 10 Blakeney Point Sept 9th. Max counts in second winter period: 68 east 36 west Holme Dec 4th, 64 west 37 east Sheringham Dec 16th, 228 east Mundesley Nov 22nd, 150 Sea Palling and 165 north Waxham Dec 29th, 132 south 18 north Winterton Dec 20th.

Few Wash records: Snettisham Jan 16th and 30th, and 12 Heacham Dec 19th.

Inland: Martham Broad April 6th-11th and south along King's Lynn R Ouse Nov 1st.

Black-throated Diver

Gavia arctica

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; exceptional in summer

Scarce in first winter period: Hunstanton Jan 15th, 2 Holme Jan 30th and one April 23rd, 3

Scolt Head Jan 14th, Cley (summer plumage) April 11th, Salhouse 4 dates Jan 15th-28th and March 4th with 2 Jan 20th, Sheringham Feb 6th, 2 Horsey Feb 10th, and an oiled summer plumaged bird Yarmouth March 30th. Last of spring Titchwell May 27th.

A scattering of early autumn records in Sept: Hunstanton 8th; Holme 4th-8th with 2 on 20th; Scolt Head 4th (summer plumage) and 12th; west at Sheringham 3rd followed by singles 6th, 17th (summer plumage) and 19th; West Runton 23rd.

Subsequently apart from one Titchwell Oct 5th none until end of month: Hunstanton Nov 8th, Dec 7th and 16th; Holme Oct 30th, Nov 17th, 30th and Dec 9th; Titchwell Oct 21st, up to 3 in Nov, 4 Dec 8th and singles Dec 4th, 9th and 13th-16th; Scolt Head Nov 20th; Holkham Bay 2 Nov 3rd and Dec 1st with singles Nov 10th and Dec 9th; Blakeney Point Nov 4th; Cley Oct 29th and Nov 2nd; Sheringham Oct 20th, 21st, 25th, Nov 12th, 17th, Dec 8th, 12th, 18th and 19th; Overstrand Nov 14th; Mundesley Nov 9th; Horsey Nov 5th, 11th, 25th and 2 north 23rd; Waxham Nov 28th and Dec 1st; California Dec 15th; Winterton Dec 2nd.

2000 Amendment: Owing to an error by the printers several lines of the text for 2000 were omitted. The full text should have read as follows:

Very few recorded in first winter period: Titchwell Jan 1st/2nd and Feb 24th, Scolt Head Jan 4th and 9th, Cley Feb 20th, Salhouse Jan 1st, Sheringham March 1st, 2 Overstrand Feb 22nd and one March 29th, and single Winterton March 20th.

First of autumn west Holme and east Cromer Sept 3rd. Thereafter 1-4 Hunstanton Nov 20th-Dec 25th; Holme Sept 18th and 29th, Oct 22nd and 1-3 Nov 14th-Dec 19th; 1-2 Titchwell occasionally Sept 19th-Dec 16th; east Burnham Overy Nov 18th; Holkham Bay Nov 4th, Dec 3rd and 10th; Blakeney Point Sept 16th/17th, 2 Nov 17th, singles Nov 21st, 23rd and Dec 29th; 1-2 Cley irregularly Sept 16th-Dec 2nd with 4 Nov 7th; Salhouse Sept 27th, Oct 15th and Nov 18th; 2 Weybourne Sept 30th; 1-2 Sheringham Sept 23rd-Nov 19th with 4 Nov 6th; Cromer Oct 30th; Mundesley Nov 7th and 12th/13th; 2 Waxham Dec 23rd; Winterton Nov 5th and 2 Dec 3rd.

Great Northern Diver

Gavia immer

Winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers; exceptional in summer

Widespread along north coast but in small numbers in first winter period: Holme 7 dates Jan 14th-31st; Titchwell 5 dates Jan 6th-31st and Feb 4th-10th; Brancaster Hbr Jan 9th-Feb 12th with 2 Jan 14th; 1-2 regular Blakeney Hbr Jan 1st-Feb 16th; one dead Blakeney Point March 28th and one May 6th; 2 Beeston Regis Feb 11th and one March 4th; west Cromer April 21st; south Waxham Feb 16th with 2 17th. Last of spring Mundesley May 17th.

First of autumn Holkham Bay Sept 12th, with others in month at Overstrand 16th, Sheringham and Beeston Bump 17th, Holme 19th/20th and Cley 28th. Thereafter widespread with 2 Hunstanton Nov 8th; 1-2 on 24 dates Holme Oct 3rd- Dec 28th; 1-2 Titchwell many dates Oct 25th-Dec 18th; 2 Brancaster Nov 20th; east Cley Oct 22nd, 27th, 3 west one east Nov 2nd, west 8th; east and west Salhouse Nov 3rd, one 17th; west Weybourne Nov 9th; east Sheringham Oct 2nd, 7th, 21st, 27th and 31st, Nov 2nd, 6th, 2 east 7th, west Dec 1st and 9th, one east one west 8th; east West Runton Nov 3rd, 10th and 15th; 5 east one west Cromer Nov 2nd; 7 west Mundesley Oct 31st, 2 west Nov 6th, west 9th; west Walecott Nov 23rd; Winterton Oct 31st; Yarmouth and north Gorleston Nov 11th.

White-billed Diver

Gavia adamsii

Vagrant

A bird at Titchwell Jan 14th was the sixth for the county and the first since 1996 (PE PJM).

Little Grebe*Tachybaptus ruficollis**Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor*

Found throughout the county with monthly max at regularly counted sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	16	13	13	8	-	-	2	5	21	25	32	29
Holme	7	11	16	2	4	1	8	10	6	8	9	15
Thornham-Brancaster	14	1	2	5	-	-	1	-	-	17	20	11
Cley-Salthouse	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	10	24
Breydon/Berney	4	5	5	3	10	8	9	7	4	4	4	6
Hickling Broad	10	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	7	7
Whitlingham CP	3	3	8	7	-	8	2	2	14	13	8	3
Fowlmere	-	1	17	15	-	16	20	30	-	-	-	-

Additional counts of 10 or more: 12 Wells Boating Lake Nov 10th, 12 Buckenham Tofts Dec 21st, 10 Burnham Overy Staithe Jan 13th and 15 Nov 23rd, 16 Heigham Sound Jan 21st and 19 28th, 12 Great Ryburgh Sept 2nd, 39 Hockwold Washes Oct 26th, 11 Pensthorpe Nov 6th, 11 Rockland Broad Dec 11th, 20 Swanton Pools Jan 14th and 16 Dec 24th, 10 Stanford Water Jan 7th and 10 Tottenhill GP Dec 16th.

Reports received of 109 breeding pairs (numbers in brackets): Baconsthorpe, Bintree Mill, Bittering GP, Breydon/Berney (20), Burgh Castle, Cley (2), East Ruston King's and Mown Fens (6), Fowlmere (5), Hellington (2), Holkham NNR (37), Holme (6), King's Lynn BF (2), Lang Mere (6), Lopham Fen (2), Ludham (3), Morning Thorpe (2), Pensthorpe (4), Raynham Lake (2), Sheringham BO, Titchwell, Waxham, Weybourne, Whitlingham Little Broad and Yarmouth Bure Park,

Great Crested Grebe*Podiceps cristatus**Resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor*

Found throughout the county in both coastal and inland waters with monthly max at regularly counted sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Holme	20	6	21	4	6	2	8	8	3	6	6	30
Thornham-Scolt Head	10	2	2	4	1	3	3	5	7	25	15	30
Breydon/Berney	4	3	2	5	7	20	33	33	22	19	10	5
Barton Broad	27	18	32	-	-	-	-	-	25	28	35	-
Rockland Broad	3	10	-	22	12	18	29	16	15	8	5	3
Hickling Broad	9	27	37	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	21	21
Welney	21	14	*41	37	28	12	-	8	-	8	12	3

* The Welney March count was a site record.

Other counts of 20 or more: 22 Earsham Pools Aug 27th, 25 Filby Broad Oct 7th, 33 Hardley Flood Aug 7th, 21 Heacham Nov 29th, 40 Holkham Bay Oct 12th with 28 13th, 22 Horning Feb 19th, 30 Hunstanton Jan 9th and 22 Wiggcnhall St Mary Magdalen Dec 30th. Also series of exceptional counts in summer at Snettisham with 40 on sea July 5th, 72 July 22nd, 102 Aug 5th and 123 Aug 17th.

Daily movements of up to 30 regularly observed, notably at Holme early and late in year with highest count 46 west in one hour Jan 9th.

Just 39 breeding pairs reported (with numbers in brackets): Bittering GP, Filby Broad (3), Gunton Park, Ludham (5), Lyng-Easthaugh GP (2), Middleton GP (4), Pensthorpe (2), Pentney GP (3), Rockland Broad (3), Saddlebow Relief Channel, Sparham GP (2), Sparham Pools (3), Stanford Water, Swanton Morley GP (3), UEA Broad (4) and Whitlingham CP.

Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena

Passage migrant and winter visitor

In first winter period most sightings from nearshore waters between Hunstanton and Titchwell: Hunstanton Jan 5th, 2 on 9th, singles Feb 3rd and a late bird May 1st; Holme 5 dates in Jan and Feb 3rd and 17th; Titchwell 4 dates Jan and Feb 15th and 17th, 2 on 14th. Elsewhere: Brancaster Hbr Jan 3rd and April 15th, Holkham Bay Jan 2nd, Sheringham April 15th and Mundesley Jan 10th.

First returning bird an adult Cley Aug 11th. Others in Aug at Sheringham 12th and 31st, Cley 24th/25th, Holme 26th and 2 Titchwell 26th/27th.

Thereafter much more widespread and numerous: west Holme Sept 2nd, 8th, 19th, east Oct 1st and 2nd, 2 there 20th and one Dec 6th; Titchwell 3 dates Sept, 3 in Oct, 2 in Nov and Dec 2nd-18th; west Scolt Head Sept 4th and 9th, Oct 1st and 27th, and Dec 6th; Holkham Bay Sept 30th, 2 Dec 11th, singles 23rd, 24th and 30th; Blakeney Point Nov 16th and 20th; Cley Sept 1st-4th, 2 10th, one 17th, Nov 9th, 10th, 2 16th and one 17th; Salthouse Oct 13th; Sheringham west Sept 17th, Nov 2nd, east and west 9th and east Dec 31st; 2 west Cromer Nov 2nd; Overstrand west Nov 14th; Mundesley west Sept 17th and 20th; Winterton north Nov 15th.

Slavonian Grebe

Podiceps auritus

Winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly during autumn

As usual, majority in nearshore waters Hunstanton-Scolt Head: 4 Hunstanton Jan 19th with singles 2nd, 6th and Feb 5th; regular off Holme with 1-2 Jan, singles Oct, up to 3 Nov, 1-2 Dec with max 5 on 9th; 2 Thornham Point Jan 18th; regular Titchwell with up to 3 Jan, 1-2 Feb 11th-28th, up to 5 Oct-Nov 21st, with exceptional count of 10 on Nov 17th, then up to 4 regular until year end; Brancaster Feb 27th and 5 Nov 20th; Scolt Head 2 Oct 10th, singles Oct 11th, 22nd, Nov 11th with 4 Dec 2nd.

Elsewhere Holkham Bay Oct 13th, Dec 16th and 24th; Wells Nov 4th; Stiffkey Jan 9th; Blakeney Hbr Jan 1st, 2 on 3rd and singles 9th and 20th; Blakeney Point Jan 1st, 9th and Nov 23rd, with 2 Oct 28th; Cley Sept 15th, 3 Oct 11th, 2 14th, one Nov 5th and 2 west 9th; Sheringham Oct 19th; 2 Waxham Dec 16th; Winterton Nov 15th. One East Runton May 26th had been dead a few days.

Inland: Hickling Broad Jan 19th, April 25th-May 7th (summer plumage), Oct 20th-27th and Nov 10th/11th.

Black-necked Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

A typical run of records: Brancaster Hbr Jan 14th, Welney March 28th, Burnham Overy GM June 10th, Snettisham Aug 8th/9th, Breydon Aug 12th, Brancaster Hbr Sept 23rd, Filby Broad Oct 7th with 2 on 9th, west Sheringham Nov 1st (IGJ) and Wolterton Hall Dec 23rd-26th.

Fulmar

Fulmarus glacialis

Breeder, some remaining all year; regular coasting and storm movements

Passage heaviest in first winter period during late Feb and early March when 562 east Cley (0925-1535), 900 east Sheringham and 400 south Sea Palling Feb 28th, and 42 south Lynn Point, 150 east Cley (0920-1120), 227 east Sheringham and 800 east Mundesley (0730-1030) March 1st. Also at this time large numbers of dead birds washed ashore including 40 Scolt Head and 21 Blakeney Point. No doubt linked to this wreck a small number of inland records with 2 Welney March 1st and one 2nd, both probably dying there, and singles Hickling Broad 13th and Barton Broad 18th.

Spring passage light, best counts 50 east Sheringham April 14th, 200 west Mundesley April 20th (1530-1730), and 105 east Scolt Head and 65 east Blakeney Point June 2nd.

Breeding: 147 occupied ledges Hunstanton late Jan, but only 22 young present Aug 15th, last young leaving Sept 26th. Also 3-4 pairs bred Scratby but all failed, pair on cliff face Beeston Regis April 9th and 19 on Cromer Cliffs April 1st, but no further details as to whether breeding took place.

First noteworthy movement of summer/autumn July 18th when 155 east 45 west Scolt Head, 64 east Cley and 260 east Sheringham (0500-1300). Highest counts during rest of autumn all during Sept: 100 Holme (1430-1805), 1500 west 500 east Scolt Head, 300 west Blakeney Point (0615-1715), 239 east Cley, 400 east 120 west Sheringham and 54 east Mundesley all 9th; 308 east Scolt Head, 170 west Blakeney Point (0615-0830), 196 west Cley and 104 west Mundesley 10th; 165 west 95 east Scolt Head and 106 west Sheringham 17th. No other counts of note.

One Welney Sept 19th was only inland record of autumn.

More records than previous year of blue-phase birds (all to east unless otherwise stated): 17 Cley and 17 Sheringham Feb 28th; one south Lynn Point, 5 Cley, 2 Weybourne, 14 Sheringham, 5 Overstrand and 7 Mundesley March 1st; singles Sheringham and south Sea Palling April 20th. In second winter period one Sheringham Dec 28th.

Cory's Shearwater

Calonectris diomedea

Annual vagrant from Mediterranean/North Atlantic; most during autumn

A total of 5 records probably involving 4 birds: east Scolt Head (NML) and east Sheringham (DBr RL *et al*) July 18th, Cley Aug 28th (RAFC), north Hunstanton (CAEK *et al*) and another east Sheringham (SB RL *et al*) Nov 8th.

Sooty Shearwater

Puffinus griseus

Autumn passage migrant, most during northerly gales; rare at other times

At start of year an unseasonal bird Sheringham Feb 2nd and equally unusual 3 east together there June 2nd continuing the recent run of spring records.

One east Mundesley July 17th was first of autumn. Few in Aug when east Sheringham 8th, south Horsey 26th, west Cley 27th and 2 Titchwell, singles east and west Scolt Head, 5 Cley and 2 Sheringham 31st. Recorded virtually daily Sept 1st-19th, with best counts corresponding with onshore gales when north Hunstanton, 3 west Holme, 12 west Titchwell, 21 west 3 east Scolt Head, 50 Cley, 6 west Weybourne, 50 Sheringham, 3 west one east Overstrand, 19 west Mundesley, one Waxham and 4 north Winterton all 4th; 18 Holme (1430-1805), 3 west Titchwell, 8 west Scolt Head, 55 Blakeney Point (0615-1715), 87 Cley, 38 Sheringham (0545-1045), 6 north Eccles, 9 Mundesley and 20 north Winterton all 9th; singles Hunstanton and Titchwell, 8 west 3 east Scolt Head, 3 west Cley, 7 east 4 west



Cory's Shearwater (Gary Wright)

Sheringham, 2 east Mundesley and 2 Winterton on 17th. Other notable counts during month included 4 north Horsey 1st, 6 Holme and 9 Sheringham 8th, 4 east Burnham Overy Dunes, 10 Cley and 10 Sheringham 10th, 5 Holme 16th and 9 Mundesley 18th (0730-1530).

A lack of northerly winds during Oct resulted in few records with singles west Sheringham 6th, east Holme 16th, east Sheringham and Cromer 21st, and Holme and Sheringham 31st. Last of autumn Nov 8th when singles north Hunstanton, west Holme and east Sheringham.

Manx Shearwater

Puffinus puffinus

Passage migrant with majority during autumn movements

Small numbers in early spring when singles east Salthouse March 6th, west Mundesley March 31st, 2 west Holme April 20th and in May east Blakeney Point 6th and 16th, east Cromer 20th and 2 east Sheringham 28th. First large and widespread movement of year June 2nd when 19 north Hunstanton, 36 west 34 east Holme, 12 Titchwell, 105 east 25 west Scolt Head, 29 east 2 west Blakeney Point, 3 west Cley and 20 east 4 west Sheringham. Smaller number on 7 other dates during month with best counts 19 north Waxham 3rd, 18 Weybourne 7th and 13 east one west Holme, 68 east 9 west Scolt Head, 14 east 5 west Blakeney Point and 14 east one west Sheringham 17th. Recorded on few dates during July, but major movements 17th and especially 18th. On 17th 21 west Holme, 26 west 3 east Scolt Head, 30 Blakeney Point, 28 east Cley, 6 Sheringham and 23 Mundesley. On 18th 235 east 25 west Scolt Head, 142 east Cley, 600 Sheringham (mostly east) (0500-1300), 18 east Cromer, 10 Mundesley and 51 south Winterton.

Few during Aug apart from 42 west one east Scolt Head, 11 east Sheringham and 7 Winterton 8th, and 77 west 25 east Scolt Head, 10 Cley and 10 Sheringham 31st. Recorded virtually daily during Sept up to end of third week. Best movements 32 west 4 east Holme, 46 Titchwell, 103 west 10 east Scolt Head, 120 Cley and 60 Sheringham 4th; 50 Holme 10 Titchwell, 12 west Scolt Head, 48 Blakeney Point (0615-1715), 26 Cley and 25 west 20 east Sheringham 9th; 10 west 3 east Scolt Head, 6 east 5 west Cley and 44 east 3 west Sheringham 17th. Only records after Sept, 8 Titchwell Oct 10th and last of year east Sheringham Nov 9th.

Balearic Shearwater

Puffinus yelkouan

Annual in small numbers during autumn

An average year, most Mundesley where 6 east July 17th, singles west Aug 30th and Sept 9th (MDF). Elsewhere Scolt Head July 18th and Oct 9th (NML), Cley Sept 11th (JDG), Weybourne Sept 4th (MPT), Sheringham 2 July 18th (DB AJLS), one July 19th (KBS *et al*) and 2 Sept 4th (many obs), East Runton Sept 14th (JHo), and Winterton Aug 26th and Sept 9th (INS).

Storm Petrel

Hydrobates pelagicus

Almost annual late autumn visitor, often in stormy weather

An excellent year with at least 3 Cley Sept 10th (many obs) and singles Sept 9th (JRMc), Nov 8th (JRMc RFP) and Nov 10th (JRMc). Elsewhere Blakeney Point Sept 10th and Oct 9th (MLC), Sheringham July 18th (PG *et al*), July 19th (IP), Sept 8th and Nov 9th (many obs), Mundesley Nov 9th (MDF) and Eccles Sept 16th (PJH).

Leach's Petrel

Oceanodroma leucorhoa

Gale-blown visitor mostly during autumn

Two spring records during a period of strong northerly winds in April when singles west Scolt Head 16th and west Beeston Bump 20th, the first April records since 1997.

All other records in Sept: 3 Scolt Head, 3 Cley, 3 Sheringham and 3 Mundesley 4th (all west); Yarmouth 6th; 2 east Cley and Sheringham 9th; west Holme 15th; 2 west Holme, singles west and east Scolt Head, and singles west Sheringham and north Eccles 16th; 2 west Holme, 6 west Scolt Head, 2 east Sheringham and one west Mundesley 17th; west Scolt Head and east Cley 18th; east along Holme Broadwater 19th and last west Scolt Head and Blakeney Point 23rd.

In addition a number of unidentified petrels during Sept when 2 Sheringham 8th and singles Cley 10th and Eccles 16th.



Petrels and Shearwaters (Andy Benson)

Gannet

Morus bassanus

Passage migrant, most during autumn gales

Movements in first winter period light, best counts 45 west 24 east Sheringham Feb 2nd (1000-1200), 33 east Mundesley March 1st and 37 north Winterton 3rd. Spring passage slightly better with 290 north Horsey April 14th, 57 Sca Palling 20th and in May 71 east Scolt Head 14th, and 30 east Scolt Head and 22 east Cley 19th. Many more offshore during

June, especially 2nd when 59 north-east 15 south-east Hunstanton, 85 east Holme, 235 east 55 west Scolt Head, 130 Blakeney Point and many Sheringham, and again 17th when 70 east 24 west Holme, 175 east Scolt Head, 300 east Blakeney Point and 40 east Sheringham. Few in July apart from large easterly movement 18th when 40 Holme, 205 Scolt Head, 210 Cley, 30 Salthouse and 955 Sheringham (9 hrs).

During autumn few counts worthy of note until northerly gales in Sept: 4th 90 west 32 east Holme, 120 west 85 east Scolt Head, 88 west 32 east Sheringham; 9th 106 east Scolt Head, 250 Blakeney Point (0615-1715), 150 east 80 west Sheringham; 17th 185 west 55 east Holme, 935 east 315 west Scolt Head, 1003 east Sheringham, 120 east 20 west Cromer; 18th 127 west 31 east Holme, 225 west 220 east Scolt Head, 109 east 8 west Cromer (0930-1200), 204 east 47 west Mundesley (0730-1530); 23rd 400 east Blakeney Point, 137 east Cromer (0945-1240).

A lack of strong onshore winds during Oct resulted in few counts of note with only exceptions 120 east Sheringham 20th, and 85 west Scolt Head. 147 east Cromer (1000-1230) and 86 south Winterton (1000-1200) 21st. In Nov best counts all 8th when 55 Hunstanton, 500 east Sheringham, 305 East Runton and 356 east 54 west Cromer (0800-1215). Few in Dec with 12 east Sheringham 28th easily the best count.

Two inland records both during Sept when juv over West Tofts 19th and another picked up in fields Brancaster Thompson Farms 21st, which was kept and released 29th, flying off strongly north-west.

Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

Increasing winter visitor and passage migrant; sporadic breeder

Monthly counts at main and most regularly reported roost sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	3	6	11	21	25	51	75	168	109	50	6	-
Titchwell	-	-	9	24	-	20	83	135	123	53	52	40
Ranworth Broad	233	231	-	-	46	-	-	-	56	231	263	241
Welney	188	175	249	74	47	51	50	102	128	109	155	162

National importance (winter): 130

Additional roost counts included Holkham GM 230 June and 250 July, and Barton Broad 29 Jan, 22 Feb, 19 Oct and 22 Nov. Several more roost sites including ones in Cley area, Fritton Lake and Wensum Valley, along with others, went unrecorded.

Numerous counts of hightide/daytime roosts/loafing birds: Scolt Head 59 May, 63 June, 91 July, 117 Aug, 129 Sept and 56 Oct; Cley 53 July and 80 Aug; Caister 85 Jan and 60 March; Breydon 76 Jan, 79 March, 95 July, 106 Aug, 103 Sept, 81 Oct and 214 Dec; Lyng-Easthaugh GP 20 Nov. An influx noted at Breydon during late Dec where 206 22nd and 214 31st. At Yarmouth good numbers increasingly noted using inshore waters especially around South Denes Power Station outlet where 65 Feb 25th and 78 Dec 19th.

Movements of note during year included 40 south Lynn Point March 1st, 35 east Sheringham Aug 27th, and at Winterton 41 north Feb 22nd and 86 north with many on sea Dec 12th. Whether any of these refer to genuine migration movements, feeding movements or birds heading to and from roost sites is unclear.

Only breeding data from Holkham GM where a further increase in breeding numbers to at least 50 pairs, fledging and impressive 120 young.

Shag

Phalacrocorax aristotelis

Autumn and winter visitor with occasional birds wrecked inland

A very average year with typically few in first winter period, only records singles King's Lynn Jan 2nd and March 3rd, Mundesley Jan 5th, Waxham Jan 6th, Salthouse Feb 3rd, Lynford GP Feb 10th/11th and Hunstanton March 3rd/4th. In spring only records 7 Yarmouth April 1st and singles Lynn Point April 20th, Cley May 3rd and Blakeney Point June 1st/2nd.



Shag (Steve Cale)

Autumn passage slow to get underway with none until Sept when one Titchwell and 3 Overstrand 5th. Subsequently in month west Overstrand 10th, Sheringham 13th and 17th, Cromer 19th and 23rd, 4 Hunstanton 20th and one Blakeney Point 22nd. Numbers not much better during Oct when 6 Scolt Head 16th, 3 Happisburgh 17th and singles Titchwell 7th, West Runton 15th-17th and Sheringham 24th. Slightly more during Nov with 6 west one east Sheringham 12th, 6 Mundesley 13th where 4 14th and 2 15th, 3 Hunstanton 15th, and singles Lynn Point 9th, Waxham 14th, Blakeney Point and Cley 16th, Thornham 17th and Titchwell 18th. Far fewer in Dec with 3 Scolt Head 2nd and one 16th-23rd, and singles Hunstanton 9th, Sheringham 12th, Titchwell 15th, Cley 23rd, Gorleston 28th and Sea Palling 30th.

At Overstrand a 1st-winter was found on the cricket pitch Nov 25th but it could not be caught. Next day it was found under a car by B1159 and this time was caught and released on sea, where it swam off seemingly none the worse for its ordeal.

Bittern

Botaurus stellaris

Rare resident breeder; also winter visitor in variable numbers

Unexceptional wintering numbers in early part of year: max 2 Hickling Broad and Heigham Holmes and singles at a further 14 coastal and Broads localities. One was found dead Horsey Staithe Jan 29th.

First boomer was one of wintering birds at Hickling Broad heard on extremely early date of Jan 19th. Despite recent advances breeding numbers remain at a low level. RSPB data revealed 29 boomers nationally, 7 in Norfolk; however, reports received indicate a possible total of 9 booming males (7 in Broads), though the discrepancy may be explained by certain males booming from more than one locality. At least 2 pairs are known to have bred (at least one successfully) and another pair is considered likely to have bred.

Radio-tagging of birds fledged at Minsmere, Suffolk in recent years has revealed post-fledging dispersal into Norfolk reedbeds. This was again in evidence when a tagged bird was present Cley Aug 1st-5th.

Only evidence of autumn immigration Holme and Snettisham Oct 22nd, the latter often proving remarkably confiding during a lengthy stay. Thus numbers again relatively low in second winter period: max 2 Hickling Broad and singles at 15 coastal and other Broad's sites, plus unusually one Blo' Norton Dec 23rd.

Squacco Heron

Ardeola ralloides

Vagrant from southern Europe

A juv Bacton Gas Terminal Sept 27th-29th before moving to Horsey/Waxham area until Dec 10th, also being seen Brograve Level and Heigham Holmes (PJH AJK et al). This individual was known to have roosted at both Waxham Cut and in the reedbed at the eastern end of Horsey Mere, providing many observers with an opportunity to catch a glimpse of an otherwise extremely elusive bird. Only the second record since 1966 with the only other record of a wintering bird relating to the first for the county, involving one accidentally trapped in a drying bow-net near Ormesby Broad Dec 1820.



Squacco Heron (*Robert Gillmor*)

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

Annual visitor; over-wintering in increasing numbers

The dynamic increase in the north-west European breeding population of this species is little short of spectacular. Before attempting to evaluate the data recorded below it is perhaps worth recalling that the first county wintering record was as recent as 1994 and the first recorded breeding in Britain was just 5 years ago (Dorset, 1996).

Breeding has yet to occur in Norfolk but the presence of up to 5 birds loafing in a suitable area this summer suggests it may not be far away. Also, in addition to the now familiar Titchwell roost, at least one (and possibly two) additional north coast roosts are being utilised. The number of birds roosting at Titchwell reached extraordinary levels during the autumn with a new county record being set with virtually each passing week, peaking at 45 Oct 7th. It is also now apparent that the birds utilising the coastal marshes and saltings

between Warham and Cley during 2001 were not roosting at Titchwell as had been previously suspected. There may well be movement between roost sites and it is unclear if adding the monthly totals from each roost is a safe method to evaluate the county population.

The Titchwell roost was again in use each month, max monthly roosting numbers:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Roost A (Titchwell)	12	14	7	3	3	4	17	38	30	45	34	39
Roost B	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	5	8	10

n/a = no data available

In first winter period few recorded away from Titchwell area when singles Breydon/Berney/Burgh Castle Jan 1st and 7th-28th, presumably same occasionally on R Bure, Yarmouth at this time. Single Cley March 28th may have been an early migrant.

As numbers at Titchwell declined, evidence of spring movement in April when 6 Holme 14th and singles R Bure (Yarmouth) 21st, Welney 26th/27th and Burnham Norton 30th. Further presumed migrants in May when singles Winterton, Hickling Broad, west Beeston Bump and 4 Welney, all 11th. Subsequently single at latter site 13th, 2 there 18th with 3 22nd-25th and single again 26th-29th; presumably some duplication involved with Ouse Washes RSPB 15th and 21st with 2 on 22nd. Additional May singles Salthouse 14th, Breydon 19th-29th and 2 Stiffkey 15th-18th, with 2-3 Burnham Norton/Burnham Overy GM 26th/27th and 4 west Scolt Head 30th.

During June 6 west Cley 1st may have accounted for 4 Ouse Washes same date and possibly relate to single Welney 2nd and 3 there 7th. Also singles Holkham GM 2nd, west Guist Common 15th, Breydon/Berney/Burgh Castle area 6th-28th with 2 there 29th/30th, 5 east Cley 19th and single Hockwold Washes 29th.

From July onwards it becomes increasingly difficult to evaluate the mass of data as numbers increased dramatically. During July at least 3 in Blakeney Point-Salthouse area all month with max 6 Cley 22nd. At least one was frequenting the southern limits of Wash with max 2 Ongar Hill 28th. Another Breydon/Berney all month, possibly same Cantley BF 30th, and up to 17 present in Titchwell area.

Aug-Dec presents a comparatively stable picture with many birds utilising the saline expanses of Brancaster Hbr where monthly max 13 Aug 17th, 25 Sept 7th, 22 Oct 22nd, 23 Nov 5th and 25 Dec 5th.

Few recorded away from the harbours, creeks and marshes of the north coast at this time but Aug singles Breydon 1st, Buckenham 15th/16th, Welney 22nd/23rd and 3 Snettisham 4th with singles there 8th and 17th/18th. Evidence of birds still arriving Sept when 2 north Waxham 2nd and single Welney 23rd. Oct singles south Snettisham CP 6th, east Sheringham 24th and Snettisham 28th. No Nov records away from coastal areas Holme-Stiffkey but Dec singles Horsey 2nd, Heigham Sound 29th and south R Ouse (King's Lynn) 31st.

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

Resident and passage migrant/winter visitor

No large concentrations reported in either winter period but a combined total of 28 Welney and Norfolk section of Ouse Washes April 23rd.

Apparently almost negligible spring passage recorded at coastal sites March 22nd-May 5th with 2 west Weybourne March 27th the only multiple record.

Poor coverage of heronries has revealed little data to make meaningful comparison with previous years, but did include one new site (2 pairs bred). A pair nested in a reedbed at Burnham Overy.

Another good summer and autumn passage (mainly westward) noted at coastal sites June 10th-Nov 3rd with highest numbers again recorded passing Scolt Head.

Monthly totals at regularly recorded sites as follows:

	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Holme	6	-	22	7	-
Scolt Head	9	1	33	15	17
Sheringham	-	-	17	3	11

At this time largest arrivals: 18 east Holme Aug 29th, 15 in off sea Blakeney Point Oct 6th when also 8 west Paston, and 12 west Scolt Head Oct 18th. One of 2 in off sea Holme Sept 7th suffered a prolonged attack from a passing Great Skua.

White Stork

Ciconia ciconia

Vagrant from the Continent, appearing most years; status clouded by free-flying collection birds

The now familiar escaped bird from Thrigby Wildlife Park is possibly responsible for all of the following records: Breydon March 20th, Burgh Common May 12th, east Strumpshaw and Buckenham May 30th, east St Olaves and Haddiscoe Bridge June 9th, Berney July 30th and Aug 3rd, and south-west Strumpshaw Aug 17th.

To compound matters further, another escape from Great Witchingham Wildlife Park, was known to be flying free from at least Oct 15th when it was regularly seen in the Lenwade/Sparham area. Just how singles south over Bintree Mill July 28th and Aug 4th fit this picture is unclear, though it seems reasonable to suggest that the Great Witchingham bird may have been loose long before Oct.

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

Rare vagrant from the Continent

1996 Addition: One Tallents Meadow Lake May 23rd (JD *et al*) constitutes the first county record since Cley and Kelling WM May 6th 1992.

Spoonbill

Platalea leucorodia

Scarce non-breeding summer visitor and passage migrant; rare in winter

First arrival of spring April 3rd when 3 west Holme with further singles there 4th and Cley 4th/5th, 7th-11th and 26th. Only other April records from Breydon/Berney 24th with 2 there 25th-May 1st.

Four main favoured sites again holding bulk of spring and summer birds but only 3 sites

regularly used in autumn. Max number at each site tabulated below in 2 week periods May 1st-Aug 31st.

	<i>May</i>		<i>Jun</i>		<i>Jul</i>		<i>Aug</i>	
	<i>1st-15th</i>	<i>16th-31st</i>	<i>1st-15th</i>	<i>16th-30th</i>	<i>1st-15th</i>	<i>16th-31st</i>	<i>1st-15th</i>	<i>16th-31st</i>
Titchwell	-	3	4	9	3	2	2	2
Holkham GM	-	4	4	8	-	-	-	-
Cley	1	2	-	2	2	2	2	1
Breydon/Berney	2	2	-	1	-	-	6	6

Additional May records at Buckenham 11th, 2 Hickling Broad 12th and singles south there and Winterton next day. One east Holme, Thornham and Scolt Head 15th, Salhouse (same as Cley in table above) 16th, Welney (only record of year) 18th, Snettisham 18th/19th and Burnham Overy GM 26th.

As usual, few away from favoured localities June-July when June records of 3 west Sheringham 20th, 7 west Brancaster Hbr 24th, single east Holme 29th. Also present intermittently Horsey/Hickling Broad area June where 1-2 Hickling Broad 6th-27th, presumably the same as up to 5 Horsey Mere during month. An unusual inland record of 2 north Langham July 29th.

Predictably fewer in Aug when singles Hickling Broad 27th/28th, east Blakeney Point and west Brancaster Hbr 29th. Also in Aug, the 6 in Breydon/Berney area (see table) occasionally visited Burgh Castle part of Yare estuary. All 6 were juvs, one of which was ringed in The Netherlands June 7th. This individual was first seen at Minsmere Aug 2nd and after leaving Breydon with 4 of the other 5 Sept 12th, travelled around England before coming to an untimely end when colliding with power cables at Fishers Green, Hertfordshire Sept 16th. The sixth bird remained at Breydon/Berney to Sept 29th.

Further Sept records Cley 1st and 26th, 2 north Hickling Broad 1st with single there 5th, 2 north Waxham 2nd, west Blakeney Point 26th (possibly Cley bird) and last of year departed west Holkham GM 29th.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*
Resident; the Ouse Washes attract the most important winter concentrations
Monthly max at regularly counted sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Breydon/Berney	78	77	83	55	116	73	57	53	47	31	22	79
Holme	19	27	28	20	50	8	15	11	9	5	7	10
Welney	152	171	-	160	191	122	-	-	-	176	169	68

Other concentrations of 50+: *Jan* 78 Hardley Marshes, 65 Stokesby Marshes, 55 Acle Marshes; *Feb* 85 Halvergate, 52 Pentney GP; *March* 89 Pentney GP, 57 Billockby; *April* 57 Clippesby Marsh; *May* 83 Wroxham/Hoveton, 68 Hickling Broad; *June* 173 Hockwold Washes (+ 2 broods); *July* 160 Hockwold Washes; *Sept* 166 Hockwold Washes; *Oct* 102 Nar Valley Fisheries; *Nov* 68 Nar Valley Fisheries, 55 Thorpe and Haddiscoe Marshes; *Dec* 149 Nar Valley Fisheries.

Breeding: again under-recorded but 64 nests at 12 sites including 29 Welney (a site record), 10 Berney and 9 Holkham NNR.

Coastal movements noted as follows: Walcott 2 west Feb 2nd; Bacton 5 on sea June

23rd; Beeston Bump 3 east May 11th, 9 (all imms) north then on sea May 12th, 11 north then west May 13th; Sheringham 5 west Feb 10th, 3 east May 11th, 11 west May 13th, one east Nov 4th and 4 west Nov 10th; Hunstanton 8 south Nov 10th.

Bewick's Swan

Cygnus columbianus

Passage migrant and winter visitor in internationally important numbers

The wintering population in the Fens departed early after a rather mild winter leaving just 519 birds Feb 13th, dropping further to just 156 by 27th. The last 19 remained to Mareh 26th though two lost eygnets were present up to April 1st. An injured adult over-summered. As in autumn 2000 two flying adults again appeared early Aug 31st and stayed for a few days. One bird appeared to have a weak wing and they were unlikely to have been genuine migrants.

The first proper autumn birds, 3 adults, arrived Oct 18th though an exceptionally mild autumn and early winter resulted in a very slow build-up in numbers with no major gatherings of over 2000 until Dee. Flocks in second winter period contained 11.85% eygnets.

Counts at Welney WWT:

<i>Jan 30th</i>	<i>Feb 13th</i>	<i>Mar 7th</i>	<i>Oct 29th</i>	<i>Nov 18th</i>	<i>Dec 16th</i>
3834	519	130	504	1138	3229
(4693)	(563)	-	-	(2141)	(4364)

International importance (winter): 170

** (Total Norfolk/Cambridgeshire figure in brackets)*

A blacksoil wintering site also occurs at Wretton Fen near Stoke Ferry where numbers reached 200 Jan and 208 Feb, though there is some interchange with Ouse Washes.

There were some sizeable flocks wintering in east of county: Waxham/Horsey 100 Jan 27th, 152 Feb 5th; Catfield 190 Jan 2nd, 232 Feb 17th; St Benet's Level/Ludham 203 Jan 13th, 130 Feb 17th; Brograve Level 130 Feb 7th, 52 Mareh 9th; Acle/Halvergate 29 Jan 27th, 40 Feb 17th; Billockby 64 Jan 27th, 75 Feb 6th; Haddiscoe 78 Feb 21st, 35 March 3rd. At Breydon/Berney 186 Jan, 69 Feb, 20 March, 31 Oct, 23 Nov, 34 Dec.

Many flocks noted moving east or north-east across county during spring exodus from as early as second week of Feb with a peak in last week. Flocks of over 50: 80 Hellesdon 17th and 120 26th, 100 Caister and 76 Griston 18th, 70 Rockland St Mary 20th with 200 22nd, 64 Stoke Holy Cross 21st and 80 New Costessey 26th. Late records concerned 6 Aeale/Billockby until Mareh 27th and a 1st-summer individual at East Ruston April 4th-11th.

Autumn arrivals trickled through from late Oet but were less obvious with no large passages reported. Early records were of 8 west Weybourne Oct 23rd and 11 west Roydon 26th.

Whooper Swan

Cygnus cygnus

Winter visitor, mainly from Iceland, in internationally important numbers

Another excellent year in the Fens for the increasing wintering population with record numbers both for Welney and entire Ouse Washes at end of year. Spring movements later than preeeding species with some visible evening departures to north-west seen from mid-Mareh. Still 224 April 7th, falling to 120 12th, 78 17th, 45 21st and last 27 on 27th; 6 non-flying injured birds over-summered.

The first two in autumn Oet 8th though very few more arrived until end of month. Generally light flood conditions later enabled large numbers to feed on the washes for a

period in early Nov rather than flying out each day to farmland. Early winter flocks held 20% cygnets, while 66 families on Nov 9th had an average brood size of 2.8 cygnets.

Counts at Welney WWT:

<i>Jan 3rd</i>	<i>Feb 13th</i>	<i>Mar 9th</i>	<i>Apr 1st</i>	<i>Oct 29th</i>	<i>Nov 6th</i>	<i>Dec 30th</i>
1514	1285	1200	372	507	1196	1607
(1797)	(1378)	-	-	-	(2181)	(2894)

International importance (winter): 160

** (Total Norfolk/Cambridgeshire figure in brackets)*

The largest flock in Broads at Ludham/Catfield where counts reached 107 Jan 7th. Elsewhere only rather small gatherings reported: Sutton Hall 13 Jan 13th, 12 Dec 12th; Waxham/Horsey/West Somerton 30 Jan 27th, 2 Oct 30th, 14 Nov 11th, 25 Dec 11th; Claxton Manor 24 Feb 17th; Brograve Level 20 Feb 21st, 18 March 9th, 30 Dec 18th; Acle 20 Jan 28th; Haddiscoe 30 Feb 17th. Small numbers were seen, often briefly, at many other localities in county especially during periods of passage.

A number of late spring records included 2 adults Cley April 2nd with an imm April 10th which then lingered on throughout summer and rest of year. An exhausted adult on beach at Horsey April 13th-19th. Finally a bird Hunstanton GC May 13th was later seen at Thornham and Titchwell and remained until June 7th.

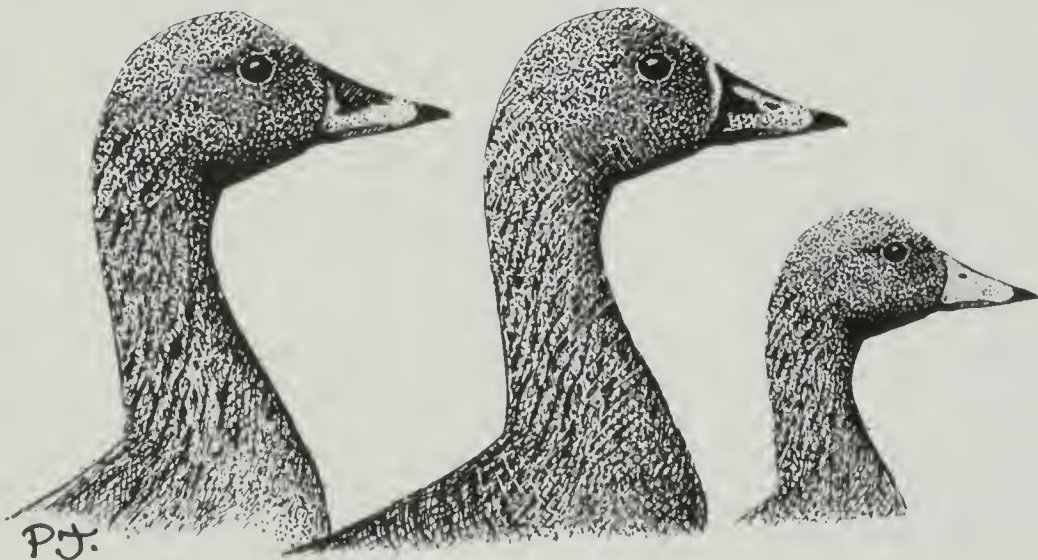
Bean Goose

Anser fabalis

Taiga Bean Goose *A (f) fabalis*

Winter visitor to the Yare Valley

Variable numbers of the regular flock in Jan, with 120 on 4th increasing to a max of 180 12th; 130 still present on 25th, but most then swiftly departed and last 42 28th. As last year again none seen in Feb. In second winter period, an early return with 4 Oct 30th increasing to 34 Nov 5th, 50 10th, 100 16th, 125 24th, to max 220 on 28th. In early Dec, 210 remained



Taiga Bean Geese (*Phil Jones*)

on 2nd, but these had decreased to 130 by 4th and only 113 present on 13th. On last day of year only 25 could be found in the area.

Elsewhere, single Waxham/Horsey area Oct 29th/30th and Nov 5th, 2 Eccles Nov 3rd and a party of 6 on Repps/Clippesby Marshes Dec 17th-21st.

Tundra Bean Goose *A (f) rossicus*

Small numbers increasingly recorded in winter

Another mild winter resulted again in few records. All records listed. In first winter period, Holkham GM Jan 2nd, Flitcham Jan 3rd, Egmere Jan 3rd/4th, 3 Horsey Jan 13th, 2 Holkham GM Jan 16th and singles Feb 6th and 18th, 4 Welney Jan 18th-30th, Feb 6th-24th and March 1st, 4th and 9th. In second winter period, 2 Hempstead Nov 10th, 2 Holkham GM Dec 22nd, 6 west Salthouse Dec 23rd, 5 Horsey Dec 28th and 4 again Welney Dec 18th/19th with 6 20th-26th and 9 on 29th.

Pink-footed Goose

Anser brachyrhynchus

Winter visitor in internationally important numbers from Iceland and East Greenland

Three important wintering populations are located in the county and further increases indicate that a third of the world population of this race now winter in the county.

In north-west Norfolk co-ordinated dawn counts leaving the 3 traditional roost sites (plus Thornham when in use) gave a reasonable estimate of numbers involved.

First winter period

	<i>Jan 2nd</i>	<i>Jan 15th</i>	<i>Jan 23rd</i>
Snettisham	18250	14370	17520
Scolt Head	28500	110	-
Thornham	1600	-	-
Holkham/Wells	33750	15200	2600
Total	*82100	29680	20120

Second winter period

	<i>Nov 19th</i>	<i>Nov 26th</i>	<i>Dec 12th</i>	<i>Dec 17th</i>
Snettisham	17605	19540	5760	20510
Scolt Head	4550	33900	16300	24500
Holkham/Wells	26850	21500	45000	17000
Total	49005	74940	67060	62010

* The Jan 2nd 82100 count is an all time record

Again very noticeable that a considerable proportion move from one roost site to another on different nights. At Scolt Head on Dec 3rd, 52,000 left roost in morning with 60,000 returning in evening, the latter count representing the highest ever count for a single site in the county. This roost had decreased to only 16,300 on Dec 12th.

Considerable daytime feeding concentrations occurred at many sites. In Jan, 16,000 were at Flitcham on 3rd, 14,000 at Egmere next day, 18,462 North Wootton 5th and 20,000 at Brancaster 7th; in Feb, 10,000 were on Holkham GM on 7th. At end of year, 15,000 were at Flitcham end Nov with 20,000 in Wighton area mid-Dec. In March, 8500 still at

Snettisham 3rd and in April 600 remained at Holkham GM 13th with last 100 22nd. At Snettisham, still 500 April 30th/May 1st with last 6 at Burnham Overy May 12th.

Summering birds at several sites were presumably sick or injured and included 2 at Holkham GM and one at Snettisham. Early return in autumn with 30 in off sea Holme Sept 9th, 80 east Wighton 11th, 130 Cley 12th, 25 in off sea Scolt Head 14th and 16 west Sheringham 15th. Several varieties noted including leucistic birds at Brancaster Jan 5th and at Horsey Nov 11th and a white-headed hybrid type, resembling a Blue Snow Goose, in the Brancaster area in both winter periods.

In East Norfolk, the Horsey/Heigham Holmes population, in line with that in the north-west of the county, continued to increase. Regular co-ordinated roost counts from this site are unfortunately lacking and most estimates continue to be of feeding concentrations. Feeding gaggles continued to be wide ranging from Hempstead in the north, St Benet's Level in the west and Hemsby in the south. On Jan 6th, 4000 were at Sea Palling, 4500 Eccles Nov 3rd, and a huge gaggle of 8000 were on beet-tops at Hemsby Nov 6th, with 7000 at Clipperby on Nov 18th. Last in spring April 19th and first arrivals were 29 Sept 15th with 300 present by 22nd. Monthly max as follows:

<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
10000	2500	n/c	5000	10000	6500

The Breydon/Berney/Halvergate/Lower Bure levels population surprisingly decreased slightly, possibly due to areas of favoured marshland being regularly disturbed, although the main roost site remains safe and relatively undisturbed. Monthly max as follows:

<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
5500	5100	2400	360	800	3070

Birds departed early and the last 200 seen March 11th. First arrivals 23 noted Sept 30th. It is interesting that up to 8000 feeding within a few miles of this wetland site in Nov continued to roost at Horsey.

Combined East Norfolk Jan totals suggest that perhaps as many as 15,000 were wintering in this part of the county, but more co-ordinated counts at both sites are required in future winters in line with those in north-west Norfolk. Elsewhere in East Norfolk, 1000 in off sea Caister Jan 20th, 75 in at Gorleston Oct 3rd and roving flocks in the mid-Yare valley at Buckenham with 110 Oct 24th and 70 Nov 5th.

As expected, a great many movements noted as birds moved between the main sites, most impressive were 1200 east at Sheringham Nov 4th and 8000 east Paston Dec 9th.

Unusual inland movements included 55 west Hellesdon Sept 26th, 200 west Brundall Dec 6th with 100 likewise on 8th, and 78 north Wicklewood Dec 14th. At Welney, 2 Jan 7th, 2 again Feb 23rd-26th, March 5th-11th, 30th and April 11th; in second winter period up to 204 present Dec 11th-29th.

White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons

European White-fronted Goose *A (a) albifrons*

Winter visitor and passage migrant from Siberian tundra

All sites, except Breydon/Berney, showed decreased first winter period totals from previous



Grey Phalarope – an obliging bird at Snettisham in September (*Robin Chittenden*)

Yellow-browed Warbler – trapped at Holme (*Robin Chittenden*); Subalpine Warbler – this welcome
 first-winter at Holkham Meals was present for over a week (*Gary Cook*)





Gull-billed Tern – this exceptionally late juvenile was present at Titchwell for over a week in November
(above Gary Cook, below Iain Leach)





Ross's Goose – this 1st-winter of unknown origin toured Norfolk with the ever-increasing numbers of Pink-footed Geese (*Andrew Bloomfield*)

Common Rosefinch – a most unusual visitor to a Blakeney garden in November (*Gary Cook*)





Snow Buntings – welcome winter visitors to our coastline (*Gary Wright*)

Black-winged Stilt – this bird has been resident at Titchwell since August 1993 (*Julian Bhalerao*);
Iceland Gull – a scarce visitor to the county, this bird was at Cley in November (*Julian Bhalerao*)



year's figures, possibly due to mild weather here and on near continent. Spring departures early and all had left main localities by end of first week of March.

Peak counts at traditional wintering localities:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Holkham GM	240	360	200	44	200
Horsey/Heigham Holmes	390	500	250	51	116
Buckenham/Cantley	107	100	-	42	80
Breydon/Berney	112	54	7	1	52

Away from main sites, few sightings, but included 5 Snettisham Jan 24th and Feb 11th, 2 Little Ryburgh Jan 27th, Welney Jan 17th, Feb 23rd-25th, March 5th-11th and 31st, April 11th and 7 Dec 20th-29th, 27 south Winterton March 10th, Beeston Bump north out to sea April 24th and 3 Holme Dec 9th.

As usual, injured and feral birds noted in summer and included an injured bird at Breydon for third summer and singles at Haddiscoe May 24th, Baconsthorpe July 31st, Cley Aug 5th and Whitlingham CP Aug 25th. A single at Titchwell Sept 24th was presumably of suspect origin as could have been 2 Cley Oct 9th. First believed genuine autumn arrivals 7 Burnham Overy Oct 18th, 2 Docking 19th, Waxham 25th and 4 Cantley 29th and into Nov. 8 Nar Valley Fisheries Nov 11th were possibly of feral stock. By end of year, all four main traditional sites occupied with average numbers despite further mild weather.

Greenland White-fronted Goose *A (a) flavirostris*

Rare visitor from Western Greenland

Further careful scanning of the increasing numbers of Pink-footed Gecse wintering in the county and observer awareness led to the following being submitted and accepted (again some duplication possible). Of interest, the Welney and Waxham/Hempstead parties arrived without the usual host species.

In first winter period, 2 adults in Egmore area Jan 3rd (MAWa) with 2 on 4th and a single adult at Docking on 13th (BJM); 2 adults were at Holkham GM Jan 21st (DBr AJLS) with one Feb 7th. At Welney, a family party of 2 adults and 6 1st-winters arrived Jan 17th, and although spending most of their time in Cambridgeshire, were in the Norfolk section of the Ouse Washes on Feb 23rd-25th, March 5th-9th and 31st, and lastly April 11th (JBK). In East Norfolk, at least 3 adults were present in Lower Bure area alongside the Acle New Road Marshes March 4th (PRA).

In second winter period, a party of 4 (3 adults and a 1st-winter) arrived in the Waxham/Hempstead area Nov 3rd and remained to 14th. The same party of 4 then turned up on Heigham Holmes on 30th and interestingly then associated with the European Whitefronts present until at least Dec 8th. On Halvergate Marshes, at least 2 adults present Dec 15th (PRA).

Greylag Goose

Anser anser

Long-established and increasing feral population complicates identity of genuine wild arrivals

Counts of 200 or more from less regularly recorded sites: Jan 750 Stiffkey Fen, 700 Heigham Holmes, 455 Pentney GP, 450 Thetford Nunnery Lakes, 410 Pensthorpe/Great Ryburgh, 308 Tottenhill GP, 300 Martham Ferry; Feb 430 Pensthorpe/Great Ryburgh; Aug 300 Titchwell;

Sept 830 How Hill Reedham Water, 750 Titchwell, 412 Hickling Broad, 248 Hardley Flood;
Nov 900 Martham Ferry, 380 Middleton GP; Dec 940 Martham Ferry, 670 Cranwich GP,
650 Potter Heigham, 386 Barton Broad, 300 Ormesby Broad, 227 Pentney GP.

Max at most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	425	129	66	22	166	285	225	965	700	500	426	355
Holme	92	30	86	13	24	16	134	138	83	90	87	83
Mid-Yare RSPB	296	7	-	-	-	-	19	765	393	705	300	15
Breydon/Berney	75	32	42	18	52	52	56	54	77	340	129	113
Welney	21	8	20	21	13	14	14	20	334	494	270	124

The Aug Mid-Yare count and Oct Breydon/Berney and Welney counts were site records.

Few breeding records again received, but 10 pairs Holme, 14 broods Pentney GP, 9 broods Pensthorpe, 8 broods Coxford WM and 6 broods Breydon. In addition, 2 broods at both Welney and Bittering GP, with single breeding pairs also at East Harling, East Lexham and Quidenham.

Interesting series of local migration noted Scolt Head during late summer including 176 east Aug 16th and 130 east 22nd. Birds considered to be probably wild individuals from the Icelandic population with Pinkfeet at Flitcham Jan 3rd and at Flitcham Nov 25th.

Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

Introduced resident

Peak counts: Jan 200 Blickling Park, 150 Heigham Holmes; June 205 Hanworth Common, 170 Titchwell, 139 Scolt Head; July 110 Snettisham; Aug 220 Whitlingham CP, 107 Hanworth; Sept 208 Whitlingham CP, 200 Breydon/Berney, 135 Scolt Head; Oct 400 Bridgham/Roudham, 300 Buckenham, 200 Lopham Fen, 200 Breydon/Berney; Nov 203 Middleton, 115 Nar Valley Fisheries; Dec 400 Cranwich GP, 320 Blickling Park, 285 Bawburgh.

At Scolt Head westerly movements of 65 May 30th, 55 June 5th and 54 June 14th.

Breeding noted at East Calverton, Hethersett, Holkham NNR (12 pairs), Holme (4), Lopham Fen, Pensthorpe, Pentney GP, South Acre, West Acre and Whitlingham CP.

‘Vagrant’ Canada Goose

Potential vagrant from north America

Two birds with Pinkfeet were tracked around the north and east of county from Sept until year end. Debate focused on the form of the birds, with initial reports (including those from East Norfolk) referring to the rather small, delicate form ‘parvipes’, whilst later reports referred to the larger stockier ‘interior’.

Originally seen Horsey Sept 23rd (PJH) then Wells/Docking area Sept 27th-Oct 29th. Again east coast Waxham/Hemsby Oct 29th-Nov 6th, Burnham Market area Nov 7th/8th, and then to the east (Horsey-Clippesby) Nov 10th-19th. Subsequently Wighton and other north localities Nov 20th to year end.

Barnacle Goose

Branta leucopsis

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers with feral/escaped birds often in large groups causing confusion

In first winter period birds of known or likely feral origin were seen at the usual scatter of sites. Peak numbers were 365 Lound Waterworks, 35 Heigham Holmes and 26 Breydon/Berney, with singles or small parties also seen at Bawdeswell, Diss Mere, East Harling, Overstrand, Pensthorpe/Great Ryburgh, Pentney GP, Potter Heigham, Reedham, Salthouse, Snettisham, St Olaves, Thetford Nunnery Lakes, Welney, Winterton and Wymondham.

Groups of 1-3 of likely wild origin were with the Pink-footed Geese in north-west Norfolk during Jan and up to 3 Holkham March.

In spring one east Scolt Head May 10th and 7 Holme May 30th. A notable record concerned 20 past Blakeney Point and Winterton June 13th.

Feral breeding confirmed at Pensthorpe (8 broods) and Hethersett (4 pairs, max 50 Aug) and Barton Broad (pair).

In second winter period up to 200 Buckenham in Oct, with others noted at Bawburgh, Blickling Park, Breydon, Brundall, Cantley, Eccles/Hempstead, Halvergate, Heigham Holmes, Hemsby, Holme, Middleton GP, Pentney GP, Thetford Nunnery Lakes and Yarmouth.

Likely wild birds with Pinkfeet included a single Docking/Choseley/Brancaster in Oct, at Wighton Nov and 1-2 Flitcham Nov/Dec. A bird at Stanhoe Dec 22nd had green and metal rings indicating a Svalbard origin.

Brent Goose

Branta bernicla

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *B (b) bernicla*

Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor

Monthly peak counts at selected important sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Oct	Nov	Dec
Terrington Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	800	1800
Ousemouth/Lynn Point	2500	1900	1700	400	370	-	1543	1850
Holme/Thornham/Titchwell	350	240	380	140	140	225	450	654
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	3400	3400	1350	792	780	1185	2100	2600
Wells/Holkham	2500	2000	-	-	-	2000	-	-
Blakeney GM/Hbr/Cley	2500	-	1700	428	700	-	652	-

For further counts in Wash and north coast see WeBS tables

In addition to the large flocks at main sites up to 7 were at Breydon/Berney in Feb and up to 8 in Oct.

The regular silvery-grey leucistic bird was again at Burnham Overy in early part of year and was seen returning past Yarmouth and Winterton Nov 8th before taking up residence once more at Burnham Overy from Nov 12th.

Inland feeding was again a notable feature, the furthest inland being up to 1000 at Langham in Jan and 500 there Feb, with a single bird as far inland as Welney March 1st.

Summering birds noted: 2 Snettisham, 2 Titchwell, 8 Blakeney Hbr and singles Scolt Head and Yarmouth.

First autumn returners were a remarkable 40 passed Horsey Aug 27th, followed by 6 Titchwell Sept 4th with more regular reports from second week in Sept, with max 445 passed Scolt Head Sept 25th. Peak passage days were in mid-Oct with 1250 Scolt Head 21st, and early Nov with 1400 Sheringham, 903 Cromer, 509 Mundesley and 485 Winterton, all 9th. A further 1400 passed Weybourne Dec 12th.

Inland 2 Colney GP Nov 9th.

Pale-bellied Brent Goose *B (b) hrota*

Scarce winter visitor

In first winter period: 3 Ongar Hill Jan 13th; Ousemouth Jan 6th, 2 Jan 27th, Feb 17th and 24th, and 3 March 31st; Snettisham Jan 8th, with 3 Feb 27th; Wells/Holkham/Egmere Jan-March 26th; 3 Stiffkey SM Feb 7th; Cley Feb 20th and 26th/27th; Winterton Jan 7th.

At Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr one summered May 3rd and then May 15th-Aug, also visiting Burnham Overy Staithe May 20th and 26th, and Titchwell July 6th.

An interesting series of autumn movements: *Sept* on 9th 3 north Winterton and then west Blakeney Point and Holme, also 4 west Sheringham, Cley and Scolt Head; 4 west Scolt Head 10th, north Eccles 16th, and 4 East Runton, 3 Blakeney Point and one Scolt Head all west 23rd; *Oct* 14 north Winterton; *Nov* north Sea Palling 1st and west Mundesley 8th; *Dec* 6 north Horsey 29th.

Also in second winter period: Ongar Hill Nov 18th; 3 Terrington Nov 25th and into Dec; Titchwell Nov 17th and 19th; Scolt Head Sept 24th, Oct 3rd and 14th, and Nov 28th-Dec 15th; single with Pinkfeet at Wells/Holkham Sept 26th until year end (also Docking/Brancaster in Dec); Stiffkey Dec 27th; Cley Dec 2nd and 8th; Yarmouth Oct 2nd.

An unusual-looking bird reported as showing some characters of the Nearctic form known as 'Grey-bellied Brent' was between Holkham GM and Burnham Market Sept 27th-30th, and Oct 1st and 10th.

Black Brant *B (b) nigricans*

Almost annual vagrant from North America/East Asia

In first winter period an adult Ongar Hill Jan 13th, Ousemouth Feb 21st and April 13th, with presumably same Snettisham April 21st.

An adult frequented Holme, Thornham and Titchwell area from beginning of year until May 18th and was joined by a second Jan 27th and March 7th-22nd; one ventured as far as Hunstanton Feb 3rd.

An adult male paired with a female 'berniela' and accompanied by 4 hybrid young was found at Burnham Deepdale Jan 9th, remaining until May 3rd (JRMc *et al*) (also see *Birding World Vol 14 no 2*). Two Black Brants were reported from this site Jan 28th and one was at Burnham Overy Staithe March 28th.

An adult was present at Wells/Holkham GM Jan-March 26th.

In the Blakeney/Cley/Salthouse area 2 adults were present Jan/Feb, with one remaining into the spring, visiting Stiffkey Fen March 15th and Blakeney Point April 29th-May 13th.

In second winter period a returning adult Titchwell Nov 10th, with 2 then in Thornham Point/Titchwell area until year end.

A further bird was back at Ongar Hill Nov 18th.

Red-breasted Goose

Branta ruficollis

Vagrant from Siberia

The bird present at end Dec 2000, accompanying Pink-footed Geese, at Egmere Jan 3rd/4th, moving to Brancaster 7th and Docketing 9th/10th. Also in Jan one Heigham Holmes Jan 5th-29th, Cantley Marshes Jan 25th and 27th, and Wickhampton Feb 11th (PRA AJK *et al*).

In March a bird was at Lynn Point March 13th and 22nd, and April 21st (ADCo *et al*) and, possibly the same, at Snettisham April 30th.

A feral bird at Berney May 10th-19th was joined by a second from 20th-31st with 3 on 23rd.

In late summer an adult Titchwell Aug 23rd and Sept 6th-16th, Burnham Norton Sept 5th, and Scolt Head Sept 13th-15th and 20th. This was probably the bird then seen at Horsey Sept 22nd/23rd before it returned to Wells/Holkham area Sept 27th-30th, moving on to Burnham Market until Oct 10th and then on to Brancaster/Choseley/Docketing area until Nov 4th. Thereafter it visited Flitcham Nov 8th-29th before returning to Brancaster Dec 2nd and 4th, Wells/ Holkham Dec 15th and 20th, and Burnham Market Dec 26th.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiacus

Long-established resident feral population

Peak monthly counts: Jan 68 Ludham, 68 Lyng/Easthaugh GP, 48 Pentney GP; Feb 35 Pentney GP; May 18 Holme; June 30 Breydon/Berney, 24 Sparham Pools; July 33 Breydon/Berney; Aug 71 Buckenham, 48 Breydon/Berney, 42 Claxton, 34 Suffield; Sept 109 Middleton GP, 57 Buckenham, 57 Pentney GP; Oct 31 Buckenham; Nov 146 Nar Valley Fisheries, 124 Middleton GP, 48 Horning Upper Street; Dec 79 Pentney GP, 52 Ludham.

Breeding noted at Bayfield, Berney, Billingford, Bittering GP, Broome GP, Buckenham, Burnham Thorpe, Colney GP, East Tuddenham, Fliteham Abbey Farm, Gresham, Hethersett, Holkham Lake, Ken Hill GM, Lexiate, Oby, Pensthorpe, Pentney GP, Quidenham, Ranworth Broad, Sculthorpe, Shereford, Snettisham, South Creake, Stanhoe, Swanton Morley GP, Thetford Nunns Bridge UEA Broad, Whitlingham CP and Wroxham.

Also see 'The Ecology of the Egyptian Goose at Holkham Park, Norfolk' by Brian Sage - Occasional Publication by the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society (2002).

Shelduck

Tadorna tadorna

Widespread breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor

After note in 2000 Report, further drop in information from key sites. No counts received from Terrington, Ousemouth or Blakeney Hbr/Cley where important numbers present previously.

Monthly peak counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	1850	1123	141	229	-	1150	1300	790	1100	1600	2280	950
Holme	40	26	33	10	7	10	5	6	17	6	15	59
Titchwell	58	40	64	-	-	12	40	6	2	3	45	57
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	264	199	181	98	68	76	57	66	12	44	245	579
Breydon/Berney	213	173	217	244	340	356	308	31	87	160	160	102
Cantley BF	-	-	-	-	-	184	75	20	-	16	-	-
Welney	-	27	89	134	195	-	-	-	-	-	-	14

International importance (winter): 3000; National importance (winter): 750

Elsewhere very few notable counts: Jan 128 Wootton Marsh, 112 Limpenhoe Marshes; Feb 50 Burnham Overy Marshes; May 55 Ken Hill GM.

Successful breeding reported from at least 17 sites (single broods unless otherwise stated): Baconsthorpe, Berney (6 broods totaling 31 young), Burgh Castle, Cantley BF (92 young), Hanworth, Hellington, Holkham NNR (13 broods), How Hill, Lopham Fen, Pensthorpe (3 broods), Pentney GP (2 broods), Scolt Head (35-40 pairs produced 24 broods), Swanton Morley, Titchwell (2 broods), Welney (9 broods), West Acre and Wissington BF (2-3 broods). Inland biase with broods at just 3 coastal localities suggests an under-recorded breeding population and observers are encouraged to send in all records of successful pairs in future years to enable a fuller picture of this species' fortunes to emerge.

Usual midsummer easterly movement towards moulting grounds in Germany noted on 7 dates June 19th-July 24th although a portion of population remains to moult in Wash. Highest counts of departing birds: 107 Holme June 22nd, 140 Scolt Head 23rd, 72 Holme 24th and 55 Scolt Head July 22nd.

Autumn arrival from Aug 19th with small numbers on many dates and significant movements in waves throughout. All counts of 50 or more: Aug 95 Scolt Head 30th; Sept 175 Scolt Head, 86 Cromer, 65 Winterton (0830-1400) 17th, 500 Holme 21st; Oct 685 Scolt Head and 379 Sheringham 21st, and 63 Holme (1 hr) 29th. More widespread observations in Nov: 320 Scolt Head and 215 Cley 1st, 81 Holme (1 hr 30 mins) and 85 Scolt Head 2nd, 217 Holme, 134 Cley, 606 Sheringham, 123 Cromer (0730-0930) and 614 Mundesley in strongest movement of autumn 9th, 60 Hunstanton and 277 Holme (1 hr 30 mins) 10th and 433 Overstrand (3 hrs 30 mins) 11th.

Cold weather movement of 50 west Beeston Bump Dec 31st.

Mandarin

Aix galericulata

Small population derived from introductions and escapes

A welcome increase in sightings with reports from 25 localities (18 in 2000). Records of 1-3 individuals received from Brundall, Caistor St Edmund, Cromer, East Ruston, Felbrigg Park, Flitcham, Framingham Pigot, Great Ryburgh, Hillington, Holme, Horsey Mere, Hoveton Great Broad, Ken Hill GM, Pensthorpe, Ranworth Broad, R Wensum and R Yare in Norwich, Salhouse Broad, Sheringham, Strumpshaw, Swainsthorpe, Thetford Nunnery Meadows, Titchwell, Weybourne and Whitlingham CP. Many birds only recorded on isolated dates and clear overlap evident with records from adjacent sites, particularly in Upper Wensum Valley and West Norfolk.

Some records doubtless relate to pinioned individuals of a species popular with aviculturalists but evidence of at least local migration provided by an eclipse male west at both Cromer and Sheringham and then inland at latter site Sept 9th.

No successful breeding this year (one brood seen in 2000) but pairs at 4 sites in early spring. A pair prospecting a nestbox at Flitcham Abbey Farm April 7th did not breed there and no reports anywhere in county during July/Aug.

Again, no records from Sandringham where a sizeable population as recently as 1996.

Wigeon

Anas penelope

Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor in internationally important numbers; a few over-summer and have bred

Little information received from Blakeney, Cley, Holkham NNR and Mid-Yare RSPB where important numbers present annually.

Peak monthly counts at main sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham/Ken Hill	1141	1170	181	300	3	58	400	325	273
Holme	2000	1312	1800	4	31	72	590	720	900
Titchwell	190	260	14	-	-	297	150	612	632
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	961	448	443	4	130	1500	3715	3195	39
Breydon/Berney	13160	13100	3700	180	118	3000	3480	6900	*21700
Ranworth Broad	3500	1581	-	-	-	-	362	667	1072
Pentney GP	298	169	107	9	-	15	100	130	187
Welney	4319	6046	3942	272	178	576	3301	3195	7744

International importance (winter): 12,500; National importance (winter): 2800

** Dec count at Breydon/Berney is a record for the county.*

Small numbers widespread elsewhere and notable counts included: *Jan* 970 Blakeney GM, 1000 Buckenham, 1000 Burnham Norton, 200 Great Ryburgh, 800 Stiffkey Fen; *Feb* 450 Horsey Mere, 243 Pensthorpe, 1067 Ouse Washes (excl Welney); *Sept* 340 Buckenham; *Oct* 2000 Buckenham; *Nov* 5000 Burnham Overy GM; *Dec* 280 Hickling Broad.

Usual exodus during April with few lingering into May. As usual small numbers remained to while away the summer months with June/July records from Breydon/Berney (max 8), Cantley BF (1), Cley (max 19 June 12th) Coxford (2), Hanworth (2), Holme (1), How Hill (1), Pensthorpe (2), Scolt Head (1), Snettisham (5), Titchwell (13) and Welney (6). Only indication of breeding at Holkham NNR where 6 pairs probably bred but failed.

First birds of strong autumn passage simultaneously at Holme and Scolt Head Aug 19th after which small numbers regularly reported until early Nov. Larger counts (all of movements north in east of county and west along north coast): *Aug* 505 Scolt Head 30th; *Sept* 415 Scolt Head 12th, 1595 Scolt Head, 325 Cley, 679 Sheringham, 1020 Cromer, 697 Overstrand (3 hrs), 1210 Mundesley, 540 Sea Palling (0630-1030) and 522 Winterton (1 hr 30 mins) all 17th, 1150 Scolt Head, 328 Sheringham, 240 Cromer, 279 Overstrand (2 hrs) and 210 Mundesley 18th, 450 Scolt Head 20th, 304 Holme (2 hrs) 25th, 447 Holme (1 hr) and 425 Scolt Head 26th.

Movement continued during second half of Oct and into Nov: 390 Holme Oct 15th, 285 Scolt Head 16th, 1750 Scolt Head and 1230 Sheringham 21st, 284 Holme and 395 Scolt Head 23rd, 730 Cley (4 hrs) Nov 1st, 443 Holme, 1400 Sheringham, 424 Cromer (2 hrs), 420 Overstrand (2 hrs 30 mins) and 1500 Mundesley all 9th; final significant count 200 Holme (1 hr 30 mins) 10th.

Impressive numbers built up at traditional localities in Dec including record 21,700 at Breydon/Berney. Also at this time notable counts on sea of 600 Salthouse and 700 Weybourne, both 8th.

Gadwall

Anas strepera

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Fewer counts this year with no counts from Holkham NNR, Horsey Mere and Mid-Yare RSPB where important numbers in 2000.

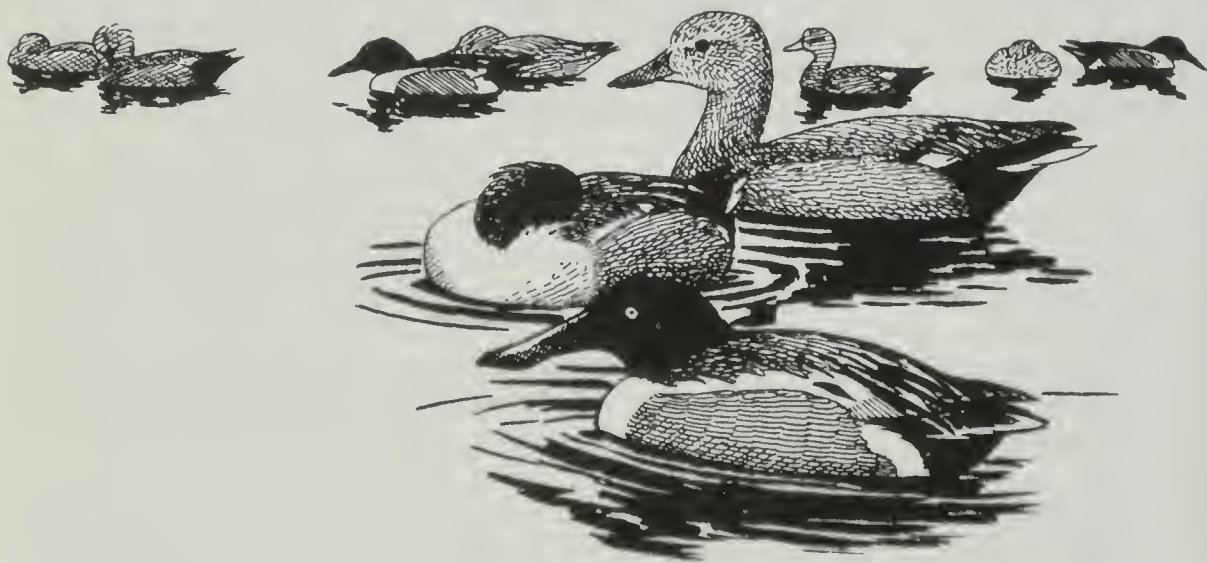
Monthly peak counts at selected key sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	107	86	47	8	9	9	-	-	2	24	31	37
Holme	15	4	22	8	16	1	29	41	55	40	15	12
Titchwell	12	8	11	12	-	73	17	16	107	4	5	6
Hickling Broad	126	260	165	-	-	-	-	-	39	50	49	154
Martham Broad	54	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	86	-
How Hill	141	-	-	-	-	48	72	78	185	218	-	144
Ranworth Broad	88	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	35	34
Breydon/Berney	53	117	107	50	36	23	8	5	5	20	30	39
Whitlingham CP	145	58	47	-	-	5	-	17	96	132	152	198
Welney	11	50	53	86	78	110	-	-	11	52	21	41

International importance (winter): 300; National importance (winter): 80

All other counts exceeding 40 birds: *Jan* 97 Diddlington, 51 Stanford Water, 60 Thompson Water; *Feb* 200 Narford Lake, 55 Thompson Water; *March* 54 Bittering GP; *June* 116 Cley; *Aug* 166 Hardley Flood; *Sept* 47 Hockwold Washes; *Oct* 58 Pensthorpe, 49 Pentney GP; *Nov* 52 Pentney GP.

Breeding records received from: Blakeney Point (nest found), Castle Acre (brood), Coxford (2 pairs bred), East Harling (brood), Holkham NNR (50 pairs produced just 13 broods), Holme (19 pairs produced just 1-2 broods), Horning Marsh Farm (brood), How Hill



Gadwall and Shoveler (*Norman Arlott*)

(3 broods), Kelling WM (brood), Pensthorpe (brood), Scolt Head (5 pairs bred - 2 nests discovered), Titchwell (4-5 pairs bred - 20+ young fledged) and Whitlingham CP (2 broods). Elsewhere pairs present at a number of other localities indicative of breeding.

Unusual midsummer movement at Scolt Head where 9 east June 13th and 15 east 15th. Light autumn passage noted on 15 dates Aug 3rd-Oct 31st; all sightings of 1-4 birds except 5 west Beeston Bump Aug 5th, 5 east Scolt Head Aug 14th and 6 north Winterton Sept 17th. As usual majority of reports from well-watched north coast.

Eurasian Teal

Anas crecca

Passage migrant and abundant winter visitor; breeds in small numbers

Peak monthly counts at main sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	452	309	172	100	13	190	658	418	267
Holme	130	195	207	6	100	125	307	331	402
Titchwell	300	200	93	17	39	65	30	276	870
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	381	94	55	12	55	320	348	229	209
How Hill	549	352	-	-	-	292	-	117	206
Horsey Mere	2600	2500	-	-	-	-	3000	2500	3500
Hickling Broad	800	598	145	-	50	3005	-	-	1095
Breydon/Berney	2132	2790	1119	533	237	1900	1850	2440	*6487
Ranworth Broad	300	266	-	-	-	-	394	327	358
Cantley BF	3500	-	-	-	250	500	1100	-	550
Pensthorpe	180	194	67	28	118	305	288	-	-
Welney	851	1073	1414	402	268	693	1190	2180	3543

International importance (winter): 4000; National importance (winter): 1400

* *The Dec figure at Breydon/Berney represents a record for the county*

Notable counts away from above localities: *Jan* 250 Burnham Norton, 225 Cranwich GP, 189 Didlington; *Feb* 100 Barton Broad; *April* 114 East Ruston; *Sept* 175 Buckenham; *Oct* 183 Hardley Flood; *Dec* 174 Barton Broad, 200 Buckenham, 800 Cley, 107 Cockshoot Broad, 170 Cranwich GP, 147 Tottenhill GP, 180 Whitlingham CP.

Small numbers remained throughout summer at wetlands across county and breeding attempted at several sites; at only two were young seen, Holkham NNR (3 broods) and Pensthorpe.

Autumn passage west along coast commenced early with 2 Holme May 31st. Small numbers noted throughout autumn with peak late Aug to mid-Sept. Peak counts: Aug 109 Scolt Head 15th, 244 on 18th and 550 on 19th, 400 Holme and 135 Scolt Head 30th, 100 Holme, 365 Scolt Head and 360 Sheringham (7 hrs 45 mins) 31st; Sept 288 Holme (1 hr 30 mins), 441 Cley, 156 Cromer (0945-1045) and 784 Mundesley 5th, 185 Sheringham (0645-0815) 6th, 174 Blakeney Point (6 hrs), 172 Cley, 550 Sheringham, 309 East Runton (6 hrs 15 mins), 218 Horsey and 267 Winterton (3 hrs) all 9th, 158 Holme (2 hrs) 12th, 195 Scolt Head 16th, 360 Scolt Head, 220 Cley, 275 Sheringham (4 hrs), 410 Cromer, 375 Overstrand (0735-1045), 824 Mundesley and 383 Winterton (0645-1400) on 17th, 985 Scolt Head, 118 Cley, 426 Sheringham, 425 Cromer, 275 Overstrand (0630-0820) and 226 Mundesley all

18th, 309 Holme (2hrs) and 145 Scolt Head 25th. Fewer in Oct with 205 Scolt Head and 426 Sheringham 21st and finally 115 Scolt Head 23rd. An impressive autumn concluded with 300 north Eccles (1 hr 30 mins) Nov 9th.

Green-winged Teal

Anas carolinensis

Vagrant from North America

Following a bumper crop in 2000, a poor year with just two sightings. Possibly the same drake appeared at Titchwell April 22nd (ST) and June 13th (RK).

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

Widespread resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Monthly max at most regularly counted sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	613	187	85	49	669	471	624	239	678
Holme	35	70	135	80	109	106	120	127	110
Titchwell	72	90	53	-	188	42	68	79	50
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	240	235	123	72	99	350	431	343	592
Barton Broad	304	65	-	-	-	84	-	79	369
How Hill	240	-	-	-	135	140	-	-	127
Ranworth Broad	133	169	-	-	-	108	282	92	206
Hickling Broad	286	68	15	-	-	202	100	133	282
Breydon/Berney	406	218	126	68	67	211	180	259	402
Whitlingham CP	26	37	-	-	-	75	45	48	54
Welney	972	493	433	305	268	826	1099	1364	1130

International importance (winter): 5000

No counts received from Holkham NNR, Cley/Blakeney GM and Mid-Yare RSPB which held important numbers in 2000.

Many other three-figure counts: *Jan* 225 Cantley BF, 166 Diddlington, 140 Pentney GP, 183 Thetford Nunnery Lakes; *May* 284 Welney; *June* 159 Breydon/Berney, 260 Snettisham; *Aug* 240 Barton Turf, 110 Buckenham; *Sept* 150 Cantley BF, 275 Hardley Flood; *Dec* 120 Blickling Park, 125 Cantley BF, 100 Tottenhill GP.

Records of successful breeding received from just 8 localities, representing a fraction of the population: Cantley BF (19 young), Holkham NNR (150 pairs produced 67 broods), Holme (33 pairs but few broods), Pensthorpe (10 broods), Scolt Head (10-12 pairs produced 2 broods), Thetford Nunnery Lakes (brood) and Whitlingham CP (6 broods totalling 24 young). NBA results showed the species was present in 86% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 8 drakes per occupied tetrad. On Martham Village pond a late duckling Nov 5th.

Following 3 east Sheringham Aug 18th a small-scale late autumn passage noted on north coast (westerly unless stated otherwise): *Oct* 28 Scolt Head 21st and 37 23rd, 8 east Sheringham 24th; *Nov* 5 Holme 2nd, 3 Sheringham 8th, 53 Sheringham, 45 Holme and 14 Cromer all 9th, and finally 5 Holme 10th.

At year end 8 west Sheringham Dec 31st responding to cold weather.

Pintail

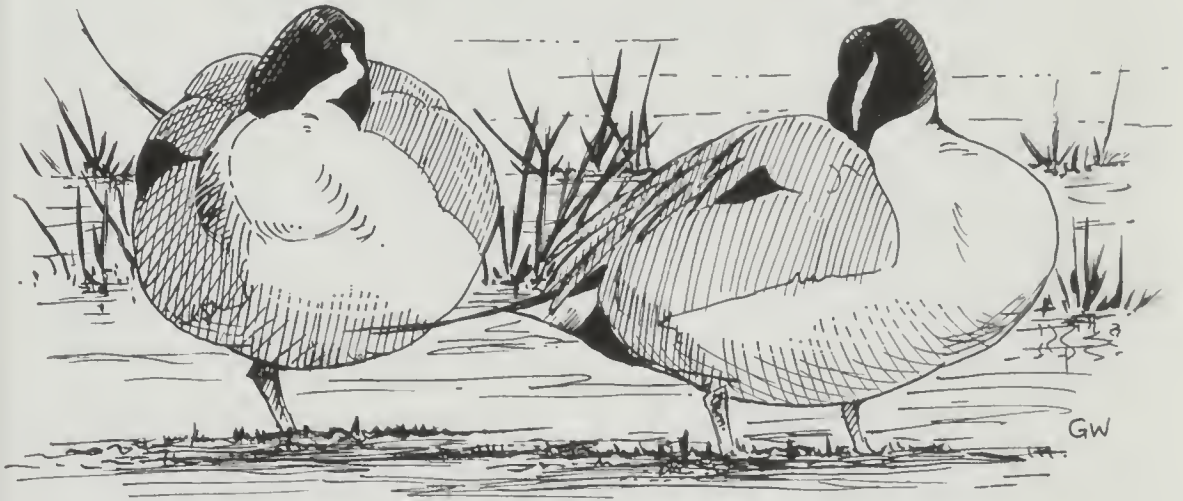
Anas acuta

Passage migrant and winter visitor, has bred

Peak monthly counts at main localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	2	10	-	14	23	34	28
Titchwell	20	13	16	14	100	50	26
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	267	135	-	83	322	240	320
Blakeney Hbr/Cley	254	-	-	40	300	650	-
Breydon/Berney	356	160	183	316	318	228	302
Tottenham GP	10	2	-	124	-	-	1
Welney	365	1176	372	494	791	1063	1610

International importance (winter): 600; National importance (winter): 280



Pintail (Gary Wright)

Tottenham GP, a traditional location, utilised only erratically this year, perhaps a result of favourable water levels at nearby Welney.

As always locally common but scarce away from favoured sites. Scattered records of 1-9 elsewhere in both winter periods but only double-figure counts: *Feb* 23 Horsey Mere; *Aug* 16 Cley, 12 Scolt Head, 41 Welney; *Sept* 40 Holkham GM, 102 Stiffkey Fen; *Oct* 15 Horsey Mere; *Dec* 16 north-west Grimston Warren 12th.

Usual withdrawal from mid-March with only occasional reports of 1-2 by late April and lingering birds in May at Welney (3), Titchwell (2) and Buckenham.

A female with 3 ducklings at Cley Aug 10th represents the first confirmed successful breeding in the county since 1993 (although it was suspected in 1999). Elsewhere over-summering individuals at Breydon/Berney (2), Holme, Titchwell and Welney (2).

First returning birds in mid-Aug at Snettisham 16th and 12 Scolt Head 19th - the forerunners of an impressive autumn passage which extended until early Nov. As usual all birds moving north at east coast sites and west along north coast: Aug 15 Scolt Head 23rd and 79

30th; Sept 20 Cley 5th, 18 Holme 6th, 22 Sheringham 9th, 41 Holme and 135 Scolt Head 12th, 25 Eccles 16th, 165 Scolt Head, 83 Sheringham, 125 Cromer, 63 Overstrand, 126 Mundesley, 34 Sea Palling and 72 Winterton all 17th, 155 Scolt Head, 32 Sheringham, 45 Cromer and 23 Overstrand 18th, 50 Blakeney Point 20th, 13 Holme and 31 East Runton 23rd, 45 Holme, 155 Scolt Head and 260 Blakeney Point 25th.

Notable passage on just two dates during Oct and on three further dates in early Nov. In Oct 33 Scolt Head 16th and 13 21st while during Nov more widespread sightings: 14 Hunstanton, 25 Sheringham, 48 East Runton, 24 Cromer and 30 Winterton 8th, 131 Holme, 20 Cley, 157 Sheringham, 60 Cromer and 160 Mundesley all 9th, and final movement 62 Holme 10th.

Perhaps unusual 20 on stubble with Pink-footed Geese at North Creake Nov 7th/8th.

Garganey

Anas querquedula

Very scarce breeding summer visitor; scarce passage migrant

Highly unusual was a female Berney Feb 10th, representing the fifth winter record and only the second in past 50 years.

First of spring, 2 drakes Horsey March 21st but only drake Cley/Glandford from 23rd and pair East Ruston 28th arrived before end of month. During April/May records from 21 localities: Bintree, Blakeney GM, Breydon/Berney, Buckenham, Cley, East Ruston, Glandford, Heacham, Hickling Broad, Holme, Kipton Ash, Hockwold Washes, Lynn Point, Salthouse (pair west offshore April 10th), Sea Palling (pair north April 10th - same as above?), Snettisham, Stiffkey Fen, Strumpshaw, Titchwell, Welney and Wissington BF. Most records of 1-2 but 4 Welney May 15th, Hockwold Washes May 17th and Breydon/Berney.

Many remained throughout breeding season with records from 15 sites June/July. Successful breeding at Hickling Broad where female with 7 young June 27th while pairs probably bred or attempted and failed at Bintree, Holkham NNR, Hockwold Washes and Titchwell. Interesting late summer build-up at Cley peaked at 7 July 29th and again on Aug 21st and 25th, including at least 3 juvs, possibly reared locally.

Autumn passage commenced Aug 8th when 2 west separately Sheringham (with Teal), with another west at Cley and then in off sea Blakeney Point Aug 18th. Further coastal record west with Wigeon at Sheringham Sept 10th. Additional sightings at this time from How Hill, King's Lynn BF, Pensthorpe and Pentney GP (4 Sept 17th), complimented those which remained at sites from summer months.

Fewer records from mid-Sept but last few persisted into late Oct at Breydon/Berney, Cley, Titchwell and Welney with final sightings of year Oct 27th at both Cley and Welney.

Shoveler

Anas clypeata

Passage migrant, summer and winter visitor

Monthly max a regularly counted key localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Titchwell	50	44	9	-	-	36	23	71	26	42	34	73
Blakeney/Cley	17	-	-	14	-	18	26	30	-	77	55	-
Hickling Broad	49	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	10	153
Breydon/Berney	283	445	542	140	23	24	2	21	118	379	336	471
Cantley BF	-	-	-	-	-	20	97	150	98	-	-	70
Welney	11	110	292	93	55	32	-	70	162	134	97	281

National importance (winter): 100

Elsewhere many counts of 30 or more: Jan 155 Filby Broad, 140 Horsey Mere, 130 How Hill, 44 Martham Broad, 76 Pensthorpe, 45 Ranworth Broad, 34 Whitlingham CP; Feb 40 Horsey Mere, 46 Ken Hill GM, 38 Pensthorpe; March 35 Holme, 35 Martham Broad; April 53 East Ruston, 71 Ouse Washes (excl Welney), 30 Snettisham; Aug 50 Hardley Flood; Sept 119 Buckenham; Oct 165 How Hill; Nov 160 Martham Broad, 33 Ranworth Broad; Dec 37 Alderfen Broad, 45 Buckenham, 450 Filby Broad, 81 Ranworth Broad, 42 Whitlingham CP and 56 Wroxham Broad.

Largest breeding population reported again at Holkham NNR where 50 pairs produced at least 20 broods. Elsewhere 27 pairs at Berney and 10 Holme with single broods at Cantley BF, Cley, Fowlmere and Titchwell. On Scolt Head, 2 nests discovered - probably representing the first breeding at the site.

Spring passage as always light and only recorded at Scolt Head where 9 west April 2nd and 2 west April 19th. Following 7 south Winterton July 29th westerly passage noted along north coast on 13 dates Aug 15th-Oct 23rd. Most reports of 1-5 individuals but 14 Scolt Head Aug 19th and 9 Cromer Sept 18th. As always east coast poorly represented with only two records: 11 south Yarmouth Aug 19th and 3 north Winterton Sept 18th.

Late in year 7 west Sheringham Dec 30th responding to cold weather.

Red-crested Pochard

Netta rufina

An escape, but with possibility of genuine vagrants from the Continent

Breeding season records at Hickling Broad: female April 30th, 2 females May 26th-end June, then female July 14th, Aug 19th and 22nd. Also irregularly reported Pensthorpe where regular free-flying flock and at least 5 broods this year. Nearby up to 5 Great Ryburgh March 27th-June 7th and a male Sept 3rd.

Elsewhere: Titchwell Jan 1st; male Stowbridge Relief Channel, Jan 21st; male Welney also Jan 21st, female Jan 27th and imm male Oct 20th and 23rd; one west offshore Cley Aug 28th.

Pochard

Aythya ferina

Summer breeder in small numbers, common passage migrant and winter visitor

Peak counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	14	27	39	18	3	10	18	34
Hickling Broad	284	195	69	18	1	85	29	43
Breydon/Berney	15	31	19	12	4	13	2	16
Pensthorpe	160	156	104	63	75	74	-	-
Tottenham GP	52	-	-	-	53	33	-	100
Welney	1996	1925	897	43	95	1613	1180	841

National importance (winter): 440

Notable counts elsewhere: Jan 50 Cantley BF, 50 Cranwich GP, 41 Marham South Broad, 41 Pentney GP, 198 Ranworth Broad, 35 Snettisham, 39 Stanford Water, 70 Whitlingham CP; Feb 51 Micklemere, 50 Rockland Broad, 75 Stanford Water; Oct 50 Ormesby Broad, 40

Ranworth Broad; *Nov* 100 Fowlmere, 71 Hardley Flood, 56 Middleton GP, 33 Snettisham; *Dec* 85 Middleton GP, 43 Snettisham, 65 Wroxham Broad.

Small numbers summered at various localities, with breeding records (broods in brackets) from: Cantley BF (3), Fowlmere (1), Hickling Broad (3), Holkham NNR (14 from 25 pairs), Horning Hall Marshes (1), Holme (1 from 6 pairs), How Hill (1), Pensthorpe (13), Swanton Morley (5), Titchwell (1). Pairs also present (no proof of breeding) at Blakeney GM, Breydon/Berney, Snettisham, Sparham GP, Stiffkey Fen and Welney.

Significant winter coastal movements: 278 east Mundesley Feb 4th (site record), 13 east Sheringham Feb 8th, 15 south Winterton March 3rd. In Nov westerly movements of 17 Cromer 2nd and 15 9th, 36 Beeston Bump 7th, 27 Sheringham 9th and 33 Holme 19th. An unusual record: 23 north-east Hanworth Common Nov 11th.

Ferruginous Duck
Rare visitor from the Continent, or escape from captivity

Aythya nyroca

A male Fowlmere first seen April 1st (RWRS *et al*). Presumably the same bird was not seen again until June 23rd, then again on July 5th, 15th, 24th and finally 29th. A female Flitcham June 18th-20th (SHB PAJ *et al*)

Tufted Duck
Summer breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor

Aythya fuligula

Peak counts at selected sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	106	50	-	-	26	78	34	75
Holme	54	23	47	25	4	10	16	15
Trinity Broads	461	186	-	91	230	467	530	621
Hickling Broad	103	204	134	73	36	-	43	45
Breydon/Berney	42	25	12	9	5	8	4	19
Ranworth/Cockshoot	105	119	-	-	108	-	-	105
Whitlingham CP	50	61	51	48	41	62	76	111
Pensthorpe	340	223	237	235	248	288	-	-
Welney	204	187	221	216	23	72	53	82

National importance (winter): 600

Notable counts elsewhere: *Jan* 146 Cranwich GP, 100 Fowlmere, 70 Fustyweed GP (Elsing), 213 Middleton GP, 83 Thetford Nunnery Lakes, 71 Pentney GP, 100 Rockland Broad, 200 Stowbridge Relief Channel, 150 Thompson Water, 120 Tottenhill GP; *Feb* 98 Micklemere, 75 Narford Lake, 56 Stanford Water; *March* 65 R Bure, Horning; *Oct* 62 Horscy Merc; *Nov* 100 Fowlmere, 156 Middleton GP, 69 Pentney GP, 56 Tottenhill GP; *Dec* 150 Cranwich GP, 60 Lyng GP, 103 Middleton GP, 117 Pentney GP, 60 Sparham GP, 260 Stowbridge Relief Channel, 52 Wolterton Park Lake, 78 Wroxham Broad.

Breeding records (broods in brackets): Baconsthorpe (2), Bayfield Lake (2), Billingford (1), Breydon/Berney (1), Cantley BF (3), Cley (2), Guist Common (1), Holkham NNR (14 from 28 pairs), Horning Marsh (2), How Hill (2), Middleton GP (2), Morning Thorpe GP (4), Narborough (1), Pensthorpe (20), Pentney GP (1), Sparham GP (2-3), Stiffkey Fen (2), Swanton Morley GP (6), Thompson Water (2), Whitlingham CP (2). Pairs also present (no

proof of breeding) at East Harling, Fowlmere, Hickling Broad, How Hill, Kelling WM, Salthouse, Snettisham, Titchwell and Welney.

Notable westerly coastal movements: 8 Blakeney Point June 1st, 3 June 3rd and 3 Sept 9th; 7 (south) Yarmouth Aug 19th; 6 Scolt Head and 4 Sheringham Sept 10th; 18 Holme Oct 31st and 4 Nov 27th.

Scaup

Aythya marila

Winter visitor in varying numbers; scarce inland; occasional in summer

Regular in first winter period only at Snettisham and offshore with peak counts of 14 Jan 1st, 11 Jan 28th, 13 Feb 12th, 7 March 3rd/4th and 3 April 8th-14th. Numbers there fluctuated widely, possibly accounting for other north-west Norfolk records: 1-2 Welney Feb 11th-April 12th; Saddlebow Relief Channel Jan 20th/21st; 2 Tottenhill GP Jan 1st, with singles Jan 23rd, April 22nd and 24th; Ousemouth March 31st; 9 Hunstanton Jan 4th and at least 26 Jan 9th; Holme April 17th; 1-2 Titchwell Feb 11th-22nd and 2 April 14th.

Only other records in first winter period: 2 Blakeney Hbr Jan 1st and one Jan 3rd; Holkham Park Lake Jan 3rd; Breydon Jan 1st-21st and another Feb 11th-24th; Hickling Broad Jan 28th and Feb 13th; 3 Horsey April 3rd.

Summer records of one exceptionally east Mundesley May 17th and 1-3 at Snettisham regularly from June 11th onwards, with higher counts 13 July 22nd, 12 July 23rd and 4 Aug 10th.

Also regular in second winter period at Snettisham with peak counts of 4 Sept, 9 Oct, 20 Nov and 28 Dec. Elsewhere: Welney Oct 29th and 2 Nov 2nd; 3 Stowbridge Relief Channel Dec 30th; Tottenhill GP Dec 23rd-31st; 3 Heacham Dec 19th; 10 Titchwell Oct 22nd, 3 Nov 1st and Dec 27th; 2 Brancaster Hbr Oct 28th; Holkham Bay Dec 16th; 2 Cley Oct 24th and Nov 1st, and one Nov 2nd; 2 Salthouse Oct 29th; 8 Winterton Oct 31st; 2 Whitlingham CP Dec 30th.

Coastal autumn/winter movements: 5 west Sheringham Aug 8th; Winterton Aug 19th; 2 west Scolt Head Sept 17th; 2 east Holme, 2 west Cley and west Cromer all Sept 18th; 33 east Scolt Head Oct 21st; west Sheringham and north Sea Palling Nov 1st; west Sheringham Nov 9th; west Blakeney Point Nov 19th; 5 south Winterton Nov 20th; north Horsey Dec 6th; 2 east Mundesley Dec 31st.

Eider

Somateria mollissima

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

Max counts are regularly visited sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Heacham/Hunstanton	140	97	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	103	150
Holme	9	1	2	3	1	-	-	1	7	12	4	2
Titchwell	7	20	2	12	4	3	3	1	7	14	9	20
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	5	11	10	9	18	1	2	2	-	12	11	18
Holkham Bay/Wells	4	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	22	144
Blakeney Hbr	5	6	-	30	14	5	1	1	-	-	100	15

National importance (winter): 750

Other regular sites in both winter and summer with usually fewer than 10 birds included:

Cley, Salthouse, Sheringham, Eccles, Sea Palling, Waxham, Horsey, Winterton and Yarmouth with movements between all sites.

Major autumn movements began with 80 north Horsey and 36 west Happisburgh Oct 17th, followed by 128 west in one hour West Runton Oct 21st. A huge movement Nov 9th was noted all along the coast, with largest counts of 391 west Sheringham, 450 west Mundesley and 296 north Yarmouth. Other significant movements in Nov: 30 east Sheringham, 34 west Walcott and 51 on sea Waxham 3rd; 43 west Cromer and 23 north Eccles 10th; 103 west Cley and 107 north Winterton 14th; 35 north Horsey and 58 north Winterton 15th.

Long-tailed Duck

Clangula hyemalis

Winter visitor chiefly to north-west Norfolk coastal waters; occasional inland

In first winter period mainly recorded between Hunstanton and Scolt Head with peak counts at Gore Point, Holme of 25 Jan, 35 Feb, 25 March and 27 April. Latest, a pair Scolt Head May 22nd-25th. Only other records Mundesley Jan 11th and 3 Yarmouth March 17th.

In second winter period west Mundesley on early date of Sept 9th, then in Oct 3 Winterton 21st, east Scolt Head 22nd and 4 (3 west) 23rd, and Wells also 23rd and 2 27th. At Horsey 13 north Nov 2nd, otherwise several Nov/Dec coastal movements of 1-3, notably on Nov 8th/9th. First record from regular wintering area Holme Oct 27th, with peak count of 20 Dec; also 10 Titchwell Nov 25th. Elsewhere: 1-2 Wells/Holkham Bay from Oct 24th and 4 Dec 12th; Blakeney Hbr Dec 2nd and 15th; pair Salthouse and Cley Dec 14th-22nd. Inland Ormesby Little Broad Dec 11th.

Common Scoter

Melanitta nigra

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

Max monthly counts at principal Wash/north coast sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Heacham/Hunstanton	2250	-	-	-	-	30	100	-	-	-	-	-
Holme	580	6000	1000	1200	-	350	1000	800	120	40	1400	245
Titchwell	350	-	800	-	-	20	500	300	50	50	20	60
Cley/Salthouse	500	300	-	-	-	-	100	-	200	-	133	7000

National importance (winter): 350

The high concentrations in Feb and Dec are exceptional in recent years.

Away from principal sites highest numbers: *Jan* 120 Sea Palling; *May* 500 Blakeney Point; *Sept* 375 Winterton; *Nov* 5200 Warham/Stiffkey, 900 Waxham, 175 Winterton; *Dec* 2000 Holkham Bay.

Coastal movements noted throughout year with largest counts: Holme 350 west Jan 30th, 300 east April 27th, 1932 east July 22nd, 1000 west 400 east 24th and 230 west 100 east on 26th; Scolt Head 220 west 105 east July 18th and 850 west 20th, 720 west Sept 17th and 235 west next day; Cley 222 west July 17th and 227 west 18th; Sheringham 218 west July 17th and 154 west 117 east next day, 1164 west Nov 9th, 1300 west (2 hrs 30 mins) Dec 16th, 1482 west 30th and 3822 (2 hrs 30 mins) 31st (latter movement undoubtedly related to Cley/Salthouse flock); Cromer 340 west July 17th, 448 west Nov 9th and 239 west 10th; Overstrand 295 west Sept 17th (0725-1045); Mundesley 240 east May 27th, 381 west Sept

17th and 140 west next day, 1205 west Nov 9th, 470 east Dec 20th; Eccles 865 north Nov 9th; Winterton 530 north Nov 13th with 330 north next day.

There were 3 inland records: Whitlingham CP pair March 26th, Hockwold Washes July 7th and a drake Pentney GP Aug 30th/Sept 1st.

Surf Scoter

Melanitta perspicillata

Rare vagrant from North America

In Dec presumably the same drake Winterton 18th/19th (INS *et al*), Cley/Blakeney Point 23rd and Holkham Bay 23rd-25th. The ninth county record, totalling 14 birds.

Velvet Scoter

Melanitta fusca

Winter visitor, but numbers and localities fluctuate; occasional in summer

Max counts from principal sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Heacham/Hunstanton	11	3	7	4	-	-
Titchwell	1	3	7	2	11	10
Holkham Bay	2	-	-	1	-	45
Winterton	-	-	-	-	7	30

During first winter period only other sightings: 2 Holme Jan 1st, one 5th, 7 March 8th and one 11th, Brancaster Jan 12th and Mundesley March 24th. In May one Blakeney Point 1st and Burnham Overy 18th; singles in July at Titchwell 13th and Scolt Head 19th.

First of autumn west Sheringham Sept 14th and Holme 22nd. Passage more pronounced from mid-Oct: Holme singles 9th, 18th and 22nd, 2 south Gorleston 16th, one Sheringham 19th with 11 21st, 4 Cley 21st with 4 west 22nd, 3 west Cromer 22nd and one Waxham 27th. Occasional records of 1-3 in Nov apart from 8 west Cley 2nd, 6 Burnham Overy 3rd and 14 on 10th, 7 Sheringham, 4 Cromer and 8 Mundesley on 9th (all west), and 7 Waxham 13th. In Dec higher numbers than usual along east coast sites were presumably attributed to the Winterton flock; elsewhere 11 Cley 8th and 10 on 24th, 5 east Weybourne 9th and 9 Salthouse 14th.

Goldeneye

Bucephala clangula

Passage migrant and winter visitor

Max monthly counts at selected localities:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	44	48	42	20	7	32	49
Titchwell	57	64	68	8	5	13	30
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	48	47	25	10	13	42	55
Blakeney Hbr	66	-	-	-	-	21	87
Hickling Broad	20	41	38	-	-	6	7

Other sites recording 10 or more during first winter period: 11 Barton Broad, 12 Filby Broad, 12 Holkham Park Lake 41 Hunstanton. 14 Narford Lake, 16 Pensthorpe, 43 R Ouse Relief Channel, 12 Stiffkey Fen, 15 Tottenhill GP, 26 Welney.

At Cromer 2 east March 2nd the only coastal movement. In May singles at Cley 3rd, Titchwell 13th and 18th, and Welney 15th. One summer record, drake South Acre GP June 12th/13th.

Return passage first noted 3 Scolt Head Oct 19th and 2 Breydon 20th. Arrivals on a broader front on 21st with 14 Holme, 22 Scolt Head and 5 Sheringham (all west). Apart from 25 west and 30 west Holme on Nov 1st and 2nd respectively, no further notable movements until 9th when north then west: 29 Holme, 16 Cley, 74 Sheringham, 47 Cromer



Goldeneye (Phil Jones)

(0730-0930), 65 Overstrand (0835-0935 and 1130-1300), 77 Mundesley, 18 Eccles, 6 Waxham, 10 Winterton, 15 Yarmouth, 18 Gorleston. In Nov/Dec away from principal localities up to 6 on several inland waters except 22 Martham Broad Nov 18th, 11 R Ouse Relief Channel Dec 30th and 28 Barton Broad 31st.

Smew

Mergellus albellus

Winter visitor in small numbers, increasing during severe weather

Monthly totals of male/redhead ratio:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec
Males	6	5	3	1	1
Redheads	20	16	10	1	5

Max calculated totals of individuals during first winter period: Tottenhill GP/R Ouse Relief Channel Jan 6 (1 male), Feb 8 (1 male), March 7 (1 male), April male; Hickling Broad Jan 4 (1 male), Feb 10 (2 males), March 5 (2 males). Elsewhere 4 Martham Broad (1 male) Jan 25th, 2 Lynn Point Jan 14th, 2 Hunstanton (1 male) Jan 30th/31st; also isolated singles at Brancaster Hbr, Felbrigg Park, Horsey Mere, Snettisham (male) Strumpshaw (male), Thompson Water and Welney.

Birds offshore in this period one west Cromer Jan 1st and 4 west Titchwell 18th. In April a male Tottenhill GP 2nd and 17th-22nd, and a redhead Burnham Overy GM 17th and Brancaster Hbr 21st-23rd.

First returning individual off Blakeney Point Nov 10th. One Tottenhill GP Nov 21st then none until Dec when max totals: Burnham Overy Hbr (1) Horsey Mere (2), R Ouse Relief Channel (male) and Tottenhill GP (3 - 1 male).

Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator

Passage migrant and winter visitor; occasional in summer

Max monthly counts at principal coastal localities:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Heacham/Hunstanton	100	58	66	-	-	94	113
Titchwell	120	50	30	14	-	10	30
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	39	37	50	34	33	43	46
Blakeney Hbr	35	-	-	6	-	54	62

National importance (winter): 100

Elsewhere up to 10 seen at several north coast sites but uncommon on east coast in first winter period with singles only reported Winterton March 3rd and Breydon 4th with 2 there May 6th/7th.

In May still 14 Blakeney Hbr 4th, and up to 3 there June/July. Occasional other summer records from Holme, Titchwell, Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, Burnham Overy Hbr, Sheringham (including 6 west June 17th) and Cromer.

First returning birds passed Sheringham Sept 5th and 9th; at Scolt Head (all west) 4 Sept 12th, 8 17th, 6 23rd and 9 Oct 21st. Largest westerly coastal movement Nov 9th when 13 Sheringham, 8 Cromer and 10 (north) Winterton.

No records from non-tidal waters.

Goosander

Mergus merganser

Winter visitor and passage migrant, most abundant in severe winters

Max counts from favoured sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Thetford Nunnery Lakes	20	12	2	-	5
R Ouse Relief Channel	12	7	15	2	13

During first winter period inland records also from (max monthly counts): Barnhamcross Common Mere 7 Feb, Cranwich GP 5 Jan, 3 Feb, Cringleford, Eau Brink Cut 10 Feb, East Harling 2 Jan, 5 March, Filby Broad, Great Ryburgh, Hockwold Washes, Lynford GP 5 Jan, 2 Feb, Methwold, Ormesby Little Broad, Sparham Pools 8 Jan, 3 Feb, 7 March, Tottenhill GP, UEA Broad 3 Feb, Welney 2 Feb.

Coastal occurrences and offshore movements: Jan 4 Blakeney Hbr 13th, 2 Snettisham 21st, 6 Hunstanton 31st; Feb 2 west Mundesley 4th and 13th, one north Horsey 27th. An unseasonal redhead Brancaster Hbr July 23rd.

In second winter period first returning birds 2 west Sheringham on very early date of Sept 9th with one west Holkham Bay Oct 27th. Main passage throughout Nov with 1-2 at well-watched north and east coastal sites apart from (all west) 4 Cley 1st, 3 Scolt Head 3rd, 3 Titchwell and 4 Beeston Bump 6th, 3 Sheringham 9th, and at Holme 3 3rd, 3 10th and 5

on 27th. Inland records Nov/Dec (max): Colney GP, 4 Cranwich GP, Gunton Park Lake, Hellesdon (one north Dec 22nd), 2 Hickling Broad, Hockwold Washes, 4 Martham Broad, 2 Sparham Pools, Thompson Water, 2 UEA Broad and Welney.

Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

An increasing but scarce introduced resident, first recorded in 1977

Max monthly counts from principal sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	3	8	16	8	3	5	4	10	5	11	11	9
Tottenham GP	30	23	11	5	-	-	-	-	-	11	10	12
Welney	18	13	5	4	3	2	-	-	-	4	1	-

Elsewhere 1-6 recorded (plus at breeding sites): Alderfen Broad, Barton Broad, Blakeney GM, Cockley Cley, East Ruston, Filby Broad, Glaven Borrow Pit, Hardley Flood, How Hill, Horsey Mere, Ken Hill GM, Snettisham and Strumpshaw. Also in Jan 8 Ormesby Little Broad, 11 Pensthorpe and 14 Pentney GP. Later in year peak at Fowlmere of 28 Nov.

During breeding season pairs noted at Burnham Overy, Cantley BF, Fowlmere, Hickling Broad, Holme (6), Lopham Fen and Lyng GP (2). Successful broods observed at Cley, Holkham GM (3), Pensthorpe, Stiffkey Fen and Titchwell (3 pairs).

Of note male west Scolt Head Oct 24th.

This species has shown a rapid increase in recent years; in comparison the largest count ten years ago was 3 moving north-west off Hunstanton.

Honey Buzzard

Pernis apivorus

Rare migrant breeder and scarce passage migrant

First spring record involved 2 together Kelling May 10th with further May records from Norwich (College Rd) 13th, east Holkham 16th, west Overstrand 20th, north-east Roydon Common 23rd when also 2 Welney. June records, presumably involving imms and non-breeding birds, from Winterton 15th, in off sea then west Scolt Head 16th, same Holme 16th and another Cley 18th.

Usual breeding territory again occupied from May 16th with intensive wing-clapping observed in following days. Again 2 young successfully fledged from this site where up to 5 individuals late July to mid-Aug (excluding young). Surprisingly up to 3 different birds were seen carrying food, the breeding male and female plus an additional female. As bigamy has yet to be recorded in Honey Buzzards, and just one nest was located, a possible explanation is that the third bird was one of a previous year's young assisting in feeding duties. However, the possibility remains that there was a second nest in close proximity. In addition to this a further site held 1-2 birds during summer and breeding here is still a distinct possibility but remains unproven. A further site apparently held a male on several occasions late May and is considered another possible breeding site by the observer concerned. Due to the level of protection necessary for this Schedule 1 species it is unclear if this and the second site above are the same. Observers are requested to follow-up any sightings of this species in suitable habitat May-Aug as it is becoming increasingly likely that more than one pair is breeding in the county.

Autumn passage commenced July 29th when one south Kelling followed by Aug singles East Tuddenham 2nd, juv between Cley and Holt 17th, and Cley 28th. Following last year's

spectacular autumn arrival, passage returned to more normal levels Sept-Oct when Sept singles Wereham 7th, Scottow 12th, juv Holt CP 14th, 2 Winterton 20th, single Wells Hbr (with 6 Common Buzzards) 26th and 2 separately Sheringham Park 28th. Oct singles Crostwick 1st and juv (possibly that in general area since Aug 17th) between Holt and Letheringsett 8th.

Black Kite

Milvus migrans

Vagrant from the Continent, usually in spring

One west over Welney June 29th (JBK CMi DSt) was only accepted record of what is still a major county rarity.

Red Kite

Milvus milvus

Increasing visitor; birds from the Continent and British reintroduction projects occur

Only one record from first winter period: Bodney and Foulden Feb 11th.

Spring passage underway from March 11th when single south Sea Palling and Gorleston, followed by further March birds West Rudham 16th, Houghton 18th, Emneth 27th and Wiveton Downs 31st.

Reasonable numbers April-May but doubtless some duplication involved. During April singles Eccles, Cromer and South Pickenham 1st, in off sea Scolt Head and Attleborough 2nd, Salhouse/Wroxham and Smallburgh 3rd, Winterton 17th, Sheringham and West Runton 22nd, and Salhouse and Cley 30th. May singles Holt 5th, east Sheringham and Weybourne and west Happisburgh 13th, then a glut of records at month end, probably involving just 2-3 birds when noted Narborough and North Wootton 27th. Massingham Heath, Cockthorpe, Bayfield and Wighton 28th, Great Ryburgh 28th/29th, Anmer, south Snettisham and Ingoldisthorpe 29th, Pulham Market, west Burnham Market and Titchwell 30th.

Wandering birds continued to be recorded into summer period when June singles Kelling Heath and Catfield Fen 5th, Houghton and Scole Common (tagged) 9th, Sprowston 12th, Cley 18th and 26th, and Houghton 23rd; and during July West Beckham 12th, Harpley 15th, Framingham Earl 24th and Snettisham 25th.

As usual, autumn records considerably fewer when noted Flitcham Sept 11th and 30th, Haddiscoe Sept 26th, Hunstanton Oct 17th, and presumably the same wandering bird Winterton and Stalham Green Oct 24th, and Martham Broad Oct 28th.

Marsh Harrier

Circus aeruginosus

Increasing migrant breeder; also passage migrant; increasing numbers over-wintering

At least 3 roosts in use in first winter period when max 26 Jan and 16 Feb but no data available for March.

With winter roosts away from Broads now well established it is increasingly difficult to determine when spring passage actually starts but a small increase in numbers late Feb suggests some movement already underway. Main passage commenced late March when noted Welney 23rd, Heacham 24th, west Scolt Head 28th, Salhouse and Cley 29th, and in off sea Beeston Regis 30th. Regularly watched coastal migration sites indicated a relatively light coastal passage April-May; at Sheringham 3 east April 23rd, single east May 12th and 2 east May 13th; at Scolt Head 17 west April, max 3 22nd and 5 24th and just 4 west May, max 2 13th, with last noted west there June 5th.

Many breeding territories occupied from late March and display first noted in Broads as early as Jan 9th. Breeding season spectacularly successful with min 189 young fledged from min 106 nests, easily surpassing the previous record number of fledged young: Wash 55

nests (35 successful) fledged min 113 young; *Broads* min 26 nests fledged min 35 young; *north Coast* 17 nests fledged min 28 young; *Fens* one nest fledged min one young; *elsewhere* a pair displaying at a site in Brecks and 7 additional nests fledged min 12 young. The successful colonisation of the county apparently continues but the fact that one or possibly two of these additional nests may have been robbed by egg collectors precludes the naming of any of the recently colonised areas. Observers are requested to continue to submit details of these nests in the knowledge that sites will remain confidential.

Fledged young in recent years tabulated below:

	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01
Fledged young	90	75	114	105	71	112	87	88	117	90	122	189

With so many birds in the county autumn dispersal (now both prolonged and widespread) commenced July when at Sheringham north-east 2nd, east 22nd and west then east 29th, and at Scolt Head 2 west 30th. During Aug up to 10 roosted Welney from early in month and in Sept up to 21 roosted mid-Yare Valley 12th/13th. Around this time birds could be encountered almost anywhere in county as indicated by 2 Hillington Aug 8th, Spixworth Aug 27th, Thurgarton Sept 12th, Roydon Oct 2nd and 18th, Hockham Fen Oct 3rd and Watton Oct 7th. At Scolt Head 2 west Aug 15th, singles west Sept 7th and 28th and in off sea 29th, but coastal passage again relatively unimpressive throughout autumn period.

During second winter period at least 4 roosts known to be occupied, though probably more, when max 13 Oct, 21 Nov and a remarkable 43 Dec. At this time the main Broads roost held impressive numbers Dec when 22 6th, 27 14th and 33 on 30th. Probably up to 5 birds wintering along north coast accounted for regular sightings Holme-Cley throughout this period. Also at this time evidence of continued movement when 4 flew towards sea at Winterton Dec 10th, 3 of which watched over sea until lost to sight.

Hen Harrier

Circus cyaneus

Passage migrant and winter visitor; former breeder, now exceptional in summer

Numbers relatively normal during first winter period when again apparently scarce along Wash borders. Noted away from usual localities and roost sites Jan-March at Lound Jan 7th, Ashwicken Feb 18th and Kipton Ash March 7th.

Data from 9 roost sites (6 in regular use) during this period, numbers at each locality tabulated below but no data available for March. With apparently much greater movement between roosts and the establishment of several new satellite roosts in recent years the practice of using letters to identify roost sites allowing comparison of varying numbers at each site on a year-on-year basis is now considered inaccurate and thus discontinued:

	Regular roosts						Occasional roosts	Max total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	(min 3)	
Jan	6	7	1	2	0	0	5	21
Feb	2	4	5	2	1	1	2	17

No roosting data available for March - just one roost observed where no birds present

With so little data available for March the main departure period difficult to establish but evidence of spring exodus late April when singles north Cley 28th, west Scolt Head 29th

and over sea there following day. As usual, few lingered into May when noted Stiffkey 7th, Aylmerton 12th, Blakeney Point 23rd and Cley 26th. Additionally, a male which frequented the Horsey/Waxham area to May 28th was seen in display over a reedbed on 12th. Also late May-early July a ringtail Harrier, considered to be a Hen by most experienced observers, caused some confusion in Thornham/Titchwell/Choseley area when regularly identified as a Montagu's and thus may account for some records under that species.



Hen Harrier (*Steve Cale*)

First returning bird of autumn on the exceptionally early date of Aug 15th at Cley, followed by more usual arrival from late Sept when Blakeney Point 24th-26th, Scolt Head 25th with 2 there 26th-30th, Horsey/Winterton 26th and 3 Warham SM 29th. Numbers increased gradually throughout Oct when most evident Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr where seen daily with 4 17th and 5 20th, then some evidence of further early Nov arrival when offshore Cley 2nd, south Hunstanton 3rd, west Mundesley and Sheringham 4th.

During second winter period only record away from regular areas Castle Rising Oct 31st. At this time data received from 7 roost sites (5 in regular use) indicated normal numbers present in county when again scarce around Wash and no records from Brecks:

	Regular roosts					Occasional roosts	Max total
	1	2	3	4	5	(min 2)	
Oct	2	2	1	2	3	0	10
Nov	2	3	2	2	6	1	16
Dec	4	6	4	4	3	1	22

Montagu's Harrier

Circus pygargus

Rare migrant breeder and scarce passage migrant

First of spring Hillington on early date of April 12th then none until late April when male Snettisham 26th, ringtail west Wells 29th and ringtail Great Ryburgh/Colkirk 30th.

Movement continued throughout May-June when May records from Breydon 7th, west Aylmerton 12th, Titchwell 12th and 18th-20th (also Docking/Choseley area), on the county border near Wisbech 13th, Great Cressingham 19th, Winterton, Holkham and Guist 20th, west Scolt Head and 2 Holme 21st, and Swanton Novers 26th. Noted during June at Salthouse Heath 1st, North Wootton 5th, Titchwell 9th, Shernborne 11th, Winterton 12th, Holme 13th, Weybourne 16th and Swanton Novers 25th. Also at this time an imm male lingered Scolt Head June 5th-10th with presumed same again June 24th and July 1st, plus ringtail high over sea there June 11th. This represents a good spring passage but it should be remembered that a controversial ringtail Harrier at north coast localities during this period could account for some of these records (see Hen Harrier).

None bred for the second successive year following the rapid dispersal of the county breeding population. It is now apparent that this colony has translocated further along the Wash limits into Lincolnshire where numbers are currently stable. The reasons for this are unclear but it is possible that prey levels on the Norfolk side were insufficient to maintain the breeding population, possibly also accounting for the recent poor fledging levels. The correlation between the dispersal of the colony and the apparent increase in the numbers of both Barn Owls and Marsh Harriers in the same area is perhaps worthy of investigation.

Always less evident in autumn when, surprisingly, most records from former breeding area, where up to 3 late July-Aug 20th. Also noted at this time at an inland locality where 2 overhead July 28th performed some display flight, and at Welney where ringtail roosted with Marsh Harriers Aug 9th. In addition Aug juvs at Titchwell 12th/13th and west Scolt Head 13th and 29th, with male Stanhoe Aug 21st. A late female Choseley Oct 6th.

Harrier sp

Circus sp

Specifically unidentified male Berney Aug 10th and ringtail Buckenham Sept 11th.

Goshawk

Accipiter gentilis

Rare breeder; also scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

Recorded away from known or suspected breeding sites in first winter period at Pentney GP Jan 5th and 28th, Roydon Common Jan 14th and Feb 15th/16th, and Wolferton Feb 25th.

Presumed spring migrants south-east Kelling WM April 15th and Sheringham May 1st.

Courtship display noted in spring as early as Jan 8th, but subsequently from just 4 (possibly 5) localities, only one of which in Brecks. However, juvs at 2 sites in Aug indicated successful breeding at those localities. The paucity of breeding data presumably reflects observer coverage due to foot and mouth restrictions as recent indications are that this species is slowly increasing as a breeding bird in the county. One south-west Heacham July 6th was unusual in both locality and date.

Apparently more obvious than usual during autumn when noted singly as follows: Aug Cantley BF 14th, juv west Beeston Regis 27th; Sept Strumpshaw 13th, Holt 14th, in off sea Scolt Head 20th, east Salthouse and Morston 26th, 2 juvs Holkham Meals 28th; Oct Langham 12th; Nov Gissing 7th, Cockley Cley 7th/8th, Sheringham Park intermittently 4th-11th.

Sparrowhawk

Accipiter nisus

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Although still regularly recorded throughout year in all habitat types countywide, there is a feeling amongst most active observers that recent years have seen a general levelling out of the county population following the post-DDT recovery period.

Spring passage somewhat less impressive this year when in April 11 south Breydon 1st, south Hunstanton Cliffs 2nd, 10 Winterton 4th, 10 (mainly resident) Inceborough Hill including a striking melanistic individual 25th, and single west Scolt Head 29th. Little data received for May other than 15 Winterton 9th with 13 there 11th.

Breeding behaviour noted at 21 localities where 26-28 pairs thought nesting but success recorded at just 6 of these where 12+ young fledged - again just a small proportion of the county population. Observers are requested to submit more breeding data on this species to allow the true county population to be judged more accurately. NBA results showed the species was present in 50% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of one pair per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage, often unspectacular, was hardly noticeable this year when 3 south Eccles Sept 20th, and singles south Yarmouth Sept 25th, west Scolt Head Oct 12th and in off sea Wells Oct 29th the only records.

Common Buzzard

Buteo buteo

Passage migrant and winter visitor; small but increasing breeding population

Regularly recorded Jan-March in vicinity of known or suspected breeding territories with singles at a further 18 widespread localities plus 2 Gunton Park Feb 6th, 3 Barnhamcross Common March 3rd and 2 Gunthorpe Park March 14th.

Spring passage (again relatively unimpressive) commenced April 1st when single south Breydon then odd singles early April until 5 Winterton, 2 west Cromer and singles west Beeston Regis and Titchwell 8th. Probably only a further 10-15 genuine migrants during April with 2 west Scolt Head 12th, presumably same 2 west Weybourne, Cley and Scolt Head 22nd with another in off sea at latter site same date. Also 2 south-west Beeston Regis



Common Buzzard (Phil Jones)

April 29th. May singles Winterton 13th and 23rd, Aylmerton 19th and Blakeney Point 20th possibly the only new arrivals that month.

Many breeding sites occupied from late Feb with 6-9 birds at 3 localities and 3-4 at several others. Again regularly seen over Norwich and surrounding urban areas at this time. A total of 10 pairs were confirmed as breeding, at least 8 of which successfully fledged a min 12 young. Where breeding noted as successful but no further details forthcoming, just one fledged young has been recorded – thus total of fledged young may be considerably higher, but still represents a new peak. One breeding attempt known to have failed when one of the adults disappeared. Additionally, display noted at a further 5 localities where breeding considered probable and a summer presence of at least 2 adults at a further 5 sites where breeding considered possible. Currently the vast majority of confirmed breeding sites are in northern half of county. Whether this merely represents observer coverage or a general trend is as yet unclear.

Data since breeding recommenced in the county tabulated below:

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Confirmed breeding pairs	1	3	2	1	2	4	5	5	9	10
Probable breeding pairs	-	1	1	-	5	4	5	5	6	5
Possible breeding pairs	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	5	5
Max breeding pairs	2	5	5	2	8	9	12	12	20	20
Min fledged young	2	6	2	1	2	7	7	9	8	12

Midsummer records of late migrants/presumed non-breeders Wiveton June 5th, Weeting Heath June 16th, in off sea Yarmouth June 28th, Welney July 12th and Lopham Fen July 26th.

Post breeding dispersal Aug-Sept led to widespread inland records of up to 4 together but autumn passage almost negligible. First migrant Winterton Aug 29th then a gentle trickle of odd singles at coastal localities Sept 1st-Oct 23rd plus 3 Titchwell Sept 12th, 6 high west Wells Sept 26th with 7 Holkham Park next day, and 3 in off sea Winterton Oct 3rd. Last apparent autumn migrant north Cley Oct 23rd.

Recorded regularly in now familiar areas Nov-Dec but also at 10 localities away from known territories, max 2 Attleborough Nov 9th and 2 Hillington Dec 26th. More unusually, several records at this time from southern half of county.

Rough-legged Buzzard

Buteo lagopus

Passage migrant and winter visitor; periodic large-scale influxes

The wintering bird remained in St Olaves and Thorpe Marshes area until March 24th, proving a reliable and welcome winter spectacle for many observers. This bird presumably accounted for records from Reedham Jan 28th and Berney/Halvergate Jan 30th. Additional singles near Langham Jan 5th, east Sheringham Feb 24th, north Pentney GP March 6th, south Holkham March 29th, King's Lynn April 2nd, west Weybourne (with Common Buzzards) April 22nd and Ringstead May 5th.

First of autumn west Salhouse Nov 4th, possibly that noted in Nov at Flitcham 11th, Docking 19th, west Brancaster Hbr 20th, west Titchwell 26th and also Massingham Heath

Dec 13th. The now regular wintering bird returned to Thorpe/Haddiscoe Marshes area Nov 18th-year end. Another disappointing year for this species.

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

Regular passage migrant; over-summering has occurred in recent years

Again around 40 spring migrants (allowing for duplication) but slightly fewer during autumn than in last 2 years when around 30 recorded.

First of spring west Cley March 31st, followed by usual trickle of April migrants when noted Scoulton Mere 6th, west Scolt Head and Titchwell 16th, Aylmerton and Titchwell 22nd, Cromer, Inceborough Hill and Blakeney Point 25th, Paston and Burnham Norton 26th, west Mundesley, Beeston Bump and Cley, and another Pentney GP 27th, and Holme 30th/May 1st. Passage increased in tempo from around May 10th with peaks on 16th and 28th when Breydon, Salthouse, 3 west Blakeney Point, Scolt Head, Titchwell, Holme and 2 Guist on 16th, and 2 west Aylmerton, West Beckham, Bodham, 3 west Bayfield, Blakeney Point, Wiveton, Holkham and Scolt Head 28th.

As usual, fewer during June when recorded from 7 localities including the seventh of spring over Blakeney Point. Also during June one arrived in Wensum valley and then wandered to numerous sites within the valley to Aug 5th.

First autumn bird Stanford Water July 3rd followed by singles Strumpshaw 5th, juv in off sea Waxham 28th and Rockland Broad 30th. Another commenced a lengthy stay at the much-favoured site of Strumpshaw July 31st, to be joined by another Aug 13th-15th and later by another juv Aug 21st which proved to be this year's offspring from the famous Loch Garten cyrie in Scotland, having left there 7 days previously. At least one of these remained to Sept 21st and a number of records from nearby localities until Oct 6th probably relate to one or other of these individuals. Another was at Guist Aug 31st, again wandering Wensum valley sites and possibly accounts for regular sightings Old Costessey during Sept.

A generally steady arrival of migrants Aug-Sept with no obvious peaks, and none lingering for more than a day or two. Six further Oct records from Thetford Nunnery Lakes 1st, south Holme 3rd, Wymondham 7th, Breydon 8th, Buckenham 18th and west Holme 22nd, were followed by a late bird Earsham GP Nov 2nd.

Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus

Resident breeder and passage migrant

Usual light spring passage noted at just Scolt Head, where 15 west April including 3 2nd and 4 on 29th.

Some observers consider this species to be in decline at present; total 37 breeding pairs recorded but success confirmed at just 2 sites, namely Sennowe Park and Sheringham. In contrast NBA results showed the species was present in 73% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad. All data relating to breeding is welcome for this species.

Autumn movement commenced with July singles in off sea Sheringham 6th and west Scolt Head 24th. Now familiar Aug concentrations around the Wash limits of 6 Snettisham 7th and 12 Lynn Point 10th, perhaps predictably coincided with the main passage period as indicated by 11 west Cromer 11th. Further small autumn movements noted when 2 west Overstrand Sept 20th, 3 in off sea Winterton Oct 16th with others in off sea both there 31st and Sea Palling 25th.

Red-footed Falcon

Falco vespertinus

Vagrant, most often in spring; large influx in 1992

A 1st-summer female Cley July 9th (SJA J&AT) was the only record for this attractive falcon which has become virtually annual in recent years.

Merlin

Falco columbarius

Passage migrant and winter visitor; exceptional in summer

Four roost sites in regular use during first winter period plus another Jan only; monthly max 13 Jan, 8 Feb and 5 March. At this time up to 5 regularly on north coast Holme-Blakeney Point, sometimes wandering east to Sheringham and occasionally noted at sites just inland from coastal strip. Absent from usual haunts in Breydon/Berney area Jan-Feb but numbers normal elsewhere in Broads when also noted on coastal strip Walcott-Winterton. Again apparently scarce on Wash limits when noted Ongar Hill Jan 6th and 14th, and Snettisham/Wolferton intermittently Feb 7th-26th. Noted away from previously mentioned areas Jan-Feb at Welney 5 dates Jan 6th-Feb 18th, Wereham Jan 12th, Ditchingham Feb 6th, Little Barningham Feb 24th, and during March at Marham 2nd, Breydon 4th, Acle 5th, Alby 15th, Shoulden Thorpe 22nd and King's Lynn Fisher Fleet 23rd.

Less regular April-May as wintering birds departed when 2 Blakeney Point to May 5th with one to 14th, Scolt Head daily April with 2 there 22nd and 26th, and singles May 5th-7th, 9th/10th and 14th. Additional April migrants or lingering wintering birds Breydon 2nd, Titchwell 8th, Weybourne 22nd, Holme 27th and 29th/30th, with one out to sea Beeston Bump on latter date. Further migrants noted in May Weybourne 1st, Stiffkey 2nd, Titchwell 9th, Beeston/West Runton 10th and Salthouse 25th.

First returning bird of autumn Blakeney Point July 26th followed by Aug singles Scolt Head 8th and 17th, with 2 there 18th/19th and single 22nd-28th, Ongar Hill 13th and Titchwell 26th/27th. Slow build-up during Sept when Holme/Titchwell 3rd-14th, Burston 9th, Cley 11th, then 1-2 Breydon from Sept 15th, 1-2 Blakeney Point from Sept 18th, and daily Scolt Head during Sept with 2 there 20th and 22nd, and 3 on 26th. Main Broads sites occupied from Sept 21st.

Continued arrival late Sept to Nov when west Sheringham Sept 27th, west Holme Oct 15th and in off sea there 17th, east Sheringham Nov 3rd and 2 west Cley Nov 4th.

Wintering numbers apparently similar to first winter period when 6-7 on north coast Holme-Blakeney Point again with occasional wanderings farther east and to inland localities, and 4-6 at usual sites in Broads. Regular on Scolt Head during Oct with 1-2 daily and 3 on 13th, 18th and 24th, but scarce there Nov and absent Dec. Also more regular along Wash limits when noted frequently Snettisham Oct-Dec and occasionally Ongar Hill plus Admiralty Point Dec 2nd.

Also more frequent away from usual areas Oct-Dec when noted Clippesby Oct 12th, Ten Mile Bank Oct 28th, Great Ryburgh Nov 2nd, West Walton Nov 8th, East Tunstall Nov 12th, Aylmerton Nov 22nd and Dec 28th, Stanhoe Nov 25th, Massingham Heath Dec 16th and Feltwell Anchor Dec 30th.

Seven roost sites in regular use in second winter period but numbers low at main Broads roost; monthly max 9 Oct, 9 Nov, 10 Dec.

Hobby

Falco subbuteo

Scarce but increasing migratory breeder and passage migrant

Spring arrival commenced mid-April when New Costessey 12th and Holkham 16th followed by single west Scolt Head 22nd; main arrival from late April when Scolt Head and Titchwell

26th, Colney GP, west Beeston Bump and Cley 27th, Salthouse, Titchwell, North Wootton, Paston, Scolt Head, Titchwell, Holme and Binham all 29th.

Steady passage early May with a marked peak around 12th with 1-2 regularly noted from numerous widespread coastal and inland localities with several gatherings of 3-4 over inland waters and 8 together at one Broads site. The attraction of dragonfly emergences at freshwater wetland sites seems irresistible to this dashing falcon at this time of year.

Less evidence of coastal movement during June, particularly early in month with most summering and breeding birds now on territory. However, further evidence of coastal passage later in month when noted Winterton 16th, 24th and 27th, Holkham 16th, Happisburgh 20th, Paston 24th and 29th, Yarmouth 28th and Blakeney Point 29th.

Disappointingly, breeding confirmed by just 7 pairs, 5 of which successfully fledged at least 11 young and food-passing or carrying seen at other 2 sites. Breeding possible at 3 additional localities where at least 2 adults summered. However, no details from Brecks, and only one breeding record from Broads, thus breeding numbers likely to be considerably higher. There is no reason to suspect, especially given the frequency with which this species is recorded, that breeding numbers do not continue to increase.



Hobby (Steve Cale)

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Confirmed pairs	4	7	6	7	8	4	5	7	9	10	7
Possible pairs	4	-	4	1	1	5	5	5	8	6	3
Max pairs	8	7	10	8	9	9	10	12	17	16	10
Min fledged young	-	-	10	6	8	10	6	8	14	16	11

Regular during July with several groups of up to 3 and an impressive 12 at one wetland site at dusk July 20th. Coastal records scarce during month when noted Snettisham 9th and Beeston Regis 10th, possibly wandering non-breeders, followed by start of autumn passage late in month when west Scolt Head 20th, Snettisham 21st/22nd, Winterton and east Scolt Head 22nd, and Winterton and Beeston Bump 29th.

Well recorded at both coastal and inland sites Aug to mid-Sept but most had departed inland areas by late Sept when juvs became prominent at coastal sites. As usual, a few lingered into Oct when noted Cley, Welney, Burnham Market and 2 Buckenham Fen 3rd, Waxham 5th, Holme 6th, Cley and Titchwell 8th, 2 Holme 9th, Holme/Titchwell 17th and a late bird east Sheringham 25th, followed by an exceptional Nov record (first for county) south Hunstanton Cliffs 10th.

Interestingly, apart from the usual hirundines and swifts, hunting Hobbies were seen to take Dunlin, a juv Purple Sandpiper and Yellow Wagtails.

Peregrine

Falco peregrinus

Passage migrant and increasing winter visitor

Approximately 9-10 wintering birds in county at start of year including min 4 frequenting north coast localities between Titchwell and Stiffkey, up to 3 Haddiscoe/Chedgrave Marshes area and up to 2 Breydon to April 1st. Scarce along Wash coast Jan-Feb where Lynn Point

Feb 24th only record. Also, few recorded Welney where single Jan 29th and 2 Feb 26th. Noted at 7 inland localities away from known wintering areas Jan-Feb.

Departure of wintering birds and movement of passage migrants cloud situation March-April but apparently most wintering territories abandoned by end March. Some evidence of coastal passage March when noted Hunstanton 3rd, Scolt Head intermittently 11th-28th, Blakeney Hbr/Cley 13th, Lynn Point 31st, and in April when 2 Scolt Head 2nd with singles there 3rd-9th, 12th and 21st/22nd, Winterton 3rd and 27th, and Lynn Point 21st. April inland records from Norwich and Brundall 3rd, and Welney 19th.

Unusually just one May record, Holme 20th, indicating an early departure of wintering birds or perhaps a light spring passage.

The Peregrine has not been recorded breeding in Norfolk since 1815 and despite recent over-summering the record of 2 adults in courtship display flight over Pensthorpe GP March 25th represents a sight that will have been witnessed within the county by only very few.

Midsummer records from Caister and Snettisham June 9th and Holkham June 19th.

Autumn movement commenced late July when noted Hockwold Washes 30th, Cley 30th/31st and 2 Hickling 31st, followed by Aug records from Cley 18th and 25th, Thetford Nunnery Lakes 22nd, Blakeney Point 24th and Shimpling (Burstons) 26th.

Many wintering birds on territory by mid-Sept but continued evidence of passage Sept-Nov when west East Runton Sept 16th, west Sidestrand and Cromer Oct 21st, in off sea Cromer Nov 8th and in off sea then west Kelling WM Nov 17th.

Possibly as many as 20 birds in county Sept-Oct when regular Scolt Head where 3 Sept 19th and Oct 28th, and 1-2 almost daily mid-Sept to year end. Probably only 12-14 remained to over-winter when coastal sites Snettisham to Blakeney Point occupied by possibly up to 7 birds plus 2 Breydon/Berney and 2 (occasionally 3 mid-Nov) Haddiscoe/Chedgrave Marshes area. Also during this period noted Welney Oct 22nd-29th intermittently, Nov 9th and 21st-28th, Dec 12th, 28th and 30th (min 2 birds involved). Odd coastal records away from known wintering areas Oct-Dec but few inland records at this time, notably Hardley Flood Oct 6th and Dec 27th, How Hill Oct 8th, Brograve Levels Nov 24th and Fersfield Dec 11th.

At year end, a remarkable gathering of 4 Blakeney GM Dec 10th is difficult to explain if it did not involve the majority of the north coast wintering birds in the same vicinity.

Red-legged Partridge

Alectoris rufa

Common introduced resident

Coveys reported in first winter period: Jan 40 Eccles, 25 Burlingham, 11 Hunstanton; Feb 34 Little Cressingham, 17 Didlington.

NBA results showed the species was present in 82% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Coveys exceeding 12 in second winter period: Sept 26 Bunwell; Oct 48 Horsey, 14 Aylmerton, 14 Aldborough; Nov 30 East Tuddenham, 48 Horsey (put to flight by Hen Harrier), 17 Harling; Dec 25 Massingham Heath, 24 Clipperby, 20 Stowbridge, 14 Hilgay Fen, 13 Outwell. In Dec also counts of 45 Roydon Common 27th and 136 in Grimston tetrad 29th.

Grey Partridge

Perdix perdix

Resident

Coveys reported in first winter period: Jan 26 Blackborough End Tip, 6 West Acrc; Feb 13 Wootton Marsh Farms.

Breeding: 1-2 pairs at many sites, including an alarming decline at Scolt Head with only 1 pair (6 in 2000). More pairs at Sparham 8, Langham/Cockthorpe 4, Snettisham 3 and Roydon Common 3. NBA results showed the species was present in 37% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Coveys exceeding 8 in second winter period: *Aug* 20 Wells, 17 Sheringham, 9 Snettisham (7 juv); *Sept* 10 Merton, 9 West Somerton (7 juv); *Oct* 35 Brettenham Heath, 12 Mileham, 11 Caister; *Nov* 25 Waterden, 16 Roydon Common, 13 Great Ryburgh, 9 King's Lynn Fisher Fleet; *Dec* 30 Massingham Heath, 16 Burnham Overy, 16 and 12 Sheringham, 12 Egmore, 10 Repps-with-Bastwick, 9 East Ruston, 9 Gateley.

Quail

Coturnix coturnix

Summer visitor in erratic numbers; sporadic breeder

Most records of single males calling on one day only.

Only 4 records in May at Watton 21st, Rougham 22nd, Norwich 26th (audible from Caernarvon Rd), Salthouse 27th (seen), and intermittent calling throughout the summer at Gimingham (1-3) and Kelling WM (1-2).

Other records: *June* Cley, Hilgay (2 days), Holkham, Salthouse Heath (2 days), Strumpshaw, Welney; *July* Cart Gap, East Ruston (4 days), Eccles (2 days), The Hangs, Kelling (1-2) (3 days), Long Stratton, Swaffham; *Aug* Choseley Barns, Gateley (2 days), Sheringham (2 days), Stiffkey (2 seen), Warham Greens.



Quail (Steve Cale)

Common Pheasant

Phasianus colchicus

Common introduced resident

Breeding records included 28 territories at Boyland Wood and 15 males with 6 broods at Scolt Head; at Halvergate Marshes 2 pairs successful despite foxes. NBA results showed the species was present in 91% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 12 cocks per occupied tetrad. Albinos were seen at Waxham Oct and Hanworth Nov.

Golden Pheasant

Chrysolophus pictus

Scarce and local introduced resident

Regularly recorded at Wayland Wood (max 14), Wolferton Jan-March (max 5) and East Wretham (max 6). Isolated sightings from Cockley Cley, West Harling, Hockham Woods (7).

Water Rail

Rallus aquaticus

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Winter records from widespread localities. Peak counts from the most regularly monitored sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Holme	2	-	6	-	4	5	5	3
Titchwell	8	4	3	2	1	-	10	10
Cley	5	-	-	1	1	1	-	5
Horning Waterworks	2	1	-	-	-	-	5	3
East Ruston Fens	-	-	-	1	4	12	-	12
How Hill	8	-	-	-	-	10	12	12
Strumpshaw	1	4	-	1	-	-	-	3
Pensthorpe	3	1	2	-	-	-	1	-
Welney	1	-	-	-	1	2	2	1

Other localities with at least 4: *Jan* Catfield Fen 8, Horsey 5, Horning Hall Marshes 4, Ranworth Broad 4; *April* Hickling Broad 5; *Nov* Scolt Head 5, Thompson Water 4; *Dec* Horning Hall Marshes 12, Hickling Broad 11, Horsey Mere 8, Hulver Ground Horning 8, Irstead Street 6, Barton Turf 5, Alderfen Broad 4, Blakeney GM 4.

Breeding: Holkham NNR probably 20 pairs, Titchwell 10, Strumpshaw 3+, and juvs seen Cley, Hickling Broad and Holme. Other localities with calling males: Salthouse, Barton Turf Fen, Catfield Fen, Irstead Street, Horning Hulver Ground and Welney.

Spotted Crake

Porzana porzana

Scarce passage migrant, rare in winter, summer visitor since 2000

Possible breeding males calling: Broadlands April 23rd-27th, Strumpshaw June 1st-28th with another June 19th-22nd, Surlingham Marshes June 13th-22nd, Welney May 6th-8th and 23rd, and another Ouse Washes May 10th.

For the sixth autumn, one Titchwell Sept 2nd-14th (many observers); also single Holme Sept 26th (GFH DN).



Spotted Crake (Steve Cale)



Barn Owl – a typical pose (*Tony Howes*)

Nuthatch – a regular visitor to winter feeding stations (*Hans Watson*)





Grey Partridge – The English Partridge (*Chris Knights*)



Red-legged Partridge – The French Partridge (*Neil Bowman*)



Greenfinch – an abundant garden bird (*Tony Howes*)

Siskin – another regular garden visitor (*Chris Knights*)



Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

Abundant resident; immigrants in autumn

Peak counts from the most regularly monitored sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Holme	-	3	33	3	12	12	6	11	19
Kelling WM	32	14	-	6	10	-	11	1	14
Whitlingham CP	13	14	-	-	-	-	-	12	20
Diss Mere	3	6	5	6	12	10	16	16	13

Other counts exceeding 18: *Jan* 57 Yarmouth Bure Park, 42 Welney, 42 Cley, 24 Thurning Hall, 21 Quidenham Carr; *Feb* 43 Bure Park Yarmouth, 39 Trowse Millgate, 38 Wootton Marsh Farm; *Sept* 37 Narborough, 20 Lopham Fen; *Oct* 55 Narborough; *Nov* 34 Cley, 33 Hickling Broad (near village); *Dec* 36 Redwell Marsh Holme.

Breeding: Holkham NNR 110 pairs, Wootton Marsh Farm 13 pairs, Pensthorpe 11 broods. NBA results showed the species was present in 82% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad. At Burgh Castle, a female drove off a weasel which was about to pounce on its young.

Coot

Fulica atra

Common resident and winter visitor

Peak counts from the most regularly monitored sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	52	80	30	10	13	16	-	28	28	29	32	29
Holme	190	265	390	26	49	-	116	114	187	127	98	110
Breydon/Berney	1143	610	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	220	763
Hickling Broad	366	205	123	-	-	-	-	-	277	-	177	287
Ormesby Broad	96	67	-	18	42	62	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rockland Broad	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	90	115	132	-
Whitlingham CP	210	125	93	33	-	31	86	147	292	340	391	409
Diss Mere	23	26	15	14	9	-	23	16	27	24	31	29
Pentney GP	-	-	-	-	-	63	126	150	222	246	265	250
Welney	578	458	362	262	241	-	-	-	-	209	308	383

National importance (winter): 1100

Other counts exceeding 100: Ouse Washes (excl Welney) 241 Jan; Holkham Park 310 Jan, 235 Feb; Cranwich GP 310 Jan, 101 Feb; How Hill 187 July, 175 Aug; Martham Broad 185 Nov; Wolferton Park 182 Dec; Nar Valley Fisheries 142 Jan; Hardley Flood 136 Jan, 266 Feb; Holme 130 Dec.

Breeding records included 120 pairs Holkham NNR (decline of 34) and 17 broods Pensthorpe.

An unusual occurrence of one in off sea Scolt Head Oct 23rd.

Common Crane

Grus grus

Resident colony in Broads since 1979; some records may relate to continental migrants

Up to 11 adults were seen in first winter period, with an additional sub-adult April 27th-29th, while up to 13 adults and 3 juvs were seen in second winter period.

Breeding: 2 pairs successful, each fledging 2 juvs, one of which disappeared shortly after.

Wandering birds (or migrants) away from regular areas in east of county: 7 toured the north coast April 2nd, west from Wiverton to Holme then east to Northrepps; 7 high north-east Breydon April 29th; one west Wattlefield, Wymondham May 3rd; one north-east Strumpshaw May 5th; one west Kelling WM and Cley May 13th; 2 north New Costessey May 15th; 4 Lopham Fen June 1st; 2 south Bayfield Aug 24th; 2 east Kelling WM and Beeston Regis Sept 22nd; 17 adults south-east Breydon Oct 5th; one seen frequently Buckenham Oct 17th-28th and Berney Nov 1st.

Oystercatcher

Haematopus ostralegus

Common winter visitor, passage migrant and breeder

All sites holding 500 or more:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	3347	3124	2300	1850	1230	2100	2865	6085	6025	6100	6214	5030
Titchwell	345	332	277	-	-	163	149	504	295	196	612	288
Holme	900	855	655	232	476	170	286	700	830	650	850	1352
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	664	1036	1070	468	493	321	704	1000	953	1043	754	780

National importance (winter): 3600

The only other noteworthy count was 966 Terrington Feb.

At Snettisham the upward monthly mean trend continued for third successive year with 1904 in 1999, 2694 in 2000 to 3855 this year. Clearly shellfish stocks are on the increase.



Oystercatcher (Steve Cale)

A good number of breeding pairs with 462 (317 in 2000); on coastal sites (beaches and grazing marshes) Snettisham Beach 31, Snettisham GM 13, Holme Beach 11, Titchwell 27, Scolt Head 111 (40-50 young fledged), Holkham Beach and saltmarsh 56, Holkham GM 40 (poor success), Blakeney Point 127, Kelling WM 2, Yarmouth Beach 1 and one on nearby roof!

Inland a total of 45 pairs at 23 sites: Bittering GP (3), Bodney Flood, Brecks (8 - incomplete), Burnham Market, Coxford, Cranwich GP, Ditchingham, Fowlmere (2), Middleton GP (3), Morning Thorpe GP, Newton, Pentney GP (2), Pensthorpe (7), Saxthorpe, Sculthorpe (6), Sennowe Park, Sparham GP, Sustead (2), Wissington BF and Wroxham Broad.

Visible spring migration noted only Scolt Head where 65 north-east May 11th. During autumn westerly passage more obvious: Scolt Head 75 Aug 5th, 105 9th, 41 19th and 21 Sept 17th; Sheringham 32 Aug 19th, 33 Sept 4th and 30 9th; Cromer 35 Sept 17th.

An albino again Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr during both winter periods, a partial albino Hunstanton March 3rd and another near albino Beechamwell July 8th.

Black-winged Stilt
Vagrant, mostly in late spring/summer, has bred

Himantopus himantopus

The long-staying Titchwell bird remained into its ninth year, with a visit to nearby Scolt Head June 11th.

Avocet
Breeding summer visitor, increasing in winter

Recurvirostra avosetta

Monthly max at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	1	8	27	128	131	110	320	180	8	1	15	-
Titchwell	1	29	72	93	19	42	85	17	5	17	6	3
Cley	11	55	60	103	75	115	110	11	8	18	13	18
Breydon/Berney	99	*272	*219	*122	*108	86	*426	*855	*582	242	68	120
Welney	-	1	22	39	59	54	37	9	2	-	-	-

* Monthly record counts

The first winter period saw records broken yet again at Breydon in Feb/March and into April, but elsewhere numbers were generally late arriving, with highest counts for key sites in April.

The number of breeding pairs increased noticeably to 359-364 at 16 sites. Where success was recorded at 5 sites, 189 pairs fledged 108 young; of the remaining half success was much poorer, though at one of these with 60 pairs fledging was impossible to gauge. At one inland site 26 pairs fledged 44 young, the success due to lack of seasonal flooding and predator control. Increasing fox numbers at several north coast sites reduced success yet again but the upward trend in overall numbers is still encouraging.

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Pairs	157	174	209	214	203	181	252-267	186	279-309	359-364
Sites	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	11	13	16	11	14	16

The summer concentrations at Breydon continued to increase with counts of 426 July 21st, 855 Aug 18th, 582 Sept, all site records for those months. The first four-figure count may not be too far away.

Other noteworthy records included singles over Winterton Feb 20th, Pentney GP April 30th, Middleton GP May 15th, 2 west Sheringham May 28th with 4 west there Aug 4th, 2

east Horning June 4th and 2 east Bacton June 23rd. A Swedish-ringed bird was at Titchwell Feb 18th, while a regular colour-ringed individual previously ringed at Holme returned there for its ninth year.

Stone Curlew

Burhinus oedicnemus

Breeding summer visitor, mainly to Brecks

There were two first winter records of singles on Jan 13th and Feb 22nd at farms in Brecks. The monitoring of spring migrants and breeding information was severely hampered due to foot and mouth restrictions. The only spring migrant recorded away from Brecks was at Holme April 1st. The Norfolk Brecks held at least 50 pairs while 8 were present at another site in the north.

Roaming midsummer birds at Cley June 28th, west Overstrand and later Blakeney Point Aug 15th, and Titchwell 20th.

Traditional flocks in Brecks were counted Sept 30th with 31 Weeting Heath, and a flock of 97 at Gooderstone Warren with at least 120 in the area - 8 still present Nov 26th.

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

The first arrivals were either late or unrecorded, the earliest being 4 Pensthorpe March 24th and 3 Pentney GP 26th.

Breeding slightly down on last year (perhaps due to less recording) with 30 pairs (33-34 in 2000) at 15 sites (16 in 2000): north coast one pair; Broad's 4 at 3 sites; inland 11 at 7 sites; Fens 14 at 4 sites. Details of success excellent at one site in Fens with 10 pairs fledging 18 young; much of this due to good hatching success from caged nests, allowing access for incubating birds but deterring Coots, Moorhens and mammalian predators.

Concentrations of 5 or more included: Cley 5-6 July 8th-21st with 9 8th and 7 10th, and 6 Aug 9th; Cantley BF 8 Aug 8th; Pensthorpe 6 April 2nd-29th and May 23rd; Pentney GP 5 May 11th and July 17th; Grange Farm Reservoir, Nar Valley 8 all April; Welney 16 May, 23 June 27th, 37 July 13th and 10 Aug 3rd.

Only visible migration in autumn single west over sea Cley Sept 5th.

Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

Breeding summer visitor, passage migrant, and winter visitor in small numbers

Most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	34	50	84	90	24	66	22	500	231	115	64	10
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	86	160	248	64	235	135	118	1042	925	276	122	56
Breydon/Berney	112	84	53	43	486	43	39	222	219	166	94	94

National importance: 290 (winter), 300 (passage)

Spring counts of tundrae race birds generally fewer and from less sites; at Scolt Head 235 May 9th and 15th, Cley 25 May 10th and Snettisham 10 June 4th.

A total of 190 pairs from 13 sites made it another poor year, though as last year records not submitted from some key sites. Totals included: Holme 33 (good hatching, most young taken by Kestrels), Titchwell 20, Scolt Head 59 (20-30 fledged), Holkham NNR 35 (15



Ringed Plovers (*Gary Wright*)

fledged), Blakeney Point 15, Salthouse 1, Overstrand 2, Eeels 3 and Yarmouth 12. At Scolt Head many nests and young were engulfed with foam up to waist deep on two dates in June.

Inland reports improved with 12 pairs at 4 sites: Egmore 1, Hilborough/Gooderstone 6, Middleton GP 2 and Welney 3.

Autumn counts were highest again Scolt Head where 1042 Aug 19th and 925 Sept 2nd. Visible migration on Scolt Head included 85 north-west May 20th, 55 north-west next day and 36 west Aug 16th, Sheringham 18 in off sea July 31st and Eeels 15 north Sept 19th. A bird colour-ringed at Snettisham in April 2000 was part of a pair on Blakeney Point.

Kentish Plover

Charadrius alexandrinus

Scarce but annual passage migrant, mostly in spring; rare inland

Two records: male Breydon April 25th and a female at same site June 4th.



Kentish Plover (*Robert Gillmor*)

Dotterel

Charadrius morinellus

Scarce but annual passage migrant; has over-wintered

In autumn a series of records from Blakeney Point Aug 14th-29th: one Aug 14th-18th was joined by 2 in off sea 19th then all 3 flew west, followed by 2 different birds 20th-25th. At Holkham Bay single Sept 29th until early Oct.

Golden Plover

Pluvialis apricaria

Passage migrant and increasing winter visitor

Most regularly counted sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>		<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	1850	1525	1300	1060		800	1350	2350	1900	5500
Holme	380	375	500	110		35	1000	950	430	710
Titchwell	1000	3000	700	-		160	250	80	1350	2000
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	-	-	275	400		2500	2000	1000	1150	11
Burnham Overy	1000	4000	-	-		-	270	800	2500	1000
Blakeney Hbr	1000	5000	-	-		-	-	-	1500	2000
Breydon	8470	*13280	2000	48		8600	1150	3300	8800	8100

National importance (winter): 2500

Counts from the north coast should be used with caution as much interchange takes place between these sites and those just inland.

** Yet another site and county record.*

Other than those tabulated only 3 sites (12 in 2000) holding 2000+: Catfield 2400 Dec, Heigham Holmes 2500 March, Ongar Hill 2000 Dec. Twelve other sites (13 in 2000) held counts of 1000+: Admiralty Point 1070 Feb, Holkham GM 1000 Feb and 1600 Nov, Halvergate Marshes 1000 Feb, Alby 1000 Feb, Buxton Tip 1200 March, Caston 1200 Dec, Fakenham 1000 Dec, Langham 1000 Jan, Ludham 1540 Jan, Repps Mill 1000 Jan and 1200 Feb, Stokesby 1000 Dec, Stow Bardolph 1000 Dec, Tibenham 1400 Dec.

Westerly movements noted Scolt Head where 47 Aug 3rd and 60 Oct 11th, and at Sheringham where 34 Aug 19th, 467 Nov 3rd, 219 4th, 135 5th and 75 10th.

Grey Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

Passage migrant and winter visitor

Regularly counted sites holding 200+ birds:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>		<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	700	600	700	500	1400		1000	485	90	80	413	380
Holme	602	645	806	305	191		1	310	261	812	682	710
Titchwell	91	121	35	-	38		30	333	250	30	330	35
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	155	196	280	185	249		10	420	423	353	275	245

International importance (winter): 1500; National importance (winter): 430

Other counts of 200+ included Admiralty Point 449 Feb, Ousemouth 1180 Aug and Blakeney Hbr 300 Nov.

Inland numbers higher than last year; at Welney April 25th, May 10th, 4 11th/12th, 2 13th and 15th, Aug 10th, 3 Oct 6th, single 13th, Nov 15th, 27th/28th and Dec 2nd. Elsewhere Tibenham Feb 8th, Fersfield Airfield Feb 19th, Buckenham May 11th, Hockwold Washes 2 May 13th and single June 9th, Pentney GP west Aug 16th, Thetford Nunnery Lakes Sept 12th, Cantley BF Sept 20th and Whitlingham CP Oct 21st.

Visible migration noted at Scolt Head with 21 north-east April 1st, 26 west Aug 8th and 21 west 19th, Sheringham 6 west Aug 8th, Cromer 28 west Nov 9th and Yarmouth 12 south Aug 19th.

Lapwing

Vanellus vanellus

Passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder

Most regularly counted sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	1145	1281	-	-	-	25	100	589	1000	626
Holme	500	250	400	64	6	10	-	50	350	200
Titchwell	423	741	170	-	49	196	47	64	750	1000
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	560	1290	55	-	8	199	6	100	497	1055
Breydon/Berney	18300	16900	4520	264	257	450	600	3200	14700	17250
Welney	440	650	716	48	-	600	800	1000	7160	5500

International and National importance (winter): 20,000

Counts of 1000+ doubled this year to 30 sites (14 in 2000). Other than those tabulated above, sites as follows: Admiralty Point 3250 Feb and 3500 Dec, Terrington St Clement 1200 Dec, Lynn Point 2000 Jan, 4000 Feb and 1500 Nov, Burnham Overy 1000 Jan/Feb, Holkham GM 1000 Feb, Wells Hbr 1000 Dec, Blakeney Hbr 3000 Feb, Buckenham 8000 Dec, Cantley Marshes 2000 Jan and 1000 Nov, Clippesby Hill 3000 Nov. Haddiscoe Marshes 1000 March, Halvergate Marshes 2000 Feb and 1500 Nov, Heigham Holmes 5000 Feb, Oby Marshes 1000 Jan, St Benet's Level 1000 Nov/Dec, Felbrigg Park 1500 Feb, Hockering 3500 Feb, Runham 1000 Nov, Saxthorpe 1500 Jan, Stow Bardolph 4000 Dec, Threxton 1100 Feb, Stowbridge 1500 Dec, Watlington 1000 Jan, Wiggenhall St Peter 1000 Feb, Wissington BF 1000 Dec.

Breeding coverage well down on last year with a total of 743 (947-949 in 2000), restricted access in the countryside no doubt having an impact. The largest number again along the north coast and still increasing even though recorded from only two sites; totals for Broad, Brecks and Fens were well down on the 2000 figures. Numbers and sites (with last year's figures where applicable): *north coast* Holme 34 (35) 10-15 fledged, Holkham NNR 355 (296) 91 fledged but poor success due to restricted predator control: *Broads* Barton Turf Hunsett Mill Marsh 4, Berney 117 (129), Horning Marsh Farm 2, Horning Waterworks 1; *Brecks* East Harling 4, Gooderstone area 48 (53), Thetford Nunnery Flood 1; *Fens* Welney 82 (160) good success, Wereham 8; *inland* Aylmerton 1, Bintree Mill 2, Bittering GP 13, Castle Acre 2 (1), Gateley 2, Guist Common 4, Pensthorpe 4, Ringland 2, Sculthorpe Air Base 16, Sculthorpe Moor 3, Shereford to Tatterford 8, Snetterton 4, Sparham 1, Sustead 2 and Tallents Meadow Lake 3.

In June westward migration noted at Holme 300 6th, and Scolt Head 45 9th with 44 next day.

Autumn westerly migration from Oct 16th, but most notable through Nov to early Dec. Max counts Nov 10th when 916 Hunstanton Cliffs (south), 1500 Burnham Overy, 3800 Cley, 5300 Sheringham, 2014 Cromer and 9500 Paston. Other counts: Hunstanton Cliffs 642 Oct 6th (3 hrs 30 mins), Titchwell 1700 Nov 28th, Scolt Head 635 Oct 16th, 285 17th, 335 23rd and 2100 Dec 12th, Burnham Overy 800 Nov 20th, Blakeney Point 1000 Nov 9th and

Cley 1000 Nov 20th. An unusually large gathering of 800 in Wells Hbr Nov 12th and large arrival at Welney Nov 19th obviously refer to large immigration.

Pale grey leucistic bird at Cantley July 15th.

Knot

Calidris canutus

Passage migrant, winter visitor and non-breeding summer visitor

Monthly max at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Snettisham	350	1033	5503	0000	35000	6000	4000	11000	25000	18000	32350	42500	16800
Holme	520	490	7265	4080	10	-	72	17500	13745	9840	10920	16000	
Titchwell	120	120	-	-	300	5	1500	400	75	96	96	18	
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	117	85	55	181	75	1050	25	3350	320	115	9	6	
Breydon/Berney	408	365	314	69	42	7	14	23	21	30	20	328	

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

Further counts included: Admiralty Point 5020 Feb, Heacham 2000 May, Hunstanton 1000 Jan, Thornham 2000 Jan, Blakeney Hbr 3000 Jan and 200 May.

Numerous westerly coastal movements June-Nov with best counts: *June* 45 west 25 east Scolt Head and 30 east Sheringham 17th; *July* 30 Scolt Head 22nd; *Aug* 80 Scolt Head 23rd; *Sept* 430 Scolt Head, 365 Cley, 150 Sheringham, 85 Cromer, 512 Mundesley and 372 north Winterton 17th, and 385 Scolt Head 23rd; *Oct* 46 Sheringham; *Nov* 35 Scolt Head and 33 Cromer 2nd, 30 Horsey 5th, 77 Winterton 8th, 50 Cley, 65 Sheringham, 393 Cromer, 200 Eccles and 165 north Winterton 9th, and 21 north Horsey 23rd.

Few inland but one Hickling Broad June 14th with 4 there Aug 28th and 2 30th, singles Welney April 18th, May 24th and Nov 9th, Cantley BF Aug 4th and Pensthorpe Sept 21st.

Sanderling

Calidris alba

Passage migrant and winter visitor

Monthly max at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	-	250	81	120	140	1100	1300	1710	450	266	83	270
Holme	445	656	608	630	559	45	243	531	326	102	295	219
Titchwell	14	250	4	-	200	127	74	223	146	28	606	175
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	42	29	18	31	325	55	122	341	235	50	55	69
Breydon	12	4	6	16	14	8	2	2	1	4	1	2

International importance: 1000 (winter); National importance: 230

Continued decline at Breydon. Highest counts elsewhere: Hunstanton 74 Jan, Burnham Overy Hbr 41 May, Holkham Bay 60 Jan, Stiffkey SM 100 Oct, Blakeney Point 200 May and 47 June, Caister 18 Jan and Gorleston 22 March.

As usual few movements of note with max (all west) 11 Scolt Head Aug 19th, 40 Cley Sept 9th and 16 Cromer Nov 9th.

All inland records during May when at Welney 2 3rd, 3 13th, 2 14th, 4 15th and one 16th-18th; elsewhere singles Pentney GP 10th and 24th, and Wissington BF 15th.

Little Stint

Calidris minuta

Double passage migrant in fluctuating numbers

At start of year one Snettisham Jan 5th-14th, the first record for that month for many years. No others until start of spring passage, which once again commenced early when in March singles Snettisham 5th, 2 Salhouse 6th and one Breydon 30th, then a gap of nearly a month when one Titchwell April 26th. Passage in May from 8th, most 10th-15th when 10 Buckenham, 8 Cley, 6 Welney, 3 Titchwell and singles Scolt Head and Blakeney Point. Small numbers continued to be reported during June with singles Breydon 1st/2nd, Titchwell 2nd and 16th, Cley 5th, 2 6th and one 23rd; all presumably related to spring migrants.

First autumn migrants July when singles Snettisham 23rd/24th, Titchwell 27th-31st and 1-2 Cley 28th-31st. Few during Aug until after 19th, when 4 Scolt Head 19th/20th, 5 Cley 21st and 8 26th, 3 Titchwell and 4 Welney 29th, and 1-2 Breydon, Hickling Broad, Salhouse and singles inland at East Ruston 20th/21st and Middleton GP 21st.

Recorded daily Sept and Oct, numbers similar to previous year, when counts at main sites:

	Sep			Oct		
	1-10	11-20	21-30	1-10	11-20	21-31
Titchwell	3	10	38	42	19	19
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	-	4	5	5	1	1
Cley	1	7	2	32	18	19
Kelling WM	-	15	30	1	1	-
Breydon/Berney	1	-	3	19	3	-
Cantley BF	2	39	8	8	-	-
Buckenham	1	2	13	28	42	-
Welney	-	8	3	2	6	9

Additional counts: Sept 4 Eccles 19th, 3 Holme, 16 Sea Palling and 14 Pensthorpe 21st, 4 Snettisham 24th, 5 Winterton 25th, 5 Horsey 26th and 6 Holkham GM 29th; Oct 2 Holme 5th, 2 Snettisham 8th and 13 22nd.

Small numbers continued to be recorded throughout Nov including 7 Snettisham 4th. 5 Cley 3rd, 3 Welney 1st and 1-2 Breydon and Buckenham. An exceptional number of records during Dec with up to 7 throughout at Cley, 3 Breydon 2nd and 16th/17th, up to 2 Welney 2nd-17th, and one Snettisham 18th and 31st. In recent years this species has had an increasing tendency to linger later in the year and may become a regular over-winterer in small numbers.

Temminck's Stint

Calidris temminckii

Passage migrant, more frequent in spring

An average spring, passage May 10th-June 4th, most during May at Cley where one 10th and 12th, 3 13th, 4 14th, 5 15th, 2 25th and singles 27th/28th and 31st. Elsewhere in May 3 Buckenham 10th, 2 Welney 13th and 15th with singles also 12th and 23rd, Burnham Overy 10th-13th and 15th, Necton Fen 10th, Middleton GP 11th, Bintree Mill 12th and Buckenham 13th/14th. Last of spring Buckenham June 4th.

Autumn passage typically light with 3 Buckenham Aug 20th, and singles Cley Aug 13th, Hickling Broad Aug 19th/20th and a late juv Titchwell Oct 10th-21st.

White-rumped Sandpiper
Vagrant from North America

Calidris fuscicollis

Two records both in autumn when singles Cley Aug 5th (TCD *et al*) and Cantley BF Sept 4th/5th (TCL *et al*). This species has been recorded seven out of the last 10 years.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Calidris melanotos

Almost annual autumn vagrant from North America/Siberia; rare in spring

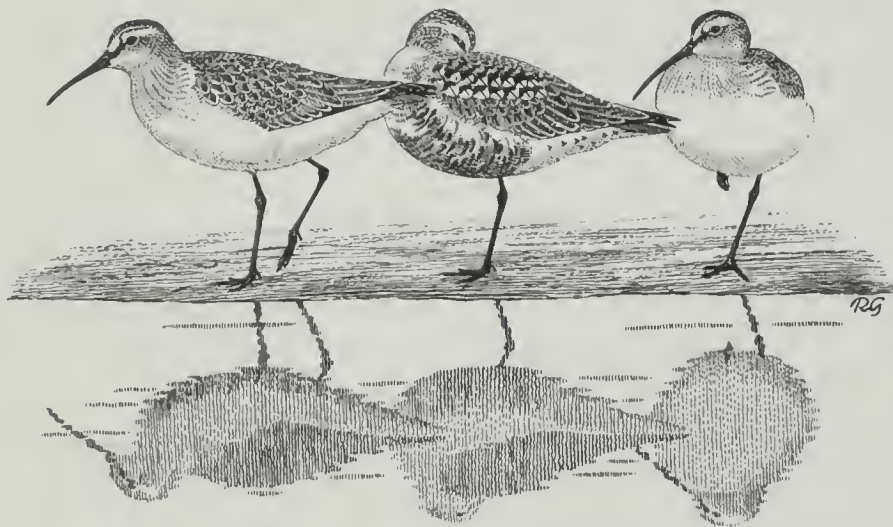
An average year with at least 7 recorded, all in autumn and most in Cantley BF/Buckenham area where at Cantley BF 2 Aug 6th and Sept 16th/17th, and singles July 21st-23rd, Aug 7th/8th, Sept 14th/15th and Sept 18th; at Buckenham singles Sept 9th-11th and 14th-17th. Elsewhere other singles Welney Aug 4th/5th, Holme Aug 19th/20th and 23rd/24th, which then moved to Titchwell Aug 29th-Sept 1st.

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

Autumn passage migrant in fluctuating numbers; scarce in spring

First of spring Titchwell April 21st, followed by up to 2 Breydon 24th-27th. Highest counts in May when 7 Titchwell 11th and 10 28th, 6 Breydon 10th, 5 Scolt Head 18th and 3 19th, 3 Cley 7th and 4 8th, 3 Welney 11th, 3 Burnham Overy GM 25th and 1-2 Snettisham, Blakeney Hbr and Hockwold Washes.



Curlew Sandpipers (*Robert Gillmor*)

Small numbers once again reported throughout June when 2 Cley 6th, one 14th and up to 4 19th-30th, 2 Breydon 1st, 1-2 Titchwell 7th/8th, 15th and 20th-27th, and one Welney 10th/11th.

Up to 3 remained at Cley July 1st-4th, but no others until July 17th when one Breydon, which was first of a relatively poor autumn. Peak counts during rest of month all adults when 6 Breydon 18th/19th, 16 20th, 15 21st-23rd and 27 26th, 5 Snettisham 20th and 14 22nd, 8 Cley 25th/26th and 11 28th, 5 Scolt Head 21st, 5 Blakeney Hbr 22nd and 2 Hickling Broad 25th.

Passage daily during Aug with first juvs appearing 12th, highest counts at main sites Aug-Sept:

	Aug			Sep		
	1-10	11-20	21-31	1-10	11-20	21-30
Snettisham	24	14	4	-	2	-
Titchwell	6	5	4	2	3	1
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	3	13	7	2	4	3
Cley	11	54	21	29	2	2
Breydon/Berney	11	12	18	15	12	11
Buckenham	-	-	-	4	12	-
Welney	-	1	1	6	2	8

Additional counts at this time included: Holme 2 Aug 19th and 6 Sept 2nd, Salthouse 12 Sept 26th, Kelling WM 6 Sept 14th-22nd, Hickling Broad 6 Aug 19th and Cantley BF 14 Sept 20th. Small numbers also noted moving west past coastal watch points with 4 Scolt Head Aug 30th, 5 Weybourne Sept 17th and 2 Sheringham Sept 4th and one 9th.

Numbers much reduced during Oct when best counts 6 Breydon 7th, 13 15th and 8 17th/18th, 4 Pensthorpe 2nd, 3 Scolt Head 12th and 1-2 Snettisham, Holme Titchwell, Cley, Waxham, Horsey, Winterton, Buckenham, Pentney GP and Welney. Last of autumn Welney Nov 1st and Breydon Dec 7th, the latest county record.

Purple Sandpiper

Calidris maritima

Passage migrant and declining winter visitor in small numbers

Best counts at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hunstanton	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Titchwell	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	2
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	-	-	-	1	1	2	3	4	-	1
Eccles/Sea Palling	10	9	7	4	7	-	-	-	1	1
Waxham	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1

Other records (all singles unless stated): Holme Sept, Blakeney Point Aug, Cley Aug and 2 Nov, Salthouse Nov, Sheringham Sept and Nov, West Runton Oct, Mundesley Aug and 2 Nov, Caister Jan and March, and Yarmouth Feb and March. Last of spring May when Titchwell 4th, Scolt Head 7th, 7 Sea Palling 8th and Blakeney Point 16th.

First returning birds not until Aug when Scolt Head 5th, Cley 7th-11th and Blakeney Point 11th. Exceptional numbers noted moving west past coastal watch points, especially during strong onshore winds. In Sept 2 Cley 4th, Holme 6th, 2 Scolt Head and one Sheringham 8th, 2 Holme, 6 Scolt Head, Blakeney Point, 2 Cley, 2 Weybourne, 19 Sheringham and singles Cromer and Winterton all 9th. Scolt Head, 3 Blakeney Point, 5 Cley, 3 Sheringham and 3 Cromer 10th, Sea Palling 16th, 6 Scolt Head, 6 Weybourne, 4 Sheringham, 4 Cromer, 2 Mundesley and one Sea Palling 17th, 2 Blakeney Point and one Winterton 18th, and singles Cley 19th and Scolt Head 23rd. No others until Nov when 2 Scolt Head 1st, one Sheringham 8th and 2 Mundesley 23rd.

On Scolt Head a tame juv was taken by a Hobby mid-Sept and was probably a fairly unique event.

Dunlin

Calidris alpina

Passage migrant and winter visitor; non-breeders in summer

Peak counts at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	3000	4000	2000	200	3500	125	2000	4000	5200	3500	4200	3500
Holme	805	760	1095	50	5	-	11	1000	107	148	821	300
Titchwell	611	482	345	-	-	-	10	-	75	70	1001	328
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	800	840	600	565	525	21	368	903	690	640	862	800
Blakeney Hbr	-	-	110	152	-	227	50	-	-	1000	-	-
Cley	-	-	-	110	69	5	410	320	55	110	51	190
Breydon/Berney	3810	3520	2570	2559	1944	42	433	497	879	1806	2631	6280

International importance (winter): 14,000; National importance (winter): 5300



Dunlin (*Phil Jones*)

Other notable counts included: Terrington 6200 Feb, Ousemouth 250 March, 400 May and 430 Aug, Thornham 606 Jan, Burnham Overy Hbr 1500 Jan, Stiffkey SM 200 Oct, Waxham 100 Sept (in ploughed field), Yarmouth 200 Oct and Cantley BF 140 Sept.

First juv appeared Breydon July 4th where the leucistic bird from last spring reappeared May 10th-13th.

Numerous movements offshore during autumn, moving west along north coast and north in the east with best counts: 132 Scolt Head Aug 16th; 865 Scolt Head, 312 Cley, 389 Sheringham, 500 Cromer, 641 Mundesley and 458 Winterton Sept 17th; 245 Scolt Head Sept 18th; 325 Scolt Head Oct 23rd; 126 Cromer and 178 Winterton Nov 8th; 152 Sheringham, 748 Cromer (0730-0930), 500 Eccles and 120 Winterton Nov 9th; 56 Sheringham Dec 31st.

Ruff

Philomachus pugnax

Double passage migrant; small numbers over-winter; has bred

Highest monthly counts at main localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	-	-	6	5	1	2	10	7	4	-	1	3
Titchwell	63	78	33	17	-	12	33	106	120	146	80	46
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	5	5	-	-	1	1	-	4	13	11	50	8
Stiffkey	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	16	68	48	53	-
Cley	6	13	40	21	17	12	89	71	10	9	56	43
Breydon/Berney	52	40	11	10	23	13	35	35	37	21	39	42
Buckenham	-	-	-	8	2	-	14	40	61	25	20	2
Cantley BF	-	-	-	-	-	-	81	86	30	40	11	-
Welney	32	39	69	50	19	13	122	141	308	338	87	167

National importance (winter): 50

Other counts of note during winter included: Burnham Norton 10 Jan, 36 Feb and 45 Dec, Langham 7 Jan, Salthouse 8 Jan, Oby Marshes 15 Jan, Acle 30 March, Halvergate 20 Feb, Cockthorpe 12 Dec, Wighton 23 Dec, Docking Sussex Farm 11 Nov, Ouse Washes (not incl Welney) 32 Jan and 53 Nov.

Passage in spring poor and only extra count of note 18 Burnham Overy May, with 1-2 at 5 other localities

At one coastal site during May 12 males and some reeves present in a lek, the male regularly noted driving females away from lek into long grass; although breeding could not be proved it could not be discounted.

Impressive numbers during autumn especially at Welney where a new reserve record of 338 Oct 6th. Widespread at other sites at this time including in July 7 Stokesby 14th, 20 Strumpshaw 24th, 12 Hockwold Washes 30th, and in Aug 5 Snettisham 5th, 40 Ousemouth 22nd, 3 West Walton 23rd-25th, 4 Hellington 31st, and 30 Salthouse Aug, with 4 Waxham Sept 29th.

Overhead passage to west included 9 Cromer April 7th, 14 Sheringham Aug 24th and 40 there next day, and 10 Scolt Head Sept 10th.

Jack Snipe

Lymnocyrtus minimus

Passage migrant and winter visitor; declining

Numbers relatively small in first winter period with best counts 4 Holme Feb 26th, 3 Titchwell Jan 1st, 3 at a north-east site Jan 4th and March 26th, and 1-2 Brancaster, Buxton Heath, Catfield, Cley, Hellesdon Meadows (found dead), Hickling Broad, Langham, Morston, Pentney GP, Repps-with-Bastick, Sparham, Weybourne, Whitlingham CP, Wootton Marsh and Yarmouth Bure Park. Quick to depart in spring with only records in April of singles Coxford WM 9th, Horning Hall Marsh 12th, Winterton 17th and 3 in the north-east 2nd-22nd.

The best autumn passage for several years, first Sept when singles Scolt Head 18th, Ringstead Downs 19th and Scolt Head, Holkham GM and Sea Palling 20th. Reported daily during rest of month with singles at 7 sites apart from 3 Holme 24th; single also west with Common Snipe Scolt Head 22nd. The strong autumn passage continued during Oct when

records from 20 sites, mostly singles apart from 6 Winterton 13th and 3 31st, 3 Sea Palling 8th and 13th, 3 West Runton 24th, 2 Roydon Common 12th and 15th, 2 Pensthorpe 15th/16th, 2 Breydon 21st and 2 East Ruston 29th.

There were continued arrivals throughout Nov and during spells of cold frosty weather in Dec, producing some excellent counts and records from at least 26 sites, with max: Nov 3 Brancaster Hbr 4th, 3 Roydon Common 14th, 4 Great Ryburgh (in stubble) 18th; Dec 3 West Runton and 23 at an inland heathland site 7th, 3 Holme 9th, 5 Stiffkey 10th, 5 Great Ryburgh 11th. Also 1-2 Blakeney GM, Blakeney Hbr, Breydon, Cley, East Ruston, Hempstead, Hickling Broad, How Hill, Scolt Head, Thornham, Titchwell, Warham, Waxham, West Walton, Whitlingham CP and Winterton.

Common Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

Passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder

Good numbers present during first winter period with 20 sites recording 30+ birds (12 in 2000) and actual numbers also much higher than last year: Holme 66 March, Titchwell 40 Jan, 98 Feb and 105 March, Stiffkey Fen 30 Jan, Breydon/Berney 138 Jan and 216 March, Cantley BF 100 Jan, Hickling Broad 33 Jan, 39 Feb, 65 March, Horning Waterworks 32 Jan, Horsey 80 Jan, Ludham 84 Jan, West Somerton 40 Jan, St Benet's Level 38 Jan, Stokesby 30 Jan, Attleborough 32 Feb, Blofield 50 Jan, Pentney GP 43 Jan, 45 Feb, RAF Neatishead 40 Jan, Tallents Meadow Lake 52 March, Tattersett 30 Jan and Welney 78 March.

Birds soon departed with few high counts in April except for 65 Cley, 65 Breydon/Berney and 29 Thetford Nunnery Flood.

The number of reported breeding sites increased to 20 (16 in 2000) as well as the number of drummers/pairs to 89 (67 in 2000): *Wash* Ken Hill 1; *north coast* Titchwell 1, Holkham NNR 11 (13); *east coast/Broads* Berney 2 (7), Hickling Broad 2, Oby Marshes 2; *inland* Bintree Mill 1, Bridgham 1, Castle Acre 3, Coxford 2, Guist 2, Sculthorpe Moor 1, South Acre 1, Tallents Meadow Lake 6, Tattersett 1, Threxton 1, West Acre 4; *Fens* Boughton Fen 2, Hilgay Fen 1, Welney 44.

Westward migration in autumn Aug 23rd-Nov 2nd, the majority in Sept with max: Holme 25 Aug 23rd, 42 Sept 7th, 166 12th and 50 17th; Scolt Head 425 Sept 12th, 95 13th and 67 25th; Burnham Norton 49 Aug 30th.

During autumn/second winter period again large numbers with 23 sites holding 30+ birds (11 in 2000): Holme Redwell Marsh 56 Aug, 39 Oct; Holme 65 Sept, 65 Oct, 74 Nov and 82 Dec; Titchwell 34 Sept, 138 Oct and 95 Nov; Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 176 Nov and 230 Dec; Burnham Overy 45 Dec, Holkham GM 46 Dec, Cley 100 Aug, Salthouse 38 Sept, Sea Palling 240 Dec (in blizzard and 4 ins snow), Breydon/Berney 44 Sept, 60 Oct, 60 Nov and 93 Dec; Buckenham Fen/Claxton 49 Aug, 30 Sept, 75 Oct, 500 Nov and 100 Dec; Cantley BF 60 Aug, 60 Sept and 120 Dec; Haddiscoe Island 75 Sept, Hardley Flood 35 Oct, Great Ryburgh 31 Dec, Hickling Broad 60 Aug; Horsey 43 Dec, Sutton Kings Fen 37 Sept, Ludham 100 Dec, Martham 38 Nov, Oby Marshes 150 Dec, Somerton Holmes 70 Dec, Strumpshaw 70 Sept, Welney 45 July, 55 Aug, 150 Sept, 40 Oct, 210 Nov and 58 Dec.

Woodcock

Scolopax rusticola

Passage migrant and winter visitor; breeder particularly in Brecks

Recorded from over 50 sites during winter months, numbers mostly small apart from 30 East Tuddenham Dec 26th (flushed during a shoot), 30 Repps-with-Bastick Jan, 25 Titchwell Feb 12th, 22 Hickling Stubbs Mill Jan 15th, 15 Felbrigg Park Dec 30th (feeding at dusk along

edge of snow-covered field), 10 How Hill Reedham Water Jan 17th, 9 Heigham Sound Jan 22nd, 7 Swaffham Forest Jan 7th, 5 Winterton Feb 2nd and 5 Barrow Common Nov 28th.

Return passage more evident than usual at coastal sites during last week of March when 1-3 Holme, Scolt Head, Stiffkey, Blakeney Point, Cley, Weybourne, Cromer, Eccles, Winterton, Yarmouth and Gorleston. One Blakeney Point May 3rd was presumably an exceptionally late migrant.

Roding birds reported from 24 sites in spring/summer, down on previous years (undoubtedly due to access restrictions), birds as follows: Alderfen Broad 2, Barton Turf Fen 2, Buxton Heath 2, Catfield Fen 2, Cawston Heath 4, Dersingham Bog, Great Snoring, Hickling Lock 2, Holt Lowes 3 (where thought to be scarcer), Horning Lock 2, Ickburgh 2, Kettleston Common, Marsham Heath 4, Pentney Heath 3, Ranworth Broad, Ringstead, Sandringham, Sculthorpe Fen 2, Stiffkey, Strumpshaw, Syderstone Common 2, Wayford Bridge and Wolferton. At Gooderstone an early nest found with 4 eggs March 23rd, hatching on 28th, giving an exceptionally early laying date March 2nd-6th.

First definite migrants of autumn Scolt Head Sept 19th and 23rd, but no others until 2 Weybourne Oct 18th, followed by a widespread arrival 21st/22nd when 17 Langham, 13 Scolt Head, 7 Yarmouth, 5 Holkham Meals, 3 Holme, 3 Sheringham (all in off sea) and 1-2 Choseley, Stiffkey, Cley (in off sea), West Runton, Cromer and Winterton. Smaller numbers continued to arrive during rest of month and during Nov when flushed Gooderstone 23rd, which was part of a large national influx at this time.

At North Walsham during Oct one found motionless on its back, wings spread, under a shop window; when picked up it started to flutter and was left to recover in a box. At dusk it was released in a local wood and was almost caught by a Sparrowhawk, but landed in a field and the hawk flew off. At dawn next day it was still sitting in exactly the same spot but when approached flew off into the wood.

Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

Increasing passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder

Max monthly counts at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ousemouth	3	180	58	-	-	21	2100	1730	-	-	-	-
Snettisham	1	450	530	50	45	106	80	1400	1910	1200	750	470
Holme	-	27	38	40	51	40	13	26	14	7	5	1
Titchwell	-	7	10	20	4	200	120	360	60	10	20	7
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	-	-	55	185	15	140	83	26	4	2	4	1
Blakeney Hbr	40	100	30	200	51	13	140	78	-	-	-	-
Cley	74	390	290	197	90	120	200	150	127	168	138	90
Breydon/Berney	1376	922	811	736	40	48	1001	1134	1184	840	1331	1607
Welney	200	334	767	200	87	60	153	30	1	4	54	300

International importance (winter): 700; National importance (winter): 70

Numbers still appear to be increasing with record counts at Breydon in Dec where only absent June 1st-22nd.

Highest counts elsewhere: Terrington 280 Feb and 600 Aug, Ongar Hill 210 Jan, 2000 July and 600 Aug, Burnham Norton 150 April, Holkham GM 20 April, Blakeney GM 30

March, Salthouse 26 May, Horsey 40 April, Hickling Broad 15 June, Acle 20 Jan, Cantley BF 25 Aug and Ouse Washes (excl Welney) 220 March.

Also during year a scattering of records from other inland sites with 1-7 Buckenham, Hockwold Washes, Lessingham, Pentney GP and Wissington BF.

Best movements during year: 18 south Hunstanton Cliffs Nov 1st and 13 south Nov 9th, 22 east Holme Sept 18th, 70 east 30 west Brancaster Hbr March 23rd and 75 east July 5th, 10 north-west at dusk Scolt Head April 21st, 16 north-west Blakeney Hbr April 24th, and 18 west Sheringham Sept 14th and 13 west there Nov 9th. Many of these are probably local and give a good indication of movement between north coast sites.

First successful breeding since 1995 with one pair fledging 2 young at one site, whilst regular display noted at another but no evidence of breeding.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica

Passage migrant and winter visitor; a few non-breeders in summer

Monthly max at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	4200	4150	1500	1000	370	600	350	1600	2000	2500	3500	3800
Holme	390	225	263	15	2	-	30	139	419	320	620	156
Titchwell	55	248	133	-	-	-	150	545	1500	300	216	128
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	300	285	210	168	25	15	143	276	145	160	169	190
Blakeney Hbr	450	300	120	100	60	9	35	120	-	-	-	-
Breydon	30	30	33	14	67	4	5	24	6	12	24	46

International importance (winter): 1000; National importance (winter): 530

Highest counts elsewhere: 80 Ousemouth Jan, 1000 Hunstanton Jan, 50 Burnham Overy Hbr Nov, 300 Holkham Bay Feb, 150 Stiffkey SM Oct and 36 Cley May.

Apart from 10 east Cromer May 9th and 20 south Waxham next day all other movements in autumn when moving west 93 Scolt Head and 30 Sheringham July 19th, 84 Scolt Head Aug 30th, 24 Sheringham Sept 6th, 53 Scolt Head, 24 Cromer, 128 Mundesley and 25 north Winterton Sept 17th, 27 Cromer Sept 19th and 13 Sheringham Nov 9th.

Numerous inland records, most at Welney where one April 23rd and 2 28th, almost daily May 1st-16th when peak counts 7 1st, 14 10th and 12 13th. Elsewhere: Bittering GP May 6th, Buckenham 8 May 11th, Hickling Broad Aug 19th, Hockwold Washes April 28th and 1-2 May 3rd-15th, Nar Valley Lakes May 13th and at Pentney GP singles April 18th and May 24th with 3 May 10th/11th.

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

Passage migrant in spring and autumn; rare in winter

First of spring during April when Cley 4th, Breydon 15th, 3 Cley and singles Eccles and Winterton 17th, and widespread at most coastal sites by 21st. Additional counts of grounded birds to those in table: 11 Waxham/Horsey April 29th and in May 19 Burnham Overy 3rd, 8 Holkham GM 4th and 25 Brograve Level 5th.

As usual overhead spring passage light, best counts 49 north Ousemouth May 1st, 10 west Scolt Head April 25th and 11 west May 3rd, 24 north-east Blakeney Hbr May 8th, 8 west Salthouse April 29th, 6 west Beeston Bump April 26th and 7 north-west Sustead May 15th.

Last of spring during June when Scolt Head 11th and Cley 14th, with first returning birds at month end when 3 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 24th and 7 Blakeney Hbr 30th.

Peak counts of grounded/feeding flocks at main sites:

	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>
Snettisham	19	13	2	4	1
Holme	26	20	18	35	1
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	13	27	64	75	12
Blakeney Hbr/Point	10	35	7	35	1
Cley	10	30	23	20	2
Salthouse	25	41	15	4	-
Breydon/Berney	25	11	10	50	-
Welney	4	7	5	2	-

National importance (passage): 50

Largest grounded flocks in autumn in addition to those in table: 8 Ousemouth July 25th, 12 Aug 1st and 30 Aug 22nd, 15 Titchwell July and 15 Winterton July 18th and 20 Aug 8th. Largest overhead movements (all west unless stated): 24 south Ongar Hill Aug 13th; 52 Holme Aug 4th and 91 9th; total of 69 Scolt Head July including 21 20th and 15 23rd, and an impressive 704 Aug including 64 1st, 44 5th, 173 9th, 74 14th, 77 17th and 11 Sept 1st; 120 Blakeney Point Aug 17th; 20 Weybourne Aug 9th; 10 Sheringham Aug 5th; 59 in off sea Horsey July 28th.; 11 south-west Syderstone and presumably same Mundford July 23rd.

Few during Oct when singles Sheringham 7th and 9th, Beeston Bump 22nd and 25th, Holme 24th and Titchwell 26th. Last of year west Beeston Bump Nov 1st.

Curlew

Numenius arquata

Passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce breeder

Monthly max at main sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham	550	420	-	-	20	400	550	1180	750	482	480	570
Holme	128	183	285	160	9	19	33	50	134	65	116	170
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	654	943	513	385	42	575	1130	1669	1132	514	734	590
Breydon	1029	981	747	432	24	210	738	1037	1097	993	911	*1366

International importance (winter): 3500; National importance (winter): 1200

* Site record

Counts away from main sites: 398 Terrington Feb, 500 Aug and 524 Sept, 128 Ousemouth March and 1900 Aug, 98 Titchwell Jan, 70 Burnham Overy Feb, 80 Burnham Norton Jan, 70 Holkham GM Jan, 100 Warham Sept, 75 Stiffkey Oct, 450 Blakeney Hbr July and 650 Aug.

Good numbers once again noted feeding inland including 200 Great Bircham Nov, 75 Dersingham Jan, 70 Flitcham Jan, 40 Choseley Dec, 40 Middleton GP April, 30 Wighton Dec and 21 Harpley Common Nov.

North-east departure as usual evident in spring, especially during April when 75 Scolt Head 21st, 55 22nd and 59 23rd, 43 Holme 25th and 42 Blakeney Hbr 21st. Return movements noted from early June when 25 west Scolt Head 6th. Autumn movements best

recorded Scolt Head where to west 108 June 18th, 238 23rd, 46 July 8th and 172 16th. Elsewhere 30 Holme July 3rd and 34 Aug 1st, 19 Cley Aug 31st, and 61 Sheringham, 42 Cromer and 35 Eccles Nov 9th.

Few breeding records received due to access restrictions; only records single pairs with young Brettenham Heath and Thetford Nunnery Flood.

Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

Passage migrant; small numbers over-winter

In first winter period regularly recorded at favoured wintering sites of Titchwell and Breydon/Berney. At Titchwell up to 6 Jan/Feb with 5 throughout March, while at Breydon/Berney 4 Jan, 5 Feb and 6 March. Elsewhere Stiffkey Fen Jan 2nd, Cley Jan 22nd and Feb 21st/22nd, Ousemouth Feb 21st, Burnham Norton Feb 24th, Blakeney Point March 3rd and Snettisham March 5th.

First spring migrants Ousemouth March 27th, and in April East Ruston 2nd, Welney 3rd, 4 Holme 5th and Ousemouth 11th. Light spring passage chiefly concentrated between April 21st and mid-May, with peak counts 3 Welney April 27th, 3 Cley May 6th and 5 Titchwell May 10th. Elsewhere 1-2 at Blakeney Point, Breydon, Holme, Ken Hill GM, Hockwold Washes, Ousemouth, Scolt Head and Snettisham.

First presumed return passage birds Titchwell June 8th and west Scolt Head June 9th, followed by regular records from June 13th until early Nov. Peak counts at most visited sites:

	Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct	
	16-30		1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
Snettisham	2		3	14	37	50	20	15	17	8
Titchwell	5		6	12	18	18	20	16	25	3
Cley	9		7	5	6	6	2	-	3	5
Cantley BF	-		-	-	-	2	1	1	3	3

Best counts elsewhere: 3 Holme July 6th, 6 Ousemouth Aug 22nd, 3 Hickling Broad Aug 27th, 3 Holme Aug, 3 Kelling WM Sept 23rd, 3 Waxham Sept 25th on flooded potato field, 3 Breydon/Berney Sept, 6 Breydon/Berney Oct, 3 Cley Nov 3rd. Otherwise 1-2 on occasional dates at, Burnham Norton, Hockwold Washes, Scolt Head, Sheringham, Stiffkey Fen and Welney.

In last part of year wintering birds again regular at Titchwell where up to 9 Nov and 7 Dec plus Breydon/Berney where 3 Nov and 5 Dec. Elsewhere 2 Blakeney Hbr Nov 16th then presumed same 2 Cley 18th, 2 Scolt Head Dec 2nd with single there 5th-9th, Cley 10th-24th, and Holme Dec (no date).

Redshank

Tringa totanus

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder in some areas

Monthly max at main and most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	300	465	80	130	145	85	540	1450	1960	630	350	247
Holme	148	147	41	24	12	-	91	131	175	192	157	188
Titchwell	104	91	122	-	-	-	59	74	89	66	163	61
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	318	382	346	237	118	120	1096	1239	670	489	492	530
Breydon/Berney	1034	1011	1119	1207	158	174	904	1120	1257	970	1181	1207

National importance (winter): 1100

The only other high counts were at Terrington 235 Feb and Ousemouth 400 Aug. Low tides counts from Scolt Head included 872 Nov and 1021 Dec, significantly higher than the hightide roost counts.

Spring visible migration noted at Scolt Head with evening flights to north-west in April of 100 21st, 220 23rd and 40 27th.

A total of 587 breeding pairs reported from 20 sites (452 in 2000): *Wash* Snettisham 159, Ken Hill 30 (20); *north coast* Titchwell 28 (32), Scolt Head 35 (29) good success, Holkham NNR 149 (129) 50 fledged, Blakeney Point 2; *east coast/Broads* Breydon 5 (6), Berney 77 (76), Barton Turf *Fen* 2; Brecks Thetford Nunnery Flood 1 first breeding record; Fens Welney 82, Wereham 3 fledged 7 on flooded set-a-side; *inland* Bittering GP 1, Castle Acre 1, Coxford Priory 2, Mousehold 1, Sculthorpe Air Base 1, Sculthorpe Moor 1, Shereford/Tatterford 5, Tallents Meadow Lake 2. The fledged juv from Mousehold was found killed at Salthouse. Undoubtedly a good year especially as no counts received from key sites such as Buckenham and Cantley.

Inland highest counts: *Jan* 68 Downham Market Relief Channel, 33 Hockwold Washes, 18 Nar Valley; *Feb* 21 Pentney GP; *Dec* 34 West Walton.

Impressive visible migration in autumn: Scolt Head 115 west Aug 30th, Weybourne 54 east Aug 27th, Sheringham 86 east 8 west Aug 25th, 411 east 39 west 27th (site record, including one flock of 123) and 23 east Sept 1st, Walcott 59 Aug 27th and 64 west 30th, and at Sea Palling 100 south Aug 27th and 15 south Oct 25th.

Sightings of albino bird/s at Snettisham Jan 2nd, July 23rd, Aug 5th, 7th and 18th, Sept 16th, Oct 28th and Scolt Head Sept 23rd.

Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

Passage migrant in spring and autumn; scarce in winter

Jan/Feb records of quite possibly just two individuals from Holme, Thornham Hbr, Brancaster Staithe, Morston and Blakeney.

First spring passage birds Holme and Cley April 4th but then none until 21st. Thereafter a trickle of mainly singles at various coastal and a few inland sites for rest of month. Numbers increased in May with peak counts 26 Blakeney Point, 13 Breydon, 7 Buckenham, 8 Cley, 11 Barton Turf Hunsett Mill Marsh, 21 east Scolt Head (9th) and 14 Welney, plus records of 1-4 at numerous localities. A few still moving north in early June with latest Holme, Breydon and 3 Hickling Broad 8th, then 2 Ken Hill WM and single Holme 9th. First presumed returning bird Snettisham June 21st with 1-3 at several sites by month end.

A moderate autumn passage with peaks at most regular localities:

	<i>Jul</i>			<i>Aug</i>			<i>Sep</i>			<i>Oct</i>		
	<i>1-10</i>	<i>11-20</i>	<i>21-31</i>	<i>1-10</i>	<i>11-20</i>	<i>21-31</i>	<i>1-10</i>	<i>11-20</i>	<i>21-30</i>	<i>1-10</i>	<i>11-20</i>	<i>21-31</i>
Snettisham	10	20	41	57	46	30	23	10	9	14	-	4
Titchwell	1	2	7	20	18	4	25	10	1	3	-	1
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	10	16	30	54	49	33	12	32	12	15	8	17
Cley	7	3	7	8	6	41	39	2	-	4	-	2
Breydon/Berney	1	4	5	7	15	16	3	2	-	1	-	-
Cantley BF	-	11	7	7	10	12	3	9	5	2	-	-

At Scolt Head also westerly movements of 14 west July 23rd, total 89 Aug including 17 on 16th and 38 19th, and 15 Sept 22nd. Largest counts elsewhere: *Aug* 23 Burnham Norton

2nd, 16 west Holme 16th, 31 west Holme and 31 west Sheringham 19th, 38 Ousemouth and 12 Hickling Broad 22nd; *Sept* 19 Admiralty Point, Terrington 16th, 14 south-east Langham 24th. Elsewhere numerous records of 1-12 from 34 coastal and inland sites.

At Brancaster Hbr 7 lingered Nov 4th/5th, with 2 remaining until Dec 5th then single 9th and 19th. Elsewhere in Nov singles Snettisham 4th and 10th, 2 Holme (no date), Titchwell 9th and Blakeney Hbr 16th, and in Dec Morston 11th, unusually Welney 21st and finally Holme 31st.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Tringa flavipes

Vagrant from North America

Three individuals recorded during the autumn: adult Welney *Sept* 28th (IB JBK *et al*), juv Cantley BF Oct 6th-9th (JLa *et al*), followed by a different juv Breydon Oct 17th-21st (PRA *et al*). Perhaps surprisingly, although there have previously been two records of the far rarer Greater Yellowlegs, this was the first record of the species for this renowned estuary.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

Double passage migrant, most in autumn; small numbers over-winter

A good scattering of over-wintering singles Jan/Feb at Cranwich GP (2 Feb), Creeking Gate Lake, East Ruston Mown Fen, East Tuddenham, East Winch, Flitcham, Haddiscoe Island, Morston, Sparham, Swanton Pools, Thurne, Titchwell, Whitlingham CP and Wormgay (R Nar). Additionally several Cantley BF Jan with max 7 on 27th and 3 still Feb 14th.

Singles Scole March 4th, Breydon/Berney 14th and Haddiscoe Island 19th were probably wintering birds, but those at Pensthorpe March 31st, and Middleton GP and Scole April 1st were likely spring migrants. Thereafter a poor passage until early May, virtually all singles, at just 16 localities. Last spring birds Lopham Fen May 6th, then Pentney GP, west Scolt Head and 2 Hardley Flood (the only spring count of more than one) all May 10th.

First records of birds likely to be on return passage West Walton May 24th-28th and Titchwell 30th. Widespread records during June with numbers building in July to give protracted steady passage until late Sept, then numbers tailing off during Oct.

Peak counts at Cantley BF, easily the county's premier autumn site for this species:

	<i>Jun</i>		<i>Jul</i>		<i>Aug</i>		<i>Sep</i>		<i>Oct</i>	
	<i>1-15</i>	<i>16-30</i>	<i>1-15</i>	<i>16-31</i>	<i>1-15</i>	<i>16-31</i>	<i>1-15</i>	<i>16-30</i>	<i>1-15</i>	<i>16-31</i>
Cantley BF	2	8	31	64	18	55	25	30	16	11

Double-figure counts elsewhere: *July* 11 Holme 3rd and 10 there 13th, 11 Stokesby 23rd and 29th, 11 How Hill and 14 Ludham Bridge 24th; *Aug* 12 How Hill 5th, 12 Strumpshaw 8th, 22 Buckenham 16th, 11 Holme 17th, 10 Lopham Fen 31st. Interesting records of westerly visible migration: *Aug* 2 Scolt Head 5th, 6 (south-west) Cley 8th, Scolt Head 18th, 3 Holme and 3 Scolt Head 19th, 5 Sheringham 25th, Scolt Head 28th; *Sept* Scolt Head 25th. Otherwise numerous records from around the county of 1-9 birds.

Records in Nov, some of which will have been late migrants, from Brundall, East Ruston Mown Fen, King's Lynn (3), Ousemouth, Sparham, Swanton Pools (4 11th), Thetford Nunnery Lakes and Whitlingham CP. Widespread Dec records from Banham, Cantley BF, Dilham Canal, Egmere (4 4th), Foulden, Grimston Warren, Haddiscoc Island (6 20th), Martham Broad, Nar Valley Fisheries, Sparham, Swanton Pools (2 24th), Thornage, West Walton, Whitlingham CP and Wissington BF.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

Passage migrant in spring and autumn

First of year East Harling May 2nd-7th heralded a strong spring passage until May 26th, with peak counts: 3 Welney 5th, 6 in off sea then east Blakeney Point, 9 Cley and 16 Salthouse (some duplication likely) plus 3 Hockwold Washes all 9th, 6 Welney 10th gradually declining to one by 15th, 3 How Hill 13th and 5 Berney 13th-16th. Elsewhere 1-2 Barton Turf Hunsett Mill Marsh, Buckenham, East Ruston Grove Farm, Holme, Ken Hill GM, Shereford, Snetterton, Thetford Nunnery Lakes and Titchwell.

One Cley and 2 Hockwold Washes June 5th could equally have been late or early migrants. First presumed returning bird Cley June 13th then a pause until Holme 24th. Steady and widespread but light autumn passage from then until late Aug, with last Cley Sept 11th/12th.

Peak counts from key sites:

	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>			<i>Aug</i>		
	<i>21-30</i>	<i>1-10</i>	<i>11-20</i>	<i>21-31</i>	<i>1-10</i>	<i>11-20</i>	<i>21-31</i>
Holme	1	2	-	3	2	4	3
Titchwell	2	-	1	1	1	2	2
Cley	2	1	1	6	3	1	2
Breydon/Berney	-	1	-	2	-	3	-
Cantley BF	-	-	-	5	1	2	1
Welney	1	1	2	-	-	1	3

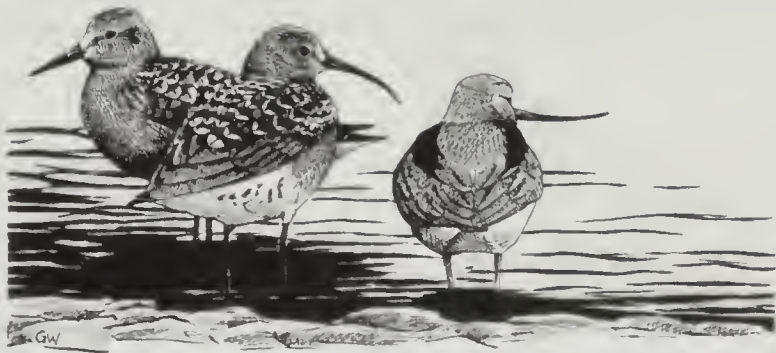
Best counts elsewhere: *July* 4 Hockwold Washes 31st; *Aug* 3 Snettisham 2nd, 5 east (plus one present) Scolt Head 5th, 3 Strumpshaw 8th, 4 west (as well as 3 present) Holme plus 5 west Scolt Head 19th, 6 Buckenham 20th, 3 Stiffkey Fen 23rd. Otherwise 1-2 at East Ruston Grove Farm, Great Ryburgh, Kelling WM, Lopham Fen, Pensthorpe, Salthouse, Sheringham (west Aug 19th), Stiffkey Fen and Stokesby.

Terek Sandpiper

Xenus cinereus

Vagrant from northern Russia

An individual roosted erratically on the high tides at Snettisham July 18th, July 21st-23rd, Aug 5th and Aug 9th (JSc *et al*).



Terek Sandpiper, with Knot and Curlew Sandpiper (Gary Wright)

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

Passage migrant in spring and autumn; rare in winter; has bred

Early in year 3-4 wintering with singles King's Lynn Docks Jan 1st and March 3rd, West

Walton Jan 27th to mid-Feb, R Bure west of Yarmouth Feb 9th and 17th, and Flitcham Feb 13th.

First spring migrants Wroxham Broad and Welney April 15th. A trickle of further passage birds by end of month with records of 1-4 from 22 inland and coastal localities, with only higher count 6 Breydon/Berney 30th. Numbers picked up markedly in May with a notable arrival around the whole county 10th. Peak counts on that day: 8 Barton Broad, 34 (in one flock) Berney, 6 Blakeney Point, 8 Burnham Overy, 7 Cley, 6 Cromer, 11 Hardley Flood, 8 Horsey Mere, 10 Pensthorpe and 12 Scolt Head. Best counts otherwise 6 Hickling Broad and 8 Whitlingham CP 8th, 8 Scolt Head and 9 Hickling Broad 12th, 12 Whitlingham CP and 6 Hockwold Washes 13th, 14 Breydon, 6 Pentney GP and 15 Whitlingham CP 15th, 9 Scolt Head 23rd, 6 Thornham Hbr 25th and 6 Snettisham 26th. Numerous records of 1-5 from many other localities. Passage tailed off rapidly in June with last Snettisham 10th.

Difficult to clearly distinguish between spring and autumn passage, but single Cley June 26th probably first returning bird with 1-2 at a few other sites by month end.

Light autumn passage with max counts at key sites:

	Jul			Aug			Sep			Oct	
	1-10	11-20	21-31	1-10	11-20	21-31	1-10	11-20	21-30	1-10	11-20
Snettisham	1	17	8	14	19	12	1	1	1	-	-
Titchwell	-	-	-	-	-	25	1	-	-	1	-
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	1	4	8	13	41	10	1	1	-	1	-
Cley	2	1	6	5	3	6	-	1	1	-	-
Hickling Broad	-	23	-	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	-
East Ruston	-	18	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Breydon/Berney	2	1	2	1	8	6	2	1	-	1	1
Cantley BF	-	-	11	6	8	10	7	6	2	1	-
Welney	-	2	7	4	2	-	1	-	-	-	1

July max at Snettisham, Hickling Broad and East Ruston all 18th. Elsewhere in July other max 21 Titchwell (no date) and 6 Pentney GP 27th. In Aug best counts from other sites 8 Tattersett 6th, 10 Blickling Park Lake 18th, 11 Holme and 20 west Cley 19th, 6 Salthouse 20th, 13 Ousemouth 31st and 20 Breydon/Berney (no date). Numerous records of 1-5 at many other localities.

A very few lingered into Oct with latest Whitlingham CP 21st and 28th. Finally presumed returning wintering bird West Walton Nov 8th-22nd and Dec 8th.

Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

Passage migrant and winter visitor; some summering non-breeders

Monthly peaks at most regularly counted key sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	14	25	44	55	70	10	415	570	335	150	46	11
Holme	124	75	64	32	2	2	24	57	38	26	147	74
Titchwell	42	218	5	-	60	20	33	49	10	29	150	201
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	123	103	194	145	321	75	228	454	425	292	176	204
Blakeney Hbr	-	-	-	130	10	14	30	-	30	-	-	-
Breydon/Berney	9	12	8	21	18	10	10	12	7	6	7	10

National importance (winter): 640

Numbers continue to decrease at Breydon/Berney. Other counts of 20 or more: *Jan* 30 Burnham Overy Hbr, 25 Horsey, 240 King's Lynn Docks (Boal Quay), 65 Sheringham, 31 Waxham (feeding on pig fields); *Feb* 152 King's Lynn Docks (Boal Quay), 50 Mundesley; *March* 46 Cromer, 296 King's Lynn Docks (South Quay), 80 Ousemouth, 58 Mundesley, 27 Salthouse; *April* 50 Ousemouth; *May* 77 Sea Palling (on offshore reefs); *Sept* 42 Eccles; *Oct* 44 Eccles; *Nov* 80 Cley; *Dec* 50 King's Lynn Docks (Boal Quay).

Interesting observations of May spring departure Scolt Head where in evenings 35 north-east out to sea 11th, 25 north-east 18th and 75 north-west 20th.

Inland unseasonal single Welney Jan 1st, followed by several spring records also from Welney where 2 April 30th with one remaining until May 2nd, 3 8th and single 10th/11th. Additionally one Ouse Washes May 3rd. Only inland autumn occurrences 2 Cantley BF Aug 4th.

Red-necked Phalarope

Phalaropus lobatus

Scarce passage migrant

A disappointing year with only two records. In spring a female Cley June 8th-12th, then in autumn a short staying juv Titchwell Sept 2nd.

Grey Phalarope

Phalaropus fulicarius

Scarce autumn passage migrant; rare at other times

A quiet year for this species too. First of autumn 2 west Sheringham Sept 9th (KBS TW *et al*) (one landing on the beach briefly), followed by singles west Cley Sept 10th (RGM *et al*) and Cley reserve Sept 11th/12th. One Snettisham Sept 20th was joined by a second bird 21st; another on sea off Cley/Blakeney Point Sept 22nd. Finally one west Cley Nov 14th (RFP).

Pomarine Skua

Stercorarius pomarinus

Passage migrant during autumn; small numbers at other times

In first winter period one Hunstanton Jan 2nd and 11 records of up to 2 between Cley and Winterton Jan 1st-9th. Subsequently another single Yarmouth March 17th.



Pomarine Skuas (Phil Jones)

Recorded in every month in second half of year and at almost all well-watched sites between Hunstanton and Winterton. See summary table.

	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Total records	8	8	39	26	23	3
Total days	6	5	13	11	12	3
Largest number	3	1	9	8	14	1
Total birds	10	10	121	62	81	3

There were several episodes of more marked passage during autumn with some bias towards weekend periods, Sept 8th-10th involving 15 birds, Sept 16th-18th involving 33, Oct 20th-22nd involving 35, Oct 31st with 19 and Nov 8th/9th with 61 birds. There was no consistency of passage in a particular direction.

Almost all records were of unaged individuals, the exceptions being early juvs seen Aug 31st and Sept 9th.

Arctic Skua

Stercorarius parasiticus

Mainly autumn passage migrant, scarce at other times

The early part of year was typical with records in five of the first six months (except March), giving a total of 19 records involving 24 birds. The majority were singles with 4 Scolt Head June 17th. In Jan 5 records, the most populous month, could all be accounted for by one individual moving around the coast.

Few records in early July but from mid-month seen on a daily basis at Scolt Head and Titchwell with up to 14 remaining in the locality chasing terns. During the month 222 birds were seen from all around the coast. Passage was evident on several dates with a peak around July 18th-21st with max 27 Blakeney Point and 15 Sheringham. Aug was similar with 291 birds on 20 days. Increasingly heavy passage both east and west noted from Aug 25th when 31 west Blakeney Point; on 26th 25 Cley and on 31st 61 west Scolt Head and 25 Sheringham. The passage continued until mid-Sept following which numbers declined. Significant max included 57 Holme, 191 Scolt Head, 200 Cley, 145 Sheringham, 81 Overstrand, 120 Mundesley all Sept 4th, though no doubt some duplication of numbers. Subsequently 135 Hunstanton, 45 Holme, 50 Titchwell, 42 Scolt Head, 121 Blakeney Point, 80 Cley, 85 Sheringham, 76 Mundesley and 40 Winterton, all Sept 9th.

Up to Sept 20th 1648 had been counted around the coast. The last 10 days of Sept produced 46 birds on 3 days only. This set the pattern for last quarter of year. Oct produced 56 birds on 6 days only; the largest count being 20 Sheringham 30th. Numbers fell further in Nov with a total of 46 mainly at beginning of month, max 8th when 7 Hunstanton and 5 Sheringham. Only 2 birds were seen in Dec, singles Titchwell 9th and Sheringham 22nd

Long-tailed Skua

Stercorarius longicaudus

Autumn passage migrant increasingly identified in recent years

A good year with the first ever spring records; an adult north Yarmouth on April 16th (PRA) and another adult east Scolt Head on May 12th (NML).

Early records of return passage at Hunstanton July 30th and Blakeney Point Aug 11th.

Regular passage observed Aug 24th-Sept 19th involving a total of 217 birds, max 22 at Cley/Sheringham Sept 4th. Majority of records were between Blakeney Point and Winterton though a series from Scolt Head with max 13 Sept 4th. Further west Hunstanton, Holme and Titchwell produced 5 records totalling 11 birds. Winterton and Gorleston produced 3



Long-tailed Skua (*Andy Benson*)

sightings of singles. Where recorded the direction of movement was predominantly to west or north though some days of net easterly passage noted at Sheringham. The majority of records were of unaged birds though juvs were reported in small numbers throughout the whole period. After Sept 19th until end of month there were total of 13, max 6 Cley Sept 23rd.

All records from Oct were juvs and comprised singles at Sheringham Oct 21st and Nov 8th, 2 Burnham Overy Nov 11th and 4 flying high inland at Holme Oct 21st, the only 'inland' record of the year.

Great Skua

Catharacta skua

Passage migrant mostly in autumn; small numbers at other times

The only records in first five months were isolated singles in Holme/Titchwell area Jan (5 days) and Sheringham/Overstrand/Sea Palling March (3 days). In June singles Holme 17th and Hunstanton 21st. A max of 2 at 5 sites seen during July, all around 18th/19th.

Rapidly increasing numbers were recorded after Aug 23rd with max 10 Salhouse and 8 Sheringham on 27th and 31st. The vast majority of records were during Sept with more than 1200 birds counted. There were several exceptional days around Sept 8th-10th when a hundred or more were recorded at several sites along north coast - Hunstanton, Holme, Titchwell, Blakeney Point, Cley and Sheringham - max 138 at Cley. There was a second peak around Sept 17th/18th - max 133 at Scolt Head. The predominant directions of movement were westwards from Blakeney Point and sites further west and eastwards at Sheringham and sites further east. Numbers tailed off rapidly after Sept 23rd.

There were about 150 birds recorded during Oct and largely accounted for by several large counts - max 34 Titchwell, 60 Sheringham and 17 Winterton all 31st. There were a similar number in Nov but with a wider spatial distribution and lower daily counts; peak passage 8th/9th with max 36 Hunstanton and 44 Sheringham. Subsequently 11 records of up to 2 during Dec, including a freshly dead individual Winterton Dec 22nd.

Mediterranean Gull

Larus melanocephalus

Regular all-year visitor in increasing numbers, often remaining for weeks; recent breeder

Recorded from 31 coastal/near coastal and 15 inland localities, rather consistent with 2000. Breeding occurred at one site for first time when 2 pairs successfully raised broods of 2 and 3 respectively. No further breeding attempts recorded. Elsewhere the following juvs noted: Blakeney Point July 16th, one wearing a green darvic ring (French/Belgian origin) East Runton July 31st, Cley Aug 4th and 11th, and 2 Breydon Aug 22nd with one 23rd.



Mediterranean Gull (*Steve Cale*)

Numbers, especially of adults, were high throughout except for a drop in April. May saw an arrival of 1st-summers, particularly at Scolt Head where 6 daily. The most intriguing event of the year was a build-up at Breydon mid-late Aug which culminated in 32 roosting 22nd, the largest ever gathering in the county. Winds at the time were from a southerly quarter and 2 adults carried green rings (indicating French/Belgian origin). The birds came in to roost on the mudflats late evening and only 18 were noted the following night.

Estimates of individuals summarized by month and age:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Juv	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	3	-	-	-	-
1st-year	4	5	4	3	14	8	5	2	7	5	7	8
2nd-year	5	7	6	-	-	5	2	2	6	5	6	6
Adult	20	26	22	10	5	7	15	28	12	26	17	22
Unaged	2	2	-	-	2	-	3	11	4	3	6	1
Total	31	40	32	13	21	20	32	46	29	39	36	37

Peak counts at Yarmouth were 15 Jan 16th and Feb 18th, 17 March 3rd, 7 July 25th, 9 Aug 3rd, 13 Sept 30th, 22 Oct 19th, 22 Nov 19th and 22 Dec 24th. Nearby Breydon attracted 5 March 14th, 5 July 4th, 32 Aug 22nd and 13 Oct 17th. Elsewhere: 12 Scolt Head May and 7 June, 7 Heacham South Beach Feb 14th, 6 Caister Sept 26th, 5 Holme March 22nd, 4 Hunstanton April 3rd and 3 Overstrand Jan-Feb and Oct-Dec.

Remains a good find inland though increasingly regular in the Holt area where 3 (2 adults/one 1st-winter) Jan, adult Feb and Aug, 2nd-winter Oct 7th and 3 (1st-winter, 2nd-winter, adult) Dec. All other inland sightings: *Jan* 2nd-winter Welney 14th, Northrepps 30th; *Feb* Welney 1st-winter 18th, 2 Haddiscoe 19th, 1st-winter Pensthorpe 20th, Hickling Broad 22nd, adult Holkham Park Lake 24th, 2nd-winter Massingham Heath 24th; *March* 1st-winter Bacton Tip 7th, adult Blackborough End Tip 10th, adult Welney 16th; *May* adult Langham 6th; *July* 2nd-summer Hickling Broad 4th, 1st-summer Whitlingham CP 29th; *Sept* 1st-winter Kimberley 9th; *Oct* 2 (adult/1st-winter) Whitlingham CP 21st; *Nov* 2nd-winter Martham Village 18th; *Dec* 1st-winter Wroxham 3rd and adult Holkham Park Lake 28th (in summer plumage).

Little Gull

Larus minutus

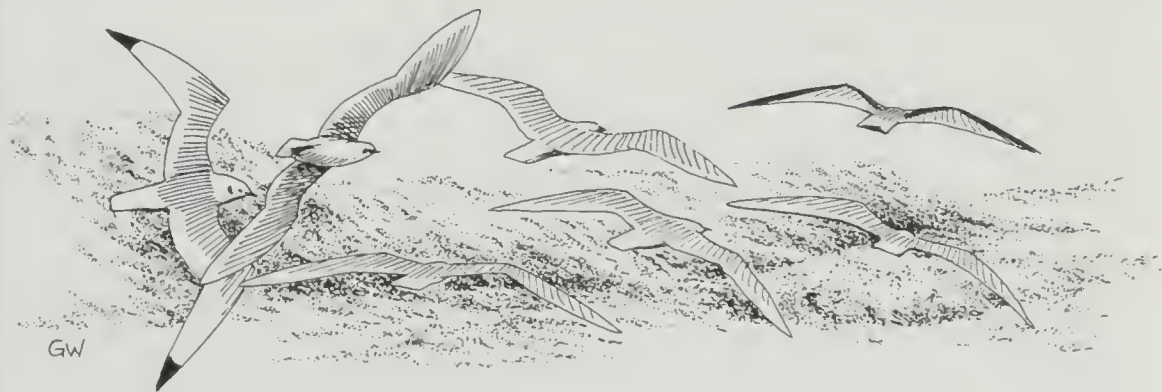
Non-breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor

Small numbers noted around coast Jan with max 4 Holme 4th and 2 singles inland, adult Saddlebow 21st and 1st-winter Martham Broad 27th. In Feb peak of 10 east Mundesley 4th, also 1st-winter Lynn Point 24th notable. Few seen during March but single Welney 29th was indicative of spring passage.

Both Hickling Broad and Welney enjoyed a good run of birds April/May with respective max 7 May 17th and 26th and 8 adults April 2nd. At Welney adult/2nd-summer birds were mostly concentrated April 1st-25th and 1st-summer May 8th-25th. Other inland records at this time included a 1st-summer over pig fields Letheringsett April 7th, 6 (5 adults) Colney Pits April 15th; and in May 1st-summer Pensthorpe 5th-7th and an adult 10th, adult Pentney GP 6th, Great Ryburgh 8th, Strumpshaw 13th and Barton Broad 21st. At Titchwell 10 May 21st rose to 22 by 29th, and 39 (mostly 1st-summer) in June. Less usual records in June were 4 north Barton Turf Fen 4th, 1st-summer Nar Valley Fisheries 7th and 4 1st-summer Ongar Hill 19th.

Breydon enjoyed an unprecedented summer build-up with birds recorded most days from June 4th including an early adult 9th and a peak of 12 26th. Numbers rose to 42 July 10th and the month's peak of 63 on 23rd. Max numbers were reached Aug 1st when 83 were counted, after which a decline set in with the last 4 Aug 23rd. Mostly 1st-summer were involved but some 19 adults were seen July 12th and 2 early juvs Aug 1st. Elsewhere in July/Aug: 22 Titchwell July 2nd, 10 Blakeney Point July 19th and 43 Gorleston (presumably the Breydon flock) Aug 10th.

A quiet Sept saw 15 west Mundesley (0730-1530), 19 Winterton and 2 inland at Welney 19th. Coastal passage evident on several dates Oct/Nov including a spectacular 1141 east Sheringham Oct 21st on which date 355 east 35 west Scolt Head, 607 east Cromer (1000-1230) and 183 Winterton. Other Oct counts included: 73 west Scolt Head (1100-1200) 13th; on 17th 55 west Scolt Head, 111 east Happisburgh and 55 south Horsey; 43 south Horsey (1 hr) 20th; on 22nd 55 east Scolt Head, 470 east Sheringham and 51 east Mundesley (0930-1015); 60 west Holme 28th. On Nov 8th 40 Lynn Point, 50 Hunstanton, 90 east Sheringham, 36 east 10 west East Runton, 29 east Cromer (0800-1215) and 30 east Mundesley, followed by 39 west Overstrand 9th. Other records of interest during this period included: 4 heading inland Waxham Oct 13th, where 2-3 feeding in fields Oct 25th-28th, 30 Hardley Flood Oct 21st, 25 south-west Welney Nov 8th, Claxton Marsh Nov 11th and Sharrington Nov 24th. The flocks at Hardley Flood and Welney occurred on days of strong coastal movement and



Little Gulls and Kittiwake (Gary Wright)

such autumn inland records are exceptional. Small numbers present Dec when max 9 west 6 east Holme 6th and also an oiled 1st-winter Waxham 14th.

Sabine's Gull

Larus sabini

Almost annual but scarce autumn vagrant from High Arctic; extremely rare in spring

An adult east Salthouse Aug 27th (DEB PMW) on a rather unexceptional day for seawatching, was the forerunner of an excellent showing in a Sept blessed with favourable conditions. Details were received for as many as 14 individuals (all juvs unless otherwise stated) though some duplication may be involved: east Cley (TCD *et al*), 3 east Sheringham (GED *et al*) and one or 2 east Overstrand (BJM) all 4th, east 0700 hrs then west 0800 hrs Sheringham 5th (ACh *et al*), adult Holme 8th (MAWa), east Blakeney Point 9th (MLC), west Cley 10th (RGM *et al*), adult (MAWa) and east Holme 16th (GNB), west Scolt Head (NML NWi) and Gorleston 16th (INS), north Hunstanton 17th (ADC), west Scolt Head 17th (NML) and another west there 21st (JBr NML). Later a juv Burnham Overy Staithe for 30 mins Oct 13th (PCI) must have been delightful.

2000 Addition: 1st-summer Breydon May 1st also seen by AS.

Black-headed Gull

Larus ridibundus

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

Numbers of breeding pairs as follows (success stated where known): Snettisham 630, Holme 130, Titchwell 70, Scolt Head 2050 (2000 young fledged), Holkham NNR 1040 (185 grazing marsh - good success, 855 beach/saltmarsh - 1500 young fledged), Blakeney Point 50, Hickling Broad (6 young), Martham Broad 2-3, Hoveton Marshes 100, Cantley BF 200, Strumpshaw one, Middleton GP 62, Wisington BF 47.

Monthly roost counts as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lynn Point	9600	10800	6000	740	95	790	2075	6800	6300	9000	10000	9000
Holme	-	550	750	650	480	-	200	-	-	450	150	-
Scolt Head	-	-	5000	4000	3000	-	-	-	-	8000	-	-
Ranworth Broad	740	1100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2012	2050	-
Wroxham Broad	-	15000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1000	-	12000

Further roost counts: 5000 Berney Jan, 3000 Hardley Flood Oct 21st and Nov 2nd, 1500 Barton Broad Nov 6th, 5000 Heacham South Beach Nov 29th, 5250 Welney Dec 17th, 10,000 Heacham South Beach and 850 Overstrand Dec 19th.

Spring exodus observed Mundesley where 1500 east March 28th while at Scolt Head 265 (all 1st-summer) west April 1st. The latter site recorded a total of 7810 moving west July 1st-Oct 23rd with a peak of 2350 on last date. Sheringham saw 240 west July 15th, 1000 west Oct 21st and 900 west Nov 10th, while 2500 east Oct 20th were thought to be leaving roost; also 500 west Overstrand (before 1000 hrs) Sept 22nd.

Daytime concentrations at Blackborough End Tip: 3000 Jan 6th, 1700 Feb 24th, 2000 March 10th, 210 June 30th and 800 Dec 15th. Elsewhere, 1000 Horsey Jan 7th, 1000 Saddlebow Jan 22nd, 6000 (pre-roost) Ranworth Broad Jan 27th, 750 Buxton Tip Feb 21st, 1200 Titchwell Feb, 400 Beetley Tip March 6th, 1450 Buxton Tip March 7th, 600 Stiffkey Fen April 16th, 1000 Snettisham April 17th, 1100 Pensthorpe Sept 24th and 5000 Titchwell Nov 11th.

Thousands again observed 'anting' Scolt Head mid-July to mid-Oct including 5000 Aug

14th and 20th. An adult bird with a Danish metal ring at Cromer in March and wing-tagged birds observed at Titchwell where a 1st-summer April 28th and Thetford Nunnery Flood an adult Nov 22nd. Leucistic birds picked out at Blackborough End Tip Jan 20th and Dec 15th, Thetford Nunnery Flood March 13th and Lynn Point Sept 4th, while a complete albino Claxton Dec 20th was more unusual.

Common Gull

Larus canus

Passage migrant and winter visitor with non-breeders remaining all summer; spasmodic breeder

Breeding: Scolt Head 5 pairs (10 young fledged), Stiffkey Binks 4 pairs (5 young fledged) and Blakeney Point 3 pairs. This is the largest number to have ever occurred in the county

Monthly roost counts at selected sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Lynn Point	3500	3500	2200	389	423	32	157	760	1200	2500	3000	3000
Thornham	-	3000	3100	-	-	-	-	-	-	1100	250	-

Perhaps not surprising (given the time of year) 402 of the 423 Lynn Point May 1st were 1st-summer birds. Further roost counts received included 220 Scolt Head April 23rd and 2500 there Oct 16th, 6000 Heacham South Beach Nov 29th, 940 Welney Dec 4th, 12,000 Heacham South Beach Dec 19th and 6000 Wroxham Broad Dec 31st. The count at Heacham appears to be the largest concentration ever recorded in the county.

Small numbers observed moving west Scolt Head: 55 July 24th, 105 Aug 3rd, 65 Sept 12th and 22 Oct 12th. Heavy passage to west July 29th at Sheringham where 1166 followed by 150 there Oct 21st, 270 Nov 10th and 260 Dec 30th.

Daytime concentrations: 632 Hunstanton Jan 14th, 1000 Attlebridge Jan 19th, 1300 Titchwell Jan, 400 Attlebridge Feb 3rd, 384 Tottenhill GP Feb 17th, 1400 Titchwell Feb, 350 King's Lynn Docks March 3rd, 4000 Titchwell Nov 11th and 500 Holme Dec 12th.

At Scolt Head 50 observed 'anting' amongst 5000 Black-headed Gulls Aug 20th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

Passage migrant and migratory breeder; increasing in winter

Norfolk's breeding stronghold, the Wash Outer Trial Bank, was visited this year and 1270 pairs were estimated from photographs (per *English Nature*). The last estimate in 1997 gave 900 breeding pairs. Elsewhere breeding pairs recorded as follows: Holkham NNR 30, Blakeney Point 340 combined Lesser Black-backed/Herring Gull and Yarmouth min 6 on rooftops.

Counts of roost flights at Lynn Point:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Lynn Point	69	42	209	250	220	400	285	1065	1600	-	446	-

Roost counts elsewhere: 50 Ranworth Broad Jan 14th and 105 there Nov 4th, 200 Barton Broad Nov 6th and 200 Wroxham Broad Dec 31st.

Numbers in the King's Lynn area perhaps a little down on 2000 though 800 Blackborough End Tip June 30th was good for that site. There was a record number present at Welney in July when also a substantial build-up on the coast at Cley. Gatherings included: Jan 45 Saddlebow 25th; Feb 97 Saddlebow 12th; March 101 Blackborough End Tip 10th,

105 Breydon Water 17th, 84 Buxton Tip 26th; *April* 230 Blackborough End Tip 21st; *May* 100 Saddlebow; *June* 525 Saddlebow 25th, 800 Blackborough End Tip 30th; *July* 700 Blackborough End Tip 7th, 420 Cley 8th, 650 Saddlebow 11th, 425 (site record) Welney 28th; *Aug* 367 Welney 4th, 250 Blackborough End Tip 11th, 1350 Saddlebow 19th/20th; *Sept* 121 Blackborough End Tip 1st, 405 Welney 4th, 500 Hardley Flood 5th, 200 Saddlebow 7th, 300 Clippesby Hill 20th; *Oct* 104 Whitlingham CP 5th, 500 Hardley Flood 19th, 600 Saddlebow 27th; *Nov* 730 Saddlebow 20th; *Dec* 400 Saddlebow 4th.

Coastal movements in spring included small numbers west Scolt Head when 13 March 31st and April 2nd, and 19 April 29th; later 40 headed west Sheringham May 28th while 50 east there May 25th was fewer usual.

Birds bearing red rings (white inscription) on left leg, almost certainly originating from the Orfordness gull colony, recorded from Hardley Flood Sept, Whitlingham CP Nov/Dec and Blackborough End Tip/Saddlebow/King's Lynn Fisher Fleet throughout the year. A juv King's Lynn Fisher Fleet July 30th had been ringed at Orfordness (Suffolk) only 13 days previously.

Dark-backed birds showing characteristics of *L f intermedius* recorded throughout the year with again an obvious late summer/autumn peak:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
All localities	6	6	2	2	-	4	3	23	12	4	11	1

Sightings included: at Blackborough End Tip March 17th, 2 April 21st, June 18th, 3 June 30th and July 14th, 6 Aug 11th and 3 Sept 1st; at Saddlebow 5 Jan 1st, 16 Aug 19th/20th, 5 Sept 7th, 3 Oct 27th, 8 Nov 13th and one Dec 4th. Elsewhere Attlebridge Jan 19th and 4 Feb 17th, 2 Beetley Tip Feb 17th and one March 16th, Hickling Broad June 16th, West Harling Heath Aug 12th, 4 Titchwell Sept 28th, Cley Oct 27th and 2 Nov 3rd, and Titchwell Nov 18th.

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

Herring Gull *L (a) argenteus/argentatus*
Increasing breeder, late summer migrant and winter visitor

Estimates of numbers of birds from photographs taken at the Wash Outer Trial Bank gave 865 pairs (compared to 900 in 1997) and success was thought to be good. Elsewhere numbers of breeding pairs: Titchwell 5, Scolt Head 5, Wells SM 90, Blakeney Point 340 combined Herring/Lesser Black-backed Gull and Yarmouth 20 (rooftops).

Peak counts at some well-watched sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Lynn Point	1765	917	464	920	1152	200	240	-	1075	-	2460	-
Snettisham	200	-	-	-	110	1600	1500	-	-	-	-	-
Holme	1590	1253	1650	230	500	600	170	690	141	1270	4200	1474
Titchwell	2000	886	-	-	-	1404	428	-	500	-	1500	253
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	-	-	-	525	1200	1000	52	119	405	850	-	-
Blackborough End Tip	1700	1300	900	385	-	150	500	-	325	-	1900	1900

Numbers at other localities included: 2000 Saddlebow Jan 1st, 1925 Hunstanton and 725 Thornham Point Jan 14th, 300 Attlebridge Jan 30th, 500 Beetley Tip Feb 17th and 375 March 6th, 1200 Holkham Bay Nov 12th and 800 Saddlebow Dec 6th.

Movements: in spring 1025 west Scolt Head March 31st with 385 also west April 1st; Sheringham 150 east April 23rd; at Scolt Head 105 west Aug 11th. Winter immigration at year end included 473 west Overstrand Dec 20th-30th (with 236 27th) and 200-300/hr west Sheringham Dec 31st.

Birds resembling *L a argentatus* recorded at Sheringham and Lynn Point plus 7 inland sites. As expected numbers peaked Jan and Nov/Dec with larger counts including: 9 Saddlebow Jan 3rd, 35 Blackborough End Tip Jan 6th, 10 Attlebridge Jan 30th, 10 Beetley Tip Feb 5th, 10 Buxton Tip Feb 21st, 6 Blackborough End Tip April 7th, 35 Blackborough End Tip Nov 24th, 22 Lynn Point Nov 29th and 25 Blackborough End Tip Dec 15th. Also 1-2 seen during June/July on Blackborough End Tip.

A 4th-winter at King's Lynn Fisher Fleet March 17th was ringed as a pullus at Kuopio, Finland July 11th 1997. Typically a number of birds, presumed to originate from Orfordness, Suffolk (red ring with white inscription on left leg) observed throughout the year in the King's Lynn area.

Yellow-legged Gull *L (a) michahellis*

Increasing visitor from southern Europe

Continued increase, with records from 30 localities, and perhaps more evident on the coast this year, especially in Cley area late June-July. Many birds located amongst flocks of Lesser Black-backed Gulls with a large and widespread influx from late June into Aug. This was followed by a fairly rapid withdrawal during Sept though a number still present to year end. Curiously, 2nd-summer birds well outnumbered any other age groups (including 1st-summer) through June and July.

Estimated number of individuals per month as follows:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Juv	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-
1st-year	2	2	3	-	-	2	12	6	2	1	3	1
2nd-year	2	4	3	1	-	17	45	20	1	1	1	3
3rd-year	1	-	-	-	-	4	5	5	3	1	2	1
4th-year/Adult	4	5	3	-	-	4	9	46	12	10	6	6
Unaged	3	2	2	1	1	4	11	16	9	8	2	2
Total	12	13	11	2	1	31	84	98	27	21	14	13

Juvs noted at King's Lynn Fisher Fleet July 16th and Cley July 21st, and in Aug at Blackborough End Tip 11th, King's Lynn Fisher Fleet 24th, Saddlebow 19th-21st and Welney.

The largest concentration again occurred at Saddlebow where numbers reached an impressive 44 Aug 20th (min 52 individuals during month). Unfortunately the flock there became more difficult to view from Sept due to disturbance from construction work. Other counts here included 3 Jan 3rd, 4 June 25th, 18 July 11th, 10 Sept 14th, 7 Oct 27th, 6 Nov 19th and 7 Dec 9th. At Blackborough End Tip 9 June 30th, 27 July 14th and 10 Aug 11th; at King's Lynn Fisher Fleet 3 June 29th, 4 July 27th and 6 Aug 26th; at Lynn Point counts of 10 July 19th, Sept 17th and Oct 31st. Elsewhere further gatherings included: 3 Attlebridge Feb 5th, 4 Beetley Tip March 16th, 4 Hickling Broad June 8th-14th, 6 Cley June 27th, 3 near Holt June 30th, 15 Cley July 10th, 7 near Holt July 15th, 12 Welney July 28th, 4 Blakeney Point July 29th, 15 Welney Aug 4th (20 individuals in month) and 8 Sept 4th, and 3 Titchwell Oct 19th.

Interestingly an adult was watched scavenging discarded pizza in Prince of Wales Road, Norwich Oct 13th.

Caspian Gull *L (a michahellis) cachinnans*

Rare visitor from eastern Europe

A superb series of records involving possibly 18 individuals during year. Several observed in first winter period with latest Blackborough End Tip April 7th. A fascinating wave of records late June-late Aug. All the 2nd-summers on Blakeney Point were different individuals as were the 2 3rd-summers seen Aug 27th. Just one sighting in second winter period.

Estimates of numbers of individual birds per month as follows.

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
All localities	4	1	2	1	-	1	5	3	-	-	-	1

All records listed: adult Blackborough End Tip Jan 6th (DEB PMW) with 2nd-winter there Jan 13th (PMW), 1st-winter Welney Jan 15th (JBK), 1st-winter Attlebridge Jan 27th-30th (JRWi), 1st-winter Blackborough End Tip Feb 10th (DEB PMW), 1st-winter Beetley Tip March 6th-13th (JRWi), 3rd-winter near Holt March 17th (AMS), 2nd-summer Blackborough End Tip April 7th (DEB PMW), 2nd-summer Cley June 30th-July 14th (MIE *et al*), 2nd-summer near Holt June 30th (AMS) with 2 (1st-summer and 2nd-summer) there July 1st (AMS), 2nd-summers Blakeney Point July 21st, 22nd and 24th (all AMS), adult Blackborough End Tip Aug 11th (DEB PMW), 3rd-summer near Holt and 3rd-summer Blakeney Point both Aug 27th (AMS), 2nd-winter near Holt Dec 1st (AMS) and 2nd-winter Blackborough End Tip Dec 8th (PMW).

Iceland Gull

Larus glaucoides

Annual but very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

Thin on the ground during 2000/2001 winter and a single sighting in April was the sole record until a run of birds from Nov 8th. Such a relative spate of birds is unusual for early winter though some duplication is possible especially in respect of the 1st-winter individual. All records listed: adult west Cley April 14th, adult south Yarmouth Nov 8th, 1st-winter west Mundesley Nov 9th, 1st-winter Cley Nov 10th/11th (also Blakeney Point 10th) and adult Titchwell Nov 15th/16th and 1st-winter there Nov 17th/18th, 1st-winter Holme Nov 17th (presumed same as Titchwell), 1st-winter Heacham Dec 19th, 1st-winter Holkham Bay Dec 26th and 2nd-winter west Sheringham Dec 29th.

Glaucous Gull

Larus hyperboreus

Winter visitor in fluctuating numbers; rare in summer

Unlike the previous species, Glaucous Gull was well represented in both winter periods with probably 16-20 (or more) individuals recorded. Feb-April was the best time to connect with this species when a number of mainly 1st and 2nd-year birds were present. Apart from the summering bird there were no sightings between April 16th and Nov 2nd, after which a small number were noted with an obvious peak in late Dec. The King's Lynn bird last seen Aug 26th 2000 returned to the Fisher Fleet Feb 17th as a 3rd-winter. It then remained loyal to the area to the year end though did appear to go missing at times.

Estimates of numbers of individual birds per month as follows:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
All localities	1	7	4	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	5

All records listed: Titchwell Jan 29th, 1st-winter Attlebridge Feb 3rd-16th, 1st-winter Buxton Tip Feb 6th/7th with a different 1st-winter there Feb 21st-28th, 3rd-winter King's Lynn Fisher Fleet Feb 17th (present to year end), adult Cley Feb 17th, near adult Horsey Mere Feb 17th, 1st-winter Mundesley Feb 23rd, 1st-winter Beetley Tip March 6th, 2 1st-winter Buxton Tip March 7th (with one to 27th), 2nd-winter north Cley March 18th, 3rd-winter Blackborough End Tip (King's Lynn bird) March 31st, 2nd-winter west Cley/Blakeney Point April 1st, 1st-summer Buxton Tip April 3rd-16th, 2nd-summer south-east Breydon April 6th, 2nd-summer Horsey April 7th, 1st-summer west Holme April 15th, 2nd-summer west Cley April 16th, adult west Sheringham Oct 21st, 1st-winter Haddiscoe Nov 2nd, 1st-winter east Cromer Nov 8th, 1st-winter Salthouse Nov 9th and 17th, 4th-winter Saddlebow (King's Lynn bird) Dec 4th, 1st-winter Breydon Dec 8th, 1st-winter Gorleston Dec 28th, 1st-winter West Runton/Sheringham Dec 29th-31st and adult north-west Great Bircham Dec 30th.

In addition a suspected 2nd-winter hybrid Herring x Glaucous Gull visited Buxton Tip Feb 21st.

Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus

Passage migrant, winter visitor and non-breeding summer visitor

Numbers generally remained unexceptional, even compared to the mid-nineties, though the late summer/autumn build-up at Scolt Head reached 425 Oct 16th with Breydon and Blackborough End Tip also seeing peak numbers during Oct. The Attlebridge roost held a max 260 Jan 30th while the three tips at Beetley, Blackborough End and Buxton held good numbers at times during winter months.

Max numbers at selected sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Lynn Point	27	10	47	128	-	30	-	56	-	-	160	-
Thornham	-	20	11	-	-	-	56	55	-	112	43	10
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	-	43	-	-	55	47	189	173	345	425	-	-
Blackborough End Tip	150	18	-	122	83	65	79	70	-	310	165	-

Notable gatherings elsewhere included: 100 Attlebridge Jan 16th rising to 260 30th with 200 there Feb 5th; 140 Beetley Tip Feb 16th/17th and 140 March 6th down to 15 by 16th; 120 Buxton Tip March 7th; 315 Breydon Oct 27th with 310 Dec 2nd.

Spring passage observed Sheringham where 100 east May 11th, and in autumn 64 east there July 18th, 100 west Oct 15th and 150 east Oct 22nd.

Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla

Mainly passage migrant; occasional non-breeding concentrations in summer

Small numbers off north coast Jan with max 170 west Holme (1 hr) 6th. More present in east where 500 Mundesley 1st, with 2000 Horsey and 1000 Waxham 7th.

One inland Welney Feb 25th was followed by a marked movement Feb 28th/March 1st

when on former date 358 east Cley, 541 east Sheringham (1030-1230) and 710 Sea Palling. Next day 64 east Sheringham (1010-1150) and 490 Mundesley. An oiled adult King's Lynn March 2nd was found dead the following day. Little evidence of spring passage after this though an inland adult/2nd-summer Pentney GP May 9th was notable.

During the summer a flock of 12 presumed non-breeders Scolt Head ternery June 8th built up to 110 July 20th. Birds recorded skirting west along north coast in June included 193 Cromer 3rd, 80 Beeston Bump (0800-0815) 17th and 61 Cley (1 hr) 18th. The Acro Thames Gas Platform (35 miles north-west of Yarmouth) attracted 200 July 7th/8th.

During July-Oct coastal passage unexceptional despite good seawatching conditions at times. Regular observations at Scolt Head did produce 85 east July 18th, 205 west 20 east Sept 17th and 1025 west Sept 23rd. Elsewhere 212 west 93 east Sheringham (8 hrs) July 18th, 120 west Sheringham (45 mins) Aug 9th and an adult north Lynn Point Sept 19th.

Nov began with 520 west Holme (2 hrs) Nov 5th. Northerly gales Nov 8th drove high numbers on to the coast: 300 north-east Hunstanton, 1300 west 60 east Holme (2 hrs), 1000 Cley, 4000 east (900/hr) 295 west Sheringham (all day), 1061 east 88 west East Runton, 2430 east 185 west Cromer (0800-1215) and 300 south Winterton (1345-1630); the same day 8 headed south-west at Welney. Nov 9th saw 250 Hunstanton, 280 west Holme (1 hr 30 mins), 1330 west 110 east Sheringham, 1780 west Cromer (0730-0930), 200 north Eccles (1 hr 30 mins) and 100 north Winterton (0700-0930); also 43 south (41 in 3 flocks 0801-0802) Lynn Point. Further movement Nov 13th when 280 west 10 east Holme (1 hr 30 mins) and 193 east Sheringham (1415-1530). After this date notable counts were 80 west Holme (1 hr) Nov 28th, 120 Yarmouth Dec 16th, 60 Winterton Dec 20th and 200 east Overstrand (1 hr) Dec 28th.

Gull-billed Tern

Sterna nilotica

Vagrant from southern Europe

A juv moulting to 1st-winter Titchwell Nov 16th-26th (RK *et al*). In an interesting and rarely encountered plumage, this individual commuted between Titchwell RSPB freshmarsh and nearby ploughed fields north of the reserve, where it fed mainly on worms in company with Black-headed Gulls. An exceptionally late bird, certainly the latest county record and almost certainly the latest British record. Although this constitutes the seventh county record since the long-staying bird at Titchwell in 1980 it is the only one to be recorded on more than a single date, thus doubtlessly it found its way onto many a county list amongst the younger generation of county birders.

Caspian Tern

Sterna caspia

Vagrant from the Baltic

One toured the Yare Valley on June 16th being seen at Strumpshaw, Buckenham and Cantley BF before roosting at Breydon (MAC MSn *et al*). Again at Breydon and Burgh Castle on 17th before departing east over Yarmouth late afternoon.



Caspian Tern (Andy Benson)

Sandwich Tern

Sterna sandvicensis

Migratory breeder and passage migrant

The first ever Jan records for the county were singles at Holme on 5th and 11th.

First spring migrant Mundesley March 21st followed by others Scolt Head 23rd, Sheringham 25th, Holme 28th and Cley 29th. A rapid build-up of numbers at Scolt Head where 3 on 28th, 9 29th, 50 31st and 1000 by April 3rd.

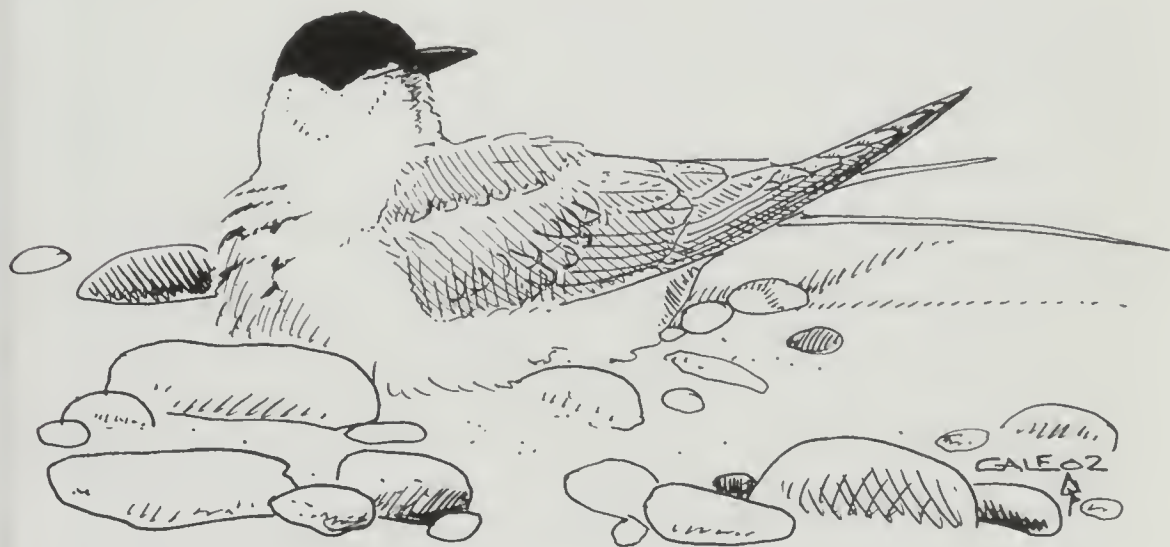
Another excellent breeding season at Scolt Head where 4000 pairs fledged 4000 young. First nest there during first week of May, first hatching last week of May with first fledged young June 28th. At Stiffkey Binks 225 pairs fledged 230 young, the first breeding there since the mid-1970s. At Blakeney Point 250 pairs fledged 253 young.

First juv recorded away from breeding colonies Breydon July 3rd.

Notable movements/gatherings away from Scolt Head: 111 west Cromer (1815-1845) April 19th, 250 Cley 22nd and 200 27th, 144 Snettisham 26th, 250 Cley May 4th and 150 8th, 283 east Sheringham July 18th, 200 east Overstrand Aug 17th, 150 south Horsey (0930-1100) 26th, 300 east Overstrand (0630-1030) and 175 east Sheringham Sept 4th, and 150 Snettisham on 7th.

The only inland record was at least one calling Hickling Broad at 2140 hrs 27th April.

Last records 4 Titchwell and Yarmouth Oct 27th, Holme and Burnham Overy 28th, and Sheringham on 31st.



Roseate Tern (Steve Cale)

Roseate Tern

Sterna dougallii

Uncommon summer visitor; has bred

Another good year with birds recorded May-Sept, however, for the first year since 1995 no breeding or attempted breeding was recorded in the county.

All records listed: Snettisham Aug 11th; Titchwell Aug 2nd and 11th; 2 Scolt Head June 6th, 4 there July 21st (one 1st-summer) and single Sept 16th; Blakeney Point July 3rd, 14th/15th, 2 on 16th, 3 17th, single 19th, and juv Aug 21st and 23rd; Cley May 18th, west June 18th, east July 24th and 2 Aug 24th/25th (one juv); 2 Salhouse Aug 8th and 2 on 25th (one juv); a colour-ringed bird Winterton July 10th, one Aug 8th and juv north Sept 17th; 1-2 Yarmouth on 5 dates June 2nd-23rd; singles Breydon on 7 dates July 4th-28th including one colour-ringed individual.

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

Migratory breeder and passage migrant at both coastal and inland sites

Recorded between March 28th (Holme) and Nov 1st (Scolt Head and Sheringham). The only notable spring concentrations at Scolt Head where 100 May 6th, 200 16th, 300 18th and 400 25th.

Min of 927 breeding pairs, an increase of 183 on 2000 and an increase in fledged young due to less predation by large gulls than in previous years, especially at Blakeney Point.

	<i>No of prs</i>	<i>Young fledged</i>
Snettisham	68	40
Scolt Head	285	150-200
Holkham NNR	93	47
(Stiffkey Binks	84)	
(Bob Halls Sands	2)	
(Wells	7)	
Blakeney Point	150	160
Breydon	197	247
Martham Broad	13-14	unknown
Ranworth Broad	36	30
Hoveton Great Broad	26	unknown
Barton Broad	17	9
Sparham Pools	12	22
Middleton GP	18	unknown
Welney	4	unknown

A pair summered at Swanton Morley GP but not thought to have bred and one carrying fish at Strumpshaw June 27th was presumed breeding nearby.

Almost a full house at Breydon's four platforms again with 2 pairs occupying two of the 49 nesting compartments on a platform for the first time. Normally each 46 cm x 46 cm compartment is considered a territory, indicating breeding saturation at this site.

At Scolt Head 2 1st-summer birds June 23rd-29th with 5 there July 1st-4th and 8 5th-8th, 1-3 Breydon July 3rd-12th and one Snettisham July 22nd; 1-2 imms Breydon June 3rd-July 12th.

Interestingly 35 feeding on flying ants Scolt Head Aug 20th.

Impressive early autumn movements with many hundreds south California in evening Aug 17th and 795 west Scolt Head in evening next day. On Aug 19th 285 south Lynn Point, 1950 west (including 50% arriving from NNE) Scolt Head, 645 west Sheringham in 4 hrs and 518 west Mundesley; on 20th also 475 west Scolt Head. Only other major movement Sept 19th when 600 west Holme in 2 hrs and 690 west Sheringham.

Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

Double passage migrant; a few pairs breed

Another light spring passage with 1-6 at 10 localities in April with exception of 14 Welney on 16th (the earliest date), 14 there 21st, 10 23rd and 14 east Breydon on 21st. In May 1-10 at 13 localities with 31 north Lynn Point and 18 Blakeney Point/Blakeney Hbr on 4th, 24 Welney 5th, 26 east Holme 12th, 43 east Breydon 12th and 17 also east there on 23rd.

Breeding: 2 pairs Scolt Head fledged 2 young, 3 pairs Stiffkey Binks where at least one pair fledged young, 16 pairs Blakeney Point where 17 young fledged despite 14 pairs being predated by Stoat.

In July 1st-summer birds Winterton 10th and 13th, and Breydon 13th.

Light autumn passage of 1-9 at 14 localities with exception of 34 west Scolt Head Aug 31st, 13 west Sept 9th, 165 west in 4 groups there and 25 west Sheringham both 17th. Latest Sheringham Oct 13th.

Little Tern

Sterna albifrons

Local migratory breeder

Earliest Hunstanton April 17th and latest 2 Holme Oct 9th.

Breeding: max of 497 pairs, a decrease of 54 on 2000 following the 1999 decrease, but an increase in fledged young compared to 2000. At Scolt Head all first attempts lost to sea foam up to waist deep blown onto nesting sites, with every nest lost. This was repeated 10 days later just as all re-layed, again all nests lost. Most of subsequent nests and young lost to predation by large gulls and Stoats. The Wells site declined, possibly linked to increased visitor pressure. At Wells New Ridge 40 pairs early on but for unknown reasons pairs deserted leaving young to perish probably due to poor food availability, but larger young survived. At Yarmouth North Beach Kestrels took 450 chicks.

	<i>No of prs</i>	<i>Young fledged</i>
Holme	11	0
Titchwell	1	1
Scolt Head	90-95	5
Holkham-Burnham Overy	25	6
Wells	3	0
Bob Hall Sands	4	0
Wells New Ridge	48	20
Little Binks	11	0
Blakeney Point	17	6
Winterton	21	unknown
Yarmouth North Beach	261	103

A 1st-summer Breydon July 7th.

Impressive midsummer counts of 255 Scolt Head July 14th and 20th, with 300 Winterton on 26th.

Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

Regular double passage migrant in variable numbers; has bred

First arrivals 2 Brancaster/Scolt Head and singles Wroxham Broad and Welney April 25th followed by Stiffkey Fen 29th and Hickling and Rockland Broads on 30th, the only April occurrences. In May 2 Rockland Broad 5th followed by a fairly light spring passage from 9th-16th with max of 156 at 27 localities mainly 1-8 with only double-figure counts of 11 Hardley Flood 10th, 12 Welney also 10th with 10 on 11th and 11 13th, 12 Hockwold Washes 12th and 11 Ranworth Broad 13th. Subsequent May occurrences at Whitlingham CP 21st, Middleton GP 22nd, 2 Rockland Broad 22nd-24th, Pentney GP and Welney 23rd, 13 Scolt



Black Terns (John Geeson)

Head 24th, 3 Titchwell 25th/26th, Hickling Broad and Sparham GP 25th, and Yarmouth 29th.

In June singles Scolt Head 11th and 13th with 2 west there on 21st, and Holkham 16th and 19th. In July singles Middleton GP 5th, Yarmouth North Beach 6th-14th with presumably same Breydon 15th-17th and probably another there on 21st, 3 east Scolt Head 18th with 3 west 19th, Sheringham 18th and west 19th, Cromer 19th, Cley 19th/20th and 2 north Snettisham 24th.

Autumn passage started lightly with singles west Sheringham Aug 3rd, Terrington 4th, Snettisham 8th, 6 King's Lynn 10th, 3 west Scolt Head and 11 Titchwell 14th, Winterton and Breydon 15th, and 2 Cley and one Sheringham 18th. Main passage commenced on 19th with total of 277 at 10 localities: 3 south King's Lynn, 34 west Holme, 144 west Scolt Head, 10 Blakeney Point, 25 west Cley, 2 west Sheringham, 11 east Mundesley, 3 south and one on sandbar Winterton, 24 south Yarmouth and 20 Breydon. Subsequently total of 418 at 10 localities to month end, mainly 1-10 but 11 west and 33 feeding on flying ants Scolt Head 20th, with 29 west there 31st, and 11 Terrington 20th. In Sept 1-3 at 13 localities with max of only 22 birds. In Oct 1-3 at 7 localities involving 16 birds with additional unusual counts of 10 Holme on 6th, 6 R Ouse 7th and 12 west Scolt Head 16th, the highest Oct counts since 1994; latest Cley 27th.

White-winged Black Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus

Vagrant from south-east Europe

A moulting adult Kelling WM July 20th/21st (DBr AJLS *et al*) and same Cley 22nd, a different moulting adult Cley Aug 3rd-5th (JVB *et al*) and a juv Blakeney Point Aug 24th (CG GH GR *et al*). Recorded for the fifth successive year.

Guillemot

Uria aalge

Passage migrant and winter visitor; occasional wrecks

The high numbers recorded in Dec 2000 remained into Feb. The highest estimate was 20,000 in Blakeney/Cley/Salthouse area Jan 4th with 7000 in Horscy/Waxham area Jan 7th. To the west there were 1000 off Burnham Overly Jan 13th and 2000 at Titchwell next day; also Jan

13th 4000/hr recorded passing west off Burnham Overy. At Sheringham 3000 were on the sea and moving east in a two hour morning period Feb 8th. 500 Mundesley March 1st was the final high count of first winter period.

In April/May seen daily Blakeney Point in small numbers with peak easterly counts there in June of 344 2nd and 500 17th. Evidence of passage in July was scanty with only 6 sightings concentrated around 18th/19th with 55 Scolt Head, 140 Blakeney Point and 30 Sheringham. Surprisingly there were no reported Aug sightings.

The second winter period saw an increase in numbers after Oct 21st but with none of the large rafts of earlier in year with max 450 at Sheringham Oct 23rd and 1000 east there Nov 8th. Small numbers present throughout Dec and widely scattered along coast.

No tideline corpses reported (see also Guillemot/Razorbill.)

Razorbill

Alca torda

Passage migrant and winter visitor

An unremarkable year with records from 9 months, the exceptions being Feb, March and Oct. Numbers were always in single figures apart from several peaks during passage periods though the records would indicate isolated bursts of movement. At Scolt Head there were 45 June 17th, 35 July 18th, 20 Oct 27th and 50 Dec 12th; further eastwards 306 east Cromer Oct 21st and 550 west Sheringham Nov 4th.

Up to 3 recorded daily off Blakeney Point April-June, and into July.

No tideline corpses reported (see also Guillemot/Razorbill).

Guillemot/Razorbill

The estimated proportion of Guillemot to Razorbill in the passage flocks varied but generally the former predominated. During early part of year there were large resident flocks offshore with several episodic bursts of movement noted during rest of year and usually picked at several sites along the coast. 225 east at Scolt Head June 2nd and 105 in same direction next day were associated with 340 Guillemots Blakeney Point and "many" at Sheringham. A later episode of 105 east Scolt Head on both June 17th and 18th was also picked up at Sheringham with 100 east in 2 hrs 30 mins on 17th. A westerly movement of 975 Cley Nov 4th reverted to a mainly easterly movement Nov 5th with 400 east 100 west per hour Beeston Bump. Both Sheringham and Cromer recorded easterly movements Nov 9th with 250 and 200 birds respectively. 800 auks heading north off Winterton Dec 22nd was final large movement of year.

Black Guillemot

Cephus grylle

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor

An average year with 2 records: an immature west Mundesley Sept 17th and an adult south Sea Palling Nov 1st.

Little Auk

Alle alle

Passage migrant, most during northerly gales; occasional wrecks

In first winter period 3 singles at Sheringham Jan 21st (eaten by a Great Black-backed Gull), Mundesley Feb 8th and Overstrand March 1st.

The second winter period started with one Cley Oct 21st; more than 90 records throughout Nov predominantly from north and east coasts with heavy passage around 9th-14th, max 69 Sheringham 9th and 72 there 13th, with 47 at Yarmouth 14th. Well-watched



Little Auks (*John Geeson*)

sites on the north-west coast produced fewer birds during same period, max 18 Holme on 13th. The predominant passage direction was north and west.

Inland records from Egmere, Brograve Level (Waxham), Gimingham, Guestwick, King's Lynn Fisher Fleet and North Creak (where the bird was rescued from a Sparrowhawk); 3 birds were dead or later died. An obliging individual resided at Broadwater, Holme Nov 3rd/4th, the only freshwater record.

There were 2 records of singles during Dec at Overstrand 9th and Titchwell 23rd.

Puffin

Fratercula arctica

Passage migrant and winter visitor

Recorded in every month though with only single records in April and May. All but one record was in single figures, the exception 23 Blakeney Point June 17th. The majority of records from the coast between Blakeney Point and Mundesley. Other site records from Holme with 14 Jan-April and Oct-Dec and a set of observations from Scolt Head May-Sept totalling 29 birds on 14 dates. The majority of records from July (13 sightings) and Sept (18 sightings) with the predominant movements being east. Only 2 tideline corpses were reported, Blakeney Point Aug and Horsey Dec. Single birds at Holme and Scolt Head on 3 occasions in Dec.

These records are in keeping with the established pattern of occurrences with an increasing number of summer sightings.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon

Columba livia

Introduced/escaped resident in most urban areas

Very few records received. Highest counts in first winter period 196 Hunstanton on cliff ledges Jan 14th, 94 Diss Mcre Jan 17th, and a very impressive concentration of 600 King's Lynn Docks March 3rd. At Beeston Regis/West Runton 14 occupying cliff ledges Feb.

NBA results showed the species was present in 39% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 10 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Only reported movements of year in Aug when 16 west Cromer GC 11th and 35 east Overstrand 29th. These records may have involved racing pigeons but deciding if birds are ferals or racers is probably impossible.

In second winter period only counts received 100 Sea Palling Oct 25th and 55 Diss Station Dec 22nd.

Stock Dove

Columba oenas

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Highest counts in first winter period included: *Jan* 116 Docking, 70 Ingoldisthorpe, 50 Clippesby Hall, 50 Swanton Novers, 40 Somerton Holmes; *Feb* 80 Stanford TA (Smuggler Road), 64 Wootton Marsh Farms, 37 Stokesby; *March* 105 Holme, 60 Horsey, 60 Spixworth.

Coastal movement commenced March 7th when 17 west Holme followed by series of records from Beeston Bump where (all west) 2 14th, 6 15th, and singles 28th and 30th. Only other March movements from Winterton where (all south) 8 8th, 9 10th and 5 31st. Passage slightly more widespread in April but numbers still fairly low with records from 7 sites. Highest counts: 6 west Cromer 5th, 6 west Beeston Bump 22nd with 5 east there 24th.

Breeding records from Wootton Marsh Farms where 18 pairs in April and Gateley with 6-7 pairs present. NBA results showed the species was present in 72% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Coastal movement in autumn very sparse with singles Hunstanton on 4 dates plus 2 south there Oct 18th and 4 south Nov 10th. Elsewhere 2 west Scolt Head Oct 27th with singles in off sea Waxham Oct 6th and Sheringham Oct 20th.

Max counts in second winter period: *Oct* 73 between Langham and Morston; *Nov* 60 Brancaster Field House and 50 west Lynn Point 9th (probable post-roost flight); *Dec* 80 Ringstead, 80 Terrington St Clement, 65 Felthwell Anchor, 60 Morston, 55 Eccles Cart Gap.

Woodpigeon

Columba palumbus

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Very much under-recorded during first 5 months of year with only 2 counts over 400 received: 593 Felbrigg Park Jan 9th and 440 Norwich (Heartease School Field) May 24th.

During spring westerly movement peaked late March/early April with highest numbers from Holme where 781 March 28th, 818 April 1st, 151 3rd and 137 22nd. Elsewhere 171 west Scolt Head April 1st, 75 west Beeston Bump March 30th, 200 west there April 1st (0625-0745) plus 100 east 20 west April 24th, and 72 west Cromer March 31st with 282 west there April 1st and 209 east April 24th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 96% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 116 birds per occupied tetrad.

Autumn movements more pronounced with highest numbers Hunstanton Cliffs where total 3022 south Oct 1st-Nov 19th including 515 Oct 19th, 225 Nov 2nd, 344 4th, 369 5th, 445 10th, 140 11th and 496 15th. Elsewhere 200 south Holkham Meals Oct 28th (1 hr), 500 south Winterton Oct 29th and 18 west Beeston Bump Nov 3rd. Inland movement noted at Watton on Nov 1st where 1000 south (0715-0720).

Much more widely recorded during second winter period with max: Nov 5000 Rollesby, 1500 Necton, 1250 Stanhoe, 800 Narborough; Dec 1300 Southery, 1200 Ringstead, 640 Terrington St Clement, 500 Marshland St James.

Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto

First bred in Britain at Cromer in 1955, now widespread and common resident

Max counts in first winter period included: *Jan* 80 Morston, 50 Flitcham, 50 Great Ryburgh, 40 Ormesby; *Feb* 79 King's Lynn Docks, 53 Flitcham.

Very few spring passage birds recorded due to access problems, most records coming from Beeston Bump where (all west) one April 1st, 5 3rd and 3 17th. Only other records singles Scolt Head May 10th and east Sheringham May 15th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 87% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 11 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Late summer/early autumn gatherings included 150 New Costessey Aug 23rd and 85 Long Stratton Sept 2nd.

Autumn movement noted Hunstanton Cliffs where total 29 south Oct 1st-Nov 19th including 7 Oct 6th and 7 Oct 16th. Only other autumn migrant one west Sheringham Oct 13th.

Highest counts in last 2 months of year: Nov 50 Northrepps, 40 Merton, 30 Ormesby; Dec 120 Wighton, 90 Methwold Fen, 75 Ormesby, 50 Great Ryburgh.

As usual a number of plumage abnormalities recorded: cream-coloured bird East Tuddenham until March 25th, leucistic birds Sheringham, Ormesby and Methwold, and an albino Hellesdon several dates during Aug.

Turtle Dove

Streptopelia turtur

Migratory breeder and passage migrant; evidence of recent decline

First records of year April 22nd when singles Choseley and Cley, followed next day by singles at East Ruston and Lyng-Easthaugh. Thereafter more commonly recorded from numerous sites to end of month with max 8 Holme and 6 Hunstanton.

Typically more widespread arrival during May with highest counts 6 Snettisham, 5 Titchwell, Winterton and Feltwell, 4 Holme and Pentney GP, 3 Eccles and Hickling Broad.

Visible migration during spring began late April with one west Lynn Point 29th followed in May with 3 west Kelling WM 1st, 3 east Holme 5th, one west Sheringham 12th, 8 south Holme 13th, 6 west Weybourne 16th, 8 south Winterton 17th, 12 west Holme 22nd, 2 west Burnham Overy Dunes 26th, 5 west Salthouse 27th, 8 north (with Feral Pigeons) Winterton 28th, one west Holkham 29th and one north Winterton 30th.

Breeding: 3-5 pairs Briston, 4 Salthouse Heath, 3 Little London and 2 Langham. Singing males recorded from numerous other sites indicating breeding still widespread in county in suitable habitats, 12-15 singing males Sennowe Park/Gateley/Great Ryburgh area being notable. At Wighton described as 'common during summer'. NBA results showed the species was present in 59% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Midsummer/post breeding concentrations recorded Eccles where 20 June 16th, followed by in Aug 21 Welney and 11 Easton.

Very few records after end of Aug with latest Wells town Oct 1st and 2 Eccles Oct 8th. A 1st-winter bird Ormesby Dec 2nd-4th (ringed 4th) was presumably attempting to over-winter.

Ring-necked Parakeet

Psittacula krameri

Introduced vagrant

First record of year Feb 16th-18th when pair present Burnham Market (observer's garden) (DMB). Two at same location July 19th presumably relate to same birds.

Elsewhere singles Frettenham March 10th (GIK), Salthouse March 11th (SJMG), Norwich (Sandringham Rd) July 23rd (RHC), Eccles Aug 28th (NBB), Cley Oct 10th (TCD) and Hunstanton Oct 29th (GFH NML).

Unidentified Parakeet sp at Stowbridge July 3rd (AWa) and Framlingham Earl Aug 8th (PCo).

Cuckoo

Cuculus canorus

Migratory breeder and passage migrant

First record East Harling April 11th, 10 days before main arrival when singles Snettisham, Holme and Eccles 21st, Cley, Breydon and Beccles Marshes 22nd, Lyng and Stoke Holy Cross 23rd. Thereafter more widespread to end of April with max 3 Strumpshaw 25th with 2 there 28th, and 2 Guist Common 30th. Singles recorded from numerous other sites. Increasingly common during May including one west Blakeney Point 8th and hepatic phase female Waxham 18th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 55% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

In autumn one in off sea Bacton July 23rd. Numbers of juvs reported well down on last year with only records from Winterton Aug 20th and Sept 2nd, and Stiffkey Aug 30th.

A flurry of late records during Sept with singles Holme, Holkham, Mundesley, Paston, Happisburgh, Horsey, Winterton, Yarmouth Cemetery, Rockland St Mary and Welney. Last records of year both early Oct with singles Scratby 1st and Gorleston Cliffs 3rd.

Barn Owl

Tyto alba

Resident, continental race has appeared as a vagrant

Recorded at 203 sites, a reduction of 22% on 2000. Although this may be due to under-recording, observers in Berney/Halvergate/Breydon area have noted a positive reduction in sightings. Records received indicate that the species is still widespread throughout county. A total of 42 breeding pairs reported. This figure includes 4 pairs in Stanford TA, 12 in Cockley Cley/Gooderstone/Hilborough parishes and 3 in Holme parish, densities that are probably reflected in many parishes across the county. The true picture regarding breeding numbers is probably much higher than reports indicate and comments made in the 2000 Report almost certainly still hold true.

Little Owl

Athene noctua

Introduced resident

Reported from 104 sites, a similar figure to last year. High proportion of records relate to singles, as in 2000. Spread similar to recent years although in Broads, where sightings have fallen over last few years, birds noted at 15 sites within the TG41 10 km square. Breeding reported at 13 sites involving 18 nests, a slight reduction on 2000. No reports of fledged young received. Pairs noted at a further 15 localities. As with the last species the problem of under-recording is probably painting a false picture of this species' distribution.

Tawny Owl

Strix aluco

Widespread resident

Noted at 52 sites with two or more birds at 15 of these. Several reports related to calling birds. The well-known roost in Holkham Park was again occupied in first winter period with two noted on several dates. Fewer reports in breeding season (April-July) with birds reported at 14 sites but breeding confirmed at just two. Only report of young came from Burnham Market where 2 noted June 8th. In second winter period not reported at Holkham Park roost although probably present as roost was certainly occupied in January 2002.

Long-eared Owl

Asio otus

Scarce and local resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

In first winter period reported at two sites. At South Creak/Syderstone one present Feb 17th/18th while at East Ruston a roosting bird present from Jan 25th was found sick March 10th and died in care. Two other reports from East Ruston on Feb 17th and 27th may have involved this bird. In April recorded at Weybourne 4th and Holme 29th.

Two May sightings involved one at East Wretham 16th and an unusual report from Yarmouth North Beach where one was sitting on posts of Little Tern colony in early morning of 29th. Elsewhere during breeding season young noted at Methwold (2) July 4th and Cockley Cley Woods (2) 20th with other July records at Barnham Broom 14th and Narford/South Acre 30th.

An early autumn record came from Winterton with one hunting in bright sunlight 1915-1940 hrs Aug 15th. More expected were autumn migrants at Warham Greens Sept 23rd, Berney Oct 7th and 22nd, and Burnham Overy Oct 14th. On Nov 10th birds in off sea at Mundesley and Waxham while other Nov records came from Paston 10th, Holme 17th and Waxham 30th. One report only in Dec at Holme 15th.

Short-eared Owl

Asio flammeus

Rare breeder, regular passage migrant and winter visitor

During first 3 months of year regular sightings from 5 sites with 2 or more frequently seen: Snettisham singles Jan 16th-March 30th, Runham 2-3 Jan 20th-March 15th with max 5-6 Feb 18th, Breydon/Berney/Halvergate Marshes up to 2 Jan 19th-March 14th, Chedgrave Marshes one Jan 13th-March 14th with 2 on latter date, Haddiscoe one Jan 13th-March 19th. A report of 4 on Lower Bure Levels Feb 16th/17th probably related to Runham birds. Elsewhere seen at Ongar Hill, Lynn Point, Warham Greens, Morston, Blakeney Hbr, Eccles, Acle and Thurlton Marshes.



Short-eared Owls (*John Geeson*)

In April and May reports more widespread, mainly involving coastal sites and probably relating to migrants. Singles at Snettisham, North Wootton, Hunstanton (in off sea April 24th), Holme, Titchwell, Scolt Head, Burnham Overy, Cley, Salthouse (3 May 12th), Horsey, Winterton, Breydon/Berney (2 April 23rd and one dead previous day), Haddiscoe, Strumpshaw and Rockland Marsh.

No reports indicating breeding received although daily sightings throughout June at Salthouse. All other midsummer records from west of county at Ongar Hill June 24th, Snettisham June 9th and July 22nd, Wootton June 5th and Scolt Head June 18th.

Early autumn birds in Aug at Breydon/Berney/Halvergate Marshes 8th and 11th, Welney 9th, Waxham 20th and Horsey 25th. From Sept onwards numerous records with birds in off sea in Sept at West Runton 23rd and Overstrand 25th, in Oct at Paston 13th, East Runton and Eccles 14th, Gorleston 17th, Cley 23rd, and Sheringham and Winterton 24th, and in Nov at Overstrand 28th. Another was seen high over sea at Salthouse Oct 21st, whilst on same date an unidentified 'eared' owl came in off sea at Sheringham. Elsewhere in autumn noted (singles unless otherwise stated) at Snettisham, Holme (2 Oct 13th and 28th, 2 Nov 11th and 3 Nov 17th), Thornham Marshes, Titchwell (3 throughout Nov), Scolt Head, Docking, Morston (2 Nov 13th), Blakeney Point, Blakeney Hbr, Salthouse (3 throughout Nov), Kelling WM, Weybourne, Sheringham, West Runton, Mundesley, Happisburgh, Eccles/Sea Palling/Hempstead (3 Nov 2nd), Brograve Level, Stubb Mill, Reedham (3 Nov 12th), Hardley Flood and Wissington BF.

In Dec reports received from Titchwell, Scolt Head, Morston (3 Dec 11th), Stiffkey, Beeston Bump, Hempstead Marsh, Breydon/Berney/Halvergate Marshes, Burgh Common, Banningham/Tuttington and Fincham.

At Salthouse on Oct 26th one aggressive bird was seen to first attack a Barn Owl, knocking it to the ground, then attack a Grey Heron and a Carrion Crow.

Nightjar

Caprimulgus europaeus

Local migratory breeder and rare passage migrant

First spring record was an early arrival flying south along Cley East Bank April 30th. First reports from breeding sites May 11th in west of county and next day in north. A total of 49 churring males reported with 4 in east, 13 in north, 15 in west, 7 in central and 8 in Brecks. As in recent years these figures in no way reflect the true picture in the county, the total for the Brecks being a mere fraction of the real figure in this the major stronghold. Birds noted at breeding sites until third week Aug. Autumn records elsewhere at Sheringham BO Aug 19th (second site record), Happisburgh Sept 25th and Bacton, where a road casualty was found Sept 28th.

Swift

Apus apus

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant

First spring record April 24th when one Holme. Several reports next day with birds at Thornham (2 west), Scolt Head (4 west), Beeston Bump (3 west), Inceborough Hill, Paston, Cart Gap, Winterton (2), Wroxham Broad, Strumpshaw (3), Hanworth, Trowse/Thorpe St Andrew (2), Colney GP, Barnhamcross Common and Welney (6). Widespread by end of month but only three-figure count 100 Strumpshaw 28th. Numbers increased in May with highest counts in first week of 300 Welney 1st, 200 Hickling Broad 2nd, 300 Colney GP 4th and 100 Swanton Morley GP 8th. Movement continued throughout May with several large concentrations/movements. Best totals 300 Snettisham CP 21st, 400 west Holme 17th with 300 west 27th, 400 Colney GP 17th, 1000 Titchwell 18th, and 1145 west Scolt Head and 444 west Blakeney Point 28th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 77% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 24 birds per occupied tetrad. At Little London 7-10 pairs compared to 14 in 2000.

A good series of midsummer coastal movements noted at Scolt head where in June (all west) 405 5th, 785 15th, 450 16th, 725 19th, 325 28th, and in July 360 1st and 550 21st. Elsewhere best totals in June 2000 west Holme 1st, 2000 west Blakeney Point 19th, 1100 per hr west Paston 25th and 28th (0600-1000), and 500 Thetford Nunnery 18th. In July 500

Sheringham 1st with 370 west 22nd and 465 west 29th, and 'thousands' feeding over Watton 23rd.

In first two weeks Aug movements still noted with 252 west Sheringham 4th, 300 south in 15 mins Hellesdon 13th, and 155 west Scolt Head and 350 south Old Catton (1830-2000) 14th. Main departure of breeding birds occurred Aug 16th.

Records continued throughout Sept with birds in last two weeks at UEA (3) 19th, Holme, Sheringham (3) and Wood Hill, Runton (3) 20th, Swaffham 24th, Holme 29th and Hanworth 30th. In Oct late birds at Titchwell and Winterton 1st, Cromer 4th and 6th (2) with last bird of year there 20th.

One report of a partial albino with white belly and flecks on rump Pentney GP April 28th.

Pallid Swift

Apus pallidus

Vagrant from southern Europe and north-west Africa

One at West Runton then Cromer Oct 20th (GE AJK *et al*), accompanied by a Common Swift. The tenth county record.

Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis

Resident, numbers fluctuating in response to severity of winters

Reports from 104 sites during year, a considerable reduction on 2000. In first winter period noted at 36 sites but only four recording more than singles: Burnham Overy Hbr 2 regularly Jan, Buckenham Tofts 2 Jan 7th, Winterton 2 March, and Stiffkey where 1-2 all year. In April a bird in off sea at Scolt Head 2nd was a likely migrant whilst another at Salthouse 5th was being harassed by Black-headed Gulls.

During breeding season (April-July) located at 44 sites but breeding confirmed at only 15 of these, 19 pairs being involved. Only report of juvs came from Gimingham where 3 seen June 10th.

Reports more widespread from Aug with birds at 63 sites. Best counts 3 Brancaster Hbr Oct 17th, 4 Breydon/Berney Oct 25th and 2-3 Cantley in Aug. Elsewhere 2 at Blakeney, Cley, Dersingham Bog, Hardley Flood and Strumpshaw. A probable migrant flying west along cliff-top at West Runton Oct 15th.

Bee-eater

Merops apiaster

Vagrant from southern Europe

Two records: one flying east at Holme (GPD) and Brancaster Staithe May 21st (NML MESR), and another north Winterton May 30th (INS).

Hoopoe

Upupa epops

Annual vagrant in very small numbers

A welcome return to form for this species with 5 records: West Somerton May 9th, Langham May 10th, Hardwick Sept 12th-14th, Blakeney Point Sept 18th/19th and East Ruston Sept 25th-28th. The Hardwick bird turned up in a private garden and donations from birders raised £55 for the RSPB.



Hoopoe (Andy Benson)

Wryneck

Jynx torquilla

Former breeder; now scarce annual passage migrant, mostly in autumn

Following the year's first inland at Hevingham April 14th, a reasonable spring passage: Holme April 28th-May 4th with another there 6th, Kelling Heath 5th, Elsing 6th, Eeles 8th (heard uttering its hoarse ringing "song" - a rare sound in Norfolk these days), Doeking 9th, Holme GC 11th, and last at Heacham May 28th.

In autumn a good sprinkling began on Aug 25th at Winterton followed by another there 28th/29th with 2 on 31st, when singles also Blakeney Point and Swannington. As usual an even better number in Sept: Winterton 1st/2nd, Blakeney Point 3rd, Holme 11th, Titchwell 19th, Scolt Head 19th-21st, Winterton 20th-Oct 1st with 2 24th and 3-4 25th, Wells East Hills 22nd, another Scolt Head 25th, Yarmouth 26th, Gorleston 28th, and Holme again 30th.

Green Woodpecker

Picus viridis

Resident

As in last few years, more records received of this species than the other two resident woodpeckers. Recorded from 104 sites across the county, of which 54 localities held birds in breeding season. Numbers slightly down from 2000, but as with the other two species this may be more to do with the foot and mouth crisis preventing observer access to many areas of woodland rather than a decline. Records were as usual well-scattered with only the Fens producing very few sightings; here noted only at Welney in Oct and Nov. This year only Beeston Regis and Lenwade produced 2 pairs, everywhere else hosted single pairs.

NBA results showed the species was present in 61% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.



Green Woodpecker (Steve Cale)

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos major

Common resident; birds of the northern race occasional in autumn

A poor year for records received, again foot and mouth restrictions probably hindered access to many places. Noted at a total of 74 sites, of which 43 held breeding birds. Most records came from North, West and Central Norfolk, a scattering in Brecks but very few in East Norfolk, Broads or Fens. Multiple pairs included 2 at Colney, Kettlestone Common, Langham, Lenwade, Mousehold Heath, Pentney Heath, Santon Downham, Sparham and

Wighton, with 3 pairs at Cley and 6 at southern end of Holkham Park. An odd record of one at Whitlingham Lane, Norwich drumming Aug 25th, quite late in year for such behaviour. NBA results showed the species was present in 67% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

The autumn proved to be exceptional for migrants arriving at coastal sites. Following the first 2 at Blakeney Point Sept 18th as many as 60 (min) noted around the coastline up until Nov 9th. As usual most records involved birds arriving high, usually calling, off the sea, 'coasting' west or heading inland. An exception was one Blakeney Point Sept 20th in the depths of a sueada bush clinging to a branch, obviously exhausted. Dead individuals noted on Sept 25th at both Scolt Head and Blakeney Point. Although most recorded in last two weeks of Sept a scattering of Oct arrivals included up to 20 in afternoon of Oct 7th at Wells; most arrived high, from the north, continuing south with at least two loose groups of five birds. Following a further six arrivals at Holme, Wells, Stiffkey and Weybourne in last week of Oct, the final migrant Overstrand Nov 9th, where it was first seen approx three quarters of a mile offshore.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos minor

Declining local resident

A very poor year. Only noted at the following 34 sites: Alby with Thwaite, Barnhamcross Common, Bunwell, Cringleford, Dersingham, East Dereham, East Harling, Eccles, Felbrigg Park, Garboldisham, Gunton Park, Hethersett, High Kelling, Holkham Park, Holt Hall, Hunstanton (in a garden on Sept 2nd) Lynford, Merton, Norwich (Sweet Briar Rd), Old Costessey, Ranworth, Reepham, Ringland, Sandringham, Santon Downham, Sculthorpe Mill, Shadwell, Sheringham Park, Snetterton, Sparham, Strumpshaw, Thetford Nunnery and Nun's Bridges, and Tottenhill.

As usual most records were in winter and early spring, with no records in June-August, and Oct/Nov.

A pair seen excavating a nest hole at Cringleford in Feb was the only evidence of breeding behaviour in the county this year, but due to the species' apparent sedentary and secretive nature it is perhaps optimistic to think breeding may have occurred at all the above mentioned sites. With numbers rapidly declining should we be concerned for the future of this charismatic species in Norfolk?

Short-toed Lark

Calandrella brachydactyla

Vagrant from southern Europe east to Afghanistan

Two records, Scolt Head May 26th-30th (JBr NML NWi) and Trimingham Oct 21st (JRMc).

Woodlark

Lullula arborea

Uncommon migratory breeder, recently increasing; also scarce passage migrant

Reports from breeding areas as early as Jan 7th when a singing bird in Brecks. Other birds noted returning to breeding sites from early Feb with further reports from Brecks 6th onwards and in north and west from 17th.

Spring migrants west at Holkham Meals (2) March 6th, south Cromer GC April 1st, Holme 30th and west Inceborough Hill May 12th.

During breeding season pairs or singing males reported from 23 sites with one in east, 6 in north, 4 in west, 4 in central and 8 in Brecks. With no full census in the Brecks this year, and in the absence of anything to suggest any decline there, the breeding situation is



White-spotted Bluethroat - an early migrant present for only one day in March at Cley (*Julian Bhalerao*);
Penduline Tit - this male was an excellent find for the owners of Denmark House, Weybourne in April
(*Julian Bhalerao*)

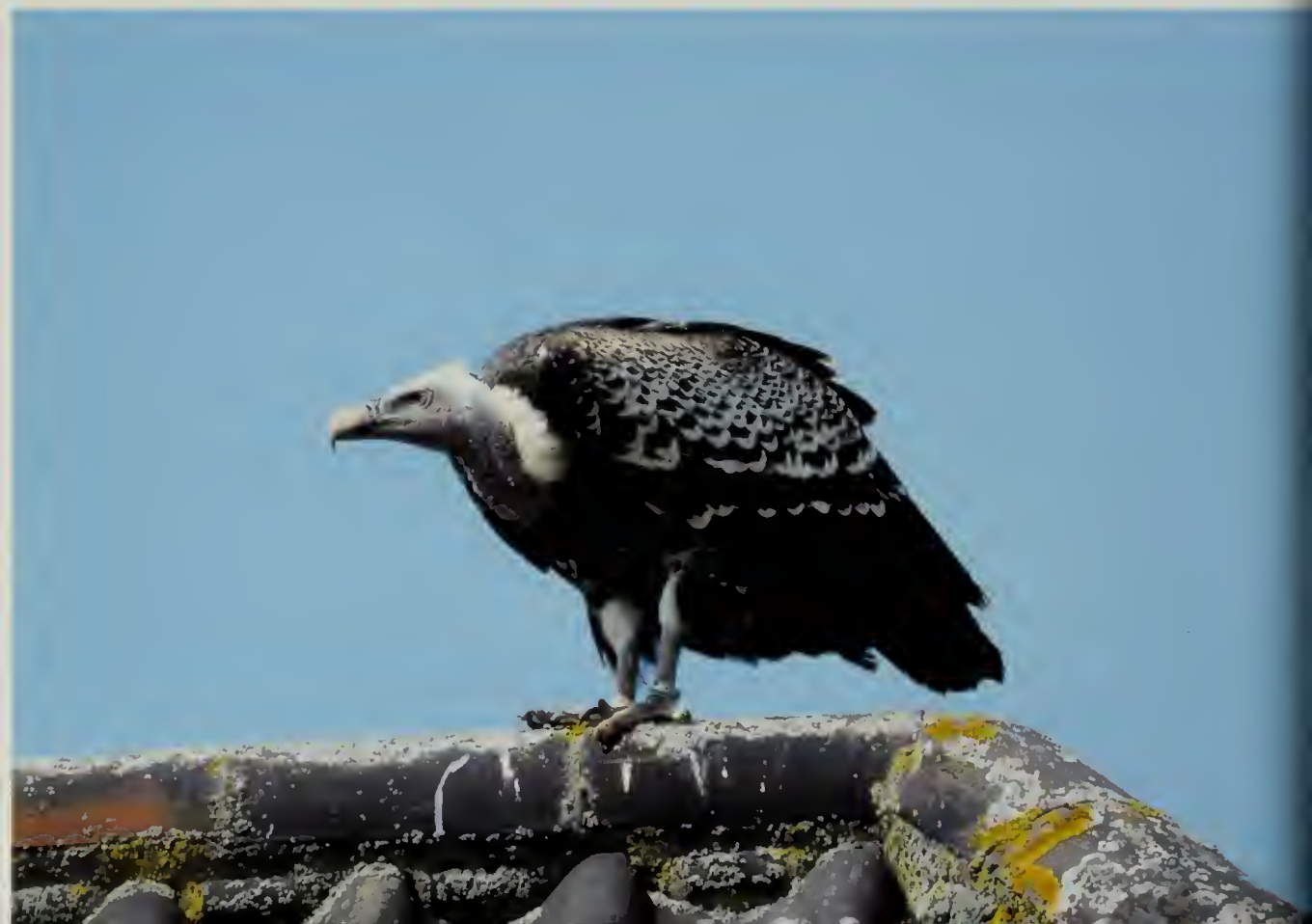
! Hawfinch - an elusive resident (*Chris Knights*)





Ruddy Duck – a drake at Cley where breeding was recorded for the first time (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Ruppell's Griffon Vulture – this escaped bird was more popular with the national media and general public than with serious birdwatchers (*Neil Bowman*)





· Grey Wagtail – a regular breeding bird (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Little Grebe – a common resident (*Hans Watson*)





Golden Oriole – a poor breeding season for this enigmatic species (*Chris Knights*)

White-winged Black Tern – *left* at Kelling water meadows, the first of three in the county this year; *right* an extremely obliging adult at Cley in August (*Chris Knights*)



probably similar to last year. The only negative reports came from east of county where two sites which held breeding birds last year were deserted March-May.

In autumn migrants Blakeney Point Sept 26th, east Sheringham Oct 13th and west Pensthorpe Oct 31st. Other Oct reports from Cockley Cley 5th (2) and 23rd (2), Roydon Common 15th (3) and 23rd, and Swaffham GC 23rd. In Dec wintering birds at Roydon Common 20th (8) and one with Skylarks West Runton 31st.

Skylark

Alauda arvensis

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

In first winter period best counts: Jan 235 Thorpe Airfield, 150 Sheringham BO, 105 Ashill, 104 Great Moulton, 100 Holkham Bay and 95 Methwold Common; Feb 70 Foulsham. Several flocks in excess of 50 noted during period. No reports in spring relating to migrants.

Reports received during breeding season give no indication of significant declines although at Yarmouth North Beach Carrion Crows now pose a real threat to breeding success. Totals of pairs/singing males included: Wootton Marsh Farm 19, Snettisham RSPB 40, Titchwell RSPB 30, Scolt Head 90, Blakeney Point 74, Yarmouth North Beach 30, Ludham Airfield 20, Long Stratton area 68 and Welney 19. NBA results showed the species was present in 95% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 12 pairs per occupied tetrad.

In autumn first migrants at Scolt Head Sept 24th. Thereafter widely reported at coastal sites with 751 south Hunstanton Cliffs Oct 1st-Nov 19th, best counts being 65 Oct 15th, 90 Nov 2nd and 171 10th. Elsewhere westerly movements: Oct 165 Scolt Head 12th with 235 13th, 290 23rd and 95 25th, 39 Sheringham 6th with 54 13th, and 40 Beeston Bump 30th; Nov 88 in off sea Blakeney Point 10th, 35 Sheringham 9th and 420 in then west 10th, 40 Beeston Bump (0700-0845) 2nd and 95 Cromer (0820-1020) 10th.

Best counts in second winter period: Nov 610 Scolt Head, 100 North Tuddenham and 65 Happisburgh; Dec three-figure flocks reported widely with 845 Scolt Head, 500 Morston, 400 West Runton, 300 Holme, 250 Burnham Market, 200 Cockthorpe, 180 Forncett, 150 Thornham, Brancaster and Wood Dalling, 142 Catfield Fenside and 100 North Tuddenham.



Shore Lark (*Vince Hanlon*)

Shore Lark

Eremophila alpestris

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; exceptional in summer

In first winter period the 6 at Holkham Bay since Nov 2000 remained until March 17th. Birds noted at two other sites during period, Salthouse where one present Jan 2nd-March 11th with two Jan 14th, and Holme where one Jan 13th/14th was joined by a second on 14th. Only spring migrants 3 east Cromer April 25th and one Scolt Head May 8th.

First in autumn Blakeney Point Sept 27th. In Oct 3 Holme 2nd, 3 west Scolt Head 18th and 4 west 23rd, 2 Titchwell 19th, one 20th and 12 21st, Blakeney Point 19th and 2 28th, Weybourne 23rd, Salthouse 24th, Holkham Bay 25th and Wells 30th. Birds found at several sites along coast in Nov with one Snettisham, Cley, Salthouse and West Runton 3rd, 3 Titchwell and 3 Salthouse 4th, 2 Sea Palling 6th/7th, Overstrand 14th, 2 Happisburgh 16th, Salthouse 17th, 2 west Holme 18th and 4 Blakeney Point 20th. In Dec just two sites held birds with 6 Blakeney Point 15th and 11 Holkham Bay from 8th until year end.

Sand Martin

Riparia riparia

Local migratory breeder and common passage migrant

Singles Salthouse March 8th and 9th were first spring records. Thereafter during March noted at Barton Broad (4) and Welney 12th, Barton Broad 18th, Pentney GP and Thetford Nunnery Meadows (3) 23rd, Kelling WM and Weybourne 24th, Barton Broad (2) and Tottenhill GP 26th, Colney Pits (5) 27th, Hunstanton and Holme 28th, Scolt Head (2 west), Salthouse (3) and Welney 29th, and 10 localities by 31st including 25 west Scolt Head, 40 Pentney GP and 25 Welney. Numbers built up during April with best counts 140 west Scolt Head 1st, 150 Ranworth Broad 3rd, 175 Pentney GP and 260 Welney 5th, 120 Rockland Broad 6th, 100 Colney Pits 14th increasing to 150 17th, 500 Pentney GP 16th, 190 Welney 23rd, 150 west Holme and 465 west Scolt Head 29th, and 115 west Scolt Head 30th. Coastal passage continued throughout May with 38 west Scolt Head 19th and 25 west 20th, and 78 west Blakeney Point 28th. Several inland concentrations noted in May with 50 Swanton Pools 8th, 90 Pentney GP 14th and 17th, and 150 Colney Pits 17th. Coastal movement still early June when 47 west Scolt Head 5th.

Breeding reports from 14 sites with following pairs/nests: Aylsham 30, Cranwich GP 48, Crimplesham GP 300, Cromer Cliffs 59, Holme 2, Middleton GP 45-50, Overstrand 32, Pensthorpe 20, Pentney GP 30, Saddlebow 12-15, Scolt Head 2, Scratby Cliffs 30, Sheringham 350 and Swanton Morley GP 20. The record from Holme, although unsuccessful, is first for the site.

Largest gathering during summer 1200 roosting at Cley during a thunderstorm July 4th. Good counts elsewhere at this time 170 Sheringham July 29th, 300-400 Cley Aug 4th and 100 Cantley BF Aug 8th. Early autumn coastal movement began July 10th with 115 west at Scolt Head; movement continued here in July with (all west) 155 21st, 425 22nd and 65 24th, and in Aug 195 14th. Westerly passage also noted at Paston with 250/hr (0600-1000) July 23rd. A gathering of 500 Cantley BF Sept 17th was noteworthy. At Filby Broad 8 Oct 8th was only multiple sighting during month, singles being noted at Welney 2nd, Holme 8th, Waxham 11th and Holme 24th. A very late bird Sea Palling Nov 5th was last of year.

Swallow

Hirundo rustica

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant

First spring arrivals in March at Barton Broad 8th, the earliest county record, Great Ryburgh (2) 13th and Briston 15th. Thereafter to month end reported Walsey Hills 23rd, west Sheringham 26th, Holme 27th, Holme, west Scolt Head, Cley (2) and Salthouse (4) 28th,

west Scolt Head 29th with 4 west 30th, and 1-3 at 10 localities 31st. Numbers remained low until third week of April, after which increased westerly coastal movements noted at Scolt Head with 90 22nd, 360 25th, 140 26th, 295 27th, 775 28th, 1550 29th and 950 30th. Elsewhere (all west) 70 Beeston Bump (0530-0730) and 75 Cromer 25th, 65 Cley 28th, 500 Holme and 179 Blakeney Point 29th, with 306 latter site 30th. Inland, reports were of birds arriving late at breeding sites, the first arrival at Frettenham not until April 28th, the latest date for 41 years.

Passage at Scolt Head continued throughout May with best totals (all west) 1100 19th, 435 20th, 550 28th and 185 29th. Elsewhere in May at other north coast localities 200 east Sheringham 11th, 210 east Cromer 16th and 422 west Blakeney Point 19th, with 243 west there 28th. Highest concentrations elsewhere at this time 60 Pentney GP 14th, 120 Snettisham CP and 80 Sustead 15th, and 120 Colney GP 15th-17th. Movement continued into June at Scolt Head with 355 west 5th and 85 west 13th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 92% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 7 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Several large gatherings noted during July with 100 Sustead 22nd, 500 feeding over Scolt Head 28th and 500 Lopham Fen 31st. In Aug 100 roosting Martham Broad 14th, 1000 Titchwell 23rd and 100 feeding Norwich Airport 31st. At Scolt Head large movements again noted in Aug with (all west) 285 1st, 735 14th, 265 18th and 345 21st; in addition 550 were feeding over island 20th with 750 there Sept 2nd and 250 Sept 6th. Passage very light in Sept with 47 west Sheringham 12th, the highest count. Noteworthy gatherings were 200 Harling 21st and 2500 mixed hirundines Cantley BF 18th.

Numbers still present early Oct with 105 west Scolt Head 7th the highest. In final week reported from Hunstanton (2), Sheringham, Winterton (13) and Hopton/Corton (2) 24th, Titchwell (10), Warham Greens, Kelling (2), Sea Palling (23) and Stubb Mill (9) 25th, Holme (3), Titchwell (3) and Waxham (12) 27th, Burnham Overy 30th and Winterton 31st. In Nov reported during first week at Horsey 2nd, Sea Palling 3rd, and Wells and Walcott (3) 4th. Two late birds at Claxton 26th and Roughton 27th were last of year.

Three reports, all relating to a sand-coloured bird, may involve a single individual. The first was at Yarmouth March 29th followed by two in Sept, Caister GC 12th and Yarmouth 15th. Another bird with a two-toned red rump was present at Cantley BF for several days in early Sept.

Red-rumped Swallow

Hirundo daurica

Vagrant from southern Europe

One spent much of the afternoon at Eccles/Sea Palling Nov 3rd (JVB IH *et al*). What was almost certainly the same bird was present in early morning the following day at Winterton (PCa). This is the first record since Nov 1997.

House Martin

Delichon urbica

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant

Spring migration began with an early bird at Barton Broad March 18th. No reports then until end of month when one Barnhamcross Common 29th and 5 Pensthorpe 31st. Early April records from Cromer and Winterton 2nd, Cley and Thetford Nunnery Flood (5) 5th, Beeston Bump 6th, Trunch 7th, Whitlingham CP 8th and Wroxham Broad (2) 10th. Small numbers only until last week when (all west) 135 Scolt Head 28th, 510 29th and 195 30th. In May numbers remained low, the only significant counts being 50 Colney GP 4th increasing to

100 17th. Very little coastal passage until last week when 300/hr west Paston (0600-1000) 26th and 275 west Scolt Head same date with 285 there 27th and 115 29th. Max counts, however, occurred on 28th when large numbers moved west at several north coast sites with totals of 1195 Scolt Head, 505 Blakeney Point, 150 Sheringham and 600/hr Paston (0600-1000). In June good numbers continued moving west at Scolt Head with 175 5th and 554 9th. Inland several concentrations noted June 3rd with 300 Whitlingham CP, 200 Sparham GP and 100 Marston Marsh, Norwich.

Breeding records included (nests/pairs): Chedgrave/Hardley/Langley area 73 (74 in 2000, 50 in 1999), Elsing Mill 6-8, Fleggburgh Sports Village 8, Fox and Hounds PH, Filby 15, Gooderstone 15 on farm house, Haddiscoe 12, Horning Hall 30 and Old Catton 10 in 2 small colonies. At Holme NWT artificial nest boxes were used by 2 pairs, the first breeding at the site for 15 years; both were successful. NBA results showed the species was present in 78% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 9 pairs per occupied tetrad.

In Aug, inland gatherings included 200 Swanton Morley GP 18th (including 100 juvs), 150 Great Ryburgh 21st, 100 Pensthorpe 23rd and 220 Felbrigg Park 25th. Coastal movement began mid-month when 165 west Scolt Head 14th and 55 west there 21st, and 140 west Sheringham 28th. Apart from a heavy passage noted at both Cley and Horsey 15th very little coastal movement reported in Sept until 850 west Sheringham 28th and 105 west there 30th. Large feeding flocks reported during month with 700 Cantley BF 16th, 150-200 UEA 19th and 2000 over Overstrand Cliffs and village 30th.

Passage in early Oct included 156 south Hunstanton 1st, 105 west Scolt Head 7th, and 85 east Salthouse, 150 Cromer, 100/hr east Paston and 200 south Ranworth Broad (1200-1400) 8th. Apart from 70 Winterton 27th, numbers were much reduced during rest of month, the final seven days producing reports from Holme, Sheringham (3) and Winterton 24th, Hunstanton (8), Cromer and Sea Palling (6) 25th, West Runton (4) 27th and Hunstanton (2) 30th. Two reports in Nov from Ranworth Broad 1st and Winterton (4) 4th were last of year.

Richard's Pipit

Anthus novaeseelandiae

Virtually annual autumn migrant from western Siberia; rare in spring and winter

Recorded in spring for fifth consecutive year, when singles Blakeney Point April 26th and Weybourne 30th.

A good autumn with total of around 55 recorded, 26 Sept, 27 Oct and 2 Nov. First Sept 20th when singles Wells, Kelling WM and Waxham, followed next day by 4 Wells and singles Holme, Sea Palling and Breydon. Seen on a further 6 dates during rest of month including 3 Sheringham 27th, 2 Wells 25th and singles Holme, Thornham, Scolt Head, Burnham Norton, Morston, Blakeney Point, Beeston Bump, Waxham and Winterton. Recorded on 21 dates in Oct, mostly singles but 3 Scolt Head 13th, 2 Holme 5th and 2 Sheringham 25th-27th. Most other records one day birds or flyovers apart from singles Holme 1st-5th, Happisburgh 9th-11th and 1-2 Sheringham 21st-27th. Also during month singles Snettisham, Old Hunstanton, Burnham Overy, Cley, Kelling WM, West Runton, Sidestrand, Eccles and inland at East Ruston 11th. Last of year Nov when singles Happisburgh 15th-18th and Waxham/Horsey 16th-27th.

Blyth's Pipit

Anthus godlewskii

Rare vagrant from Siberia

1999 Addition: Happisburgh Sept 25th-29th (PJH AJK *et al*) - the second county record; see article page 285.

Tawny Pipit

Anthus campestris

Scarce migrant from southern Europe

Three typical records with one Holme May 11th/12th (GPD *et al*) and at Sheringham one Sept 19th, 2 20th/21st and one still 22nd (RL MAW TW *et al*).

Olive-backed Pipit

Anthus hodgsoni

A rare autumn migrant

One Holkham Meals Sept 26th (CDH) was first county record since 1996 and sixth for this site.

Tree Pipit

Anthus trivialis

Migratory breeder and passage migrant

First Cromer GC April 3rd, followed by singles Weybourne 7th and Thetford 8th. No other records until 16th when 2 Thetford, with 8 there 19th, after which widespread at inland breeding sites. Main coastal passage April 21st-29th, but numbers generally low with highest counts 3 Holme 22nd, 3 at Holme, Scolt Head and Cromer 25th, 3 again Scolt Head 27th, and 4 at both Scolt Head and Sea Palling 29th. Passage remained light during May with 1-2 on 12 dates, last 2 west Scolt Head 27th.

Few breeding records, hopefully as a result of restricted access rather than a further decline, with singing males Cawston Heath, Cockley Cley, Drymere, East Wretham Heath, Holt Lowes, Horsford Woods, Kelling Heath (3), Marsham Heath, Salthouse Heath, Santon Downham (2), Thetford Warren (3), Weeting Heath (2) and Weybourne.

Autumn passage confined mainly to period Sept 18th-28th, when recorded daily involving around 40 birds, including 2 Blakeney Point 18th, 4 Scolt Head and 2 Horsey 20th, 2 at Blakeney Point, Waxham and Winterton 21st, 3 Scolt Head and 2 Winterton 24th, 2 Blakeney Point 25th, 2 south Langham 26th and 3 Overstrand 28th. Last of year early Oct when singles Winterton 3rd and Cromer GC 4th.

Meadow Pipit

Anthus pratensis

Locally common migratory breeder and passage migrant with small numbers in winter

Highest counts in first winter period 82 Merton Feb 2nd, 50 Waxham Jan 21st, 35 East Tuddenham March, 33 Welney Feb 22nd, 30 Blackborough End Tip Feb 17th and 24 Bridgham Heath Feb 2nd.

Spring passage from at least mid-March until end of April. Overhead coastal passage peaked late March and early April, main movements all west when in March 1025 Holme and 120 Mundesley 28th, 269 Holme and 110 Cromer (0700-0845) 29th, 165 Scolt Head and 385 Beeston Bump (0630-0830) 30th, 1275 Scolt Head, 1020 Beeston Bump (0640-0740), 860 Cromer and 120 Mundesley 31st, and in April 272 Holme, 1025 Scolt Head, 414 Beeston Bump (0625-0745) and 171 Cromer 1st. Only other movements of note during April 265 Scolt Head 17th and 260 Beeston Bump (0950-1100) 14th. Only notable flocks on ground during spring 400 Holme March 28th and 50 Burnham Overy Dunes May 13th.

Little breeding information but included the following pairs/singing males: 104 Blakeney Point, 89 Scolt Head, 71 Welney, 19 Burnham Overy Dunes and 9 around Long Stratton area. NBA results showed the species was present in 38% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage extended from late July through until early Nov. Largest flocks 80 Scolt Head July 24th, with 115 Aug 5th, 185 Sept 20th, 80 Oct 13th-18th; 60 Sheringham Sept 20th, 100 Blakeney Point 21st, 150 Horsey 22nd, and 200 Roydon Common 28th with 400

roosting there Nov 11th. Little overhead passage: best counts total 897 south Hunstanton Cliffs Oct 1st-Nov 19th, including 118 Oct 3rd, 110 4th, 65 6th and 75 Nov 2nd; 175 Scolt Head Sept 12th, where in Oct 235 12th, 295 13th and 75 25th (all moving west); 200 south Langham Sept 27th.

Max counts at end of year 50 Scolt Head Nov 4th and 82 Dec 2nd, 45 Sheringham Dec 31st, 28 Yarmouth South Denes Dec 3rd and 20 Denver Sluice Dec 30th.

Rock Pipit

Anthus petrosus

Winter visitor and passage migrant, most probably of the Scandinavian race littoralis

Under-recorded in first winter period with best counts Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr where 44 Jan and 114 Feb. Only other counts of note all during Jan when 20 Burnham Overy Hbr, 19 Holkham Bay, 16 Morston and 12 Titchwell. Inland records during this period 4 Cantley BF Feb 14th and one Pensthorpe March 24th. Few after mid-March with singles Caister March 31st, Scolt Head April 17th and last Blakeney Point April 21st.

First in autumn Overstrand where one Sept 11th and 2 12th, but no others until 3 Scolt Head, singles Blakeney Point, Weybourne and Sheringham 20th, and Holme 21st. Highest counts of birds on saltmarsh during autumn all from Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr where 30 Sept 26th and 135 Oct 18th. Overhead passage also best recorded at Scolt Head where moving west 42 Sept 25th and in Oct 72 12th, 142 13th, 55 17th, 95 18th, 55 22nd and 72 23rd. Elsewhere total of 120 south Hunstanton Cliffs Oct 1st-Nov 19th, 20 west Sheringham Oct 13th and 15 west West Runton 15th.

Only noteworthy counts at end of year yet again Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr where 564 Nov and 501 Dec; good numbers were presumably present on other saltmarshes along the coast. One inland record Cantley BF Dec 13th.

Water Pipit

Anthus spinoletta

Local winter visitor

During first winter period max counts: 3 How Hill Jan 8th/9th and 6 Feb 27th, 3 Haddiscoe Jan 10th, 3 Strumpshaw Jan 12th, 10 Cley Jan 13th-20th, 8 Feb 1st and 3 March 14th, 4 Hickling Broad Jan 13th and 7 Feb 22nd, 5 Salthouse and 8 Buckenham Jan 20th, 3 Wissington BF Feb 3rd, 4 Titchwell Feb 13th and 8 Burnham Norton Feb 24th. Also 1-2 Blakeney GM, Cantley BF, Holme, Horsey and Hockwold Washes during the period, suggesting a wintering population of around 50 at start of year. Last of spring singles Cley April 7th and Buckenham 16th.

First of autumn west Sheringham Sept 29th, with 3 west West Runton Oct 15th, and singles Titchwell 16th and 22nd, How Hill 16th/17th, Alby 19th and 2 Buckenham 28th. Few during last two months of year with 3 Cley Nov 28th and 5 Dec 20th, 5 Buckenham Nov 5th and 9 Dec 8th-13th, 4 How Hill Dec 28th, and singles Cantley BF, Hickling Broad, Hockwold Washes and Titchwell.

Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava

Yellow Wagtail *M (f) flavissima*

Declining migratory breeder and passage migrant

First arrivals 3 Berney March 30th followed by singles Pentney GP 31st, Heacham, Hunstanton, Cley and Cromer April 1st, Scolt Head and Welney 2nd, and Holme 3rd. A steady movement continued throughout April from 6th with first double-figure count 25 Holme 10th. Counts of 27 Holme 12th and 54 Welney 18th preceded a late main passage

which started on 25th when 25 west Scolt Head and 13 Beeston Regis followed by 40 Salthouse on 26th, 40 Cley and 22 Horsey 27th, 30 west Paston and 43 Horsey 28th, 75 Snettisham CP, 60 Ken Hill FM, 105 west Seolt Head and 22 Horsey all 29th, and 33 west Seolt Head on 30th. A lighter passage continued throughout May with highest counts 23 Cley 5th, 25 Beeston Regis 10th and 16 Blakeney GM 28th.

Confirmed breeding reported at only 6 localities, 4 down on 200, with 37 pairs Welney, 7 Wootton, 5 Oby, 3 Ludham, 3 Ostend, and a single pair Paston. Elsewhere probable breeding Cantley BF where 15 juvs July 21st, 2 pairs may have bred Holkham NNR, 2 pairs in summer West Walton, probable breeding Southrepps where several seen May-Aug, 3 pairs Feltwell and one pair East Ruston.

A light summer passage commenced mid-Aug with 6 west Holme 14th, 6 Lynn Point 22nd, 11 west Seolt Head 19th and 24th, and 5 west Sheringham 26th the main coastal movements. Counts elsewhere included 60 Welney 12th and 45 to roost Burgh Castle Glebe Marsh reedbed 18th. Steady light passage throughout Sept with only concentrations Welney where 70 3rd and 33 on 14th, otherwise no other double-figure counts/movements. In Oct 2 Cley 3rd and single 9th, 2 Titchwell 6th, singles Hunstanton 6th and 12th, 4 Welney 7th and west Seolt Head 16th. A very late bird west Holme Nov 19th, the latest since 1982.

Blue-headed Wagtail *M (f) flava*

Regular migrant from continental Europe, mainly in spring

The first Horsey April 22nd and Beeston Regis 25th followed by mainly 1-2 at 9 localities to end of month, with 5 Horsey 27th and 6 28th, and 6 Blakeney GM 27th-29th. In May 7 singles at 4 localities with 3 Blakeney Point 8th and 2 there 28th. No autumn records.

Grey-headed Wagtail *M (f) thunbergi*

Scarce spring migrant from North Fenno-Scandia

Single males Burnham Norton, Kelling WM and Beeston Regis May 10th, Blakeney Point 11th, Cley 15th, Weybourne/Sheringham 23rd, Seolt Head June 13th and Cley/Salthouse Sept 3rd.

Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

Local breeder, fairly common passage migrant, less common in winter

Records of 1-2 but mainly singles from at least 28 widespread localities during first winter period. Extremely light spring passage with 1-2 noted at 10 coastal localities March/April.



Grey Wagtail (Steve Cale)

Birds on territories from mid-March with at least 18 confirmed breeding pairs at Bayfield, Bintree Mill, Blickling Mill, Bridgham, East Harling, Ellingham Mill, Great Ryburgh, Hellesdon Mill, Honingham, Lakenheath, Loddon Mill, Lyng, Newton Flotman Mill, Norwich (Barn Road), Raynham Park, Saham Toney, Sculthorpe Mill and Thetford. At least 8 more pairs at traditional breeding sites where some may have bred, plus 1-2 at several other suitable sites during summer.

Other than a single Beeston Regis Aug 13th the first post breeding dispersal not noted on coast until early Sept when singles Overstrand 5th, 11th and 12th, and Winterton 15th, with main light passage from 22nd continuing until end Oct with records mainly of 1-2 from north and east coasts. A good series of sightings at Sheringham with 3 west 2 east Sept 25th, 3 west one east there 26th, 4 west one east 28th and 5 west Oct 13th, with 4 west Happisburgh Sept 27th and 4 west Scolt Head Oct 23rd. At Hunstanton Cliffs total 9 south Oct 1st-Nov 15th. One in off sea Sea Palling Nov 1st.

In second winter period recorded at 13 widespread localities in Nov/Dec.

White/Pied Wagtail

Motacilla alba

Pied Wagtail *M (a) yarrellii*

Common breeding resident and passage migrant

At start of year Norwich Brigg St the major roost locality again where 482 Jan 3rd, 885 4th, 1943 6th, a new Norfolk record count of 2213 12th, 2085 17th and 1170 Feb 4th/5th. Roosts of note elsewhere: 30 Brancaster Staithe Jan 18th with 150 there March 11th and 16th; 30 Cley Jan 7th and 80 Feb 26th; 30 Cromer Safeway Jan 15th; 200 Horsey Mere Feb 24th; 80-120 most evenings Sprowston Retail Park in Jan with 150-160 on 24th; 50 Bagmore Pond (Stanford TA) Feb 20th; 120 Stanford Water Jan 27th; 100 Garboldisham Feb 22nd; 70 Guist Common April 30th. The only notable pre-roost gathering 90-150 Homebase Store, Salhouse Road, Norwich in Jan and early Feb.

Main westerly spring movement in March saw 46 Holme 12th and 156 28th, 29 Scolt Head 29th and 34 on 31st, 22 Cley 27th, 17 Beeston Regis (0640-0740) and 19 Cromer 31st. Two reasonable April counts 30 Waxham 14th and 10 Holme 22nd.

NBA results showed the species was present in 91% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

At Guist Marsh 45 at roost June 20th. Good numbers roosting at Brancaster Staithe where 540 Aug 5th, 550 19th, 250 Sept 3rd with 200 4th and 22nd; 160 Cantley BF Aug 7th; 35 Horsey Aug 20th with 45 Sept 15th; 100 Thetford Nunnery Lakes Aug 28th; 42 Long Stratton and 28 on garden lawn Burnham Market in Sept.

The only autumn coastal movements of note 20 south Hunstanton Oct 5th with 32 south 6th and 20 south on 13th, when also 10 west Scolt Head and 8 west 5 east Sheringham.

At Norwich Brigg St roost remained unoccupied to end of year. Elsewhere: 70 Brancaster Staithe Oct 10th, 160 Nov 29th and 180 Dec 15th; 100 Snettisham in Dec; 30 Cromer Safeway Dec 2nd; 100 Horsey Mill/Mere Oct 28th, 80 Nov 3rd, 35 Dec 3rd and 16th, with 65 on 7th; 60 Irstead Oct 28th; 250 Thickthorn Services (Hethersett) in Dec; 250 Mile Cross Lane Norwich (Comet) Nov 3rd; 60 Rushmeadow STW (East Dereham) Dec 2nd-30th; 50 Threxton STW Dec 31st. A pre-roost flock of 40 Holt Dec 21st.

White Wagtail *M (a) alba*

Regular passage migrant from continental Europe; has bred

First Cley March 11th and Salhouse 13th followed by occasional record of 1-3 north/east

coasts rest of month. Main movement late April especially notable Scolt Head where 4 22nd, 4 27th and 5 29th, when also 16 west. Only a single May record Blakeney Point 12th/13th.

In autumn singles East Ruston Aug 22nd, 6 Cley/Salthouse Sept 3rd and West Runton Oct 9th and 16th.

Waxwing

Bombycilla garrulus

Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor

The major influx, which began in late Dec 2000, continued into 2001. Birds were reported all over the county with some sizeable flocks noted. Largest gatherings: *Jan* 60 Acle, 48 North Walsham, 44 Thornham, 31 Thetford, 28 Holme, 26 Beeston Regis, 25 Hunstanton, 23 Yarmouth, 22 Rockland St Mary, 21 Croxton and Holt, 20 Cantley and Ludham, and 18 Ormesby St Michael and Gorleston; *Feb* 45 Trowse, 36 Lakenham, 31 Yarmouth, 29 Norwich (Bowthorpe Rd), 27 Thorpe St Andrew (Dussingdale Ave) and 17 Norwich Hospital, Scole, Thetford and Thorpe Marriott; *March* 110 Trowse, 51 Thorpe St Andrew (Dussingdale Ave), 35 Belton, 23 Thorpe St Andrew (Harvey Lane), 20 Easton, Norwich (Drayton Rd) and Scole, and 18 Buxton-with-Lammas; *April* 39 Thetford, 30 Belton and Cringleford, 26 Thetford Nunnery and 24 Easton.

Elsewhere during this period smaller numbers reported from Attlebridge, Aylsham, Babingley, Banningham, Barnhamcross Common, Beeston Common, Brundall, Burgh St Peter, Burnham Deepdale, Burnham Norton, Caister, Cantley, Cley, Costessey, Cromer, Diss, Ditchingham, Docking, East Dereham, East Ruston, East Tuddenham, Emneth, Fakenham, Felthorpe, Filby, Gorleston, Haddiscoe, Heacham, Hellesdon, Hempton, Herringfleet, Hickling, Hillingdon, Holkham, Horsey, Horsham St Faith, Hindringham, Kenninghall, Lingwood, Loddon, Long Stratton, Ludham, Marham, Morston, Narborough, North Tuddenham, Norwich (4 sites), Old Catton, Old Cosstessey, Ormesby Broad, Overstrand, Postwick, Ranworth, Repps with Bastwick, Roydon (near Diss), Scratby, Sedgeford, Sheringham, Snettisham, Sporle, Sprowston, Stibbard, Stockton, Strumpshaw, Sutton, Swaffham, Swanton Abbot, Thurlton, Titchwell, Trunch, Watlington, Watton, Waxham, Wayland Wood, Wells, Weybourne, Winfarthing, Winterton, Wiveton and Wymondham.

In second winter period early arrivals reported Oct with 3 Fakenham 12th, one in off sea Scolt Head 18th, and 2 south Hunstanton and 2 Wells 23rd. Several records in last two months of year, although most were present on only one day. The only birds that lingered were 2 Cromer Nov 19th-Dec 3rd and at Northrepps where one Nov 1st was joined by a second next day, both remaining to 3rd. Elsewhere in this period noted at Beeston Regis, Docking, Hunstanton (3), Old Hunstanton (5), Mundesley, Potter Heigham/Hickling (2), Sheringham, Titchwell and Wighton in Nov, and Blakeney, Sculthorpe Airbase, Sutton (3), Watlington and Wighton in Dec.



Waxwings (Phil Jones)

Wren

Troglodytes troglodytes

Very common resident and passage migrant in small numbers

Five sites supplied breeding data with following pairs/singing males: Boyland Wood 20, Catton Park, Old Catton 12, Scolt Head 35, Snettisham RSPB 6 and Welney 39. Both Scolt Head and Welney showed an increase of one over last year, indicating a stable breeding population at both sites. NBA results showed the species was present in 95% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 21 pairs per occupied tetrad.

In autumn an influx occurred Oct 13th with 25 Burnham Overy Dunes in a single clump of bushes and 50 Scolt Head, where 30 also Sept 25th and Oct 18th.

Dunnock

Prunella modularis

Common resident and passage migrant, especially in autumn

In first winter period reports in Jan of 20 in game cover at Sparham 13th and one high west Beeston Bump 30th. One record of spring coastal movement 8 west Scolt Head April 1st.

Breeding data only from 5 sites with following pairs/singing males: Boyland Wood 10, Scolt Head 63, Snettisham RSPB 8, Titchwell 18 and Welney 7. Scolt Head population seems stable (64 in 2000) but Welney showed decrease of 22% on last year. NBA results showed the species was present in 93% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 10 pairs per occupied tetrad.

In autumn in Sept 65 Scolt Head 20th, 50 Holme and 45 Scolt Head 25th, and in Oct 35 Holme and 20 Sheringham 13th, 20 Sheringham 15th and 70 Scolt Head 18th. Visible migration noted Oct at Snettisham CP where 2 south 6th, Hunstanton (all south) 2 11th, 3 12th and one 13th, and Scolt Head (all west) 6 12th, 9 13th, 5 17th and 6 28th.

Robin

Erithacus rubecula

Common resident and passage migrant, especially in autumn

Spring passage very light; up to two on four dates at Scolt Head in April. Very few breeding season records: 15 territories Boyland Wood (an increase from 8 in 1998 and 11 in 1999) and 12 singing males Catton Park with 7 at Welney. NBA results showed the species was present in 93% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 16 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage Scolt Head Aug 30th-Oct 22nd with max 55 Sept 24th and 175 on 25th. This influx also noted elsewhere along north coast with 150 Holme, 100 Blakeney Point, and 77 trapped and ringed at Weybourne on 25th; on same date 19 of 30 trapped at Sheringham were 'continental' birds. On 26th 60 Sheringham and 20 Beeston Bump. At least 50 at Overstrand Sept 21st-23rd slightly preceded the above arrival. In Oct smaller arrivals of 20 Sheringham 13th-15th, 20 Cromer 17th, and 45 Scolt Head and 40 Yarmouth Cemetery 21st.

2000 Correction: The number of territories at Wheatfen should read 28 not 78.

Nightingale

Luscinia megarhynchos

Local migratory breeder and very scarce passage migrant

First returning bird was in song Pensthorpe April 8th followed by others Holme 12th, 24th and 29th with 3 25th, Hunstanton GC April 21st and Yarmouth Cemetery 25th/26th. In last week of month singles singing at several sites where not known to breed: Ickburgh, Ken Hill Wood, Southacre, Two Mile Bottom and Westacre. A single Titchwell May 11th was probably a late migrant.

Singing males on breeding territories in May at Alderford Common 2, Barnhamcross Common, Boughton Fen 2, Catfield Fen, Cranwich GP 2, Crostwick Common, Feltwell 8,

Foulden Common, Hopton, Hunstanton GC 4, Kettlestone Common 2, Lynford GP, Narborough, Newton Mill, Norwich (Sweetbriar Marsh), Pentney GP 4, Roydon Common 2, Salthouse Heath 7, Snettisham CP 2-3, West Bilney, Weybourne (Muckleburgh Hill) and Wissington BF. Last of year one in song Salthouse Heath June 15th. Particularly under-recorded, especially in Brecks and Fens, due to access restrictions.

Bluethroat

Luscinia svecica

Scarce passage migrant, now more frequently recorded in spring

A single of the white-spotted race *cyaneacula* Cley March 28th (PLa *et al*) and another, probably also this race, at same site April 22nd (RFP); there are only six definite previous county records of this race. Subsequently male red-spot in song Scolt Head May 12th.

In autumn singles Blakeney Point Sept 19th, and Scolt Head and Blakeney Point Sept 25th.



White-spotted Bluethroat (*Vince Hanlon*)

Black Redstart

Phoenicurus ochruros

Rare migratory breeder, regular passage migrant and occasional in winter

At start of year single through Jan to early March Sheringham and others in Jan/Feb at Heacham, Hunstanton and Wymondham. Spring passage March 10th (Yarmouth Cemetery) to May 23rd (Blakeney Point); mostly singles at 28 sites with peaks of 5 Winterton, 4 Yarmouth Cemetery, 3 Scolt Head and 3 Sheringham Cemetery all last week of March, and 3 Burnham Overy Dunes May 4th. Inland records Haddiscoe March 19th-22nd, Aylsham 28th, Norwich Railway Station 30th and Thorpe St Andrew April 15th.

Birds arrived back in breeding areas in Yarmouth April 5th and up to 6 singing males at two sites. In Norwich singing males at two sites in May. Single bird also present at suitable breeding site King's Lynn May 23rd. Late single migrants or wandering birds in June Scolt Head 5th, Holme 19th, Blakeney Point 27th and Cromer 30th; also singles in July Beeston Bump 8th, Trimmingham 9th, and Scolt Head 13th.

Gradual dispersal from breeding areas in Aug; first birds on autumn passage Sept 26th (Titchwell) and continued to Nov 3rd (Holme). Passage very light with singles at 20 sites with Oct max of 7 Scolt Head and 3 Burnham Overy Dunes 21st, 3 Cley 23rd, 2 Blakeney Point 19th, 2 Happisburgh 22nd and 2 Winterton 25th-27th.

Redstart

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Local migratory breeder (most in Brecks), common passage migrant

First in spring male Salhouse April 2nd, followed by female Yarmouth South Denes on 5th, and another male Aylmerton 7th. Very light passage (some coastal sites not reporting any) continued to May 23rd (Blakeney Point) mostly of singles; low peaks of 4 Holme 2nd/3rd May, 2 Sheringham April 22nd and 2 Yarmouth Cemetery May 9th. Inland records of singles West Tofts April 9th, East Wretham Heath 21st, Ranworth 26th, and Bunwell and Feltwell May 13th,

In breeding season no records from Brecks but 2 males in song Sheringham Park May and early June, one seen collecting food at end of May.

In Aug singles at Cley 19th, Blakeney Point 23rd, 26th and 27th, and Waxham 31st - Sept 2nd. Passage during Sept mostly of singles at north and east coast localities with larger-scale arrivals of 42 Scolt Head, 25 Holkham Meals, 30 Blakeney Point, 25 Sheringham, 15 Eccles and 20 Winterton all 19th; 20 Yarmouth Cemetery 19th/20th; 40 Overstrand 19th-25th; 30 Holme, 12 Holkham Meals, 23 Happisburgh, 11 Waxham and 20-25 Winterton all 20th; 60 Holme, 35 Warham Greens-Stiffkey, 14 Beeston Regis, 42 Eccles-Sea Palling and 12 Yarmouth Cemetery all 21st. A further arrival 24th-26th resulted in totals of 60 Holme, 80 Scolt Head, 20 Holkham Meals, 10 Stiffkey, 50 Blakeney Point, 15 Morston, 30 Sheringham, 20 Winterton and 15 Yarmouth Cemetery. In Oct mostly singles at 6 sites with latest Titchwell, Stiffkey and Winterton on 21st.

Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra

Common passage migrant; has bred in past

Earliest were 2 Beeston Regis April 25th followed by singles Titchwell 26th, Weybourne 27th, and Holme, Scolt Head and Blakeney Point 28th; by end of month up to 3 birds at six coastal sites. Very light passage during May with records, mostly of singles, at over 20 sites with peaks of 6 Hunstanton GC 2nd, 3 Holme 5th, 4 Scolt Head and 6 Blakeney Point 12th; last of spring single Titchwell June 12th. Inland records in May of singles Narborough 7th, Sparham 9th, Langham 12th, and Buckenham and Colney CP 19th.

First returning birds in autumn 2 Winterton Aug 4th followed by singles at Cley 10th and Horsey 11th. Passage during Aug mostly of singles at coastal sites but increasing towards end of month with peaks of 5 Scolt Head 24th, 7 Sheringham and 16 Winterton 25th, 13 Blakeney Point 30th and 5 Waxham 31st. Widely reported during Sept but very few large arrivals except for 16 Winterton 18th, 10 Blakeney Point and 13 Waxham 20th, 14 Holme, 6 Eccles and 16 Sea Palling 21st, 9 Scolt Head 24th, 8 Sheringham 26th and 5 Beeston Bump 25th-27th. Numbers declined steadily in early Oct with ones and twos at 17 sites; low peaks of 6 Burnham Norton 2nd, 3 Sheringham 7th and 13th, 3 Beeston Bump also 13th and 4 Titchwell 17th; last of year Beeston Bump Nov 1st-5th.

Inland records of singles at Buckenham Aug 17th and Oct 6th/7th, Catfield 24th,



Whinchat (Steve Cale)

Brograve Level 25th; Felbrigg Park Sept 14th, Edgefield 19th, Cantley BF 23rd; Norwich Airport Oct 4th, East Ruston 30th. At Welney good passage noted with singles Aug 19th and 23rd, 2 25th, singles Sept 7th-9th, Oct 8th, 11th and 2 12th.

Stonechat

Saxicola torquata

European Stonechat *S (t) hibernans*

Very small breeding population; regular passage migrant, local in winter

Well reported at start of year with up to two at 23 sites in Jan and Feb; several sites now regularly occupied in winter with max 5 Waxham, 4 Sheringham, Winterton and Haddiscoe, and 3 Holme, Titchwell, Blakeney and Breydon/Berney. Also recorded inland at Brograve Level, Chedgrave Marshes, Hickling Broad, Hoekwold Washes (3), Potter Heigham, Runham (2), St Benet's Level, Strumpshaw, Welney (2) and Wissington BF.

Light spring passage, max 4 Blakeney Point March 9th, 6 Weybourne 11th and 6 Holme 14th, otherwise most birds on breeding territories by mid-April.

At least 12 pairs bred or held territory, mostly at traditional sites, with 8 pairs between Waxham and Winterton South Dunes; for first time in several years none bred on Salthouse Heath and only one pair reported in Brecks - Hopton Point. Elsewhere breeding birds at Morston, Salthouse (Gramborough Hill) and Sea Palling.

Autumn passage light with most birds in Sept and Oct at or near coastal breeding sites; away from these areas peaks of 5 Sheringham Sept 26th-Oct 24th, 6 Holme Oct 6th, 6 Cley 19th and 7 Scolt Head 20th.

By Nov most birds back in wintering areas with up to two at 27 coastal localities with max of 7 Breydon/Berney, 5 Holme and Cley, and 4 Sheringham and Gorleston. At close of year up to 7 Winterton, 5 Breydon and Cley, 4 Gorleston and 3 Salthouse, and one or two birds at a further 13 sites. Inland records from Beachamwell, Buekenham, Cantley, Feltwell, Rockland Broad, Roydon Common (3), Sparham, Welney, West Walton and Wiggshall St Mary Magdalen (3).

Wheatear

Oenanthe oenanthe

Increasingly rare migratory breeder and common passage migrant

First of year a male Cley March 10th, another West Runton 15th followed by singles Salthouse 20th and Holme 22nd; by month end singles at further 12 sites with max 7 Hunstanton and 9 Salthouse 28th, and 8 Weybourne 29th. Passage during April mostly light with very few large arrivals, max 5 Salthouse 6th, 5 Weybourne 7th, 6 Beeston Bump 22nd, 15 Scolt Head 28th, and 6 Snettisham, 12 Scolt Head and 12 Winterton 29th. Light passage continued into May with max 15 Cley-Salthouse 3rd, 19 Winterton 4th, 7 Holme 5th, 15 Scolt Head 12th and up to 3 at 18 other sites. In June late passage of 5 Holme 1st and 4 Blakeney Point 4th, and singles Titchwell, Cley, Muckleburgh Hill, East Ruston, Hickling Broad and Winterton; last of spring singles Holme and Titchwell 19th.

In July singles Blakeney Point 14th-16th and 26th, closely followed by others Sheringham 29th and Holme 30th. Steady passage through Aug with first large-scale arrival in last days of month when 21 Scolt Head and 7 Yarmouth 27th, followed by 13 Blakeney Point and 10 Cley-Salthouse 30th. In Sept two main arrival periods 18th-20th and 25th/26th; in first period 25 Holme, 43 Scolt Head, 20 Blakeney Point, 22 Sheringham, 50 Cromer GC, 26 Paston, 24 Sea Palling, 18 Waxham, 44 Winterton and 20 Caister GC. In second period 40 Holme, 33 Scolt Head, 20 Burnham Overy GM, 20 Holkham Bay, 45 Blakeney Point, 50

Kelling-Weybourne, 55 Sheringham, 21 Happisburgh and 30 Winterton. Passage during Oct generally low with small influx around 9th with max 7 Hunstanton GC, 11 Beeston Bump, 6 West Runton, 8 Cromer GC and 6 Happisburgh. Only two Nov records singles Wells 1st and Winterton 2nd-4th.

Ring Ouzel

Turdus torquatus

Passage migrant in fluctuating numbers; exceptional in winter

First of spring Yarmouth South Denes March 14th then noted at a further 8 coastal sites until month end; mainly singles but 8 Weybourne and 3 south Beeston Bump 28th. In April, small influx 3rd when 5 Cromer GC, 4 Beeston Bump, 2 Eccles and Yarmouth Cemetery, plus singles Holme and Sheringham. Then 1-2 daily in first half of month with peak count 5 Choseley 9th. Higher numbers during second half of month when 4 Beeston Regis and 7 Winterton 21st (with 8 there 25th) and 5 Cromer GC 24th.

Recorded May from 16 sites up to 24th (Waxham), all singles except 2 Scolt Head 12th; as usual majority of records from coastal sites but also recorded inland at Burnham Market, Caistor St Edmund, East Harling, East Ruston, Edgefield, Filby, Sustead and West Beckham. Final bird of spring Friary Hills, Blakeney June 8th.

Return passage from Sept 18th when single Yarmouth Cemetery then 1-3 at further 10 sites until month end. Protracted movement throughout Oct including one south at Langham with Redwings 16th and one Weybourne 16th-29th when found dead. Mostly 1-3 but peak counts Scolt Head of 7 18th and 8 21st. Final bird of year Brancaster Nov 4th. Autumn singles from inland sites at Acle, Burnham Market, Cantley BF, Langham, Hockwold Washes and Welney.

Blackbird

Turdus merula

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Only notable count in first winter period 57 Hempstead Rectory Jan 7th but evidence of cold weather movement from Scolt Head where 7 Jan 9th. Return movement from March 15th when 53 Yarmouth Cemetery with peak count 252 south-east Cromer GC at dusk March 29th. Last migrant of spring Scolt Head May 12th.



Blackbird (Steve Cale)

Breeding: 10 pairs Boyland Wood, 20 pairs Titchwell and 29 territories Welney, the latter being an increase of over 50% at the site since 1999. NBA results showed the species was present in 95% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 28 pairs per occupied tetrad.

First of autumn 2 Blakeney Point Sept 25th with 50 East Ruston 26th. In Oct, double-figure counts in first half of month from Scolt Head, Beeston Bump and Overstrand but main movement from 18th when 255 Scolt Head. Peak counts 1600 Scolt Head 21st and 1000 Holkham Meals 23rd but numbers dwindled quickly by month end. Another wave of migrants Nov 10th/11th when 200 Lynn Point, 100 Snettisham, 216 Hunstanton, 150 Holkham Meals, 1500 west Sheringham, and 100 west Watton. Small-scale movement continued into Dec when 25 Scolt Head 2nd/3rd and 30 Holme 7th. Peak counts in second half of month 25 Burnham Market 24th, 42 in a Dereham garden 26th and 100 Thornham 31st.

Fieldfare

Turdus pilaris

Common passage migrant and winter visitor

In Jan peak counts 1000 Chedgrave Marshes 6th, 1500 Snettisham CP 11th, 1000 St Benet's Level 13th and 1000 Felbrigg Park 26th, with three-figure counts widespread across the county. Numbers in Feb still impressive with 1500 Diss and three-figure counts at a further 11 sites. Evidence of return movement in March with 300 north Stibbard 17th while 60 Horning 29th included several in song. Rapid departure in east of county April 1st/2nd but 110 still Snettisham 16th. Small numbers still present in May at 10 sites with last Mundesley 15th and Winterton 16th.

First of autumn Sept 18th when single Scolt Head and 2 Blakeney Point; subsequently 1-3 at a further 8 sites to month end with 15 East Ruston 26th. In Oct max 1600-1700 Caister 14th, with 400 Blakeney Point and 385 south Scolt Head same day. Build-up in second half of month when 700 Welney 18th and 350 Roydon Common 31st. Major influx in first half of Nov with main concentrations south Hunstanton Cliffs peaking at 57,852 on 10th; the total for this site between Oct 1st and Nov 19th was 70,495. Elsewhere 2000 North Creake 8th, 1000 Ludham 9th and 1000 Burnham Thorpe 16th. Interestingly, on 10th when massive numbers noted at Hunstanton Cliffs just 300 west at Sheringham. In Dec three-figure counts in evidence mainly in west of county but highest numbers 500 in orchards at Aldborough 23rd and 1000 Thornham 28th-31st.

Song Thrush

Turdus philomelos

Common resident and passage migrant; recently decreasing

Little evidence of spring movement with peak counts of 4 Scolt Head March 23rd, 6 Yarmouth Cemetery April 3rd and 5 Waxham 7th. Singles Blakeney Point May 8th and Scolt Head 10th.

Breeding: 15 singing males Cley and 12 Old Catton where some squirrel predation suspected, while at Wells a 'noticeable increase' reported. NBA results showed the species was present in 85% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Return movement from Sept 15th when single Blakeney Point quickly followed by 20 at same site 18th, with 10 Holme and 13 Scolt Head same day. Gradual increase to month end with double-figure counts at many sites; peak numbers 165 Scolt Head and 100 Blakeney Point 25th when also moderate passage over Watton with 60 in 2 hrs. Main movement from mid-Oct when 100 Sidestrand 14th, 230 present and 325 south Scolt Head 18th, with 350

there 21st falling to 110 following day. Evidence of cold weather movement late Dec when 13 West Runton 30th and 8 Sheringham BO 31st.

Redwing

Turdus iliacus

Common passage migrant and winter visitor

During first winter period widespread across county with peak counts 200 Foulsham Jan 7th, 300 Felbrigg Park Feb 6th, 200 Trowse Feb 28th and 200 Sparham March 17th. Evidence of return movement early April when 80 Yarmouth Cemetery and 14 north Pensthorpe 3rd but then just 1-2 at a further 4 sites to month end, with a very late bird Scolt Head May 18th.

Return from mid-Sept when singles Holme and Scolt Head 17th followed by small-scale passage at many sites to month end with max 105 Scolt Head 25th. Main passage from mid-Oct with three-figure counts from many sites 14th-27th. On 18th 500 present and 5200 south Scolt Head; on 21st 1000 Holme, 3200 present and 2700 south Scolt Head, 'thousands' Holkham Meals, 1000 Langham/Morston and 600 in off sea Sheringham. Largest influx of autumn Nov 10th when 10,701 south Hunstanton Cliffs, but on same day just 152 west at Sheringham. Evidence of birds moving inland with 550 Roydon Common Nov 11th but, apart from 300 Snettisham CP 11th and 406 Hunstanton Cliffs 15th, numbers dwindled rapidly. In Dec, Felbrigg Park held 200 23rd but only evidence of cold weather movement at month end when 7 in off sea Sheringham 29th, and 15 Sheringham and 12 in off sea Beeston Bump 31st.



Redwings (Gary Wright)

Mistle Thrush

Turdus viscivorus

Common resident and partial migrant

Only evidence of cold weather movement 6 south Sheringham Jan 21st. Spring passage virtually non-existent with 2 high west Beeston Bump March 14th and 2 west April 7th at same site the only records.

NBA results showed the species was present in 82% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad. Post breeding flocks noted as follows: June 30 Cockley Cley and 24 Blackborough End 24th; July 15 Gresham and 17 Beeston Regis/West Runton 3rd, 17 Frettenham and 35 Cockley Cley 19th, 21

Sustcad 31st; Aug 42 Horning Waterworks 9th; Sept 15 Whitlingham CP and 24 Burnham Market 1st, 20 East Harling 2nd and 16 Horsey 8th.

Small numbers of migrants from Sept 20th when 3 west one east Sheringham. At Hunstanton Cliffs total of 75 south Oct 1st-Nov 19th with peak counts all in first half of Oct when 10 6th, 24 12th and 10 on 13th. In Dec peak count 34 East Winch.

Cetti's Warbler

Cettia cetti

Broads breeding population established since 1974

Another good year, with county total of 103 territorial males (compared to 135-136 in 2000) a reflection of under-recording, particularly along much of R Burc and R Waveney. Singing males recorded at following localities: *R Yare* Brundall 2, Buckenham 2, Cantley Marshes 3, Cantley BF, Carey's Meadow (Thorpe St Andrew), Hassingham Carrs, Postwick Viaduct 2, Rockland Broad 3, Strumpshaw 16, Surlingham Church Marsh 2, Thorpe Green, Wheatfen 4, Whitlingham CP 2, Whitlingham Marsh (Thorpe St Andrew) 3; *R Bure* Acle Bridge 2, Horning Village 2, Horning Marsh Farm 2, Horning Waterworks, Horning Hall Marshes 2, Hoveton Little Broad, Racing Reach (Horning), Ranworth/Malthouse Broads 3, Stokesby, Womack, Woodbastwick, Wroxham Broad; *R Ant* Barton Broad 3, Barton Turf Fen 2, Catfield Fen 5, Common Fen (Wayford Bridge), Crome's Broad 2, Hall Fen (Irstead), How Hill 6, Lamb's Marsh (Irstead Street), Little Reedham Marsh, Sharp Street Fen, The Hulver Ground (Horning Upper Street) 2; *R Thurne* Heigham Sound 2, Hickling Broad 4, Horsey Mere 2, Martham Broad, Martham Ferry 3, Potter Heigham. *Elsewhere in Broads*: Hardley Flood 2 and Ormesby Little Broad. No records received from R Waveney.

Strangely this species still struggles to move west past Norwich, even though there is seemingly appropriate habitat along R Wensum, with only record Colney GP April 30th. Additional notable records: freshly dead St Olave's March 26th, in song West Somerton Staithe April 24th and in Yarmouth singing Gapton Hall Rd April 17th-May 8th. Presumed dispersing birds/migrants Kelling WM Oct 9th/10th, Holme Oct 13th and Cley Dec 6th.

Other winter localities/high counts: Claxton Marsh Nov 11th, 4 Buckenham Marshes, 5 Cantley Marshes and 3 Martham Broad Nov; Burgh Common Dec 2nd, East Ruston King's Fen Dec 7th, 9 Heigham Sound, 5 Horning Hall Marshes Dec.

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler

Locustella certhiola

A very rare vagrant

With the first county record in 1976, a long awaited second at Blakeney Point on Sept 22nd (SCJ AMS *et al*). Although remaining until 24th, few of the 1000 or so visitors obtained other than brief views of this skulking species. See article on page 283.



Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler (Andy Stoddart)

Grasshopper Warbler

Locustella naevia

Summer visitor and scarce passage migrant

Early records Waxham and Winterton April 7th with main arrival from mid-month; several in Broad including 2 Barton Turf 17th, 3 Strumpshaw 23rd and 3 Horsey 24th. Other peak counts of 9 Snettisham CP 27th and 3 Scolt Head 29th/30th.

An excellent breeding season with singing male counts of 3 Barton Turf, 5 Catfield Fen, 2 Cley, 2 Guist Common, 4 Hickling Broad, 4 Holme, 2 Horning Hall Marsh, 5 Pensthorpe, 3 Rockland Broad, up to 5 Scolt Head, 4 Snettisham CP, 2 Strumpshaw, 4 Titchwell, 2 Whitlingham Marsh (Thorpe St Andrew) and singles at 15 other sites.

An above average Sept passage with at least 3 individuals Blakeney Point 20th-25th, 4 singles Scolt Head 18th-25th, singles Waxham 19th, Sea Palling 21st, and Weybourne 18th and 25th (both ringed). Last sightings Weybourne (another), Sheringham and Winterton, all 25th.

Savi's Warbler

Locustella luscinioides

Rare migrant and summer visitor

With none reported last year, a welcome return to more usual numbers with one Holme/Thornham May 14th- 31st (GFH *et al*) that provided ample opportunity to study the finer identification features. Elsewhere one Hickling Broad June 14th-23rd (PJH *et al*), and one Strumpshaw June 11th-24th, with two present there 13th-22nd (MDC PJH *et al*).

Sedge Warbler

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Summer breeder and passage migrant

A similar pattern to previous years with early arrivals Weybourne March 28th and another 31st, and Ludham 30th, the former equalling the second earliest county arrival. Subsequent records from April 3rd (Cley and Thetford Nunnery Lakes) and widespread in small numbers in Broad from 13th.

Less breeding records submitted with only double-figure counts of 21 Colney GP and Marsh, 10 Snettisham CP and 55 Welney.

Autumn migration noted from Aug 28th (Scolt Head) with only few Sept records on north and east coast. Unusually 2 singing all night Wighton 25th and last records Scolt Head and Strumpshaw 26th.

Marsh Warbler

Acrocephalus palustris

Rare in late spring and autumn

Still with a very tenuous foothold, a female at the previous 1999 breeding site June 18th-July 2nd, and a singing male Great Ryburgh June 20th (JHo).

Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Summer breeder and passage migrant

First record Strumpshaw April 13th equalling the earliest ever and one Holme 15th. A subsequent small-scale arrival during rest of month with no count exceeding 4. A late migrant noted at Winterton June 7th.

Breeding season: singing male counts included 5 Cley, 10 Lyng-Easthaugh GP, 8 Marston Marsh (Norwich), 4 Nar Valley Fisheries, 7 Snettisham and 68 Welney; breeding numbers at Weybourne reported as down on previous years.

An unusual record of one singing all day Beeston Bump July 24th. Usual light autumn passage of 1-2 various north/east coast localities in Sept/Oct (also 2 Welney) with latest Winterton Oct 27th.

Icterine Warbler

Hippolais icterina

A very scarce passage migrant

A single spring record Cantley BF June 2nd-5th that performed well for visitors.

An equally lean autumn with singles Winterton Aug 22nd, Yarmouth Cemetery Sept 23rd/24th, Winterton Sept 25th and a late bird Walsey Hills Oct 25th.

Marmora's Warbler

Sylvia sarda

A very rare vagrant; one record

A county first at Scolt Head May 12th and 18th (JBr NML MESR NWi). See article on page 281.

Dartford Warbler

Sylvia undata

Vagrant from southern England and the Continent

A single record of a male in suitable breeding habitat at Cromer Cliffs March 14th intermittently until 29th (MDC *et al*).



Dartford Warbler (Gary Wright)

Subalpine Warbler

Sylvia cantilans

Vagrant from the continent

After a gap of four years, a typical spring male Blakeney Point May 24th/25th (MLC *et al*) and a well-watched 1st-winter bird Holkham Meals Oct 22nd-Nov 1st (AIB PG *et al*).

Sardinian Warbler

Sylvia melanocephala

Vagrant from the Mediterranean

A female Bacton May 20th (MDF) constituting the eighth county record, the first since 1995.

Barred Warbler

Sylvia nisoria

Scarce autumn migrant recorded only once in spring

The improvement of last year was maintained, following five lean years. It is difficult to ascertain whether this reflects a successful breeding season or appropriate fall conditions during the migration period. Either way, a bumper autumn with first records from Blakeney Point and Warham Greens both Aug 27th-29th, and Scolt Head 30th. At Winterton present Aug 31st-Sept 10th, with max 4 2nd, and again Sept 20th-Oct 3rd with 2 22nd-25th. Elsewhere in Sept: Waxham 6th-8th, 20th and 25th, Wells East Hills 17th, Eccles 18th-21st, Sheringham 19th, Blakeney Point 19th-25th with 2 20th, Gorleston 20th, Holme 20th-22nd, Cromer 21st, Scolt Head 21st, Warham Greens 21st-26th, Walsey Hills 25th, Beeston Bump 26th-28th and Weybourne 24th-31st.

Late birds at Lynn Point Oct 28th-Nov 2nd and Northrepps Nov 1st.

Lesser Whitethroat

Sylvia curruca

Summer breeder and passage migrant

Second earliest county record Hunstanton April 13th. A steady trickle during rest of month at mainly coastal sites and in common with recent years peaking end April/early May with 4 Blakeney Point April 30th and May 3rd/4th, 'several' Weybourne 3rd, 5 Snettisham CP 4th, 4 Scolt Head 5th, 5 Holme 12th and 4 Holkham Meals 13th.

Max count in breeding season 7 pairs Snettisham. NBA results showed the species was present in 36% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage peaks included 13 Scolt Head and 5 Blakeney Point Sept 20th, with 9 there 25th, and 4 Sea Palling also 25th. Last reports from Scolt Head Oct 19th-22nd, and Snettisham and Holkham Meals 23rd.

Whitethroat

Sylvia communis

Summer breeder and passage migrant

The earliest county record Holme April 5th and one Snettisham 8th equalling the previous record. A muted arrival during remainder of month with best 4 Colney GP 27th, and 4 Caister, 5 Holme, 5 Lynn Point and 4 Scolt Head all 29th. Clear evidence of influxes in May with 9 Warham Greens-Stiffkey 3rd, 10 Kelling and 30 Sheringham 12th, and 5 Blakeney Point 17th.

Typical breeding season with 15 pairs Boyland Wood, 15 Snettisham, 8 Sparham and 19 Welney. NBA results showed the species was present in 90% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 9 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Counts of migrants in second half of Aug included 25 Holme 18th, 5 Waxham 20th, 5 Scolt Head 24th, 30 Sheringham 25th, and 16 Warham Greens-Stiffkey and 15 Cromer GC 28th. A trickle during Sept with highest 4 Scolt Head 25th and 5 Sheringham 28th. Last migrants in Oct at Waxham 13th, Titchwell 15th and Holkham Meals 27th.

Garden Warbler

Sylvia borin

Summer breeder and passage migrant

First reports on typical April dates with 2 Strumpshaw 22nd, 3 Lyng-Easthaugh GP 24th, Hunstanton/Holme 25th, Alderford Common and Pentney GP 26th, and 2 Pcnsthorpe 29th. Evidence of continued movement throughout May including 5 Blakeney Point 21st.

Good breeding reports with singing male counts of 3 Alderford Common, 5 Colney GP, 5-7 Foulden Common, 6 Foxley Wood, 6 Holkham Meals, 4-5 Lenwade Common, 3 Norwich (Sweet Briar Rd), 9 Pensthorpe, 2 Pentney Heath, 5 Salthouse Heath, 3 Wayland Wood, 3 Welney, 3 Whitlingham Marsh and 1-2 at 18 other sites. NBA results showed the species was present in 42% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

First movement of autumn noted Aug 11th at north and east coast sites. Clearly classic falls in Sept with 32 Seolt Head and 15 Blakeney Point 20th, 15 Wells East Hills 22nd, and on 25th 50 Holme, 42 Scolt Head, 30 Holkham Meals, 20 Morston, 30 Sheringham and 14 Winterton. 1-2 at mainly coastal sites during Oct with the last Holkham Meals 24th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*
Summer breeder and passage migrant; winters in small numbers

Remarkable consistency over the last three years during first winter period, with 17 birds at 16 sites. Arrivals at Beeston Bump Marsh 15th and Holme 22nd, West Runton 25th, and Welney and Sea Palling 31st. April peak of 10 Holme 29th, and in May 4 Blakeney Point 11th and 30 Holkham Meals 13th.

During breeding season, singing male counts of 5 Alderford Common, 9 Boyland Wood, 6 Lenwade, 12 Old Catton, 10 Strumpshaw, 9 Wayland Wood and 6 Welney. One pair noted feeding young at Carrow Bridge (Norwich) June 8th. NBA results showed the species was present in 84% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 7 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Return migration underway mid-Aug with 11 Langham 15th. Sept peak on 25th with 10 Holme, 24 Scolt Head, 5-6 Blakeney Point and 5 Sheringham. In Oct peak counts of 30 Seolt Head, 6 Winterton and 4 Yarmouth Cemetery on 21st, and 10 Holme 22nd. Lingering birds in Nov at Holkham Meals 2nd, Burnham Market 4th, Sheringham 10th and Hunstanton 17th.

During Dec up to 8 birds at 6 widespread sites including one at Salisbury Rd, Norwich for third year.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*
Scarce autumn migrant from Siberia

Following a number of good years for this species, a lean autumn with just two reports: one Holme Oct 18th/19th (GPD *et al*) and 2 Wells East Hills Oct 22nd, one of which was briefly in full song (JRMc).



Blackcap (Phil Jones)



Pallas's Warbler (Andy Benson)

Yellow-browed Warbler

Phylloscopus inornatus

Scarce autumn migrant from Siberia

Early arrivals Sept 16th at Walsey Hills and Holkham Meals (until 29th) and Scolt Head 18th/19th, with two present 20th/21st and another 24th. Other Sept reports included Yarmouth Cemetery 20th-22nd, with 2 23rd-25th, Warham Greens 21st, inland Northrepps 21st/22nd, Holme 21st-25th with 2 on 23rd, Blakeney Point 22nd and 25th, Sheringham 24th, Happisburgh 25th, Weybourne 25th/26th and another 27th-Oct 2nd, and 2 Stiffkey 26th/27th.

In Oct 2 Holme 19th/20th and singles at 7 other coastal sites. One sighting well inland, Scarning Fen, East Dereham 1st-5th. Last reported Holkham Meals Oct 25th.

Radde's Warbler

Phylloscopus schwarzi

Vagrant from central Asia

Another good year with two early reports: Blakeney Point Sept 25th/26th (RFP *et al*) and Happisburgh Sept 26th (JA *et al*).

Dusky Warbler

Phylloscopus fuscatus

Vagrant from northern and central Asia

An excellent year with two earliest county records at Kelling WM (MIE) and Sea Palling (PJH) both Sept 22nd, followed by one Waxham 26th (JA GE DFa KL *et al*). Another at Winterton Oct 15th/16th (PCa *et al*).

Wood Warbler

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Passage migrant and rare breeder

First records Salthouse Heath April 26th and Holme 29th. In May, Sheringham Park 9th/10th, 1-2 Mousehold Heath 20th-25th and 1-2 Sheringham Pretty Corner 25th-27th. The Mousehold Heath bird was still on site June 10th.

Light passage in Sept with singles Titchwell 8th, Yarmouth Cemetery 20th-29th, Paston 22nd, Winterton 25th, and Blakeney Point and Walsey Hills 26th. The Yarmouth bird remained until Oct 6th with a late bird Holme Oct 18th.

Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita

Common summer breeder, passage migrant and scarce winter visitor

During first winter period reported at 21 sites (14 in 2000), with peaks of 6 Cley STW Jan 7th and 4 Cantley BF Jan 18th.

First migrants Welney March 8th, Pensthorpe 10th, Cromer 11th and Weybourne 12th, with peaks in late month 12 Holme 28th and 10 Yarmouth Cemetery 29th.

Notable April counts of singing males included 13 Barnhamcross Common 1st, 10 Kettlestone Common 2nd, 5 Trowse 8th, 10 Holt Lowes 12th, and 10 Salthouse Heath and 5 Strumpshaw 13th. Other breeding season reports included 8 pairs Boyland Wood, 4 Old Catton, 5 Holme, 4 Kelling Heath, 6 South Walsham and 6 Wayland Wood. NBA results showed the species was present in 80% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 7 pairs per occupied tetrad.

In Sept peak passage occurred 25th/26th with 31 Scolt Head, 8 Blakeney Point and 18 Sheringham. The Blakeney birds were all identified as *abietinus*. The only other significant autumn movement was 14 Scolt Head Oct 21st.

During second winter period singles Sea Palling, Titchwell and Trowse in Nov; in Dec singles reported at 10 sites.

Again only one record of *tristis* Chiffchaff, Sea Palling Dec 23rd-31st (PJH *et al*).

Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

Common summer breeder and passage migrant

March sightings included singles Barnhameross Common and Holme 29th, 2 East Ruston 30th and one Pensthorpe 31st. In early April, peaks of 4 Pensthorpe 3rd, 4 Colney GP 4th and 10 Sparham Pools 6th; subsequent counts included 14 Broome Heath 11th, 12 Snettisham 21st, 14 Blakeney Point and 12 Strumpshaw 23rd, 25 Holme 25th and 10 Scolt Head 29th.

Other breeding season records included 6 Alderford Common, 5 Boyland Wood, 11 Colney GP, 5 Foxley Wood, 7 Holme, 8 Kelling Heath, 6 Lenwade Common, 13 Salthouse Heath and 5 Welney. NBA results showed the species was present in 79% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 6 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage poor with best 8 Blakeney Point Aug 17th and 10 Scolt Head 19th. In Sept best 7 Scolt Head and 7 Sheringham 20th, and 6 Holme 25th. In Oct singles Scolt Head 12th, Blakeney Point 17th, Holme 22nd and latest Sheringham 24th.

Reports of *acredula* included singles Hunstanton GC May 2nd, 2 Blakeney Point May 11th and one Sheringham Oct 13th.

Goldcrest

Regulus regulus

Resident breeder and passage migrant

Little evidence of spring movement with only double-figure counts 12 Holme March 23rd, 15 Yarmouth Cemetery March 29th and 10 Holme April 22nd and 26th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 58% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad; up to 7 singing males at Merton.

Return movement from Sept 8th when single Blakeney Point. Increase during second half of month when peak counts 33 Holme, 33 Scolt Head and 20 Blakeney Point 24th, 42 Scolt Head 25th, 15 Sheringham 26th and 20 Waxham 27th. Main influx commenced Oct 20th, when 50 Overstrand, with peak counts the following day of 50 Holme, 50 Titchwell, 325 Scolt Head, 80 Sheringham, 50 Eccles and 30 Yarmouth Cemetery. Large numbers still present 22nd with 'hundreds' in Holkham Meals/Burnham Overy Dunes area and 200 Blakeney Point, but only 50 Scolt Head. In Nov evidence of small influx when 40 Holkham Meals 10th.

Firecrest

Regulus ignicapillus

Spring and autumn passage migrant; scarce in winter; occasional breeder

Only records from first winter period Lynford/West Tofts Jan 28th and Feb 17th. Protracted movement from March 10th when single Yarmouth Cemetery with the site continuing to be favoured all month peaking at 10 29th with 3 remaining following day. Elsewhere during month 1-2 Eccles, Glandford (in song), Hopton, Mundesley, Sea Palling, 2 Stiffkey, West Beckham and Winterton. In April, 2 Cromer GC 1st while Yarmouth Cemetery again proved attractive with 3 3rd, 2 5th, 5 6th and 3 on 7th, while at nearby Caister GC a single 1st with 3 there following day. Singles during month at further 9 sites including inland at Glandford and Strumpshaw, and a male in song Blakeney Point 27th.

In May noted at 7 sites 1st-8th, with pair plus another male Holkham Meals 8th until at least mid-month, followed by singles Burgh Castle 13th (in song), Waxham 16th and Sheringham Park 25th (in song). No evidence of breeding but single again Sheringham Park June 8th and 2 males Sandringham CP June 18th.

First of autumn Scolt Head Sept 19th with singles at a further 9 sites during month. A



Firecrest (Steve Cale)

repeat performance in Oct with singles at 9 sites including inland at Cockthorpe and Northrepps. Just 3 Nov records, all 10th-13th with 2 Titchwell, and singles Sheringham and Holkham Meals. No evidence of over-wintering during remainder of year.

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

Declining migratory breeder and passage migrant

First of spring Holme May 10th quickly followed by singles Merton 11th, and Sandringham and Burnham Norton 12th. Low-key passage from May 14th noted at a further 6 coastal and 9 inland sites; mostly singles but 5 Winterton 16th, 5 Lynford 19th, 4 Scolt Head 27th and 4 Blakeney Point 27th/28th.

Breeding confirmed at 29 sites compared with 51 in 2000. On a brighter note at least 42 pairs present with peak numbers 5 Great Ryburgh and Long Stratton, 3 Fring and Harpley, and 2 at Bayfield, Blackborough End, Cley, East Harling, Stibbard and Stokesby. Also noted at a further 13 sites mid-June to mid-July and breeding possible at these localities. NBA results showed the species was present in 37% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of one pair per occupied tetrad.

First migrant of autumn Blakeney Point Aug 15th with singles at a further 4 coastal sites until month end. No records of any coastal migrants in Sept until 18th when single Holme, followed by small influx 20th-22nd with peak counts 6 Horsey, 5 Titchwell, Scolt Head and Stiffkey, 4 Blakeney Point, Bacton, Eccles and Waxham, and 3 Yarmouth Cemetery. Another small influx 24th/25th resulted in 5 Scolt Head, 4 Holme, and 3 Blakeney Point and Happisburgh, but numbers quickly decreased and last of autumn Stiffkey 27th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher

Ficedula parva

Scarce autumn migrant; rare in spring

After last year's singleton, an excellent autumn commencing with two early records Waxham and Winterton Sept 9th. Main influx from Sept 17th when singles Holme (until 21st, with 2 22nd) and Scolt Head, with a further 7 different individuals at latter site during month when

3 18th, 2 19th, 3 20th and singles 23rd-25th. Elsewhere noted Sea Palling 18th-20th, Blakeney Point 20th/21st, Titchwell 21st, Weybourne 24th/25th, Happisburgh and Winterton (2) 25th, Eccles 25th/26th and Overstrand 26th. Two Oct records, Salthouse 6th and Sea Palling 12th/13th.

Pied Flycatcher

Ficedula hypoleuca

Passage migrant, scarce in spring, abundant at times in autumn; has bred

First Weybourne April 23rd followed by singles Holme and Cley 29th. Another disappointing May with singles Holme 12th and 15th, Titchwell 9th, Scolt Head 12th and 15th, Beeston Regis Common 6th, Holt 18th, Caister Cemetery 9th, Yarmouth Cemetery 9th/10th, 15th/16th and 20th, and Hopton 9th.

Also a poor autumn with first Aug 15th when singles Scolt Head and Langham, and 3 Blakeney Point. Small-scale movement during remainder of month, peak counts 8 Scolt Head and 6 Blakeney Point 19th. As usual majority of records from coastal sites but further singles inland at Hilgay 25th and Langham 29th. In Sept 1-2 present Blakeney Point, Winterton and Yarmouth Cemetery 1st-6th but, with exception of 1-2 Holme 14th, no further records until 18th when 3 Titchwell and 2 Yarmouth Cemetery. Peak count during remainder of month 8 Eccles/Sea Palling 21st and elsewhere 1-3 at a further 14 coastal sites. Just three Oct records with singles Titchwell 11th, Paston 7th and Yarmouth Cemetery 18th-21st.



Pied Flycatcher (Steve Cale)

Bearded Tit

Panurus biarmicus

Declining resident and partial migrant; periodic influxes from Low Countries

In early months of year single-figure counts from Buckenham/Cantley Marshes, Cantley BF, Catfield Fen, Cley, Hickling Broad, Horsey, How Hill, Lopham Fen, Ludham, Runham, Snettisham, Strumpshaw and Titchwell. Larger counts in Jan of 20 Chedgrave Marshes 6th, 40 Haddiscoe Island 13th and 11 Blakeney GM 17th.

Breeding data received from: *north coast* Titchwell (18-20 pairs), Holkham NNR (4 - good success), Cley (10-15); *Broads* Barton Turf (2), Ebb and Flow Marshes (1), Horning Hall Marshes (1), Little Reedham Marsh (1), Strumpshaw (3). Also present Hickling Broad and How Hill.

A major autumn movement occurred commencing in Sept with 12 erupting birds Irstead Street 20th and 10 high north-west Horning Hall Marshes 23rd. On 25th notable influx Holme, 87 Titchwell, 8 Scolt Head, 14 Burnham Overy, one high east Blakeney Point and 10 in eruptive flight Blakeney GM. On 26th up to 100 Titchwell, 50 Cley and 8 east Kelling WM. Subsequently 50 Haddiscoe Island 27th and 30 Salthouse 28th.

In Oct on north coast 40 Holme 14th, 10 high east Thornham 25th, max 30 Titchwell, 8 west Scolt Head 4th with 21 14th, 70 Cley 13th (with high flocks of 22, 8, 6, 30 and 4), 22 Salthouse 4th with 30 12th, and 14 Weybourne 13th with 7 22nd. In Broads 35 How Hill 12th with flock of 27 17th, and 30 Hickling Broad 27th.

Smaller numbers noted Nov/Dec with double-figure counts from Blakeney GM (11), Cley (15), How Hill (15), Horsey Mill (11) and Lopham Fen (11).

Long-tailed Tit

Aegithalos caudatus

Common resident breeder; Scandinavian white-headed race very rare in autumn

Flocks recorded as follows: *Jan* 30 Bradfield, 13 Beeston Regis, 23 Lopham Fen, 34 Necton, 25 Repps-with-Bastwick, 17 Wolferton; *Feb* 18 Hickling Broad; *June* 23 Guist Common, *July* 22 Sustead; *Aug* 25 Cley; *Sept* 35 Holkham Meals, 20 Holme, 32 Long Stratton; *Oct* 35 Beeston Regis, 25 Cley; *Nov* 40 Beeston Regis; *Dec* 25 Bradfield, 15 Harling, 25 Horning Upper Street, 60 Lynford Arboretum, 100 (several flocks) Roydon Common.

At Sheringham BO 18 July 22nd, 25 Sept 28th, 20 Oct 20th and 40 Nov 2nd, which left cover and then climbed high to west, 20 later returning. Only other evidence of migration: 10 east Paston March 11th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 74% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 3 pairs per occupied tetrad.

At Ditchingham one attacked a 'rival' reflection in a bathroom window for much of May, only being deterred by a newspaper being stuck over lower window.



Long-tailed Tit (Phil Jones)

Marsh Tit

Parus palustris

Breeding resident

Records received from 42 localities but noted as becoming scarcer/less common in both Tudd and Wensum Valleys. Only double-figure count of 10 Wayland Wood Nov.

NBA results showed the species was present in 25% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

At Great Ryburgh in Feb one with deformed bill with lower mandible elongated and turned upwards 3-4 mm beyond top of upper mandible. The bird was feeding on sunflower seeds from feeders and was still present a year later.

Willow Tit

Parus montanus

Breeding resident in decline

Recorded from only 32 localities: Acle, Barnhamcross Common, Barton Broad, Beachamwell, Brundall Church Fen, Buckingham Tofts, Cockley Cley, Drycre, East Harling, East Ruston, Hickling Broad, Holt Lowes, Ickburgh, Kettlestone Common, Lynford Arboretum, North Tuddenham, Pensthorpe, Pentney Heath, Potter Heigham, Raynham Park, Reepham, Repps-with-Bastwick, Rockland Broad, Santon Downham, Strumpshaw, Swaffham, Swanton Novers, Syderstone Common, Thetford Nunnery Lakes, Thurne, Tottenhill and Walton Warren (East Warren). No doubt under-recorded in view of records received in past few years, but in Broads an apparent crash in population in 2001 with several localities which held this species in past year or so now unoccupied (PJH).

Coal Tit

Parus ater

Breeding resident and passage migrant

NBA results showed the species was present in 51% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Again no records of birds of continental race but possible migrants reported at Holme, Happisburgh and Sea Palling Sept 18th-27th.

Blue Tit

Parus caeruleus

Common breeding resident and passage migrant

NBA results showed the species was present in 94% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 14 pairs per occupied tetrad.

A flock of 50 Stanford Water Feb 20th. Only evidence of autumn migration 7 west Sheringham Oct 13th.

Great Tit

Parus major

Common breeding resident and passage migrant

In March influx noted Holme where 13 10th, 15 14th and 20 20th. At Weybourne 5 west April 1st.

NBA results showed the species was present in 91% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 11 pairs per occupied tetrad.

In autumn 7 appeared on cliff-top Sheringham Oct 6th and then moved inland, also 4 west Oct 13th, 4 very high east Beeston Bump Oct 17th and 2 south Hunstanton Cliffs Nov 3rd.

Nuthatch

Sitta europaea

Breeding resident, possibly in decline

NBA results showed the species was present in 23% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Treecreeper

Certhia familiaris

Widespread woodland resident

NBA results showed the species was present in 32% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

A wanderer or migrant Blakeney Point Aug 24th.

Penduline Tit

Remiz pendulinus

Vagrant and potential breeder

A male at Weybourne April 1st (JVB MP *et al*) subsequently flew west where seen briefly at Salthouse before flying off south. Recorded for fifth successive year.

Golden Oriole

Oriolus oriolus

Scarce migratory breeder and passage migrant in small numbers

In May singing males Cley and Kelling Heath 20th, male Holme 23rd and 2 Swanton Novers 28th, where one subsequently June 16th and 18th.

Breeding: a very poor season with one definite breeding pair which failed. At another site a pair recorded on several dates, plus an additional male, but no nest found - probably bred. Four other sites had bird(s) present on one or two days (information from Golden Oriole Group).

Red-backed Shrike

Lanius collurio

Passage migrant in small numbers; last bred 1989

Two early summer records: an emaciated adult male found freshly dead Warham June 14th and a female Winterton June 24th.

First of autumn juv Waxham Sept 1st-3rd followed by a single Winterton Sept 8th, where at least one until Oct 1st, with 3 Sept 23rd and 2 still present 26th. Elsewhere during Sept a further 12 noted at coastal sites: Sheringham juv 16th-21st, Stiffkey juv 20th-22nd, Sea Palling juv 20th-23rd, Scolt Head juv, Blakeney Point and Blakeney GM juv all 21st, Waxham juv 22nd-29th, Titchwell 25th, Overstrand juv 25th/26th, Caister juv 25th-27th, Gorleston juv 25th (until Oct 3rd), and Salthouse/Cley 26th. In Oct, singles Titchwell 2nd, juv West Runton 9th and juv/female Beeston Bump 13th.

Great Grey Shrike

Lanius excubitor

Scarce passage migrant and declining winter visitor

Spring singles Wells April 20th and Hickling Hundred Acre Marsh April 27th.

In autumn, just three short-stayers with singles Titchwell Sept 25th, Old Hunstanton Oct 5th and Snettisham Nov 10th/11th. Sadly, the days when this species regularly over-wintered at favoured sites in the county appear to have gone for good.

Jay

Garrulus glandarius

Common resident; periodic influxes from the Continent following failure of acorn crop

Leucistic/albino birds noted Old/New Costessey Jan 9th and Feb 5th, then Hellesdon Sept 24th. These could relate to (or be related to) the apparently albino brood observed at Taverham June 1997.

NBA results showed the species was present in 6% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Other than single west Lynn Point May 4th no indication of spring movement. A small autumn arrival heralded by single in off sea Winterton Aug 28th. Further small-scale immigration may have gone undetected but is suggested by series of movements at Watton where 2 high south-west Sept 24th, 2 high south-west 25th, single high south-east and 4 circling then high south-west Sept 26th. More obvious arrivals in Oct with 5 east Holme and 4 in off sea Beeston Bump 7th, 40 Winterton 10th, 10 east Holme 11th, 10 in off sea Stiffkey SM 13th and 6 Yarmouth Cemetery 21st.

Magpie

Pica pica

Common resident forming winter roosts

In first winter period max counts of 13 Waxham Jan; 32 Holme, 35 Roydon Common roost, 36 Hickling Stubb Mill roost, 31 Titchwell and 18 Weybourne Camp Feb.

An exciting series of early spring movements: in March 16 east Paston 11th, high east Sheringham 13th, 8 west Holme 14th, single Scolt Head 28th, high east Beeston Bump 29th; in April 3 west Scolt Head (with additional single present until 5th), 28 west Beeston Bump (0625-0745), 30 west Sheringham and presumably the same 30 west Cromer Lighthouse all 1st, 3 west Beeston Bump 7th where 3 singles west 22nd, and finally 7 east Paston 23rd.

NBA results showed the species was present in 83% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Only autumn movements reported 6 south Hunstanton Cliffs and single west Beeston Bump both Oct 12th. Highest second winter period roost counts 40 Roydon Common Nov 22nd and 87 Dec 30th, with Dec counts elsewhere of 20 Alburgh, 12 Holme and 21 Sheringham.



Magpie (Steve Cale)

Jackdaw

Corvus monedula

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

In first winter period largest roosts/gatherings: 400 Attlebridge (Feb), 8000 Didlington (Jan), 500 East Harling (Jan-Feb), 700 Felbrigg Park (Jan-Feb), 374 Snettisham Knights Hill (Jan) with 625 (Feb). Small spring movements noted at various north and east coast localities March 15th-May 12th, with most notable movements in April of 6 west and 6 in off sea Beeston Bump 1st, 20 north Waxham (0700-0800) 7th, single out to sea Weybourne 15th, 18 east Paston 22nd with 15 east there 25th, and 18 north Sea Palling May 8th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 84% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 13 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn migration only noted at Hunstanton Cliffs where total 140 south Oct 1st-Nov 19th with max 12 Oct 16th, 53 Oct 25th, 22 Nov 2nd and 18 Nov 5th. Best gatherings/roosts in second half of year 1200 south, presumably to a roost, Bawsey (Dec), 250 Beachamwell (Dec), 300 Beeston Regis (July), 2000 Buckenham (Oct) where 6000 (Dec), 8000 Didlington (Dec), 500 East Harling (Dec), 1000 south, presumably to a roost, Foulton Common (Dec), 320 Roydon Common (Oct).

Birds showing characteristics of the continental/eastern forms noted at Coltishall Tip March 10th, Saxlingham July 21st and Blackborough End Tip Dec.

Unusually plumaged birds observed during the year included one Spixworth in March with brown greater coverts separated by a narrow black band from golden-brown primaries and secondaries, and one with white wings Fritton Aug 20th.

Rook

Corvus frugilegus

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Largest roosts/gatherings during year: 7000 Didlington (Jan and Dec), 1500 East Harling (Jan), 320 Attlebridge (Feb), 700 Gresham (July), 10,000 Buckenham (Oct) and 15,000 (Dec), 1500 East Harling (Dec), 4000 south south-west, presumably to a roost, Foulden Common (Dec).

Spring passage chiefly of single-figure groups noted between March 12th and May 2nd, with peak counts: *March* 9 east 4 west Beeston Bump and 17 east Paston 28th, 34 west Beeston Bump 31st; *April* 80 north Waxham (0700-0800) 7th, 32 west Beeston Bump 17th, 15 west Beeston Bump and 53 east Paston 22nd, 18 south Waxham (0700-0800) 23rd, 7 west 7 east Beeston Bump 24th, 19 east 12 west Beeston Bump and 34 east Paston 25th, 27 east Paston 28th.

Only rookery data received: Banham (158 nests), Boyland Wood (17 nests) and Long Stratton (84 nests spread throughout village). NBA results showed the species was present in 63% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 49 pairs per occupied tetrad.

At Hunstanton Cliffs only 40 recorded moving south in autumn between Oct 1st and Nov 19th with max 11 Oct 10th.

Carrion Crow/Hooded Crow

Corvus corone

Carrion Crow C (c) corone

Increasing resident forming winter roosts; also a passage migrant

Only roost/gathering counts received: 135 Snettisham Knights Hill Jan 26th, 200 Roydon Common roost Feb 3rd, 30 Claxton Dec 25th and 30 Roydon Common roost Dec 30th.

Spring migration noted between March 10th and May 16th, with peak counts: *March* 28 east Paston 30th, 14 west Cromer and 12 south Winterton 31st; *April* 19 west Scolt Head and 25 west Beeston Bump 1st, 21 west Scolt Head 7th, 10 south Horsey 14th, 22 west Sheringham 17th, 18 north Waxham (0645-0745) 21st, 64 west 26 east Scolt Head, 25 west Beeston Bump and 14 east Paston 22nd, 34 south Waxham (0700-0800) 23rd, 23 west Scolt Head, 13 west 4 east Beeston Bump and 56 east Paston all 25th, 26 west Beeston Bump 27th, 34 east Paston 28th, 82 west Scolt Head, 40 in off sea Blakeney Point and 15 west Weybourne 29th; *May* 16 north Eccles 8th, 12 west Holme 16th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 88% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

In Aug 2 young with pure white greater coverts fledged from a nest at Overstrand.

Limited autumn movement detected with 7 south Snettisham CP and 8 in off sea plus 8 east Sheringham Oct 6th, with 3 south Snettisham CP the following day, the only records.

Hooded Crow C (c) cornix

A declining wintering and passage migrant.

Presumably the same bird noted Salthouse Jan 7th and Cley Jan 23rd, with another single Horsey Jan 27th and Feb 10th. Spring passage birds recorded Gorleston April 3rd, west Beeston Bump April 25th, Winterton May 10th and 13th, and Burnham Deepdale May 18th. The only autumn record single Docking/Fring Sept 25th.

At least one hybrid present on and off Burgh Castle during year. Single hybrids Horsey Feb 10th and Hickling Broad Feb 18th, with 3 hybrids Winterton March 31st. Possibly one or other of these birds remained paired with a Carrion Crow at Winterton/Somerton Holmes all summer until at least Sept 15th. Two hybrids again Horsey Dec 7th and 13th.

Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Only large gathering reported early in year roost of 2000 Surlingham Church Marsh Feb 11th. Spring migration noted from late Feb to early April with peak counts: 600 west Cromer Feb 21st, 1500 Holme GM March 19th, 5000 west Yarmouth March 22nd.

NBA results showed the species was present in 91% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 21 pairs per occupied tetrad.

First westerly midsummer movements noted at Scolt Head June 5th, where subsequent four-figure counts of: *June* 1000 present 10th, 1800 west and 1200 present 15th, 31,500 (evening, probably to roost) 18th, 22,000 (evening) 21st, 18,000 (evening) 23rd; *July* 15,000 (evening), 13th, 7500 present 15th, 9950 present 28th; Aug 33,500 west 1st and 8350 present 5th. Also 2000 present Breydon/Halvergate Marshes Aug 15th.

Main westerly autumn passage concentrated between mid-Oct and mid-Nov, peaking in early Nov. At Hunstanton Cliffs large total 483,297 south Oct 1st-Nov 19th with some peak days missed; max 16,927 Oct 15th, 15,380 16th, 16,555 18th, 29,790 19th, 23,808 23rd, 28,075 Nov 3rd, 18,533 4th, a huge 128,866 10th, 58,824 11th, 11,295 14th and 48,754 15th. Elsewhere (all west): *Oct* 24,550 Scolt Head 18th, 1000-1500/hr Cley 20th, 11,000 Scolt Head 21st and 21,500 there 23rd, roost 20,000 Titchwell 24th, 10,000 present Waxham 27th; *Nov* 10,500 Scolt Head and 2500 in off sea Winterton 2nd, 40,000 Scolt Head 3rd, 15,000 Sheringham and 13,699 Blakeney Point 10th, 3000 south (2 hrs) Snettisham 11th and roost 12,000 Holme 14th,

Inland concentrations and roosts built up at this time with some impressive counts. A peripatetic roost in Ant valley started with 20,000 How Hill Turf Fen early Oct, then 80,000 Irstead Hall Fen late Oct building to 90,000 by Nov 3rd. 10,000 noted south over Barton Broad to this roost Nov 6th/7th. On Nov 11th 50,000 roosted adjacent to Catfield Fen then the bulk moved back to Irstead with 70,000 Nov 23rd. Numbers then declined, the roost switching to the nearby Bure valley where 30,000 Horning Hall Marshes Nov 26th, gradually declining into Dec. Elsewhere 6000 present Hempstead Marshes Nov 3rd, 2800 Clippesby Hill 15th rising to 7000 by month end, and 6000 St Benet's Level 16th.

Only roost reported in Dec 10,000 Hassingham Carrs 2nd, moving to Strumpshaw where 18,000 20th, 40,000 23rd and 35,000 28th.

A pale sandy-coloured leucistic juv Buckenham Marshes June 16th/17th.

Rose-coloured Starling

Sturnus roseus

Vagrant from eastern Europe

An adult Frettenham June 11th (GCo) was part of a large summer influx into the UK and typically in a back garden.

Three autumn records with adult briefly Waxham Aug 25th (RCMc) before flying west inland, shortly followed by an adult at Ormesby St Margaret Aug 27th (DS<M). Remarkably a juv Waxham Sept 1st-Dec 3rd at least (PJH RC&SMc *et al*) was initially found by same observer as adult a week previously. This bird also ranged with the local Starling flock south to Horsey and Somerton Holmes.

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Common but declining resident

Much useful data received. Although there are local concentrations including 280 located around Long Stratton Village March and 150-170 Old Catton April, the general picture still seems to be one of gradual decline, with only the Fens holding reasonable numbers.

NBA results showed the species was present in 88% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 22pairs per occupied tetrad. Local residents were noted blocking prospective nesting sites at Sprowston in May.

Largest flocks: *Jan* 65 Sea Palling; *July* 50 Long Stratton, 100 Methwold (on spilt grain); *Aug* 55 West Runton; *Sept* 72 Great Ryburgh, 65 Sheringham, 40 Trimingham; *Nov* 60 Welney; *Dec* 150 Barroway Drove (Stow Bardolph), 60 Burnham Deepdale, 70 Harps Hall (West Walton), 50 Methwold, 60 Outwell, 50 Rollesby, 50 Southery Fens, 65 Stow Bardolph Fen, 40 Three Holes (Upwell), 90 Ten Mile Bank, 90 Walpole Cross Keys, 40 Wash Dyke (Walpole St Peter).

Breeding season counts of 100 pairs Old Catton May and 50 Wells June.

Very small numbers recorded on passage. Single east (with Linnets) Beeston Bump May 10th the only spring observation. Autumn counts of 2 west Beeston Bump Oct 11th while total 27 south Hunstanton Cliffs Oct 1st-Nov 19th with max 9 Oct 7th.

Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus

Scarce resident; passage migrant and winter visitor

Recorded during year from a wide scattering of almost exclusively West Norfolk localities, largely in worryingly low numbers. Double-figure counts in first winter period: *Jan* 12 Beechamwell, 15 Briston, 26 Choseley, 50 Choseley/Ringstead, 10 East Harling, 29 Great Cressingham, 17 Swaffham; *Feb* 50 Choseley, 60 Wood Dalling; *March* 70 Great Cressingham, 10 Kipton Ash; *April* 12 Illington, 10 Kipton Ash.

A few spring passage birds noted with single Holme March 13th/14th, Eccles April 1st/2nd, 2 Holme April 2nd, south Sea Palling April 29th, Eccles April 30th and west Scolt Head May 8th. Single Ormesby April 29th probably also on passage.

All breeding season records given (with max counts/pairs in brackets): Baconsthorpe (6), Briningham, Bunwell (6), Choseley (2), East Harling (4 prs), Fulmodeston (24 prs), Gateley (5), Gresham, Kipton Ash (10), North Tuddenham (4), Rougham, Tattersett, Themelthorpe, West Beckham, Wood Dalling (9 prs). Post breeding flocks included 13 Merton July, then 20 Baconsthorpe and 45 (including several juvs) Illington in Aug. Early post breeding movement 2 over Kelling WM July 16th.

Minimal autumn passage with only records singles Holme Sept 13th and Oct 2nd, plus total 10 south Eccles/Sea Palling Oct 13th.

Only double-figure flocks in late autumn/second winter period 40 Sparham late Oct to mid-Dec, 20 Lyng-Easthaugh GP Nov, and 15 Gateley and 12 Choseley Dec.

Chaffinch

Fringilla coelebs

Common resident; also passage migrant and winter visitor in varying numbers

In first winter period flocks in excess of 100: *Jan* 360 Sandringham, 240 Didlington, 200 Southcrepps, 150 Antingham, 120 Wretham, 100 Corpusty; *Feb* 396 South Lopham, 150 Babingley, 120 Bodney; *March* 250 Grimston.

Spring coastal movement began March 8th when 53 west Holme with 33 west there 12th. Only other counts received: Beeston Bump single-figure numbers several dates March

28th-April 22nd; Cromer 17 east 8 west March 29th and 11 east one west April 5th; Paston largest movement of spring 212 east March 28th.

Breeding: 28 singing males Welney and 17 pairs Boyland Wood. NBA results showed the species was present in 94% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 26 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Visible migration during autumn began in Sept with a light passage noted various coastal localities. Numbers typically peaked in Oct with an impressive total of 41,719 south Hunstanton Cliffs Oct 1st-Nov 19th with max daily counts of 2513 Oct 6th, 2126 13th, 1814 18th, 1310 19th, 3714 23rd, 6407 24th, 10,624 25th, 1091 27th, 1015 28th, 1770 Nov 2nd, 1253 3rd and 1116 10th.

Other sites recording notable counts (all west) during Oct were Scolt Head where 2245 25th and Sheringham where 300 13th, 450 20th, 1572 24th, 250 27th, 204 28th, 420 Nov 3rd and 137 Nov 10th.

Wintering flocks scarce Oct/Nov with main counts for second winter period peaking Dec: 500 Grimston, 460 Cranwich, 300 Brancaster Thompson Farms, 300 Pensthorpe/Langor Bridge, 200 Burnham Market and 150 Roydon Common.

Brambling

Fringilla montifringilla

Passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers

Max counts in first winter period: *Jan* 150 Thompson, 100 Babingley, 55 Santon Downham, 50 Cley, 50 East Harling and 50 Thetford Castle; *Feb* 75 Ickborough, 30 Hickling, 25 Thetford.

Numbers then dwindled very quickly with no sizeable flocks March and max count of only 3 at Ranworth Broad during April. Latest Blakeney Village where different singles April 26th and 27th and Scolt Head May 14th.

Autumn immigration began Sept 17th (Holme) followed by further singles next day Scolt Head and Blakeney Point. Birds continued to trickle in for remainder of month peaking on 25th when 7 Scolt Head, 20 Blakeney Point and 8 Sheringham. with 20 Overstrand 28th.

Main passage period typically Oct/Nov with max numbers Hunstanton Cliffs where total of 597 south Oct 1st-Nov 19th including 46 Oct 6th, 34 13th, 194 Nov 2nd, 43 10th and 66 15th. Elsewhere passage remained slow with Oct peak counts at Holme of 35 14th with 25 west there 20th, at Scolt Head where 103 west and 32 present 18th with 98 west there 25th, and at Overstrand where 50 14th.

Max counts in second winter period in Dec: 500 Grimston, 400-500 North Creak Whin Hill, 380 Roydon Common and 100 Pensthorpe/Langor Bridge.

Serin

Serinus serinus

Vagrant from continental Europe

Two spring records: April males at Inceborough Hill 22nd (GED D&MJS) and Scolt Head 29th (NML).

Subsequently a female King's Lynn Nov 4th-11th (DG PP *et al*).

Greenfinch

Carduelis chloris

Common resident and passage migrant

Max counts in first 2 months of year: *Jan* 160 Wolferton 18th-21st, 100 Beechamwell 6th-14th, 100 Somerton Holmes 18th, 80 Hickling 11th, 50 West Bilney 10th; *Feb* 70 Hickling (in game strip) all month, 60 Lynford Arboretum 11th.

Coastal passage underway by March 8th when 75 west Holme with 43 west there 12th; also 75 west Beeston Bump 14th (0615-0715).

April movement recorded at Holme and Scolt Head where 31 and 11 respectively west 1st. Only other counts from Cromer where 34 east 19 west 2nd, 21 east 16 west 3rd, 21 east 12 west 6th and 12 east 5 west 7th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 90% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 12 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn build-up from mid-Sept with 200 Ormesby 15th, 200 west Holme 21st and 100 Waxham 23rd.

Numbers typically higher in Oct with visible migration noted at numerous sites along coast; most counts below 100 except 138 west Scolt Head 13th with 275 west there 25th. As usual Hunstanton Cliffs eclipsed all other sites with total of 3246 south Oct 1st-Nov 19th including 164 Oct 6th, 101 10th, 133 11th, 401 12th, 416 13th, 190 16th, 108 18th, 221 23rd, 243 25th, 102 28th, 210 Nov 2nd, 100 3rd and 120 15th.

Wintering flocks in last 2 months of year included: Nov 200 Holme 18th; Dec 400 Holme 19th, 200 Ashley St Mary 26th, 200 Grimston 29th, 100 Burnham Market 31st.

Goldfinch

Carduelis carduelis

Common resident, passage migrant and summer visitor

Max counts during first winter period: Jan 200 Filby Broad 19th, 160 Titchwell (no date), 150 Welney 3rd, 120 Holme 4th, 100 West Bilney 10th; Feb 130 Cockley Cley 24th, 103 Bodney 10th, 100 Garboldisham 22nd, 80 Scolt Head 28th; March 110 Ormesby and 75 West Bilney 17th; April max 120 Holme 29th, 100 Ormesby 25th, 60 East Ruston 28th.

Spring passage underway during last days of March when 6 west Scolt Head 30th with 14 west next day. Also from Scolt Head a good series of counts during April with (all west) 45 1st, 25 22nd, 105 25th, 75 26th, 47 27th, 85 28th, 435 29th and 55 30th. Elsewhere during April 68 west Holme 25th with 60 west there 26th, 147 south Snettisham (1 hr) 26th, and 94 east Happisburgh (2 hrs) and 76 south Caister (1 hr 30 mins) both 29th.

Passage continued into May with max counts from Paston where 250/hr east 5th (0600-1000) and 240/hr east 19th (0600-1000), 200 south Waxham 10th, 150 east Beeston Bump 10th (0515-0715) and 120 east there 11th (0600-0730). At Cromer a total of 572 east April 23rd-May 16th.

Breeding: 11 pairs Welney with 4 pairs at both Snettisham and Titchwell. NBA results showed the species was present in 84% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 6 pairs per occupied tetrad. At Morston an adult feeding unfledged young on very late date of Sept 25th.

Autumn passage much lighter than spring with max Hunstanton Cliffs, where total of 73 south Oct 1st-Nov 19th with peak 17 Oct 1st, and Scolt Head where 33 west Oct 25th with 23 west there 27th.

In second winter period max counts: Sept 250 Burgh Castle 1st, 115 Cley 6th, 75 Haddiscoe Island 27th; Oct 205 Cley 25th, 144 Holme 10th, 100 Great Cressingham and 85 Felbrigg Park 14th; Nov 100 Holme 3rd/4th, 80 Martham Ferry 4th; Dec 100 Ketteringham 16th, 80 Larling 30th, 60 Docking 31st.

Siskin

Carduelis spinus

Passage migrant and winter visitor in fluctuating numbers; small numbers breed

Widespread records at beginning of year and noted daily in several observers' gardens through to mid-April. Highest counts: Jan 150 Thetford Nunnery Lakes, 75 Lynford Arboretum, 35 Honing Lock, 30 Bintree Mill, 30 Sparham Pools, 30 Swanton Novers, 30

Wolferton; Feb 75 Pensthorpe, 60 Swanton Novers, 50 Lynford Arboretum, 45 Cringleford, 45 Honing Lock, 30 Santon Downham. At Garboldisham 199 ringed by mid-April (56% male, with 4 juvs to one adult), compared to 88 in similar period 2000.

Coastal passage occurred late March through until mid-May, though few double-figure counts. Best counts: March 8 Yarmouth Cemetery and 16 Sheringham 30th; April 7 west Holme, 20 Titchwell and 15 west Scolt Head 1st, 46 east Cromer GC 2nd, 7 west Holme 5th, 8 east Beeston Bump and Inceborough Hill 23rd; May 6 Holme 5th. Inland records during this period: March 50 Sparham, 30 Pensthorpe, 30 Thorpe Marriott, 16 Honing Lock; April 10 Thetford.

Only confirmed breeding record a pair Holkham Meals. However, also recorded May-Aug at Fowlmere, Holt Lowes, Horning Waterworks, Horsford Woods, Santon Downham and Sheringham.

First records of autumn at Lopham Fen where 30 Sept 2nd increased to 50 by 22nd, 2 west Sheringham and 2 Waxham 15th. Autumn passage stronger, with a number of migrating parties reported. Highest totals: Sept 59 Sea Palling and 100 north Winterton 21st, 40 north Waxham 23rd, 50 north Winterton 25th, 150 west Sheringham, 70 Happisburgh, 120 north Horsey/Winterton all 26th; Oct 30 Eccles 13th, 18 Holme 19th, 31 west Scolt Head 25th, 22 west Sheringham 27th; Nov 28 north Horsey 3rd, 15 Holme 11th, 30 East Ruston 20th. At Hunstanton Cliffs total of 291 south Oct 1st-Nov 19th with max 58 Oct 6th.

Increased and more widespread numbers during second winter period with best counts: Oct 130 East Ruston, 50 How Hill, 30 Lynford Arboretum; Nov 70 Lynford Arboretum, 70 Roydon Common, 40 Whitlingham CP; Dec 100 Cranwich, 80 East Tuddenham, 65 Castle Acre, 65 South Acre, 60 Glandford, 60 Roydon Common, 40 East Winch, 40 Tattersett, 40 Whitlingham CP, 30 Honing Lock.

Linnet

Carduelis cannabina

Common resident and passage migrant

Tabulated highest monthly counts:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Scolt Head	40	28	60	80	60	40	80	100	150	200	87	-
Holme	46	130	40	100	107	-	18	170	43	80	40	11

A few good sized flocks recorded elsewhere in first winter period when highest monthly counts: Jan 400 Beechamwell, 200 East Ruston, 150 Cley, 145 Snettisham, 120 Methwold Fen, 105 Stokesby, 100 Cawston Eastgate; Feb 150 Buckenham, 50 Corpusty, 50 Merton; March 100 Weybourne, 125 Gresham, 75 Caistor St Edmund; April 105 Coxford WM.

Notable movements from mid-March, with 610 west Cromer GC 13th, 151 west Holme and 240/hr Paston also 28th with 450/hr there 31st, 50 west Beeston Bump 30th and 150 there 31st when also 415 west Scolt Head and 293 south in 3 hrs 30 mins Winterton. These movements continued throughout April; at Cromer 212 west 1st, 304 east 33 west 2nd, 166 west 109 east 3rd, 332 west 120 east 5th and 395 west 160 east 7th (all counts 0700-0845). Elsewhere 160 east Holme and 690 west Scolt Head 1st, 284 south Horsey 7th, 184 Snettisham, 765 west Scolt Head and 180 west Beeston Bump 17th, 400/hr east Paston 22nd, 220 north Waxham 23rd, and at Blakeney Point 205 west 26th and 300 28th. Noticeable movement tailed off during May with 151 west Blakeney Point, 220/hr east Paston and 100 north Winterton all 5th, 105 west Scolt Head 8th, 80 east Beeston Bump and 300 south Waxham 10th, and 120 Burnham Overy Dunes 13th.

Breeding records: 35 pairs Scolt Head, 30 Blakeney Point, 21 Wootton Marsh Farm, 15

Snettisham, 6 Long Stratton, 3 Welney. NBA results showed the species was present in 80% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 8 pairs per occupied tetrad. At least 50 birds present at Snettisham all summer and 70 Salthouse June 9th. Aug peak counts (probably relating to post breeding dispersal), of 240 Blakeney Point, 220 East Beckham, 180 West Runton and 110 Gresham.

Sept flocks of 200 Drymere, 180 Holkham Meals, 130 Snettisham and 100 Titchwell. Small westerly coastal movements in Oct along north coast (max 30) and at Hunstanton Cliffs total 277 south Oct 1st-Nov 19th with max 70 Oct 6th.

Three-figure count in Nov of 120 Docking, however noted at widespread localities in Dec with highest counts 800 Grimston, 350 Pensthorpe and counts of 150 at Burnham Market, Cockthorpe, Upwell, and Wighton (inc partial albino with white head).

Lesser Redpoll

Carduelis cabaret

Passage migrant, winter visitor and declining resident

In first winter period, a number of widespread records, though generally in single figures. Highest counts: *Jan* 15 Alderfen Broad, 30 Bradfield, 19 Burnt Fen Broad, 20 East Ruston, 28 Hickling Broad, 14 Holkham Meals, 14 Methwold Common, 15 Thetford; *Feb* 50 East Ruston, 20 Lynford Arboretum, 20 Ranworth Broad, 34 Rollesby Broad, 50 Stanford; *March* 20 Trowse; *April* 20 Cranwich, 30 Kettlestone Common; *May* 22 Kenhill Wood.

Light passage in April with 5 west Holme 3rd and 29th, with 12 there 22nd. In May 3 west Scolt Head 29th, with singles noted at Hunstanton GC, Holme, Blakeney Point, Beeston Bump, Cromer and Winterton.

Summer records of singing males or pairs: Barton Turf, Great Ryburgh, Hempton (family party), Hickling Broad (pair), How Hill (ad and 2 juvs), Irstead Street, King's Lynn (pair), Norwich (Surrey Street), Pensthorpe (max 9 birds inc 3 singing males).

Light autumn passage: *Sept* east Cromer 24th, Sheringham 25th, 5 west Scolt Head 26th, 5 west Overstrand 27th, east Beeston Bump 28th; *Oct* 2 west Beeston Bump 10th, 2 west Sheringham and 2 Waxham 13th, 18 west Scolt Head 25th, 2 south Hunstanton Cliffs 27th, west Holme 28th, 4 east Overstrand 30th; *Nov* west Beeston Bump 3rd, 4 west Sheringham 11th, 5 south Hunstanton Cliffs 15th, 15 Holme 26th.

Build-up of numbers in second winter period particularly inland with highest counts: *Sept* 24 Pensthorpe; *Oct* 85 East Ruston, 18 Horsey Mill, 40 Lopham Fen, 40 Pensthorpe, 16 Thetford Nunnery Lakes; *Nov* 60 East Ruston, 150 Knettishall, 40 Lopham Fen, 42 Pensthorpe, 35 Pentney, 15 Titchwell; *Dec* 15 Hickling Broad, 15 Horning Lock, 15 Middleton, 15 Whitlingham CP.

The above includes a number of records of Redpoll *sp.* Observers are encouraged wherever possible to make specific identification although this is clearly impractical with flight sightings.

Common (ie Mealy) Redpoll

Carduelis flammea

Scarce winter visitor

In first winter period just four records: 2 Swanton Novers Jan 8th, 25 Holt Lowes Feb 18th, 3 Holt Lowes Feb 25th and single Pensthorpe GP April 19th.

In Oct one Scolt Head 23rd with 14 in dunes 25th; also 20 Whitlingham CP 23rd, 3 West Runton 24th and one Cromer GC 25th. Subsequently at Titchwell Nov 17th, 2 18th and 21st with 30, possibly up to 40, by end of year. Also 6 Little Thornage Dec 18th.



Barred Warbler – a return to form after several lean years for this drift migrant (*Bill Baston*); Wryneck – a rather unusual blue-eyed bird at Winterton (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Little Ringed Plover – this juvenile is evidence of local breeding success (*Tony Howes*)





Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler – this was the well-deserved reward for the diligent observers who regularly search Blakeney Point and was gratefully received by rarity enthusiasts (*George Reszeter*, www.rarebirdphotography.co.uk)





Red-backed Shrike – this obliging bird was present at Winterton for several days (*Bill Baston*); Lesser Yellowlegs – this juvenile was a good find at Cantley BF during October (*Alan Tate*)

Stone Curlews – these 54 were part of a flock of 97 birds (*Chris Knights*)





Dotterel – this very confiding juvenile enthralled visitors to Holkham Bay in late September (*Andrew Bloomfield*)

Bearded Tit – an influx in October demonstrated the eruptive nature of this species (*Julian Bhalerao*)





Common Redpolls (*Martin Woodcock*)

Arctic Redpoll

Carduelis hornemanni

Winter vagrant from Scandinavia

Just two records of this erratic visitor. In first winter period, an adult male with Lesser and 2 Common Redpolls, Swanton Novers Jan 8th (MPT). Peak of three (an adult male and 2 1st-winters) in popular redpoll flock at Titchwell Dec 8th through to year end (JVB AMS *et al*).

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

Scarce in first winter period and only reported from Brecks: Lynford Arboretum (max 20 Jan, 2 Feb, 4 April, 2 May, 2 June), Santon Downham (max 2 Jan, 2 May, 15 June), Thetford Warren (max 3 Feb, 4 April), Drymere 2 Feb, Thetford Rifle Range 6 April.

Small-scale post breeding irruption commenced with 8 Holme May 21st and continued until late Oct, with records as follows (singles unless otherwise stated): *June* 15 (inc juvs) Bodham 13th, Saxlingham 16th, 7 Lound Water Works 30th; *July* 5 west Cley 12th. 2 Sheringham Park 18th, Holme 18th-20th, Titchwell 27th, Drymere 31st; *Aug* 12 Sheringham Park 1st, 3 Titchwell 15th, 12 west Cley 16th with one 23rd, 15 south Beeston Regis 19th.

Sheringham 24th and 29th with 10 west there 25th, 2 south Weybourne 29th; *Sept* 7 Holme 16th-21st with 4 there 28th and 6 29th, Holkham Meals 19th/20th with 2 there 27th and 5 29th, 2 west Sheringham 20th, south Paston and Sea Palling 21st; *Oct* 3 west Honing Lock 10th, 2 Holkham Meals 13th with 6 there 10th and one 28th, Sheringham 14th, 2 Holme 16th with one there 19th, south-east Cley 16th, Gorleston 21st, west Langham, Cockley Cley and 5 Thetford Forest High Lodge 23rd, 2 west Scolt Head 25th.

Again scarce at year end with only records as follows, though this perhaps reflects lack of observer coverage in Brecks at this time: *Nov* Ickburgh 2nd, 4 Wells East Hills 15th, 5 Brettenham Heath 25th; *Dec* 2 south Thorpe Marriott 12th, 10 Kelling Heath, 14 Cockley Cley and 4 Drymere all 16th, Holkham 24th,



Crossbill (Phil Jones)

Common Rosefinch

Carpodacus erythrinus

Rare passage migrant; potential colonist

No spring records, average showing in autumn with singles Winterton Sept 10th (CL *et al*) and Oct 18th (INS), and Blakeney Village Nov 10th/11th (GMC).

1999 Addition: Single Snettisham June 5th (JSc).

2000 Addition: Single Ken Hill Marsh May 29th (JSc).

Bullfinch

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Resident and occasional immigrant

Max count in first winter period 9 Santon Downham Jan 28th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 43% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

In autumn likely migrants Yarmouth Cemetery (2) Oct 6th, Holme Nov 2nd/3rd and west Sheringham Nov 10th. At Scolt Head a northern-type *pyrrhula* race 'fell out of the sky' into the suaeda Oct 20th; at East Beckham 3 well seen out of a flock of 9 and also considered to be 'northern' birds in view of their brilliant plumage and tameness.

Hawfinch
Elusive and very local resident; scarce migrant

Coccothraustes coccothraustes

No records received from either Holkham Park or Sandringham, contrasting with a marked improvement in numbers at both Lynford Arboretum and particularly Barnhamcross Common.

Tabulated highest counts:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Barnhamcross Common	9	15	13	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Lynford Arboretum	2	8	-	4	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1

All records from other sites (singles unless stated): Wensum Valley site roost Jan 1st, Ludham Jan 12th, Shingham Jan 13th/14th, Roydon Common Feb 4th, Thetford Nunnery Flood March 5th, Yarmouth Cemetery March 10th and Aylmerton May 3rd. Also max 2 Santon Downham Dec.

Twite
Declining local winter visitor

Carduelis flavirostris

Recorded to April 2nd (Scolt Head) and from Oct 12th (Scolt Head and Burnham Norton).
Max counts at main resorts:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Wash	13	5	-	-	-	2
Holme	35	35	70	3	22	20
Thornham-Titchwell	35	55	85	40	41	55
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	65	60	40	8	149	119
Holkham Bay	82	86	95	18	35	70
Morston Quay/Blakeney Hbr	32	30	-	1	35	12
Happisburgh	17	18	12	6	21	-

Elsewhere 20 Stiffkey Jan 11th with max 5 during Dec; 50 Burnham Deepdale Jan 28th; 8 Salthouse Feb 18th; Burnham Norton Oct 12th; 2 Sheringham Oct 13th; 3 Cley Oct 16th with up to 4 Nov; 1-2 West Runton and 9 Sidestrand Oct 18th; 9 Burnham Overy Oct 28th with max 97 Nov and 70 Dec; 13 Waxham (on arable) Nov 3rd; 4 Kelling WM Dec 9th.

Westwards passage observed Scolt Head where 7 April 1st. 2 Oct 12th. 3 13th, 8 23rd and 7 25th, and Hunstanton where one south Nov 1st and 3 south 2nd.

Numbers remain at a low ebb. Note especially the low counts from Wash, the absence from Breydon/Berney and regular use of arable fields at Happisburgh.

Lapland Bunting
Regular but usually scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

Calcarius lapponicus

Few recorded in first winter period: *Jan* singles Cley, Sheringham, Titchwell and Waxham with 2 Breydon 1st, 4 Haddiscoe 10th and max 5 Happisburgh 14th; *Feb* single Salthouse 17th; *March* 3 Cley 4th/5th.

First in autumn Blakeney Point Sept 20th followed by 5 other singles along north coast by end of month, with 2 Sheringham 27th. In Oct/early Nov majority of birds, mainly

singles, moving west along north coast. At Scolt Head total 21 Oct 12th-Nov 1st with peaks of 4 Oct 13th, 23rd and Nov 1st; also 4 west Sheringham Nov 3rd. Elsewhere present Happisburgh Oct 11th-Nov 19th with max 5 Oct 19th. In Dec singles only Happisburgh, Sheringham and West Runton with 9 Scolt Head 5th and 5 Paston 10th.

Inland: Cockthorpe Oct 15th (2), Great Ryburgh Oct 16th and Stanhoe Nov 11th.

Snow Bunting

Plectrophenax nivalis

Winter visitor in declining numbers

Monthly max at most regular winter sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Snettisham/Heacham	40	40	-	-	-
Holme	55	60	2	100	44
Thornham/Titchwell	60	30	-	30	52
Scolt Head	55	45	13	95	130
Holkham Bay	9	-	17	120	150
Blakeney Point	32	50	15	80	70
Cley/Salthouse	16	29	14	110	70
West Runton/Cromer	-	-	1	182	152
Walcott/Paston	-	-	-	110	120
Happisburgh/Eccles	9	4	-	168	40
Caister	12	9	-	25	73
Yarmouth	-	-	24	17	-
Breydon/Berney	-	-	2	6	16

Only other notable flocks in first winter period 30 Stiffkey Jan 4th and 52 Hunstanton Jan 15th. Only double-figure counts in March 23 Holme early in month and 12 Blakeney Point 5th; only 3 records in second half of month, 2 Salthouse 20th-24th, single Scolt Head 22nd and 2 Happisburgh 23rd.

First in autumn Scolt Head and Winterton Sept 16th; max in month 11 Horsey 22nd. Numbers as usual small in Oct with main arrival Nov. Large numbers at Cromer Nov/Dec feeding on a seeded clifftop car park.

Inland: Southrepps Nov 18th and 2 East Ruston Nov 26th.

Yellowhammer

Emberiza citrinella

Once common resident, currently in decline

In first winter period larger flocks included: *Jan* 150 Antingham, 110 Didlington, 100 Garboldisham, 160 Great Moulton; *Feb* loose flock 485 Clenchwarton (with 34 Reed Buntings), 70 West Beckham; *March* 100 Great Cressingham.

Light spring passage: 2 west Holme March 29th and in April west Scolt Head 17th, 1-2 east and west Beeston Bump several dates, and at Cromer 3 west one east 3rd, 3 west 2 east 4th, and 4 west one east 7th.

Breeding: at Long Stratton total of 45 singing males around village. NBA results showed the species was present in 82% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 7 pairs per occupied tetrad.

In autumn in Oct singles south Hunstanton Cliffs 6th, 16th and 17th, Blakeney Point 13th and west Beeston Bump 27th; in Nov 5 west Sheringham 10th.

Dec flocks included 150 Burnham Market and 140 Fornsett.

Ortolan Bunting

Emberiza hortulana

Rare passage migrant

One in each migration period: Scolt Head May 22nd (NML) and Blakeney Point Sept 18th-22nd (GED SCJ AMS *et al*).

Rustic Bunting

Emberiza rustica

Vagrant from northern Europe

A 1st-winter Winterton Sept 24th (JA PG *et al*).

Reed Bunting

Emberiza schoeniclus

Resident and passage migrant

Largest flocks early in year included: Jan 45 Neatishead; Feb 34 Clenchwarton, 30 Acle.

Only evidence of spring migration at Holme where westerly movement of 2 10th, 7 28th and 5 29th.

Breeding pairs were noted at 22 localities, the largest concentrations being at Welney (29), Snettisham (24), Scolt Head (87 singing males), Holkham NNR (45) and Blakeney Point (13). NBA results showed the species was present in 34% of tetrads covered in the 2000 or 2001 breeding season with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

In autumn counts of birds present Scolt Head included 42 Sept 20th, 55 Sept 22nd, 70 Oct 18th and 47 Oct 22nd; also 40 Blakeney Point Sept 25th. Visible migration also noted particularly Hunstanton Cliffs, where total 81 south Oct 1st-Nov 19th including max 19 Oct 12th, and Scolt Head, where westerly movement in Sept of 13 12th, 28 25th, 13 26th and in Oct 89 12th, 105 13th and 28 25th.

At Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 102 Nov and 113 Dec; otherwise in Dec 60 Claxton and 28 (at roost) Snettisham.

Corn Bunting

Miliaria calandra

Local and declining resident

Notable flocks early in year included 21 Choseley, 23 East Ruston, 26 Lynn Point, 17 Methwold Common, 80 Ringstead, 15 Southrepps and 20 Ten Mile Bank.

In spring singing or breeding birds were noted at 23 localities, though some of these related to birds seen on only one date. Largest concentration 11 pairs Sedgfen Drove, Feltwell. Notable gatherings included 30 Choseley, 37 Lynn Point and 27 West Walton, all in April.

An unusual spring migrant Blakeney Point May 11th.

At Happisburgh 11 present during Oct. Presumed migrants north Eccles Oct 13th and south Hunstanton Cliffs Nov 2nd. Dec flocks included 35 Burnham Market, 25 Choseley, 80 Feltwell, 12 Marshland St James and 50 West Walton.

Introductions, Escapes, Ferals and Hybrids

Appendix I - Categories A, B and C

Escapes or feral birds of species on the British List

Category A Species

Night Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax

Free-flying colony at Great Witchingham

Cley (Glaven Valley) March 10th-14th; Little Ryburgh May 12th; Lenwade (Wensum Valley) May 20th; Sparham juv dead Dec 9th; Great Witchingham in and out of park all year with max 5 Oct including juvs.

Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

Cosmopolitan

Colkirk (yellow ring on left leg) Dec 13th-23rd.

Lesser White-fronted Goose

Anser erythropus

Northern Eurasia; winters southern Europe, India and China

Pentney GP Jan 14th and 16th; Tottenhill GP Jan 30th; Stiffkey Fen May 18th; Cley Oct 7th and 9th.

Snow Goose

Anser caerulescens

North-east Siberia and North America; winters to Mexico

Surlingham Church Marsh April 28th.

Category B/C Species

Ruddy Shelduck

Tadorna ferruginea

Asia and North Africa

Bittering GP Oct 12th; Brancaster Hbr Jan 14th, Feb 6th and 11th; 3 Breydon/Berney July 21st, one Sept 9th-Oct 28th, 6 north Oct 6th and one Dec 24th; Brundall Dec 28th; Buckenham Nov 5th; 6 west Cantley BF Oct 6th; 8 Cley Aug 11th/12th and 7 Aug 15th-22nd; East Harling Jan 7th; Holkham FM Sept 23rd; Holkham Park pair all year; 7 in off sea Hunstanton Aug 23rd; 2 Hunworth Jan 7th; Lynford GP April 15th; 7 south Lynn Point Nov 29th; Merton March 5th; Middleton GP July 1st-28th and Aug 17th; Morston Oct 27th; 2 Pensthorpe March 24th; 7 Snettisham Aug 23rd; Titchwell June 24th, 2 27th and 7 Aug 23rd; Thornage April 15th and 2 Aug 27th.

Appendix II - Category D

Species that would otherwise appear on the British List except that there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state

White Pelican

Pelecanus onocrotalus

Locally central Eurasia, Asia and Africa

Buckenham Nov 1st-5th, Trowse Nov 9th, Salthouse Nov 25th, Great Ryburgh (R Wensum) Nov 28th, Horsey Mere Dec 4th-6th, Martham Broad and Waxham Dec 6th, Ludham Dec 8th and Cley Dec 9th.

Ross's Goose

Anser rossii

Tundra of northern Canada, winters to southern United States

Pensthorpe Jan 27th and Feb 3rd; Great Ryburgh Jan 27th and 3 Cley Oct 27th.

The 1st-winter bird first seen amongst Pink-feet at Wells Nov 3rd was found next day at Waxham again in company of Pink-feet. Thereafter it was closely followed around county until year end, with prolonged stays in Burnham Market/Wighton, Docking/Stanhoe and Horsey/Heigham Holmes areas. It was seen in flight over Lingwood and Holt Dec 1st as it commuted between the south-east and north-west of county.

Appendix III - Category E

Escapes or feral birds of species not on the British List

Sacred Ibis

Threskiornis aethiopicus

Africa south of Sahara to Iran, Madagascar

Aldeby Tip July 1st/2nd, Buckenham April 16th and May 22nd-26th, Cantley April 3rd, Ellingham Feb 14th, Heigham Holmes Oct 26th, Hickling Broad Aug 28th, Horsey Nov 2nd/3rd, Kirby Kane March 7th, Martham Oct 10th and Nov 4th, Runham Nov 5th and Strumpshaw May 13th.

Fulvous Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna bicolor

Southern United States to Argentina; East Africa and southern Asia

2 Brancaster Hbr April 27th, Horning Ferry Feb 19th, 2 Horsey Mere Dec 14th, Woodbastwick Fen July 1st, Wroxham (R Bure) Jan 24th, Yarmouth Burc Park Aug 31st and Sept 2nd.

White-faced Whistling-duck

Dendrocygna viduata

Costa Rica to Brazil; Africa, Madagascar and Comoro Islands

Cley May 12th, 2 Egmere during Aug and 7 Great Ryburgh on 7 dates Jan 28th-May 9th.

Black Swan

Cygnus atratus

Australia

2 Blakeney Hbr Jan 13th and 30th, 2 Brancaster Hbr March 6th, 2 Cley April 8th and May 11th, and one Dec 23rd, 2 Diss Mere July 15th-22nd and one Oct 24th, Middleton GP July 1st-Dec 31st, 4 Pickenham (R Wissey) Oct 12th, Snettisham April 10th and May 1st-21st, 2 Titchwell March 5th, 2 April 9th and 22nd, and 3 July 11th, Welney Jan 1st-March 30th, Whitlingham CP Dec 22nd.

Swan Goose

Anser cygnoides

Eastern Eurasia

Diss Mere all year, Titchwell June 28th, July 2nd and Aug 28th, and Walcott all year.

Bar-headed Goose

Anser indicus

Central Asia; winters in India and Burma

Brundall Dec 28th, Cley Aug 23rd/24th, Sept 13th, Oct 7th-12th and Nov 2nd, Gresham April 30th, Hanworth Aug 1st, Holkham FM Sept 27th, Martham Ferry Dec 1st, Potter Heigham Jan 19th, Stiffkey Fen Aug 30th, Sept 15th-19th and Oct 19th, Titchwell Sept 23rd-26th, Welney April 2nd, Whitlingham CP Aug 14th-26th, and Sept 2nd and 9th, 4 Winterton May 13th, and Wolterton Hall Lake Dec 23rd/24th.

Emperor Goose

Anser canagica

North-east Siberia to western Alaska; winters southern Alaska to northern California

Cley Aug 28th, Walcott all year and Whitlingham CP Aug 28th.

Muscovy Duck <i>Southern Mexico to Argentina and Brazil</i> 2 Cawston March 18th and Diss Mere 1-2 all year.	<i>Cairina moschata</i>
Ringed Teal <i>Southern Brazil to Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay and north-east Argentina</i> Broome GP May 11th.	<i>Callonetta leucophrys</i>
Wood Duck <i>Canada to northern Mexico; Cuba and Bahamas</i> 3 Brundall Dec 28th, Horsey Mere Dec 2nd/3rd and 28th.	<i>Aix sponsa</i>
Chiloe Wigeon <i>Southern South America</i> Breydon/Berney Oct 6th and 28th, Nov 25th/26th and Dec 29th, Holme July 31st, Welney Jan 12th, 28th/29th, Feb 12th, and March 2nd, 6th and 17th.	<i>Anas sibilatrix</i>
Speckled Teal <i>Venezuela to Tierra del Fuego</i> Berney June 10th-18th, Cantley BF Dec 10th and 13th, and Horsey Mere Jan 6th-13th.	<i>Anas flavirostris</i>
Yellow-billed Pintail <i>South America and South Georgia</i> Cantley BF Oct 18th and 27th, and Dec 10th and 18th.	<i>Anas georgica</i>
Cinnamon Teal <i>Southern Canada to Tierra del Fuego and Falklands</i> Pensthorpe Jan 21st-27th, March all month and Oct 15th.	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>
Argentine Bluebill <i>Southern Argentina and Chile, winters southern Brazil and Paraguay</i> Fowlmere July 12th.	<i>Oxyura vittata</i>
Rüppell's Griffon Vulture <i>Africa</i> Happisburgh June 20th.	<i>Gyps rueppellii</i>
Red-tailed Hawk <i>North and Central America and West Indies</i> Aylmerton April 8th and May 19th, Burnham Market March 5th and 17th, Cockley Cley Feb 25th, June 18th and 24th, Oct 28th and Dec 16th, Griston May 21st, Heacham March 3rd, Houghton Aug 4th, Langham Jan 6th, Salthouse Heath April 22nd, Saxlingham May 13th and Sheringham April 22nd.	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
Lanner <i>Western Palearctic and Africa</i> Cromer April 2nd, Corpusty March 28th and Thornage Nov 10th.	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
Saker <i>Eurasia</i> Fersfield Airfield Jan 9th and 16th.	<i>Falco cherrug</i>
Reeves's Pheasant <i>North-central China</i> Stanford TA (Seven Acre pit) April 28th.	<i>Syrnaticus reevesii</i>
Green Pheasant <i>Japan</i> Brumstead (dead) Feb 1st, East Ruston March 28th, Neatishead Feb 8th and March 18th, and Worstead Feb 10th.	<i>Phasianus versicolor</i>

Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
<i>India and Sri Lanka</i>	
2 Winfarthing May 9th and one May 20th.	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
<i>Africa south of Sahara and extreme southern Arabia</i>	
Houghton Park 2 pairs bred fledging 12-14 young with several other adults in area.	
Grey-crowned Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>
<i>East and southern Africa</i>	
Lakenheath Washes July 30th.	
Budgerigar	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>
<i>Australia</i>	
Breydon July 2nd and Scolt Head May 28th.	
Cockatiel	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>
<i>Australia</i>	
Beeston Regis Common May 30th, East Ruston Sept 30th, Holme June 12th and Yarmouth Jan 14th.	
Red-and-green Macaw	<i>Ara chloropteras</i>
<i>Central and South America</i>	
Old Catton June 20th.	
Nanday (Black-hooded) Parakeet	<i>Nandayus nenday</i>
<i>South America</i>	
2 Burnham Market Nov 11th-end of year.	
Yellow-fronted Amazon	<i>Amozona oratrix</i>
<i>Mexico to Belize</i>	
Norwich Jan 14th.	
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudata</i>
<i>Ethiopia and Somalia to South Africa</i>	
Stoke Ferry June-Nov.	
Island Canary	<i>Serinus canaria</i>
<i>Commonly kept cagebird</i>	
West Runton Oct 13th/14th.	
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Serinus maxambicus</i>
<i>Africa south of Sahara</i>	
Beeston Bump Sept 22nd.	
Yellow-crowned Bishop	<i>Euphlectes afer</i>
<i>Tropical Africa</i>	
Morston Jan 7th.	
Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>
<i>Eastern and southern Africa</i>	
Holme Sept 1st.	
Siberian Meadow Bunting	<i>Emberiza cioides</i>
<i>Eastern Palearctic</i>	
Burnham Overy Staithe May 2nd-4th.	

Appendix IV - Hybrids

Greylag Goose x Canada Goose

How Hill Feb 11th and May 2nd, and 4 juvs Whitlingham CP Aug 26th.

Pink-footed Goose x Barnacle Goose

2 Brancaster during Dec.

Snow Goose x Emperor Goose

Brancaster Jan 5th.

Shelduck x Mallard x Pintail

Salthouse May 21st.

Mallard x Pintail

Surlingham Church Marsh April 8th, Cley Oct 16th and Winterton Dec 20th.

Pintail x Wigeon

Pentney GP Jan 16th-Feb 25th.

Wigeon x Shoveler

Pentney GP Jan 16th.

Shoveler x Blue-winged Teal

Titchwell Jan 4th-Feb 28th and April 4th-June 30th. Also brood from above hybrid/Shoveler Titchwell in summer ie second generation hybrids.

Tufted Duck x Pochard

Stiffkey Fen March 5th, Welney Feb 7th-24th, May 11th, and Dec 16th and 21st.

Pochard x Ferruginous Duck

Welney Nov 3rd-6th.

Mediterranean Gull x Black-headed Gull

2nd-summer Scolt Head May 18th-31st and an adult Scolt Head June 22nd-July 1st.

Herring Gull x Lesser Black-backed Gull

Attlebridge Feb 5th and 7th.

Prints of Photographs including those featured in this Report may be obtained from:

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Richard Brooks, 24 Croxton Hamlet, Fulmodeston, Fakenham NR21 0NP
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Earliest and Latest Dates of Summer Migrants

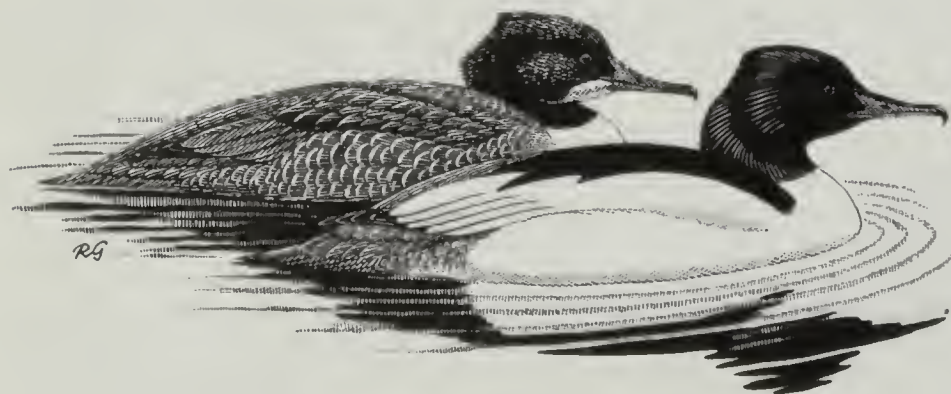
(excludes occasional winter records)

	<i>Arrivals</i>		<i>Departures</i>	
Manx Shearwater	Mar 6th	Salthouse	Nov 9th	Sheringham
Garganey	Mar 21st	Horsey	Oct 27th	Cley, Welney
Honey Buzzard	May 10th	Kelling	Oct 8th	Holt
Montagu's Harrier	Apr 12th	Hillington	Oct 6th	Choseley
Osprey	Mar 31st	Cley	Nov 2nd	Earsham GP
Hobby	Apr 12th	New Costessey	Nov 10th	Hunstanton
Quail	May 21st	Watton	Aug 30th	Stiffkey
Stone Curlew	-	-	Nov 26th	Gooderstone
Little-ringed Plover	Mar 24th	Pensthorpe	Sept 5th	Cley
Temminck's Stint	May 10th	Cley	Oct 21st	Titchwell
Curlew Sandpiper	Apr 21st	Titchwell	Nov 1st	Welney
Whimbrel	Apr 4th	Cley	Nov 1st	Beeston Bump
Wood Sandpiper	May 2nd	East Harling	Sept 12th	Cley
Common Sandpiper	Apr 15th	Welney/Wroxham	Oct 28th	Whitlingham CP
Sandwich Tern	Mar 21st	Mundesley	Oct 31st	Sheringham
Roseate Tern	May 18th	Cley	Sept 17th	Winterton
Common Tern	Mar 28th	Holme	Nov 1st	Scolt, Sheringham
Arctic Tern	Apr 16th	Welney	Oct 13th	Sheringham
Little Tern	Apr 17th	Hunstanton	Oct 9th	Holme
Black Tern	Apr 25th	3 sites	Oct 27th	Cley
Turtle Dove	Apr 22nd	Choseley, Cley	Oct 8th	Eccles
Cuckoo	Apr 11th	East Harling	Oct 3rd	Gorleston
Nightjar	Apr 30th	Cley	Sept 28th	Bacton
Swift	Apr 24th	Holme	Oct 20th	Cromer
Wryneck	Apr 14th	Hevingham	Sept 30th	Holme
Sand Martin	Mar 8th	Salthouse	Nov 5th	Sea Palling
Swallow	Mar 8th	Barton Broad	Nov 27th	Roughton
House Martin	Mar 18th	Barton Broad	Nov 4th	Winterton
Tree Pipit	Apr 3rd	Cromer	Oct 4th	Cromer
Yellow Wagtail	Mar 30th	Berney	Nov 19th	Holme
Nightingale	Apr 8th	Pensthorpe	June 15th	Salthouse Heath
Redstart	Apr 2nd	Salthouse	Oct 21st	3 sites
Whinchat	Apr 25th	Beeston Regis	Nov 5th	Beeston Bump
Wheatear	Mar 10th	Cley	Nov 4th	Winterton
Ring Ouzel	Mar 14th	Yarmouth	Nov 4th	Brancaster
Grasshopper Warbler	Apr 7th	Waxham, Winterton	Sept 25th	3 sites
Sedge Warbler	Mar 28th	Weybourne	Sept 26th	Scolt, Strumpshaw
Reed Warbler	Apr 13th	Strumpshaw	Oct 27th	Winterton
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 13th	Hunstanton	Oct 23rd	Holkham, Snettisham
Whitethroat	Apr 5th	Holme	Oct 27th	Holkham
Garden Warbler	Apr 22nd	Strumpshaw	Oct 24th	Holkham
Wood Warbler	Apr 26th	SalthouseHeath	Oct 18th	Holme
Willow Warbler	Mar 29th	Barnhamcross, Holme	Oct 24th	Sheringham
Spotted Flycatcher	May 10th	Holme	Sept 27th	Stiffkey
Pied Flycatcher	Apr 23rd	Weybourne	Oct 21st	Yarmouth
Red-backed Shrike	June 14th	Warham	Oct 13th	Beeston Bump

Latest and Earliest Dates of Winter Migrants

(excludes occasional summer records)

	<i>Departures</i>		<i>Arrivals</i>	
Black-throated Diver	May 27th	Titchwell	Sept 3rd	Sheringham
Great Northern Diver	May 17th	Mundesley	Sept 12th	Holkham Bay
Red-necked Grebe	May 1st	Hunstanton	Aug 11th	Cley
Slavonian Grebe	May 7th	Hickling Broad	Sept 15th	Cley
Bewick's Swan	Apr 11th	East Ruston	Oct 18th	Welney
Whooper Swan	Apr 27th	Welney	Oct 8th	Welney
Taiga Bean Goose	Jan 28th	Yare Valley	Oct 30th	Yare Valley
Tundra Bean Goose	Mar 9th	Welney	Nov 10th	Hempstead
Pink-footed Goose	May 12th	Burnham Overy	Sept 9th	Holme
White-fronted Goose	Apr 24th	Beeston Bump	Oct 18th	Burnham Overy
Long-tailed Duck	May 25th	Scolt Head	Sept 9th	Mundesley
Goldeneye	May 15th	Welney	Oct 19th	Scolt Head
Smew	Apr 23rd	Brancaster Hbr	Nov 10th	Blakeney Point
Goosander	Apr 15th	Denver Sluice	Sept 9th	Sheringham
Hen Harrier	May 28th	Horsey	Aug 15th	Cley
Rough-legged Buzzard	May 5th	Ringstead	Nov 4th	Salthouse
Merlin	May 25th	Salthouse	July 26th	Blakeney Point
Purple Sandpiper	May 16th	Blakeney Point	Aug 5th	Scolt Head
Jack Snipe	Apr 22nd	North-east Norfolk	Sept 18th	Scolt Head
Shore Lark	May 8th	Scolt Head	Sept 27th	Blakeney Point
Rock Pipit	Apr 21st	Blakeney Point	Sept 11th	Overstrand
Water Pipit	Apr 16th	Buckenham	Sept 29th	Sheringham
Fieldfare	May 16th	Winterton	Sept 18th	Scolt Head
Redwing	May 18th	Scolt Head	Sept 17th	Scolt Head, Holme
Great Grey Shrike	Apr 27th	Hickling	Sept 25th	Titchwell
Brambling	May 14th	Scolt Head	Sept 17th	Holme
Twite	Apr 25th	Scolt Head	Oct 12th	Burnham Norton, Scolt
Lapland Bunting	Mar 5th	Cley	Sept 20th	Blakeney Point
Snow Bunting	Apr 23rd	Happisburgh	Sept 16th	Scolt, Winterton



Goosanders (*Robert Gillmor*)

Non-accepted Records

The following refer to records where a written description has not been accepted by either the British Birds Rarities Committee or County Records Committee.

2000

Marsh Sandpiper - Snettisham (3) May 6th; Red-throated Pipit - Yarmouth Sept 29th; Desert Warbler - Thornham May 21st.

2001

Cory's Shearwater - Holme Oct 11th; Balearic Shearwater - Sheringham Sept 1st and Holme (5) Sept 6th; Storm Petrel - Cley July 18th; Black Stork - Blakeney Oct 10th; Black Kite - Horsey Apr 26th and Flitcham Aug 18th; Red-footed Falcon - Gaywood/King's Lynn Aug 3rd; Sabine's Gull - Salthouse July 21st, and Holme Sept 9th and 17th; Ring-billed Gull - Pensthorpe Sept 11th; Caspian Gull - Titchwell June 3rd, King's Lynn Sept 8th and Titchwell Dec 26th; Caspian Tern - Winterton Apr 25th; Dark-breasted Barn Owl - Burnham Market Feb 27th; Bee-eater - North Wootton May 21st; Lanceolated Warbler - Wells Sept 19th; Dartford Warbler - Holt CP Oct 18th; *tristis* Chiffchaff - Pentney GP Sept 27th; Red-breasted Flycatcher - Titchwell May 24th; Raven - Thorpe Market July 24th.

Non-submitted Records

The following records have been reported to either the National or East Anglian Birdlines but to date no details have been received. Descriptions of any of these records would be welcomed (for consideration either by the British Birds Rarities Committee or County Records Committee) so that hopefully they can be published as accepted records in due course.

Cory's Shearwater	Cromer	July 18th
	Cley	July 28th
Balearic Shearwater	Cley	Aug 9th
Storm Petrel	Hunstanton	Sept 9th
	Sea Palling	Sept 16th
	Holme	Sept 18th
Purple Heron	Hickling Broad	May 14th
Ring-necked Duck	Hockwold Washes	Oct 20th
Black Kite	Wells	Aug 27th
Red-footed Falcon	Sheringham	May 11th
	Winterton	May 12th
	Sennowe Park	May 21st
Sabine's Gull	Sheringham	Sept 16th
Caspian Gull	Hardley Flood	Oct 12th
Caspian Tern	Titchwell	June 14th and July 24th
	Sheringham	July 24th
White-winged Black Tern	Winterton	Aug 5th
Bee-eater	Cley/Salthouse	May 16th
Siberian Stonechat	Stiffkey	Sept 24th
Great Reed Warbler	Hickling Broad	June 6th
Dusky Warbler	Pensthorpe	Sept 22nd
	Yarmouth	Sept 25th
Bonelli's Warbler	Holkham Meals	Sept 16th
Penduline Tit	Titchwell	June 28th

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS TO SYSTEMATIC LIST

S Abbott	G N Brind	H P Crawley	A Goodall
M Abdulla	R S Broke	M D & M Crewe	C Gooddie
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B & Y Anderson	D Brooks	M & L T Davenport	S J Gough
M Andrews	R Brooks	T C & G E Davies	N Green
D Anning	A F Brown	P Davidson	J J D Greenwood
D P Appleton	H Brown	T R & J Dean	C Gregory
G F Appleton	J Brown (JBr)	P J Dolton	R Greyson
J Appleton	R Brown	C Donner	R Gribble
P C Arbery	S J Browne	D Dorling	B M Griffin
A Armitage	S H Bryan	G P Douglas	A Hale
S J Aspinall	D A Bryant	C Dunlop	L Hall
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D Attrill	Dr I Burrows	G E Dunmore	J Hampshire
G E Austin	N J Burrows	K R Dye	V J Hanlon
C D Baggott	B J Burton	S Eagle	B Harding
J Bailey	N Burton	J Eaton	P E Harries
C P Baker	J F Butcher	K & S Edwards	A F Harris
J K Baker	Buxton Heath Wildlife	B A Eglington	R Haselden
M F B Baker	Group	M I Eldridge	M L Hawkes
D E Balmer	N B Bye	N Elms	I Haynes
A Banwell	S Cale	G Etherington	C D Heard
I Barton	P Callis	P Etherington	P J Heath
R I Bashford	A R Cannon	R D Evans	I G Henderson
P E Beard	P Carr	A Excell	D Hennessy
B Becket	D & G Carter	C M A & F J L	K J & A Herber
D M Bednall	P Cawley (PCa)	Farrow	Dr R Heselden
J A Bennett	D E Chamberlain	D Farrow (DFa)	G F Hibberd
A P Benson	A Chamberlin (ACH)	P C Feakes	M Hines
L Benson	A G Channer	T Fearn	G Hogan
R A Benson	K Charters	D Ferguson	S J Holloway
L G Bentley	D Cheyne	J Filowiat	D J Holman
S Betts	M A Chipperfield	M D Fiszer	Holme Bird
D Bevan	R H Chittenden	R A & A J Foyster	Observatory
J V Bhalariao	N A & J A Clark	P Freeman	P Holness
D Bingham	P Clement (PCl)	S N Freeman	J Hopkins (JHo)
Birdline East Anglia	Cley Bird Club	A C Frost	A Horsefield
J Birkett	R Cobbold	D J Fuller	C Howat
J Blackburn	M Cocker	R J Fuller	M Hosier
A I Bloomfield	A Cohen	J E D Furse	S Howell
R Bodily	R & B Cole	A J Gardiner	A G Irwin
D Boeye	A D Collins (ADCo)	E Gaffney	A Jackson
P Bonham	P Collis (PCo)	S J M Gantlett	P Jackson
A D Boote	M Colman	R W H & H K Garner	C A Jacobs
T E Boulton	G Conway	P L Garvey	C Jarrett
N B Bowman	G M Cook	J D & J E Geeson	J & B Jarvis
S P Bramham-Jones	M L Cornish	J A Gill	P A Jeffcry
K J Brett	D Cotton	S Gillings	R Johns
T Bridge	R A F Cox	P Gluth	I G & K Johnson
D & J Bridges	G Coxall (GCo)	J G Goldsmith	S & M E Johnson
(D&JBr)	A D Crawford	D Gooch	C Jones

R F Jones	C Mills	T Rollins	C Wade
M Jowett	L J Milne	M E S Rooney	J Wagstaffe
S C Joyner	C Mitchell (CMi)	G Rosenberg	S J Wakeman
A J Kane	S Money	RSPB	G L Walford
N Kauseh	P A Monsey	D H Russell	M Walford
J A Kay	A Monteath	M Russell	M A Ward (MAWa)
G I Kelly	D R Moore	D Ruthven	N Warson
J B Kemp	B Morrison	D H Sadler	A Waterman (AWa)
J Ketchen	D S & L J Mullard	R St John	M A Webster
I F & J Keymer	B J Murphy	A J Saunders	S C West
R Kimber	A J Musgrove	M Saunders	P Westley
A King	J Nairn	D & M J Saunt	C E Wheeler
C A E Kirtland	NARVOS	C Sayer	I Whitaker
T Knight	T Nash	J Scott (JSe)	I White
C R Knights	C & F Neale	R E Scott	P G White
D A Lake	P Newport	J Searle	J R Whitelegg
F J Lambert	T C Nicholson	C J Shaw	P Whittall
K Langdon	T Nightingale	K B Shepherd	A Williams
C Lansdell	D Noble	J Shepperd	N Williams (NWi)
J Lansdell (JLa)	NOA	Sheringham Bird	J R Williamson
P Laurie (PLa)	North West Ringing	Observatory	(JRWi)
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N M Lawton	N Paeker	R Q Skeen	P M Wilson
J Leadley	K Parker	A J L Smith	M J Wood
A Leah	A Parkes	M H Smith	P Wood
R M Leaney	D Parsons	I Smith	M Woodecock
M P Lee	S Paston	I N Smith	P J Woolnough
R Lee	T Peach	M H Smith	G Wright
D P Lester	P Peacock	S Smith	K Wright
J Lines	A Pease	M Snelling (MSn)	S A Wright
D Ling	D Pelling	S South	T Wright
S Linsell	C Penning	S Spalding	M Young-Powell
S M Lister	C W Penny	E M P Stanford	
P Lockwood	B Pleasance	Stanta Bird Club	
M & K Lovatt	R F Porter	D Stevens (DSt)	
T C Lowe	D Powell	M Stewart	
J D Magee	I Prentice	A M Stoddart	
J H Marchant	M Preston	D Stokes	
M R & O R Marks	B & B Pummell	A Stride	
I Marris	M H Rains	M Summerwell	
L Marshall	H R Ramsay	M P Taylor	
J Martin	N D Rawlings	P Taylor	
J R McCallum	M Raven	S Taylor	
R McCurley	J M Reed	R Thewlis	
A McElwee	S Reeks	A M Thompson	
R C & S McIntyre	M M Rehtiseh	C Thompson	
E E McLernon	R Robinson	J & A Threadgold	
C J Mead	N A Rich	W T Thrower	
N Mears	D I & R M Richmond	M Toms	
J Melhursh	D J Brown	J Vickery	
M Mellor	E Rogers	A E Vine	
P J Milford	J Rogers	S C Votier	
R G Millington	R Rolfe	R Votier	

Ringling Report

Allan Hale

The total of 32,950 birds ringed in the county during 2001 was the lowest since 1992. Whilst this was doubtless due to limited time in the field as a result of Foot and Mouth Disease, ringers comments have suggested that it was never going to be a good year anyway. The species count, at 129, has been steady for the past four years. Genuine rarities were conspicuous by their absence.

The outstanding recovery of the year was undoubtedly a Knot trapped at Wolferton wearing a Hungarian ring. Not only is the Knot a rare bird in Hungary, but this was only the second Hungarian-ringed wader (of any species) to be found in Britain. After being ringed, it then re-oriented to the western European migration route, travelling 1,300 km to be caught by the Wash Wader Ringing Group just ten days later!

This report details birds moving to, or from, 18 different countries. Interestingly in almost 70% of the bird movements shown below, the bird was still alive at the final point of reporting.

Once again, thanks to all Norfolk ringers for access to their data and special thanks to Steve and Alison Wakeham for the Wash Wader Ringing Group recoveries and their interpretation.

SELECTED NORFOLK RECOVERIES NOTIFIED DURING 2001

Ringling details are shown on the first line whilst recovery information is on the second.

Age when ringed

- 1 Pullus (= nestling)
- 2 Fully grown, year of hatching unknown
- 3 Hatched during calendar year of ringling
- 4 Hatched before calendar year of ringling, but exact year unknown
- 5 Hatched during previous calendar year
- 6 Hatched before previous calendar year, but exact year unknown
- 7 Definitely hatched two calendar years before ringling
- 8 Hatched more than two calendar years before year of ringling

M = Male F = Female

Condition at Recovery

- X Found dead
- XF Found freshly dead or dying
- XL Found long dead
- + Shot or intentionally killed by man
- +F Shot or intentionally killed by man - fresh

- +L Shot or intentionally killed by man - not recent
- A Alive and probably healthy. Fate unknown
- V Alive and probably healthy. Caught and released by a non-ringer
- VV Ring read in the field by a non-ringer
- R Caught and released by ringer
- RR Ring or colour marks read in the field
- BB Ring or colour marks read in the field - nesting

Mute Swan

6	23.07.00	Christchurch, Dorset	
RR	02.01.02	Rollesby Broad	318 km NW

Not many Mute Swan travel this far.

Bewick's Swan

2	10.08.94	Khunavey River, Pechora Delta, Russia
VV	30.12.94	Catfield (until 31.12.94)
VV	27.03.95	Pappsaare/Salu/Audru, Estonia (until 02.04.95)
VV	09.12.95	Duiveland/Sirjansland, The Netherlands (until 17.02.96)
VV	09.03.96	Wumme/Bremen, Germany (until 12.03.96)
VV	16.10.96	Lauwersmeer, The Netherlands (until 18.10.96)
VV	21.12.96	Eye Brook, Leicestershire
VV	28.12.96	Welney
VV	18.10.97	Lauwersmeer/Groningen, The Netherlands (until 18.12.97)
VV	03.01.98	Upwell Fen, Cambridgeshire (until 17.02.98)
VV	17.03.98	Kaltenhof/Laascher Sea, Germany (until 28.03.98)
VV	07.12.99	Welney
VV	07.01.00	Horse Mere (until 16.01.00)
VV	25.01.01	Horse Mere
W	27.12.01	Catfield

A full life history. This Bewick's Swan was altogether less site faithful to its winter quarters than the Whooper Swan shown below.

Whooper Swan

1	14.08.97	Huuhkaankla, Ylojarvi, Finland
RR	13.11.97	Sarkkilanjärvi, Hkyro, Finland
RR	06.12.97	Catfield (until 15.02.98)
RR	05.04.98	Vanan, Avesta, Dalarna, Sweden
RR	14.11.98	Waxham/Sea Palling/Hickling (until 17.01.99)
RR	08.12.99	Haaler Aue, Neiderung, Germany (until 09.12.99)
RR	03.01.00	Waxham/Sea Palling/Hickling (until 13.01.00)
RR	13.03.00	Jusso, Varnamo, Smaland, Sweden
RR	10.04.00	Dalalven, Osterfarnebo, Sweden

RR	31.12.00	Catfield/Waxham/Horsey (until 28.01.01)	
RR	17.03.01	Vadboden, Hornborgasjön, Sweden	
8	10.08.94	Sigurdarstadatjörn, Fljotsheidi, Iceland	
XF	13.10.99	Welney	1,753 km SW

The first shows the full life history of a Finnish cygnet which was site faithful in Norfolk during every winter. The second was killed as a result of hitting overhead wires. Another adult, ringed 20.02.96 at Caerlaverock, Scotland, was found dead 22.11.01 at Welney - sadly another victim of overhead power lines.

Pink-footed Goose

6F	29.07.99	Pjorsarver, Midhalendi, Iceland	
+	29.01.00	Haddiscoe, Great Yarmouth	

This follows the normal pattern for Icelandic-bred Pink-feet.

Wigeon

6	25.03.98	Welney	
+	17.08.00	Ilinskoe, Slobodskoy, Kirov, Russia	3,233 km W

The longest Wigeon movement of the year, but still perfectly normal for the species.

Mandarin

4M	15.11.92	Pensthorpe, Fakenham	
+F	15.11.00	near Grimsby, Humberside	106 km NNW

This is the first time that Mandarin has featured in this report. The bird shown is only the sixth of its species to move more than 100 km within the British ringing scheme. Only two birds have been recovered overseas.

Oystercatcher

1	27.05.98	Sculthorpe Airfield, Fakenham	
R	01.08.00	Terrington, King's Lynn	35 km W
3	13.08.67	Snettisham	
R	01.08.00	Friskney, Lincolnshire	27 km WSW

The first was an inland bred Oystercatcher, illustrating a continuing trend for this species to exploit the breeding potential of arable/open land. At just short of 33 years since ringing, the second is fast approaching the longevity record of 33 years 8 months.

Ringed Plover

The colour-ringing programme of breeding Ringed Plover by the North West Norfolk Ringing Group continues to generate much information. At one time Wash breeding birds

were thought to be generally sedentary. Now it seems that wintering can occur throughout the east and north-east coasts of England, with some preferring the coast of Brittany in north-western France.

Not all chicks return to breed at their natal site. Some have been reported breeding in the Scolt Head/Blakeney/Cley area with one even moving to an inland site in The Netherlands, where it raised at least two chicks. One of the study birds has now passed its nineteenth birthday, a new national record.

A more complete picture can be found in the 2001 Annual Report of the North West Norfolk Ringing Group.

Knot

3	16.09.99	Mekszikopuszia, Gyor-Sopron, Hungary	
R	26.09.99	Wolferton, King's Lynn	1,300 km WNW

An amazing control from a land locked country not normally associated with wader migration. This is only the second wader of any species to be found in Britain wearing a Hungarian ring (the other was a Snipe in 1992). The following correspondence was received from Hungary:

"The bird was ringed...(at)...a good ringing place at the Lake Fertő...where waders are walk-in trapped every August-October. This year (1999) two Knots (both juveniles) were caught, on 15th and 16th September. Knots are rare but regular visitors to Hungary, with 20 ringed birds between 1985 and 1998, and one recovery; a juvenile ringed in 1985 was found dead in Albania in 1987"

It is quite possible to imagine a small number of the Siberian Knot population using this area in Hungary as a stopover whilst on a more easterly migration route. However this individual re-oriented to the western European migration route, travelling 1,300 km to be caught at Wolferton just 10 days later.

Dunlin

6	16.05.92	Terrington, King's Lynn	
XL	13.01.01	Parc National du Banc d'Arguin, Mauretania	3,932 km SSW

The fifth Wash-ringed Dunlin to be recovered from Mauretania, known to be a wintering area used by the schinzii race. This bird's ring was found in a Peregrine pellet.

Black-tailed Godwit

4F	27.04.00	Pollengi, Arnes Sysla, Iceland	
RR	03.07.00	Pollengi, Arnes Sysla, Iceland	
VV	08.07.00	Cley (plus various dates to September 2000)	
VV	Various dates July-Sept 2001	Cley	
RR	21.09.01	Cley	

4F	04.05.00	Alftafjordur, Sudur Mula Sysla, Iceland	
VV	various dates	Topsham, Devon	
	Nov-Dec 2000		
RR	21.09.01	Cley	

The first was ringed as a (breeding?) adult in Iceland. The dates shown at Cley do not preclude it from attempted breeding in Iceland during the following summer. The second was clearly an Icelandic bird wintering in Britain.

Curlew

1	21.06.86	Maaninka, Kuopio, Finland	
R	02.09.00	Terrington, King's Lynn	1,958 km SW

The majority of Curlews occurring on The Wash come from Finland and Sweden, this nestling-ringed bird being a typical example.

Redshank

1	14.06.98	Langhus, Fljot, Skagafjardar, Iceland	
R	08.04.00	Terrington, King's Lynn	1,829 km SE

Two distinct populations of Redshank are known to occur on The Wash; one breeding in Britain, the other in Iceland. This is the seventh Icelandic-ringed Redshank to be found on The Wash, but is, more importantly, the first Icelandic nestling-ringed Redshank to be trapped by the Wash Wader Ringing Group.

Black-headed Gull

1	17.06.99	Cantley Beet Factory, Norwich	
V	10.08.01	Sandymount Strand, Dublin, Eire	523 km WSW
1	22.06.86	Cantley Beet Factory, Norwich	
XF	25.05.01	Griend, The Netherlands	260 km ENE
6	23.04.97	Frognerparken, Oslo, Norway	
RR	20.12.98	The Mere, Diss	
RR	11.12.01	The Mere, Diss	1,029 km SW
6	25.03.98	Frognerparken, Oslo, Norway	
RR	01.02.99	The Mere, Diss	
RR	24.12.99	The Mere, Diss	
RR	13.01.01	The Mere, Diss	
RR	18.12.01	The Mere, Diss	1,029 km SW
2	16.12.81	Sheringham	
R	19.05.01	Griend, The Netherlands	

A brace of new recoveries from the nestling-ringing programme at Cantley. The Irish bird is a continuation of a trend that is well established. Of over 1,200 nestlings ringed, the Dutch

bird is the first that has crossed the North Sea. Notably, it came close to reaching its fifteenth birthday.

Our regular “gull watcher” at Diss re-acquaints himself with a couple of old friends! Thanks to him for his efforts over many years.

Notably the last shown was approaching 20 years of age, and still going strong.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

I	20.06.90	Rauna, Farsand, Vest-Agder, Norway	
X	10.09.90	Sheringham	663 km SSW

This bird could have intended wintering in Norfolk, but equally could have continued much further south.

Common Tern

I	25.06.99	Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth	
R	06.09.99	Parque Nacional Marismas del Odiel, Huelva, Spain	1,835 km SSW
I	25.06.00	Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth	
R	23.12.00	Nouadhibou, Mauretania	3,878 km SSW
I	25.06.00	Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth	
A	23.12.00	at sea off Nouadhibou, Mauretania	3,890 km SSW
I	27.06.98	Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth	
R	04.08.01	Seal Sands, Teesmouth, Cleveland	292 km NW

The first shown was well south by early September. The second and third were in the usual wintering area. The fourth was trapped at Seal Sands which seems to be a regular destination for Breydon-bred Common Terns.

Additionally there were three nestling Common Terns recovered from Zeebrugge on the Belgian coast. They were all trapped intentionally and released by Belgian ringers. The oldest of the trio was almost seven years of age.

Little Tern

I	29.06.01	Great Yarmouth North Beach	
R	24.08.01	Parque Nacional Marismas del Odiel, Huelva, Spain	1,836 km SSW

Well on its way to wintering quarters off Mauretania and beyond.

Shore Lark

4M	09.01.99	Holkham, Wells next the Sea	
VV	10.01.00	De Slufter, Texel, The Netherlands	265 km E

The value of colour ringing is demonstrated by the fact that seven sightings have been reported from only 52 ringed birds. This bird chose to winter the other side of the North Sea during the following winter.

Swallow

3J	09.08.98	Wissington, Stoke Ferry	
XF	06.11.00	Kwilu-Ngongo, Democratic Rep of Congo	6,588 km S

A British Swallow in the Democratic Republic of Congo is a rare find indeed and this following last year's Swallow in South Africa!

Robin

4	08.04.00	Snettisham Coastal Park	
XF	15.10.00	Rodby, Lolland, Denmark	748 km ENE

This may have been a Danish breeding bird, or could have originated further north or east.

Additionally, an autumn migrant, ringed in Lithuania (details unknown) was found inside a kitchen at Overstrand, near Cromer 21.10.01 and released unharmed.

Another was found in the Pierce Field, in the North Sea 06.10.01 after being ringed at Winterton Holmes, near East Somerton almost exactly three years' previously.

Blackbird

3F	30.10.99	Snettisham Country Park	
R	11.11.00	Castricum Duinen, The Netherlands	284 km E
3F	02.11.98	Holme next the Sea, Hunstanton	
XF	22.12.00	Downpatrick, County Down, N Ireland	440 km WNW

The first is likely to have originated much further NE than its place of ringing. The second, probably also Continental, chose to spend winter further west in a subsequent year.

Song Thrush

3	14.11.00	Wells next the Sea	
XL	22.03.01	Folsworth, Leicestershire	152 km WSW

Reported as "dead, hit a wall". The Norfolk Song Thrush population seems to be increasing despite such irrational behaviour!

Sedge Warbler

3	11.08.01	The Island, Haddiscoe	
R	17.08.01	Beclers, Hainaut, Belgium	251 km SSE
3	30.08.00	The Island, Haddiscoe	
R	05.09.00	Berlare, Limburg, Belgium	235 km SE

Note that there were only six and seven days respectively between ringing and recovery for these birds, demonstrating both the timing and the direction of their southward journey.

Reed Warbler

3	31.08.93	Charente-Maritime, France	
R	29.07.95	Wissington, Stoke Ferry	
3J	01.08.00	Burnham Market	
A	30.04.01	Tinghir, Ouarzazate, Morocco	2,440 km SSW
3J	06.08.00	Burnham Market	
R	18.08.00	Sinaai, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium	
3J	06.08.00	The Island, Haddiscoe	
R	22.08.00	Oudalle, Seine-Maritime, France	351 km SSW
3J	06.08.00	The Island, Haddiscoe	
R	20.08.00	Dungeness, Kent	187 km SSW

Although several years old, the details of the first bird have only just been received. The second was “intentionally taken - fate unknown” during its spring migration through north-west Africa. The third shows the initial route southward, and the fourth and fifth show both the route and the timing.

Additionally, a bird ringed in Sussex during its autumn migration during September 1992, was trapped at Wissington, near Stoke Ferry, during June and August 1995, August 1995, May and June 1996, June and July 1997, August 1998 and July 2000.

Blackcap

3F	15.10.00	Jomfruland, Kragero, Telemark, Norway	
R	13.11.00	Sussex Farm, Burnham Market	860 km SW
3M	13.09.00	Vrouwenpolder, Zeeland, The Netherlands	
R	05.10.00	Burnham Market	246 km NW

The first illustrates timing of autumn movement out of Scandinavia. Why the second bird chose to move from the Netherlands to Norfolk at the end of September is unclear.

Willow Warbler

3F	02.10.98	Dead Man’s Wood, Sheringham	
XF	11.10.98	near Nantes, Loire Atlantique, France	700 km SSW

Note the speed of movement; the elapsed time between the ringing and recovery date was only 9 days.

Great Tit

1	26.06.95	Overijssel, The Netherlands	
R	23.06.96	Wissington, Stoke Ferry	
R	09.02.97	Wissington, Stoke Ferry	394 km W

The is the first foreign-ringed Great Tit to be found in Norfolk.

Chaffinch

2	01.11.98	St Laureins, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium	
R	10.03.01	Garboldisham, Diss	218 km NW

Doubtless a Scandinavian bird, originally trapped in Belgium whilst on its way to Britain for the winter.

Goldfinch

3J	02.08.00	Weybourne	
R	20.10.00	Bottelare, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium	283 km SE

Probably still on migration further south, after having crossed the North Sea close to its narrowest point.

The following artists may be able to provide copies of their work or take commissions

Norman Arlott, Hill House, Station Rd, Tilney St Lawrence, King's Lynn PE34 4RB
Andy Benson, Ciconia, The Close, Aylmerton, Norwich NR11 8PX
Steve Cale, Bramble Cottage, Westwood Lane, Gt Ryburgh, Fakenham NR21 7AP
John Geeson, 22 Hillside, Barnham Broom NR9 4DF
Robert Gillmor, North Light, Hill Top, Cley, Holt NR25 7SE
Vince Hanlon, Owl Cottage, 6 Hart Lane, Bodham, Holt NR25 6NT
Phil Jones, 24 Church Lane, Wolstanton, Newcastle, Staffs ST5 0EG
Andy Stoddart, 7 Elsdon Close, Holt NR25 6JW
John Williamson, 31b Cowgate, Norwich NR3 1SR
Peter Wilson, 39 Station Road, Thctford IP24 1AW
Gary Wright, 27 Ray Bond Way, Aylsham NR11 6UT
Martin Woodcock, Furlong, Long Lane, Wiveton, Holt NR25 7DD

Norfolk Ringing Totals - 2001

Fulmar	1	Woodpigeon	41	Whitethroat	352
Mute Swan	22	Collared Dove	98	Garden Warbler	234
Whooper Swan	1	Turtle Dove	8	Blackcap	771
Canada Goose	1	Cuckoo	4	Yellow-browed Warbler	1
Egyptian Goose	2	Barn Owl	39	Chiffchaff	458
Shelduck	1	Little Owl	3	Willow Warbler	334
Teal	25	Tawny Owl	7	Goldcrest	411
Mallard	1	Nightjar	2	Firecrest	3
Marsh Harrier	9	Swift	52	Spotted Flycatcher	38
Sparrowhawk	27	Kingfisher	28	Red-breasted Flycatcher	2
Kestrel	28	Green Woodpecker	23	Pied Flycatcher	5
Red-legged Partridge	1	Great Sp Woodpecker	97	Bearded Tit	48
Water Rail	9	Lesser Sp Woodpecker	2	Long-tailed Tit	610
Moorhen	56	Woodlark	48	Marsh Tit	110
Coot	25	Skylark	3	Willow Tit	37
Oystercatcher	29	Sand Martin	339	Coal Tit	518
Avocet	3	Swallow	727	Blue Tit	2525
Ringed Plover	118	House Martin	148	Great Tit	2088
Grey Plover	42	Meadow Pipit	69	Nuthatch	45
Lapwing	156	Rock Pipit	1	Tree Creeper	91
Knot	161	Yellow Wagtail	1	Jay	27
Sanderling	37	Grey Wagtail	9	Magpie	8
Curlew Sandpiper	4	Pied Wagtail	228	Jackdaw	76
Dunlin	1798	Waxwing	6	Rook	13
Ruff	2	Wren	793	Starling	519
Jack Snipe	1	Duncock	945	House Sparrow	574
Common Snipe	12	Robin	1314	Tree Sparrow	1
Woodcock	9	Nightingale	3	Chaffinch	1931
Black-tailed Godwit	2	Black Redstart	25	Brambling	69
Bar-tailed Godwit	24	Redstart	73	Greenfinch	4906
Whimbrel	2	Whinchat	7	Goldfinch	798
Curlew	51	Stonechat	8	Siskin	453
Redshank	316	Wheatear	165	Linnet	64
Greenshank	12	Ring Ouzel	1	Redpoll	19
Green Sandpiper	7	Blackbird	2455	Crossbill	2
Common Sandpiper	30	Fieldfare	65	Bullfinch	186
Turnstone	137	Song Thrush	427	Snow Bunting	69
Great Skua	1	Redwing	218	Yellowhammer	127
Black-headed Gull	10	Mistle Thrush	19	Reed Bunting	296
Common Gull	2	Cetti's Warbler	18	Total Ringed	32950
Lesser B-backed Gull	371	Grasshopper Warbler	5		
Herring Gull	82	Sedge Warbler	379		
Common Tern	264	Reed Warbler	867		
Little Tern	380	Barred Warbler	1		
Stock Dove	36	Lesser Whitethroat	52		

Hunstanton Cliffs: a Forgotten Migration Hotspot

Neil Lawton and Gary Hibberd

It has long been known that the north Norfolk coast is one of the best sites in Britain to observe visible migration in both spring and autumn. Regular recording has been made for some years at Holme, Sheringham, Mundesley and more recently Scolt Head, and each has produced exceptional counts. However, it appears that the best site in autumn, and possibly spring, is in north-west Norfolk at Hunstanton Cliffs, shamefully neglected and forgotten from the 1970s until recently.

The two of us (NL, GH) have always been fascinated by visible migration and since 1990 have spent many hours enjoying it at Holme NWT, where although numbers are at times dramatic, especially in the spring, those in the autumn are less remarkable and counts are often erratic compared with sites such as Sheringham.

During 1994 our attention was drawn to an article by Graham Easy, published in the 1978 Norfolk Bird and Mammal Report, describing 'Late Autumn Land Bird Immigration in North West Norfolk', largely based on observations from Hunstanton Cliffs on 28th October 1978. It was clearly an exciting day, totals included 120,000 Starlings, 50,000 Chaffinches, 15,000 Fieldfares, 3500 Skylarks, 2000 Bramblings, 100 Meadow Pipits and 500 Greenfinches, all moving south, and creating much food for thought. This article, along with other counts by the Cambridge Bird Club in the 1950s and 60s, and an article in *British Birds* describing similar movements in 1914, suggested that good numbers of autumn migrants regularly moved south over the cliffs at this time of year.

It was during the late autumn of 1994 that the two of us decided to put this theory to the test. On several dates during late October and early November co-ordinated counts were made at Hunstanton and at Gore Point, Holme. The differences were dramatic with all species recorded in much larger numbers at Hunstanton; for example on 26th October only 150 Starlings were recorded at Holme, whilst 1272 passed Hunstanton, along with 885 Chaffinches compared with just 3 at Holme. Further counts showed that this was not unusual and often the difference between the two sites was even greater. It was becoming clear that Hunstanton was a key site for recording this spectacle and the following autumn we made a concerted effort and along with other observers were able to systematically record migration on 43 dates between 23rd September and 14th November. A total of 600,000 birds of 50 species were recorded, mostly moving south, and included 530,000 Starlings, 25,075 Chaffinches, 13,000 Bramblings, 7946 Redwings, 5809 House Martins and 4733 Lapwings. This prompted us to write an article for the *Norfolk Bird Club* regarding the autumn events in the hope of inspiring others, but this was met with only limited success.

Similar coverage was achieved in 1996-97, but on far fewer dates in 1998-2000 due to work commitments and a lack of additional counters. In contrast almost daily watching was possible during October to mid-November 2001, resulting in further impressive counts and a large variety of species. Counts have shown that large variations occur in the numbers of birds moving from year to year, thought largely to be due to varying weather conditions each autumn and the eruptive nature of some species. However, each year the same common species dominate these counts with Lapwing, Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Fieldfare, Redwing, Starling, Chaffinch, Brambling and Greenfinch featuring prominently.

In the last eight years, since regular recording has been resumed, there have been many memorable days, but two stand out in particular, 16th October 1997 and 10th November 2001, which give an idea of the sheer spectacle of 'vis mig' as it is known to fanatics.

On 16th October 1997 the weather locally at dawn was overcast with a light southerly wind, increasing to force 4 by mid-morning when light rain began which was to continue all day. The weather on the continent was dominated by a large high pressure system situated over the whole of Scandinavia, affecting much of north-eastern Europe. After a slow start to the morning it was obvious an hour after dawn that many birds were on the move and huge totals were amassed during continual watching until dusk. Most impressive amongst these was 53,000 Chaffinches but other totals included 86,901 Starlings, 6209 Lapwings, 2132 Skylarks, 2029 Bramblings, 219 Siskins and 165 Snipe. The day concluded with a grand total of 142,462 birds of 26 species, all moving south.

The 10th November 2001 was just as good but the later date produced a different variety of species. After several days of gale-force northerly winds, the day dawned fine with light cloud cover and a force 3 south-west wind; further afield the continent was more unsettled and dominated by low pressure with cold north winds blasting into Scandinavia. The first large rush of Starlings was noted just after dawn and even in the early light of the day it was obvious good numbers of thrushes were on the move, dominated by Fieldfares and Redwings. Counts for many species peaked between mid-morning and midday with birds continuing to move until dusk, but in lower numbers. The two main species of the day were Starlings with a total of 128,866 and more impressively, Fieldfares with a county record of 57,832, with flocks of up to 1000, some very high only noticeable by the twinkling of their pale underwings, with others low along the cliff tops, over the sea or skipping over the nearby roof tops. Other highlights that day included nearly 11,000 Redwings, a 1000 each of Lapwing and Chaffinch, and Norfolk's latest-ever Hobby which provided the quality in a day that had produced over 200,000 birds of 22 species.

Not surprisingly during intensive effort unusual species have been noted on many occasions including Rough-legged Buzzard, Woodcock, Green Sandpiper, Ring-necked Parakeet, Shore Lark, Waxwing, Black Redstart, Crossbill and Lapland Bunting with almost annual Great-spotted Woodpeckers, Richard's Pipits and Woodlarks. Eruptive species provide annual variations to the common species including 29 Northern Bullfinches on 2nd November 1994, and 42 (presumably continental?) Coal Tits and 63 frosty-white (and therefore assumed Common, ie Mealy) Redpolls in 1996.

Big differences in species' totals tend to occur amongst those which are prone to fluctuating breeding success and is probably best demonstrated by Brambling which totalled 13,009 in 1995, easily the highest count, with in contrast just 3585 in 1996 and 4685 in 1997. If observations had been carried out systematically over the years since the 1950s, the data would also have shown some clear changes in population levels of some species, such as Lapwing, Skylark, Hooded Crow and Tree Sparrow, which have undergone dramatic declines in recent decades hinting that perhaps visible migration has a part to play in the wider conservation arena. During the 1950s and 60s hundreds and occasionally thousands of Tree Sparrows were noted moving along the Norfolk coast, whereas in recent years a single bird can be the highlight of a day of observation at Hunstanton Cliffs.

Methods and locations of count

During 1995 and the following years various counting sites were tested, most proving unsuitable with poor views, too much road traffic noise or worse no birds! Eventually we settled on our very first counting site at the northern end of the town, 100 yards south of the lighthouse on the clifftop adjacent to the ruined St Edmund's Church. This location offers the best views out across the Wash, north towards Gore Point and east across the houses, with less traffic and most importantly, somewhere to sit.

The first counts are usually carried out in late September or early October and continue until mid-November with counts commencing at dawn and ideally continuing for at least 2 hours, the peak time during days of poor or average visible migration. Continued counting after two hours largely depends on whether migration continues and observers' availability; perhaps predictably on exceptional days it is usually possible to get all day coverage, but a struggle at other times, not many people wanting to spend all day counting Starlings moving at 500 per hour.

All counts are made in half hour periods, useful in showing when peak passage occurs during the day and also allowing averages to be worked out if observers take a short break. This meticulous organisation continues with one observer designated as recorder, whilst other observers are allocated flight lines to count - these may be along the cliff edge, over the sea, along the road or over the houses. Different approaches are adopted on occasion with observers sometimes allocated particular species to count, but often the numbers are so great that the flight line approach is best.

On good days large flocks of similar birds are often recorded (eg Chaffinch and Brambling); with these flocks the ratio of birds is estimated on calls heard and also observations, even in silhouette most birds have a distinctive feature (eg the cleft tail of the Brambling stands out). Everything is counted and the direction of movement is noted along with flock size. Despite our efforts one area often neglected is the sea, where birds moving close to the surface are missed due to a lack of observers. The result is that seabird and wildfowl movements go largely unrecorded and some species such as Lapwing, Skylark and Rock Pipit, which often move over the sea, are recorded in lower numbers than at other sites.

The weather and reasons Hunstanton is a key site

The crucial factor in dictating the variety and numbers of birds noted during the autumn is the weather, both locally and further afield in Europe. Ideal weather conditions include high pressure on the continent, which encourages incoming winter visitors to depart from Scandinavia in the evening and after dark, moving south-west or west overnight towards the Norfolk coast. If all goes well these birds eventually continue uninterrupted into southern and western Europe, many having overflowed the north Norfolk coast at a great height, some possibly arriving directly over north-west Norfolk from the continent.

On many occasions during these movements birds will meet a westerly wind during the night into which they are forced to migrate. Owing to friction the wind is always weaker over the land especially lower down, so at dawn finding themselves out over the sea, often having been blown off course, they head south for land and towards the coast. Relatively few are noted arriving off the sea at Hunstanton, presumably instead arriving high along the entire coast, before continuing west into the wind, losing height in a bid to reduce headwinds. They then follow the coast and the inland edge of the saltmarshes, sticking to the low ground where there is less wind, joined by more and more birds the further west they go.

As the coastal strip narrows to the west most appear to converge at Hunstanton, and are funnelled south, resulting in the high counts at this location and where on windy days flocks are often noted moving just a few inches off the ground. On days when the wind is between north and east, fewer birds are noted and counts are poor, or no visible migration is witnessed, backing this widely acknowledged theory. During such days migration no doubt continues, but with a tail wind it takes place at a great height, uninterrupted, except on days when inclement weather locally (such as rain or fog) grounds birds, resulting in falls of migrants along the coast and little visible movement.

What happens when these birds leave Hunstanton is unclear. All appear to continue

south over Heacham, Snettisham and King's Lynn before following the Rivers Great Ouse and Nene south and south-west. Further observations by Alf Loring (published by Cambridge Bird Club) suggests that these birds continue inland into Cambridgeshire and beyond; however by now numbers are much less concentrated, instead moving on a broad front, largely unhindered by geographical features.



Starlings (*John Williamson*)

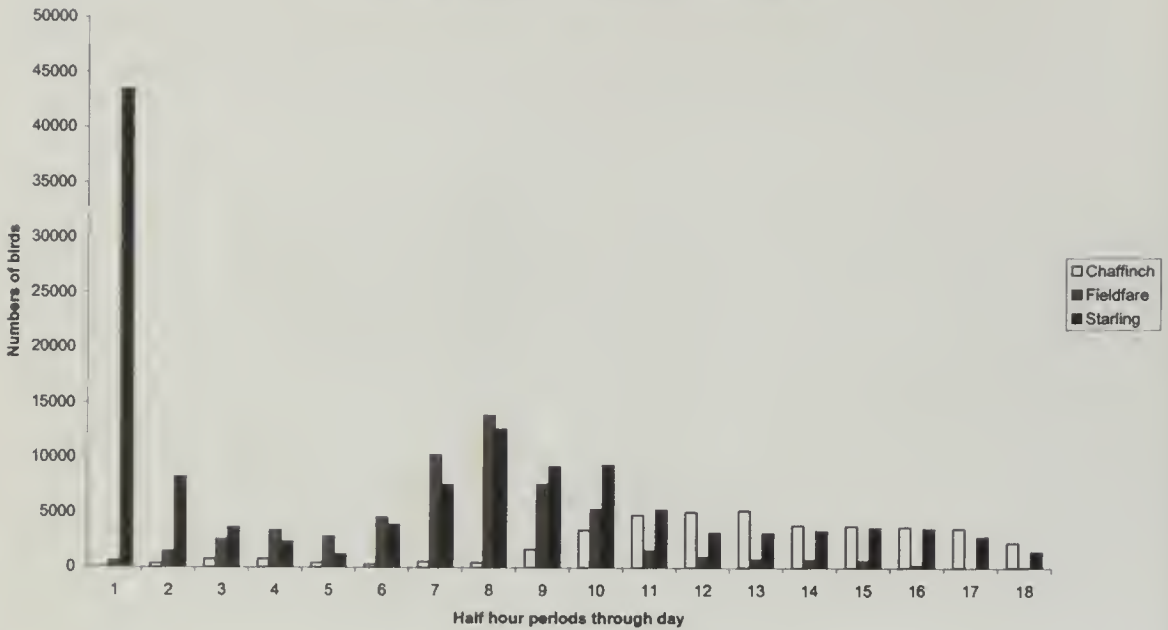
Passage at Hunstanton is not only confined to early mornings, but can continue all day with numbers of birds changing throughout the day. After several years of observation a clear pattern has now emerged and this is best demonstrated by the Starling, by far the commonest species. In the first hour of daylight there is often an initial rush which can include flocks totalling up to 80,000, which are assumed to be birds that have arrived the previous day and roosted in reedbeds further east along the coast. They are presumed to depart local roosts at (or just before) first light, thus explaining the large compact size of these groups, but further observations from these roosts are needed to prove this.

Numbers then steadily decline until mid-morning when numbers once again increase, often remaining fairly constant until early afternoon, before declining once again (see graph); sometimes a further peak occurs with a rush of birds just before dusk. A similar pattern also occurs with other birds, especially Fieldfare and Chaffinch, but little or no pre-dusk movement is noted in these species.

The reason for the increase in numbers from mid-morning is unclear, but could relate to birds which have started out from much further away earlier in the morning, such as the Low Countries, whilst the end of day exodus may be those birds which have rested along the coast during the day, resuming overnight migration at the end of the day. Few counts of any length have been carried out on days when there is little or no visible migration so it is not known whether similar patterns of movements occur on poor days.

Observations over the last eight years have answered some questions but have generated many more. What are the origins of the birds moving over the north Norfolk coast? Clearly of continental origin though counts bare little resemblance to those made at Falsterbo.

Starling, Fieldfare and Chaffinch throughout the day



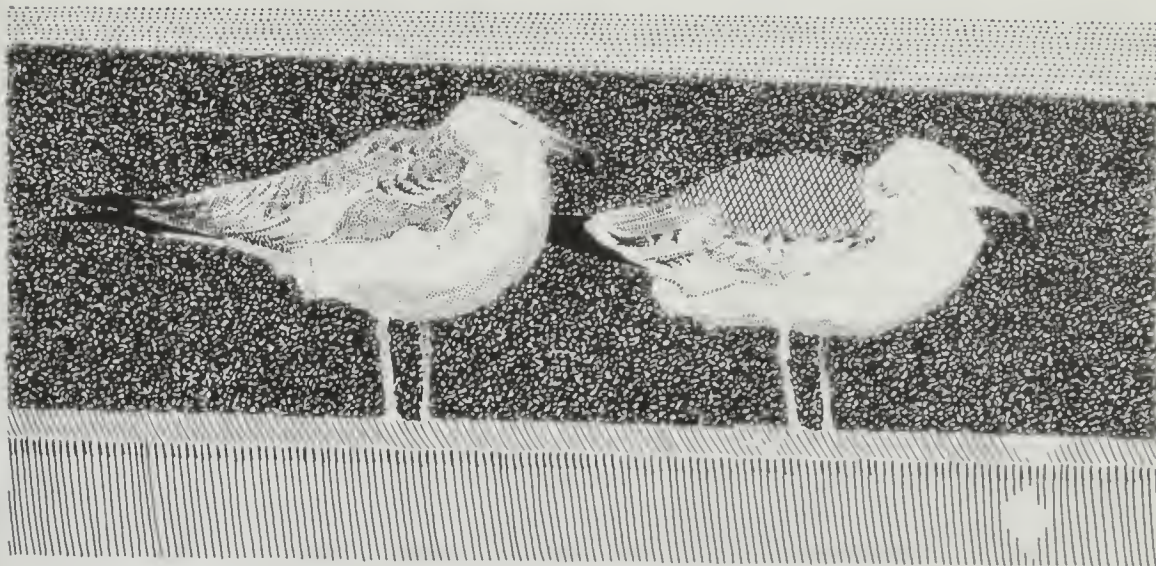
Sweden on the same day or over previous days, but are these birds Scandinavian, and/or Eastern European? There is also little correlation between counts made at other English east coast sites, such as Spurn and Landguard. Why do these observatories record fewer or totally different make up of species but with hundreds or thousands more Meadow Pipits, Linnets and Goldfinches? Once at the southern end of the Wash where do all the birds go, surely someone in Cambridgeshire or the Home Counties must note some of the huge number of Fieldfares, Starlings and Chaffinches recorded over the years. Do large numbers of birds move during September or even earlier, and when does autumn passage finish, mid-November or in December? Do similar movements occur during periods of harsh weather on the continent? One of the biggest unknowns is what happens in the spring; little data has been collected at this time, some counts have been made and it appears that numbers may be just as impressive.

Clearly Hunstanton Cliffs is one of the best sites on the east coast to record visible migration of incoming winter and departing summer visitors in the autumn, which on some days number hundreds of thousands. Indeed, it seems plausible that a significant proportion of Britain's winter immigrants pass over and along the north Norfolk coast. Many of the questions above could be answered with increased coverage and it is a shame that more observers haven't yet witnessed this marvellous spectacle.

It is hoped this article encourages other birders to set the alarm clock early and help gain a better knowledge of this fascinating and addictive form of birdwatching.

Yellow-legged gulls in Norfolk: 1961-2001

Peter Wilson and Dawn Balmer



1st- summer and 2nd-winter *michahellis* Yellow-legged Gulls mid-June (*Peter Wilson*)

Introduction

In recent years birders in Norfolk have enjoyed an increase in numbers of Yellow-legged gulls visiting the county. Typically this has involved a summer influx of *Larus argentatus michahellis* (Yellow-legged or Western Yellow-legged Gull) with birds increasingly present through the winter. Gull enthusiasts have also unearthed a number of records of the scarce *Larus argentatus cachinnans* (Caspian Gull). With this in mind we thought it timely to bring together the records of these two forms since the first county sighting of a 'yellow-legged' gull at Scolt Head on August 23rd 1961.

This review concentrates on the two distinctive forms *L.a.michahellis* and *L.a.cachinnans*. Neither form is currently a fully recognised species by the British Ornithologists Union; decisions on splitting within the Herring/Lesser Black-backed Gull group appear to be on hold while studies are ongoing. Regardless of their taxonomic status, their identification and status are deserving of attention.

Inevitably records of Yellow-legged and Caspian Gulls will include the odd hybrid, some of which can look very like the real thing! We believe, from our own observations and from speaking to others that the vast majority of birds being identified do show all the characters of these forms based on current knowledge. Whilst not wanting to play down the hybrid problem, the sensible approach is to include all records and accept that a small number may actually be hybrids.

Yellow-legged Gull *L.a.michahellis*

Status

Some early records of 'Herring-type' gulls with yellow legs were not specifically identified

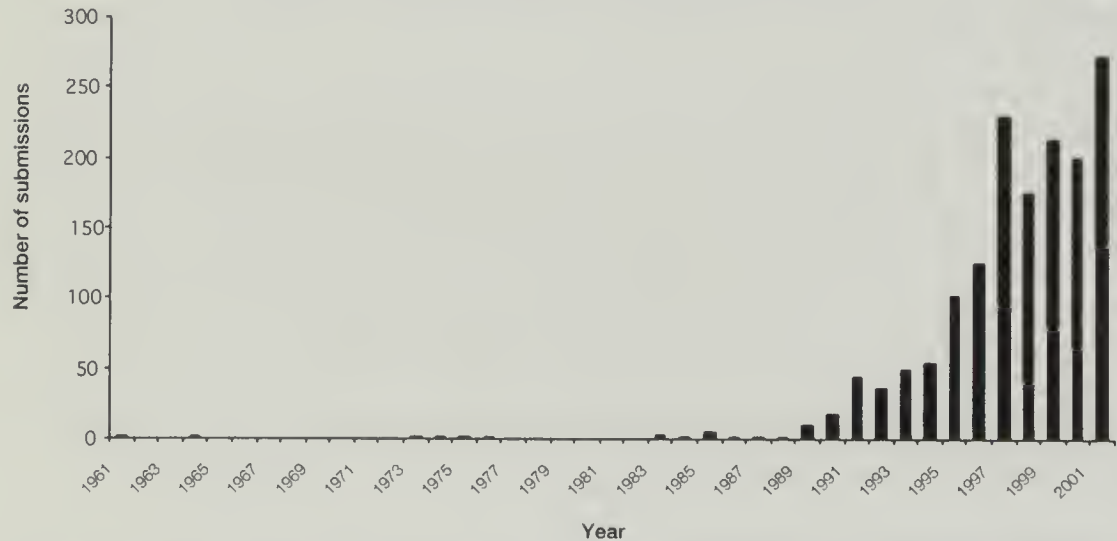
as *Michahellis* but although some may have been Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*) it seems likely most were *Michahellis*. For completeness, these records have been included in this article.

The earliest Norfolk record is a bird at Scolt Head August 23rd 1961 which was quickly followed by others at Blakeney Point Nov 4th that year and Yarmouth August 15th 1964. Further sightings were not forthcoming until 1973 with seven records during the period 1973-76. Another pause in sightings to 1983 from when this form has been recorded annually (Figure 1). Sightings increased somewhat in 1989 and 1990 including 5 together at Yarmouth August 9th 1990. Again an escalation in numbers occurred between 1991 and 1997 during which period gatherings included 6 Cley March 5th 1995, 6 Breydon July 21st 1995, 5 Tunstead August 18th 1992, 5 Blakeney Point July 17th 1995, and 5 Hickling Broad August 1st 1997.

A further upsurge in the number of records took place through 1998 with counts of 13 Saddlebow September 12th, 9 Eau Brink July 18th, 6 Aldeby Tip January 11th and 6 Edgefield Tip April 18th. A relative flood of birds occurred in 1999 with 19 Saddlebow October 3rd, 18 Lynn Point August 27th and 7 Blackborough End Tip October 2nd. The increase continued into 2000 when peak counts included 37 Saddlebow September 1st, 15 Lynn Point September 21st, 11 Blackborough End Tip July 13th and 14th, and 7 King's Lynn Fisher Fleet August 8th. Amazingly 2001 saw further record numbers with 44 Saddlebow August 20th, 27 Blackborough End Tip July 14th, 15 Welney August 4th, 11 Cley July 4th, 10 Lynn Point July 19th and September 17th, and 9 Blackborough End Tip June 30th.

The spread of Yellow-legged Gulls into Norfolk is well illustrated by Figure 1, which shows the increase in records submitted over the period. A perceptible escalation from 1989 is interesting bearing in mind that was the year the MacMillan Field Guide to Bird Identification (Vinicombe *et al* 1989) was published, in which some attempt at field identification of *Michahellis* was made. A further increase from 1997 was no doubt partly fuelled by outstanding papers such as those by Garner & Quinn (1997), Garner *et al* (1997) and Jonsson (1998).

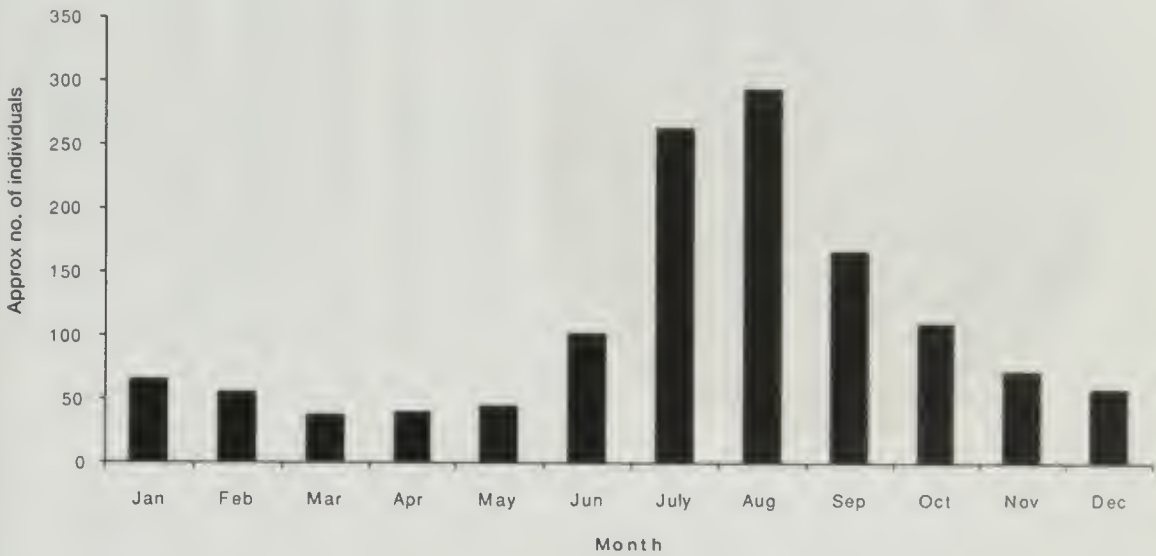
Fig. 1. *L.a. Michahellis* – submissions by year



The steep rise in sightings is no doubt partly attributable to increased observer awareness and confidence in identifying these smart gulls. There does however appear to have been a genuine increase in Norfolk in recent years. This form often associates with

Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*L.f.graellsii*) and given the dramatic increase in this species (perhaps most notably in north-west Norfolk) it should be no surprise that more *michahellis* are being identified amongst them. Whether this increase in *michahellis* is reflected nationwide or represents a slight shift in movements within the country is not clear. Given that numbers summering in Essex are as high as ever eg 294 East Tilbury August 19th 2000 (Vaughan *et al* 2002) it would suggest that we are seeing a continued increase in the numbers invading south and east England. Information from recent bird reports suggests that Yellow-legged Gulls have increased in all counties bordering Norfolk. The monthly distribution of *michahellis* (Figure 2) shows clearly the expected peak in late summer, followed by a decline through the winter.

Fig. 2. *L.a.michahellis* – approx. individually by month 1961-2001



Age groups

We have decided to break down age groups into juvenile, 1st-winter/1st-summer, 2nd-winter/2nd-summer, 3rd-winter/3rd-summer and 4th-winter/adult. When discussing individual gulls it is usually more appropriate to age them by calendar year and date rather than using the ill-defined categories mentioned above. For recording purposes it is still necessary to place them under 1st-winter or 1st-summer etc. We have adopted the same format as used for the Norfolk Bird Report; an example is shown below.

1st calendar year					2nd calendar year												3rd calendar year								
J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A
Juv		1st-winter				1st-summer				2nd-wnter				2nd-summer											

To illustrate the improved identification skills of birders, we have split the records into two categories, 1961-1998 and 1999-2001, and looked at the proportions of age groups.

Figure 3 shows that almost 50% of *michahellis* were aged as 4th-winter/adults and no juveniles were identified. In contrast, Figure 4 depicts a lower proportion of 4th-winter/adults and the appearance of juveniles. The proportions of 1st and 2nd year birds have risen in the second period giving a more accurate representation of ages. It is possible that juveniles and 1st-winter/1st-summer birds are still under-recorded due to the difficulties

Fig. 3. *L.a.michahellis* – 1961-1998 age breakdown

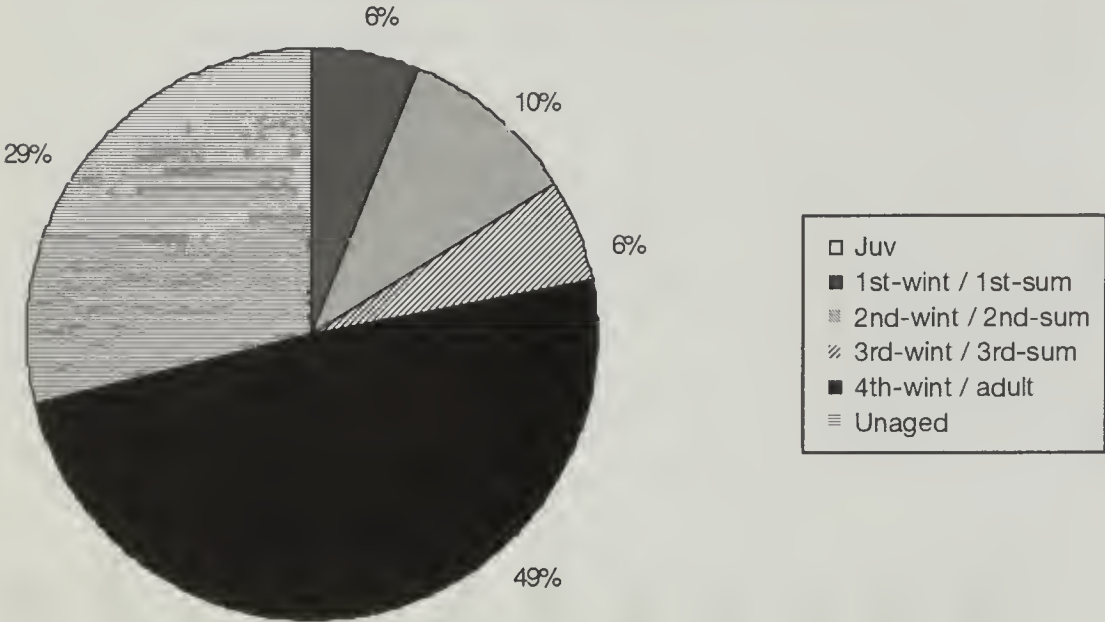
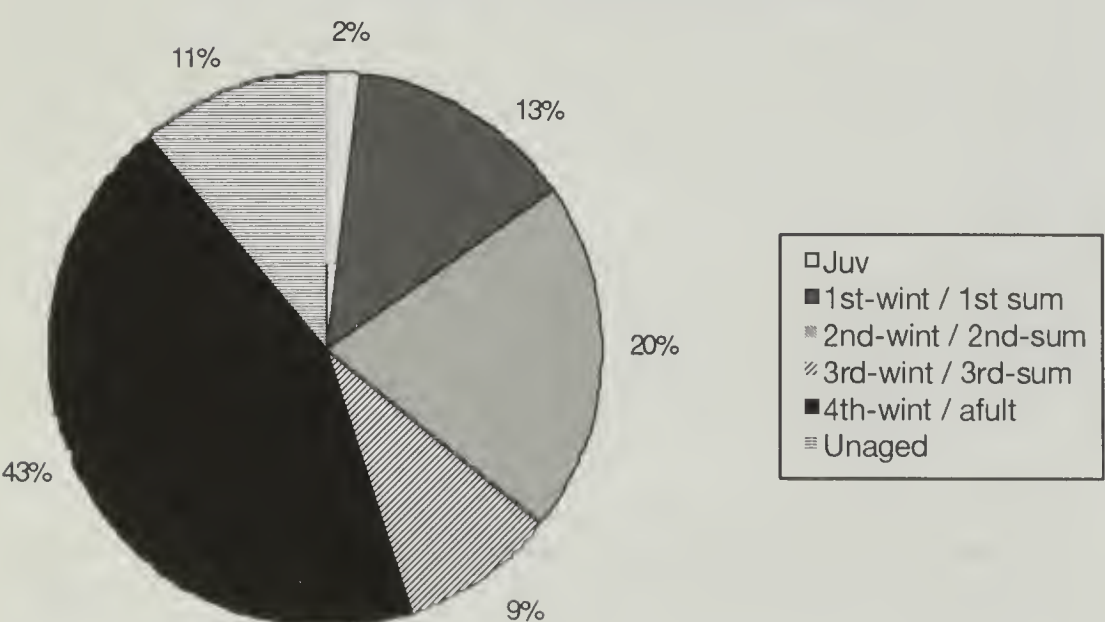


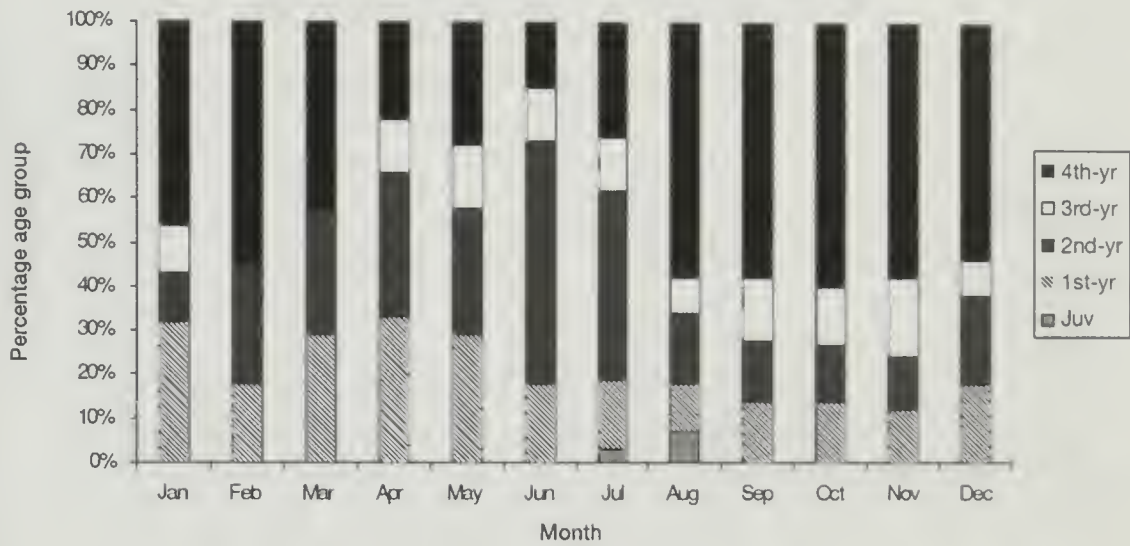
Fig. 4. *L.a.michahellis* – 1999-2001 age breakdown



of identifying birds of this age. Interestingly the proportion of unaged *michahellis* has dropped from 29% to 11% suggesting that observers are attempting to age birds more than previously.

As shown in Figure 5 there is an increase of adult type birds from July with a pronounced influx from August followed by a decrease from October. Adults appear to decrease over the winter period reaching their lowest numbers in spring when immature birds predominate.

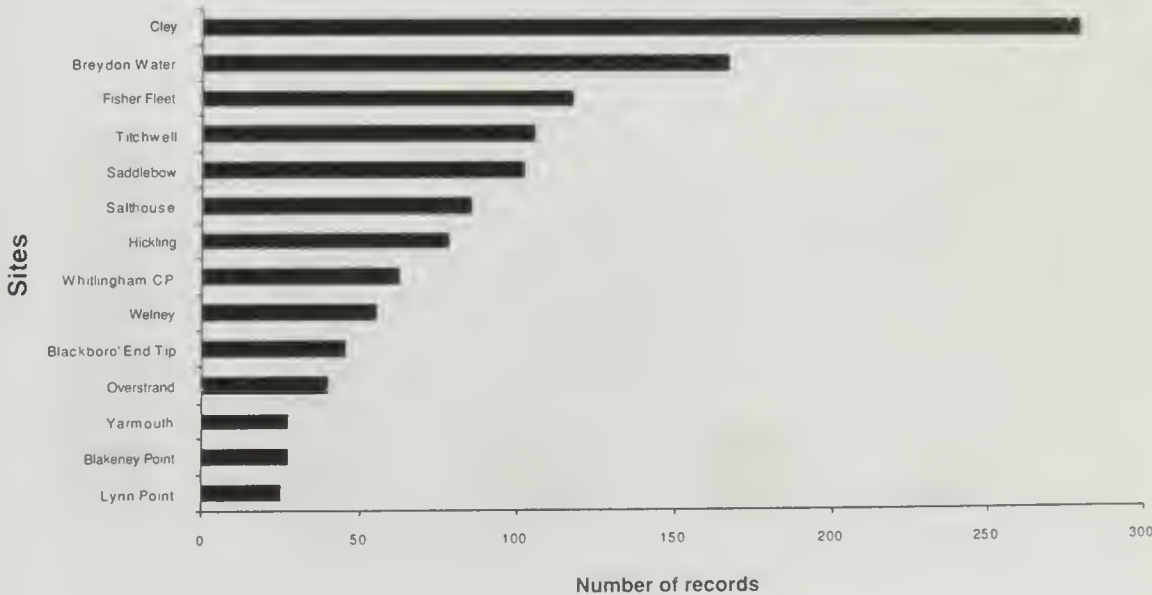
Fig. 5. *L.a.michahellis* – by month and age



Distribution

During the period 1961-2001 records were received from 100 localities of which 35 were coastal (35%). Given that this form often associates with Lesser Black-backed Gulls on agricultural land it is no surprise that it has occurred at so many inland localities. Figure 6

Fig. 6. *L.a.michahellis* – sites with over 20 records



shows the localities with 20 or more records. These are not necessarily the best sites. A long-staying individual at a well-watched coastal site could be recorded many times by different observers whereas a single observer regularly visiting a lesser-known site might only send in one record per month detailing maximum counts. Still, sites such as Cley and Hickling Broad have attracted *micahellis* with some regularity over the years and recently Saddlebow and King's Lynn Fisher Fleet have faired well, so most of the top sites are included. Cley, Breydon and Hickling have a reputation for producing small numbers with 11 at the former July 2001. More recently unprecedented numbers have been recorded in the north-west of the county.

Interesting observations

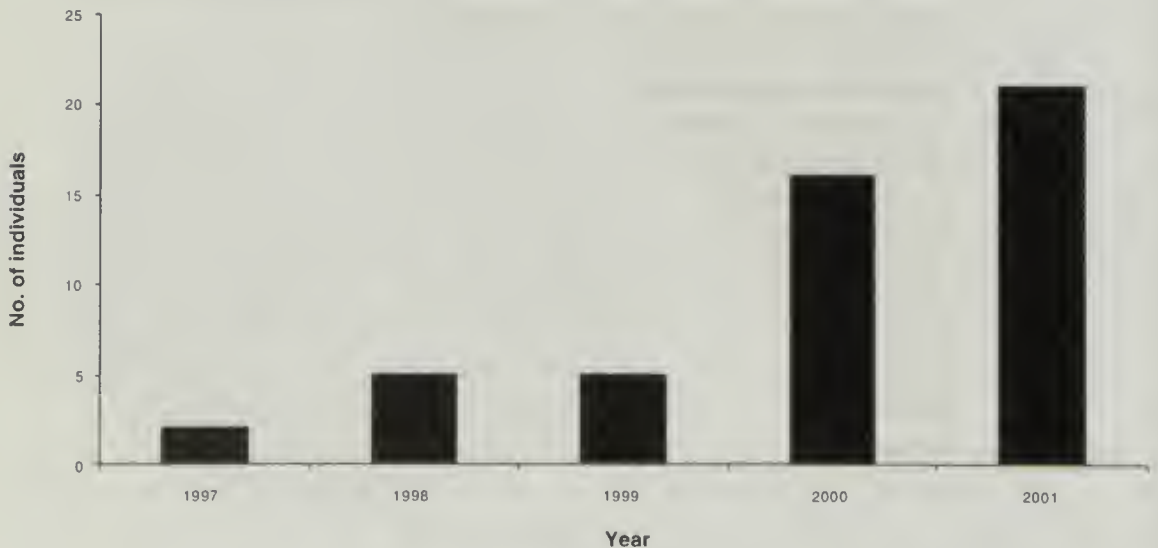
A total of 19 *micahellis* have been logged flying west along the coast and seven east. These were in all months except May, June and November and mostly involved single birds with no real pattern emerging yet. The record of six west at Cley on March 6th 1995 was highly unusual, especially given the time of year. An adult at Kelling Water Meadows on April 22nd 1997 was displaying to an *argentatus* Herring Gull. One, probably this bird, appeared to be present at Salthouse from February-July 1997 and again January-May 1998. No other long-staying/returning birds have been reported though sites such as King's Lynn Fisher Fleet might well attract returning individuals.

Caspian Gull *L.a.cachinnans*

Status

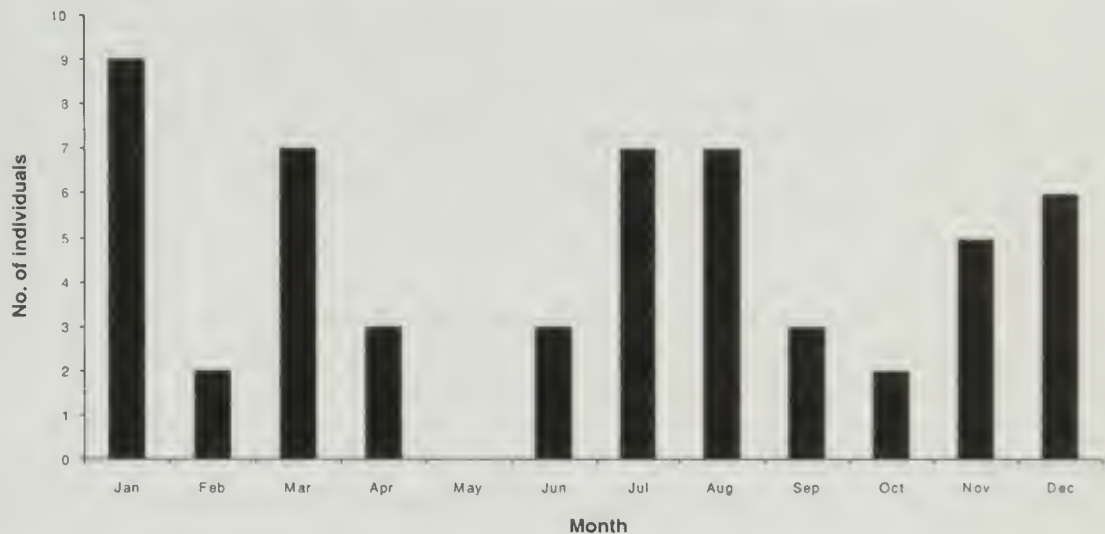
The arrival of Caspian Gull in Norfolk has been impressive to say the least. Since the first accepted county record in 1997 a further 49 have been documented up to and including 2001 (Figure 7). We have made an attempt to analyse the records to see if any patterns are already emerging although of course it is still early days.

Fig. 7. *L.a.cachinnans* – individuals by year



Monthly occurrence of *cachinnans* appears more complex than that for *michahellis* (Figure 8). As one would expect there appears to be a peak in the winter period (Nov-January), but with further concentrations in spring and late summer. Birds are likely to be moving through the county in spring accounting for the high March numbers. Records in July and August tend to involve predominantly immature birds, often associating with Yellow-legged/Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Clearly Caspian Gulls can occur at any time of year (May record in 2002 *pers obs*; subject to acceptance), though late spring will likely remain the nadir and the best time will probably be the winter.

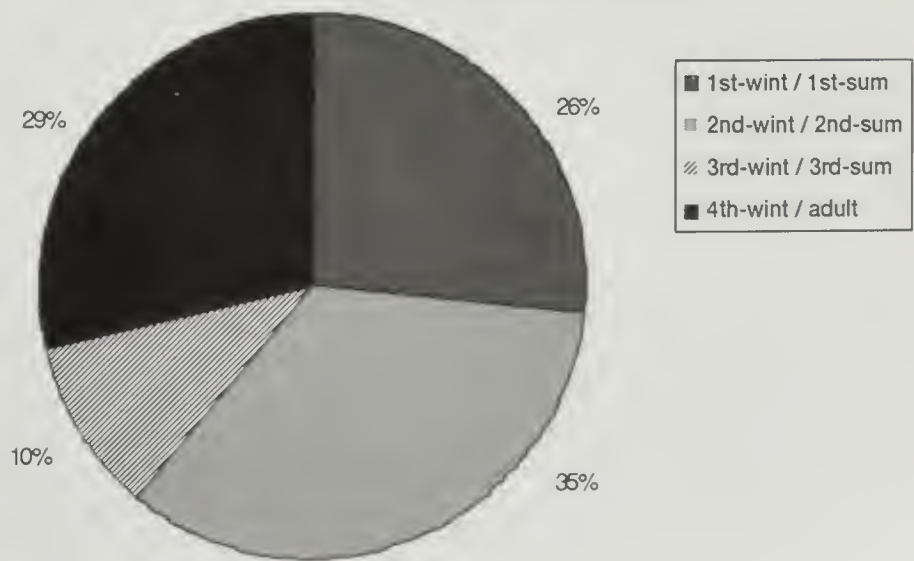
Fig. 8. *L.a.cachinnans* – individuals by month



Age groups

What is immediately striking about Figure 9 is that the proportion of adult Caspian Gulls to immatures is notably smaller than that for Yellow-legged Gull. Given the geographical range of Caspian Gull it might be expected that more immature than adult birds will occur in the country. Reasons for the high proportion of 2nd-year birds are unclear.

Fig. 9. *L.a.cachinnans* – by age



Distribution

Caspian Gulls have been recorded from 17 sites throughout the county; of these only four are coastal. Both refuse tips and agricultural land, particularly pig farms, appear to be favoured locations with well-watched sites inland producing a good number of records. No doubt there would be more records if closer views could be obtained of gulls at potentially good sites such as Breydon (where gulls are often distant).

Summary

In summary, numbers of Yellow-legged Gulls have increased significantly since the late nineties, with peak numbers occurring between July and September. All age groups can be found within the county but adult-types predominate. Careful searching of gull flocks has yielded a surprising number of records of the scarcer Caspian Gull since 1997. Caspian Gulls have been recorded throughout the year, with peaks in winter, spring and late summer.

The upsurge in records of Yellow-legged and Caspian Gulls in Norfolk has been welcomed by gull enthusiasts, particularly given the paucity of other scarce species such as white-winged gulls compared to some parts of Britain.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Giles Dunmore and Moss Taylor for providing the record cards for Yellow-legged Gull and Peter Allard for useful information. Many thanks to all observers who sent in records in the past; please continue in the future!

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Marmora's Warbler on Scolt Head – a first for Norfolk

Neil Lawton

The morning of 12th May was warm and spring-like with a gentle south-east wind and it was clear from early on that there had been a fresh influx of common summer migrants to Scolt Head. Around mid-morning I was joined by Norman Williams and we set off to look for migrants at the western end of the island, leaving Jonathon Brown to guard the nesting terns. As we approached a scrub covered dune ridge, walking along the bordering suaeda I immediately heard a loud 'tak' repeated several times from a bird low down just a few feet away. It seemed harder and harsher than a Lesser Whitethroat and had a chat-like quality about it, and after retreating back a few steps I didn't have to wait long before a small long-tailed blue-grey bird flew up and disappeared into brambles. It quickly reappeared on top of the brambles and I was immediately struck by its appearance.

It was clearly small with a long tail, short wings, steep forehead, spiky narrow bill, long spindly legs and bright ruby red eye and eye ring. The upperparts, including the tail, were uniform pastel blue-grey as were the wings, but these had a warm brown wash created by brown-fringed flight feathers. The head was similarly blue tinted grey save the lores, a small area of the ear covers just behind and below the eye which were darker blackish/grey, giving the impression of a darker facial mask. The underparts were unstreaked, uniform lead grey with slightly darker undertail coverts and paler belly patch and throat. The bill was relatively long and fine, with a dark tip and upper mandible contrasting with a pinkish yellow bill base, and the long thin legs.



Marmora's Warbler (*Andy Stoddart*)

Realising immediately the bird was either a Dartford Warbler (a species I had not seen for some years) or a Marmora's Warbler, I soon remembered that Dartford Warbler had claret underparts and that this had to be a Marmora's Warbler, and a quick phone call to JB armed with a Collins Field Guide confirmed this. At this point I noticed Michael Rooney landing a boat nearby and after some frantic waving he quickly joined me and alongside the now present JB and NW we spent the following two hours mesmerised as the bird fed and sang from suaeda at a range of just a few feet.

It was an active and inquisitive bird always on the move and frequently perching on the tops of bushes to sing or catch flies. When perched in the open its legs would often be splayed with feet on different branches or twigs and its tail usually held at 45 degrees while being constantly 'waved' from side to side and up and down. However it would often feed silently very low down in suaeda or possibly on the ground. It could disappear for up to 20 minutes at a time although with patience it could be relocated by the same call which had betrayed its presence originally, having moved up to 50 metres unseen. When singing it would always do so from a prominent perch, the song a soft sweet scratchy warble, which invariably finished with a Wood Warbler-like trill.

After a couple of hours it became increasingly active, flying west up to 50 metres at a time diving into thick suaeda, singing immediately. After repeating this behaviour four or five times it flew far out onto the saltmarsh and despite searching during the rest of the day and the next, it was not seen again and presumed to have departed.

Six days later on the afternoon of 18th May, I had just checked on the terns when I heard a bird I instantly recognised as the Marmora's Warbler. The bird remained in the same area during the rest of the day, once again showing well, but could not be relocated next day and was not subsequently seen. It had clearly remained on the island during the missing days hidden in suaeda at the Ternery.

This represents the first county record and only the fourth for Britain, the first occurring at Mickleden Clough, South Yorkshire in 1982. Amazingly the Scolt Head bird or another singing male was discovered at Sizewell, Suffolk a few days later on 29th May where it was enjoyed by many observers.

Two races are recognised, the resident Sylvia sarda balearica of the Balearic Islands and the nominate Sylvia s sarda of Corsica and Sardinia which, although largely sedentary, disperses in winter to North Africa. All British records relate to this larger darker-throated nominate race.

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 amongst birdwatchers throughout the county. The club publishes four bulletins during the year, holds indoor meetings and organises bird survey work.

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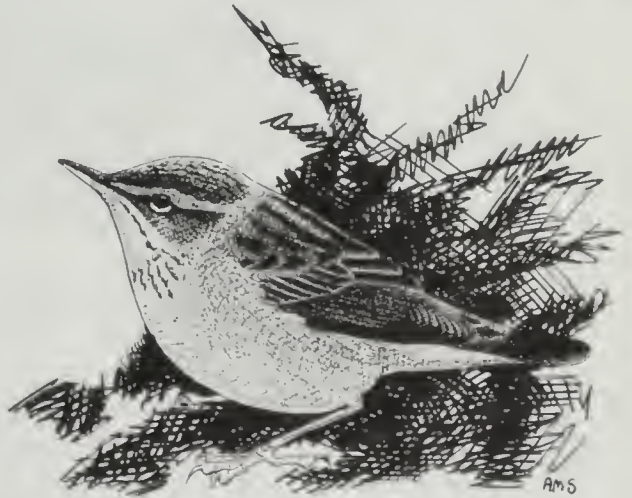
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler at Blakeney Point - the second for Norfolk

Steve Joyner

Every birdwatcher knows how frustrating birding can be. We are all familiar with news of a good bird found just down the road, the wind direction not being quite right, or brief views of an interesting but ultimately disappearing bird. Occasionally, however, everything just falls into place and Saturday 22nd September 2001 was one of those rare and memorable occasions for Andy Stoddart and myself.

The weather conditions during the previous week had been ideal for the arrival of Siberian vagrants on the north Norfolk coast. A combination of slow moving low pressure systems over southern Denmark and Holland, and persistent high pressure over Scandinavia resulted in a strong easterly flow out of Russia, across the Baltic region, bringing strong northerly winds down the North Sea. During this period we made several visits to Blakeney Point and were rewarded with a good selection of migrants including single Hoopoe, Ortolan Bunting, Bluetroat and Red-breasted Flycatcher, plus a number of Barred Warblers. The only frustration came from a typical encounter with a 'Lanceolated' Warbler, which gave only brief views before disappearing into a thick clump of *suaeda* bushes. Backed-up during the week by several Grasshopper Warbler sightings it was clear there was an unusual influx of *Locustella* warblers taking place.

On 22 September whilst working the *suaeda* at The Marrams I flushed a medium-sized warbler which judged on shape alone was clearly a *Locustella*. Finding a skulking warbler in the *suaeda* always produces mixed feelings as there is always the possibility that it may be a rarity. However, there is also a sense of uncertainty as you wonder how to see it well enough to clinch the identification. Fortunately it was our lucky day and for once, despite its elusive nature, we managed to keep track of the bird. After being flushed it was never relocated where it had landed, suggesting that on alighting it was capable of running away under the bushes. After several flight views we were convinced this was not just another Grasshopper Warbler; the bird looked slightly heavier and broader tailed and the plumage showed more contrast on the upperparts. The most obvious feature was a bright rufous rump contrasting sharply with the dark mantle and very dark almost black tail, while on one prolonged flight view a supercilium was noted and a dull yellow wash across the underparts. All this conjured the image of a Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler but interestingly the often quoted white tips to the tail were only obvious on one occasion when the tail was fanned on alighting. In normal flight or on the ground the closed tail showed no sign of white tips. Later in the afternoon this apparent missing feature did cause a certain amount of



Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler (*Andy Stoddart*)

controversy amongst some observers but when eventually seen it was often striking.

Given previous experience of *Locustella* warblers I expected the bird to go to ground after the initial sightings and become increasingly difficult to find. However, to everybody's surprise the bird remained for three days and rewarded patient observers with excellent views. Several good quality photographs were taken, and these confirmed additional features including the large bill, greyish nape 'shawl' contrasting with the darker streaked mantle and a narrow gorget of dark streaks across the upper breast. The diagnostic white spots on the inner webs of the tertails visible in the photographs are present at all ages but the yellow-washed underparts are indicative of juvenile plumage.

Locustellas are notorious skulkers, and this bird did have the ability to disappear in low cover even when completely surrounded by would-be observers. Clearly it was able to run undetected between the observers, a handy skill when 'enjoying' the close attention of 1000+ birders.

Pallas's Grasshopper Warblers breed in Siberia and across Central Asia to NE China, wintering in India, Sri Lanka and SE Asia. There have been 26 previous British records with the Northern Isles (and particularly Fair Isle) enjoying the lion's share. Just one has previously reached Norfolk, a bird seen briefly but well along Cley West Bank on 13th September 1976.

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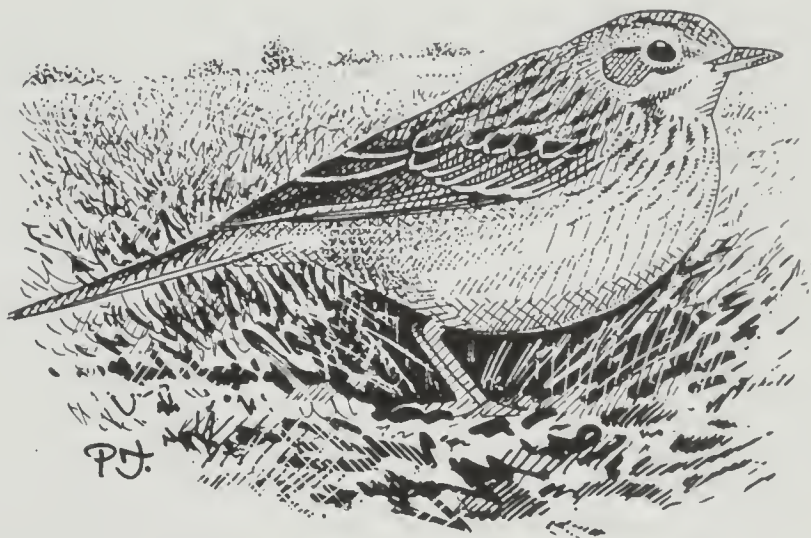
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Blyth's Pipit at Happisburgh in September 1999 - the second for Norfolk

Phil Heath

During the morning of 25th September 1999, Andy Kane and myself were birdwatching around Cart Gap and Sea Palling. Towards late morning we split up and I went north, ending up in fields between the old Decca radio mast at Cart Gap and Happisburgh to look for two Lapland Buntings seen earlier.

While 'thrashing' the stubble fields below Happisburgh lighthouse I flushed a large pipit which I expected to climb in height, call 'schreeep' and turn into a Richard's Pipit. Surprisingly however, it remained silent, flew low over the stubble for a few yards and dropped straight down, vanishing in seconds. Puzzled, I flushed it twice more and on each occasion it performed in exactly the same fashion but with the brief views, I gained the impression of a compact pipit with short tail and rich buff underparts, quite different to a Tawny Pipit or classic Richard's Pipit. Its third flight took it towards long grass on the clifftop and I failed to relocate the bird despite searching.



Blyth's Pipit (*Phil Jones*)

Perturbed by the bird's behaviour and structure, I found AK and told him of my sighting. Sufficiently curious he immediately set off in search of the mystery pipit and quickly refound it, flushing it five or six times and hearing a soft 'chip' call. Sometime after midday we discussed the bird's identity by telephone and tentatively considered the possibility of Blyth's Pipit. Although early in the autumn for this species, a Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler and several Yellow-browed Warblers on the Northern Isles and a scattering of Richard's Pipits on the east coast seemed a good backing cast, so we decided to return and attempt to obtain more prolonged views.

Armed with reinforcements in Neil Bowman and Tim Nicolson over the next half hour we flushed the bird on several occasions hearing the short 'chip' calls it was by now giving regularly and trying to get 'on the deck' views. In this we were generally unsuccessful, save

gaining the briefest views as it ran down a furrow, but the Blyth's Pipit impression remained. It was clearly one of the larger pipits (both Skylarks and Meadow Pipits were available for direct comparison) and when it flushed with Meadow Pipits, a momentary check was necessary to ensure you were on the right bird. This was largely due to the overall structure of the bird which was more akin to a scaled-up Meadow Pipit. In flight its tail always appeared shorter than is typical of Richard's Pipit and the head and particularly the bill were not as large or robust as that species. The flight views gave little opportunity to study plumage detail but it certainly appeared quite dark and streaky on the upperparts and the pale throat contrasted with a dark rich buffy-orange wash across the breast.

Its behaviour also continued to be different. When flushed or when flying of its own volition its flight was always short and it rarely rose much over 20 ft and would then drop into cover, only hovering before landing on three or four occasions in nearly 30 flights. When it did so, the tail was often fanned, revealing white outertails and second outermost tail feathers extensively white on only the outer web. The legs, dangled before landing, were noted as being bright pinkish flesh but the feet didn't seem large and certainly didn't seem to exhibit a long hind claw, something that is difficult to ascertain in the field but I find is often obvious on Richard's Pipit.

Perhaps the most striking feature was the calls; initially silent, it gradually began to give a number of calls, none of which were at all reminiscent of either of the 'commoner' large pipits. On rising it gave various short, quiet notes transcribed by myself as a soft, almost sneezed 'choo', a short 'chu' and a similar 'chuu(p)'. In flight the case was further enhanced by the characteristic Blyth's Pipit call, a louder but still soft non-far carrying 'chip' occasionally uttered as a series of similar notes and a more drawn out 'churrrp'.

By now all four observers were certain we were indeed watching a Blyth's Pipit and as the local farmer had no objection to birders stomping around his stubble fields, I released the news. Despite deteriorating weather with increasingly heavy showers tracking from the south-west around 30 birders saw the bird before dark.

Next morning I returned to Happisburgh and soon located the pipit in long grass inside the fenced compound housing the new Decca radio mast. It favoured this and the adjacent stubble field for the rest of the day and despite initial doubts from some quarters, at last views of it on the ground confirmed the identification, much to our relief. It remained in the Decca compound and stubble fields to the south of Happisburgh until the 29th allowing many observers to enjoy the educational bird.

This represents the second Norfolk record following the first at Sheringham as recently as 14th-16th October 1996. With increased awareness of this species' subtle characteristics, we can perhaps expect more opportunities in future years.

NORFOLK MAMMAL REPORT - 2001

Editorial

In the 'Editorial' of last year's Mammal Report, it was stated that "The Mammals of Norfolk" Wildlife 2000 publication would appear in 2001. Unfortunately, owing to unforeseen circumstances, the publication of this book has been delayed. Ironically, one of the reasons is the volume of records received from landowners in response to the questionnaire that I distributed in 2000! The Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society is very grateful to all those who responded so enthusiastically, especially to members of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Game Conservancy Trust and the Norfolk Society; also the Nature Reserve Wardens of English Nature, National Trust, Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The Great Yarmouth Naturalists' Society, the Breckland Mammal Group of the British Trust for Ornithology, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' Wildlife Hospital at East Winch and many private individuals also submitted records. These are still being processed at the Norfolk Biological Record Centre. The total number probably exceeds 12,000, not counting those submitted routinely by the usual mammal recorders! This is a truly magnificent response. If you received a questionnaire and have not yet completed it or would like one, please get in touch with me at 'The Smithy', The Green, Edgefield, Melton Constable, NR24 2AL, tel: 01263-587365 or e-mail ianjan@ukf.net as soon as possible.

Once again, classified lists have been excluded from this Report, whilst preparations for the book continue. However, it is hoped that readers will find the articles helpful and of interest. A particularly important contribution is that from John Goldsmith on the bats of Paston Barn. This highlights the problems that occur when legislation for the protection of wildlife conflicts with that for the protection of listed buildings of historical interest.

Other articles deal predominantly with recording and identification of species. Rex Hancy deals with the history of recording in the county and Anne Brewster with recording harvest mice in the Corpusty area where she lives. The information she provides suggests that the presence of this species is often overlooked. Likewise Steve Henson suspects that American mink are under-recorded. He also draws attention to the possible adverse effects of mink on water vole populations. When analysing the questionnaires, I soon realised the difficulty some people had in identifying shrews, voles and rodents, so I have written a short account of their characteristic features.

I should like to draw attention to some unfortunate errors that occurred in last year's Report. The photograph of a water vole was incorrectly labelled 'Bank Vole' and *vice versa*. The photographers were inadvertently not acknowledged and the Society apologises to all concerned. The second part of Table 2, page 302 recording bird species caught by my cat, should read 'Bird species, 2000' not 1999.

Finally, please keep sending in your records, especially if you have some for the fenland area of west Norfolk which is under-recorded. All records should be sent to John Goldsmith, the Norfolk Biological Record Centre, Gressenhall, Dereham, Norfolk NR20 4DR

Ian Keymer

Bats at Paston Great Barn – Some interactions between wildlife, humans and building preservation

By John and Sue Goldsmith

Were you to travel south-east along the narrow, rural, Norfolk coast road from the small seaside town of Mundesley towards the Bacton Gas Terminal you could be forgiven, as you negotiate the twists and turns, for not giving a second glance to the old barn whose tall, end flint wall abuts the road at Paston. As you continue your journey only a glance in your rear view mirror hints at the vast expanse of Paston Great Barn - the historic building you have just passed.

The barn was constructed in 1581 on the instructions of Sir William Paston III as a grain store and threshing barn. It is built of brick, flint and stone (re-used from other buildings) and stands approximately 70 metres long, 9 metres wide and 16 metres high at the apex, with a wonderful hammer beam and thatched roof. Its historical importance is confirmed by its status as a Grade II* Listed Building. Three open-fronted 30 metre long 'wings' on the eastern side of the barn are 'Victorian' additions as cattle sheds. Various other flint and brick constructions have been added over the years, which are not listed by English Heritage. Together these contribute to a very considerable and imposing barn complex.

The Paston family played an important part in the history of Norfolk and the famous 'Paston Letters' of the 15th century give a unique insight into the lives of a husband and wife whose personal correspondence is internationally known. However, these date mainly to a period of time almost a century before the barn was built.

In the last six years the barn has become the focus of attention for naturalists and scientists from around the world for quite a different reason. Actions taken and decisions made are of interest and importance to this international audience. Indeed, the barn has seemingly become a testing ground where legislation to conserve buildings and wildlife have come into conflict. It is now necessary for all the implementing bodies and interested parties to work together in order to prove that man and animal can successfully co-exist without detriment to the other and that the ability of humans, above all other creatures, to compromise intelligently is used to the full.

There has been a previous paper in *Transactions of the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society* (Vol 34 part 2 pages 307-317) describing the radio tracking research on the Barbastelles using the barn. This article seeks to provide a more in-depth background and history of the barn and some of the events that occurred towards - or against - its conservation during the years 1996-2002.

The farming-based use by man of the barn complex has evolved over the centuries, hence the range of buildings on the site. It takes a leap of imagination to appreciate the differences between the harvesting methods of our ancestors and those used today. Harvesting manually or by horse-power with late maturing corns and meagre yields may not in some years have begun until September and finished as late as November - with threshing to be carried out over the winter. This gave bats ample time to breed and disperse before the barn was put to serious use. The grain harvest today may start in early July with yields of up to 5 tonnes of wheat per acre and use massive machines which engulf 20 tonnes per hour. The resulting produce is often with the grain merchant later the same day and the field ploughed within 24 hours so barns have become virtually obsolete for their original agricultural purposes.

There is also some history of the barn being used for purposes other than agricultural. For instance, a celebratory dinner was held there to honour a man from Paston who had ridden in the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava. Later, in 1976, to commemorate 50 years of the East Anglia Real Estate Company (owners of the barn at the time) all its workers were invited to a banquet there and was flood-lit and decorated. Whilst preparations for this prestigious dinner were under way, droppings were found on the white table cloths - lots of them - and John Goldsmith, then of the Natural History Department at Norwich Castle Museum, confirmed that these were bat droppings and not, as feared, mouse, so, as it was prior to the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, the dinner proceeded!

For the next 20 years the barn was of little obvious interest to naturalists. North Walsham-based instrument makers Chell Instruments bought it in 1988 to relocate its business, but recession halted these plans and in 1995 concern was growing about the condition of the building. English Heritage (EH) had offered £347,000 in grant monies but this was insufficient for its conservation and conversion to house the 17 members of the workforce, planning permission having been granted for 'light engineering' use by North Norfolk District Council (NNDC).

In the summer of 1996, as part of an ongoing programme of identifying summer and winter bat sites in the county, and in response to a request from NNDC three members of the Norfolk Bat Group (NBG) investigated the site. A maternity colony of Barbastelle bats (*Barbastellus barbastella*) was discovered in the main barn together with ample evidence that other bat species also used the building. Peter Spencer, species protection officer for English Nature (EN) was notified immediately by mobile phone as it was at that time the only breeding colony of Barbastelle bats in the whole of Britain. Despite the subsequent identification of at least four other such breeding colonies in southern England, it remains the only one in a building, others being in trees.

In November 1996 the barn was purchased by the North Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust (NNHBT), a body formed specifically to buy and conserve the barn, which remains its only holding to date. This body is both a registered company and charity and it has been documented that it paid £15,000 for the barn and outbuildings with grant monies from NNDC. Although it has been frequently claimed that the important bat colonies were unknown at the time of purchase, letters exist to demonstrate that the Barbastelle maternity colony had been found by this time and information circulated to the effect that this would undoubtedly affect any proposed plans for future usage.

The Barbastelle is currently listed as endangered in most European countries and has a long list of statutes protecting it. These include:

- The Bonn Convention, Appendix II (Conservation of bats in Europe, 1991)
- The Bern Convention, Appendix II
- The EC Habitats and Species Directive, Annex II
- 1996 IUCN Red List of threatened animals
- Protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Protection under the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994
- It is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan species with its own special Action Plan placing obligations upon a range of government organisations including:
 - To ensure the long-term protection of maternity roosts
 - Encourage provision for the species within old buildings
 - Raise awareness of this species in country houses and farm buildings

On 5th November 1996 a meeting was held at Paston Barn between EN, NNDC and NBG in order to discuss how to secure the future of both the barn and the bats without compromise to either. A programme of research was agreed using the expertise of the NBG in order to assess the bats' usage of the barn so that certain building works could progress without disturbing the colony and to enable plans for the long-term future of the barn to be considered. At this time it was felt that, quoting from the minutes of the meeting, "the bats and the historic building could be seen as one conservation project and the various people would work as a team", though subsequent events suggest otherwise.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status was considered but a decision on notification of the site was deferred pending a better understanding of the status of Barbastelles at Paston. Optimism appeared high that mutually acceptable solutions could be reached to secure the future of the colony and the barn. How many of those working to save the unique natural history of the site would have predicted that it would take a further six years; a heavily contested planning application, and presentations at both Government and European level before all parties concerned would at last come together in a mood of conciliation, albeit still with their own interests and agendas?

In 1997 the NBG produced a report on its research for that year involving 18 members of the group and nearly 300 voluntary man-hours at dusk, dawn and during the night. In all, four species of bat were recorded at the site: Barbastelle (*Barbastellus barbastella*); Natterer's (*Myotis natterii*); Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*); and Brown Long-Eared (*Plecotus auritus*). (Since then the Pipistrelle has been divided into two species, 45 and 55 kHz, and both have been found at the barn.) The Barbastelle is by far the rarest, while the good-sized Natterer's colony is also noteworthy. The Noctule (*Noctalus noctula*) has also subsequently been recorded.

Barbastelle bats are rare mammals with generally less than ten records per annum in England and Wales in the 20th century, normally from hibernation sites between October and March. Norfolk and Suffolk are the most important areas of the UK with in excess of 80 records since 1859. Until recently most books and zoological publications stated that there was no breeding colony known in the UK, although a confidential Norfolk colony was known near Cromer until 1988, thus, nationally, there was an urgent focus of research on this species.

In August 1996 the Barbastelle colony contained an estimated 40 females with young. Bearing in mind the national and international importance of the find, and the rarity of the species, the first year's study in 1997 was deliberately low key to minimise disturbance and the existence of the colony was to remain confidential. Environmental conditions within the building were studied with temperature loggers sited to record the temperature every 72 minutes (20 times per day) for a period of three months during the bat breeding season. Size and position of the colony was recorded weekly together with surveys of droppings to confirm this and also assess the utilisation of window slits for entry and exit. External surveying consisted of up to 16 people in the vicinity of the barn at dusk using bat detectors in an attempt to establish feeding and dispersal areas; visual observations including the use of an image intensifier; and observations away from the roost to identify feeding areas involving bat detector work together with visible observations.

This initial survey showed that the bats (all species present) used every part of the barn, roosting in beam slits and partaking of various social activities while flying inside the building. It also proved that the outbuildings on the site were used extensively by both Barbastelles and Natterer's, the bats passing through in what is considered a strong predator avoidance strategy together with social intermingling. Assessing feeding areas proved more

difficult, although they were found to be feeding in the adjacent woodland of Paston Hall and Paston churchyard. Barbastelles were also recorded near to the Bacton Gas Terminal and up to a kilometre away to the west. During this survey work it became apparent that the Barbastelle colony was suffering disturbance - judging by its behaviour and movement within the barn. This happened on three occasions during the year, making the colony vacate the building for several days, confirming the bats' particular susceptibility to stress caused by human activities as previously reported in the literature.

In October 1997 a meeting was held between the NNHBT, EH, EN, NBG and NNDC. The Trust produced its business plan for offices and sales areas in the wings, the proposal being for the barn to be used for events such as banquets and craft fairs with other buildings used for toilets and warden's accommodation. It was now apparent that there were alarming conflicts between the building's "conservation" and development and acceptable bat conservation. Grants for these proposals from EH, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Gas Consortium were all dependent on public access to the completed project. The scale of public access required clearly conflicted with the bats' survival.

Also at this time grant aid from EN (£1000) and UK-Continent Gas Interconnector (£3000) was provided to NBG for Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) and monitoring equipment to enable some remote in-depth research to take place during 1998.

Public access was, it transpired, the major stumbling block in protecting the Barbastelle Bats. There followed years of disillusioned discussion and disagreement during which the building had some repairs in the winter, typically with just some vague verbal agreement, and the bats occupied it in the summer to give birth to their young. Despite legislation to protect all bat species in both the UK and Europe, and the rarity and international importance of the Barbastelle colony, the human elements remained intransigent. There were times when the opposing attitudes of the government-funded agencies gave every impression of working against the best interests of both the building and the bats, each of which were protected by law! The invited involvement of the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) did little to promote the conservation successfully at this time as the public access issue remained paramount to EH and hence to NNHBT. A copy was obtained of a memorandum of intent between Sir Jocelyn Stevens of EH and Lord Cranbrook, then chairman of EN. It stated that the two bodies would co-operate and come to special arrangements for any historic building that supported important wildlife, though this seemed to cut little ice with local staff. Interestingly, and importantly, both sides in the debate were keen for the barn to be repaired as, if the barn fell into disrepair, then it would be unsuitable for the needs of the bat colonies.

The monitoring study in 1998 included the same methods used the previous year but with the exciting addition of the installation of a 'state of the art' 700 line infra-red CCTV system purchased with the grant monies. The monitor and long-play video recorder were installed in an outbuilding adjacent to Paston Hall with the kind help and co-operation of the then owner, Mr Graham Carter.

In late August, when the young Barbastelles were full-grown and the breeding colony about to disperse until the next year, a few bats were caught outside the barn using a harmless harp trap. With borrowed expertise and equipment, two adult female Barbastelles had miniature radio tags fixed to their backs. The tags were set to transmit at two known, separate frequencies to allow the individuals to be distinguished. The tags' batteries had a life of up to thirteen days and were designed to fall off the bats after about two weeks. The radio tracking covered nine nights, one transmitter falling off early and the battery of the other expiring. In an effort to locate the autumn roost(s) used by the Barbastelles, two further

individuals were caught and tagged. However, after two days one tag had fallen off and the other bat had not returned to the barn, nor could it be found within the expected surrounding areas. The next few days were spent radio scanning an area of over 20 square miles both at night and during the day, but to no avail. Such are the frustrations of radio-tracking!

The radio-tracking study began to give an exciting new window into the shadowy world of bat behaviour. It also showed changes in the bats' behaviour in relation to entering and exiting the barn as a result of a northerly outhouse wing being considerably altered by building work during the previous winter. The importance of the two large south-east facing twin doors of the barn was also demonstrated. The two main alternative breeding cluster sites are in the lintel crevices of these doors and adjacent gaps are also the main entrance and exit for the bats, especially after the northern buildings were sealed with perspex sheet and chicken wire. When the replacement of these decrepit doors takes place, very similar entrance/exit holes must be carefully planned and the work carried out in the winter, allowing any treatment chemicals, paints and glues to weather.

The radio tracking, though limited, demonstrated that the bats hunted in the adjacent woodland areas and along the coast and that, potentially, during five hours they could cover 70 linear miles in repetitive quartering, and an area of approximately 18 square kilometres of the Norfolk countryside. It was further discovered for the first time anywhere that hunting occurred over the cliffs and along the shore and tide-line.

Further monitoring was recommended to include complete video coverage of movements in the barn together with weather/environmental monitoring to correlate events and provide a better understanding of reasons for movements away from preferred roost sites and the bats' intolerance of disturbance. Also suggested was further radio tracking to allow for more detailed recording of feeding areas and, again, at the end of the breeding season in order to locate roost sites used in the autumn. Insect trapping and droppings analysis were also required to identify prey species.

1998 was fraught with problems. The barn and CCTV equipment were vandalised; disturbance to the colony was caused when agreements over timing of building works/materials delivery were not adhered to; and the police were involved on one occasion when the contractor clearly contravened the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. More importantly, the insistence by some of the bodies involved in courses of action detrimental to the bat colony was causing concern. Articles appeared in both the local and national press highlighting some of the opposing views. Those promoting the historic building were still publicly stating their understanding of the legal constraints due to the bat colony and accepting that the animals were sensitive to disturbance, and yet still insisting on public access to the barn on completion of the works. Clearly, these aims were totally at variance with the needs of the bats.

In late 1998 a dendrochronologist (a tree ring analyst) from the University of Sheffield visited the barn to take sample cores from the beams. This has confirmed the build date and shown that the oak timbers were obtained over a two year period.

Re-thatching and other building works at the barn commenced in late September 1998 with grant monies of £375,000 from EH. At this point NNHBT announced to the Press its intention of converting the barn to a visitor centre with exhibition space and possibly a concert hall, but without mention of the important bat colony or how it would be incorporated!

From early in 1999 it was apparent that the gap between all the bodies involved was widening. There was a feeling amongst those working for the cause of the bats that little attention was being paid to this internationally important site and that the status of the man-

made structure was being given precedence. Accusations were made that the national environmental bodies were not proactive enough and that protective legislation - or those responsible for enforcing it - were ineffective.

There was a complete debacle over the re-thatching and roof repairs from a bat conservation standpoint. The works had been started in 1998 but not completed, as promised, for the 1999 breeding season. The roof was covered for the 1999 summer period with a temporary blue damp-proof membrane of polythene and polystyrene insulation. Being of ultra-violet unstabilised quality it began to break into small pieces in the June sunshine, allowing ingress of quantities of rainwater to the bat roosts and the barn generally, unsettling the colony that summer. At a meeting in March 1999 various reasons for this inaction were given and other assurances offered. In October of that year the thatchers assured the NNHBT architect that the roof would be completed by April 20th 2000 - in practise, though, the work continued into May. Although bat roost sites inside the huge beams were identified and marked, many were lost during the repairs, while the timber treatment chemicals used were never formally approved. On the positive side, the finished thatch looks really splendid externally and internally, and the carpentry repairs to the huge oak timbers bear testimony to the immense skill of the craftsmen involved.

The CCTV was again successfully utilised for monitoring bat activity in the barn in 1999, being installed in early July. Again, there were problems with unauthorised entry to the site; on one occasion two youths with an air rifle were seen late in the evening when they removed security fencing and used a ladder to climb on scaffolding. Fencing and ladders were moved on other occasions and Norfolk Constabulary was again called to the site with parents of the offending youths subsequently located and warned.

On 24th July 1999 NBG together with the Norfolk Moth Survey Group, and with the permission of Mundesley Holiday Centre, held a moth catching night on Mundesley cliffs. Moth traps were placed along and down the cliffs and both quantities and species of insects trapped were recorded, since the radio tracking had shown that the *Barbastelles* hunted along these cliffs. This established which species, and perhaps quantities, were available for bats to eat.

The colony of *Barbastelles* was studied through the summer as it moved around the barn using various sites. This research work was mainly carried out by Susan Parsons on contract to the BCT funded by EN. The impetus for movement of the colony within the building at this time was the leaking of the temporary roof structure, while several pieces of electronic monitoring equipment permanently failed after being deluged. Due to delays in obtaining radio tags it was not feasible to conduct any radio tracking in that year.

In October 1999 BCT, under contract to EN, produced a report on the behaviour of the *Barbastelle* bats at Paston Barn during 1999, authored by Susan Parsons and Tony Hutson. It was reported that the colony was slightly smaller than the previous year and the number of young reared to the flying stage was also lower. The importance of cracks above the window slits, gaps behind roof supports and holes in door lintels as roost sites were confirmed. The open-fronted wings were used both at evening emergence and morning return and were again identified as a vital feature for bats at the site, while the temporary experimental closing of one wing with polythene sheeting for a week was adjudged to have been highly disturbing to the colony.

Eventually, on 23rd December 1999, the whole site, extending to 0.95 acres, was at last notified as an SSSI by English Nature. Almost at the same time, the Bacton Terminals Community Affairs Group stated that, as their donation policies were geared specifically towards benefits to the community, and that the future of the barn as a visitor centre and

Bacton Gas Site publicity venture was now less than certain, they had decided to suspend any financial contributions.

In 2000 pressure continued to be brought to bear on EN, by BCT and other environmental bodies, for the situation to be resolved in the best interests of the Barbastelles. EH at last confirmed in writing that their grant-aid was not now dependent on future public access but that this was now a preference not a condition. Various options were put forward which would offer the colony the necessary protection and yet allow limited public access at certain times of the year. During the year it also became apparent that EH staff lacked any correct information regarding the situation at Paston Barn and bats generally and inaccurate rumours began circulating amongst owners of listed buildings in East Anglia. This fact was taken up with their area director.

2001 proved to be the climax of distrust in the recent history of the barn. In May, to the horror of members of the NBG and other conservation bodies, EN permitted, and indeed funded, the boarding up of the northern and southern wings to the east of the barn, structures which were known to be important flying areas for the bats. A witness reported that the barn doors were wide open and there was building work all day, this taking place during May, long after when it was agreed that all work on the site would cease.

An art exhibition of pictures was permitted inside the barn in the late autumn (while bats were hibernating there) when gas heaters and lights were used without any kind of discussion or formal agreement. Obviously these damaging developments did nothing to bring the various bodies of opinion together and prosecution under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 was seriously contemplated by bat conservation organisations, but considered to be unlikely to succeed, since these actions did have the verbal agreement of EN.

Following notification of the whole site as an SSSI in 1999, and it therefore being subject to Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Countryside Rights of Way Act (2000) came into effect in early 2002. Due to the presence of the Barbastelles, this site (along with several others in Norfolk) was declared a candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) under the 1994 regulations. Its legal protection was, thus, much enhanced on a UK and European basis.

In spite of all the parties involved with development of the barn being aware of the legal situation regarding species protection, on May 4th 2001 the NNHBT submitted a planning application for conversion of the barn complex to an exhibition/visitor centre, coffee shop, caretaker's dwelling together with creation of a new site access. In a letter from the NNHBT accompanying the planning application, architect, Anthony Rossi, stated that a written environmental assessment of the effect of the proposals was being prepared by his clients (as required for a cSAC) although this was never produced.

It may be that the NNDC planning authority and developers underestimated the environmental lobby because the pressure now increased greatly to preserve this rare bat colony. In excess of 100 letters and e-mails of objection were lodged with NNDC from all over the world. Articles also appeared in the national press questioning the necessity of putting a Barbastelle colony in peril.

As a consequence of concerns regarding the ability of NNDC to determine this application objectively, due to its close links and advice from its chief planning officer to NNHBT, the Regional Government Office for the East of England was approached to assess whether it should be 'called in', that is determined by the Secretary of State.

As part of the objection to the planning application for the barn there was a detailed study by the conservation lobby of the Regional Strategy for East Anglia, the Norfolk

County Council Structure Plan and the NNDC Local Plan. This exercise demonstrated that the proposals did not fall within current development policies, indeed in some cases were seriously at variance with them. Extensive documentation is on file with detailed objections to the development proposals lodged by EN, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the BCT, scientific research being provided to support these contentions.

It was disappointing that most local opinions sought (parish councillors, district councillors, Paston Heritage Society (PHS), etc) seemed biased towards developing the site at the expense of the bats, and that there was no appreciation of the unique living heritage that the Barbastelle colony bestowed, having chosen Paston Barn for its summer residence, probably for hundreds of years. Indeed, some parties seemed openly hostile to the colony, seeing it as a hindrance rather than an opportunity. Suggestions that jobs might be created by this proposed tourist trap only fuelled this opinion and there appeared to be no understanding at all that the bats were unable to compromise whereas the human element in this conflict had an infinite ability to do so.

The planning application was, unfortunately, never determined (ie passed or turned down) by the planning committee as this would have been a useful precedent for any future similar cases. It would probably have involved a lengthy and expensive public enquiry but would have brought into the public domain all the salient facts, figures and mistakes! However, the planning application was withdrawn during the second week in April 2002 as part of a new initiative and NNDC posted a circular to all objectors to indicate that it had been withdrawn.

Due to the submission of the planning application, the consequent furore, and the failure of EN to initiate any research agreement in 2001, little direct observation was undertaken on the colony during that summer. However, in August 2001 a report supported by EN was published which detailed the observations that were made between 1st September 2000 and 1st June 2001. These observations showed that Barbastelles occurred in the barn until the end of November 2000 and reappeared in early March 2001. Both Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and Soprano Pipistrelle (*P pygmaeus*) together with Natterer's bats (*Myotis nattereri*) were recorded at the barn during every month of monitoring showing that it was, as suspected but not previously proved, being used by bats for hibernation. Some of the social calls recorded suggested that the site is also being used by both common Pipistrelles, Barbastelles and Natterer's bats as a mating location.

Year	Barbastelle numbers	Building work and disturbances recorded
1996	40 (estimate adult females + young)	None
1997	50 (estimate of adult females + young)	Northern wing repaired over-winter, engines removed with lorry and fork-lift truck during the bat breeding season.
1998	30 adult females, 30 young	Some summer disturbance, major roof repairs started - spanning over two years
1999	28 adult females, 11 young	Some summer disturbance - roof repairs under way, temporary plastic covering
2000	24 adult females 5 young	Late finish to roof repairs and wings blocked
2001	22 adult females, 4 young	None
2002	Increased colony returned	None

As the above table shows, breeding numbers have declined during the past four years after major repairs were embarked upon, although counting methods have varied between visual estimates and counts on video tape. At no time has the observation of bats impinged on the welfare of the colony. Indeed, with local bat research it has always been a primary rule amongst core bat researchers in Norfolk that the welfare of colonies unquestionably comes first, observations, data and results second.

In February 2002 the visitor centre plan was dropped and EN obtained a 50-year lease of the building. This would be overseen by a multi-agency management group, although NNHBT expressed publicly its “disappointment that proposals for the complex were unable to go ahead at this time”. The inaugural meeting of the Paston Barn Management Group (PBMG) was held on 18th January 2002, with representatives from EN, NBG, BCT, NNHBT, NNDC, PHS and Paston Parish Council. A further meeting was held in April 2002 when it was agreed that a gate and security fencing plus a small car park with interpretation boards would be provided at the eastern end of the site near the entrance to the church. However, an ongoing programme of any absolutely necessary building works, to be carried out over a series of winters remains to be agreed. The BCT was contracted to monitor the Barbastelle colony and provide a report for the period March 2002 to March 2003. The management group is due to meet again in the autumn of 2002, by when a contractor will have been appointed to prepare a full management plan.

It is generally agreed that some interpretation of this site is desirable. Using existing buildings is a non-starter due to bat occupancy, so NBG suggested that a mobile unit could be parked on the barn site on agreed dates which would have live feeds from cameras inside the barn plus displays and information. This novel, but practical, solution, has yet to attract sufficient funding to be operational.

We are conscious that this management group is in its infancy, and wanting this joint approach to be successful, we must not judge too harshly at this stage. However, it should be borne in mind that membership of the management group is numerically weighted in favour of supporters of historic buildings rather than any natural history aspects, and there are those who feel that there is still a huge element of risk involved as its role is purely *advisory*. The landlord (NNHBT) and tenant (EN) remain in control.

Should this group fail in its attempts to manage the barn for the benefit of the bats and the Barbastelle colony declines, or is lost, then the environmental bodies involved will be blamed for the demise, as they would be deemed an integral part of any mismanagement. The management group's existence may not prevent development at the site but will continue to press for a programme of monitoring and research, consider all issues relating to use, repair and maintenance of the barn within the need to maintain the integrity of the cSAC interest features paramount at all times. EN is also responsible for all repairs during the lease period, although an “appropriate assessment” by the Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is legally required for any building work not considered to be primarily required for the specific conservation of bats. There is a view that the ‘precautionary principle’ relevant to all cSAC sites should be applied at Paston for the next couple of years in relation to any new repair or building work, bearing in mind the recent colony decline and with the knowledge that no part of the scheduled building is in imminent danger of collapse.

Local bat workers have learned some hard lessons during this lengthy process and some have felt moved to withdraw their voluntary help as a protest against what they saw as inappropriate actions for bat conservation. When the Barbastelle colony was discovered there was much excitement and undoubtedly a naive belief that current wildlife legislation would easily ensure its future. It is now understood that, even with Paston Barn's increased

wildlife status, nothing should be taken for granted. Personal and political lobbying, along with the disturbing fact that some individuals can fail to live up to expectations by not wanting to be seen to be aligned with situations characterised as 'hot potatoes' can cause uncertainty and confusion.

Much of the research at Paston Barn was conducted by volunteers who gave hundreds of hours of time to study this important and exciting site. It is not, therefore, surprising that intense frustration was felt by those involved that people in positions of power were happy to utilise their expertise and yet seemed unable to grasp the importance of protecting this site, being apparently swayed by arguments that a man-made structure was of greater significance than the welfare of the bats. A lot of damage has been done to relationships, both between individuals and organisations, and it could take some time for these scars to heal and trust to return.

The uniqueness of this find ought to have been correctly appreciated at a very early stage and the site looked at as an important building and an important habitat. All man-made structures, after all, sit within the natural world and we ignore the impact of each upon the other at our peril. Contrary to repeated statements from the historic building interests, the environmental bodies wished to maintain the integrity of the building and continue a considered programme of repair works. Should the barn have deteriorated further then it may no longer have been a suitable habitat for the bat colonies it has supported for centuries.

It is to be hoped that the future of all bat species at Paston Great Barn is now more assured. There is still a gulf of understanding between the historical and natural history interests which needs to be bridged. If there is the genuine will to succeed then answers can be found. If this fails, then Paston Great Barn could be a monumental embarrassment to all involved. Success would show Norfolk to be paving the way on an international stage as an example of compromise and flexibility in conservation. There are now so few ancient barns left in East Anglia, and even fewer with bat colonies, that this experience ought to lead to greater recognition of these important landscape features as bat habitats in the future.

As a high profile bat conservation project, Paston Barn cannot afford to fail. We hope anyone reading this account will applaud the Paston Barn Management Group in its endeavours to **get it right**.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are expressed to a very large number of people who have helped in so many ways: The NNHBT and its secretary, Malcolm Crowder, who have given permission for visits to the barn and study the bats; The BCT has been very supportive; EN grants and staff time are acknowledged; Ian Fazakerly and Harvik Solutions have provided IT; Pecco of Cambridge supplied equipment for trial; and Interconnector and A C Leigh are thanked for their CCTV input. Mark Robinson, Maurice Webber and Frank Greenaway gave invaluable advice and time towards the radio-tagging, while Ewan and Susan Parsons have expended inordinate amounts of time and energy studying these bats. Ian and Janet Keymer kindly commented helpfully on an earlier draft of this account. Lastly, to the many members of, not only BCT, but bat groups up and down the length of the UK as well as BCT centrally for their time, expertise and support.

Electronic images and further additional information can be found on the NBG web site: <http://www.norfolk-bat-group.org.uk> while any e-mail correspondence may be addressed to: barbastelle@paston.co.uk

Although the content of this article is based on original letters, reports and minutes, the views expressed may not necessarily be held or accepted by the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society or its members

Memories of an ex-editor

Rex Hancy

Dick Whittington owed a great deal to his cat we are told, though the purists tell us his benefactor was a ship and not a four-legged friend. My tale is quite different. The mouse-hunting instinct of a feline friend did lead to my editorship of the Mammal Report for an initial period of three years which eventually stretched to nineteen. This is not an account of mammals seen, merely a note to encourage those who may undervalue their own potential contribution and believe the only place to start is from the top.

The story must go back for some thirty odd years. As a family, we tried to identify what we saw and made notes. The cat brought home small mammal trophies to the doorstep or furious movements in the vegetable patch told us we should try to cheat her of her prey. At first, the dead were identified rather more easily than the living but we quickly developed practised eyes. Two species of mice, two of voles and two of shrews were recorded as well as what was then the ubiquitous hedgehog.

No doubt about it, the more you look the more you see. As we went on our travels, for business and pleasure, more evidence of the presence mammals became clear. There was more to be found than corpses lining the roadsides, though that in itself can tell a great deal about local populations, especially when counts at significant sites as they emerge are made over a period of years.

Then, most exciting of all, harvest mice were proved to be present locally. That meant a systematic attempt to trace them to a more precise source had to be made. Just how to set about such apparently straightforward tasks is not always easy to discover. The perfect book has never been written. Had it been, it would be out of print! Knowing who to ask is the real key and fortunately by then I had begun regular visits to the Castle Museum to present documents and samples to John Goldsmith and ply him with questions.

There is one fact I have learned and have had re-emphasised over many years. It is that genuine naturalists are more than happy to share experience and pass on helpful hints to those who demonstrate a willingness to learn. That was made abundantly clear when the unexpected invitation came to compile the annual report. Names of those who possessed specialist expertise soon became real, solid people, many have since been life-long friends.

Many other correspondents remained as names only at the bottom of lists and notes. Even so, as the years passed I came to regard them as real pen-friends. Letters still arrive on topics unrelated to mammal studies. Piles of notes and letters formed the basis of the report for many years so the main task was to act as a sorter, a clerk or co-ordinator, in other words to "read" the story contained therein and to retell it in a form that could be appreciated by members. Anecdotes of interesting behaviour could often add a bit of sparkle which would hopefully inspire others to look and look again. Look they did and the number of contributors rose steadily. Yet gaps remained and were never filled. Did everyone assume the Brown rat was everywhere? Few were actually recorded. Finding feature articles could have been more difficult elsewhere but here in Norfolk we had a number of on-going sagas with real experts not only working on them but pleased to report. Think of Squirrels Red and Grey, Badgers, Otters, Seals..... Don't forget the Coypu!

Thank you puss. You did me proud. Nor was editing the report the end of it. The unexpected gift of a new kitten eventually made a huge impact on my life. Now we need others to take up the pen, press the keys or what you will. I too was diffident about taking up the challenge. How glad I am I accepted.



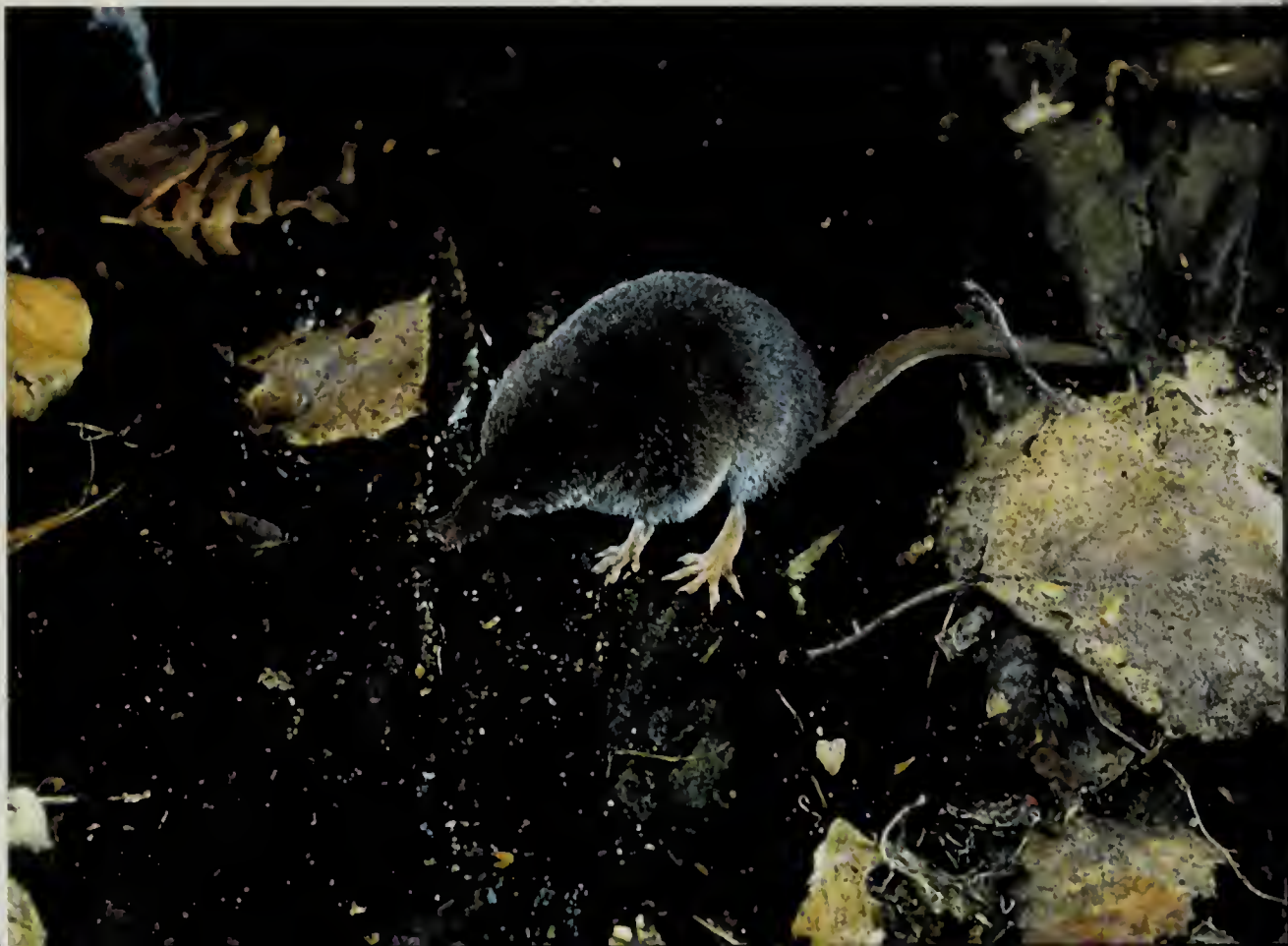
Paston Great Barn (*John Goldsmith*)





Barbastelle Bat (*Tony Tilford*)

Pygmy Shrew – note the relatively long tail (*John Goldsmith*)





Common Shrew – note the tail is shorter than that of the Pygmy Shrew (*John Goldsmith*); Water Shrew – note the darker colour than other shrews (*the late Kevin Carlson*)

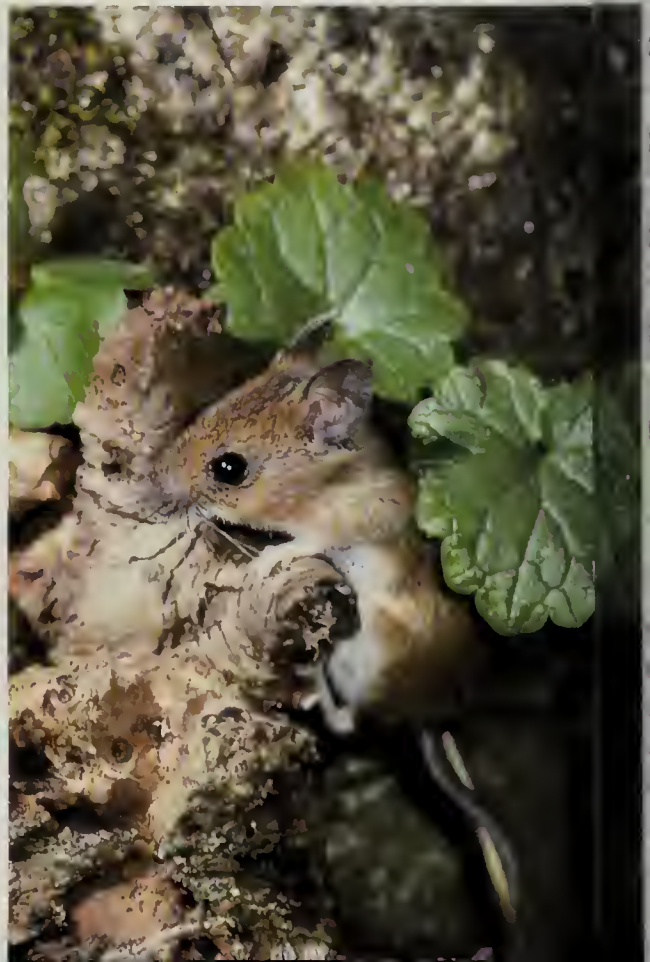
Bank Vole – note the blunt nose and reddish colour of the back (*David Horsley*)





Field Vole – note the blunt nose and short tail (*David Horsley*)

Wood Mouse – note the pointed nose and very long tail (*David Horsley*); Yellow-necked Mouse – easily confused with Wood Mouse unless underparts examined (*the late Kevin Carlson*)



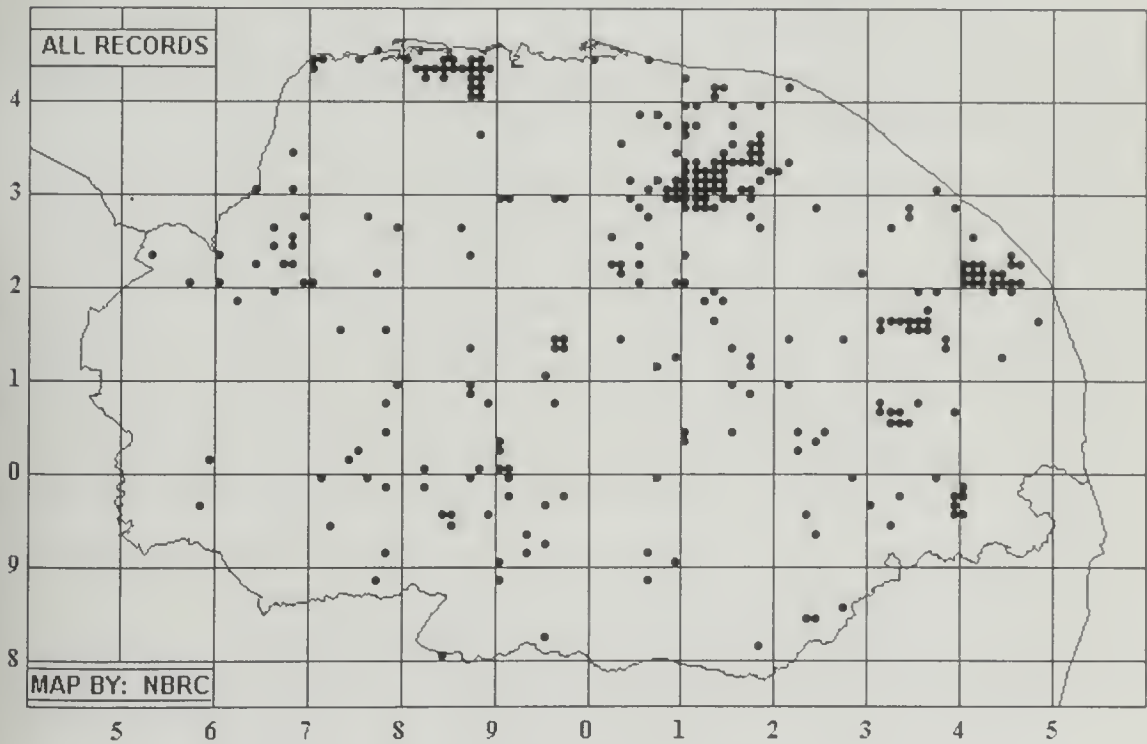
Harvest Mice: more common than suspected?

Anne Brewster

Since 1976 I have been recording the presence of harvest mice (*Micromys minutus*) in Corpusty and Saxthorpe. In 1983 (Brewster, 1984) I confirmed at least 41 sites in this area. By 1999 the number of recorded sites had increased to 101. In addition a further 19 were found just over the parish boundaries.

In January 1997 Corpusty Village Hall Committee purchased the Corpusty old railway station site (approximately 5 acres with two buildings) from the Suffolk County Council which had used it as a Field Study Centre. The site (TG 106304) was always very tidy, and the grass was cut regularly. It has a good tree and shrub perimeter. The grass is still kept very short, but mounds of earth have been placed at one end for children with BMX cycles to use. After a few months, however, this area was no longer used and grass grew on the mounds. At this site on 18th January 2002, I found five harvest mice nests; three on one mound, one on a bank near the road and another on a grassy slope next to the old station building. This is a new, recorded site for the species. Considering that I have visited this area regularly with my school nature groups it is strange why I have not found any nests previously.

Harvest Mouse (*Micromys minutus*)



The new Corpusty link road was opened on 6th February 2002 and as a result small mammals, including harvest mice were probably lost from one small overgrown area, as well as from a roadside verge that was removed to increase visibility for traffic. However, three days before the road was opened I found a nest on a bank near the farm buildings (TG 117300) adjacent to the new road. This bank has now been planted with trees and it will be interesting to see if the mice will continue to thrive there.

Although I have examined a number of Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) pellets found locally, I find the skeletal remains of harvest mice difficult to detect in pellets. In my experience it is easier to search for nests. These are easiest to find in the winter months when the vegetation has died down. They are constructed of woven grass leaves well above ground level in long grass. In my experience the mice favour cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), but they also build in reeds, rushes and cereals. I found it easiest to search through cocksfoot when time is at a premium. Any area such as field edges, roadside verges, stream sides etc., where there are a few clumps of cocksfoot are potential, harvest mouse nest sites. Field banks seem to be preferred, but nests are rarely found where there is tree or shrub cover. The practice of flail cutting hedges directly after the corn has been cut, makes field edge sites very vulnerable. Grass cutting to tidy up 'set aside' fields and cutting road side verges too closely, also destroy nests.

There are two types of nest, those used for breeding up to 10 cm in diameter, and smaller non-breeding nests up to 5 cm in diameter. The nests are spherical and woven into several upright plant stems. The smaller non-breeding nests are built lower down than those used for breeding and are situated in the base of grass tussocks.

The fact that I have found so many harvest mice nests in such a relatively small area, suggests that this species may be more common and widespread in the county than previously thought. Indeed the map produced by the Norfolk Biological Record Centre showing harvest mouse records in the county up to 2002 confirms this belief.

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Are we under-recording the Norfolk mink population?

Steve Henson

(*Anglian Otters & Rivers Project, Norfolk Wildlife Trust*)

Introduction

The water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) in Britain is known to have undergone a long-term decline throughout the 20th century as a result of habitat loss and changes, with a marked acceleration in the rate of decline during the last 20 years due to predation by feral American mink (*Mustela vison*).

In his comprehensive account, Dunstone (1993) under-emphasises the role of the mink in this decline, suggesting that the mink's impact on the UK's native fauna may prove to be relatively slight, although he does conclude that further spread into sensitive areas should be prevented. Since *The Mink* (Dunstone 1993) was published, further research has demonstrated that the mink is a major factor in the decline and it is now generally accepted that the only way to save many water vole populations in mainland Britain is to reduce the pressure of predation by mink through control (Macdonald & Strachan 1999).

Control campaigns in the 1960s and 1980s, targeting mink and coypu (*Myocastor coypus*) respectively, yielded valuable information about the mink's status and distribution in Norfolk. Since then, county surveys of otter and water vole, repeat national otter surveys and casual observations have continued to provide further information, predominantly in terms of distribution. The need to control mink as part of a range of measures for the conservation of water voles in Norfolk is recognised and promoted by, among others, the Anglian Otters & Rivers Project and as part of its work on water voles the project is collating records of mink in the county. Particularly valuable have been the contributions of landowners and keepers actively engaged in trapping mink, none more so than in a small number of examples where trapping effort is continuous and concerted. These reveal an astonishing number of mink along stretches of some of Norfolk's main rivers suggesting that although we now have a good understanding of mink distribution in the county, we are both under-recording mink and hugely underestimating the size of the population.

Background and Discussion

Love it or hate it, the mink has become a well established member of Norfolk's mammalian fauna and in his review of the status of mink in East Anglia, Baker (1989) concluded that during the 1960s it was widespread in Norfolk, although not abundant. Records of mink in Norfolk during the 1960's were generated as a result of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food's (MAFF) curtailed mink control campaign and later, in the 1980's, mink became a 'by-catch' of the Coypu Eradication Campaign, guided by the Agricultural Development & Advisory Service (ADAS), which ended in 1989 having achieved its aim.

Surveys at 136-141 Norfolk sites (almost wholly within 50km grid squares TF and TM) as part of the National Otter Survey of England in 1978, 1985, 1992 and 2000-2001 and county otter and water vole surveys in 1996-1997 also recorded mink occupancy. These surveys enable comparisons to be made over time and in fact the National Otter Survey results (albeit based on a geographically limited, small number of sites) indicate an increase

in mink occupancy within the county during 1985-1992 (Anglian Otters & Rivers Project unpublished data).

The county otter and water vole surveys (Yaxley 1997a-d) encompass a greater number of sample survey sites spread throughout the county, enabling an assessment of mink distribution. This indicates that the Fens region, west Norfolk and the Waveney Valley are occupied by mink whilst more recent information suggests that the River Wensum and River Yare support 'strong' populations. In parts of north Norfolk (eg Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) Cley and Titchwell Marsh RSPB reserve) and The Broads region (eg NWT Hickling Broad), mink appear to be sporadic in occurrence and are quickly trapped for if their presence is detected (Anglian Otters & Rivers Project unpublished data). The finer detail of the distribution picture is gradually being in-filled as a result of the ongoing work of a number of organisations and specific projects (eg Anglian Otters & Rivers Project, Broads Authority, Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society).

A small number of mink records are regularly published in the *Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report*. However, increasing contact with a number of individuals who report seeing and/or trapping mink at various locations suggests that the published records are but the 'tip of the iceberg', reflecting a small number of mainly *ad hoc* submissions rather than the distribution or size of the population. In addition, in examples where there is continuous, site-specific trapping effort, large numbers of mink have been trapped and dispatched. Examples from the Waveney Valley include 53 trapped at Ellingham during the two months March and August 1999, using over 20 traps (M Osbourne pers comm) and 24 trapped along a single 400m stretch of the main river at Ditchingham during the period March-December 2001 (D Cheyne *in litt*). In the Yare Valley, 59 were trapped at Strumpshaw Fen RSPB reserve as part of a concerted control programme during the period September 2000-December 2001 (K London *in litt*). In addition, large numbers have been trapped in some years as part of sustained trapping effort at Feltwell on the Cut-off Channel (eg c50 in both 1992 and 1993), at Welney Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust reserve on the Ouse Washes (eg 30 in 1994) (see Yaxley 1997d) and at Pensthorpe Waterfowl Park in the Wensum Valley (Anglian Otters & Rivers Project unpublished data).

Concluding remarks

Countywide surveys of riparian mammals and the submission of casual observations backed by earlier data have facilitated a broad understanding of mink distribution in Norfolk. In addition, repeat surveys have been useful in indicating a probable population expansion during the 1980s and 1990s. In the main, however, record submissions are *ad hoc* and the number of records recently published is at odds with information gleaned via water vole and mink control advisory work. This reveals mink presence at many more sites than previously recorded and, where trapping effort is sustained, large numbers of individuals. This suggests that we may be under-recording mink and that the size of the population and full extent of its distribution in Norfolk has been underestimated. Arguably, it follows that the deleterious effects of mink on water voles within the county may also have been underestimated.

Despite their diurnal activity and apparent boldness around humans, the presence of mink may go undetected and become evident only when trapping takes place (K London pers comm), so naturalists and conservation professionals may not always be best placed to record this species. In future, those of us involved in recording mink and assessing their status and distribution should engage more with the landowners, estate managers, keepers and other countryside users, including anglers, most likely to encounter mink and who may also have an imperative to control them.

An understanding of mink distribution and status is necessary hand-in-hand with the same information for water voles. This will be essential as part of an assessment of the feasibility of a strategic mink control programme in Norfolk and to help ensure its effective implementation, should such a programme materialise in the near future.

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National Key Sites for Water Voles in Norfolk

Steve Henson

(*Anglian Otters & Rivers Project, Norfolk Wildlife Trust*)

Introduction

In contrast to the improving fortunes of the otter (*Lutra lutra*), the water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) is currently in steep decline. This once common, widely distributed and easily seen riparian mammal has undergone a national population 'crash' and what in 1993 seemed overly pessimistic predictions of loss (at 94 per cent of all sites by 2000) may yet prove to have been realistic, at least in some parts of Britain. Losses have varied between regions and in Norfolk, which in places probably supports some of the highest densities in Britain, the decline may have been less drastic.

This decline has stimulated a large amount of research and increased conservation efforts by a number of institutions and conservation organisations; several county Wildlife Trusts for example now have conservation officers working solely on water voles. To date, effort has been concentrated on linear riparian habitats, perhaps overlooking the possible significance of extensive habitats including grazing marshes and reedbeds. A limited amount of research has focussed on the role of reedbeds as potential refuges for water voles, particularly against predation by the introduced and now widespread American mink (*Mustela vison*). However, a study commissioned by English Nature and the People's Trust for Endangered Species, undertaken over a single winter at three reedbed sites in southern England, indicates that this habitat may indeed provide water voles with a refuge against mink.

The results of this study formed the basis for the selection of 13 National Key Sites, including three in Norfolk, aimed at developing a network of refuges where conservation effort can be targeted to ensure that, even given the very worst case decline scenario, at least some water vole populations survive.

Background

The first water vole survey of England, Scotland and Wales undertaken in 1989-1990 was specifically designed to include a retrospective element, allowing a review of water vole status throughout the 20th century as well as showing the situation at the time of the survey. The results indicated that the water vole population had declined steeply in all areas during the 90 year period 1900-1990 and also that the decline had accelerated in the 1980's (Strachan & Jefferies 1993). A repeat survey in 1996-1998 revealed a further, drastic loss of two thirds of occupied sites and 88 per cent of the remaining population in the seven years since the first survey (Strachan *et al* 2000). Whereas the long-term 20th century decline is generally attributable to a number of extensive habitat and environmental changes including habitat fragmentation, river engineering and agricultural intensification, it is now widely acknowledged that the recent acceleration in loss has been caused by an expansion in the mink population (Strachan *et al* 2000).

A county water vole survey undertaken in 1997 (Yaxley 1997a&b) provides a baseline for assessing future changes in Norfolk's water vole population. Until the survey is repeated (possibly in 2006-2007), it remains difficult to detect or quantify any decline within Norfolk, particularly in view of increased recording effort since 1999 which indicates that water voles remain widespread. The general view is that Norfolk's water voles have not

declined to the same extent experienced in some other regions and that the pessimistic predictions of loss and extinction thankfully do not apply. Nevertheless, we should not be complacent: the data currently available for the Anglian Region as a whole, which includes 106 Norfolk sites, shows an overall loss of 70 per cent site occupancy since 1900, including 43 per cent in the seven years between the 1989-1990 and 1996-1998 surveys (Strachan *et al* 2000).

Reedbeds as refuges from predation by mink

Against the backdrop of rapid decline, it is well known that some sites in England still support large, apparently robust water vole populations which have, in some cases, persisted despite the presence of mink for many years. These sites include reedbeds, which provide an extensive, non-linear habitat. It is possible that mink exert a chronic effect on water vole populations at these sites and will eventually bring about local extinction. Alternatively, reedbeds and similarly extensive sites such as grazing marshes may act as refuges from predation by mink, enabling a level of coexistence. In a countryside that may in future support a larger mink population and concurrently become increasingly devoid of water voles, one viewpoint is that such refuge sites could act as source populations, helping to sustain colonies within surrounding areas where conditions for water voles are less favourable.

A study by Bright & Carter (2000) during winter 1999-2000 at three reedbed sites (in Kent, Somerset and Suffolk) still supporting large water vole populations, despite the presence of mink, examined over-winter mortality using a sample of 70 radio-tagged voles. The study showed that 84 per cent of over-winter mortality in water voles living within these reedbeds was due to predation by mustelids (including mink) and that mink unequivocally accounted for a minimum of 30 per cent. Arguably the most significant finding, although this was only demonstrable at the Kent site (Stodmarsh), was that the predation rate declined significantly the greater the distance a water vole lived from a main water channel. At Strumpshaw Fen RSPB reserve, where mink are controlled, the pattern of successful trapping indicates that foraging by mink may be concentrated along the banks of the main river channel, with activity inside the reedbed habitat diminishing with distance from this (K London & T Strudwick pers comm). This may help to explain how water voles and mink are able to coexist at such sites over long periods. The study concluded that, based on the findings at Stodmarsh, reedbeds offer a winter refuge against predation by mink and potentially, a source of dispersing individuals to recolonise surrounding sites. Bright & Carter (2000) recommended that reedbeds be made a focus of conservation effort for water voles at the landscape scale to complement, rather than replace, locally important sites and existing conservation measures focussed on linear riparian habitats.

The National Key Sites Project

In 2001 the National Key Sites Project (based at Royal Holloway, University of London) notified 13 sites considered to be of national importance for water voles (there may be further notifications in the future). These are sites where the water vole population is considered to be viable, robust and defensible in the long-term against the dual threats of habitat loss and predation by mink (J MacPherson in litt). The following criteria were used in selecting the sites:

- sites with large water vole populations where the habitat quality is optimal (or where a minor adjustment in management would make it so)
- sites that provide a known and probably sustainable refuge from mink

- sites most likely to be significant sources of recolonisers for a wider area
- sites where long-term land tenure and habitat management are assured

Three of the Key Sites are in Norfolk:

National Key Site in Norfolk	Land tenure	Water vole status	Mink status	Site supports reedbed habitat
Bure Marshes NNR	Part in private Pownership art managed by English Nature Part owned and managed by NWT	‘Abundant’	‘Present’	Yes
Hickling Broad NNR	NWT reserve Owned and managed by NWT	‘Abundant’	Sporadic	Yes
Titchwell Marsh	RSPB reserve Owned and managed by RSPB	‘Abundant’	Sporadic	Yes

NWT = Norfolk Wildlife Trust RSPB = Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

A monitoring programme has been established at each of the Norfolk sites utilising a series of transects within and radiating out from each site (*eg* 18 100m transects at NWT Hickling Broad, National Nature Reserve - NNR). Baseline post- and pre-breeding surveys were undertaken in September 2001 and May 2002 respectively; these will be repeated annually to enable comparisons between years and to facilitate an assessment of the affect on water voles of any targeted or incidental habitat modifications or management. In practice, the owners and managers of each National Key Site have been asked to incorporate the needs of water voles within the respective management plans and to commit to management that is favourable, as well as undertaking or facilitating annual monitoring of the water vole population. The National Key Sites Project has provided specific recommendations relating to each of the site management plans, with more general guidelines on habitat enhancements, water level management, grazing, watercourse maintenance, scrub removal and timing of operations to benefit water voles.

Future prospects for water voles in Norfolk

The Anglian Region as a whole (of which Norfolk forms part) is now the national water vole stronghold, currently supporting one fifth (20.5%) of Britain’s and over one third (36.9%) of England’s remaining population (Strachan et al 2000). In addition, studies suggest (*eg* Leuze 1976 in Strachan et al 2000) that the density of water voles in The Broads region is or may have been until recent decades, the highest or one of the highest in Britain. However, the term ‘stronghold’ is used in a relative sense: although this may still be the case, results of the national surveys for the Anglian Region incorporating Norfolk sites suggest a marked decline (see above under Background).

What are the prospects for the water vole in Norfolk: are we to lose this endearing little

mammal? At present this is difficult to predict; it is possible that the water vole decline in Norfolk has been less marked than at the region level, perhaps justifying cautious optimism. If there really is a strong positive relationship between mink activity and predation of water voles, as concluded by Bright & Carter (2000), the water vole's future may depend upon the medium- to long-term status and distribution of mink in the county. Although relative to other areas Norfolk's mink population may be small, evidence suggests that it is grossly under-recorded (Henson 2002). However, a positive point is that mink do appear to be largely confined to the main river channels in west, south and central Norfolk and occur within The Broads area and north Norfolk only sporadically. Another ray of hope is that there appears to be a slowing in the rate of expansion of the mink population in the Anglian Region as a whole, correlated to the increasing presence of otters in a population (Straehan & Jefferies 1996).

Can a nationally based conservation effort utilising the Key Sites principle really save the water vole? The Key Sites Project appears to have been implemented, based largely on the recommendations of the single study by Bright & Carter (2000) at three reedbed sites during a single winter. Several of the conclusions drawn from the study have raised a number of concerns within the county Wildlife Trusts (Everitt 2000); for example, the premise that Key Site reedbeds will provide over-wintering refuges for water voles is founded upon results from only one of the three sites. Further research into the distance from main channel-predation relationship is justified, but should it be assumed that the limited findings be extrapolated to other reedbed sites across the country? The study also draws conclusions relating to the relationship between mink activity and predation of water voles based on findings evident at only two of the three sites. In addition, the report arguably underplays the importance for water voles of linear sites and again, further research is needed into the ability of such sites to offer sustained mink-free refuges.

A major concern is that the Norfolk Key Sites are nature reserves already protected by a number of conservation designations. The National Key Sites Project will not yield additional financial assistance to fund annual monitoring or other demands on already over-stretched field officers. In addition, from a strategic perspective, the three Key Sites are in areas of the county only sporadically occupied by mink. It is acknowledged however that, should mink spread permanently into these areas, the Key Sites reedbeds could be crucial for localised water vole survival. It could be argued that as reserves, these sites are already 'safe' for water voles and that an additional layer of notification at the national scale will not yield extra benefits on the ground. Notwithstanding this, we do need to ensure that the three Norfolk Key Sites are optimal for water voles and that specific measures for them are not overlooked. In addition, these sites should be used to demonstrate best practice management to other site managers and landowners.

Several additional Norfolk sites supporting both reedbed habitat and water vole populations could justifiably be included within a second tranche of National Key Sites; these include NWT Cley reserve, Strumpshaw Fen RSPB reserve and SWT (Suffolk Wildlife Trust) Redgrave & Lopham Fen NNR (which was included on the preliminary shortlist). Mink occupy the latter two sites and the surrounding vicinity (in the Yare and Waveney river valleys respectively) and yet water voles are still present: possibly a vindication of the importance of protected, extensive reedbeds for the future survival of water voles in Norfolk.

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A Guide to the Identification of Shrews and Rodents

Ian Keymer

As the result of carrying out a survey in 2001 of mammals of Norfolk with the help of numerous land owners and other interested persons, it became clear that many people do not know how to identify shrews and rodents. I suspect that many naturalists who do not contribute mammal records to this Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report may fall into the same category. This is understandable, because many people get only fleeting glimpses of live ones and therefore do not become sufficiently interested to purchase an identification field guide. Carcasses brought in by the cat are seldom examined closely by the average cat owner. Most farmers and many other people, simply regard small mammals such as voles and mice as vermin and tend to refer to them all as 'mice'. I decided therefore that a short article on the subject of identification might be useful and act as a stimulus for more people to contribute to this Mammal Report.

Identification of the adults of most species is not difficult, although sometimes it is necessary to measure the head/body (tip of nose to base of tail) and tail lengths. However, when dealing with young animals, problems can arise unless the dentition is carefully examined, in addition to making standard measurements. This can be time consuming and difficult, so I will not deal with that aspect of identification.

Shrews

All shrews have a long slender nose, small ears and dense short fur. Cats will catch them but not eat them, because the presence of scent glands on the flanks makes them distasteful. Three species occur in the County. In the Norfolk dialect, the name given for any species of shrew is 'Ranny'.

Common shrew (*Sorex araneus*) and Pygmy shrew (*Sorex minutus*) These are similar in appearance, but the Pygmy (see photo) is smaller as the name indicates. However, small shrews may be young Common shrews (see photo) and not Pygmy shrews, as I suspect is sometimes assumed. The important difference is that the tail of the Common shrew is about half the length of the head and body, whereas the tail of the Pygmy reaches two thirds or more the length of the head and body. The maximum head/body length of the Common shrew is 87 mm and averages about 70 mm. Head/body length of the Pygmy reaches a maximum of 64 mm and averages about 50 mm. Both species have brownish upper parts and pale grey under parts.

Water shrew (*Neomys fodiens*) This species (see photo) is semi-aquatic and not always found near water. It is much less common than the other two species. It is larger than the Common shrew and rather beautiful with blackish upper parts. The under parts are variable in colour, but usually white. However, they may be grey, a rusty-yellowish colour or almost as dark as the dorsal surface. A characteristic feature is the presence of a keel of stiff hairs on the under surface of the tail and hairy fringes to the hind feet.

Rodents

Squirrels, voles, mice and rats are all rodents. Rabbits and hares, however, are not, and are

classified as Lagomorphs. Unlike rodents they possess four upper incisor teeth; two large ones in front and two small ones immediately behind them.

Squirrels

Unfortunately the native, free-living Red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) is now extinct in Norfolk, although occasionally reported. These reports are either genuine records of our native animals or imported squirrels from Continental Europe that have been kept in captivity and released or escaped.

Grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) This species which was introduced from North America is a serious pest and sometimes referred to as a 'Tree rat'. However, it is not a rat, but a true squirrel. I am sure that most people can recognise this species. However, it is occasionally confused with the Red. This is because in the summer the flanks, limbs and feet are a chestnut colour. This colouration is more marked in juveniles than in adults. Greys are larger than Reds and do not have conspicuous ear tufts.

Voles

These animals are closely related to mice, but can be readily separated from them because they have blunt noses and small ears. Three species occur in Norfolk.

Bank vole (*Clethrionomys glareolus*) It has the typical plump body and blunt nose of a vole (see photo). It can be distinguished from the Field vole (see below) by the reddish colour of the back. The flanks and belly are greyish. It has a maximum head/body length of 110 mm (average about 100 mm). The tail measures at least half the total head/body length.

Field vole (*Microtus agrestis*) This species (see photo) is sometimes referred to as the Short-tailed field vole or incorrectly "mouse". It is similar in size and proportions to the Bank vole, but is greyish brown in colour with a maximum head/body length of about 120 mm. It has a noticeably short tail that is not more than half the head/body length.

Water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) This is the largest British vole, (see last year's Report for illustration). It is rat-sized and therefore sometimes incorrectly called a 'Water rat'. It is an expert swimmer and must not be confused with the Brown rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) which also swims. The Water vole, unlike the Brown rat, has the typical blunt nose of a vole and the tail is shorter, being half to three quarters the total head/body length. The maximum head/body length is 200 mm, averaging 180-190 mm.

Mice

These animals have rather pointed noses, but they are not as long and pointed as those of shrews.

House mouse (*Mus musculus*) Many people can probably recognise this species, even though it is less common than previously. These mice mostly frequent farm buildings, food stores and houses. They have a characteristic pungent musty odour, similar to that of the domestic white mice kept as pets or laboratory animals. They are greyish brown in colour with paler under parts and have rather small ears. The tail is relatively thick and scaly and quite long, although a few mm less than the total head and body length, the maximum length of which is 90 mm (mean length 80 mm).

Wood mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*) Confusingly there are two English vernacular names for this species. It is also called the 'Long-tailed field mouse. Although the species inhabits arable fields and most dry habitats, in addition to woodland, I prefer the former name. It is an attractive animal with a rather pointed nose, but less slender and pointed than that of shrews (see photo). The ears are relatively prominent and the eyes large and protruding. The tail is long; at least 80% of the head/body length. The fur of the upper parts is dark brown and the under parts pale grey; where they meet on the flanks the fur is yellowish. Males are larger than females and reach 100 mm head/body length, with a tail length up to 101 mm.

Yellow-necked mouse (*Apodemus flavicollis*) (see photo) This is also an attractive mouse and very similar in general appearance to the Wood mouse, except that it has a yellow collar extending across the ventral surface of the lower part of the neck. The upper parts are also orange-brownish in colour and the under parts paler than the Wood mouse. The adults of this species are a little larger than the Wood mouse, males reaching 120 mm, with a tail length up to 113 mm. Like their close relative the Wood mouse, they also inhabit woodlands and to some extent hedgerows, rural gardens and buildings. In Norfolk it is much less common than the Wood mouse and at present is apparently confined mainly to the southern part of the county.

The tail skin of both *Apodemus* species strips when the tail is pulled, unlike that of the House and Harvest mouse.

Harvest mouse (*Micromys minutus*) This species is unmistakable, because of its diminutive size and bright reddish-brown dorsal pelage with sharply demarcated white under parts. The average head/body length of adults is 60 mm with a maximum of 76 mm. The ears are small and hairy rather like those of voles (see below). The tail is prehensile and usually the same length as the head/body measurement.

Rats

Only one species occurs in Norfolk these days. It is widespread and familiar to everyone.

Common or Brown rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) Even young rats should not be confused with mice and voles, because they have a relatively pointed nose and a scaly tail. The long tail is a little shorter than the head/body length, which reaches up to 280 mm in adults.

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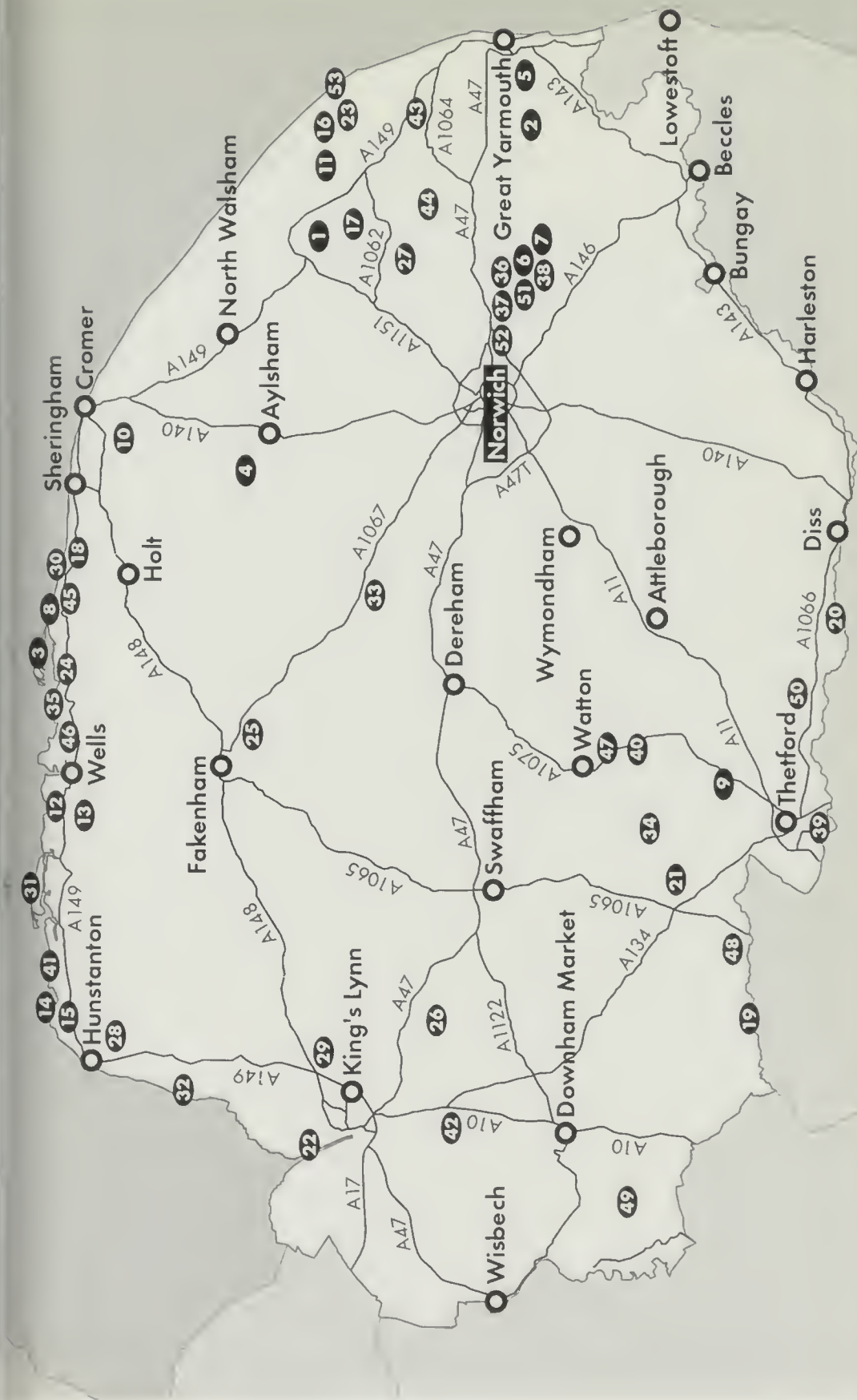
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7	Cantley Beet Factory	BS	27	Ranworth/Cockshoot Broads	NWT		Ormesby Little Broad	
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15	Holme Dunes	NWT	35	Stiffkey Fen		50	West Harling	
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18	Kelling WM		38	Surlingham/Rockland Marshes	RSPB	53	Winterton Dunes	EN
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20	Lopham Fen	SWT	40	Thompson Water	NWT			

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BTO	=	British Trust for Ornithology	NWT	=	Norfolk Wildlife Trust
BS	=	British Sugar	PWT	=	Pensthorpe Waterfowl Trust
EN	=	English Nature	RSPB	=	Royal Society for Protection of Birds
HE	=	Holkham Estate	SWT	=	Suffolk Wildlife Trust
LNR	=	Local Nature Reserve	TET	=	Ted Ellis Trust
NOA	=	Norfolk Ornithologists Association	W&WT	=	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust





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