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Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report 2002

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50th Edition

Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society

Norfolk Bird Report - 2002

Editor: Giles Dunmore

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Published by NORFOLK AND NORWICH NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

Castle Museum, Norwich, NR1 3JU

(*Transactions* Volume 36 part 2 September 2003)

Please note that the page numbering in this report follows on from part 1 of the *Transactions* published in July 2003

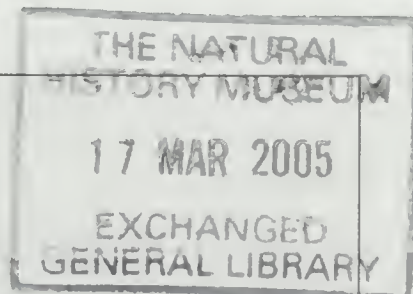
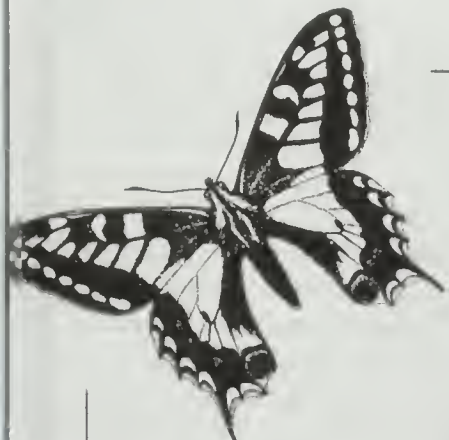
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David & Iris Paull, 8 Lindford Drive, Eaton, Norwich NR4 6LT

Front cover photograph: Skylark (*Chris Knights*) - Winner of British Birds Bird Photograph of the Year Competition 2003

Back cover photograph: Cuvier's Beaked Whale (*Graeme Cresswell*)



50th ANNIVERSARY

A Golden Jubilee is an occasion on which to look back with pride at past achievements. This is made delightfully easy by Peter Allard's fascinating history of the Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report in these pages.

Acknowledgements by the Editors are made elsewhere for all the efforts and contributions which make this Report the success it is but I would like to express the particular gratitude of the Society to Giles Dunmore who has produced what is, in effect, a fully-fledged book in each of the last five years. Norfolk is still the only county to produce a combined annual bird and mammal report and we are grateful to Mike Toms who has joined the team as Editor of the Mammal Report. It is a great disappointment that once again it has not proved possible to include a systematic list of mammal records but every effort will be made to reinstate this feature next year.

We are enormously grateful for the generous grants made from the Sarnia Charitable Trust by our past-President, Dr Tim Peet which make it possible to enhance the quality of the report with colour plates, and to the photographers and artists, none of whom makes any charge for reproduction of their work.

Having been intimately associated with the Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report throughout its life, the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society is now its sole publisher. The 134-year old Society, affectionately known as the 'Norfolk Nats', has a growing membership of over 500. Its major aim is the recording of the County's wildlife. This Bird & Mammal Report is part of the Society's Transactions (hence this is page 93!); the other part, known simply as 'the Transactions', comprises articles on all aspects of Norfolk's wildlife, except birds and mammals.

As part of their subscription of £12 per year, members of the Society receive a free copy of each of the Society's publications. In addition to this Report and Transactions, these include a quarterly newsletter and Occasional Publications, the last of which was a 66pp book on the Dragonflies of Norfolk. So, if you paid the cover price for this Report, please consider joining the Society – for just a little more you will get all these publications by post and will, in addition, be able to attend the twelve talks and fifteen field meetings organised by the Society each year. For further details, contact me at 8 Lindford Drive, Eaton, Norwich NR4 6LT.

David Paull
Chairman, Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

NORFOLK BIRD REPORT - 2002

Editorial

On behalf of the Society I am pleased to present the fiftieth annual report on the Birds of Norfolk. To celebrate this special edition articles have been included describing the development of the Report since its original conception and also documenting the changes in breeding birds in the county over this period. To many these will be bygone days and it is hoped that they will find the articles both interesting and fascinating. I am also delighted to be able to include an extra four pages of black and white photographs depicting events of the earlier years. It is particularly pleasing to be able to reproduce photographs of county rarities of the time taken by the late Dick Bagnell-Oakeley in the 1950s and 60s when photographic equipment lacked the sophistication of today. Also included is another article in the series about various birding sites, this time Sheringham Bird Observatory, and together with ones on the spread of the Marsh Harrier and the first Pallid Harrier for Norfolk it is hoped that readers will find something to interest them as well as the systematic list, ringing details etc.

Acknowledgements

The Report continues to be very much a team effort and my special thanks go to:

- Neil Lawton - co-recorder,
- Julian Bhalerao - co-ordinating photographs and sketches,
- Justin Lansdell - co-ordinating and checking articles
- Peter Lindsley - for his major new role in the actual production of the Report

However, without the help of many other people the Report in its present format would not be possible. My thanks also go to:

- the inputters of the monthly records onto the new computerised recording system - Dave and Jacquie Bridges, Judy Dunmore, Vince Hanlon and Pat Wileman;
- those who drafted sections of the Systematic List - Peter Allard, Andy Benson, Andrew Bloomfield, Dave and Jacquie Bridges, Andy Brown, Pete Clement, Keith Dye, Mark Eldridge, 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, who all responded favourably to my requests on particular subjects;
- the artists and photographers who have made their work freely available; thanks in particular to Jane-Anne Walton for the use of her father, Dick Bagnall-Oakeley's photographs and to Mary Dorling who took the 'team' photograph in 1982;
- Moss Taylor for supplying 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 and Birdguides, who have contributed records;
- finally my wife Judy without whose help, support and time the computerisation of records would never have happened; and also for her work with typing and layout of the actual Report.

The County Records Committee (Mick Fiszer, Steve Gantlett, Phil Heath, John Kemp and John Williamson) considered a total of 105 records in the year; 20 of these were rejected, mostly as a result of insufficient detail and not owing to an incorrect identification. At its annual meeting the Committee discussed particularly the question of fly-over Ring-necked Parakeets. Due to the problem of other similar species of parakeet, whether feral or escaped, it was felt that in many instances it was not possible to specifically identify birds as Ring-necked unless extremely good views are obtained. Observers are therefore requested to only submit definite Ring-necked Parakeets when other similar species have been specifically eliminated. It 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 add Taiga Bean Goose, away from the Yare Valley. The list is now as follows:

Black-necked Grebe (at sea)	Ring-necked Parakeet
Cory's Shearwater	Dark-breasted Barn Owl
Great Shearwater	Bee-eater
Balearic Shearwater	Short-toed Lark
Storm Petrel	Tawny Pipit
Night Heron	<i>Flava</i> Wagtail (continental races except
Purple Heron	Bluc-headed and Grey-headed)
White Stork	Bluethroat (White-spotted only)
Taiga Bean Goose	Aquatic Warbler
(away from Yare Valley)	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	

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 me at 49 Nelson Road, Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8DA.

Submission of Records

All records for the Systematic List should be submitted on a monthly basis to me at 49 Nelson Road, Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8DA. Records can be sent as Ms Word or Excel attachments by e-mail to JDunmore@ukgateway.net but no photographs or sketches please - these must be sent by ordinary mail.

It is hoped that by the end of 2003 the total computerisation of recording will be in place. A fully computerised database allows quick and easy access to data on particular sites and/or particular species which can be invaluable where the Society is consulted regarding say an environmental issue. However, this system can only function if most records are submitted on a monthly basis and contributors are asked to submit records monthly or, if this is not possible, then at least on a 3-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 or the database.* All records should be listed in the order of species appearing in this Report. Receipt of notes will not normally be acknowledged but names of all contributors will be published. To obtain as complete coverage as possible records via Birdline East Anglia or Birdguides 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.

Giles Dunmore

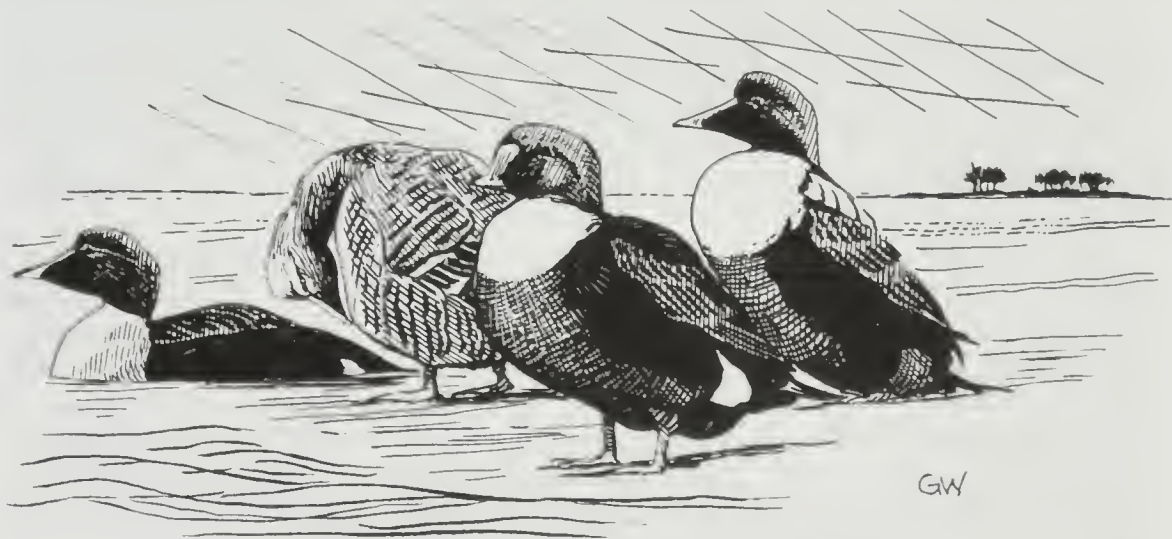
Review of the Year

Giles Dunmore (with weather details by Steve Wakeham)

The beginning of **January** was largely cool with dominant anticyclonic conditions and New Year listers had a field day. Despite persistent fog in places a variety of both unusual and unseasonable visitors were present including Red-breasted and Todd's Canada Geese, Ferruginous Duck, Rough-legged Buzzard, Little Stint, Common Sandpiper, Bonxie, *tristis* Chiffchaff and Arctic Redpoll. Cold weather in the next few days produced movements of Shelduck and Pintail and a concentration of nearly 300 Snipe on the east coast.

Warmer Atlantic weather from the 11th brought a change with an American Wigeon at Tottenhill GP and a Rose-coloured Starling at Yarmouth three days later. The most visited site in the month, however, was Holkham Bay where a King Eider was discovered on the 19th. The sea in the bay was, at times, literally covered in sea duck with up to 8000 Common and 120 Velvet Scoter, but the Eider remained the star attraction, often moving to Wells Channel and remaining until April. At the end of the month a Great White Egret was found at Hemsby, continuing a recent trend of winter records.

The Egret remained into **February**, a month which was characterised by largely mild conditions, broken by an anticyclonic period with north-easterly winds mid-month, followed by a brief spell of north-westerly gales. Birdwise it was generally uneventful with many 'January' birds still present, but a major exception was an Olive-backed Pipit discovered on the 1st at the most unlikely location inland at Lynford Arboretum. It was present for nearly three weeks and attracted crowds from near and far. A Ferruginous Duck found not too far away at Fowlmere on the 5th was small beer by comparison.



King Eider with Common Eiders (Gary Wright)

The first ten days of **March** remained dry; it started cool but becoming milder with temperatures of 14°C by the 8th producing double-figure counts of Stonechats at several sites. The first obvious summer migrant, a Swallow, had already appeared and a frontal system on the 10th/11th produced the first Sand Martin and White Wagtail, traditional harbingers of spring. Following three days of easterlies mid-month milder southerlies returned, subsequently replaced by high pressure until the month end with temperatures reaching 17°C. The milder conditions brought real commencement of spring diurnal migration along the

coast especially in the few hours after daybreak. Meadow Pipits, corvids and finches were prominent with nearly 1000 Siskins passing Hunstanton Cliffs on the 31st. The warm period also produced 4 Black-necked Grebes at Welney and a very early Hobby at Thorpe St Andrew, while typically a Serin at Winterton was the only sub-rarity.

The warm weather of March continued into **April** but cooler east/north-easterly winds during nine days from the 5th hindered visual coastal migration. However, a number of migrants arrived relatively early, especially inland, with Cuckoo on the 5th, Whitethroat next day and Garden Warbler on the 13th. A week of light variable winds was followed by southerly, then westerly winds by the end of the month. Two more Serins appeared on the east coast with a showy Subalpine Warbler at Winterton on the 24th. Possibly the most intriguing records of the month, however, were at least 4 Spotted Crakes singing in the Broads and a pair of displaying Hen Harriers.

May as usual lived up to expectations but it was not until well into the month that the rarities started to arrive. Northerly winds by the 2nd veered easterly and backed northerly again by the 10th. Despite the adverse winds 2 Black-winged Stilts appeared at Hockwold Washes. An Atlantic low brought warmer south-westerlies from the 12th resulting in a Caspian Tern in the Broads, 2 summer-plumaged Black-necked Grebes at Titchwell next day and a second Subalpine Warbler, again at Winterton on the 14th, the first of three during the month. A singing Corncrake remained near Great Bircham for six days but of equal importance was the large passage of Turtle Doves with three-figure counts at both Hunstanton Cliffs and Holme on the 15th, possibly indicating a reversal of the species' fortune?

Temperatures reached 24°C by mid-month with more south/south-westerly winds, no doubt responsible for a Whiskered Tern at Hockwold Washes. Perhaps more surprisingly, a Pacific Golden Plover visited Thornham Harbour next day. Most of the rest of May was warm but wet. A Night Heron commenced a 9-day stay at Titchwell on the 20th, attracting a steady stream of admirers choosing as it did to roost near the public footpath. Next day the regular Blakeney Point 'walkers' were rewarded for their efforts with the first of three May Red-footed Falcons, Red-throated Pipit and Subalpine Warbler. In the last few days an elusive Black Stork was seen intermittently in the Sennowe Park/Great Ryburgh area and a singing red Common Rosefinch commenced a lengthy stay at Weybourne, giving many local observers a first opportunity to view the species in spring finery.

The first half of **June** was generally dominated by areas of low pressure culminating in a surge of hot southerly winds on the 17th and temperatures up to 30°C. Subsequently high pressure prevailed with only light winds until towards the end of the month when northerly winds reduced temperatures to just 16°C. The month, as always, produced a number of unexpected visitors including Tawny Pipit and Marsh Warbler in the first few days. The second half of June again saw Norfolk witness part of a dramatic eruption of adult Rose-coloured Starlings and at least 9 were found, mostly in gardens, together with 2 Bee-eaters, a Surf Scoter at Titchwell and two further Caspian Terns at opposite ends of the county.

The 20th caused pandemonium amongst the birding community when an orange-billed tern was found at Happisburgh. Few managed to see it before it headed westwards, briefly seen flying past two other sites but remaining unseen by the vast majority at numerous seawatching vantage points along the coastline. Whether the tern was an Elegant, Lesser Crested or a hybrid remains unclear - its status at present (July 2003) laying with the British Birds Rarities Committee. By way of some compensation one observer picked up an Alpine Swift over Sheringham which concentrated the crowds by the evening.

Despite the unsettled conditions and lack of sunshine in the first third of the month the rest of **July** was largely settled and sunny with hot conditions and a sting in the tail provided by thunderstorms in the last few days. The warm weather no doubt helped a Red-footed Falcon make a prolonged stay at Hiekling and allowed a mini influx of Bee-eaters including one flock of six. Waders were on the move and included 2 White-rumped Sandpipers and a Pacific Golden Plover amongst hoards of commoner cousins. By this time it was possible to take stock of rarer breeders in our impressive county avifauna. On the plus side Little Egrets bred for the first time at two sites and 2 pairs of Mediterranean Gulls were successful, together with a pair of Common Cranes. On the debit side the county's only pair of Honey Buzzards failed to rear any young and the number of Golden Orioles dwindled again.

August started unsettled but was often warm, humid and thundery with light winds between south and east for the first 12 days. Classic conditions for grounding waders didn't disappoint with flocks of 6 Temminck's Stints briefly at Cley and 20 Wood Sandpipers at Holkham, while 2 Broad-billed Sandpipers remained together at Cley for 4 days.



Curlew Sandpiper/Temminck's Stint (Steve Cale)

High pressure dominated the weather from mid-month with temperatures soaring to 31°C on the 17th. Small numbers of passerines started to appear particularly after the 20th when generally settled conditions had a north-east element at times. The 23rd was a red letter day with first a twitchable Bee-eater at Kelling and later a *hippolais* warbler at Sheringham Bird Observatory; provisionally identified as a Sykes's Warbler (recently split from Booted Warbler) but subject at the present time to ratification by the national Rarities Committee. Towards the end of the month 2 Greenish Warblers were found on Scolt Head and this period saw the start of an impressive arrival of scarce migrants with over 30 Wrynecks, 22 Icterine and 30 Barred Warblers, 22 Red-breasted Flycatchers and 20 Red-backed Shrikes during the autumn.

As in 2001 **September** certainly lived up to expectations. During the first week the winds varied from easterly to south-westerly; on the 6th 4 Glossy Ibis flew east at Cley with another at Strumpshaw which gave many birders the runaround touring the north coast and Wash during the next few days. Three Great Snipe were discovered during the second week but the major highlight was undoubtedly on the 9th when an area of low pressure moved north from France bringing heavy rain and north-easterly winds in the morning. During the afternoon, with the rain ceasing, drift migrants appeared all along the coast in their hundreds

and with other arrivals in the next few days notable counts were made. As often with such falls few major rarities appeared although 3 Short-toed Larks and an Ortolan were found, while a Thrush Nightingale was trapped at Weybourne.



Sardinian Warbler (*Gary Wright*)

High pressure remained dominant for the rest of the month with winds mainly from the northerly quarter, strong on occasions especially on the 22nd and producing a classic movement of seabirds, the best of the autumn. Large numbers of Fulmars, Gannets, Manx and Sooty Shearwaters figured as well as skuas, and in the aftermath a White-billed Diver was off Holme. On the passerine 'front' in the last fortnight a Greenish Warbler was trapped, again at Weybourne, a Yellow-breasted Bunting was found at Scolt Head (when few other common migrants were present) and a male Sardinian Warbler discovered at Old Hunstanton, delighting crowds for nearly 3 weeks.

Warm southerly winds at the beginning of **October** were soon replaced by onshore winds, producing a fly-by White-billed Diver at Sheringham. Pressure built over northern Scandinavia after the 6th and the hoped-for easterly/south-easterly wind developed. A small influx of Great Grey Shrikes commenced and on the 8th an unprecedented diurnal arrival of Song Thrushes occurred on the north coast, followed by mainly Redwings over the next few days. On the 10th a Little Bunting was located on Blakeney Point, on the same day a Radde's Warbler was detected at Holkham Meals - a major attraction and unusually often feeding in the canopy. A notable influx of Robins commenced on the 11th and the next day saw the peak of an unprecedented influx of Firecrests, numbering at least 150 during the autumn. During the month at least 30 Yellow-browed Warblers appeared and indeed it is often easy to forget how rare they were just 30 years ago. In contrast only 4 Pallas's Warblers arrived but another feature was the number of migrant Long-eared and Short-eared Owls.

Following an earlier northerly blow on the 6th seawatchers had another interesting day on the 16th, the highlight, a large movement of Little Gulls, associated with onshore winds brought by lows moving east along the Channel. The weather for the rest of the month was mixed and brought with it a White-winged Black Tern (staying into November), a Dartford Warbler and 2 Red-rumped Swallows. The end of the month also saw an amazing number of Kittiwakes inland at Welney and a large movement of Fieldfares at Hunstanton Cliffs.

November was dominated by areas of low pressure with little fog until the final week. Birdwise it was disappointing with only two rarities - a Hume's Warbler on the east coast in the first week (news of which had to be restricted due to its location) and a Lesser Yellowlegs at Cantley Beet Factory for a month, much admired, particularly as the White-winged Black Tern was still present. Compared with 2001 there were no major auk movements and the only double-figure numbers of Little Auks occurred on the 23rd. Conversely the month saw a record count of almost 100,000 Pink-footed Geese in the county and the largest numbers of Lapland Buntings for several years; regrettably a number of oiled divers were evidence of yet another spillage.

Mixed weather prevailed in **December** with low pressure early in the month. Two House Martins remained at Cromer and Shore Larks peaked at 100 in Holkham Bay. By the 5th high pressure had developed over Finland with east/north-easterly winds over the county reducing daytime temperatures to only just above freezing on the 10th/11th. This weather situation was presumably responsible for a Two-barred Crossbill at Sandringham for the next week. Low pressure systems were prevalent during the second half of the month, a Surf Scoter loafed off the north-east coast but the undoubted star find was the Pallid Harrier on Christmas Eve which attracted a huge number of visitors during its stay and provided a challenge to many. The last day of the year not only saw the Harrier over-wintering but also a Yellow-browed Warbler at Stiffkey Meals which had remained since mid-October. Both were eclipsed by a surprising albatross flying east at Mundesley and south at California (the identification of which remains subject to ratification), further proof, as if any were needed, of what avian surprises are still out there.



Pallid Harrier and Hen Harrier Play Fight (James McCallum)

Wetland Bird Survey 2002

The Complete Wash: *Dave Bingham*

	<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	30	29	14	-	-	-	1	4	19	18	29	49
Great Crested Grebe	3	2	17	7	3	7	1	8	26	54	13	10
Cormorant	25	233	200	130	37	77	99	314	487	274	95	129
Little Egret	4	5	5	2	6	-	-	2	5	4	10	8
Grey Heron	14	13	9	12	9	22	34	58	52	46	31	29
Mute Swan	17	55	9	29	11	6	9	6	7	18	45	39
Pink-footed Goose	35000	9192	955	5	-	-	-	1	-	58	16989	37853
Greylag Goose	263	253	162	100	250	477	668	702	603	622	895	82
Canada Goose	66	214	28	48	114	259	122	236	13	330	342	329
Brent Goose	7398	17924	17684	9267	28	7	3	5	6	8286	7261	11503
Shelduck	2444	11783	5720	1682	775	2343	1603	488	1791	2568	5797	5011
Wigeon	1158	1979	828	2	-	-	12	15	239	1045	5590	1646
Gadwall	71	117	41	3	17	2	1	6	6	9	45	70
Teal	247	2217	660	9	-	-	3	241	611	806	1624	750
Mallard	733	1753	853	281	249	325	164	1041	1488	1233	1638	1178
Pintail	2	516	321	3	-	-	-	-	20	29	173	2
Shoveler	4	1	6	8	3	-	3	16	21	8	2	2
Pochard	65	52	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	22	10
Tufted Duck	109	36	36	92	48	28	34	29	30	20	54	4
Scaup	-	1	8	92	1	1	1	5	1	1	2	2
Eider	166	1319	1344	248	147	166	134	209	330	180	73	604
Common Scoter	-	12	35	150	-	10	-	17	-	80	97	49
Goldeneye	34	74	77	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	43	57
R B Merganser	2	32	66	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	56	31
Moorhen	2	3	22	4	7	3	2	8	6	11	-	1
Coot	58	76	89	31	41	37	20	52	41	71	57	41
Oystercatcher	4963	12196	12129	5916	4581	2805	5007	12686	16810	21680	13437	16650
Avocet	-	217	347	168	75	94	390	356	92	10	-	2
Ringed Plover	3	37	242	591	772	79	62	769	1135	451	167	80
Golden Plover	2747	14109	3625	60	1	-	1550	19567	8267	3993	7308	18939
Grey Plover	1119	4269	8395	10649	1251	445	337	10124	9297	9845	6695	7746
Lapwing	2789	43558	333	58	54	88	408	1436	268	1359	13455	35972
Knot	12800	59020	41625	7904	7814	3424	5283	44151	38946	62801	51642	34469
Sanderling	91	330	80	1215	4040	56	1742	4239	1082	910	480	496
Dunlin	3128	30670	31069	32668	3050	172	10129	37798	44168	25170	22933	18080
Ruff	1	2	-	-	-	-	2	13	42	54	3	-
Snipe	8	1	15	-	-	-	-	9	7	26	10	5
Black-tailed Godwit	408	829	928	2160	40	65	2910	2414	5891	11451	1674	2002
Bar-tailed Godwit	7567	17446	23751	1666	838	821	1420	7997	12494	11508	5258	10283
Whimbrel	-	-	-	63	13	4	44	90	70	5	-	-
Curlew	1862	2853	4339	1011	206	293	3698	9571	9423	3220	1674	2105
Spotted Redshank	-	1	2	-	-	-	16	23	65	7	13	-
Redshank	763	3225	4501	1802	384	321	2383	6462	6129	4964	2512	1720
Greenshank	-	-	1	4	3	-	222	304	251	80	-	-
Turnstone	100	143	224	279	79	33	73	1287	895	533	558	294
Black-headed Gull	2248	3825	973	1614	800	839	1420	8460	11882	15999	778	665
Common Gull	23	428	1784	50	1	3	501	218	248	2482	373	420
L B B Gull	1	29	23	230	64	176	217	450	244	206	26	28
Herring Gull	2644	857	7236	2256	2764	684	1777	1338	3895	7640	711	1542
G B B Gull	31	8	25	13	44	47	723	223	1809	1703	410	270
Sandwich Tern	-	-	-	5	-	14	90	138	95	-	-	-

Wetland Bird Survey 2001

North Norfolk Coast: *Michael Rooney*

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Red-throated Diver	30	45	-	6	12	24	58
Little Grebe	57	38	26	29	34	43	54
Great Crested Grebe	38	10	3	12	29	22	56
Cormorant	78	69	268	259	206	99	160
Little Egret	4	7	29	28	40	33	36
Grey Heron	28	11	31	18	43	36	34
Mute Swan	68	77	61	50	74	54	65
Pink-footed Goose	1258	12501	-	23	10814	5761	1690
White-fronted Goose	211	240	-	-	136	26	150
Greylag Goose	1618	736	1217	719	992	1765	1850
Canada Goose	66	10	81	96	80	69	39
Brent Goose	10201	6994	1	17	3644	5201	8033
Egyptian Goose	57	72	27	31	17	2	-
Shelduck	938	617	189	103	248	464	1279
Wigeon	16208	12260	31	1055	11124	14562	14250
Gadwall	171	136	205	221	169	123	145
Teal	3399	2143	1075	1106	5740	4087	5056
Mallard	819	674	905	579	1164	1076	1062
Pintail	707	451	18	112	866	443	1296
Shoveler	116	107	137	68	214	130	217
Pochard	60	52	12	9	15	79	74
Tufted Duck	107	75	46	18	29	69	45
Eider	14	24	2	3	56	83	112
Long-tailed Duck	-	31	-	-	2	11	34
Common Scoter	28	10	5	74	639	5726	5050
Goldeneye	150	198	-	-	14	54	138
R B Merganser	70	71	1	3	52	102	105
Ruddy Duck	-	4	12	2	4	11	9
Water Rail	13	-	4	-	10	15	22
Coot	793	910	410	273	328	272	410
Moorhen	309	204	103	39	118	277	190
Oystercatcher	3765	3198	1701	2521	3388	3364	3990
Avocet	11	42	51	-	2	8	11
Ringed Plover	203	369	1858	891	628	294	128
Golden Plover	2542	431	1235	2015	725	2503	477
Grey Plover	1382	1306	1312	960	1846	1720	1301
Lapwing	5799	5619	643	221	1097	2328	6242
Knot	15272	6219	17557	13876	10989	11587	16214
Sanderling	1179	1057	1082	660	461	1319	766
Dunlin	4058	2784	1229	1149	3445	6384	4087
Ruff	13	6	77	31	45	39	66
Snipe	207	96	71	52	180	188	182
Black-tailed Godwit	108	7	203	74	231	192	12
Bar-tailed Godwit	1676	791	981	1224	1697	1247	1019
Whimbrel	-	-	141	6	-	-	-
Curlew	1430	1686	2004	1365	1022	1284	1409
Spotted Redshank	7	2	19	-	3	-	1
Redshank	1402	1192	1627	1432	1455	1528	2128
Greenshank	-	1	154	82	34	7	4
Common Sandpiper	-	-	110	3	-	-	-
Turnstone	417	446	637	393	473	741	744

Wetland Bird Survey 2002

North Norfolk Coast: *Michael Rooney*

	<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>
Red-throated Diver	18	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	7	11
Little Grebe	39	34	33	25	23	87	19	33	42	31	26	28
Great Crested Grebe	24	8	14	7	6	12	11	8	10	17	34	7
Cormorant	35	40	62	104	64	132	274	268	581	249	107	67
Little Egret	13	6	9	2	6	12	15	55	81	56	81	34
Grey Heron	16	16	12	14	15	35	17	47	47	43	14	25
Mute Swan	71	79	64	65	50	81	37	74	68	69	39	71
Pink-footed Goose	30070	15168	2296	4	2	-	-	1	-	4009	3554	5366
White-fronted Goose	279	380	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	122
Greylag Goose	1235	1379	1415	486	861	1232	441	1291	1587	1152	1658	1044
Canada Goose	68	23	38	50	21	204	181	93	59	15	53	10
Brent Goose	7966	4752	4810	1306	14	2	-	-	-	1840	5217	6656
Egyptian Goose	9	33	34	23	139	318	146	241	206	77	102	62
Shelduck	853	705	673	376	384	393	114	113	68	116	749	1182
Wigeon	19078	14489	12494	73	2	28	4	5	1795	8022	16056	11016
Gadwall	118	177	149	104	137	196	45	111	136	205	205	161
Teal	4323	2863	1533	109	35	86	54	626	1827	2854	5281	2745
Mallard	1084	840	612	316	317	732	164	554	1113	1061	1531	1272
Pintail	812	294	71	4	-	2	8	-	68	474	281	475
Shoveler	205	289	177	74	45	62	47	51	77	149	169	164
Pochard	113	96	108	19	13	34	-	7	3	5	51	40
Tufted Duck	69	94	86	98	78	68	39	60	34	26	43	86
Eider	131	94	162	68	29	67	56	21	90	33	18	47
Long-tailed Duck	18	18	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Common Scoter	8008	4547	3542	511	20	103	6	-	4	38	790	2261
Goldeneye	132	86	87	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	46	111
R B Merganser	83	86	79	7	-	-	-	1	-	7	102	96
Ruddy Duck	2	7	11	7	6	20	7	12	19	2	3	11
Water Rail	8	5	10	1	1	7	-	-	3	2	6	7
Coot	853	924	904	204	269	545	483	395	404	316	484	585
Moorhen	171	334	266	121	92	230	84	74	122	153	198	192
Oystercatcher	2724	2824	2470	1589	651	671	1179	1696	2507	2347	3011	2943
Avocet	16	45	228	406	395	328	249	28	15	1	7	12
Ringed Plover	218	328	471	258	381	101	245	1196	1965	901	262	154
Golden Plover	507	4917	13	-	1	-	26	1647	198	2391	2643	1741
Grey Plover	659	921	1051	796	92	22	47	802	2535	887	953	1189
Lapwing	3510	7830	950	295	204	580	288	867	182	354	1007	4404
Knot	9066	2140	92	32	-	-	15	10054	40832	23982	4051	6929
Sanderling	493	363	509	244	562	2	192	968	824	641	473	520
Dunlin	5749	4553	2970	815	234	6	653	1650	2499	1860	2928	3502
Ruff	4	22	19	38	-	3	61	178	64	155	170	71
Snipe	49	69	60	8	1	13	6	10	29	61	31	21
Black-tailed Godwit	155	136	233	129	240	137	125	169	130	158	87	35
Bar-tailed Godwit	602	599	540	149	19	1	88	749	5894	3916	536	1326
Whimbrel	-	-	-	43	6	-	56	61	17	-	-	-
Curlew	915	1291	921	295	132	23	1229	1602	1952	1191	1126	1417
Spotted Redshank	4	6	5	-	-	6	15	13	15	29	4	3
Redshank	904	1426	1189	360	333	308	1132	1482	1404	958	1299	1287
Greenshank	-	-	-	18	4	3	67	162	150	92	1	3
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	5	2	-	14	73	7	-	-	-
Turnstone	296	308	407	439	156	10	127	573	718	449	391	437

Wetland Bird Survey 2002

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	5	5	6	5	3	3	7	9	6	4	4	3
Great Crested Grebe	11	-	3	5	5	6	3	5	19	15	14	5
Cormorant	268	107	80	41	36	38	67	96	84	63	74	81
Little Egret	3	3	2	1	7	7	13	13	7	7	2	1
Spoonbill	-	-	-	2	10	14	11	3	1	-	-	-
Mute Swan	81	80	106	61	79	71	61	69	54	39	26	58
Bewick's Swan	67	85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	14	27
Pink-footed Goose	4300	4380	7	1	1	-	-	-	22	1555	800	1375
White-fronted Goose	82	110	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	15
Greylag Goose	94	9	19	18	39	60	62	70	113	723	606	322
Canada Goose	74	31	18	12	8	21	36	60	100	178	51	85
Barnacle Goose	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	11	-	-	-	-
Brent Goose	-	4	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	2	2
Egyptian Goose	35	14	3	3	11	29	51	50	63	51	2	5
Shelduck	129	136	180	111	191	207	197	34	107	284	208	141
Wigeon	21300	13279	3747	193	15	5	4	126	1110	3609	6930	12430
Gadwall	72	98	110	51	23	18	6	31	7	8	26	9
Teal	3182	5093	3962	986	50	24	51	829	1800	3124	2495	1127
Mallard	506	228	93	42	43	55	43	71	212	142	180	170
Pintail	329	220	114	7	3	-	-	8	91	269	182	214
Garganey	-	-	1	1	3	4	2	2	2	-	-	-
Shoveler	218	679	431	142	19	17	7	87	18	218	266	162
Poehard	29	31	29	16	15	7	3	4	6	3	-	4
Tufted Duck	16	18	9	8	9	6	4	1	1	5	5	9
Coot	727	603	427	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	147	202
Oystereatcher	16	66	153	105	60	206	133	71	26	23	19	18
Avocet	110	172	147	134	61	200	538	918	1027	326	224	206
Lt Ringed Plover	-	-	-	1	2	1	3	2	-	-	-	-
Ringed Plover	67	41	23	30	416	61	46	224	209	158	70	27
Golden Plover	10200	6950	2100	10	1	2	158	1900	1200	3400	8900	8270
Grey Plover	54	38	12	22	14	14	2	10	8	12	35	63
Lapwing	19120	19380	3805	160	160	94	120	300	469	3370	15230	14790
Knot	367	102	151	16	21	16	10	25	23	34	149	713
Sanderling	7	3	2	3	9	4	8	2	2	1	3	-
Little Stint	-	-	1	-	3	-	1	7	4	-	-	-
Curlew Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	2	-	6	27	16	2	-	-
Dunlin	4145	3720	2613	2219	2031	28	490	369	818	1630	3420	5210
Ruff	66	155	61	59	53	7	74	42	119	54	10	37
Snipe	25	22	40	25	12	4	6	34	30	22	10	12
Black-tailed Godwit	1389	1272	322	64	27	73	423	809	1179	939	1120	896
Bar-tailed Godwit	37	47	28	28	47	17	11	13	21	13	22	107
Whimbrel	-	-	-	51	26	1	20	12	3	-	-	-
Curlew	1286	1009	813	404	34	134	530	792	849	871	853	861
Spotted Redshank	2	6	7	12	8	1	2	2	4	7	3	7
Redshank	653	789	1086	1020	130	175	938	1323	1162	1053	1007	1149
Greenshank	-	-	-	3	10	10	8	24	41	5	1	-
Green Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	-	4	6	8	5	-	-	1
Wood Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	4	3	-	-	-
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	2	11	1	16	38	4	1	-	-
Turnstone	3	10	8	12	17	5	14	18	24	12	9	9
Little Gull	-	-	-	1	1	6	8	1	1	81	-	-

Norfolk Bird Atlas

Moss Taylor

The summer of 2002 saw the completion of three years' fieldwork for the Norfolk Bird Atlas (NBA). During this period 554 tetrads (38% of the county) have been covered for the winter survey and 435 tetrads (30%) for the breeding season survey. As more of the county is surveyed over the course of the next few years, so the results will become more valid.

The progress reports that have appeared in the last two Norfolk Bird Reports have concentrated on results from the breeding season survey. This year, some figures are also provided from the winter atlas data. The table shows the average winter count (December to February inclusive) for selected species compared with the average number of pairs during the summer (April to June inclusive).

	<i>count</i>	<i>pairs</i>		<i>count</i>	<i>pairs</i>
*Mallard	30	9	Long-tailed Tit	13	3
Sparrowhawk	1	1	Marsh Tit	3	2
Kestrel	2	1	Willow Tit	2	1
Red-legged Partridge	14	6	Coal Tit	6	4
Grey Partridge	6	2	Blue Tit	22	13
*Pheasant	14	12	Great Tit	16	10
Moorhen	9	4	Nuthatch	2	2
Lapwing	194	5	Treecreeper	2	2
Feral Pigeon	21	10	Jay	4	2
Stock Dove	10	5	Magpie	6	4
Woodpigeon	248	57	Jackdaw	57	12
Collared Dove	17	9	Rook	134	44
Green Woodpecker	2	2	Carrion Crow	11	5
Great Sp Woodpecker	2	2	Starling	95	17
Lesser Sp Woodpecker	1	1	House Sparrow	29	20
Skylark	21	12	Tree Sparrow	8	3
Meadow Pipit	10	5	Chaffinch	43	26
Pied Wagtail	6	4	Greenfinch	18	12
Wren	10	21	Goldfinch	12	6
Duncock	8	9	Linnet	29	7
Robin	14	15	Redpoll	10	3
Blackbird	37	26	Bullfinch	3	2
Song Thrush	4	4	Yellowhammer	14	7
Mistle Thrush	5	3	Reed Bunting	6	4
Goldcrest	5	4	Corn Bunting	7	3

Average winter count and number of breeding pairs in occupied tetrads December 1999 to June 2002. Note the breeding count of species marked with an asterisk refers only to males.

Some interesting points emerge from this table. For species that are known to be resident in a comparatively small area throughout the year, such as Red-legged Partridge, Moorhen, Feral Pigeon, Collared Dove, Blue Tit, Tree Sparrow and Yellowhammer, the figures are encouragingly similar. This suggests that the method of data collection is reliable. Winter populations known to be inflated by immigration from the continent are clearly shown in the

comparative figures for Lapwing and Starling, but is the same true for Woodpigeon, Jackdaw and Rook, or are these simply examples of birds that are more easily located due to their flocking behaviour in winter? Winter flocking is also clearly shown by the higher counts for Long-tailed Tits, although it is well known that 'pairs' often consist of more than two adults.

One anomaly that has been thrown up is the discrepancy between the winter and summer counts for Wren, Dunnock and Robin. Is there really an exodus of these two species from the county during the winter, or is it simply that they are more easily located during the spring and summer months when they are singing? The latter seems to be the most likely explanation. Readers may well find other explanations for the apparent differences in seasonal populations of other species in the list.

As in last year's Report, the percentage of tetrads in which 62 selected species were recorded on at least one of the set breeding season visits in 2000, 2001 or 2002, and the average number of 'pairs' per occupied tetrad are given in the species accounts of the Systematic List.

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



Sparrowhawk (*Martin Woodcock*)

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, and as subsequently amended. The English names that are most familiar have been retained. Unless otherwise stated, all observations are of single birds and refer to 2002. The following abbreviations are used in the species accounts:

BO	=	Bird Observatory	NBC	=	Norfolk Bird Club
BBRC	=	British Birds Rarities Committee	NBR	=	Norfolk Bird Report
BF	=	Sugarbeet Factory	NNR	=	National Nature Reserve
BOU	=	British Ornithologists' Union	NR	=	Nature Reserve
BTO	=	British Trust for Ornithology	RC	=	Relief Channel
CP	=	Country/Coastal Park	RSPB	=	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
ESA	=	Environmentally Sensitive Area	SM	=	Saltmarsh
FM	=	Fresh Marsh	STW	=	Sewage Treatment Works
GC	=	Golf Course	TA	=	Training Area
GM	=	Grazing Marsh	WeBS	=	monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts
GP	=	Gravel Pit	WM	=	Water Meadows
NBA	=	Norfolk Bird Atlas	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, north coast and Breydon/Berney which should be read in conjunction with the individual species accounts in the Systematic List. WeBS thresholds for International/National importance have been inserted for all relevant species.

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. The area referred to as mid-Yare RSPB includes the reserve at Strumpshaw and adjoining land under the Society's control and/or ownership. 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) show importance of east and north-east coast:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hunstanton-Scolt Head	73	10	1	59	27	34	10
Burnham Overy-Blakeney Hbr	27	-	-	-	-	14	10
Blakeney Point-Happisburgh	377	201	100	83	57	100	135
Eccles-Hopton	100	45	110	12	-	300	200

National importance (winter): 50

Three-figure counts reported on 17 dates in first winter period, all in north-east with max off Overstrand where 250 on sea 31 west 23 east Jan 2nd, and 150 on sea 110 west 17 east Jan 30th (0905-1005). Last double-figure count 15 Horsey March 27th but 9 east Sheringham April 6th. As in 2001 an unusual number of summer records: *May* Sheringham 2nd, Blakeney Point 3rd, Scolt Head 27th; *June* Weybourne 1st (2) and 12th, Sheringham 4th and 29th; *July* Titchwell 1st, Sheringham 6th.

An increase in numbers in Aug with first double-figure autumn counts Sept 15th when 17 west 9 east East Runton and 23 west 12 east Sheringham (0645-1215). Three-figure counts reported on 10 dates in second winter period, all from sites in north-east and east, max 300 south Waxham Nov 16th.

The sole Wash records concerned singles Snettisham Pits April 1st and Nov 23rd.

The county had its share of oiled birds in second winter period: 8 Holkham Nov 23rd, 15 West Runton 24th, 2 Titchwell lagoons (until Dec 11th), picked up Brancaster Staithe village green and 14 Blakeney Hbr both 26th, first birds Scolt Head also 26th with 35 corpses collected there by year end, 5 Winterton 30th, 8 Wells Hbr 31st (all subsequently died), inland Horsey Mere Dec 7th and 26 corpses Blakeney Point 13th. Smaller numbers of oiled birds also at other coastal sites.

More inland records than usual, some possibly related to the oiling incident: UEA Broad April 10th/11th, Hickling Broad April 15th, Horsey Mere Nov 23rd (and Dec 7th) Belton R Waveney Nov 24th, Saddlebow RC Dec 7th, Holkham Park Lake Dec 15th-17th (first there since 1960) and Martham Broad Dec 22nd.

One Titchwell March 23rd caught and eaten by a seal.

Black-throated Diver

Gavia arctica

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; exceptional in summer

Reported regularly from widely scattered localities in coastal waters until April 2nd (Scolt Head) and from Sept 18th (east at Holme).

In first winter period: Holme 6 dates Jan 15th-Feb 6th; Titchwell Jan 2nd, 4th, 21st and March 22nd and 30th, with 3 Jan 5th; 2 Scolt Head Jan 17th with singles Feb 2nd, March 3rd and April 2nd; Holkham Bay Jan 12th, 20th and 22nd; Stiffkey Feb 24th; Blakeney Hbr Jan 3rd/4th, 20th and Feb 10th and 24th; 2 Blakeney Point Jan 12th with singles March 3rd and 12th/13th; Salthouse March 8th; Weybourne Jan 17th; Sheringham Jan 27th, 29th, Feb 15th, March 8th and April 1st; Cromer Jan 30th; Waxham Jan 25th and 2 March 24th; Winterton Jan 25th and March 9th.

In second winter period: Snettisham Nov 24th; Hunstanton Sept 21st; Holme Sept 18th/19th, 27th, Oct 18th, 28th, Nov 4th and 13th; Titchwell Oct 23rd, 28th/29th, Nov 15th.

21st, 23rd and 2 Dec 3rd; Scolt Head west Sept 22nd, Oct 6th-8th and 25th; Holkham Bay Dec 1st with 2 on 21st; Wells Nov 23rd; Cley Nov 10th and 23rd; 2 Salthouse Nov 5th with single 19th; Weybourne Oct 22nd; 2 west Sheringham Sept 2nd, 3 west Oct 5th and 2 west Nov 7th, with singles Oct 14th, Nov 9th and Dec 8th; 2 west Beeston Bump Sept 23rd; West Runton Nov 30th (slightly oiled); Mundesley Oct 18th and Nov 19th; Walcott Nov 8th; Happisburgh Nov 15th; Waxham Nov 16th and 24th; 3 Horsey Oct 6th.

Great Northern Diver

Gavia immer

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

Regularly reported from widely scattered coastal localities until March 3rd and from Oct 2nd. Jan records from Snettisham 3rd; Holme and Titchwell 5th, 15th and 25th; Scolt Head 10th, 17th, 22nd and 30th; Holkham Bay 1st, 22nd and 31st; Blakeney Point/Hbr 4th and 20th; 3 Overstrand 25th; Mundesley 29th and Caister 8th. All but one of few later records in first winter period of birds in north-west: 2 west Holme Feb 13th with singles 14th and 16th; Titchwell Feb 13th and March 2nd/3rd; 2 Scolt Head Feb 2nd; Brancaster Feb 10th and Lessingham North Gap Feb 8th.

Unseasonal records from Sheringham west June 2nd and east Aug 28th, and west Holme Sept 15th.

Widespread in second winter period: Snettisham Nov 24th; Holme 8 dates Oct 2nd-Dec 12th with at least 3 Oct 6th; Titchwell 10 dates Oct 2nd-Dec 26th; Scolt Head 6 dates, including 2 west one east Oct 6th; 2 Burnham Overy Staithe Dec 1st; Holkham Bay Nov 3rd and 9th; Cley-Salthouse 4 dates in Nov and Dec 19th; Weybourne Oct 2nd; Sheringham 9 dates including 3 Nov 4th and 2 on 7th; Mundesley 6 dates Oct 16th-Dec 11th; Eccles Nov 9th and 29th; Horsey Nov 21st; Winterton Nov 14th; Yarmouth Nov 19th and Gorleston Nov 24th.

An oiled bird was at Stiffkey Dec 25th.

White-billed Diver

Gavia adamsii

Vagrant

Singles offshore Holme Sept 24th (GFH DNo) and same Scolt Head Oct 1st (JBr NML MESR), and west Sheringham Oct 5th (JEDF PJH), the seventh and eighth county records.

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	39	18	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	17	15
Holme	8	5	7	3	3	4	2	7	3	6	9	9
Thornham-Brancaster	28	10	12	4	4	7	2	3	7	4	13	5
Holkham NNR	4	8	-	7	3	56	-	-	-	4	8	-
Holkham Lake	-	-	-	5	6	7	7	11	21	6	2	-
Cley-Salthouse	9	8	4	5	4	8	4	4	7	4	2	6
Breydon/Berney	5	5	6	5	3	3	7	9	6	4	4	3
Hickling Broad	16	8	14	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-
Whitlingham CP	2	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-
Fowlmere	-	23	52	-	36	-	-	50	15	-	-	-

Counts in excess of 20 at two other sites: 28 East Wretham Heath March 20th and 20 Aug 12th, and 26 Stanford TA Feb 16th and 33 March 9th.

A total of 99 breeding pairs reported from 31 sites (number of pairs in brackets): Bagmore, Bittering Lake, Breydon/Berney (12), Cley (3), Cockley Cley (2), Coxford, East Ruston Mown Fen (2), Fowlmere, Great Ellingham, Haddiscoe Island (3), Hellington, Holkham Park Lake (4), Holkham NNR (41), Holme (3), King's Lynn BF, Lopham Fen (2), Lynford, Lyng GP, Morning Thorpe GP (3), Nar Valley Fisheries (2), Pensthorpe, Raynham Lake, Sheringham BO, Strumpshaw (2), Syderstone, Tattersett, West Lexham GP, Westmere, Whitlingham CP and Wolterton Hall.

Obvious migrants Sidestrand Pits Sept 4th (2) and 8th/9th, and 5 on sea Mundesley Oct 31st.

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

Resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	6	2	4	8	1	1	1	4	8	7	2	11
Scolt Head	12	6	4	5	5	7	5	2	4	16	8	3
Titchwell	13	-	10	-	-	6	-	-	10	40	22	-
Breydon/Berney	11	0	3	5	5	6	3	5	19	15	14	5
Barton Broad	-	21	41		51	54	45	48	32	38	15	-
Rockland Broad	8	14	16	12	14	20	12	12	7	9	5	3
Ranworth Broad	-	8	13	-	15	21	13	18	13	23	-	-

Other counts of 20 or more: 20 west 4 east Holme Jan 16th and 21 east 6 west there Feb 13th, 31 Great Ouse RC Feb 23rd with 27 there March 17th, 29 Hickling Broad March 3rd and 27 Welney April 2nd.

Just 33 breeding pairs reported from 12 sites (numbers of pairs in brackets): Bittering Lake, Diss Mere, Nar Valley Fisheries (2), Pensthorpe (2), Pentney GP (2), Rockland Broad (5), Shadwell (5), Sparham Pools (6), Strumpshaw (2), R Thurne, Repps to Martham (4), Westmere and Whitlingham CP (2).

Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena

Passage migrant and winter visitor

As usual, most records from coastal waters in north-west and north of county.

In first winter period: Holme Jan 4th and March 19th: 10 dates Titchwell Jan 5th-Feb 10th, March 11th and 30th; Scolt Head Jan 10th; 1-2 on 10 dates Holkham Bay Jan 5th-16th but with 4 Jan 8th and a remarkable 9 on 9th; Salthouse Jan 27th: west West Runton Jan 3rd; Overstrand Jan 13th and 25th; Mundesley March 1st and 2 Waxham Jan 4th.

First of autumn 2 west Scolt Head Aug 21st, followed by other Aug singles Cley 27th, and Titchwell and Winterton 31st. Thereafter: Old Hunstanton Oct 13th; Holme Sept 11th/12th, 4 east 24th and singles Dec 20th and 30th; 2 Titchwell Oct 1st and 4th, then singles 11 dates Oct 7th-Dec 28th with 3 Dec 27th; 1-2 on 22 dates Scolt Head Sept 14th-Dec 8th with 4 east Oct 10th; Holkham Bay Nov 22nd and Dec 20th; Blakeney Hbr Dec 21st; west Blakeney Point Oct 22nd and Nov 16th; Cley Oct 7th, 12th, 14th and west 31st; Weybourne Oct 1st and 24th; Sheringham Sept 16th, west 22nd and 23rd, 2 east Oct 6th, east 14th, west

15th; west Beeston Bump Sept 17th; 2 west Mundesley Oct 21st with singles Nov 6th/7th and Dec 13th; Eccles Nov 29th; Winterton Sept 16th; north Caister Sept 22nd.

Inland singles Saddlebow Cut Feb 25th and Yarmouth R Bure Jan 8th-13th.

Slavonian Grebe

Podiceps auritus

Winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly during autumn

Most records, as usual, from coastal waters in north-west of county.

In first winter period: Hunstanton Jan 26th; 1-2 Holme almost daily Jan 4th-31st with 4 15th, 7 16th and 4 31st, and singles Feb 14th and March 1st and 4th; 1-2 Titchwell many dates Jan 3rd-March 29th with 4 Jan 5th and 3 Feb 5th; Brancaster Feb 10th; 1-2 on 5 dates Scolt Head Jan 7th-Feb 8th; Blakeney Hbr Jan 5th; Blakeney Point Jan 4th with 2 Jan 12th; 1-2 Holkham Bay-Wells Channel many dates Jan 5th-Feb 18th; Stiffkey Fen Feb 13th; Salthouse Jan 29th; Hickling Broad Feb 18th and Yarmouth R Bure Jan 8th-10th. Last of spring 2 Titchwell March 29th.

In second winter period earliest Salthouse Aug 28th, followed in Sept by Holme 24th and 2 Titchwell 26th. Thereafter reported almost daily in coastal waters of north-west: Hunstanton Dec 9th; 6 dates Holme Oct 11th-Dec 21st, with 2 Oct 22nd; 1-2 regularly Titchwell Oct 10th-Dec 25th, with 3 Nov 16th/17th and Dec 8th; 2 Brancaster Nov 23rd and 1-2 Scolt Head Oct 8th-Dec 18th, with 4 Oct 23rd/24th. Elsewhere: Holkham Bay Nov 22nd with 2 Dec 20th; Blakeney Point Dec 3rd and 13th; Sheringham Oct 18th; Overstrand Oct 6th; Mundesley Nov 6th/7th; 2 Walcott Nov 13th with possibly same Eccles and Waxham Nov 16th; Horsey Nov 20th.



Slavonian Grebe (*Robert Gillmor*)

Black-necked Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

A typical run of records probably referring to 14 birds: Holkham Bay/Wells Channel Jan 7th intermittently to Feb 9th (TCL AJLS *et al.*); Hockwold Washes March 17th and May 6th (summer plumage); 1-3 Welney March 25th-April 4th, with 4 March 30th; pair in summer plumage Titchwell FM May 13th; Snettisham Aug 14th and Oct 29th; Hickling Broad Oct 25th; north Gorleston Nov 17th (INS) and Great Ouse RC Dec 31st.

Fulmar

Fulmarus glacialis

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

First significant movements of year in spring when 32 east Sheringham April 6th. No others until autumn when in Aug 30 east 15 west Scolt Head 20th, 53 west Cley, 31 west East Runton and 44 west Walcott 26th, and 41 west Sheringham and 128 west Mundesley 27th. Passage during rest of autumn poor apart from Sept 22nd when 205 west 60 east Scolt Head and 200 Sheringham.

Breeding data from main colony at Hunstanton Cliffs incomplete with 160 present Jan 10th, 70 occupied ledges Jan 12th and 191 occupied March 24th, but no indications of success. Only other breeding data 5 pairs California/Scratby, all of which failed.

Once again a number of records just inland with one on Holkham Park Lake March 2nd/3rd (first for site), Blakeney Friary Hills April 23rd, 2 Cley Village Aug 10th and singles Breydon Aug 24th and Oct 16th.

Another poor year for blue-phase birds with singles east Cley Jan 1st, west Overstrand Jan 3rd and east Sheringham Sept 22nd.

Cory's Shearwater

Calonectris diomedea

Annual vagrant from Mediterranean/North Atlantic; most during autumn

Only one accepted record, east Sheringham Sept 22nd (JEDF PJH AJLS *et al*).

Sooty Shearwater

Puffinus griseus

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

None until autumn when first Horsey Aug 4th. No others until Aug 25th-27th, when singles Trimingham and Sea Palling 25th; east Holme, 11 west Cley (0650-1200), 15 west Sheringham, 9 west East Runton, 3 west Mundesley and 6 west Walcott 26th; Holme, Titchwell, 12 west Blakeney Point (0810-1150), 12 west Cley, 8 west Sheringham, 6 west Mundesley and 7 west Walcott 27th.



Sooty Shearwaters (Gary Wright)

Recorded on 13 dates during Sept, best days 1st/2nd, 14th and 22nd/23rd, many of these dates coinciding with unprecedented numbers moving past the English east coast. On 1st passage confined to east where 34 west Trimmingham, 100 west Mundesley, 70 north Winterton and 15 north Gorleston, and next day 27 north Horsey and 7 Winterton. On 14th numbers smaller but widespread with 6 west Holme, 2 west 2 east Scolt Head, 2 west Blakeney Point, 2 west Sheringham and 7 west Mundesley. Best day of autumn 22nd when 16 west Hunstanton, 85 Holme, 71 west 18 east Scolt Head, 45 east 10 west Blakeney Point, 8 east 2 west Cley (1130-1400), 51 east 41 west Sheringham (0615-1615), 18 west 5 east East Runton, 14 west 10 east Cromer, 21 Mundesley and 5 Sea Palling. Counts smaller next day when 3 west Holme, 2 west Scolt Head, 2 west Cley, 7 Sheringham (0645-0900), 31 Mundesley, 14 Walcott (0630-0815) and 31 Winterton.

Passage noted on 9 dates during Oct most 6th and 14th. On 6th east Holme, 32 west 3 east Scolt Head, 3 Cley, 64 west Sheringham, 7 west East Runton, 37 west Overstrand, 50 west Mundesley, 2 Horsey, 8 north Winterton (0735-1100), 4 north Yarmouth/Gorleston. On 14th 97 east Sheringham, 36 east Mundesley, 15 Sea Palling and 3 north Yarmouth. Other noteworthy counts during Oct included 10 east Sheringham 5th, and at Cley 38 west 15th and 12 east 16th.

Stragglers noted into Nov when singles west Mundesley and south Waxham 9th, and in Dec east Sheringham 7th, and east and west Sheringham and 2 Mundesley 12th.

Manx Shearwater

Puffinus puffinus

Passage migrant with majority during autumn movements

First of spring during April when at Sheringham one east 26th and 3 east 29th. Few in May when only records 3 Holme and 4 Titchwell 5th, and west Holme 29th. Recorded on 6 dates during June, most during second half of month when 13 Titchwell 21st, and 9 Cley, 20 Sheringham and 5 Beeston Bump (all west) 28th. Passage poor during July, highest counts 10 Titchwell, 6 west Weybourne and 17 west Sheringham 3rd, and 21 east Holme, 12 Cley, 2 Sheringham and 2 Beeston Bump 21st.

Little improvement in numbers during Aug when best counts 9 east Sheringham 2nd, 11 west one east Scolt Head and 9 west Sheringham 21st, and 8 Holme, 11 west Scolt Head, 12 west Cley, 4 west Sheringham and 2 west East Runton 26th. Apart from good numbers Sept 22nd/23rd, passage during rest of month poor leading several observers asking where they all were this autumn. On 22nd 10 west Hunstanton (1030-1230), 46 Holme, 62 west 56 east Scolt Head, 123 east Blakeney Point, 8 east 2 west Cley (1130-1400), 178 east 5 west Sheringham (0615-1615), 23 east East Runton and 42 Cromer (6 hrs 45 min), and on 23rd 13 Mundesley and 22 west Walcott.

Only records in Oct 4 east Sheringham 5th, 3 west Scolt Head, 2 Cley, 3 Sheringham and Gorleston 6th, Cley and Mundesley 14th, and 3 east Sheringham 16th. Last of year north Yarmouth Nov 7th.

Balearic Shearwater

Puffinus yelkouan

Annual in small numbers during autumn

Most records from Sheringham where 4 east Aug 3rd (PEB), 4 west Aug 26th (DPA *et al*), and singles west Sept 22nd (AJLS) and east Oct 14th and 16th (RL). Elsewhere in Sept north Winterton 1st (CPB DJH), north Horsey 2nd (TCL), Cley west 3rd (1B), 14th and 22nd (RGM *et al*), Mundesley 16th and 23rd (MDF) and east Blakeney Point 22nd (RFP).

Storm Petrel

Hydrobates pelagicus

Almost annual late autumn visitor, often in stormy weather

Singles west Sheringham Aug 7th (TCL) and west Cley Aug 28th (TCD RGM) with 3 south Gorleston Sept 9th (INS). Also corpses found Ludham March 2nd and Wells East Hills (fresh plucked juv) Nov 19th. An injured bird found on Thames Alpha Platform 25 miles east-north-east of Yarmouth Nov 15th brought ashore but later died.

Leach's Petrel

Oceanodroma leucorhoa

Gale-blown visitor mostly during autumn

Another disappointing year, only records east Holme and 3 Cley Aug 27th, west Holme Aug 28th and Sept 13th, east and west Holme, 3 Holkham Bay and singles Cley and Caister Sept 14th, Happisburgh Sept 15th, and Cley and 2 east Sheringham Oct 6th.

Gannet

Morus bassanus

Passage migrant, most during autumn gales

Highest counts in first winter period 100 east Sheringham Jan 24th and 46 Horsey March 9th. Numbers slowly increased April into May, when during May 13 east Holme, 38 east Scolt Head, 72 east Blakeney Point, 110 Weybourne and 44 south Winterton (0650-1130) 4th, 60 east Scolt Head 5th, and 29 east Scolt Head and 71 Sheringham 18th. Few counts of note June/July apart from 74 east Sheringham June 2nd, 50 east Scolt Head and 94 west Sheringham 29th, 92 west Sheringham July 3rd and 67 east Mundesley 4th.

Passage during autumn poor by recent standards, best days Aug 27th, Sept 15th and 22nd/23rd, and Oct 6th. On Aug 27th 40 Holme, 105 west 40 east Scolt Head, 73 west Sheringham (3 hrs) and 110 west Walcott. On Sept 15th 60 east 21 west Holme, 150 east 8 west Scolt Head, 400 east Sheringham (0645-1215) and 107 east 24 west East Runton. Best day of autumn Sept 22nd when 640 west 500 east Scolt Head, 100 east Cley (1430-1630), 1000 east 53 west Sheringham (0615-1615), 250 Cromer (6 hrs 45 min) and 210 east Mundesley. Fewer next day when 75 Holme, 80 west 45 east Scolt Head, 122 west East Runton (0715-0950) and 367 east 56 west Cromer (0900-1600). On Oct 6th 313 Holme, 118 west Titchwell (0800-0910), 355 west 55 east Scolt Head, 206 East Runton and 200 west 180 east Mundesley. Also during Oct 248 Waxham (3 hrs 30 min) 5th, 284 east Sheringham 14th and 150 east 16th. Numbers during rest of year low with 10 Cley Nov 9th best count.

Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

Increasing winter visitor and passage migrant; sporadic breeder

Monthly counts at main and most regularly reported roost 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	6	4	32	23	23	33	90	80	68	114	60	58
Titchwell	2	6	6	75	51	40	84	92	200	123	63	2
Holkham GM	15	4	15	15	100	90	-	108	300	1	55	17
Ranworth Broad	235	398	195	-	13	-	27	-	-	175	191	274
Welney	191	158	248	74	21	40	64	96	109	109	147	138

National importance (winter): 130

Additional roost counts included: Barton Broad 31 Jan, 41 Nov and 34 Dec, Buckenham 216 March, Ickburgh 33 Jan, Lynford GP 16 Jan and Whitlingham CP 17 Jan and 16 March. Once again other roosts went unreported and no doubt also held considerable numbers, counts from these sites would be welcome.

Away from roost sites there were some impressive counts of daytime roosts/loafing birds, best 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	3	3	7	11	7	4	7	12	98	15	14	6
Scolt Head	8	11	12	29	38	86	165	138	170	95	5	13
Cley	6	4	7	10	15	15	21	45	80	16	-	-
Breydon/Berney	268	107	80	41	36	38	67	96	84	63	74	81

The counts from Holme and Scolt Head during Sept and Breydon/Berney in Jan were all new site records and show the continued increase in the county's population. Largest gathering elsewhere 112 King's Lynn Eau Brink and 59 Stowbridge Jan, 32 Filby Broad May and 34 Sennowe Park Oct.

Several noteworthy movements were reported during year, once again some of which were of local origin, peak counts 55 south Lynn Point and 30 south Winterton Jan 1st, 20 west Overstrand Aug 23rd, 30 west Sheringham Sept 15th, 89 west Mundesley Sept 16th and 13 west Spixworth Oct 23rd.

The county's main breeding colony at Holkham GM had another excellent year with 45 pairs fledging at least 100 young.

Shag

Phalacrocorax aristotelis

Autumn and winter visitor with occasional birds wrecked inland

Few in first winter period: one Hunstanton March 21st with 2 23rd, and singles King's Lynn Jan 1st, Overstrand and south Yarmouth Jan 3rd, east Overstrand Feb 25th, Walcott and Sea Palling March 3rd and Titchwell March 29th. Last in spring Lessingham North Gap April 19th and Eccles May 14th/15th.

First of autumn early juvs Overstrand July 9th and Mundesley July 21st, but no others until Sept when singles Mundesley 14th-19th and west Scolt Head 22nd. Apart from one Scolt Head Oct 1st, it was not until final week of Oct that there were any further records when 7 roosting Hunstanton Cliffs 24th, Titchwell 25th, 2 Scolt Head and one Sea Palling 26th, 4 Mundesley 28th, Cley and 2 Yarmouth 29th, and Mundesley 31st. In Nov a long-staying oiled bird Wells Hbr from 1st and remained there until year end. Also in Nov singles Sheringham 1st, Sea Palling 2nd, 15 roosting Hunstanton Cliffs 4th, 5 east Mundesley and one Sea Palling 5th, Sheringham and Mundesley 6th, 2 east Mundesley and south Yarmouth 7th, Mundesley 8th, Holme 9th, east Mundesley 27th, and Holme and 3 Mundesley 28th. Apart from the Wells Hbr bird no others reported during Dec.

Bittern

Botaurus stellaris

Rare resident breeder; also winter visitor in variable numbers

Recorded occasionally during first winter period at 17 widespread sites, mainly singly but 3 Strumpshaw and Ormesby Little Broad and 1-2 Holme. More unusual haunts included Fakenham Fen Jan 13th, Litcham Common (by roadside) 15th, Whitlingham CP Jan 24th and Feb 24th, Thetford Nunnery Lakes Feb 12th, Pentney GP 16th, Runham 27th, Lopham Fen March 1st and Welney 21st. Interesting observations from Strumpshaw where one seen to take Starlings Feb 5th and 7th.

Evidence of departing birds in spring at Horsey Mere March 29th when 5 high at dusk and out towards sea, 2 of which returned and 3 departed. Further spring birds Cley May 3rd and Rollesby Broad May 20th also presumed migrants.

Total of 8 booming males located in county, all in Broads. At least 4 of these were known to be paired, resulting in at least one successful nest (although dead juv found nearby). One breeding female had been tagged at Minsmere in 2001. Of the remainder, at least one booming male thought not to have bred despite a female being present on site during April.

Post breeding dispersal produced first of autumn Blakeney GM July 22nd, and Titchwell and Cley 27th, with further early autumn records Titchwell Aug 5th and 3 Strumpshaw during Aug.

Evidence of further late-autumn arrival during Oct when singles Cley 6th, Wells North Point 13th and 5 Holme 28th/29th, at least 3 to Nov 3rd with 2 remaining to year end.

Apparently less common during second winter period when recorded at 11 localities, max 2 Holme, Hickling Broad and Strumpshaw, with singles unusually at Sparham Nov 18th and Nar Valley Fisheries 21st.

Night Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax

Vagrant from the Continent; free-flying colony at Great Witchingham causes confusion

A second summer/adult roosting in willows Titchwell May 20th-29th (many obs), the first reserve record.

Other records, undoubtedly escapes, of one Hardingham for 2 weeks up to May 16th, 1-2 in a garden North Tuddenham June 1st-July 30th and adult Lyng GP Nov 26th.

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor in increasing numbers; first bred 2002

Recorded in increasing numbers throughout year, mainly at coastal grazing marshes, estuaries and saltings from Holme to Salthouse and Breydon/Berney, with largest numbers at communal roosts during autumn.

Max monthly counts from favoured sites tabulated below. It should be noted that some counts relate to communal evening roosts and others to general daytime distribution.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	1	1	2	1	2	-	2	1	5	2	1	1
Titchwell	12	10	15	8	6	4	6	32	55	63	27	28
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	3	8	4	1	2	3	12	25	31	32	19	14
Holkham NNR	-	-	-	-	9	10	-	14	35	-	61	46
Stiffkey/Warham	6	11	8	2	-	-	6	8	5	-	-	-
Breydon/Berney	3	3	2	1	7	7	13	13	7	7	2	1

Noted at less favoured localities Jan-March: south Snettisham Jan 1st, Welney Jan 13th, 2 there Feb 16th and 3 18th-20th, single 28th, 2 March 18th and 3 there 24th, Ken Hill GM Jan 11th, and Nar Valley Fisheries Jan 12th and 31st.

Evidence of spring departure of wintering birds as early as end March when 5 south Lessingham and 4 south Eccles 29th. Spring passage presumably also accounted for those recorded at Welney April 2nd, 5th, 3 intermittently 9th-14th with single 29th, and 1-2 on 4 dates May, Rockland Broad April 11th, Hickling Stubb Mill April 14th, Snettisham April 14th and 22nd, south Hunstanton April 19th, 2 Ken Hill GM May 4th, north-east Salthouse Heath May 10th, Hickling Broad May 15th with 4 there 18th, and Sparham also 18th. Singles west Weybourne June 3rd and west Sheringham 4th last of spring migrants.

The comments in last year's report relating to imminent breeding proved timely as this species bred in county for the first time at two different localities. At first site 5 pairs fledged

13 young and at the second, 3 pairs fledged a min 6 young. A juv Cley Aug 4th may well have been a county-fledged bird and there appears little reason why this will not be the start of a further expansion of breeding numbers within the county.

Autumn movement evident from early July when noted Roughton 1st, east Langham 7th, Snettisham 20th and Hickling Rush Hills 26th. Numbers increased rapidly at favoured localities Aug/Sept (see table above), presumably as post breeding dispersal gathered pace in southern Britain and on the near Continent. Two in high from sea Scolt Head Oct 6th indicated birds still arriving well into autumn.

Noted at more unusual sites Aug-Dec at Sparham Aug 2nd, 2 Horsey 29th, Snettisham Sept 9th, Dec 10th and 31st, Hunstanton Nov 5th and Hockwold Washes 11th.

Great White Egret

Ardea alba

Increasingly regular vagrant from the Continent

Reports of one in east of county at Hemsby intermittently Jan 28th-Feb 23rd, Haddiscoe Island Feb 15th/16th, Halvergate 16th and Fritton 16th-23rd (PJH BSm *et al*), probably all related to same bird.

Subsequently singles Holkham GM May 13th-18th (JRWi *et al*), Breydon June 12th (PRA) and north Eccles July 4th (NBBö).

A number of records were submitted too late for inclusion or remain unsubmitted.

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

Resident and passage migrant/winter visitor

Largest first winter period concentrations just 11 Welney March 11th (where also 21 April 2nd) and Sennowe Park March 24th.

Unimpressive spring passage commenced as early as Feb 5th when east Winterton. Further spring migrants noted: Scolt Head 2 west April 2nd, singles east 17th, in off sea 19th and 21st, and west May 2nd; Sheringham 2 Feb 16th, 3 east one west March 16th plus singles on 3 other March dates, singles east April 17th and 20th, 4 east May 16th plus 1-2 on 3 other May dates; Cromer 3 east March 17th.

Details received on breeding very limited and no meaningful comparison can be made with recent figures. A total of 73/74 nests were located in 12 heronries, 3 other heronries were noted as ‘active’ but not counted.

Again well recorded and impressive (mainly westward) autumn passage at Scolt Head and Sheringham (see table below). Tabulated figures for Scolt Head included max 17 west Sept 10th and 12 west 27th, and Sheringham max 7 west Oct 11th.

	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Scolt Head	3	8	25	51	12
Sheringham	12	6	7	27	5

Note: Sheringham figures include those from nearby Beeston Bump, but no duplication involved

Further evidence of autumn movement from Hilborough, where a party of 9 moved overhead Sept 11th, and coastal movements Holme where 11 west Sept 7th-Oct 8th, max 4 west Oct 7th, 5 in off sea then south Titchwell, 3 in off sea Gorleston all Sept 9th and single south there Dec 21st, single east Mundesley Sept 11th and 8 west there 24th, single east Trimingham Sept 19th and in off sea Oct 13th, single west Eccles Sept 27th, 5 in off sea Yarmouth Oct 8th and single south-east Winterton Oct 13th.

No large concentrations reported in second winter period.

Purple Heron

Ardea purpurea

Almost annual spring and autumn vagrant from the Continent

Following a blank year singles at Holme May 22nd (GFH SMN *et al*), Reedham June 18th (AKT) and west at sea Bacton Sept 1st (MDF).

Black Stork

Ciconia nigra

Rare vagrant

One in Gateley/Great Ryburgh/Sennowe Park area May 25th-30th (RHG AJS *et al*). Seen by many but missed by others! The first since 1999.



Black Stork (*John Geeson*)

White Stork

Ciconia ciconia

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

The status of all records is increasingly clouded by both local and national birds which have escaped from collections.

All records listed: Yarmouth Jan 15th, Sparham Pools 16th, Elsing March 4th (probably originating from Great Witchingham), Ludham 15th, St Olaves Herringfleet and Wolterton 26th, Caister (with damaged right wing) and Cringleford 28th. Acle 29th (intermittently until June 13th - the bird having black rings on both legs), Bowthorpe and Norwich also 29th. North Walsham 31st, Barton Turf April 14th, Potter Heigham and King's Lynn May 15th, Heacham 22nd, and Lyng-Easthaugh Oct 15th (probably from Great Witchingham).

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

Rare vagrant from the Continent

Four east at Cley Sept 6th (SJMG RGM) had left the RSPB reserve at Otmoor in Oxon earlier in the day. Subsequently single Strumpshaw later same day (MC *et al*), over Hickling Broad next day (ADB MDF *et al*), west Blakeney GM 8th (SJA RFP), west Holme 9th (GFH DNo), North Wootton and Snettisham 10th (D&PW *et al*), and West Walton 12th/13th (JEI BSM *et al*).

Spoonbill

Platalea leucorodia

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

First of spring Welney March 18th was vanguard to a good April passage with numbers increasing into May and maintained throughout summer and early autumn.

April records from Breydon/Berney 2nd, 2 8th-11th, singles 12th-17th and 28th, 2 29th-May 1st, Titchwell 12th/13th and 2 on 15th, Holkham GM 13th with 2 16th, 2 west Cley 15th and 2 west there 16th, Salhouse and Hickling Broad 22nd, with another at latter site 27th, west Blakeney Point 25th and 6 over Winterton, Salhouse, Blakeney Point and Stiffkey 28th.

May records from less favoured localities Stiffkey Fen 5th and 15th, over Kelling Heath May 5th, 3 east Beeston Bump 8th, 6 Barton Turf 9th, 5 south-west Ineleborough Hill 11th, west Blakeney Point 16th, 4 Waxham 19th, east Sheringham and Mundesley 24th, and Hockwold Washes 27th. As usual, fewer movements during June when 5 south Gorleston 26th. The 12 that moved north-west Brancaster Staithe July 27th were presumably one of the north coast gatherings.

Numbers at favoured localities May-Aug tabulated below. It should be noted that some duplication is involved, particularly between Holkham/Burnham Overy GMs and Holme/Titchwell. Figures also include birds overhead which did not necessarily linger.

	<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>
Holme	5	1	5	-	3	-	-	-
Titchwell	5	3	4	4	7	-	-	-
Burnham Overy GM	1	-	2	-	-	-	8	10
Holkham GM	4	-	11	5	11	15	11	-
Cley	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hickling	5	3	-	2	2	-	-	-
Breydon/Berney	5	10	11	14	11	6	3	-

Noted in Sept at several localities: 5 Holkham GM 2nd, 3 there 8th and 2 on 11th, 2 Titchwell 3rd and 5th/6th, 2 Blakeney Hbr 3rd with another Stiffkey Fen, 2 west Holme 10th with another east 13th, singles east Brancaster Staithe 13th and Breydon/Berney 29th. Birds lingered into Oct at Holkham GM where 2 5th, singles 6th and 14th, with another east Weybourne 3rd.

Mute Swan

Cygnus olor

Resident; the Ouse Washes attract the most important winter concentrations

Large numbers only regularly recorded at 2 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	81	80	106	61	79	71	61	69	54	39	26	58
Welney	-	92	104	189	-	126	-	-	-	31	193	168

Other counts of 50+: Jan 65 Halvergate Marshes, 76 Stokesby with Herringby, 66 Ludham, 61 Pentney GP; Feb 51 Hardley Marshes, 78 Stokesby with Herringby; April 81 Buckenham, 57 Hoveton/Wroxham; May 51 Buckenham; June 56 Hockwold Washes, 77 Rockland Broad; Aug 95 Rockland Broad; Sept 107 Nar Valley Fisheries; Oct 108 Hardley Flood; Nov 255 Hardley Flood, 129 Nar Valley Fisheries, 59 Whitlingham CP; Dec 163 Hardley Flood.

Breeding: details received of 64 nests (same as 2001) from 16 sites with counts of 7 Haddiscoe Island (all failed due to mink), 13 Holkham NNR, 3 Holme (all failed), 7 mid-Yare RSPB, 3 Pensthorpe, 5 Repps-with-Bastwick and 17 Welney.

Few coastal movements apart from 5 east Paston Feb 2nd and at Sheringham where one west Feb 17th, one on sea April 21st, 2 west May 11th and 2 on sea May 16th.

Bewick's Swan

Cygnus columbianus

Passage migrant and winter visitor in internationally important numbers

Large numbers at main wintering haunts in Fens around Welney during late Jan although a mostly mild winter saw fewer than half of these birds remaining a fortnight later. Late dates included 11 March 25th and last 5 April 2nd.

An early autumn arrival saw the first 10 Oct 7th with over 100 by 11th, followed by a more measured increase afterwards and no major concentrations until late in year. Very wet conditions at year end resulted in some large areas of surface water on the surrounding farmland where rather unusually some started roosting at night.

Counts at Welney WWT:

<i>Jan 27th</i>	<i>Feb 10th</i>	<i>Mar 5th</i>	<i>Oct 28th</i>	<i>Nov 17th</i>	<i>Dec 20th</i>
4697	2008	193	509	1133	3721
(5668)	(2669)	(200)	-	(1176)	(4955)

International importance (winter): 170

* (Total Norfolk/Cambridgeshire figure in brackets)

A number of gatherings in Broads, with some interchange of birds, where peak counts were: 51 Horning Jan 4th, 105 Hickling also Jan 4th and 135 Feb 1st, 192 Potter Heigham Jan 8th, 192 Sutton Hall Jan 10th, 310 Ingham Mill Jan 18th, 100 Brograve Level and 137 St Benet's Level Jan 30th, 147 Ludham Feb 19th, and 175 Catfield Fen Dec 26th. Also counts from Breydon of 67 Jan, 117 Feb, 15 Oct, 14 Nov and 26 Dec, while a peak of 80 Haddiscoe Island Feb 14th.

Departing flocks flying east/north-east at variety of localities with first 25 over East Tuddenham Jan 31st. During Feb 120 Hellesdon 6th with 50 12th, 30 20th and 85 23rd, 70 East Ruston and 17 Barnham Broom 7th, 74 Lynford Arboretum (and 36 15th), 67 Holme Hale and 25 New Costessey all 10th, 100 Framingham Earl 18th, 50 Norwich and 45 Caister 23rd, and 46 Hemsby 24th.

Autumn arrivals seen widely in small numbers, especially along north coast from Oct 5th, although the misidentification of migrating flocks is still clearly a problem and makes the confident analysis of records a rather dubious exercise. For example a flock of 20 swans moving past Burnham Overy, Scolt Head and Titchwell on Oct 12th were reported variously as both Bewick's and Whooper, but were almost certainly the former.

Whooper Swan

Cygnus cygnus

Winter visitor, mainly from Iceland, in internationally important numbers

A continuing increase in Fens where record numbers were present at Welney during both winter periods. Half of the wintering birds had departed by mid-March, generally leaving at dusk or during the night. Subsequently 120 still remained April 7th with last 49 on 15th. Up to 10 injured birds over-summered.

Two autumn arrivals Oct 5th increased to 34 on 17th, followed by a sudden boost to 500 on 19th, while a record number were present by mid-Nov. Flocks at end of year contained 20% cygnets.

Counts at Welney WWT:

<i>Jan 27th</i>	<i>Feb 10th</i>	<i>Mar 5th</i>	<i>Apr 2nd</i>	<i>Oct 28th</i>	<i>Nov 17th</i>	<i>Dec 20th</i>
1666	1916	1641	451	1007	1962	1876
(2329)	(2238)	(2174)	(478)	-	(2148)	(2051)

International importance (winter): 160

* (Total Norfolk/Cambridgeshire figure in brackets)

In Broads max counts: 19 Brograve Level Jan 7th, 47 Potter Heigham Jan 9th, 49 Sutton Hall Jan 10th, 64 roosted Horsey Mere Jan 11th, 60 Ingham Mill Jan 17th, 44 Hickling Jan 26th and 48 Feb 5th, 17 East Ruston Feb 6th and 40 Catfield Dec 17th.

Small numbers noted at numerous other sites in county especially at migration periods. The identification problems mentioned under Bewick's Swan make it impossible to analyse the true pattern of movements in the county.

A late individual at Salthouse for most of April, Stiffkey Fen April 28th-30th, Cley May 1st, Burnham Overy 9th, Brancaster Hbr 12th and Titchwell 17th; also 2 east at Beeston Bump May 15th.



Whooper Swans (Robert Gillmor)

Bean Goose

Anser fabalis

Taiga Bean Goose *A (f) fabalis*

Winter visitor to the Yare Valley

A max of 270 present in usual areas early Jan with 140 remaining 15th, but swift decrease after this date with last 42 on 21st. Again none in Feb with mid to late Jan departures sceming to be a regular feature in recent years. First 3 early arrivals back in second winter period Oct 26th, followed by an increase to 89 by Nov 2nd. These quickly increased to 139 by 22nd with max of 175 17th and 153 on Dec 3rd.

Elsewhere at least 5 Holkham GM Jan 27th and 2 Brancaster Feb 6th.

Tundra Bean Goose *A (f) rossicus*

Small numbers increasingly recorded in winter

Another mild winter resulted in few records, although slightly more than in 2001 with a small influx spread throughout Jan. All records are again listed. In first winter period: 6 Choseley/Ringstead Jan 13th, 4 Brancaster/Brancaster Staithe also 13th with 6 on 15th, up to 4

Burnham Market/Burnham Thorpe area Jan 11th-19th, 2 Holkham GM Jan 27th, one Feb 14th with 3 15th, 13 Stiffkey/Morston Jan 19th-22nd, 9 26th and 4 Feb 10th, 20 Overstrand in off sea then south Jan 1st, 4 Cart Gap and 5 Happisburgh Jan 9th, 6 Lessingham Jan 16th, 3 Horsey area Jan 12th, 2 Heigham Holmes and 6 Berney both Jan 22nd, 3 Welney Jan 13th with 4 Jan 29th-March 17th.

In second winter period only recorded in Dec: 2 Shernborne 5th, Wighton 19th-21st, 2 Flitcham 26th, Brancaster 26th with 3 27th-29th, Stiffkey 27th-31st, 2 Cley 21st, Catfield 27th and 8 Welney 25th-29th.

Pink-footed Goose

Anser brachyrhynchus

Winter visitor in internationally important numbers from Iceland and East Greenland

The three wintering areas located within the county continue to be well used. Increases to the north Norfolk population indicate that now perhaps over a third of the world population of this race now winter in the county. A record count of 91,740 was achieved on Nov 27th at the 3 main roost sites. If one adds the 2200 at the Thornham roost on the same date and with those known to be present in east Norfolk, it indicates that an estimated 100,000 birds were present in the county in late Nov and into early Dec. The 68,000 roosting at Scolt Head Nov 24th represents the highest ever count for a single site in the county. In north-west Norfolk co-ordinated dawn counts leaving the 3 traditional roost sites gave a reasonable estimate of numbers.

First winter period

	<i>Jan 9th</i>	<i>Jan 14th</i>	<i>Feb 4th</i>
Snettisham	15660	35000	9000
Scolt Head	10750	10800	19500
Holkham/Wells	-	7580	1000
Total	26410	53380	29500

Second winter period

	<i>Nov 11th</i>	<i>Nov 27th</i>	<i>Dec 9th</i>	<i>Dec 30th</i>
Snettisham	9020	4040	37050	24600
Scolt Head	31625	62500	25300	19200
Holkham/Wells	28600	25200	24000	24500
Total	69245	*91740	86350	68300

* The Nov count is an all time record

The Thornham roost site was again used in Nov/early Dec, but a max of only 2200 was noted. As expected there were the usual movements between roost sites on a regular basis, presumably mostly regulated by the nearest suitable feeding areas. In addition movement also regularly noted between north and east coast flocks with max 400 north-west Whitlingham CP Jan 7th, 700 east Hunworth Common Jan 27th and 1035 east Sheringham Nov 24th. Considerable daytime feeding concentrations occurred at many sites. In Jan 25,000 Burnham Overy on 9th, 30,000 in Ringstead area 24th and 25,000 Holkham GM 31st. At end of year 20,000 Brancaster and Docking areas Nov 26th, 14,000 between Fring and Shernborne Dec 17th, with at least 30,000 in Wighton area on 19th. In May 110 were still at Holkham GM 3rd, 76 on 5th with last 20 Burnham Overy 13th.

Summering birds again at several sites were presumably sick or injured and included 2 Holkham GM and single Snettisham. First autumn arrivals Sept 15th when 3 west Cley,

followed by 21 Holme and 46 south Titchwell 17th, and 400 Wells area 19th. By last week of month small numbers at most regular sites; most of these early observations were of skeins arriving in off sea. Several varieties again noted including a leucistic and a white-bellied bird in both winter periods, and a bird at Holkham GM with bright orange leg colouration.



Pink-footed Geese (*Robert Gillmor*)

In East Norfolk the Horsey/Heigham Holmes population once again seriously neglected regarding regular counts. Many birds, usually a min of several thousand, use the site daily and roost mainly at one secure locality, although feeding birds range over a very wide area to Runham in south, Ludham marshes in west and Lessingham area in north. It is difficult to determine a population pattern here as few counts were received and sadly none at all for the important dates in Nov and Dec. Up to 10,000 were using the site in 2001 and it is unlikely that numbers have declined. The highest count at Horsey was 6000 Jan 31st, although presumably not a roost total; 300 remained as late as March 23rd. First autumn arrivals in area 100 Sept 18th followed by 750 Eccles 21st. There were 3800 at East Ruston Oct 28th, but after this date only two incomplete counts were received from this area despite the Horsey area being reasonably well-watched. Monthly max as follows:

<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
6000	4000	300	1000	-	-

The Breydon/Berney/Halvergate/lower Bure Levels population showed another slight decrease following disturbance on their favourite feeding levels. Birds ranged widely over the area penetrating marshes well to the west and south-west. Again, there was much interchange between the Horsey/Heigham birds at regular intervals especially in the early second winter period. Monthly max as follows:

<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
4330	4380	7	1555	800	4000

Birds departed very early again with few present in March, last 6 on 23rd. First autumn arrival Sept 17th with 22 22nd and 45 on Oct 5th. Although the main roost site here remains undisturbed, the adjacent feeding areas are certainly much less protected.



Black-billed Cuckoo (above) and Rook (below) - two often neglected species. (*Neil Bowman*)





Olive-backed Pipit - Lynford Arboretum - the first inland and the first to over-winter in Norfolk. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

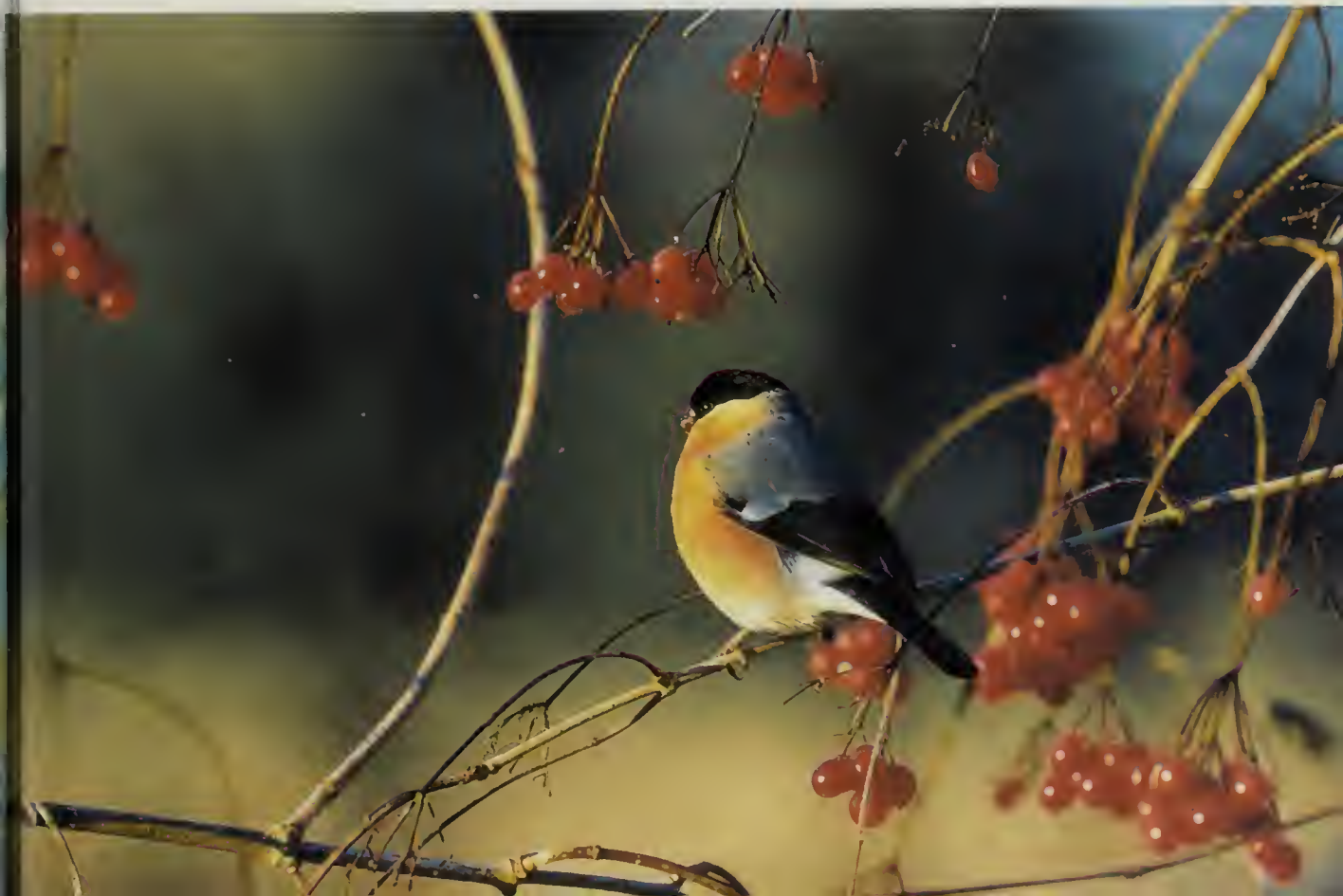
King Eider - immature male at Wells - only the second modern day record in the county. (*Julian Bhalerao*)





Glaucous Gull - this individual toured the Norfolk coast before settling down for the winter in Lowestoft, Suffolk. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

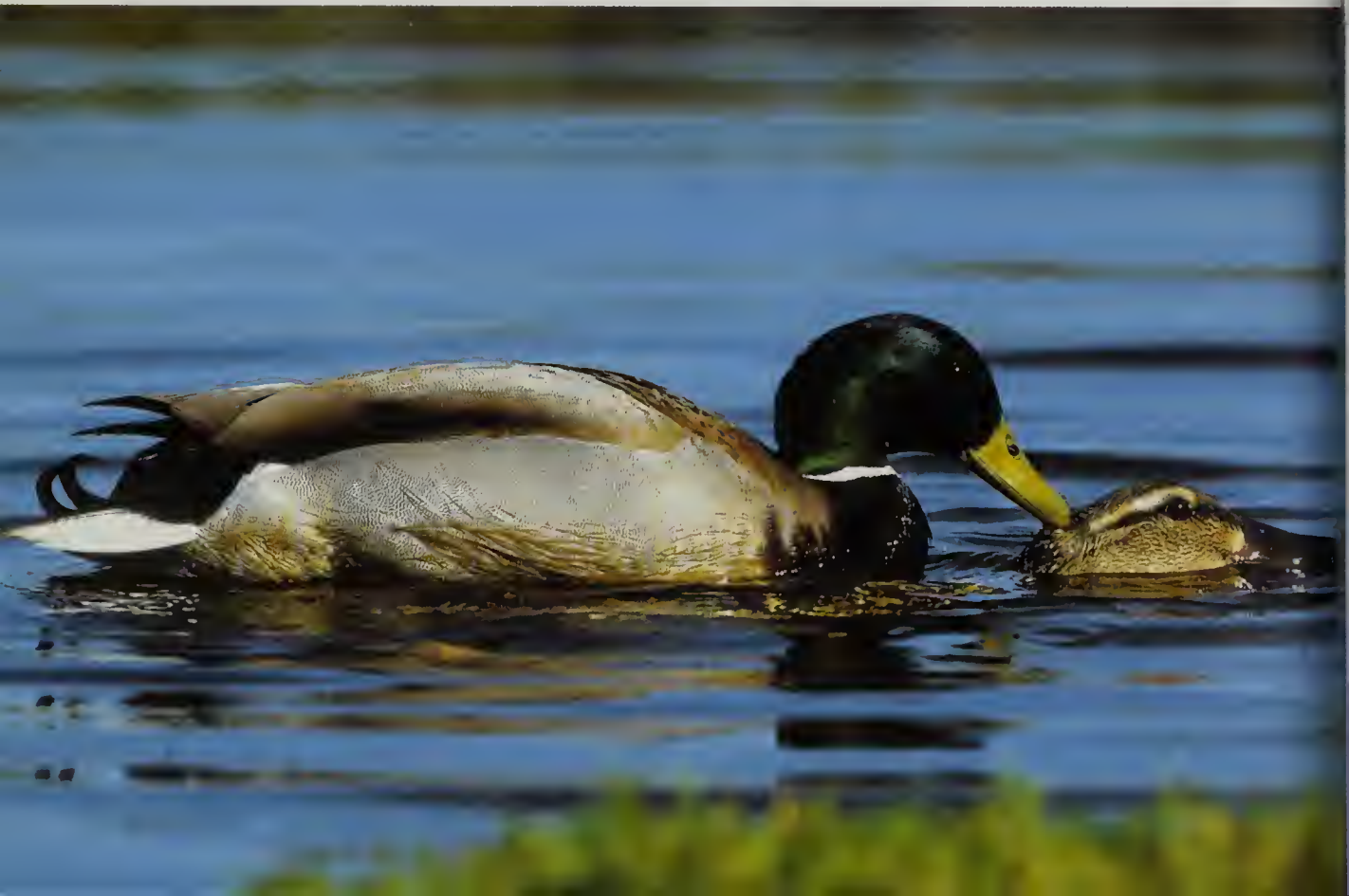
Bullfinch - a superb winter portrait. (*Chris Knights*)





Subalpine Warbler - this male was a popular attraction at Winterton in April. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Mallards - another sign of Spring. (*Neil Bowman*)



On night of Nov 29th/30th, in extensive foggy conditions, huge concentrations became disoriented over large areas of the county. In the Watton area, one observer reported very large numbers continuously throughout the night from 1930 hrs to 0530 hrs next morning. The birds were very noisy and quite low, some indeed were so low over the town that their wing-beats could be heard with ease. Many people reported that the calling birds kept them awake all night. They all appeared to be circling and looking for somewhere to land. Others were reported over the centre of Norwich and at many other localities including Barnham Broom, Castle Acre, Gressenhall, Sparham, Syderstone, Taverham and Woodbastwick as well as many sites in north Norfolk. The following morning there were at least 1000 in fields at Sparham.

White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons

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

Winter visitor and passage migrant from Siberian tundra

All four main sites again used with considerable increases at Holkham GM and Horsey/Heigham Holmes in first winter period, whilst Buckenham/Cantley showed a decrease. Another mild winter led to early departures and virtually all had left by end Feb. The only March record was 300 Heigham Holmes 2nd.

Peak counts at traditional wintering localities:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Holkham GM	600	470	-	18	140
Horsey/Heigham Holmes	634	800	300	4	82
Buckenham/Cantley	75	20	-	42	115
Breydon/Berney	82	110	-	-	5

Away from main sites few records of any significance, but 4 Snettisham/Heacham Jan 24th and 28th, and 6 south Winterton Dec 16th.

As usual a few injured or feral birds noted in summer and included an injured bird at Breydon for fourth successive year, with singles at Holkham GM and Stiffkey. One Cley Sept 6th was presumably of suspect origin. First genuine winter arrivals 2 Holkham GM Oct 10th with 5 by end of month. In Nov a slow return with only 18 at Holkham GM and 42 at Buckenham/Cantley. By end of year all four main traditional sites occupied with lower than expected numbers except for 115 Buckenham/Cantley.

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

Rare visitor from Western Greenland

In first winter period adult Burnham Overy GM/Burnham Market Jan 8th-13th, with also juv 9th (TCL *et al*), and adult (another/same?) Fring Jan 9th (TCL).

In second winter period juv Burnham Market/North Creak/Stanhoe Oct 24th-Nov 7th (AIB); family party of 7 Cley then west Nov 1st and subsequently Sedgeford Nov 22nd (TCL); adult Docking Nov 11th (TCL); adult Holkham GM Dec 4th (JRMc); in Holkham GM/Wells/Wighton area juv Dec 15th to year end, juv/1st-winter Dec 25th to year end and also 1st-winter Dec 25th to year end (AIB JRMc); 1st-winter Brancaster Dec 28th (CDo).

Greylag Goose

Anser anser

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

A county record at Scolt Head Sept 4th when 1880 west after disturbance from shooting.
Max at most 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	228	243	-	87	224	477	659	683	603	855	890	310
Holme	124	60	35	29	50	24	23	20	230	103	90	130
Holkham NNR	791	378	538	20	23	49	-	484	390	90	875	-
Holkham Park Lake	400	220	650	220	350	865	115	41	250	350	78	450
Stiffkey Fen	8	700	157	80	274	100	150	234	800	700	306	82
Cley	12	-	4	51	63	51	64	441	3	17	341	20
Breydon/Berney	94	9	19	18	39	60	62	70	113	*723	606	322
Welney	-	-	-	24	-	8	-	135	186	354	246	202

* *The Oct Breydon/Berney count was a site record*

Counts of 200 or more from less regularly recorded sites: Jan 657 Martham area, 530 Potter Heigham, 214 Gunton Park; Feb 300 Heigham Holmes, 201 Pensthorpe; July 500 Hickling Broad; Aug 441 Cley, 208 Thetford Nunnery Lakes; Sept 584 Titchwell, 500 Cley, 500 Strumpshaw, 300 Buckenham, 200 Sennowe Park; Oct 550 Buckenham; Nov 470 Thetford Nunnery Meadows, 341 Cley, 285 Hardley Flood, 250 Hoe Rough; Dec 800 Morston, 515 Hardley Flood, 253 Barton Broad. Additionally up to 300 Elsing-Lyng Easthaugh during year.

Slightly more breeding season records received: 4 broods Bittering GP, 10 pairs Breydon/Berney, 6 broods Cley, 5 broods Cranwich GP, brood East Lexham Lake, pair Fowlmere, brood Hardley Flood, 10 pairs Holme, 8 broods Pentney GP, brood Quidenham, 3 pairs Repps-with-Bastwick, 6 broods Shadwell, brood West Lexham, pair Westmere, 23 pairs mid-Yare RSPB and brood Welney. At Holkham NNR many nests visited and approximately 250 eggs pricked.

Birds with Pink-feet and possibly of Icelandic origin were 4 Burnham Overy Jan 9th, 2 Burnham Market Jan 11th and single Eccles Cart Gap Jan 23rd. An interesting observation of a bird resembling the eastern race *rubrirostris* Cley Sept 5th-7th with a green individually marked neck collar had been ringed as an adult whilst breeding at West Flanders, Belgium on June 1st 2000. It remained here until at least May 2002 and then appeared surprisingly at Udale Bay, north of Inverness in Scotland, on June 16th. One at Stiffkey Sept 15th, also with a green neck collar, was presumably this same individual.

Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

Introduced resident

High counts as follows: Jan 137 Bawburgh, 58 Coltishall, 280 East Harling, 39 Holme, 138 Ken Hill Marsh, 76 West Somerton; March 96 Blickling Park; June 255 Snettisham; July 77 Broom Heath, 140 Titchwell; Aug 180 Ditchingham, 137 Pentney GP, 180 Whitlingham CP; Sept 67 Bayfield Hall, 254 (roosting) How Hill, 381 Thetford Nunnery Lakes; Oct 178 Breydon/Berney, 643 Buckenham; Nov 104 Cantley BF.

Some unusual coastal movements and congregations noted June with 35 east Scolt Head, 5 east Sheringham and 40 west Overstrand all 1st, and 70 west at sea Holme 16th. Also at Scolt Head 32 on sea June 14th, with 55 on beach there next day; 70 were on the saltings Sept 21st with 100 Oct 17th.

Breeding records received from Bagmere, Broom Heath (6 pairs), Buckenham Marshes, Buckenham Tofts, Burnham Norton (10 pairs), Cantley BF (2 broods), East Carleton (2 pairs), Forncett St Peter (2 pairs), Fowlmere, Hardley Flood (2 broods), Pentney GP, Stanford Water, Strumpshaw, Thetford, Tottington, West Acre, Westmere and Whitlingham CP (2 broods).

‘Vagrant’ Canada Goose

Potential vagrant from north America

The Todd’s Canada Goose that had spend the winter between Wells and Docking last seen Jan 19th before being relocated in east Norfolk, where seen Horsey and West Somerton Jan 30th, Heigham Holmes Feb 2nd and Horsey again Feb 16th.

Barnacle Goose

Branta leucopsis

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

Doubtless wild birds associating with flocks of Pink-footed Geese recorded around the Great Bircham, Burnham Market and Holkham area Jan, with max 10 Burnham Market Jan 13th. In second winter period up to 12 Holkham in Oct, with 4 to year end. Elsewhere 1-3 recorded at Brancaster, Burnham Market, Burnham Overy, Flitcham, Fring, Holme and Thornham Oct-Dec.

Likely feral birds also recorded as follows: Aylmerton, Barton Broad, Brograve Levels, Buckenham (max 90 April and Nov), Cley, East Harling, Great Ryburgh (max 30 July). Heigham Holmes (max 47 Jan), Hethersctt, Hickling Broad, Holme, Ken Hill Marsh, Lopham Fen, Lyng GP, Martham Broad, Pensthorpe, Pentney GP, Postwick Marshes, Snettisham, Stiffkey Fen, Titchwell, Waxham and Whitlingham CP.

An unusual record of 50 west Scolt Head July 15th doubtless refers to the same flock as 60 west over Welney same day.

Breeding recorded from Ditchingham GP where pair with almost fully-grown young July 14th.

Brent Goose

Branta bernicla

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

Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor

Monthly peak counts at selected important sites:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Terrington Marsh	-	2400	-	1200	-	-	-	-
Ousemouth/Lynn Point	-	2500	-	3000	-	-	-	-
Holme/Thornham/Titchwell	482	1250	520	150	140	381	390	340
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	1800	1950	1190	875	855	1555	1261	2450
Wells/Holkham GM	1677	820	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blakeney GM/Hbr/Cley	2378	-	1655	-	-	1500	1411	3000

For further counts in Wash and north coast see WeBS tables

Birds noted again feeding well inland, particularly in Langham/Binham area, with for example 3000 Langham Nov 23rd/24th. Inland records also included singles Welney Feb 18th-23rd, Nov 4th, Dec 20th with 4 there Dec 9th. More unusually, a mixed flock of 40 Brents and 70 Pink-footed Geese over Aylsham in fog Nov 29th.

Birds again remained well into May, with 1500 Stiffkey 5th, and 190 Thornham and 53 Titchwell 18th. Birds departing to east noted Scolt Head throughout spring, peaking at 325 May 16th.

Summering birds were present at Ongar Hill, Brancaster Hbr, Burnham Overy, Stiffkey/Blakeney Point/Blakeney Hbr/Cley area and at Breydon. A lone bird east Sheringham Aug 6th.

Autumn passage commenced with 4 north Yarmouth Sept 12th, followed by 10 Titchwell, 7 Scolt Head and Wells, and 4 Blakeney Point Sept 13th. Notable passage Sept 27th when 1155 west Scolt Head and 1528 west Blakeney Point. A further influx took place early Oct with 1450 west Sheringham and counts of over 700 north at Caister and Winterton all 6th; the next day 663 west Scolt Head and 800 west Blakeney Point.

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

Scarce winter visitor

In first winter period widespread reports of 1-6 from Wash and north coast: Terrington Marsh, Admiralty Point, Ousemouth, Snettisham, Holme, Titchwell, Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, Burnham Overy, Holkham GM/Wells, Stiffkey, Cockthorpe, Wighton, Blakeney Hbr and Cley. Largest counts included 9 Cley Jan 1st, 22 Stiffkey Fen Jan 22nd, 10 Ousemouth Feb 3rd and 10 Terrington Feb 16th. In east one Waxham Feb 3rd and inland Bircham Jan 4th and Fring Jan 9th/10th. Birds were typically associating with Dark-bellied Brent Geese although 6 at Wighton Jan 19th were with Pink-footed Geese.

Most had gone by mid-March but singles remained at Ousemouth until May 3rd and Titchwell until 15th.

In second winter period one east Titchwell Aug 1st, with another Holme Sept 14th. Thereafter 1-2 reported from north and north-west at Fring, Sedgeford, Sherborne, Holme, Burnham Market, Burnham Overy, Holkham GM, Wighton, Cley, Salthouse, Scolt Head and Sheringham, with 4 Titchwell Nov 9th. In east one Buckenham/Cantley Oct 6th.

Black Brant *B (b) nigricans*

Almost annual vagrant from North America/East Asia

In first winter period in Wash 2 adults present at Terrington Marsh Feb, with one still there April 25th; 3 adults at Ongar Hill Feb 8th, with one Ousemouth March 5th.

Along north coast 2 adults Holme/Titchwell Jan/Feb, with one present until May 15th. An adult (one of the same?) at Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr Feb 2nd-8th and May 9th-13th. A further adult was in Stiffkey/Morston/Cockthorpe/Blakeney/Cley/Salthouse area from Jan until at least April 28th.

A juv moulting into 1st-winter plumage Cockthorpe Jan 20th was the first Norfolk and only the second British record of a bird in this plumage. It was subsequently seen at Stiffkey Feb 2nd, Wells Feb 24th-27th, Cley April 5th and Blakeney Point April 20th and May 4th. Remarkably, another 1st-winter was found with 2 adults at Snettisham Feb 16th, with one still present March 10th.

In second winter period 2 adults again Holme/Titchwell from Nov 3rd, also visiting Hunstanton 12th and Burnham Norton 14th, and 2 Cley/Salthouse from Dec 8th; one Burnham Overy Dec 21st-29th.

Up to 3 of the hybrid Dark-bellied Brent x Black Brants from early 2001 were again in Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr/Burnham Norton area from Feb until at least April 13th and returned once more in the autumn, being present from Nov 14th to year end.

Red-breasted Goose

Branta ruficollis

Vagrant from Siberia

The adult from 2001 continued to frequent north-west Norfolk, being seen during Jan and up to Feb 6th at Great Bircham, Burnham Market, Burnham Overy, Burnham Thorpe and Holkham GM.

Feral/escaped birds Berney March 19th/20th and Welney (ringed) 26th.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiacus

Long-established resident feral population

Highest numbers recorded as follows: June 296 Holkham Park Lake (a site record); July 69 Buckenham; Aug 126 Holkham NNR, 79 Litcham, 116 Nar Valley Fisheries, 60 Sparham GP; Sept 42 Holme, 63 Breydon/Berney; Oct 84 Ludham, 58 Pentney GP.

Breeding records from Breydon/Berney, Buckenham, Coxford, Cranwich GP, East Lexham Lake, Holkham Park, Holme, Lynford GP, Martham Broad, Nar Valley Fisheries, Pentney GP, Raynham Lake, Repps-with-Bastwick, Sennowe Park, Shadwell, South Creake and Thetford.

Shelduck

Tadorna tadorna

Widespread breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor

Early winter cold weather movement 59 west Sheringham, 35 west Mundesley and 41 south Waxham all Jan 5th.

Monthly peak counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	788	3530	3355	497	550	2112	1069	192	583	708	625	1010
Holme	78	9	61	64	37	20	13	3	1	1	21	52
Thornham	37	44	42	24	10	23	8	8	1	-	20	2
Titchwell	64	34	84	39	31	11	2	1	14	17	39	69
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	715	337	265	67	75	68	37	45	16	78	236	421
Holkham NNR	33	36	49	16	13	98	-	13	-	6	58	-
Cley	84	52	48	57	69	48	33	27	26	26	-	125
Salthouse	19	14	29	38	18	27	-	-	-	-	60	1
Breydon/Berney	129	136	180	111	191	207	197	34	107	284	208	141
Welney	74	-	137	132	-	37	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

Only other notable counts: Jan 373 Blakeney Hbr, 55 Warham SM; Feb 74 Warham SM; April 55 Buckenham; June 76 adults Cantley BF; Nov 53 Cantley BF; Dec 245 Hardley Flood.

A continued decline in breeding numbers and success, with reports from just 17 sites (single broods unless otherwise stated): Breydon/Berney (4 broods totaling 13 young), Buckenham (2 prs), Cantley BF (41 young), Cantley Marshes (2 prs), Cley (8 broods), Hainford (2 prs), Hardley Flood, Holkham NNR (9 broods), Holme (18 prs - only 2 broods), Nar Valley Fisheries, Scolt Head (35-40 prs raised 10 broods), Shadwell, Sparham Pools (1-2 prs), Welney (4 broods totaling 29 young), Whitlingham CP (2 broods totaling 7 young), Wissington BF (8 prs), Yarmouth.

Records of usual midsummer easterly exodus towards moulting grounds off Germany from Holme and Scolt Head only. Recorded on 14 dates June 2nd-July 31st, with counts of 50 or more, all off Scolt Head: 85 June 18th, 88 24th, 178 25th, 56 July 3rd, 100 6th, 75 16th and 62 27th.

Westerly autumn arrivals, seeming to overlap departures, from July 2nd until end Oct with a further movement early Dec. All counts of 50 or more: 75 Holme and 95 Scolt Head Oct 7th, 65 Scolt Head 11th with 55 there next day, 240 west Mundesley and 240 north Sea Palling 30th, 177 Sheringham Dec 8th and 67 Holme 9th.

Mandarin

Aix galericulata

Small population derived from introductions and escapes

Fewer reports than recent years. Scattering of records throughout county of 1-2: Aylmerton, Babingley River, Castle Acre Newton Mill, Cley Glaven Valley, Coltishall, Dersingham Bog, Felbrigg Lake, Flitcham, Heacham, Holkham Park, Pensthorpe, Poringland, Sennowe Park, South Creak, Stoke Holy Cross/Caistor St Edmund, Strumpshaw, Titchwell and Tottenhill GP. Majority only seen on one or two dates but longer stayers pair Flitcham Feb 11th-April 4th, male Holkham Park Lake Jan 2nd-March 8th, male present South Creak throughout year and pair Stoke Holy Cross/Caistor St Edmund erratically Feb-May.

No breeding records and other than South Creak individual no birds reported in county June-Oct.

Wigeon

Anas penelope

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

Peak monthly counts at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham/Ken Hill	1475	1213	1335	17	1	251	148	378	1252
Holme	1400	930	901	41	-	250	834	850	1185
Titchwell	121	80	54	2	44	450	639	329	234
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	197	791	440	2	28	2500	2500	6950	1960
Holkham NNR	14,245	9905	8370	19	2	122	1655	6406	-
Stiffkey Fen	271	560	147	2	-	27	-	19	659
Blakeney GM	1842	1262	1450	45	-	-	-	-	-
Cley	814	678	509	3	3	57	435	921	640
Salthouse	437	386	361	-	-	-	52	232	324
Breydon/Berney	21,300	13279	3747	193	126	1110	3609	6930	12430
Buckenham Marshes	2768	4167	2107	-	11	330	1835	4965	4750
Ranworth Broad	1981	1659	1057	-	-	-	328	1030	911
Pentney GP	349	257	284	2	1	-	72	98	274
Welney	7099	9597	7424	824	141	1752	2196	4759	6979

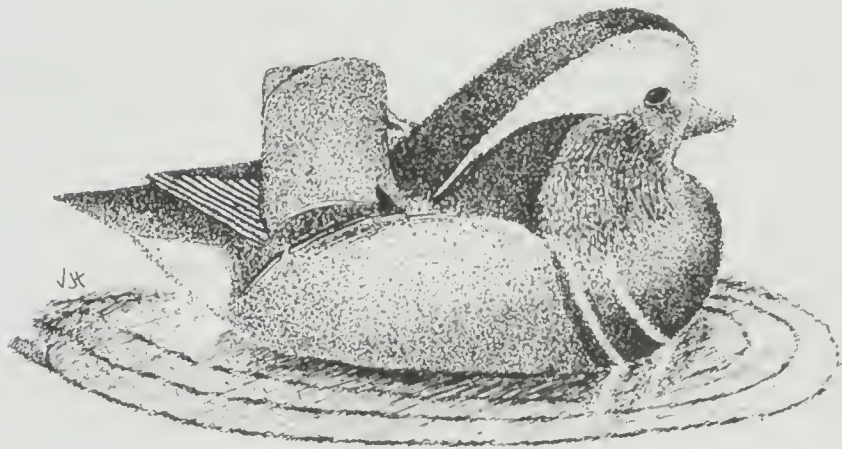
International importance (winter): 12,500; National importance (winter): 2800

Dec count at Berney poor due to low water levels. Small numbers widespread elsewhere around county: Jan 2000 Cantley Marshes, 4000 Halvergate Marshes, 1000 Ouse Washes (excl Welney), 725 Stiffkey GM; Feb 1000 Fritton; March 557 Cantley Marshes; April 359 Ouse Washes; Sept 850 Blakeney Hbr; Nov 2000 Haddiscoe Island, 204 Thornham; Dec 4500 Burnham Overy GM.

Usual rapid departure during April with few lingering into May. Small numbers remained to over-summer with June/July records from Breydon/Berney (5), Cantley BF, Cley (5), Hardley Flood, Hickling Rush Hills (3), Holkham GM (20), Holme, Horning Marsh Farm, Pentney GP, Sheringham (2 July 14th), Titchwell and Welney (11 - some of which injured birds). Only breeding record, brood Holkham NNR.

First definite arrivals of autumn Sheringham Aug 4th then Scolt Head 8th, after which increasing numbers reported from many sites. Largest movements (all north along east coast and west along north coast): Aug 225 Scolt Head 27th; Sept 265 Scolt Head 11th, 333 Holme and 272 Scolt Head 12th, 350 Holme and 247 Scolt Head 13th, 809 Holme, 405 Scolt Head and 214 Mundesley 14th, 550 Scolt Head, 950 Sheringham and 243 East Runton 15th, 325 Sheringham 22nd, 252 Sheringham and 210 Mundesley 23rd; Oct 210 Mundesley 6th, 2080 Scolt Head and 650 Cley (1600-1730) 7th, 385 Scolt Head 8th; Nov 1500 Holme, 1750 Titchwell (2 hrs) and 334 Sheringham 3rd. Further movements early Dec when 124 west Sheringham 7th and 345 west there following day.

A leucistic drake Holkham GM Oct 12th.



Mandarin (Vince Hanlon)

American Wigeon
Vagrant from North America
A 1st-winter male Tottenhill GP Jan 11th (CDo).

Anas Americana

Gadwall
Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
Along with other surface feeding duck, hard weather movement noted Jan 5th when 8 south Waxham.
Monthly peak counts at selected key sites:

Anas strepera

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	84	117	65	42	16	2	2	6	6	23	117	131
Holme	8	12	11	16	12	6	8	7	17	30	11	13
Titchwell	16	40	19	44	*92	104	7	127	18	15	22	8
Holkham NNR	51	50	63	9	9	77	-	32	26	7	116	-
Cley	26	51	23	10	21	89	10	41	35	11	11	40
Breydon/Berney	72	98	110	51	23	18	6	31	7	8	26	9
Whitlingham CP	281	20	13	30	11	19	1	143	52	90	251	220
Welney	68	51	91	66	-	30	-	34	14	34	44	26

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

* Including 88 drakes

All other counts exceeding 40: Jan 42 Bittering GP, 60 Cockley Cley, 58 Flitcham, 150 Heigham Sound, 162 Lynford GP, 44 Ranworth Broad, 112 Shadwell, 117 Stanford TA, 54 Tottenhill GP; Feb 50 Bittering GP, 162 Hickling Broad, 76 Stanford TA; March 58 Stanford TA; April 50 Cockley Cley, 40 Strumpshaw; June 60 Stanford Water; Aug 60 Hockwold Washes; Oct 152 Cantley BF, 143 Stiffkey Fen; Nov 120 East Ruston Mown Fen, 97 Hardley Flood; Dec 64 Horsey Mere, 41 Nar Valley Fisheries, 49 Strumpshaw.

Breeding records from: Burnham Overy GM (nest found), Cantley BF (brood), Cley (5 broods totaling at least 22 young), Cockley Cley (3 broods), Coxford (2 prs), Hickling Broad (bred), Holkham Park Lake (8 broods), Holkham NNR (47 prs), Holme (6 prs raised single brood), mid-Yare RSPB (10 prs), Nar Valley Fisheries (pair bred), Scolt Head (one nest failed), Sparham (brood), Syderstone Common (pair), Tattersett (3 prs), Titchwell (6 prs raised 4 broods), Welney (14 broods) and West Acre (brood). Pairs also present during summer at a few other potential breeding sites.

Limited summer/autumn coastal movements with all records given: 2 west Scolt Head on early date May 16th with 2 west there Aug 20th and 3 west Sept 22nd, 2 west Sheringham and 2 north Walcott 23rd, east Sheringham Oct 20th and 3 west Titchwell Nov 3rd. Winter movement west Sheringham Dec 8th and 4 east there 9th.

Teal

Anas crecca

Passage migrant and abundant winter visitor; breeds in small numbers

Peak monthly counts at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	213	698	332	4	18	101	265	555	446
Holme	210	152	94	22	29	126	177	210	301
Titchwell	250	857	267	52	29	259	538	670	543
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	567	401	163	18	35	217	329	260	246
Holkham NNR	539	416	406	31	166	110	95	1278	-
Stiffkey Fen	620	316	150	4	14	95	106	385	350
Blakeney GM	670	16	110	9	-	-	-	-	-
Cley	1500	525	202	-	380	1153	1228	2066	2000
Salthouse	306	125	127	14	2	-	101	364	139
How Hill	352	-	-	-	-	-	385	915	-
Horsey Mere	4000	-	-	-	-	-	1400	2000	3000
Hickling Broad	500	798	-	55	630	1400	2200	-	940
Breydon/Berney	3182	5093	3962	986	829	1800	3124	2495	1127
Cantley BF	-	700	-	-	250	350	150	425	-
Buckenham Marshes	1000	924	813	-	240	230	339	374	525
Strumpshaw	308	181	115	-	-	-	689	67	651
Ranworth Broad	210	382	211	-	-	91	337	139	372
Welney	692	1211	1849	827	618	705	1287	2181	775

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

Low numbers Welney in Dec due to reserve being frozen.

Notable counts away from above localities: Jan 118 Flitcham, 150 Herringby, 100 King's Lynn BF; Feb 150 Catfield Fen, 180 East Ruston, 220 Martham Broad, 98 West Acre; April 140 Ouse Washes (excl Welney); June 100 Cley; Sept 121 Barton Broad, 185 Ken Hill GM, 340 Lopham Fen; Oct 195 Ken Hill GM; Nov 110 Pensthorpe; Dec 200 Babingley River, 260 Whitlingham CP.

As usual small numbers remained at wetlands across county, with breeding attempts at Holme (pair probably bred but failed), Roydon Common (pair probably bred) and Welney (2 broods from probably same female).

Westerly autumn passage from May 31st when 12 Holme. Thereafter light late summer passage with increased numbers mid-Aug to mid-Oct. Peak counts: Aug 188 Scolt Head 19th, 197 East Runton (0650-0840) 22nd, 109 Scolt Head 23rd with 110 there 24th and 186 25th, 115 Scolt Head, 350 Sheringham and 108 East Runton 26th, 438 Scolt Head and 337 Sheringham 27th, 198 Sheringham (2 hrs) 28th; Sept 148 Scolt Head, 109 Mundesley and 280 north Walcott (0645-0810) 2nd, 332 Scolt Head 9th, 134 Holme 11th, 425 Scolt Head, 108 Blakeney Point, 975 Sheringham (0645-1215) and 334 East Runton all 15th, 133 Scolt Head 22nd; Oct 217 Scolt Head 6th with 257 next day, 118 Scolt Head and 116 Sheringham 19th; Nov 150 Holme and 900 Titchwell (2 hrs) 3rd. Along with other wildfowl cold weather movement of 66 west Sheringham Dec 8th.

A leucistic bird Cantley BF Nov 9th.

Green-winged Teal

Anas carolinensis

Vagrant from North America

Four records, possibly of just 3 birds. In spring drake Sutton Fen March 27th-29th with possibly same Weybourne April 5th. In second winter period drakes Titchwell Nov 9th/10th and Buckenham Dec 8th-year end.

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	565	525	173	43		184	575	329	500	277
Holme	164	47	85	48		70	138	177	157	217
Titchwell	83	66	43	21		104	102	92	103	120
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	396	226	104	48		107	308	260	212	489
Holkham NNR	168	159	156	17		72	133	45	534	-
Holkham Park Lake	110	57	65	35		123	45	80	106	82
Stiffkey Fen	51	41	34	29		38	95	157	54	56
Cley	290	104	15	26		101	119	70	40	51
Barton Broad	224	-	42	-		227	126	204	69	137
Ranworth Broad	207	151	87	-		303	185	142	209	339
Breydon/Berney	506	228	93	42		71	212	142	180	170
Welney	1465	692	508	359		291	277	1473	1308	862

International importance (winter): 5000

Other three-figure counts: Jan 260 Heigham Sound, 100 Ormesby Little Broad, 108 Sennowe Park Lake, 840 Shadwell (where large numbers released), 183 Stanford TA, 104 Strumpshaw, 160 Tottenhill GP, 100 Wells Hbr, 110 Wissington BF; Feb 143 Hickling Broad, 128 Wells Hbr; March 123 Stanford TA; May 380 Shadwell; June 107 Barton Broad, 116 Blakeney GM, 600 Shadwell, 144 Snettisham, 201 Welney; July 158 Barton Broad, 231 Holkham NNR, 111 How Hill Reedham Water, 103 Sennowe Park Lake, 102 Titchwell; Aug 110 East Ruston Mown Fen; Sept 100 East Ruston Mown Fen, 116 Sennowe Park Lake; Oct 144 Thetford Nunnery Lakes; Nov 120 Cantley BF; Dec 1300 Hardley Flood, 106 Lopham Fen.

Breeding data received from only 7 localities; Holkham NNR (168 prs), Holme (34 prs raised only 2 broods), Martham Village (27 prs), mid-Yare RSPB (45 prs), Roydon Common (7 pairs all failed), Scolt Head (10 prs raised 2 broods) and Welney (30 females - many broods seen). NBA results showed the species was present in 89% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 9 males per occupied tetrad.

As usual only small numbers seen on westerly migration, with all records given: 3 west Sheringham Sept 15th and 4 there 22nd, 11 Scolt Head and 42 north Horsey Oct 7th, 19 Scolt Head and 90 Sheringham 19th, with 20 Sheringham Nov 3rd.

Pintail

Anas acuta

Passage migrant and winter visitor, has bred

Hard weather winter movement noted when 27 south Yarmouth (1300-1330) Jan 3rd.

Peak monthly counts at main localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	2	13	115	33	27	6	-
Titchwell	35	44	50	50	351	47	30
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	225	205	43	125	420	200	420
Stiffkey Fen	216	7	10	-	18	2	6
Cley	290	29	3	7	40	90	29
Breydon/Berney	329	220	114	91	269	182	214
Tottenham GP	175	27	-	60	-	-	-
Welney	824	1215	621	352	210	227	394

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

A fair scattering of records away from traditionally favoured sites in both winter periods, mainly in single figures, but with double-figure counts: Jan 15 Holkham NNR, 20 Horsey Mere, 55 Yarmouth Bure Park; Feb 13 East Ruston, 90 Ousemouth; March 13 Hockwold Washes; April 21 Titchwell, 61 Welney; Aug 13 Titchwell, 29 Welney; Sept 12 Holkham NNR, 33 Snettisham CP; Oct 85 Holkham GM; Nov 18 Holkham NNR; Dec 85 Hardley Flood. Many of these brief-staying groups from more favoured nearby sites.

Usual rapid withdrawal from mid-March when 6 noted south Winterton 9th and 22 east Holme 21st. Most birds departed by late April with 1-3 lingering May-July at



Pintail (Vince Hanlon)

Breydon/Berney (3 until May 18th), Cley, Hardley Flood (2), Holkham NNR (2), Snettisham (2), Titchwell (1-3) and Welney (4 - some injured).

First returning bird Scolt Head Aug 4th, followed by more general arrival from 18th. Impressive passage for second autumn running (with birds on east coast moving north and those on north coast sites moving west): Aug 11 Scolt Head 18th with 67 there 23rd, 12 Holme 26th, 28 Scolt Head 27th; Sept 15 Scolt Head 2nd with 44 there 3rd, 75 Holkham Bay 8th, 69 Scolt Head 9th, 36 west (plus 56 east) Holme, 138 Scolt Head and 28 Cley 11th, 47 Scolt Head 12th with 138 there 14th, 66 Scolt Head, 43 Sheringham and 12 Mundesley 15th, 25 Holme, 43 Scolt Head, 42 Sheringham, 18 East Runton, 20 Cromer and 12 Caister all 22nd, 56 Sheringham 23rd; Oct 34 Sheringham 6th, 159 Scolt Head and 69 Cley (1600-1730) 7th, 45 Scolt Head 12th with 36 there 19th; Nov 11 Titchwell 3rd, 15 Holme 4th. Winter movements 47 north Yarmouth Nov 20th, 22 west Sheringham Dec 8th and 13 west Holme 9th.

Garganey

Anas querquedula

Very scarce breeding summer visitor; scarce passage migrant

First of spring Hickling Rush Hills March 17th, then obvious arrival late in month when recorded Welney 24th, Strumpshaw 25th/26th, 2 King's Lynn BF 26th, East Ruston 26th-29th, 2 Cley and 2 Hickling Rush Hills 27th, up to 6 Welney from 28th and 6 Strumpshaw 28th-30th, 2 Heigham Holmes, Martham Broad and Berney all 31st. During April/May records from 20 localities: Berney, Burnham Overy GM, Buckenham, Cley, East Ruston Mown Fen, Hickling Rush Hills, Hockwold Washes, Holkham GM, Holme, Kelling WM, Ken Hill Marsh, Lopham Fen, Salhouse, Scolt Head, Snettisham, Snettisham CP, Stiffkey Fen, Strumpshaw, Titchwell and Welney. Most records of 1-3 and only higher counts 4 Welney April 14th, 4 Titchwell May 24th-31st with peak of 6 on 30th, and up to 6 Holkham NNR April/May.

Regular records during June/July from 10 localities with max 7 Cley June 18th, 4 Berney June, and 4 Strumpshaw July 28th. Breeding record of female with 3 young Hockwold Washes June 29th, otherwise thought to have bred but failed at Holme, and 2 juvs Titchwell July 31st considered to have been reared locally.

Autumn numbers unspectacular and only visible migration singles west (with Teal) Scolt Head Aug 25th and Blakeney Point Sept 3rd. Elsewhere during Aug/Sept principally singles recorded from Buckenham, Cantley BF, Cley (max 3 Aug 8th and 4 20th), East Ruston Mown Fen, Hickling Broad, Hockwold Washes, Pensthorpe, Stiffkey Fen, Strumpshaw, Titchwell and Welney (max 4 Sept 12th). Few present after mid-Sept and last record Cley Oct 1st.

Shoveler

Anas clypeata

Passage migrant, summer and winter visitor

Monthly max at regularly counted key localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	48	58	43	37	6	2	1	2	20	19	27	45
Titchwell	70	81	42	62	30	14	101	132	52	51	114	55
Holkham NNR	52	57	47	3	5	4	-	8	14	12	49	-
Blakeney Hbr/Cley	42	71	18	16	23	36	36	16	19	85	40	33
Breydon/Berney	218	*679	431	142	19	17	7	87	18	218	266	162
Cantley BF	-	-	-	40	-	-	67	100	132	100	25	-
Welney	150	51	303	212	-	25	-	45	23	164	124	31

National importance (winter): 100

* A site record

Elsewhere notable counts of 30 or more: Jan 121 Buckenham, 560 Filby Broad (concentrated by freezing conditions), 96 Martham Broad, 100 Ormesby Broad, 95 Ormesby Little Broad; March 57 Hockwold Washes, 121 Strumpshaw; April 40 Ouse Washes (excl Welney), 87 Strumpshaw; Aug 40 Burnham Overy GM; Sept 145 Strumpshaw; Dec 121 Hickling Rush Hills.

At Holkham NNR just 27 pairs located compared with 50 pairs last year. Other breeding localities: Cley (brood of 5), Holme (5 prs - one brood), mid-Yare RSPB (9 prs), Titchwell (8 prs produced 3 broods) and Welney (11 broods).

Early winter cold weather movement of 17 south Waxham Jan 5th. No visible spring passage noted. Autumn passage recorded exclusively from north coast Sept 15th (Sheringham and East Runton) through to Nov 9th (Cley) on 13 dates. Most reports of just 1-4 with only higher counts 8 west Scolt Head Sept 30th and 13 west there Oct 20th. Later in year 8 west Sheringham Dec 8th.

Red-crested Pochard
An escape, but with possibility of genuine vagrants from the Continent

Netta rufina

Breeding season records from Hickling Broad where 2 March 16th-27th, one April 3rd-May 15th and Aug 31st/Sept 1st (all females). Also free-flying group at Pensthorpe where only record received was 5 males and 2 ducklings May 26th. Nearby at Great Ryburgh 2 males and a female April 23rd and June 10th, and at Sennowe Park a pair May 2nd and Oct 6th, and one July 26th.

Elsewhere: female Whitlingham CP Jan 5th-March 2nd and Nov 3rd-Dec 26th; female/imm Strumpshaw Feb 14th; pair Snettisham Nov 19th; pair Cley Dec 27th/28th.

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

Aythya ferina

Peak counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	77	47	-	-	-	16	28	22
Holme	19	17	13	11	-	9	6	9
Breydon/Berney	29	31	29	16	6	3	-	4
Tottenham GP	55	35	-	-	-	-	-	56
Nar Valley Fisheries	125	121	-	-	146	-	-	51
Welney	1243	1089	473	4	10	353	1186	1381

National importance (winter): 440

Notable counts elsewhere: Jan 37 Great Ouse RC, 106 Horning, 52 Martham Broad, 94 Ormesby Broad, 45 Ranworth Broad, 90 Sennowe Park, 78 Stanford Water, 75 Whitlingham CP, 164 Wroxham Broad; Feb 98 Bittering Lake, 31 Cranwich GP, 85 Fowlmere, 93 Hickling Broad, 107 Stanford Water, 41 Titchwell; March 45 Stanford Water; Sept 39 Ranworth Broad; Nov 91 Hardley Flood; Dec 38 Barton Broad, 86 Fowlmerc, 39 Pentney GP.

Small numbers summered at various localities with breeding records (broods in brackets) from: Breydon/Berney, Burnham Overy GM, Cantley BF, Cockshoot Broad (1), Fowlmerc, Hickling Broad (1), Holkham Park Lake (1), Holkham NNR (17 pairs), Holme (6 pairs, 2 broods), Horning Marsh Farm (1), How Hill, Lyng GP, mid-Yarc RSPB (4 pairs), Ranworth Broad (1), Rockland Broad, Sennowe Park, Titchwell (1), Welney.

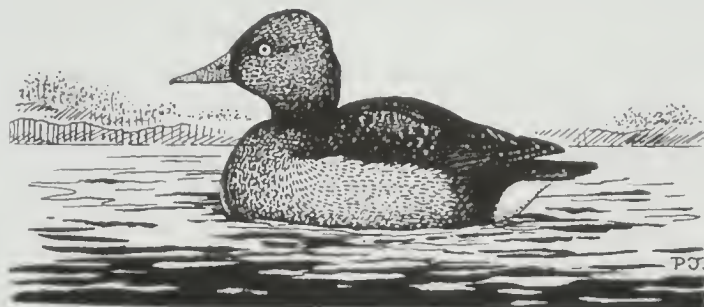
Significant coastal movements: 48 north Waxham Jan 5th, 15 west Mundesley Jan 8th, and 22 west at both Holme and Sheringham Nov 3rd.

Ferruginous Duck

Aythya nyroca

Rare visitor from the Continent, or escape from captivity

Males at Welney Jan 1st (JBK DSt); Fowlmere intermittently Feb 5th-April 14th (PJD ORM *et al*), with presumed same Stanford Water Feb 16th, March 9th, 22nd-31st and April 14th, and Thompson Water April 13th; Hickling Broad March 16th (JHa); Welney again Nov 19th (JBK).



Ferruginous Duck (Phil Jones)

Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

Summer breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor

Peak counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	124	34	14	47	-	43	76	56
Holme	12	19	20	33	9	9	7	13
Holkham Park Lake	31	17	35	6	22	15	22	45
Hickling Broad	100	140	120	45	-	-	-	-
Breydon/Berney	16	18	9	8	1	5	5	9
Ranworth/Cockshoot	129	-	120	-	41	32	140	40
Whitlingham CP	105	72	69	71	12	51	93	136
Sennowe Park	82	-	68	100	46	42	-	-
Pentney GP	69	-	48	-	-	-	116	82
Stanford Water	70	101	98	-	-	-	41	-
Nar Valley Fisheries	60	87	60	42	80	-	250	54
Welney	92	172	184	113	-	15	94	66

National importance (winter): 600

Notable counts elsewhere: Jan 39 Lynford GP, 40 Ormesby Broad, 386 Great Ouse RC, 75 Horning; Feb 71 Cranwich GP; April 41 Broom Heath, 78 Colney GP; Oct 100 Great Ouse RC; Nov 86 Barton Broad, 300 Great Ouse RC; Dec 119 Barton Broad.

Breeding records (broods in brackets): Burnham Norton (1), Cley (3), Coxford Quarry (1), Hickling Broad (1), Holkham Park Lake (1), Holme (3 broods from 17 pairs), Kenninghall (1), Nar Valley Fisheries (3), Rockland Broad (1), Sandringham (1), Sparham GP (5), Welney (13) and Westmere (1). Also present in breeding season at Blakeney GM, Breydon/Berney, Cranwich GP (23 pairs), Holkham NNR (23 pairs), How Hill, mid-Yare RSPB (8 pairs), Shadwell (17 pairs), Snettisham, Stiffkey Fen and Titchwell (8 pairs but no broods).

Notable coastal movements: 9 east Sheringham Jan 3rd, 12 south Waxham Jan 5th, 6 west Scolt Head May 9th and 6 on sea May 12th, 5 west Scolt Head Sept 22nd, 9 west Titchwell Nov 3rd, 6 on sea Holkham Bay Nov 16th and 5 west Sheringham Dec 7th.

Scaup

Aythya marila

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

Regular in first winter period only on Great Ouse RC with peak counts of 4 Jan 1st, 3 Jan 17th and 5 Feb 2nd-6th. Nearby one Tottenhill GP Jan 1st/2nd and 27th, and 2 Welney Jan 12th with singles Jan 27th and Feb 28th. Elsewhere 2 Holkham Bay Jan 3rd and Feb 9th; 6 east Mundesley Jan 3rd; 2 Titchwell Jan 5th, Feb 2nd and 5th, and peak of 7 Feb 28th then 2 April 3rd; 2 Brancaster Hbr Jan 7th; King's Lynn Docks Jan 8th; 6 east Holme Jan 15th and 12 April 19th; Winterton Feb 26th; 8 on sea Snettisham March 3rd, one March 10th and 3 April 1st; Burnham Overy Hbr March 16th; 20 Heacham March 23rd; Rollesby Little Broad April 14th.

An injured female Snettisham April 13th-Oct 22nd; only other summer records 3 Sheringham July 13th, 4 Snettisham Aug 12th and 2 Cley Aug 21st.

In second winter period 1-2 at Snettisham with 6 Sept 21st and 3 Dec 19th. Also Tottenhill GP Sept 15th, Nov 10th and Dec 9th; 2 Great Ouse RC Nov 10th, one 23rd and 3 Dec 31st; Titchwell Nov 15th and Dec 13th, 24th and 27th.

Coastal autumn/winter movements: 5 Brancaster Hbr Sept 17th; 2 Holme Oct 5th, 8 west 18th, 22 west Dec 12th and 2 west 25th; 2 east Sheringham Oct 5th, one west 6th, 3 west 16th, 2 east 27th and 8 east Dec 11th; west Scolt Head Oct 6th and 8 west 18th; 3 east Cley Oct 16th; west Holkham Bay Oct 28th and 6 Nov 16th; 3 east Cromer Oct 16th; east Mundesley Nov 20th and 3 east Dec 12th; 3 Hunstanton Dec 10th; north Caister Dec 24th.

Eider

Somateria mollissima

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

Max counts at regularly visited sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Heacham/Hunstanton	181	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43
Holme/Thornham	13	2	45	25	21	65	1	7	68	91	3	23
Titchwell	25	50	20	50	55	67	60	40	20	4	77	79
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	23	30	30	33	21	9	6	5	145	33	38	27
Holkham Bay/Wells	200	100	120	65	-	-	-	-	55	-	8	30
Blakeney Hbr	15	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	19

National importance (winter): 750

Other regular winter sites with usually fewer than 10 birds included east coast sites from Sea Palling south to Yarmouth.

Spring movements of 70 Blakeney Point on both March 12th and 20th. Major autumn/winter movements included 60 east East Runton Sept 22nd, 135 east Blakeney Point Oct 3rd, 40 west Sheringham Oct 19th, 125 Yarmouth Nov 20th, 80 north Sea Palling Nov 21st, 140 west Mundesley (1 hr) Dec 6th, 381 west 22 east Sheringham Dec 7th and 50 west there Dec 9th.

King Eider

Somateria spectabilis

Vagrant from the Arctic

A first-winter male with the wintering Eider flock Holkham Bay/Wells Channel Jan 19th-April 3rd (JVB *et al*). There are only four previous county records, three in the 19th century and one off Scolt Head Sept 1986.

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, primarily at Gorc Point, Holme and Titchwell. Monthly max 19 Jan, 40 Feb, 50 March, and last seen 5 Titchwell April 28th. Also regular at Holkham Bay where 5 Jan 3rd, one 9th, 7 19th, and 2 22nd, and 2 again March 31st and April 2nd. At Blakeney Hbr 1-2 Jan 5th-April 22nd. Elsewhere singles Ormesby Little Broad Jan 1st, east Overstrand Feb 18th and Breydon April 4th.

Two summer records (both females) Titchwell June 12th-17th and fishing close inshore Sheringham June 20th.

In second winter period earliest 3 Titchwell Oct 7th. Max between Holme and Scolt Head 6 Oct, 7 Nov, 21 Dec. Elsewhere: Bittering GP Oct 17th, 1-2 Holkham Bay from Oct 19th with 3 Dec 18th, 4 Blakeney Hbr Nov 7th, and one Nov 26th-30th and Dec 18th, west Mundesley Oct 30th, west Cley Oct 31st, Stiffkey Fen Nov 2nd, Rockland Broad Nov 13th-19th, Horsey Nov 16th-24th, Winterton Dec 2nd and Welney Dec 17th.

Common Scoter

Melanitta nigra

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

Max monthly counts at principal north/cast coast sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	-	2400	350	300	6	165	35	29	300	200	7	5000
Titchwell	500	1500	2500	12	-	500	-	60	4	-	1500	226
Scolt Head	3500	6	20	275	25	130	1500	265	162	375	1300	-
Holkham Bay	8000	4500	3500	500	20	25	-	-	-	-	750	1500
Horsey/Winterton	100	50	-	-	15	200	73	75	-	90	280	240

National importance (winter): 350

Wandering flocks from those in Holkham Bay were probably responsible for counts of 1650 west Sheringham (1 hr) Jan 2nd with 1000 west the following day, and 1400 Weybourne Jan 4th. Numbers on the increase from July but no major westerly autumn movements as in 2001. Max: July 466 Sheringham 13th and 223 16th; Aug 265 Scolt Head 6th and 255 27th; Sept 320 Sheringham 15th and 210 23rd, 300 Holme 27th; Oct 375 Scolt Head, and 210 East Runton 6th, with 170 Scolt Head following day.

Only one inland record: Sparham GP Aug 9th.

Surf Scoter

Melanitta perspicillata

Rare vagrant from North America

In summer a male with Common Scoter flock Titchwell June 14th-23rd (RJo *et al*). Another at end of year, an imm female Sea Palling/Waxham Dec 14th-22nd (AJK *et al*). Recorded for fourth successive year.

Velvet Scoter

Melanitta fusca

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

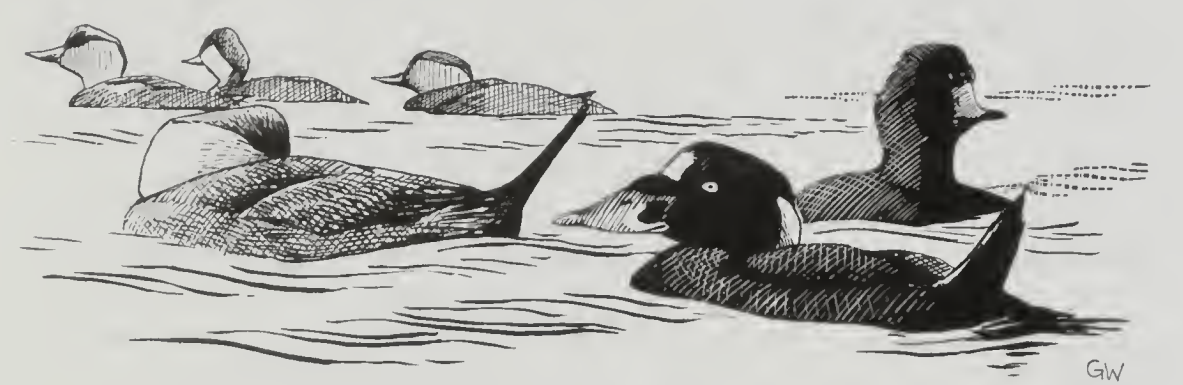
Max counts from principal sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	-	3	8	4	9	2
Titchwell	9	2	1	5	18	8
Holkham Bay	120	50	67	2	52	50
Horsey/Winterton	12	4	-	3	25	16

Holkham Bay has been the favoured site in recent years. Only other sightings during first winter period: Jan 3 east Overstrand 1st, 6 Weybourne 4th, male inland Strumpshaw 22nd; April 7 Scolt Head 15th.

In summer a single throughout June Holme/Titchwell and in July a single Trimingham 14th.

Return passage commenced Sept 1st with 5 Winterton, although main arrival not until first week in Oct when 3 east Sheringham 4th and 5 west 5th, 4 east 2 west Holme 6th, with total of 13 west Scolt Head 21st. From Nov to year end 1-3 at well-watched coastal sites with notable movements: 6 west Cley Nov 5th, 5 west Sheringham and 3 west one east Walcott Nov 8th, and 15 west Sheringham Dec 21st.



Surf Scoter (*Gary Wright*)

Goldeneye

Bucephala clangula

Passage migrant and winter visitor
Max monthly counts at selected localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	46	34	30	8	8	31	40
Titchwell	85	100	26	12	10	24	41
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	51	42	40	5	28	41	54
Welney	22	19	23	10	-	6	8

Other coastal counts in Jan included 92 Thornham, 25 Wells Hbr and 25 Blakeney Hbr.

In first winter period recorded inland across whole county with double-figure counts: Barton Broad 11 Jan and 18 March, Great Ouse RC 32 Jan, Hickling Broad 20 Jan and 11 March, Martham Broad 12 Feb, Nar Valley Fisheries 11 Feb and Tottenhill GP 15 Feb. Latest record for first half of year Snettisham April 27th.

Second winter period saw first returning birds late Sept at Scolt Head 27th and Snettisham 28th. In Oct/Nov an increase in numbers (all west) including 43 Scolt Head and 55 Sheringham Oct 19th, and 40 Holme and 30 Sheringham Nov 3rd. Inland counts in Dec of 14 Pentney GP and 18 Great Ouse RC; also 29 Blakeney Hbr.

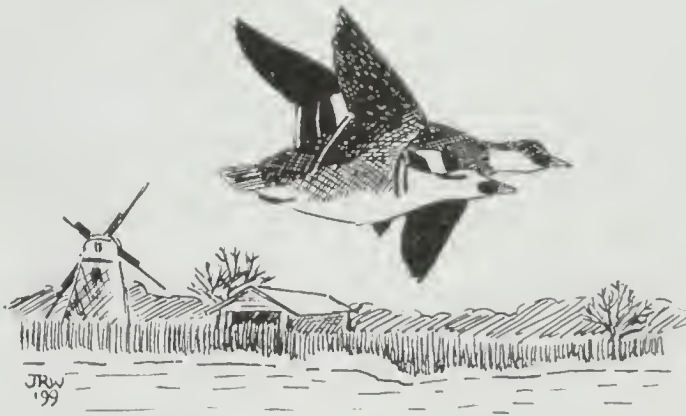
Smew

Mergellus albellus

Winter visitor in small numbers, increasing during severe weather
Less widespread than in recent winters. Due to probable duplication of records between Tottenhill GP/Great Ouse RC and Welney likely to be max of 14 in Jan with only 2-3 males.

In first winter period recorded at Burnham Overy Feb/March, Costessey Pits Jan, Great Ouse RC 2 Jan, one Feb, Hickling Broad 4 Jan, one Feb, Holkham GM Jan, Strumpshaw Jan-March, Tottenhill GP 6 Jan/Feb, 2 March, and Welney Feb/March. Latest Burnham Overy March 16th and Welney 18th.

First returning bird Strumpshaw Nov 25th with 2 there 27th onwards and male Dec 21st. In Dec other redheads at Burnham Overy GM, Gunton Park and Snettisham; and on sea Holme 8th.



Smew (John Williamson)

Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator

Passage migrant and winter visitor; occasional in summer

Max monthly counts at principal coastal localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Titchwell	50	30	14	2	-	23	31
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	34	42	32	15	29	37	57
Holkham Bay	85	27	20	2	-	36	20
Blakeney Hbr	11	40	18	-	-	31	26

National importance (winter): 100

Elsewhere during first winter period 1-10 at other north coast sites, but few recorded east of Sheringham. In May still 5 Scolt Head with latest one 15th. In July singles Titchwell, Cley, Sheringham and Sea Palling, with 3 Mundesley 4th. In Aug only noted Scolt Head where first 6th.

No major autumn movements with max counts of only 13 north Sea Palling Nov 4th and 11 west Mundesley 20th.

One record inland: Welney Oct 17th.

Goosander

Mergus merganser

Winter visitor and passage migrant, most abundant in severe winters

Max counts from favoured sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec
Sparham Pools	12	10	13	2	12
Thetford Nunnery Lakes	9	7	2	-	6
Great Ouse RC	45	26	10	2	4

During first winter period also noted at other inland waters (with max monthly counts): Breydon Feb (1), Cranwich GP Feb (2), March (2), East Harling March (2), Hellesdon Jan (1), Hickling Broad Jan (5), Horsey Mere Jan (2), Lynford GP Feb (1), Shadwell Feb (1) and Welney Jan (1), March (2). In Jan occasional coastal movements of 1-2 along north coast with 6 Cley and Overstrand 1st, and 3 Titchwell 6th; also one Walcott March 15th.

In April still present Sparham Pools (17th) and Brancaster Hbr (28th), and in May west Sheringham 1st, 2 Welney 2nd, Blakeney Hbr 3rd, Denver Sluice 5th (still present June 2nd) and Cley 14th.

In second winter period 2 Blakeney Hbr Oct 18th, 2 east Titchwell and one west Weybourne both 28th, and 6 west Scolt Head 30th.

Majority of Nov records concerned 1-3 moving west on several dates with 7 north Sea Palling 21st and 5 Breydon 22nd. Inland a redhead north Scarning Nov 8th. In Dec occasional coastal singles with 4 west one east Sheringham 8th, 5 east 3 west Holme 9th, 2 west Scolt Head 12th and 3 Kelling WM 13th.

Elsewhere inland numbers fairly low with max 3 Gunton Park, 5 Horsey Mere, 11 Tottenhill GP, 4 UEA Broad, 4 Welney and 5 Westwick.

Ruddy Duck
An increasing but scarce introduced resident, first recorded in 1977
Max monthly counts from principal sites:

Oxyura jamaicensis

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	4	7	16	13	8	7	10	7	9	5	4	11
Tottenhill GP	29	20	22	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	12

Only other high counts from Fowlmere where up to 13 Feb (including a male with all dark head of South American race ferruginea, a presumed escape) and 29 Oct.

Elsewhere 1-10 noted at: Bittering GP, Brancaster GM, Cantley BF, Cley, Cockley Cley, Colney GP, Great Ouse RC, Hardley Flood, Hickling Broad, Holkham NNR, Horsey Mere, Lang Mere, Lopham Fen, Martham Broad, Ormesby Broad, Pensthorpe, Pentney GP, Raynham Lake, Rollesby Broad, Sennowe Park, Shadwell, Snettisham, Stanford TA, Stiffkey Fen, Titchwell and Welney.

Breeding: pairs Cley, Fowlmere (brood), Hardley Flood, Holkham NNR 2, Holme 5 (3 broods), Stiffkey Fen (brood) and Titchwell 3 (no broods).

With the Government's, and other agencies, decision to exterminate the feral population of this species in Britain to save Spanish White-headed ducks, it will be interesting to see if its demise will be as meteoric as its success.

Honey Buzzard
Rare migrant breeder and scarce passage migrant

Pernis apivorus

First of spring was breeding male from previous year, returning to usual area May 16th. Additional May records from Hilborough south 19th and 27th, Kelling Heath 20th, Salthouse Heath 23rd, and Holt and Strumpshaw 25th. Single Flitcham June 2nd likely to relate to spring migrant.

At usual breeding site, female from previous year's breeding pair joined male May 19th and presence of additional male prompted much wing-clapping display between males late



Honey Buzzard (Steve Cale)

May to mid-June. A total of at least 5 different birds identified in area during breeding season including a dark-phase male from May 28th, thought to be a returning bird from previous year.

Breeding was attempted by previous year's pair, a nest was located and some food-carrying was seen, indicating young had hatched. Unfortunately food-carrying ceased and the attempt failed due to reasons unknown. The breeding female was last seen in area Aug 11th and the male Aug 27th. The appearance of the dark-phase male accompanied by a pale-phase juv at this site Aug 22nd prompted suggestion that successful breeding may have occurred nearby. Equally likely, however, the juv may have been a southward moving autumn migrant from elsewhere.

Up to 3 different birds (all singly) noted at a second site during summer but breeding

thought unlikely at this locality. Once again it was proven that there was movement between this and the usual breeding site.

Further summer records presumably relating to failed or non-breeders from Holkham, south Cley and Hickling Broad June 22nd, west Cley and Blakeney Point July 7th, and Hickling Broad July 20th.

A sprinkling of autumn migrants during Aug when noted West Runton 23rd, Stiffkey 24th, east Northrepps 27th, Holme and Titchwell 28th, Cley 29th and 2-3 Bagthorpe 30th. Unusually no Scpt records this year.

Red Kite

Milvus milvus

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

Scarce throughout first winter period when only recorded Stiffkey Jan 9th, Burnham Overy 10th and St Olaves Feb 28th.

Spring movement (* indicates wing-tagged birds) commenced in March with records from Happisburgh 8th, Honing 9th, Hickling Broad 10th, Ludham and Winterton (2 south), 11th, and Guist 12th. Further March records from Bacton (in off sea then south) Happisburgh, Shipdham and Cromer 18th, Mundesley 19th and Burnham Norton 31st. Doubtless some duplication in April when noted Sennowe Park 1st, Titchwell 8th, Salhouse, Cley, Salhouse and Swardston 9th, Titchwell 11th, Sheringham* 14th, Salhouse/Cley 14th-16th, Holkham GM and Barrow Common 15th, Martham 16th, Aylmerton 17th, and south over Horsey, Winterton and Yarmouth (when headed west) 18th. A lingering bird during May at Foulton Common* 1st-24th with additional records from Filby 13th, Yarmouth Bure Loop 14th, Caister, Cley, Barrow Common and Narborough 15th, Ashill 20th, Winterton 25th, Salhouse 30th/31st and Salhouse 31st.

Records continued throughout June but lack of coastal sightings at this time indicated passage had ceased and records presumably related to wandering bird(s): Swanton Novers/Great Ryburgh 8th-11th, Framingham Earl 9th, Hilborough 10th, Tibenham 15th.

Diss 19th, Foulden Common 26th and Aylsham 30th. As usual, becoming scarce during July when noted Bramerton 10th, Wheatfen 11th and Weston Longville 23rd. Just one August record Weeting Heath 4th.

Scattering of autumn passage records Oct/Nov, although apparently none decided to linger: Ludham Oct 14th, Yarmouth 17th, Titchwell 25th, Scolt Head 26th, Holme 26th with another 27th, Crostwick/Horstead 27th, Beeston and Sheringham Nov 3rd.

Marsh Harrier

Circus aeruginosus

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

Record numbers over-wintering from previous year generally maintained into first winter period when 3 roosts regularly recorded (although others doubtless used): 36 Jan, 33 Feb and 18 March. As in recent years abandonment of roosts commenced mid-Feb.

Also recorded away from known roosts at Flitcham Jan 5th, Scolt Head where 1-2 on 7 dates Jan 15th-Feb 16th, Holkham GM Jan 16th, Weybourne Jan 31st and Cley Feb 14th.

Spring movement, evident from early March, proved relatively unimpressive. Passage birds recorded during March from Scolt Head 1st and 5th, 3 Titchwell 1st-11th had increased to 5 by 13th and 8 by 30th, present Welney from 8th, 2 west Aylmerton and 2 Cley 9th, south Hunstanton 11th, north-east Whitlingham CP 16th, east Sheringham 29th and Boughton Fen 30th. April movements remained low when min 7 Welney during month, just 4 moved east through Sheringham 7th-27th and just 2 west at Scolt Head 22nd and 24th. Also in off sea Weybourne 22nd, south Hunstanton 25th, and in off sea Winterton and Blakeney Point 28th. Little improvement during May when just 6 noted Scolt Head, 3 Inceborough Hill (12th) and just 2 Sheringham. June migrants in off sea Scolt Head 2nd and out to sea there 4th.

Following last year's record numbers of both nests and fledged young the breeding season proved to be a little disappointing if data received is truly reflective of the situation. A total of 70 nests were recorded, fledging a min 115 young. Numbers much reduced in Wash and details of success patchy from Broads. Wash 17 nests fledged 29 young; North coast 17 nests fledged 32 young; Fens one nest fledged 4 young; Broads 30 nests fledged 45 young; elsewhere 5 nests fledged 5 young. At least 2 additional pairs summered, one of which was in Brecks. (Also see separate article for further details of current status of Marsh Harrier in Norfolk.)

Fledged young in recent years tabulated below:

	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02
Fledged young	75	114	105	71	112	87	88	117	90	122	189	115

No details received of large post breeding roosts, but recorded in small numbers across much of county Aug/Sept as birds dispersed from breeding areas. At this time 10 Snettisham Aug 10th and 14 high south there Sept 10th, and 10 Titchwell Sept 2nd, were largest counts; Scolt Head recorded just 4 migrants in Aug (max 3 23rd) and 2 in Sept (in off sea 1st and west 3rd). A juv with a white-patterned right upperwing was at Cley Sept 21st.

At least 4 roosts in use in second winter period, but numbers at end of year apparently somewhat reduced from record levels of previous winter period: 27 Oct, 37 Nov, 17 Dec. This fact is perhaps supported by only one record away from known roosting areas at this time, Bodham Dec 1st.

An interesting observation at Berney Feb 24th involved a female capturing a swimming Coot which proved too heavy to carry, forcing the harrier to swim with the Coot to the nearest shallows, where it was able to drag its victim onto dry land.

Hen Harrier

Circus cyaneus

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

Recorded away from known roost sites and usual haunts during first winter period at East Barsham and Egmerc Jan 1st, East Ruston 18th, Paston Feb 3rd, Sheringham 10th and Ringstead 13th. Roosting numbers remained at usual levels: a total of 10 roosts observed, 7 of which were used regularly and 3 others on a casual basis.

	Regular roosts							Occasional roosts	Max total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	(min 3)	
Jan	4	3	7	3	6	6	1	2	32
Feb	6	6	3	3	6	6	1	2	33
March	8	-	-	-	6	-	1	1	16

Singles Hockwold Washes March 18th, Weeting Heath 23rd and Welney 28th were presumably more likely to be departing migrants than wintering birds. Most wintering birds had departed by mid-April and single Ongar Hill 28th the only record after mid-month away from known roosting areas. As usual, a number of May records followed: Warham Greens and Berney 2nd, Titchwell 4th, 11th and 25th, Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 1-2 4th-12th with another 26th, Winterton 13th, Holme 16th, Walsey Hills 19th and south Hilborough 27th.

The English Hen Harrier population has for many years been restricted by persecution to the moorlands of the north-west, with the last recorded breeding in Norfolk being at Horsey in 1861. It is therefore somewhat astonishing to report not only successful breeding in two southern English counties, but also a pair in full sky-dancing display at a site in county during April and May. The male was seen stick-carrying with the female present and a nesting attempt was thought likely. However, for reasons unknown, the attempt unfortunately failed.

First returning bird of autumn an exceptionally early male Scolt Head Aug 14th, just one day later than the earliest-ever autumn record, at Bradwell in 1961; another early male Ongar Hill Sept 8th. Evidence of simultaneous arrival end Sept when sub-adult male Warham Greens 23rd, ringtail Wells East Hills 24th and male in off sea Holme 25th. Numbers apparently slow to build during Oct when coastal migrants noted in off sea Weybourne 1st, Scolt Head 6th-8th, Holme 9th, west at sea Sheringham 10th, in off sea Gorleston 17th and west Blakeney Hbr 31st. Continued arrival during Nov when Sheringham noted 3 migrants, east 2nd, in off sea 6th and west 23rd; another in off sea Holme 9th.

Roosting numbers apparently reduced in second winter period but coverage of roosts less thorough than in first winter period. Just 7 roosts were recorded, only 4 of which on a regular basis.

	Regular roosts				Occasional roosts	Max total
	1	2	3	4	(min 3)	
Oct	-	-	-	1	-	1
Nov	1	5	5	3	-	14
Dec	2	4	6	6	6	24

Just two sightings away from known roosting areas during this period. Welney Dec 8th and Bodney 28th.

Pallid Harrier

Circus macrourus

Vagrant from eastern Europe

The first fully authenticated county example, a juv female Cockthorpe then Warham Greens Dec 24th-year end (RJo SCV *et al*), was watched entering and leaving a communal raptor roost most days and was occasionally located hunting arable land inland of the north coast. (See also separate article).

Montagu's Harrier

Circus pygargus

Rare migrant breeder and scarce passage migrant

First of spring in off sea Scolt Head April 19th followed by further April records from Cley 24th and 28th, Snettisham 27th and Sheringham 28th (presumably the Cley bird). Good number of passage migrants noted during May/June. May records from Berney/Burgh Castle 1st, west Holme 1st, 2 ringtails west there 5th with another west 17th, 1st-year male east Sheringham 11th, ringtail Horsey/Winterton 12th, 1st-year male over reedbed Titchwell 16th, ringtail Blakeney Point/Cley/Kelling WM area 17th-22nd, Burgh St Peter 25th and Sennowe Park/Great Ryburgh 27th. Singles noted in June at Winterton 3rd and 9th, male Aylsham 7th, male Holkham GM 8th, ringtails Breydon 12th and North Creake 17th, and male Burgh Castle 18th.

Again none bred in county but a male seen intermittently in a former breeding area early May to early June.

First autumn bird Warham Greens on early date of July 1st, followed by further July records from Panxworth 9th, Wheatfen 13th/14th, Binham 19th, Ongar Hill 21st and Snettisham 28th. About average Aug numbers when recorded Burnham Overy/Holkham GM 3rd-6th, juv Terrington 7th, Snettisham 10th, 14th and 17th, Lynn Point 11th, Berney 14th, and Welney and juv Scolt Head 15th.



Montagu's Harrier (Andy Benson)

Goshawk

Accipiter gentilis

Rare breeder; also scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

Unusually data received for every month of year and from widespread localities, but still little meaningful breeding information.

Recorded away from known or suspected breeding sites in first winter period at Ormesby Broad/Hemsby Feb 17th, and March records from Strumpshaw 2nd and 13th, 3 Grimston Warren 5th, West Bilney 6th, Snettisham 24th and Wecting Heath 27th.

Singles in off sea Cley March 25th, Hickling Broad April 8th/9th and Welney 14th may represent some evidence of spring movement, as may further records in May from Holkham GM 3rd, Hanworth Common 6th, Sparham 23rd and Hopton 25th. Additionally, an enormous female Welney May 1st-June 1st at least, seen soaring with Marsh Harriers and occasionally roosting in a thorn bush in middle of a marsh.

Breeding information very limited. Display noted at one established breeding site as early as Jan and recorded at just 4 localities, only one of which in Brecks. No confirmation of successful breeding but thought possible at two sites.

Oct records from Titchwell 8th and Stiffkey Fen 20th probably arriving coastal migrants but those at Buxton with Lammas and Hickling Broad 9th, Strumpshaw Nov 5th and Langham Dec 8th are more unusual in location.

Sparrowhawk

Accipiter nisus

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Once again very limited information received. It is most disappointing that our current knowledge of population levels of a species that receives such a bad press from several fronts is so restricted. The general feeling amongst many experienced observers is that numbers of this dashing hawk have stabilised in recent years but there is apparently no data available to support this.

Little evidence of any significant spring movement apart from 2 south Hunstanton March 18th, 2 west at sea and 6 present Sheringham 30th, 4 west Northrepps 31st, and 2 in off sea and west Sheringham May 2nd.

Information relating to 17-18 breeding pairs received from 12 localities, none of which apparently resulted in confirmed successful breeding. NBA results showed the species was present in 52% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of one pair per occupied tetrad.

No records received of any autumn migrants.

Common Buzzard

Buteo buteo

Passage migrant and winter visitor; small but increasing breeding population

Noted regularly throughout year from widespread localities with an increase in records in southern half of county and particularly in Brecks. It is no longer unusual to see Common Buzzards in the county at any time of year or in virtually any area or habitat (only the Fens seem unattractive at present) - apparently the range expansion and increase in numbers of breeding birds continues unabated.

Recorded from less frequent sites during first winter period at Bressingham Jan 14th and 23rd/24th, Kelling WM Jan 28th, Downham Market Feb 2nd, Cawston 9th, Haddiscoe Marshes 10th and March 29th, Stanford TA Feb 15th, Titchwell 28th, Berney March 3rd, Paston 7th, Ludham 11th and Whitlingham CP 14th.

Unimpressive spring passage underway from March 13th when 2 west Holme, with further March birds moving west Cley 19th, Sheringham 23rd and 2 there 24th when single also Northrepps. Further passage in April when 13 coasting singles noted at 10 localities with max 2 Winterton 16th. Little evidence of movement continuing into May when just 2 coastal migrants noted west Titchwell 13th and Holme 15th.

Again new record levels of both confirmed and max possible breeding pairs and fledged young. Once again number of young is likely to be higher than shown below as records of successful breeding without indication of number fledged have been counted as just one fledged young.

Recent breeding data in county tabulated below:

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Confirmed breeding pairs	3	2	1	2	4	5	5	9	10	11
Probable breeding pairs	1	1	-	5	4	5	5	6	5	10
Possible breeding pairs	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	5	5	3
Max breeding pairs	5	5	2	8	9	12	12	20	20	24
Min fledged young	6	2	1	2	7	7	9	8	12	15

Midsummer records of singles south-west Beeston Common June 26th, Thetford 29th, Brancaster Hbr July 29th and Kelling WM 31st presumably relate to wandering non-breeders.

The now familiar autumn pattern of dispersing family groups and local concentrations produced max counts of 11 at one site and 5-8 from 4 further sites with many smaller groups of up to 4 at several widespread localities. In contrast, autumn coastal passage apparently barely discernible apart from small movements end Aug when 8 Stiffkey Fen 24th, 2 Sheringham Park 27th and 2 Northrepps 28th, and end Sept when 3 south Northrepps 28th, singles north Sea Palling and east Sheringham 29th, with another south there 30th.

Autumn and winter records from less familiar sites at Ten Mile Bank Sept 13th, Ongar Hill Oct 6th and Martham Broad Nov 17th. Also a Brecks concentration of 8 Dec 24th.

Rough-legged Buzzard

Buteo lagopus

Passage migrant and winter visitor; periodic large-scale influxes

The popular wintering bird from 2001 remained in Haddiscoe Marshes area to at least March 3rd, often seen perched on telegraph poles and gateposts; it proved a popular attraction in what was another poor year for this species.

Further first winter period records from Flitcham Jan 25th and Feb 12th, followed by a small number of spring records (presumably relating to passage birds) from Wells and Burnham Overy March 16th, Winterton 20th, Titchwell 24th, Bodham 25th, West Beckham 26th, and west Burnham Overy and Holme April 3rd.

Autumn arrivals in off sea Scolt Head Oct 22nd and 25th. One noted Haddiscoe Marshes Nov 13th prompted thoughts of a returning bird, but failed to linger. Further second winter period records Burnham Norton Nov 30th, Rougham Dec 5th, Fulmodeston/Stibbard 14th, Blakeney/Wiveton/Cley area 19th, and Flitcham 26th and 28th.



Rough-legged Buzzard (Gary Wright)

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

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

By recent standards a relatively unimpressive spring passage involving 20+ birds with first How Hill April 5th followed by further April records (probably involving some duplication) from Titchwell 7th, Winterton and Hickling Broad 9th, Rockland Broad 21st-23rd, Langham 23rd, Rollesby Broad 23rd-25th, Acle 26th and Sutton 28th. Allowing for duplication, May produced about 15 further (mainly coastal) records including birds apparently lingering in Wensum Valley 15th-28th at least and another Ranworth Broad 31st-June 21st. Predictably fewer during June when (possibly just 2 individuals) noted Norwich 4th, Blofield Heath 19th, Strumpshaw/Wheatfen area 23rd/24th and Breydon 30th.

Autumn passage also below par; allowing for duplication, approx 30 individuals involved. First of autumn Sparham July 10th with further July records Norwich 15th, Hickling Broad 16th and Cockshoot Broad 18th, all possibly involving just one bird. Aug/Sept produced a further 18-20 widespread records including lingering birds from favoured mid-Yare valley areas from Aug 8th with 2 Strumpshaw Aug 30th and Sept 5th/6th, at least one of which remained until Oct 26th. Further multiple records from Bagthorpe, where 2 Aug 30th, and Rockland Broad, where 2 Sept 4th, plus only other lingering autumn birds of 1-2 Catfield and How Hill Crome's Broad area Sept 10th-22nd. Evidence of continued autumn arrival when in off sea Cley Oct 7th; late record Acle Oct 21st post-dated only by lingering Strumpshaw individual.

Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus

Resident breeder and passage migrant

Spring passage virtually unnoticed; single east Sidestrand March 17th only record.

Breeding information received from just 9 localities where 21 pairs bred (with a further two pairs in display), including 11 pairs, mainly in nestboxes, Stanford TA and 3 pairs Lyng, where considered to be increasing. NBA results showed the species was present in 79% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of one pair per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage also almost non-existent when only record in off sea Scolt Head Sept 28th. No sizeable autumn gatherings recorded but a single winter concentration of 10 Haddiscoe Marshes Dec 24th.



Red-footed Falcon (Gary Wright)

Red-footed Falcon

Falco vespertinus

Vagrant, most often in spring; large influx in 1992

A mixture of one-day birds and long-stayers: male Hickling Broad May 19th-23rd (JHa PJH *et al*), female Blakeney Point May 21st (RDr MIE SCJ AMS), female (age uncertain) Upton Fen May 23rd (JKn), female Salhouse June 8th (IB) and 1st-summer female Hickling Broad intermittently July 5th-Aug 31st (MAC JHa *et al*).

Merlin

Falco columbarius

Passage migrant and winter visitor; exceptional in summer

Regularly recorded in both winter periods in coastal areas Holme-Blakeney Point occasionally east to Cley and Sheringham, Waxham-Winterton and adjacent inland areas, Breydon and in mid-Yare valley. Scarce in other areas, most notably in Brecks, Fens and along Wash limits.

Roosting data incomplete for first winter period when just 2 sites recorded giving min 3 Jan, 2 Feb and 5 March. Regular sightings at this time from: Titchwell/Holme to April 7th; Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr where 1-2 to March 21st with singles intermittently to May 1st, then 2 May 4th-9th with single remaining to very late date of June 2nd; Warham/Stiffkey 1-2 to end Feb at least; Blakeney Point 1-2 to May 8th; mid-Yare valley 1-2 to April 4th; Haddiscoe Marsh area 1-2 to at least Feb 24th. Also noted during this period at 20 less regularly recorded areas, including just 2 records from Welney and 4 along Wash limits, plus singles Burnham Market Jan 9th, Fakenham 18th, Syderstone Common 21st, Grimston Warren 22nd, Norwich Airport 27th, Buxton Heath March 2nd, Ditchingham 10th, Little Snoring 16th and Northrepps 24th.

Recorded Welney on 4 April dates 1st-29th and presumed spring passage birds in May Titchwell 1st and 6th, Winterton 5th and 7th, Happisburgh 7th and 19th, Sheringham 7th and 11th/12th, Lessingham 10th, Hunstanton 13th and Cley 18th.

First returning bird of autumn Welney Aug 2nd (just 4 further records there to year end) and another Scolt Head 3rd followed by further Aug records from Blakeney Point 5th, 13th and 25th-30th, Titchwell 6th and 28th, Snettisham 10th (just 4 further records there to year end), West Walton 23rd, Cley 24th, Roydon Common 27th and Burnham Overy 28th. Becoming more obvious in usual areas from Sept, but just 5 recorded Sheringham Sept 29th-Nov 23rd. Less regular haunts recorded at this time included Hilborough Sept 16th, Wereham Oct 19th, Langham 21st and Saddlebow 22nd.

Pattern of regular distribution during second winter period apparently much as first: Titchwell/Holme 3 Sept 1st then 1-2 to year end; Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 2 daily Aug 10th-31st (3 on 17th), then 2, occasionally 3 early Oct to year end; Warham/Stiffkey from early Oct then 2 late Oct to year end; Blakeney Point 1-2 Oct 8th to year end; mid-Yare valley 1-2 Nov 1st to year end; Haddiscoe Marshes area 2 early Dec to year end. Apparently considerably less common away from these areas at this time with just 2 Nov records from Wash and singles West Runton Nov 24th, Bridgham Dec 3rd and Caister 14th. Roosting details from 2 sites again far from complete during second winter period when min 1 Oct, 3 Nov and 2 Dec. Indications of just how transient Merlins can be when singles were located roosting in pines on a disused airfield Nov 17th, and in roadside trees at a second site Dec 26th.

Hobby

Falco subbuteo

Scarce but increasing migratory breeder and passage migrant

Spring arrival from exceptionally early date of March 30th (Thorpe St Andrew), only the fourth March county record, followed by April records from Weybourne 5th, Briston 15th, Ranworth Broad 18th, Strumpshaw 19th and 22nd, and Welney 21st. Main arrival from late April when noted at several widespread (mainly inland) localities with first displaying pair on territory before month end.

Continued passage throughout May and early June with largest groups 3 Holme May 2nd, 9 Strumpshaw and 4 Thompson Water 4th, 6 Rockland Broad 6th, 5 Cranwich GP 17th and June 11th, 3 Hickling Broad May 23rd with 4 1st-summerers there most of June (6 on one date), and 5 Great Ryburgh June 3rd. By contrast less regular on coast where Blakeney Point and Scolt Head recorded just 3 spring migrants, and Holme only 4-5. Additional June records consisted mainly of breeding birds or inland wandering 1st-summerers and non-breeders, with following coastal sightings suggesting some passage still on-going late in month: south Hunstanton 15th, Winterton 17th, Scolt Head 19th/20th, Eccles 22nd, Holme 24th, Gorleston 27th-30th and Morston 29th.

Again a somewhat disappointing set of breeding details with just 7 confirmed pairs (fledging a min 10 young) and only a further 4 possible pairs. It appears likely that these figures are incomplete as information received from both Broads and Brecks is limited.

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Confirmed pairs	7	6	7	8	4	5	7	10	10	7	7
Possible pairs	-	4	1	1	5	5	5	8	6	3	4
Max pairs	7	10	8	9	9	10	12	18	16	10	11
Min fledged young	-	10	6	8	10	6	8	14	16	11	10

Note: Data for 1999 amended to include additional confirmed breeding pair.

First autumn passage birds (possibly failed breeders) from early July when noted Holme 2nd (with just 4 further autumn records), 2 King’s Lynn 5th, 2 Snettisham 14th, Scolt Head 14th and 16th (just 3 further autumn records), Holkham, Waxham and 2 Titchwell 20th, 2 Winterton 21st, Sheringham 27th, 3 Hockwold Washes 28th and Morston 30th.

Regular Aug/Sept records (mainly inland) of singles, plus several larger groups and family parties including: 4 Weeting Heath Aug 18th, 4 Great Ryburgh 22nd, 4 Titchwell Sept 1st, 3 Forncett St Mary (for following 3 weeks) Sept 3rd, 3 Berney 8th, 3 Buckenham 10th, 3 Binham 18th and 3 Cantley BF 20th. Most had departed by end Sept but lingering Oct birds noted Cley and Holkham 1st, Strumpshaw 1st-3rd, Holme 2nd and 4th, and last Ranworth Broad 12th.

Peregrine

Falco peregrinus

Passage migrant and increasing winter visitor

Perhaps upwards of 15 individuals during first winter period when 2 King’s Lynn-Snettisham to March 3rd, then single until April 27th: 1-2 Hunstanton-Titchwell (3 birds involved) until April 7th; 1-3 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr to April 30th: 1-3 Burnham Overy-Warham Greens to April 2nd; one Cley/Blakeney Hbr and occasionally to Sheringham to March 24th; 1-2 Breydon/Berney to April 22nd: 2 Haddiscoe Marshes area to Feb 15th with one until March 16th; 1-2 mid-Yare valley to March 22nd; 1-2 Martham Broad/Heigham Sound area to March 29th, 1-3 Welney intermittently Jan, 2 Feb and single to April 1st. A number of Wensum valley records from north-west Norwich to Pensthorpe until March 29th suggested a wintering bird there for first time. Doubtless some duplication is involved in the above but further

Jan-March records from East Rudham Jan 1st, Trimingham (Swedish ringed female with broken wing taken into care) Jan 14th, Roydon Common Feb 20th and Stradsett March 8th.

Evidence of spring coastal passage April/May when singles east Inceborough Hill and west West Runton April 1st, Blakeney Point April 21st and 25th, Kelling WM April 28th and May 3rd, Sheringham also 3rd, Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 12th, 23rd and 28th/29th, Snettisham 14th, and Titchwell 17th and 28th; also noted at this time Welney April 21st and May 4th.

Single midsummer record, imm Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr June 8th-11th.

Returning autumn birds from July 12th (Holme) but few noted until Sept/Oct. Further July records Hickling Broad 27th and Scolt Head 28th-31st followed by Aug birds Hunstanton 5th, Holme 8th and 29th, Titchwell 11th and 16th, Breydon 21st and Scolt Head 29th/30th. Coastal birds becoming more widespread from early Sept with wintering territories becoming occupied, plus 2 Snettisham Sept 4th and inland single Hales Sept 30th.

Further coastal birds during Oct when juv Paston 1st-14th, Winterton 2nd and Blakeney Point-Overstrand area 5th (and 10 further dates to Nov 9th). Also noted away from known winter territories Nov-year end at Welney Nov 1st-4th with 3 there Dec 9th, in off sea Waxham Nov 2nd, Fring/Docking 9th, Langor Bridge 22nd, Roydon Common Dec 7th, Walpole St Peter 15th, south Gorleston 26th and Blakeney Point 28th.

Probably no more than 10-12 during second winter period when apparently more scarce in Broads. Wintering territories occupied from around mid-Sept and included single King's Lynn-Snettisham from Sept 9th, 1-2 Hunstanton-Titchwell (3 birds involved) from Sept 1st, 1-3 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr from Sept 14th, 1-2 Holkham GM-Warham Greens from Sept 24th, 1-2 Breydon/Berney from Sept 21st, and singles mid-Yare valley from Sept 19th and Ludham area from mid-Nov. Apparently no records at this time from recently favoured Haddiscoe Marshes area.

Interesting observation from Sheringham where bird Feb 25th was knocked from perch by an escaped Saker, which promptly dropped onto its startled victim on the ground before both birds flew off east.

Red-legged Partridge

Common introduced resident

Coveys reported in first winter period: Jan 41 South Acle, 32 Sheringham Park, 15 Wells; Feb 22 Waxham, 18 Horsey, 12 Sheringham.

Records of breeding pairs included 3 at Scolt Head but no broods, 6 Salthouse Heath, 5 Sheringham, 6 Welney, and 237 Brancaster Thompson Farms. NBA results showed the species was present in 87% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 6 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Coveys reported in second winter period: Sept 50 Stanford TA, 32 Shereford, 28 Hanworth Common; Oct 51 Egmere, 51 West Raynham, 43 Hanworth, 37 Saxlingham, 36



Peregrine (Steve Cale)

Alectoris rufa

Tatterford, 23 Runwell; Nov 50 Strumpshaw, 39 Snettisham, 36 Hanworth, 33 West Somerton, 33 Ludham, 32 Hassingham; Dec 35 Aylmerton, 33 Cockthorpe Airfield, 21 Sheringham. The largest coveys are probably due to local re-introductions, while 20-40 regularly roosted at Roydon Common.

Grey Partridge

Perdix perdix

Resident

Counts exceeding 6 in first winter period: Jan 12 Snettisham, 12 Burnham Thorpe, 12 Yarmouth Bure Park, 7 Happisburgh; Feb 10 Bayfield Hall, 9 Snettisham, 7 Yarmouth Bure Loop; March 10 Bayfield Hall, 8 Choseley.

Breeding records of more than 2 pairs: 30-40 Syderstone-North Creake, 38 Brancaster Thompson Farms, 5-6 Sparham, 4 Ludham, 3 Eccles and 3 Snettisham CP. NBA results showed the species was present in 42% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Counts exceeding 6 in second winter period: Aug 12 Langham; Sept 17 South Creake; Oct 37 Wells, 36 Bayfield Hall, 18 Burnham Market, 13 Newton, 11 Sporle, 8 Holme, 7 Snettisham; Nov 14 Sheringham, 11 Burnham Market, 10 Hardley Flood, 10 Paston, 9 Sedgeford, 7 Snettisham; Dec 18 Pentney, 16 Burston, 13 Lynn Point, 12 Fring.

Quail

Coturnix coturnix

Summer visitor in erratic numbers; sporadic breeder

An unusually early record of one calling Little Massingham April 16th, the main influx starting May 12th. Present throughout summer at Choseley (max 10), Sheringham (max 5), Holme (max 4), Happisburgh (2), Salthouse Heath (1) and Welney (1).

Most other records of single males calling on one day only: May Bergh Apton, Hilborough, Snettisham; June Beeston Regis, Brancaster, Bressingham Common (2), Fersfield Airfield, Holkham GM, Kelling WM, Langham, Massingham Heath (2 on 3 days), Mcthwold Fens, New Costessey (2 days), Southery Fens, Ten Mile Bank. Weybourne (2 days), Wiveton, Woodton (3 days); July Beeston Regis, Cowles Drove, Fersfield Airfield, Forncett St Mary, Forncett St Peter, Houghton Park, West Acre; Aug Brancaster, Titchwell.

Latest record, one calling Sheringham Sept 7th.

Common Pheasant

Phasianus colchicus

Common introduced resident

At least 21 broods seen at Welney, 7 broods at Scolt Head with total of 15 males, 505 females counted at Brancaster Thompson Farms, and 200 birds Upper Sheringham Sept 29th. NBA results showed the species was present in 94% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 12 cocks per occupied tetrad.

Golden Pheasant

Chrysolophus pictus

Scarce and local introduced resident

Regularly recorded at Wayland Wood (max 11), Wolferton (3), and in autumn Hockham Woods (10). One or 2 sightings at Babingley River (5), West Harling (3), East Wretham (2), Sandringham (2), Castle Rising, Lynford Arboretum and Roudham Heath.

Water Rail

Rallus aquaticus

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Winter records from widespread localities. Peak numbers from most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	3	3	3	1	1	3	4	8	4
Titchwell	6	-	3	5	2	2	2	14	2
Holkham NNR	4	1	3	-	-	-	-	3	2
Hickling Broad	-	6	3	12	3	1	-	2	-
Strumpshaw	20	6	1	4	14	5	-	8	-
Surlingham Broad	31	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Welney	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	5	2

Other localities with at least 4: Feb 4 East Ruston; March 6 Lopham Fen, 6 Brancaster; Oct 5 Lopham Fen; Nov 12 Ludham, 11 Cantley BF, 5 Santon Downham; Dec 6 Lopham Fen, 4 Hardley Flood.

Breeding included: Strumpshaw 12 territories, Holkham NNR at least 7 pairs, Titchwell 5 territories, Holme 2-3 pairs bred; young were seen at Cley and Haddiscoe Island.

Unusual records included a bird perched on ledge above Langley’s Toy Shop in Norwich city centre Nov 1st, and a migrant in the only oak tree on Scolt Head Sept 15th.

Corncrake

Crex crex

Rare passage migrant

Following a blank year three further records: Great Bircham May 14th-20th (RQS *et al*), a very elusive bird Blakeney Point Sept 18th/19th (BJD CEW) and Langley (found dead) Oct 24th (RWr). Still a real county rarity.

Spotted Crake

Porzana porzana

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

At Strumpshaw 3 singing males with first calling April 4th and last July 1st; a pair were both heard singing April 17th-20th. Other males singing Wheatfen April 16th-20th, Surlingham Marsh June 25th-July 1st and Welney May 26th.

In autumn juv Weybourne Sept 15th-18th (trapped on latter date) (MP *et al*) and for seventh autumn one Titchwell Sept 25th (GEI).



Spotted Crake (Steve Cale)

Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

Abundant resident; immigrants in autumn

Peak counts from 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	70	52	26	7		6	18	38	16	20
Titchwell	9	11	17	16		-	20	12	13	6
Brancaster	-	10	8	8		3	7	8	8	6
Holkham Lake	18	11	22	12		2	30	12	25	24
Holkham GM	20	61	52	-		3	3	26	61	16
Wells Drift	8	4	9	-		-	-	-	11	17
Stiffkey Fen	4	3	4	29		12	15	15	9	17
Blakeney GM	4	25	15	18		-	-	-	-	-
Cley	72	90	76	16		24	26	46	9	21
Salthouse	10	55	42	17		23	-	13	26	18
Whitlingham CP	10	15	13	2		-	17	5	8	17

Other counts exceeding 15: Jan 45 Stiffkey, 20 North Lopham; Feb 29 Stanford TA; March 84 Stanford TA; Aug 16 Barton Broad; Sept 32 Nar Valley Fisheries; Dec 17 King's Lynn.

Breeding: Holkham NNR at least 103 pairs, Grimston Warren 7 pairs, Roydon Common 5 pairs and 'common' at Welney. NBA results showed the species was present in 86% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

A bird with white wings at Narborough in Aug.

Coot

Fulica atra

Common resident and winter visitor

Peak counts from 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	114	35	-	-	14	15	15	10	30	21	-	-
Holme	175	159	154	60	55	45	46	26	53	35	60	91
Titchwell	6	41	95	29	28	47	52	-	25	-	8	6
Brancaster	-	24	12	-	-	43	27	21	18	20	48	22
Holkham GM	174	146	127	20	14	218	-	55	67	63	135	66
Holkham Lake	423	382	350	65	45	100	180	118	180	120	206	325
Stiffkey Fen	21	28	36	28	45	24	74	84	19	20	13	11
Blakeney GM	3	21	38	-	-	44	15	-	-	-	-	-
Cley	44	92	85	37	30	12	74	55	27	25	26	20
Salthouse	54	31	46	18	12	10	15	24	-	22	9	15
Berney	727	603	427	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	147	202
Hickling Broad	-	193	110	-	-	-	-	-	250	350	300	-
Barton Broad	88	-	39	-	34	37	124	127	121	125	94	98
Whitlingham CP	440	173	95	47	36	86	-	157	207	306	298	290
Welney	-	465	668	413	-	160	-	-	-	47	276	364

National importance (winter): 1100

Other counts exceeding 100: Pentney GP 452 Jan; Horning 375 Jan; Ouse Washes RSPB 386 Jan, 121 April; Strumpshaw 167 Dec; Sennowe Park 152 Jan, 146 Oct; Buckenham 101 Feb. Big decline in Lyng area, with only 50 at year end (usually over 300).

Breeding: Holkham NNR 146 pairs, Welney 45 pairs and up to 70 non-breeders, and a partial albino chick at Weybourne Camp. At Welney in April birds predated Little Ringed Plover and a min of 7 Avocet clutches during month.

Unusual records of 2 south Lynn Point in Jan and one feeding in Brancaster Hbr March, later in day seen diving in sea off Scolt Head.

Common Crane

Grus grus

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

Up to 12 adults and 3 juvs seen in first winter period. One pair raised 2 young, and another pair was unsuccessful. A male, hatched Horsey 1982 and regular attempting breeder, found dead in Sept. In second winter period up to 13 adults and 2 juvs.

Away from regular areas in east of county wandering birds (or possible migrants) 4 Burnham Overy March 7th, 3 Briston 19th, 2 in from Wash then Snettisham CP-Little Snoring April 7th, one Stokesby-Acle 12th, 4 Happisburgh-Cromer-Blakeney 17th, one Holkham-Salthouse 18th-20th, 2 Berney 25th and one Strumpshaw 27th. Subsequently singles Inceborough-Blakeney-Holme May 12th, Happisburgh-Sheringham-Holkham 15th-19th, Great Ryburgh June 17th, Titchwell July 12th, Berney Aug 3rd, Wells 11th, Hunstanton 31st, then 2 at Cantley-Buckingham Oct 28th-31st and 7 at Berney Nov 7th.

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	4200	5500	3490	2543	2036	1427	2850	5030	6910	6340	6082	6680
Holme	845	825	399	357	24	165	275	402	675	329	460	802
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	777	913	1064	530	455	370	453	966	940	966	900	966

National importance (winter): 3600

The Snettisham mean count of 4424 rose for fourth successive year (3855 in 2001). The larger numbers in the Wash may account for lower counts elsewhere.

Other counts exceeding 400: Feb 478 Wells Hbr; March 428 Admiralty Point, 492 Titchwell, 466 Stiffkey SM; Sept 419 Wells Hbr.

An incomplete total of 386 pairs (462 in 2001) on coastal sites (beaches and grazing marshes) Snettisham Beach 18 (31), Holme Beach 11 (11) and saltmarsh 6, Holme GM 5 (no young fledged), Scolt Head 109 (111) 30-40 young fledged, Holkham Beach and saltmarsh 57 (56) small numbers fledged in cordoned areas only, visitors and their dogs causing major problems, Holkham GM 39 (40), Blakeney Point 140 and Yarmouth 1.

Inland a total of 39 pairs at 16 sites (45 at 23 in 2001): Caistor St Edmund, Croxton, Gooderstone 4, Hickling, mid-Yare RSPB 8 (one brood), Narborough 2, Pensthorpe 3-4, Pentney GP 2, Sculthorpe Airbase 4, Sennowe Park, Shadwell 2 (one brood), South Creak 3, Sparham 2, Stanford TA, Tallents Meadow (brood) and Welney 5 (pair successful).

Unusual nesting sites included a flat roof on Sculthorpe Airbase and the top of a tree stump in Thornham Hbr.



Night Heron - a Spring overshoot at Titchwell. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Curlew - a rare study of this species bathing. (*Chris Knights*)





Common Rosefinch - this stunning male sang for over a week at Weybourne. (*Julian Bhalerao*)





Rose-coloured Starlings - record numbers were seen in the county this year. Sheringham (above) (*Julian Bhalerao*).

Wappingisburgh (below) (*Sarah Bhalerao* (left) *Robin Chittenden* (right))





Nightjar - maintaining its stronghold in the Brecks. (*Chris Knights*)

Whitethroats - a charming portrait of two juveniles. (*Chris Knights*)



Visible spring migration noted only Scolt Head and Sheringham: Scolt Head (all north-east) 75 April 14th, 39 15th, 63 May 10th and 35 12th; Sheringham 60 east 20 west May 11th. During autumn only notable movements (west) in Aug: Scolt Head 98 18th and 73 28th; Sheringham 35 on 26th.

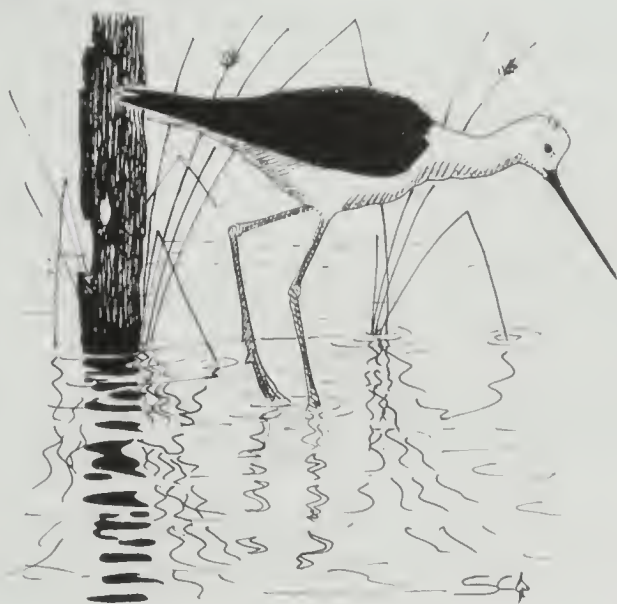
An albino again during both winter periods Scolt Head, returning Aug 18th.

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

Vagrant, mostly in late spring/summer, has bred

The long-staying Titchwell individual remained into its tenth year, with brief visits to Holme April 17th and July 8th, Scolt Head April 9th and Burnham Overy Staithe Sept 14th. More interestingly a pair present at Hockwold Washes May 8th-11th (DEB *et al*), and then Fowlmere 12th (MR&ORM *et al*).



Black-winged Stilt (Steve Cale)

Avocet

Recurvirostra avosetta

Breeding summer visitor, increasing in winter

Monthly max at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	1	15	220	83	181	180	357	340	70	10	-	2
Titchwell	-	87	150	94	62	75	66	11	10	2	2	-
Cley	33	104	197	189	201	130	200	17	4	1	11	18
Breydon/Berney	*120	172	147	134	61	*200	*538	*918	*1027	*326	*224	*206
Welney	-	11	29	44	84	138	-	-	-	-	-	-

* Monthly record counts

The first winter period saw Jan record broken again at Breydon. In the Wash 281 Ongar Hill March 3rd only other high count.

Number of breeding pairs increased for third successive year with 381-383 at 14 sites. Where success was recorded at 9 sites, 304 pairs fledged only 90 young, and of these over half (57) fledged at only two inland sites. The north coast and Broads continued to lose large

numbers of clutches and broods to predators with 3 sites losing almost all clutches (85) to foxes, although Coots were responsible for loss of 18 at one coastal site. In recent years fox predation has become a regular feature, and although the number of Avocets breeding still continues to rise, these predation rates, especially on coast, could effect numbers long term.

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Pairs	174	209	214	203	181	252-267	186	279-309	359-364	381-383
Sites	n/a	n/a	10	11	13	16	11	14	16	14

The summer concentrations at Breydon continued to break records every month June-Sept, culminating in a four-figure count Sept 6th.

Other records included single King's Lynn BF March 1st, 2 Hockwold Washes April 30th and 2 Nar Valley Fisheries May 8th. Movements at Sheringham included 2 west March 18th, 2 east May 19th, 4 east June 2nd and 2 east 22nd. At Sea Palling 8 Aug 27th.

Stone Curlew

Burhinus oedicnemus

Breeding summer visitor, mainly to Brecks

First records from Gooderstone March 5th and Hilborough 19th. Most present from April onwards with some overshoots or wanderers to coast: Potter Heigham calling April 7th, Cart Gap April 16th, Cley and Blakeney Point June 5th and Weybourne Camp June 18th.

In Norfolk/Suffolk Brecks total of 114 pairs fledged 80 young, with 84 pairs in Norfolk fledging 58 young. The notable drop in numbers from Brecks total of 172 in 2000 (foot and mouth restrictions in 2001) is due to less coverage from certain farms, unhappy with the Breckland Farmland SSSI designation. Only two thirds of usual areas covered this year. Fledging success was considered poor due to wet weather in June (RSPB). North of Brecks a further 7 pairs found.

Late summer/autumn flocks included 24 Weeting Heath Aug 14th and 2 flocks of at least 30 and 40 at Gooderstone in autumn. Latest 3 Hilborough Dec 8th.

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

Some early arrivals with first Whitlingham CP March 10th, followed by 2 Buckenham 11th, Pentney GP 13th, Cley 16th and Welney 17th. Visible spring migration included one west Thornham May 15th and 2 south Hunstanton Cliffs same day.

Breeding slightly down on last year with 26 pairs (30 in 2001) at 13 sites (15 in 2001): north coast one pair; Broad's one pair; inland 5 pairs at 4 sites; Brecks 3 pairs at 3 sites; Fens 16 pairs at 4 sites. Breeding success continued to improve at one Fenland site with 12 pairs fledging 25 young, one of which was double-brooded; caging of nests reducing predation from avian and mammalian predators was again the key to the success.

Concentrations of 5 or more included: Holme 5 Sept 1st; Titchwell 5 Aug 9th and 6 Aug 19th; Cley 11 July 7th, 6 24th, 6 Aug 4th, 8 11th, 5 12th; Hickling Broad 8 Sept 1st and 5 4th; Buckenham 5 April 4th; Whitlingham CP 5 April 25th and 6 Aug 8th; Pensthorpe 5 April 7th; Pentney GP 6 April 19th; Welney 24 June 1st, 26 July 17th and 14 Aug 23rd.

Visible migration in summer/autumn included: Holme 2 west Sept 10th, Titchwell 4 south July 3rd and Sheringham single east Sept 14th.

Last bird of year Wissington BF Sept 22nd.

Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

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

Most 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	14	78	117	74	57	26	19	229	427	112	41	26
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	102	120	175	66	285	75	280	1383	1118	730	72	45
Breydon/Berney	67	41	23	30	416	61	46	224	209	158	70	27

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

Apart from Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr and Breydon/Berney in May/June tundrae birds: 6 Welney on very early date April 24th, 3 Wissington BF May 17th, 50 Hickling Rush Hills May 18th and 9 Cley June 6th.

Even with information unavailable from some key sites still poorest year since recording began with only 132 pairs from 9 sites. Totals included: Holme 18 (1-2 young fledged), Scolt Head 48 (20 fledged), Holkham NNR 30 (25 fledged), Blakeney Point 18 (only one fledged), Eccles 6 (good fledging success) and Yarmouth 5 (3 fledged).

Inland reporting or birds very low with 7 pairs from 3 sites: Gooderstone 4, Narborough one and Welney 2.

Autumn numbers again very high at Scolt Head where second highest county record Sept 8th. Other large counts at Snettisham where 670 Aug 12th and 546 Sept 8th.

Kentish Plover

Charadrius alexandrinus

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

Three records at usual sites: Salthouse April 19th, Cley May 15th and female Breydon June 1st.

2001 Correction: Female Breydon July 4th not June 4th.

Dotterel

Charadrius morinellus

Scarce bnt annnal passage migrant; has over-wintered

A poor year, with only one spring record 2 Salthouse May 4th. In autumn singles Hilborough Estate Aug 20th, Sheringham Sept 10th-14th, and Titchwell intermittently Nov 9th-18th.



Dotterel (Vince Hanlon)

Pacific Golden Plover

Pluvialis fulva

Rare vagrant from Asia

Singles Thornham Hbr May 17th (AS *et al*) and Berney July 28th (PRA). The sixth and seventh county records including the second in spring.

Golden Plover

Pluvialis apricaria

Passage migrant and increasing winter visitor

Most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	1100	250	-	-	560	700	1850	5000	1900
Holme	390	300	210	55	185	320	40	22	200
Titchwell	1250	700	60	16	300	175	800	2000	3350
Scolt/Branchester Hbr	1200	4000	150	-	2000	3000	1800	1200	3200
Breydon	10200	6950	2100	10	1900	1200	3400	8900	8270
Welney	450	935	*2800	45	38	600	-	666	420

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.
* A site record count

Other than those tabulated the following 10 sites (3 in 2001) had 2000 or more: Bressingham Common 2000 Jan, Buckenham 2000 Feb, Burnham Overy GM 2000 Nov, East Wretham 5300 Feb, Fersfield Airfield 2400 Jan, North Lopham 2000 Dec, Ousemouth 3000 Nov, Postwick 2000 Dec, Saxthorpe 3000 Nov and Stanford TA 5600 Jan/Feb. Counts of 1000 or more at 9 other sites (12 in 2001): Beeston Regis 1800 Dec, Blakeney Hbr 1200 Dec, Burnham Norton 1100 Nov, Choseley/Docking 1000 March, Ludham 1000 Feb, Nov, Dec, Roughton 1800 Dec, Sculthorpe Airbase 1000 Dec, Wells 1500 Oct and Wereham 1000 Oct.

Westerly movements noted Scolt Head where 25 July 28th, 25 Aug 7th, 76 26th, 26 Sept 3rd and 25 27th, and at Sheringham 160 March 23rd, 72 Aug 28th, 100 Nov 3rd and 180 at sea Dec 12th during cold weather movement.

Grey Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

Passage migrant and winter visitor

Regularly counted sites holding 200 or more:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	250	-	1300	1200	23	50	700	1500	1052	183	720
Holme	75	478	496	141	8	0	8	391	155	285	317
Titchwell	97	123	50	158	50	14	300	908	182	193	269
Scolt/Branchester Hbr	239	214	265	292	305	16	421	518	369	218	238
Stiffkey	60	-	289	214	268	29	336	484	-	117	235

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

Other counts of 200 or more included: 213 Warham SM Feb, and 220 Thornham and 200 Blakeney Point both Dec.

Inland: at Welney April 4th, 6th, May 9th, 17th, 19th, Aug 9th, Sept 24th, Oct 21st/22nd, 2 Nov 4th and single Dec 9th; at Hickling Broad May 14th, 4 13th, 2 17th and single June 2nd and 6th. Elsewhere Bressingham Common Jan 20th, Cantley BF Aug 18th and Sept 19th, Fersfield Airfield Jan 15th and Pentney GP Dec 25th.

Westerly visible migration noted in autumn at Scolt Head where 15 Aug 6th, 36 8th, 21 15th and 61 26th, when also 15 west Sheringham; 28 north Happisburgh Aug 6th.

Lapwing

Vanellus vanellus

Passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder

Most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	422	370	10	87	43	-	180	-	300	700
Holme	250	170	132	55	39	18	120	32	142	124
Titchwell	1000	37	136	7	45	437	400	148	101	1371
Scolt/Brancaaster Hbr	1000	4000	50	2	6	22	227	145	100	3000
Stiffkey Fen	838	268	84	15	20	54	-	5	-	129
Cley	824	1272	242	40	124	-	80	37	442	86
Buckenham/Cantley	-	3500	1121	-	180	-	-	1000	1947	2000
Breydon/Berney	19120	19380	3805	160	120	300	469	3370	15230	14790
Welney	4500	1800	621	279	900	1200	600	510	3180	3900

International and National importance (winter): 20,000

Other counts of 1000 or more well down on last year with only 12 compared with 30 in 2001: Acle 2000 Jan, Burnham Overy GM 1300 Dec, Cley 1000 Dec, King’s Lynn 1000 Jan, Langham 1000 Dec, Langley Marshes 1400 Nov, Martham 1000 Dec, Morston 1000 Nov, Ousemouth 5000 Nov, Postwick 3000 Dec, Warham Greens 2000 Nov, Wells 1000 Oct, Wisington BF 1500 Dec and Yarmouth 1500 Feb.

At Winterton a cold weather movement of 185 east Feb 16th. Only spring movement noted 24 south Hunstanton Cliffs March 18th.

Breeding coverage again incomplete with some sites witnessing large failures (especially coastal marshes in north) due to unsuitable dry conditions at early part of season, when females need to be feeding and getting into breeding condition. A total of 730-732 pairs (743 in 2001) reported (with last year’s figures where applicable): north coast Old Hunstanton 4, Holme 25 (34), Holkham NNR 216 (355) fledged 75-80 young; Broads Berney 80 (117) fledged none due to heavy fox predation, mid-Yare RSPB 106, Haddiscoe Island 12, Repps-with-Bastwick 2, Horning Marsh Farm 1, Martham 5; Brecks East Harling 3, East Tuddenham 1, Hilborough/Gooderstone 50 (48), Ickburgh 1, Stanford TA 11-13, Weeting Heath 8; Fens Welney 147 (82) fledged 120 young; inland Billingford 2, Caston 3, Coxford 1, Garboldisham 3, Great Ryburgh 3, Narborough 24, Pensthorpe 3, Pentney GP 2, Roydon Common 1, Shereford 1, Tattersett 9, Westbrook Green 5. NBA results showed the species was present in 49% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

In summer post breeding movement noted: Hunstanton Cliffs (south) 112 June 15th; Holme (west) 30 June 16th and 50 July 7th; Scolt Head (west) 83 June 15th, 235 26th, 45 July 7th and 49 28th.

Autumn arrivals from Oct 7th, but vast majority late Oct-early Nov. At Hunstanton Cliffs (south) 4182 Oct 31st, 274 Nov 1st, 336 15th and 1218 16th; major westerly movement Nov 3rd along north coast with 1000 Holme, 3500 Titchwell (2 hrs) and 3200 Sheringham.

A partial albino Sparham July 11th.

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	9700	15000	10500	1820	5220	3000	5000	20000	30000	30000	20000	15800
Holme	188	141	70	20	-	-	33	16000	40640	21165	52	225
Titchwell	77	131	4	-	2	1	21	7416	3000	2510	129	74
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	61	351	21	27	20	120	30	40	63	400	20	4000
Breydon/Berney	367	102	151	16	21	16	10	25	23	34	749	713

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

Note the low numbers using Snettisham during first winter period and the highest count at Holme since 1997. The high count from Scolt/Brancaster Hbr at year end coincided with a period of cold weather and probably demonstrates the importance of intertidal habitats along the north coast during such weather conditions.

Highest counts elsewhere: Thornham 100 Oct, Wells Hbr 6300 Jan and 152 Feb, Warham SM 2910 Jan and 1800 Feb, Stiffkey SM 294 Jan, 90 Nov and 204 Dec, and Blakeney Hbr 1000 Dec.

Coastal movements noted July-Oct when best westerly counts: July 21 Scolt Head 21st; Aug 75 Scolt Head 8th, 140 Scolt Head, 80 Sheringham and 25 Walcott (0700-1045) 26th, and 485 Scolt Head, 58 Sheringham and 36 Walcott (0700-1045) 27th; Sept 122 Scolt Head 9th; Oct 235 Scolt Head and 53 Sheringham 19th.

Few inland with 5 Hickling Broad May 10th/11th, 3 July 29th and singles May 17th and Sept 1st. Elsewhere singles Welney Nov 30th and Whitlingham CP Dec 11th-13th.

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	40	-	20	750	3900	-	600	3710	620	545	165	325
Holme	90	121	105	89	109	-	64	168	390	406	143	305
Thornham	27	9	150	-	-	-	77	10	4	38	4	97
Titchwell	157	62	170	50	210	6	91	40	150	102	32	101
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	88	59	38	65	540	85	145	361	161	100	19	25
Holkham Bay	30	36	180	45	35	-	-	251	3	-	74	30
Stiffkey SM	4	-	4	45	27	2	-	43	15	-	18	35
Breydon	7	3	2	3	9	4	8	2	2	1	3	0

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

Excellent counts in both spring and autumn in north-west Norfolk, especially at Snettisham where unprecedented numbers, whilst the decline at Breydon continued. Peak counts elsewhere: Brancaster 23 Feb and 28 Nov, Burnham Overy Hbr 86 Aug and 87 Sept, Wells Hbr 243 Jan, 120 Feb and 142 Sept, Warham SM 18 Sept, Blakeney Point 11 Aug, Waxham 25 Feb (feeding on flooded arable) and Yarmouth 18 Aug.

Westerly passage offshore light with 15 Sheringham and 38 Mundesley July 21st, 25 Scolt Head Aug 3rd, 15 Sheringham Aug 26th and 15 again 27th.

Inland only recorded Welney where singles May 7th/8th, 10th and 18th.

Little Stint

Calidris minuta

Double passage migrant in fluctuating numbers

Following a number of records at end of 2001, at least 4 over-wintered Cley Jan/Feb with 2 until March 17th, representing the largest-ever wintering numbers in county. First of spring or other wintering birds Scolt Head March 3rd and Breydon/Berney March 16th. No others until start of main spring passage during May when singles Welney 7th and Hickling Broad 8th. Spring passage virtually confined to May 11th-22nd when 10 Hickling Broad, 6 Cley, 5 Blakeney Point, 3 Breydon/Berney and 1-2 Buckenham, Holkham GM, Stiffkey Fen and Titchwell. Only other spring records singles Cley May 26th and June 6th/7th, and Titchwell June 19th.

Autumn passage poor, with first returning birds during second half of July when 5 Hickling Broad 21st and singles Holme, Titchwell, Cley and Breydon/Berney. Virtually all records in Aug during first 6 days of month when 8 Cley, 7 Breydon/Berney, 3 Titchwell. 2 Hickling Broad and one Cley. Only other records during Aug 3 Cley 20th-22nd, and singles Breydon/Berney 21st and Snettisham 27th. There was little improvement in passage during Sept when highest counts just 6 Titchwell 14th, 4 Breydon/Berney, 3 Hickling Broad 20th/21st and 3 Cantley BF 25th. Best site during Oct Titchwell where up to 4 1st-6th, elsewhere 3 Hickling Broad 4th/5th and 1-2 Cantley BF, Cley, Holme, Snettisham and Yarmouth. Last of year in Nov when 2 Cley 2nd and one 3rd, 2 Snettisham 4th and one Welney 1st, 2 2nd-8th and last of year here 13th.

Temminck's Stint

Calidris temminckii

Passage migrant, more frequent in spring

An average year with totals of around 20 in spring and 7 in autumn. First of spring Buckenham May 6th/7th, followed by singles Cley 11th, Titchwell 12th, and 2 Buckenham and one Pentney GP 13th, 3 Cley 14th/15th, singles 16th and 21st, Hickling Broad 14th/15th and 2 17th, Buckenham and Hockwold Washes 15th, Burnham Norton 17th, 3 Blakeney Point 21st, Holkham GM 22nd and 2 Titchwell 22nd-25th.

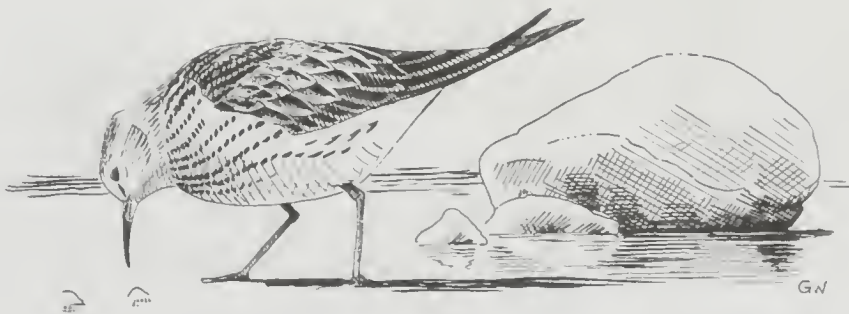
In autumn only records 6 Cley for an hour Aug 1st and one Hickling Broad Aug 30th-Sept 1st, the Cley record is the largest-ever autumn group in the county.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Calidris fuscicollis

Vagrant from North America

Three typical autumn records: Kelling WM July 6th (AMc *et al*), Titchwell July 23rd-26th (JEDF ETM JAR *et al*) and Burnham Overy Staithe 27th (MFBB). and Titchwell again Aug 31st-Sept 10th (JAO *et al*).



White-rumped Sandpiper (Gary Wright)

Pectoral Sandpiper

Calidris melanotos

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

In spring one in non-breeding plumage Berney April 17th-19th was earliest-ever spring record and first in spring since 1999.

Autumn passage typical by recent standards with singles Cley July 20th, Sept 7th and Sept 30th/Oct 1st, Pensthorpe July 23rd/24th, Hickling Broad 26th-28th, Welney Sept 1st-8th, Titchwell 7th-15th, Cantley BF 20th-22nd and Wissington BF 22nd.

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

Autumn passage migrant in fluctuating numbers; scarce in spring

Spring passage slow to get under way with no records until May when singles Cley and Breydon/Berney 9th. Numbers during rest of month very poor with 3 Cley 11th, 25th, 27th and 31st, 2 Breydon/Berney 14th, Hickling Broad 17th, Scolt Head 26th and Titchwell 29th, and one Burnham Overy Hbr 21st. Last of spring Cley June 5th-16th.

Autumn passage also light with first Breydon/Berney July 11th, 2 there and one Cley 16th, and 3 Cantley BF 17th. Highest counts during rest of month 7 Cley 31st, 6 Breydon/Berney 28th, 5 Snettisham 27th and 1-3 Kelling WM, Scolt Head and Titchwell.

Noted daily Aug until mid-Sept with first reported juvs Aug 19th; highest counts at main sites:

	<i>Aug</i>			<i>Sept</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>
Snettisham	-	7	-	5	12	5
Titchwell	3	8	9	13	8	2
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	-	3	5	3	7	-
Cley	9	2	7	7	6	4
Breydon/Berney	27	18	15	12	16	2

Few counts elsewhere during this time with 6 Welney Aug 22nd and 5 Sept 9th, 2 Buckenham Aug 25th, 3 Hickling Broad 26th, one Nar Valley Fisheries Sept 27th/28th and 2 Burnham Overy Hbr 28th.

In Oct best counts 13 Titchwell 1st and 11 3rd, 12 Breydon 2nd, 8 Cley 8th, 8 Cantley BF and 3 Burnham Overy Hbr 18th. Last of year a late individual Titchwell Nov 28th-30th.

Purple Sandpiper

Calidris maritima

Passage migrant and declining winter visitor in small numbers

Best 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>
Hunstanton	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	2
Titchwell	1	1	3	-	1	1	1	1	1
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	2	1	1	2	1	2	5	1	1
Eccles/Sea Palling	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	3	7

Elsewhere (singles unless stated): King’s Lynn Jan, Snettisham Oct, Holme Aug and Oct, Blakeney Point Aug and Oct, Cley Sept and Oct, Salhouse 3 Nov, Happisburgh Jan and 2 Nov, Walcott Oct, Waxham Jan and 2 Nov, Winterton 2 Oct and Nov, Yarmouth Oct and Gorleston Nov.

Last of spring Titchwell March 30th and Scolt Head April 28th and first returning birds Scolt Head July 14th and Breydon Aug 9th.

Westerly passage in small numbers once again noted offshore when: Aug Scolt Head and Cley 26th; Sept Blakeney Point 1st, 4 Scolt Head 14th with 3 there and one Sheringham 15th, 4 Scolt Head and one Sheringham 22nd, Scolt Head 29th; Oct 2 Scolt Head and one north Horsey 7th, Scolt Head 19th; Nov 2 south Walcott 6th and south Winterton 25th.

Inland one at Cantley BF Sept 20th-22nd, with presumed same Oct 31st, representing only the third inland record, discounting a number of Breydon records.

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 6585	1700	2000	5500	6700	520	3	3260	11470	6235	6270	2555	
Holme	68	835	1198	65	6	1	6	130	889	201	320	856
Thornham	474	108	20	-	60	-	9	-	-	25	1	158
Titchwell	798	175	22	92	65	5	84	109	136	149	569	883
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	2223	1701	925	434	425	35	1000	1007	791	726	597	1015
Burnham Overy Hbr	379	4	110	-	-	-	29	54	170	48	321	400
Stiffkey SM	125	-	398	165	74	6	199	178	234	-	118	722
Cley	217	207	294	352	140	80	610	160	150	81	133	28
Breydon/Berney	4145	3720	2613	2219	2031	28	490	369	818	1630	3420	5210

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

Notable counts elsewhere: Burnham Overy GM 50 Feb, Holkham Bay 350 Nov, Wells Hbr 660 Jan and 350 Feb, Warham SM 2175 Jan and 1950 Feb, Blakeney Hbr 180 July. Yarmouth 120 Oct, Hickling Broad 114 Aug and 198 Sept, Buckenham 70 March and 143 Dec, and Welney 72 Feb, 260 March and 123 April.

First juvs of autumn Scolt Head July 8th and Breydon July 19th.

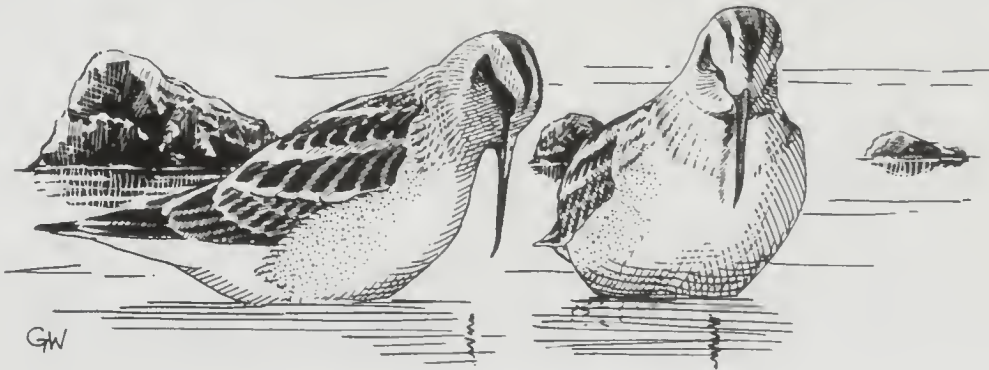
Few westerly offshore movements of note apart from 157 Sheringham Aug 7th, and at Scolt Head 46 July 21st, 63 Aug 27th, 185 Sept 15th and 225 22nd, and 355 Oct 3rd, 805 7th and 105 19th.

Broad-billed Sandpiper

Limicola falcinelles

Vagrant from north Eurasia

Two juvs Cley Aug 3rd-6th with one remaining until 12th (SJMG RGM *et al*). This is the first-ever record of 2 juvs together in Britain.



Broad-billed Sandpipers (Gary Wright)

Ruff

Philomachus pugnax

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

Highest monthly counts at main localities:

	<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>
Titchwell	85	22	13	30	6	14	50	103	175	155	147	115
Stiffkey	42	14	-	4	-	-	7	25	65	-	-	-
Cley	16	4	70	110	38	82	80	131	28	8	19	2
Hickling Broad	-	-	10	32	-	-	7	38	42	-	-	-
Breydon/Berney	66	155	61	59	53	7	74	42	119	54	10	37
Buckenham	-	-	80	20	3	-	78	50	-	-	16	-
Cantley BF	-	20	-	-	-	-	90	18	67	-	-	-
Welney	8	54	41	57	4	10	108	135	122	151	105	35

National importance (winter): 50

Additional winter counts included: Holme 27 Dec, Brancaster Hbr 23 Jan, Wiveton 30 Dec, Winterton 22 Jan, Haddiscoe/Langley Marshes 13 Jan, 5 Feb, 42 Nov and 5 Dec, and singles Saddlebow and Pentney GP Jan.

Noticeable increase in numbers during final week of March and early April when in addition to sites in table 34 St Benet's Level, 29 Hardley Flood, 20 Brancaster Hbr, 16 Salthouse, 9 Holme, 6 Blakeney GM, 5 Thornham, 5 Nar Valley Fisheries and 3 Pentney GP. Only other counts of note during rest of spring 30 Blakeney GM April 14th, 50 Burnham Norton April 21st, and 20 Burnham Overy GM April 27th and 17 May 8th.

Autumn passage largely confined to sites in table; also 3 Holme July 14th, 40 Burnham Overy GM Aug 3rd, 7 Holkham GM Sept and 19 Choseley Oct 11th.

Overhead movements included 2 south Roydon Common Jan 2nd, 49 east Sheringham March 24th and 7 west March 31st, 15 south Weybourne March 24th, 5 west Scolt Head April 18th and 30 south Hunstanton Cliffs Oct 30th.

Jack Snipe

Lymnocyptes minimus

Passage migrant and winter visitor; declining

Peak counts during first winter period 5 at a central Norfolk site Jan 14th, 5 at a north-east site Feb 7th and 20th, 3 at Marsham Heath Jan 6th, Brancaster Hbr and Roydon Common both Feb 7th and Hickling Broad March 17th, and 1-2 Bayfield Hall (on dry stubble), Beeston Common, Cantley BF, Cley, Cranwich Common, East Winch Common, Great Ryburgh, Holkham Bay, Holme, Kelling WM, Lingwood, Ludham, Mattishall Bog, Salthouse (found dead Jan 14th), Syderstone Common, Welney, West Runton, Weybourne and Wiveton.

Last of spring during April when 10 at a central Norfolk site April 17th and singles Irstead 2nd, Cley 6th, 13th, 16th, 19th/20th, Hickling Broad 9th, Berney 16th, Ouse Washes RSPB 23rd and Snettisham CP 27th.

First returning birds during Sept when singles Strumpshaw 12th and Ouse Washes RSPB 28th. Few others until a widespread influx Oct 10th-15th when 4 King's Lynn BF, 3 Blakeney Point, 2 Eccles, Nar Valley Fisheries, Scolt Head, Titchwell, Wells and Weybourne, and singles Holme, Kelling WM and Ludham. During final 2 months of year 5 at a central Norfolk site Dec 1st, and 1-2 Brancaster Hbr, Burnham Norton, Cantley BF, Cley, Holme, King's Lynn BF, Lopham Fen, Nar Valley Fisheries, Norwich Sweetbriar Marsh, Scolt Head, Sheringham, Snettisham, Strumpshaw, Syderstone Common, Titchwell and Winterton.

Common Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

Passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder

In first winter period 16 sites recording 30 or more (20 in 2001), although large numbers at some sites: Holme 32 Jan, 35 Feb, 30 March; Titchwell 150 Jan, 60 Feb; Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr (lowtide counts) 183 Jan, 154 Feb; Cley 50 March; Sea Palling/Waxham 296 Jan, 67 Feb; Horsey 35 Jan; Repps-with-Bastwick 40 Jan; Breydon/Berney 40 March; Strumpshaw 40 Jan; Buckenham 151 Feb, 30 March; Cantley Marshes 182 Jan, 170 Feb; Ludham 100 Jan; Hickling Broad 80 Jan, 62 March; St Benet's Level 100 Jan; Cranwich GP 35 Feb; Welney 152 March. The large count at Sea Palling/Waxham was part of a hard weather influx.

On April 4th 45 birds seen departing in small parties from Catfield to north-east, after a drop in wind speed from that direction that had persisted for previous two weeks.

Breeding reported from 19 sites but 3 without proof of displaying or breeding. A total of 102 drummers (89 from 20 sites in 2001): north coast Holkham NNR 14 (11); Broads Berney 1 (2), Strumpshaw 3, Buckenham 4, Cantley Marshes 8; Fens Hockwold Washes 1, Welney 57 (44); inland Castle Acre 2, East Walton 1, Fakenham 1, Great Ryburgh 1, Langford 1, Roydon Common 3, Stanford Water 1, Tattersett 2, Wretham 2. Breeding season good at Welney after early start to season with fledged birds from May 27th. A drummer at Stanford Water was seen to land on church spire. Without Welney and the Yare Valley this species would be struggling, although clearly it can be overlooked or missed at some more remote or little visited sites.

Westerly migration in autumn low July 28th-Nov 3rd with only double-figure counts: Hunstanton Cliffs 26 Oct 29th (south); Holme 13 Sept 10th, 12 16th and 27 Oct 3rd; Scolt Head 28 Sept 2nd, 44 9th, 19 12th and 32 Oct 7th.

During autumn/second winter period numbers either poorly recorded or scarce, with only 9 sites holding 30 or more (23 in 2001): King's Lynn BF 38 Sept, 35 Oct, 45 Nov, 36 Dec; Titchwell 40 Nov; Repps-with-Bastwick 175 Dec; Breydon/Berney 34 Aug, 30 Sept; Buckenham 100 Sept, 210 Nov; Cantley Marshes 39 Nov; Cantley BF 50 Sept, 40 Nov; Welney 41 Oct; Nar Valley Fisheries 46 Nov, 67 Dec.

Great Snipe

Gallinago media

Vagrant from north-east Europe

Singles Sheringham Sept 8th (APB LBe DHS TW *et al*), Warham Greens 10th (JRMc RW) and Blakeney Point 12th (RGM RFP *et al*), the first records since 1998.



Great Snipe (Martin Woodcock)

Woodcock

Scolopax rusticola

Passage migrant and winter visitor; breeder particularly in Brecks

Peak counts during winter months 40 flushed during a shoot Brancaster Thompson Farms Nov 7th, 34 shot Repps-with-Bastwick during first winter period, 12 Titchwell Jan 5th and Hickling Stubb Mill Jan 14th, 8 Martham March 17th, 7 Syderstone Common Jan 21st, Great Ryburgh Common Feb 12th and Barrow Common Dec 14th, 6 Sporle Wood Jan 12th and 4 East Ruston Jan 21st; also 1-3 at 64 widely scattered sites around the county.

Roding males recorded at following sites during breeding season: Bagthorpe, Beeston, Catfield Common, Cockshoot Broad 2, Coxford Wood, East Winch Common 2, Holkham Park, Honing Lock, Houghton Park, Irstead, Lopham Fen, Marham Fen 2, Marsham Heath 4, Martham Ferry, mid-Yare RSPB Reserve 2, Pentney Heath 3, Potter Heigham, Repps Staithe, Roydon Common, Sculthorpe, Santon Downham, Sutton Staithe, Syderstone Common 4, Thorpe Abbots 2, Thurne and Upton Fen. Birds were also reported at East Ruston, Hempton Marsh, Holt Lowes, Mundford, Ranworth Marshes, Salthouse Heath and Weeting Heath during breeding season and although roding not reported, breeding no doubt occurred at these sites.

First autumn coastal migrants during Oct when Holme 9th, Holme, 2 Blakeney Point, 2 Sheringham and 3 Yarmouth 10th, and 2 Burnham Overy Dunes, 3 Holkham Meals and 2 Blakeney Point 11th. Further arrivals during month included 2 Blakeney Point 17th, 3 Holme and Cley 19th, 9 Scolt Head, 2 Warham Greens and Gorleston 21st, and 3 Holme 24th. Last obvious arrival of autumn Nov 1st-5th when 11 Waxham, 3 Yarmouth, 2 Titchwell, Warham Greens, Blakeney Point and Trimingham, and singles Holme, Holkham Bay, Sheringham, Overstrand, and Winterton. As usual many of these records referred to birds seen arriving in off sea.



Woodcock (*Stewart Wright*)

Black-tailed Godwit
Increasing passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder

Limosa limosa

Max monthly counts at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	408	240	720	2200	500	960	1400	1400	2380	1020	3	1
Holme	-	1	14	35	120	25	11	3	8	8	2	1
Titchwell	-	30	180	61	118	120	78	131	80	30	-	-
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	5	17	120	280	185	67	111	93	11	6	2	2
Holkham NNR	-	-	52	69	100	150	60	6	14	-	8	5
Cley	200	200	254	200	122	170	200	80	100	130	101	48
Breydon/Berney	1389	1272	322	64	27	73	423	809	1179	939	1120	896
Welney	400	1718	1253	1093	15	97	71	21	11	21	90	204

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

The Feb count at Welney was a new site record as was the May count at Holme. The continued increase in numbers was reflected at a number of other sites where: Lynn Point 200 Jan and 200 April, Thornham 26 June and 17 July, Burnham Overy Hbr 26 June, Stiffkey Fen 38 May and 105 June, Blakeney Hbr 15 March and 50 May, Blakeney GM 65 March, 20 April and 16 June, Salthouse 32 May, Kelling WM 30 May, Hickling Broad 42 March, 111 April, 24 May and 10 June, Stokesby with Herringby 65 Jan and Ouse Washes RSPB 1500 April.

Additional inland records: 2 Limpenhoe Jan 23rd, 22 Sparham Pools Feb 3rd, 33 Hockwold Washes April 18th, singles Nar Valley Fisheries May 4th and 7th, 16 Filby May 26th, 8 Buckenham July 26th, 5 Cantley BF Sept 21st, and 3 King’s Lynn BF Sept 17th.

Overhead passage included at Scolt Head 54 April 15th, 30 April 22nd, 70 May 16th all north-west out to sea at dusk, and 43 west July 26th. Elsewhere 45 east Brancaster Hbr March 31st and 25 west Aug 8th, and 13 west Sheringham July 10th and 12 west 26th.

It was encouraging to report successful breeding in county for second consecutive year with 3 breeding pairs at one site, two of which fledged 5 young.

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

Limosa lapponica

Monthly max at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	4460	4000	5500	595	750	400	450	1500	2950	2000	2500	5700
Holme	170	182	118	10	28	-	12	7	195	336	176	210
Titchwell	241	67	18	26	7	4	58	493	5360	3411	175	320
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	146	173	200	74	80	13	105	217	218	238	200	265
Stiffkey SM	47	-	222	47	3	1	6	61	90	-	72	567
Breydon	37	47	28	28	49	17	11	12	21	13	22	107

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

Note the slightly higher than usual numbers in May and the record winter count from Breydon in Dec.

Other notable counts included: Thornham 110 Jan, Holkham Bay 23 Nov, Wells Hbr 20 Jan and 162 Feb, Warham SM 94 Jan and 83 Feb, Morston 40 Sept and 200 Blakeney Hbr Feb.

Few westerly movements of note, best counts 77 Scolt Head July 13th, 34 there and 32 Sheringham 14th, 23 Mundesley and 13 Sheringham 21st, and 67 Scolt Head Aug 6th and 30

21st. Also impressive tidal movements Holme during Sept/Oct where 2400 west Sept 10th and 6000 west Oct 8th, these birds returning into Wash from hightide roosts at Titchwell.

The heavier than usual passage during May was also reflected in the number of inland records when 19 Caister GC 13th, up to 10 daily Hickling Broad 3rd-13th, 1-3 on 5 dates Welney 9th-20th, 3 Nar Valley Fisheries 2nd and one 13th/14th, and singles Pentney GP 7th, and Buckenham 9th and 14th/15th. Inland outside of May singles Cantley BF Jan 11th and July 7th, Welney April 13th, Hickling Broad April 25th and West Walton Sept 12th.

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

Passage migrant in spring and autumn; rare in winter

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	3	5	5	6	6
Holme	9	6	8	5	2
Titchwell	16	11	2	14	2
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	18	33	41	21	8
Blakeney Hbr/Point	5	7	5	34	6
Cley	12	21	4	5	-
Salthouse	13	11	5	8	2
Breydon/Berney	51	40	20	12	3

National importance (passage): 50

First of spring Paston March 17th but no others until April when 4 Horsey 9th and singles Cley 10th, Stiffkey 11th and 2 Berney 14th, with records from most coastal sites by end of third week of month. Additional flocks in spring: 7 Winterton April 28th, and in May 50 Horsey 2nd, 27 Welney 7th, 10 Burnham Overy GM and 5 Terrington St Clement 8th, 11 Waxham 11th and 6 Thornham 18th.

Overhead passage during spring light, best counts 8 west Scolt Head April 21st and 16 east May 10th, and 22 east 7 west Sheringham May 11th.

Slightly more inland records than usual during May when 5 north-west Great Ryburgh 21st, and singles Sennowe Park 5th, Nar Valley Fisheries 7th, north Roydon Common 10th and Thetford 12th.

Recorded almost daily during June when 1-4 Holme, Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, Blakeney Point, Cley, Sheringham, Breydon/Berney and Roydon Common, most at month end.

Best flocks elsewhere in autumn: 13 Wells July 15th, 9 Ongar Hill July 21st, 6 Blakeney GM July, 18 Winterton Aug 9th, 34 Caister GC Aug 14th, 6 Holkham Aug and 7 Stiffkey Aug.

Only inland records during autumn singles west Ickburgh July 30th and Roydon Common Sept 15th.

Numerous flocks noted moving west at coastal sites during autumn, best recorded Scolt Head where total of 220 July including 37 14th, 29 18th, 25 29th and 21 30th, and 226 Aug when best days 19 15th, 22 17th, 36 19th and 43 22nd. Other flocks west: 50 Holme July 14th, 39 18th, 36 Aug 2nd and 30 Sept 1st, 33 Cley Aug 13th, 26 Sheringham July 21st, 53 Aug 1st and 57 4th, and 16 Beeston Bump Aug 22nd.

Only records after end of Sept 2 Blakeney Point Oct 11th/12th and one 17th, and a late bird Titchwell Nov 17th.

Curlew

Numenius arquata

Passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce breeder

Monthly max at main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	235	510	200	80	20	69	285	1032	975	780	470	230
Holme	247	168	160	105	10	7	24	33	136	181	121	341
Thornham	19	34	42	3	3	6	28	35	60	25	40	8
Titchwell	62	126	114	16	2	42	120	111	42	35	95	38
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	565	632	383	405	107	535	1150	1400	1525	861	519	630
Holkham NNR	170	108	73	15	-	-	-	17	-	-	102	70
Stiffkey SM	67	-	54	6	17	6	48	59	79	-	83	62
Breydon	1286	1009	813	404	34	134	530	792	849	871	853	861

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

Other coastal counts included: Lynn Point 40 Jan, Wolferton 150 Dec, Holkham Bay 40 Sept and 44 Oct, Wells Drifts 39 Nov, Wells Hbr 100 Feb, Warham SM 60 Jan, 270 Feb and 33 Dec, Blakeney Point/Hbr 120 June and 800 Aug, Cley 42 March and 89 Dec, and 11 Welney Jan.

Birds feeding inland under-recorded, best counts 29 Castle Acre, 28 Congham and 9 Sporle.

Usual north-east departure noted in spring when 67 Roydon Common April 16th, 35 Hunstanton April 18th and at Scolt Head 47 April 16th, 56 18th, 44 22nd and 14 May 12th. Return westerly passage underway from mid-June when 33 Scolt Head 11th and 8 Sheringham 16th. Best movements of year during late June when impressive numbers west including 60 Scolt Head and 34 Sheringham 28th, and 320 Scolt Head, 177 Cley and 355 Sheringham 29th. Peak counts during rest of autumn 148 Scolt Head July 14th and at Sheringham 66 July 4th, 62 7th and 60 Oct 6th.

Only breeding data 15 pairs Stanford TA and 2 pairs Roydon Common, both of which failed.

Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

Passage migrant; small numbers over-winter

In opening months of year only reported regularly from traditional localities: Holme single Jan-March; Titchwell area 7 Jan/Feb, 8 during March; Breydon/Berney 2 Jan, 6 Feb, 7 March. During same period singles on isolated dates Brancaster, Burnham Norton, Burnham Overy, Holkham GM and Cley. Inland records during winter months unusual with 3 Buckenham Jan 29th and another Strumpshaw Feb 15th.

More records from mid-March with spring passage peaking mid-late April with 12 Breydon/Berney 12th and 3 Titchwell 18th, Welney 22nd and Cley 27th. Elsewhere light spring passage with 1-2 Snettisham, Ken Hill GM, Holme, Burnham Overy, Holkham GM, Hickling Broad and Welney. Following 8 Berney May 1st passage evaporated and last of spring Holme 7th and Titchwell 9th.

Traditionally short summer absence, with one west Titchwell June 5th the harbinger of autumn and birds back at both Cley and Breydon/Berney by 7th.

Monthly peak counts at favoured localities during moderate autumn passage:

	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Snettisham	-	19	10	58	25
Thornham/Titchwell	6	16	14	24	28
Cley	7	12	17	6	1
Breydon/Berney	1	2	2	4	7

As usual scarce away from traditional strongholds with best counts 14 Welney Oct 23rd and 4 Terrington Marsh July 8th; 1-2 at Holme, Scolt Head, Winterton, Hickling Broad, Cantley BF, Buckenham and Hockwold Washes. Numbers dropped sharply during second half Oct.

During Nov/Dec again regularly reported at Titchwell (7 Nov, 8 Dec) and Breydon/Berney (2 Nov, one Dec) but also at Cley 2 Nov/Dec and Brancaster Hbr (Nov/Dec), with single Burnham Norton Nov 3rd. Again two highly unusual inland records during second winter period, Cantley BF Nov 17th and Langham 22nd.

Redshank
Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor; declining breeder in some areas
Monthly max at main and most regularly counted sites:

Tringa totanus

	<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	35	450	335	200	130	66	640	1270	2935	1520	270	325
Holme	78	165	189	34	11	17	10	75	72	43	163	209
Titchwell	37	156	198	44	7	21	219	181	300	65	175	210
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	861	630	418	165	174	140	720	1127	919	661	421	459
Stiffkey	109	-	158	56	50	49	164	150	154	-	178	138
Breydon/Berney	653	789	1086	1020	130	175	938	1323	1162	1053	1007	1149

National importance (winter): 1100

No other noteworthy counts.

Only visible spring migration noted at Scolt Head when 50 high north-west dusk April 30th.

A total of 427-433 breeding pairs reported from 12 sites (587 from 20 in 2001), however no records received from some key sites along with many smaller ones: north coast Thornham SM 29, Titchwell SM 5, Scolt Head 30-33 (35), Holkham NNR 102 (149) and Blakeney Point 4-6; east coast/Broads Breydon 3 (5), Burgh Castle 2, Berney 60 (77), How Hill 2, Strumpshaw 1, Buckenham 47 and Cantley Marshes 24; Fens Welney 114 (82) fledged 100 young; inland Coxford 2-3 and Tattersett 2.

Inland highest counts: Hockwold Washes 28 March 17th; Nar Valley Fisheries 21 Jan 27th, 15 Feb 2nd and 24 Dec 22nd; West Walton 50-60 Dec 30th.

Autumn visible migration very poor: Scolt Head 36 west Aug 17th; Sheringham 35 east Aug 6th and 34 east 17th; Beeston Bump 11 high east Sept 4th.

A virtual albino at Snettisham with normal coloured bare parts Feb 23rd.

Greenshank
Passage migrant in spring and autumn; scarce in winter
During first winter period records from Lynn Point, Holmc (2), Titchwell (2), Scolt Head and Morston continuing a pattern of over-wintering; perhaps just 4 individuals involved.

Tringa nebularia

Just 3 March records at Titchwell 18th, King's Lynn BF 20th (2) and Morston 24th most likely relating to wintering birds, with first true migrants early April at Hickling Broad from 8th, and both Breydon/Berney and Welney 12th. Thereafter unspectacular spring passage at many coastal and inland localities until early June. Most records of 1-4 but larger counts of 6 Hickling Broad April 25th, 5 Hockwold Washes May 3rd, 10 Breydon/Berney 6th, 9 Titchwell 7th and 14 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 15th.

Late spring migrants difficult to separate from returning birds but 7 Berney June 2nd must surely have been northbound; last of spring at Cley 9th. Presumably failed breeders returned to Holme and Scolt Head by 17th with another Cley next day.

Usual stronger autumn passage with monthly peaks at most frequently counted sites:

	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Snettisham	9	52	61	14
Holme	18	8	5	1
Titchwell	28	54	37	20
Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr	38	76	53	28
Warham/Stiffkey SM	1	22	9	-
Cley	17	13	26	11
Breydon/Berney	10	24	*41	5

* *Record autumn count at site*

In addition westerly passage along north coast July/Aug. Double-figure counts at this time: 11 Holme July 13th, 40 Cley Aug 1st and series of observations at Scolt Head with 11 Aug 4th and 5th, and finally 26 Aug 18th.

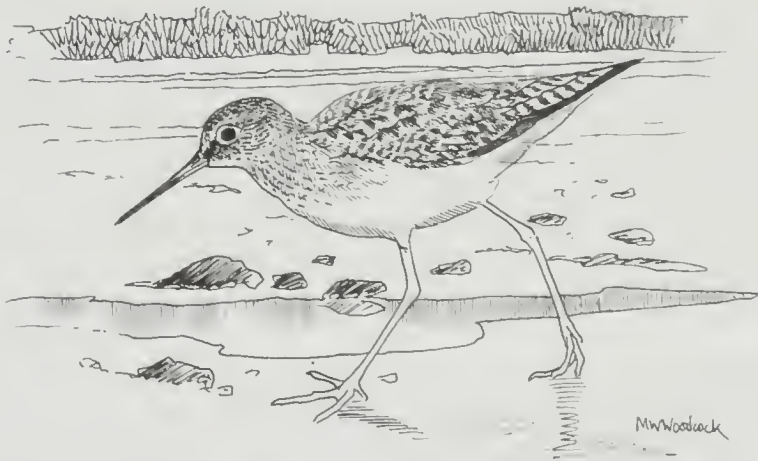
Elsewhere during protracted autumn 11 Wells Hbr Sept only count of note, otherwise 1-9 at 22 scattered sites. Numbers dropped swiftly during Oct with stragglers North Wootton Nov 2nd and Hcacham 3rd (3) concluding passage and leaving wintering birds during Nov/Dec at Snettisham, Holme, Scolt Head (2), Morston, Cley and Breydon/Berney.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Tringa flavipes

Vagrant from North America

A much-visited juv Cantley BF Nov 8th-Dec 8th (CPB *et al*); the first since one 1998 at Welney which also remained into Nov.



Lesser Yellowlegs (*Martin Woodcock*)

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

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

Increase in number of over-wintering birds continues apace with records from 30 widely-scattered localities Jan to mid-March. Mostly singles but 2 at Billingford, Blackborough End GP, Calthorpe, Flitcham, Haddiscoe Island, Hickling Broad, King's Lynn BF, Saddlebow and West Bilney, with 3 at traditional stronghold Cantley BF.

Obvious increase in sightings from mid-month and protracted spring passage until early May witnessed at 26 sites (16 in 2001). Most 1-2 but 6 Hockwold Washes and 3 Saddlebow both April 15th, and 3 King's Lynn BF 19th. Late migrants Welney May 7th and Holme 12th while evidence of late departure at Beeston Regis where 2 north-west May 12th and another 19th.

Usual early return late May with presumably failed breeders Grimston Warren from 28th and Hickling Broad 30th.

Cantley BF returned its status as county's premier site for the species with another impressive autumn showing:

	<i>Jun</i>		<i>Jul</i>		<i>Aug</i>		<i>Sep</i>		<i>Oct</i>		<i>Nov</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>	<i>1-15</i>
Cantley BF	6	4	45	40	60	40	20	12	9	8	10

Very few double-figure counts elsewhere, all occurring during established peak period: 17 west Scolt Head July 30th, 19 Cley 31st and 11 Hickling Broad Aug 5th. Smaller numbers widespread and numerous reports of 1-8 June-Sept with fewer records in Oct. Single Babingley Nov 4th possible late migrant but during remainder of Nov/Dec unobtrusive wintering individuals at 18 sites (23 in 2001). As usual mostly singles but 2 at North Creak, Sparham Pools, Whitlingham CP, 3 at Strumpshaw and 6 Cantley BF Nov 23rd.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

Passage migrant in spring and autumn

First of year Berney April 22nd with another Heacham 30th. Thereafter very light spring passage from May 8th with 1-2 Titchwell, Burnham Norton, Stiffkey Fen, Blakeney Point, Hickling Broad, Berney, Buckenham and Welney. One in frequent display flight Berney May 12th.

Few early June at Holme 2nd/3rd, Titchwell 6th-8th (2 on 7th), 2 9th and single 12th/13th, with 2 singles later in month, and Hockwold Washes 23rd and Titchwell 27th.

None in July until 17th after which a sprinkling during remainder of month peaking 4 Welney 31st. Obvious and often dramatic early Aug influx evident at many sites with peaks: 2nd 20 Holkham GM (flock), 10 Cley; 3rd 6 Titchwell, 6 Welney; 4th 7 Hickling Broad, 6 Cantley BF; smaller numbers at many other sites.

Subsequently only 5 records Aug 12th-Sept 8th before minor influx with records at 4 sites Sept 9th/10th peaking 3 Berney 10th. Final record of erratic year for this charismatic species west Scolt Head Sept 13th.

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

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

In first winter period Oxnead Mill Jan 1st.

Spring migrants Breydon/Berney April 17th and Pentney GP next day heralded small-scale passage until early June at 29 localities with most records of just 1-5 birds. Larger

peak counts in May: 13 Hockwold Washes 17th, 8 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 21st, 15 Titchwell 27th and 11 Breydon/Berney. Last stragglers Holme until June 8th and Cley 11th.

Autumn passage commenced Titchwell and Cley June 22nd, another Whitlingham CP 25th. Return migration characterised by continued presence in small numbers boosted by waves of fresh arrivals July-Sept. First influx July 14th when 14 Ranworth Broad and 12 Cantley BF, with 20 Hickling Broad Aug 2nd before more widespread influx 7th. At this time double-figure counts of 38 Breydon/Berney, 28 Hickling Broad, 17 East Ruston and 12 on beach Sheringham. Autumn peak of 41 Scolt Head Aug 11th overshadowed by 76 East Ruston and 30 Cley both 22nd, when also present at many other sites. Unusually 2 on Norwich R Wensum Aug 17th.

Last pulse of new migrants Sept 9th with 41 Snettisham and 14 Blakeney Point after which decline throughout Sept/Oct until last presumed migrant Breydon/Berney Oct 28th.

Late in year, individual at West Walton for third successive winter Oct 27th/28th and again Nov 24th, with another Cley Dec 21st.

Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

Passage migrant and winter visitor; some summering non-breeders

Peak numbers at regularly counted key localities:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snettisham	11	42	24	167	45	19	40	755	297	220	76	22
Holme	42	79	131	32	7	6	20	45	58	24	65	88
Thornham Hbr	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	24	21	27	61
Titchwell	16	100	60	80	13	1	20	32	100	40	57	77
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	249	200	172	335	415	40	265	593	535	334	158	211
Stiffkey SM	20	-	-	17	17	7	20	31	46	-	18	22
Breydon/Berney	3	10	8	12	17	5	14	18	24	12	9	9

National importance (winter): 640

Once again a strong autumn influx evident but also likelihood of over-recording with mobile flocks making tidal movements between adjacent sites.

Elsewhere many isolated counts over 20: Jan 120 King’s Lynn Docks, 31 Waxham; Feb 43 Sheringham, 43 Waxham; March 50 Caister, 21 Sheringham; April 30 Salthouse; Aug 85 Morston; Nov 51 Walcott, 50 Waxham, 28 Gorleston; Dec 95 King’s Lynn Docks.

Large-scale movements are unusual and therefore 50 north out to sea Scolt Head May 31st (cf 2001 NBR) and 90 Sheringham (65 west 25 east) Aug 26th notable.

Usual scatter of inland records: Hickling Broad May 11th, 13th (4) and 21st. Aug 2nd and 10th (4 east), and Oct 31st; elsewhere in Broads Buckenham May 8th and 11th, and Whitlingham CP July 31st; in west Nar Valley Fisheries May 8th (2), Hockwold Washes May 9th (2), and Welney May 17th (2) and July 24th (3).

Red-necked Phalarope

Phalaropus lobatus

Scarce passage migrant

Four records in a year represents an average showing but 3 during spring is unusual. the last such year being 1992.

A traditionally late migrant, singles at Stiffkey Fen May 22nd-25th (female). Welney June 4th/5th and Titchwell June 23rd-27th (female). Only one in autumn Cley Aug 31st-Sept 2nd.

Number of records per season/year during past decade:

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Spring	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	3
Autumn	7	5	4	3	-	4	7	4	1	1
Total	7	5	5	4	1	4	8	5	2	4

Grey Phalarope

Phalaropus fulicarius

Scarce autumn passage migrant; rare at other times

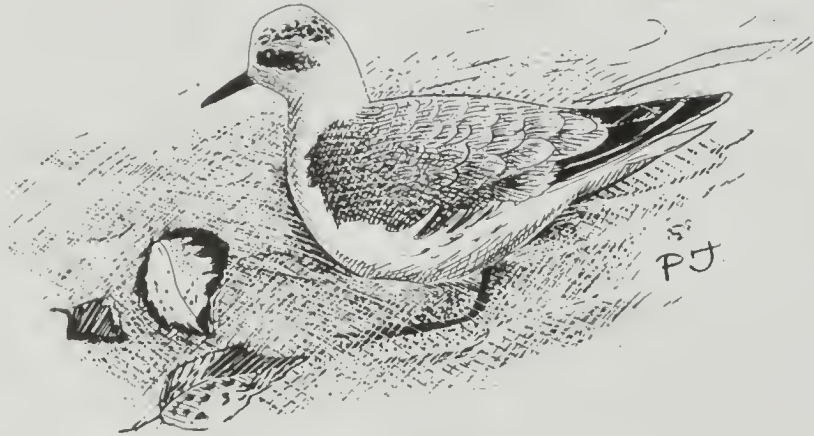
An unspectacular year with usual spread of brief autumn sightings plus a long-staying bird enjoyed by many.

First of year west Blakeney Point Sept 22nd (AMS *et al*), followed by singles (perhaps same) Horsey and Yarmouth (on sea) Sept 25th. Lingered bird Titchwell Sept 24th-27th with presumably same on tidal pools Scolt Head 28th.

In Oct sightings Scolt Head 3rd (in from east, landed on sea) and Titchwell 28th (on sea), while in contrast only one in Nov, at Salthouse 8th.

Finally late bird Kelling WM briefly Dec 5th.

In addition an unidentified Phalarope north Walcott Oct 28th, perhaps most likely to have been this species.



Grey Phalarope (Phil Jones)

Pomarine Skua

Stercorarius pomarinus

Passage migrant during autumn; small numbers at other times

Only records in first half of year singles Holme Jan 1st and south Gorleston Feb 11th.

First of autumn during July when singles Titchwell 19th, and Sheringham and Cromer 27th. Few during Aug when Cley and east and west Sheringham 4th, Holme 6th, east and west Scolt Head and Sheringham 21st, 3 Sheringham 22nd, Holme, 2 west Scolt Head and Walcott 26th, and Holme and Mundesley 27th. Noted on 11 dates in Sept, best counts 2 east Sheringham and 2 Gorleston 9th, west Holme and 5 west Mundesley 14th, 2 Hunstanton and 5 east Sheringham 21st, 4 Hunstanton, Titchwell, 9 west Scolt Head, west Blakeney Point, 6 Sheringham and east Mundesley all 22nd, and 6 Sheringham 26th. Passage remained poor during Oct, most 6th when east Holme, 8 west Scolt Head, 2 west Blakeney Point, Cley, 4 west one east Sheringham and Gorleston. Only other counts of note during rest of Oct, 3 east

Sheringham 16th, 3 Gorleston 27th, Cley, Yarmouth and 3 Gorleston 28th, with singles on 10 additional dates.

During final 2 months of year only records east Sheringham Nov 3rd, Admiralty Point, Sheringham, west Mundesley and 2 south Waxham 9th, and singles Mundesley Dec 5th and Sheringham 7th.



Pomarine Skua (Steve Cale)

Arctic Skua

Stercorarius parasiticus

Mainly autumn passage migrant, scarce at other times

None until spring when in April singles west Sheringham 20th, Scolt Head 21st, Holme 23rd, and in May Sheringham 1st, Blakeney Point 2nd, Stiffkey Fen 15th and Trimmingham 16th. Several summer records June when singles (same?) Blakeney Point, Cley, Salthouse and Weybourne 20th, Scolt Head 26th and Sheringham 29th.

In first week of July singles Sheringham 4th, Scolt Head 6th and Titchwell 7th, after which reported almost daily during autumn until late Oct. Highest counts during rest of July 5 Sheringham 18th, 6 Holme, 20 Scolt Head, 4 Blakeney Point and 5 Winterton 21st, 6 Titchwell and 7 Sheringham 22nd, and 8 Cromer and 7 Mundesley 27th. Peak counts in Aug during final 10 days when 38 west 11 east Scolt Head and 26 Sheringham 21st, 43 west 6 east Scolt Head and 35 east 15 west Sheringham 26th, and 20 Holme, 19 west Scolt Head, 45 Cley, 11 east Sheringham and 12 Mundesley 27th. Passage low most of Sept, best counts 22nd when 40 Hunstanton, 68 Holme, 135 west 12 east Scolt Head, 17 west 16 east Blakeney Point, 28 Cley, 62 Sheringham, 39 east Cromer (0900-1600), 20 Sea Palling, 18 Mundesley, 14 Waxham and 10 south Yarmouth (1240-1550). Other counts of note during Sept included 16 west Holme 11th, 43 Holme, 21 west 4 east Scolt Head, 12 Cley and 14 Sheringham 14th, 21 west 15 east Scolt Head, 12 west Blakeney Point and 20 west 6 east Sheringham 15th, and 11 west Scolt Head, 25 west Sheringham, 15 west Mundesley and 18 Walcott 23rd.

Highest counts in Oct on 3 dates when: 6th 27 west 2 east Holme, 22 west Titchwell (0800-0910), 58 west Scolt Head, 20 Cley, 41 west Sheringham, 17 west East Runton; 16th 13 west Blakeney Point, 52 east Sheringham, 33 east Cromer (0830-1145); 27th 42 Mundesley. Only records in Nov Holme 3rd, Holme and 3 east Mundesley 9th, and Scolt Head 21st. Two Dec records both at Sheringham where singles 5th and 7th.

No inland records as such but at Breydon one Aug 25th and 3 Sept 22nd.

Interesting observations from Scolt Head where 2 chasing, catching and eating Starlings Aug 1st and one chasing but failing to catch Swallows for 30 mins Aug 15th.

Long-tailed Skua

Stercorarius longicaudus

Autumn passage migrant increasingly identified in recent years

First of autumn Blakeney Point July 31st followed by 2 Cley Aug 6th and Sheringham Aug 11th (adult). No others until late Aug when: 25th 2 Blakeney Point, 9 west 2 east Cley (1445-1645); 26th 3 west Scolt Head, 3 west Cley, 2 Weybourne (2 adults), 8 west 5 east Sheringham, one East Runton; 27th 2 Titchwell, 3 Blakeney Point, 2 Cley, 2 Sheringham. Few over next 2 weeks, when only singles Holme Aug 31st, east Mundesley Sept 2nd and Holme 3rd. More from Sept 13th when one Sheringham, and west Holme, 2 west Scolt Head (1 adult), 2 east Sheringham and 2 Mundesley 14th, and 3 west Holme, one east Scolt Head, 2 west Blakeney Point, 3 Sheringham and one Happisburgh 15th. Only record over next 5 days a sick individual Titchwell Sept 17th, which later moved to Holme where it was taken in to care, but died 2 days later.

Best days of autumn Sept 21st-24th when: 21st Titchwell, 2 west Scolt Head, 2 west Sheringham; 22nd Hunstanton, Holme, 11 west Scolt Head, 5 Blakeney Point (1 adult), 2 Cley, 6 Sheringham, Cromer, 2 Mundesley; 23rd west Scolt Head, west Cley, 2 Mundesley, north Winterton, 5 Yarmouth; 24th 2 Yarmouth. Only records during rest of Sept singles Holme and an exhausted individual on Brancaster to Docking Road 26th. In Oct 2 east Sheringham 5th, west Scolt Head, 2 Cley, 4 west Sheringham, 2 west Overstrand, east Mundesley and all Horsey 6th, 3 east Cley and east Sheringham 16th, and east Cley 19th and 28th. Last of year a dead juv Horsey Beach Nov 9th. As usual the vast majority of birds reported were juvs.

Great Skua

Catharacta skua

Passage migrant mostly in autumn; small numbers at other times

In first winter period singles Holme Jan 1st, east Holkham Bay 19th, 2 Titchwell, 6 west Sheringham and 2 east Overstrand 24th, Winterton Feb 12th, Holme March 19th and Titchwell 20th. In spring only record Blakeney Point May 3rd.

First of autumn during July when singles Winterton 1st, Waxham 6th and Sheringham 22nd. Noted on 8 dates during Aug all during second half when best counts 6 west Scolt Head 20th, and 3 Holme, 3 west Scolt Head, 10 Cley, 10 Sheringham and one Winterton 26th. Passage during Sept relatively poor apart from 22nd when 20 Hunstanton, 85 Holme, 202 west 7 east Scolt Head, 72 west Blakeney Point, 55 Cley, 96 Sheringham, 76 Cromer, 12 Mundesley, 20 Sea Palling and 14 Waxham. Highest counts during rest of month 15 Holme, 26 west Scolt Head, 15 Cley and 15 Sheringham 13th, 8 Holme, 28 west Scolt Head and 21 east Sheringham 14th, and 12 west Holme, 23 west Scolt Head, 22 Sheringham, 10 Walcott and 4 Winterton 23rd.

Best day in Oct the 6th when (all west) 73 Holme, 26 Titchwell, 141 Scolt Head, 49 Blakeney Point, 100 Cley, 92 Sheringham, 35 East Runton, 22 Cromer and 44 Overstrand (0710-1030). Only other noteworthy counts during Oct both from Sheringham where 21 east 5th and 59 east 16th. Few in Nov when small numbers on just 6 dates, most 9th when 13 Holme, 5 Titchwell, 3 Scolt Head, Blakeney Point, 3 west 2 east Sheringham and Eccles. Similar number of records during Dec when 11 Sheringham and 4 east Mundesley 5th, 2 south Waxham 7th, Titchwell and Scolt Head 11th, Holkham Bay 12th and 15th, and Titchwell 16th-23rd.

Mediterranean Gull

Larus melanocephalus

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

Sightings from 29 coastal/near coastal and 18 inland localities. Last year’s breeding site hosted 3 pairs, of which 2 successfully raised 6 young (2 broods of 3). Another site attracted a pair June 3rd-5th, with presumably the same (failed breeders?) Langham June 16th. No suspected continental juvs noted until 3 juv/1st-winter Breydon Aug 27th.

Breydon produced a new county record for second year in succession when 36 Aug 27th, although again build-up short-lived. Yarmouth seafront continues to be a magnet for this species and numbers reached an all-time high of 31 Oct 7th. Estimates of numbers of individuals per month suggest a county winter population of 30-50 birds.

Estimates of individuals summarized by month and age:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Juv	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	-	-	-	-
1st-year	3	9	3	3	5	12	3	3	8	7	5	2
2nd-year	2	8	8	6	3	2	2	4	8	4	7	-
Adult	4	22	19	11	4	9	10	32	18	16	17	1
Unaged	24	-	12	-	4	-	11	6	2	12	4	25
Total	33	39	42	20	16	23	32	48	36	39	33	28

Peak counts at Yarmouth included: 21 Jan 18th, 20 Feb 1st, 15 March 15th, 10 July 15th, 14 Aug 8th, 26 Sept 19th, 31 Oct 7th, 30 Nov 22nd and 21 Dec 5th and 27th. Notable counts elsewhere: 10 Scolt Head (8 1st-summer) June, 8 Heacham March 23rd, and 5 Titchwell March 25th and April 13th.

All inland records listed: Jan 1st-winter Thornage 1st-12th, Holkham Park 5th and 1st-winter there 13th, Wroxham Broad 18th, 2nd-winter Tottenhill GP 22nd, Whitlingham CP 27th; Feb Thorpe Market 1st, adult King’s Lynn 9th, 1st-winter Thornage 9th/10th, adult Blackborough End Tip 15th; March adult Wroxham Broad 23rd, 2 adults Edgefield Tip and 2 adults Hickling Broad 25th; April 2nd-summer Hickling Broad 18th; May 1st-summer Wroxham Broad 7th, Hickling Broad 18th; June 2 adults Langham 16th; July Welney 15th, adult Cantley BF 22nd; Aug 2nd-summer Buckenham 1st, Whitlingham CP 8th, Welney 23rd and 26th; Sept 1st-winter King’s Lynn Fisher Fleet 10th/11th; Oct Repps-with-Bastwick and 1st-winter Welney 3rd, Whitlingham CP 29th; Nov 1st-winter Langham 1st and 15th, Limpenhoe Marshes 9th, 1st-winter Edgefield Tip 28th; Dec 1st-winter Saxlingham 22nd and 1st-winter Welney 31st.

During year 16 colour-ringed (15 Belgium, one French) and 4 metal-ringed (British, Belgium, French and Hungarian) birds observed Yarmouth.

Little Gull

Larus minutus

Non-breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor

Generally small numbers outside Sept-Nov period when coastal passage observed several days. Table below shows the highest count at any locality each month:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	10	2	6	19	24	15	6	247	1267	405	3

Early in year an adult low east over seawall Ongar Hill Jan 5th unusual. Singles Whitlingham CP March 21st and Hickling Broad 25th were fore-runners of a small overland

spring passage which was concentrated in Broads. Peak numbers 4 Ranworth Broad April 1st, 6 Barton Broad 13th and 4 Hickling Broad May 11th-14th. Titchwell again hosted a late spring build-up, numbers rising to 24 1st-summers June 27th. A 1st-summer made a prolonged stay Flitcham June 3rd-23rd and an early juv noted Snettisham Aug 8th.

Seawatchers recorded several notable coastal movements Sept-Nov, dominated by a spectacular 1267 past Sheringham Oct 16th. This becomes the 5th four-figure count to be made in county since the first in 1999.

Passage began Sept when 73 Gorleston 9th, 127 north (1700-1830) Walcott 23rd and 247 west Mundesley plus 135 north Yarmouth 24th. Activity peaked Oct when 421 east Scolt Head, 600 east Cley, 700 east Salhouse, 1267 east Sheringham (all day count), and exceptionally 81 east Breydon 16th, 229 (217 west 12 east) Scolt Head 17th, 110 west Scolt Head 20th, 596 (1st-winters) Mundesley and 105 Gorleston 27th. Nov saw 53 Winterton 4th, 100 Sea Palling 16th, and 405 Sea Palling and 51 Winterton 25th.

Few records of note followed except single following plough Northrepps Nov 29th/30th and a bird remaining at this site Dec 19th-31st.

Sabine's Gull

Larus sabini

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

Following an adult west Mundesley Sept 7th (MDF) a 'blow' Sept 22nd produced adult west Scolt Head (NML NW), 2 juvs east Sheringham (JD&JEG) and adult west and then presumed same east Mundesley (JA MDF). Another adult east West Runton Sept 23rd (RF). A further 'northerly' Oct 6th resulted in juv west Holme (AFB) and adult west Cley/Blakeney Point (JRMc) both birds, due to intervening time differences, also west separately Scolt Head (NML). Last of autumn adult west Cley Oct 23rd (RBr).

2001 Addition: Juv west Holme Sept 9th (MR&ORM).

Black-headed Gull

Larus ridibundus

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

Breeding information from 12 sites, with number of pairs: Holme 7, Titchwell 73 (all failed), Scolt Head 2100 (2000 young fledged), Brancaster Hbr 300 (all washed out), Holkham NNR 1802 (productivity good), Stiffkey SM 2500 (only 20 young fledged due to fox predation and flooding), Blakeney Point 310 (30 young fledged), Cley 14, Hickling Broad 20, Cantley Marshes 2, Buckenham 3, Strumpshaw 150, Nar Valley Fisheries 60, and Welney where pair made an unsuccessful attempt.

Monthly roost counts as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lynn Point	10000	8000	11500	2500	-	-	1800	640	6500	-	9500	-
Scolt Head	-	-	850	5000	2320	4000	650	850	1048	5500	-	-
Hickling Broad	1200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ranworth Broad	-	1200	1180	-	-	-	-	-	-	1121	-	1146
Wroxham Broad	1600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Welney	4500	-	-	-	-	-	580	-	-	-	-	-

Some counts from Scolt Head refer to daytime gatherings. Regular watching at Blackborough End Tip produced 1500 Jan 5th, 2000 Feb 16th, 1500 March 9th, 437 July 12th, 2000 Nov 23rd and 1000 Dec 7th. Flocks elsewhere included: 700 Overstrand Jan 1st, 2308

Titchwell Jan 2nd and 2000 there March 3rd, 1100 East Harling Heath Feb 23rd and 3500 there March 7th, 4000 Saham Toney and 2000 Holme both March 16th, 880 Cley April 6th and 5000 East Harling Heath Dec 21st.

Westerly movements in Feb included 253 Scolt Head 2nd and 1000 Holme 28th. Easterly emigration noted Sheringham March 17th when 2500 (after 1300 hrs). Several hundred in off sea and continuing inland Winterton July 1st preceded westerly passage along north coast July 7th-Oct 22nd. Scolt Head recorded 11,460 (18 dates) July 10th-Oct 22nd with max 3220 Sept 29th. Holme logged 4596 (5 dates) July 7th-Oct 7th including 2675 also Sept 29th, while counts at Sheringham included 1802 July 7th, 586 July 28th and 388 Aug 17th.

An impressive 5000 observed 'anting' Scolt Head Aug 14th and 400 likewise Holme July 31st.

Leucistic birds (perhaps same individual?) Aldeby Tip Jan 5th, Hickling Broad 16th, Whitlingham CP 20th, Titchwell 25th, Wells 29th and Lynn Point Feb 2nd.

Common Gull

Larus canus

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

Breeding: Scolt Head and Holkham NNR 6 pairs at each site and success moderate to good; 4 pairs Blakeney Point with 3 young fledged.

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	3250	2650	3500	1900	-	-	300	-	1000	-	2000	-
Scolt Head	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	177	1500
Hickling Broad	5000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3200	-	-

The Broads area clearly holds a large population in winter judging from counts of 6000 Wroxham Broad Jan 3rd and 5000 Hickling Broad Jan 16th.

Daytime flocks included: Jan 780 Welney 14th; Feb 509 Sheringham 10th, 3000 Titchwell 15th; March 1900 Titchwell 13th, 3000 Holme 16th; April 540 (mainly 1st-summer) Ridlington 26th, 2500 (all 1st-summer) Scolt Head 30th; May 1200 (1st-summer's) Scolt Head 10th.

Spring passage observed Sheringham March 17th when 400 east with Black-headed Gulls. Returning birds moving west Scolt Head recorded 9 dates July 22nd-Oct 19th totaled 1496 with max 585 Oct 6th.

Anting' behaviour noted Holme (230) July 31st and Scolt Head (120) Aug 1st. Also a leucistic individual Gorleston Aug 4th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

Passage migrant and migratory breeder; increasing in winter

Scant breeding information received except for 40 pairs Wells SM, 5 pairs Blakeney Point and 50 pairs Yarmouth South Town, the latter an increase on previous years.

Counting of Lynn Point roost flight produced 176 Jan 5th, 91 Feb 26th, 82 March 15th, 471 April 3rd, 444 July 29th, 1833 Sept 7th, 1602 Oct 25th and 674 Nov 21st. Roosts elsewhere included 40 Wroxham Broad Jan 3rd and an exceptional 6000 Hickling Broad Sept 5th which appears to be largest gathering recorded in county to date.

Monthly max at regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Saddlebow	63	-	-	-	250	-	200	900	1000	900	950	400
Scolt Head	-	-	-	12	50	55	23	18	-	-	-	-
East Harling Heath	-	2100	1800	-	-	640	5300	2500	-	-	2500	2100
Blackboro' End Tip	3	8	120	360	400	500	150	130	250	-	-	5

East Harling attracted a large flock in both winter periods and huge numbers in July, these apparently attracted by chicken waste spread on fields. Generally numbers appeared to peak in Sept when it seems feasible that about 10,000 may have been present within county. Counts elsewhere included: May 1615 Hickling Broad 25th; June 340 Cley 30th; July 350 Sparham GP late month; Aug 171 Welney 10th, 180 Catfield 29th, 343 Bacton 30th; Sept 850 Breydon 11th, 150 Clipperby Hill 18th, 200 Yarmouth 21st, 180 (north-west at dusk) Wereham 24th, 2000 (min 80% adults) Caister 29th; Oct 350 Clipperby Hill 22nd; Dec 102 Welney 9th.

Obvious coastal movements hardly in evidence except for small westerly passage in spring, when 13 Scolt Head April 16th and 25 May 23rd, and 170 Sheringham April 28th.

Birds showing characteristics of *L f intermedius* are no doubt vastly under-recorded with picture also clouded by presence of intergrades. Very small numbers noted with Aug seeming to be peak month. Largest counts 7 East Harling Heath Feb 3rd and 11 there Aug 3rd. Estimates of numbers of individuals per month:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	8	6	3	1	-	6	17	10	2	4	6

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

Herring Gull *L (a) argenteus/argentatus*

Increasing breeder, late summer migrant and winter visitor

Details of breeding at 5 sites: Titchwell 3 pairs (all predated), Scolt Head 5 pairs (all failed), Wells SM 34 pairs (decline), Blakeney Point 10 pairs and Yarmouth 50 pairs (20 in 2001). Max at some well-watched sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lynn Point	2275	1806	1145	4870	-	-	-	-	-	1535	2900	-
Holme	-	5500	8000	6000	1000	1000	424	-	3044	-	-	-
Scolt Head	-	-	1800	2500	303	75	45	153	176	844	-	-
Blackboro' End Tip	1800	700	1000	1800	1200	1100	1150	400	500	500	1800	1500

The counts at Lynn Point refer to a roost flight while Holme hosted a huge flock of 8000 feeding on razorshells March 1st. Also at Holme large numbers were regularly observed flying west in late winter/spring (presumably involving local movements to or from feeding/roost sites). Larger counts recorded included an astonishing 5500 in one hour Feb 28th, 3000 March 31st and 6000 April 28th. Later 1000 headed west June 24th.

Further concentrations included: Jan 400 Saddlebow 5th, 400 Weybourne 22nd; Feb 609 Titchwell 15th; March 650 Snettisham 3rd, 918 Titchwell 13th; April 1682 Titchwell 28th; May 1000 Snettisham 27th; Sept 1300 Snettisham 8th; Nov 2000 Saddlebow 11th/12th; Dec 700 Saddlebow 7th.

Coastal movements included 300 west (mostly argenteus) Overstrand Feb 11th and 250 east Sheringham May 11th.

Largest gatherings of nominate form argentatus occurred at inland localities with peak early Jan and late Dec: Jan 100 Blackborough End Tip 5th, 25 Lynn Point 23rd; Feb 7 Blackborough End Tip 16th, 18 Lynn Point 22nd; April 9 Blackborough End Tip 5th; Nov 10 Saddlebow 11th, 27 Blackborough End Tip 23rd; Dec 14 west Sheringham 9th and 64 East Harling Heath 30th.

Yellow-legged Gull *L (a) michahellis*

Increasing visitor from southern Europe

Records throughout year and from 36 sites, with largest numbers occurring Aug, although increasingly encountered during winter months. Saddlebow continued to attract good numbers while in south, East Harling Heath also favoured. Comparative counts of Yellow-legged and Lesser Black-backed Gulls from 3 sites in King's Lynn area Sept 1st-13th gave a ratio of 1:23, suggesting as many as 60 may have been using Lynn Point roost early Sept.

Estimated number of individuals per month:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Juv	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	-	-	-	-
1st-year	1	2	4	-	3	4	4	17	3	4	4	4
2nd-year	1	1	1	-	3	4	10	9	10	3	7	5
3rd-year	1	3	-	-	-	2	6	3	5	3	3	3
4th-year/Adult	3	7	-	-	-	3	23	40	33	23	20	16
Unaged	1	1	1	1	2	-	28	7	1	-	2	-
Total	7	14	6	1	8	13	77	79	52	33	36	28

Larger concentrations: Feb 10 East Harling Heath 2nd; July 12 Cley 7th, 22 East Harling Heath 21st, 8 Hickling Broad 25th; Aug 14 East Harling Heath 6th, 29 Saddlebow 27th; Sept 25 Saddlebow 4th, 14 Lynn Point 7th, 8 Blackborough End Tip 7th; Nov 21 Saddlebow 22nd; Dec 13 Saddlebow 1st and 9 East Harling Heath 21st.

A number of juvs noted: up to 3 East Harling Heath July 21st-Aug 6th, Hickling Broad July 28th, Saddlebow July 31st, and King's Lynn Fisher Fleet July 31st and Aug 27th.

Caspian Gull *L (a/michahellis) cachinnans*

Rare visitor from eastern Europe

Fewer records than previous year: near adult Aldeby Tip Jan 3rd (TCL), 1st-winter Breydon Jan 20th (DEB SJH PMW), 1st-summer Blackborough End Tip May 1st (DEB PMW), adult Lyng Aug 10th-15th (NMe JRWi), juv/1st-winter Saddlebow Sept 10th and 13th (DEB PMW), 1st-winter King's Lynn Fisher Fleet Sept 25th/26th (JAR), 3rd-winter Saddlebow Nov 23rd (PMW), adult Burgh St Peter Nov 28th (TCL), 1st-winter Saddlebow Dec 5th and 7th (PMW), adult Sea Palling Dec 15th/16th (AJK *et al*), 2nd-winter East Harling Dec 15th (DEB PMW) with 1st-winter there 21st (PMW), and 1st-winter Blackborough End Tip Dec 23rd (RJo SCV).

Iceland Gull

Larus glaucoides

Annual but very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

A good showing (as many as 9 individuals) Jan-May but late winter period drew a blank. All records concerned single 1st-winter/summer birds unless noted otherwise: Jan Aldeby Tip

2nd-5th, Lynn Point roost flight 30th; Feb Lynn Point roost flight 3rd, 5th and 21st, 2nd-winter Holkham Bay 24th; March East Harling Heath 4th-23rd, Blakeney Point 20th, north Snettisham 30th; April Lynn Point roost flight 3rd and 12th with same Blackborough End Tip April 3rd and 6th, Scolt Head 4th-7th and 17th; May Scolt Head 2nd-4th.

Glaucous Gull
Winter visitor in fluctuating numbers; rare in summer

Larus hyperboreus

An excellent crop of records Jan-June followed by unseasonal individuals Aug and Sept. Holme saw a reasonably early juv Oct but only single reported after that. The ‘resident’ King’s Lynn bird, now in its 4th-winter, last seen Blackborough End Tip March 9th. Estimates of numbers of individual birds per month as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
All localities	6	6	7	3	2	1	-	1	1	1	-	1

Determining the number of individuals involved difficult but possibly at least 17 (9 1st-year, 2 2nd-year, 2 3rd-year, one 4th-year, one adult and 2 unaged) estimated to account for all records: Jan 4th-winter King’s Lynn (into March), 3rd-winter Blakeney Point 1st, 1st-winter Cley 1st, possibly same Sheringham/West Runton various dates 2nd-20th, west New Costessey 1st, Blackborough End Tip 4th, Hickling Broad 15th, 1st-winter south Yarmouth 15th; Feb 1st-winter Gorleston 3rd, 1st-winter Blackborough End Tip 10th and 16th, 2nd-winter west Salthouse 17th, 2nd-winter south Winterton 21st, 1st-winter Titchwell 24th, 3 1st-winter west Holme 28th; March 1st-winter Titchwell 1st, 21st and 31st, 2



Glaucous Gull (Steve Cale)

(1st-winter and 4th-winter) Blackborough End Tip 9th, 1st-winter west Holme 11th and 31st, 1st-winter Snettisham 11th, 1st-winter Wells 19th, 1st-winter east Sheringham 20th, 1st-winter west Sheringham and Happisburgh 21st, 2nd-winter west Sheringham 28th, 3rd-winter Holme and 1st-winter south Hunstanton 31st; April Nar Valley Fisheries 1st, 1st-summer Titchwell 3rd, 1st-summer Blackborough End Tip 6th, 1st-summer Scolt Head 7th-15th, 1st-summer Lynn Point 12th, Blakeney Point 19th, Salthouse 20th, west Weybourne 28th; May Thornham 9th, Blakeney Point 24th, Nar Valley Fisheries 31st; June 1st-summer Blackborough End Tip 19th; Aug Snettisham 27th; Sept Winterton 25th; Oct 1st-winter Holme/Thornham 12th; Dec adult east Cockthorpe airfield 31st.

Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus

Passage migrant, winter visitor and non-breeding summer visitor

Numbers (mostly imms) held on well into spring in King’s Lynn area. Sept/Oct appeared to be peak period, during which both Breydon and Scolt Head had very respectable counts.

Max numbers at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lynn Point	192	200	89	290	89	-	-	-	-	-	49	-
Scolt Head	38	33	26	55	36	30	135	211	360	425	120	45
Blackborough End Tip	260	-	80	110	50	-	70	100	-	-	-	70

Additional gatherings included: 70 Snettisham Aug 12th, 150 Holme Sept 8th, 544 Breydon Sept 21st, 185 Blakeney Point Nov 9th, 210 Thornham and 200 Stiffkey Dec.

Observations of coastal movements typically few but involved (all west): 63 Overstrand (3 dates) Feb 12th-21st, 50 Sheringham April 23rd, 125 Scolt Head Oct 19th and 70 Sheringham Dec 15th.

Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla

Mainly passage migrant; occasional non-breeding concentrations in summer

Unexceptional numbers off coastal watchpoints in first 6 months with most in north-east. Sheringham recorded 200 east (1015-1230) Jan 24th while 150 moved east off Overstrand Feb 14th. Singles Lynn Point Jan 20th, and Welney Jan 28th and Feb 3rd less usual.

A single, again Welney April 2nd, sole inland bird of spring. Scolt Head ternery had attendant birds on occasions May-July including 65 July 10th. Early dispersal in July also brought 145 south Winterton 1st, 43 Gorleston 5th and 63 Winterton 8th. First juv reported Breydon Aug 6th.

A less than spectacular autumn passage began Sept: 50 Cley 14th. 72 west Holme, 305 west 178 east Scolt Head, 175 east 5 west East Runton, 183 Cromer all 22nd, 230 west Sheringham and 400/hr west Mundesley 23rd. Movement continued into Oct: 415 west Scolt Head 6th, 300 east Sheringham 14th, 582 east Sheringham 16th and 500 (1st-winters) Mundesley 27th. The latter date also saw a remarkable 136 1st-winters at Welney which is largest inland flock recorded in county away from Great Ouse north of King’s Lynn. Nov 9th also notable when 320 west Holme, 164 west Titchwell, 160 east 25 west Sheringham and 450 east Mundesley; finally 101 east 7 west Sheringham Dec 5th.

Caspian Tern

Sterna caspia

Vagrant from the Baltic

Singles Hickling Broad May 12th-14th, also visiting Rockland Broad and Filby Broad on 13th (JHa JRWi *et al*), Breydon/Yarmouth June 23rd (INS *et al*) and Hockwold Washes June 26th-30th (JD&JEG *et al*). It is possible that 3 separate birds were involved.



Caspian Tern (John Geeson)

Sandwich Tern

Sterna sandvicensis

Migratory breeder and passage migrant

First of spring 2 Holme March 16th then 2 Scolt Head 23rd followed by 2 Cley 28th, 3 Burnham Overy 29th, 2 west Sheringham 30th and 4 Titchwell 31st. Compared with last year a slower build-up of numbers at Scolt Head with 12 on 30th, 110 April 2nd and just 400 by 4th; numbers there increased rapidly from mid-April with 850 12th, 1000 14th, 2000 16th, 3000 17th-19th, 4000 23rd-30th and 5000 May 11th.

A good breeding season at Scolt Head where 3050 pairs fledged 2750 young but lower number of pairs and success than in previous three years. An increase at Stiffkey Binks where 800 pairs fledged 700-750 young. At Blakeney Point the best season for 4 years where 750 pairs fledged 550 young.

Single 1st-summer birds at Breydon June 7th and Scolt Head 15th-19th. First juv away from breeding colonies Breydon June 30th.

Other movements/gatherings of note: 280 Cley April 26th, 273 east Sheringham 29th with 203 west there June 22nd, 296 west (1000-1130) 27th, 270 west 29th, 321 west July 21st and 378 Aug 11th; 133 Breydon July 8th, 133 East Runton Sept 9th and 300 west Holme 13th.

Inland: 10 Hickling Broad May 5th and 2 Wisington BF Oct 6th.

Last of autumn 4 Sheringham Oct 16th, Yarmouth 19th and 2 Scolt Head 25th. One winter record, single south Winterton Dec 26th.

Roseate Tern

Sterna dougallii

Uncommon summer visitor; has bred

A good year with birds recorded June-Aug. For second successive year no breeding or attempted breeding recorded in the county.

All records: 3 Scolt Head June 17th with 2 on 18th, 2 July 12th and 2 Aug 18th; Blakeney Point Aug 21st; Cley Aug 31st and west Sept 2nd; Eccles July 5th; singles Breydon on 11 dates June 9th-July 21st; pair Yarmouth June 22nd and one Gorleston July 5th.

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

Migratory breeder and passage migrant at both coastal and inland sites

Recorded between March 26th (Breydon), the earliest ever date there, and Nov 9th (Mundesley). The only notable spring concentrations at Scolt Head where 155 April 26th, 220 28th, 320 29th/30th and 400 May 5th.

A min of 813 breeding pairs, a decrease of 114 on 2001 and a large decrease in fledged young. No figures for some sites.

	<i>No of prs</i>	<i>Young fledged</i>
Snettisham	85	8
Scolt Head	260	120-150
Holkham NNR	103	4
(Stiffkey Big Binks	71)	
(Stiffkey Little Binks	15)	
(Wells	17)	
Blakeney Point	165	45
Breydon	197	191
Ranworth Broad	39	unknown
Hickling Broad	1	0
Barton Broad	17	unknown
Hardley Flood	1	unknown
Nar Valley Fisheries	14	unknown
Welney	16	20

Up to 6 birds at Pentney GP in summer but no breeding occurred. Reason for poor fledgling success at Snettisham not known. At Scolt Head and Holkham NNR some nests and young lost in high tide at end of June. Another almost full-house at the 4 platforms at Breydon; 3 pairs failed on saltings due to high tides as is normal there for any attempting to breed other than on the platforms.

Up to 5 1st-summer birds Breydon June 13th-July 27th and one Scolt Head June 23rd.

At Scolt Head 60 feeding on flying ants Aug 1st.

No major autumn movements recorded or gatherings outside breeding areas. The only three-figure movements were at Scolt Head (all west) 185 Aug 6th, 385 12th and 265 17th, and 150 west Titchwell Sept 9th. Counts of note elsewhere 153 Snettisham July 23rd, 154 Lynn Point Aug 21st and 100 Walcott Sept 9th.

An interesting series of evening movements, generally in a south-easterly direction, through Hickling Broad in Aug where 50 2nd, 148 7th, 40 8th, 220 9th, 65 11th, 163 12th, 20 17th and 53 21st. Presumably others were unrecorded after dark and on other dates. As these movements have not been recorded before, perhaps time will show it to be a regular annual occurrence, or not. (Ref NBC Bulletin No 49).

Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

Double passage migrant; a few pairs breed

Earliest Ranworth Broad April 17th; light spring passage of only 1-4 at 7 localities rest of month with exception of 12 west Scolt Head 27th. In May 1-5 at 16 localities with 20 Attleborough on 5th.

Breeding: a pair at Scolt Head all June and July but outcome not known, 6 pairs Blakeney Point where just a single young fledged.

Elsewhere in June singles Salthouse 20th and Breydon 20th/21st and 25th. In July 1-3 at 5 localities.

Light autumn passage with 1-4 at 10 sites with exception 18 east Scolt Head Aug 8th and 8 west Sept 22nd. Latest Sheringham Nov 3rd.

Little Tern

Sterna albifrons

Local migratory breeder

First recorded mid-April when Titchwell and Breydon 17th, and Scolt Head and Burnham Overy 18th. Spring passage far more evident and earlier than usual during April with both some large movements and gatherings: 20 Breydon 19th, 38 west Scolt Head 22nd, 150 north Waxham 27th, 60 Yarmouth 28th, and 220 Scolt Head and 54 Eccles 30th.

County breeding total of max 540 pairs; this total may be higher than it actually is as there is a tendency for max number of pairs to be reported which, with failing birds moving to other sites, may result in an inflated total. Max of 115 young fledged, success poor at many sites due to high flood tides in June and predation by foxes, stoats, Oystercatcher and gulls. At the Yarmouth colony vandals struck on night of May 31st, ripping up the whole fence and throwing it into the colony, resulting in all 98 known nests being either damaged or deserted. A few pairs re-layed only to be washed out by high tides in late June, by which time most birds had relocated to Winterton. Despite all the negative news it was encouraging to report breeding at a new site at Eccles where birds nested on newly created habitat behind sea defence reefs.

	<i>No of prs</i>	<i>Young fledged</i>
Holme	2	0
Titchwell	5	0
Scolt Head	90-95	20
Burnham Overy-Holkham	36	15
Wells	16	15
Bob Hall Sands	2	0
Wells New Ridge	43	0
Wells Breakthrough	3	0
Little Binks	22	0
Big Binks	1	0
Blakeney Point	85	3
Eccles	12	12
Winterton	120	44
Yarmouth North Beach	98	6

Largest autumn counts all July when 220 Scolt Head 14th-17th, 44 Ongar Hill 21st, 37 Snettisham 27th and 20 Holme 14th. As usual rapid departure with few after early Sept and last of year early Oct when singles (possibly same) Mundesley 1st, Holme 2nd, and Scolt Head and Blakeney Point 3rd.

The county's breeding population appears to remain relatively stable allowing for annual variation, whilst productivity is erratic and worryingly low in recent years. If it was not for the Yarmouth colony in some years virtually no young would have been fledged.



Kingfisher - a surprisingly numerous resident. (*Tony Howes*)

Western Bunting - a local and declining resident. (*M Rains*)

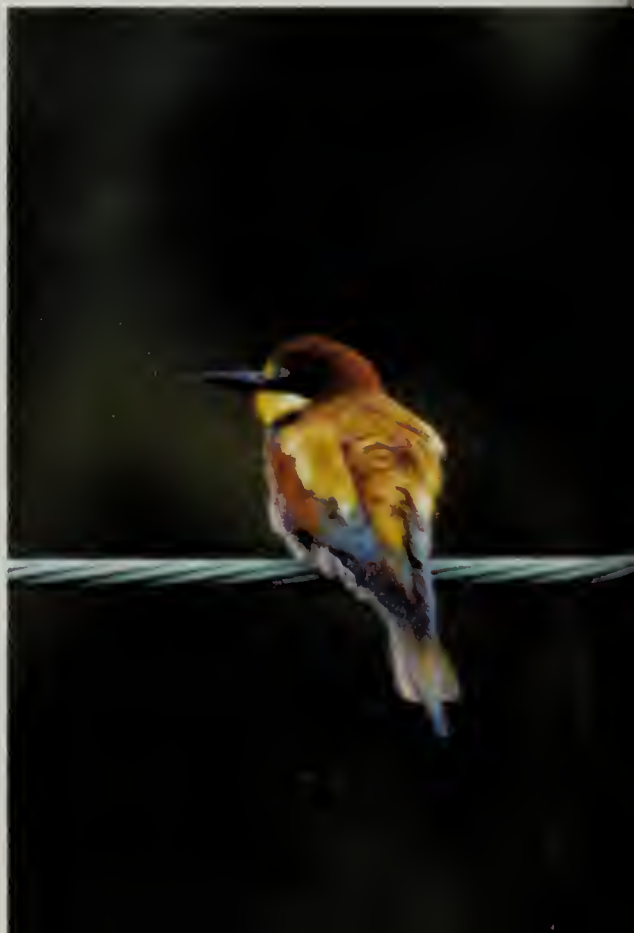




Red-footed Falcon - this immature female made a protracted stay at Hickling NWT. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

White-rumped Sandpiper - this adult, the first of three in the county, was at Kelling WM for one day only. (*Garry Cook*)

European Bee-eater - the most obliging bee-eater of the year paused briefly at Kelling in August. (*Garry Cook*)





Scaevolar Sandpiper - an annual migrant photographed at Titchwell. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Glossy Ibis - an exceptional influx of 5 birds but this one at Snettisham was the only one to be seen by many. (*Paul Wileman*)

Marsh Nightingale - trapped at Weybourne in September. (*Julian Bhalerao*); Red-breasted Flycatcher - Good numbers were seen in the Autumn including this bird at Stiffkey. (*Andrew Bloomfield*)





Common Sandpiper - a very photogenic juvenile at Denmark House, Weybourne. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Snipe & Little Stint - a typical Autumn sight. (*Tony Howes*)



Numbers of pairs and fledged young over last 10 years:

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
No of Pairs	565	459	576	636	615	406	510	601	551	497	540
No of fledged young	186	220	602	369	155	148	383	453	75	141	115

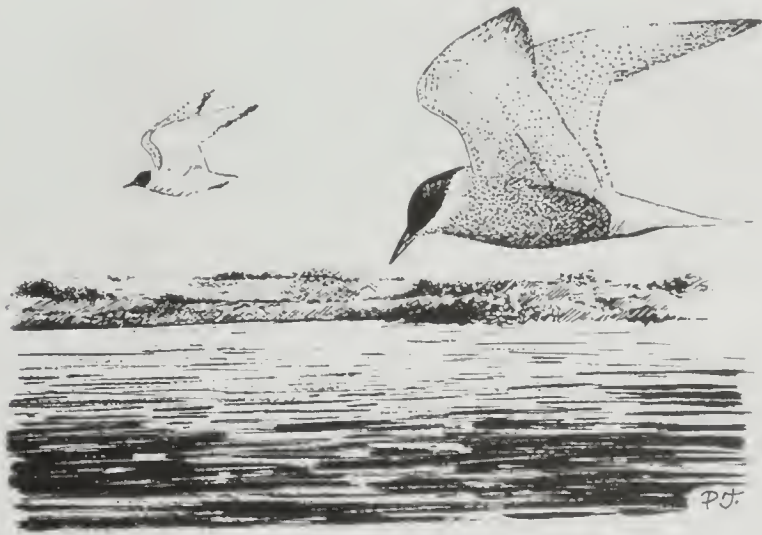
Nationally Little Terns have declined by 27% from 2850 pairs 1985-87 to 2085 pairs 1999-2001, representing a decline of around 2% per annum. This decline has been worse in eastern Scotland, north-eastern and southern England. Not only has there been a decline in pairs but also in the number of occupied sites has also declined, resulting in complete stretches of the British coastline being abandoned. The British population represents around 10% of that in Europe, where over much of its range it has at least remained stable or increased. The reason for the decline appears to be a reduction in productivity as a result of increased predation. Predator control and predator proof fencing is carried out on many Norfolk sites and has resulted in at least some success, without which numbers of fledged young would have been far lower. With increasing fox populations, kestrel predation and sea level rise, along with the increasing numbers of visitors to the coast, the future status of this attractive breeding summer visitor appears to be uncertain.

Whiskered Tern

Chlidonias hybrida

Vagrant from southern Europe

An adult Hockwold Washes May 16th (JBo PE PJM *et al*). The first record since 1999.



Whiskered Tern (Phil Jones)

Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

Regular double passage migrant in variable numbers; has bred

First arrival Rockland Broad April 17th followed by single Cley, displaying pair Hardley Flood and 2 Ranworth Broad on 27th, and 3 north Eccles 29th, the only other April occurrences. In May very light spring passage 5th-18th with max 41 birds at 10 localities mainly 1-3 but 5 Colney GP 9th and 5 east Scolt Head 17th.

In June 4 east Scolt Head with singles Holme and Breydon 1st, and one Scolt Head and 2 Ranworth Broad 2nd (one of which was a 1st-summer bird). In July one Yarmouth on 15th the only record.

Very light autumn passage Aug 1st-10th with max of only 14 birds consisting of 1-3 at 8 localities. Another light movement 18th-29th when max of 68 birds at 12 localities, mainly 1-6 but 16 Breydon 18th and 8 west one east Scolt Head 21st. Little passage noted in Sept with max 20 birds, singles at 6 localities with 4 east Scolt Head 3rd, 2 east 10th and 6 Blakeney Point 9th. In Oct singles Snettisham and Sheringham with 4 Horsey 6th, Cley 9th and latest Scolt Head 24th.

White-winged Black Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus

Vagrant from south-east Europe

A juv Welney Aug 9th-11th (JBK *et al*) and a long-staying and well-watched 1st-winter Cantley BF Oct 18th-Nov 16th (JLa *et al*).

Guillemot

Uria aalge

Passage migrant and winter visitor; occasional wrecks

A poor year, in first winter period best counts all from Sheringham where 84 east Jan 3rd, 200 24th and 6 Feb 6th. Counts in spring and summer all in single figures with no further movements of note until Sept and Oct when 25 west Scolt Head Sept 16th, 275 west 40 east Scolt Head and 140 Cley 22nd, and at Sheringham in Oct 200 6th, 100 14th and 178 east in one hour 26th. Only noteworthy records in last 2 months of year, 3 oiled birds Winterton Nov 30th and 10 off Titchwell Dec 21st.

Razorbill

Alca torda

Passage migrant and winter visitor

Few identified in first winter period when 2 Holkham Bay Jan 12th and 9 east one west Sheringham Jan 26th. Still few in spring/summer when only records 8 west Sheringham May 17th and 2 18th, 2 Titchwell June 20th and 15 east Sheringham 28th. Many more in autumn when 12 west Scolt Head and 1000 east Sheringham (0615-1615) Sept 22nd, and in Oct 40 Scolt Head 4th, 105 west Scolt Head and 1500 west Sheringham 5th, 200 Sheringham 6th, 100 Cley 14th and 30 Scolt 23rd. Only other record during rest of year an oiled bird Horsey Nov 24th.

Guillemot/Razorbill

In first half of year only records 40 east 3 west Sheringham Feb 6th, and 20 Sheringham and 20 Beeston Bump 28th. No other counts until Oct when at Scolt Head 166 west 12 east 3rd, 220 west 40 east 5th, and 555 east 80 west 6th, and at Sheringham 455 east 14th, 211 east 16th, 500 west 23rd, and 210 east 40 west 26th. Virtually all movements appeared to relate to Razorbills, especially those in Oct. No other counts received during rest of year.

Little Auk

Alle alle

Passage migrant, most during northerly gales; occasional wrecks

Only records outside late autumn singles dead Holkham Bay Jan 10th and one partly oiled on sea Lessingham North Gap May 10th, which was caught and released back on to sea.

First of autumn Oct 19th when singles west Scolt Head and Sheringham, but no others until Nov when singles west Blakeney Point and Sheringham 4th, 2 Sca Palling 5th, west Mundesley 8th, west Sheringham and 2 west Mundesley 9th, north Yarmouth 19th and east

Titchwell 21st. Best day of a lean autumn Nov 23rd when 5 Holme, 24 Titchwell, 38 Holkham Bay (1 hr 30 mins), 3 Cley, 5 Sheringham and 3 Waxham, all moving east. Few during rest of month with 5 Holme, 3 Sea Palling, 4 Waxham and one Gorleston 24th, Mundesley 25th, Sea Palling 26th, 2 Salthouse 27th and Holkham Bay 30th. Only records in Dee singles Cley 8th, east Holme 19th and an oiled bird dead Gorleston 28th.

Puffin

Fratercula arctica

Passage migrant and winter visitor

In first winter period and spring singles Holme Jan 1st, Sheringham 3rd, Seolt Head Feb 2nd, Titchwell 16th, dead Waxham 23rd and west Titchwell June 16th.

During summer and early autumn singles east Sheringham July 10th, Blakeney Point 30th, west Seolt Head Aug 21st and east Sheringham 26th. In Sept recorded on 8 dates, best counts 4 west Seolt Head, 3 Cley and 5 east Sheringham 14th, 13 east Sheringham (0645-1615) and one Mundesley 16th, 4 west Seolt Head and west Sheringham 16th, and west Holme, 12 west 3 east Seolt Head, 2 west 1 east Blakeney Point and 12 east Sheringham (0615-1615) 22nd. Seen on 9 dates Oct but numbers small including 3 east 3 west Sheringham 5th, 2 west Seolt Head and east Sheringham 6th, and 3 east Mundesley 22nd. Only records in last 2 months of year 2 Titchwell Nov 3rd and singles Blakeney Point Nov 29th and dead Sea Palling Dec 17th.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon

Columba livia

Introduced/escaped resident in most urban areas

Like last year, very few records received. Only count during first winter period 100 Sea Palling Jan 13th.

Westerly movement during March noted from Cromer GC where 5 5th, 7 8th, 4 11th, one 12th, 14 18th, 3 19th and 7 20th. Records from this site may relate to birds from nearby Cromer where Feral Pigeons are common. However, it is interesting to note that none were seen to move in an easterly direction.

NBA results showed the species was present in 36% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 10 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Only count in second winter period 140 Yarmouth Sept 19th.

Stock Dove

Columba oenas

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Highest counts in first winter period included: Jan 70 St Benet's Level 1st, 68 Haddiseoe Marshes 18th, 100 Waxham 19th, 100 Horsey Mill 27th, 120 Horsey/Winterton 29th; Feb 110 Horsey 6th, 120 Thetford Nunnery Flood 12th, 45 Somerton Homes 17th; March 100 Thetford Nunnery Lakes 1st.

Coastal movement underway from Feb 28th when 6 west Holme, only other spring record here 57 west March 11th. Movement at Beeston Bump began March 1st when 6 east 6 west, with further westerly movements of 3 8th, 15, 15 11th and 7 22nd. At Cromer GC first noted March 4th when one west followed by 3 west March 5th, 14 west 8th, 8 east 11th, 5 west one east 12th, 13 west 7 east 18th, 11 west 19th, with 8 west 2 east and 12 north-west out to sea 20th. Also 16 east 2 west Overstrand March 24th. At Hunstanton Cliffs (all south) 208 March 11th, 4 17th, 54 18th, 3 20th, 15 22nd, 6 25th and 7 31st.

Elsewhere 15 east Paston March 8th, 6 south Winterton 9th, and 25 west Sheringham also 9th with 17 west 30th. With the exception of Hunstanton and Holme there is a distinct bias of

records from north-east sites, presumably due only to observer coverage and not Stock Dove migration routes?

Breeding data from Norwich Sweetbriar Marsh 10 pairs, Repps-with-Bastwick 9 pairs and Welney 5 pairs. NBA results showed the species was present in 77% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Coastal movement in autumn rather sparse with only records from Sheringham where 2 in off sea Sept 29th, 5 west Oct 4th, 6 west 5th, 13 west 3 east Nov 3rd and 27 west 5th.

Max counts in second winter period included: Oct 105 Garbolisham; Nov 45 Coxford; Dec 110 East Beckham, 100 Burnham Market, 50 Cockthorpe.

Woodpigeon

Columba palumbus

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Slightly more records than last year but still under-recorded. Max counts in first winter period: Jan 3100 Winfarthing, 400 Brancaster; Feb 1500 Morston, 700 Sidestrand, 360 Sheringham; March 600 Holme, 400 Whitlingham CP, 150 Hempton Marsh.

Hard to determine when spring movements commenced due to interesting counts from Holme where (all west) 87 Jan 29th, 90 Jan 31st and 200 Feb 28th. Were these migrants? Movements in full swing from early March where most impressive counts Hunstanton Cliffs (all south) 1628 March 11th, 188 17th, 1561 18th, 137 19th, 150 20th, 612 21st, 646 25th, 540 31st, 147 April 16th, 302 19th, 91 May 15th and 514 16th. Large counts also noted Paston where 2500 east March 8th and 1550 east there next day. Also 800 north-east East Tuddenham April 12th.

Breeding data received from Scolt Head 5 pairs, Blakeney Point one pair and Welney where described as 'common breeder'. NBA results showed the species was present in 99% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 114 birds per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage not as impressive as spring and restricted to just 3 sites in west. At Hunstanton (all south) 326 Nov 5th, 1951 15th and 385 16th; 225 west Scolt Head Oct 20th and 70 west Holme Nov 23rd.

Max counts in second winter period: Nov 3000 Sheringham, 500 Bawburgh; Dec 2000 Brancaster.

Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto

First bred in Britain at Cromer in 1955, now widespread and common resident

Max counts during first winter period included: Jan 120 King's Lynn Fisher Fleet, 100 Ludham, 64 Great Ouse RC, 59 Great Ryburgh, 50 East Tuddenham; Feb 40 Ormesby; March 45 Ormesby.

Typically rather small-scale spring movement noted but a notably protracted passage at Hunstanton Cliffs where (all south) 7 March 11th, 2 17th, 6 18th, 3 19th, 2 21st, 5 25th, 6 31st, one April 16th, 2 23rd, 3 May 1st, 13 2nd, 26 14th, 15 15th, 41 16th, 25 19th, 25 20th and 3 June 15th. Elsewhere total of 32 birds from 6 sites. Judging from numbers at Hunstanton it would appear that this species is being under-recorded as a migrant at most north coast sites.

Breeding records from Repps-with-Bastwick 12 pairs, Welney 5 pairs and Berney Arms where pair nested for first time. NBA results showed the species was present in 88% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 9 pairs per occupied tetrad. Late summer count of 130 New Costessey July 27th.

Autumn movement on very small scale and only recorded from Holme where 5 west Sept 20th, Hunstanton Cliffs where (all south) 4 Oct 1st, 7 24th, 3 31st, 3 Nov 15th and 5 16th, and Sheringham where 6 west Nov 2nd.

Max counts in second winter period: Oct 100 Great Ryburgh; Nov 425 Wells Hospital (the largest concentration ever recorded in the county), 115 Winfarthing; Dec 200 Wells, 110 Burston, 100 Ormesby.

Turtle Dove

Streptopelia turtur

Migratory breeder and passage migrant; evidence of recent decline

First record of spring on very early date of March 25th at Pentney GP. No more until 2 Langham April 18th and one Snettisham next day. Increasingly more common to month end with 1-3 at numerous inland and coastal localities.

Spring movement on a much more impressive scale than recent years, largest counts coming from the 6-day period May 15th-20th. At Hunstanton Cliffs during this time (all south) 140 15th, 31 16th, 43 19th and 41 20th. Elsewhere on May 15th 100 west Holme, 36 west Brancaster (20 mins) and 44 west Sheringham (1 hr 30 mins). On 19th 56 west 3 east Sheringham and 26 Eccles. Numbers fell gradually into early June; latest coastal migrants 3 west Sheringham June 16th.

Pairs/singing males recorded from numerous sites including 12 Welney, 11 localities in NARVOS recording area, 5 Fornctt St Peter and 4 Ludham. NBA results showed the species was present in 61% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Post breeding concentrations noted Eccles where 15 July 28th and 10 Ten Mile Bank Aug 26th.

Usual rapid departure late Aug left only a few by mid-Sept, with latest records Ingham Oct 18th, Yarmouth Nov 3rd and one with Collared Doves Holme Nov 13th.

Ring-necked Parakeet

Psittacula krameri

Introduced vagrant

Singles King's Lynn Feb 13th (GNB), west Holkham Meals May 26th (AIB) and possibly same Hunstanton/Holme/Brancaster area intermittently June 27th-Sept 29th (many obs).

Unidentified Parakeet sp at Gressenhall May 10th (JP) and Norwich Aug 7th (MJW).

Please see also note in Editorial.

Cuckoo

Cuculus canorus

Migratory breeder and passage migrant

Several observers have commented that this species is becoming increasingly scarce.

First recorded April 5th when singles Gateley, Hanworth Common and Snettisham. Thereafter more widespread to end of month with max 4 Titchwell 22nd. Increasingly common during May with max 5 Cranwich, 3 Strumpshaw, 2 West Runton and 2 Ranworth Broad. Small southerly movement noted Hunstanton Cliffs during May with singles south 1st, 16th and 20th, and 2 15th. Also 2 in off sea Cley May 10th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 58% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad; with juvs noted at Blakeney Point, Cley, Ditchingham (fed by Dunnocks), East Tuddenham, Holme 2, Horsey, Repps-with-Bastwick, Scolt Head 3, Waxham and West Runton (fed by Meadow Pipits). As usual a few lingered into Sept with latest Winterton 16th and Berney 20th.

Barn Owl

Tyto alba

Resident, continental race has appeared as a vagrant

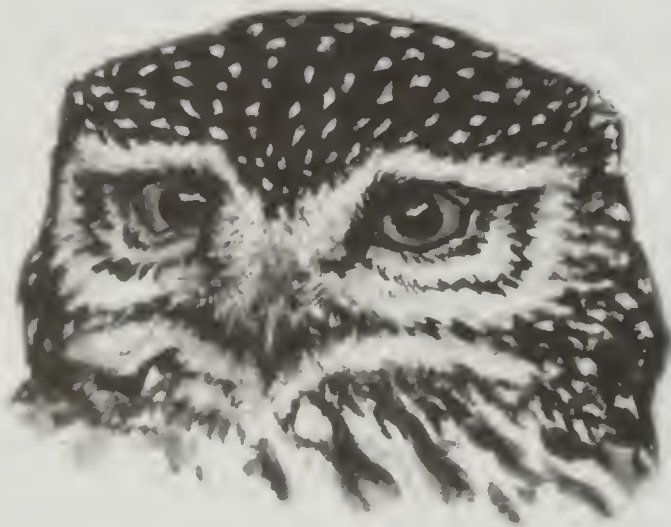
Reports from 235 sites, an increase of 16% on last year. The spread of records indicates that there are few areas of the county where this species may not be encountered. Records from 43 sites of pairs/breeding is similar to 2001 and includes 14 in Cockley Cley/Gooderstone/Hilborough parishes (12 in 2001), 5 Ludham, 4 Stanford TA (11 young reared), 3 Holme, and 2 in Lyng-Easthaugh, mid-Yare RSPB, Ringstead and Thornham. In Yarmouth a pair bred in a town centre church and at Martham a pair was reported to have raised 2 broods, something very unusual in this species. It is pleasing to note that a bird, rare in many parts of Britain, is maintaining a healthy population locally.

Little Owl

Athene noctua

Introduced resident

Recorded at 111 sites with 38 of these holding 2 or more birds. This figure represents an increase of 7% on 2001. At Sparham/Lyng one observer commented that there had been more sightings than he could ever recall. Only 2 reports of confirmed breeding, although pairs were reported during breeding season at a further 27 sites. Just one report of fledged young, this relating to 2 Choseley July. A most unusual record of one Scolt Head Sept 30th. As this species is not always the most obvious, comments made regarding its distribution in previous Reports still hold true.



Little Owl (Steve Cale)

Tawny Owl

Strix aluco

Widespread resident

A welcome increase in number of reports with birds noted at 77 sites with many relating to calling birds. Highest densities were 5 at Overstrand, 4 Forngett St Mary, 3 Castle Acre, Holme Hale and Necton, and 2 at a further 14 sites. The Holkham Park roost was occupied in both winter periods. One presumed road casualty, a bird found dead on Acle New Road Aug 30th. Breeding recorded at 5 localities with pairs present at 4 additional sites during breeding season. Only report of young was 3 Welney in June. Observers are requested to submit all records of this species in order to ascertain its true status.

Long-eared Owl

Asio otus

Scarce and local resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

In first winter period a calling bird Rockland Broad Jan 9th-16th. Only other reports at this time Hickling Broad and Narborough Jan 1st, Holme Feb 27th, and a possible early migrant Weybourne March 27th.

Several reports of returning migrants in spring: April Walsey Hills 11th, Blakeney Point 24th (in off sea) and 30th; May Stiffkey Fen 1st, Warham Greens 6th, Hickling Broad 10th, and Cley and Kelling WM 12th.

Breeding reports from Methwold (adult and young June 30th), South Creak (3 fledged young), a Brecks site (young calling June 17th and 19th) and confirmed breeding at a site in north-west of county. Others during breeding season at Oxborough May 7th, Weeting Heath May 27th and Walpole Highway June 17th. Two summer records, Sculthorpe Airfield July 1st and Roydon Common Aug 11th.

Good run of reports in autumn from Holme where up to 4 noted in Oct on 7th-9th, 11th (in off sea), 13th, 16th/17th, 19th/20th and 25th/26th. Elsewhere: Oct Sheringham in off sea 6th, Blakeney Point 11th/12th, Snettisham 14th, Mundesley 15th and west 30th, Scolt Head and Weybourne 17th, Langham 24th, and Salthouse and Sea Palling 31st; Nov Cley and in off sea Beeston Bump 15th.

In second winter period birds noted in Nov at Wighton 28th and in Dec at Weybourne 6th, Ickburgh (calling) 16th and Great Walsingham 30th.



Long-eared Owl (Andy Benson)

Short-eared Owl

Asio flammeus

Rare breeder, regular passage migrant and winter visitor

Reported widely in first winter period with birds regularly at 2 sites: at Snettisham Jan-March with 3 Feb 16th, 4 March 25th and 2 30th, and at Holme on 13 days during March, including 2 22nd-24th and again 27th. Elsewhere: Jan Eeels, Norwich Airport (2 15th and 19th), Strumpshaw and Waxham; Feb Haddiscoe Island, Horsham St Faith, Lynn Point, Runham, Terrington Marshes, Titchwell (where interesting record of one in off sea Feb 2nd) and west Caister; March Blakeney Point, Bradwell, Gapton Marshes, Buckenham, Caister, Cley, Haddiscoe Island, Happisburgh, Hickling Broad, King's Lynn BF, Northrepps, Ongar Hill, Thurlton Marshes and Welney.

Spring passage apparent from early April with regular reports until third week of May. Holme recorded birds throughout this time with sightings on 13 days in April with 2 3rd and 13th/14th, and 6 days in May; also here one found dead April 25th freshly killed by a fox. At other sites during this period: April Breydon/Berney, Buckenham, Burnham Overy GM, Cley/Salthouse, Horsey/Waxham, Kelling WM, Rockland Broad (2 17th), Saddlebow, Scolt

Head, Sheringham, Snettisham, Titchwell and Winterton; May Blakeney Point, Breydon/Berney, Dersingham Bog, Holkham GM, Kelling WM, Salthouse, Scolt Head, Sheringham, Thornham, Warham Greens and Winterton.

Although displaying pairs were noted at Kelling WM April 5th and another site during April, no evidence of breeding was forthcoming. However, on Scolt Head at least one mid-June to mid-Aug hunting over the ternery and was seen to fly east with chicks, probably indicating breeding nearby. Also in June singles Titchwell 2nd-6th and in July Holme 29th (until Aug 1st). Further birds Aug at Titchwell 15th, Stiffkey SM 27th-29th, Winterton 28th and in off sea Sheringham 29th.

A very good showing during main autumn migration with many seen arriving in off sea in Sept and Oct: Sept Blakeney Point and Horsey 9th, Cley 22nd, Scolt Head 24th and Blakeney Point 30th; Oct Horsey 2nd, East Runton (2), Gorleston (2), Salthouse, Scolt Head (3), Sheringham (2) and Titchwell (2) all 6th, Blakeney Point (2), Happisburgh, Holme, Scolt Head, Sea Palling and Yarmouth 8th, Sheringham (2) 16th, Overstrand 17th, Gorleston and Holme 18th, Yarmouth 19th and Scolt Head (3) 21st. Other records at this time: Sept Stiffkey, Titchwell, Warham Greens, Winterton and Yarmouth Cemetery; Oct Blakeney Friary Hills, Breydon/Berney, Burnham Overy Dunes, Holkham GM, Mundesley, Paston, Hunstanton GC (2 2nd), Snettisham, Trimingham, West Runton and Yarmouth Cemetery.

Following this large arrival good numbers reported during last two months of year. At Burnham Overy 4 Nov 16th increased to 6 by 17th and 24th, with 5 still present Dec 21st. Other sites holding 2 or more: Haddiscoe Island (3 Dec 24th), Holkham GM (2 Dec 1st), Snettisham (2 Dec 24th and 31st), Hickling Stubb Mill (2 Nov 9th), Warham Greens (2 Dec 25th and 31st) and Welney (3 Nov 9th, 2 10th/11th and Dec 2nd). A bird was found dead Welney Nov 5th. Single birds also noted at Blakeney Point, Breydon/Berney, Holme, King's Lynn BF, Martham Broad, Massingham Heath, Ongar Hill, Paston, Scolt Head and Winterton. A record of 3 high west Roydon Common Dec 15th indicates further late movement.

Nightjar

Caprimulgus europaeus

Local migratory breeder and rare passage migrant

First of spring at a breeding site in west of county May 11th. Subsequent records in May Hockwold Washes 16th, Swaffham GC 17th and site in north of county (2) 18th; unusually one Welney May 23rd. Reports of 64 churring males with 3 in east, 20 in north (including 5 at a previously unrecorded site), 29 in west (including 22 at one site), 4 central and 8 in Brecks. Although this figure is a fraction of actual number, the 22 males at one site and at another site in north are very encouraging.

Two interesting records of male churring during day on Hilborough Estate July 12th and a female/imm Scolt Head catching butterflies for 10 mins at 1600 hrs Aug 7th. Last reports of year Snettisham CP Sept 8th, Santon Downham 11th/12th and a late bird Cley Oct 11th.

Swift

Apus apus

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant

First spring record 3 Frettenham April 22nd; subsequently Hellesdon, Hethersett and Holme 23rd, 4 Castle Acre 24th, Happisburgh and Hopton 25th, Cley, Holme and Ormesby Little Broad 26th, and Lyng and Titchwell 27th. The 28th saw reports from numerous coastal sites with 20 west Holme best count. Totals during first half May remained small apart from 323 south Hunstanton in 2 hrs 15 mins 1st. Large widespread movement occurred mid-month with (all west unless stated): 14th 315 south Hunstanton (5 hrs 30 mins), 825 Scolt Head and

84 Sheringham (1 hr); 15th 1000 south Hunstanton, 3900 Seolt Head and 1650 Sheringham; 16th 2083 south Hunstanton, 2750 Scolt Head, 200/hr Burnham Overy Dunes and 1650 Sheringham. Passage continued for rest of month, best counts being (all west) Holme 200 18th, 300 21st, 350 25th and 300 31st; also 335 Seolt Head and 108 Blakeney Point 31st.

Breeding information received from only 2 sites, Cley where 30 pairs bred in village and Martham where 16 pairs bred on one house. NBA results showed the species was present in 83% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 24 birds per occupied tetrad.

Coastal movements throughout summer noted at Seolt Head with (all west): June 325 17th, 550 18th and 275 25th; July 785 10th and 475 22nd. Elsewhere (all west): June 200 Holme 10th and 100 25th, 497 south (2 hrs) Hunstanton 15th, 250 Sheringham 19th, 500 20th, 345 26th and 626 29th, 109 Beeston Bump (1920-2000) 25th, 100 Blakeney Point 30th; July 250 Holme 3rd and 100 Blakeney Point 9th.

Numbers quickly dropped from start Aug with 150 west Scolt Head 1st, and 500 west Holme and 174 Sheringham 2nd only three-figure counts of month. By third week only reports were of single figures with 3 Yarmouth 27th best count during final week. Singles only reported through Sept apart from 2 Titchwell 7th and 28th, with 3 8th, 4 Beeston Bump 7th, and 3 west Seolt Head 8th with 4 west 9th. Holme and Titchwell held a monopoly on Oct records with singles Holme 2nd, 7th, 8th and 25th, and Titchwell 7th, 8th and 25th.

Two very late Nov records of 'swift sp' Yarmouth 24th and Waxham 25th may have related to this species or to Pallid Swift.

Alpine Swift

Apus melba

Vagrant from southern Europe

One Sheringham June 20th (ADu *et al*), only second record since 1996 (see below).

2001 Addition: Docking June 11th (RQS).

Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis

Resident, numbers fluctuating in response to severity of winters

Reported during year at 102 sites, only a slight reduction on 2001. Birds noted throughout year at East Harling (1-2) and Wheatfen (up to 3 occasionally), and in every month except April, May and Dec at Breydon/Berney (1-2). Elsewhere during first winter period noted at 41 sites with most reports relating to single birds, exceptions being 2 Brancaster Hbr Feb 9th, 2 Fliteham March 23rd, 3 Hickling Broad (all Jan), 2 Thetford Kingfisher Lake March 2nd and 3 Ranworth Broad March 3rd.



Kingfisher (Stewart Wright)

During summer reported at 44 sites, but breeding confirmed at only five. At Felmingham 5 noted May 1st. Young birds at Thetford (2) May 24th and Hoe June 1st. At Mundesley a male flew into a house window and subsequently died June 9th.

Noted at 46 sites during last 5 months of year with 2 or more: Blakeney Hbr Sept 10th, Brancaster Hbr Aug 20th, 25th, Sept 8th and Dec 8th, Cockshoot Broad Sept 8th, Hickling Broad (5-6) Sept, Holme (1-2) Sept 1st-Nov 11th, Thetford Nunnery Lakes Aug 14th and Oct 8th, Welney Nov 4th and Whitlingham CP Aug 18th. Two interesting reports during this period: in Norwich on Sept 25th a bird eventually managed to escape after being trapped all day inside a factory on Hardy Road, and at Furze Road, Thorpe St Andrew Nov 22nd one was seen to take 12 goldfish from a garden pond.

Bee-eater

Merops apiaster

Vagrant from southern Europe

A plethora of records: June Langham 17th (K&SE), west Cley/Holkham Meals/Titchwell/Thornham 26th (CM JHs RFP *et al*); July Morston 7th (M&CB *et al*), 6 Strumpshaw then Wroxham Broad, Ashmanhaugh and Hingham 14th (JD&JEG *et al*), at least 2 calling Hickling Broad also 7th (DEB PMW) (same as flock of 6?), 3 west Overstrand 15th (GD BJM), Beeston Common 31st (JVB); Aug Sheringham GC, then Kelling and Warham 23rd (MPL *et al*), south Belton 28th (EWPJ).

2001 Addition: Caister May 16th (KB *et al*).

Hoopoe

Upupa epops

Annual vagrant in very small numbers

Following on from last year another good showing with 7 records, all but one in spring; Horsey April 2nd, Ringstead 5th/6th, Roughton May 11th, Aldeby 15th, Winterton 19th, Baconsthorpe 21st, and in autumn Hickling Broad Sept 17th.

Wryneck

Jynx torquilla

Former breeder; now scarce annual passage migrant, mostly in autumn

Following the year's first at Yarmouth Cemetery April 24th-28th the following three in May represented quite a poor spring: another Yarmouth Cemetery 2nd, Holme 9th and Salthouse 13th-15th.

An early arrival Overstrand July 16th preceded an above average autumn. A further 30 birds recorded including a number inland. Arrivals as follows: Aug 23rd Sheringham, 24th Sedgeford, 25th Horsey (until 28th), 27th Framlingham Earl (until 29th), Holme (until 30th), Scolt Head (until 29th) and Winterton (until 31st), 28th Burnham Overy Dunes, 29th/30th Beeston Bump; Sept 3rd Blofield Heath (killed on colliding with a window), 4th Winterton (until 8th), 5th Yarmouth Cemetery, 7th Kettlestone (died soon after found in a garden), 9th Scolt Head, 10th Beeston Bump (2 - one until 18th), Burnham Overy Dunes (2), Scolt Head, 11th Blakeney and Glandford, 12th Cley, Morston, Holkham Meals, Salthouse and Scolt Head (until 13th), 14th Beetley and Holme, 15th How Hill (until 16th) and Waxham (until 18th).

Green Woodpecker

Picus viridis

Resident

Once again, perhaps due to the species' conspicuous nature, recorded at more sites than our other two resident woodpeckers. The 109 sites where it was noted were once more scattered widely across the county with only the Fens producing very few sightings. Sites with more

than a single pair this year included: Beeston Regis (2), Burgh Castle (2), Fornsett St Peter (2), Ludham (4), Norwich (5 different localities), Repps-with-Bastwick (2) and Thetford (4 different localities). NBA results showed the species was present in 63% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad. One observer also commented that the species was 'increasing in the Broads'.

As usual a widespread scattering of feeding birds seen during winter months, often at coastal sites; best 7 Winterton on both Feb 21st and Nov 4th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos major

Common resident; birds of the northern race occasional in autumn

Recorded at 96 sites this year; an increase from last year although access restrictions due to foot and mouth hampered recording in 2001. With the species still undoubtedly our commonest woodpecker, many more remain unrecorded judging from the amount of suitable habitat within the county. The Fens once more were home to very few, although 2 pairs did nest at Welney. Other sites this year which hosted more than single pairs included: Cley (2), Fornsett St Peter (4), Holkham Park (6), Horsey (3), Langham (2), Ling Common (2), Norwich (4), Pentney (2), Repps-with-Bastwick (4), West Acre (2) and Wighton (2). NBA results showed the species was present in 76% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

At Pentney the 2 nests were noted as being 'just 100 yards apart'. BWP (OUP Vol IV 1985) states where high densities occur, 50 to 150 metres is the usual distance between nests with exceptions being as little as 25 metres.

The period Sept 11th-Nov 2nd as usual produced a scattering of migrants at coastal localities. A total of 39 noted, with 5 Holme Sept 27th being the most on any one day: of these 4 were seen out over the sea together.



Great Spotted Woodpecker (John Williamson)

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos minor

Declining local resident

A slight increase from last year, although numbers are still perilously low compared with its past status. All 37 localities listed: Barton Turf, Beechamwell, Bridgham, Brundall, Bunwell, Cantley, Cockley Cley, Croxton, East Harling, Felbrigg Park, Filby, Fowlmere, Frettenham, Fundenhall, Gunton Park, Helhoughton (2), Holkham Park (2), Holme, Langham, Loddon, Lynford (2), Martham, Norwich Sweetbriar Marsh, Reepham, Roydon, Santon Downham, Sheringham Park, Stanford TA (4), Strumpshaw, Surlingham, Thetford (2), Tottenhill, Watton, Wayland Wood, Weeting, Whitlingham CP and Wroxham.

As the species is by and large sedentary it would be optimistic to think breeding was attempted at each site. Juvs, however, were only noted at Santon Downham and Loddon. What was more encouraging this year was a greater number of records from midsummer to year end, traditionally a very lean spell for sightings. From the above list of localities it was also pleasing to see that more than single pairs were noted at 5 sites.

The Great Spotted Woodpecker's love of visiting garden bird feeders has yet to be shared by this species so one on a bird table at Fundenhall Sept 14th was most noteworthy.

Short-toed Lark

Calandrella brachydactyla

Vagrant from southern Europe east to Afghanistan

In Sept singles Blakeney Point 10th-12th (SJA RFP *et al*), Wells East Hills 11th (JRMc) and Scolt Head 13th (NML NW).

Woodlark

Lullula arborea

Uncommon migratory breeder, recently increasing; also scarce passage migrant

Away from breeding areas in first winter period: Jan West Runton 7th; Feb north Waxham 3rd and north 23rd; March Aylmerton 9th, Happisburgh 16th and south Winterton 9th. Further spring migrants over Yarmouth April 18th and Holme May 12th.

At breeding sites singing birds as early as Jan 27th in west, Feb 6th in north and Feb 16th at several sites in Brecks. A survey of Forestry Commission areas in Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks found 361 singing males, compared to 456 in 2000, a 21% fall in numbers. This was felt to be due to vigorous growth of vegetation in the clear fell areas associated with longer and wetter summers and a consequent shortening of the time span during which these areas were suitable breeding habitat for Woodlarks. Elsewhere 16 singing males/pairs in west, 8 in north and 2 central. Juvs seen at one site in north and 3 sites in west. At Weeting Heath 10 pairs bred with at least 4 pairs successfully fledging 12 young. Singing males recorded well into second half of year with one in Brecks Oct 8th and one in west of county in Nov. One site in west reported singing in every month except May and Dec.



Woodlark (Phil Jones)

In autumn flocks at Weeting Heath with 20 Aug 31st and 2 flocks totaling 24 Sept 15th; elsewhere flock of 18 in west Sept 27th. Autumn coastal migrants west Sheringham Aug 30th, east Weybourne and east Sheringham Sept 30th, Sidestrand Oct 9th, and west Scolt Head and Burnham Overy Dunes Oct 13th. Just one report in second winter period, single Salhouse Dec 12th.

Skylark

Alauda arvensis

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Largest concentrations during Jan 700 Kelling WM (single flock), 539 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, 300 West Runton and Gateley (3 flocks), 220 Winfarthing and 200 Cockthorpe. In Feb just 2 counts in three figures: 366 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr and 120 Titchwell. Interesting movements noted during these months: 50 west Holme Jan 1st, 2 in off sea Overstrand Feb 4th

and 6 west Beeston Bump (0800-0830) Feb 13th. Movements indicative of migration noted in March with 25 south Hunstanton (in 3 hrs) 18th and 4 west Beeston Bump 22nd.

In breeding season pairs/singing males/territories: Buckenham Marshes 21, Great Ellingham Manor Farm 10, Repps-with-Bastwick 21, Salhouse Heath 13 in surrounding farmland, Scolt Head 88, Weeting Heath 4 and Welney 59; the increase at Welney (19 in 2001) in response to a dry spring. On north coast the summer WeBS counts gave some idea of breeding numbers with 23 Stiffkey SM April, 22 Blakeney GM and 21 Salhouse May, and 26 Blakeney GM and 24 Stiffkey SM June. NBA results showed the species was present in 97% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 12 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn migration first detected Scolt Head where 7 west Sept 27th. Movement picked up during Oct with totals in off sea of 167 Scolt Head, 25 Blakeney Point (0910-1210) and 18 Walcott (0900-1000) 8th, 60 Scolt Head 10th and 59 there 11th, and 80 in then west Sheringham 19th. Further westerly max movements Oct: 212 Sheringham 13th, 725 Scolt Head 17th, 100 (south) Hunstanton and 195 Scolt Head 19th. Passage also noted this month inland with 41 west Roydon Common 3rd and 12 west there 13th, and 42 south Marham Fen 7th. Highest static count in Oct 120 Scolt Head 20th. Last reported movements first week Nov with 46 south Hunstanton 1st and 100 south Eccles 2nd.

Largest gatherings recorded in final months of year, 200 Paston Nov, and 40 Holme and 50 Scolt Head Dec.

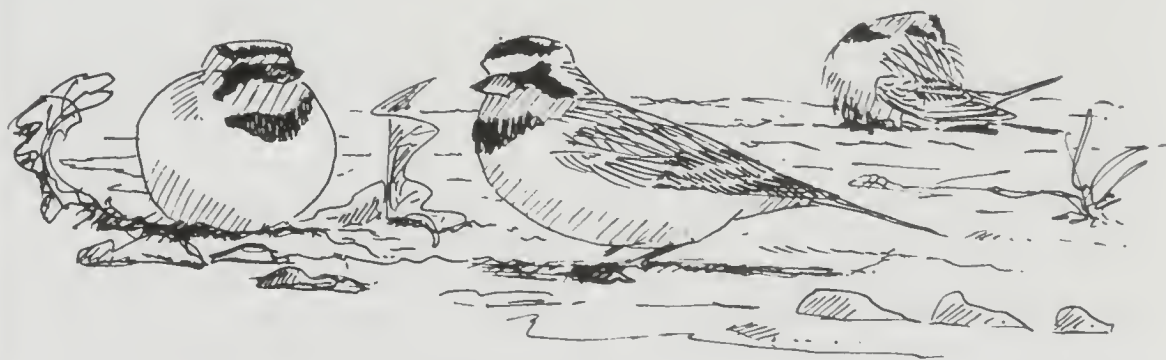
Shore Lark

Eremophila alpestris

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; exceptional in summer

In early part of year the flock at Holkham Bay contained 11 birds throughout Jan and Feb. In March still 10 there 10th but thereafter reducing to 3 April 1st-4th with no further reports after this date. Elsewhere only records Blakeney Point Feb 9th, and 3 Wells March 3rd and again 23rd. Spring passage apparent at two sites: Snettisham April 18th/19th, and Holme where 2 April 8th, one 9th-12th, 6 May 1st and 3 12th.

Oct saw first returning birds at Scolt Head with one 17th, 5 west 18th, 2 west and 6 on beach 19th, one 20th and 6 23rd. Sightings became widespread during late Oct with 3 Holme 20th, one Salhouse, 5 Mundesley and 5 Paston 23rd, 6 Titchwell 24th, 6 Thornham Point, 2 Titchwell, 3 west Weybourne and 4 south Gorleston 25th, 2 Holme 26th, 6 Titchwell 28th and one Holme 30th. Reports continued during first week Nov with 3 Holme, 2 west Wells East



Shore Larks (Andy Benson)

Hills, one Blakeney Point, 2 south Winterton and one Yarmouth 2nd, 5 Scolt Head 4th and 3 Hunstanton 5th.

In second winter period arrival of now regular flock at Holkham Bay commenced Oct 28th (6) with 58 Nov 4th increasing to 70 28th and 100 Dec 1st. Max counts elsewhere: Holme 5 Nov 16th and 6 Dec 12th, Titchwell 22 Nov 9th and 6 Dec 6th, Scolt Head 16 Nov 20th and 13 Dec 8th, Blakeney Point 24 Dec 18th and Cley 12 Nov 15th. Also 17 on winter wheat between Stiffkey and Morston Dec 28th.

Sand Martin

Riparia riparia

Local migratory breeder and common passage migrant

First spring record 11 Whitlingham CP March 11th with subsequent birds 2 Strumpshaw and 4 Great Ryburgh 18th, Cromer GC and 3 North Elmham 19th, Cromer GC 20th, and at variety of localities 24th onwards. In first half April highest counts 30 Whitlingham CP 7th, 60 Barton Broad 9th and 50 Tottenhill GP 13th. Thereafter passage increased with totals at Scolt Head (all west) 185 21st, 285 22nd and 135 23rd. Other three-figure counts at this time 100 Titchwell 22nd, 300 Hardley Flood 27th, 106 Whitlingham CP 28th and 200 Pentney GP 30th. Largest movement of spring occurred May 3rd when 1000 west Kelling WM (1315-1500). Passage slowed through May with last 33 west Scolt Head 22nd.

Details of breeding numbers received from 10 sites with holes/nests/pairs: Aylsham 30 (112 ringed), Beeston Regis Cliffs 50, Cranwich GP 20, Happisburgh 300, Nar Valley Fisheries 30, Pensthorpe 60, Pentney GP 20, Scratby Cliffs 50, Sparham GP 6, Stanford TA 90, Sheringham 50 in 2 colonies and West Lexham 4.

First autumn movements occurred from mid-June when 10 south Hunstanton 15th, 5 Holme 16th, 10 Scolt Head 17th, 50 Holme 19th and 185 Scolt Head 25th (all west). Passage noted throughout July at Scolt Head with best counts (all west) 120 10th, 235 11th, 165 12th, 435 19th and 165 28th. Other large totals during month 120 west Blakeney Point 9th, 300 Sheringham 10th and 1000 in roost Hickling Broad 22nd. Continued movement noted Scolt Head Aug/Sept with peaks (all west) 45 Aug 30th and 35 31st, and 43 Sept 6th. Only large concentration during Aug 300 Welney 9th. Last birds of year west Sheringham Sept 29th, east Holme Sept 30th and west Scolt Head on late date of Oct 24th.

Swallow

Hirundo rustica

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant

First of spring at Hopton March 7th was, for second year running, the earliest county record, beating last year by two days. Further March reports from Whitlingham CP 11th, Rudham Heath 13th, Titchwell 16th, south Hunstanton and Swanton Morley GP 21st, Great Walsingham 22nd, Titchwell 23rd, Paston and Strumpshaw 25th, east Holme 29th, Holme, west Scolt Head and Winterton 30th, and Caister (2), Hickling Broad, south Hunstanton, Snettisham CP and Welney (earliest site record) 31st. Small numbers continued into April until third week when 125 west Scolt Head 18th, 100 Holme and 73 west Sheringham 21st, and 215 west Holme 22nd. Main passage May with impressive counts at Scolt Head (all west) 945 1st, 2375 3rd, 1350 14th, 3205 15th, 465 16th, 565 18th, 285 19th and 165 30th. Elsewhere during month 200 west Titchwell 1st, 300 Holme, 850 west Blakeney Point and 350 west Kelling WM 3rd, 705 south (5 hrs 30 mins) Hunstanton 14th with 456 south (5 hrs 30 mins) there 15th and 1000 Holme, 270/hr south Winterton 18th and 23rd, and 100 south/hr there 27th. Movement continued into June when 300 west Holme 1st. Smaller numbers reported thereafter with 13 west Scolt Head 21st last report of spring passage.

Very few breeding reports: 7 nests Bergh Apton, 2 pairs Scolt Head, 99 pairs Stanford TA and 35 pairs Welney. NBA results showed the species was present in 92% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 7 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage underway early at Scolt Head with 8 west July 10th. Numbers quickly increased there with (all west) 45 12th, 225 19th and 685 28th. Movement also noted in July Sheringham where 570 west 13th and 790 west 27th. Large numbers throughout Aug at Scolt Head where (all west) 305 10th, 385 12th, 2320 14th, 875 15th, 625 30th and 335 31st; impressive feeding flocks also there with 500 11th, 800 24th and 1000 31st. Other large counts in Aug 300 west Blakeney Point 13th, 300 Holme 24th, and 500 Holme and 3000 in roost Hickling Broad 29th.

In Sept at Scolt Head westerly movements of 305 5th, 2350 6th, 725 7th, 385 8th and 60 27th, with feeding flocks of 800 4th and 750 21st. Other notable counts in Sept 600 Welney 4th, 500 west Holme and 500 in roost Horsey Mere 7th, 1000 feeding Holme and 5000 south-west (2 hrs 30 mins) Hunstanton 8th, 500 west Holme 10th, 450 Welney 17th and 'several thousand' Hickling Broad 20th. Numbers much reduced by Oct when best 35 Horsey/Winterton 13th and 16 Hickling Stubb Mill 14th. In second half of month 2 Scolt Head 18th, 7 Wighton 19th, 15 Winterton 20th, 2 Winterton 21st, 4 Scolt Head 25th and 2 Wereham 26th. Stragglers noted throughout Nov when west Holme and Titchwell 1st, Snettisham and Ingham 3rd, 2 west Holme and 2-3 roosting in small reedbed Thornham 4th, 2 west Holme, Wells and Welney 5th, Beeston Bump and Cantley BF 9th, Wells 10th, Titchwell and 2 west Sheringham 11th, west Beeston Bump 12th, 2 Cromer 13th, 2 south Hunstanton 15th, Cromer and 2 Scratby 24th, and last records of year 2 Titchwell and 2 Holkham 30th.

Red-rumped Swallow

Hirundo daurica

Vagrant from southern Europe

Two south Hunstanton Cliffs Oct 24th (GFH).

House Martin

Delichon urbica

Common migratory breeder and passage migrant

First arrival Thetford Nunnery Lakes March 27th with further March sightings Lower Kelling, west Scolt Head and Worthing GP 30th, and Beeston Bump, 2 Cley, Happisburgh, 2 Paston and Welney (earliest site record) 31st. Few records during first week April when Barnhamcross Common, Thetford and west Holme 1st, 2 Hardley Flood 3rd, 3 Thetford Nunnery Lakes 5th and 4 Tottenhill GP 6th. Reports of small numbers continued through month not increasing until 21 west Scolt Head 22nd, 25 Titchwell 26th and 100 Ranworth Broad 27th. Main passage occurred May when counts at Scolt Head (all west) 418 1st, 295 14th, 835 15th, 255 18th, 235 19th, 225 20th, 135 21st and 85 30th. Elsewhere Hunstanton (all south) 307 14th, 580 15th, 823 19th and 222 20th, 150 Holme and 100 Titchwell 1st, and 189 west Sheringham 19th. Westerly movement continued well into June at Scolt Head with 60 1st, 55 17th then daily until last 3 25th. June passage also noted Sheringham where 60 west 45 east 1st.

Breeding records of nests/pairs: Bergh Apton 32, Blakeney Village (granary) 6 (3 pairs had 2nd broods), Brettenham 25, Fleggburgh Sports Village 6, Filby Fox and Hounds PH 5 and King's Head PH 3, Gooderstone 11 on one farmhouse, Hindringham 9, Horning Hall 30, Langham 28, Oby (farmhouse) 35 and Welney 23. NBA results showed the species was present in 78% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 9 pairs per occupied tetrad. Several observers remarked about the late arrival of birds at nesting sites in spring. At Stowbridge the old bridge over the Great Ouse, where 20/30 pairs

regularly bred, was demolished at end of April and replaced by a new bridge. Some of the arriving birds relocated to the RC Bridge, approx 100 yds away, but many appeared disorientated and confused. Once the demolition was completed they eventually settled and built nests on the new bridge. At Old Catton a nest was still active Sept 23rd.

First autumn movement Sheringham where 114 west July 27th. No further passage reported until Aug 14th when 85 west Scolt Head followed by further Aug westerly counts there of 20 15th and 185 30th. Main passage Sept (west along north coast) 300 Holme 1st, 385 Scolt Head 6th, 120 Sheringham 7th, 2350 Scolt Head, 253 Sheringham, 400 Sea Palling and 200 Ranworth Broad 8th, 300 Holme 14th, 455 Scolt Head and 1400 plus 150 present Sheringham 29th, and 300 Holme, 350 Sheringham and 325 Beeston Bump (0645-0745) 30th.

Numbers eased through Oct with 40 Scolt Head 2nd, 50 Ranworth Broad 10th and 80 there 14th, and 47 Pentney GP 15th. Thereafter 3 Kelling 20th, west Holme and 3 Repps-with-Bastwick 22nd, south Hunstanton 24th, Caister 25th and Holme and Yarmouth 26th. In Nov late lingering birds 2 Cromer 14th, one 21st, 3 22nd-24th and single 30th. Elsewhere in Nov south Winterton 2nd, 7 Cley 6th, Beeston Bump/Sheringham 8th-20th (single bird may relate to all reports), Holme 21st, Cley 23rd, Langham 29th and Cockthorpe 30th. At Cromer 2 remaining into Dec were last reported 3rd.

Richard's Pipit

Anthus novaeseelandiae

Virtually annual autumn migrant from western Siberia; rare in spring and winter

Recorded in spring for sixth consecutive year when singles west Weybourne March 16th and Winterton April 3rd.

Autumn passage least for some time, with just 13 reported most Sheringham where singles Oct 8th, west 10th and 13th, 2 Nov 1st/2nd, one still 4th and 2 11th. All other records during Oct when singles Waxham 9th, Blakeney Point 10th, Burnham Overy Dunes 12th, Burnham Norton 13th, and Mundesley and Paston 23rd.

Tawny Pipit

Anthus campestris

Scarce migrant from southern Europe

Only one record, Cley June 1st (NF DR).

Olive-backed Pipit

Anthus hodgsoni

A rare autumn migrant

One at Lynford Arboretum Feb 1st-20th (JVB TRD *et al*). An amazing find and the first county wintering record, but not without precedent nationally.



Olive-backed Pipit (Gary Wright)

Tree Pipit

Anthus trivialis

Migratory breeder and passage migrant

First of year west Cley April 2nd, 2 Snettisham CP 7th, Cley again 8th, Sheringham 10th and 2 Dersingham 13th, with daily spring records from 16th. Peak coastal passage April 20th-24th, when: 20th 3 Horsey and 2 Winterton; 21st 3 Hunstanton, 7 Holme, 6 Scolt Head, 3 Sheringham, and singles Happisburgh and Winterton; 22nd 2 Holme, one Titchwell, 4 Scolt Head, 2 Sheringham and one Happisburgh; 23rd 2 Hunstanton, and singles Blakeney Point and Waxham; 24th 2 Hunstanton, one Holme, 3 Scolt Head and one Sheringham: most records involved birds moving west. Passage during rest of spring light apart from May 15th and 16th when 9 south Hunstanton Cliffs, 2 west Thornham and 4 west Scolt Head 15th, and 7 south Hunstanton Cliffs and one Yarmouth Cemetery 16th. Last migrant of spring Titchwell June 8th.

Few breeding season records with following singing males/pairs: Weeting Heath 6, Cranwich Camp 5, Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog 4, and singles Grimston Warren and Upper Sheringham. These totals are lower than those of 2001 when access restrictions due to foot and mouth were in place; hopefully this reflects under recording rather than a genuine decline. Observers are requested to submit all breeding records.

First autumn migrants during Sept when singles Scolt Head 1st and Lynn Point 7th. Main passage Sept 9th-13th, when 130-135 reported. Highest counts 26 Scolt Head, 20 Blakeney Point, 12 Burnham Overy Dunes and Yarmouth, 8 Sheringham and Cromer GC, 6 Holme and Holkham Meals, 5 Waxham, 4 Warham Greens, Stiffkey Meals, Beeston Bump, Eccles and Horsey, 3 Sidestrand, and 1-2 Sheringham Cemetery, Trimingham, Winterton and Caister. Smaller numbers continued to be reported until Sept 24th after which only records 2 Santon Downham Oct 15th and exceptionally late birds Stiffkey Nov 2nd and Snettisham CP 4th.

Meadow Pipit

Anthus pratensis

Locally common migratory breeder and passage migrant with small numbers in winter

Largest flocks in first winter period 60 Roydon Common Jan, 50 Buxton Heath Feb, 45 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr Jan and 43 Feb, 40 Holme Jan, 39 Cley Jan and 35 Feb, and 22 Breydon Jan.

First coastal movements from Feb 8th, but numbers low until March 11th when 247 south Hunstanton Cliffs, 83 west Holme and 67 west Beeston Bump. Best movements of a relatively poor spring all made at Hunstanton Cliffs where moving south 872 March 17th, 452 18th, 149 20th, 306 21st, 565 31st, 107 April 18th, 133 19th, 280 23rd, 85 May 1st and last of spring 7 14th. Best westerly movements elsewhere: March 164 Holme 13th, 110 Holme 17th, 70 Cromer 18th, 54 Beeston Bump and 50 Cromer 19th, 80 Beeston Bump 20th, 79 Sheringham and 138 Beeston Bump 21st, 229 Beeston Bump 22nd, 150 Sheringham 30th and 137 Cromer 31st; April 100 Sheringham 1st, 105 Scolt Head 19th, 255 Scolt Head 22nd and 46 Sheringham 28th. Largest settled flocks during spring 245 Holme March, 120 Sheringham April and 135 Beeston Bump May.

Breeding: 121 pairs Welney (numbers high due to low spring water levels), 91 singing males Scolt Head, 21 pairs Buckenham and 12 pairs along cliffs Sheringham. NBA results showed the species was present in 34% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Largest post breeding/autumn flocks 58 Holme Oct 16th, 75 Scolt Head July 20th, 50 Aug 31st, 100 Sept 20th and 50 Oct 8th-20th, 200 Blakeney Point Sept 20th and 120 Oct 1st, 50 Sheringham Oct 19th, 86 Welney Sept 20th, 60 Wissington BF Oct 6th and 150 Roydon Common Oct 31st.

Westerly passage during autumn from early Aug when 52 Sheringham 1st and 60 2nd. Main movements late Sept-early Nov when 80 Sheringham Sept 20th, 77 Holme and 98 Scolt Head 28th, 63 Holme, 82 Scolt Head and 116 Sheringham 29th, 320 Scolt Head and 130 Beeston Bump (0715-1030) Oct 7th, 91 Sheringham 13th, 51 Hunstanton Cliffs, 65 Scolt Head and 60 Sheringham 19th, 62 Hunstanton Cliffs 24th, 100 Holme, 25 Sheringham and 100 south Eccles Nov 2nd, 37 Hunstanton Cliffs 5th with 38 there 15th, almost all moving west or south.

Few counts of note at year end, best 100 Roydon Common Nov 22nd and 35 Breydon Dec 24th.

Red-throated Pipit

Anthus cervinus

Vagrant from northern Europe

A typical spring record, Blakeney Point May 21st (RDr MIE SCJ AMS).

Rock Pipit

Anthus petrosus

Winter visitor and passage migrant, most probably of the Scandinavian race littoralis

Highest counts in first winter period Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr where 301 Jan, 325 Feb and 46 March. Under-recorded elsewhere with 61 Warham SM Feb, 8 Holme March, 6 Holkham Bay Jan and 7 Feb, and 2 Yarmouth Jan. The Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr counts give a more accurate reflection of the numbers that winter on saltmarshes around the coast.

Overhead passage in spring light with singles west Sheringham March 10th, Beeston Bump 20th and 21st, and Cromer 22nd. As usual rapid to depart in the spring, last Morston March 24th.

First returning birds of autumn 3 west Scolt Head and west Sheringham Sept 10th, Sheringham and Holme 12th, and Holme and Scolt Head 13th. Highest counts of birds on saltmarsh during autumn 50 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr Sept 28th and 200 Oct 21st, 15 Holkham Bay Oct 22nd, and 12 at both Holme Oct 9th and Blakeney Point Oct 17th. Westerly passage overhead daily mid-Sept to mid-Nov, most noticeably recorded Scolt Head where a county record 720 Oct 7th, main passage 2 hours from dawn and again between midday and late afternoon. Also moving west at Scolt Head 16 Sept 24th and 86 28th, and in Oct 65 6th, 41 8th, 52 13th, 42 19th, 55 20th and 40 24th. Elsewhere 14 Holme Sept 29th, 16 Horsey Oct 7th, 12 Blakeney Point 17th, 25 Hunstanton Cliffs and 20 Sheringham 19th, and 30 Hunstanton Cliffs 29th.

Once again poorly recorded at year end when best counts 29 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr Nov and 29 Dec, and 23 Blakeney Point Nov 9th.

More inland records than usual, most at Cantley BF where up to 4 Jan 11th-23rd, 4 Oct 19th and 2 28th, and up to 6 Nov 8th-Dec 12th. Elsewhere singles Langham Jan 27th, Welney Oct 7th and Hockwold Washes Nov 11th.

Water Pipit

Anthus spinoletta

Local winter visitor

In first winter period total of around 46 reported, including 19 Buckenham, 8 Cley and How Hill, 6 Strumpshaw, 2 Titchwell, and singles Cantley BF, Hickling Broad and Horning. Last of spring during April when 5 Buckenham 1st and one 7th, Cley 3rd, 2 Burnham Norton 7th and 5 13th, and singles Hickling Broad 10th/11th and Ongar Hill 14th.

First returning birds Oct when singles Cley 4th, Great Ryburgh 18th, 3 Hickling Broad 26th and 2 Cantley BF 26th-28th. During final 2 months of year numbers reported slightly fewer than at start of year with around 34 including 7 Hockwold Washes and Cley, 5

Buekenham and Cantley BF, 4 Strumpshaw, 2 Berney, and singles Holme, Stiffkey Fen, Titchwell and Wissington BF.

Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava

Yellow Wagtail *M (f) flavissima*

Declining migratory breeder and passage migrant

First arrival Welney March 30th followed by singles Holme April 1st, Weybourne 2nd, Scolt Head 3rd, Cley and 4 Welney 4th, Waxham 5th, Buckenham 6th, Horsey and 2 Waxham 7th, and 30 Berney 9th. Main spring passage commenced on 21st with 53 west Scolt Head, 16 Cley and 27 Sheringham followed by 124 west Scolt Head, 30 Weybourne, 29 Beeston Regis and 51 Cromer 22nd, 30 Snettisham CP, 36 south Hunstanton Cliffs and 49 west Scolt Head 23rd, 10 Holme, 68 west Scolt Head and 50 Happisburgh 24th, 22 south Hunstanton Cliffs, 18 west Scolt Head and 60 Happisburgh 25th, 40 Snettisham CP/Heacham and 10 Welney 27th, and 30 west Holme and 27 west Sheringham 28th. Main passage continued into early May with highest counts 90 south Hunstanton Cliffs, 75 west Scolt Head, 20 Holme, 15 Weybourne and 20 west Sheringham on 1st, and 28 south Hunstanton Cliffs, 32 west Scolt Head, 20 Holkham GM and 40 west Blakeney Point 3rd. A total 65 south Hunstanton Cliffs on May 15th was by far the highest subsequent count with latest spring migrant Scolt Head June 14th.

Confirmed breeding reported at only 8 localities, two up on 2001, with 62 pairs Welney where a very good year due to low spring water levels, 20 Buckenham Marshes, 5 Ludham, 3 Repps-with-Bastwick, and single pairs Burnham Norton, Choseley, Southrepps and Sidestrand. Elsewhere probable breeding Berney where 40 birds May and June and 100 on July 11th, and 2 pairs all June Clippisby Hill.

Coastal migrants in July at Blakeney Point 7th and on Scolt Head from 14th. Aug counts included 125 Welney on 23rd, 50 Berney 28th and 20 Holme 29th. A steady light passage throughout Sept with the only concentrations 15 King's Lynn BF 2nd, 47 Welney 5th, 12 Blakeney Point 10th and 17 Holme 11th. No other double-figure counts/movements. In Oct singles Holme 4th, Cley 25th (possibly one of the eastern races), and latest Winterton 29th.

Blue-headed Wagtail *M (f) flava*

Regular migrant from continental Europe, mainly in spring

First Happisburgh April 19th followed by a poor spring with singles Cley 20th/21st, Salthouse 20th, Beeston Regis 21st and 23rd, West Somerton 21st, 4 Happisburgh 25th, 2 Heacham 27th, and singles Happisburgh May 19th and Choseley 22nd the only records. In June one Choseley 4th and 8th.

A Yellow x Blue-headed hybrid Welney April 12th.

Grey-headed Wagtail *M (f) thunbergi*

Scarce spring migrant from North Fenno-Scandia

Single males Holkham GM May 3rd and Scolt Head on 6th the only spring occurrences, the least since 1989. Single autumn male Scolt Head Sept 10th.

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. Another extremely light spring passage with 1-2 noted at just 6 coastal sites in March and a single bird west at Titchwell April 24th.

Birds on territories from mid-March with at least 18 confirmed breeding pairs at Bintree Mill, Corpusty, Costessey Mill, East Harling, Ellingham Mill, Honing Lock, Langford, Little London, Lyng Bridge, Narborough Mill, Newton Mill, Norwich Wensum Lodge, Raynham Lake, Sculthorpe Mill, Shadwell, Stanford TA and Thetford Button Island. At least 7 more pairs at traditional breeding sites where some may have bred. In addition 1-2 at several other suitable localities during summer.

Other than singles Paston Aug 7th and Heacham 10th the first post breeding dispersal noted on coast late Aug when singles Paston 20th, Holme 24th and 29th, and Cromer 31st. A steady light passage throughout Sept and Oct mainly 1-2 from predominantly north coast localities. A good series of sightings from 4 coastal sites during this period: 5 west Holme Sept 27th, 11 west 28th, 13 west 30th and 5 east Oct 13th; 6 west Scolt Head Sept 27th and 28th; 4 west Sheringham Sept 10th, 5 west 19th; 4 including one in off sea Titchwell Oct 25th.

In second winter period recorded at 28 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 roost remained unoccupied. On Jan 22nd 189 were recorded at Rampant Horse St just a short distance from Brigg St, the first presence of winter there. A good series of counts followed with 180 Jan 24th, 143 29th, 72 30th, 153 Feb 1st, 183 2nd, 164 5th, 120 16th, 59 17th, 64 25th and 65 on 28th. Notable roosts elsewhere: 70 Titchwell Jan 8th, 60 March 7th and 70 April 1st; 70 Brancaster Staithe Jan 14th, 100 Feb 4th and March 14th; 30 Holt Jan 16th, 69 17th and 200 March 14th; 50 Aylsham Jan 20th; 180 Strumpshaw and 38 Hickling Jan 31st; 80 Wicklewood Feb 1st.

Other notable gatherings/movements: 100 Letheringsett STW Jan 19th and 66 31st, 56 in harvested beet field Binham Jan 29th, 40 south-east Lynford Arboretum late afternoon Feb 2nd, 21 Caistor St Edmund 16th and 40 Watton Brook March 7th.

Main westerly spring movement in March with 9 Holme 5th, 26 10th, 130 11th, 12 12th and 13 21st, with 19 Cromer GC 16th. Southerly equivalent movement at Hunstanton Cliffs where 38 March 11th, 20 16th, 191 (in 2 hrs) 17th, 98 18th, 21 21st and 63 25th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 92% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Notable summer counts 32 Scolt Head July 11th, 50 12th, min 95 feeding around site 14th and 26 Aug 11th, 420 Cantley BF July 26th, 80 Brancaster Staithe roost Aug 1st, 78 Hickling Rush Hills Sept 1st, 20 Snettisham CP 8th, and 8 in small tree roost at Pasta Foods Yarmouth on 12th (the first recorded there).

The only autumn coastal movements of note 14 south Hunstanton Cliffs Oct 1st, 11 south 2nd, 17 west Sheringham (possibly to roost) 4th and 7 west 13th.

The Norwich Rampant Horse St roost remained unoccupied to end of year. Elsewhere 100 Hickling Broad (Deep-Go Dyke) Oct 25th, 37 Strumpshaw 26th, 50 Nov 3rd and 100 on 7th, and 50 in laurel hedge Aylsham (Stonecraft) in Dec. Good counts of 41 Welney Oct 21st, 100 Norwich Showground Nov 11th, 34 Cley and 46 East Harling Heath Dec 30th.

White Wagtail *M(a) alba*

Regular passage migrant from continental Europe; has bred

First Beeston Bump and Great Walsingham March 9th followed by 3 Cley 16th with 1-4 at 5 localities to month end. Light main passage late April to mid-May but no more than 2 birds at

any site other than Scolt Head where 2 present 8 west April 21st, 5 present 8 west 22nd, 3 present 25th-27th and 4 present 6 west May 1st.

A good autumn with singles Stiffkey Fen Aug 13th, Holme 29th, Cley Sept 3rd and 2 4th, 3 Beeston Regis 5th, Welney 7th, 3 Eccles Cart Gap 14th, Scolt Head 28th, Wells Oct 10th, 2 Nar Valley Fisheries 10th/11th and Choseley 17th.

Waxwing

Bombycilla garrulus

Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor

Very poor showing in first half of year with just 3 records: 3 Roydon Feb 8th, 15 Brooke March 2nd and single Holt May 6th.

Records in second half of year mainly involved single birds and gave no indication of the invasion to follow in 2003. Reports received: Oct Waxham 11th, Holme 14th and 1-2 19th; Nov Derham and 3 south Hoe Rough 5th, Langham 13th, Holme 19th, and Strumpshaw 20th and 23rd; Dec Titchwell 7th, Catfield 10th, Brundall 11th, Acle 25th-31st, east Holkham 30th and Sheringham 31st.

Wren

Troglodytes troglodytes

Very common resident and passage migrant in small numbers

In first winter period counts submitted from two sites, at Surlingham Marsh 41 Jan 13th and at Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr, where a lowtide count of all intertidal habitat found 27 Jan 16th and 15 Feb 7th.

Breeding data supplied from 5 sites with singing males/territories/pairs as follows (2001 totals in brackets): Boyland Wood 14 (20), mid-Yare RSPB 160, Norwich Sweetbriar Marsh 30, Salthouse Heath 11, Scolt Head 38 (35) and Welney 67 (39). A slight decrease at Boyland Wood but a massive increase at Welney where numbers almost doubled. NBA results showed the species was present in 97% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 21 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn counts from two renowned migration spots produced 40 Scolt Head Sept 28th, with 30 there Oct 11th, and 25 and 31 at Blakeney Point Oct 17th and 22nd respectively.



Wren (Steve Cale)

Dunnock

Prunella modularis

Common resident and passage migrant, especially in autumn

Data relating to breeding from 3 sites with singing males/territories as follows (2001 totals on brackets): Boyland Wood 11 (10), Scolt Head 66 (64 in 2000, similar figures 2001) and Welney 7 (7). Results, at these sites at least, indicate stable breeding numbers. NBA results showed the species was present in 95% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 9 pairs per occupied tetrad.

In autumn counts at Scolt Head 25 Sept 9th, 50 28th, 85 Oct 12th and 60 16th. In addition westerly movement noted there of 6 Sept 27th, 6 28th, 2 Oct 1st, 4 7th, 2 13th and 3 on 17th. Elsewhere at this time 20 Holme Sept 9th and in Oct 2 south Hunstanton 2nd, with 8 south 8th and 2 south 13th, 20 Holme 12th, one high west Sheringham 9th and 30 (including flock of 8) Beeston Bump 12th. Further obvious influx Nov when 60 Sheringham 2nd.

Robin

Erithacus rubecula

Common resident and passage migrant, especially in autumn

Very few reports of spring migrants, 24 'continental' birds Cromer GC March 12th only record of note. As in previous years only a small number of breeding season records: 67 territories mid-Yare RSPB, 16 pairs Norwich Sweetbriar Marsh, 16 pairs Welney (an increase from 7 in 2001) and 12 territories Boyland Wood (a decrease from 15 in 2001). NBA results showed the species was present in 95% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 15 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Early autumn passage light with Sept max 13 Holme 25th. A considerable influx Oct 11th-14th: 11th 100 Holme, 100 Holkham Meals and 50 'continental' birds Sheringham; 12th 45 Scolt Head, 50 Warham Greens, 30 Blakeney Point, 30 Beeston Bump, 45 West/East Runton, 30 Happisburgh, 30 Eccles and 30 Yarmouth Cemetery; 13th 50 Holme and 30 Winterton; 14th 50 Holkham Meals and 20 Bacton. Smaller numbers subsequently arrived with 35 Scolt Head 16th, 48 Blakeney Village 17th and 20 Sheringham 19th; at last site another influx of 25 Nov 2nd.

Thrush Nightingale

Luscinia luscinia

Vagrant from Europe/central Siberia

Weybourne, one trapped in garden on mornings of Sept 12th and 13th (MP *et al*) - it was not seen in the field. The seventh county record and the third in autumn.

Nightingale

Luscinia megarhynchos

Local migratory breeder and very scarce passage migrant

First of year Pentney GP April 12th - a fairly typical date - followed by singles Warham Greens 14th, Holme 18th, and Holkham Meals and Salthouse 19th. Good numbers present on 20th with 4 Hunstanton GC (including a displaying pair), 3 Holme and 4 Salthouse Heath. Subsequently presumed migrants King's Lynn Reffley Wood 25th-30th, 2 Winterton 25th and Holkham Meals 29th. Very little evidence of passage in May except for singles Titchwell 11th and Yarmouth 17th, as most records of birds on breeding or potential breeding sites.

Well reported during breeding season with singing males on breeding territories at Babingley, Barnhamcross Common, Boughton Fen, Castle Acre Newton Mill, Cranwich Heath, Foulden Common 6, Hempton Marsh, Hockwold Washes 2, Holme 2, Hunstanton GC 5, Lynford, Marham Fen, Muckleborough Hill 2, Nar Valley Fisheries, Narborough 3, Norwich Sweetbriar Marsh, Pensthorpe 2, Pentney GP/Heath 4, Roydon Common 6,

Salthouse Heath 4, Snettisham CP, South Acre, Stanford TA 4, Weeting Heath, West Acre, West Lexham and Yarmouth. Last record of year West Acre June 7th.

Bluethroat

Luscinia svecica

Scarce passage migrant, now more frequently recorded in spring

In spring red-spotted males Thornham Point May 12th/13th (singing) and Winterton May 18th. In autumn a 1st-winter Scolt Head Sept 9th. An average showing.

Black Redstart

Phoenicurus ochrurus

Rare migratory breeder, regular passage migrant and occasional in winter

In first winter period sole record King's Lynn BF Jan 12th. Spring passage March 8th (Winterton) to June 6th (Holme) almost entirely of singles at 28 sites but 2 together Blakeney Point and Sheringham Cemetery March 29th, and Horsey April 11th. Inland records: Bodham March 23rd, Norwich (John Innes) 25th, Roydon and Aylmerton 26th, Burgh Castle and Hickling Village April 5th, Choseley 7th, Coltishall 15th and Colney GP 20th.

Very few breeding season records: birds arrived back at traditional sites Yarmouth May 15th and 2 pairs bred; two records from suitable breeding site King's Lynn may also refer to a breeding pair.

Late summer dispersal with female Blakeney Point July 14th (present to Aug 1st), juv Scolt Head July 28th and adult male and juv there Aug 3rd.

Autumn passage began with single Sept 10th (Ten Mile Bank) and continued to Nov 30th (Hunstanton). Passage very light with no large-scale arrivals, singles at 24 sites with Oct max of 4 Scolt Head 8th-10th, 3 Blakeney Point 9th-12th and again 31st, and 4 Waxham and Winterton 21st. In Nov 3 Winterton 1st-3rd and 4 Waxham 4th. Inland singles Binham Oct 17th, Frettenham and Langham Nov 1st, Aylmerton 3rd and Swaffham 4th. At end of year single Sea Palling Dec 11th sole record.

Redstart

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Local migratory breeder (most in Brecks), common passage migrant

First of year Holme April 1st/2nd, followed by others at Snettisham CP 6th and Heacham 7th. Main passage commenced April 17th (Heacham) and continued to May 21st (Blakeney Point) almost entirely of singles at 14 sites but 4 Holme April 21st; inland single Burnham Market April 28th.

In breeding season singing males Hilborough May 15th and Wolferton June 11th, family party East Wretham Heath June 29th, at least one pair bred Brettenham Heath and an incomplete count of at least 20 singing males Stanford TA. In July single at Dunton 19th may also have been of local origin.

In autumn single Holkham Meals Aug 10th, Scolt Head 17th (with 2 19th) and Holme 21st. Subsequently 1-3 Aug 27th to month end at Holme, Scolt Head Blakeney Point, Weybourne, Sheringham, Beeston Bump, Paston, Waxham and inland Langham. Passage during Sept very light except for sizeable arrival 9th/10th: 9th 61 Scolt Head, 15 Titchwell, 25 Burnham Overy Dunes, 40 Blakeney Point, 'good numbers' Weybourne, 22 Sheringham, 27 Overstrand and 12 Waxham; 10th 22 Holme, 8 Stiffkey, 35 Sheringham and 10 Eccles. At Blakeney Point 15 present 16th but during rest of month only up to 4 at 10 sites. Light passage continued during Oct with 1-2 at 10 sites, and max 6 Holkham Meals 16th; inland Cantley BF Oct 24th. Last of year Blakeney Point Oct 31st.

One showing characters of *sammisicus* race Blakeney Point Sept 14th (RFP).

Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra

Common passage migrant; has bred in past

Earliest Snettisham CP, Holme and Hunstanton April 20th, followed by 4 Holme 22nd, 2 Blakeney Point 25th, 2 Titchwell 27th and singles at nine other sites by month end. Passage during May light with max 5 Scolt Head 8th, 7 Holme 10th, 5 Sheringham 12th and up to 3 at 11 other coastal sites. Inland records of singles Hoveton April 26th, Dersingham Bog 28th, Oxborough May 6th and Roughton 11th.

One Pentney GP July 9th was unseasonable; otherwise first in autumn Burnham Overy Dunes and inland at Sporle Aug 7th, followed by steady trickle of up to 5 at mostly north coast sites. Pronounced arrival at end of Aug with peaks of 7 Holme, 16 Scolt Head, 7 Blakeney Point, 10 Salthouse, 8 Sheringham, 24 Happisburgh and 9 Horsey 27th-30th. Good passage through Sept, up to 8 at 22 sites with marked arrival 9th/10th when 30 Hunstanton Cliffs and 15 Hunstanton GC, 40 Holme, 48 Scolt Head, 35 Burnham Overy Dunes, 30 Blakeney Point, 25 Cley-Salthouse, 37 Sheringham (with full count of 75 10th), 11 Beeston Bump, 15 Cromer GC, 60 Overstrand and 20 Horsey; 10 at Weybourne 12th was last peak of month.

Good spread of Sept inland records: King's Lynn BF 2nd, 3 Roydon Common 3rd, 2 on 10th and singles 17th and 29th, Sparham 6th and 12th, Dersingham Bog 8th, 2 Sall 10th, 7 Welney 10th (one to 12th), Buckenham 19th, 5 Cantley BF 19th/20th and 3 Aylmerton 28th. At Norwich Airport a series of records with single Aug 31st, 3 Sept 10th, one 13th and 2 on 20th; nearby at Spixworth single Oct 2nd-6th.

Passage declined through Oct with up to 3 at 7 sites and singles in Nov Pentney Abbey 9th and Buckenham 17th.

Stonechat

Saxicola torquata

Very small breeding population; regular passage migrant, local in winter

At start of year pairs at 12 sites and max of 3 Sheringham; recorded inland at Buckenham (2), Fritton, Haddiscoe Marshes, Hickling Broad, Ickburgh (2), Potter Heigham, Repps-with-Bastwick, Runham, Roydon Common (2) and Welney (2).

Pronounced passage early March with 4 Welney 4th, 4 Cromer GC and 4 Leziate Heath 5th, 10 Roydon Common 6th, 5 Brancaster GC, 5 Sheringham and 12 Beeston Bump 8th (increasing to 13 on 11th), 17 Cley 9th, 18 Holme (max for spring) and 9 Morston 11th, and 6 Scolt Head 12th; thereafter up to 4 at 14 sites to end of month.

Breeding population remained steady with details of 12 pairs submitted: 5 between Horsey and Winterton, 5 in Brecks (3 Stanford TA and 2 Weeting Heath), and 2 at one other locality.



Stonechat (Andy Benson)

Autumn passage very light and not easily distinguishable from birds dispersing from breeding areas, in Sept max 7 Horsey 17th, and 6 Holme and 5 Sheringham 29th; elsewhere up to 3 at 9 sites. During Oct max 8 Salthouse 2nd and 9 on 7th, 5 Holme 6th and 12th, 8 Scolt Head 11th and 6 Titchwell 28th, with up to 4 at 19 other sites. In Nov max 7 Sheringham 1st, 9 Cley 16th and 6 Burnham Overy Dunes 16th/17th were probably migrants, but 8 Buckenham/Cantley reflected the take-up of wintering territories; elsewhere up to 5 at 19 mainly coastal sites. By end of year up to 3 Weeting Heath and Titchwell, 2 Burnham Overy GM, Sheringham, Carleton St Peter and Hardley Marshes, and singles at 7 other sites.

Isabelline Wheatear

Oenanthe isabellina

Vagrant from Central Asia and Middle East

2001 Addition: Wells East Hills Scept 25th - 29th (AIB JRMc *et al*). The third county record.

Wheatear

Oenanthe oenanthe

Increasingly rare migratory breeder and common passage migrant

Earliest were single Holme and 2 Salthouse March 16th, closely followed by 2 Cley and Beeston Bump, and singles at 5 other sites 17th; by month end max 6 Sheringham 30th/31st and singles at 5 other sites. Passage during April mostly light except pronounced influx April 20th-27th when max 11 Sheringham 20th, 21 Beeston Regis and 22 West Runton 21st, 10 Salthouse 22nd, 30 Yarmouth 25th, 20 Snettisham 26th, and 10 Holme and 21 Winterton 27th. During May light passage continued with max 10 Winterton 6th, 12 Sheringham and 10 Waxham-Horsey 9th, 7 Holme 10th, and 9 Scolt Head and 8 Cart Gap 11th. In June singles Scolt Head 1st, Titchwell 8th and Sheringham 17th with 2 19th.

Only breeding records from Stanford TA where 2 pairs bred.

In July singles Titchwell 2nd and Blakeney Point 9th and 26th, with 2 on 11th, and 1-2 Scolt Head 26th-28th. Main autumn passage from Aug 18th (Sheringham) with up to 9 at 8 sites and max 29 Titchwell 20th. In Sept, apart from 16 Holme 6th, pronounced arrival between 9th-12th: 9th 52 Scolt Head, 40 Blakeney Point, 60 Cley -Salthouse, 27 Sheringham, 35 Cromer GC and 11 Yarmouth South Dunes; 10th 20 Hunstanton GC, up to 60 Sheringham, 10 Gorleston and 20 Horsey; 12th 10 Titchwell, 96 Scolt Head, 50 Blakeney Point, 25 Weybourne, 42 Beeston Regis and 22 West Runton. Numbers remained high at some arrival sites for several days. By end of month only other notable arrival 22 Eccles 20th. In Oct passage very light with up to 4 at 5 sites; last of year Sheringham Nov 1st.

Ring Ouzel

Turdus torquatus

Passage migrant in fluctuating numbers; exceptional in winter

First of spring Attleborough and Winterton March 20th followed by singles Sculthorpe 27th, Holme 28th, Heacham 29th and 2 Mundesley 31st. An impressive 13 Cromer April 2nd, with birds present almost daily during first half of month at many other sites. Main movement from 19th when 7 Snettisham CP (until 20th), 5 Holme 21st with 8 there following day, 4 Titchwell 22nd and 4 Winterton 26th. Also 'many birds' reported between Hunstanton and Burnham Overy Dunes April 22nd-24th. During May 1-2 at 16 sites, last being West Somerton 22nd. Inland records also from Burnham Market, Fakenham GC, Ingworth. Langham, Roydon Common, Weeting Heath and Wiggenhall St Mary.

First of autumn an unusually early bird Holme Aug 28th-31st. No further records until Oct 4th when 1-2 Winterton quickly followed by 2 Yarmouth Cemetery and singles How Hill and Blakeney Point 6th. Protracted passage during remainder of month, being present on most dates; mainly 1-2 but 6 Scolt Head 11th with 5 12th/13th, and 3 at Stiffkey Meals/Warham

Greens 8th and 12th/13th, Burnham Overy Dunes/Holkham Meals 11th and Blakeney Village 13th-16th. Inland records from Bodham, Burnham Market, Gunton Park, Hickling Stubb Mill, How Hill, Langham and Lessingham. Latest Sheringham Nov 4th and Winterton 11th.



Ring Ouzel (Steve Cale)

Blackbird

Turdus merula

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Virtually no evidence of hard weather movements during first winter period and evidence of return passage equally sparse with just 57 east Cromer at dusk March 17th.

An early breeder Thetford where nest with 5 eggs Feb 25th but outcome unknown. Norwich Sweetbriar Marsh held 15 pairs with continued increase at both Boyland Wood, where 12 territories (10 in 2001), and Welney, where 31 singing males (29 in 2001). NBA results showed the species was present in 97% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 26 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Return passage from Sept 27th when 10 Beeston Bump followed by 12 Holme 30th. Main movement Oct 8th-12th with peak counts 150 in off sea Burnham Overy Dunes between 1000-1200 hrs 8th, 150 Holkham Meals (with 200 11th) and 100 Blakeney Village 10th, 110 Scolt Head 11th, and 200 Holme and 100 East/West Runton 12th. On latter date also double-figure counts of 45 Langham, 15 Sheringham, 50 Happisburgh, 50 Eccles and 80 Yarmouth Cemetery. Evidence of inland movement with light passage over Watton on several dates Oct 13th-21st and 70 New Costessey 18th. A movement of 335 over Scolt Head 21st was not reflected elsewhere in county with just 37 Blakeney Point and 50 Langham same day. A further influx during beginning Nov when 100 Sheringham 2nd, 100 Holme 4th, 150 Holme and 60 Blakeney Point 10th, and final movement of autumn 200 Scolt Head 20th.

A leucistic bird Old Hunstanton Jan 1st being light tan with paler, near-white primaries, and a partial albino Wells Oct 19th.

Fieldfare

Turdus pilaris

Common passage migrant and winter visitor

In Jan and Feb numbers well down on 2001, with max 500 Sandringham Jan 12th and 400 Felbrigg Park Feb 6th, with three-figure counts from a further 4 sites. During March an

impressive 2000 Hilborough 10th, while elsewhere peak counts 259 Kirby Cane 4th and 500 Shropham 20th, with double-figure counts common at many other inland sites. Evidence of easterly dispersal during April when 120 Cantley 7th and 120 Acle Marshes 8th, but numbers declined quickly by month end. Singles in early May at Eccles, Foulden Common, Scolt Head, Sea Palling, Wayland Wood and Winterton, with last Hockwold Sluice 19th and Beeston Bump 23rd.

First of autumn Scolt Head Aug 27th followed by singles in first week Sept at Holme 2nd, Holkham Meals 4th and Roydon 7th. Light passage noted at several inland sites during Oct but highest count just 60 Downham Market 21st until end of month. Major movement 29th when 11,630 south Hunstanton Cliffs with 2268 there following day. Also on 30th 600 west Holme, 600 Ringstead and 400 Langham, with 2840 west/south-west Roydon Common 31st. Evidence of continued movement early Nov with 1000 Birchem 2nd, and on 3rd 1000 south Snettisham, 600 Holme and 1000 Roydon Common. At Welney numbers peaked at 1200 Nov 4th although numbers declined quickly and by 27th just 150 remained.

Song Thrush

Turdus philomelos

Common resident and passage migrant; recently decreasing

No evidence of spring movement and limited breeding season data received. At mid-Yare RSPB 11 territories, 5 pairs Welney while at Blakeney Village increase in numbers noted. NBA results showed the species was present in 88% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad. At Old Catton remained well represented with one lucky observer watching a newly-fledged youngster apprenticed to a snail-bashing parent.

First migrants Sheringham Sept 9th followed by small numbers rest of month at a further 7 mainly coastal sites but no count exceeded 15. First significant numbers Oct 2nd when 200 Holkham Meals (with 100 still present 7th) and light west passage over Watton 4th. An unprecedented diurnal arrival Oct 8th with large numbers arriving from the north-west on north coast and then moving south/south-east: 2450 in off sea at Scolt Head plus a further 100 present, 1500 over Brancaster, 1000 over Brancaster Staithe, 700 in off sea Burnham Overy Dunes in 2 hrs (1000-1200), 500 present Stiffkey Meals and 2820 in off sea Blakeney Point in 3 hrs (0910-1210). The movement was also mirrored inland with 1500 Thompson and moderate west passage over Watton (also noted there 13th and 19th). Arrivals continued 10th-12th, highest counts 2200 in off sea and 550 present Scolt Head 11th and 1000 Holkham Meals 12th, but numbers declined quickly to just double figures by 15th.

Redwing

Turdus iliacus

Common passage migrant and winter visitor

During Jan only three-figure count 100 Whitlingham CP 24th. In Feb peak counts 300 Felbrigg Park and 150 Lynford 3rd, and 100 Anmer 21st. Evidence of return movement in March when 38 east Whitlingham CP 12th, 116 east Sidestrand 17th and 'hundreds' heading north out to sea Cromer at 1130 hrs 20th with passage continuing overnight. Still some large flocks present towards month end when 500 Holkham Park 24th and 250 Swanton Morley GP following day. During April numbers declined dramatically with only double-figure count 20 East Ruston 14th and elsewhere just 1-6 at 14 other sites. In May singles Winterton 2nd, Scolt Head 7th, Burnham Overy Dunes 10th and Happisburgh 15th.

First of autumn Sept 23rd when 4 Holme, single Holkham and inland at 8 Thompson. First significant movement of autumn Oct 7th when light passage noted inland over Watton and 530 south Marham Fen. The influx continued following day when 3200 in off sea and 300

present Scolt Head, 300 in off sea Burnham Overy Dunes, 315 in off sea Blakeney Point, 170 Sheringham and 500 Thompson. In period Oct 9th-16th coastal sites continued to report high numbers with peak counts: 10th 3200 in off sea and 350 present Scolt Head, 300 south Holkham Meals; 11th 300 Holme, 600 east south-east Titchwell (0900-1300), 900 in off sea Holkham Meals, 500 Holkham GM, 250 in off sea Sheringham; 12th 1000 Holkham Meals. On 16th highest count 1000 south Yarmouth Cemetery but in following days some good counts from inland with 600 west Wereham, 200 west over Thorpe St Andrew in 30 mins and 200 New Costessey all 17th; several hundred over Watton 18th with moderate passage continuing there the following day. Last significant movements of month 630 south-east Blakeney Point 21st and 300 west Holme 30th. Large movement noted in west of county Nov 15th when 1000 west Roydon Common with further evidence of cold-weather movement Dec 19th when 100 in off sea Holme.

An almost complete albino Harpley Common June 4th; bare parts normal colour but rest of bird pure white save for a greyish wash on crown, feint creamy ear coverts and pale creamy edges to outer webs of primaries.

Mistle Thrush

Turdus viscivorus

Common resident and partial migrant

Little evidence of spring passage with 4 west Cromer March 17th the only record.

NBA results showed the species was present in 85% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 3 pairs per occupied tetrad. A post breeding flock of 120 Cockley Cley Warren Aug 11th second largest such gathering in county, being eclipsed only by the 150 Stanford Aug 12th 1983. Elsewhere highest counts all Aug: 36 Roydon Common 15th, 22 Felbrigg Park 23rd, 20 Little Cressingham 12th and 20 Frettenham 28th.

First of autumn single west Sheringham Sept 29th but main movement unimpressive, peak counts 5 west Bceston Bump Oct 12th, 9 east Holme 13th with 5 west Sheringham same day. At the well-watched Hunstanton Cliffs 1-2 on just three dates Oct with peak count 7 Nov 15th.

Cetti's Warbler

Cettia cetti

Broads breeding population established since 1974

County total of 161 territorial males (compared with 103 in 2001 when under-recorded and 135 in 2000). Following yet another mild winter the population is thriving with singing males: R Yare Brundall 2, Brundall Church Fen, Buckenham Marshes 2, Cantley BF, Cantley Riverbank 7, Coldham Hall 6, Postwick Marshes 3, Reedham 5, Rockland Broad 5, Rockland Island 4, Rockland Marshes 2, Strumpshaw Fen 20, Strumpshaw Meadows 2, Strumpshaw Woods, Surlingham Broad 13, Surlingham Church Marsh 3, Wheatfen 6, Whitlingham CP 2, Whitlingham Marsh (Thorpe St Andrew); R Bure Acle, Cockshoot Broad 2, Horning 3, Horning Hall Marshes 5, Horning Marsh Farm 2, Horning Waterworks 2, Horstead Mill, Ranworth Broad 3, Ranworth Flood/Ward Marsh 3, Ranworth Marshes 5, Wroxham Broad; R Ant Barton Turf Fens, Barton Broad, Browns Hill, Catfield Fen 5, Cromc's Broad 2, East Ruston 2, Horning Hulver Ground 2, How Hill 6, Irstead Hall Fen, Sharp Street Fen 2, Sutton Fen 4; R Thurne Heigham Sound 3, Hickling Broad 3, Hickling Meadow Dyke 4, Horsey Mere, Martham Broad 3, Potter Heigham High Mills; elsewhere in Broads Filby Broad/Burgh Common 3, Hardley Flood 2. No records received from R Waveney or R Wensum. Interesting record of singing male on farmland near Merton March 29th-April 25th at least.

Additional singing birds later in year at Acle-Stokesby 4, Alderfen Broad, Berney, Burgh Castle 2, Cantley BF 2, Haddiscoe Island, Hempton Marsh, Sutton Staithe, Trowse, Wayford Bridge and Womack Water.

Given further mild winters the species may be set to establish a toehold on north coast where single Cley Feb 15th, then in autumn Holme Sept 21st-Dec 11th with 2 Nov 2nd-4th. Titchwell Sept 19th-year end with 2 Oct 24th-Nov 30th and 3 present Nov 18th, Stiffkey Fen Nov 16th-Dec 21st, Cley Oct 9th-year end and Weybourne trapped Nov 1st-29th.

Additional migrants/dispersing birds Eccles Oct 19th and Welney Nov 30th-Dec 8th.

Grasshopper Warbler

Locustella naevia

Summer visitor and scarce passage migrant

Main arrival from mid-April with 2 Snettisham CP April 14th and up to 8 there 21st, singles Sheringham 17th and Scolt Head 19th with 3 there 21st/22nd. Away from north coast 3 Strumpshaw 20th, 3 Waxham 21st and 3 Horsey Mere 22nd. Continued evidence of migration in May with one West Runton 7th and an exhausted bird Gorleston harbour mouth 9th.

The Broads figured strongly in breeding season with singing males at Catfield Fen, Hardley Flood, 5 Hickling Broad, Horning Hall Marshes, How Hill, 2 Ranworth Marshes, 2 Rockland Broad, 2 Upton Fen and 20 territories mid-Yare RSPB (incl Strumpshaw). Elsewhere 2 Boughton Fen, East Walton Common, Foulton Common, Hindringham, Hockwold Washes, 2 Holme, Lopham Fen, Norwich Eaton Marsh, Roydon Common, 2 Sculthorpe Moor, 4 Snettisham CP, Stanford Water, Thetford Nunnery Flood and 3 Weeting Heath.

Return passage light with singles Blakeney Point Aug 20th and Scolt Head 28th and in Sept separate singles Scolt Head 10th and 11th, and Eccles 11th. Last record Scolt Head Oct 11th.

Savi's Warbler

Locustella luscinioides

Rare migrant and summer visitor

A singing male Hickling Broad May 7th-14th (PJH *et al*).

Sedge Warbler

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Summer breeder and passage migrant

Earliest Titchwell, Cley and Hickling Broad March 31st. Main arrival at Titchwell from April 2nd onwards and fairly widespread in Broads by 9th. Usual scattering of migrants in May (all singles) at Scolt Head, Sheringham and Beeston Bump. Further singles Blakeney Point June 7th and 24th (singing), and an obvious migrant Scolt Head on beach July 11th.

An average breeding season with singing male counts of 20 Burnham Overy GM, 16 Holkham Meals, 17 Martham Broad along R Thurne, 67 Welney, and 132 mid-Yare RSPB. Also 3 singing males Scolt Head mid-May to June with 2 pairs breeding successfully, probably for first time as no freshwater on the island.

Returning birds noted Scolt Head Aug 19th, 2 Winterton 20th and most notably 200 Haddiscoe Island Aug 24th where over 100 trapped and ringed. Sept records included singles Horsey 7th, Holme 8th, 3 different Scolt Head 10th-15th, Blakeney Point 13th and 2 Welney 18th. Latest Blakeney Point Oct 11th.

Marsh Warbler

Acrocephalus palustris

Rare in late spring and autumn

Only one record, a singing male Weybourne June 3rd (MP *et al*).

Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Summer breeder and passage migrant

First reports 2 UEA Broad April 11th equaling the earliest county record, Berney 12th and Titchwell 13th, with main arrival at latter site from 24th. By mid-May counts of 12 Holme 12th, 13 Burgh Castle 16th and 17 Titchwell 19th. Here one heard May 21st whose song included perfectly mimicked Bee-eater calls. Late migrants included 2 Sheringham June 8th and single Scolt Head 13th.

Another average breeding season with other reports of 95 singing males Welney, 10 pairs Sparham/Lyng GP and 146 territories mid-Yare RSPB.

Return movement evident early Aug with singles Lynn Point and Paston 5th, and 2 Scolt Head 6th. As with preceding species significant passage at Haddiscoe Island where 200 Aug 24th when again at least 100 ringed. The only noteworthy Sept records included 8 Holme 27th. Continued exodus through Oct with best 3 Blakeney Point 10th, 4 Sheringham 11th, 3 Burnham Norton 13th and 4 Scolt Head 14th. Last reported Blakeney Point Nov 4th.

Icterine Warbler

Hippolais icterina

A very scarce passage migrant

An early spring record at Sea Palling May 7th, with two further reports on more typical date of June 6th at Titchwell and Blakeney Point.

Following 5 lean years, a bumper autumn with early records Blakeney Point Aug 6th/7th and 10th, and Sheringham Aug 8th/9th. Later in month sightings Holkham Meals 21st, 2 Scolt Head and juv trapped Sheringham 28th, Yarmouth 29th/30th and Beeston Priory 30th. In Sept Holkham Meals 4th/5th and 8th, followed by an arrival on a broad front 9th/10th as part of a major fall of passerines with 2 Blakeney Point, and Sheringham, and singles Old Hunstanton, Burnham Overy, Holkham Meals (until 12th), Cromer, Happisburgh and Horsey. Final records Sheringham 16th and Holkham Meals 20th/21st, both differing from birds seen at these sites earlier in month.

Dartford Warbler

Sylvia undata

Vagrant from southern England and the Continent

Again only one record, Snettisham Oct 19th/20th (MAWa *et al*). When will this species spread from Suffolk?



Subalpine Warbler (John Geeson)

Subalpine Warbler

Sylvia cantilans

Vagrant from the Continent

A bumper year with 4 spring records: at Winterton a male April 24th and female May 14th (PCa *et al*), male Walsey Hills May 19th (AJS *et al*) and another male Blakeney Point May 21st (RFP *et al*).

Sardinian Warbler

Sylvia melanocephala

Vagrant from the Mediterranean

A well-watched male Old Hunstanton Sept 27th-Oct 15th (ID *et al*). The ninth county record.

Barred Warbler

Sylvia nisoria

Scarce autumn migrant recorded only once in spring

Another good year, with first Sheringham Cemetery Aug 23rd, moving to the golf course opposite next day, remaining and providing good views for the patient observer until Sept 8th. Elsewhere during Aug singles Beeston Bump 24th, Stiffkey Greens 25th and 29th, Winterton 26th/27th, Blakeney Point 27th, Scolt Head 27th/28th, Holme 28th (until Sept 8th), and Warham Greens and Horsey 29th.

Sightings throughout Sept with singles Winterton 1st-4th, Sheringham 2nd, Titchwell, Weybourne and Gorleston 4th, Kelling WM 5th, Yarmouth Cemetery 6th, Holme, Titchwell and Warham Greens 8th, Blakeney Point 9th, Beeston Bump 10th-16th, Holkham Meals and Weybourne 12th, Winterton 13th-15th, Holme 24th-27th, Old Hunstanton 27th/28th and Scolt Head 27th-30th. Last sightings Holkham Meals Oct 12th-18th and Winterton 20th.



Barred Warbler (Gary Wright)

Lesser Whitethroat

Sylvia curruca

Summer breeder and passage migrant

First records on typical dates Burnham Norton April 14th and Salthouse 15th/16th, with best counts 2 Holme 22nd, 2 Brettenham and 3 Walsingham/Wighton 23rd, 3 Blakeney Point 25th and 3 Snettisham CP 27th during remainder of month. A small influx early May with 5 Binham 4th, 4 Blakeney Point 8th, 9 Holme and 8 Scolt Head 9th, and 3 Beeston Bump 10th.

A poor breeding season with max counts of 3 pairs Sparham and Snettisham CP, 2 pairs Roydon Common; no territories in mid-Yare RSPB. NBA results showed the species was present in 39% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn migration evident Aug with singles Blakeney Point 6th and Scolt Head 19th, 3 Gorleston 23rd, and 8 Snettisham CP and 7 Holme 24th. Continued passage during Sept with some exceptional counts at north coast sites including 15 Titchwell 4th, 6 Warham Greens 8th, 28 Holme 9th, 7 Sheringham 10th, 13 Scolt Head 12th and 4 Blakeney Point 18th. Oct records from Holme 7th, 18th/19th and 30th, Holkham Meals 12th and Eccles 17th.

Whitethroat

Sylvia communis

Summer breeder and passage migrant

First arrivals Pentney GP April 6th (the second earliest county record) and Caistor St Edmund 8th. Light movement during remainder of month with peaks 5 Stiffkey/Warham Greens 20th, 5 Horsey Mere 22nd, 14 Holme 23rd and 8 Sheringham 24th. Strong passage early May with 16 Scolt Head 2nd, 15 Waxham 4th, 10 Salthouse Heath 5th, 55 Holme 7th and 30 Sheringham 11th.

An excellent breeding season with singing male counts of 35 Brancaster Thompson Farms, 23 Sheringham BO, 19 Sheringham Park/Weybourne Heath, 30 mid-Yare RSPB, 28 Welney and an increase to 5 pairs Scolt Head. Recorded as numerous during season East Tuddenham and Ludham. NBA results showed the species was present in 92% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 9 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Return passage from late Aug with 9 Scolt Head 17th and 13 Holme 24th. A significant fall Sept 10th with 16 Scolt Head, 10 Stiffkey Greens, 8 Blakeney Point and 45 Sheringham. Last reports Scolt Head and Repps-with-Bastwick Oct 2nd, Holme 4th and Paston 13th.

Garden Warbler

Sylvia borin

Summer breeder and passage migrant

Earliest Titchwell April 13th, followed by others at scattered sites during month at Hilborough and Salthouse Heath 14th, Lenwade Common 18th, Potter Heigham and Thetford Nunnery Lakes 19th, Kettlestone 20th, Harling 21st, and Beechamwell and Merton 23rd. First coastal migrants Blakeney Point and Yarmouth Cemetery 24th. Early May peaks included 3 Narborough and 3 Whitlingham CP 4th, and 4 Holme 8th.

Apart from 14 territories mid-Yare RSPB no other breeding season counts of singing males exceeded 3. NBA results showed the species was present in 43% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Return movement underway early Aug when singles Blakeney Point 5th and 2 Scolt Head 18th, with 6 and 8 at these sites respectively 27th. A north coast 'fall' Sept 9th/10th with 17 Holme, 60 Scolt Head and 10 Blakeney Point. Occasional records of 1-3 at coastal sites in Oct with last birds Winterton Nov 1st and Sheringham 2nd.

Blackcap

Sylvia atricapilla

Summer breeder and passage migrant; winters in small numbers

During first winter period slightly fewer reports than in recent years from Blakeney (2), Caister, Carbrooke, Dersingham, Holme, Norwich, Old Catton, Sheringham, Sparham Pools, Thorpe St Andrew (2), Welney and Winterton (17 birds, 16 sites 2001). Obvious arrivals late March at Chedgrave Common 25th, East Ruston 27th and Watton 28th, with others at various



Black-headed Grosbeak - This male was a crowd-pleaser at Old Hunstanton in September. (*Alan Tate*)

Yellow Warbler - a surprisingly co-operative bird at Holkham Meals in October. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Great-winged Black Tern - this tardy juvenile lingered until late November at Cantley. (*Robin Chittenden*)





Lesser Yellowlegs - a very obliging 1st winter at Cantley in November. (*Barry Jarvis*)

Bearded Tits bred successfully at Cantley - male (left) female (right). (*Rebecca Nason*)





Bittern - an obliging bird at Holme. (*Andrew Bloomfield*)

Bean Goose - an immature of the race "Rossicus" at Burnham Thorpe. (*Andrew Bloomfield*)





Two-barred Crossbill - This female was present in the main car park at Sandringham. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Yellow-browed Warbler - This individual over-wintered at Stiffkey. (*Julian Bhalerao*)

Lanccolated Warbler (left) and Alpine Accentor (right) - two major prizes caught at Shcringham Bird Observatory in 1993 & 1978 respectively. (*K Shepherd*)



localities by month end. April peaks of 10 Holme and 7 Stiffkey 21st, and 10 Sheringham 24th. In May best counts 8 Scolt Head 2nd and 10 Titchwell 6th. Late migrant Blakeney Point June 6th/7th.

In breeding season singing male counts of 23 mid-Yare RSPB, 11 Welney, 8 Boyland Wood, 4 Pentney GP and 3 Pentney Heath. NBA results showed the species was present in 88% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 7 pairs per occupied tetrad.

In autumn 1-2 migrants Scolt Head from Aug 18th. Notable Sept peaks included 12 Titchwell 4th, 30 Holkham Meals 6th, 6 Scolt Head 9th and 20 Holme 21st. Following recent trends continued strong passage in Oct with 40 Holkham Meals and 9 Blakeney Point 12th, 15 Sheringham 13th, 12 Holme 16th and 6 Scolt Head 21st.

During second winter period 2 Burnham Market and 2 Sheringham, with singles Garboldisham, Holme and Titchwell.

Greenish Warbler

Phylloscopus trochiloides

Vagrant from north-east Europe

Following a blank year 2 Scolt Head Aug 27th/28th (JBr NML MESR), and one seen and subsequently ringed Weybourne Sept 17th/18th (MP *et al*).

Pallas's Warbler

Phylloscopus proregulus

Scarce autumn migrant from Siberia

A typical Oct influx: Holkham Meals 9th-12th (many obs), Burnham Deepdale 12th (GEt), Sheringham 12th/13th (MAWe *et al*) and Cromer 15th (MPL).

Yellow-browed Warbler

Phylloscopus inornatus

Scarce autumn migrant from Siberia

Only two Sept records at Scolt Head and Eccles 27th. In Oct, well represented with numerous reports from widespread sites: Cley 2nd, Holme 3rd-5th, 7th and 18th, 3 Holkham Meals 6th, 2 7th-9th and one 10th-18th with 2 again 12th, Titchwell 6th and 8th, Yarmouth Cemetery 9th and 14th, Burnham Deepdale 11th-13th, Salthouse Heath 11th-13th, Walsey Hills 12th, 2 Cley 12th-14th, Langham (inland), Overstrand, Eccles and Winterton 13th, Sidestrand, Sea Palling and Waxham 14th, and West Somerton 17th. In Nov a fourth individual Holme 2nd-4th. A bird at Stiffkey Meals from Oct 11th subsequently remained until year end, constituting the first county record of an over-wintering bird.

Hume's Warbler

Phylloscopus Humei

Vagrant from central Asia

One Eccles Nov 2nd-4th (JA AJK *et al*); the seventh county record.

Radde's Warbler

Phylloscopus schwarzi

Vagrant from central Asia

A much-admired bird Holkham Meals Oct 10th-14th (CBo *et al*).

2001 Addition: One Wells Lodge Marsh Oct 22nd (JRMc) - see also Dusky Warbler.

Dusky Warbler

Phylloscopus fuscatus

Vagrant from northern and central Asia

2001 Addition: One Wells Lodge Marsh Oct 22nd (JRMc) - see also Radde's Warbler.



Radde's Warbler (*Martin Woodcock*)

Wood Warbler

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Passage migrant and rare breeder

In April first arrivals on typical dates Titchwell and Cromer 21st, and unusually 3 Yarmouth Cemetery 25th/26th, and single Cley 29th. The promising start continued into May with singles Happisburgh 1st, Kelling Triangle 2nd-4th, Langham 4th, Lenwade 6th, Blakeney Point, Wiveton and Hockwold Washes 7th, Salhouse Heath 8th, Eccles 9th, Blakeney Point (a grey morph) and Muckleburgh Hill 11th, Holme and Hickling/Potter Heigham 12th, and Langham and Thursford 20th.

No evidence of confirmed breeding for the eight consecutive year.

Return passage noted Stiffkey Meals Aug 22nd and Scolt Head, Holkham Meals and Blakeney Point 27th. In Sept an arrival 10th with 2 Stiffkey Meals (one until 11th), and singles Holme (until 21st) and Holkham Meals (until 12th); another Yarmouth Cemetery 16th. Two late migrants Oct at Holkham Meals 10th and Holme 11th.

Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita

Common summer breeder, passage migrant and scarce winter visitor

During first winter period singles at 13 sites (21 in 2001) with 2 Holme and 2 Cley STW including one abietinus.

First obvious migrants 6 Hopton March 9th. During remainder of month best counts included 10 Holme 17th and 23rd, 6 Heigham Sound 22nd, 5 Blicking Park 23rd, 5 Wayland Wood 24th, 8 Sheringham 28th, 10 Holkham Meals 29th and 5 Blakeney Point 30th. Notable counts in April included 10 Titchwell and 8 Barnhamcross Common 1st and 10 Holme 3rd, and in May 5 Scolt Head 8th and 4 Blakeney Point 11th.

During breeding season counts of 7 Boyland Wood, 20 Roydon Common and 24 mid-Yare RSPB. NBA results showed the species was present in 85% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 6 pairs per occupied tetrad.

In autumn best Sept counts 12 Stiffkey and 12 Sheringham 10th, 20 Holkham Meals 11th and 17th, and 10 Fakenham 19th. Generally low numbers in Oct apart from 10 Holme 17th.

During second winter period (mid-Nov onwards) notably 5 Winterton Dec 2nd and 2 Cley STW 14th, with singles at 11 other sites.

The *Tristis* Chiffchaff Sea Palling Dec 2001 last seen Jan 1st.

2001 Addition: *Tristis* Chiffchaff Wells East Hills Oct 22nd (JRMc).

Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

Common summer breeder and passage migrant

Early reports Winterton March 20th and Hickling Broad 25th, and at 5 other sites by month end. In April widespread arrival of breeders/migrants with best 9 Heigham Sound 5th, 14 Scolt Head 21st, 10 Sheringham 22nd and 19 Blakeney Point 25th. Continued movement in early May with best 30 Holme 2nd, and 13 Scolt Head and 9 Blakeney Point 8th. Unusually, a bird at Titchwell April 24th-May 12th with a mixed Chiffchaff/Willow Warbler song. Late migrants in June at Scolt Head 1st, and Sheringham and Blakeney Point 8th.

During breeding season singing male counts of 10 Roydon Common, 10 Welney, 8 Norwich Sweetbriar Marsh and 45 mid-Yare RSPB. NBA results showed the species was present in 80% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 6 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage from Aug with peaks of 11 Scolt Head and 6 Warham Greens 27th, and 15 Holme and 9 Blakeney Point 28th. Significant movement in Sept with 40 Scolt Head 9th. and on 10th 12 Holme, 10 Holkham Meals, 6 Blakeney Point, 35 Sheringham, 20 Cromer GC and 12 Eccles. In Oct singles Holkham Meals 12th, 18th and 30th, and Winterton Oct 21st.

Goldcrest

Regulus regulus

Resident breeder and passage migrant

Very little evidence of spring movement, only double-figure count 12 Holme March 20th.

Little breeding data received but first successful nesting noted Welney while mid-Yare RSPB held 8 territories. NBA results showed the species was present in 60% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Light passage noted from mid-Sept with 20 Holme 15th increasing to 40 by month end, with 50 present Oct 4th. Main movement first half of Oct, peak counts being 'hundreds' Holkham Meals 9th with 300 there and 50 Holme 11th. Numbers declined quickly but further small influx of 50 Winterton 19th and 35 Scolt Head 21st. A final surge of migrants mid-Nov when 350 Holkham Meals 16th.

Firecrest

Regulus ignicapilla

Spring and autumn passage migrant; scarce in winter; occasional breeder

Only midwinter record Holkham Meals Jan 28th although single Lynford Arboretum March 10th almost certainly over-wintered there. Spring passage from March 10th when single Yarmouth Cemetery followed by 1-3 at further 5 coastal and 2 inland sites by month end. Small influx April 1st with 1-2 Holme, Brancaster, Sheringham, Cromer and Yarmouth Cemetery. During remainder of April, 1-2 along coast at Thornham Point, Titchwell, Holkham Meals, Happisburgh, Sea Palling, Winterton and Yarmouth Cemetery, with inland records from Hickling Broad, Norwich Earlham Cemetery and Sweetbriar Marsh, Sculthorpe Fen and Lynford Arboretum. Display/singing noted in Norwich and Brecks, and a further pair Walsey Hills April 20th. Lat of spring Sea Palling May 8th.

First of autumn Stiffkey Sept 1st followed by small-scale passage during remainder of month with 1-4 at a further 11 mainly coastal sites. This proved to be the pattern at beginning of Oct with just 1-2 present at Holme, Holkham Meals, Eccles, Yarmouth Cemetery and Gorleston 1st-9th. However, the 10th sparked a major influx with 18 birds at 8 coastal sites, peak counts being 4 Trimingham and Happisburgh, and 3 Waxham. By following day over 30 birds were present with 1-5 at 13 coastal sites including 5 Eccles and 3 at Trimingham, Happisburgh, Sea Palling, Winterton and Yarmouth Cemetery.

Numbers peaked Oct 12th when up to 60 present at coastal sites around the county with highest counts 12 Winterton, 11 Blakeney Point, 8 Happisburgh, and 4 Holkham Meals and Waxham. On Oct 13th/14th 20-30 were still present but numbers then gradually declined although double-figure counts still noted 16th (15), 17th (14) and 19th (11). The true number of birds passing through the county during the month will never be known although a conservative estimate would probably be in region of 150. Amazingly none seen Scolt Head whole of autumn. In Nov numbers remained comparatively high with 1-2 present at 8 coastal sites and up to 5 in Dec, including singles inland at Filby Broad and Sandringham.

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

Declining migratory breeder and passage migrant

First Barnhamcross Common May 1st and Weeting Heath 5th followed by small-scale arrival during remainder of month with 1-2 at a further 19 mainly inland sites. Small peak of migrants early June when 5 Holme 1st, 4 Titchwell 2nd and 3 Scolt Head 3rd, with single Blakeney Point 5th-8th.

Breeding records received seem to indicate that the species appears to be holding its own with 41 pairs noted compared with 42 in 2001. Peak numbers in vicinity of Roydon where 5 pairs within a mile of village while elsewhere 3 pairs Horning Hall and 2 pairs Beeston, Bintree, Castle Acre, Cley, Fornsett St Peter, Sparham and Weeting Heath. Possibility of breeding at a further 21 sites where singles reported during July. However, evidence of continued decline from Ickburgh (down from 3 pairs in 2001 to just a single pair) and Barnham Broom where several sites used in previous years appear to have been abandoned. NBA results showed the species was present in 36% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of one pair per occupied tetrad.

Autumn passage from Aug 18th when single Scolt Head, followed by 3 Holme and Stiffkey Meals, and 2 Blakeney Point Aug 27th. Influx Sept 9th when 14 Holme, 21 Scolt Head, 10 Burnham Overy Dunes, 20 Stiffkey Meals and Blakeney Point, and 40 Overstrand, with 20 Holkham Meals following day. However, numbers declined quickly by mid-month with just singles Holme 16th- 21st, Eccles 19th, Blakeney Point 20th, Beeston Bump 25th and Paston 27th. Two Oct records, Hunstanton 2nd and Blakeney Point 12th.



Red-breasted Flycatcher (Andy Benson)

Red-breasted Flycatcher

Ficedula parva

Scarce autumn migrant; rare in spring

During autumn up to 22 individuals present, the best year since 1984 when 26 recorded. First Holkham Meals Aug 28th but main movement during Sept: Holme 12th-16th and 24th, Titchwell and Burnham Overy Dunes 14th, Holkham Meals 11th-13th, 16th and 24th, Wells East Hills 18th, Warham Greens 23rd-25th, Stiffkey Meals 10th and 15th-18th, Blakeney Point 11th/12th, Weybourne 16th, Trimmingham 13th-16th, Eccles 10th-20th with 2 on latter date, and Sea Palling 9th and 15th. In Oct Holkham Meals 10th-12th (with 2 present 11th), Wells East Hills 11th and Sea Palling 20th.

Pied Flycatcher

Ficedula hypoleuca

Passage migrant, scarce in spring, abundant at times in autumn; has bred

First of spring 2 Holme April 21st with singles Weybourne and Happisburgh following day, but just two other records during month, Sandringham 25th and Titchwell 27th. Small-scale movement throughout May being noted at a further 11 sites, all singles with exception of 2 Scolt Head 7th. Final bird of spring and sole June record Blakeney Point 6th.

First of autumn Blakeney Point Aug 1st with birds noted almost daily at coastal sites throughout month, peak counts 4 Weybourne 8th, 5 Scolt Head and 6 Holkham Meals 9th, 10 Holme, 13 Scolt Head and 8 Blakeney Point 27th, plus two inland singles Langham 14th and East Harling 29th. A major influx occurred Sept 9th peak counts of 40 Holme, 91 Scolt Head, 50 Burnham Overy Dunes, 40 Holkham Meals, 72 Wells East Hills, 33 Warham Greens, 30 Stiffkey Meals, 100 Weybourne (including 31 ringed), 36 Sheringham and 70 Cromer, plus double-figure counts from a further 6 sites. Interestingly, the highest counts all from north coast, with just 5 Yarmouth Cemetery. Evidence of continued movement following day, with 60 Sheringham and 30 Yarmouth Cemetery, but only 3 still Scolt Head. Still 20 Yarmouth Cemetery 11th, 20 Holkham Meals 12th, and 10 Holme and 14 Horsey-Waxham 13th, although numbers then declined quickly and recorded on just a further 6 dates until month end. Late migrants in Oct at Holkham Meals (1-2) 10th-14th, Stiffkey Meals and West Runton 12th/13th, Gorleston 14th, Blakeney Point 15th and Scolt Head 16th-18th.

Bearded Tit

Panurus biarmicus

Declining resident and partial migrant; periodic influxes from Low Countries

In first winter period, other than 26 Strumpshaw Jan 8th, only small number noted (1-6) at Berney, Burnham Overy GM, Cantley BF, Catfield, Cley, Herringby with Stokesby, Hickling Broad, Holkham GM, Holme, Horning, Horsey, How Hill, Irstead Barton Turf, Lopham, Rockland Broad, Surlingham and Titchwell.

Breeding season records included (pairs in brackets): north coast Titchwell (17 nests with a further 4 'probables' - 70 young fledged from first broods), Holkham NNR (Burnham Norton 2, Burnham Overy 5), Stiffkey Fen (no breeding although one July record - a potential breeding site for the future), Blakeney GM, Cley (no precise figures although 30 seen June 25th); Broad's Berney (2), Buckenham, Cantley (4), Catfield (2), Coldham Hall (1), Haddiscoe Island (2), Hickling Broad (40 seen July 16th, by month end 'full of young' and abundant end Sept when 'several 100 present'), How Hill (3), Lopham Fen (2), Martham Broad (1), Reedham (1), Strumpshaw (14), Wheatfen (10 birds resident).

In autumn and second winter period recorded Blakeney Point (2 Oct 1st), Brancaster, Burnham Overy GM (15 Sept 28th seen leaving reedbed on several occasions but always returning), California Cliffs (2 Sept 28th), Cley (40 Oct 26th), Haddiscoe Island (70 Aug 24th), Heigham Sound/Hickling Broad (20 Sept/Oct), Holkham GM (3 until year end), Holme

(30 Oct 7th), Horning Waterworks (10 high south-west Oct 2nd), Snettisham CP (3 Oct 20th/21st), Stiffkey (2 west Oct 16th), Sutton Fen (18 Oct 1st), Thornham (10 Oct 13th), Titchwell (30 Sept 20th, 22 27th, 35 Oct 7th, 20 18th), Weybourne (pair west Oct 19th, 6 20th), Winterton and West Runton cliff-top (Oct 22nd).

Long-tailed Tit

Aegithalos caudatus

Common resident breeder; Scandinavian white-headed race very rare in autumn

Notable flocks recorded at following sites: Jan Beeston Regis 68 (4 flocks), Felbrigg Park 25, Lynford Stagg 60; June Hickling Broad 38, Weeting Heath 38; July Titchwell 30; Aug Beeston Common 30, Repps-with-Bastwick 40; Sept Eccles 40, Horsey 23, Sheringham 31, Waxham 30; Oct Holkham Meals 50, Holme 30; Dec Langham 22.

Very little other information submitted except for 11 territories mid-Yare RSPB and 3 Welney. NBA results showed the species was present in 79% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 3 pairs per occupied tetrad.



Long-tailed Tits (John Geeson)

Marsh Tit

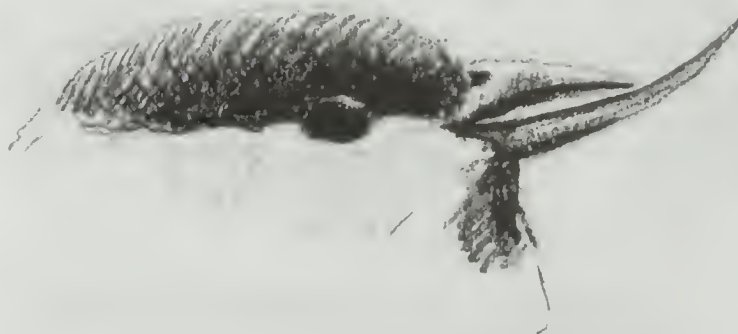
Parus palustris

Breeding resident

Records from 42 widely scattered sites (none in Fens). Conflicting reports on the species' status such as 'more common in west of county', 'still common throughout Brecks', 'practically disappeared from Great Hockham area' and 'becoming scarce in Holkham Park and other woods in north Norfolk', highlight the need for further study. NBA results showed the species was present in 27% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Multiple pairs included 3 at both Pentney and Roydon with 6 mid-Yare RSPB; largest party 8 Strumpshaw Sept 7th.

The bird with a deformed bill (sec NBR 2001) at Great Ryburgh still present Jan 20th.



Marsh Tit with deformed bill (Steve Cale)

Willow Tit

Parus montanus

Breeding resident in decline

Recorded at following 47 sites (multiple pairs in brackets): Bagmore, Banham, Boughton Fen, Brettenham, Brundall, Catfield, Cley, Cranwich, Cockley Cley, Coxford, Didlington, East Harling, East Winch (2), Grimston, Great Ryburgh, Great Witchingham, Hanworth, Hempton, Hickling Broad, Hindolveston, Hoc, Holt, Langham, Litcham, Lynford, Marlingford, Narborough, Pensthorpe, Pentney, Santon Downham (2), Sculthorpe (2), Sennowe Park, Sheringham, Sheringham Park, Shropham, Stanford TA, Strumpshaw, Surlingham, Swaffham, Syderstone Common, Thetford (2), Thompson Common, Tottenhill, Waltingham, Wayland Wood, West Acre and Wheatfen.

Positive breeding only noted Pentney where family party July 28th, Santon Downham, Strumpshaw and Surlingham, although probable at most other sites. Still a species that needs monitoring thoroughly due to its population crash since the 1980s. One encouraging record, a sighting at Sheringham March 2nd, where it had been unrecorded since 1993.

Coal Tit

Parus ater

Breeding resident and passage migrant

Very little data submitted except for 3 pairs Pentney Heath and 6 pairs mid-Yare RSPB, although nothing to suggest its status has changed. NBA results showed the species was present in 58% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

A continental bird at Overstrand Oct 9th.

Blue Tit

Parus caeruleus

Common breeding resident and passage migrant

Largest numbers reported at Brancaster Thompson Farms where 60 Aug 23rd and 50 Nov 14th. Breeding numbers included 26 pairs mid-Yare RSPB and 9 pairs Welney. NBA results showed the species was present in 97% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 13 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Coastal migrants noted in spring March 18th Hunstanton when 4 south. More noticeable in autumn with small numbers Sept-end Nov including 5 high east Overstrand Oct 1st, singles Scolt Head Oct 10th and Blakeney Point Nov 2nd, 5 west along cliff top Sheringham also Nov 2nd and another 2 24th. Groups at Holme of 30 Sept 2nd and 20 Oct 16th may also have been as a result of local migration.

Great Tit

Parus major

Common breeding resident and passage migrant

Very little useful information submitted. In winter highest concentration 30 Brancaster Thompson Farms Jan 19th where 20 also Aug 10th. Light spring passage noted Hunstanton where 9 south March 11th and 2 south 18th, and Sheringham where 3 west along clifftop March 9th. Breeding data included 21 pairs mid-Yare RSPB and 8 pairs Welney. NBA results showed the species was present in 94% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 10 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Nuthatch

Sitta europaea

Breeding resident, possibly in decline

Not much meaningful data received to comment on whether still declining or not. Probably where mature woodland remains, the species continues to do well. Good numbers still present in Holkham Park, while 2 pairs also How Hill, 4 singing males East Lexham and 5 pairs Shadwell. NBA results showed the species was present in 23% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.



Nuthatch (Phil Jones)

Treecreeper

Certhia familiaris

Widespread woodland resident

NBA results showed the species was present in 34% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad. In Fens, traditionally an area where sightings are scarce, a pair probably nested at Welney.

Up to 9 Lynford Arboretum Feb 14th, the largest count received.

Golden Oriole

Oriolus oriolus

Scarce migratory breeder and passage migrant in small numbers

As usual a sprinkling of spring/early summer migrants: Strumpshaw April 27th; in May Holkham GM 3rd, Cropston 5th, Hunstanton GC 16th, Holkham 18th, Kelling Heath 23rd and Holme 25th; in June Wendling 12th and Reedham 20th.

Breeding data received from Golden Oriole Group included 2 pairs which nested and a single male present on a single day at another site. From the two nests 1-2 young fledged from one while the outcome of the other was unknown. This is the lowest number recorded since monitoring began in 1985. The situation was mirrored in Cambs and Suffolk although the number of nests found in the Fens Basin was up on 2001. Productivity was possibly low due to bad weather reducing available food after hatching.

Red-backed Shrike

Lanius collurio

Passage migrant in small numbers; last bred 1989

The recent dearth of spring records continued with just a single female Weybourne June 7th/8th.

In contrast another excellent autumn with up to 20, first being a juv Scolt Head Aug 6th and male Gorleston 7th (the only adult of autumn). Main movement last week of Aug commencing 24th when singles California and Cantley BF with 2 Holme (both until Sept 9th with single still 21st); single Scolt Head 25th-27th with 2 28th, one until Sept 7th, quickly followed by 2 Blakeney Point 27th (one until 29th) while a single Hunstanton GC 29th was joined by a second 31st, both until Sept 2nd. Last of month 2 juvs Sheringham and Weybourne (ringed) 29th, the latter remaining until 31st. Small influx commenced Sept 9th when single Scolt Head, with singles following day Hunstanton GC. Beeston Bump (until 14th) and Horsey, followed by others West Runton 15th-21st and Sea Palling 26th. Two late birds at Sheringham GC Oct 6th and Horsey Mill 19th, the latter until Nov 3rd.

Great Grey Shrike

Lanius excubitor

Scarce passage migrant and declining winter visitor

Single spring occurrence Hilborough April 4th although reported to have been present for 'several days'.

Small influx in Oct with singles Holme 6th/7th, Burnham Overy Dunes 9th-12th (with 2 present 10th), Blakeney Point 11th, Happisburgh 12th, and Choseley and Warham Greens 17th. Last of autumn single Roydon Common Nov 3rd.

Jay

Garrulus glandarius

Common resident; periodic influxes from the Continent following failure of acorn crop

Sole indication of spring movement 2 south Winterton May 20th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 67% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad. A pair that bred Yarmouth Cemetery was first such record for site.

A count of 12 Roydon Common Sept 7th possibly local birds. A small but noticeable autumn influx commenced mid-month with 2 in off sea Holme Sept 17th then one west and 9 present there 19th. A more protracted arrival from Sept 27th when 6 west 4 east Holme, 14 east Titchwell 28th, one in off sea Scolt Head 29th, 11 west Holme, 2 in off sea Weybourne and 6 west one east Sheringham 30th, and then at Holme again (all west) 2 Oct 1st. 2 2nd, one 8th and 4 13th. Coastal counts of 5 Blakeney, 18 Kelling-Cromer, 15 Cromer-Holt, 17 Holt-Langham and 8 Langham all Oct 5th, 7 Langham 9th and 20 Holkham Meals 12th/13th presumably part of this arrival.

Magpie

Pica pica

Common resident forming winter roosts

In first winter period max: Jan 25 Holme (pre-roost gathering), 122 Roydon Common roost, 25 Titchwell roost, 50 Whitlingham CP roost; Feb 21 Welney roost, 90 Whitlingham CP roost; March 23 Holme, 55 Lopham Fen roost, 36 Titchwell roost; April 51 Whitlingham CP roost.

Another series of protracted spring movements shows this is not the sedentary species it is often perceived to be, with 8 Heacham and 9 west Paston March 9th, 3 south Hunstanton Cliffs, 4 west Sheringham, 11 west Beeston Bump and 14 east 12 very high west Cromer all 18th, south Hunstanton Cliffs 19th, and 2 20th with 6 there 21st, 3 west Sheringham and 7 west Beeston Bump 23rd, 2 south Hunstanton Cliffs 25th, 9 west Sheringham 29th when also 16 Cley Hangs, 3 south Hunstanton Cliffs 31st, single present Scolt Head April 16th and west there 19th, 3 south Hunstanton Cliffs 20th, single present Scolt Head 22nd and finally south Hunstanton Cliffs May 1st.

NBA results showed the species was present in 82% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad. At Welney up to 10 pairs in spring but no breeding on site.

In autumn 20 Hellesdon Sept 23rd, plus movements of 6 west Beeston Bump Sept 30th and 2 south Hunstanton Cliffs Oct 30th. Highest second winter period roost counts: Sept 16 Whitlingham CP; Oct 15 Hickling Stubb Mill; Nov 19 Holme, 75 Roydon Common, 50 Whitlingham CP; Dec 90 Whitlingham CP.

Jackdaw

Corvus monedula

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

In first winter period only large roosts/gatherings reported: 1600 Bressingham (March), 2000 Illington (Jan), 900 Pentney Abbey (March), 300 Roydon Common (Jan-March), 1000 Shadwell Stud (Feb), 314 West Acre (Feb). A partly leucistic piebald individual Yarmouth Market Place Feb 16th.

An excellent series of spring movements around coast March 9th-June 1st, with most notable 16 west Holme March 16th, and 17 west 2 east Cromer 20th. At Hunstanton Cliffs total of 244 south March 11th-May 20th with peak counts 84 March 18th, 14 20th, 40 21st, 13 25th, 17 31st and 21 May 16th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 87% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 12 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Smaller scale autumn migration Oct 1st-31st with best counts 16 south Hunstanton Cliffs 19th, 20 east Holme 30th and 23 south Hunstanton Cliffs 31st. The only concentration noted towards end of year 300 Roydon Common.

Individual showing characteristics of continental/eastern form Pentney GP March 31st and April 7th.

Rook

Corvus frugilegus

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Few records received and only concentrations reported 1000 Illington (Jan), 460 West Acre (Feb) and 1500 mixed Rooks/Jackdaws Bircham (July).

Spring passage mainly of single-figure groups March 2nd-May 19th, with higher counts: March 15 east Paston 9th and 14 east there 17th, 64 south Hunstanton Cliffs, 17 east Beeston Bump and 16 east 4 west Cromer all 18th, 44 south Hunstanton Cliffs 21st with 14 south there 31st; April 19 south Hunstanton Cliffs 23rd; May 22 west Burnham Overy Dunes 16th.

Only rookery data received Buckenham (45), Long Stratton (96), West Somerton (26) and Yarmouth (28 at 5 sites). NBA results showed the species was present in 64% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 44 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Small-scale autumn movement noted around coast Sept 28th-Oct 31st, chiefly of single-figure groups, with highest counts 8 west Scolt Head Oct 7th, 50 west Beeston Bump 21st with 49 west 19 east there 24th, and 11 south Hunstanton Cliffs 31st (where autumn total south only 28).

Carrion Crow/Hooded Crow

Corvus corone

Carrion Crow *C (c) corone*

Increasing resident forming winter roosts; also a passage migrant

In first winter period only roost/gathering counts received: 200-300 Roydon Common roost Jan-March, 36 Shadwell Stud March 12th and 39 Hickling April 1st.

Spring migration March 4th-June 1st, with peak counts: March 13 west 3 east Cromer GC 12th and 22 east 12 west there 18th, 13 west Beeston Bump and 12 west Cromer 19th, 11 west Cromer GC 20th, 17 west Beeston Bump 21st, 8 west 3 east Beeston Bump and 6 west 4 east Sheringham 30th; April 18 west Sheringham 14th, 10 west Scolt Head 16th and 33 west there 17th, 17 south Hunstanton Cliffs 19th, 30 west Titchwell and 26 west Scolt Head 22nd, 33 west Scolt Head 25th; May 26 west Beeston Bump 1st, 13 south Waxham 4th, 9 out to sea Scolt Head 12th, 42 west Scolt Head and 21 west Weybourne 13th, 13 west Scolt Head 15th and 14 west there 16th; June 6 east 5 west Sheringham 1st.

NBA results showed the species was present in 89% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 5 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Smaller scale autumn movement with 6 west Scolt Head and 6 north Waxham Oct 19th, 3 west Scolt Head and 14 west Beeston Bump 20th, 7 north Waxham Nov 2nd, 5 west Holme 5th and 5 west there 7th with 6 east 9th.

Only roosts/concentrations reported in late autumn/second winter period 650 south-east to roost (at Buckenham) Brundall Sept 20th, 40 Paston Oct 30th, 76 Saddlebow Dec 12th and regularly 200-300 roosting Roydon Common throughout.

Hooded Crow *C (c) cornix*

A declining wintering and passage migrant

In first winter period apparently pure bred birds noted Hopton Feb 3rd and 28th plus March 3rd, with possibly just a singleton accounting for records at Winterton Jan 9th, Hickling Broad 16th, Ingham 31st and Feb 3rd, Winterton 15th and Hickling Broad 21st and 27th, and again March 1st. Spring passage confined to a single out to sea with 2 Carrion Crows Winterton March 24th.

One Gorleston on very early date Aug 22nd. Subsequent autumn/winter records Horsey Oct 19th and 24th, on which date 2 additional birds Brograve Level, and single Horsey Nov 3rd. One Grimston Warren Nov 12th remained until year end, while one Hunstanton Nov 13th had a ring on right leg.

Given the similarity of dates some, or even most, of the east coast records throughout the year may well refer to hybrids. At least one hybrid remained at Burgh Castle throughout year with another at Somerton Holmes. Other hybrids: 2 Hickling Broad March 11th, 3 Winterton/Horsey March 19th, 2 Waxham Oct 24th and 2 Nov 1st, with possibly same 2 Hickling Broad Oct 26th.

Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Some impressive counts in first winter period, particularly from a mobile roost in Yare Valley, with highest counts 70,000 Rockland Broad roost (Jan), 5000 St Benet's Level (Jan), 40,000 Surlingham Marsh roost (Jan), 80,000 Strumpshaw roost (Jan/Feb), 5000 Whitlingham CP (Feb).

Return spring passage from mid-Feb to late March with peak counts: 2750 east Paston March 17th, 2511 east Cromer GC 18th, 5000 Caister 24th and 1550 east Paston 26th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 91% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 17 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Moderate westerly midsummer movements noted from June 15th with best counts 1092 Sheringham June 25th and 1270 there following day. In late July daytime feeding flock 6000 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr 26th-30th with roost of 2000 Blakeney GM also 26th. At Holme roost counts 4000 July 27th, 5300 31st and 10,000 Aug 1st.

Main westerly autumn migration early Oct to mid-Nov, with peak arrival period late Oct/early Nov. At Hunstanton Cliffs total 393,323 south Oct 8th-Nov 17th with peak counts 36,322 Oct 13th, 12,438 19th, 12,440 29th, 94,624 31st, 137,929 Nov 1st, 12,535 4th, 30,645 5th and 12,560 8th. Elsewhere highest counts 6650 Scolt Head 13th, 34,700 Scolt Head and 7120 Sheringham 20th, and 7500 Sheringham Nov 5th. At Holme roost counts of 8000 Oct 12th, 9000 17th, 8000 Nov 2nd, 12,000 4th/5th and 13,400 10th. Inland roosts included 10,000 Berney and 15,000 Hickling Stubb Mill mid-Oct.

Leucistic birds noted Caister March 24th and Breydon Sept 16th-19th.

Rose-coloured Starling

Sturnus roseus

Vagrant from eastern Europe

A 1st-winter Yarmouth Jan 14th-17th (TC *et al*) was speculated to be the long-staying individual at Waxham in autumn/winter 2001.

The county received its fair share of an exceptional summer influx of adults into the UK: Old Hunstanton GC June 2nd/3rd (AFB *et al*), Dickleburgh 6th (AT), west Stiffkey 9th (JEDF ETM), 3 together in a Sheringham garden 14th (JVB *et al*), Holme roosting 14th-16th (GFH *et al*), feeding on cherries in a Brisley garden 27th-29th (JCr *et al*), and finally coming to bird feeders Happisburgh June 29th-July 1st and again July 6th (RHa *et al*).

2001 Correction: Frettenham June 11th remained until 13th.

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Common but declining resident

Overall picture still of slow decline, with comments like 'no longer a farm bird - villages only' for Sparham area typical, although still considered a common breeder in Fens. NBA results showed the species was present in 87% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 20 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Largest flocks: Feb 65 Great Ryburgh; March 75 Welney; Aug 115 Honingham, 45 Sheringham, 45 Thornage; Sept 89 Eccles Bush Estate; Oct 40 Holme Village; Dec 60 Hanworth Common; also 50 Ormesby all year.

Some interesting passage counts, with spring records from Scolt Head April 22nd (the first record there for many years) and 33 south Hunstanton Cliffs May 20th. In autumn 5 south-west Wells East Hills Sept 28th, 9 west Sheringham 30th, 12 east and one present Scolt Head Oct 1st, 4 south Hunstanton Cliffs 2nd, 4 west Holme 4th, 16 south Hunstanton Cliffs 8th with 4 south there 13th, and 3 west Beeston Bump 19th.

Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus

Scarce resident; passage migrant and winter visitor

Once again recorded from a scattering of almost exclusively west Norfolk localities during year. Double-figure counts in first winter period: Jan 13 Choseley/Ringstead, 100 Illington, 100 Larling/East Harling; Feb 10 East Harling, 40 East Harling Heath, 11 Gateley, 40 Illington; March 10 East Harling, 12 Great Ryburgh, 20 Little Cressingham. Also max 15 Brancaster throughout this period.

A few birds noted on spring passage with 2 Happisburgh March 12th, 8 south Hunstanton Cliffs 18th with singles south there 20th, 21st and 25th, present Holme 28th, south Hunstanton Cliffs and present Holme April 20th, Titchwell 21st and finally 11 Sheringham May 11th with 6 there following day.

All breeding season records listed (with max counts/pairs in brackets): Bunwell, Castle Acre, Choseley (2), Gateley (6 incl 2 juvs May), Harling (7), Lower Bodham (2), Oxborough (2), Rougham, Sennowe Park, Sporle, Stanford TA (3 pairs bred in boxes with two double-brooded). Only post breeding observations 1-2 at Beechamwell, Great Massingham and Sporle.

Light autumn passage with single east Sheringham Aug 25th, then 7 East Ruston and 8 Sea Palling Sept 10th, 2 Beeston Bump 28th (first observation in 4 years at this well-watched site), and 2 south Hunstanton Cliffs plus 14 Sea Palling Oct 31st. Only significant flocks in late autumn/second winter period: Oct 40 Choseley, 119 Flitcham; Nov 6 Bayfield Hall, 24 Flitcham; Dec 40 Choseley, 9 Flitcham, 100 Illington, 6 Pentney GP; also up to 15 Brancaster throughout.

Chaffinch

Fringilla coelebs

Common resident; also passage migrant and winter visitor in varying numbers

During first winter period counts over 100: Jan 300 Langor Bridge/Pensthorpe, 250 West Barsham, 200 Brancaster, 200 Illington, 150 Roydon Common, 120 Binham, 100 Little Ryburgh; Feb 200 Hickling, 150 Houghton; March 150 Cockley Cley Warren, 100 Roydon Common.

Coastal movement first noted Hunstanton Cliffs when 20 south March 11th. Further southerly movements from same site 12 March 17th, 73 18th and 218 21st. Elsewhere highest counts of migrants Paston where 370 east March 17th, with 500 east there next day when also 294 east Cromer. No notable counts during April.

Breeding data from Boyton 13 territories, mid-Yare RSPB 34 territories and Welney 49 singing males. NBA results showed the species was present in 97% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 26 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Autumn migration underway from mid-Sept but only very light passage until month end when 40 east 30 west and 60 present Beeston Bump 28th with 105 west there 30th; also 100 west Holme 30th. Passage peaked Oct/early Nov. Hunstanton Cliffs being most productive site where (all south) 363 Oct 1st, 99 2nd, 393 8th, 334 13th, 337 24th, 586 29th, 405 30th and 206 31st, 92 Nov 1st, 758 5th, 719 15th and 88 16th. Numbers elsewhere unremarkable with peak counts at Beeston Bump (all west) 120 Oct 7th, 110 13th and 150 Nov 5th; Holme 100 east Oct 9th and 11th; Sheringham 300 west Oct 13th, 100 west 19th and 100 Nov 2nd.

During second winter period numbers rather low possibly reflecting small autumn passage. Flocks over 100 in Nov/Dec: 200 Fincham, 150 Brancaster, 100 Sparham.

Brambling

Fringilla montifringilla

Passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers

Numbers fairly low during first winter period, highest counts in Jan 200 Illington, 200 Larling/East Harling, 100 Roydon Common, 100 Langor Bridge and 100 Pensthorpe. Numbers dropped further Feb-April with highest submitted count during this time 20 Grimston Feb 12th. A pair displaying at Beechamwell April 2nd. May records Holme 6th-8th and Happisburgh 20th.

No further records until early date of Sept 10th when one Hunstanton. Elsewhere 1-3 at various sites to month end. Main arrival commenced early Oct when 62 west Holme 5th, followed by more widespread immigration 8th when 30 in off sea and 15 present Holme, 240 in off sea Scolt Head and 55 in off sea Sheringham. Numbers continued to arrive during Oct with peaks of 300 Holkham Meals 12th/13th, 150 Choseley 17th and 200 Bagthorpe 18th. Southerly movement noted Hunstanton Cliffs with total of 274 during month peaking at 97 on 13th.

Numbers in second winter period again rather low: Nov 50 East Harling, 50 Thetford; Dec 200 Narborough, 130 Thetford Sainsbury car park, 75 West Tofts.

Serin

Serinus serinus

Vagrant from continental Europe

Three typical spring records: male Winterton March 19th (TCL), male Winterton April 15th and 20th-22nd (PCa *et al*), and one north-west Sea Palling April 16th (AJK).

Greenfinch

Carduelis chloris

Common resident and passage migrant

Numbers fairly low during first winter period with only 3 flocks over 100: 130 Beeston Regis Jan 15th, 150 Necton Jan 16th and 100 Lynford Arboretum Feb 4th.

Spring movement noted rather early with 3 west Overstrand Feb 15th. Numbers peaked during March with Hunstanton Cliffs recording total of 793 south during month including 284 18th and 219 21st. Movement noted at only 4 other sites: Holme 28 west March 8th and 11 west 21st, Cromer 27 west March 12th, 55 east 18th and 26 west 21st, Beeston Bump 27 west March 21st and Sheringham 15 west 5 east March 30th. Only April movement 10 south Hunstanton Cliffs 19th.

NBA results showed the species was present in 93% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 12 pairs per occupied tetrad.

During Aug post breeding/late summer gatherings included 200 Fornsett St Peter and 100 Ormesby; also 100 Holme Sept 4th.

First autumn migrants noted Sept 30th when 60 west Beeston Bump and 170 east Paston. Movement at Hunstanton Cliffs first noted Oct 1st when 123 south; a further 2065 south there during Oct peaking at 479 19th and 416 24th. Elsewhere during month total of 706 west Scolt Head including 555 on 19th, when also peak of 250 west Beeston Bump; at Sheringham peak of 230 west 13th.

Small-scale movement continued into Nov with 183 south Hunstanton Cliffs 5th and 97 south there 15th, and 100 west Beeston Bump 5th with latest movement also there 37 west 24th.

Highest counts during second winter period: Oct 150 Repps-with-Bastwick, 120 Choseley, 100 Brancaster; Nov 200 Brancaster, 100 Holme; Dec 250 Beeston Regis, 220 Bawdcswell, 110 Brancaster, 100 Sheringham.

Goldfinch

Carduelis carduelis

Common resident, passage migrant and summer visitor

Only counts over 50 during first winter period: Jan 90 North Lopham, 80 Bradfield, 70 Necton; Feb 75 South Pickenham, 65 Ormesby, 50 Welney; March 127 Welney, 70 Ormesby, 50 Holme.

Very early movement of 6 west Sheringham Feb 3rd. No more coastal passage until March 18th when 37 south Hunstanton Cliffs. At this site total of 1807 south March 18th-May 20th with peak day counts of 256 April 18th, 267 23rd and 313 May 1st. At Scolt Head total of 354 west April 16th-May 16th peaking at 103 April 22nd. Only 2 other sites recorded spring movement: Sheringham where 70 west 38 east April 21st, 118 west April 28th and 21 west May 15th, and Cromer where 77 east 58 west April 22nd.

Breeding data from Welney where 18 pairs. NBA results showed the species was present in 87% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 6 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Post breeding flocks during Aug included 140 Burgh Castle, 120 Roydon Common, 100 Mundesley, and in early Sept 180 Happisburgh, 80 Cley and 70 Ashill.

Small-scale autumn movement noted from only 2 sites: Sheringham 85 west 25 present Sept 25th, 55 west Sept 29th and 6 west Oct 13th; Hunstanton Cliffs 11 south Oct 1st and 12 south 24th.

Highest counts in second winter period: Sept 80 Sca Palling, 80 Breydon; Oct 80 Horscy, 77 Salthouse, 60 Cantley BF; Nov 60 Burnham Overy; Dec 150 Brettenham Heath, 85 Holme.



Goldfinch (Andy Benson)

Siskin

Carduelis spinus

Passage migrant and winter visitor in fluctuating numbers; small numbers breed

Widespread in first winter period with several reasonably-sized flocks. Highest counts: Jan 200 Lynford Arboretum, 100 Roydon Common, 200 Thetford Nunnery Lakes, 60 West Bilney, 180 West Harling, 50 Whitlingham CP; Feb 120 Helhoughton, 60 Lynford Arboretum, 150 Roydon Common, 50 Shadwell, 50 Whitlingham CP. 85 Wroxham Broad; March 40 Thetford Olly's Farm, 100 Thetford Rifle Range.

At Garboldisham 159 ringed Feb 13th-March 27th (199 in 2001) with 2 retraps April 14th. One juv trapped June 3rd.

Spring passage generally light, apart from an excellent series of records from Hunstanton Cliffs (all south): 9 March 17th, 53 18th, 155 21st, 99 25th, an exceptional 933 31st, 8 April

18th, 23 19th, 160 23rd, 13 24th, 26 25th, 28 May 1st, 32 2nd, 11 14th, 11 15th, 3 16th and 9 20th, with a late bird June 15th. Few elsewhere: 33 west Holme March 8th, 16 east Overstrand 25th, 13 south Snettisham 31st, 14 east Cromer April 5th and 36 west Scolt Head 21st.

Only breeding information: Beechamwell displaying pair April 9th, juv Great Witchingham June 23rd-July 29th, Swanton Abbott pair and Weeting Heath ‘bred locally’. Other May-July records from Dersingham, Great Hockham, Hanworth Common, Holme, Horning Water Works, Horsey, Langham, Lynford, Roydon, South Wootton, Titchwell and Weeting. Flocks of 40 Thetford Sept 12th and 30 Swaffham Forest 17th more likely related to locally bred birds than migrants.

First of autumn coastal migrants 5 Holme and one Winterton Sept 16th. Again a good series of passage birds from Hunstanton Cliffs: 37 Oct 1st, 9 19th, 21 24th, 9 31st, 96 Nov 5th, 66 15th and 28 16th. Elsewhere highest counts: Sept 25 in off sea Scolt Head 23rd, 30 west Beeston Bump 30th; Oct 40 Holkham Meals 11th, 100 west Holme 30th; Nov 28 west Sheringham 1st, 32 south Eccles 5th, 48 south Waxham 16th. Other counts 40 Buxton Heath Sept 28th, and 50 Great Witchingham and 35 Horning Lock Oct 8th. Highest counts in second winter period: Nov 97 Lynford Arboretum, 100 Norwich, 50 Sandringham; Dec 130 Beeston Regis, 100 Norwich Sweetbriar Marsh, 60 Stanford TA 27th, 70 UEA Broad, 50 Great Witchingham.

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	30	40	60	85	200	120	250	200	180	60	80
Holme	3	20	15	40	35	10	20	20	220	500	12	140

In first winter period highest monthly counts: Jan 250 Gateley, 200 Illington, 400 Langor Bridge/Pensthorpe, 80 Spixworth, 120 Syderstone Common, 250 Walcott; Feb 80 Roydon Common; March 50 Caister, 80 Old Catton, 150 Thetford Nunnery Lakes; April 105 Beeston Regis, 60 Caister, 150 Happisburgh.

Spring passage from mid-March extending to mid-May included a good series of counts at Hunstanton Cliffs (all south): 44 March 11th, 37 17th, 151 18th, 64 20th, 98 21st, 55 25th, 263 31st, 95 April 18th, 203 19th, 96 23rd, 71 May 1st, 17 2nd, 28 14th, 52 15th, 23 16th and 39 20th.

Elsewhere (all west unless otherwise stated): March 100 east Cromer 18th with 25 there 20th, 23 Beeston Bump 21st, 36 22nd, 30 30th with 95 Sheringham on latter date and 92 there 31st; April 102 east Cromer 5th, 115 Scolt Head, 288 Sheringham and 80 Beeston Bump all 14th, 90 Scolt Head and 36 Cromer 18th, 58 Scolt Head and 192 (112 west 80 east) Sheringham 21st, 153 Scolt Head and 95 (65 west 30 east) Cromer 22nd, 75 Scolt Head 23rd with 45 there 24th; May 85 Scolt Head and 44 Beeston Bump 1st.

Very few breeding records: Sparham 6 pairs, Scolt Head 35 pairs, Pentney Heath 2-3 pairs. NBA results showed the species was present in 80% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 7 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Late summer/autumn flocks included: Aug 95 Blakeney Point, 110 Cley, 70 Little Cressingham, 200 West Runton; Sept 200 Blakeney Point, 100 Roydon Common, 160 Snettisham CP, 198 Winfarthing; Oct 100 Blakeney Point.

Visible autumn passage: Hunstanton Cliffs max 53 south Oct 13th; Sheringham (all west) 60 Sept 29th, 108 Oct 4th, 74 5th, 68 13th, 60 Nov 2nd and 4th; 80 west Beeston Bump Oct 7th and 100 in off sea Burnham Overy Dunes (1000-1200) Oct 8th. Other Oct flocks included 70 Holkham Gap 1st, 100 Southrepps 4th and 100 Snettisham CP 24th.

In second winter period: 115 Sheringham Nov 2nd with 100 4th, 120 21st and 100 Dec 16th-21st, 100 Shereford-Tatterford Nov 28th, 150 East Beckham Dec 1st with 350 (2 flocks) 4th, and 290 Sedgeford Dec 19th.

Twite

Carduelis flavirostris

Declining local winter visitor

Max counts at main resorts:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holme	28	24	-	12	-	18
Thornham-Titchwell	28	40	11	9	18	10
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	30	42	30	10	50	115
Holkham Bay	110	80	-	50	160	100
Happisburgh	17	-	15	-	1	-

The decline in Twite numbers continues apace. Holkham Bay is now only site in county to regularly hold winter flocks into three figures. It is also probable that records from Holme, Thornham-Titchwell and Scolt Head refer to same roving birds and numbers may be even fewer than suggested. Exceptionally scarce in first half of year; away from main haunts sole records Sheringham March 1st and 24th, and at Waxham 12 Jan 5th, 24 south 17th, 3 Feb 23rd and 2 Feb 24th. Last of spring 3 west Scolt Head April 4th.

First of autumn 3 west 2 east Cley and singles Scolt Head and Holkham Bay Oct 19th, followed, away from favoured haunts, by 4 south Hunstanton 24th and on 31st by singles Hunstanton, west Blakeney Point and 2 Sea Palling. Away from Holkham Bay and Scolt Head, birds scarce in second winter period. Amazingly, sole record from Wash was 8 Ongar Hill Nov 9th, and although birds were again at Breydon only reported Nov 18th-25th, peaking at 42 on 19th. All other records given: 6 Burnham Norton Dec 14th; 13 Cley Dec 14th; 18 Kelling WM Dec 11th; 6 Sheringham Nov 2nd, 2 on 20th and 2 Dec 10th; Paston Nov 5th and 2 north 11th; Waxham 2 Nov 2nd and south 16th; Winterton 40 south Nov 19th (presumably those found later that day at Breydon) and 12 Dec 26th.

Lesser Redpoll

Carduelis cabaret

Passage migrant, winter visitor and declining resident

In first winter period typically a scattering of single-figure sightings with larger counts: Jan 160 Barton Turf, 25 How Hill, 21 Norwich, 36 Strumpshaw, 40 Whitlingham CP; Feb 37 Catfield Fen, 55 Helhoughton, 30 Hempton Marsh, 30 Holme, 20 Whitlingham CP; March 60 Catfield Common, 30 Holme, 58 Santon Downham, 28 Whitlingham CP; April 150 Santon Downham.

Very light spring passage. Southerly movement Hunstanton Cliffs March 31st-May 20th with total of 100 birds and max 20 April 19th. At Scolt Head a total of 9 with max 4 May 16th. Elsewhere 50 west Titchwell April 22nd and 36 west May 13th.

In summer specific breeding information almost non-existent but noted at following localities: Barton Turf, Croxton Heath, Hellesdon, Hempton (2 singing males), Hickling

Broad, Holkham Meals (song flight), How Hill, Norwich (Salisbury Rd), Pensthorpe, Strumpshaw (pair), Syderstone Common (2 pairs) and Wayland Wood.

Autumn passage late Sept-early Nov but generally in very small numbers; at Hunstanton Cliffs total of 16 south and at Scolt Head total of 11 west. Elsewhere highest counts 14 Sheringham and 10 Whitlingham CP Oct 20th, 9 Lopham Fen 28th and 12 west Holme Nov 3rd.

Only double-figure counts in second winter period all Nov: 10 Hempton, 10 Themelthorpe and 24 Whitlingham CP.

Common (ie Mealy) Redpoll

Carduelis flammea

Scarce winter visitor

In first winter period the flock of up to 30 at Titchwell in Dec 2001 remained until Feb 23rd. At Holme 24 Jan 2nd might have involved this flock. Elsewhere apart from 15 Brundall Church Fen Jan 11th, only 1-3 at 12 inland sites.

In March a series of early spring records at Holme with 10 (4 ringed) 3rd, one 10th, 12 12th, 22 22nd, 2 29th and final of spring April 6th; also one east Sidestrand March 24th.

Few records in second winter period: Sidestrand Sept 29th, west Beeston Bump 30th and at Holkham Meals Oct 2nd, 13th and 4 14th, one Nov 15th and 7 Dec 23rd.

Arctic Redpoll

Carduelis hornemanni

Winter vagrant from Scandinavia

At Titchwell 1-2 remained from Dec 2001 and were seen intermittently until Feb 23rd.

Two-barred Crossbill

Loxia leucopters

Vagrant from the Siberian taiga

An adult female with Common Crossbills Sandringham Dec 8th-15th (JVB *et al*). The eighth county record, the last being at the same site in May 1998.

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

Very few in first winter period, mainly reported from Brecks; max 14 Lynford Arboretum Jan 21st, 8 Feb 4th and up to 9 March, and 40 Sheringham Park Jan 30th with 15 March 3rd. Only movements 8 east Weybourne Feb 3rd and 6 Holme March 26th.

Only records indicative of breeding were displaying pairs Drymere April 9th, Upper Sheringham 16th and Norwich Earlham Cemetery 23rd, with a male and two juvs Mundford May 6th. Other counts at this time included: 16 Lynford Arboretum April 18th and 15 May 13th, 17 West Tofts May 8th and 40 Kelling Heath 21st.

Apart from small flocks over East Dereham June-Sept little evidence of post breeding movement/immigration during June/July apart from 4 south Hunstanton Cliffs June 15th, 5 south-east Cley 23rd, west Titchwell 26th, 6 Brancaster 29th, east Beeston Regis July 14th, Bacton Woods 20th, 2 New Costessey 28th and 5 Holme 31st.

A major increase in movements from late Aug/Sept including: 5 west Beeston Common Aug 15th, 4 west Sheringham 23rd, 30 Holme, 25 in off sea then south Scolt Head, 27 Sheringham GC, 20 in off sea Sheringham, 30 Beeston Bump and 12 Sheringham Pretty Corner all 26th, 48 Holme and 121 in off sea then south Scolt Head 27th, 36 Yarmouth Cemetery 30th, 16 Holt Lowes 31st, 130 north Ludham Sept 1st, 40 Holkham Meals 4th, 16

11th and 5 12th, 40 in off sea Scolt Head 9th, 15 Burnham Overy Staithe 11th, 15 Winterton 12th, and 25 Holme, 8 inland Titchwell and 8 west Cley 14th.

Other inland counts included: 70 Santon Downham Aug 24th, 152 31st and 100 Sept 11th, 20 Colney Pits Aug 20th, 20 Buxton Heath 31st, 12 Hanworth Sept 1st, 50 Lynford Arboretum 2nd and 45 24th, 15 Hickling Village 12th, 16 East Harling 21st and 16 south Swanton Abbott 29th.

Still reasonable numbers at end of year: 40 Thetford Forest Oct 30th, 19 south-west East Beckham Nov 17th, 64 Lynford Arboretum 23rd with 31 Dec 27th, 50 Sandringham Nov 24th, 30 Dec 10th, 25 14th and 50 16th, 20 Sennowe Park Dec 17th and 40 Bacton Woods 18th with 27 until year end.

Common Rosefinch

Carpodacus erythrinus

Rare passage migrant; potential colonist

A well-watched red-plumaged male Weybourne May 30th-June 7th (MP *et al*) and an autumn imm Beeston Bump Oct 13th (GED *et al*).



Common Rosefinch (Gary Wright)

Bullfinch

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Resident and occasional immigrant

Recorded at 54 localities but generally in very small numbers and little breeding information.

In first winter period no double-figure counts and highest 9 Narborough Jan 6th.

Breeding information only from 9 localities including: 6 territories mid-Yare RSPB and 4 pairs Roydon Common. NBA results showed the species was present in 43% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 2 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Only records of autumn passage: 5 west Sheringham Oct 10th and 8 east Holme Nov 25th. Largest gatherings in second half of year 10 Fornsett St Peter Aug 11th and 14 Holkham Meals Oct 10th.

Hawfinch

Coccothraustes coccothraustes

Elusive and very local resident; scarce migrant

Only regularly recorded at Lynford Arboretum where monthly max: 6 Feb, 7 March, 8 April, 9 Nov, 2 Dec.

Elsewhere remained very scarce and/or overlooked, with all records listed: Necton Jan 12th, Shadwell 16th, Thetford 18th, 4 Barnhamcross Common 27th, Sandringham Feb 1st and Dec 11th, Narborough April 27th-29th and May 1st (at a birdtable), Aylsham April 28th (in a garden), Hilborough May 20th and 3 Great Ryburgh June 12th.

Lapland Bunting

Calcarius lapponicus

Regular but usually scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

In the first winter period up to 9 Happisburgh, with one remaining until March 21st. Other winter records Waxham Jan 5th, Titchwell Feb 9th and 24th, 4 Hopton March 9th and one West Runton 20th.

First in autumn Blakeney Point Sept 19th. Usual small numbers moving west along north coast end Sept-Nov with max 5 Holme and 7 Scolt Head Oct 7th, and 7 south Hunstanton Cliffs Oct 31st.

In second winter period much more widespread and in larger numbers than in recent years, with records from (max in brackets): Heacham, Snettisham, Hunstanton (7), Thornham (2), Titchwell, Scolt Head (7), Burnham Overy (2), Holkham Bay (2), Stiffkey SM, Blakeney Point (8), Cley, Salthouse, Kelling WM (3), Weybourne (3) Sheringham (20), Beeston Bump (3), Overstrand, Trimmingham, Paston (18), Bacton (40), Mundesley (5), Happisburgh, Eccles (3), Hempstead Marshes, Waxham (3), Horsey and Winterton (2).

Inland singles west East Beckham Nov 1st and at Berney 5 dates Sept 20th-Dec 16th with 2 Dec 3rd.

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	11	9	-	85	180
Holme	30	30	8	83	50
Thornham/Titchwell	50	30	32	115	30
Scolt Head	140	130	9	200	160
Holkham Bay	120	112	35	9	200
Blakeney Point	-	-	39	38	142
Cley/Salthouse	25	20	65	25	65
West Runton/Cromer	150	70	-	-	-
Walcott/Paston	20	-	-	32	-
Happisburgh/Eccles	30	20	-	20	-
Caister	51	62	1	11	40

Other significant flocks in first winter period included 30 Stiffkey Greens, 20 Mundesley, 15 Hempstead Marshes, 50 Waxham, 40 Horsey and 22 Winterton.

One of the Caister flock bore a Belgian ring. A bird was inland Choseley March 30th-April 1st; latest 2 birds Blakeney Point April 4th.

First returning bird Clcy Sept 15th flew in off sea pursued by an Arctic Skua which caught and dropped it three times. The bird appeared to escape but was later found dead along Blakeney Point. Only other Sept records Scolt Head 25th, Titchwell 28th and Paston 29th; none then until Oct 8th. Inland one feeding on grass Felbrigg Hall car park Oct 16th/17th.

Additional significant flocks in second winter period included 40 Hunstanton, 22 Mundesley and 75 Sea Palling.

A bird in Titchwell flock Nov 21st showed characters of the race *vasowae*, breeding from north-east European Russia through Arctic Siberia.



Snow Bunting (Steve Cale)

Yellowhammer

Emberiza citrinella

Once common resident, currently in decline

Flocks in first winter period included 70 Castle Acre, 150 Fornsett St Peter, 45 Hempstead Marshes, 38 Narborough, 70 Sutton Mill, 30 West Dereham and 140 Winfarthing.

Passage birds noted south Hunstanton Cliffs March 16th-May 15th where total 17, with max 6 March 18th. At Beeston Bump 2 west March 8th and 3 west 22nd.

Breeding records included 11 singing males Roydon Common and 5 Great Ellingham; only one in mid-Yare RSPB. NBA results showed the species was present in 86% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 7 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Occasional westerly autumn passage noted Holme, Scolt Head, Blakeney Point and Sheringham Sept 30th-Nov 5th, with max 9 Sheringham Oct 13th. At Hunstanton Cliffs total of 16 south Oct 13th-Nov 15th.

No flocks reported in second winter period.

Ortolan Bunting

Emberiza hortulana

Rare passage migrant

Only one record, a female/imm Cart Gap Sept 13th/14th (many obs).

Little Bunting

Emberiza pusilla

Vagrant from northern Scandinavia eastwards, mostly in autumn

One Blakeney Point Oct 10th (RFP AMS *et al*); the first record since 1998.

Yellow-breasted Bunting

Emberiza aureola

Very rare vagrant from Finland eastwards

A female/imm Scolt Head Sept 24th/25th (JBr NML MESR NW). Only the fifth county record, the previous being in 1905, 1907, 1913 and 1992.

Reed Bunting

Emberiza schoeniclus

Resident and passage migrant

Flocks in Jan/Feb included 87 Blakeney Point, 40 Buckenham, 60 Martham and 142 Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr.

In spring 5 west Holme March 8th, and singles west Beeston Bump 22nd and east 24th. At Hunstanton Cliffs total of 23 south March 11th-May 15th including 13 in 3 hrs March 18th.

Significant numbers of breeding pairs recorded from Holkham NNR (41), mid-Yare RSPB (44), Scolt Head (85 singing males) and Welney (44). Other breeding reports from Blakeney Point, Castle Acre, Newton, Roydon Common and Sparham. NBA results showed the species was present in 35% of tetrads covered in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 breeding seasons with an average of 4 pairs per occupied tetrad.

Much more widespread autumn passage recorded Sept 8th-Nov 16th; at Scolt Head double-figure counts on 9 days of birds moving west with max 26 Sept 27th with counts of birds present of 85 Oct 11th, 135 12th, 115 20th and 150 21st. Elsewhere: 60 present Kelling WM Oct 20th, max 28 south Hunstanton Cliffs 31st, 40 west Sheringham Nov 2nd and 50 present Holme 16th.

Corn Bunting

Miliaria calandra

Local and declining resident

In first winter period counts of 78 Black Horse Drove, 45 Choseley, 20 Happisburgh, 15 Hempstead Marshes, 16 Narborough, 17 Sea Palling, 32 Ten Mile Bank and 21 West Walton.

Passage birds south at Hunstanton Cliffs April 24th (2), May 15th and 19th (2).

In breeding season noted at Belton, Berney, Cart Gap, Choseley, Dereham, Great Bircham, Halvergate, Happisburgh, Holme, Methwold, Salthouse, Sheringham, Ten Mile Bank, Titchwell, Welney, West Walton, Weybourne and Wisington BF.

Coastal migrants recorded in autumn at Burnham Overy Sept 7th, Wells East Hills (in off sea) Nov 16th, Holme Nov 17th, and Hunstanton Cliffs Oct 30th and Nov 1st.

In the second winter period flocks of 81 Feltwell Anchor and 25 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

Lesser White-fronted Goose

Anser erythropus

Northern Eurasia; winters southern Europe, India and China

Tottenham GP adult Dec 18th; Whitlingham CP juv Jan 7th.

Snow Goose

Anser caerulescens

North-east Siberia and North America; winters to Mexico

Breydon/Berney Blue-phase March 16th-25th, Oct 26th-Dec 31st; Great Ryburgh 3 Jan 14th, Jan 16th, 2 Feb 15th, 2 May 29th, May 30th and June 6th; Hockham GM Jan 2nd; Sennowe Park 4 June 11th.

Lady Amherst's Pheasant

Chrysolophus amherstae

East Asia with feral population Bedfordshire

Bodney Camp March 19th.

Category B/C Species

Ruddy Shelduck

Tadorna ferruginea

Asia and North Africa

Bayfield Hall 2 Sept 25th, Brancaster Feb 2nd-7th, Breydon June 20th, Blakeney Hbr 2 west July 20th, Buckenham Tofts April 13th and 17th, Cley 2 May 9th, 13th and 26th, 3 June 13th and Aug 27th, 1-2 Sept 5th-18th, 2 Oct 13th and 7 Oct 16th; Dilham 5 Sept 30th; East Ruston 5 Aug 31st; Glandford 2 south June 4th; Great Ryburgh Jan 29th, April 19th, 2 May 29th and 8 Sept 18th; Hethersett Feb 28th; Hickling Broad 4 July 18th; Holkham Park Lake 2 Jan 1st-Feb 2nd and single May 13th; Holme 2 May 1st and single Oct 26th; Hunworth 2 March 30th; Lynford Arboretum March 10th and 23rd; North Elmham Oct 17th; Sennowe Park 5 March 2nd, 6 March 24th, 2 May 25th-27th, 10 Sept 15th, one Oct 6th and 6 Oct 17th; Stanford Water April 21st; Thornage pair with 4 young May 24th, single June 16th and pair July 6th.

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.

Ross's Goose

Anser rossii

Tundra of northern Canada, winters to southern United States

Brancaster Nov 26th and Dec 14th-19th; Burnham Market Jan 9th-12th and Feb 6th; Burnham Overy Jan 8th, Feb 6th and Oct 9th/10th; Burnham Thorpe Jan 12th-16th; Cley 2 adults colour-ringed May 4th; Flitcham Jan 1st; Fring Oct 30th and Nov 2nd; Great Bircham Jan 4th/5th; Great Ryburgh 3 Jan 14th, 2 May 29th with one remaining until June 6th; Holkham GM Jan 7th/8th, 13th, 19th and 26th/27th, Feb 6th, Oct 2nd, Nov 24th and Dec 14th; Horsey Oct 19th; North Creak Oct 1st; Ongar Hill Dec 31st; Paston Oct 24th; Ridlington Oct 24th; Sennowe Park 4 June 11th; Sheringham Oct 24th; Snettisham Nov 3rd/4th; Wighton 2 Oct 16th, Oct 19th and 2 Dec 14th.

Hooded Merganser

North America, winters to Mexico and West Indies

Salthouse June 26th-July 1st.

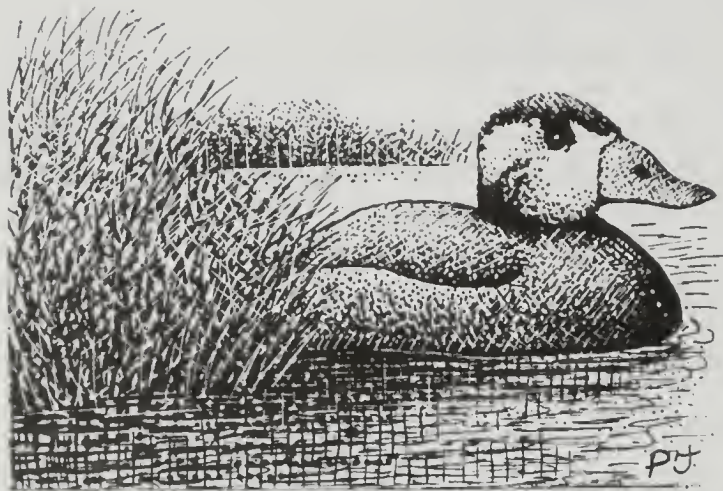
Lophodytes cucullatus

White-headed Duck

Patchily distributed Mediterranean basin to central Asia

Hardley Flood June 18th-28th and July 3rd-25th.

Oxyura leucocephala



White-headed Duck (Phil Jones)

Appendix III - Category E

Escapes or feral birds of species not on the British List

Sacred Ibis

Africa south of Sahara to Iran, Madagascar

Hickling Broad March 29th-April 1st; Waxham April 1st.

Threskiornis aethiopicus

White-faced Whistling-duck

Costa Rica to Brazil; Africa, Madagascar and Comoro Islands

Great Ryburgh 9 Jan 10th, 8 Jan 11th and 16th, April 17th, 6 Oct 31st, 3 Dec 12th and 4 30th.

Dendrocygna viduata

Black Swan

Australia

Breydon Dec 5th; Buckenham May 21st-26th and June 3rd; Diss Mere present several dates late summer; East Harling March 5th-11th; Horning Jan 4th; Salthouse Jan 10th and April 11th; Snettisham April 21st-28th; Stoke Ferry Dec 27th; Titchwell Aug 16th; Wells Quay Sept 20th-30th; Welney Dec 12th; Whitlingham CP Dec 29th; Wroxham May 22nd.

Cygnus atratus

Bar-headed Goose

Central Asia; winters in India and Burma

Berney May 11th, 19th and 23rd; Coxford April 16th-May 27th and July 31st/Aug 1st; Hickling Broad Jan 16th and June 29th; Potter Heigham Jan 19th; Snettisham April 28th and Nov 8th; Wighton Dec 4th.

Anser indicus

Blue-winged Goose

Highlands of Ethiopia

Litcham Aug 8th; Raynham Lake April 23rd; Strumpshaw 2 Aug 24th.

Cyanochen cyanopterus

- South African (Cape) Shelduck** *Taclorna cana*
South Africa
 Breydon Jan 1st; Sennowe Park May 30th.
- Australian Shelduck** *Tadorna tadornoides*
South Australia
 Breydon June 20th; Great Ryburgh April 19th; Thornage June 16th.
- Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata*
Southern Mexico to Argentina and Brazil
 Broom Heath pair bred fledging one young; Tattersett March 26th-May 8th and Dec 20th.
- Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa*
Canada to northern Mexico; Cuba and Bahamas
 Dersingham Bog June 3rd; Holkham Park Oct 26th, Nov 17th and 24th.
- Chiloe Wigeon** *Anas sibilatrix*
Southern South America
 Hickling Broad May 23rd; Whitlingham CP Jan 13th-18th.
- White-cheeked Pintail** *Anas bahamensis*
South America, West Indies and Galapagos
 Cley Nov 14th.
- Rosy-billed Pochard** *Netta peposaca*
Brazil to Argentina and Chile
 Ranworth April 8th and Aug 11th; Titchwell April 28th.
- Argentine Bluebill** *Oxyura vittata*
Southern Argentina and Chile, winters southern Brazil and Paraguay
 Fowlmere March 3rd and 10th.
- Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*
North and Central America and West Indies
 Cockley Cley Warren March 1st and 28th, May 6th, June 1st, Nov 3rd, Dec 6th and 24th;
 Great Ryburgh May 1st; Haddiseoe Sept 19th; Hanworth May 12th; Inceborough Hill April
 20th; Martham Broad (with jesses) May 19th; Sennowe Park Feb 24th and May 30th;
 Swaffham Feb 5th and May 7th; Swanton Novers May 23rd, June 1st/2nd and 27th; Thetford
 Feb 11th.
- Lanner** *Falco biarmicus*
Western Palearctic and Africa
 Blakeney Point April 3rd.
- Saker** *Falco cherrug*
Eurasia
 Breydon Feb 15th and May 1st; Sheringham Feb 10th and 25th, March 2nd, 16th and 18th.
- Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris*
Africa south of Sahara and extreme southern Arabia
 Burnham Overy 2 Aug 10th; Stanford TA 3 sites - (i) 2 males and female April 7th, (ii) pair
 Dec 1st, (iii) 2 June 2nd, one June 19th and Sept 18th.
- Reeves's Pheasant** *Syrnaticus reevesii*
North-central China
 Bodney Jan 4th; Hilborough March 3rd; Little Cressingham March 16th and 26th, Aug 13th;
 Stanford TA 3 sites - (i) male Jan 4th, 2 males displaying July 20th, (ii) male Jan 14th, one
 March 3rd and 7 males Sept 20th, (iii) male May 2nd.

Green Pheasant <i>Japan</i> Frettenham March 29th-April 5th; North Walsham 2 April 2nd; Worstead max 12 present all year.	<i>Phasianus versicolor</i>
Indian Peafowl <i>India and Sri Lanka</i> Boyland Common 4 Feb 4th; Fowlmere June 2nd; Hickling Broad Oct 21st/22nd; Rockland St Mary Jan-Feb; Winfarthing April 21st.	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
Blacksmith Plover <i>East and southern Africa</i> Horsey Mere Oct 16th/17th; Merton Sept 24th; Nar Valley Fisheries Oct 6th-11th; Winterton Oct 19th.	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>
Barbary Dove <i>Sub-Saharan Africa</i> Aylmerton all Jan.	<i>Streptopelia roseogisea</i>
Budgerigar <i>Australia</i> Breydon Sept 4th; Salhouse Aug 13th.	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>
Blue-crowned Parakeet <i>South America</i> West Norfolk various sites Jan-Aug.	<i>Aratinga acuticaudata</i>
Nanday (Black-hooded) Parakeet <i>South America</i> Burnham Market 2 all year.	<i>Nandayus nenday</i>
Cockatiel <i>Australia</i> Welney Aug 26th/27th.	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>
Eurasian Eagle Owl <i>Paleartic</i> Norwich Mousehold Heath April 1st.	<i>Bubo bubo</i>
Northern Carmine Bee-eater <i>Sub-Saharan Africa</i> Mundesley May 24th.	<i>Merops nubicus</i>
White-shouldered Starling <i>Widespread Oriental region</i> Burgh Castle May 1st.	<i>Sturnus sinensis</i>
Sudan Golden Sparrow <i>Sub-Saharan Africa</i> Cley July 1st.	<i>Passer luteus</i>
Black-headed Munia <i>Southern Asia and Malay archipelago</i> West Runton Sept 17th-23rd.	<i>Lonchura mallacca</i>
Pin-tailed Whydah <i>Savannah of Africa</i> Burnham Market Nov 21st-28th; Stiffkey Fen Sept 10th.	<i>Vidua macroura</i>

Island Canary
Commonly kept cagebird
Breydon Aug 25th.

Serinus canaria

Appendix IV - Hybrids

As submitted by observers - parentage not necessarily confirmed

Greylag Goose x Canada Goose

Cringleford May 25th; Lynford GP Feb 3rd; Marsham/Damgate Marsh April 21st; Munford GP Feb 3rd.

Greylag Goose x Barnacle Goose

Coxford April 22nd-May 14th and July 31st; Holkham Park March 24th; Stiffkey Fen Dec 29th.

Barnacle Goose x Canada Goose

Hickling Broad Jan 27th; Lynford GP March 23rd; Snettisham Nov 4th.

Barnacle Goose x Brent Goose

Stiffkey Nov 27th.

Wigeon x American Wigeon

Burnham Overy GM March 16th-21st.

Pintail x Wigeon

Tottenham GP Dec 9th.

Shoveler x Blue-winged Teal

Titchwell Feb 1st-April 8th.

Tufted Duck x Pochard

Stiffkey Fen Jan 3rd; Stowbridge RC Jan 17th; Welney Feb 14th, March 26th and 29th, and Oct 19th.

Tufted x Ring-necked Duck

Whitlingham CP Jan 14th.

Pochard x Ferruginous Duck

Welney March 26th.

Mediterranean Gull x Black-headed Gull

1st-summer Titchwell May 11th, 18th and 25th, and 2nd-summer May 16th; Heacham Nov 3rd.

Herring Gull x Glaucous Gull

Cromer Feb 11th; 1st-winter Blackborough End Tip Dec 7th.

Earliest and Latest Dates of Summer Migrants

(excludes occasional winter records)

	<i>Arrivals</i>		<i>Departures</i>	
Manx Shearwater	Apr 26th	Sheringham	Nov 7th	Yarmouth
Garganey	Mar 17th	Hickling Broad	Oct 1st	Cley
Honey Buzzard	May 16th	Breeding site	Aug 30th	Bagthorpe
Montagu's Harrier	Apr 19th	Scolt Head	Aug 15th	Scolt Head
Osprey	Apr 5th	How Hill	Oct 26th	Strumpshaw
Hobby	Mar 30th	Thorpe St Andrew	Oct 12th	Ranworth Broad
Quail	Apr 16th	Little Massingham	Sept 7th	Sheringham
Stone Curlew	Mar 5th	Gooderstone	Dec 8th	Hilborough
Little-ringed Plover	Mar 10th	Whitlingham CP	Sept 22nd	Wissington BF
Dotterel	May 4th	Salthouse	Nov 18th	Titchwell
Little Stint	May 7th	Welney	Nov 13th	Welney
Temminck's Stint	May 6th	Buckenham	Sept 1st	Hickling Broad
Curlew Sandpiper	May 9th	Cley, Berney	Nov 30th	Titchwell
Whimbrel	Mar 17th	Paston	Nov 17th	Titchwell
Wood Sandpiper	Apr 22nd	Berney	Sept 13th	Scolt Head
Common Sandpiper	Apr 17th	Breydon/Berney	Oct 28th	West Walton
Sandwich Tern	Mar 16th	Holme	Oct 25th	Scolt Head
Roseate Tern	June 11th	Breydon	Sept 2nd	Cley
Common Tern	Mar 26th	Breydon	Nov 9th	Mundesley
Arctic Tern	Apr 17th	Ranworth Broad	Nov 3rd	Sheringham
Little Tern	Apr 17th	Titchwell, Breydon	Oct 3rd	North coast
Black Tern	Apr 17th	Rockland Broad	Oct 24th	Scolt Head
Turtle Dove	Mar 25th	Pentney GP	Nov 13th	Holme
Cuckoo	Apr 5th	3 sites	Sept 20th	Berney
Nightjar	May 11th	West of county	Oct 11th	Cley
Swift	Apr 22nd	Frettenham	Oct 25th	Holme, Titchwell
Wryneck	Apr 24th	Yarmouth	Sept 18th	Waxham
Sand Martin	Mar 11th	Whitlingham CP	Oct 24th	Scolt Head
Swallow	Mar 7th	Hopton	Nov 30th	Titchwell, Holkham
House Martin	Mar 27th	Thetford	Dec 3rd	Cromer
Tree Pipit	Apr 2nd	Cley	Nov 4th	Snettisham CP
Yellow Wagtail	Mar 30th	Welney	Oct 29th	Winterton
Nightingale	Apr 12th	Pentney GP	June 7th	West Acre
Redstart	Apr 1st	Holme	Oct 31st	Blakeney Point
Whinchat	Apr 20th	3 sites	Nov 17th	Buckenham
Wheatear	Mar 16th	Holme, Salthouse	Nov 1st	Sheringham
Ring Ouzel	Mar 20th	Attleboro', Winterton	Nov 11th	Winterton
Grasshopper Warbler	April 14th	Snettisham	Oct 11th	Scolt Head
Sedge Warbler	Mar 31st	3 sites	Oct 11th	Blakeney Point
Reed Warbler	Apr 11th	UEA Broad	Nov 4th	Blakeney Point
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 14th	Burnham Norton	Oct 30th	Holme
Whitethroat	Apr 6th	Pentney GP	Oct 13th	Paston
Garden Warbler	Apr 13th	Titchwell	Nov 2nd	Sheringham
Wood Warbler	Apr 21st	Titchwell, Cromer	Oct 11th	Holme
Willow Warbler	Mar 20th	Winterton	Oct 21st	Winterton
Spotted Flycatcher	May 1st	Barnhamcross	Oct 12th	Blakeney Point
Pied Flycatcher	Apr 21st	Holme	Oct 18th	Scolt Head
Red-backed Shrike	June 7th	Weybourne	Nov 3rd	Horsely Mill

Latest and Earliest Dates of Winter Migrants

(excludes occasional summer records)

	<i>Departures</i>		<i>Arrivals</i>	
Black-throated Diver	Apr 2nd	Scolt Head	Sept 18th	Holme
Great Northern Diver	June 2nd	Sheringham	Aug 28th	Sheringham
Red-necked Grebe	Mar 30th	Titchwell	Aug 21st	Scolt Head
Slavonian Grebe	Mar 29th	Titchwell	Aug 28th	Salthouse
Black-necked Grebe	May 13th	Titchwell	Aug 14th	Snettisham
Bewick's Swan	Apr 2nd	Welney	Oct 5th	North coast
Whooper Swan	May 15th	Beeston Bump	Oct 5th	Welney
Taiga Bean Goose	Feb 6th	Brancaster	Oct 26th	Yare Valley
Tundra Bean Goose	Mar 17th	Welney	Dec 5th	Sherborne
Pink-footed Goose	May 13th	Burnham Overy	Sept 15th	Cley
White-fronted Goose	Mar 2nd	Heigham Holmes	Oct 10th	Holkham
Long-tailed Duck	June 20th	Sheringham	Oct 7th	Titchwell
Goldeneye	Apr 27th	Snettisham	Sept 27th	Scolt Head
Smew	Mar 18th	Welney	Nov 25th	Strumpshaw
Goosander	June 2nd	Cley	Oct 18th	Blakeney Hbr
Hen Harrier	May 27th	Hilborough	Aug 14th	Scolt Head
Rough-legged Buzzard	Apr 3rd	North coast	Oct 22nd	Scolt Head
Merlin	June 2nd	Scolt Head	Aug 2nd	Welney
Purple Sandpiper	Apr 28th	Scolt Head	July 14th	Scolt Head
Jack Snipe	Apr 27th	Snettisham CP	Sept 12th	Strumpshaw
Shore Lark	May 12th	Holme	Oct 17th	Scolt Head
Rock Pipit	Mar 24th	Morston	Sept 10th	Scolt, Sheringham
Water Pipit	Apr 14th	Ongar Hill	Oct 4th	Cley
Waxwing	May 6th	Holt	Oct 11th	Waxham
Fieldfare	May 23rd	Beeston Bump	Aug 27th	Scolt Head
Redwing	Apr 15th	Happisburgh	Sept 23rd	3 sites
Great Grey Shrike	Apr 4th	Hilborough	Oct 6th	Holme
Brambling	May 20th	Happisburgh	Sept 10th	Hunstanton
Twite	Apr 4th	Scolt Head	Oct 19th	3 sites
Common Redpoll	Apr 6th	Holme	Sept 29th	Sidestrand
Lapland Bunting	Mar 20th	West Runton	Sept 19th	Blakeney Point
Snow Bunting	Apr 4th	Blakeney Point	Sept 15th	Cley



Merlin (*Steve Cale*)

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

Black Kite - Horsey and Hickling June 11th; Least Sandpiper - Titchwell Oct 19th; Slender-billed Gull - Cley May 22nd; Red-throated Pipit - Holme May 7th; Fan-tailed Warbler - Cley Sept 30th; Booted Warbler - Blakeney Point June 4th/5th.

2001

Red-footed Falcon - Winterton July 4th; Citrine Wagtail - Blakeney Point May 16th; Thrush Nightingale - Wells SM Sept 29th.

2002

Balearic Shearwater - Cley Sept 6th, Sheringham Sept 22nd; Squacco Heron - Hickling Broad June 2nd; Great White Egret - Hickling Broad (3) May 10th, Breydon Aug 15th-17th, Burnham Overy/Deepdale Aug 29th; American Wigeon - Burnham Overy GM March 16th-21st; Black Kite - Heacham April 5th; Red-footed Falcon - Salthouse Heath May 19th, Langham May 27th; Spotted Crake - Cley Nov 28th; Corncrake - Salhouse April 3rd/4th; Dotterel - Sculthorpe April 18th, Cley July 21st; Marsh Sandpiper - Cley Aug 22nd; Sabine's Gull - Holme (3) Aug 27th, Scolt Head Sept 22nd; Caspian Gull - Titchwell Nov 17th, Burgh St Peter Nov 28th; Black Tern - Yarmouth Jan 20th; Bee-eater - Winterton (4) July 6th; Red-rumped Swallow - Salthouse May 24th, Red-throated Pipit - Burnham Overy Dunes Sept 10th; Western Bonelli's Warbler - Cley Oct 12th; *Tristis* Chiffchaff - Blakeney Point May 3rd, Great Ryburgh Oct 13th; Northern Treecreeper - Colby Dec 1st; Nutcracker - Beeston Regis Sept 5th; Raven - Upper Sheringham April 16th, East Ruston (3) July 17th; Rose-coloured Starling - Weybourne June 17th; Serin - Holme May 15th; Ortolan Bunting - Burnham Norton GM April 25th.

Prints of Photographs including those featured in this Report may be obtained from:

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Chris Knights, Crow Hall Farm, Gooderstone, King's Lynn PE33 9DA
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Malcolm Rains, Manton Farm, Ten Mile Bank, Downham Market PE38 0EW
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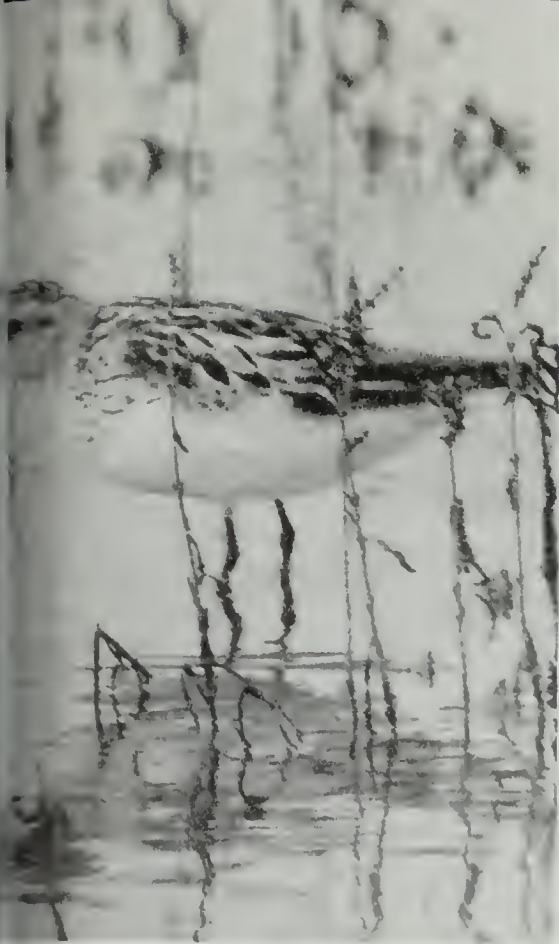
Non-submitted Records

The following records have been reported to either the National or East Anglian Birdlines, or Birdguides 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	Sheringham	Aug 11th
	Holme	Aug 28th
Balearic Shearwater	Cley	Aug 26th/27th
Storm Petrel	Cley	June 28th
	Holme (2)	Sept 14th
Night Heron	Cley	May 21st
Great White Egret	Stiffkey	Feb 13th
	Salhouse	May 15th
	Wells Hbr	May 25th/26th
	Morston	June 16th and 29th
	Titchwell	July 27th
	Burgh Castle	Aug 8th
	Breydon	Sept 1st
	Strumpshaw	Sept 30th
	Sea Palling	Dec 17th
Lesser White-fronted Goose	Burnham Thorpe	Jan 20th
	Holkham FM	Dec 8th
Black Kite	Great Ryburgh	May 20th, July 21st/22nd
Red-footed Falcon	Winterton	May 7th and 19th
	Berney	May 14th
	Swanton Novers	May 22nd
	Hindolveston	May 23rd
	Titchwell	May 26th
	Hickling Broad	May 31st
	Winterton	June 2nd
Grey Phalarope	Titchwell	Oct 13th
Sabine's Gull	Holme	Sept 19th and 22nd, Dec 7th
	Burnham Overy	Sept 23rd
	Salhouse	Oct 26th
	Titchwell	Oct 27th
Whiskered Tern	Winterton	May 11th
White-winged Black Tern	Hunstanton	Oct 16th
Bee-eater	Titchwell	June 17th
	Winterton	July 4th
Red-rumped Swallow	Waxham	May 12th
Savi's Warbler	Horsey Mere	April 21st
	Strumpshaw	May 22nd and June 4th
Pallas's Warbler	Burnham Overy Dunes	Oct 12th
	Holkham Meals	Oct 15th
Radde's Warbler	Thornham Point	Oct 13th
Rosc-coloured Starling	Sea Palling	June 26th
	Salhouse	June 28th
	Mundesley	July 4th
	Burnham Overy	Sept 2nd
Rustic Bunting	Hunstanton	Oct 5th

List of Contributors to Systematic List

S Abbott	S P Bramham-Jones	M L Cornish	A C Frost
M Abdulla	K J Brett	D Cotton	D J Fuller
P R Allard	D & J Bridges	R A F Cox	J E D Furse
B & Y Anderson	P Bridges	J Crane (JCr)	J Gaffney
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D Anning	BTO	H P Crawley	A J Gardiner
C Appleton	G J Brooking	M D & M Crewe	D Garner
D P Appleton	C Brookings	J Cricket	G Garner
G F Appleton	A F Brown	T C & G E Davies	R W & H K Garner
J Appleton	H Brown	B J Dawson	N Gatwood
P C Arbery	J Brown (JBr)	A Dearing	J D & J E Geeson
P Ashton	R Brownsword (RBr)	I Dearing	J Gilham
S J Aspinall	S H Bryan	R Death	S Gillings
P W Atkinson	D A Bryant	T R & J Dean	P Gluth
L Bacon	A L & R M Bull	P J Dolton	F Godwin
C P Baker	C Bull	C Donner (CDo)	D J Golds
M F B Baker	R J Burrough	D Dorling	A Goodall
R Baker	Dr I Burrows	G Dormer	S J Gough
D E Balmer	B J Burton	G P Douglas	M Grantham
K Bamford	N Burton	J Dove	T Gray
S Banks	J F Butcher	R Drew (RDr)	J J D Greenwood
A Banwell	Buxton Heath Wildlife	A Dring	C Gregory
C Bartholemew	Group	A Dunkley (ADu)	R Gribble
R E Batty	N B Bye	C Dunlop	A Hale
P E Beard	N Calbrade	G E Dunmore	J Halls
B Becket	S Cale	C Durdin	J Hampshire (JHa)
D M Bednall	P Carr	K R Dye	P Hampson
A P Benson	P Cawley (PCa)	J Eaton	V J Hanlon
L Benson (LBe)	D E Chamberlain	K & S Edwards	B Harding
P Benstead	A Chamberlin	B A Eglinton	R I Harold
L G Bentley	A G Channer	M I Eldridge	P E Harries
S Betts	K Charters	J Ellis (JEl)	A F Harris
J V Bhalerao	D L Cheyne	N Elms	J Harris (JHs)
C Bingham	M A Chipperfield	G Elton (GEl)	J Harvey
D Bingham	R H Chittenden	G Etherington (GEt)	J Haw
P Birch	N A & J A Clark	P Etherington	J Hayward
Birdguides	R Clarke	A Excell	R Hayward (RHa)
Birdline East Anglia	P Clement	R Facer	P J Heath
Jez Blackburn	Cley Bird Club	C M & F J Farrow	A J E Hedges
J Blackburn	R Cobbold	P C Feakes	T Hemmings
A I Bloomfield	D Coburn	J Filowiat	I G Henderson
E Bond	M Cocker	M Finnemore	K J & A Herber
J Bond (JBo)	A Cohen	M D Fiszcr	P Herkenrath
C Boness (CBo)	A D Collins	D Fogg	Dr R Hesclden
A D Boote	M Colman	G W Follows	G Hewson
T E Boulton	G Conway	N Fox	G F Hibberd
N B Bowman (NBBo)	I Cook	R A & A J Foyster	B Hicks
W Boyd	F Cooke	P Freeman	R Hill
M & C Bradbury	T Corcoran	S N Freeman	D Hills



Semi-palmated Sandpiper - the first UK record was at Cley in 1953. (*R P Bagnall-Oakeley*)

Long-billed Dowitcher - a controversial bird at Cley in 1957. (*R P Bagnall-Oakeley*)

Collared Dove - the first UK record was at Overstrand in 1955. (*R P Bagnall-Oakeley*)





Nutcracker - 104 were reported from Norfolk during the 1968 invasion. (*R P Bagnall-Oakeley*)

Wilson's Phalaropes - these two were at Wisbech Sewage Farm in 1967. (*R P Bagnall-Oakeley*)





Cream-coloured Courser - the fourth for Norfolk was seen at Blakeney and Ormesby in 1969. (*R P Bagnall-Jakeley*)

Black-throated Thrush - this long staying bird was at Coltishall in 1976. (*Dr A Beaumont*)





Ivory Gull - the sole Norfolk record was at Brancaster in January 1978. (*P R Clarke*)
 Ross's Gull - a superb adult at Cley in May 1984. (*Steve Young*)

The Editors in 1982 - (top row l to r) Moss Taylor, Adrian Boote, Peter Allard. (bottom row l to r) Don Dorling, Michael Seago, Giles Dunmore. (*Mary Dorling*)



M Hines	D Ling	B Pleasance	A Stride
R Hoblyn	S Linsell	R F Porter	T Strudwick
R H Hogg	S Livermore	I Prentice	M Summerwell
S J Holloway	P Lockwood	M Preston	D P Tatum
D J Holman	M & K Lovatt	J Prime	M P Taylor
Holme Bird	J Lovett	B & B Pummell	P Taylor
Observatory	T C Lowe	M H Rains	A Terry
P Holness	A MacDonald	H R Ramsay	R Thewlis
J Hopkins	J D Magee	M & A Raven	B Thompson
M Hosier	R C Mansfield	N D Rawlings	J & A Threadgold
S Howell	J H Marchant	J M Reed	W T Thrower
R Hull	M R & O R Marks	D I & R M Richmond	A K Tibbitt
R A Image	B S Martin	A M Riley	M Toms
A G Irwin	J Martin	D Rogers	J Turner
P Jackson	D Mayes	E Rogers	D Tutt
R Jackson	J R McCallum	R Rogers	A E Vine
C A Jacobs	R McCurley	R Rolfe	R B Votier
A Jarrett	A McElwee	M E S Rooney	S C Votier
P A Jeffery	R C & S McIntyre	J A Rowlands	R Waddingham
R J Johns	C J Mead	RSPB	J Wagstaffe
I G & K Johnson	N Mears (NMe)	G Ruffles	F Waisland
R Johnson (RJo)	H P Medhurst	D H Russell	S J Wakeman
S & M E Johnson	P J Milford	D H Sadler	M Walford
E W P Jones	R G Millington	B Sage	M A Ward (MAWa)
J A Jones	C Mills	R St John	A Waterman
R F Jones	I Mills	K G Saul	J W Watson
W Jordon	L J Milne	A J Saunders	D Waudby
M Jowett	D Montier	D & M J Saunt	M A Webster (MAWe)
S C Joyner	N Mugan	C Sayer	J Welland
A J Kane	B J Murphy	J Scott	S C West
J A Kay	A J Musgrove	R E Scott	P Westley
G I Kelly	E T Myers	M Seal-Coon	C E Wheeler
J B Kemp	NARVOS	J Searle	J Wheldon
I F & J Keymer	P Newport	Sheringham Bird	D White
J Kimber	S Newson	Observatory	I White
C A E Kirtland	B Nicholls	G & S Simmons	J R Whitelegg
D R Knight	T C Nicholson	G M Siriwardena	P Whittall
T Knight	T Nightingale	R Q Skeen	D & P Wileman
C R Knights	S M Noakes	K Skin	N Williams
M Knights	D Nobbs	B Small (BSm)	J R Williamson (JRWi)
J Knowler (JKn)	D Noble (DNo)	C J Small	A M Wilson
D A Lake	NOA	A J L Smith	J Wilson
F J Lambert	J Oates	I N Smith	P M Wilson
J Lansdell (JLa)	D Osborn	M H Smith	K Wood
N M Lawton	G R Oxborough	S Smith	M J Wood
V Lea	N Packer	S Spalding	G Woollestone
R M Leaney	K Parker	S Sparrow	P J Woolnough
M P Lee	J M Parmenter	E M P Stanford	G Wright
R Lee	J Parry	Stanta Bird Club	R Wright (RWri)
D Leech	T Peach	N Starling	S A Wright
D P Lester	C W Penny	D Stevens (DSt)	T Wright
J Lines	T & V Pinlon	A M Stoddart	

Ringling Report

Allan Hale

The total of 40,488 birds of 134 species ringed in Norfolk during 2002, represented a rather better performance than during recent years. The total number of birds was the highest since 1998 and the species count was the highest since 1997.

One fortunate ringer in the north of the county managed to trap Spotted Crake, Thrush Nightingale, Barred Warbler, Greenish Warbler and Red-backed Shrike in his (albeit large) garden. Other scarce birds ringed in Norfolk included Shag, Honey Buzzard, Icterine Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher and a second Barred Warbler. The most ringed species was Greenfinch, of which there were 5,851 with Blue Tit second with 3,767 and Blackbird third with 2,645.

There was as much of interest as ever within the recoveries. The highlight was a new longevity record for Oystercatcher (or indeed any wader) of 35 years. This was featured in the national press who made much of the fact that the Oystercatcher was older than most of the ringing team! However, sad ends came to an Oystercatcher at Tromso Airport and a Peregrine at Burnham Norton. Much information is included in the Blackbird section including some fascinating facts from a bird ringed on Helgoland Island, Germany and another bird doing a return trip to Russia.

Thanks to all Norfolk ringers for access to their data, and especially to Steve and Alison Wakeham for the Wash Wader Ringing Group recoveries and their interpretation.

Selected Norfolk Recoveries Notified During 2002

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 | Hatched two calendar years before ringling |
| 8 | Hatched more than two calendar years before 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 |
| R | Caught and released by ringer |
| RR | Ring or colour marks read in the field |

Cormorant

I	03.06.00	Maageroeerne, Bogense, Denmark
RR	21.08.02	Cley NWT Reserve

Additionally, a nestling ringed at Abberton Reservoir, Essex, was seen regularly at Cley and appeared to be semi-resident there during the summer months.

Spoonbill

I	14.06.98	Schiermonnikoog, The Netherlands
RR	Aug 1998	Lauwersmeer, The Netherlands
RR	23.05.02	Cley NWT Reserve (until 26.05.02)
RR	27.05.02	Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth

Most Spoonbills seen in Norfolk seem to originate from the breeding population in The Netherlands.

Mute Swan

6	23.11.96	Saddlebow, King's Lynn	
XF	24.09.02	Hatton, Uttoxeter, Derbyshire	139km W

Only around 7% of Mute Swan travel in excess of 100 km. The finder in this case was reported as "*Derbyshire Constabulary – no address given!*"

Greylag Goose

4M	01.06.00	Damme, Vlaanderen, Belgium (until May2002)
RR	16.06.02	Udale Bay, Scotland
RR	03.09.02	Cley NWT Reserve (until 07.09.02)

Perhaps on its way home when seen at Cley. This bird was part of the Belgian feral population which has been described as "of mixed origins". Genuine wild birds do occur in Belgium however.

Brent Goose

4M	09.08.95	Lidia Bay, Taimyr, Siberia, Russia
RR	Oct 96	Jersey, Channel Islands
RR	Spring 97	Jylland, Denmark
RR	Spring 97	Sylt, Germany (also spring 1999, 2000, and 2001)
RR	23.11.02	Cley NWT Reserve
4	15.02.97	Holy Island, Northumberland (until 27.02.97)
RR	22.04.97	Agero, Denmark (until 12.05.97)
RR	11.04.98	Nissum Fjord, Denmark (until 26.04.98)
RR	22.04.99	Nissum Fjord, Denmark (until 30.04.99)
RR	18.01.02	Langham (until 20.01.02)

The first shown was ringed on the species main breeding ground on the Taimyr Peninsular in the central Russian Arctic. The second shown was a Pale-bellied bird which is a scarce visitor

to Norfolk. Another Pale-bellied bird was ringed in Denmark during May 2001 and seen at Cley 08.12.02. but had lost one of its rings and could not be individually identified.

Sparrowhawk

5F	22.04.02	Manor Farm, Titchwell	
X	22.10.02	Burnham Norton	8km E

Reported as a road casualty, this prompted the ringer to remark that it must have been a fast car!

Peregrine

1	14.07.01	Norrbotten, Sweden	
XF	14.01.02	Trimingham, Cromer	1,855km SSW

There have only been 14 previous recoveries of foreign-ringed Peregrine in Britain, all from Scandinavia. This bird hit overhead wires resulting in a broken wing. It is now in permanent care.

Oystercatcher

8	25.06.94	Heacham, Hunstanton	
+	03.07.02	Tromso Airport, Troms, Norway	2,097km NNE
3	13.08.67	Snettisham	
R	01.08.00	Friskney, Boston, Lincolnshire	
R	07.09.02	Wainfleet, Lincolnshire	26km WNW

The first was the most northerly Oystercatcher recovery of the year. Unfortunately this bird took up residence at Tromso Airport and had to be destroyed for public safety reasons.

The second extends the national longevity record for Oystercatcher (and indeed any wader) to 35 years. The previous record was held by a nestling ringed in 1962 and found in March 1996, and this record had been unchallenged since then. The bird shown fell 9 months short of the record when it was caught at Friskney in 2000.

Avocet

1	24.06.00	Site confidential, NW Norfolk	
RR	23.04.02	Two Tree Island, Essex	136km S
1	27.06.98	Site confidential, NW Norfolk	
RR	25.04.02	Ouse Washes, Welney, Cambs	38km SSW

The first chose not to return to its natal site, but instead re-located and bred in Essex. The second acted likewise but settled to breed at the Ouse Washes.

Lapwing

1	29.04.00	Haddiscoe Island, Beccles	
+	07.11.02	Moyasta, Clare, Eire	752km W

Cold weather Lapwing movements can be anywhere between west and south. Norfolk birds do travel to Eire, but many take a more southerly route to Western France and Iberia.

Ringed Plover

1	02.06.99	Snettisham, Hunstanton	
RR	28.10.01	Gavres, Lorient, Morbihan, France	650km SSW
1	29.06.99	Snettisham, Hunstanton	
RR	19.01.02	Rimac, Saltfleet, Lincolnshire	61km NNW
1	27.07.99	Snettisham Coastal Park, Hunstanton	
RR	24.02.02	Cemlyn Bay, Anglesey, Wales	335km W
1	14.06.01	Snettisham, Hunstanton	
RR	04.09.01	River Blyth, Northumberland	283km NNW
1	16.06.01	Snettisham, Hunstanton	
RR	04.09.01	Bedlington, Northumberland	283km NNW
4F	10.03.96	near Heacham, Hunstanton	
RR	24.06.01	Rost Island, Nordland, Norway	1,742km NNE
1	01.06.00	Snettisham, Hunstanton	
RR	26.05.01	Rottumerplat, Rottumeroog, The Netherlands	406km E
RR	20.08.01	Nummereen, Zuid-Holland, The Netherlands	272km SE

All recoveries of nestlings moving in excess of 25km are shown, as is the longest movement of the year. This longest movement was only the ninth British Ringed Plover to be found in Norway. Additionally, breeding females travelled to Devon (November) and Morbihan, France (October). This colour ringing project continues to generate recoveries which shed light on the movements of our breeding population.

The last shown, a Snettisham-bred bird, successfully raised a family in The Netherlands the following year.

Golden Plover

4	23.10.93	Friesland, The Netherlands	
XF	24.01.02	Dead Man's Wood, Sheringham	295km W

Dutch-ringed birds regularly occur in Norfolk, with only Icelandic-ringed birds being numerically larger.

Knot

4	06.10.79	Thornham, Hunstanton	
XF	28.09.02	Snettisham, Hunstanton	

Found nearly 23 years after being ringed, this bird falls just a year short of the national longevity record of 24 years (also involving a Wash-ringed bird). Although shown as only a

10km movement, this bird had clearly made many round trips to the Arctic during the intervening years.

Dunlin

5M	22.07.01	Terrington, King's Lynn	
R	22.08.01	Marismas del Odiel, Huelva, Spain	1,817km SSW
3	01.09.00	Terrington, King's Lynn	
R	11.05.02	Salina Ntr. Sda. Del Pilar, Cadiz, Spain	1,877km SSW
3	28.08.88	Terrington, King's Lynn	
XL	15.01.02	Estarreja, Aveiro, Beira Litoral, Portugal	1,496km SSW
4	22.07.01	Terrington, King's Lynn	
R	25.04.02	Bardsea Shore, Ulverstone, Cumbris	269km NW
4	22.07.01	Terrington, King's Lynn	
XF	20.05.02	Carr House Farm, Pilling, Lancashire	250km WNW

The first, controlled only one month after being ringed on The Wash, was likely to have been still on southward passage towards West African wintering grounds. The second, another Spanish recovery, will have been returning northwards and was caught relatively late in the spring season.

The Portuguese recovery was found 13 years and 4 months after ringing, yet still fell short of the national longevity record by over 5 years.

The final two shown, ringed in the same catch at Terrington, were subsequently using western estuaries during the following spring migration. This pattern of behaviour has been well documented in the past. The second of these however, was found in a Little Owl nest box, along with five other Dunlin!

Redshank

I	30.06.00	Thorbrandsstadir, Vopnafjotdur, Nodur-Mula, Iceland	
R	21.09.01	Terrington, King's Lynn	1,666km SSE

Just one year after the Wash Wader Ringing Group catching the first Icelandic-ringed Redshank chick, comes the second.

Mediterranean Gull

No less than 16 colour-ringed birds were reported from the Great Yarmouth area. All except one were ringed along the Belgian coast, with the other from just north of Calais, France. Eight of the birds were seen during the second winter period only, five of which were ringed during 2002. The other eight were seen during both winter periods. The oldest bird was in its fifth year.

Black-headed Gull

6	31.05.00	Pilsdammsparken, Malmo, Sweden	
X	16.11.01	East Bilney, King's Lynn	850km WSW

8	05.07.96	Rautalampi, Kuopio, Finland	
RR	08.12.01	The Mere, Diss	1,898km SW
6	23.04.97	Frognerparken, Oslo, Norway	
RR	20.12.98	The Mere, Diss	
RR	11.12.01	The Mere, Diss	
RR	12.11.02	The Mere, Diss	1,029km SW
3	30.12.96	Norwich	
RR	02.02.99	Gooimeerkade, Huizen, The Netherlands	
RR	10.01.00	Gooimeerkade, Huizen, The Netherlands	
RR	14.02.02	Gooimeerkade, Huizen, The Netherlands	273km E
4	24.03.87	Charlotten Strandpark, Copenhagen, Denmark	
RR	Feb 90	Sheringham	
RR	Apr 92	Copenhagen, Denmark	
RR	Feb/Mar 93	Sheringham	
RR	Jan/Feb 94	Sheringham	
RR	Mar/Apr 94	Copenhagen, Denmark	
RR	Feb 95	Sheringham	
RR	Mar 95	Copenhagen, Denmark	
RR	Mar 96	Sheringham	
RR	Feb 97	Sheringham	
RR	Jun 97	Copenhagen, Denmark	
RR	Feb 98	Sheringham	
RR	Apr 98	Copenhagen, Denmark	
RR	Mar 99	Copenhagen, Denmark	
RR	Apr 00	Copenhagen, Denmark	
RR	13.09.02	Cley NWT Reserve	

The first three demonstrate the origin of our winter gulls. The third and fourth show winter site fidelity, and the fourth also shows the tendency for birds to travel further in their first year than in subsequent years. The last shows the full history of a colour-ringed Danish adult, breeding in Copenhagen and usually spending the latter part of each winter at Sheringham.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

1	04.07.99	Orfordness, Suffolk	
RR	01.07.02	Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium	
RR	29.07.02	East Harling Heath, Thetford	
1	18.07.99	Orfordness, Suffolk	
RR	26.08.00	Godmanchester Landfill, Cambridgeshire	
RR	09.02.01	Oued Massa, Agadir, Morocco	
RR	29.07.02	East Harling Heath, Thetford	

l	25.06.96	Europort, Rotterdam, The Netherlands	
RR	15.12.00	Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium	
RR	29.07.02	East Harling Heath, Thetford	
l	06.07.01	Bath, Avon	
RR	14.07.02	Cley NWT Reserve	260km NE

The first three were part of a flock of 5,300 Lesser Black-back Gulls with all ring numbers read on the same day. As with many species, immatures tend to wander further than adults, yet with this species it is almost exclusively adults that winter in Southern Morocco. But the second shown above was only in its second winter – all very confusing!

The fourth concerned a nestling from an urban roof-nesting colony in Bath.

Common Tern

l	15.06.99	Ditchingham GP, Bungay	
R	04.09.99	Seal Sands, Cleveland	297km N
l	27.06.00	Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth	
R	03.09.02	Marismas del Odiel, Huelva, Spain	1,833km SSW
l	27.06.98	Breydon Water, Great Yarmouth	
R	06.12.01	Palmarin, Senegal	4,596km SSW

A trio of expected movements. Norfolk-bred Common Terns regularly turn up at Seal sands during August and September, whereas Huelva is on the normal migration route to wintering quarters along the West African coast (including Senegal).

Little Tern

l	22.06.95	Great Yarmouth	
R	05.08.02	Parque National del Odiel, Spain	1,835km SSW
l	22.06.94	Great Yarmouth	
XF	06.05.02	Mohammedia, Morocco	2,227km SSW

Note that the first shown was over seven years old. Parque National del Odiel is a stopping off point for Little Terns on their way southward to wintering grounds along the West African coast. The Moroccan bird is only the second Norfolk-ringed Little Tern to be recovered on the wintering grounds, the first being in Mauretania.

Woodpigeon

4	05.01.02	Ormesby	
XL	04.07.02	Kingston upon Hull, Humberside	189km NW

Few Woodpigeon are ringed in Norfolk, far fewer recovered.

Barn Owl

A nesting ringed at Tilney St Lawrence 24.06.92 was re-trapped as a breeding adult 13.06.01 some 18km distant and almost exactly nine years later. There were 11 other recoveries of nestlings. only three of which survived their first winter, and none of which travelled more than 26km

Shore Lark

A colour-ringed bird from Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, 01.04.02, was seen at Snettisham Coastal Park 8 days later (27km SSE)

Robin

3	16.05.02	Docking	
R	21.08.02	Icklesham, Sussex	220km S

An example of juvenile dispersal. Most Robins hatched in Norfolk spend their lives within a mile of their birthplace, but a very few winter as far south as Spain.

Blackbird

4F	10.11.01	Dead Man's Wood, Sheringham	
R	27.03.02	Friesland, The Netherlands	285km E
6F	13.01.01	Garboldisham, Diss	
X	24.11.01	Tingvej, Jylland, Denmark	749km NE
4M	31.12.99	Pulham St Mary, Harleston	
X	11.06.01	Alvesta, Skaraborg, Sweden	988km ENE
3	04.11.01	Roptazijl, Friesland, The Netherlands	
R	17.03.02	Martham, Great Yarmouth	262km WSW
3M	06.11.01	Helgoland, Germany	
R	10.11.01	Martham, Great Yarmouth	448km WSW
3M	06.10.01	Titran, Sor-Trondelag, Norway	
R	10.11.01	Snettisham Coastal Park, Hunstanton	1,283km SSW
6M	28.01.01	Stanhoe, Docking	
X	22.11.01	Fortrose, Highland, Scotland	601km NNW
6F	23.01.98	Holme-next-the-Sea, Hunstanton	
R	10.11.01	Castricum, Noord-Holland, The Netherlands	277km E
3M	16.11.96	Weybourne	
R	03.04.97	Rybachy, Kaliningrad, Russia	1,305km E
R	07.02.98	Burnham Market	1,330km W

This collection of recoveries gives many clues to origin of our winter birds, the route taken and the timing.

Helgoland Island is located just over 50km north of the German coast. The bird ringed there, and trapped at Martham only four days later, had lost 14% of its body weight during the intervening period.

The last shown is remarkable in that it was caught for the second time in Norfolk after making the round trip to Russia. Kaliningrad is towards the eastern of the range from which we would expect our winter visitors.

Song Thrush

3	25.09.01	Weybourne	
+	28.10.01	Ascain, Pyrenees-Atlantiques, France	1,086km S
3	24.09.01	Weybourne	
+F	24.02.02	Mirandela, Tras os Montes, Portugal	1,418km SSW
2	18.10.01	Dead Man's Wood, Sheringham	
+	06.12.01	Beira Litoral, Portugal	1,552km SSW
3	24.10.01	Dead Man's Wood, Sheringham	
+	29.11.01	Beira Baixa, Portugal	1,552 km SSW

Sadly all four were shot in their wintering area, three of them within seven weeks of being ringed in Norfolk.

Redwing

3	21.10.98	Hoevenen, Antwerpen, Belgium	
R	01.11.01	Snettisham Coastal Park	321km WNW

There are many Redwing interchanges between Britain and Belgium.

Reed Warbler

3	09.09.02	Manor Farm, Titchwell	
XL	29.09.02	Maidstone, Kent	187km S

A rapid movement. The bird was described on recovery as being decomposed, yet had been ringed only 20 days previously.

Whitethroat

3	19.07.02	Shereford, Fakenham	
R	15.08.02	Villeton, Lot-et-Garonne, France	
R	19.08.02	Villeton, Lot-et-Garonne, France	941km S

This bird will probably have been hatched in Norfolk and doubtless used Villeton as a staging post en-route to its West African wintering area.

Blackcap

5F	24.05.01	Helgoland, Germany	
R	26.09.01	Winterton	443km WSW 17.2g versus 25.9g
3JM	26.09.99	River Burn, Burnham Market	
X	20.04.01	Domburg, Zeeland, The Netherlands	243km SE

A brace of birds trapped in Norfolk on autumn passage. The first was from much further north, the second less certain, but again possibly a more northern breeder.

Bearded Tit

Two male Bearded Tits, ringed on different dates during October 2000, were trapped again at Haddiscoe Island, on two different dates during August 2002.

Blue Tit

A Blue Tit ringed in a Sheringham garden 06.08.95 was re-trapped there 29.10.02, over seven years later. The longevity record is over nine years.

Great Tit

3JF	29.07.00	Burnham Market	
R	12.03.01	Landguard Point, Felixstowe, Suffolk	120km SSE

The longest movement of the year. Less than 2% of Great Tits travel in excess of 100km.

Tit sp

A Coal Tit, ringed at Burnham Deepdale 16.10.01 and a Great Tit ringed in the same garden 3 days later, were trapped again, both together, at Swanton Novers some 25km distant, 27.03.02

Greenfinch

3	08.11.99	Auglend, Stavanger, Norway	
R	10.11.01	Ormesby, Great Yarmouth	740km SSW

Interesting that this bird was in Norway during November (and presumably close to its breeding ground) yet in Norfolk during a subsequent November.

Goldfinch

4M	03.12.00	Garboldisham, Diss	
R	13.11.01	Sommethonne, Luxembourg	443km SE
5M	01.05.01	Ormseby, Great Yarmouth	
XF	26.02.02	Clery-Saint-Andre, Loiret, France	539km S
5M	16.04.01	Ormesby, Great Yarmouth	
R	03.11.01	Nieuwpoort, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium	185km SSE
3J	02.08.00	Weybourne	
R	20.10.00	Bottelare, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium	283km SE

Many of our Goldfinches winter in Southern France and Iberia, travelling via Belgium and Northern France.

Siskin

3M	23.10.00	Gelderland, The Netherlands	
R	17.03.02	Sheringham	324km W
5M	05.02.98	Weybourne	
R	11.04.01	Ballchraggan, Highland, Scotland	
R	19.04.01	Ballchraggan, Highland, Scotland	628km NNW
3	14.08.01	Plassane, More og Romsdal, Norway	
R	02.04.02	Burnham Deepdale	1,089km SSW
5M	11.03.01	Lower Waterston, Dorset	
R	08.04.01	Sheringham	345km NE
6F	12.03.02	Sheringham	
X	16.10.02	Amersfoort, Utrecht, The Netherlands	295km ESE
6M	05.03.02	Sheringham	
R	23.03.02	Neerpelt, Limburg, Belgium	345km SE
5M	22.03.97	Garboldisham, Diss	
R	23.10.01	Tiarno di Sopra, Trento, Italy	1,012km SE
5F	16.01.01	Garboldisham, Diss	
X	17.04.02	Wark, Hexham, Northumberland	364km NNW
5F	18.02.01	Garboldisham, Diss	
X	24.07.02	Kirkmichael, Grampian, Scotland	612km NNW
5M	16.03.01	Garboldisham, Diss	
X	28.03.02	Johnstone, Strathclyde, Scotland	525km NW

Relatively few Siskin travel to Italy, otherwise these movements are much as expected. Note the rapid movement of the Neerpelt bird, the fact that the Italian bird was aged nearly four, and that the Kirkmichael bird was found dead under a feeder.

At Garboldisham there were 13 birds re-trapped that had been ringed there in previous years. Of these, one was from 1998, 4 from 2000, 6 from 2001 and 2 from both 2000 and 2001.

Reed Bunting

4F	02.07.01	Hollum, Ameland, The Netherlands	
R	15.02.02	Martham, Great Yarmouth	281km WSW

Few British-bred birds emigrate, but more winter here from abroad. This is such an example.

Norfolk Ringing Totals - 2002

Shag	1	Common Tern	216	Barred Warbler	2
Mute Swan	13	Little Tern	3	Lesser Whitethroat	67
Greylag Goose	1	Stock Dove	35	Whitethroat	479
Canada Goose	8	Woodpigeon	103	Garden Warbler	170
Egyptian Goose	2	Collared Dove	182	Blackcap	1189
Shelduck	2	Turtle Dove	11	Chiffchaff	720
Wigeon	38	Cuckoo	2	Willow Warbler	378
Gadwall	3	Barn Owl	294	Greenish Warbler	1
Teal	6	Little Owl	4	Goldcrest	653
Mallard	2	Tawny Owl	7	Firecrest	28
Tufted Duck	1	Long-eared Owl	3	Spotted Flycatcher	45
Marsh Harrier	14	Nightjar	10	Red-breasted Flycatcher	1
Sparrowhawk	47	Swift	57	Pied Flycatcher	113
Honey Buzzard	1	Kingfisher	35	Bearded Tit	112
Kestrel	59	Wryneck	2	Long-tailed Tit	1005
Grey Partridge	2	Green Woodpecker	21	Marsh Tit	144
Water Rail	15	Great Sp Woodpecker	131	Willow Tit	34
Spotted Crake	1	Woodlark	93	Coal Tit	551
Moorhen	25	Skylark	17	Blue Tit	3767
Coot	43	Sand Martin	167	Great Tit	2347
Oystercatcher	313	Swallow	1138	Nuthatch	20
Avocet	5	House Martin	102	Treecreeper	110
Little Ringed Plover	8	Tree Pipit	6	Red-backed Shrike	1
Ringed Plover	126	Meadow Pipit	78	Jay	32
Grey Plover	29	Yellow Wagtail	8	Magpie	10
Lapwing	47	Grey Wagtail	4	Jackdaw	24
Knot	287	Pied Wagtail	167	Rook	13
Sanderling	284	Wren	1060	Starling	554
Little Stint	1	Duncock	1197	House Sparrow	530
Curlew Sandpiper	3	Robin	1285	Tree Sparrow	1
Dunlin	867	Thrush Nightingale	1	Chaffinch	2235
Common Snipe	1	Redstart	63	Brambling	210
Woodcock	9	Whinchat	9	Greenfinch	5851
Black-tailed Godwit	17	Stonechat	10	Goldfinch	1187
Bar-tailed Godwit	19	Wheatear	169	Siskin	885
Whimbrel	1	Ring Ouzel	4	Linnet	272
Curlew	207	Blackbird	2645	Lesser Redpoll	43
Spotted Redshank	2	Fieldfare	22	Crossbill	55
Redshank	364	Song Thrush	426	Bullfinch	203
Greenshank	19	Redwing	158	Snow Bunting	50
Green Sandpiper	1	Mistle Thrush	13	Yellowhammer	78
Common Sandpiper	3	Cetti's Warbler	22	Reed Bunting	664
Turnstone	122	Grasshopper Warbler	4		
Black-headed Gull	5	Sedge Warbler	785	Total Ringed	40488
LBB Gull	391	Reed Warbler	1298		
Herring Gull	171	Icterine Warbler	1		

A History and Celebration of Fifty years of the Norfolk Bird Report

Peter Allard

Today, when browsing the glossy pages of the Norfolk Bird Report it is easy to forget it has taken fifty years to reach the current professional publication and that it emerged from humble beginnings.

The first Report, covering the events of 1953, was published in 1954 under the editorship of Michael Seago. Assisted by a records team consisting of modern-day legends A H Daukes, E A Ellis and R A Richardson, this initial publication was the first of what was to prove a long-standing co-operation between the councils of the Norfolk Naturalists' Trust (now the Norfolk Wildlife Trust) and the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society.

Prior to the 1953 Report, there had been no report detailing the birdlife of the county since that compiled annually for 'British Birds' by Dr B B Riviere which had ceased some 18 years previously, apart from those published by the 'Wild Bird Protection in Norfolk' committee in the annual transactions of the Society. Always popular these were reprinted separately and largely covered the breeding birds at the famous and well-watched localities of Blakeney Point, Scolt Head, Horsey Mere and Hickling Broad. Records from other smaller reserves were included and Breydon Water was frequently referred to, the committee having a seasonal watcher employed on this famous estuary. Latter publications in the late 1940s and up to 1953 gave improved coverage, but vital records for many areas remained totally absent. Although occasional Norfolk bird sightings appeared in 'British Birds', clearly the county was in great need of an annual bird report. Adjacent Suffolk already had a county bird publication which was proving popular.

With Norfolk arguably Britain's best bird watching county, the need for an annual report was evident and a young and enthusiastic Michael Seago, already secretary of the Great Yarmouth Naturalists' Society, enlisted the encouragement of Dr Bernard Riviere, Dick Bagnall-Oakeley and Richard Richardson, and bird records for the Report were requested during autumn 1953. A total of 98 individuals and societies responded and the Report was published in the early summer of 1954, the total of 1,500 copies costing £136, jointly funded by the Trust and Society. The Report included breeding results from key sites such as Blakeney Point, but for the first time had a much-needed comprehensive classified list of bird sightings within the county.

Even at this early stage in bird recording and with little useful literature, contributors were reminded that in the case of rare or unusual sightings, it was essential to submit a full field description and, if possible, to obtain the corroboration of at least one other observer. A small committee, who held themselves responsible for the authenticity of the records, reviewed each such sighting and thus the predecessor of the County Records Committee was born. The front cover aptly depicted a Bittern and included five black and white photographs by Dick Bagnall-Oakeley within its 51 pages which also included notes from Cley Bird Observatory and Scroby Sands. On a more sombre note it sadly recorded the death of Dr Riviere, author of the 'History of the Birds of Norfolk' in 1930 and an inspiration to this inaugural publication, a fitting legacy.

The 1954 Report differed only slightly, having a delightful sketch of two Shore Larks by Richard Richardson on the front cover and included for the first time a selection of ringing recoveries. The contributors list increased to 128 but the print run was only 1,325 copies, the

lowest of any Norfolk Bird Report and one reason why over the next five decades it has become the most elusive and collectable edition.

The Report of 1955 brought more changes; Miss Constance Gay joined the records committee and, following an initiative by the Great Yarmouth Naturalists' Society in conjunction with the Society, Michael Seago supplied offshore light vessels with bird identification books and the resultant records were included. The Report also included its first feature article, a study of the massive Starling roost at Egmere by Dick Bagnall-Oakeley and, as well as the front cover drawing, Richard Richardson added several appropriate sketches to enhance the publication.

Building on successes in previous years the 1956 edition included a colour plate of Collared Doves by Richard Richardson costing £11 to supplement the special article on the species' colonisation in north Norfolk. By now the contributors list had increased to over 230 and in the next two years the Report was of the usual high standard and sales presumably remained high, the print run for the latter reaching 1,640 copies.

A major change occurred in 1959 with the addition of a mammal section (under the initial editorship of F Taylor-Page and occupying 13 pages) and the 'new' Norfolk Bird and Mammal Report reverted to its original four-man editorial team under the continued editorship of Michael Seago. With first Miss Constance Gay, then Archie Daukes and later Ted Ellis unavailable, the Report miraculously retained its reputation for excellence and was produced on time during the next two years. However, the vital task of spreading an increasing workload (by now the Report comprised 67 pages and enjoyed a print run at almost 2,000) was apparent and in 1962 Michael brought in Robin South, John Fenton and John Bruhn to assist with its production. New features in that year included sections on Breydon Water, Breckland, the Wash, Wisbech Sewage Farm and the first notes from the newly established Holme Bird Observatory. All records received were still being written onto small index cards for future reference, a practice which was to continue until computerisation in 2002/3.

Don Dorling replaced John Fenton on the editorial board in 1963, the start of a long-standing involvement with the Report in numerous ways. Regrettably the Report of that year also saw the last notes published from the Cley Bird Observatory which closed following the retirement of its warden, Richard Richardson.

Your author joined the editorial team of five in 1964, and my first job sifting through the diaries of Bob Chestney at Scolt Head to retrieve the relevant migration and breeding returns clearly shows the hard and unglamorous work behind the publication. A special feature on ringing Sand Martins by John Bruhn was included in the 1965 Report and by 1966 obviously the blend of classified list and articles was proving a good seller with the print run increasing to 3,400 copies. Don Dorling became county recorder in 1967 under the continuing editorship of Michael Seago.

The larger 1968 Report included special features on the large Nutcracker invasion and the Godwits of Cley. By this time the Trust was providing three-quarters of the £670 publication costs, but profit was good and just as today news of rarities proved popular with features on Cream-coloured Courser and Sabine's Gull, with details of Wash Wader Studies, included in 1969. As the number of birdwatchers increased so too did the number of contributors and some 150 were by now sending in records with a further 70 to the mammal section.

The 88-page Report of 1970 was the first to have a print run of 5,000 at a cost of nearly £900. It is noteworthy to record, however, that each member of both the Trust and the Society received a free copy which explains the rise in readership. The four-man editorial team was interrupted in 1970 with the retirement of Richard Richardson, replaced first by Ivan Loades

in 1972 and then Moss Taylor a year later, with the arrival of both Adrian Boote and Giles Dunmore in 1974. It is great credit to the individuals involved that the Report's quality continued to increase, despite the changes, and exciting and well-written articles on Barn Owls, Sand Martins, Bewick's Swans, Black Redstarts and an intriguing one on Halvergate Marshes without Wildfowl by Robin Harrison enlivened the pages.



Black-tailed Godwits (*Richard Richardson*)

During the 1970s the Report was reduced in size, the classified list just a few pages and the appearance of feature articles erratic despite a vintage autumn migration in 1975. In that year the inaugural county records committee (comprising Giles Dunmore, Dave Holman, Steve Joyner, Moss Taylor and myself) was established to adjudicate on submitted records of semi-rarities and any records of more common species out of normal season or range. Accordingly, for 1976 and all subsequent years, observers were asked to submit written descriptions of scarce species unless the birds were seen by three or more observers. A sign of the times, the list of considered species then included both Common Buzzard and Mediterranean Gull. By 1977 the classified list was a mere 16 pages of highly summarised accounts on particular species despite having well over 200 contributors to the bird section; your author became joint county recorder in that year. Sadness was brought by the news of the untimely death of Richard Richardson.

A slight improvement in 1978 saw articles on Pied Flycatcher - a new breeding species for Norfolk, a vagrant Ivory Gull, a Mute Swan Census and a special feature on late autumn land bird immigration in north-west Norfolk. The small size of the Report continued in 1979 but it included a comprehensive survey of breeding birds in the Yare Valley. The 1980 Report was an improvement with more current features despite an increased workload of analysing lengthy sets of notes, painstakingly translating those onto the card system for storage and future reference.

Paul Kirby joined the team in 1981 to assist with recording and the Report of that year featured articles on two county firsts, a River Warbler at Roydon in the west and a Greater

Sand Plover at Breydon in the east, and was celebrated by a high print run of 7,250. It was the year also when the Trust parted company with the Report and the 1982 edition was produced by a new partnership involving the Norfolk Ornithologists Association, but with a much-reduced print run of 3,000. It was also an important milestone for the stalwart editorship of Michael Seago who had completed 30 years of dedicated work and was appropriately illustrated with a number of the late Richard Richardson's charming vignettes.

Further changes brought assistance from John Kemp, Peter Clarke and Mick Fiszcz in 1983 when happily its length had increased to a healthy 71 pages; special features included an obituary to Wisbech Sewage Farm, Marsh Harriers at Titchwell, and Booted Warbler, an addition to the county list, as well as nine pages devoted to a Report on ringing. The steady increase in contributors to over 250, while welcome, increased the workload further but the well-received Report did justice to the avifauna of our county and black and white photographs continued to enrich the publication. In 1983 these featured breeding Parrot Crossbills at Wells, the first Ross's Gull in 1984, whilst in 1985 the county's first Little Whimbrel and Black and White Warbler were also captured on film.

Another major milestone was reached in 1986 with the first full colour production, priced at £2.75 which (including the mammal section) ran to 84 pages and contained six colour plates as well as a colour front cover of a Waxwing. The continued increase in observers led to more rarities and in that year White-billed Diver, Lesser Crested Tern and White-winged Lark were all added to the county list and immortalised by articles. To meet an autumn publication for increased sales in 1988 additions to the editorial team were sought and Mark Cavanagh, Allan Hale (to co-ordinate the ringing section) and Andy Stoddart came to assist. Still in full colour (as it was to remain) the 1988 Report featured, for the first time, wildfowl and wader tables from sites including the Wash and incorporated records from the Norfolk based Bird Information Service, a liaison greatly appreciated.

Phil Heath and Kevin Shepherd were welcomed to the team in 1989, and assisted greatly with the burgeoning classified list now occupying some 33 pages together with an increased number of feature articles.

By 1991 the team, still under the committed and hard-working leadership of Michael Seago, had changed once more and five new encumbrants, Mark Eldridge, Keith Dye, Mark Golley, Tony Prater and John Williamson, complemented the enthusiastic team and the Report benefited from improved paper quality. It included articles on the Waxham Lark Sparrow and the remarkable co-incidence of Norfolk's first Laughing, Franklin's and Ring-billed Gulls all turning up in the same year. With more records the strain on the county records committee, under the continued chairmanship of Giles Dunmore, grew and the team worked hard to assess records of some 50 species and sub-species.

The pages of the 1992 Report, a 40th anniversary issue, increased significantly to 119 and for the first time was printed with a spine due to the larger size and carried a ISSN number. It was also another milestone for its editor, Michael Seago, being the 40th under his editorship, a unique achievement and a record for the country. Michael's meticulous attention to detail had maintained the highest standards throughout, resulting in the Norfolk Report's wide popularity and well-deserved reputation for accuracy. The editorial team had reduced to 11 members, but despite the increased workload, the 1992 Report priced at £4.50 included a complete county bird checklist. Eight special features and 44 pages devoted to the classified list were accompanied by 19 pages of full colour photographs and evidence of changing times came with the acknowledgment of the assistance given by the recently formed Birdline East Anglia.

Andy Bloomfield, Michael Rooney, Richard Walker, (and Kevin Shepherd returning for one year), filled further vacancies in the 1993 editorial team. The Report, marking the 125th anniversary of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society, carried articles on no less than five new county species - Pacific Swift, Oriental Pratincole, Desert Warbler, Paddyfield Warbler and Lanceolated Warbler, and was also special in that it was to be the first to include summaries of all the species seen in Norfolk in the current year. The 1994 Report was the last produced in co-operation with NOA after a 13-year partnership and sales agreement. However, the same year saw the start of a close liaison with the Norfolk Bird Club, with Michael Rooney becoming county recorder and editor of the systematic list. Pete Clement, Vernon Eve and Neil Lawton were welcome additions to the editorial team but regrettably Don Dorling stood down after 30 years of recording and writing for the Report. Considerable effort was made by the new team to bring the systematic list in line with those of other counties in publishing considerably more detail on migratory movements and the distribution of abundant and widespread species. As a result in changes of this and changes in style and content, the 1994 Report was successful in the 'British Birds' Best Annual Bird Report competition, sharing first position with those produced in Avon and Essex.

The 1995 Report increased in size to 147 pages (with an additional 28 pages in the mammal section) and cost £7; with varied articles including a vagrant Pine Bunting, a county-wide Rook survey and the Origins of Rock Pipits in Norfolk, it again came joint first in the Annual Bird Report competition. Following the resignation of Michael Rooney as county recorder various changes, effective from February 1997, were made between the Society and the Norfolk Bird Club. The spiralling workload meant that, whilst Michael Seago remained as editor of the Report, Giles Dunmore and Neil Lawton became joint county recorders and editors of the systematic list, with at least 18 other people assisting with recording and drafting the list.

With the Report growing and improving year on year 1997 brought sad news. Although it achieved a creditable second in the annual 'British Birds' competition, it was to be the last for its editor Michael Seago. His untimely death in July 1999 brought to an end an era of 45 years as editor, and the 1998 Report, under its new editor Giles Dunmore, naturally included Michael's obituary with contributions from his two closest friends Don Dorling and myself. Michael was an inspiration to all who knew him and it was a great loss for local ornithology, especially for the Report and its editorial team.

An increased total of 25 people were involved with the production of the 1998 Report, which now included a systematic list of no less than 130 pages and published, for the first time, a list of all escapes, feral birds and hybrids seen in the county - a sign of the times.

In 1999 Giles Dunmore enlisted further help and set up an editorial team comprising himself, Julian Bhalerao, Justin Lansdell, Neil Lawton and John Williamson. A staggering 29 other keen and enthusiastic helpers collated records or drafted sections of the systematic list while the evolving publication included earliest and late dates for both summer and winter visitors along with non-accepted and non-submitted records; however it lacked a mammal section for the first time since 1974.

The special 2000 millennium edition was the largest ever published, spanning some 227 pages. A print run of 2,000 copies contained 20 full colour pages and was charmingly broken up with no less than 54 line drawings by various artists. Several specially commissioned articles included landmark writing on the Birds of Breckton Water and memories of Norfolk's ornithological history.

Since 1997 production has moved forward with the use word processing and with the printers using desktop publishing, rather than the laborious procedure of checking and

re-checking typeset work. Even the trusted index record cards are being phased out in favour of a new computerised recording system. It is important to note that in almost every year the Bird Report has been published the following year between August and early winter, a unique achievement and involving tight schedules and much close liaison. Despite the ever-increasing amount of material received and co-ordination involved, the 2001 Report was published in late October 2002. Once again it included topical features and one has only to look at the systematic list to see the improvements made over the years. The write-up on Lapwing alone, for example, filled a page and so much detail is included these days, together with numerous counts from wetland sites. The very high standards of the Norfolk Bird and Mammal Report are a great credit to the Society, the present editor and his team of recorders, authors and assistants and to those who have been involved in past editions and to the various printers of the Report over the years, without whom the words, photographs and sketches would never have been enjoyed by thousand of birdwatchers.



Collared Flycatcher (*Richard Richardson*)

For the record, since the first Report in 1953, some 84 new species of birds have been added to the county list, including 17 waders, 7 new species of gull and 15 warblers. Complete collections of the Norfolk Bird Report are now very scarce and collectors' items today. Some of the earlier publications are extremely difficult to obtain and often expensive.

Lastly a thank you to the patience and understanding given by the many wives and partners of the editorial teams over the years since 1953, many of who have assisted with the publication. Sylvia Seago helped considerably over a lengthy period as did Mary Dorling, and at present Judy Dunmore does far more than is generally realised. Despite an ever-increasing annual workload, the future of the Norfolk Bird Report appears secure.

Changes in the breeding birds of Norfolk in the last 50 years

Moss Taylor

The first Norfolk Bird Report, covering the year 1953, opens with an obituary to one of the county's greatest ornithologists and naturalists, Bernard Riviere. How would he view the changes in the breeding birds, of his beloved county, in the 50 years since his death? Some he could never have guessed at, others are perhaps more predictable, but whatever his reaction, he would have appreciated that many of the changes are just part of nature's cyclical rhythms that have been occurring over many tens of thousands of years. However, undoubtedly he would have been concerned about those species whose decline is related to Man's detrimental influence on the countryside.

While the trend today is often to highlight the birds in decline, there are in fact a surprising number of species that have increased during the last 50 years. It is of interest, and perhaps significant, that apart from the Great Spotted Woodpecker, all are medium-sized to large birds.

In 1953 a county total of just four pairs of Marsh Harriers nested in the traditional reedbed habitat in the Hickling/Horsey area. Since 1975 increasing numbers have bred in Norfolk and in 2001 a minimum of 189 young fledged from 106 nests. Over half of these were in the area of the Wash, many breeding successfully in arable crops. Up to the 1950s the Hobby bred only very occasionally in Norfolk but has done so annually since 1983, albeit in small numbers. Obtaining proof of breeding is rarely easy and it is likely that over 20 pairs now nest each year in the county. Since 1992 a third raptor, the Common Buzzard, has also reappeared as a breeding species, with at least ten and possibly as many as 20 breeding pairs in 2001.

An increase in the breeding population of certain species is not always good news, an example being that of the Magpie. Following the understandable reduction in the activities of gamekeepers during the Second World War, Magpies thrived and the first Norfolk Bird Report states "*Continues to increase in many localities...*". This trend has continued, but at a more rapid pace, and despite being less abundant in the 1960s, numbers soon recovered and nowadays Magpies have almost assumed pest proportions, frequenting many gardens as well as the more traditional open habitats.

Although Greylag Geese almost certainly bred in the Fens prior to their drainage in the 17th and 18th centuries it was not until 1933 that the species was reintroduced into Norfolk. It may come as a surprise to learn that the entry under Greylag Goose in the 1953 Norfolk Bird Report reads "*1-3 at Salhouse and Rockland Broads and Taverham gravel pits, April-May. As there are at least two flocks of full-winged birds kept in semi-captivity in the county all records of small numbers must remain suspect.*" It was not until 1960 that the first feral pair was recorded breeding in the county, at Hickling. Therefore the rapid re-colonisation since then has been staggering, with the most recent county survey in 1991 revealing almost 5100 individuals.

Another species that falls into the same category is the Avocet. Until the early part of the 19th century it had bred in large numbers at many wetland sites throughout Norfolk, but as a result of land reclamation, disturbance, shooting and egg collecting (many of the eggs ending up in puddings and pancakes!), it joined the ranks of former breeders. Therefore, the intermittent appearance in 1953 of up to four at Cley in May and June, and three for a week on a flooded marsh near Burgh Castle, caused considerable interest. Despite increasingly

frequent reports, often involving flocks of 20 or more, it was not until 1977 that the first pairs for many years bred in Norfolk. This was at Cley and here the population has steadily increased, with other breeding colonies becoming established at many other wetland sites around the county. By 2001 Norfolk hosted over 350 breeding pairs of Avocets.

The final species that has returned to nest in significant numbers, after being virtually absent as a breeding species for nearly 200 years, is the Cormorant. It has always had a rather chequered history in the county and, apart from the odd breeding attempt, ceased to nest in the 1820s. However, in 1988 two pairs bred unsuccessfully at Narford and were subsequently discouraged due to the perceived threat to angling stocks. Despite this the number of Cormorants over-wintering in Norfolk has steadily increased and since 1999 a colony of tree-nesting birds has built up at Holkham NNR, exceeding 50 pairs for the first time in the year 2000.

Whereas the preceding species have all been non-passerines, it is the breeding passerines that have shown the most worrying decline in numbers during the last 50 years. Unfortunately, for many of these formerly considered to be common and widespread birds, there is very little hard data with which to draw comparisons. Species such as the Starling, Tree and House Sparrows were often simply included in the early county bird reports as having been recorded during the year, with no indication as to their distribution or abundance. Nowadays all three species are of conservation concern, along with other previously common species such as Grey Partridge, Lapwing and Corn Bunting; their declines being linked to a variety of changes in agricultural practice during the last 50 years.

The deleterious effects of wetland drainage on the local avifauna was only too well known to Riviere, but despite the creation of many reserves in the county during the last 50 years, certain species have continued to decline. In 1954 no less than 60 booming Bitterns were present in Norfolk, the vast majority in the Broads. Now 50 years on, fewer than ten boomers are heard in a good year. The Common Snipe is another wetland species that has shown a marked decline. A comprehensive breeding season survey undertaken in 1982 found a minimum of 500 drumming Snipe in Norfolk, which represented 23% of the English and Welsh population, whereas only 89 were reported in 2001. Occupying a similar type of habitat, the Yellow Wagtail was at one time a fairly common marshland bird. In 1953 between 30 and 40 pairs bred at Cley alone, a total barely less than the entire county's breeding population in 2001, of which 37 pairs were at Welney.

Despite all this doom and gloom, only three birds that bred regularly in 1953 have actually been lost as breeding species, two of them, the Red-backed Shrike and Whinchat interestingly both inhabiting heathland. In the late 1940s Red-backed Shrikes bred throughout the Brecks, while in north Norfolk the heaths at Salhouse and Kelling held an impressive total of 14 pairs. Yet within just a few years many of the traditional nesting sites elsewhere in the county had been deserted and the Norfolk population total had fallen to less than 20 pairs by the 1970s. This depressing state of affairs continued unabated and the species last bred here in 1988. The reason for this decline, which occurred nationally, has not been fully explained. Could the same factors be responsible for the extinction of the Whinchat as a Norfolk breeding bird? During the 19th century it was common throughout the county, breeding on the heaths and sand hills, as well as on some of the damper areas, such as the Fens. At least 14 pairs nested one year in the gorse on Mousehold Heath alone. Although it was becoming less widespread by 1930, about 15 pairs still bred in the Norfolk stretch of the Ouse Washes in 1953, but the decline accelerated over the course of the next 40 years and the species last bred at Horsey in 1992. The third species to have disappeared is the Wood Warbler. Never a common or widespread breeding bird in Norfolk, it declined steadily after the mid-1950s and

has not been proved to breed in the county since 1995. Will it ever return to nest in its previous haunts?

Compared with these three species, no less than 14, or possibly 15, have bred in Norfolk for the first time since 1953. The one species about which there is a certain amount of doubt is the Crane. It certainly featured on banquet menus until about 1600 and Thomas Southwell was convinced that it bred at Hickling in 1543. Be that as it may, Cranes have attempted to breed annually, sometimes successfully, in the Broads since 1981.

When Michael Seago found Norfolk's first Little Ringed Plovers at Breydon in 1943 he could not have known that by 1960 the species would be breeding annually in the county, with over 40 pairs in recent years. Other additions to the list of species that have nested in Norfolk include: Little Gull (1978), Marsh Warbler (1999), Pied Flycatcher (1978 & 1996), Parrot Crossbill (1984 & 1985) and Firecrest (but yet to establish itself as a regular breeder), while the few records of breeding Mandarins probably all relate to recent escapees, rather than representing a genuine feral breeding population. On the other hand the Ruddy Duck, which was first recorded in the county in 1977 but was not proved to breed until 1995, has already established a viable population in the wild and in excess of 20 pairs bred in 2001.



Little Ringed Plover (*Richard Richardson*)

Of the gulls, neither Herring nor Lesser Black-backed bred in the county in Riviere's day and it was not until the 1970s that both species nested for the first time in Norfolk. Today over 1000 pairs of each species nest on the Wash Outer Trial Bank and in 2001 the combined breeding total for the two species at Blakeney Point exceeded 300. Not that this was good news for the other breeding birds on the Point! Prior to 1952, only three Mediterranean Gulls had been recorded in Norfolk, but following the westward expansion of their breeding range from the Black Sea, the species was noted annually in the county after 1960. Breeding was first proved in 1992, although still only a handful of pairs nest in our coastal gull colonies.

The colonisation of Britain by the Collared Dove, commencing with breeding at Cromer in 1955, is now part of ornithological history and will not be dealt with further. Similarly the spread of the Cetti's Warbler across Europe and its arrival as a British breeding species in 1972 has been well documented. Following the first county record of Cetti's Warbler in 1973, breeding was proved in the Yare Valley the next year and the county currently hosts over 100



Little Egret (*Richard Richardson*)

singing males annually, although they are still largely confined to the Broads and central river valleys of Norfolk.

The most recent species to have been added to the list of Norfolk's breeding birds is the Little Egret. Returning to the 1953 Norfolk Bird Report, we read "*An adult in breeding plumage, Cley, May 23rd, 24th and May 30th-June 4th.*" In fact this was only the second county record, the first having been recorded at the same locality in May the previous year. Here it was filmed by Dick Bagnall-Oakeley, a unique event in Britain at the time. The Little Egret remained a relatively scarce bird in Norfolk for the next 35 years, but became more regular following an influx into southern Britain in 1989. Over-wintering was first noted in 1993/94, when two Little Egrets took up residence on the salt marshes at Stiffkey. Numbers thereafter increased dramatically and currently well over 50 winter in Norfolk, many using one of two communal roosts in the north of the county. Therefore, it was not altogether surprising when breeding was first confirmed in 2002, and the indications are that increasing numbers will nest in the county in the future.

But what about other possible additions to the list of county breeding birds? My guess would be that Spoonbill and Red Kite would both once again be breeding in Norfolk in the not too distant future.

The Marsh Harrier in Norfolk

A Review of its Historical and Current Status

John R Williamson

General distribution

Several races of Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) are recognised. Nominate *aeruginosus* breeds across the north and west of the Western Palearctic, east to northern Mongolia and Lake Baikal; *harterti* breeds in north Africa from Morocco to Tunisia. A further five races occur further east. The northern and eastern populations in the Western Palearctic are migratory with birds wintering in the Mediterranean and sub-Saharan Africa but a growing trend since 1940 has seen small numbers over-wintering in Britain, primarily in East Anglia.

Marsh Harriers had disappeared from many western and central European areas during the last 100 years until a general recovery following the end of World War II, which may have been linked in part to the flooding of coastal marshes as a deterrent against invading forces. Further declines followed, due mainly to persecution and habitat change caused by drainage for agriculture, but a recent increase in the Low Countries is now evident north into Finland and Norway, where breeding first occurred in 1975. Polder reclamation in The Netherlands in the late 1960s led to colonisation in the early 1970s resulting in 400 pairs breeding, but due to further drainage and the resultant habitat loss, only 100 pairs were present there by 1990.

Historical distribution in Britain

In line with much of Western Europe, agricultural practices in Britain (primarily wetland drainage) and human persecution, led to Marsh Harrier becoming extinct as a breeding species in Britain by the end of the 19th century, and in Ireland by 1917. Re-colonisation occurred in Britain during the 1920s and annual breeding was recorded in the reedbed complex of the Hickling/Horsey/Marham area between 1927-59 with a maximum 6 pairs, while up to 20 pairs were breeding in Britain during summer 1958. A subsequent further decline led to the cessation of breeding in the county, though birds continued to be present during the breeding season until 1966. Perhaps surprisingly, a pair bred in west Norfolk in 1967 before breeding re-commenced in the Broads in 1972. From 1975 a steady increase followed, mainly in Norfolk, but also in the adjacent eastern and south-eastern counties of Britain.

Current distribution in Britain and Ireland

Although the Marsh Harrier has never re-colonised Ireland breeding numbers have been increasing in Britain since the late 1970s. This appears to be directly related to the dramatic increase and subsequent partial decline of the population in the Low Countries, particularly in the reclaimed polders in The Netherlands, where large expanses of suitable habitat were created, leading to a rapid and impressive explosion of breeding pairs. The subsequent drainage of this newly created habitat apparently prompted some of the Dutch birds to seek new breeding territories in eastern England and parts of Scandinavia.

Table 1 clearly shows the steady increase recorded in Norfolk from around the late 1970s, when polder drainage was prominent, to the present day.

Table 1: Numbers of breeding females and minimum numbers of fledged young Marsh Harriers in Norfolk 1960-2001

<i>Year</i>	<i>Minimum numbers of breeding females</i>	<i>Minimum numbers of fledged young</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1960-66	0		
1967	1	1	First breeding in county since 1959
1968-74	0		
1975	1	4	Nest in west Norfolk
1976	5	8	
1977	5	19	
1978	8	18	
1979	8	15	
1980	11	24	
1981	15	27	
1982	19	42	
1983	20	49	
1984	18	33	
1985	26	36	
1986	23	43	
1987	31	58	
1988	35	82	
1989	62 adults*	88	
1990	83 adults*	90	
1991	85 adults*	75	
1992	98 adults*	114	
1993	46	105	
1994	43	71	
1995	66	106	
1996	53	87	Fledging success incomplete
1997	56	88	Fledging success incomplete
1998	59	117	
1999	64	102	
2000	59	122	
2001	106	189	Record number of nests and fledged young

* The fact that male Marsh Harriers are known polygamists leads to different methods of recording breeding birds. Most figures above are represented as breeding females (ie nests) but data for the years 1989-92 is presented as breeding adults (ie males and females). Consequently the number of nests in those years is likely to be something less than half the number of breeding adults.

Table 2 shows the continuing increase in breeding numbers in Britain with numbers of fledged young reaching almost 400 from over 200 nests in 2000. The clearly fluctuating fledging success is a result of prolonged spells of wet weather in some years when young chicks are vulnerable in the nest.

Table 2: Breeding adults and numbers of fledged young Marsh Harriers in Britain 1991-2000

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Number of breeding males	83	92	84	114	151	135	131	137	145	184
Number of breeding females	91	107	110	129	156	136	132	138	145	206
Number of fledged young	198	229	244	255	277	263	206	292	246	377

Tables 3 and 4 are compiled from data supplied to the *British Birds* Rare Breeding Birds Panel. The panel has, for obvious security reasons, traditionally reported on rare breeding birds by defined areas within Britain, and currently continues to do so. In the case of Marsh Harriers they tend to use large areas with more specific details presented on a county-by-county basis.

Table 3 illustrates the continued importance of eastern England in the expansion of their

Table 3: Distribution by region of breeding Marsh Harriers in Britain in 2000

Area	Number of localities	Number of breeding pairs
England (SW)	3	0-4
England (SE)	8	32-35
England (E)	26	138-144
England (N)	10	7-14
Wales	1	0-1
Scotland (Mid)	5	6-8

Table 4: Distribution by county of breeding Marsh Harriers in England (E) (see Table 3)

County	Minimum number of nests	Minimum number of fledged young
Cambs	16	22
Hunts & P'boro'	1	3
Lincs	40	109
Norfolk	59	122
Suffolk	28	65

breeding range, showing that in 2000 almost 70% of nests in Britain were to be found within that particular area. Lincolnshire and Suffolk also now hold appreciable numbers of breeding Marsh Harriers and it is also evident from Table 3 that expansion of the species breeding range has now taken in not only northern England but also Scotland.

Table 4 shows the particular importance of the counties of Norfolk, Lincolnshire and Suffolk, within the eastern England region. In 2000 Norfolk alone held 41% of nests in the eastern England area (representing approximately 28.5% of the nests in Britain), producing 64.5% of fledged young in eastern England (representing approximately 32.5% of young fledged in Britain).

Current status and distribution in Norfolk

Nature reserves have played an important part in the breeding expansion in Norfolk from the late 1970s. The extensive reedbed refuges of the Hickling/Horsey/Marham complex provided a safe haven for the original foothold and subsequent expansion into the rest of the Broads and into north coast reserves of Salhouse and Cley, Blakeney Freshmarsh, Holkham, Titchwell and Holme. All of these reserves hold breeding Marsh Harriers and the management by English Nature, The Norfolk Wildlife Trust and RSPB have all played important roles in the recovery of the species.

It became apparent however, that from 1982 changes were taking place that would massively increase the potential of further expansion to the Marsh Harriers' breeding range. That year the first-ever nest in a cereal crop was discovered by a vigilant combine driver who rescued three nearly-fledged young harriers from a nest, removing them to a nearby ditch

where the adults continued to feed them to successful fledging. This event became the catalyst to a rapid increase in cereal nesting, with 16 nests discovered in 1991.

By 2001 a total of 55 nests were recorded in the Wash area of Norfolk alone, the vast majority of which were in cereal crops. Despite the fact that cereal crop nesting clearly has inherent dangers related to crop-spraying, ‘crop-falls’ following prolonged heavy rain, harvesting activities and not least fox predation, the Wash area has produced large numbers of young Marsh Harriers in recent years. Indeed, it has been estimated that around 25% of the country’s population were nesting in cereal crops by the early 1990s. The reasons for this dramatic change in practice are not fully apparent but whatever the reason they have massively increased the available habitat for the species in most of East Anglia, and indeed in expansive areas of lowland Britain. It can be speculated that the Broads and north coast reedbeds were virtually full to capacity with nesting harriers and that continued expansion necessitated the adoption of further suitable habitat, and perhaps that there is a link here to changing agricultural practices. It may be true that increases in late-autumn and winter sown cereals during the 1970s and 1980s provided a height of crop suitable for prospecting birds in spring that was unavailable when spring-sown cereals predominated, providing the nearest thing to a reedbed that prospecting harriers could find.

Table 5 shows the current distribution (by region) of the breeding Marsh Harriers in Norfolk in 2001. Due to the ever-present threat of egg-theft it is deemed inappropriate to name all sites and those referred to as ‘elsewhere’ are generally the most recently colonised areas in the county.

Table 5: Distribution by region within Norfolk of breeding Marsh Harriers in 2001

<i>Region</i>	<i>Minimum number of nests</i>	<i>Minimum number of fledged young</i>
Broads	26	35
Fens	1	1
North coast	17	28
Wash	55	113
Elsewhere	7	12
Total	106	189

Changes in spring status in Norfolk

The local and national increase in breeding numbers has apparently also had an effect on westward spring passage recorded in Norfolk. In recent years this passage has become more pronounced and shifted to an earlier period.

In the late 1960s an indication of the timing and numbers of birds involved in spring passage is available from the well-watched areas of Cley and Holme where observatory wardens were in place to record daily movement. In 1967 a total of 14 migrants passed through Cley during the period April 25th-May 25th and seven passed through Holme between May 6th-29th. In 1968 six were noted at Holme between April 24th-May 30th and 15-16 at Cley April 16th-May 1st.

In comparison the mid to late 1990s the emphasis had changed with birds appearing on spring passage considerably earlier and in greater numbers. Sheringham Bird Observatory recorded its earliest-ever spring migrant Marsh Harrier in consecutive years (1995-6) on March 10th and 9th respectively. By 2000 Titchwell had recorded a spring bird on February 20th, with 2 there on 22nd, and they are now regularly recorded along the north coast on spring

passage during March. During 1996 a total of 22 migrants were noted at Holme with a maximum of 13 on April 27th, the same total as the combined spring passage 1967-8 at the same location. In 1997 a total of 12 moved through Scolt Head in April alone and the following year 23 were recorded there between March 23rd-May 9th, with 20 during April 14th-May 16th the next year and 18 during a similar period in 2000.

Recent years have also seen an increase in inland passage as indicated by 10 birds moving west at Inceborough Hill, on the Holt-Cromer ridge, April 1st-May 15th 2000. These birds arrive on the coast of Norfolk and then head inland using the lift given by the ridge to assist their passage.

Clearly, not only has the spring passage of Marsh Harriers through Norfolk increased in volume, it is also apparently occurring on a broader front, and commencing on average a month earlier than 20 years ago.



Marsh Harrier (Steve Cale)

Changes in autumn status in Norfolk

The increase in breeding, and subsequent increase in the numbers of fledged young, has obviously had a large impact on autumn post-breeding dispersal of the species in the county. With a minimum 59 active nests in 2000, over 120 fledged young plus non-breeding birds, a total of in excess of 250 Marsh Harriers (plus southward moving migrants from other parts of Britain) may be in the county by early-autumn. At this time they can be encountered almost anywhere and the sight of harriers quartering arable land is now a familiar sight in large areas of the county. The reedbeds and marshes still hold the majority of birds at this time but the crop-nesting birds tend to disperse over wider areas and are only really scarce in the Brecks and perhaps under-watched areas of south Norfolk.

Since 1976 communal autumn roosting of Marsh Harriers in cereal crops and reedbeds has become a prominent feature of the season. Image (1992) refers to such a roost in west Norfolk where a maximum of 36 birds roosted communally in cereal crops, potatoes and adjacent reeds.

Changes in winter status in Norfolk

The Marsh Harrier was always considered to be a rare bird in Norfolk during the winter months. During 1966-74 between one and three wintered in the Broads most years, with five recorded in 1968 and four in 1970. Data is unavailable for the period 1975-81 as most recorded information at this time was centred on the re-colonisation of breeding birds, but it seems likely that winter numbers were similar to the preceding period. Most of these over-wintering birds were females or immatures and adult males remained very scarce.

However, in line with the increased breeding numbers, 1982 onwards has also seen a marked increase in wintering birds in the county, with communal roosting (often with Hen Harriers) now a feature of the Broads and of late, river valleys and north coast reedbeds as clearly illustrated in Table 6.

Table 6: Estimated numbers of over-wintering Marsh Harriers in Norfolk 1982-2001

<i>Year</i>	<i>Over-wintering numbers</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Over-wintering numbers</i>
1982	3	1992	6
1983	3	1993	11
1984	3-4	1994	18-20
1985	7	1995	15
1986	6	1996	13
1987	4	1997	18
1988	3	1998	14-16
1989	4	1999	27
1990	8	2000	26
1991	5	2001	43

The recent spell of mild winters may have had some effect on the ability of the species to successfully over-winter in the county. However, it appears more likely to be a direct result of the sharp increase in the number of birds in the late-autumn months leading more to remain through the winter months. The incidence of over-wintering adult males has also increased dramatically so that whilst the vast majority of birds are still females and immatures, it is no longer unusual to see adult males at this time of year.

It is also apparent that many of the over-wintering birds are local breeders. They do not form pair bonds until on breeding territory, and recent years have seen courtship display flights in the Broads as early as late January, and pairs are often formed and defending territory by early March.

The increased number of over-wintering birds may also have had some influence on the changes in spring passage through the county as discussed above. Perhaps those recently recorded early spring migrants are birds leaving the Norfolk roosts to move to favoured breeding territories elsewhere in the county. It is even conceivable that nowadays some harriers never leave their breeding territories and occupy them throughout the winter period, roosting communally nearby each night.

The further marked increase in wintering birds during the last three years shown in Table 6 is as yet unexplained, but may merely be a direct result of a number of exceptionally successful breeding seasons, particularly that in 2001.

Prospects for the future

Breeding Marsh Harriers are now a regular feature of Norfolk summers in both marshland and arable habitats, as indeed are over-wintering birds in favoured Broads and north coast areas. The adoption of arable crops as suitable breeding habitat appears set to be the catalyst to further expansion of both breeding range and numbers. Indeed, despite a chequered past, it is now difficult to see what can stop the spread of the Marsh Harrier throughout East Anglia, and for that matter, most of lowland Britain. However, challenges remain as the expansion of breeding ranges into agricultural habitats will inevitably bring birds into conflict with man. Moreover, changes in agricultural practices, (eg a return to spring sown cereals), changes in weather patterns notably wet summers, the apparently ever-present threat posed by egg-thieves, mammalian predators and unscrupulous land-owners and gamekeepers, could all have a bearing on how successful a colonist the harrier becomes.

To emphasize some of these threats it is worth noting that as recently as 1985 two Marsh Harriers were shot at Snettisham; while a male and three nestlings were found poisoned in highly suspicious circumstances in 1986; during 1991 a brood was almost certainly removed from the nest by a gamekeeper and another was shot in north Norfolk, plus a further bird was shot in the Waterden/Barsham area in July 1992. It is also thought that egg-thieves accounted for one, or possibly two, nests in 2001, a poignant reminder of the constant specter of the criminal minority.

Acknowledgements

It is fitting that the extensive work carried out by RSPB warden Bob Image on both Montagu's and Marsh Harriers in the Wash region should be acknowledged here. Much of the data referred to in this article was collected by Bob, and our detailed knowledge of both species is due in no small part to his dedication and effort. Bob's job would of course have been much harder without the co-operation of the land-owners and farm-workers of the Wash area.

It is also fitting to pay tribute here to those individuals who have guarded Marsh Harrier local nest sites as the species has effectively expanded beyond the sanctuary offered by nature reserves and the realistic reaches of full-time organised protection.

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The History and Development of Sheringham Bird Observatory

David Sadler

The Start

At Sheringham 'watching the patch' has become the normal activity though this was not the original intention when it began in 1972 with Moss Taylor arriving in Sheringham to work as a GP. He began to mist-net a wide clifftop hedge, which at the time, formed the western boundary of Sheringham Golf Course. Sadly the hedge no longer exists but while netting it Moss noticed Dead Man's Wood (DMW) and he realised it could have great potential. The seed was thus sown and in 1974 Moss and I began using DMW as a ringing site to study bird migration. In those days catches were much bigger than today but it didn't take us long to realise that bird movements along the clifftop were much more significant than in the wood.

Realising that we needed more manpower, Kevin Shepherd was invited to join us, a move which was to make a big impact over the next two decades. Though still at school he put in every spare moment 'watching the patch' and contributed a great deal to data collection, at the same time honing his identification skills.

The fourth member of the group, Pete Smith, joined in 1976 and that year we ringed 6587 birds of 86 species within a 5 mile radius of Sheringham. We became a regular team for the next 3 years until 1979 when Pete had to pull out due to ill health, during which time we enjoyed many excellent days.

Little changed at the site during the 1980s until Sheringham Park (which includes DMW) was bought by the National Trust in 1986. This had a profound effect as it meant that for the first time we were able to manage the habitat and, with Keith Zealand installed as the Warden, we were guaranteed help and advice which has been of enormous value to us. During this time there were numerous ringers active for relatively short periods and in 1989 Steve Votier supplemented the group to ring for the next 9 years although, like the rest of us, enforced absence for protracted spells interrupted the team.

1992 was a very successful year and saw recording at the site taken to a new level due to an increase in the number of observers. The regulars were joined by Tim Wright, Mike Young-Powell, Tony Irwin and Moss Taylor (returning, after departing to establish a ringing site at nearby Weybourne in 1986). It was this group in the spring of 1993 that formed Sheringham Bird Observatory.

The Recording Area

The boundaries of the recording area are the sea to the north and the A149 coast road to the south. To the west the area extends as far as the Weybourne Mill track leading to the old coastguard cottages. The eastern extremity is a line extending due south across Sheringham Golf Course just beyond the dip in the cliffs at the Old Hythe. DMW is located almost centrally in the area.

The fields were formerly cultivated to the clifftop, but there is now a welcome strip of set-a-side of varying width along the cliff. This, with its rich mix of wild flowers, insects and small mammals has in the warmer months greatly assisted species such as Kestrel, Skylark, Meadow Pipit and Corn Bunting. Sand Martins, which breed on the higher cliffs, thrive on the insects, and exceed 300 pairs in some years.

Another area of good habitat for breeding birds as well as migrants is the golf course and surrounds. Whilst the western edge of the course is within the recording area our access is restricted because of golfing activities.

Most of the remainder of the recording area is composed of arable fields which are not particularly attractive to birds until they have been harvested. However, the hedgerows can be very productive during migration periods. There are also some other areas of valuable set-a-side especially close to DMW. Efforts have been and continue to be put into improving the habitat along the entire length of the hedge leading from the sea at Spalla Gap to DMW. This has great potential to attract migrants and 'funnel' them into the wood.

A pool to the west of DMW is the only area of standing water on the site, and is sheltered by clumps of blackthorn, hawthorn and sallow in particular. It acts like a magnet in good migration periods. This benefited from some extremely worthwhile habitat improvement in 1996 when it was enlarged and deepened, protective banks created and additional trees planted.

The last and most important habitat is DMW itself situated some 500 metres from the cliff edge, and covering an area of approximately 10 acres. Here considerable habitat improvement has taken place since 1986. Scots pines planted in the 1940s were the dominant species, but in several areas were dead, dying or too thin and tall. Much has been achieved



Red-rumped Swallow (*Andy Benson*)

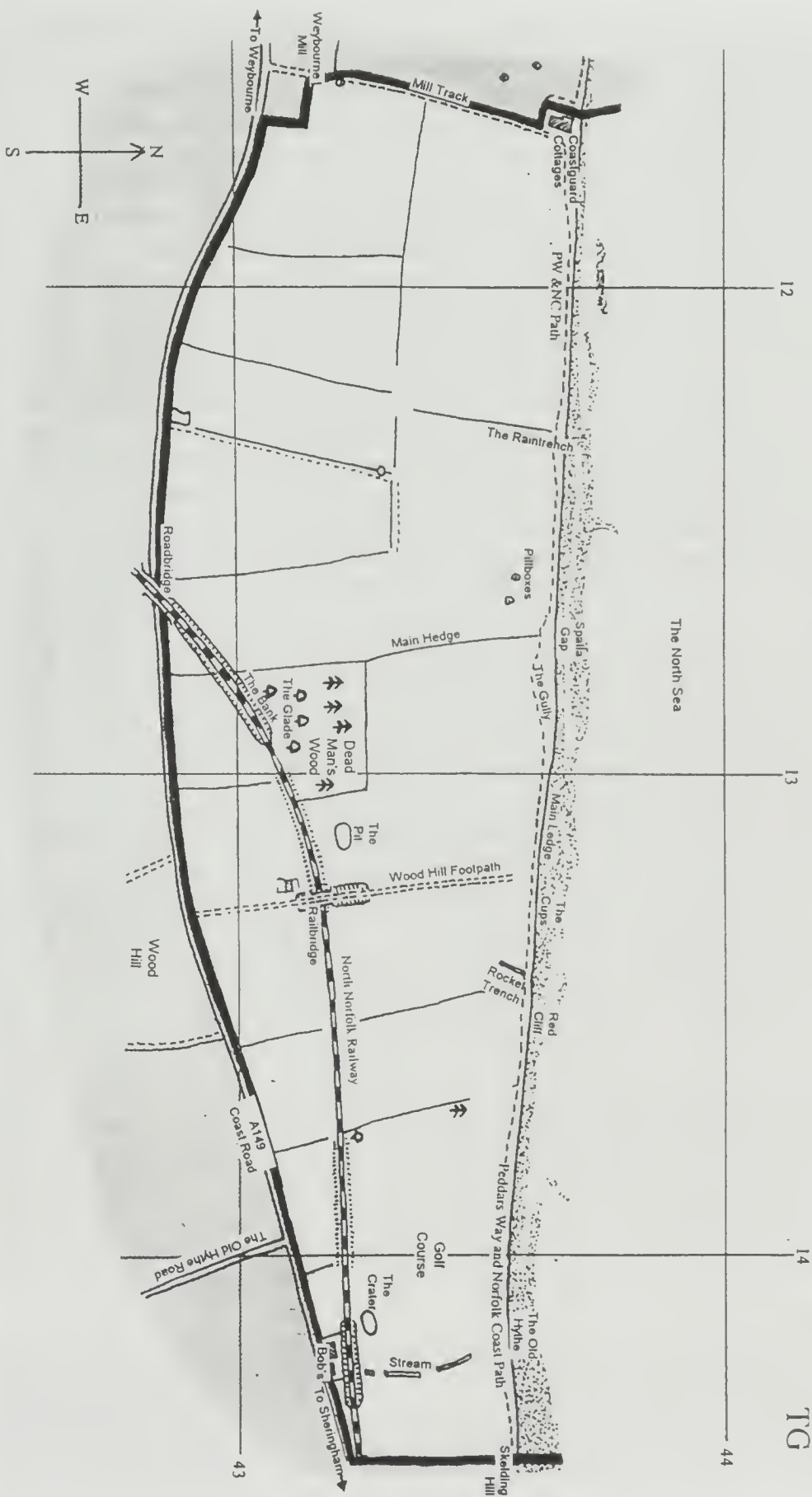
over the last four years thanks to a Woodland Grant scheme in conjunction with the NT, and most of the southern half of the wood has been felled and planted with scrub species such as blackthorn, hawthorn, goat willow and field maple. The east, north and west sides of this replanted area have been provided with a broad belt of oaks and sycamores for protection. Some important areas of scrub on the north side of the wood have also been improved, and valuable patches of elderberry exist along the western edge and in other places. DMW has always been attractive to resting migrants in fall conditions. In years to come it is hoped that this improved habitat will be better for 'holding' migrants, and with a bit of luck the long wait for both Arctic and Greenish Warblers will be over!

General Recording

At Sheringham the most important observations are those carried out by observers who are present from dawn for a period of four hours, recording the numbers of all birds present and/or moving through the study area. These make a large contribution to our cumulative database along with other timed counts and regular coverage.

For many species migration takes place over a broad front, over the sea or birds following the coastline. Scandinavian breeding birds moving south can be displaced by autumnal

SHERINGHAM BIRD OBSERVATORY Recording Area



easterly winds, and end up on the north Norfolk coast. If conditions here are inclement eg rain or low cloud, a variety of species, often in good numbers, can be grounded and appear along hedgerows and in other suitable habitat. On many occasions visual migration is at its best with westerly or south-westerly winds, especially with a change in weather systems. Poor weather changes the picture and birds may arrive at any time during the day.

On rare occasions conditions are just right to produce 'falls' of biblical proportions such as that on 18th October 1990. The day dawned to calm conditions with fine rain and thick fog, which had persisted over night. Migrants started to arrive in ones and twos but it was relatively quiet until suddenly large flocks of 'seeping' Redwings and 'chacking' Fieldfares appeared from nowhere. On the golf course thrushes were everywhere with more constantly dropping out of the sky and soon the central fairway was a moving carpet of densely packed feeding thrushes, mainly Redwings and Fieldfares but also Blackbirds and a few Ring Ouzels. Because the visibility was so poor, birds which arrived from the sea were dropping in at the first sight of land and reluctant to move any further. Impressive numbers of Robins and Goldcrests also fed in flocks on the cliff face and beach below. At dusk the estimated totals were 5000 Redwings, 3700 Fieldfares, 600 Blackbirds, 400 Song Thrushes, 110 Robins, 60 Goldcrests, 12 Ring Ouzels, 100 Bramblings and a Waxwing.

Another spectacular 'fall' took place on 18th September 1995, a day of steady north-easterlies, misty and overcast conditions but with little happening and no hint of what was to come. As the day progressed the mist thinned and with it birds poured in from the sea, with the biggest numbers arriving towards dusk. Of the main species Willow Warblers fed on the fairways of the golf course or flitted through weeds in the middle of fields, Redstarts seemed to inhabit every tiny patch of cover as they filtered inland along every hedgerow, and Wheatears were everywhere making dashing runs across every field and from bush to bush. The sight was truly amazing and staggering totals of 700 Willow Warblers, 700 Redstarts and 550 Wheatears were recorded for the day. A considerable supporting cast included 300 Meadow Pipits, 24 Tree Pipits, 18 Whinchats, 20 Song Thrushes, 20 Lesser Whitethroats, 20 Garden Warblers, 12 Blackcaps, 12 Spotted and 20 Pied Flycatchers.

The classic Robin 'fall' of early October 1998 was another fantastic and memorable experience, starting on the 1st and continuing well into the second week. On the 1st there was a fresh cool easterly wind with bleak overcast skies threatening rain. At dawn there were already hundreds of Robins calling, darting about and feeding avidly, particularly in the shelter of the railway cutting and in DMW, with smaller numbers of these pale, orange continental birds occurring in all habitats. On that day 400 were estimated, further boasted by another flood of fresh arrivals during persistent fine rain on the 3rd. At times it seemed to be literally raining Robins and the day total peaked at 450. By the end of the week over 400 had been ringed in DMW, all of the continental race *rubecula* and nearly all juveniles showing the value of ringing birds to understand migration. Two of these were subsequently recovered, in Algeria (wintering area) and Denmark (breeding ground). While the vast majority of birds were Robins good numbers of Song Thrushes, Meadow Pipits and Goldcrests accompanied the 'fall' but with virtually no rarities in a movement which extended along the entire east coast.

Ringling

Most of the ringing at SBO takes place in DMW, using mist nets during spring and autumn migration. These are positioned along the main routes used by migrants in transit through the wood, scrub on the southern bank and sea buckthorn along the north edge. Normally nets are set just before dawn in permanent net sites and are subsequently visited at half hour intervals.

Processing migrants involves ageing and sexing, measuring wing length, weight, fat score and fitting a ring; all of which is carefully recorded.

Among commoner species, Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers are trapped in spring and autumn. A decade ago Willow Warblers greatly outnumbered Chiffchaffs but a serious decline in the former in recent years, has reversed this situation. Blackcaps and Whitethroats are present in good numbers but much depends on the winter weather in Africa for continued success. In the past large numbers of Lesser Redpolls and Goldfinches were ringed but sadly Redpolls have declined dramatically and Goldfinches are less common than they were.

Spring ringing stops in mid-May and recommences in late July to give the breeding birds an undisturbed time to rear young. By this time good numbers of young birds are usually present but this depends on the weather in June and July. In the early autumn easterly winds produce Scandinavian 'drift' migrants such as Pied Flycatchers and Redstarts, while later the same winds bring thrushes and Goldcrests.

A total of 40,000 birds of 122 species have been ringed so far with recoveries across Europe including Russia, Scandinavia, Germany, The Low Countries, France, Iberia and also a few in North Africa. There have been 275 recoveries which represents 0.68% of the birds ringed. Although this may seem low it should be noted that the vast majority are passerines, many of which are first year birds with high mortality rates; a number are also Trans-Saharan migrants and the recovery rate from Africa is very small indeed.

Visual Migration

Many passerines are diurnal migrants, and these tend to follow the coastline after making landfall. In this scenario counting is a straightforward proposition, though when a flood of birds passes at close quarters, it can be difficult especially if movement involves two or more species. Under these circumstances 'clickers' can be very useful. Typically Meadow Pipits, Chaffinches, Swifts and hirundines pass through in good numbers most years.

Typically the largest movements in both spring and autumn are westerly. In spring huge day counts include 2600 Meadow Pipits on 21st March 1993, 430 Redpolls sp 28th March 1996, 11,500 Redwings 9th April 1996, 3000 Linnets 16th April 1977 and 1700 Goldfinches 26th April 1977. Similarly impressive numbers in autumn include 2600 Siskins 15th October 1993, 1000 Bramblings 16th October 1997, 3500 Skylarks and 150,000 Starlings both on 27th October 1978, and 30,000 Chaffinches on 28th October 1978. Back in the 1970s autumnal Starling flocks were impressive, and on occasion would extend continuously from the coastguard cottages to Skelding Hill, and seemingly never end.

Sea-watching

In the 1970s Sheringham Leas seafront shelter was identified because it afforded some shelter from the northerly winds associated with good sea watches. At the time it was argued that since the distance between Spalla Gap and the shelter at Sheringham was about two miles, there could be little difference between the birds passing the two sites. Times have changed, with increased interest in seawatching and the realisation that this is an outstanding seawatching site, the days of having the meagre comforts of the shelter to ourselves are long gone. Today if you want a seat you need to arrive before dawn!

It had long been my ambition to have a sea-watching hide on the clifftop at Spalla Gap and in 1996 we obtained planning permission to do just that. A year later a generous grant by BP AMOCO enabled us to realise that ambition and it has become a great asset and the focus of activities for the team of observers.

The sea not only produces seabirds but also some excellent movements of wildfowl, especially in the autumn, and some impressive wader movements too. Furthermore

seawatching can be good at any time of year given the right conditions, with for instance many documented cold weather movements and influxes in the winter.

Looking back through the records many days of note leap from the archives, none more than 1st September 1994. The wind blew north-east force 5 at dawn strengthening and backing north-northwest force 8 by the end of the day. During the day 126 Long-tailed, 420 Arctic, 7 Pomarine Skuas and 105 Bonxies passed eastward. Add a Blue-phase Fulmar, 16 Sooty and 2 Balearic Shearwaters, 6 Leach's and a Storm Petrel, 15 Black Terns and 24 Puffins and the quality begins to emerge. Moving in numbers were 2000 Fulmars, 260 Manx Shearwaters, 900 Gannets and 1300 Kittiwakes all east with 850 Teal west, to complete a day which will be long remembered by all.

The Annual Report

During the year detailed records of all observations and all activities are presented in an annual report. These have been produced for most years since the 1970s and in every year since the formation of SBO in 1993.

The Report includes details of team members, coverage and site management, a month by month review of the year and a series of the most memorable Day Sheets which are designed to give a flavour of the highlights and excitement. There is a comprehensive Systematic List of all species recorded and a Ringing Report which contains details of all ringing activities including any unusual species handled, and a cumulative table of birds ringed and recovered. Sections at the end give details of Mammals, Butterflies, Moths and Dragonflies*.

Highlights

In addition to dramatic falls and seawatches detailed above many county rarities have been seen over the years: White-billed Diver (2002), Albatross sp (1987), Great Shearwater (1973), Fea's/Zino's Petrel (1997), Black Kite (1994 & 1998), Red-footed Falcon (1989), Oriental Pratincole (1993), Great Snipe (1994 & 2002), Caspian Tern (1990 & 1993), Lesser Crested Tern (1993), White-winged Black Tern (1994 & 1997), Alpine Swift (1979), Bee-eater (1988 & 2002), Red-rumped Swallow (1992 & 1995), Blyth's Pipit (1996 - the first county record), Red-throated Pipit (6 records), Alpine Accentor (1978), Pied Wheatear (3 records), Desert Wheatear (1994), Black-throated Thrush (1993), Lanceolated and Paddyfield Warblers (both 1993 - both first county records), Great Reed Warbler (1996), Subalpine Warbler (1995), Dusky Warbler (1982 & 1991), Western Bonelli's Warbler (1994), Lesser Grey Shrike (1994) and Rustic Bunting (1993).

The present situation

The Young's family farmed the land surrounding DMW long before observations began in the 1970s and continued to do so until ownership passed to Nigel Hay-Smith in December 2001. Naturally apprehensive when we learned that the land was to be sold but relieved ultimately to discover the new owner would allow us to continue our recording activities as before. It has to be said that over the years we have been very fortunate to have encountered a number of generous people, without whose help much less would have been achieved. Mention should be made in particular of the Young's family and their farm managers (Harry Sharpin and Robert Steven), current owner Nigel Hay-Smith and his farm manager (Paul Middleton) and Keith Zealand, The National Trust Warden of Sheringham Park. Sheringham Golf Club has kindly allowed us to watch the western half of the course and the North Norfolk Railway allow us to cross the line near the road bridge and to maintain the habitat on the embankment.

Currently two projects are being undertaken. Firstly the construction of a Heligoland trap adjacent to DMW, is almost complete but will take a few years for the recently planted bushes to mature and allow the trap to realise its potential. The second project, which is planned for

the winter of 2003/4 is a canopy net also in the wood. This is a simple device using scaffolding poles to raise a mist net into the upper canopy of the trees. When complete it should enable us to trap species, which are reluctant to descend into the lower branches where current mist-net activity takes place.

The group membership at present is very healthy, with half a dozen ringers and a dozen field ornithologists; the future of SBO looks bright.

Access

As mentioned earlier SBO doesn't own any part of the study area, all is privately owned and we consider ourselves lucky to watch this patch. However, if a rarity occurs attempts will be made to make arrangements with the farm manager to enable other birders to visit.

If this is possible it will be essential that directions are followed implicitly and particularly that parking only occurs on the Weybourne beach car park or Sheringham Esplanade as parking on the A149 coast road is out of the question. At times (notably the trio of rarities in 1993) it has been possible to use a stubble field but this is hampered by poor visibility onto the coast road.

Arrangements will only be made for sought-after national rarities and not for scarce birds, which can normally be seen elsewhere. Birders should not enter the site at any other time but are able to use the public footpath along the clifftop and also the one from Sheringham Park over the railway line north to the cliffs.



Red-throated Pipit (*Andy Benson*)

Conclusion

At SBO we are indeed very fortunate to have a superb blend of habitat which is ideally located to attract a broad range of migrant species, sometimes in excellent numbers, and occasionally punctuated with scarcities and rarities. Some birds move straight through whereas others drop in for short or longer periods. In addition the tremendous added value of the sea cannot be underestimated, and not just for seabirds! The higher ground to the south forming part of the Cromer ridge is also an extremely important feature.

Watching, ringing and recording birds on 'the patch' has given team members a great deal of pleasure over the years, both in terms of the quantity and quality of birds recorded

almost at any time of year. Weather conditions both locally and elsewhere are crucial underlying factors, but there is still an element of unpredictability about what lies in store for a given day or time period. As with most things in life there are highs and lows, but the highs are without doubt worth the lows, and expectations can even be surpassed. There are times of course when everything seems right, and it's extremely disappointing. Then there are those days when there's literally 'nothing about', and one good bird is found which makes all the difference!

It is hoped that this account has portrayed a great many of the benefits to be gained from working a local patch, and what can be achieved with time spent in the field. It surely illustrates the potential of other sites like SBO, and there must be many more similar areas, both in Norfolk and further afield, with great potential not yet fully realised. Perhaps a site near you is worth consideration. Why not give it a closer look? You may well be pleasantly surprised by the excitement and sheer enjoyment it has in store!

** Current and past copies can be obtained from Tim Wright, 20 Abbey Park, Beeston Regis, Sheringham NR26 8SP Cost £5.50 + £1 postage and packing.*

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Pallid Harrier at Cockthorpe/Stiffkey and Warham Greens - the first record for Norfolk

Stephen Votier & Richard Johnson

Pre-Xmas birding was a welcome relief to the festive frenzy. After several days of checking landfill sites and pig farms for gulls we were happy with our return of a first-winter Caspian Gull *Larus cacchianus* at Blackborough End, but by Xmas Eve we were ready for a change of scene. So it was that we found ourselves birding the fields between Stiffkey Fen and Cockthorpe Aerodrome - which turned out to be a very lucky twist of fate indeed.

We first noticed a ringtail Harrier quartering maize strips and heading straight towards us at about 1300 hrs. We had good, but brief, views and despite the late date we both looked at each other in utter disbelief and commented on how it looked just like a juvenile Pallid Harrier! However, no sooner was it in view than it was lost from sight, last seen heading west into the distance - yet another false alarm? After several hours of searching many fields in vain, we decided the best course of action was to head to the roost at Warham Greens. Almost immediately on arrival there it was, but this time alongside a young male Hen Harrier allowing direct comparison. We were now joined by Paul Lee, Rosemary Votier, Graham Hewson and Ken Parker and together we enjoyed some excellent prolonged views in the still bright evening light. By now excitement levels were rising and Pallid Harrier seemed to be the most obvious conclusion, but the identification process was not totally straightforward. It was an extraordinarily mild spell but surely Pallid Harriers should be wintering in Africa by now? Despite this we could not ignore what was staring us in the face, this bird looked really good, really, really good. After the light had faded we decided it would be advisable to consult the literature at home, after all this was an extremely rare bird, regardless of the date, and we did not want to contemplate the repercussions of many a wrecked Xmas simply on the basis of a stringy harrier! However, perusing the literature as well as video evidence just strengthened our resolve, the evidence was overwhelming. We had scored Norfolk's first Pallid Harrier - Merry Xmas!

Despite not being seen on Xmas day many observers were able to catch-up with the bird over the coming weeks into 2003. Typically it was encountered coming into the roost late evening, or departing early the next day, but on several occasions it was located feeding over or resting on inland fields during the day, where better views were enjoyed by many.

Identification

Notwithstanding the unusual date, with good views this bird was not too difficult to identify. Long tapering primaries with only four fingered feathers (five in Hen Harrier), rather elegant and buoyant flight, dark underside to secondaries contrasting with pale underside to primaries and unstreaked orange underparts all suggested either a Pallid *Circus macrourus* or Montagu's Harrier *C pygargus*. The combination of distinctive pale collar, dark brown neck boa, neat black ear covert surround with pale crescent below the eye and pale grey tips to the innermost primaries all confirmed this as a juvenile Pallid Harrier.

Age and sex

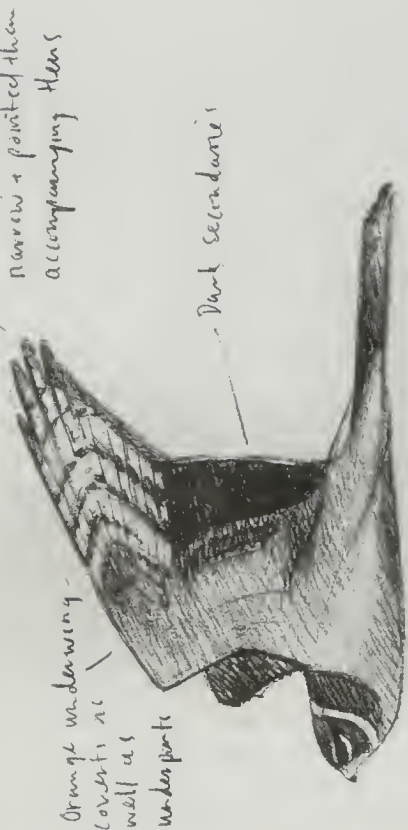
The presence of unstreaked underparts and pale tips to the median and lesser coverts on the upperwing showed this bird to still be in full juvenile plumage, which is typical of Pallid Harrier at this time of the year (Forsman 1999). However, the sex was more problematic to diagnose. The size was very similar to young male Hen Harriers, but with slightly longer wings on average. There is much overlap in measurements between the sexes and iris colour

Strong contrast in head pattern
obvious pale neck-collar

Dark sides to
neck hole

Orange rufous-headed
underparts

Often
perched on post or
bushes - owl-like then



Orange underwing-
coverts as
well as
underparts

- Dark secondaries

four finger primaries

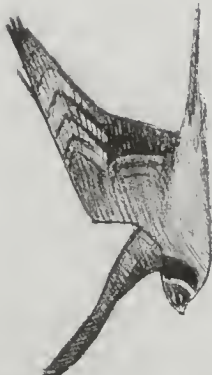
marking wing more
narrow & pointed than
accompanying them

narrow pointed head

Quite dark
upperwing



reduced white rump



Quick, agile flight - somewhat
scuttling keeled. Whilst gliding,
shape often was reminiscent of
Nighthawk.

Pallid Harrier - Warham Greens / 24/12-02 -
Cockshoep

R. Johnson - 03

Pallid Harrier (Richard Johnson)

is a more accurate method of assessing sex, becoming pale in males shortly after leaving the nest and all dark in females. While neither of us saw the bird well enough to judge the colour of the iris a number of observers have stated that the iris was indeed dark, indicating that this was a female.

This was the fourteenth record of Pallid Harrier in the UK and the third juvenile. After a gap of forty years there have been 10 in the last ten years, correlating with a marked increase of records in continental Europe. However, this would appear to be the first winter record in Western Europe.

References

Forsman D (1999) *The Raptors of Europe and the Middle East: A handbook of Field Identification*. T & AD Poyser, London.

The following artists may be able to provide copies of their work or take commissions:

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NORFOLK MAMMAL REPORT 2002

Editorial

Production of 'The Mammals of Norfolk' Wildlife 2000 publication is still ongoing and has reached the stage where the bulk of the 30,000 plus mammal records, collected over the last fifty years, have now been input and validated. This worthwhile project represents a huge undertaking and thanks are due to John Goldsmith and his team for their dedication to this task. Work on the dataset held at the Norfolk Biological Records Centre means that it has not been possible to produce a definitive classified list of mammals recorded during 2002, nor has it been possible to produce a review article looking at how the Norfolk mammal fauna has changed over the last fifty years – something that would have made a timely inclusion to the current report. However, the 46th annual Norfolk Mammal Report contains a number of articles, each of which is linked by the central theme of changes to our mammal fauna and to the ways in which we study and monitor them.

The likelihood of finding a new mammal species within the county is very remote, especially when compared to the chances of discovering a new bird or invertebrate. As a group, mammals are not as mobile as birds and, given our island status, most new arrivals only reach our shores through the assistance of Man. Two groups that have the potential to arrive independent of our actions are the bats and marine mammals, so it is perhaps unsurprising that the latest additions to our county list come from these groups. Articles by Susan Parsons and Graeme Cresswell chart the arrival of Nathusius' Pipistrelle and Cuvier's Beaked Whale respectively.

Change is also a central theme to John Goldsmith's article reviewing Norfolk's bats and our understanding of their distribution and populations. Bats have attracted a great deal of attention, not all of it good, and the work carried out by the Norfolk Bat Group sets a suitably high standard for combining sound scientific research and timely conservation work to change attitudes towards this enchanting group of mammals. Bats, like many mammals, can be difficult to study, something that has been eased somewhat with the introduction of new technology and the adoption of appropriate monitoring methods.

Monitoring the changing fortunes of our mammal populations underpins many aspects of our work on mammals, providing as it does, the information necessary to make informed conservation decisions and to educate people about the wildlife with which they share the county. The submission of mammal records is an important part of this monitoring process, helping to pull together information on the distribution and status of individual species within Norfolk. Of course, any mammal distribution map will reflect not only where the mammal occurs but also where recorders are actively recording. In order to chart how the populations of individual mammal species are changing, we need to adopt a standardised approach to mammal recording so that we can allow for this regional variation in recording effort. There are a number of national mammal monitoring projects that already do this, using a systematic approach to produce an index of population change from one year to the next. In his article, Dave Leech discusses two such programmes, both coordinated by the British Trust for Ornithology, and presents results for Norfolk.

One of the take-home messages from the article by Dave Leech is that we need to get more people involved in systematic mammal monitoring schemes within the county. Norfolk has a long history of taking the lead in mammal work, setting the standard some fifty years ago by being the first (and still only) county to produce a joint Bird & Mammal Report. The forthcoming publication of 'The Mammals of Norfolk' will give us the opportunity to take stock and to plan our monitoring work for the future. Let us be the first county to include annual results from a countywide monitoring scheme for mammals.

Finally, please keep sending in your mammal records. We need records for all species (even the ones perceived to be common). These can be sent to Mike Toms, c/o BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU. Recording forms are available upon request.

Mike Toms

Cuvier's Beaked Whale in Norfolk

Graeme Cresswell

On the evening of the 20th June 2002, a Cuvier's Beaked Whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*), one of the most unusual mammals ever to occur in Norfolk, swam ashore just south of Walcott village. This species is a member of a family of whales known as ziphiids or beaked whales. The beaked whale family currently consists of five genera and 21 species – over a quarter of the World's cetacean biodiversity – yet remains one of the most poorly known groups of mammals on the planet. Therefore, the live stranding of this whale represented a rare and wonderful opportunity to get a close-up view of one of these mysterious animals. This is the first record of Cuvier's Beaked Whale in Norfolk and only the fifth to be recorded in the North Sea.

Unfortunately, despite a rescue attempt by the RSPCA and the Norfolk Coastguard, the whale died around 10 p.m. the same evening. It remained on the beach overnight and for most of the next day, attracting considerable interest from local birdwatchers and walkers, and was also featured in the Eastern Daily Press and on Anglia Television. Due to the risk to public health, the carcass was removed to Coltishall refuse tip around 6 p.m. on the 21st June. A post-mortem of the whale was later carried out by vets from the Zoological Society, London and its skull was collected by the Natural History Museum, London.

The whale had a robust, spindle-shaped body and measured 5.65 metres from the tip of its tail to the end of its snout. The head was relatively small, with a gently sloping forehead and short, 'goose-like' beak – the other common name for this species is Goose-beaked Whale. At the apex of the lower jaw was a pair of small, conical teeth that protruded just above the gum-line, revealing that this individual was an adult male. Females also have the same two teeth in the lower jaw, but they are not functional as they rarely emerge from the gums. The body was generally coloured dark grey, with some pale blotching around the navel and genital area. The head and blow-hole were much paler – a feature that is typical of mature Cuvier's Beaked Whales. It had small pectoral flippers, unnotched tail flukes and a prominent, falcate dorsal fin situated approximately two-thirds way along from the back of the head. One of the most distinctive features of this animal was the extensive scarring over the dorsal surface. The scarring was particularly pronounced around the blow-hole, back and upper flanks.

The scarring is a permanent feature that is very typical of the beaked whale family, primarily found in bulls. It is thought that these white scars are caused by males fighting one another for access to receptive females, and it has been suggested that the degree of scarring has evolved as a social signal for indicating male quality. The post-mortem revealed that the whale was underweight but otherwise no particular reason could be attributed to its death. However, both teeth were loose indicating that it was probably an old animal.

Cuvier's Beaked Whales are found throughout most of the World's oceans, ranging from cold temperate waters to tropical seas. Like other members of the beaked whale family they are found almost exclusively in deep, pelagic waters and are often associated with canyons and escarpments on the edge of the continental shelf. Because of its pelagic habits, sightings at sea remain relatively rare but in European seas it is increasingly recorded from deep waters in the Bay of Biscay and the Mediterranean. The Norfolk occurrence is probably one of the few occasions that this species has ever been encountered alive in the North Sea. In fact there is only a handful of live sightings anywhere in the British Isles and these are restricted to deep Atlantic waters off Ireland and north-west Scotland. There have been 44 strandings on the coast of Britain and Ireland between 1913 and 1992 (Van Waerebeek *et al.*, 1997). All of these have occurred along the Atlantic seaboard – south-west England, southern and western Ireland, western Scotland and the Northern Isles.

There are just four well-documented records of Cuvier's Beaked Whales from the North Sea Basin: two on the west coast of Sweden, in April 1867 and August 1972; one on the coast of the Netherlands in July 1914 and one near Dunkerque, France in March 1980 (Van Waerebeek *et al.*, 1997). All the records relate to stranded animals, although the French and Dutch individuals were initially seen alive shortly before they were stranded.

Despite an increasing search effort for both strandings and sightings, the very small number of specimens recorded in the North Sea Basin confirms that this whale very rarely strays into this area. Why, and by which route, some individuals enter the North Sea is open to speculation. From the distribution of records it appears that both the English Channel and the southern Norwegian Sea are possible access routes. With a depth decreasing to about 200 metres in the north and less than 30 metres in the Southern Bight, the greater part of the North Sea must represent a hostile environment to Cuvier's Beaked Whale. It seems likely that once they enter the North Sea, Cuvier's Beaked Whales become disorientated, are unable to feed and cannot navigate back to the pelagic waters to the west of Britain & Ireland – a phenomenon more regularly seen in this area with another deep water species – the Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*).

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Paul Jepson from the Institute of Zoology in London for providing me with a copy of the post-mortem. Dr Chris Smeek of the Natural History Museum of The Netherlands kindly provided me with a review of Cuvier's Beaked Whale and Sperm Whale strandings in the North Sea. Richard Sabin of the Natural History Museum, London, provided data on the Norfolk strandings.

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Nathusius' Pipistrelle in Norfolk

Susan Parsons

Individual Nathusius' Pipistrelles have been found occasionally in Britain for many years. These reports have been widely spread across the British Isles, from Cornwall up to Shetland and the species has also been recorded from oil platforms in the North Sea. It is known to be a migratory species in Europe and, until recently, it was thought that these bats were winter visitors to Britain, where they mated prior to movement to north-western Europe, where breeding colonies were known to occur. This theory was challenged in 1996 when a small colony of Pipistrelles from a house roof in Lincolnshire was confirmed as being the first known breeding colony of Nathusius' Pipistrelle in Britain. Subsequently a second breeding colony (thought to contain over 100 individuals) was found in Northern Ireland in 1997.

Unlike the 'split' into phonic types which recently 'created' the Common and Soprano Pipistrelles, the Nathusius' Pipistrelle has always been a separate species in its own right. It can be distinguished in the hand by its slightly larger size, shaggier fur and (if you wish to go to that level of detail) its dentition! Common and Soprano Pipistrelles can be differentiated on a bat detector by their frequency of maximum energy occurring at 45kHz and 55kHz respectively. In the same way Nathusius' Pipistrelle also calls at a characteristic frequency – around 39kHz, and it is with the aid of bat detectors that this species has been identified as occurring in Norfolk.

In July 1988, a bat survey at Filby Broad was organised by staff from the Broads Authority and the Bat Conservation Trust. One of the species heard was a typical Pipistrelle call, but occurring at the 'lower' frequency of 39kHz. This is considered to be the first known occurrence of Nathusius' Pipistrelle in the county. Subsequent searches have not located a breeding colony.

Since 1999, sound recordings have been made of bats occurring at Paston Great Barn during the autumn and winter months. Whilst the primary aim of the work was to establish when Barbastelles were present at the site, additional information regarding the presence of other species could be gleaned from these recordings. It was whilst checking recordings made in the autumn of 2002 that some Pipistrelle calls at 39-40kHz were found. More interestingly, a social call on the recording had a pattern which is characteristic of Nathusius' Pipistrelle. In contrast to the regular sonar type calls used by bats to 'see' where they are flying, social calls are made by bats as a means of communication or interaction, although the intricacies and meanings of these calls are still poorly understood. Fortunately I had previously visited and recorded the Nathusius' colony in Antrim and was able to compare these with the Paston calls. A staff member of the Bat Conservation Trust subsequently confirmed this identification.

A check through other recordings identified Nathusius' Pipistrelle type calls occurring in September, October and November 2002 and February and March 2003. More surprisingly, a recording made in October 2001 revealed more Nathusius' Pipistrelle social calls which had not been previously noticed. The social calls recorded appear to be associated with males 'displaying' at their mating sites. This usually occurs in the autumn and is sometimes referred to as a song flight.

This discovery creates more questions than it answers regarding the possible use of the barn as a mating site for Nathusius' Pipistrelle. Are the bats on migration or do they stay in the area and are they associated with the bats that have been heard at Filby Broad? If you have a bat detector and want to help, try tuning to 39kHz next time you are listening for bats near an area of open water, you might find another piece of the jigsaw. For my part I hope investigation at Paston can continue, and there are still a lot more old recordings to go through!

Five decades of Norfolk bats

John Goldsmith

When the late Jim Taylor Page launched the annual report on Norfolk mammals to augment and complement the burgeoning bird recording effort, archived in the Norfolk Bird Report, did he, I wonder, ever imagine that this recording effort would continue for half a century? I hope so.

Norfolk has long been an interesting area for bats, though the species list is not as long as in some of the warmer, less arable counties. There are just 16 bat species found breeding in the United Kingdom (excluding those miscellaneous migrants recorded just a few times). Over the fifty-year period under review, Norfolk has probably lost one species and gained three others, one (Nathusius' Pipistrelle) a new coloniser, the others the result of 'splitting' two former species. Currently, a dozen of these species are to be found in Norfolk. Will this still be the case in another fifty years hence? In spite of their apparently sound legal conservation status, the reality on the ground (and in the air) is that populations of most species are still dwindling with some slight wavering of the downward trend, and this is especially true for nine of these species.

Norfolk bat-workers

We must not lose sight of the fact that these elusive animals presented considerable observation and recording difficulties, not only in the past but currently. They fly after dark, some hibernate for as long as seven months, they make little audible noise and hide in the most inaccessible spots! Take time to consider the bat-watching tools available to the bat-worker in the 1950s. A torch or candle, his or her unaided eyes and some fiendish fieldcraft to find, perhaps catch and possibly gain some insight into these fascinating mammals. Modern technology has dramatically improved our chances of identification and of monitoring their behaviour and populations without causing intrusive disturbance, when applied correctly and sensitively. Automatic infra-red beam counters, infra-red closed-circuit television with long-play video, image-intensifiers and ultra-sound detectors coupled with computer-aided identification and radio-tagging being top of the list of modern day bat-aids. All these tools come at considerable monetary cost, though, making joint working and sharing of resources and information that much more important. Much accidental or deliberate disturbance of roosts and hibernation sites still routinely occurs in an increasingly sterile countryside with fewer flying insects. All too often there has been the unsatisfactory application of their protected status, resulting in numerous documented examples of poor response to bat conservation issues. However, there are also some wonderful examples of how it could and should be done.

Interest in bats had increased to such an extent here by 1961 that a 'Norfolk Bat Group' (NBG) was formed as a specialist group within the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society. This was the very first such bat group formed in the United Kingdom, though now under the national umbrella body of the Bat Conservation Trust, and there are now some 90 county or area groups nationwide. Although the Norfolk Bat Group has waxed and waned, both in terms of number of people interested and bat-related work tackled, it has been pivotal in many areas of bat research, monitoring and conservation around the county. Following a review of special interest groups operating under the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society umbrella, the group is due to be re-launched later in 2003 as an independent charity.

Apart from its 28 years of association with the unique Thetford Forest Bat Box Project, the Norfolk Bat Group is probably best known for the 'Norfolk Bat Brick' – a conservation aid for hibernating bats. Several thousand have been manufactured and sold at modest profit to support the activities of the group, while work, in collaboration with the Suffolk Bat Group, on rescuing and improving bat hibernation sites has been ground-breaking in a national context. The millennium project 'Protect and Survive' (written up in Transactions Vol. 30 (4): 479-483) aimed to protect and enhance 20% of the known underground sites in Norfolk. This was a shining example of developing a coherent county-based conservation strategy for a species group in decline, based on sound research, and which enabled reconstruction work at hibernation sites to be carried out. This work has ensured a longer-term future for a dwindling but essential bat resource. There has also been the sterling work of many dozens of 'batty' individuals, involving thousands of hours in support of English Nature to provide advice to householders with bats in their dwellings. This approach has undoubtedly saved thousands of bats by sparing them from being disturbed or destroyed while in their vulnerable breeding colonies.

Changing fortunes of Norfolk's bats

Substantial changes to our landscape, such as those associated with agricultural intensification, coupled with the ever-increasing needs of our expanding population and the loss of insect biomass and removal of trees, are often cited as reasons for bat decline. This has prompted the establishment of specific legislation targeted to protect bats, notably through the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (with its subsequent amendments), which swung into place over halfway through this review period. The act, coupled with the hard work put in by local bat groups, appears to be slowly altering attitudes towards bats and gives hope for the future.

The degree of population change for individual species of bat are not as dramatic as they are for other mammals and many birds over the same 50-year period. The most numerous species is still the Pipistrelle, though now split into two species known as Soprano (or 55 kHz) and Pigmy (or 45 kHz) Pipistrelle. The former species tends to live in larger colonies in buildings, the latter is more prevalent as a rural species. However, more data on their relative distributions is still required. Breeding colonies of the species group showed a general decline until the mid-1990s when, possibly associated with better weather, average colony size began to increase, such that by 2002 it had almost doubled to 80 females, though some river valley and Broadland village colonies have recently contained over 300 females. In recent years, the largest counted colonies have numbered over 600 at both Gressenhall and Northwold church, though this latter colony has since mysteriously vanished. Church-dwelling bats have undoubtedly existed for more than ten centuries and have been subjected to much malice from a mealy-minded minority with a subjective view of their expected visual décor of these magnificent old buildings. One of the few places where any casual visitor can view a Pipistrelle colony with binoculars but without a licence, in July and August, is at Blickling church. The visitors' book often records comments which demonstrate the depth of feeling – both for and against. Pipistrelles undoubtedly live in every Norfolk church. The new, and third, Pipistrelle species is *Nathusius' Pipistrelle*. This species is migratory on the Continent and began turning up on oil rigs, ships, and on land around the United Kingdom, with a number of breeding colonies now known, or suspected, elsewhere in Britain. Records based entirely on sound recordings come from the parishes of Paston and Ormsey recently, and I think we can confidently predict that this species will be found more widely in the coming years.

The Brown Long-eared is the second most abundant bat species and can outnumber Pipistrelles in wooded areas, such as the Breckland forests, but may well be present in small numbers in every parish. It is closely associated with woodland and adapted for feeding amongst trees but roosts can be in a wide range of places and it is one of the few species that actually hangs freely in clusters visible inside the chosen roost space. Males form communal roosts, as do females with young, but rarely number more than 30-40 individuals. Being a species able to roost in low humidity, it will often be found in atypical and unpredictable places.

Natterer's Bat records have increased over the years but this undoubtedly reflects our ability to recognise the droppings and the places they resort to rather than any kind of population increase. The United Kingdom population is considered to be significant in a European context. They are woodland edge feeding species but roost in tree hollows, churches, inside the beams of old barns and the concrete roofs of a couple of World War II buildings. During the coldest period of the winter they spend a month or so in underground sites. There may be a colony lurking in every well-wooded Norfolk parish. The Daubenton Bat is also known as the Water bat, though it is often found far from water. It is probably the fourth most frequent bat locally but is always the most abundant one found in underground hibernation sites, arriving at the end of September and leaving sometimes as late as early May in a cold year. Only five breeding sites have ever been located: one in a tree (that blew down); one in a house roof (but they left); one in a church burial vault (from which they departed after re-roofing); a World War II building which they colonised in 1994 after the site was protected (22 now reside there); while the best site in Broadland (peaking at over 400 bats) is now under threat of imminent destruction.

Both Brandts and Whiskered are enigmatic species, the two hiding as just 'Whiskered bats' until distinguished from each other and both recorded here and in Suffolk in the winter of 1972/73 at Horringer and Grimes Graves. They were regularly seen in hibernation sites in small numbers until the mid-1980s but subsequently they have, for reasons unknown, virtually vanished. Largely black-coloured Barbastelles have always been an East Anglian speciality, with probably more between Norfolk and Suffolk than for the rest of the United Kingdom. Although the literature tells us that this is a species of woodland and river valleys, research in East Anglia has shown it not to be entirely the case here. Although woodland is important to the species, parkland, open pasture, hedges, footpaths and green lanes are used along with soft sea cliffs and arable field edges. We have at Paston Barn the only known breeding colony in a building in the United Kingdom and a considerable amount of research has been carried out on the colony since its discovery in 1996. [See Transactions NNNS 34 (2): 307-317 for an article on the Barbastelle observations and Transactions NNNS 35 (2): 288-297 for an account of some of the problems associated with maintaining the Paston colony.] Although another four or five colonies are known or suspected in other English counties, all in tree holes. In this county, a flourishing colony could consist of 30-40 females plus a similar number of young. I suspect we have a further three or four colonies in North Norfolk still to be located, perhaps five in Breckland, a couple of remnant groups near Norwich and, possibly, the same situation in West Norfolk, giving an estimate as low as 300+ breeding females in a discontinuous county distribution.

Leislars and Serotine are larger species and have a tenuous hold in the county. The former, and rarer, was first recorded in the Thetford bat box scheme where they are now regular. The breeding colony was located in a house at Brandon. Other records exist from elsewhere in the county as sound recordings. A Serotine breeding roost was known at Winterton, and pregnant female found at Loddon, but the species seems to have been quite



Reports of Grey Seals, like this bull, come from a number of sites around the Norfolk coast. (*Graeme Cresswell*)

Intensive searches for the breeding nests of Harvest Mice are proving a very successful way of recording this species. (*Mike Toms*)





The Red Fox is one of our most widely distributed and commonly reported species. (*Chris Knights*)

Regular reports of Red Deer come mainly from Thetford Forest but there are also populations elsewhere in the county. (*Chris Knights*)





Culvier's Beaked Whale. This individual, the first Norfolk record, attracted a great deal of attention during the very short period that it was present. (*Graeme Cresswell*)

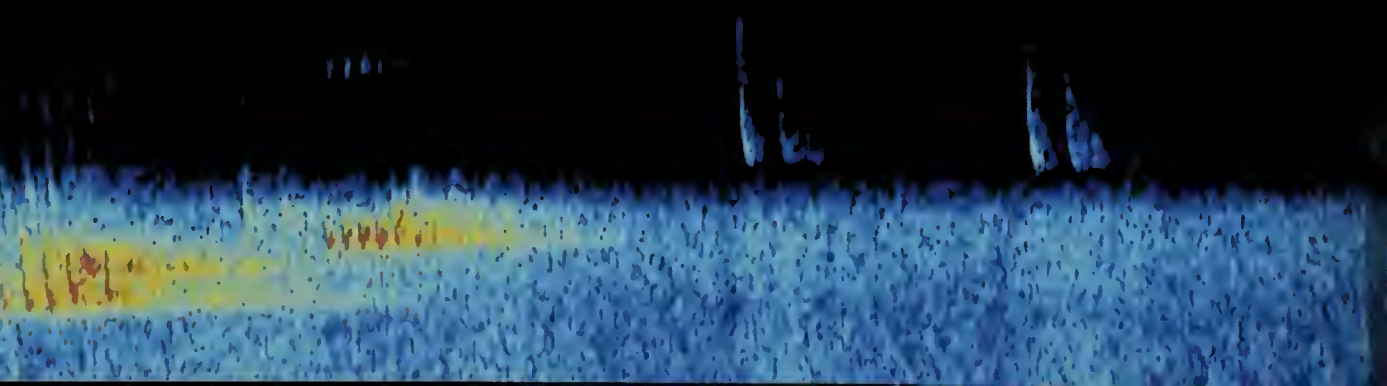
Culvier's Beaked Whale receiving sympathetic interest from local people. (*Robin Chittenden*)





This leucistic mole was found by David Rutterford near Guist during 2002. Leucistic individuals are occasionally reported from across the county. (*Tony Leech*)

This Nathusius' Pipistrelle sonogram illustrates the characteristic 'trilling' pattern of the social call followed by three echolocation calls. (*Sue Parsons*)



common around Ormesby in houses forty years ago. Most modern day records of ones and twos are from churches in the river valleys in eastern Norfolk during the summer. It has been found hibernating underground on a few occasions and was recently discovered in a Thetford bat box.

The Noctule is primarily a tree-dwelling, high-flying species that is associated with our river valleys and broads. The first record anywhere of this species using an artificial roost box was at How Hill but they have subsequently been found in boxes at Thetford Forest, Sheringham Park, Bacton, Thorpe, Woodbastwick and others. A radio-tagged individual in West Norfolk was tracked over 20 kilometres between daytime roosts, while a ringed Thetford example died on a barbed wire fence near Attleborough, again about 20 kilometres away. This does suggest the large mental map these bats carry and the size of suitable habitat the colony requires to function satisfactorily. Colonies have disappeared with the loss of suitable tree holes in our over-tidy countryside and the few breeding groups of females located seem to average around 30 these days, which is about half of what could be expected in the early 1980s. Lesser Horseshoe, a high humidity loving species, was known from the county a century ago and acceptable records of the species also came from the Waveney valley during the 1950s. A single hibernating animal has been discovered just over the border of an adjacent county for five winters but has not been included in these statistics.

Many counties manage to locate places where bats of several species can be regularly demonstrated at a safe education location with lecture facilities. Norfolk, so far, has yet to find a suitable site at which to publicise these fascinating creatures. The milder winters of recent years have resulted in earlier births for some species (by as much as several weeks) and this is another sign of our changing weather. Long may these fragile, tantalising animals inhabit what is left of our dark skies over Norfolk and our precious semi-natural habitats.

BTO National Mammal Monitoring Schemes: a Norfolk perspective

Dave Leech

Pity the poor mammals. Despite the plethora of documentaries about big cats, elephants, apes and whales which capture the imagination of naturalists and non-naturalists alike, and the undisputed 'cute factor' of a high proportion of the taxon, the UK's mammals are a relatively under-recorded group. An audit of all biological records held for Britain in 1995 indicated that while 65% of data concerned birds, mammals accounted for only 0.5% of the information collected.

Why should this be so? Perhaps part of the problem is that mammals do not possess a 'rare-factor' to the same extent that birds or insects do. The possibility of observing vagrant species (*cf.* bats and cetaceans) is admittedly fairly low and, as mammals are generally less mobile than the aforementioned groups, rare breeding species are unlikely to be found outside their restricted ranges. However, one of the biggest problems facing those who wish to find and observe British mammals is simply that most are incredibly hard to see. Many species are either nocturnal or spend the majority of their time obscured by thick vegetation or under the ground. With the exception of bats, they do not fly, and are therefore far less likely to catch the eye. Far worse from a birder's perspective, they hardly ever vocalise (again, excluding bats) and therefore cannot usually be detected by the calls that they make.

However, it is vital that we should be able to monitor changes in the size of mammal populations accurately over a sustained period of time. Without detailed knowledge of such changes, declines in abundance cannot be identified, the factors responsible cannot be revealed and conservation efforts cannot be directed efficiently and effectively. It is important, for example, to differentiate between temporary declines in abundance caused by periods of bad weather, from which the population will recover, and long-term declines caused by habitat destruction or pollution before much time, effort and money is invested in reversing the trend. To this end, in the last 10 years two national, multi-species monitoring schemes have been initiated.

The Breeding Birds Survey

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), based in Thetford, has been organising and interpreting the results of national bird surveys since the organisation was founded in 1933. Each year a huge number of dedicated and experienced volunteers participate in a broad range of national monitoring schemes designed to investigate trends in the abundance, survival and productivity of Britain's birds.

The major UK scheme currently responsible for monitoring the abundance of terrestrial birds is the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Birds Survey (BBS), which was initiated in 1994 as an alternative to the more labour-intensive Common Birds Census. BBS participants are randomly allocated a one-kilometre OS grid square and asked to visit it on three occasions each year. On the first visit a transect route across the square is determined, comprising of two roughly parallel lines approximately 500 metres apart subdivided into 200 metre sections, and the major habitat type for each section is recorded. During the second and third visit, participants record the number of individuals of each species seen whilst walking the transect line. The first visit takes place between April and mid-May and the second between mid-May

and the end of June. In total, 2,400 squares covering England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are surveyed each year.

Naturally, BBS participants during the first year of the scheme found that birds were not the only group of animals encountered whilst walking their transects. This recording opportunity was too good to be ignored and in 1995 the scope of the survey was extended to include the collection of data on Britain's mammal species, initiating the first multi-species annual, mammal survey to be carried out in the UK. Although mammal recording during BBS visits is optional, national coverage is impressive. During 2002, mammal data were collected at over 1,800 sites (approximately 75% of all surveyed squares).

Due to the methodology, BBS participants primarily record medium to large-sized, easily identifiable species, although observers do have the opportunity to make a note of any mammals they see. Participants are also asked to record any tracks or other signs left by mammals. This is very important as it increases the probability of detection of species that are predominantly nocturnal (*e.g.* Badger) and those that spend the majority of their time underground (*e.g.* Mole), which may be seldom encountered even when relatively abundant. Dead individuals may also be recorded. The BBS is not suitable for monitoring mammals that are very restricted in range (*e.g.* Red Squirrel, Wildcat) as too few data are likely to be collected. Recording mammal data annually in a standardised format allows national trends in abundance to be constructed. These trends indicate changes in the relative number of individuals observed in each year of the survey, but do not estimate absolute abundance. While techniques are available that can produce such estimates, preliminary work has suggested that the figures produced for mammals are not likely to be sufficiently accurate for publication.

The Foot & Mouth Disease outbreak in 2001 interrupted monitoring as access to many BBS sites was prevented, but the data for the period 1995-2000 have been analysed by BTO staff. Sufficient count data were available to plot trends in the abundance of nine species: Brown Hare, Irish/Mountain Hare, Rabbit, Grey Squirrel, Red Fox, Red Deer, Roe Deer, Fallow Deer and Reeve's Muntjac. Of these species, Roe Deer displayed a statistically significant increase in abundance over this period, and none displayed a significant decline.

It was also possible to investigate changes in the presence/absence of six species for which fewer count data were available, using a data set that also incorporates field sign observations and reports of dead individuals. Badger, Mole, Brown Rat and Hedgehog all increased significantly during the period 1995-2000. However, we must be careful how this result is interpreted as changes to the wording of survey forms over the same period may have led to an increase in reporting rates. From the available data, Stoat and Weasel also appeared to have increased on BBS sites since 1995.

Table 1 summarises the mammal data collected at BBS sites in Norfolk between 1995 and 2002 (excluding 2001 due to the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak). A total of 25 species were recorded over this period (although the Prairie Dog was, beyond all doubt, an escaped individual living just outside a local wildlife park), of which 12 were recorded in every year. Unsurprisingly, Rabbit was the most frequently observed species (mean = 78.3% of sites), followed by Brown Hare (mean = 71.7% of sites). Both of these species are large, mobile, and spend much of their time feeding in open habitats where they may be more easily observed. At present the number of sites monitored within Norfolk is too small to enable the construction of county-specific trends in either abundance or presence/absence, as the addition or removal of individual sites from the dataset may have a marked effect on the results. However, BBS data have been analysed at a broader regional scale, with trends in abundance calculated separately for Northern, South-western and South-eastern Britain, the latter region including Norfolk.

Table 1: Survey results for Norfolk. The proportion of BBS squares at which the species was recorded is shown, as is the total number of squares covered within the county. No results are available for 2001 because of Foot & Mouth restrictions.

<i>Species</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>
Hedgehog	7.0	15.7	13.1	14.3	21.2	21.1	-	12.8
Mole	16.3	35.3	24.6	28.6	46.2	42.1	-	36.2
Common Shrew	11.6	5.9	4.9	12.5	7.7	2.6	-	2.1
Rabbit	76.7	82.4	85.2	78.6	78.8	76.3	-	70.2
Brown hare	74.4	74.5	78.7	69.6	76.9	68.4	-	59.6
Grey Squirrel	32.6	39.2	39.3	33.9	36.5	34.2	-	21.3
Bank Vole	2.3					15.8	-	
Field Vole				1.8	1.9	23.7	-	
Water Vole	2.3	2.0		1.8		13.2	-	2.6
Wood Mouse					1.9	7.9	-	
House Mouse		2.0					-	
Harvest Mouse					1.9		-	
Brown Rat	11.6	13.7	8.2	8.9	13.5		-	6.4
Red Fox	11.6	21.6	16.4	23.2	23.1		-	14.9
Stoat	4.7	5.9	4.9	3.6	13.5		-	4.3
Weasel	2.3	7.8	3.3	3.6	5.8		-	2.1
Mink	2.3				1.9		-	
Badger					1.9		-	
Common Seal					1.9		-	
Red Deer	4.7			3.6	1.9		-	
Fallow Deer	4.7	2.0	1.6		3.8		-	2.6
Roe Deer	18.6	19.6	23.0	23.2	28.8	31.6	-	29.8
Muntjac	9.3	5.9	14.8	12.5	13.5	23.7	-	13.5
Chinese Water Deer			1.6		1.9	2.6	-	4.3
Prairie Dog			1.6				-	
No. of squares	43	51	61	56	52	38	-	47

Table 2: Winter Mammal Monitoring pilot results for Norfolk. (Winter 2001/2002)

<i>Sightings (n=23)</i>			<i>Fieldsigns (n=13)</i>		
<i>Species</i>	<i>No. Squares</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Type of fieldsign</i>	<i>No. Squares</i>	<i>%</i>
Mole	0	0.0	Molehills	9	69.2
Rabbit	9	39.1	Rabbit burrows	7	53.8
Brown Hare	7	30.4	-	-	-
Grey Squirrel	6	26.1	-	-	-
Field Vole	0	0.0	Runs & faeces	3	23.1
Brown Rat	1	4.3	Rat burrows	6	46.2
Red Fox	3	13.0	Fox faeces	9	69.2
Polecat	1	4.3	-	-	-
Mink	1	4.3	-	-	-
Badger	0	0.0	Faeces & setts	3	23.1
Red Decr	1	4.3	-	-	-
Fallow deer	2	8.7	-	-	-
Roe Deer	3	13.0	-	-	-

The decline in Brown Hares between 1995 and 2002 was less severe in the North and South-east than it was in the South-west. Rabbits displayed the opposite trend, with numbers increasing more in the South-west, although the abundance of this species is incredibly variable. No differences between regions were found for Red Fox, Roe Deer or Grey Squirrel.

It is also possible to identify trends in abundance within individual habitats for the more abundant species. Data collected suggest that, nationally, Brown Hare abundance has declined on farmland to a greater extent than it has in other habitats. Rabbit abundance mirrors this pattern, but in this case the decline appears to have been compensated for by a simultaneous increase the population size in grassland areas. Red Fox numbers have increased in farmland areas over this period, but have fallen in urban areas.

Winter Mammal Monitoring project

While the BBS does enable us to monitor changes in the presence and abundance of a range of British mammal species, it is predominantly a bird survey and there are limits to the amount that observers can be asked to record. In 2001 the BTO and The Mammal Society jointly won a tender to pilot a multi-species mammal survey that would take place annually between October and March, the Winter Mammal Monitoring (WMM) project. Both organisations are involved in all aspects of the survey, the BTO's extensive experience of organising large-scale, long-term national monitoring schemes and analysing the data collected, complementing the specialist knowledge and survey skills possessed by The Mammal Society.

WMM survey protocol is very similar to that of the BBS, again involving volunteers walking along a transect which crosses a randomly allocated one-kilometre OS grid square twice. The obvious difference between the two surveys is the timing. Mammal recording during the winter is preferable for several reasons. As the BBS takes place during the breeding season, both parents and young are likely to be recorded. Mammal species can have large numbers of offspring, and counts may therefore vary significantly between sites and between years dependent on the stage of the breeding cycle during the recording visit, reducing the accuracy of any trends in abundance that are calculated. An increase in Brown Hare numbers in June, for example, may reflect population growth or may merely indicate that breeding has occurred at an earlier date than in previous years. An additional problem is that of offspring mortality. An unknown proportion of offspring will survive to breeding age, with the exact figure dependent on the influence of a wide range of environmental variables. Young that perish before breeding will have no impact on the population size in subsequent generations. By recording abundance immediately prior to the breeding season, changes in the size of the breeding population can be estimated with greater accuracy. A more practical advantage of monitoring mammals in the winter is that the vegetation will have died down, enabling observers to see mammals more easily. The one major drawback of winter surveys is that they are of limited use when monitoring species that hibernate (*e.g.* Hedgehogs), as they are very unlikely to be encountered by observers.

WMM volunteers are asked to make three visits to their site during the survey period, one to record habitat details, one to record counts of any mammal species seen and one to record the presence of field signs. Sightings and field signs are recorded on separate visits so that both may be recorded more accurately. The methodology for the sightings visit is identical to that for the BBS visits. For the field signs visit, participants are asked to record a restricted list of 11 types of sign left by 10 different mammal species (the presence of both setts and faeces is recorded separately for Badger). Transects are divided into 200 metre sections and areas of suitable habitat (*e.g.* rough grassland) are searched for Field Vole runs and Harvest Mouse nests for a maximum of five minutes per section. Other signs are only recorded if visible while

walking the transect. Where possible, volunteers are asked to choose a transect route which follows linear features, since such features are often used by mammals for marking territories and concentrating on them during the survey therefore increases the probability of signs being recorded if they are present. As the aim of the survey is to construct trends in species abundance and not to estimate actual abundance, this methodology will not bias the results as long as the surveyor uses the same route in subsequent years.

The pilot year of the WMM project took place during the winter of 2001/2002. In total, over 800 sites were surveyed for sightings and 460 were surveyed for field signs. 29 mammal species were recorded during the sightings survey, of which ten were observed at greater than 10% of sites. Rabbit was the most numerous species, recorded on 40.8% of sites, followed by Grey Squirrel (28.5%), Brown Hare (13.1%), Roe Deer (13.1%) and Red Fox (10.3%). Again, these species are large, diurnal and mobile and so are more likely to be observed. Comparing WMM sightings records with BBS data from 2000 (unfortunately again we could not use 2001 BBS data due to Foot and Mouth restrictions), it was apparent that the abundance of some species varied significantly between the two survey periods. Rabbit and Brown Hare were both recorded more frequently during the late spring and early summer than they were during the winter. This result may reflect the presence of newborn offspring during the breeding season that have perished before the winter period. Alternatively, lagomorphs may spend more time underground or in cover as temperatures fall during the winter months. Roe Deer displayed the opposite pattern, appearing in greater numbers during the winter months. At this time food may be relatively scarce and the deer are perhaps forced to leave the comparative safety of their preferred woodland habitat to forage on more open farmland.

Field signs of all ten target species were also recorded during the pilot year. Rabbit burrows proved to be the most frequently observed sign, identified at 68.9% of sites. Field Vole runs were also found to be abundant (62.2%), as were molehills (60.0%) and Red Fox faeces (55.1%). Signs of all the species recorded were observed at a greater proportion of sites than that in which the species was actually seen. This is relatively unsurprising as signs persist for some time after they are created. In addition, nocturnal and burrowing species may be observed infrequently and diurnal species may move away from the surveyor before they are spotted.

Twenty-seven sites in Norfolk were surveyed for the sightings part of the WMM project, while field signs were recorded at 13 sites. The results are presented in Table 2. Rabbit was the most frequently recorded species during the sightings part of the survey, followed by Brown Hare and Grey Squirrel. Surprisingly, during the field signs transect Red Fox faeces were found at as many sites as molehills, and at a greater number of sites than Rabbit burrows, although the sample sizes were very small.

Regional patterns of mammal distribution were investigated by dividing the UK into four separate areas: Scotland, northern England, western England & Wales and eastern England (incorporating Norfolk). Evidence from both the sightings and the field sign transects suggested that Roe Deer, Red Deer and Field Voles were more abundant in Scotland, whilst Grey Squirrels and Rabbits were more frequently observed at English sites. Foxes and Badger signs were recorded on a greater proportion of sites in western England & Wales, whilst Brown Hares were more prevalent in northern and eastern England. Fallow Deer and Reeves' Muntjac proved to be eastern specialties, with few or no records respectively from any of the other regions. As predicted, the type of habitat present at a site had a strong influence on the mammal species that recorders observed. Grey Squirrel, Roe and Fallow Deer were all more likely to be observed in squares containing woodland. Deer species were less frequently seen in urban areas, whereas Grey Squirrels were more likely to be reported there, either because

they were taking advantage of food put out for birds or because they were simply more visible in parks and gardens than in their traditional woodland habitat. Red Deer appeared to prefer areas of moorland and rough grassland, whilst Brown Hares were more abundant in arable areas.

At first glance, many of these relationships seem to be incredibly obvious. Are we really surprised that Grey Squirrels are associated with areas of woodland, or that Brown Hares frequent agricultural areas? Although these relationships may appear intuitive, it is very important when piloting a study to check that the methods used are suitable for recording the target species that the survey is designed to monitor. The best way of testing this suitability is to compare the data to those gathered by other studies concentrating on the same target species. In the case of the WMM project, the fact that the results of the habitat analyses are as predicted is an excellent indication that the survey protocol is sufficient to simultaneously monitor the abundance of a wide range of British mammal species.

The results from the 2002/2003 winter are currently being entered into the WMM database ready for analysis. A second year of data will enable us to investigate changes in abundance over time for a range of mammal species, with the ultimate aim of producing annual trends in mammal abundance that are equivalent to the trends produced by the BBS for Britain's birds.

Both the BBS and WMM represent important advances in the monitoring of the UK's mammal species. It goes without saying that none of this would be possible if it were not for the army of volunteer recorders who invest so much of their own time and energy collecting the data, so thank you very much to everyone that has taken part thus far. Although the coverage of both schemes is impressive, new participants are always most welcome as the accuracy with which we are able to monitor changes in the size of mammal populations increases with each additional site surveyed. If you think that you would like to take part in either or both of these schemes then please feel free to contact us at The Nunnery (details given below).

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to all volunteers who have surveyed sites for BBS and/or WMM. Thanks to Stuart Newson, Dave Noble and Mike Raven at the BTO for access to the BBS mammal data and the results of their analyses. Thanks also to Stuart Newson and Dave Noble at the BTO and to Stephen Harris, Michelle Duffield, Vicky Harrison, Simon Poulton and Georgette Shearer at The Mammal Society for their help in collating and analysing the Winter Mammal Monitoring project data.

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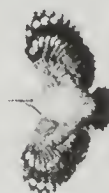
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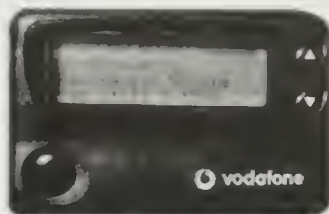
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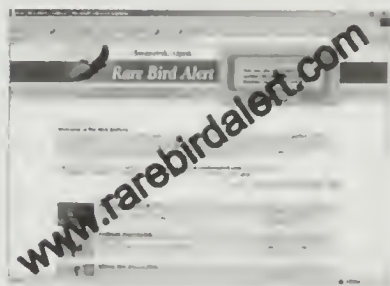
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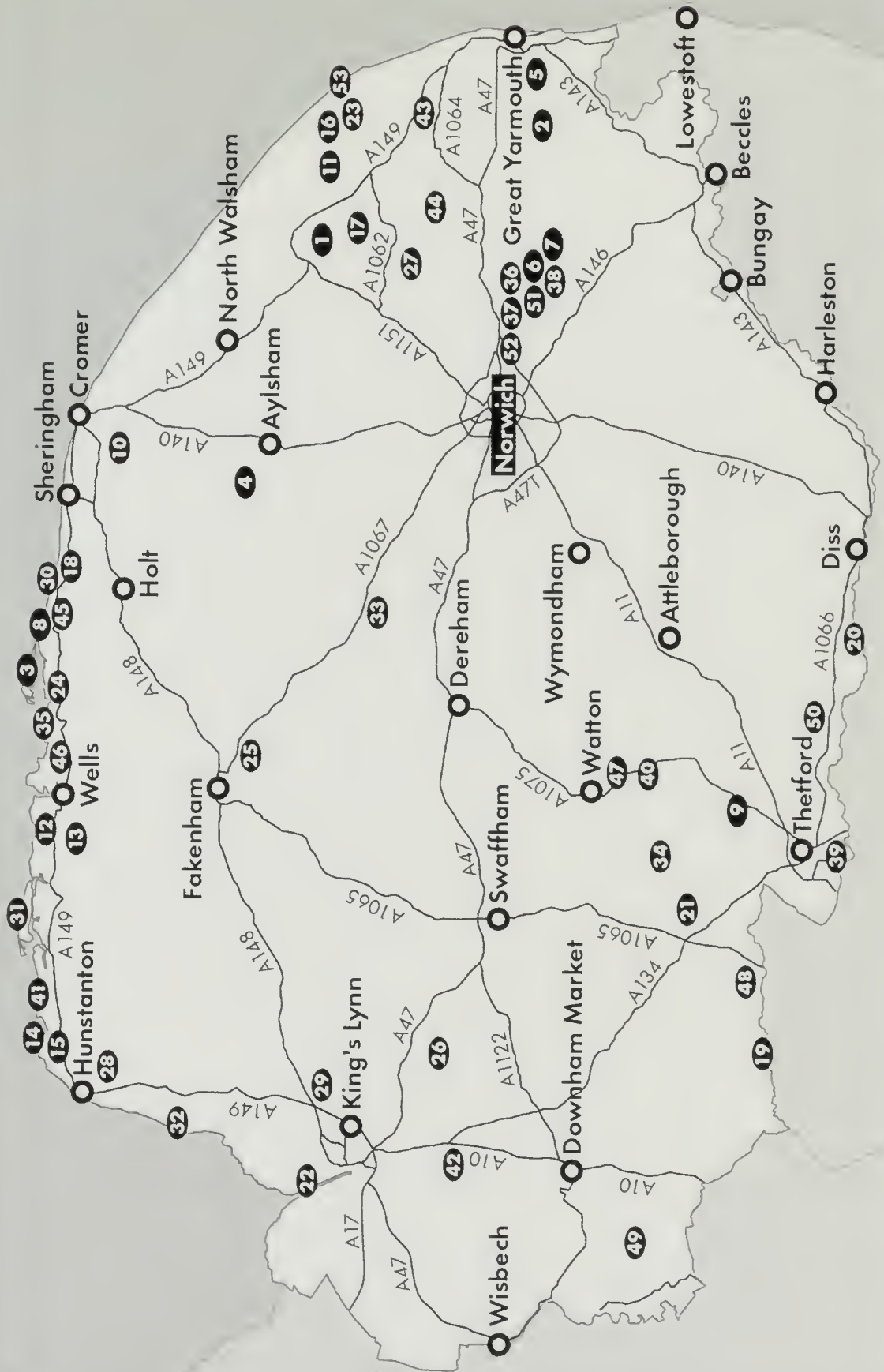
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Principal Sites and Reserves

1 Barton Broad	NWT	21 Lynford Arboretum	41 Titchwell Marsh	RSPB
2 Berney Marshes	RSPB	22 Lynn Point	42 Tottenhill GP	
3 Blakeney Point	NT	23 Martham Broad	43 Trinity Broads:	BA
4 Blickling Park	NT	24 Morston/Stiffkey Marshes	Filby Broad	
5 Breydon Water	LNR	25 Pensthorpe	Lily Broad	
6 Buckenham/Cantley Marshes	RSPB	26 Pentney	Ormesby Broad	
7 Cantley Beet Factory	BS	27 Ranworth/Cockshoot Broads	Ormesby Little Broad	
8 Cley Marsh	NWT	28 Ringstead Downs	Rollesby Broad	
9 East Wretham Heath	NWT	29 Roydon Common	Upton Fen	NWT
10 Felbrigg Park	NT	30 Salthouse Marshes	45 Walsey Hills	NOA
11 Hickling Broad	NWT	31 Scolt Head Island	46 Warham Greens	EN
12 Holkham NNR	EN	32 Snettisham Pits	47 Wayland Wood	NWT
13 Holkham Park	HE	33 Sparham Pools	48 Weeting Heath	NWT
14 Holme Bird Observatory	NOA	34 Stanford Training Area (TA)	49 Welney Washes	W&WT
15 Holme Dunes	NWT	35 Stiffkey Fen	50 West Harling	
16 Horsey Mere	NT	36 Strumpshaw Fen	51 Wheatfen	TET
17 How Hill	BA	37 Surlingham Broad	52 Whitlingham CP	
18 Kelling WM		38 Surlingham/Rockland Marshes	53 Winterton Dunes	EN
19 Hockwold Washes		39 Thetford Nunnery Lakes		
20 Lopham Fen	SWT	40 Thompson Water		
BA = Broads Authority		NT = National Trust		
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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